Jesus said, “I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:18
Teachers are back to school. Some kids are back to school. This week most of the kids will be back to school. So – DO NOT SPEED THROUGH SCHOOL ZONES!

Here’s what one teacher observed as she was interviewed by the principal of a public high school.

“Let me see if I’ve got this right. You want me to go into that room with all those kids, correct their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse, monitor their dress habits, censor their T-shirt messages, and instill in them a love for learning. You want me to check their backpacks for weapons, wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, and raise their sense of self-esteem and personal pride. You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship, sportsmanship, and fair play, and how to register to vote, balance a checkbook, and apply for a job.

You also want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and communicate regularly with their parents in English, Spanish or any other language, by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card.

You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a blackboard, a bulletin board, a few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps.

You want me to do all this and then you tell me...
I CAN’T PRAY?”

A blessed school year to all.

Peter’s history as a follower or friend of Jesus is a bit spotty. It might be natural to wonder if Jesus, in giving him the keys to the kingdom, didn’t feel a bit like a parent giving a teenager the keys to the family car. But it was at the moment when God’s power and presence broke through everything else to raise up Peter’s great profession of faith in Christ as Messiah that Jesus chose to establish the bond between the loving, forgiving mercy of heaven and our vocation to be witnesses of that love, mercy, and forgiveness on earth.

Like any parent, Jesus no doubt foresaw the failings, the irresponsible maneuvers or impaired senses, the collisions that the church would be headed for. But, most importantly, he also saw us at that moment as God prefers to see us: capable of manifesting great faith, with a willingness to remain at the feet of Christ to understand what it truly means to be Messiah and Christ. As the letter to the Romans points out to us today, we have not known the mind or the wisdom of God, but God knows us and still chooses to manifest the reign of justice, joy, beauty, and peace through us. Let this be our vocation. Let us always strive to be solid ground on which the church of Jesus Christ can be founded and on which it can continue to be built.

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**Parish News**

**Are you interested in becoming Catholic?**

**RCIA**

Or is someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Are you an adult Catholic who has never been confirmed or received the Eucharist? Do you just want to learn more about the Catholic faith? If this is the right time for you to take the next step on your faith journey, or if you want to talk to someone about the Catholic faith, please call the Parish Office at 308-632-2541 or office@st-agnes-church.com

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**Dates to Remember In 2017**

- Sunday, September 10: Parish Picnic
- Friday, Nov 17: St. Agnes Premiere
- Sunday, Dec 3: Church rededication & Parish dinner

**Living Stewardship Now**

Spend no time fault-finding or criticizing other members of the parish. Pray for them and write notes of gratitude for what they do that is good.

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**New Members Welcome!**

If you’re visiting St. Agnes Church and would like to become a member, please call the parish office (632-2541), stop by the office (2314 3rd Avenue) or visit the parish website (www.stagneschurch.com). You will be asked to fill out a new member registration. After you have completed the form, place in the collection basket, mail to the church at PO Box 349, Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0349 or email to office@st-agnes-church.com

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**Eucharistic Adoration**

Adoration at St. Agnes Church is held the first Friday of the month, following the 7am Mass. All are invited to attend.

Understood simply, Eucharistic Adoration is adoring or honoring the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. In a deeper sense, it involves “the contemplation of the Mystery of Christ truly present before us.” During Eucharistic Adoration, we watch and wait, we remain silent in His Presence and open ourselves to His graces which flow from the Eucharist. By worshiping the Eucharistic Jesus, we become what God wants us to be. Like a magnet, the Lord draws us to Himself and gently transforms us.

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**Sunday Collections & ATW Giving**

**August 20, 2017**

- Actual: $4916.84
- ATW: $4128.00
- Budget: $9000.00
- Surplus (Deficit): $44.84
- Clergy Health Ins: $1458.61

**August 2017 Totals**

- Actual: $18925.44
- ATW: $8614.50
- Budget: $27000.00
- Surplus (Deficit): $8460.06

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**Bulletin Sponsors**

**Thank You**

For Your Support!

Parishioners, be sure to patronize our advertisers. Let them know you appreciate their support of the parish.

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**This Week’s Readings**

**Monday:** 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Mt 23:13-22

**Tuesday:** 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-6; Mk 6:17-29

**Wednesday:** 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-12ab; Mt 23:27-32

**Thursday:** 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-14, 17; Mt 24:42-51

**Friday:** 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1, 2b, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13

**Saturday:** 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30

**Sunday:** Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

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**Parish Picnic! Come join the fun!**

**Sunday - September 10, 2017 - 11:30am**

Frank Park - Octagon Shelter

Please bring a Covered Dish

Table Service, meat & drinks provided

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus
From the Seminary

Jesus confidently placed the growth of the Church into the hands of Peter. Peter, more than the other Apostles, had God's divine insight to know that Jesus was the Son of God. As directed by Jesus, Peter became the bedrock for the Church, leading her under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to follow the ways of His Lord. He, a poor fisherman from Galilee, was given the courage through the Holy Spirit to confront the mighty Roman Empire. Peter, who once ran because of the fear of being associated with Jesus, fearlessly walked to his crucifixion, proudly dying as Jesus had done. However, the Church did not die with the death of Peter because this holy institution of faith, established by Jesus, is greater than any one person. The Church grew stronger and more vibrant with each succeeding generation as the words of Jesus spread to all the corners of the earth. The Church became and remains that stabilizing point of reference for understanding the teachings of Jesus. The Church remains the bedrock for keeping alive the message of Jesus when contemporary trends and apparently reasonable cultural options try to sweep away the faith. We continue to battle against those who have no regard for the dignity of human life from conception to natural death. We battle against those who fail to recognize the rights of every person, for each one of us is a creation of God. We strive to bring the grace of God to the world through the Sacraments. We continually attempt to evangelize those who need Jesus to understand the meaning of charity, hope, and faith so that one day we may become one people before Our Almighty God. For more than two thousand years, the Church has worked to serve the Children of God in a multitude of ministries that attempt to improve life here on earth while preparing us for eternal life.

It is not the building that makes our Church, but the people. It is not the brick and mortar of a structure that feeds the hungry, ministers to the sick, clothes the naked, and cares for the grieving; it is the members of the Church. The parishioners of St. Agnes are no different. The parish may be a hundred years old, but its history reaches back to our forefathers, St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Agnes, and the many other saints who showed us the way to live according to Jesus. We are celebrating the centennial of this parish, but the parish is more than the building we call St. Agnes. We are those who, sort and wrap toys and fill food baskets every year at Christmas, because we know that we are the hands and feet of Jesus. We are those who visit the shut-ins and hospital patients, bringing hope to those who look longingly out a window wishing for more in life. We are those who give children an academic education and those who teach the young and the old that life is something more than money and material things. We are those who share the joys and sorrows with others as life begins and ends. We are those who welcome the visitors into our community. We bring the Word of God to those who have lost hope. We reignite our flame of faith by participation in the Sacraments. We show to all how love can change the world.

Members of St. Agnes, let us pray that we demonstrate to the greater community that we are the sons and daughters of God living in the assurance that He is always with us. Let us be a parish which celebrates each new day with the Lord as much as we have celebrated one hundred years of our church community. Let us never forget those who have gone before us that showed the attributes of fortitude, courage and fidelity in putting God first in their lives. Let us now be the role models of faith as we bring the tradition of the Catholic faith to those who follow us. Let us never tire of being the people of God. Let us question ourselves each day “what more can we do in service to the Lord whom we love with our whole heart, mind, and soul?”

I have returned to St. Meinrad for the second year of philosophy classes in the six years that I will be in the seminary. After spending the summer with you, I leave much more enriched from my experiences with the parish of St. Agnes. I pray that each of you as a member of St. Agnes will continue to grow in your faith. There is much more to accomplish, and each of you has a role as the hands and feet of the Lord, bringing salvation to all you meet. As St. Gregory of Nyssa reminds us, “For the quality of holiness is shown not by what we say but by what we do in life.”

May God continue to bless you, the holy people of St. Agnes Church.

September Ministers

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, 6 pm Ciborium: Melissa Schaub; Chalice: Patsy Juedes –Fulk; Krystal Rodriguez Bob & Anne Hippe, Alice Nye, Laura West

Sunday 8 am Ciborium: David Skiles; Chalice: JoAnn Nash; Erika Hackett, Shannon Hafner, Nick Reyes, Gene Schwarzkopf, Zita Bolinger

10:00 am Ciborium: Brigette Palmer; Chalice: Jean Kearns; Rick Cantril, Shelley Corr, Rebecca Montanez, Ifeanyi Okpalaejesi

GREETERS

Sat 6 pm Rod Ramig (Captain) Brian Fulk, Mike Merrigan, Mike Svitak
Sun 8 am Scott Schiff (Captain) Jim Carney, Terry Fox, Corey Greckel
10:00 am Brad McCaslin (Captain) Scott Corr, David Schaff, Tim Madden

SACRISTANS

Sat 6 pm: Doris Flohr
Sunday 8 am: Marjorie Benzol
10:00 am: Gabby Montanez

LECTORS

Sep 2, 9 - 6pm Carmen Trevino
Sep 3, 10 - 8am Neal Brady
Sep 3, 10 - 10am Mark Loose
Sep 16, 23 - 6pm Shane Malm
Sep 17, 24 - 8am Margaret Rood
Sep 17, 24 - 10am Michael Schaff

SERVERS

Sep 2, 6pm Emma Marks, Gianna Gonzales
Sep 3, 8am Mathew & Abraham Hafner
10am Chloe Burton, Sam McCaslin
Sep 9, 6pm Katie Forstrom, Austin Svitak
Sep 10, 8am Logan Moravec, Bernadette Pieper
10 am Jessica & Aaron Schaff
Eucharistic Prayer II is a popular choice for Mass since it is both simple in structure and short. It is written with a preface, which is the section after the dialogue “The Lord be with you . . . Lift up your hearts . . . Let us give thanks,” which introduces all the Eucharistic Prayers. The preface states the reason for the eucharistic assembly on that occasion, and there are dozens of them covering almost every imaginable gathering for prayer, some specific to feasts, others for Masses for the dead or for other needs. The preface attached to the second Eucharistic Prayer may be dropped in favor of a more appropriate choice, especially one of the prefaces for weekdays. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal says that Eucharistic Prayer II is best suited for weekdays or “special circumstances.” In practice, however, it has become the common Sunday prayer because of its brevity and its comfortable familiarity. It also includes an optional phrase for adding the name of a deceased person remembered in the Mass, and therefore is often prayed at funerals. Article 50 of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy specified that the rites are to be simplified and restored “to the vigor they had in the tradition of the Fathers.” The rebirth of this ancient Roman prayer is a worthy response to this call.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Not Hired, But Chosen

When a company is recruiting for a top management position the process is detailed and thorough, with many interviews for each candidate and a full review of educational background, professional credentials, references, previous experience, and more. No company wants to take a chance on a person who is anything other than the best available. Contrast this with today’s Gospel account. Jesus first questions his disciples. Who do people say Jesus is? They give him several answers. Then he asks them who they say he is. It is impulsive, big-hearted Peter who exclaims, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). Think of Peter for a moment: a good Jew, but almost certainly illiterate and a fisherman by trade. Not exactly high up in the social order, is he? Nevertheless, Jesus saw not only what Peter was, but what he could become. He saw into the heart and mind of this man and said, “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). Jesus was not without humor, as this was a play on words. The name Peter comes from the Greek word for rock (petros). The beginning of our Church, which today embraces one and a half billion people worldwide, lay in the hands of this one man and his fellow disciples. With the authority of God and the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Jesus promised that ultimate evil would never prevail against it. Nevertheless, the Church is made up of flawed human beings who sometimes fail as followers of Jesus. We must never forget that even Peter himself, after Jesus chose him as “the rock,” failed spectacularly by denying his Lord three times. When we fail, we should not walk away but strive even more to live a faithful Christian life.

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Reflecting On God’s Word

Certain questions change lives, depending on our answer: “Do you take this person to be your husband/wife?” “Do you want this job?” “Can you forgive me?” The question Jesus asks today is one that certainly changes lives. Our response is not simply an academic exercise, a matter of knowing the right answer we learned from a book. Our answer must lead to a commitment that is to be lived out each day of our lives.

Peter’s answer certainly changed the course of his life. Jesus recognized that it was not Peter’s innate knowledge, or that of any other person, that had given Peter his response: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” It was the Father. And so Jesus declares that Peter will be the one to lead the other disciples and all who would come after. Simon, son of John, fisherman, husband, brother—and one who would deny he ever knew Christ!—he was to be the rock on which Jesus would build the church. His response was life-changing.

Peter’s answer was not a perfect one, as we shall see next week. Even so, Jesus accepts it as an indication that his Father is at work in those called to be with him who would continue his work. The Father chose to work in fallible human beings. We may not think of ourselves as rocks, but the future of the church depends on how well each one of us lives out the answer to this question, “Who do you say that I am?”

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

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Stewardship Opportunities

Over 200 children and young people, preschool through grade 12, will sign up this fall to learn more about Jesus and the Catholic faith. You can help them learn and grow by becoming a catechist. We are currently looking for grade school catechists on Sunday mornings. Middle school catechists, catechists on Wednesday evenings.

If interested or for more information, contact Terri Calvert at 635-1362 (RE Office) or Email dre@st-agnes-church.com

Catechist Formation

All middle school and CYM catechists are to attend the upcoming formation session on Wed. Sept. 13th at 7pm in the Learning Center of the school.

All Sunday catechists are to attend the upcoming formation session on Sun. Sept. 24th at 9am in the Learning Center of the school.

The Wednesday night, middle school and CYM programs will begin on Wednesday, September 20th

The Sunday morning, elementary program will begin on Sunday, October 1st

Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

On the Way to Mass:
Can you think of some world and Church leaders whom Jesus would reward today?

On the Way Home From Mass:
We can be leaders of God’s people because we have been baptized. How can we tell if or leaders have faith?

Living the Word:
Jesus gave us the authority to be leaders and do ministry in his name. Ask the children what a servant is, and then ask what a leader does. Write out some ideas about both on a tablet, so they can follow the logic of becoming a servant-leader. Pope Francis wants us to do exactly that. He wants us to be humble and helpful, and to invite others to join us. This is called “evangelization.” Make “evangelization” the Word of the Week. Write as many words as you can with the letters in “evangelization.”

Mark Your Calendar!

Catechist Formation

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All Sunday catechists are to attend the upcoming formation session on Sun. Sept. 24th at 9am in the Learning Center of the school.

The Wednesday night, middle school and CYM programs will begin on Wednesday, September 20th

The Sunday morning, elementary program will begin on Sunday, October 1st

September 23-25, 2017
St. James
Kearney, Nebraska
Registration deadline: 9-15-17

April 13–15, 21017
Christ the King
Gering, Nebraska
Registration deadline: 4-6-18

SECOND SEMESTER
SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, AND SENIORS!

Are you unsure about your faith? Do you desire to know more? Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is a weekend of fun, food and faith that may be just what you’re looking for. The cost is $85 and includes a t-shirt & other special gifts. To register and for more information go to www.gidioceese.org/yya/tec

All Confirmation candidates and their parents are to attend the upcoming meeting on Wednesday, September 6th at 7pm in the Garden Room of the Church. Baptismal Certificates and Sponsor information are due at this meeting.
2017-2018 Early Registration

It is registration time! This year we are requesting registration for the St. Agnes Religious Education and CYM programs as soon as possible so we can prepare for the upcoming year. Once again the early registration fee will be $30.00 per child if paid by August 31, 2017. The registration can be mailed or put into the collection basket. If registration is completed after August 31st the fee will be $40.00 per child.

The Sunday Religious Education program will be held from 9:15 a.m. 10:15 a.m. in the St. Agnes School building. This morning is for the elementary grades (Pre-School- 5th). The Sunday program will begin on October 1, 2017.

The Wednesday Religious Education classes will be held from 7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. in the St. Agnes School building. This evening is for the 6-7-8 graders. The Wednesday program will begin on September 20, 2017.

High School CYM Groups (9-12 grades) will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the leader’s home. The CYM program will begin on September 20, 2017.

Confirmation for the 11th grade CYM groups will be held in the Garden Level twice a month on Wednesdays from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. The parent/youth meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Level.

Please return the bottom portion of this form

Family Name_________________________ Email Address _____________________________

Address __________________________________ Phone Number _______________ Cell Number _____________

Child Name ___________________________ Grade _____________

Child Name ___________________________ Grade _____________

Child Name ___________________________ Grade _____________

Child Name ___________________________ Grade _____________

Parent Volunteer during the formation sessions of RE and/or CYM

This year we are asking parents to volunteer during the formation sessions (minimum of once during the year). I can help on ___________________________________________ Date(s) and Grade.

Media Permission Slip

I give St. Agnes Catholic Church permission to use my child’s picture and name in conjunction with the following:

{ } weekly parish bulletin { } parish website { } television coverage { } newspaper articles

Signature of Parent ___________________________________________ Date _______________
Jesus tells the disciples to tell now one that He is the Messiah.

Directions: Use the letters DISCIPLES to come up with as many words as you can.

1. ______________________
2. ______________________
3. ______________________
4. ______________________
5. ______________________
6. ______________________
7. ______________________

Jesus asks Simon Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter said, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

Is 22:19-23  Ps138:1-3, 6, 8  Rom 11:33-36  Mt 16:13-20

Directions: Begin with the letter J in the center and decode the message by skipping every other letter.

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August 27, 2017

Connecting Students and Families through Faith

Up Coming Events

NO SCHOOL
September 4th-Labor Day

September 6th, 2017
Student Vision/Hearing Screening

September 11th-15th
MAPS Testing

September 13, 2017
School Pictures

St. Agnes Website is down. Thank you for your patience.

Back to school Picnic

The Home & School Association hosted the annual back to school picnic on Thursday, August 17th. Students and their families enjoyed reuniting after a long summer break. An open house followed the picnic allowing students to visit their classroom before the start of school on August 21st.
St. Agnes welcomed 115 students for the 1st day of school, on Monday, August 21st. It was an extra exciting day as the solar eclipse was occurring during the day. Students and their parents enjoyed an informational assembly where they learned eclipse safety, the science behind the eclipse and more. Glasses were provided by the tourism committee and students and parents alike enjoyed a picnic lunch and other activities as they awaited the total eclipse. What a memorable first day of school! Thanks to Dr. Pat Brown for sharing his time to instruct the students about this amazing science experience.
Building Upgrades

A number of upgrades were made to the building during the summer months. Pre-K and 2nd grade classroom received a freshening up as they were both paint-ed and re-carpeted. The After 3 room was also repainted and received a much needed new countertop. Don Wedell and his paint crew spruced up the exterior of the building by painting the trim a bronze color. Thanks to janitor, Dan Luna, for all of his work on building maintenance during the summer months.

Chrome Books

21st century technology continues to grow and expand in St. Agnes School as we recently brought on 60 Chrome Books courtesy of the 2016 Premiere Paddle auc-tion. These units will be used for both individual and whole group instruction as well as to complete our new testing format -- MAPS. Teachers received training on how to incorporate these units into their instruction and will continue to re-ceive professional development as the year progresses. Thanks to all who donat-ed to the paddle auction--our students will be prepared in technology.

Hot Lunch Menu for August 28th- Sept 1

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<th>Tuesday 29th</th>
<th>Wednesday 30th</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cheese Pizza</td>
<td>Hot dog on a bun</td>
<td>Fried chicken</td>
<td>Spaghetti w/ meat sauce</td>
<td>Super nachos</td>
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