



Saint Agnes

CATHOLIC CHURCH



September 3, 2024

Rev. Rayappa Konka
Pastor

Susan Flohr
Pastoral Minister

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00 am

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
7:00 am
Wed 8:15am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays one hour prior to Mass
or by appointment (632-2541)

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Parish Office

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 9am - Noon
& 1pm - 4pm



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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2314 Third Avenue, Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69361
(308)632-2541 Fax: (308)632-2146

Mailing address: PO Box 349, Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0349

Website: www.st-agnes-church.com

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am-Noon & 1pm - 4pm

Saint Agnes Catholic Church

Today's Readings

Isaiah 35:4-7

Psalm:146

James 2:1-5

Mark 7:31-37



Parish Administration

(308) 632-2541 / (308) 632-2146 (Fax)
office@st-agnes-church.com
www.st-agnes-church.com

Pastor

Rev. Rayappa Konka (ext. 2)

Church Office Manager

Theresa Trevino (ext. 3)
office@st-agnes-church.com

Pastoral Minister

Susan Flohr

Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Terri Calvert (ext.5)
dre@st-agnes-church.com

School Head Teacher

Mrs. Julie Brown (632-6918)
office@st-agnes-school.com

School Office Manager

Teresa Johnson (632-6918)
office@st-agnes-school.com

School Foundation

Executive Director

Isabel Moreno (632-6918)
imoreno@st-agnes-school.com

Prayer Chain Coordinator

Jean Ahrens (308-672-4632)

Music Ministry Director

Jessica Mikoloyck (308-631-6290)
jes.mikoloyck@gmail.com

The Twenty-Third Sunday In Ordinary Time

Be Opened

There are several moments throughout the calendar year when we are tricked into thinking we can reinvent ourselves.

One of them is New Year's Day. The barista at my coffee shop told me that they sell more decaf coffee in January than in the entirety of the remaining year, because everyone is swearing off caffeine. By February, she said, the trend subsides: folks have realized they're not actually superheroes just because the last digit of the year has increased by one.

The beginning of a new school year is another of those moments. Every pencil is freshly sharpened, and every lesson plan is painstakingly plotted. Our heads are full of what we plan to do this year, how we plan to do it, who we plan to become.

But by May, the wind is out of our sails. We've learned the concepts, we've used up the pencils, yes — but we've remembered that underneath it all we're basically the same people, with the same shortcomings and the same obstacles as we always were. The only difference in September was we had new planners.

The truth is that we cannot reinvent ourselves. We can't change ourselves at all, not on New Year's Day or the first day of school or on our 40th birthday or after quitting a bad habit. We are what we are: blind in some ways, deaf in others, crippled in still more, moving through life with uncertainty, stumbling in the dark.

People don't change. Not without miracles.

But being a Christian means believing in miracles and being ready for them at any moment — in January or in September, in the middle of a hopeless week or at the end of a bad day, when you feel strong and when you don't, when you want to be better and when you feel too tired to try.

No, we can't change ourselves, but we can be changed. There is one who can change us if we will let him. He is waiting — now, tomorrow, yesterday, next week. The time is always right for a miracle.

"He put his finger into the man's ears ... and said to him, 'Ephphatha!'— that is, 'Be opened!' —And immediately the man's ears were opened ..." Mark 7:34-35

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments - By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

This Week's Schedule

Reminder

There is no daily mass the week of September 9th thru the 13th due to the annual Priest Retreat. Daily Mass will resume on Monday, September 16th.

Rest In Peace Benita and Buford Williams, longtime parishioners of St. Agnes. Please pray for Benny and Buford as well as for their families during this difficult time. Funeral information will be forthcoming in the days ahead.

REST
IN
PEACE

This Week's Readings



Welcome

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/
Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24/
Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Sunday: Is 50:4c-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (9)/Jas 2:14-18/
Mk 8:27-35

Server Schedule

Sept 14 5pm Regan Schiff
Giuliana Suhr

Sept 15 8am Kaden Blaylock
Andrew Peck

10:00am Ruby Schiff
Claire Ascherl

Lector Schedule

Sept 14 5pm Jennifer Hiltgen

Sept 15 8am Dan Marshall

10:00am Mark Loose

Rosary Leader Schedule

Sept 14 5pm Ellen Ramig

Sept 15 8am Knights of Columbus

10:00am Angie Hilbert

Finance Corner

Sunday Collections & ATW Giving

September 2024 Totals


Actual	\$6183.40
Online Giving	\$1515.50
ATW	\$3695.00
Budget	\$10000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$1393.90

Next Sunday's 2nd collection is for Haiti/Uganda

Thank you for your continued giving!

SAVE THE DATE

2024 ST AGNES CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION PREMIERE



Friday, November 22, 2024

Gering Civic Center
Details to follow

IT'S CHILI SEASON!

ST. AGNES ALTAR SOCIETY FALL DINNER

PLEASE JOIN US!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

5:30-8:30PM

ST. AGNES SCHOOL GYM

UNLIMITED CHILI AND ALL YOUR FAVORITE TOPPINGS!

CINNAMON ROLLS OF COURSE. HOTDOGS. YOUR KIDS WILL BE HAPPY TOO! COFFEE, TEA, LEMONADE, BEER

\$10.00 PER PERSON


\$50 PER FAMILY OF 5 OR MORE

\$5 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER

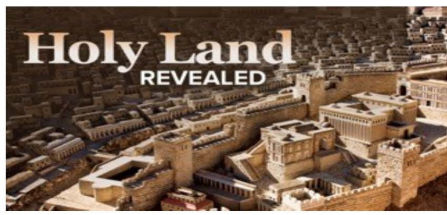
BAKE SALE AND 50 / 50 RAFFLE TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR ONLY



Mass Intentions & Special Requests



Requesting a Mass to be said for a loved one is a special way to honor either someone still living, or one who has gone ahead of us to the next stage of life in Christ. If someone dear to you is having a birthday, anniversary, or a new baby, what better way to honor them? The suggested donation for a Mass is \$10. For more information, contact the parish office (632-2541).



St. Agnes Monday Evening Discussion Group

This year's discussion group will start Monday, September 9 at 7:00 pm in the Garden Room and will continue into the spring.

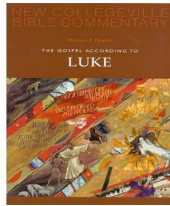
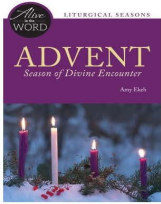
The group will begin with a DVD series on "The Holy Land Revealed." This course covers the ancient history of the geographic area that includes modern Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian territories. The time span begins with the First Temple period (ca. 960 B.C.) and goes through the Second Temple period, the time of Jesus.

In mid-November to mid-December the group will read and discuss a book by Amy Ekeh entitled "Advent: Season of Divine Encounter."

Beginning in January the group will study "The Gospel According to Luke" as the Sunday readings for the 2025 Liturgical Year will focus on the Gospel of Luke.

The discussion group meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 in the Garden Room. The only cost is for any books that an individual might want to purchase. Each session lasts approximately for one and one half hours. The discussion group is eager for more people to join. All are welcome.

Questions -- contact Kathleen Roehl 632-7407.



GIVE KIDS HOPE. TAKE THE CREDIT!

What if you had a say in how your tax liability helps Nebraskans? You do, through the Opportunity Scholarships Act! Nebraska taxpayers can now claim a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for contributions made to Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska.



DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS 1:1 STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT!

- Available to individuals, corporations, LLCs, S corps, estates and trusts.
- Dollar-for-dollar state income tax credit.
- Up to 50% or \$100k of your 2024 state income tax liability.
- Contributions fund scholarships for kids in need in your community.
- Contributors can designate funds to help kids who choose a specific school (up to two).
- Credits run out on or before **October 31, 2024.**

****Please make sure to designate your contribution in the name of St. Agnes School****

IT'S SIMPLE! MAKE YOUR TAX CREDIT CONTRIBUTION ONLINE NOW!
givehope.nebraskaopportunity.org



The Journey of Grief

Sundays
October 6,13,20,27 &
November 10,17,24

5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

St Agnes Church
2314 Third Avenue
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

(Come in the South Door—Proceed to Garden Level)

Everyone is Welcome

Contact:

Ellen Ramig at 308-631-0811
Stephanie Upp at 308-631-0645

The Journey of Grief is a six session program designed to aid the healing process of grief. Meetings will include information and discussion. The video topics are:

Discussion will be based on Doug Manning's Video Series—"The Journey of Grief". His presentation about the grief journey is captured in a personal way with practical advice. Sit with others who are grieving as he discusses the elements of the grief experience, the important aspects of a healthy approach to grieving and what grief companions can do to be a helpful part of the journey. The video topics are:

- The Journey of Grief
- The Definition of Grief
- The Dimensions of Grief
- The Needs of Grief
- The Ceremonies of Grief
- The Normal Reactions of Grief
- The Significance of Grief



Star Cards are gift cards

There are over 700 stores that offer rebate money to St Agnes Catholic School when you buy a card through us. In the past four years we have **earned \$15,021.34** for the school simply by buying cards for groceries, home projects or dinner. Thank you to everyone who purchased a card!

We have cards after mass for you to purchase **every third weekend of the month**. Except in September, we will be in the gathering space September 14th and 15th.

You may also go to <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/> login and begin shopping! We would love to answer questions or help you understand how the program works, Email: starcards@st-agnes-school.com



St. Agnes Catholic Church
@saintagneschurch



venmo

MARRIAGE NIGHT WITH
MISSIONARIES
MATT AND MINDY DALTON
SUNDAY SEPT 22
5-7PM
GARDEN ROOM
ST AGNES CHURCH
MARRIAGEMISSIONARIES.ORG

A Ministry Fair is coming to St. Agnes on September 21st & 22nd in the Gathering Space. Save the date as you won't want to miss this!

What is the Purpose of a Ministry Fair? A Ministry Fair is held to generate awareness, enthusiasm, and involvement among parishioners, ultimately increasing those involved in the various liturgical ministries at St. Agnes.

Is There a Theme? Yes! The theme of the 2024 Ministry Fair is, **“ Help me, Lord, to stir up the gift of your Spirit!”**

Stewardship, Me? A Ministry Fair also encourages the practice of stewardship of time and talent by fostering a deeper realization about our Baptismal call to be followers and disciples of Jesus Christ.

Got Questions? The Ministry Fair is a great way for parishioners to meet and gather information about the various liturgical ministries that are available within the parish community. The following ministries will be featured, and a representative will be present to answer any questions you may have: *Greeters, Ushers, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Music, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, and Environment.*

Already Involved? For those already involved in ministry, parishioners are afforded an opportunity to recommit their time and talent in order to carry out the parish's mission statement and help build the Kingdom of God on earth.

Religious Education Program

Email—dre@st-agnes-church.com

Religious Education Office—308-635-1362

Celebrating Sunday
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: *Mark 7:31-37*

On the Way to Mass:

If I could ask Jesus for help today, what would I say?

On the Way Home From Mass:

If you were the man Jesus healed, what's the first thing you would do?

Living the Word:

This week let's ask God to keep our hearts open to hear his voice. Maybe we'll hear him in the beautiful sounds of nature if we are quiet enough to listen, through our family members. Let's pray that God will help us speak with love. May we give praise to God in everything we say.

*Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families
2024-2025*

Find Us On



Parish Website

www.st-agnes-church.com

myParish App

In the App Store on your phone or tablet

Facebook

St. Agnes Catholic Church

Save the Dates!

September 11th

7-8 pm - Religious Education formation sessions begin!

October 23rd

6pm - First Holy Communion parent's meeting (*Garden Room*)

Feasts and Celebrations

September 5 - St. Teresa of Kolkata (1997).

Gonxha Agnes Bojaxhiu joined the Loreto nuns and taught in India. Shocked by the poverty and suffering she witnessed, she founded the Missionaries of Charity to help her to "serve [Christ] in the poorest of the poor."

September 14 - Exaltation of the Holy Cross (c.326). St. Helena (mother of Emperor Constantine) discovered what is believed to be the True Cross while on pilgrimage in Jerusalem. On that site, Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher.

September 17 - St. Robert Bellarmine (1621).

A Jesuit, Robert was a scholar devoted to studying and writing about Church history, Scripture, and the Fathers of the Church, aiming to explain and defend Church doctrine. Although a cardinal and counselor to Pope Clement VIII, he lived a simple life.

September 21 - St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (1st Century). Also called Levi, he was a notorious tax collector. St. Matthew left everything when he was called to discipleship (Luke 5:27).



Partners in Faith - September 2024

Religious Education 2024-2025 Early Registration!

You can register your child(ren) on-line today for the RE sessions by scanning the QR Code below.



Stewardship Opportunities Many 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.

Starting on September 11th all Catholic formation sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm. All on the St. Agnes campus.

Are you willing to share your Catholic faith with others? If so, would you be willing to be a catechists on Wednesday evenings?

As you nurture the faith of our young, you will learn and grow as well! As one long-time catechist put it, "I learn so much from the children!" You will be provided with training, materials, and support.

If you are willing to share your time and talents with the children and youth of St. Agnes please contact the Religious Education Office via Email—dre@st-agnes-church.com

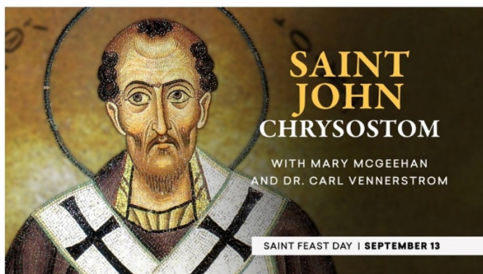
THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of September 08, 2024



A Bible Study on the Annunciation

In this video, Dr. Ben Akers leads us through a brief study of Luke 1:26–38, highlighting some of the key Old Testament passages evoked by Gabriel's words. The reflection concludes with some thoughts on how we can imitate Mary's Yes in our own life, especially in this time of suffering.



St. John Chrysostom | Catholic Saints

From Antioch, the political center of the fifth-century world, arose a golden-tongued preacher and bishop: St. John Chrysostom. Listen to Dr. Carl Vennerstrom and Mary McGeehan discuss the life and preaching of this great doctor of the Church who gave us countless powerful prayers and homilies.



The Eyes Have It | Benjamin Cello | Episode 2

Glow Worm is losing her glow, and her eyes are going with it! It'll take the ministrations of mother and expert Lady Iris to help Glow Worm fix her eyes on Jesus and see with a heavenly perspective.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

Kids' Corner

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

GALILEE	TOUCH	SPIT
DEAF	FINGERS	TONGUE
TALK	EARS	AMAZED

O	D	L	A	D	H	M	A	C	D
F	T	O	N	G	U	E	R	O	G
N	A	D	W	A	B	G	I	S	N
H	L	I	N	L	M	D	E	A	F
J	K	S	P	I	T	S	A	U	I
L	E	O	H	L	V	I	R	E	N
A	M	A	Z	E	D	K	S	O	G
W	H	F	B	E	O	B	T	I	E
E	L	T	O	U	C	H	M	L	R
T	M	N	G	S	W	I	E	K	S

MISSION

Go to the library and find out how to say "Jesus loves you" in sign language. On the way home, pretend you cannot hear or speak.

PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

Moses	lifted	snake
perish	save	world
loved	heaven	desert

soMes	<u>M</u> <u>o</u> <u>s</u> <u>e</u> <u>s</u>
havnee	_____
letfid	_____
saken	_____
dseret	_____
levod	_____
wrodL	_____
presHi	_____
seva	_____

MISSION

When you catch yourself doing something wrong, stop. Ask Jesus to help you.



Connecting Students and Families through Faith
September 8, 2024



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 11th

No Mass - Fr. Konka is gone
School Pictures

Celebrating Summer Readers

Scottsbluff Public Library librarians, Eliana Blich and Elizabeth Perez, visited our school on Tuesday, August 27th to honor students who read 10 or more books during the summer reading program. St. Agnes had 25 students who achieved this goal. Shout out to all who participated in this GREAT program.

The librarians invited the students to continue to use the library this fall and winter as they have a number of fun programs available for children 6 and over. A flyer was e-mailed home with all these great opportunities.



<p>Family Storytime Mondays at 1:30 p.m. Thursdays 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. for children and their grownups!</p>	<p>Youth Programming At</p> <p>LIED SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY The community's living room.</p>	<p>LEGO CLUB 5:30-6:30 p.m. the last Monday of the month Younger children must be accompanied by an adult</p>
<p>ART ATTACK! 4th Tuesday of each month 4 p.m.-5 p.m. Unleash your creative expression! all ages welcome</p>	<p>STEAMpunkS 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 3:30-5 p.m. 3rd-8th grades pre-K - 2nd grade with a helper</p>	<p>After-School LEGO club for Kindergarten and older NEW! 4-5 p.m. 2nd Tuesday of the month</p>
<p>Watch for: a NEW Middle School Book Club Special CHALLENGE days Thinking Money for Kids classes</p>	<p>Book Club APOCALYPSE 4th Wednesday of each month 4-5 p.m. 3rd-5th grade</p>	



St. Agnes Catholic School
205 E 23rd, Scottsbluff, NE
Ph: 308-632-6918



Ways to Help St. Agnes School

We know that parents, grandparents, alumni, friends and parishioners love to do what they can to help St. Agnes School. There are some easy ways to offer support to our school:

Co-op Receipts: If you shop at Co-op, please save your receipts and turn in at the school or church. For every \$100,000 in receipts, the school receives \$1000.

Lunch Help: We need 2 volunteer servers daily to assist our lunchroom supervisor. If you can give 1 hour (11:30-12:30), please contact the school office and get signed up.

100 Club: This long-standing fundraiser is both fun and easy. Members pay \$10/month to participate. Winners are drawn monthly and can win from \$50-\$200. If you'd like to be a member, please contact 100 club coordinator, Mary Skiles at skilesmary@hotmail.com

Star Cards: Star cards can be purchased in physical cards or online to purchase items you would already be buying. The participating businesses give a percent back to the organization, (our school). Cards are sold the 3rd Sunday of the month after all Masses, can be ordered at starcards@st-agnes-school.com or purchased as e-cards online. There are hundreds of participating merchants. For more information, contact coordinators: Jody Windhorst or Beth Merrigan.

School Pictures

Spectrum Photography will be taking school pictures on Wednesday, September 11th. All students will be photographed regardless of whether you desire to order pictures. We use the photos in our Sycamore system.

If you would like to order, please fill out the envelope provided by Spectrum and include payment inside. Envelopes must be turned in the morning of picture taking. If you'd like to make one payment for multiple children, please fill out an envelope for each child and mark on the front that payment is located in the other child's envelope.



Penny Push

Each year, St. Agnes students and staff hold a penny push. Pennies and change are saved throughout the year and are then donated to a charity of choice. Last year, our funds benefited the Humane Society.

Please save your pennies and have your child put them in their respective class' bucket. The class who saves the most will earn a pizza party.



Hot Lunch Menu for September 9th, 2024 - September 13th, 2024

<u>Monday, Sept 9</u>	<u>Tuesday, Sept 10</u>	<u>Wednesday, Sept 11</u>	<u>Thursday, Sept 12</u>	<u>Friday, Sept 13</u>
Pigs in Blanket Corn Celery w/peanut butter Banana	Tuna Melt Broccoli Watermelon Cheddar Sun Chips	Tater Tot Casserole Peas Cantaloupe Dinner Roll	Chicken Tenders Sweet Potato Fries Mandarin Oranges Jello Jigglers	Cheese Quesadilla Refried Beans Lettuce Salad Applesauce
Helpers: Maina Kader Gould Family	Helpers: Kristin Gauthier Gould Family	Helpers: Kristen Bauer Cassie Meza	Helpers: Katy Marshall Gould Family	Helpers: Cody Roper Meghan Roper

What's Happening at St. Agnes School.....



Pre-K Class By Nicole Boness

Pre-K started off the first week of school learning about classroom rules, how to play with each other, and our routine. They have also been exploring centers and making new friends. Pre-K also thought it was cool that they got to leave the classroom and go to specials. We had our first practice of safety drills. I must say Pre-K did an excellent job. They got to explore the school, and look for doors that had owls on them. An owl means it's a safe place for them to go. They learned where to go for a fire, tornado, and lock down drill.

This last week we have been working on drawing circles, tracing our name, and learning how to use glue and scissors. Now that we are getting into the swing of things, these next couple of weeks we will be learning how to draw people, working on our fine motor skills, and starting our apple unit. We will also be working on colors, numbers, letters, and shapes.

I am very excited for this year! I can't wait to share all the things we will be learning and creating. I would also like to thank everyone who donated towards the giving tree. Pre-K is excited to use all of their fun items.



2nd Grade Class By Lori Svitak

Second grade is off to a great start. The students are settling into the routine and learning all the new procedures. In math, we are learning about ones, tens, and hundreds. We have been using the base-ten blocks to break apart numbers to understand place value. It's always better to manipulate things when learning.

In reading, we have worked on learning how to take vocabulary tests. The students did very well on their first test. We are enjoying the stories in our anthology. The skills we are working on are inflectional endings -s and -es, the differences in statements, questions, commands, and exclamatory sentences, and understanding the author's use of characters, setting, and events.

In science, we are beginning our unit on plants and animals. We are looking at the similarities and differences in each of the lifecycles. We will explore how plants and animals help each other.

One of our team building activities we did was to work together in groups of two to "Save Freddy" This involves teamwork to get a life saver gummy on a gummy worm without using your fingers. They had to use paper clips instead. This was a lot of fun!

I am looking forward to getting to know each of your children!

