Rev. Vincent L. Parsons  
Pastor

Sr. Vera Meis, C.S.J.  
Pastoral Minister

Mass Schedule:
(October - May)
Saturday: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 am
(June - September)
Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00 am
Monday, Tues, Wed, Friday  7 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays one hour prior to evening Mass or by appointment (632-2541)
Sacrament of Baptism
Please call the Parish Office

Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?
James 2:5

September 9, 2018
It is hard to believe Labor Day has come and gone! I don’t know about you, but, for me it indicates the end of summer. I guess all good things must come to an end. However, it does signal we are now settled and off and running of another school year. Please know of my prayers for all school teachers, school administrators, and school staffs in our area.

I would be remiss if I didn’t offer a few words about our school here at St. Agnes. This year we will have over 120 young people in our school building in pre-K through grade 5. I am most grateful to Mrs. Julie Brown, our administrator, our faculty, and staff for all they do day in and day out to make our school a place where our young people can encounter Christ. I especially want to thank our maintenance crew for all of their hard work this summer. They have put so much time and energy into our school and it looks tremendous.

Over the summer we have done a lot of routine maintenance at our school, like painting, waxing the floors, and cleaning. In addition, we added a new gym floor – thanks to your generosity, we have examined and reviewed our security around the school and will be implementing policies and procedures to protect our kids at all times, and so much more.

I am happy to say that in addition to providing a strong faith environment, our school prides itself in academic excellence, we have the latest technologies, we have a strong base of extracurricular activities, a strong service program that instills good Christ-like values, and we work diligently to develop well-rounded children that will excel in all areas of life. If you are ever interested in Catholic education, please call St. Agnes Catholic School. Enjoy these last days of summer! Know that you and your loved ones are always in my prayers.

---

**This Week’s Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 10, 2018</td>
<td>(7:00am)</td>
<td>Daily Mass</td>
<td>Intention: Paul Moore by Phil &amp; Colleen Kelley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 11, 2018</td>
<td>(7:00am)</td>
<td>Daily Mass</td>
<td>Intention: Daniel Reader by Zita Bolinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 12, 2018</td>
<td>(8:15 am)</td>
<td>Daily Mass</td>
<td>Intention: Michael Gion by Larry Gion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 13, 2018</td>
<td>(9:30 am)</td>
<td>Daily Mass</td>
<td>Intention: Felix Koenig by Lucille &amp; Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, September 14, 2018</td>
<td>(7:00 am)</td>
<td>Daily Mass</td>
<td>Intention: Don Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 15, 2018</td>
<td>(6:00pm)</td>
<td>Weekend Mass</td>
<td>Intention: Carney Family by Jim &amp; Cathy Carney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, September 16, 2018</td>
<td>(8:00am)</td>
<td>Weekend Mass</td>
<td>Intention: For the Parish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Are you or 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 you or someone you know would like more information about the RCIA program, please call the Religious Education Office at 308-635-1362 or Email: office@st-agnes-church.com

***see the parish website for more information & registration forms***

Important Dates To Remember In 2018

- Sept 19 Rel Ed. begins for grades 6th-12th
- Sept 25 RCIA classes begin
- Oct. 7 Rel Ed. begins for grades pre-k - 5th
- Oct 9 Young at Heart
- Oct 14 Parish Fall Dinner
- Nov. 16 St. Agnes Premiere

Next weekend’s 2nd collection is for West Nebraska Register

Finance Corner

Sunday Collections & ATW Giving

September Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>ATW</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Surplus (Deficit)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$6553.00</td>
<td>$5039.50</td>
<td>$9000.00</td>
<td>$2592.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Annual Fiesta & Mexican Dinner

Sunday, Sept 16, 2018
Guadalupe Center
11am – 2pm
**Carryout will be open until 3**
$10/Plate

Young at Heart

Next month’s luncheon for folks of retirement age will be held Tuesday, October 9th at noon in the Garden Room. Please bring a covered dish to share.

RCIA: a journey in faith

Are you or 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 you or someone you know would like more information about the RCIA program, please call the Religious Education Office at 308-635-1362 or Email: office@st-agnes-church.com

***see the parish website for more information & registration forms***

St. Agnes Fall Dinner

Sunday, October 14, 2018
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Adults: $10 Under 10: $5 3 & Under: Free

The 2018 Premiere Gala and Auction

is Friday, November 16th.
Presented by the St. Agnes Catholic School Foundation, this evening is a lovely celebration of our students and our school. Please watch the bulletin for more information as it get’s closer to November.
For more information, please contact Jackie Seymour at the foundation office at 632-6918 or visit stagnesonline.org/foundation.com

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7,12; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149: 1b-6a, 9b; Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45: 11-12, 14-17; 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: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78: 1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116: 12-13, 17-18; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Sunday: Is 50:5-9a; Ps 116:1-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

Server Schedule

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 15</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>Osiris Saucedo</td>
<td>Kyle Henderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Anna Hafner</td>
<td>Abraham Hafner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Zaide Gurrola</td>
<td>Adam Polk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lector Schedule

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 15 &amp; 22</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>Kathleen Roehl</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 16 &amp; 23</td>
<td>8am</td>
<td>Margaret Rood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Chuck Schwartz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Premiere

Friday, November 16th, 2018
Gering Civic Center
From the Deacon’s Desk

At every baptism of an infant, the Priest or the Deacon replays the Ephphatha events occurring in Mark’s Gospel today. The presider at the Baptism traces the sign of the cross over the child’s ears and lips while saying, “The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.” Like the actions of Jesus who enabled the deaf man to hear and speak, this child of God later in life will be capable of hearing and telling the story of Jesus’ salvation.

Even though once blessed by these words at our Baptism, have we gone deaf to the Lord? Have we lost the ability to defend our faith? It may seem that way if we go to Mass and fail to feel the benefits of being in the presence of the Lord. Maybe we no longer associate the intent of the prayers of the Mass or the homily with the events of our daily lives. Maybe we no longer recognize Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

If we find ourselves dulled to God’s graces; we have fallen victim to the insidious trap of the devil. It is the evil one’s goal is to use every opportunity to create barriers from the blessings that the Lord extends to each of us. When we allow the walls to separate us from God, we have lost our ability to listen and speak to the Lord. These obstacles in our lives to realize the promises of salvation seem insurmountable. For when we become deaf to God’s words, we lose our ability to know ourselves because we no longer know Jesus.

There is no magic elixir available to unstop our ears and free our tongue to the hear the message and speak of the Lord. It requires diligent work to recommit our lives to Jesus, to rip down the walls that the devil builds through our doubts and apathy. For it is only through our prayers that are from the heart and occur with an unwavering commitment that will open our souls to the graces of the Lord.

Instead of immediately beginning with the semester’s required coursework, at the seminary here at St. Meinrad, we started with a week of prayer and spiritual formation. Continually delving into the mystery of prayer raised our awareness that we cannot be successful in our efforts here on this Holy Hill without Jesus as our intercessor and guide. It was a heart-warming vision to see 120 men praying together, singing together all in praise of God who brought us to this seminary. It may seem that we have an advantage in being at St Meinrad’s and collectively expressing our praise of God. However, every weekend there is that opportunity for you to pray together, to ask for the intercession of Lord; it is called Mass. The combined voices of the parish are just as valid as the prayers of the seminarians at St. Meinrad.

So if it seems our ears have lost that ability to hear the blessings of the Lord and our mouths can no longer speak the message of salvation that Jesus gave us to share, it is time to increase our prayer life. From the earliest moments in becoming a child of God by baptism, we are reminded of the importance of communicating with Jesus. Maybe it is time to pray that the finger of Jesus again touches to open our ears and correct our impediment to speak of the glory of the Lord.

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers. (1 Peter 3:12)
The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

**Treasures From Our Tradition**

Back to work we go! Summer break is over and there is much to accomplish in school and in the workplace. It’s a venerable Catholic custom to assign patron saints to the trades and occupations of life. This is largely in the realm of popular devotion, and although from time to time the Vatican declares a saint to be patron of this or that, the process is free-wheeling and just about uncontrollable. Still, there is a saint for almost any purpose, whether you are on death row (Dismas), having eye trouble (Lucy), or pursued by poisonous toads (Hubert). Medieval guilds would often associate themselves with heavenly patrons, so Saint Joseph has the carpenters, Thomas More the lawyers, and physicians get Saint Luke. If you’re stuck in the airport, St. Joseph of Cupertino is on call since he was said to rise off the floor when he prayed, and if you’re in a long line at the ATM, Saint Anthony Claret is for you.

In recent years, the Vatican has from time to time assigned a new patronage, as when Saint Aloysius Gonzaga was named the patron of HIV-AIDS patients, since as a young Jesuit novice he had cared for his fellow novices during a terrible plague. Anything that matters to us—nation, parish church, occupation, illness—can have a patron, and it is an aspect of Catholicism that has enormous appeal. To believe in the “communion of saints” is to know that the ties that bind us as a communion do not unravel with death, and that when we stand before life’s struggles, we do not stand alone. Who is your patron saint?

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

**No Distinctions**

For three hundred years poor people and slaves were willing to risk death to become Christians, because Jesus offered hope and life. After the ban on Christianity was lifted, the church expanded freely, gradually acquiring wealth and property and converting the wealthy and powerful. According to today’s second reading, we should be embarrassed that we still tend to treat rich and powerful people differently than the poor and lowly. Could we really ask significant people in the Church or society to take their chances finding a seat at Mass like everyone else? Today’s second reading suggests we should. In many parishes differences of class and income already take second place to the greater purpose for which people gather—to worship God. Our Sunday parish Masses are where richness in faith rather than earthly status gives each person their worth and dignity.

Copyright © 2011, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

**Reflecting on God’s Word**

Perhaps you saw the movie The King’s Speech about the future king of England, George VI, whose speech impediment was so severe that it reduced him to tears of anger and humiliation. His wife, Elizabeth, found a speech therapist who was able to help him by using some unorthodox methods, such as rolling around on the floor, cursing, and singing. It is a profoundly moving experience when King George finally addresses his people over the radio and delivers a speech flawlessly, giving courage to his people on the eve of World War II.

The story in this Gospel tells us how Jesus helped a man to find his voice. The man whose tongue Jesus touched with his spittle (an element believed to ward off demons) came to speak “plainly.” Another word for “plainly” would be “rightly,” in the sense of correctly or truly. “Be opened!” Jesus says, and it happens (Mark 7:34). The man then spoke the truth of what Jesus did for him, and honored him.

As we hold firm to our faith in the Lord, Jesus calls us to both speak and act “rightly” in the eyes of the world, caring for those who have little and treating them with the same dignity as those who have much. We are called to imitate Jesus by reaching out tenderly to touch those who have been wounded by life and burdened by the rejection of others. Helping others to hear the sound of love can be done in many quiet ways and with little fanfare.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R. Copyright © 2014, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

*The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts.*

—Marcus Aurelius
Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

On the Way to Mass:
Where in your life have you been closed off and needed to be more open?

On the Way Home From Mass:
How does it feel when you think about being more open? What kinds of emotions come up?

Living the Word:
As a family, take a walk down your street. Invite each family member to look at the neighborhood with new eyes, as though they had never been on the street before. Do they see anything that has gone unnoticed? When the family gets home, encourage each person to count the number of things that were seen with new eyes. How did it feel to be open to seeing new things in their neighborhood? What difference would it make to always be open to God?

Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families 2018-2019

Find Us On
Facebook: stagnes-church
Twitter: stagnes-church
Instagram: st.agnescatholicchurch
Parish Website: www.st-agnes-church.com

Religious Education Program

Are you willing to share your Catholic faith with high school youth from St. Agnes? If so, the CYM program is in need of adults to echo the Catholic faith to two groups of 9th grade youth. In the CYM program, youth gather at the catechist’s home on Wednesday evenings in small groups to learn and share on topics of the Catholic faith. The focus of the 9th grade year is, The Creed. For more information please contact the RE Office at 308-635-1362 or email at dre@st-agnes-church.com.

Confirmation

Confirmation candidate and parent’s meeting will be on Wednesday, September 12th at 7 p.m. in the Garden Room of the Church. Candidates please bring a copy of your baptismal certificate with you to the meeting.

Middle School & CYM formation sessions begin on Wednesday, September 19th.

Sunday Catechist formation will be on Sunday, September 23rd at 9:15 a.m. in the learning center of the school. The annual Safe Environment training will take place during this session.

Looking for a movie to watch as a family?
Go to Formed.org today and search the video library.

If you haven’t signed up yet - go to: www.saintagneschurch.formed.org and sign up today!
Parenting advice from the Holy Family
A new school year presents an opportunity for a fresh approach. The Bible doesn’t say much about how Mary and Joseph prepared Jesus for his unique vocation but we can get an idea by what we know of the adult Jesus. This year, model the Holy Family to raise a holy family, too.

Nurture virtue. During his public ministry, Jesus demonstrated the virtues of patience, persistence, hard work, honesty, devotion, and develop these virtues will prepare them for their own unique vocations. Helping children to

Give a timely gentle push. At the reluctant to perform that first he was ready. At a gentle push from happen.

Let God steer. When the angel told she allowed God the use of her Teach children, through prayer and direction their lives will take.

Strengthen your own faith and practice. When Jesus was young, the way Joseph lived, how he practiced his faith, and how he answered the boy’s questions helped to form Jesus’ understanding of God. Be sure you are strong in your own faith so you can properly influence that of your children.

Thoughtful Moments:
St. John Chrysostom
Born in Antioch around 349 A.D., St. John was raised by his widowed mother, Anthusa, who had him educated by the best teachers of the day. He was ordained and eventually elevated to be Bishop of Constantinople – the most powerful city in the world at the time. He curbed the spending of his own courts to provide for the poor, and criticized the opulence of the royal courts. As a result of this, he died in exile.

Always a second chance
Don’t give up if you feel you have failed in parenting – or in life. Remember St. Peter. Although he deserted Jesus when he was most needed, Jesus gave him another chance (John 20:19). He will do the same for all of us.

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Why Do Catholics Do That?
Why do Catholics pray?
As Catholics we know that God created us out of love and he continually reaches out to us to encourage us to love him back. Prayer is our response to God’s love. Catholics pray because we believe in God’s presence in our lives. We pray because we have hope that our salvation is coming. And we pray because during prayer, the Holy Spirit brings us hope, joy, and peace. Prayer is what connects us to God directly, intimately, and lovingly.
When Jesus healed the deaf man, his speech impediment was also removed immediately.

Directions: What 5 letters are left when you take IMPEDIMENT and IMMEDIATELY and cross off every letter that is the same?

Letters left

1. ____  2. ____  3. ____  4. ____  5. ____

The people brought a deaf man with a speech impediment to Jesus and begged Him to lay His hands on him to help the man.

Is 35:4-7  Ps 146:7-10  Jas 2:1-5  Mk 7:31-37

Directions: Put the following words in ABC order

deaf  speech  people
begged  hands  man

1. ____________  2. ____________  3. ____________  4. ____________  5. ____________  6. ____________
Wednesday, Sept 12th
Mass @ 8:15 - 4th Gr. leads
Picture Day - Send picture envelopes

**Classroom fieldtrips are beginning. Please pay your activity fee now if you have not already done so**

Lunch helpers are still needed on multiple days in September. Please check with the school office for open dates.

Reading Incentive Kick-off

St. Agnes student gathered in the gym on Friday, Aug. 31st for the kick-off of the annual reading incentive program. This year’s program will center around the school theme of TEAM. Students in all grades, Pre-K - 5th have been given a monthly goal for reading at home. Those who meet their goal will receive monthly prizes and will earn the privilege of attending the large group parties held in January and May. All students are encouraged to participate in this fun and rewarding program as reading is a key component to success in school.

Fall is in the air!
Thanks to Western Nebraska Pioneers

In June, St. Agnes School received a check from the newly founded Western Nebraska Pioneers baseball organization. Throughout the summer, this group awarded a number of local non-profit organizations a check based off the proceeds of the respective organization’s “night at the ball park” sales. St. Agnes was the lucky recipient of $161. Thanks to all who attended the game in the support of our school. We enjoyed watching our students Morgan and Grant Celli throw out the 1st pitch and alumni Emma Marks sing the National Anthem. We look forward to next summer and another fun night at the ballgame.

Cash for Trash

St. Agnes School is continuing their Trash for Cash program this school year. Parishioners and school families are asked to save Box Tops for Education Labels and Coop Receipts. These may be dropped off at school or placed in the collection basket in an appropriately labeled envelope. We also collect empty ink cartridges, which give us credit at Staples. We thank you for your support of these programs. They bring in about $2,000 per year for our school.

School is in full swing!

School Pictures

Individual student pictures will be taken by Spectrum Photography on Wednesday, Sept. 12. Envelopes were sent home with students on Tuesday, Sept. 4. This envelope and the corresponding money must be returned by picture day in order for the order to be submitted. If the envelope is forgotten, it becomes the parent’s responsibility to contact Spectrum to place the order. Families with multiple children may write one check, but should indicate this on each child’s picture envelope.

What’s Happening at St. Agnes School

Hot Lunch Menu for September 10th- September 14th, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, Sept 10</th>
<th>Tuesday, Sept 11</th>
<th>Wednesday, Sept 12</th>
<th>Thursday, Sept 13</th>
<th>Friday, Sept 14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Nuggets</td>
<td>Hot Dog on a Bun</td>
<td>Hamburger on a Bun</td>
<td>Fried Chicken</td>
<td>Super Nachos - Beans, Chips, Taco Meat, Salsa &amp; Cheese sauce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herb Baby Potatoes</td>
<td>Carrots w/ Ranch dip</td>
<td>French Fries</td>
<td>Mashed Potatoes &amp; Gravy, Peas</td>
<td>Steamed Carrots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>Potato Circles</td>
<td>Mixed Green Salad w/Dorothy Lynch Dressing</td>
<td>Roll &amp; Margarine</td>
<td>Apricots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applesauce</td>
<td>Grapes</td>
<td>Pears</td>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>Helped:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll &amp; Margarine</td>
<td>Cookie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jackie Seymour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Helpers:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Helpers:</strong></td>
<td><strong>HELPER NEEDED</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Schmall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Erin Dudden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Gonzales</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Douglas Wheeler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First Grade Students are definitely shining stars!!! They are eager to learn. Way to go, class!!

In science, we have learned how scientists work and the tools they use. The students then drew a model of an animal and made that animal with Play-Doh. We even wrote stories about our animal. We are also learning about inquiry skills.

The students are learning that God is our Father and He loves us. We have discussed heaven. On Wednesdays, Mrs. Calvert comes to our class to share the word of God with us.

The first grade students have the fourth grade students as Mass buddies and the fifth grade students as our reading buddies. We are so glad to have such good role models share time with us.

We have discussed capital letters at the beginning of sentences and the use of periods. We are using these concepts in our writing.

Abraham Lincoln and George Washington are two presidents we have discussed in class. The students are also learning about maps. They have been so interested in the maps.

Thank you to all of the first grade parents for your kindness and support.

Watch for photos of classroom activities in our next article.

Third Grade Class
By Amanda Brill

Welcome to Third Grade

The past two weeks have been fun-filled, but busy! We have been actively getting to know the routines and procedures of being upstairs with the big kids here at St. Agnes! We had so much fun on our first day of school. It can be scary heading upstairs, but we are doing just fine now!

Academically we are learning about communities in social studies, and how we can contribute back to the community we live in.

In math, we are reviewing how to read charts, calendars, and how we solve problems using lists, and logic! We are getting started with learning the much-loved cursive handwriting. The kids are excited to really take off and learn how to fully read and write in cursive this year!

Our theme this September in third grade is *Jesus is the Core to a Good School Year.* We are learning that when Jesus is our center, or “core”, like an apple, and we make him a priority in our lives, the rest of life falls into place!

I am so excited for this school year. This is a great group of kids, and I can’t wait to see them change and mature as third graders!