



# St. Agnes Parish Newsletter

## 7 January 2018

### Epiphany



From the Desk of Fr. Paul :



**Happy New Year!** As the Christmas season draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted in decorating the church, making it look as beautiful as it was. St. Agnes' is a very beautiful church already, but with the wreaths, poinsettias, and especially the lit trees and large wreath, made it look that much more festive and celebratory.

I am likewise grateful to all those who dedicated their time and talent preparing for all the liturgical ministries; this involves a lot of people and I'm sooooo grateful for your participation.

We had huge crowds and I received many positive comments from people who attended the masses. They wanted to be here and it was a good experience for them. I am always left wondering to myself what the Church and our parish would be like if the experience of Christmas masses was our typical, weekly experience. *The simple answer is that everything would be instantaneously changed*, in the Church throughout the entire world. We would have far more people in ministries and our liturgies would have more energy and the joy that comes from that.

Alas, we know that this is not the case. It's not a reality that makes me in any way cynical or jaded – no, absolutely not. Joy is a hallmark of an authentic faith; negativity and cynicism is not from the Holy Spirit and we should make it a resolution for 2018 not to allow it a place in our lives. But I'm always asking myself what it is about the Christmas and Easter feasts that seems to touch and resonate with so many people who otherwise don't seem to feel the need to attend throughout much of the rest of the year. Well, if there was as simple answer, I think someone would have figured that out by now and everyone else would just need to copy the answer, but it's not that easy.

What encouraged me was how many of you introduced to me the people you had asked to come with you to Mass, as per my advice and challenge at Advent. Yes, a number of people said to me as I made

my rounds through the pews before the Masses: "Father, here is the person(s) I invited to come to Mass with me!" Haha - that was amazing! Congratulations to those who realized "success" in this endeavor but even if you were refused by the person you asked, you know what? You succeeded too, and here's why: we need to continue to deepen and foster a culture at our parish of asking, inviting, and proposing to others to join us. Not once or twice a year but all the time. This needs to become an abiding "habit" and culture of our parish. Over time, with persistence and the naturalness that comes from who we are and saying things our way about this to others, we will succeed. We are all in this together! So keep it up – ask by ask, invite by invite, we can make a HUGE difference in our parish over the course of the year.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who remembered me with cards and gifts – you were far too generous! Incredible. I opened everything just moments, literally, before the parish lost power on the afternoon/evening of Christmas Day. I spent the rest of the evening chasing our runaway garbage and recycling bins, who were trying to make a break for it through the parish parking lot.



**Mark Your Calendars for January 21st, 2018.**

**January 21st is the feast day of our Patron Saint—St. Agnes.**



*Come on out and celebrate our Patron Saint Day. Archbishop Anthony Mancini will celebrate the 10:30am Mass on January 21.*

*Our Knights of Columbus Council will be hosting a Feast Day Breakfast, which will include scrambled eggs, pancakes and sausage—or, there will be fruit and yogurt with tea and coffee for those who do not want to partake of a large breakfast.*

*Date: Sunday January 21st 2018  
Time: following the 10:30am Mass in the Auditorium  
Cost: \$5.00 for Adults (children are free).*

**Tickets available in the office, from Tanya or any of our Brother Knights.**



## Religious Education News

Religion Classes resume this Sunday  
Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**RCIA Sessions** resume Sunday Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> 10:30am  
Mass, 11:30am Session. The Rite of Acceptance  
will be at the 10:30am Mass.

**Rosary Making** begins Wednesday Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>  
6:30pm-8:00pm. We meet biweekly, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday of each month. We may explore  
some new ideas and projects this New Year. All  
are welcome!!!

**Friday Fun Night** will be held on January 26<sup>th</sup>  
from 6:30pm

### ***Saint Francis Xavier Relic arrives this Sunday***

On Sunday, January 7, the Feast of the Epiphany of our  
Lord we welcome the arrival of the relic of Saint  
Francis Xavier to Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica. The  
schedule for the visit is as follows:

10:30am	Sunday Mass
11:30—4:30pm	Public Veneration
5:00 pm	Sunday Mass, Archbishop Mancini
6:00—10:00pm	Public Veneration (6:30 Relic Talk: (Life of St Francis Xavier and the Three Graces)

This is a unique opportunity to encounter Christ  
through one of the most famous missionaries of all  
time.

The relics of Saint Francis will make a 14 city cross Can-  
ada tour from January 3-February 3. The project is a  
collaboration of the Archdiocese of Ottawa, the Jesuits  
of Canada, and Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO).

For more information about the tour see: [cco.ca/relic](http://cco.ca/relic)

### **Week at a Glance**

#### **Sunday January 7**

RCIA—St. Agnes Rm 11:30am Mass  
Private Function—auditorium 7-9pm

#### **Monday January 8**

Bingo—auditorium 6:50pm

#### **Tuesday January 9**

Altar Society—Fr. Frecker Rm—8:45am  
Meditation—Campbell Centre 1:30pm  
Atlantic Sewing Group—Campbell Centre 7pm

#### **Wednesday January 10**

Playgroup—Auditorium 10—12 pm  
Adult choir—Church —6pm  
Private function—Auditorium 8:30pm

#### **Thursday January 11**

Prayer Shawl Ministry—Campbell Cen. 1:30pm  
Private function—auditorium -9pm

#### **Friday January 12**

Indoor Walking—Auditorium—10-11am  
Quilting— Campbell Centre—9am  
Private function 4:30—5:30pm

#### **Saturday January 13**

All Ages Dance—Auditorium 6:30—9pm

#### **Sunday January 14**

L'Arche—Auditorium—1-4pm  
Private function—Auditorium 7-9pm

***Please Note: There will be no Mass on  
Wednesday January 24th.***