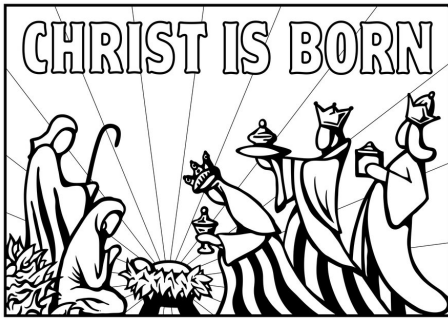


# St. Agnes & Sacred Heart Catholic Parishes



Fr. Francis Kabiru, Pastor  
frfrancisstagnes@arvig.net

Hap Ramsey, Deacon  
jmr@arvig.net

Pete Pederson, Parish Manager  
petepederson@hotmail.com

Lori Westland, DRE/YM  
dre@stagnescatholic.com

## Parish Office

PO Box 874, Walker, MN, 56484  
Open Monday-Thursday  
8:30 am to 12:00 noon  
(218) 547-1054  
stagnes@arvig.net

**We welcome newcomers!**  
**Please contact our Parish  
Office to register.**

[www.StAgnesCatholic.com](http://www.StAgnesCatholic.com)

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** We, the parishioners of St. Agnes and Sacred Heart, are inspired by the Word of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist. We strive to use our time, talents and resources to become a real presence of Christ. Our mission is to reach people for God, to welcome them into His Holy Church and to lovingly strengthen and support them as we journey toward our eternal home.



## St. Agnes

210 Division Street, Walker



## Sacred Heart

300 First Street North, Hackensack

## Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Christmas  
Mass Schedule



Saturday (12/24) at 4:00 pm at Sacred Heart +Roman & Lillian Meuwissen

Saturday (12/24) at 5:45 pm at St. Agnes +All Parishioners

Sunday (12/25) at 8:30 am at Sacred Heart +Ed Mergens

Sunday (12/25) at 10:30 am at St. Agnes +Bray Mercil

Tuesday (12/27) at 8:00 am at St. Agnes +Holger Kilander

Wednesday (12/28) at 8:00 am at St. Agnes +George W. Ritter

Thursday (12/29) at 8:00 am at St. Agnes +Mike Hallet

Friday (12/30) at 8:00 am at Sacred Heart +Miles Rychman

Solemnity  
of Mary,  
Mother of God



Saturday (12/31) at 4:00 pm at Sacred Heart +Roman & Lillian Meuwissen

Saturday (12/31) at 5:45 pm at St. Agnes +All Parishioners

Sunday (1/1) at 8:30 am at Sacred Heart +Ed Mergens

Sunday (1/1) at 10:30 am at St. Agnes +Bray Mercil

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at 11:00 am at St. Agnes and  
1/2 hour before Saturday Masses at Sacred Heart

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25, 2011

### PLEASE PRAY...

- ✠ That bishops, priests and deacons, who guide God's people may be faithful heralds of the Good News of salvation
- ✠ That all those who are away from their loved ones today may be filled with Christmas peace and joy
- ✠ That Christ, born as tiny baby, yet the Savior of the world, may save the unborn and call us to be more fervent in our protection of all new life
- ✠ That those who grieve for their departed loved ones, especially those remembered with our Christmas Flowers, may be consoled by the promise and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ

### MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Today, the greeting "Merry Christmas" is on our lips and in our hearts. What does this simple greeting mean? We know, of course, that for many people, things are not merry today, and that for all of us, there are certain things that cause us anxiety and sadness. There is evil in the world and in our lives. But "Merry Christmas" does not mean that we always feel happy, nor does it mean that everything is going our way.



What it means instead is that even if everything else is falling apart, we always have access to God. Christ has come to lead us to the Father and bring us a new relationship with God and each other in the life that never ends. "Merry Christmas" means that even in the midst of sadness, we can never lose this gift. We simply need to take hold of it and be faithful. He is with us always, and that brings a peace and joy that the world can neither give nor take away.

**Merry Christmas!**

### ST. AGNES CHRISTMAS DINNER

If you are alone or with friends and family, join us for a traditional Christmas Dinner from 12noon to 1:30pm on Christmas Day. All are welcome to attend!

Volunteers are welcome to help and donations of salads and desserts are still needed. If you can help, contact Wendy Navratil at 218-836-2452 (home) or 218-368-2176 (cell).



## A NOTE FROM FATHER FRANCIS

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

Merry Christmas to you all and to your family. What a wonderful time of the year when we can all gather to celebrate the birth day of our Savior Jesus Christ. I'm proud to be a Christian even more than ever during this time of the year because of what it signifies and the hope it gives us that Emmanuel is with us always. Can you imagine what kind of life it would be without the peace, joy and more so, hope, that the message of Christ gives us? At Christmas we feel that God is very close to us and very loving towards us. At the same time we feel a closeness to one another as family and friends. All that happens because God's Son became one of us to share that true love of the Father in union with the Holy Spirit. Jesus has definitely brought that Trinitarian life near us and brings us closer one another. I'm many thousand miles away from home and, for sure, I miss the warmth of my family and my people back in Kenya especially at this time of the year, but I feel blessed to minister to the people of God as a priest 'in the person of Christ' in Northern Minnesota even in a cold and snowy Christmas time. Why? Because faith has joined us into yet another larger family of people of God beyond religion, race or any kind of distinctions to become the follower of this Christ born in a manger. What a gift that is!

May I take this opportunity to convey, once again, my sincere gratitude as one of you and your pastor for all we have been able to accomplish together in the name of this same Christ. As we know, as the year comes to an end, we are not in a business of looking at how 'high' or 'low' we have 'scored' in living our faith but rather re-evaluate ourselves on how well we continue to live the message of Christ in our daily lives. When we work hard together to see our programs are effective, when we join efforts to pay back our Church debts (thanks to many of you making it now be as low as below \$50,000 before the end of the year), when we put in a new energy efficient heating system at our office and social hall area, when we put those new lights in the social hall, and even improve our Church buildings in other ways; when we invite you to participate in our shared ministries and volunteer at any time in anything you feel comfortable in doing; when we support a mission like Moto Hope to help me build a school in a remote village in Kenya; when our young people come to learn our faith and form them with a message of Christ; when the CCW in Sacred Heart work shard with their Flea Market or the women of the Angels of St. Agnes baking cookies to fundraise and support local people; when the Knights of Columbus gather and support different missions and many other activities we do within our Churches...**it is all motivated by living our faith with passion by serving God and all our neighbors in need.** That passion cannot be equated to any measure, rather is a blessing from God that we have been able to accomplish together in the name of Christ. No doubt the constant presence of God's many graces have come in all those moments, but it comes even more so as we celebrate together the Sacraments of the Church may it be Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing the Sick, Reconciliation, Marriage, and most all, the summit of it all, the Eucharist. These to me have been my most joyous moments, even when at times it was in moment of sadness like a death of parishioner, your loved one, as we are people of hope, when we gather around the Lord's table to offer a prayer of praise and worship.

Thank you, once again my dear people, for putting forth all efforts to live our faith! Thanks for your support to our parish mission and responsibilities! Thank you for sacrificing to reach out even beyond the borders of our parishes! Thank you for giving meaning to that name we all bear, Christians, by living a virtuous life! Where we have failed individually or collectively, we ask forgiveness and keep improving to be better Christians since it is our goal to become Saints! May you all have a blessed Christmas with your family and another promising year of 2012 full of many of God's graces!

May God Bless you All! Peace and Joy of Christmas!

Fr. Francis Kabiru, Pastor

## A NOTE FROM FATHER PAUL IN SUNNY ARIZONA

Dear Friends,

Where have I been for the past twenty-seven months? I don't really know. I had been scheduled for my third left knee replacement but an infection forced me to postpone surgery. The first week in 2010 the operation happened. Now my left leg is an inch longer – which accounts for my walking around in circles. The following September, I was told I lacked sufficient calcium and iron; it would be corrected with a "twenty minute in and out" surgery. Seven hours and minus three parathyroids later, I was in intensive care. The Doctor told me I should have a year of rest. In July, 2011, I rode in style to the Bemidji Hospital with Lyme's disease. For six days, I was needled with anti-biotics. Then, in September, I was tested for sleep apnea. For years I studied for tests. Now I succeed in passing every test just by being present. My reward: wearing a full-face mask at night. My purgatory?

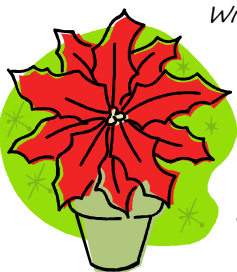
I feel that many of you are praying for me and I am appreciative of your prayers. We all need one another. I have been told that when an atheist dies he prays, "Please God, if there is a God, save my soul if I have a soul." I pray "the Babe of Bethlehem will share His grace and truth with you on His way to the Cross of our salvation." At present, I celebrate daily Mass in my home. Every day I have a petition for all my former parishioners and their families whether living or deceased. Please let me know if you would like me to offer a Mass for your special intentions.

May you have a Merry, Mary, Christmas!

Fr. Paul Halloran (9005 S. Citrus Ln., Sun Lakes, AZ 85248)

*Thanks to all who contributed towards our Christmas Flowers in Memory and in Honor of:*

*William Ochs Family - Oscar Juenemann Family - Clayton King - Bill Bieloh - John Johnson - Anna & Andrew Nistler - Pat & Gary Eklind - Great Grandparents of Nistler Family - Carl & Anna Poncelet - Anne & Tony Myse - Ann & Joe Majcin - Deceased Family of Lee & Marilyn Radermacher - Albin & Clara Nerad - Richard & Ann Shannon - Walter Tisch - Ed Fier - Julia Croteau - Fred Croteau - Jack Johnson - Robert Stein Sr. - Glen Gitchel Jr. - Nick & Mabel Eischens - Glen Sr. & Elvera Gitchel - Kenneth, Lawrence & Lorna Eischens - Denny & Lillian Holcomb - Marie Schroeder - Leona Horkey - Emeline Skoog - Verlie Clark - Floyd & Melvina Randall - Milt & Marie Spaulding - Deceased Family & Friends of Gordy & Mary Tiedeman - and all who donated anonymously*



**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday—Vigil (12/31)**

4:00pm at Sacred Heart; 5:45pm at St. Agnes

**Sunday (1/1)**

8:30am at Sacred Heart; 10:30am at St. Agnes

SEE OUR PARISH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2012 FOR ALL UPCOMING EVENTS. DEADLINE FOR JANUARY CALENDAR IS **WEDNESDAY, 12/25.**

WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAYS AT NOON.



**DO YOU HAVE AN INTENTION FOR OUR PRAYER CHAINS?**

**For St. Agnes:** Call Betty Meeks at 547-1347 or (alternate) Zola Bleth at 547-2239.

**For Sacred Heart:** Call Joan Rueter at 682-2324 or (alternate) Lucille Abbott at 675-6102.

**ST. AGNES SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP**

No Coffee & Rolls this Sunday as the Christmas Dinner is going on. Don and Darryle Carlson are on the schedule for next weekend.



**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

All men of the parish are invited to join the Men's Bible study group as they continue a 12-week series on the Book of Genesis. The next meeting is on Tuesday, December 27th following 8am Mass. Call Jim at 547-2110 or e-mail jamesfdawson@hotmail.com for more info.



**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Women's Bible Study that takes place at Rosemary's on Tuesday afternoons will not be meeting on 12/27. Sessions will resume in the new year. See you on January 3rd!

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS**

RCIA Classes will continue on 12/28, 1/4 and 1/11 at 7:00pm in the Narthex Meeting Room at St. Agnes. If you'd like more information, contact Fr. Francis through the Parish Office.



**MEN'S CONFERENCE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

The first annual Diocese of Duluth Men's Conference will be taking place on Saturday, February 18th, 2012 in Duluth with Fr. Larry Richards presenting; the cost is \$25 which includes breakfast and lunch. Encourage the men in your life to attend! Registration is available through www.dioceseduluth.org. Contact the parish office if you'd like to carpool with our men's group.

**2012 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES**

Parishioners may pick up their 2012 Envelopes in the narthex at either parish. If you did not receive envelopes but would like them, please contact the parish office. Thank you for your generosity in contributing to our parish!

**LECTORS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS, & USHERS**

The January and February schedules for both parishes now available in the Narthex; note that those who've volunteered at both parishes may be scheduled at both locations.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

The Adoration Chapel will be **closed on 12/27 & 28** as many adorers are gone for Christmas. St. Agnes is always open if you'd like to visit Jesus in the Tabernacle. Winter substitutes are needed; contact Sue Jaeger if you can help: 547-1702.



**LIVING THE JOYFUL ANTICIPATION OF ADVENT ALL YEAR 'ROUND**  
 Even though Advent is now over for this liturgical year, we Christians are a people of hope, awaiting our returning Savior!  
 Now that you've swapped out your pink and purple candles for red or white, continue praying with your Advent Wreath!  
**From Christmas Day until the Baptism of the Lord, the following prayer can be used with the wreath:**  
*Father in heaven, you so loved us that You sent Your Son, among us as Savior and Lord. Fill us with Your blessing, that we may grow in love and continue to live our Christian faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**7-12TH GRADERS**

Youth Group will resume at 5:30pm on 1/4.

**TOBIT (Theology of the Body Immersion for Teens)** registration is now open. This retreat, sponsored by the Diocese of Duluth, takes place January 20-22nd, 2012 at Big Sandy Camp near McGregor. Registration is \$115 but scholarships are available for those who need one. Register by clicking on the TOBIT link under Youth Ministry at www.dioceseduluth.org.

**K-6TH GRADERS**

**Diving Deeper is on break** until after Christmas. All K-6th Graders are invited to attend this fun after-school session! **See you as we continue our Great Adventure through the Bible on 1/11!**

**Our next Church Release** date is January 4th; enjoy your Christmas break!

**PRO-LIFE INFORMATION**

**WEEK 40: "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN, AND PEACE TO MEN WHO ENJOY HIS FAVOR." LUKE 2:14**

Celebrate! Our long awaited Lucy is here! Don't be surprised at how Lucy looks after birth; her head may be misshapen and the skin may be discolored with patchy looking rashes. But, our darling, like all babies, is made in the image and likeness of God! Thank you Jesus for the gift of new life!!!

*Thank you for following us on this pro-life journey! If you would like the full year's announcements, click "In the Beginning..." under Educational Resources at www.kfl.org*



**TIME, TALENT, & TREASURE**

	St. Agnes	Sacred Heart
<b>Plate</b>	\$671	\$586
<b>Envelope</b>	\$2,140	\$1,697
<b>UCA</b>	\$9,248 (33%) Goal: \$27,405	\$5,598 (23%) Goal: \$22,323

**St. Agnes Building Balance Remaining: \$77,749.12**

**UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL**

We are into the last month of the year, and, as you can see, there is still a long way to go to meet our UCA goals. Please be generous in support the UCA as it helps fund the needs of our diocese. Thanks to all who have contributed or pledged thus far towards our UCA goals! If you made a pledge but have not yet sent your donation, please do so soon.

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