



CHRISTMAS

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- ✠ The family of George Ritter whose funeral was at St. Agnes this past week
- ✠ The family of Wayne Wolf who died this past week
- ✠ Parishioners and their families who are remembered through our Christmas Flowers
 - ✠ Bria Huewe and Garren Schlicht who will be baptized at St. Agnes this weekend

From the First Reading for Mass at Midnight on the Nativity of our Lord
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. (Isaiah 9:1-6)

December 24th, 25th, & 26th, 2010

MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve
4:00pm @ SH,
6:00pm @ SA

Christmas Day
10:00am @ SA

NO EVENING MASSES

Sun. Dec 26 & Jan 2
As listed above

New Year's Eve
4:00pm @ SH
6:00pm @ SA

New Year's Day
10:00 am @ SA
NO EVENING MASSES



Schedule of Mass Intentions

Key: SA = St. Agnes, Walker & SH = Sacred Heart, Hackensack

- SH 4:00 pm 12/24: Mass—Intention for Fr. Paul Halloran
- SA 6:00 pm 12/24: Mass—Intention for All Special Intentions
- SA 10:00 am 12/25: Mass—All Parishioners
- SH 8:30 am 12/26: Mass—Intention for Ed Mergens
- SA 10:00 am 12/26: Mass—Intention for Joan Salden
- SA 8:00 am 12/28: Mass—Intention for an End to Abortion
- SA 8:00 am 12/29: Mass—Intention for Rev. Andrew Brissette
- SA 8:00 am 12/30: Mass—Intention for Bill Bieloh
- SH 4:00 pm 12/31: Mass—Intention for Roman & Lillian Meuwissen
- SA 6:00 pm 12/31: Mass—Intention for Leona Platz

To request a Mass Intention, contact the Parish Office

SEE OUR PARISH CALENDARS FOR DECEMBER 2010 AND JANUARY 2011 FOR ALL UPCOMING EVENTS. COPIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX AT EITHER PARISH.

BULLETIN COLLATORS NEEDED

We are very much in need of volunteers to collate our Bulletins each week. Materials are prepared; the covers need to be folded and inserts stuffed. This is a 1-1.5 hour commitment on Fridays or Saturday mornings. Thanks, in advance, for your willingness to help!

“4-SATURDAY MORNINGS” SERIES

The Diocese of Crookston Pastoral Leadership Program presents “The Teachings of Vatican II”, a mini-series by Brian Pizzalato, Director of Catechesis for the Diocese of Duluth. This course will explore the major documents of VII with an emphasis on the historical developments that led to the Council and the relevance of the documents for the Church today.

The course is from 9:00 am-12 noon on January 8th, 22nd, 29th, and February 12th, 2011 and will be held at St. Peter’s in Park Rapids. Cost is \$60.

Register with Deacon Dan Hannig at dhannig@crookston.org, by calling 218-281-1835 ext 205, or via mail to Deacon Dan at Diocese of Crookston, PO BOX 610, Crookston, MN, 56716.

Registration forms are also available in the St. Agnes Parish Office.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

“Courageous Love” will resume on Tuesday, January 4th at 5:00pm after breaking for the Holidays. If you wish to join, call Rosemary Ellis at 547-1509.

Do you have a prayer intention that you would like our prayer chains to know about?

For St. Agnes: Call Betty Meeks at 547-1347 or (alternate) Zola Bleth at 547-2239. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain, sign up in the Narthex.

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

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT OUR CATHOLIC FAITH?

We’d be happy to answer it! Just email your question to stagnes@arvig.net or drop it off in the parish office and it will be featured in our NEW bulletin column each weekend. For previous questions, check past bulletins on our website.



CHRISTMAS DINNER



Parishioners and community members are invited to the St. Agnes Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day beginning after the 10:00 am Mass. Donations to cover the cost of the meal will be accepted.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS, USHERS, LECTORS, AND SERVERS

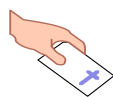
Please pick up a January Schedule from the info rack in the Narthex.

Ushers/Greeters: Please arrive at least 15 minutes early to Mass to be present to greet parishioners.

Lectors: Please pick up at 2011 Sunday Missal in the Office at St. Agnes or in the Library at Sacred Heart.

Eucharistic Ministers at St. Agnes: Please use the cross necklaces found near the Usher’s table so we know if more helpers are needed.

Alter Servers are needed at all Masses: Any youth can volunteer to serve. Contact the Parish Office for training information.



	Stewardship	
	St. Agnes	Sacred Heart
Plate	\$711.00	\$461.00
Envelope	\$4,578.00	\$1,412.00
UCA	\$12,690 (52%) Goal: \$24,405	\$8,693(40%) Goal: \$21,565

St. Agnes Building Balance Remaining: \$200,048.43

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

7TH-12TH GRADERS

WINTER ACTIVITY DAY

Mark your calendars now for **Winter Activity Day** on Wednesday, December 29th, beginning at 3:30pm. Wear your winter clothes and bring your ice skates!

CONFIRMANDS

Attention **11th and 12th Graders who have not yet been confirmed:** we will be starting Confirmation Classes in January. If you have not yet met with Lori, it is important that you do so ASAP. Contact dre@stagnescatholic.com to set up a time.



Mark Your Calendars for 2/4-2/6/2011 and prepare to be transformed! The Diocese of Duluth **TOBIT (Theology of the Body Immersion for Teens) Retreat** will be taking place at Big Sandy camp near McGregor, MN. The retreat is open to 9th-12th graders but mature 8th graders may inquire about attending. The cost is \$90 and scholarships are available; contact Lori.

PARENTS ARE NEEDED to provide meals for Youth Group for the remainder of the school year. Email Lori with the Wednesday nights you are able to help.

K-6TH GRADERS

See you on January 5th for Release Classes! Don't forget your take-home folders!

HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUTH ACTIVITIES?
PLEASE CONTACT LORI AT DRE@STAGNESCATHOLIC.COM

Know God. Love God. Serve God.

2011 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Registered members of both parishes can pick up their 2011 Contribution Envelopes in the Narthex. If you would like to receive envelopes, please contact the Parish Office.

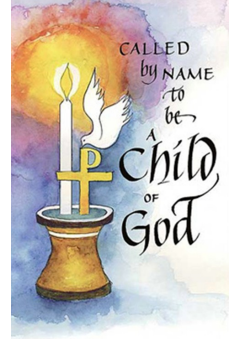
2011 CALENDARS are available for pick up in the Narthex. *We thank First National Bank of Walker for sponsoring these beautiful calendars!*

4TH GRADE CATECHIST NEEDED

Due to the large number of students in our 4th grade class, we are in need of an additional Catechist. All materials will be provided, including planned-lessons, if needed. Please pray about your involvement with our youth and contact Lori if you are able to help.

WELCOME BRIA HUEWE AND GARREN SCHLICHT!

Who will be baptized into the family of God at St. Agnes this weekend. Please keep these newest member in your prayers! Bria's parents are Nicole (Binstock) & Brian Huewe. Garren's parents are Carrie (Cleveland) & Bryan Schlicht.



ST. AGNES SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP



All attendees are invited to join us in the Social Hall after Sunday Masses for coffee and rolls; we would like to meet you!



Volunteers are needed to serve coffee: please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. For questions contact Rick & Gerri Majcin at 224-2655.

NATURAL FERTILITY AWARENESS

Are you a young couple looking to improve your marriage? Learn more about this effective and natural method of fertility awareness! Natural Family Planning of the Brainerd Lakes Area offers free introduction sessions; contact them, 218-829-2861 ext. 6217 or www.brainerdnfp.org



BLOOD DRIVES COMING UP

God's love has produced many miracles, large and small. One of these is the life sustaining power of blood. We have the ability to share this miracle of life; to pass it along to others. There are two opportunities to share your healthy blood with those less fortunate:

- **Tuesday, Jan 4th** from 12 noon-6pm, at the Community Building in Hackensack. Call Berna Miller at 675-6137 for an appointment.
- **Monday, Jan 10th** from 11 to 6pm, at Hope Lutheran Church in Walker. Call Kelly or Jeanne Nelson at 547-2222 for an appointment.

On behalf of the patients who will benefit, thank you.

A NOTE FROM FATHER FRANCIS

God is with us!

It's my hope that everyone is having a wonderful Christmas with family and friends and that Santa was kind to most you, especially our young people. My Christmas is joy-filled, but tiresome in a way, though Santa "surprised" me with some snow shoes and I don't know what to do with them! I know they won't be handy in Kenya when I go in January but I have asked the giver to show me how to use them, otherwise he can have them back ;)

Anyway, I appreciate so much each and every unique "best wishes" that I've received, and even gifts from some of you! But even more so, I appreciate the spirit of Christmas that we have all shared in our liturgical celebrations this season. How I wish we had an opportunity to hear the testimony of everyone of how Christ, who is born "*Emmanuel*"—*God with us*, has and continues to impact your life. We are a gift to each other and **may the spirit of Christmas continue in our daily lives.**

In a special way, I want to thank the few people who, each year, give their complete self to see to it that our Church is fit for the festive mood of Christmas. I want to thank my staff in the office for their dedication and coordination of things. Those who clean and make sure things look great in both of our Churches. The men and women who came on last Monday and other days to decorate and get things ready. Those men who, a few weeks ago, braved the cold to put lights at our both Churches. Our choir people who make our liturgy enjoyable. Those families that put together Christmas Dinner at St. Agnes and Advent dinner at Sacred Heart. In general, everyone who in one way or another gotten involved to make our Christmas celebrations unique once again this year. I want to say **Thank You!**

Again, to all of you, Merry Christmas and Blessed 2011!

WHY DO CATHOLICS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS FOR EIGHT DAYS?

The Nativity of our Lord has its own Octave (eight days of celebration) beginning on Christmas Day, including the Feasts of the "Companions of Christ", Saints who have a particular relation to Christ's life. St. Stephen (Dec 26th) was a man full of faith, grace, and fortitude who became the first Christian martyr (Acts of the Apostles). St. John the Apostle (Dec 27th) is referred to as "the Beloved Disciple" who remained with Jesus until His last breath. The Holy Innocents (Dec 28th) are the thousands of children killed by King Herod in an attempt to protect his reign from the newly born King (Mt 2:16-18). The octave ends with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on December 1st. The Sunday within the Christmas Octave is the Feast of the Holy Family.

The tradition of eight days of celebration is rooted in the Jewish tradition of giving special recognition to the week of an event (7 days) plus an additional day for sacrifices and purification. Per Jewish tradition, Jesus was circumcised on the 8th day after His birth.

The liturgical celebration of octaves has seen much change in the 2,000+ years since the first Christmas, but the reason remains the same: these days are so highly regarded that one day of celebration is just not enough! Beginning on the 25th, each day until January 1st should be celebrated as Christmas day!

In 1955, Pope Pius XII reduced the number of octaves in the Church year to three. Besides Christmas, we celebrate Easter and Pentecost for eight days. Before this reform, there were three classes of octaves (privileged, common, and simple) that categorized more than a dozen feasts.

As Catholic Christians, we prepare for Christmas for 4 weeks during Advent, **take these next 8 days to rejoice and celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord!**

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR LIFE

Praise to You, Lord God!

You have become one of us --You have become a human being, while still retaining all your power and holiness as God! You, O Lord, made the journey of the unborn child; by being an embryo, a fetus, and a newborn, you joined all unborn and newborn children to you! From the beginning of history, O Lord, You were the Creator of every human life.

Now, with Christmas, You join Yourself in an unthinkable way with the life You created. Let this Christmas, O God, fill all of us with awe and wonder at how close human life is to You. Cleanse the world of all that tarnishes and rejects this gift. Purify our hearts of all that fears this gift.

Let our Christmas joy be the joy of welcoming every human life! Amen!