

# Saint Agnes Church and Holy Trinity Church



**Administrator - Reverend Joseph R. Grosko**  
**Administrative Office and Rectory**  
**529 Grant Avenue Extension • West Mifflin, PA 15122**  
**Saint Agnes School Principal - Sister Cynthia Wessel**  
**653 St. Agnes Lane • West Mifflin, PA 15122**

## Mission Statement of Saint Agnes Parish

**622 St. Agnes Lane • West Mifflin, PA 15122**  
 Saint Agnes Parish established in West Mifflin, PA in 1867, is a viable Catholic community that witnesses the message of Jesus through the talents of its members who are nurtured by the Holy Spirit. Our mission is to invite people to know and become one with Jesus Christ reaching out in service to all.

## Mission Statement of Holy Trinity Parish

**529 Grant Avenue Extension • West Mifflin, PA 15122**  
 Holy Trinity Parish is a Faith Community gathered in celebration of the Eucharist, strengthened by the Word of God, reaching out to all generations and inspired by the Holy Spirit to promote holy, authentic and faithful Catholic living.

### ST. AGNES MASS INTENTIONS

#### SUN - DEC. 13TH - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00a - **Mary Sorokacs** (Mike Sorokacs)  
 11:00a - **Joseph Naccarato** (Jim & Bev Stavor & Family)

#### MONDAY- DEC. 14TH - ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

(8:00a Mass at Holy Trinity)

#### TUES - DEC. 15TH - ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:45a - **Marie Steiner** (Tom & Joyce Kushner)

#### WED - DEC. 16TH - ADVENT WEEKDAY

(8:00a Mass at Holy Trinity)

#### THUR - DEC. 17TH - LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:45a - **Robert Kosko, Sr.** (Marion & Ed Harbay)

#### FRIDAY - DEC. 18TH - LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:15a - **Flo Dendis** (Sisters at St. Agnes)

#### SATURDAY - DEC. 19TH - LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

(8:00a Mass at Holy Trinity)

#### SUN - DEC. 20TH - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00a - **Richard Loper** (Fedor Family)  
 11:00a - **Wendy Ruiz & Robert Andres** (Andres Family)

### HOLY TRINITY MASS INTENTIONS

#### SUN - DEC. 13TH - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00p - (Sat) - **Al Michaels** (Agnes Seech)  
 9:30a - **John Bodnar** (Nancy Bodnar)

#### MONDAY-DEC. 14TH - ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

8:00a - **Michael Kascak** (M/M Joseph Vargo & son Mark)

#### TUES - DEC. 15TH - ADVENT WEEKDAY

(6:45a Mass at St. Agnes)

#### WED - DEC. 16TH - ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00a - **John J. Sabol** (Wife, Mary & Children)

#### THUR - DEC. 17TH - LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

(6:45a Mass at St. Agnes)

#### FRIDAY - DEC. 18TH - LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

(8:15 Mass at St. Agnes)

#### SATURDAY - DEC. 19TH - LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00a - **Joelle Kirch Preksta** (Betty Clark)

#### SUN - DEC. 20TH - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00p - (Sat) - **Elizabeth Potemra** (Len Potemra)  
 9:30a - **George Matta, Sr.** (Ann Pavlan & Daughters)

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Administrative Office and Rectory.....412-466-6545  
 St. Agnes School.....412-466-6238  
 Social Hall - Saint Agnes..... 412-466-5500  
 Social Hall - Holy Trinity..... 412-466-9695  
 Saint Agnes Convent ..... 412-466-3554  
 Saint Agnes Website.....[www.stagneswm.com](http://www.stagneswm.com)  
 St. Agnes Office Email.....[stagnes11@verizon.net](mailto:stagnes11@verizon.net)  
 Holy Trinity Office Email.....[h.trinity@verizon.net](mailto:h.trinity@verizon.net)  
 St. Agnes/Holy Trinity Fax.....412-466-6968

**NOVENA TO MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP MONDAYS  
 AFTER THE 8:00 A.M. MASS AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**

**HOLY DAY MASSES:** As scheduled.

**RECONCILIATION:** One-half hour before all weekend Masses at Holy Trinity and St. Agnes or by appointment.

**BAPTISM:** By appointment. Pre-Baptism preparation required. Arrange before birth.

**MARRIAGE:** Arrange 6 months in advance.

**SICK & SHUTINS:** Please call the Rectory.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Please register at Rectory.

**EPHESIANS IV-PRAYER & PRAISE-Next Mtg. Mon, Dec. 21st.**

**ST. AGNES CHURCH - EVERYONE WELCOME**

**DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE HOTLINE  
 1-888-808-1235**

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

**First Reading:** *Zephaniah 3:14-18a*. A savior is promised to Israel.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Isaiah 12:2-3,4,5-6*. A song of praise to God our savior.

**Second Reading:** *Philippians 4:4-7*. Rejoice always because the Lord is near.

**Gospel Reading:** *Luke 3:10-18*. John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

### Reflecting on God's Word:

This Sunday, God rejoices and sings because of us. We read in Zephaniah today that God "will sing joyfully because of you, / as one sings at festivals" (Zephaniah 3:18). We know plenty about singing at festivals. Already our ears are ringing with the songs and carols that anticipate the Christmas season.

Paul reminds us of the source of our own double rejoicing: God is the mighty savior who is in our midst (in Zephaniah's words). Because this is so, says Paul, we can rejoice and be at ease. We don't have to worry, for God's peace will stand guard over our hearts and minds.

A medieval carol depicts Christmas as "my dancing day" and urges us to enter into the dance. Why all the merry-making? Because "the Lord is near," as Paul reminds us (Philippians 4:5). He then points to another reason for the dancing: the dawn of the promise of peace, the peace beyond all understanding, that is now within our grasp.

### ~~~MARK YOUR CALENDAR~~~

**TODAY, Sun, Dec. 13th...Decorate Holy Trinity Church for Christmas** (following 9:30am Mass)

Tues, Dec. 15th.....**Day of Recollection** (9-12, Fr. Litavec, luncheon to follow, Holy Trinity)

Thurs, Dec. 31st .....**K of C New Year's Eve Party** (H.T. Hall, RSVP: 412-414-4919)

Fri, Jan. 1st .....**Solemnity of Mary** (Holy Day of Obligation)

Sun, Jan. 10th.....**Holy Trinity Men/Ladies' Club Pancake & Sausage Breakfast** (8-12 H.T. Hall)

### ST AGNES SCHOOL CORNER

Eighth grade students have entered the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The essay is on Religious Liberty.

**An open invitation for the Christmas Shows: Saturday, Dec. 19th at 7:00pm,** "The Little Angel" presented by Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders. **On Sunday, Dec. 20th, at 7:00pm.** The 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders will present "The Night Shift Before Christmas."



**LAST CALL: SLOVAK COOKBOOKS**—(in English) are on sale at the Parish Office. Only a few are left so don't delay. They make great Christmas gifts!



#### 2016 LOTTERY CALENDARS

Pick up your **2016 Lottery Calendars** in the cafeteria after Mass. **They are \$20. If you want certain numbers call the school at 412-466-6238 to see if they are available.**

#### DECORATING HELP NEEDED!!

**Christmas decorations will be put up after the Sunday 9:30am Mass at Holy Trinity on December 13th. Please come and help make our Church beautiful for this sacred season. Thank you!**

#### RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS CARDS

The **Knights of Columbus Council 4210** are selling **Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) cards** after weekend Masses. Proceeds from the sale will benefit K of C charitable works. Questions? Contact Tim Richards, at timmy1825@aol.com or call 412-896-3290. **Let us keep Christ in Christmas and not Xmas him out.**

#### CHRISTMAS BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please note that due to early Christmas/New Year publication schedule the following deadlines for submission of items is as follows:

**Mon., Dec 14th, for Dec. 20th & 27th Bulletins**  
**Mon., Dec 22nd, for Jan. 3rd Bulletin.**

*Thank you for your attention and understanding!*

## Gaudete Sunday

Today is known as “Gaudete Sunday”, which means “Rejoicing Sunday”. We are happy because the coming of the Lord is near. As the Prophet Isaiah reminded his people, when the promised Savior comes, there would be singing and joy and gladness. So the people of Israel waited for the coming Savior with joy. *And it is with that same kind of joy that we again prepare to celebrate that first coming of Jesus.*

Rejoice  
IN THE Lord ALWAYS.  
I WILL SAY IT AGAIN:  
Rejoice!  
PHILIPPIANS 4:4

With only twelve days ‘till Christmas, there is much that needs to be done during the remaining days—like baking, decorating, and wrapping gifts. But in addition, and far more important than any of these, is our spiritual preparation to celebrate the birth of our Savior as we joyfully prepare to try to fathom the deep love that God has for us by allowing Heaven to come down to earth through our Savior and King.

**Thank you from Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.** St. Agnes Parish and School received a thank you for the 250 lbs. of food donated to the Food Bank from the Thanksgiving Food Drive. The school children brought items to school during their Prayer Service on Wednesday, November 26th. A few parishioners also brought food items with them to Mass on Thanksgiving Day. Please know that monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month we have several students, alumni, parishioners, teachers, Sister Cynthia and Sister Janelle who volunteer their time and services to the Produce for People. If anyone is interested in volunteering you can contact Sister Janelle and she will put you on the list, send you an email and ask if you are available for helping that month. More hands and feet and smiles are always welcome.

### RECONCILIATION AND HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE — ST. AGNES AND HOLY TRINITY

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** One half-hour before all weekend Masses.

**ST. AGNES PENANCE SERVICE:** Parish Reconciliation Service on Wednesday, December 16th, at 7pm. Excellent opportunity to prepare for the Lord’s birth by receiving this grace-filled Sacrament.

#### —HOLY DAY MASSES —

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** Thursday, December 24th, 2015      **CHRISTMAS DAY:** Friday, December 25th, 2015

4pm Masses (both at St. Agnes and Holy Trinity)  
12am Midnight Mass (St. Agnes)

8am Mass (St. Agnes)  
9:30am Mass (Holy Trinity)  
11am Mass (St. Agnes)

#### OCTIVE OF CHRISTMAS: THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD:

Thursday, December 31st, 2015

Friday, January 1st, 2016

4:00 p.m. Mass (Holy Trinity only)

9:30am Mass (Holy Trinity)  
11am Mass (St. Agnes)

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE A 4pm MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT BOTH CHURCHES  
THE SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE FOR CHRISTMAS CHARITIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH  
This collection is credited to our Parish Share Campaign**

### CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

We invite you to make a donation to the CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND “In Memory of” a deceased loved one or, “In Honor of” a living one, by using the envelope in your packet and placing it in the collection basket. This year we will not be listing the names of your loved ones in the bulletin but, in making these flower offerings, you are indeed honoring them.



**Day of Recollection, Tuesday, December 15th, 9:00am, Holy Trinity Church**

Father Edward Litavec, our beloved preacher, will give a Day of Recollection for the parishes of St. Agnes and Holy Trinity on the topic of “Advent Preparation for the Nativity of our Lord.” The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with an opening conference and then the opportunity for confession and the celebration of the Eucharist. A luncheon will conclude the Day.

## HOLY YEAR OF MERCY PRAYER

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
Send your spirit and consecrate every one of us  
with its anointing, so the Jubilee of Mercy may  
be a Year of grace from the Lord and your  
Church.*

*With renewed enthusiasm bring good news to  
the poor, proclaim liberty of captives and the  
oppressed and restore sight to the blind.*

*We ask this through the intercession of Mary,  
Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with  
the Father and the Holy Spirit  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

***“Let Us Remember The Golden Rule:  
Do Unto Others, As You Would  
Have Them Do Unto You.”***

*Pope Francis  
2015 USA Visit*

### *Corporal Works of Mercy*

**To Feed the Hungry  
To Give Drink to the Thirsty  
To Clothe the Naked  
To Shelter the Homeless  
To Care for the Sick  
To Visit the Imprisoned  
To Bury the Dead**

### *Spiritual Works of Mercy*

**To Convert Sinners  
To Instruct the Ignorant  
To Advise the Doubtful  
To Comfort the Sorrowful  
To Bear Wrongs Patiently  
To Forgive Injuries  
To Pray for the Living and Dead**

### **OPLATKE - HOLY BREAD**

The **Christmas wafer** commemorates a custom which is centuries old. Oplatke, from Latin, “Oblatum,” Holy Bread, is believed by some to emanate as far back as the “manna” of Exodus; it is sometimes referred to as the Bread of Angels. We remember our Lord Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, literally the “house of bread”. We hallow his proclamation: “I am the Bread of Life.” **Offering: \$2-1/2 doz. & \$4-doz., after weekend Masses.**

**Please Pray for Our Beloved Sick**

**Holy Trinity**

Catherine Bialobok, Monica Branik, Patricia Brevko,  
Margaret Breznai, Veronica Bujdos, Ann Capristo,  
Anna Cmar, Esther Gonos, Helen Gambal, Betty Hock,  
Mary Lisa Holzwarth, Zander Holzwarth, Flo Husfelt,  
Betty Jozefov, Joseph Kirch, Agnes Kovac,  
Louis Kruszewski, Cecelia Minella, Helen Ondick,  
Fran Onofrey, Alice Svirbel, Mary Sabo, Agnes Seech,  
Margaret Serdy, Lois Soltis, Dom Toretti

**St. Agnes**

Margaret Becze, Libby Butko, Francis J. Capaleo,  
Nettie Conley, Patricia DeLuca, Irene Fontanese, Jack Funa,  
Steve Grochalski, Jean (Koehler) Kopa,  
Mary Kosko, Dorothy Kostovny,  
Lois Mohrbach, Marguerite Oeler, Laura Pasternak,  
Bob Pavuchak, Loretta Sabol, Jim Schragl,  
Cindy Silvio, Diana Soltis, Michael Sorokacs,  
Paul Thomas, Denise Ventura

*Please call the Parish Office with any changes or  
additions. Your cooperation, visits and daily prayers are  
deeply appreciated.*

**Please Pray for Our Beloved in the Military**

--Sean J. Bowen

Grandson of Eileen Cochrane

--Joshua J. Winter, Sgt.

son of Ron & Mary Ann Winter

**Weekly Collections**

**ST. AGNES**

Dec. 6, 2015

\$ 4,577 -- Offering\*

\$ 865 -- Parish Share

PSP Assessment-2015.....\$ 22,228

Amount Collected PSP.....\$ 17,596

Monthly School Subsidy.....\$ 6,167

\*includes monies for all purposes such as Angel Fund, candles,  
diocesan collections, hall rental, funerals, etc., unless otherwise noted.

~~ REMEMBER ST. AGNES CHURCH ~~  
AND HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

**HOLY TRINITY**

Dec. 6, 2015

\$ 1,666 -- Offering

\$ 1,060 -- Parish Share

PSP Assessment-2015.....\$ 21,505

Amount Collected PSP.....\$ 15,251

MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES  
ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR ONGOING PROJECTS.