

FAMILY NEWSLETTER—MAY/JUNE 2020

Welcome to the premier issue of your St. Agnes Christian Formation Family Newsletter. This newsletter is for you, our families, to stay connected to your parish community. In this newsletter you will find the monthly CF class schedule so you're always up-to-date, along with a reflection and prayer for you to use with your family. I will also start a blog (on our parish website) where I will share with you some thoughts on life, the Church and the liturgical year.



May is the month we celebrate Mothers. Not only do we set aside time to honor and celebrate our own Moms but also our Blessed Mother. How do you honor the “Mothers” in your life? What does your devotion to our Blessed Mother look like? One thing you could do this month to honor Mary is to create an altar to Mary and begin a tradition of saying the rosary together as a family. I have included some links [here](#) and [here](#) to assist you with this family project. If you've never prayed the rosary as a family before now is a good time to start. You can find the family rosary as well as other resources [here](#).

Later this month we will celebrate the great feast of the Ascension when Christ returns to Heaven to intercede for us at the right hand of God, our Father. Ten days later we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descends on the disciples in the Upper Room. At Pentecost we also celebrate the birth of our Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “The Church was made manifest to the world on the day of Pentecost by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” ([CCC 1076](#)) This is a special time for us to remember that Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit, the Advocate to guide us in this journey of life. It will also be special for us this year since we'll be celebrating our first public Mass since we've been ordered to stay home due to the coronavirus Covid-19. As the Archdiocese has placed many restrictions on how to re-open our parish this celebration may not feel like a true “coming home”. But regardless of what limitations we have it will still be a moment to celebrate our appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity to once again participate as a community in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

This year June will bring us some important feast days as well. The two Sundays after Pentecost we celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity and the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (also known as Corpus Christi) respectively. These three feasts, Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi, flow seamless together to reveal to us the Reign of God through Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. ([See CCC 1084](#)) These feasts are important to the life of the Church and the liturgical calendar because they lead us deeper into the mystery of God and the Eucharist. Both are critical to our Faith and spiritual life as Christians and prepare us for Ordinary Time when we continue practicing our faith with our newly gained spiritual muscles that we worked so hard for during Lent and the Easter Season.

So I encourage you to take some time in the next several weeks to reflect on your spiritual practices as a family. If they need some help consider a family devotion to Mary by saying the rosary or begin small by saying the grace before meals prayer. I am also asking you to complete the short “End of Year” survey so that we can assess how we are doing in providing Christian Formation for you and your children. You can find [this survey](#) on the Christian Formation page on the St. Agnes website.

I will close with a prayer. I came across this one recently and thought it was fitting for these uncertain times. Please share it with your family.

God's Peace & Blessings to you all.

Our Prayer for these Uncertain Times

God, You alone are worthy of honor, glory, and praise.

With You, we can overcome every storm, including Covid-19. Right now, we are asking you to heal those who are sick and protect those who are not.

Give our leaders extra wisdom as they navigate this pandemic and economic uncertainty. Strengthen your global church. Reveal to us how we can partner together to reach the needs of those around us.

Calm our fears. Fill us with your hope, joy, and peace as we continue to trust in you. Use this pandemic to pave the way for spiritual renewal.

We want your glory, power, and healing to be on display. Show us the way to peace.

Come Lord Jesus, come. AMEN