

# The Parish of St. Agatha

Milton ~ Quincy, MA

December 8-9, 2018

StAgathaParish.org

## ST. AGATHA RECTORY

### Office Hours

**Monday - Friday** 9am-4pm  
432 Adams Street  
Milton, MA 02186

## ST. AGATHA SCHOOL

440 Adams Street  
Milton, MA 02186

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

### Daily Masses:

Monday-Friday: 7:00am & 9:00am  
Saturday & Holidays: 8:00am

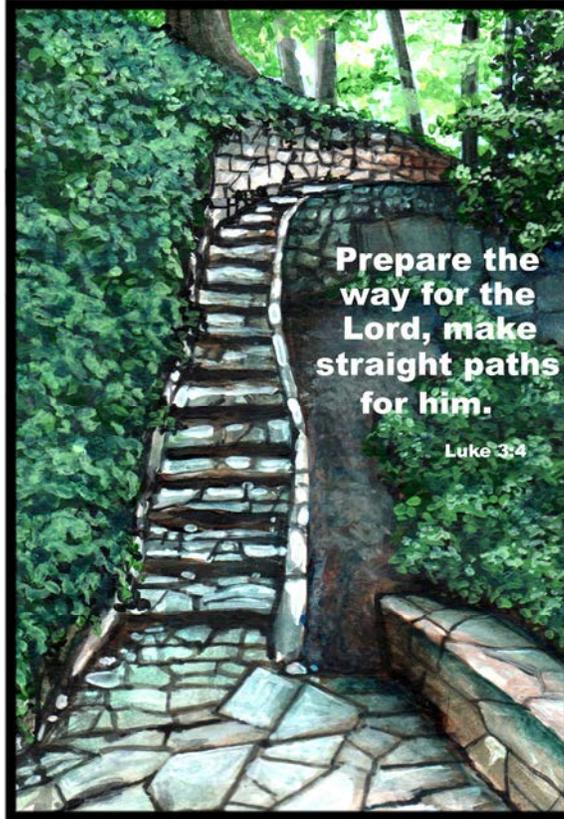
**Reconciliation:** 3:45-4:15pm  
on Saturdays. Any other time  
by appointment

### Weekend Masses:

**Saturday:** 4:30 pm  
**Sunday:** 7:30 am  
9:00 am  
10:30 am  
12:00 noon  
5:00 pm

### Holy Days: As Announced

- There are assistive devices for the hearing impaired available in the Sacristy before all Masses.
- Low gluten hosts are available. Please see priest before Mass if needed.



## Upcoming Activities

December 12 – Creativity & Spirituality  
December 12 – Parish Holy Hour

The rosary is recited every morning before the 9am Mass. Please join us.

## MISSION STATEMENT

St. Agatha Parish is a Christian Community of Catholics from Milton, Quincy and beyond, whose Mission is to demonstrate Love by:

- proclaiming and celebrating God's Presence on earth;
- being open and welcoming to all;
- reaching out to our sisters and brothers near and far; providing opportunities for prayer, service, education and recreation.
- In living this Mission, we accept our responsibility for giving witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Eucharistic Adoration

Every Friday after the 9am Mass in the Chapel until reposition at 1pm.

### Legion of Mary

meets every Wednesday after the 9am Mass.



Please call Lisa Gulino, our Pastoral Associate at 617-698-2439 X 209 and she will arrange for a minister of communion to bring Eucharist to you.

**St. Agatha Parish** Phone: 617-698-2439  
**Rectory@StAgathaParish.org** Fax: 617-698-1517  
Parish Website: www.stagathaparish.org

### Clergy

Rev. William B. Palardy, Pastor  
Rev. Jason M. Makos, Parochial Vicar  
Deacon Daniel F. Sullivan  
Rev. Patrick McLaughlin, Senior Priest in Residence  
Rev. Thomas Powers, Senior Priest in Residence  
Deacon Seraphim Wirth, fbp, Seminarian Intern

### Pastoral Associate

Dr. Lisa M. Gulino

### Parish Administration

Mr. Jack Riley, Finance and Operations Manager  
Ms. Kathy Monahan, Administrative Assistant and Bulletin Editor

**Music Ministry/ MusicDirector@StAgathaParish.org**

**St. Agatha School** Phone: 617-696-3548  
**School@StAgathaParish.org** Fax: 617-696-6288  
School Website: www.stagathaparish.org/school

Mrs. Nancy Carr, Principal  
Mrs. Michelle Tierney, Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Joan Brown, Tuition Coordinator

**ST AGATHA FAITH FORMATION** 617-696-1388  
**Grades 1-6 FaithFormation@StAgathaparish.org**

Mrs. Beth Peterson, Director  
Mrs. Jenn Caputo, Administrative Assistant

**Grade 7-10 & Young Church Ministry** 617-696-8978  
**YoungChurchMinistry@StAgathaParish.org**

Ms. Helen Bornhorst, Coordinator



### *A Note from Our Pastor,*

Many thanks to those who have organized our Giving Tree Program this year for families who turn to My Brother's Keeper for assistance. Thanks also to those who have taken ornaments. There are still many more ornaments for the taking, and the ornaments with the attached gift should be brought to Church NEXT WEEKEND December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at any Mass EXCEPT the 5pm Sunday Mass.

Children in Grades 3-6 are invited to take part in this year's Christmas Pageant at the 6pm Mass Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will be held in the Upper Church on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 6 pm.

Be sure to take a copy of our Advent Booklet, available at the Church exits, one per family please. The booklets have a little reflection for each day of Advent to help deepen our spiritual life this Holy Season.

I hope many of you will be able to come to our monthly Wednesday Holy Hour this coming Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> in our Chapel from 7 to 8pm, to honor our Blessed Mother on her feast day as our Lady of Guadalupe, and to pray for the families and all the parishioners of our parish. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available that evening.

As most of you have heard by now, our organist and Music Director Agata Orzechowska left us last Sunday to return to Poland to care for her mother. Knowing that she would be leaving us, we constituted an interview team to ponder the resumes that we solicited and received, interview candidates, and invite them to rehearse with choirs of adults and children here. This process is in progress. In the meantime we are relying on the choirs, cantors, instrumentalists, and substitute organists and pianists to help us in our music ministry during the Advent and Christmas Seasons this year. We are blessed at St. Agatha Parish and School to have many competent and generous individuals to help in the selection process of a successor to Agata and to enable us to continue raising our voices and hearts to God through music in the interim. Will everything flow flawlessly? Probably not. But I know all those engaged in our music ministry will do their utmost to help the rest of us during the Advent and Christmas liturgies make a joyful sound unto the Lord and draw all of us more deeply into the true spirit of Advent and Christmas. So I thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we together make the best of the unique circumstances before us this Advent and Christmas. And I ask you for your prayers for all those who will be stepping forward to do their best this December to help make our liturgies beautiful and reverent.

Have a blessed week!

*Fr. Palardy*

### *Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day ~December 12th*

Dearest Lady of Guadalupe, fruitful Mother of Holiness, teach me your ways of gentleness and strength. Hear my prayer, offered with deep-felt confidence to beg this favor...

O Mary, conceived without sin, I come to your throne of grace to share the fervent devotion of your faithful Mexican.

Children who call to thee under the glorious Aztec title of "Guadalupe"—the Virgin who crushed the serpent.

Queen of Martyrs, whose Immaculate Heart was pierced by seven swords of grief, help me to walk valiantly amid the sharp thorns strewn across my pathway. Invoke the Holy Spirit of Wisdom to fortify my will to frequent the Sacraments so that, thus enlightened and strengthened, I may prefer God to all creatures and shun every occasion of sin.

Help me, as a living branch of the Vine that is Jesus Christ, to exemplify His divine charity always seeking the good of others. Queen of Apostles, aid me to win souls for the Sacred Heart of my Savior.

Keep my apostolate fearless, dynamic and articulate, to proclaim the loving solicitude of Our Father in Heaven so that the wayward may heed His pleading and obtain pardon, through the merits of your merciful Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

### *St. Agatha Parish Christmas Mass Schedule*



#### **CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>**

4:00pm (*Upper Church*) – Congregational Singing  
4:00pm (*Parish Center Gym*) – Congregational Singing  
6:00pm – Pageant & Children's Choir  
11:45 pm – "Prelude Music/Carols"  
12 Midnight – Music Ensemble and Congregational Singing

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>**

7:30am – Congregational Singing  
9:00am – Congregational Singing  
10:30am – Traditional Choir  
12 Noon – Congregational Singing  
**NO 5:00PM MASS**

FEATURED WEEKLY READING

Read Reflect Respond

**THEME:** We are getting ready to welcome Christ into our hearts.

As you hear this reading, what words or phrases strike you? What in this reading touches your heart? What lingers in your memory?

**Gospel :** Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

*A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

*Pastoral Planning*

**December 9 ~ Second Sunday of Advent**

"Prepare the way of the Lord." This is where Advent calls us to put our focus. It can happen though that preparing for the coming of Christ gets overwhelmed by what our culture tells us Christmas should look like. St. Paul reminds us in the second reading that God has already begun a good work in us and will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. This Advent let us pray for the ability to put our priority on preparing our hearts and minds to receive Christ and trust that he will take care of the rest!

**Second Sunday of Advent**



THE WEEKLY UPDATE

We've all heard the expression "When it rains it pours". In fact this year has been one for the record books as far as precipitation is concerned. But the expression has almost literally been true in recent weeks as we have managed to have water problems in all of our buildings! And at different times and for different reasons! The first—which was mentioned in the Bulletin several weeks ago—involved a back-up in the sewer line which caused problems on all four floors of the Rectory. The bill for the clean-up and restoration after that problem just arrived last week and totaled \$8,090. We no sooner got that addressed when a drain pipe on the St. Agatha Rd. side of the Church became dislodged by the wind and the water ran down the side of the building and penetrated into the Chapel. And then this past week during routine preventive maintenance on the School roof, the roofing company cracked a drainage pipe and the standing water from the roof gushed into the building going through the gym ceiling and then through the gym floor into the Youth Room in the Lower Level of the Parish Center. So we got some small sense of how Noah felt when he was surrounded by flooding water! All I can say is thank goodness for insurance! And thank you to the staff and daily Mass attendees for your patience as we work to get this all straightened out.

*Jack Riley*

**CREATIVITY & SPIRITUALITY**

The next session is **Wednesday, December 12**. The morning session is from 9:30-11am in the Gathering Space (lower church). Bring an old project or start a new one.



**All are Welcome!**

2019 Calendars are available at the entrances of the Church beginning this weekend, compliments of the Alfred D. Thomas Funeral Home.

Weekly Offertory Report

Weekly Budget	Dec. 1-2 In-Pew Collection	Electronic Collection	Dec. 1-2 Total Offertory	Weekly Difference	Total Difference YTD
\$13,235	\$9,864	\$2,944	\$12,808	-\$427	-\$33,343

## The Sacred Pause

*Lisa M. Gulino—Pastoral Associate*

Our Sunday Gospel reading recalls the prophet Isaiah crying out, “*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths*” Advent, the Church’s New Year—is a time to be still and to know God is present. It is a time for new beginnings, new moments of awareness of God’s healing touch, and an invitation to ponder the deep meaning of life. God comes to meet us. On Wednesday, December 12 from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM our parish community has a very real opportunity to step off the busy tread-mill that we all find ourselves on—especially in this season—for an hour adoration, rich meditative music and the Night Prayer of the Church. There will be great appetizers and fellowship immediately following the Holy Hour.

In our busy lives we need opportunities to create moments of rest for the soul and we can rest by creating little islands of silence, islands of faith, islands of peace. This time of adoration and prayer is one of these moments. It is also a moment to respond to the invitation presented to us today in our readings: “Prepare the way of the Lord.” This month’s Holy Hour will also have the opportunity for Reconciliation. “Make straight his paths.”



**Parish Holy Hour**  
***Season of Advent: Season of Hope***  
**Wednesday, December 12**  
**from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM**

Advent is a season of waiting as well as a reminder of God’s presence with us. **Your preparations for Christmas are busy**—come for one hour of peace and stillness while sitting in the rays of God’s love in his Eucharistic Presence. **Give yourself the gift of silence, joy, love, and hope—an hour of renewal and fortitude, an hour of healing and blessing, and hour to be still and know our God.** You deserve such a moment! We thank the choir for their generosity in leading us in rich meditative songs.



## Early Bird Special

Boston & South Shore  
Men’s Prayer Gathering

**Saturday, 7:00-8:30 AM**  
**Next meeting: December 15**

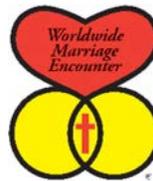
- ✕ Prayer ✕ Coffee and refreshments
- ✕ Presentation and discussion

## An Attitude of Gratitude at Christmas

**Artie Boyle**

Men, come hear Artie Boyle, veteran of a couple miraculous cancer cures speak about having an attitude of gratitude—a great Christmas topic for us all! Please bring a friend for good company and a spiritual recharge.

St. Mary of the Hills Lower Church  
29 St. Mary’s Road (off Brook Road), Milton  
617-696-3170 for more information



## Worldwide Marriage Encounter

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” Welcome Christ into your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.

The next Weekends are **Jan 18–20, 2019 in South Kingstown, RI and Mar 8–10, 2019 in Duxbury, MA.** For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O’Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

## Bereavement Support Group

***Walking through Grief***

The last meeting is on **Tuesday, December 11, 2018 from 6–7:30pm** in the Meeting Room next to the Gathering Space. The group discusses ways to cope with grief and to find support in sharing. For more information, please contact Lisa M. Gulino, Pastoral Associate: [lgulino@stagathaparish.org](mailto:lgulino@stagathaparish.org) or 617-698-2439.



*The 15th Annual St. Agatha School Shopping Night was a great success! Thank you to all that made this happen!*



**FAITH FORMATION UPDATES**



**Students in Grades 5 and 6 will attend a Reconciliation Service** during session time in the Church on December 11, 12 and 13<sup>th</sup>.

Family members are warmly welcome to attend and receive the Sacrament.

**December 18, 19 & 20 parents of children in Grades 1 & 2 are invited to join the fun and help their child make a Christmas Ornament at Faith Formation.** The children will have a shortened lesson and meet their parent at 4:30 pm in the school cafeteria to make the ornaments. **Parents, after you drop your child off to Faith Formation come to the Gathering Space located in the lower level of the Church for coffee and conversation.** A nice opportunity to take a little break in this hectic season and connect with other parents. At 4:30 pm parents will then join their child in the school cafeteria for the ornament making.



**A Co-Catechist is needed for Grade 6 on Wednesday afternoons.** Please consider sharing your faith and sharing a class. Co-teaching allows flexibility between the two Catechists to work out a teaching schedule to best meet their own availability. Lesson plans and materials are provided, please call/email the Faith Formation Office.

**We are in need of hall monitors on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:45 – 5:00pm.** Hall monitors help to keep everyone safe during session time and aid our Catechists in maintaining order in the hallways as children are escorted to and from class and restroom breaks. Please call/email the Faith Formation Office if you are available to help even if it's only once a month!



**St. Agatha Outreach Committee  
GIFT CARD DONATIONS**

We are still accepting food gift cards from local supermarkets to support our local food pantries in need. All dollar amounts are appreciated! Please place your gift cards in the offertory basket.

**Thank you for your generosity!**



**Christmas Pageant**

Are you in Grades 3-6? Come tell the story of Jesus' birth by participating in the St. Agatha Parish Christmas Pageant. Rehearsals will be held in the Upper Church on Tuesday, December 18 and Thursday, December 20 from 5–6 pm. You must attend both rehearsals to participate in the Pageant. The Pageant will be performed at the 6:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve, December 24.

**CONFIRMATION & YOUNG CHURCH MINISTRY**

**FOLLOW THE YOUTH GROUP St. Agatha Youth Ministry page or @staggiesmilton**



**2018 Giving Tree Project**



Please consider volunteering to help out with this year's Christmas Giving Tree project which benefits the families supported by My Brother's Keeper. Volunteers are needed in a couple of different areas. We will need assistance before and after the Masses this weekend on December 8–9 to hand out instructions to those

who take ornaments and then to replenish the trees as ornaments are selected. We also need many hands on Sunday afternoon December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in the school cafeteria to do the final processing of the gifts. If you've done it before, you know how much fun it is and we hope you will be back again this year. If you haven't yet been able to experience this aspect of the project you'll be doing yourself a favor by joining in! If you can help with any of these activities, please contact Mike and Gay O'Hanlon at 617-710-7955 or by e-mail at mohanlonuva@gmail.com.

## SAINT AGATHA SCHOOL



### WINTER WINDFALL CALENDAR

**\$5 per calendar • 31 chances to win  
Great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers  
100% of the profits benefit Saint Agatha School**

Calendars will be on sale in early December.  
Please call 617-696-3548 if you have any questions.



*This week with prayer buddies ~ the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders made Advent wreaths. The middle school students taught the little ones about the four weeks leading up to Christmas and how they need to prepare their hearts and homes for Jesus.*

### Saint Agatha's School Consignment Drive

Cut down on your clutter by donating any good condition used items to help raise funds for our school.

**The following items are accepted:** Men's, women's & children's clothing and shoes. Household items such as towels, sheets, blankets, pillows,

curtains and tablecloths. Accessories including hats, mittens, scarfs, ties, wallets, backpacks, purses, and bags. Drop-offs will be accepted on **Mondays and Fridays at 8am** at the garage to the left of the school gym **through December 17.**

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b> 7:00am 9:00am 4:30pm	<b>December 8</b> Anniversary 2nd Anniversary Birth. Memorial	<b>Immaculate Conception</b> Norah Curran Brian J. Griffiths Martin J. DeMatteo Jr.
<b>Sunday</b> 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 12:00pm 5:00pm	<b>December 9</b> Birth. Memorial Birth. Memorial 19th Anniversary Memorial For the	John F. Dempsey Maureen Hartnett Dolan Paul Clasby Cronin Family Parishioners of St. Agatha
<b>Monday</b> 7:00am 9:00am	<b>December 10</b> Memorial Birth. Memorial	Thomas Curley James Albert
<b>Tuesday</b> 7:00am 9:00am	<b>December 11</b> Memorial Birth. Memorial	Dudley Curran Mary Cooney
<b>Wednesday</b> 7:00am 9:00am	<b>December 12</b> Memorial 1st Anniversary	Margaret & Desmond O'Halloran Ann Wholey
<b>Thursday</b> 7:00am 9:00am	<b>December 13</b> Memorial 45th Anniversary	Charles W. Duffy Ralph DuMoulin
<b>Friday</b> 7:00am 9:00am	<b>December 14</b> 2nd Anniversary Birth. Memorial	John J. O'Leary Miriam Sullivan
<b>Saturday</b> 8:00am 4:30pm	<b>December 15</b> 15th Anniversary 28th Anniversary	Thomas Keohane Anthony F. Spinelli.
<b>Sunday</b> 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 12:00pm 5:00pm	<b>December 16</b> For the 18th Anniversary 5th Anniversary 3rd Anniversary Memorial	Parishioners of St. Agatha Peggy Higgins Ann "Annie" Duff Nancy Spargo Gunning/Walsh Family

## SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

**Baptism:** 2:00pm on the 2nd/4th Sundays of each month. Please call the Rectory to arrange/ask questions regarding other arrangements.

**Reconciliation:** 3:45-4:15pm on Saturdays Any other time by appointment

**Marriage:** Call one of the parish priests or deacon. Arrangements are ordinarily to be made at least 6 months before the proposed marriage.



• **Every Monday** •  
**Doors Open @ 4:30pm**  
**BINGO begins at 6:40pm**  
**Come and Play**

School Parents, your help is needed.  
Thank You Volunteers!!!

