

# The Parish of St. Agatha

Milton ~ Quincy, MA

December 15-16, 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

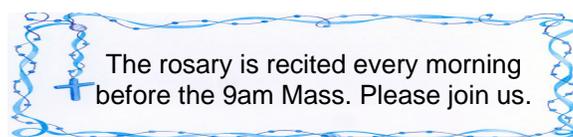
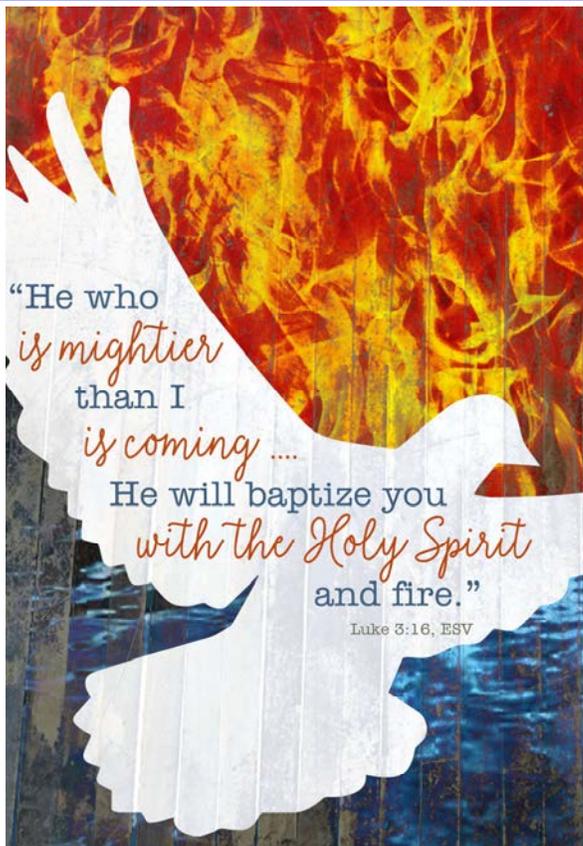
10:30 am

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.



**NEED HELP?** The "Caring Circle" dares to care... Call 617-337-3225 for short-term non-financial help or visit

[www.mcccaringcircle.org](http://www.mcccaringcircle.org) for more info.

## 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

Rectory@StAgathaParish.org

Parish Website: [www.stagathaparish.org](http://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](mailto:MusicDirector@StAgathaParish.org)

### St. Agatha School

School@StAgathaParish.org

School Website: [www.stagathaparish.org/school](http://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

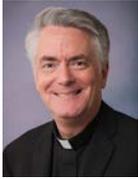
Mrs. Beth Peterson, Director

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,*

Dear sisters and brothers,

Since next weekend's bulletin is a special Christmas bulletin, I'd like to take this opportunity this weekend to make a request of you who are active parishioners and regular weekend Mass participants. This past Tuesday's daily Mass Gospel was the familiar parable that Jesus told about the shepherd of 100 sheep who goes in search of his one lost sheep, leaving the other 99 for the time being. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we don't have to go out far and wide searching for the Lord's lost or at least straying sheep. Many of these folks will be with us right here at our Christmas Masses. Now, most of us who are regular participants at Sunday Mass continue to have very strong emotions about all the news since last summer about the clergy sexual abuse crisis. If we are feeling emotions such as disgust, anger, a sense of betrayal, and impatience, just imagine the feelings of those who do not come to Mass on a regular basis and who get their news about the crisis solely from the secular media. Yet many of these folks will join us at our Christmas Masses, perhaps questioning their Catholic roots and seriously wondering if this will be their last time to set foot in a Catholic Church, their last time identifying themselves as Catholic. The big question for the rest of us is, "What will they find when they come here on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day?" Certainly the Church will be decorated beautifully, thanks to the amazing work of our Art and Environment Team; certainly the music will be inspiring, especially with our choirs and cantors giving their all, and the organists and other instrumentalists who will step into the void left by our former Music Director Agata. Certainly the priests, the deacon, and all the others in ministry at our Masses will strive to give their best. But what will the folks joining us for the first time in a while experience from their fellow parishioners here? Might I propose that all of you, all of us, can be ambassadors of Christ the Good Shepherd who cares deeply for the lost or straying sheep of His flock? As I suggested to our 7am weekday Mass participants last Tuesday, perhaps you might come for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Mass here with your primary focus not so much on the spiritual benefit you can receive at that liturgy, but instead to have as your principal concern how you can help make our sisters and brothers, who will be joining us after some time away from us, feel welcomed and accepted. Will your help our sisters and brothers who have been away feel that they are very much wanted and accepted and welcomed into our parish; that we are very glad that they are with us this Christmas? And what are some concrete ways you can do this? First, quite simply, smile and say, "Hello," to them. Second, if you are on the end of a pew, and there is space in the middle of the pew, and they seek entry into that pew, instead of having them sit in the middle, why don't you move into the middle of the pew yourselves, allowing them to sit in the coveted "end of the pew"? If you notice that they are having trouble finding the Mass parts or the hymn in the missalette, why not kindly assist them? Let's all of us try to be friendly,

warm, kind, and helpful. We want our sisters and brothers to find here at St. Agatha's on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day an experience of Church in striking contrast to the image many of them might have from what they have read or heard in recent news reports or maybe even experienced personally when they have come to Mass at another time. Being attentive and solicitous like this to these our sisters and brothers might diminish some of the spiritual enrichment you hope for yourselves at Christmas Mass, but sometimes that's what happens when we try to be ambassadors of Christ our Good Shepherd. Yet, if your unselfish warmth and kindness inspire even one person to give the Church another look and to consider a more regular practice of our Catholic faith, then you have been a partner with Christ in His mission, in the Church's mission to welcome the lost, the wandering, the straying back into the fold. Just imagine your own sense of satisfaction as Christ looks lovingly and favorably upon you in helping bring someone back into His loving embrace. All I ask is that you give my suggestion for this Christmas your serious and prayerful consideration.

Have a blessed week and a blessed Christmas!

*Fr. Palardy*

### *Christmas ~ One Collection*

#### *for the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust*

Among the gifts you give this Christmas season, please consider contributing to a **special Christmas collection for the health and well-being of 580 active and senior priests in good standing** in our Archdiocese. Amid these difficult times for our Church, our hardworking priests need your support now more than ever. Please take this opportunity to say thank you to all the priests, including our senior priests, who have devoted their lives to our Church...and to all of us. To donate online, please visit [clergytrust.org](http://clergytrust.org) or text the word **PRIEST25** to 20222 to donate \$25. *Msg. and data rates may apply.* Visit [clergyfunds.org](http://clergyfunds.org) for a heartwarming testimony from a family about our priests.

### *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:** John baptized with water, but the Messiah will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

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 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist,  
 “What should we do?”  
 He said to them in reply,  
 “Whoever has two cloaks  
 should share with the person who has none.  
 And whoever has food should do likewise.”  
 Even tax collectors came to be baptized and  
 they said to him,  
 “Teacher, what should we do?”  
 He answered them,  
 “Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.”  
 Soldiers also asked him,  
 “And what is it that we should do?”  
 He told them,  
 “Do not practice extortion,  
 do not falsely accuse anyone,  
 and be satisfied with your wages.”

Now the people were filled with expectation,  
 and all were asking in their hearts  
 whether John might be the Christ.  
 John answered them all, saying,  
 “I am baptizing you with water,  
 but one mightier than I is coming.  
 I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.  
 He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.  
 His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear  
 his threshing floor  
 and to gather the wheat into his barn,  
 but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”  
 Exhorting them in many other ways,  
 he preached good news to the people.

*Pastoral Planning*

**December 16 ~ Third Sunday of Advent**

“Shout for joy.” “Sing joyfully.” “Be glad and exult with all your heart.” “Rejoice, in the Lord always.” The message this week is clear, joy must be a sign of our life in Christ. We need to bring the light of Christ to these dark December days and speak a word of hope to our world—“the Lord is near.” With each remaining day in Advent make this your prayer and your intention: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.”

**THE WEEKLY UPDATE**

There was a lot of positive news on the financial front this past week. As you can see below, for the first time since early September the Weekly Offertory exceeded our weekly target. This is great and welcome news as we approach the beginning of the second half of the fiscal year. In addition, \$2,813 was contributed to the collection on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. And finally, the Grand Annual continues to do well. As of December 11<sup>th</sup> a total of 354 households have contributed \$121,129 to this very important appeal. Since we have over 2,500 registered families, there are many folks who have yet to participate. Next to the Weekly Offertory, the Grand Annual is our largest source of revenue and so it vital to our fiscal stability. Our budgeted target—which we were able to meet last year—is \$170,000, so if you have not yet had the opportunity to contribute there is still plenty of time before the end of the calendar year to join in.

*Jack Riley*

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



**Third Sunday of Advent**



Weekly Offertory Report					
Weekly Budget	Dec. 8-9 In-Pew Collection	Electronic Collection	Dec. 8-9 Total Offertory	Weekly Difference	Total Difference YTD
\$13,235	\$11,597	\$2,944	\$14,541	\$1,306	-\$32,038

## The Sacred Pause

*Lisa M. Gulino—Pastoral Associate*

Today's readings remind us of God's presence. From Zephaniah: "*The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior: he will renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you.*" St. Paul writes: "*The Lord is near.*" Such words signal the closeness of Christmas.

I look forward to celebrating Christmas with all of you and the many guests who will "come home for Christmas." The uptick in attendance during Christmas, I believe, speaks to **the spirit of the human heart**. Deep within the human heart is a longing that only God can fulfill. The swell in attendance, I am convinced, is the **human person's intuitive knowledge** that we need the Church to enter into a dynamic and life-giving relationship with Love. It is, after all, within the unfolding of the Liturgical celebrations that we recognize the One who is Love—God. Christmas reminds us of our need for community—a community of faith; our innate need for the sacraments as given to us through the Church; and our quest to find comfort in the familiar rites and rituals conveying God's love.

**How do I know this innate search for God and the pull towards community on Christmas Day?** It is my story. Many years ago, having taken a "sabbatical" from the Church as a young adult, **the tug of my heart and the longing for something more** led me to Christmas Mass. On my drive to Church, I was singing along with Bette Midler, "God watches us from a distance." As the Mass began, the priest prayed:

*"Almighty God and Father of light,  
a child is born to us and a Son is given to us.  
Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven  
in the silent watches of the night,  
and now your Church is filled with wonder  
at the nearness of her God.  
Open our hearts to receive His life..."*

Like a thunder-bolt, it hit me—God is not at a distance but oh so very near. So near he becomes one of us! The Church sustains us in this reality—God is near. Yes, in our tabernacles, in our sacraments, and in you and I as we make up the Body of Christ. And thankfully, on that Christmas day, **I received the gift of welcome from several parishioners**. A welcome that would set me on this grand adventure of faith, hope, and love!

Will you help us put forth our best, warmest, and heart-felt St. Agatha Parish welcome to all our regular parishioners and our guests? **Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Greeters are urgently needed at all the Masses**. We need all hands on deck. If you and your family would like to assist us, please contact me at [lgulino@stagathaparish.org](mailto:lgulino@stagathaparish.org) and the Mass that you are willing to help. **Through your presence, the Lord is near!** Thank you in advance for your kind assistance.

## Outreach Committee Member Introduction:

*Maureen Ellis*

St. Agatha Parish has provided our family with many unique opportunities to celebrate our Catholic faith. We have been involved with the St. Agatha Faith Formation program, have been part of clothing and food drives, enjoyed Christmas shopping for My Brother's Keeper and have traveled to Saint Rock Haiti several times during the past ten years. St. Agatha Parish has something for everyone. One of the most life-changing programs I have experienced with our parish community was JustFaith. JustFaith is a small group sharing program that focusses on the spirituality of living a life reflective of the principles of Catholic social teaching. Our Catholic tradition of social justice is often viewed as the work of Saints, but there are so many individuals quietly transforming a small part of our world by their actions rooted in compassion, justice and love. Watch for new offerings such as book groups around social justice issues, evenings of reflection on the Themes of Catholic Social Teaching, new JustFaith groups, and other educational opportunities. You are invited to come and explore spiritual development with a focus on service to others.



## Communion Calls to St. Agatha Parishioners Who are Homebound

Our parish is blessed to have several parishioners who serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (EMC) to parishioners who are homebound. We are grateful for Dell Staunton who chairs this important initiative. It is most fitting to bring Communion to the sick and/or the homebound from the Mass. This ministry, a corporal work of mercy—visiting the sick—reminds those who are homebound that they are an important part of our faith community. Do you know a St. Agatha parishioner who is homebound? Share this bulletin announcement with fellow parishioners whom you know and please invite them to call us. Please call Lisa M. Gulino, Pastoral Associate, at 617-698-2439 x209 to make arrangements.



## Christmas Eve Parking Raffle

The Youth Ministry is holding a Christmas Eve Raffle for reserved parking & seating for Christmas Eve Mass. People can choose to have reserved seating at either the 4 pm or 6 pm Christmas Eve Masses. The reserved parking is for 1 car and seating for up to 8 people, location to be announced.

Tickets are 2 for \$5 or 5 for \$10 and will be on sale this weekend before and after the Masses. The raffle will be benefiting the Youth Ministry's annual service trip to Appalachia.

**FAITH FORMATION UPDATES**



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 in the lower level of the Church for coffee and conversation. A nice opportunity to take a little break and connect with other parents. At 4:30 pm parents will then join their child in the school cafeteria for the ornament making.

Faith Formation will not be in session over the Christmas and New Year weeks. Sessions will resume on January 8-9-10.

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 plan 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!



**2018 Giving Tree Project**

This is the weekend to **bring the Giving Tree gift with you to any Mass (except the 5:00 PM)**. After the 12:00 noon Mass the volunteers from the parish will help group each family's gifts together for delivery and the gifts will then be brought to My Brother's Keeper for distribution.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

**EMAIL Scam Warning**

There have been reports of emails going around requesting the recipient to purchase iTunes gift cards for cancer patients. Even if the sender's name looks familiar, please ignore. **This is a scam!** As a general rule, do not click on any unknown links or follow instructions to send money (or gift cards) without confirming the source first.



*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*



ST. AGATHA PRESENTS

# WINTER KICK-OFF

January 6th  
6-8 pm. Gathering Space

*Encounter Confirmation Program*  
6-8 pm, Gathering Space

**YEAR 1, SESSION 4** - January 27th  
**YEAR 2, SESSION 4** - January 13th

## EDGE PROGRAM

**NEXT EDGE NIGHTS** Thursday, Jan. 10 from 6:30-8 PM  
Thursday, Jan. 31 from 6:30-8 PM

## 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 are currently on sale.

Please call 617-696-3548 if you have any questions.

*Our middle schoolers recently volunteered at My Brother's Keeper, in Easton, and helped shop/wrap for families who are in need of a little assistance during this Christmas season.*



## BARNES & NOBLE BOOKFAIRS

The Barnes & Noble Bookfair in Braintree to support Saint Agatha School is this weekend

but don't worry if you missed it! You can visit [BN.COM/bookfairs](http://BN.COM/bookfairs) to support us online through Thursday, December 20 by entering our Bookfair ID 12481420 at checkout. A percentage of your purchases will go back to Saint Agatha School. Books make a great gift!

### Saint Agatha's School Clothing Drive

**December 17** is the last day to drop off your donations of any good condition used items to help raise funds for Saint Agatha School. *The following items are accepted:* clothing, accessories, shoes and linens. Drop-offs will be accepted on **Monday at 8am** at the garage to the left of the school gym.

## MASS INTENTIONS

<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
<b>Monday</b> 7:00am	<b>December 17</b> Memorial	Charles, Mary & Betty Erlandson
9:00am	1st Anniversary	James McAuliffe
<b>Tuesday</b> 7:00am 9:00am	<b>December 18</b> Memorial Memorial	Nelly Doherty Edward Duff
<b>Wednesday</b> 7:00am 9:00am	<b>December 19</b> 11th Anniversary 2nd Anniversary	Denise Fitzgibbon Margaret "Peg" Morrissey
<b>Thursday</b> 7:00am 9:00am	<b>December 20</b> 2nd Anniversary Anniversary	Joan Gallagher Robert Rogers
<b>Friday</b> 7:00am 9:00am	<b>December 21</b> Month's Mind Anniversary	Mary E. Donahue Jim MacInnis
<b>Saturday</b> 8:00am 4:30pm	<b>December 22</b> Memorial Memorial	John P. Linehan Daniel F. & Anne M. O'Sullivan & Kayla E. Naughton
<b>Sunday</b> 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 12:00pm 5:00pm	<b>December 23</b> Memorial Birth Memorial Memorial 4th Anniversary Anniversary	James R. Keating John E. Toland Claire Carten & Mary Corcoran Mary & Ray Byron Michael Curtin

## 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 @ 4:45pm  
BINGO begins at 6:40pm**

**Come and Play**

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

