

Saint Agnes Five Year Report 2019

Question 1 - What do you see as the **strengths** of Saint Agnes Parish?



- ✦ Feeling of "Community" Volunteerism

- ✦ Personally, I like that the Parish is relatively small, intimate, family like. We know most of the people and it's comfortable to go to mass and prayer together. The leadership of Father Richard attracts many people from other towns to go to our services.

- ✦ Warm and welcoming.
Outreach – Social Justice – Loretta does a fantastic job as do Ed Knote and his crew at Johns Place, and we can't forget Sr. Margaret and all the work she does for our Latino Community.
Consolation – strong ministry
Ministry to the sick – Fr. Richard very gifted in this area – offers sacrament often
Music – blessed to have Christine and Peter

- ✦ The church sanctuary itself.
The pastoral leadership of St. Agnes
I also like very much how at the outset of every liturgy we are asked to look around and greet/welcome our neighbors who've come together to celebrate the mass
The social outreach of the church, including St. John's Place homeless weekly shelter and the regular Food Pantry, are also, in my opinion important strengths of the parish.
I also like that the parish has a gift shop that's open each Sunday.

- ✦ It's a small and intimate parish, family like. Mostly, everybody knows each other and that makes you feel comfortable. The leadership of Father Richard brings people from other towns nearby to St. Agnes.

- ✦ The work and effort people put in to support the parish.

- ✦ So many people (mainly seniors) always ready to volunteer and getting involved in reaching out to less fortunate members of our parish family.

- ✦ Many of those attending St. Agnes regularly have come to appreciate and deeply respect Father Richard his 6 years as our priest. His ideas, homilies and encouragement have strengthened St. Agnes as the attendees realize their value, the wisdom of Loving God above all else.

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- ✦ Father Richard has brought our parish finances into the black. As a parish we are working together to do ground maintenance (gardening). John's Place is continuing because of parishioners' support.

- ✦ Saint Agnes has a dedicated, generous congregation of parishioners who appreciate the pastor's respectful devotion to the church's teachings and rituals. The soup kitchen and other community programs are highly regarded and successful and provide outreach to the eastern north fork. The efforts put into the Latino community is similarly well run and highly regarded. Father Richard has also made necessary budgetary, financial and economic changes that portend well for the future. The parish is in good condition in most ways but the reality is most of our members are demographically older. Church scandals, away from our parish, have not been helpful.

- ✦ We are a caring, concerned and welcoming community. If a need arises, our parishioners will respond in any way that they can to better a situation or assist those in need.

- ✦ Our Pastor, Father Richard. The blending of our Latino brothers and sisters into our parish life. John's Place, our seasonal shelter program. Parish Outreach program.

- ✦ Strengths 1 Leadership. Pastor Richard Hoerning is both an outstanding leader and holy man. Previous pastor nearly drove me out of the parish. On Holy Family Sunday he said: The nature of families has changed. The leave it to Beaver family is over (thus insulting my traditional family). Now some families have 2 mommies, some have 2 daddies. Thus endorsing the profane from the pulpit. 2 Many fine activities for congregation's involvement. 3 Current pastor is truly outstanding. He has restored legitimacy to our parish.

- ✦ The outreach to people in financial straits through St. John's Place and the food pantry.

- ✦ I feel the parish is a caring, open community which welcomes all and tries to help all in need through various programs.

- ✦ 1. Strong leadership from the pastor. 2. Being in an established community with a strong commitment from the parishioners. 3. Effective music liturgy.

- ✦ The strength of St. Agnes is that it is small and there is a greater connection to those in the community.

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- ✦ We are a true loving family of God. We are a local church that supports the community through our outreach programs. We have a school building with a kitchen, auditorium and classrooms, all of which support our various programs. We have well-maintained buildings and grounds. We have an amazing priest who is most generous with his time. We once suffered in serious debt, but now have a balanced budget, thanks to our priest and parish support. We regularly meet our Catholic Charities goals.

- ✦ loyal parishioners, active ministries

- ✦ Committed volunteers. Well maintained campus. All are welcome. Strong faith community.

- ✦ Spiritual pastor; active ministries; John's Place; balanced budget, great vocalist.

- ✦ We have very loyal parishioners who care for St. Agnes very much. People are willing to volunteer and support fundraising.

- ✦ St. Agnes is blessed with a very caring shepherd, our pastor. Fr. Richard Hoerning. He knows his flock whether stopping in for a Saturday hospital visit, giving the sacrament of healing, or announcing a couple's 50th anniversary at which time they are presented with a framed certificate as "Persons of the Day". Father helps the Rosary Altar Society sharing expenses for new cushions, attending meetings or luncheons when able, fosters community activities- helping serve at the annual parish Fish Fry, Spaghetti dinners, taking pictures then putting them on Facebook, of the annual Nonagenarian Parish party, sharing short biographies of fellow parishioners as run by the Parish Council. He continues advertising in our weekly bulletin the annual Broadway Bus trip, the GEM-Greenport Ecumenical Ministry Lenten church & soup sharings, Bible summer week, Divina Lectio and all Spanish activities, such as the annual Posada, the reenacting of the crucifixion etc. by members of the parish Hispanic community. He also keeps us updated on church interests ex. Booklets -Dynamic Catholic by Matthew Kelly and Bishop Barron's "Letter to a Suffering Church"-made available to all.

- ✦ The strengths of St. Agnes are the dedicated parishioners who are always there to support our parish. I have been a parishioner for 56 years, and from the very beginning, have felt the commitment and love for St. Agnes by the parishioners.

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- ✦ The Parish Outreach Pantry. John's Place, a home for the homeless. The Wednesday soup kitchen.

- ✦ A beautiful historical church, A smaller parish allows people to know one another, Father Richard who as pastor demonstrates care for all and speaks from the heart, Many active and faithful volunteers, People welcome new parishioners, User friendly helpful informative and well-designed website, A Mass schedule that offers options for attendance, Many ministries serving the parish and community, Spanish Mass and ministry, Participation in GEM, The Journey program during Lent.

- ✦ A truly dedicated pastor (truly a holy man) A Spanish ministry Parish Council, John's Place (homeless shelter) Religious shop, food pantry.

- ✦ A small community, feels more personal.

- ✦ generous, caring parishioners--active rosary society--hymns beautifully played and sung--masses to accommodate all (early mass with no music, music masses and mass services in Spanish).

- ✦ The Rosarians that maintain the altar and all the other volunteers that keep St. Agnes church and grounds looking so inviting. Our seniors and retirees who regularly attend daily and Sunday Masses.

- ✦ Neighborhood parish you can walk and take public transportation to and from We house Parish Outreach and Food Pantry We provide shelter, dinner, overnight accommodations, breakfast and support homeless once a week from November to April. We are multicultural and are part of the North Fork Spanish Apostolate having a Spanish speaking Mass once a week.

- ✦ A strong spiritual atmosphere which is the foundation for all other parish ministries and events. St Agnes welcomes all and is respectful of individual differences. Thoughtfully prepared homilies that connect the Readings and Gospel to a better understanding and leading to spiritual growth. The music at the liturgies is another strength. It usually relates to the season or feast day. Everyone is encouraged to sing and they do. The Church Bulletin is well organized and contains a wealth of information and Parish news. A result of the strong spiritual atmosphere is the many charitable ministries that exist at St. Agnes where all volunteers are welcome.

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- ✦ The welcoming nature of the church to all in the community. Service to the poor and homeless. Youth education.

- ✦ The welcoming nature of our community and the ability to work with our Spanish community.

- ✦ The Pastor, Fr. Richard - also the music at Mass, musicians.

- ✦ A tight-knit community, where Parishioners know one another and genuinely care about each other and their neighbors. In Fr. Richard we have an excellent Pastor, especially strong as a Spiritual Leader and fiscal steward.

- ✦ Devoted Pastor, parishioners and lay ministers Kindhearted Pastor who reaches out to involve his parishioners in different capacities of parish life Homilies that relate to parishioners lives today Parish services that reach out to those in need Advent and Lenten group learning sessions and prayer services St Agnes being part of ecumenical council of Greenport.

- ✦ I need to begin by saying we are not registered parishioners, being registered to St Patrick's, Southold. We have attended St Agnes for about a year, for various reasons. A major strength of St Agnes and you is that you relate to it's parishioners needs in your ministry and particularly with sermons that talk to your audience as a person to person and a top down to a subservient audience. You relate!

- ✦ Nice community. Good sermons by Fr Richard. The grounds are beautiful. The outside flowers are pretty.

- ✦ Strengths are providing English and Spanish masses. Finances managed well. Beautiful music ministry welcoming parish.

- ✦ The diversity of the congregation and the strong sense of volunteerism among the parishioners.

- ✦ Willingness of the parish community to volunteer for parish ministries.

- ✦ It's role in the neighborhood. It's ministry to the sick and elderly of the Parish. The religious education of the children is so important.

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- ✦ The Pastor, opportunities to worship, good condition of church and grounds, apparent increase in minority parishioners.

- ✦ Our pastor, Father Richard Hoerning.

- ✦ Feels like a family, devotions, dedicated and holy Pastor, beautiful church, Bus trip to Broadway show.

- ✦ The welcome visions of the good care of the parish, Father Richard's excellent sermons.

- ✦ Dedication of Father Richard to the parish, sacrifice of Father Richard to the parish.

- ✦ Parish always seems very welcoming. I get a sense of being with another family when I attend Mass there. I enjoy the friendships and seeing folks each week, catching up on what's happening in their lives. I enjoy the sermons in which you start out with a story and tie it into a meaningful end.

- ✦ Strong support for the Rosary and Altar society by Father Richard CCD program. Both Father Richard and Father Tom have been spiritual leaders.

- ✦ Faith filled community with wonderful volunteers! Parish community led by Fr. Richard in his quiet manner with great attention to detail, always seeking spiritual enrichment for the parish.

- ✦ Close community, parishioners look to help each other.

- ✦ It's parish involvement and community.