

February 26, 2023 First Sunday of Lent

*Taking
the Next Step
as One in
Christ*

**Dear St. Agnes-Our Lady of Fatima
Parish Family**

May this Lenten Season Bring you ever closer to Jesus Christ who loves you beyond comprehension.

In recent weeks, we have spoken about our “**Taking the Next Step in Christ Program.**” Our parish has so much to offer to everyone in this local community and city. We are a beacon of hope for those in need, for those suffering, and for those who are searching and in need of our prayers and assistance. We also accompany our parish family through the administration of the sacraments, the celebration of Mass, and our ministries. We are so blessed to be able to serve so many as we have throughout the years in our parish and community!

As we enter the Lenten Season, we are reminded that we are called by God to advance the mission of the Church and to build up God’s Kingdom here in Cleveland. We heard from the Prophet Isaiah proclaimed at this past Friday’s Mass: *(Friday after Ash Wednesday)* “**This... is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own.**” Isaiah continues, “**Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.**” (ISAIAH 58: 6-8)

Family, there are so many people who need our assistance, and the Lord calls us to be that light shining in the dawn breaking through the darkness of their lives. Until the needy are clothed, the hungry are fed, and the Gospel is spread to the ends of the earth, we will need resources. That’s why I ask you to please make every effort to turn in your Commitment Card this week if you have not done so **by Sunday, March 5th**. I also invite you to continue praying for our parish, your fellow sisters and brothers and become involved in the life of our parish by joining a ministry to serve those in need. What a great way to enter into a true Lenten Fast. Many of you have already submitted your Commitment Card to the parish and have committed your offertory and prayerful support to continue to advance our parish missionary efforts. Thank you! At the same time, many have not yet submitted their Commitment Cards. Our goal through this initiative is 100% participation from our parish community. Let’s make every effort to make it 100%.

I thank you for your generosity and commitment to your parish family, the surrounding community, and the city of Cleveland as we **Take the Next Step United as One in Christ!**

Fr. James Watson

MASS INTENTIONS AND SCRIPTURES THIS WEEK

Sun, Feb 26 – First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17 Rom 5:12-19 Mt 4:1-11

8:30am – Juan Luciano, dec.

10:30am – For our Parish

Mon, Feb 27 – Lenten Weekday

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mt 25:31-46

Tue, Feb 28 –Lenten Weekday

Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7, 16-19 Mt 6:7-15

Wed, Mar 1 – Lenten Weekday

Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32

Thu, Mar 2 – Lenten Weekday

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

Fri, Mar 3 – Lenten Weekday

Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8 Mt 5:20-26

Sat, Mar 4 – Lenten Weekday

Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 Mt 5:43-48

Sun, Mar 5- Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4a Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 2Tm 1:8b-10 Mt 17:1-9

LENTEN PRACTICE REMINDERS

Lent is marked by the traditional observances of **Prayer, Fasting, Abstinence and Almsgiving.**

PRAYER: Consider daily mass and personal scripture reading during Lent. The Stations of the Cross, a devotion to the suffering of Christ on his journey to Calvary will be prayed each Friday at 3pm and 5pm in the Church. The Word Among Us is also available for your daily prayer and reflection during this season.

FASTING: Catholics, ages 16 to 59, are obligated to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The Lenten practice of Fasting is as follows: one main meal, two smaller meals, and no food in-between. We should be hungry, not starved. Those needing to eat with medication may do so.

ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT: This is an Obligation for all Catholics on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

ALMSGIVING: Consider works of charity, service, or financial sacrifices during Lent.

SEASON of LENT SCHEDULE

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday (except Good Friday) 3PM and 6:30PM, **(Please Note the Change from 5PM)**
The **HOLY WEEK** schedule will be published SOON!



THE SCRIPTURAL ROSARY

The Rosary Group will be leading a Scriptural Rosary in the Church every Sunday after the 8:30AM Mass beginning Today. Please Join in as we Pray for our Parish, our Community and the World. Rosaries and Prayer Guides will be provided.

National Black Catholic Congress XIII

Write the Vision: A Prophetic Call to Thrive

The National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC) convenes a national congress every five years. Join with other Black Catholics and those who minister to Black Catholics in the United States for a celebration of our faith and culture. The next congress will be held July 20-23, 2023 at the Gaylord National in National Harbor, Maryland. To register, call Fr. James at the Parish office or go to

www.nbccgathering2023.org

The Diocesan Evening of Confession will return this year on **Wednesday, March 8th.** St. Agnes-Our Lady of Fatima Parish along with all the parishes in the diocese will welcome the faithful from 5-8 pm on that day.

St Agnes-Our Lady of Fatima

UPDATED FISH FRY ANNOUNCEMENT

We are looking for **20 committed volunteers** to assist with our fish fry Fridays this year. The fish fry Fridays will be March 10th and March 31st. Please speak with Darlene Horton, Neicey or Carla Grant, or email Carla Grant at cgbible40@gmail.com.

There will also be sign-up sheets at both entrances of the church. Thank you for your assistance in advance.

FISH FRY DONATIONS NEEDED

To make our fish fry a success, we need donations of certain items: **YOUR TIME, POP, WATER, BREAD(WHITE AND WHEAT) DESSERTS(CAKE OR COOKIES), SALAD MIX.** Please contact the church at (216)391-1655 or Carla Grant (216)200-1525. *All donations are due by March 9th for the 1st fish fry.*

Thank you for your support.

YOUR SACRIFICE LAST WEEK

Thank you for your sacrificial gift for our church. Your response to our offertory commitment has been tremendous! Our goal to meet our budget is \$5,400.00. **Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness!**

SUNDAY OFFERINGS 02-12-2023

In Church	\$3064.00
Cash App	\$172.00
Vanco On-Line	\$785.19
Building Fund	\$20.00
Candles	\$15.00
Total	\$4056.19

Join the Saint Agnes-Our Lady of Fatima Parish Men’s Group for a

MEN’S DAY of RECOLLECTION

“Sons of the Father - United in Christ - Growing in the Holy Spirit”

Date and Location: March 18th at the Parish

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:00PM

SAVE THE DATE:

Saint Agnes - Our Lady of Fatima Church

Women’s Tea:

May 20th, 2023 2:4:30

More Information Coming

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES

8:30 AM

10:30 AM

	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
26-Feb 1st Sunday in Lent		
Comm	Veronica Safo	Carol Grant
Lector	Dell Robinson	Patricia Spychaj
Server	Uzuchukku Oranugo	Syan Hughes
		Jordan Ivery
Usher	Karen Larry	Yvette Andre
	Theresa Hughley	Yvonne Griffin
		<i>Needed</i>
		Sheila Griffin-McCoy
5-Mar 2nd Sunday in Lent		
Comm	Keith Durand	Jeanette Austin
Lector	Donna Dix-Washington	Debbie James
Server	Uzuchukku Oranugo	Jeremiah Robinson
		Divine Onuorah
Usher	Karen Larry	Donzell Andrew, Jr.
	Theresa Hughley	Michelle Booker
		Billy Cardwell
		Erik Smith

PRAY FOR THE SICK+

Ogechi Achunine, Georgia Atkinson, Kalima Assami, Joyce Baker, Bessie Bolles, Gabriel Blair, Joyce Blanton-Smith, Anna Broadhead, Thella Brooks, Christine Byrd, William Byrd, Marcella Caffie, Kathy Clayton, Terrell Cole, Robin Davis, Edna Evans, Richard Gayle, James Nakima, Myron Gholson, Yvonne Griffin, Toni Griffin-France, Adriene Hall, JoAnn Hinson, Althea Hite, Ursula Hite, Patricia Heard, Estelle Hodges, Kyllan Hughes, Valada Hutchinson, Maxine Jackson, Andrea Johnson, Joseph Jones, Brianna Jones, Reaber Jones, Craig Kelly, Janie Kincaid, Francesca Lehu, Dolores Malby, Elizabeth Malby, LaVerta Marshall, Bill Miller, David McClain, Chantel McConnell, Chaquita McClinton, Sharon McDuffie, Terri Mohr, Verendez Moore, Lounette Payne, Erma Pollard, Nisha Presley, Sue Scott, Regina Shanklin, Jerry Shelton, Kevin Sipp, Deborah Smedley, John Strozier, Barbara Sudberry, Danita Thomas, Janice Thompson, Hubert Watson, Desiree Webb, Aris White, James Keifer, Kathy Heard, Eboni Edwards, Monique Johnson, Margie Jones, Barbara Marshall Brown Naomi Matthews, Fay Grady, Tyrone Grady, Rachael Glaster, Jame Hoyle, Judy Guzy, Latina Thomas, Constance Durrah, Mary Roberts, Donald Leftwich, James Jackson, Marcia St. John, Sabrina Wilson, Betty Moore, Ophelia Swain, Fidela Lozada, Evelyn Morson-Eddie, Alonzo Givens, Yvonne Williamson,

Regina Woodard, Beverly Greene-Reed, Jahiem Wilson Ali'Bey, Warren Family, William Jackson, Kardier Jackson, Carol Hollinger, Mattie McDonald, Anita Gullett, Natalie Webb, Carson Wetherwax, Gail Xavier, Jaqueline Zeigler, Darlene Harris, Lasonia Sims, Nina Simmons, Bertha McClain Alexander, Loraine Taylor. **FAMILIES:** The Lane Family, The Poteat Family

Father Into Your Hands...

Please keep in your prayers the family of our faithfully deceased brother, **George Eugene Booker**, who passed away last Sunday, Feb 19th. We pray that his soul will rest in the Eternal Peace of Christ.

LENTEN RENEWAL

Sponsored by the **Office of Black Catholic Ministries**

"This is My Story"

Reflections by Sr. Jane Nesmith

March 14-15, 2023

w/Daily Mass on the 15th at 7PM

Holy Spirit Church

4341 E. 131st St. in Garfield Heights

6:30-8:00PM followed by refreshments.

Flyers available at all entrances

OPEN GYM



St. Agnes Our Lady of Fatima Parish's OPEN GYM program will be held weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning on March 14. **Registration is open now to all 6th to 12th grade Youth and Teens in our parish and participants at Fatima Family Center.**

The Program will be an opportunity for our young people to have a fun and safe environment in which they can develop their relationship with the Lord through prayer, Scriptural and teaching followed by experienced coaching to develop their skills in basketball. For more info and to register your son or daughter, sign up after Mass in the Narthex. You can also contact Fr. James at the parish or Mr. Dell Robinson at (216)470-0398.

NINE NIGHTS OF NIGHT PRAYER

On nine consecutive evenings from **March 17th -March 25th**, the faithful throughout the Diocese of Cleveland are being invited to participate in nine opportunities to pray the Night Prayer of the Church at different parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland. **St. Agnes-Our Lady of Fatima Church will also be hosting this prayerful event during those nights.** Our Church will be open from 8:00pm-9 pm each night with prayer beginning at 8:15. We need a few volunteers to help facilitate each night. Instructions will be provided. If you would like to volunteer, please call the Parish or email Fr. James at pastor@saolf.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2022-23

Please sign your child/teen up for First Communion, Confirmation. Faith formation for our youth takes place on Sundays immediately following the **8:30am** Mass from **9:45am-11:00am**. To register your child, pick up a form at the church entrance or call **Mr. Cary Dabney** at 216-391-1655.

R.C.I.A. FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Are you someone or do you know someone who....

- ❖ Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- ❖ Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
- ❖ Is thirsting for God?

We offer an opportunity to come together to learn about the Catholic faith. To get started visit:

<https://www.saolf.org/rite-of-christian-initiation-of-adults>

or contact our Director of Religious Education, **Mr. Cary Dabney**.

2023 Catholic Charities Appeal



The 2023 Catholic Charities Appeal is underway with an in-pew commitment process taking place this weekend. This is not a special collection; rather, the Catholic Charities Appeal represents the

chance for all Catholics to make a significant pledge, payable in installments, to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland in order to support its mission of a society that stands united in its support of the "least among us." Many parishioners have received a letter from Bishop Malesic requesting their support. If you have not received this letter, please respond to the in-pew commitment process today! If you have received the mailing, please respond to it. There is a box on the in-pew envelope to indicate that you have responded by mail.

A time to heal. A time to help. Your support of the 2023 Catholic Charities Appeal helps us to carry out the mission that Jesus entrusted to us: 'I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Please consider a generous gift that will change the lives of the 400,000 who are served each year in Northeast Ohio. Please pray for the success of the Appeal, which provides for essential programs and services in need throughout all eight counties of the Diocese of Cleveland.

St. Agnes+Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church

A Ministry of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars

Visit the Capuchins at www.capuchin.com



MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Agnes + Our Lady of Fatima Church is a visionary Catholic Christian Community.

As a diverse parish, we embrace

Africentric worship,

Christ centered hospitality,

and missionary service.

Sustained by the wisdom of our elders

and energized by the spirit of our youth,

we come together in faith

as a church family

to give witness to the liberating message

of the Gospel.



PARISH INFORMATION

Address: 6800 Lexington Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

Office: 216-391-1655

FAX: 216-391-7919

Website: www.saolf.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9AM-12:30, 1:00PM-3:30PM
Fridays: Closed

Mass Schedule:

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Weekday: As Scheduled

Holyday: 7:00 p.m.

PARISH STAFF:

Rev. James Watson, OFM Cap. Pastor

jwatson@saolf.org

Rev. David Domanski, OFM Cap. Associate Pastor

ddomanski@dioceseofcleveland.org

Rev. Mr. Hardin Martin, Deacon

deaconmartin@saolf.org

Miss Brittany Taylor, Parish Secretary

btaylor@saolf.org

Mr. Cary Dabney, Director of Religious Education

carywdabney@gmail.com

Mr. Danny McElroy, Director of Music Ministry

dannymac63@roadrunner.com

Mr. Reginald Daniels, Custodian

custodian@saolf.org

Fatima Family Center: 6600 Lexington Ave.
LaJean Ray, Director
216-391-0505

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays: 4:00 pm or anytime by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism for Infants:

Arrangements made in advance with a priest or deacon. Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Preparations begin with a priest or deacon BEFORE setting a date and six months prior to intended date. Contact the parish to schedule an appointment.

Sacrament of the Sick and Home Visits:

Please contact the parish office.

Parish Registration: Welcome to our parish. To register, please contact the parish office.

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesdays at 12 noon

Electronic Giving Opportunities:

Go to www.saolf.org and click on "Make a Gift." For **CashApp** users: send to **\$saolf**