



St. Agnes PREP

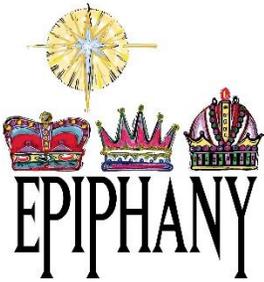
January/February 2018 Newsletter

Dear St. Agnes Community,

Thank you for your continued participation and support of our Religious Education endeavors. Forming a child's Faith is a team effort that starts at home...and we are proud to be a part of that support system through our religious education programs.

In the next several weeks we prepare some of our boys and girls for their sacraments. Please remember to keep them in prayer!

### What's New?



We were very proud to continue our Epiphany tradition with a beautiful blessing during classes in January. Father Jeff and Deacon Tucker move throughout the building incensing and blessing each classroom as we pray and sing together to celebrate joyfully. This great tradition was started by our beloved Monsignor John Wendryhowicz many years ago and we look forward to it each year in his memory.

**20+C+M+B+18**

**The current year and the initials of the names of the Magi - Caspar,  
Melchior, and Balthasaar**

## Feast Day of St. Agnes

During classes the week of 1/22, we honored our patron saint, St. Agnes with prayer and by learning a little about her life. Her feast day was celebrated on January 21<sup>st</sup>. She is the patron saint of young girls and all women in need. Her strength, faith and purity were second to none. A young woman who died at the young age of 13, St. Agnes was a beautiful example of devotion to our Lord. Thank you, St. Agnes for inspiring us!!



Saint Agnes (c.292-c.304)



## Mid-Year Archdiocesan Assessments

We thank our families for their support in helping the children prepare for our Archdiocesan Mid-Year Assessments. Our Catechists and support staff also worked very hard in doing so and we are grateful for their efforts! The purpose of these assessments to gauge the children's understanding of the basic concepts of the grade level curriculum and the tenets of our faith. The Assessments are used as "guides" for all of us to reflect on what we are teaching, how we are teaching, and how well the children are understanding. No child in our program will ever "Fail Faith"! However, we do uphold the expectation that all of our students strive for a greater understanding and love of their faith. Thank you for your continued help!

## First Penance is Approaching!

The boys and girls in our level 3 PREP classes (level 2 homeschool/Catholic school) are preparing for First Penance! This sacrament will be celebrated on Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 pm in church. We ask for your continued prayers as they continue their preparation. This is a beautiful time for our children and we are so proud of them.



*Remember.... We follow Pennridge School District for weather related closings. A Black Board Connect message will also always be sent as a reminder. Thank you!*



## Thinking ahead to First Holy Communion!

Following First Penance the same group of young people will receive their First Eucharist in April. A packet of information will be distributed during PREP class and brought home by our 3<sup>rd</sup> level students. Homeschool and Catholic School students will receive this same packet in the mail. This will happen the first week of March. A calendar of events relating to First Holy Communion will be included in this packet. Stay tuned!

## Dates to Remember:

2/5 and 2/7 - Penance practice during class. Homeschool and Catholic school friends are welcome to join us either night!

2/10 - Confirmation Retreat in the social hall. 9:00 am - 12 Noon. All candidates must attend.

2/14 - **ASH WEDNESDAY - WE DO HAVE PREP!!** As noted on our calendar you will drop your Wednesday night PREP kids off in the Parish Social Hall by 6:30 (regular drop off time). We will have parking lot aides helping. Please enter the parking lot as normal and drop off between cones. PREP staff will bring the kids up to Mass at 7:00 pm. After Mass staff will bring the kids back to the social hall. Parents are encouraged to attend Mass. Students however, will sit with their PREP catechist and classes. Pick up after Mass will be in the social hall. Same procedures for that - come in and pick up your child in levels 1-5. 6 and 7 may dismiss HOWEVER be mindful that the lot will be crowded with Ash Wednesday attendees leaving the parking lot at the same time!

2/19 - NO CLASS - President's Day Observance

2/20 - Celebration of the sacrament of First Reconciliation - Church at 6:30 pm. Parents must stay and are welcome and encouraged to make a confession, as well.

2/26 and 2/28 - Protecting God's Children Lesson

-Also known as Keeping God's Children Safe). These lessons are taught within the framework of a regular PREP class and in conjunction with a chapter in our texts. Each year we encourage parents to preview these lessons for each grade level by visiting [www.archphila.org/catechetical](http://www.archphila.org/catechetical) and linking to resources and lessons. Parents are given the choice to "OPT OUT" of their child participating in this lesson after they have previewed it, by signing a waiver which I then submit to the Office of Catechetical Formation. If you opt out, your child should still come to class and will come to the library while their class has the lesson. They will return to class afterwards. Homeschool community, please send in your opt out waiver if you are not planning on using the Archdiocesan model.

*I wish all of you continued winter blessings! It is wonderful to partner with you in your child's Faith Formation!*



*Mark  
Your  
Calendar*

*Mrs. Kristen A. Hass*