

## Immaculate Conception R.C. Church    Our Lady of the Lake R.C. Church

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Office Hours: 9am to 4:30pm Tuesday to Friday

### Pastoral Team

Rev. Fr. Paul T. Hancko, Pastor

Rev. Deacon Stephen Palmer



*Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations  
by the guidance of a star. Lead us to  
Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.*

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### SUTTON

#### MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Mon.	Jan 7	9:00am: In Thanksgiving to the Holy Family for favours received req. Mrs. Meaney
Tues.	Jan 8	8:30am: + Peter Fagan req. Patricia and Danny Ward
Wed.	Jan 9	6:45pm: <b>Devotion to Our Lady</b> 7:00pm: Blessings upon Tadeas Smolko req. Melinda Garel
Sat.	Jan 12	5:30pm: Parishioners (Pro Populo)
Sun.	Jan 13	8:30am: Special Intention

### PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please keep the following people in your prayers. Erica Barry, Tyler Clements, Mara Hawkins, John Hopkins, Eduard Konrad, Grant Madill, Diane Pereira, Rosemary Rupert, Rosa Maria Santos, Paul Serravalle, Adriana Smith, Jennifer Teeluck

### DAILY READINGS

Daily readings are now available on our parish websites. The Daily Readings tab is found under the Our Catholic Faith drop-down menu.

### JANUARY SAINTS' DAYS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
4 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
7 <sup>th</sup>	Saint André Bessette
8 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Raymond of Penyafort
12 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys
13 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Hilary
17 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Anthony
20 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Fabian Saint Sebastian
21 <sup>st</sup>	Saint Agnes
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Saint Vincent
24 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Francis de Sales
26 <sup>th</sup>	Saints Timothy and Titus
27 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Angela Merici
28 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Thomas Aquinas
31 <sup>st</sup>	Saint John Bosco

*New parents are encouraged to consider naming their children after a Saint.*

“Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.”

— *Thomas Aquinas*

### KESWICK

#### MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Thurs.	Jan 10	8:30am: Holy Souls in Purgatory
Fri.	Jan 11	8:30am: Special Intention <u>10:30am</u> : Cedarvale Nursing Home Special Intentions
Sat.	Jan 12	4:00pm: Blessings Upon Mark Quigg req. Holmes Family
Sun.	Jan 13	<u>10:30am</u> : Blessings Upon Thomas Quigg on his 89 <sup>th</sup> Birthday req. Holmes Family

### SAINT BLAISE

St. Blaise was the bishop of Sebastea and a doctor. The first known record of the saint's life comes from medical writings, where he is recorded as helping with patients suffering from objects stuck in their throat. Many of the miraculous aspects of St. Blaise's life are written of 400 years after his martyrdom in the "Acts of St. Blaise."

St. Blaise is believed to begin as a healer then, a "physician of souls." He then retired to a cave, where he remained in prayer. People often turned to St. Blaise for healing miracles.

In 316, the governor of Cappadocia and of Lesser Armenia, Agricola, arrested then-bishop Blaise for being a Christian. On their way to jail, a woman set her only son, who was choking to death on a fish bone, at his feet. Blaise cured the child, and though Agricola was amazed, he could not get Blaise to renounce his faith. Therefore, Agricola beat Blaise with a stick and tore at his flesh with iron combs before beheading him.

In another tale, Blaise was being led to the prison in Sebastea, and on the way came across a poor old woman whose pig had been stolen by a wolf. Blaise commanded the wolf return the pig, which it did - alive and uninjured - to the amazement of all. When he reached Sebastea, the woman came to him and brought two fine wax candles in an attempt to dispel the gloom of his darkened cell.

He was then referred to as the "saint of the wild beast." St. Blaise is often depicted holding two crossed candles in his hand, or in a cave with wild animals. He is also often shown with steel combs. The similarity of the steel combs and the wool combs made a large contribution to Saint Blaise's leadership as the patron saint of wool combers and wool trade.

### FATHER PAUL'S PILGRIMAGE

Father is leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land between Nov. 6th and 14th, 2019. Details will follow.

**SAINT AGNES – Birth 291 Death 304**  
**Patron of young girls, chastity, rape survivors and**  
**the Children of Mary**

St. Agnes of Rome was born in 291 AD and raised in a Christian family. Agnes was very beautiful and belonged to a wealthy family. Her hand in marriage was highly sought after, and she had many high ranking men chasing after her. However, Agnes made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for the Lord was great and she hated sin even more than death!

Whenever a man wished to marry Agnes, she would always say, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse."

According to legend, the young men she turned away became so angry and insulted by her devotion to God and purity that they began to submit her name to authorities as a Christian follower.

In one incident, Procop, the Governor's son, became very angry when she refused him. He tried to win her for his wife with rich gifts and promises, but the beautiful young girl kept saying, "I am already promised to the Lord of the Universe. He is more splendid than the sun and the stars, and He has said He will never leave me!"

In great anger, Procop accused her of being a Christian and brought her to his father, the Governor. The Governor promised Agnes wonderful gifts if she would only deny God, but Agnes refused. He tried to change her mind by putting her in chains, but her lovely face shone with joy.

Next he sent her to a place of sin, but an Angel protected her. At last, she was condemned to death. Even the pagans cried to see such a young and beautiful girl going to death. Yet, Agnes was as happy as a bride on her wedding day. She did not pay attention to those who begged her to save herself. "I would offend my Spouse," she said, "if I were to try to please you. He chose me first and He shall have me!" Then she prayed and bowed her head for the death-stroke of the sword.

Other accounts of Agnes' life hold the Prefect Sempronius responsible for her martyrdom. It is said he condemned the young girl to be dragged through the streets naked. Some versions of the legend state that Agnes' hair grew instantly to cover her entire body and all the men who attempted to rape the beautiful virgin were immediately struck blind.

The stories go on to explain that another man presided over Agnes' trial after Sempronius excused himself. The new man sentenced Agnes to death. At first, Agnes was tied to a stake, but either the wood would not burn or the flames parted away from her.

This prompted an officer to draw his sword and behead the girl. It is believed that her blood, which poured out to the stadium, was soaked up with cloths by Christians. She died a virgin-martyr at the age of 12 or 13 on 21 January 304.

Agnes was buried beside the Via Nomentana in Rome. Her bones are currently conserved beneath the high altar in the church of Sant'Angese fuori le mura in Rome, which was built over the catacomb that held her tomb. Her skull is preserved in the church of Sant'Agnese in Agone in Rome's Piazza Navona.

In 1858, Father Caspar Rehl, an Austrian missionary founded the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes.

St. Agnes is widely known as the patron saint of young girls. She is also the patron saint of chastity, rape survivors and the Children of Mary. She is often represented with a lamb, the symbol of her virgin innocence, and a palm branch, like other martyrs. She is shown as a young girl in robes holding a palm branch with the lamb either at her feet or in her arms.

Her feast day is celebrated on January 21. On her feast day, it is customary for two lambs to be brought in to be blessed by the pope. On Holy Thursday the lambs' wool is removed and woven into the pallium the pope gives to a newly consecrated archbishop as a sign of his power and union with the pope.

**1<sup>st</sup> HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION PREP**

New class schedules are posted on the parish bulletin boards as well as **updated** lists of those children registered for these sacraments. If your child's name is **not** on the list, please call the office and make an appointment to see Fr. Paul. Children will be asked to name items in the church and also answer questions on the material they studied with their parents from the book.

**THANK YOU**

A sincere thank you to everyone who has helped make this Advent and Christmas Season so special. Thank you to all who helped in the organizing of the parish Christmas events; including the parish Christmas party. Special thanks also to those who beautifully decorated our churches. And appreciation to all who donated poinsettias in memory of their loved ones. Gratitude to all children and families who brought their "little bambinelli" to church for the special blessing. Finally, Father Paul and Deacon Steve want to express their sentiments of appreciation for the many Christmas cards and various gifts.



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