

January 18, 2019



ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH

FIAT NEWSLETTER

# Saint Francis de Sales

Dear Friend of Annunciation Parish & School,

On January 24 we celebrate the feast of Saint Francis de Sales, the principal patron of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Francis de Sales was born on August 21, 1567, the firstborn child of wealthy parents. He was ordained a priest on December 18, 1593.

Francis de Sales was known as a caring priest and a gifted preacher and catechist. He became provost of Geneva, which was the center for the Calvinists. He desired to bring the Calvinists back to the Catholic Church. Eventually, Francis was ordained the bishop of Geneva. A gifted and prolific writer, Francis de Sales wrote twenty-six books, including the spiritual classics, "Introduction to the Devout Life" and "Treatise on the Love of God."



Francis de Sales died on December 28, 1622, and was canonized in 1665 by Pope Alexander VII. He was named a Doctor of the Church in 1877 by Pope Pius IX. He is the patron of writers, journalists, and those who are deaf.

Saint Francis de Sales is sometimes referred to as the "Gentleman Saint," and has also been called the "Doctor of Love." Wonderful quotes are attributed to Francis de Sales, a popular one being, "You can catch more flies with a spoonful of honey than with a barrel of vinegar." Find more on Saint Francis de Sales [here](#).

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandi Chakeres,  
Director of Faith Formation

## World Youth Day 2019



The 34th World Youth Day will be celebrated in Panama from January 22-27, 2019. This provides a chance for pilgrims around the world to come together with the many young people from the peripheries in Latin America to pray, worship, and celebrate the Catholic faith. The Blessed Virgin Mary is at the heart of the themes for the upcoming and most recent WYDs. This year's theme is, "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38) Find more information from the Vatican [here](#), and visit the WYD web site [here](#) and [here](#).

**FIAT: Faith In Action Today**  
**Annunciation Parish & School**  
**Religious Education/Faith Formation News**  
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### Special points of interest:

- While not celebrated at Mass this year, since it falls on a Sunday, January 20 is the feast of *Saint Sebastian*, patron saint of our school's physical education classes.
- Catholic Schools Week 2019 is coming soon! It begins January 27! Mark your calendars for our School Open House at noon that day!
- Follow us on *Facebook* to get all our latest news and see all our latest photos!

\*\*Icon at top left of page: Archangel Gabriel (Annunciation), 16th Century, Russian Heritage, Location: Andrei Rublev Museum in Moscow. Used with permission of St. Isaac of Syria Skete (Orthodox Byzantine Icons, Inc.); 25266 Pilgrims Way, Boscobel, WI 53805 [www.skete.com](http://www.skete.com)

# Agnes and Agnus

On January 21st each year, the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the Feast (Obligatory Memorial) of Saint Agnes. Saint Agnes was a Christian martyr who was put to death at a young age (12-13 years of age) during the Diocletian persecution. Most sources say she was martyred around the year 258, while some put her death in the very early 4th century. Tradition says that Agnes, whose name means “pure” in the Greek language, was very beautiful. The story says that she wanted to dedicate her life to God and that she did not want to marry. But she was very beautiful, and many young men wanted to marry her. The story continues that one of the young men whose proposal she turned down reported to the authorities that she was a Christian, which instigated her arrest and eventual martyrdom. A church was built over her tomb.



The word “religion” literally means to “reconnect”, and the connections that we make are fascinating. As was stated above, the name “Agnes” means “pure” in Greek. But it sounds a lot like the Latin word “agnus” which means “lamb.” Hence you will almost always see Saint Agnes pictured with a lamb and a palm branch. (A palm branch is a symbol of victory. In the Book of Revelation 7:9, in the Bible, those who remained faithful to Christ unto death are holding palm branches in heaven.) Saint Agnes is portrayed in the mural in our own church here at Annunciation, and as you can see from the picture above, she is holding a palm branch and a lamb.

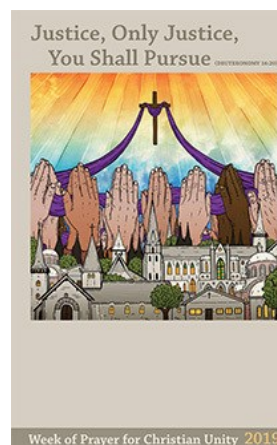
But back to the “lamb” connection. Each year on Saint Agnes’ January 21st feast day the Pope blesses two lambs. The wool from these lambs is used to make a vestment called a pallium. Once woven, the pallia are then placed in an urn at the Tomb of Saint Peter. On June 29th, the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, the Pope blesses the pallia in the presence of newly appointed Metropolitan Archbishops. Each Archbishop then takes the pallia to his home diocese, where he schedules a time with the nuncio for the pallia to be bestowed upon him. The pallia symbolizes the unity of the Archbishops with the Pope and Rome, as well as symbolizing that the Archbishops are the shepherds of their flocks.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ January 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- ◆ Monday, January 21: Parish & School Office closed for MLK holiday
- ◆ Thursday, January 24, 9:30 a.m. : Morning Prayer
- ◆ Friday, January 25: Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, The Apostle (7th Grade Patron Saint)
- ◆ Sunday, January 27: Begin Catholic Schools Week; Annunciation Catholic School Open House Noon-2:30
- ◆ Tuesday, January 29, 6:00-9:00 p.m.: Plenary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
- ◆ Thursday, January 31, 9:30 a.m.: Morning Prayer
- ◆ Saturday, February 2, 5:00 p.m. Mass; Celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas); Blessing of, and Procession with, Candles
- ◆ Sunday, February 3: Blessing of Throats at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses

***It's Happening at  
Annunciation!***

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



January 18–25, 2019, is the annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme chosen for 2019 is “Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue” (cf. Deuteronomy 16:20) Throughout 2019, join Christians everywhere in praying “that they may all be one” joining our prayer with that of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity gives Christians an annual opportunity to continue their quest for the unity they already share in Christ. It is also a time to gather in praise of the Triune God and to deepen the understanding of the ecumenical movement. By joining in this annual celebration Christians raise their voices, hands and hearts to God seeking the fulfillment of the prayer of Jesus, the Son of God, “that they all may be one.” Find more information [here](#).