

ST. AGNES LENTEN REFLECTION ~ 2019

Now in its fourth year, St. Agnes Church in Baton Rouge has offered weekly Lenten Reflections on Wednesday evenings during Lent (beginning the Wednesday following Ash Wednesday and ending on Spy Wednesday), featuring a particular theme as a guide for one's Lenten practices, study and growth in Christian virtue through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These weekly Lenten Reflections are offered free of charge and are open to all, and are attended by many across the Greater Baton Rouge area who are eager to make the most of their Lenten Journey. Many who have attended in the past have suggested that the weekly series provides an effective means during Lent to make real progress in Christian perfection. ***“Jesus calls all His children to the pulpit of the Cross, and every word He says to them is set down for the purpose of an eternal publication and undying consolation. There was never a preacher like the dying Christ. There was never a congregation like that which gathered about the pulpit of the Cross. And there was never a sermon like the Seven Last Words.”*** Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, Servant of God.

St. Agnes Church, under the prayerful direction of our pastor, Fr. Charbel Jamhoury, will host weekly Lenten Reflections ***On the Seven Last Words of Jesus Crucified***, as we invite all to join us at the foot of the Cross this Lent. **By reflecting each week during Lent on the Seven Last Words spoken by Jesus Crucified on the Cross, St. Agnes Church hopes and prays participants will:**

- Be inspired to a more fruitful Lenten Journey by actively and purposefully allowing Jesus Crucified, Heart of hearts, to speak intimately and personally to each of our own hearts. ***Cor ad cor loquitur – Heart Speaks to heart!***
- Gain a deeper understanding of, and personally experience, the Infinite Love of God.
- Develop a healthy sense of, and horror for, sin; be inspired to true repentance; and gain a greater desire for conversion.
- Be inspired, as sinners, with supernatural Hope and a full confidence in God's Mercy.
- Become ever more grateful to God for our Redemption, for re-establishing us in His Grace, for restoring our liberty and dignity, and for the gifts of His Church, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, His Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament, and the Life of His Grace in the Sacraments.

St. Agnes Lenten Reflections will be presented each Wednesday at about 6:30 pm, immediately following the Chaplet, by a different guest presenter (presentations will be approximately 45 minutes to an hour in length, with the evening concluding by 7:30 pm); confession will be offered at 5:00 pm, Mass at 5:30 pm, with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy sung immediately following Mass. Presenters may attend just the Lenten Reflection at 6:30 pm, or any additional portion of the evening their schedule permits.

The 2019 St. Agnes Lenten Reflections are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, March 13th, 6:30 pm – **“Introduction to St. Agnes Lenten Reflections on the Seven Last Words of Jesus Crucified, and the First Word: “Father Forgive Them, For They Know Not What They Do.”** Luke 23:34
- Wednesday, March 20th, 6:30 pm – **The Second Word: “Amen, I say to you, this day you will be with Me in Paradise.”** Luke 23:43
- Wednesday, March 27th, 6:30 pm – **The Third Word: “Woman, behold thy son. . . Behold thy mother.”** John 19:26-27 Presented by **Fr. Michael Champagne, Community of Jesus Crucified**
- Wednesday, April 3rd, 6:30 pm – **The Fourth Word: “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani? My God, My God, Why have You forsaken Me?”** Matthew 27:46 Presented by **Dr. Thomas J. Neal, Director of Intellectual Formation and Professor of Spiritual Theology, Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans**
- Wednesday, April 10th, 6:30 pm – **The Fifth Word: “I Thirst!”** John 19:28 Presented by **Fr. Ryan Hallford, Parochial Vicar, St. Jude the Apostle Church**
- Wednesday of Holy Week (*Spy Wednesday*), April 17th, 6:30 pm – **The Sixth and Seven Words: “It is consummated!”** John 19:30 **“Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit.”** Luke 23:46