

ST. AGNES HOME

Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus

A Message from Sr. Anna Maria Provincial Superior

Christ is our Way, Truth, and Life. From the moment He entered this world, He was not wanted. Now we, His followers, have the road map for our own life when we experience persecution. I wanted to share with you this one way of passing on the “Faith” in the face of persecution that has possibly been forgotten. I hope you pray with this explanation as well and pass it on to your children’s children, so that they can appreciate the origin of this song.

From 1558 to 1829, the Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. During this period, “The Twelve Days of Christmas” was written in England to help the children remember lessons of their faith. Instead of referring to an earthly suitor, the “true love” mentioned in the song refers to God Himself. The “me” who receives the presents is symbolic of every baptized person. The partridge, which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, symbolizes Christ.

The meaning of the other symbols is:

- **Two turtledoves** – the Old and New Testaments
- **Three French hens** – Faith, Hope, and Charity
- **Four calling birds** – the four Gospels
- **Five golden rings** – the first five books of the Old Testament, which give the history of man’s fall from grace
- **Six geese a-laying** – the six days of creation
- **Seven swans a-swimming** – the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
- **Eight maids a-milking** – the eight Beatitudes
- **Nine ladies dancing** – the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
- **Ten lords a-leaping** – the Ten Commandments
- **Eleven pipers piping** – the eleven faithful Apostles
- **Twelve drummers drumming** – the twelve points of belief in the Apostles’ Creed

Merry Christmas!



FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



Wishing everyone a wonderful and joy-filled Christmas! I look forward to seeing many of you at the special events we have planned this month at St. Agnes Home. God is so good, and we are blessed to celebrate this beautiful season together.

*As a quick recap from last month's newsletter - families who wish to show appreciation to our staff are welcome to contribute to the **Employee Appreciation Fund**, rather than giving personal gifts. Donations may be dropped off or mailed to **Kati Schaefer** in the Business Office. Perishable treats for staff are also welcome during the week of December 15th.*

Also, I'm excited to welcome Cal Manske, our new Director of Dining Services .



*I hope you all have a blessed and beautiful Christmas season.
Angela Ruppel*

YOU'RE INVITED TO ST. AGNES HOME
ASSISTED LIVING'S...

Open House & Weihnachtsmarkt
(A Christmas Market... German-style!)

Saturday **6** DEC **11** am TILL 3

10341 Manchester Rd. in Kirkwood

VENDORS • LIVE MUSIC • RAFFLES
BRATS & POMMES FRITES • TOURS & MORE

StAgnesHome.com • 314-965-7616

Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus
ST. AGNES HOME
ASSISTED LIVING *Nourished BY HIS LOVE*

St. Nick will be at the Weihnachtsmarkt from 12-1230 p.m. for songs and storytime. December 6 is also his Feast Day so what a treat to have him with us to celebrate.



Chaplain's Corner

THE HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT



November 30th marks the beginning of Advent. This holy season or the Advent coming of Jesus is at once simple and threefold. It is simple because it is the one same God that is coming, and threefold in the three different ways we experience His coming. In the first coming, says St. Bernard, "He comes in the flesh and in weakness; in the second coming, He comes in spirit and in power; and in third, He comes in glory and majesty."

The first is introduced to us by the Prophets of the Old Testament especially Isaiah and it is the coming in the flesh in a manger in Bethlehem --- long ago and now in worship and liturgy --- we know the story and have been preparing our hearts for this moment.

The second way He comes is in faith and love --- remember Jesus has told us that if we love Him, He may come to us and will take up His abode with us --- this of course demands we walk the path of holiness. It is the Holy Spirit who opens our hearts to Christ so that we may draw near.

And in the third coming, Christ will judge all things in justice --- therefore this is truly a time to be awake and on the journey --- for the Lord is near.

It is in this holy season that the Church challenges us to be disciples through continued formation in the faith aiding our understanding, through a regiment of prayer and the development of a habit of generosity.

Everything we wish to achieve in the Church depends first and foremost upon the depth of our response to the Lord's call --- this is at the heart of Advent. As Pope Benedict XVI said: "It is being taken into Jesus' own filial relation with the Father."

The message is simple: Vibrant Christians are made, not born. They are formed, not produced. Spiritual formation is a life long process. A process that invites us to reflect on the experience of God in our life, count the cost, slowly open ourselves to moments of conversion and finally prepare us for mission. We must learn how to encounter the Person of Jesus as a living subject, not merely as an interesting object --- talking and listening to Him at every moment --- as St Paul says to live "in Christ" --- to know God and not just know about Him."

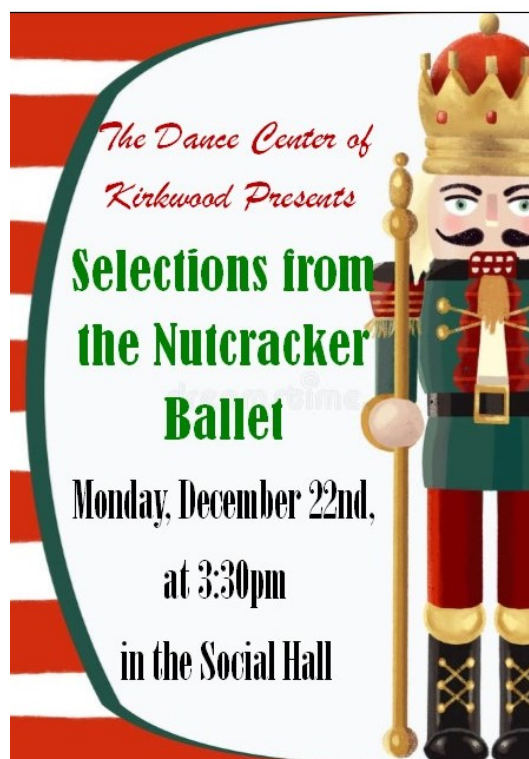
Archbishop Emeritus Robert J Carlson

Did you know? Ste. Genevieve DuBois Parish, down the street from us on Woodlawn, holds a parish Poinsettia fundraiser, and all the flowers that are purchased are sent to our residents? How neighborly and thoughtful!



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...or it will be by the end of this week! This first week, you might not see too much of your activities staff, but hopefully, you'll notice our handiwork as we transform St. Agnes Home into a Winter Wonderland in preparation for the most wonderful time of the year! You'll see Christmas trees everywhere around the home, and I hope you take a close look at each tree because we'll be doing a home-wide ornament scavenger hunt later on in the month. We also have a number of groups coming in to perform and will be doing our annual Christmas Portraits to give you photos to send to your loved ones. There will be an Indoor Snow Day, and we'll learn more about how other cultures celebrate with Christmas around the World! And prepare yourselves for some tasty treats with a Hot Cocoa Bar and a Christmas Cookie Bake-Off!! This December will certainly be one to remember!

Finally, I'd like to officially announce that we have **two new Activities Assistants joining our team in December - Debbie and Sienna! Debbie will be here part-time on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.** She's a grandmother, a member of a ukulele club, and a former clown! She also owned a landscaping business for almost 20 years and loves to sing. I have a feeling her creativity and warmth will fit right in here! And some of you may remember **Sienna** from this past summer when she volunteered with us. She'll be **here on Saturdays and Thursday afternoons.** She's one of the sweetest people we've ever had volunteer here. So, I know she'll bring that same kindness to the job! I can't wait for you to meet them!



Raffle tickets for the Quilt and Nativity Stained Glass will be drawn at the Christmas Pageant.

Tickets may be purchased at the front desk or even the evening of the pageant.

Nursing Notes



We hope you enjoyed a very blessed Thanksgiving season with family and friends. There is **so** much for which we can thank God. Gratitude is a very special grace and a powerful action: it helps the soul grow and keeps life in proper perspective. Truly, all is grace and a gift from God.

News to share—so I will try to stay on track:

Dr. Chelsea Daniels has served as the Primary Care Physician for many of our residents, assisted by **Gabby Giamanco, NP**, with **Dr. Wittenauer** as our Medical Director. We are deeply grateful for the years Dr. Daniels has spent coming to St. Agnes Home and for the compassionate care she has provided. However, her time with us is coming to an end. **Effective December 1st, Dr. Daniels will no longer be seeing residents at St. Agnes Home.** We will certainly miss her and will keep her in our prayers as she begins her new adventure.

UPDATE: Beginning **December 1st, Dr. Wittenauer**, our Medical Director, will assume the role of Primary Care Physician while continuing in her responsibilities as Medical Director. **Gabby Giamanco, NP**, will continue on her current schedule. As always, every resident retains the right to choose their own physician. If you have questions about this transition or intend to change your PCP from Dr. Wittenauer to another provider, please contact Sr. Mary Faustina or Sr. Mareena.

The Christmas season is a very joy-filled time with family and friends, yet it can also bring moments of feeling alone or overwhelmed by the busyness of it all. Recently, several in-services have explored whether older adults feel lonely or simply alone. An AARP article even highlighted how “older Americans embrace the joys of being alone.” Yet feeling alone, lonely, or overwhelmed is **not** age-specific.

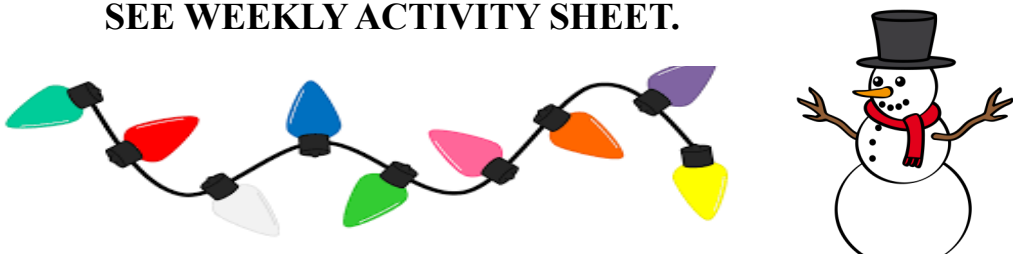
Please remember that you are always welcome to pause in our Chapel, where you can be alone with God, the Prince of Peace. It is so important to take time to stop and ponder. Our Blessed Lady, Mary, frequently “pondered all these things in her heart.” Pondering helps us remember the significant events of life and appreciate how meaningful the little ones are. It also helps place life in proper perspective.

Another thought: as we age, we may find it more difficult to go out, but you are always invited to gather with your family here at St. Agnes Home. If you need a gathering space or room, please contact **Andrea in Activities**—she is excellent at keeping track of who is where and when (a true gift, and she keeps a wonderful chart!).

As always, please continue taking good care of yourselves: get regular exercise, drink plenty of water (hydration is important in all seasons), maintain a balanced diet, and get adequate sleep. And when or if you are not feeling well, please postpone visiting until you feel better. This helps you recover more quickly and ensures you can enjoy your visit.

We wish you a very blessed and grace-filled Advent season, and a Christmas filled with joy and happiness. *Sr. Mary Faustina and all the nursing staff*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1 Decorating	2 Decorating	3 Decorating
	7:00 Mass 1:15 Rosary	7:00 Mass 1:15 Rosary & Perpetual Help	7:00 Mass 1:15 Rosary
7	8	9	10
9:00 Mass 10:00 Coffee & Doughnuts	Immaculate Conception of the Bl. Virgin Mary 9:00 Mass 10:15 Needlework Club 1:15 Rosary 2:00 Christmas Painting	7:00 Mass 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Christmas Trivia 1:15 Rosary & Perpetual Help 2:15 Movie: Holiday Affair	7:00 Mass 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Balloon V 1:15 Rosary 2:15 Bingo
14	15	16	17
9:00 Mass 10:00 Coffee & Doughnuts 1:00 Adoration 4:15 Vespers & Benediction 7:00 Resident Christmas Pageant	7:00 Mass 9:30 Exercise 10:15 Needlework Club 1:15 Rosary 2:00 Movie: A Holiday Spectacular	7:00 Mass 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Daycare Visit 1:15 Rosary & Perpetual Help 2:30 Vincentian Carolers	7:00 Mass 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Cookie B 1:15 Rosary 2:15 Bingo
21	22	23	24
9:00 Mass 10:00 Coffee & Doughnuts 1:00 Adoration 4:15 Vespers & Benediction	7:00 Mass 9:30 Exercise 10:15 Needlework Club 1:15 Rosary 3:30 Selections from the Nutcracker Ballet	7:00 Mass 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Book Club 10:30 Library Visit 1:15 Rosary & Perpetual Help 2:15 Christmas Around the World	Christmas Eve 7:00 Mass 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Christmas 1:15 Rosary 2:00 Movie: The Pageant Ever
28	29	30	31
The Holy Family 9:00 Mass 10:00 Coffee & Doughnuts 1:00 Adoration 4:15 Vespers & Benediction	9:00 Mass 10:30 Reindeer Ring Toss 1:15 Rosary 2:15 Movie: The Bishop's Wife	9:00 Mass 10:30 Indoor Snow Day 1:15 Rosary & Perpetual Help 2:15 Resident Council 3:00 Food Council	New Year's Eve 9:00 Mass 10:30 Eating w 1:15 Rosary 2:00 Bingo

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Decorating	4 Decorating	5 Decorating	6
	7:00 Mass 1:15 Rosary 2:00 Sing-Along Sisters	9:00 First Friday Mass Followed by Adoration 11:00 Rosary 2:00 Duo Dog (Bean) 4:45 Vespers & Benediction	St. Nick's Day 9:00 Mass 11-3 Weihnachtsmarkt
	11	12	13
Volleyball	7:00 Mass 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Hot Chocolate Bar 1:15 Rosary 2:00 Christmas Portraits	7:00 Mass 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Footprints of God 1:15 Rosary 3:00 Happy Hour-Lawrence M.	8:30 Rosary 9:00 Mass 10:30 Bingo with the Order of Malta 1:30 Chaminade Players 3:00 Duo Dogs (Rosie & Tucker)
	18	19	20
Take-Off	Employee Christmas Party - No Activities Today 7:00 Mass	7:00 Mass 9:30 Exercise 10:00 Lives of the Saints 1:15 Rosary 3:00 Christmas Happy Hour w/ Santa & Friends - Matt D.	8:30 Rosary 9:00 Mass 10:30 Confessions 10:30 Michael Barry Christmas Carolers 2:00 Duo Dog (Rosie)
	25	26	27
s Sing Along e Best Christmas	Christmas Day 9:00 Mass	St. Stephen 9:00 Mass	St. John 9:00 Mass 3:00 Duo Dog (Bean)
	PLEASE USE THIS AS A GUIDE. SEE WEEKLY ACTIVITY SHEET.		
e ith the Saints			
			

Mass Intentions for December 2025
St. Agnes Home Chapel

1. Mother Karla Marija (Nameday)
2. For the Sucher/Leonard Family (Requested by Mike and Jackie)
3. Sr. Mary Joseph – RIP (Requested by Rick and Lisa)
4. Sr. M. Barbara (Nameday)
5. **First Friday:** For our living and deceased benefactors, and for our deceased residents
6. **First Saturday:** For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life
7. **2nd Sunday of Advent:** For children and residents with birthdays this month: Gabriel, Mila, Kay, Barbara, Bernard, Joseph, Margaret, Constance, Mary Ann, Kathryn, Rose, Carol, Sr. Germaine, Mike, Julie
8. **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** Sr. Petra Mirjam (Nameday)
9. Mary Cagle (Requested by Mary Lou)
10. *For Archbishop Carlson's Intentions*
11. Paul Ring – RIP and Barbara Ring (Requested by Paul and Kathy)
12. Sr. M. Guadalupe (Nameday)
13. Sr. Maria Lucia (Nameday)
14. **3rd Sunday of Advent:** For the intentions of residents, children, families, and staff of St. Agnes Home and Carmelite Child Development Center
15. **St. John of the Cross:** For the intentions of Mother Karla Marija and the General Council and Sr. Anna Maria and the Provincial Council
16. Joan Meyer – RIP (Requested by Olga)
17. *For Archbishop Carlson's Intentions*
18. Sr. Anna Maria
19. For our living and deceased benefactors
20. For the canonization of Bl. Maria Teresa of St. Joseph
21. **4th Sunday of Advent:** Sr. M. Guadalupe
22. For employees with birthdays this month: Jodie, Stacey, April, Mary Ann, Jacqueline, Charles, Lanette, Valerie, Yolanda, Maureen, Barbara, Yamura, Amanda, Christine, Nermina, Lashona
23. *For Archbishop Carlson's Intentions*
24. **Christmas Eve 7:00 AM Mass:** James Donley, Sr. – RIP
- Midnight Mass:** For all who are being remembered in the Sisters' Christmas Novena
25. **Christmas Day:** For all who are being remembered in the Sisters' Christmas Novena
26. For all who are being remembered in the Sisters' Christmas Novena
27. For all who are being remembered in the Sisters' Christmas Novena
28. **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph:** For all who are being remembered in the Sisters' Christmas Novena
29. For all who are being remembered in the Sisters' Christmas Novena
30. For all who are being remembered in the Sisters' Christmas Novena
31. For all who are being remembered in the Sisters' Christmas Novena

Mass Intentions for December 2025

Msgr. Jovanovic

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 2. Virginia Klamon-Tucker – RIP | (Requested by the Klamon-Tucker Family) |
| 9. Fr. Vincent Kim – RIP | (Requested by Kim) |
| 11. Connie Wolf – For healing | (Requested by Mary Lou) |
| 16. Jane Wuesthoff | (Requested by Mary Lou and Gene) |
| 18. Dewie and Mavis Gaul – RIP | (Requested by Laurie) |
| 23. Mary Rose Heil – RIP | (Requested by Bette) |
| 29. Mary Anne Erbs – RIP | (Requested by Mary) |

Suggested Mass stipend is \$10.00.

Please note that every attempt is made to honor mass intentions for specific dates or months. However, due to the number of requests, this is not always possible.

Thank you for understanding!

Our Carmelite Sisters around the world!



Sr. M. Grace Augustine, Sr. M. Immaculata, Sr. M. Angela Therese, Sr. Maria Josefa, and Sr. M. Magdalene Therese recently connected during a pilgrimage to Rome. They went to the church of Maria della Scala together where they venerated the foot of St. Teresa of Jesus. During her first journey to Rome, Blessed Maria Teresa of St. Joseph, the Foundress of the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus, made several novenas to this very spot to beseech Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Teresa of Jesus for assistance in receiving a letter of recommendation for the new religious congregation.

December 16th @ 6:45pm

- Join the Carmelite Sisters for a Holy Hour, including:
- practical prayer tips & a guided meditation given by the Sisters
 - opportunity for the sacrament of confession
 - silence in the presence of our Savior whose coming we await!

This event will take place in St. Agnes Home's chapel. The Sisters invite you to join them for a Holy Hour monthly on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:45pm.

Finally, don't forget that you're welcome to join us for our...

Midnight Mass December 24th @ 8pm

Pray with the Carmelite Sisters at one of the most beautiful Masses of the year in our Chapel!





Giving Tuesday is December 2, 2025

Thank you, as always, for joining us in supporting our Seniors. Together, we help them live in a Home filled with beauty, serenity, and exceptional care—a Home rooted in the heart of Christ.

Our goal for this year's #iGiveCatholic campaign is to **expand and enhance the outdoor gathering areas** at St. Agnes Home—spaces where our residents love spending time with friends, family, and one another.

We plan to add two beautiful gazebos along the front path leading toward Manchester Road, where two open benches currently sit. New patios will be poured, and the gazebos and new furniture will provide welcoming, shaded spots for conversation and relaxation.

For our Care Center residents, we will install a 16' x 20' Sun Shade Sail to cover the seating area on the courtyard patio. (No, we are not getting a pool!) At present, there's no shade during the heat of the day—this new addition will create a comfortable space with just the right amount of sunshine filtering through.

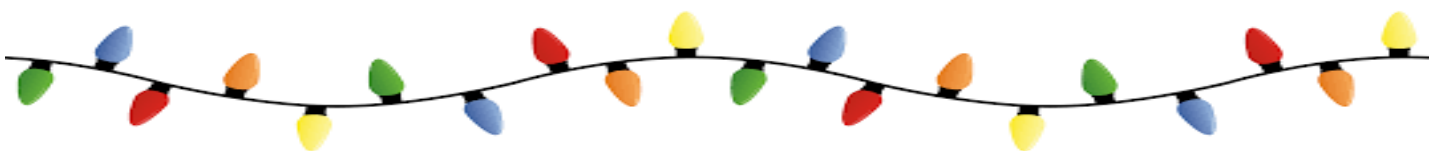
Our fundraising goal is \$20,000, which will fully fund this outdoor improvement project.

Please consider joining our campaign and sharing it with your friends and family. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the daily lives of our residents.

Advanced Giving started on November 17 and ends on Giving Tuesday, December 2 at 11:59 p.m. Donations can be made through www.stagneshome.com or www.igivecatholic.org. We are listed under 'Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus, Kirkwood MO.' If you prefer to make your gift by check or cash, no problem! We'll be happy to accept it by mail or in person. We will add it to our #iGiveCatholic totals manually so your gift still counts towards our goal. *If you want to get a jump start today*, you can make an online donation through the St. Agnes Home website, or mail checks to St. Agnes Home; 10341 Manchester Road; Kirkwood, MO 63122; Attn: #iGiveCatholic/Community Outreach. As mentioned, **all #igiveCatholic donations can be received anytime from now through December 2, 2025.**

In years past, we have funded through #igiveCatholic the entire refresh of the entry solarium, the gazebo and outdoor furniture immediately in front of St. Agnes Home, a NuStep bicycle in our Therapy Gym and all new hospital beds for the Care Center. If you have any questions about this 'outdoor expansion and upgrade fund-a-need campaign, please reach out to Joanne Giljum at jgiljum@carmelitedcj.org.

Thank you for your consideration and even sharing this with others who may want to get involved.



ST. AGNES HOME RECOGNITION PROGRAMS



Employee of the Month recognizes employees who exemplify what it means to be “warmed by HIS love” and provide exceptional care and service to the Home, the residents and each other. Their daily efforts show that they remember to “See God in all; Serve God in all; and, Love God in all.”



Patty’s name will be added to the Employee of the Month plaque. She will have a special parking spot on our premises and will receive a gift card prize. Congratulations, Patty!

PATTY JONES NURSING DEPARTMENT



All residents, family, and staff may complete a Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork slip for staff members. These slips can be found near the front desk.

December winners: *Congratulations to the following employees who won \$25 gift cards for showing that **Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork:***

Berouth Alexis

Dietary

Lara Kemna

Activities

Marnisha Moore

Nursing

Helping everywhere and getting the job done

Coming in on day off to ensure residents had activities

A true player supporting everyone and radiating joy

Receiver's Name: _____

Giver's Name: _____

Receiver's Department: _____

Using any of our **Core Values**, how did this employee show that "Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork?"

Humble: _____

Responsible: _____

Warm: _____

The employee receiving the form should place it in the recognition box near the front desk or the employee breakroom by the timeclock. Three winners will receive \$25 gift cards.

RESIDENT BIRTHDAYS

Connie J.	06
Rose T.	07
Sr. Germaine	07
Kate W.	08
Carol K.	09
Joe M.	10
Bernie B.	10
Barbara R.	11
Margaret V.	12
Kay V.	22
Mary Ann H.	23
Mike d.	29
Julie L.	30

*Happy
Holidays*



EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

April F.	02
Mary Ann F.	04
Jacqueline S.	04
Lanette K.	09
Valerie T.	09
Maureen A.	22
Yamura S.	24
Barbara B.	24
Christine K	26
Amanda H.	26
Amy M.	28
Nermina J.	29
Lashona S.	31

*welcome
home*

To our newest Residents:

**Pat Fortner
Adeline Hogg
Barbara McCarthy**

**Ways to make a year-end or end of life gift
to St. Agnes Home and the Carmelite
Sisters:**

- **A one time gift to St. Agnes Home.**
- **A memorial gift in memory or in honor
of a loved one.**

**(These donations can be made at
www.stagneshome.com or by check.)**

- **A planned gift, such as including St.
Agnes Home in a will or bequest, estate
plan, life insurance policy, charitable
trust, the transfer of real estate, stocks,
bonds or mutual funds. (Contact Sr.
Maria Josefa with questions on these
particular type gifts.)**



*We express our
heartfelt sympathy to
the family and friends
of our residents who
have passed away.*

Virginia Summers

Suzanne Wyrick

Ruth Featherstone

*May their souls and the souls of all the
faithful departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.*



Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus

St. Agnes Home

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www.stagneshome.com