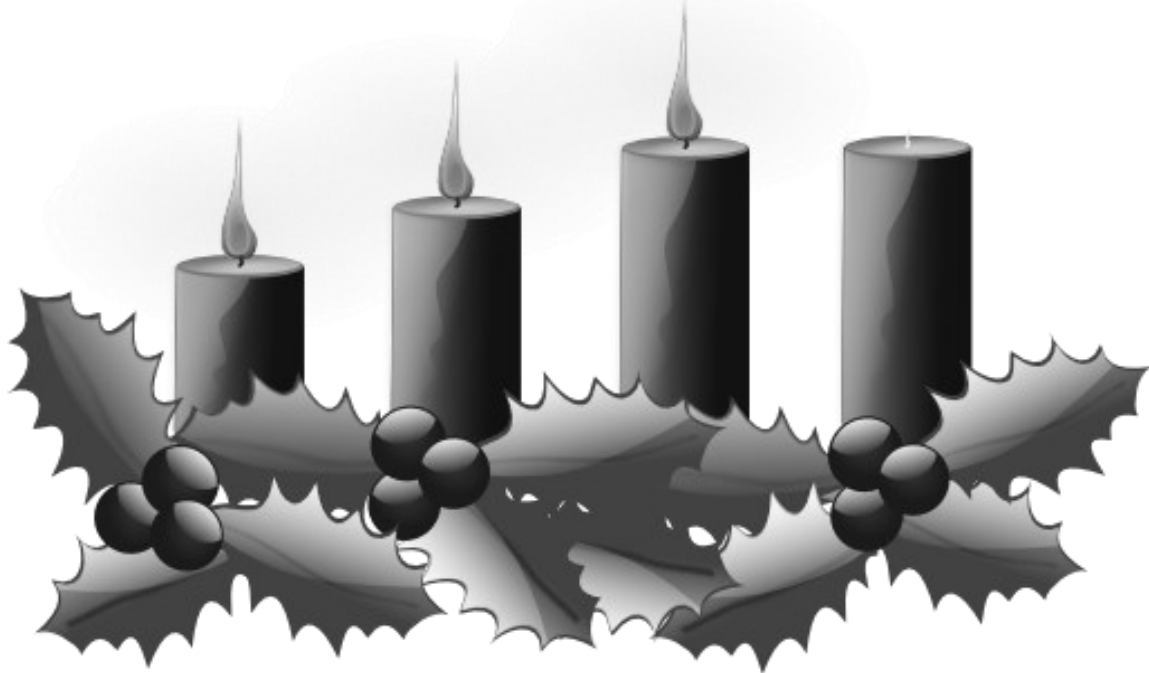


# S a i n t A g n e s



*St. Agnes is an inclusive Catholic community dedicated to the love of God and service to others.  
We rejoice in the Gospel, the celebration of the Liturgy, and the Sacraments.  
We welcome the opportunity to share God's message and to bring all into the life of Christ.*

## **Pastoral Contacts**

Pastor: Rev. Andrew M. Switzer  
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh  
Associate of Youth Faith Formation: Bill Donahue  
Assistant Administrator: Beth Yates  
Accounting: Lizzie Lowe  
Associate of Liturgy Ministry: Helen Harris  
Associate of Music Ministry: Elaine Rendler-McQueeney  
Office Secretary: Amy Fresch

## **Pastoral Council**

Connie Bonner ~ Gerry Fitzgerald ~ Bassell Franks  
Heather Garcia ~ Christine Wiegman-Green  
Patrick Green ~ Shaná Harris ~ Colin Hayden  
Cate Hershey ~ Blanche Landry  
Brendan Jarrell ~ Vanessa Santiago

## **Finance Council**

Steve Bledsoe ~ Carmela Cesare ~ Mike Drewes  
Todd Hershey ~ Mike Keefe ~ Sue Kemnitzer  
David Matera ~ Arnold Thomas

## **St. Agnes Church**

200 South Duke Street, Shepherdstown

## **St. Agnes Parish Office**

106 South Duke Street, Shepherdstown  
P.O. Box 1603, Shepherdstown, WV 25443  
Telephone: 304-876-6436  
Email: [Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org](mailto:Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org)  
[www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org](http://www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org)

## **St. Agnes Chapel**

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

## **Sunday Readings**

Zephaniah 3:14-18a  
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:10-18

## Weekly Schedule

### Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm  
 Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

### Weekday Mass

Monday and Wednesday, 11am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday, 4:30pm

**Parish Office:** Monday—Friday, 9am-4pm

**Cash Card Sales:** During parish office hours (call first)

## *Seasonal Schedule*

### Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve ~ 5:30pm

Bring the Infant Jesus from  
 your crèche to be blessed

(Children's Program begins 5:15pm)

Mass During the Night ~ 9pm

Christmas Morning ~ 10:30am

### Solemnity of Mary

Wednesday, January 1 ~ 11am

## The Week at a Glance...

Sun Dec 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b></li> <li>• CFF, AFF, Youth Group 9:15am</li> <li>• Youth Group, CFF, and Families Decorate Fr Andy's Tree After 10:30am Mass</li> <li>• Children's Choir Practice (Open to All of St Agnes' Children)</li> <li>• RCIA 12noon</li> </ul>
Mon Dec 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon</li> </ul>
Tues Dec 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Racial Justice Initiative Zoom 3pm</li> <li>• Board Games Group 3:30pm</li> </ul>
Wed Dec 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Icon Workshop 11am</li> <li>• Pastoral Council 6:30pm</li> </ul>
Fri Dec 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Discussion Group 11am <i>So Late in the Day: Stories of Women and Men</i></li> <li>• Las Posadas 6:30pm at Church</li> </ul>
Sun Dec 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b></li> <li>• No CFF—Christmas Break (Resumes Jan 5)</li> <li>• Youth Feeding the Hungry Prep after 10:30am Mass</li> <li>• RCIA 12noon</li> </ul>

## For Our Younger Parishioners

We have a new children's library in the Narthex. Check it out!



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm for

**Maureen Maidhof**

Sunday, 8am for  
**Renee Mougins**

May Maureen and Renee share in the  
 fulness of God's mercy and peace.

## Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Mark Switzer, Josh Carter, Jack Brown (grandson of Marie Snowden), Mike Phillips, and Ron Mancini (son-in-law of Bob & Martha Rizzo). Names are placed in the bulletin for one month then moved onto the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

## A Very Special Meal for Those in Need

On Christmas Eve the community meal will be 'dished' up by our St Agnes youth. What makes this so special is that the Bonner and Ward families will not only be serving the food, they will be leading joyful, traditional music, both instrumental and vocal. The dinner guests will have the opportunity to sing songs of the season and visit with old and new friends. Our families will be sharing their gifts, and ours, in the spirit of the season.

Many thanks to each of you who have supported this important ministry. May each continue to be servers of good will.

## Congrats to First Reconciliation Students

Congratulations and prayers to our First Reconciliation students who received this sacrament on Saturday:

**Connor P.**  
**Nora G.**  
**Evelyn M.**  
**Saiorse M.**  
**Danny D.**  
**Carter P.**  
**Charlie T.**

## Memorial Christmas Flowers

Parishioners may memorialize our Christmas season decorations. Memorials will be listed in our Christmas bulletin. Complete an envelope, found on the Narthex table or included in your monthly envelope mailing, and mail or place it in the offertory basket **by Wednesday, Dec 18.**

## SJP Weekend

Service, Justice, and Peace weekend collection is as follows: \$20 for Feminine Hygiene products and diapers, and 12 bags of coffee from Haiti were sold.

Thanks to all who contributed. At this time of year there are many causes competing for our dollars and every donation is appreciated.

Dear Parishioners,

We get a powerful image on this Third Sunday of Advent that is a good way for us to reflect on liturgy. We need to remember when we come to Mass that we are not performing for God. We can come just as we are, and God loves and accepts us. We have to be careful that we do not take ourselves too seriously because then we can make it about us, and it is really about what the Lord wants to do in us and in our midst. We are told in today's reading from Zephaniah that "God would sing joyfully because of you as one sings at festivals." This is a powerful image that describes our worship at liturgy--that God actually sings because of you and me. As we come to liturgy, we know the reality that our lives can be difficult and there are difficulties happening in our country and world. I have often said that church should be the lightest place we go all week. We bring with us both the joys and sorrows of our lives and world, but here we get pulled into the love of Christ who heals and renews us so that we can face another week. Let us truly recognize that Christ is present in our assembly as we celebrate the actions of the liturgy, and let us be transformed by the death and resurrection of Jesus who sends us from the table of Eucharist to serve the altar of the world.

Fr. Andy

## Thank You from The Jesse Tree Team

Through the generosity of St. Agnes Church, we assisted 275 individuals from 11 organizations this year. This includes 16 teen moms (and their children) who are seeking support through Young Lives of the Eastern Panhandle and 22 veterans who are seeking comfort and peace through counseling services provided by Father Mat and the VA Medical Center. The Church also assisted 47 children through the Boys and Girls Club and Shepherdstown Elementary School, and 120 seniors through Canterbury Center, Shenandoah Center, Willow Tree Manor, Jefferson County Council on Aging, and Good Shepherd Caregivers. And the Church provided 50 meals to local residents and students through Shepherdstown Shares and the Shepherd University Pantry. Lastly, we assisted two families with a total of 7 children that reached out to our Church for help. The generosity of our Church is just one way we are a witness of God's love and is greatly appreciated by the organizations and individuals we were able to assist this Advent season. Thank you!

## The Gift of Music



### Memorialize this year's hymnal

Our 2025 Hymnals are here! Envelopes can be found in each hymnal if you would like to dedicate a hymnal to a loved one. Place completed forms in the offertory basket.

## Las Posadas

**Please join us December 20 at 6:30pm at the Church for Las Posadas.** We will process from the church with song and candlelight through the neighborhood of the Historic Chapel, stopping at houses to see if there is "Room at the Inn." We will end back at the church. Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala of Washington, D.C. will accompany us on the procession. The Bishop will give a presentation in the church after the procession. After Bishop Evelio's presentation, there will be a social and food in the Narthex.

**Bishop Evelio will lead us in a decade of the Rosary. We will have rosaries available, but we encourage you to bring your own.**

**The church will be providing the meat dish along with a side dish and a dessert. Please consider bringing a side dish or dessert to share!**

**Únase a nosotros el 20 de diciembre a las 6:30pm en la Iglesia de Las Posadas.** Procecionaremos desde la iglesia con canto y luz de velas por el barrio de la Capilla Histórica, deteniéndonos en las casas para ver si hay "Habitación en la Posada". Terminaremos de regreso en la iglesia. El Obispo Evelio Menjivar-Ayala de Washington, D.C. nos acompañará en la procesión. El Obispo hará una presentación en la Iglesia después de la procesión. Después de la presentación del obispo, habrá social y comida en el Narthex.

### What is Las Posadas?

The word *posada* means shelter or lodging.

Las Posadas is a traditional Mexican and Latin American holiday celebration, of religious origin. This celebration takes place for nine consecutive evenings (la novena), between December 16 and 24. Participants re-enact the journey undertaken by Saint Joseph and the Virgin Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

### How do we celebrate?

Children and families join together in a procession to fill the streets with song and holiday cheer. Typically, a child dressed as an angel leads the procession consisting of other children dressed as Mary and Joseph followed by family and friends. They carry lit candles through the streets of the town or neighborhood singing traditional Christmas songs. The carolers stop at different houses and ask for permission to enter, but permission is always denied except at one house. The house that ends up hosting the evening festivities will gather everyone in prayer (the rosary) and fellowship with traditional dishes and beverages.

**\*\*Please consider bringing a donation in support of our immigration committee work!**

## Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

OCIA (formerly RCIA) is for those interested in learning about the Catholic faith to discern if they might want to be professed members. The goal is to see where the process takes you. Melanie Turner is leading our OCIA process. If interested in learning more or joining the group, please call the office. All are welcome!

## Help Avert Environmental Crisis

Without clean, safe water, we have nothing. We simply cannot survive without it. Because of the karst geology of our region, what happens to the water in one part of the county ultimately affects the water for the entire county.

**What is happening?** A one million-square-foot **Water Bottling Facility** is being proposed in Middleway at the old 3M facility. The developers have submitted a concept plan for consideration by the Jefferson County Planning Commission. A Public Workshop was held on November 12. The public turned out and persuaded the commission that the application was insufficient. The Commission voted unanimously that the plan was incomplete and needed to be redone. The Applicant has submitted new materials and a Public Workshop has been scheduled for **December 17, 2024 at 7 pm at the County Commission Meeting Room**. The commission will take public comment and vote at this meeting or within 14 days.

There is much more information available on the Jefferson County Foundation website: <https://www.jeffersoncountyfoundation.org/zoning/water-bottling-facility-in-middleway/>. The Jefferson County Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides support and strategic guidance to address long-term issues facing Jefferson County in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Their mission is to educate and advocate for effective and accountable government, sustainable development, and the protection of health, heritage, and the environment.

## Kolofata Sale Results!

**Was a Huge Success!**

**Thank You to All Our Shoppers and Donors!**

Four years ago, when Regenia Carder offered to make Christmas potholders to sell as a Kolofata Fundraiser we had no idea the sale would become such a successful endeavor. The first year, 2021, we raised \$1,360!

In 2022, we raised \$886. In 2023, Christine Wiegman added wine bags to Regenia's crafts and we raised \$1,260. This year, we received donated crafts from Regenia, Christine, Marie Botsford, Fred Dubay, Maria Stewart, and Jan Yates. We changed our sale name to Kolofata \$5 & \$10 Sale and had **our most successful sale to date, raising \$1,544!**

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Regenia and the increasing number of St. Agnes parishioners who have donated their crafts for us to sell. Thanks also to our Kolofata Committee and other volunteers who assist our shoppers and manage all the logistics of the sale every year.

If you are a crafter willing to donate some of your handiwork for us to sell (10 pieces is ideal), please contact Eileen Dooley, [dooleywoods@comcast.net](mailto:dooleywoods@comcast.net). We'll price items at \$5 or \$10. We made a few exceptions this year pricing a few items at \$15 but would like to hold the line at \$10 max. ALL of the proceeds are used for the education of girls in Kolofata, Cameroon.

## Spotlight on Ministry

**(some of the following are excerpts from USCCB)**

When the Church comes together in the liturgical assembly to celebrate the Mass or any other sacrament, her members do not gather simply as a crowd, as an amorphous, undifferentiated group of people. They gather in a variety of ministries and roles. If we are to understand the significance of these ministries and roles, we must begin with Baptism, for only one who through Baptism has been given a share in the priesthood of Christ is capable of participating in the public worship which is the liturgy of the Church. In fact, the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* of the Second Vatican Council tells us that participation in the liturgy is the **right** and **duty** of all the baptized. In addition to the ordained ministries there are roles in the liturgy which are exercised by lay people who place their time and talent at the service of the liturgical assembly such as altar servers, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, ushers/greeters and Mass Coordinator/Sacristan.

The *General Instruction* makes it very clear that this variety of offices and roles is desirable and should be maintained. In fact, it goes so far as to state: *...all, therefore, whether they are ordained ministers or Christian faithful, in fulfilling their offices or their duty, should carry out solely but completely that which pertains to them.*" Not only, therefore, is it desirable that individuals function in roles of service at Mass, it is clear from the *Instruction* that if a deacon, for example, is present, the priest celebrant or a concelebrant should not read the Gospel. And the lector should not also take on the role of server and/or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. **There is a wide variety of services to be performed, and it is desirable that different individuals exercise those services so that the talents and gifts God has placed within the Christian community are fully utilized and a few do not monopolize these roles of service.**

Those engaged in liturgical roles need to be well-prepared for those roles on an ongoing basis and to know how to carry them out with reverence, dignity and understanding. Obtaining the proper preparation requires a further gift of time on the part of the person being prepared as well as on the part of those in the parish responsible for the training of liturgical ministers. Finally, the practical task of assigning individuals to particular Masses and organizing the distribution of roles is another indispensable element in the fabric of well-ordered liturgical ministry in a parish.

**Will you will discern and consider joining a ministry? We need your prayerful consideration. Contact Helen Harris at [liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org).**

## December 20th Book Discussion Group

Last year some of us were introduced to the Irish author, Claire Keegan. Her writing is not exactly light-hearted by any stretch of the imagination but her stories are, in some surprising ways, perfect for the season. So, we are returning to her this December to read *So Late in the Day: Stories of Women and Men* by Claire Keegan. Please join us **Friday Dec 20th at 11am**. All are welcome!

3	7					5		
	4			7	9		1	
		1	5			3		
							6	1
6						2		
		9	8	6	3			7
5				4		7	2	
	2	4			6	1		
	3		2					

# THE YOUTH CORNER

Third Sunday of Advent

This Week's Gospel:  
*Luke 3:10-18*

December 15, 2024

## CFF, AFF, Youth Group & Family News

**This weekend:** CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes will meet on Sunday at 9:15am in the parish center. Our children will have choir practice for the Children's Choir for the Dec. 24th Children's/Family Mass. They will paint the ornaments and prepare them to hang on Fr. Andy's tree. Then, the Youth Group, the CFF children, and their families will decorate Fr. Andy's tree after the 10:30am Mass. There will be cookies and drinks after decorating the tree.

**Events to add to the Calendar:** Decorating Fr. Andy's Tree 11:30am (after the 10:30 Mass), Las Posadas {No Room at the Inn} (December 20, 6:30pm at the church), Children's Christmas Eve Mass (Dec 24, Children's Program 5:15pm and Mass 5:30pm)

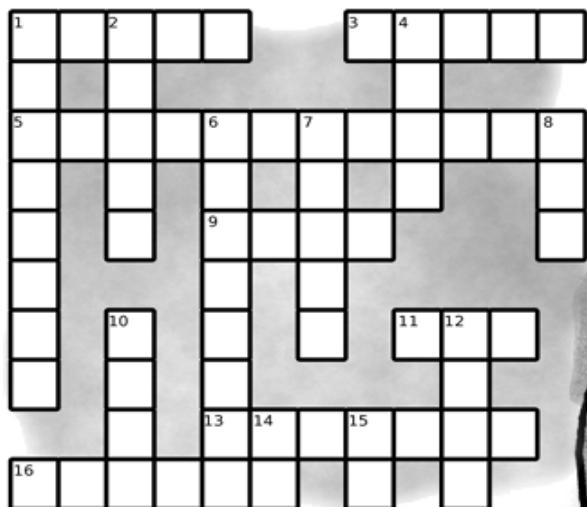
**Pre-K:** Pre-K will occur today, December 15th at 9:15am. If you have a child who is in Pre-K, please consider having your child start religious education. There is no cost for the Pre-K program and it is Gospel-based. Please look at the "SEEDS" section under the "Gospel at Home" (Youth Page 4) to see what is covered each week in Pre-K.

Fr. Andy's **Adult Continuing Education Class** is still occurring on every Sunday that there is CFF in the Parish Center at 9:15am. Although there is a core group every week, all adults are always welcome to "drop in" on Fr. Andy's class. There is always a huge turn out but we always have space for more. Everyone is welcome. Come join for coffee and great discussion. Fr. Andy's class meets in the small conference room in the Parish Center.

Finally, the standard paragraph that all parents who have registered their children for CFF should be in the email list. If you are a parent and not receiving CFF announcements and emails, please call the Parish Center at 304-876-6436 or email Bill Donahue at [formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org).

Parents are also encouraged to join our Youth Facebook Group. Please email Bill at the above address for the link to the closed group. *You won't be able to find Our Youth Facebook Page any other way!* We are also able to communicate via Google Classroom. All parents should have received an email invitation to Google Classroom—click the link in that email to join. If you have not received these emails, please contact Bill so you can be added to the email distribution list.

# Philippians 4 Cross-Word



Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom and fit them into the puzzle.  
a=across  
d=down



Brothers and \_\_\_\_\_ (13a): Rejoice in the \_\_\_\_\_ (12d) always. I \_\_\_\_\_ (3a) say \_\_\_\_\_ (14d) \_\_\_\_\_ (2d): rejoice! Your \_\_\_\_\_ (6d) should be known \_\_\_\_\_ (15d) all. The Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ (9a). \_\_\_\_\_ (4d) no anxiety at \_\_\_\_\_ (11a), but in everything, by prayer and \_\_\_\_\_ (1d), with \_\_\_\_\_ (5a), make \_\_\_\_\_ (10d) requests known to \_\_\_\_\_ (8d). Then the \_\_\_\_\_ (1a) of God that surpasses all understanding will \_\_\_\_\_ (7d) your hearts and minds in \_\_\_\_\_ (16a) Jesus.

GOD SHALL TO LORD YOUR  
CHRIST ALL KINDNESS SISTERS  
THANKSGIVING PEACE IT PETITION  
NEAR AGAIN GUARD HAVE

## WORD SEARCH

### LUKE 3:10-18

- |           |             |            |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| amount    | asked       | baptize    |
| burn      | clear       | coats      |
| crowds    | expectation | extort     |
| fire      | food        | fork       |
| gather    | good        | Holy       |
| John      | Messiah     | money      |
| news      | powerful    | prescribed |
| satisfied | Spirit      | two        |
| water     | winnowing   |            |

N Y Y U J W S A X D Q U O F D  
V W S L A R W M L S E W Z G E  
Y Y F T O B E O M V N K A J I  
B E E O L H N U C O A T S B F  
T R N J O H N N I P H G C A S  
I Y X O L D Q T R E N O L P I  
R M V T M R A E R I S A E T T  
I F O R K T S Q W A D Z A I A  
P L Z V C C M O C F W N R Z S  
S K E E R F N E J M O C A E J  
H O P I X N O M S N R U B E F  
L X B D I W K P L S C D R T L  
E E R W T R O T X E I I O G X  
D G U Z M P L H H S F A R O S  
L A W B L U F R E W O P H E G

## Youth Events: At a Glance Dates for the Calendar

**December 15:** CFF, Youth Group, Adult Continuing Education, and First Reconciliation parents will all meet at 9:15am in the Parish Center. There will also be Children's Choir Practice, the choir is open to all children of St Agnes regardless of CFF enrollment. CFF students will be painting the ornaments the Youth Group made last weekend for Fr. Andy's tree after today's 10:30am Mass (11:40) There will be cookies and juice boxes! Youth Group will be helping paint the ornaments for Fr. Andy's tree and helping the younger children with the ribbon for their ornaments. In addition, the Youth Group will be preparing the ornaments for the church Christmas Tree and preparing the candy bags for the children for Las Posadas. Thanks to our Youth Group who regularly demonstrate Christian teachings in service of others!

**December 20:** Las Posadas: 6:30pm at the Church—Look for the flyer in this week's bulletin

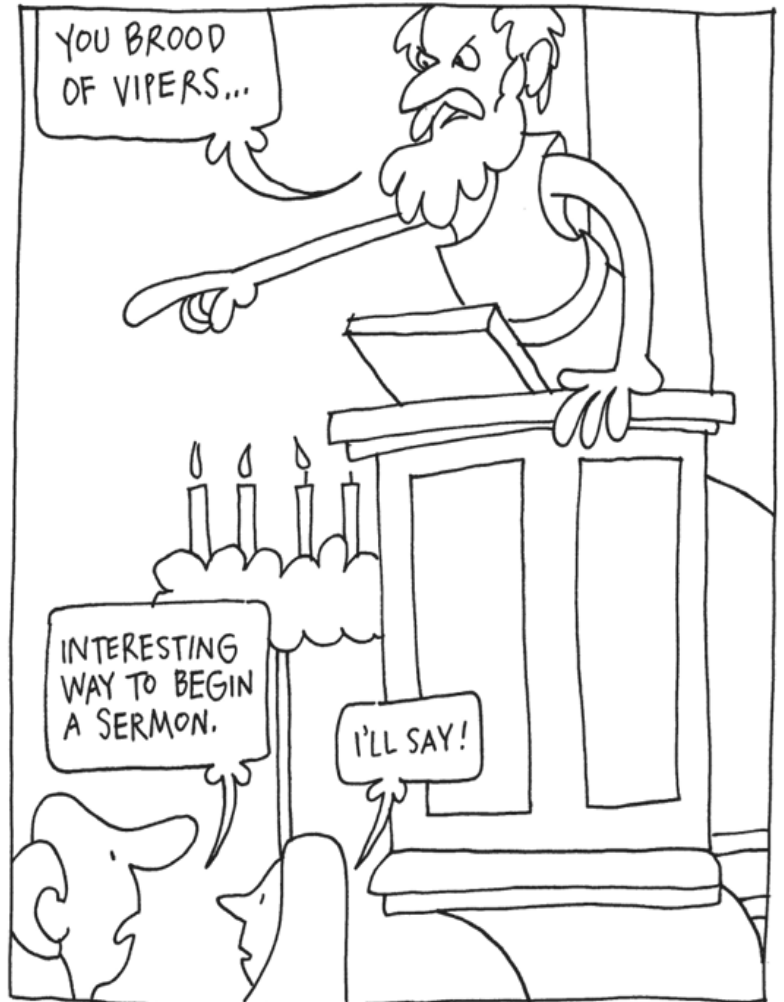
**December 24:** The Family Christmas Mass is at 5:30pm on Christmas Eve. There will be a children's program at 5:15pm. Our Children's Choir will sing at this Mass. Please check the first pages of the bulletins or our website for additional Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Masses.

Congratulations to our First Reconciliation students who received this sacrament on Saturday: Connor P., Nora G., Evelyn M., Saoirse M., Danny D., Carter P., and Charlie T.!

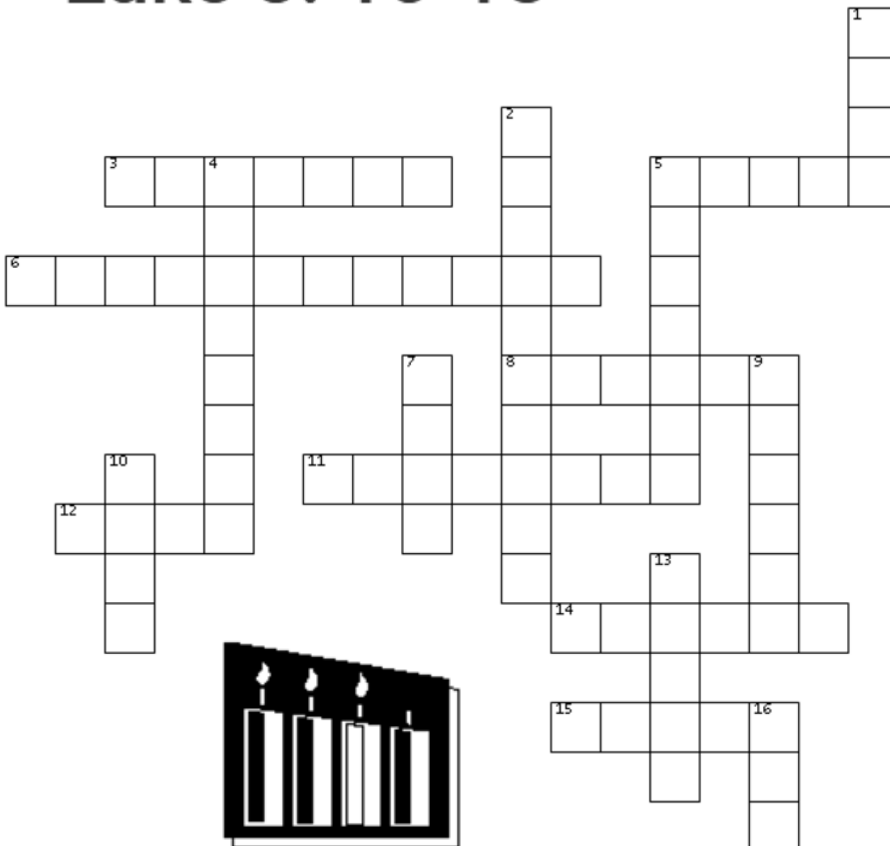


I AM BAPTIZING YOU  
 WITH WATER, BUT ONE  
 MIGHTIER THAN I IS COMING.  
 I AM NOT WORTHY  
 TO UNLACE THE SANDALS  
 OF HIS SANDALS.  
 HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH  
 THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH FIRE.

God sent Saint John the Baptist to prepare  
 the people for the coming of Jesus.  
 What did he say when some of the people  
 thought that he might be the saviour?  
 Look in the mirror to find out!



## Luke 3: 10-18



### ACROSS

3. Use water to take away sins
5. Give part of what you have with others
6. Unable to put out
8. Coats
11. People in the Army
12. Excellent
14. Part of the body that pumps blood
15. Grain made into flour

### DOWN

1. Heat and glow of flames
2. Gathering
4. Gave a sermon
5. Shoes with straps
7. Blessed by the divine
9. Power source that gives life to a person
10. Something to eat
13. H<sub>2</sub>O
16. Money you pay to the government



# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

In this Advent Gospel, John the Baptist answers some specific questions about preparing for the coming of the Messiah. He urges the sharing of food and clothing. He asked tax collectors to be fair and soldiers to be satisfied with their wages. Most of all, John pointed to the one who is to come and who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. What does your family do to prepare for Christ's coming?

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds** (Preschool): John the Baptist asked people to do the best they can. Even the youngest children can understand that. They can do loving actions even if their hearts are not in it. Help your child share with others and be patient this week. Look together at the lesson's story titled, "Getting Ready for Ruby." Discuss how Ruby's family prepares for the new baby.

**Promise** (Grades K-1): The lesson of the Gospel this week is about sharing what you have with others. Your child learned the importance of not being selfish and sharing what he or she has. Ask your child to show you the "Happy Birthday" booklet from this week's lesson and talk about ways your family prepares for the coming of the Savior.

**Good News** (Grades 2-3): This Sunday is often referred to as Rejoice Sunday—from the words of Saint Paul that your child learned in class and that complete the first reading at Mass. Ask your child to share with the family the story "Who Has The Answer?" The story brings the Gospel advice of John the Baptist down to a child's level. Do a little review of how your Christmas preparations are going.

**Venture** (Grades 4-6): Your youngster's class talked about the giving and receiving of gifts at Christmas time. They also learned about John the Baptist's call for people to share what they have and to care for others. Ask your son or daughter to share with your family the story, "The Christmas Coat." Talk about ways your family can share with people in need during this holy season. Ask your young person to tell the family about the city of Jerusalem and about Saint Lucy.

**Visions** (Grades 7-8): As part of preparation for Christ's coming, your youngster's class explored the effects homelessness has on people and learned how some teenagers experienced those effects for themselves. Ask your son or daughter to tell the family about "A Night in Cardboard Box City." The class also listened to the advice of John the Baptist and talked about the need for a strong moral compass. Have a conversation about what guides your family to make good moral decisions.

**Awaken** (Teens/Adults): Discover a new level of spiritual growth for parents with *Awaken*, the new adult level of the *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies*, developed to deepen your faith journey alongside your children. Scan the QR code to learn more.

### Pray Together

As you say your Advent Wreath prayer together this week, include prayers for all the people who need to hear the advice of John the Baptist. As each member mentions someone who needs the message, the whole family can respond: "Lord, help us be signs of your presence in the world!"

**Volunteering:** The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate our faith in action!

**All volunteers** are required to be VIRTUS-trained as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. If you would like to volunteer for any parish ministry including with our youth, you must be VIRTUS-trained. Forms are located in the Narthex and the Parish Center on how to complete this process.

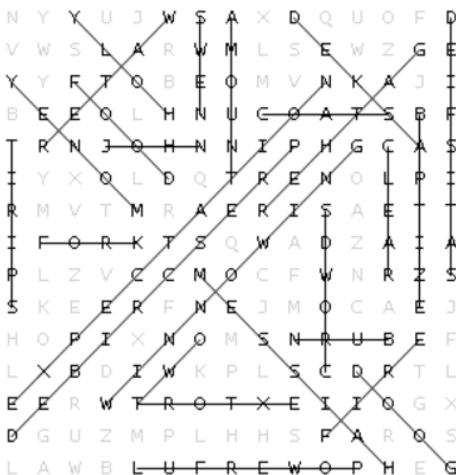
**All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS-trained.**



### Answer to Crossword Puzzle:

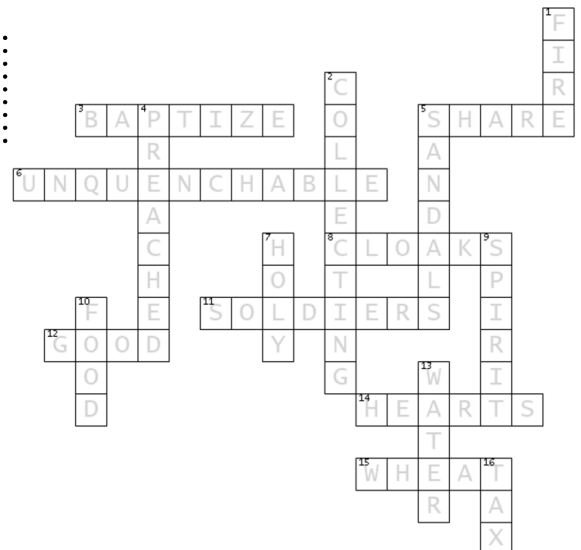
- Across:** 1. Peace 3. Shall 5. Thanksgiving  
9. Near 11. All 13. Sisters 15. Christ  
**Down:** 1. Petition 2. Again 4. Have  
6. Kindness 7. Guard 8. God 10. Your  
12. Lord 14. It 15. To

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Scan here for parent resources or visit [goodbooks.com/family](http://goodbooks.com/family)



## SOLUTIONS:

3	7	2	6	8	1	5	9	4
8	4	5	3	7	9	6	1	2
9	6	1	5	2	4	3	7	8
4	5	3	7	9	2	8	6	1
6	8	7	4	1	5	2	3	9
2	1	9	8	6	3	4	5	7
5	9	6	1	4	8	7	2	3
7	2	4	9	3	6	1	8	5
1	3	8	2	5	7	9	4	6





## Racial Justice Initiative

In colonial times, the colony that became known as the "Keystone State," Pennsylvania, played a pivotal role early on in the push for American independence, and not surprisingly also in the efforts to end slavery.

Many of the settlers of Pennsylvania from its founding were German immigrants. Most of these were poor and of religious minorities persecuted in Germany, like the Mennonites and Moravians. They were mostly against slavery, and it was from among them that the pushback against slavery began.

William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, had recruited a Bavarian Mennonite, Francis Daniel Pastorius, to migrate to the colony in 1683.

The German Mennonites had been sending missionaries to Africa and had an inherent repulsion to the practice of slavery. Pastorius became a Quaker and in 1688 with four other Quakers, published the first known protest against chattel slavery in the colonies. It read: "There is a saying, that we shall do to all men like as we will be done to ourselves; making no difference what generation, descent or color they are. And those who steal or rob men, and those who buy and purchase them, are they not all alike? Here is liberty of conscience, which is right and reasonable; here ought to be likewise liberty of your body, except of evildoers, which is another case. But to bring men hither, or to rob and sell them against their will, we stand against."

Then in 1696 the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Quakers issued a proclamation against the further importation of slaves. With significant Quaker representation in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, legislation was passed to ban the importation of slaves first in 1712, which was annulled by the King's Privy Council. The assembly tried again in 1714 and 1717 with unfortunately the same results. The English were the foremost slave traders in the world and not about to let their American colonies interfere with that.

It is important to know that the current of fighting for personal freedom, freedom from a King in England, and freedom for the enslaved all have long roots in our history.

## Cash Cards Make Great Gifts

Cash cards make wonderful gifts: family, friends, the mail carrier, teachers, most anyone! We have a pretty wide selection available and can also place special orders. This program has brought in thousands of dollars for St Agnes over the years. It costs nothing extra to purchase your cash cards through St Agnes! **Orders must be in by Monday, December 16, 2024 for delivery to St Agnes by Christmas!**

**\*For last minute gifts, you can order directly from RaiseRight for electronic gift cards, and St Agnes will still get the benefit. Get more information on our website: <https://stagnesshepherdstown.org/cash-card-program/>**

## VIRTUS Update

Just a reminder, if you have not logged into your VIRTUS account recently, please do so and make sure you are up to date. **Everyone must complete the VIRTUS 4.0 training by Jan. 6, 2025.** If you did VIRTUS within approximately the last year and a half, you did the 4.0 training. If you are not sure, you can find out by logging into your account—there will be a notification that you need to update. If you have any questions or problems, email Bill Donahue at [formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org) and he can help you with the process. If you would prefer to do an in-person instead of online training, please let Bill know, as he can arrange classes as-needed.

We will be taking the months of November & December to make sure we are compliant for the January deadline.

**Volunteering:** The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate our faith in action!

**All volunteers are required to be VIRTUS-trained** as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. If you would like to volunteer for any parish ministry including with our youth, you **must be** VIRTUS-trained. Forms can be found in the Narthex and the Parish Center on how to complete this process. All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS-trained.

## Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We are still in need of blankets, comforters, sleeping bags and men's ties—Full/King/ Queen-size, clean, and in good condition—can be dropped off at the parish center.

**Articles that we cannot use to make a sleeping bag:** down comforters, wool blankets, mattress covers, pillows and pillow cases, curtains or drapes, or towels **We do use sheets, however we have a lot of them and don't need them at this time.**

*This ministry **does not meet in December**, they will reconvene in January on the 3rd and the 24th at 9:30am!*  
Email [barbaramueller596@gmail.com](mailto:barbaramueller596@gmail.com)

## International Migrants Day

On **18 December 1990**, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the international convention on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and members of their families (resolution 45/158).

This day is observed in many countries and both intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations through the dissemination of information on human rights and fundamental political freedoms of migrants, and through sharing of experiences and the design of actions to ensure the protection of migrants.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/>

## Year-End Giving

If you would like to make a year-end gift to St. Agnes for 2024 Tax purposes, please be sure to write your check by December 31, 2024! Solemnity of Mary donations will be processed in 2025. *Please take note of the IRA charitable giving information on the next page!*

## IRA Charitable Gifts

A gift through your IRA is a great way to support St Agnes. Here is some information on how you can maximize your giving in 2024:

### IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

- Donors age 70½ or older may make a gift of any amount, up to \$105,000 per individual (\$210,000 for couples with individual IRA accounts), from your IRA without paying income tax on the donated amount.
- For donors who have a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), making a gift directly from your IRA to St. Agnes can be counted toward satisfying your RMD for the year, as long as certain rules are met.
- In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.
- QCDs don't require that you itemize, which due to the recent tax law changes, means you may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving.
- Funds should be transferred directly from the donor's financial institution to St. Agnes.

### Thank you for supporting St Agnes!

This information is not intended as legal, accounting, or financial advice. Please consult with your tax, legal, and financial advisors to determine whether this or other gift plans are applicable to your tax and financial needs.

### JCCM Food Pantry Current Needs

- Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta
- Canned meat (chicken, spam, ham, tuna)
- Soups (hearty and condensed)
- Canned pasta, Canned chili, Canned fruit
- Rice (small bags)
- Cereal
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Jelly and peanut butter
- Syrup, Pancake/biscuit mix, Instant oatmeal
- Crackers
- Cooking oil
- Deodorant, Shampoo/Conditioner
- Paper towels, Toilet paper, Wipes
- Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent
- Cat/Dog food

### Shepherdstown Shares Current Needs

- Toilet paper, Baby Wipes
- Regular Ground Coffee
- Brown Rice
- Pasta Sauces
- Ramen noodles (not the cups of soup)
- Small Applesauce Cups (unsweetened)
- Snacks
- Crackers (i.e. Ritz or Saltines)
- Milk (1/2gal or full gallons—whole or 2%)
- Diabetic-Friendly Items
  - Candy, pudding, Jell-o, applesauce, etc.
- Snack and sandwich-size Ziploc bags
- Sturdy paper bags (especially with handles)
- Regular tea bags

## Parish Financial Activity

### Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$12,001
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$2,035
<b>Total</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	<b>\$14,036</b>
<b>Weekly Target</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>Total Collections Compared to Target</b>	<b>↑ +\$2,036</b>

Tithe to help those in need \$1,200  
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston maintains an Office of Safe Environment in accordance with the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. **To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org) to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org). **To Report to Civil Authorities:** Contact your local law enforcement; numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** In addition to civil authorities, the diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the **EthicsPoint** platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

### Supporting our St. Agnes community is easy!

Just go to the "Giving" button at the top of our website homepage or use the QR code at the right to make a one-time or recurring gift. Any amount is a valued contribution towards our ministry. Thank you!



The Riddell Law Group  
Nicola D. Smith, Esq.  
Christian Riddell, Esq  
304-267-3949

## CRISIS FOOD HOTLINE



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[www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org)



## Be Aware of Holiday Gift Scams

Among the ways scammers try to get us is through Maliciously Modified Gift Cards in Stores. Fraudsters steal department store gift cards, learn their secret PIN information, and then replace them back onto the shelves to await a victim. When the victim purchases that card and activates it, the fraudster is often able to spend the gift cards value faster than the victim. The fraudster can call the store's gift card line over and over to verify when the gift card is activated and what value is left on the card.

**How to prevent?** Look for signs of tampering before you buy a gift card. Know that all the big vendors using gift cards are aware of these scams and many will offer a way for you to protect yourself against this type of scam and some may even reimburse you if you are out money.  
<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/gift-card-scams>.

## Stay Up-to-Date - Mary's Refuge

Mary's Refuge invites you to stay up-to-date with their baby bulletin. You can find the bulletin through this QR code or visit <https://marysrefuge.com/baby-bulletin/>.



## SJS Gala Benefit Dinner

Save the date! St Joe's is hosting a benefit dinner on Saturday, March 8 at 6:30pm in the SJS Gymnasium (110 E Stephen St, Martinsburg, WV). More info about the dinner can be found on the St Joseph's School website.

## Misal del Día

Este año tendremos el misal del día en la entrada del Narthex de la iglesia. Siéntase libre de usar uno durante la Misa y regresarlo al final de la Misa para que otros puedan usarlo también. Gracias.

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## CBT Grants update

Our grant group—Sue Kemnitzer, Fanny Smith, Judy Lilga, Mike Drewes, Scott Hutton, Greg Welter, Beth Yates, and Fr Andy-- is actively working on the next steps in the grant process with the help of Josephine Saikali from Region 9.

For our Track 2 design grant, our engineering firm, Thrasher Group, is actively working on our project.

For our Track 4 grant, the area to the north of the church has five new trees!

Program partners: United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3, Chesapeake Bay Program, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

This project had been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under assistance agreement 4I-95300301 or CB-96375501 to West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP).



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## Open Positions at Saint Joe's School

Saint Joe's School is seeking to fill these positions:

⇒ **Principal for new high school—starts Jan 2025**

⇒ **Pre-K Aide/After-School Care Worker**

To send in a resume or letter of introduction, contact Principal Maria Byrd at [mbyrd@sjswv.org](mailto:mbyrd@sjswv.org). These have been posted to Indeed <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Saint-Joseph-School/jobs>.

	<p><b>Sid Sponaugle</b> 304-671-7761</p> <p>Residential Shingle Roofs GAF Certified WV000540</p>	<p><b>Myers Hill &amp; Associates</b> Estate Planning &amp; Elder Law 299 Rock Cliff Drive Martinsburg, WV 304-263-9099</p>	<p><b>LONELY PETUNIA</b> MCB ART</p> <p>Paintings, NoteCards, Figurines For Sale or on Commission mcbartf.lonelypetunia/etsy.com</p>	<p><b>Patriot Tree Service</b> Patriottreeservicewv.com 304-207-0115 Trimming, Pruning, Removal, and more Emergency Tree Service</p>
<p><i>St Agnes Columbarium Garden</i> <i>Your Niche For All Time</i></p> <p>⌚ ⌚ ⌚</p> <p>200 South Duke St Shepherdstown, WV 304-876-6436</p>	<p><i>Cables - Spencer &amp; Norton</i></p>  <p><b>Funeral Home</b></p>	<p>Traditional, Cremation Pre-Arrangements Trappist Caskets Available</p> <p><b>304.724-6500</b> Alan Norton, LIC</p>	<p><b>A B</b></p> <p><b>ARNOLD &amp; BAILEY</b> ATTORNEYS AT LAW</p>	
<p><b>Potomac Crossroads Counseling</b></p>  <p>Kathleen Morotti LPC, LCDAC, BC-DMT Shepherdstown 304-876-3500</p>	<p><b>Shepherdstown PHARMACY</b></p>  <p>7670 Martinsburg Pike 304-876-9966 The Knott Family</p>	<p><b>Two Rivers Counseling</b></p> <p>adults, teens, children &amp; couples</p> <p>Robyn Harrison-Taft, MA, LPC, NCC www.2riverscounseling.com <b>304-725-7176</b></p>	 <p>Schmitt Construction Company</p> <p>James A. Schmitt 304-876-2462</p>	<p><b>304 725-2002</b> WWW.ARNOLDANDBAILEY.COM S. ANDREW ARNOLD, ESQ.</p>
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