

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
Coordinator of Faith Formation: Bill Donahue
Assistant Administrator: Beth Yates
Accounting: Lizzie Lowe
Liturgy: Helen Harris
Music Ministry: Elaine Rendler-McQueeney

Pastoral Council

Connie Bonner ~ Carmela Cesare ~ Peg Eackles
Christine Wiegman-Green ~ Patrick Green ~ Shaná Harris
Colin Hayden ~ Richard Hitchcock ~ Amie Ho-Leung
Kathryn McAteer ~ Bill Sagle ~ Gil Sateia ~ Becky Tokarcik

Finance Council

Pat Barth ~ Mike Drewes ~ Todd Hershey
Sue Kemnitzer ~ David Matera
Bob Morrow ~ Arnold Thomas ~ Richard Walton

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
Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org
www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org

St. Agnes Chapel

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm & 9pm

Sunday, 8am

Sunday, 10:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday at 11am

Church Open for Prayer

10am-3:30pm, Monday-Saturday
(except holidays)

Bishop Brennan has lifted the request that everyone mask. However, we still encourage masking for love of neighbor.

Parish Office: Monday–Wednesday, 9am-4pm

Cash Card Sales: Weekdays during office hours
(please call first)

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve ~ 5:30pm

(Children's Program begins 5:15pm)

Mass During the Night ~ 9pm

Christmas Morning ~ 8am & 10:30am

Solemnity of Mary

Saturday, December 31 ~ 5:30pm

Sunday, January 1 ~ 8am & 10:30am

Youth Christmas Eve Program Practice

All St Agnes youth ages kindergarten to 6th grade are invited to join the fun! At 5:15pm on Christmas Eve, our youth will perform a couple songs at church just prior to the 5:30pm Mass. Rehearsals for this group will be held at the parish center from 9:15 to 9:45am on Sundays, December 11 and 18. This is part of the CFF class activities, but kids who are not enrolled in CFF are also invited to participate. Please come and sing along with us!

Year End Giving

If you would like to make a year-end gift to St. Agnes for 2022 Tax purposes, please be sure to write your check by December 31, 2022! Donations received for the Solemnity of Mary will be processed in 2023. Please take note of the charitable giving information on pg 10 of this bulletin!

Historic Houses of Worship Tour December 26, 2022

Monday, December 26, from 4-7pm is your opportunity to tour the churches of Shepherdstown, including our church and historic chapel. Brochures for the tour will be available at the Community Club that day to guide you through town to each church.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, 8am Mass for

Margaret Mary Lang

Sunday, 10:30am Mass for

Bob Coyne

May Margaret Mary and Bob share in the fullness
of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for David McCarty, cousin
of Father Andy, who recently died. May David share in
the fullness of God's love and peace.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill especially Richard Hitchcock, John Jankowski (cousin of Frank Bielicki), Mary Hart, Dan VanBelleghem, Ed Kelly, and Barbara Broomall. Names are placed in the bulletin for approximately one month and then those names are placed on the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in January. Please contact Judy (see below) at any time with names of individuals you would like to add or to join the group. Please contact Judy: 301-432-2276, jslilga8@gmail.com.

Scripture Sharing

Our Scripture Sharing group continues to meet on Mondays at noon, with the exception of holidays (there will be no meetings on Monday, December 26, or Monday, January 2). All are welcome! The Zoom link is on the web-site events calendar.

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

It is cold outside, and we are making warmer sleeping bags. We are in need of donated **blankets**, and **comforters** (any size). We are also accepting donations of used **sleeping bags**. Items should be clean and in fair condition. Donations can be dropped off at the parish center.

After-Mass Coffee Service

We would like to bring back the after-Mass coffee service starting in January. We need people at all three Masses who would be responsible for setting up, making coffee, bringing (homemade or store-purchased) baked goods, then cleaning up afterwards. We will be happy to show you how to do everything we do. You wouldn't have to do it every week and the more people we have, the less frequently everyone will have to be on the schedule. If you would like to join us or if you have any questions, please send an email to cvpierpont@comcast.net.

Dear Parishioners,

I once heard it put that religion is a finger pointing to the moon, and the problem comes when all we can see is the finger. As we see in the gospel this week, Joseph had to follow a mystery bigger than he could understand or comprehend. Even his beliefs and traditions could only help him see so far. This also helps us to understand how these New Testament stories were written; they had to use experiences from the Hebrew scriptures to help point towards something entirely new. I like to think of our Catholic faith as a telescope that helps us see the moon though it is not the moon. Using this image, we know that telescopes continue to develop to see planets even further away. This might be a good way of thinking of our tradition. We get new insights that help us see further and this opens new possibilities. One way of looking at Joseph's dream today is that the Holy Spirit helped him see farther and he was awakened to new possibilities that changed how he saw reality and to go beyond what he formerly understood. This is what Pope Francis calls the God of Surprises. May we use the telescope of our faith to see the moon but let's not mistake it as the moon. As we gaze at the sky may it fill us with an awe that the mystery of God's love is always bigger than what we perceive. Let's be open like Mary and Joseph as we move towards Christmas to the God of Surprises.

Fr. Andy

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult) is for those who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith and discerning if they might want to be professed members of the Catholic faith. The goal is to see where the process takes you. Father Andy is leading our RCIA process. If you are interested in learning more or joining the group, please call the office at 304-876-6436. All are welcome!

Your Help Is Needed!

We are in desperate need of help in the Ministry of Altar Server (both young and old), Eucharistic (Bread & Cup) Ministers, Music, Lectors and Hospitality. I am asking that you search deeply to discern your gifts and give back to God what he has given to you. We want to show we are many parts of the same body. Please remember there are committees that also may need your assistance. Please leave your info at the church office and they will contact me. Please, please discern deeply and faithfully. Thank you and may God continue to bless you. Happy Advent.

Helen Harris

Join in Renewing, Renaming and Reinvigorating St Agnes' Commitment to Service

Our long-time Social Concerns Chair relocated about the same time Covid struck. Although our meetings came to a halt, many of our members, through creative adaptations, kept ministries alive. Parish nurses gave ongoing advice on covid, one parishioner made "ugly sleeping bags" at home, parishioners fed the homeless, provided Christmas gift cards for over 200 people in need, bought Haitian coffee to aid Haitian farmers, provided gift cards monthly to Shepherdstown Shares for personal hygiene needs, donated food weekly to JCCM, raised funds to send Kolofata, Cameroon girls to school through potholder sales and donations, started a Zoom racism group, and many more acts of generosity and service too numerous to name. Though many parishioners helped in multiple ways, a good bit of responsibility landed on the shoulders of a few. It is time to renew and reinvigorate these ministries – and perhaps add new ones.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops refers to its efforts as Justice, Peace and Human Development. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston just reopened its Justice and Peace Office. To be in tandem with these efforts we are thinking of renaming ourselves either the Justice, Peace and Human Development Committee (JPHD) or the Justice and Peace (J&P) Committee. Please give this some thought.

We need you! We need folks with new energy, new ideas, new interests. We need folks to serve on the coordinating committee and folks to reinvigorate the individual ministries. What would you like to do?

Watch for a meeting date in January. Let's start the new year with a new commitment to justice, peace and human development!

Support Catholic Charities WV!

It is more blessed to give than to receive. – Acts 20:35

Catholic Charities West Virginia helps tens of thousands of our vulnerable brothers and sisters every year. Your donation allows us to provide hope, provide safety, provide food and provide care.

Join us in our mission to end poverty. Give to Catholic Charities:

- Through the collection at Christmas Masses
- Online at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org
- By mail to 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

In giving, we live honorably before God who gives us all we have. Through your support, we can continue providing caring and compassionate support to West Virginians in need. Thank you for your heart to give.

A Christmas Message From the St Agnes Conference Of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP)

Christmas is the celebration of the most meaningful birthday of all time. We observe this world changing event by giving gifts to our loved ones, and that's what we do every day of the year at St. Vincent de Paul when we provide the gifts of food, clothing, shelter, medicine, and other necessities to those in need in our parish and the larger Jefferson County Community.

As you prepare to celebrate Jesus' birthday, we ask you to keep the less fortunate in your thoughts and prayers. Christ was an advocate for the poor and oppressed, and His message was one of love, charity, and hope. We are so grateful for your past kindness and generosity.

Thank you, and wishing you and your family an abundance of Christmas blessings, happiness, and cheer.

New Hymnals

The Gift of Music Memorialize this year's hymnal

You will find envelopes in each hymnal if you would like to dedicate a hymnal to a loved one. Place completed forms in the offertory basket.

Haiti Coffee Is a Great Stocking Stuffer!

Consider purchasing some of our Haiti coffee (whole bean and ground are available) as a stocking stuffer or just to enhance your Christmas morning. This is a gift that gives back to the farmers of Haiti because they receive a fair price for their crops! You can purchase coffee at the parish center during office hours.

Need a Last Minute Gift?

Cash cards make wonderful gifts: family, friends, the mail carrier, teachers, most anyone! We carry a pretty wide selection in the office to help you meet those gifting needs. And our cash card sales program helps St Agnes out financially at no additional cost to you. Win-win!!

Homebound Ministry

If there are parishioners who have needs (groceries, rides to doctors or pharmacies, etc,) our **HOMEBOUND MINISTRY** is willing to help. Please call Claire Williamson (304-876-1357), or Judy Lilga (301-432-2276).

International Migrants Day

Every year on December 18th, the world marks International Migrants Day, a day set aside to recognize the important contribution of migrants while highlighting the challenges they face. Migrants contribute with their knowledge, networks, and skills to build stronger, more resilient communities.

Be Aware of Holiday Gift Card Scams!

Every holiday season brings on an increase in gift card scams. There are dozens of ways gift cards can be used by scammers to steal money.

Among the ways scammers try to get us is through **Maliciously Modified Gift Cards in Stores**. In this scam, fraudsters steal department store gift cards, learn their secret PIN information, and then replace back onto the shelves to await a victim. When the victim purchases the previously tampered with 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 when you buy a gift card. Some people say to pick gift cards from the end of the stack, but that's assuming that the fraudsters will always place the tampered gift cards up front and that the store's staff didn't rearrange them when restocking new gift cards. 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.

You can find information about gift card scams from the Federal Trade Commission at <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/gift-card-scams>.

Please Don't Fall Victim To Email & Texting Scams!

We continue to hear from far too many parishioners that they are receiving emails or text messages from someone posing as Fr. Andy or Fr. Mat. **If you ever receive an email from someone posing as St. Agnes staff asking for money, gift cards, etc., it is a scam.**

No one, not Fr Andy nor Fr Mat nor St. Agnes staff, will ever write to you personally asking for 'favors' or to request that you to make a purchase or send money. **You can usually tell by looking closely at the email address who sent the message.** Emails from St. Agnes always come from <<email>>@stagnesshepherdstown.org. Emails from Fr. Andy will be from aswitzer@stagnesshepherdstown.org or aswitzer@dw.org. These scammers are very crafty and often make some very slight variation on the actual email address, so you really have to look very carefully. If you receive an email similar to this, simply delete it and be aware that email scams, phishing, and more, are part of our digital world. To protect yourself, it's important that you learn how to recognize these scams.

In addition to email, the scammers also use text messaging for their same nefarious purpose. If a text message looks suspicious, it probably is. Once again, no one from St Agnes will ever ask you by text for money or gift cards!

Family News

CFF Classes occur today, Dec. 18th from 9:15-10:15 AM (9:15-9:45 will be choir practice for our k-6 children and they will have CFF class from 9:45-10:15AM). Pre Confirmation class is from 9:15-10:15AM.

There is NO CFF on December 25th or January 1st. Our next CFF class will be January 8th.

Our Children's Choir will be performing a few Christmas songs at 5:15 PM, December 24th before the 5:30 Mass. Kids should be at the Church by 5:00 PM. Parents / family are more than welcome to take pictures of the event. Our kids have been practicing to help us begin this Christmas season with joy.

Please keep watching this section, the St. Agnes Website, as well as the CFF/ Youth page for continuing announcements regarding Faith Formation and youth activities.

As we update our email lists, if you are a parent and not receiving CFF announcements and emails, please contact the parish center at 304- 876-6436 or Bill Donahue at: formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Dec 18:** CFF 9:15 AM– 10:15—K-8 Class **AND** Practice for Children's Christmas Program (9:15 — 9:45)
- **Dec 24:** Children's Program 5:15 PM at the church.
- **Dec 28:** Youth Group Cooking for the Hungry Meal Prep 10 AM. You do not need to stay the entire time. We will provide lunch for the youth that is there at lunchtime. We also need people who will help pack up the meal.
- January Family Movie Night—Keep watching this section.
- Youth Group Teen Movie Night. (December between Christmas and New Year's) Watch your email for details.

Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming."

THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel: *Matthew 1: 18-24*

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Advent + Christmas = ?

When you think of Advent and Christmas together, you discover one of the most important truths of our Catholic faith. Complete this puzzle to find the name of this important mystery of our faith. It has made all the difference to the entire human race.

1. A new Church Year begins on the _____ Sunday of Advent.
2. The feast of the Magi is called the _____.
3. The slain male babies of Bethlehem (December 28) are the Holy _____.
4. The Sunday after Christmas Day is the Feast of the Holy _____.
5. The last Sunday of the Church Year celebrates _____ the King.
6. The Church liturgical period before Advent is _____ Time.
7. White is the color of _____ Time.
8. The last day of Christmas Time is the Feast of the _____ of the Lord.
9. *Christmas* is another word for the _____ of Jesus.
10. December 8 celebrates the Immaculate _____.
11. Violet is the liturgical color of _____.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

The Second Person of the Trinity, God the Son, took on human nature and became a man to save all people as Jesus Christ. We prepare to celebrate this mystery each year during Advent, and our celebration includes all of Christmas Time.

Write the name of this mystery of our faith here:

H	T	R	I	B	D	R	E	A	R
E	L	E	T	C	E	N	R	U	D
H	F	W	H	O	H		O	I	I
M	E	I	M	P	T	N	V	S	V
O	L	F	W	S	O	O	T	O	O
D	D	I	T	H	R	R	O	E	R
E	E	R	S	C	T	O	P	M	E
N	A	G	E	E	E	O	L	O	C
A	N	D	N	A	B	S	U	H	I
L	E	G	N	A	M	O	H	E	S

BETROTHED	CHILD	HUSBAND
HONOUR	DIVORCE	ANGEL
DREAM	WIFE	BIRTH
SON	PROPHET	HOME



The Gospel at Home

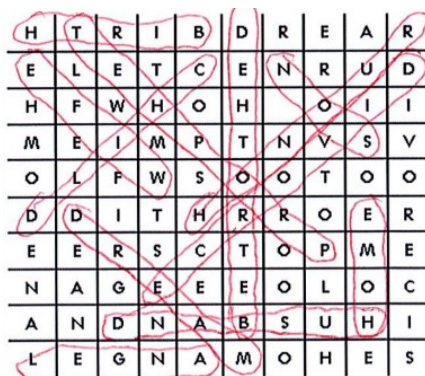
This Week's Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph faces a dilemma in this Sunday's Gospel. He is engaged to Mary, but she is pregnant and Joseph is not the father. By legal right, Joseph could accuse Mary of adultery and subject her to the punishment of death by stoning. Instead, Joseph takes her and Baby Jesus to live with him as his wife and adopted son. They form a family circle in which Mary and Joseph raise and nurture Jesus. Matthew points Jesus out as Emmanuel, meaning, "God-with-us," which fulfills Isaiah's ancient description of the Messiah.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Promise (Grades K-1): Christmas is just days away, and your child will be filled with anticipation. Waiting gets harder and harder as Christmas nears. Ask your child to share the stories of Joseph and Mary with the angels. Be sure to ask why Joseph and Mary gave Jesus his name. You can also tell your child about his or her name. Talk as a family about all the ways you each have said yes to God's will like Mary and Joseph did. Pray for God's help to continue saying yes to him in your lives.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week your child's class learned about Joseph's fears and excitement leading up to the birth of Jesus. Ask your child to share with the family the Gospel story of Joseph and the angel. Your child also made a "Christmas Prayers Centerpiece." Display this on your kitchen table to remind you to pray together each day leading up to Christmas day.



Advent + Christmas

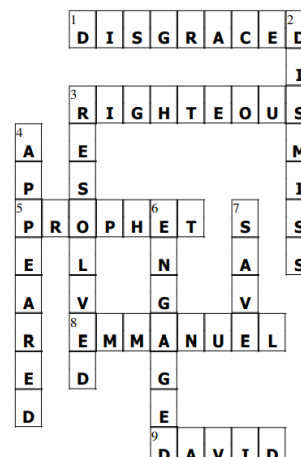
- 1-First; 2-Epiphany;
3-Innocents; 4-Family
5-Christ; 6-Ordinary;
7-Christmas; 8-Baptism
9-Nativity; 10-Conception;
11-Advent
Name the mystery

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your youngster learned about some of the symbols of the Christmas season. Ask him or her to tell the family about these symbols. One symbol children strongly associate with Christmas is gifts. Ask your young person to tell your family the story of Amy and Darcy's bus ride and discuss how the girls must have felt when Darcy gave Amy her book. Finally, spend some time talking about Saint Joseph—the foster father of Jesus. What do the Gospels say about him? Be sure to include a simple prayer to Saint Joseph, such as: "Dear Saint Joseph, help us follow in the footsteps of Jesus."

Visions (Grades 7-9): The theme of this week's lesson was dreaming. The word dream often is a symbol for what people hope for the future. Ask your young person to share with you the story of Martin the Shoemaker and how Martin met Jesus. These days before Christmas are a good time to talk about your hopes and dreams for your family, your Church, your community, and for the world. The class also celebrated *Las Posadas*, a traditional Spanish Advent event. Ask your child to share what they learned about *Las Posadas*, and lead your family through the script on page 5.

Pray Together

When your conversation is over, ask for Mary and Joseph to pray for Jesus and the Holy Spirit to watch over your family as you try to follow the example set by the Holy Family. Finish by praying an Our Father and a Hail Mary together.



SOLUTIONS

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



Scan here for
parent resources
or visit gospelweeklies.com/family

Adult Faith Formation Courses

Two five-week courses are being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) in the first part of 2023. These courses are hybrid models. They are composed of both weekly live two-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community For Faith Formation (VLCFF). The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of any books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. For further information or to register, please contact Jeanne McKeets at jmckeets@dwc.org with your name, address, email, and phone number.

Survey of Catholic Doctrine

January 9th - February 12th, 2023

Have you ever wanted to explore your faith more deeply and understand more clearly the Trinity, Jesus as God's self revealed, the Holy Spirit and much more? We will study some of the major doctrines of the Catholic Church through the five week hybrid course Survey of Catholic Doctrine, a course sponsored through the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston and the University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, it will run from January 9th to February 12th. There are no prerequisites, just bring your questions and a desire to learn about your faith. This course combines Zoom lectures/discussions once a week on Wednesday evenings from 7-9pm led by Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu with materials available online through the VLCFF website and meets the course requirement for catechetical certification for the diocese. You can register for this course by contacting Jeanne McKeets at jmckeets@dwc.org.

New Testament

January 9th-February 12th, 2023

This course builds on the material learned in Introduction to Scripture and assumes a basic understanding of how Catholics read and interpret Scripture. We will explore the world behind the text of the New Testament, its history and culture, as well as examine how we today read and understand these texts in light of our own world and culture. We will look at how all four Gospels developed, study the letters of Paul, and examine the world of first century Christianity. This is a five-week hybrid course offered through the Diocese and the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation of the University of Dayton. You will be able to work online taking quizzes and accessing material, as well as meet once a week via Zoom for class lecture and discussion with the course facilitator, Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. The Zoom sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7pm (a second session on Monday afternoon may be added if the response is large enough). You can register for this course by contacting Jeanne McKeets at jmckeets@dwc.org.

St Agnes Racial Justice Initiative News

Serving the cause of justice for those relegated to the margins of society cannot be seen as a peripheral or secondary ministry for Christian believers. It was Jesus himself who made such people the central focus of his mission. It is Pope Francis who is once again sounding the Church's call to fulfill its mission to those on the margins. In his emphasis on creating true synodality in the Church where every member of the faithful has a real voice, he has called for special emphasis on listening to the voices of the marginalized, impoverished, and victimized. These include the victims of racial injustice. In his papal teaching in Joy of the Gospel, he stresses that as a Church with a preferential option for the marginalized, we must above all view their voices as central to what the Holy Spirit is calling us to be and witness to in today's world. Serving those on the margins is not so much about evangelizing them as first their "evangelizing" us. Jesus of Nazareth was most often found and criticized for spending his time among the marginalized.

If we hope to bring the Good News to the world, racial justice for all God's children has to be part of that mission. We hope this Racial Justice Initiative in our parish is an aid in accomplishing that goal.

Updating Our VIRTUS (Protecting Our Youth)

As per diocesan policy, all people who work with youth in the parish need to be trained in VIRTUS. If you work with our youth or plan on working with the youth in the future, please take the opportunity to complete the online diocesan VIRTUS training. The program is completely online and requires only about 1 hour of your time. We all want our children to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment. Please consider helping us achieve that environment. Copies of the steps to complete VIRTUS training can be found in the Narthex of the church as well as the parish center. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Donahue at formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

Advent Gift Tag Program Wrap Up

The 2022 St. Agnes Advent Gift Tag program has been a huge success. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our parishioners, we have collected 224 gift cards as well as 20 person specific gifts for more than ten organizations. They include: Board of Child Care, Boys and Girls Club, Canterbury Center, Catholic Charities - Immigration and Refugee Resettlement Office, Good Shepherd Caregivers, Jefferson County Council on Aging, Shenandoah Center, Shepherdstown Shares, Willow Tree Manor, Young Lives of Eastern Panhandle.

Thank to all that participated. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

IRA Charitable Gifts & Charitable Benefits Under the CARES ACT

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 2022:

IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

- Donors age 70½ or older may make a gift of any amount, up to \$100,000 per individual (\$200,000 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.

For additional information about giving from your IRA, please check the St Agnes website for [Giving via Stocks and IRA](#).

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.

Amazon Smile Pays Off

St Agnes has received its quarterly disbursement, **\$129.84**, from the AmazonSmile program thanks to qualifying purchases made between July 1st - September 30th by those who support St Agnes. Thanks to customers who shop at smile.amazon.com or use the Amazon app with AmazonSmile turned ON, purchases make an impact.

If you are an Amazon shopper, you can start using AmazonSmile to help St. Agnes if you haven't already. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. The only thing you have to do is set St. Agnes as your charity of choice and then start using <https://smile.amazon.com> when you shop.

You can learn more about Amazon Smile and how to sign up on the St Agnes Website under the "Giving" tab.

Missing a Potholder?

A potholder was found in the church parking lot on November 21st. If you purchased potholders and have found that you have come up one short, please call the office.

Missing Photograph

One of the framed photographs that was around the font in November is missing. Perhaps it got mixed in with some others and ended up in the wrong home. If you had any pictures around the font, please check at home and make certain you didn't end up with an extra. The photo is in a 5x7 wooden frame and is of a handsome man. Thanks!

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$9,962
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$1,780
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$11,742
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$11,500
Total Collections Compared to Target	↑ +\$242

Tithe to help those in need **\$996**
(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 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. **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, 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.

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Potomac
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St Leo's Fish Fry Fridays

Fried fish or shrimp dinner with French fries or sweet potato fries, coleslaw, and roll for \$15; combo dinner for \$20. First Friday of each month, beginning September 2nd. Dine in or carry out. Call ahead-304-279-8770. Open 12:00pm-6:00pm. 2109 Sulfur Springs Rd, Inwood WV.

Considering a Catholic High School

St. Maria Goretti Catholic HS is a co-ed Catholic high school in Hagerstown, MD. Goretti provides bus transportation and financial aid. For more information visit www.goretti.org.

Shelter Volunteers Needed

Jefferson County Community Ministries is currently recruiting volunteers for their Cold Weather Shelter season which runs from October 31, 2022 through April 30, 2023. Volunteers watch over those in the shelter each night in a caring, compassionate manner. Individual volunteer shifts begin at 7pm and run through 7am the following morning. There is a shelter manager on duty every night ensuring the safety of all and that JCCM protocols are being followed. If you would care for more information or would like to sign up to volunteer, please email their Volunteer Coordinator (kaz@jccm.us).

Catholic Radio

The Eastern Panhandle Catholic Community Calendar can be heard on Fridays at 1030am and weekdays at 3:30pm on www.rdo.to/WLOL and at 530am, 1017am & 4:40pm on FM 106.5 and AM 740. And just send your parish and organization programs, events, announcements and prayers, to comcal@LoLradio.org and dedicated volunteers will get them broadcast. For more information on Catholic radio in West Virginia, call 304-598-0026.

Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes

Please join His Excellency, Bishop Athanasius Schneider, as well as Fr. Timothy Huffman and Fr. Bradley Greer, of the Diocese of Steubenville, on a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes June 9-18, 2023. Space is limited. For more information, please visit www.qohtours.com or call 1-800-213-4295.

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Call if you or a neighbor are experiencing a food emergency

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www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org



St Joe's Hiring Teacher's Aide

Saint Joseph School is seeking a teacher's aide for kindergarten for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year and beyond. The position is effective Jan. 2, 2023. The candidate must have prior experience as a teacher's aide or assistant teacher and will work collaboratively with classroom teachers to implement curriculum with children of all abilities and ensure safety, supervision and school policy compliance. A high school diploma or equivalent academic credential is required.

The preferred applicant will act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school. The applicant agrees that the employer has the right to dismiss the aide for public rejection or violation of the official teachings, and for any violations of the employee handbook policies.

If you are interested in this position, please email your resume to Meg Partington at mpartington@sjsvw.org.

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