

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

www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org

St. Agnes Chapel

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

Sunday Readings

Micah 5:3-5a

Psalm 80:1ab+2,
14-15, 17-18

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

Christmas Day Readings

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98:1, 2-3a, 3b-4
5-6

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

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

Christmas Eve Masses

Children's Program 5:15pm | Mass 5:30pm and 9pm

Christmas Day Mass

Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Mass 10:30am

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30pm

Parish Office: Monday 9am-4pm, Tuesday 9am-12noon,
 Closed Wednesday & Thursday, 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 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth Sunday of Advent • No CFF—Christmas Break (Resumes Jan 5) • Youth Feeding the Hungry Food Prep after 10:30am Mass • OCIA 12noon
Mon Dec 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon
Tues Dec 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Eve • Youth Feeding the Hungry Food Delivery 5pm • Christmas Eve Children's Program 5:15pm • Christmas Eve Mass 5:30pm • Mass During the Night 9pm
Wed Dec 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Day • Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Mass 10:30am
Sun Dec 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No CFF—Christmas Break (Resumes Jan 5) • OCIA 12noon
Wed Jan 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Year's Day • Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Mass 11am



Mass Intentions

Sunday, 8am for

Helen Ann Federico

May Helen 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 Larry Merhaut, Teresa Verteramo (mother of Rosanne Hutton), 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.

In your kindness, please pray for Richard Hitchcock and Dorothy Marinucci (aunt of Rosanne Hutton) who died this past week. May Richard and Dorothy share in the fulness of God's love and peace.

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.

NEW—Upcoming ESL Classes

St. Agnes ofrecerá clases gratuitas de inglés como segundo idioma. La clase de cinco semanas es del 7 de Enero al 11 de Febrero en el Centro Parroquial St. Agnes los Martes por la noche de 6:00 a 7:30. Si usted o alguien que conoce desea mejorar sus habilidades en inglés, por favor pídale que venga a partir comenzando el 7 de Enero. El registro se puede encontrar a <https://bit.ly/learn-english-2025>.

St. Agnes will be offering free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. The five-week class will be held January 7 through February 11 at the St. Agnes Parish Center on Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30pm. If you or anyone you know would like to improve their English skills, please have them join us starting January 7. The registration form can be found at <https://bit.ly/learn-english-2025>.



Scan the QR code, visit the St Agnes website <https://StAgnesShepherdstown.org/>, or email for information and to register English-Class@stagnesshepherdstown.org

Dear Parishioners,

This Fourth Sunday of Advent we hear the story of Mary traveling the hill country to see Elizabeth. These infancy narratives invite us to use our imaginations. I imagine a young girl who is uncertain and afraid and wondering what is happening with her. Elizabeth is a spiritual guide that helps her to see where the Lord's hand is in all of this, and I wonder if it was in that moment that what seemed like a sorrow or a burden she began to recognize as a gift and a joy. I believe the story reminds us that in the uncertainties in our lives and world the Lord is present. And we need each other as community, like Mary and Elizabeth did, to show us where Christ is present and in what ways he is directing us on the way forward. As we get nearer to Christmas, may we recognize Emmanuel, God is with us, and as we travel from the Fourth Sunday of Advent to Christmas let us help one another to recognize the Lord's presence as we travel to the Christmas story.

Fr. Andy

Important 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 and he can help you with the process. **If you would prefer to do in-person instead of online training, we have an in-person training scheduled for Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 9:30am in the parish center.** Contact Bill Donahue with any questions.

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.

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!

Christmas Flowers

Our Christmas flowers have been given **in memory of** Richard & Sarah Jane Nau by Tim & Gretchen Matz; Mr. & Mrs. George Buys, Mr. & Mrs. John Piccolomini, and Mr. & Mrs. Ron Burkett by John & Dotty Piccolomini; Friends & Family by Lyle & Theresa Rush; Burleigh Family, Thompson Family, Moler Family, Greaser Family, and Robertson Family by Bryan & Judith Robertson; Rex. A. Norton by Hilda Norton; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Curry and Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Thomas by Arnold & Victoria Thomas; Barbara McDonald by Henry McDonald; Arthur Klann, Roger Hedrick, and Sally & Bob Syme by Eileen Hedrick; Francis Snowden, Rebecca McCauley, Jasen Quintana, Sophia Hansen, and Sandy Walker by Marie Snowden; Phillip Mueller and Kenneth & Anna McCullough by Barbara Mueller; William Fritchman by Nancy Curry; Albert "Pete" Roberts, Lucy Ortega, and Clay Brown by Matt & Claudia Dressler; Frank & Cecilia Nassallo by Eric & Anna Sokel; Gary Dunlevy, Jerry DeFilippo, Edward Brewer, and Delma Brewer by Lynn Dunlevy; The Kemerer and Lattus families by Greg & Debbie Lattus; Elvira Risi and Almernto Risi by Maria Lamanna **and as a gift to St Agnes** by Raymond & Lucille Nelson, Ralph & Rosie Lorenzetti, Dennis & Janice Wark, Robert & Katherine McMillan; Peggy & Frank Dougherty.

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.

Homebound Ministry Volunteering

Our Homebound Ministry is always looking for new volunteers. Our volunteers help folks out with rides to appointments with their doctors and various therapies, to pick up prescriptions, and for grocery shopping. From time to time, there might also be a need for caregiver breaks wherein a volunteer would just simply sit with an individual so their caregiver can have a break, take care of shopping, or get to their own appointments. Please contact Judy Lilga jslilga8@gmail.com or 301-432-2276 for more information or to volunteer!

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

In Case of Inclement Weather...

It is that time of year when we need to be prepared for inclement weather! Should we experience wintry precipitation, we will do our best to make a decision regarding **in person** CFF class by 8pm the evening prior. Please check our **website**, call the parish **office** at 304-876-6436 and listen to the recording or you can access this information on the St. Agnes CFF/Youth **Facebook** (closed) group page. If you have not yet joined the group, please do! Contact formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org to join.

Please note, if Jefferson County Schools are delayed or closed, there will be no **weekday Mass**. The office will also follow the school system's decision and will be closed if schools are closed.

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!

Advent Poetry

"Making the House Ready for the Lord," by Mary Oliver

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice — it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances — but it is the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know that really I am speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

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.

About the Black Catholic Experience

On **February 26 from 12noon to 2pm**, Frederick Community College's Institute for Retired Learning is offering a course on The Black Catholic Experience in America. This is the link to the course: [The Black Catholic Experience in America - Frederick Community College](#)

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

Haiti Coffee For Sale—Support Farmers

Our SJP committee is offering Haiti coffee for sale. The beans are purchased through the fair trade organization Just Haiti and roasted locally at the Black Dog. Ground or whole beans are \$10 per bag in the Parish Center (\$3 of each bag is tax-deductible!).

Reminder to Sign Up for Emails

As a reminder, we periodically send out emails with important information and events. If you are not already signed up for these email blasts, you can sign up on the website at <https://stagnesshepherdstown.org/join-our-mailing-list/>.

2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in January. If you have names to add or if you would like to join the group, contact Judy Lilga: 301-432-2276 or jslilga8@gmail.com.

Scripture Sharing Zoom

Our Scripture Sharing group continues to meet via Zoom (link is on the website events calendar) on Mondays at noon (except major holidays). All are welcome!

Homebound Ministry

For any parishioners with needs (groceries, rides to doctors/pharmacies, etc.), our **HOMEBOUND MINISTRY** is willing to help. Contact Judy Lilga (301-432-2276).

Bulletin Ads

Bulletin Ads are a major fundraiser here at St Agnes with the potential to bring in \$10,000. As helpful as that is to the church, our ads most definitely benefit the businesses that place an ad. Our ads are widely viewed by our parishioners and the larger community, so they are truly an effective way to bring attention to businesses at bargain prices. Our new ad year has begun. As you can see, we have lots more room for ads! We really want to fill up our ad pages. For \$125, a business gets a 1x1.5 inch space for an entire year (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025). There are also larger options to choose from. In addition to the ads appearing weekly in our bulletin, they are also displayed on our website. Please encourage your favorite businesses to advertise with us. We are happy to help with ad design. **Please call or email the office (304) 876-6436 or office@stagnesshepherdstown.org**

Adult Faith Formation (AFF) Classes

Fr Andy is again working with our Adult Faith Formation Class this year. Classes occur simultaneously with CFF at 9:15am in the Parish Center library. All are welcome! Registration forms (also used to collect topics of interest for the discussions) are available in the Narthex of the church and the Parish Center. Hope to see you there!

Community Cookbooks Now for Sale

New Street United Methodist Church's Shepherdstown Community Cookbooks are in! All of the collected local recipes have been crafted into a book that is available for \$25 each (cash or check) and at New Street UMC. Contact the office for additional information—304-876-2362.

St Agnes on Social Media

Can't make it to Mass or events? Homilies, events, and other videos/recordings are being posted on our YouTube and on Google Drive (links on the website). Also, check out our Facebook and Instagram.

Name Tag Weekends

Every third weekend of the month we have "Name Tag Weekend." On these weekends, the Hospitality Ministry will offer parishioners a biodegradable name tag to wear—entirely voluntary. At the end of the year, the Pastoral Council will evaluate if it helped with our welcoming mission.

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.

St Leo's Variety Show Auditions

AUDITIONS for the first-ever **St. Leo Variety Show** will be held on Thursday, January 23rd and Friday, January 24th, from 6-8pm, in the Parish Hall, 2109 Sulphur Springs Road, Inwood, WV. It's time to Get Your Act Together! Come on out and give the review panel your "best three minutes"---we're looking for *all kinds* of talent. The **show is scheduled for Sunday, April 27th**, in the Parish Hall. For more information, please contact Dave Lasko (540) 533-9828.

For Our Younger Parishioners

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

Catholic Sharing Appeal Giving

As the year comes to a close, the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) reminds you that all gifts for the CSA need to be postmarked by December 31st to be included in this year's appeal. Please keep in mind that the date on the check doesn't matter—they have to follow the postmark on the envelope.

Please let them know if you send checks on the 31st, so they know to watch for them. Their goal is to close out this year's appeal by January 10th, allowing them to promptly begin work on tax receipts, grant awards, and parish checks.

You can donate securely online (<https://csa.dwcministries.org/>), by mailing in the pledge card, or place your pledge card in the collection basket.

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$8,682
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$1,225
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$9,907
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collections Compared to Target	-\$2,093



Tithe to help those in need <small>(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)</small>	\$868
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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.

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

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Call if you or a neighbor are experiencing a food emergency

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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).



INVESTING IN AMERICA



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. These have been posted to Indeed <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Saint-Joseph-School/jobs>.

S&L
CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Sid Sponaugle
304-671-7761

Residential Shingle Roofs
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WV000540

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299 Rock Cliff Drive
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200 South Duke St
Shepherdstown, WV
304-876-6436

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Alan Norton, LIC

A B
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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Potomac Crossroads Counseling
Kathleen Morotti
LPC, LCDAC, BC-DMT
Shepherdstown 304-876-3500

Shepherdstown PHARMACY
7670 Martinsburg Pike
304-876-9966
The Knott Family

Two Rivers Counseling
adults, teens, children & couples
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