

# 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**

Temporary Administrator Rev. Arul Anthony  
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh  
Assistant Administrator: Beth Yates  
Accounting: Lizzie Lowe  
Associate of Liturgy Ministry: Helen Harris  
Associate of Music Ministry: Dr. Elaine Rendler-McQueeney  
Office Secretary: Amy Fresch

## **Pastoral Council**

Connie Bonner ~ Gerry Fitzgerald ~ Bassell Franks  
Heather Garcia ~ Dana Getka ~ Patrick Green  
Colin Hayden ~ Cate Hershey ~ Blanche Landry  
Brendan Jarrell ~ Vanessa Santiago

## **Finance Council**

Steve Bledsoe ~ Carmela Cesare  
Mike Drewes ~ Mike Keefe  
Sue Kemnitzer ~ 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 2:3; 3:12-13  
Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (Matthew 5:3)  
1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
Matthew 5:1-12a

## Weekly Schedule

### Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

### Weekday Mass

Tuesday through Friday, 11am

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

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

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

## The Week at a Glance...

Sun Feb 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Souper Bowl Collection at each Mass</li><li>• CFF, CSS, Youth Group, First Reconcile Parents 9:15am</li><li>• Perpetual Memorial Mass 10:30am</li><li>• OCIA 12noon</li></ul>
Mon Feb 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon</li></ul>
Sun Feb 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Souper Bowl Collection at each Mass</li><li>• CFF, CSS, Youth Group, First Reconciliation Parents 9:15am</li><li>• Rite of Acceptance 10:30am</li><li>• Landscape Meeting 11:45am</li><li>• Knights of Columbus Chili Bowl 11:45am</li><li>• OCIA 12noon</li></ul>

## Stations of the Cross Volunteering

**Attention all ministry groups of St. Agnes.** We need your help! We are asking each committee to take 1 week during Lent to Lead the Stations of the Cross at 7pm each Friday night. Stations will occur in the Church and will follow the simple supper each Friday night which will occur at 6pm in the Parish Center. St. Agnes Youth Group will lead Stations of the Cross on March 13th. We are looking for groups to lead stations on Feb 20, Feb 27, March 6, March 20, and March 27.

All groups and committees are welcome to lead Stations of the Cross. We have various options for Stations to choose from as well.

**Contact Helen Harris** [liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org).

## Lenten Meals - 2026 Volunteers Needed

The parish will continue its tradition of offering a Simple Supper (meatless soup and bread) at the St Agnes Parish Center (6-6:45pm) before Stations of the Cross (7pm) during the Lenten season.

**We are looking for two volunteers** each week to prepare a meatless soup, and two volunteers to make or purchase 2 loaves of bread each Friday during Lenten season (each Friday from Feb 20—March 27 except Good Friday).

**To sign up**, please identify the Friday, type of soup, and/or the number of loaves of bread you will provide by contacting one of the following: Louise Fitzgerald (304) 707-1701 or Kathryn Murphry (304)283-4552.



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm for

**Claire Williamson**

Sunday, 10:30am for

**John Holmquist**

May Claire and John share in the fullness of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Connie Johns (cousin of Fr Andy) who recently died. May Connie 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 Lizzie Lowe, Sinceere Walton (son of Shaná Harris/ grandson of Helen and Leonard Harris), Paula Marrone-Reese, Jacky Stocking, Leonard Harris, Gene Falck, Sheila Hennessy, Nell Thompson, and Ron Mancini (son-in-law of Bob and 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.

## Free Tax Preparation

If you earned \$67,000 or less in 2025, through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), an IRS-certified volunteer will prepare and file your Federal and State tax returns for free. They have locations in Shepherdstown, Charles Town, and Martinsburg. Call 304-262-1584 or check the Mountain Heart Community Services website for more information or to schedule an appointment at <https://www.mhthtwv.com/mcs/free-tax-service/>.

## KoC Chili Bowl Next Sunday Feb 8th

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a **Chili Bowl on February 8th**. We are looking for chili cooks to compete for gift card prizes of \$75, \$50, and \$25. The tasting will be after 10:30am Mass (11:45am) and open for everyone. Those that attend will vote for the best chili. The Knights will be selling raffle tickets for the funding of Seminarians at the event. If you are interested in cooking please contact Arnold Thomas at [Arniet151@gmail.com](mailto:Arniet151@gmail.com) or 304-620-3455.

## SFD Super Bowl Sunday Dinner

The Shepherdstown Fire Department (SFD) will be hosting a Super Bowl Sunday Dinner on **Sunday, Feb 8th from 12noon-3pm**. The menu consists of fried chicken, vegetables, homemade rolls, and dessert. Cost will be \$11. The SFD is located at 8052 Martinsburg Pike (Rt 45), Shepherdstown.

Plan now to attend and support the SFD in this fundraising endeavor so we may be able to continue to provide fire and emergency medical services to the citizens of Shepherdstown and the surrounding communities.

Dear Parishioners,

Shalom!

Life has a way of taking us through unexpected twists and turns, doesn't it? One moment we are riding high, the next we're wondering how we'll make it through the day or through the winter season. It's just like the snowstorm that has made our routine life in jeopardy. But in the midst of life's challenges, there is ONE who remains constant, "OUR LOVING FATHER."

Isaiah 46:4: "I am your God and I will take care of you until you are old and your hair is gray. I made you and will care for you; I will give you help and rescue you."

Please remember that this promise doesn't depend on our performances or success or our perfection. It is rooted in God's character, in His steadfast love and faithfulness to humanity. So even on these days, when we feel weak or weary, we can still lean into His love and strength.

In your life journey, take a moment to rest, reflect and recoup with His Divine Promise. The God who has carried you thus far, isn't going to let you down or let you go.

May you be held in His loving embrace.

Fr Arul

## Free ESL Classes

**St. Agnes ofrecerá clases gratis de inglés como segundo idioma.** La clase va a ser solamente por Zoom y comienzan Febrero 17. Clases son martes por la noche de 6:00 a 7:30. Si usted o alguien que conoce desea mejorar su inglés, por favor venga a partir en Zoom. El registro está aquí <https://bit.ly/learn-english-2026>

**St. Agnes will offer free English as a Second Language classes.** The classes will be on Zoom and start Tuesday, Feb 17. Classes will be Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30. If you or anyone you know would like to improve their English skills, please join us on Zoom starting Nov 11. The registration form can be found at <https://bit.ly/learn-english-2026>

## Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

**February 14 and 15** will be the second full weekend in the month, which will be Service, Justice, and Peace weekend. The Knights will be handing out blue bags to be filled with non-perishable food for the hungry. The Parish nurse will be taking blood pressures and checking sugar. Fresh roasted coffee from Haiti will be for sale and you will have an opportunity to donate to several local charities and the Kolofata girls education project. **Please remember to bring a little extra to church on Saturday, Feb 14 or Sunday, Feb 15. It's a good way to celebrate Valentine's Day.**

## Youth Souper Bowl Collections

Seeking to love God by loving their neighbors, America's teens are transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving through the Souper Bowl of Caring. **On the weekend prior to the Super Bowl (Jan. 31- Feb. 1) and on Super Bowl Sunday weekend (Feb. 8 - Feb. 9), youth collect one dollar (or more) donations in soup pots as worshippers leave church.** Each group donates their collection directly to the charity of their choice— here at St. Agnes, our donations will be split between the Shepherdstown Shares food pantry and the JCCM food pantry that serve our community.

Watch for our youth and their soup pots after each Mass for the next two weekends, including Super Bowl Sunday.

In addition, you can give online again this year. To do that, go to our St Agnes Website, to giving and to the online giving. From there click "Give Online Now" and Souper Bowl is listed in the dropdown menu. And, of course, you can always drop your donation by the office directly or through snail mail, just note "Souper Bowl Collection" on your check's memo line.

This is St. Agnes' 26th year participating and helping those in our region who are in need. Last year, we collected \$1468.22. Our goal is to surpass our collection from last year. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## In Case of Inclement Weather..

It is that time of year when we need to be prepared for inclement weather! Check our website, call the parish office at 304-876-6436 and listen to the recording, or you can also access this information on the St. Agnes CFF/ Youth Facebook (closed) group page. Please reach out to [formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org) for an invite if you have not yet joined the group.

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

## 2025 Tax Contribution Summaries Available Online

**ANNOUNCEMENT: Your 2025 Tax Contribution Summary has been mailed and is also available electronically through Flocknote.** You may download an electronic copy of your summary by visiting <https://stagnes18.flocknote.com/give> or using the Flocknote App and logging in to your account. In the GIVING area, scroll to the bottom of the page and look for "2025 Donor Summary" under My Documents.

**New to Flocknote?** If you have not yet logged into Flocknote or need to set up your account, please email [tech1@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:tech1@stagnesshepherdstown.org) before going to Flocknote so that we can verify your email address before you attempt to login.

## SPC Joins the Call to Minneapolis

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist, Pastor of Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, responded to the call for clergy and faith leaders, representative of every part of the country, to join faith leaders in Minneapolis this January. **This Tuesday, February 3, 7-8:30pm**, Pastor Gusti will share her experiences. The event is Zoom only.

For more information and the zoom link, visit: <https://shepherdstownpresbyterian.org/events/month/2026-02/>

## Book Discussion Group Feb 20

**Feb 20, 11am @ the Parish Center – Join Us!**

Reviews for Brian Doyle's *A Sense of Wonder: The World's Best Writers on the Sacred, the Profane, and the Ordinary* highlight it as a collection of insightful, beautifully written essays from diverse authors, curated by Doyle, focusing on the sacred in the ordinary, inspiring awe, humor, and deep reflection on life, nature, and spirituality, often with a Catholic sensibility, praised for its ability to open hearts and reveal profound truths in simple moments. Readers and critics love its uplifting nature, vivid prose, and Doyle's unique voice as editor and writer, finding it thought-provoking and deeply human. *AI Reviews Summary*

## Religious Item Recycling

St. Mary's Recycle Mission Group works with religious organizations and churches, as well as with Parishioners who have things at home in helping rescue and recycle Religious items that are no longer used.

Items can be dropped off at the Parish Center. **They can take just about anything of Religious nature that can be used by other churches, convents, etc., such as:**

- \* Vestments including Chasubles, Stoles, Albs, etc. (even if soiled or tattered, as we have them professionally cleaned and/or restored if possible so they can be worn, or be used to make new vestments, rosary cases or missal covers; any style, color, and/or vintage is acceptable)
- \* Crucifixes
- \* Statues (any size, no outdoor concrete statues)
- \* Rosaries (damaged ok)
- \* Chalices (Pottery ok but please not by mail)
- \* Altar Ware
- \* Candle Sticks
- \* Tabernacles
- \* Relics
- \* Monstrances
- \* Altar Stones
- \* Altar Books/Missals/Lectionaries
- \* Holy Medals
- \* Holy Cards
- \* Linens
- \* Paraments
- \* Framed Religious Pictures
- \* Used Musical Instruments (no pianos or organs)
- \* Prayer books/Breviaries/Catholic Encyclopedias

**(Please No Religious Books/Reading Books/Story Books, Hymnals, Pamphlets/Magazines/DVD's, VHS Tapes, Christmas items, or Wax Candles)**

## BE ON HIGH ALERT !! Watch Out for Email and Texting Scams Know How to Protect Yourself

Just recently, several folks received **phishing** emails from people posing as Fr Mat, Fr Andy, and a staff member! Often times this happens via text as well. This happens all too frequently, and we all need to be on high alert. **If you ever receive an email or text from someone posing as Fr Mat, Fr Andy, Fr Arul, or St. Agnes staff asking for money, gift cards, etc., it's a scam.**

No one, not Fr Arul nor Fr Mat nor Fr Andy nor St. Agnes staff, will ever write to you personally asking for 'favors' or to request for 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 are always from [@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:@stagnesshepherdstown.org). Emails from Fr Arul will be from [aanthony@dwc.org](mailto:aanthony@dwc.org) or from [arulantony1953@gmail.com](mailto:arulantony1953@gmail.com). 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. You can check out the Federal Trade Commissions website for important information on recognizing these phishing scams, how to protect yourself from phishing attacks, what to do if you suspect a phishing attack, what to do if you responded to a phishing email, and how to report phishing: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-avoid-phishing-scams>.

## Prayer Sponsors Needed

We are looking for prayer sponsors for our children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. A prayer sponsor is someone who would like to show support and offer prayer for a child preparing to receive their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. You will be assigned a child, and you faithfully pray for them every day. A prayer sponsor may send a card to them anonymously and let them know they are being prayed for, but the giving of gifts is not necessary (but sometimes occurs at First Eucharist). We want this to be about the gift of prayer, not material gifts. We ask that if you send a card to sign it "your prayer sponsor." It is nice to stay anonymous until the luncheon on May 2nd. We ask, if you can, please come to the First Eucharist Mass on Sunday, May 3rd, at 10:30am to support your First Communicant.

**If interested in being a sponsor, please email [formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org)**

**or**

**[office@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:office@stagnesshepherdstown.org)  
or call the parish office to be assigned  
to a child that still needs a prayer sponsor.**

# CFF, CSS, Youth Group, & Family News

~ February 2026 ~

CFF is well underway but it is never too late to begin attending. Our CFF Religious Education occurs in the Parish Center every Sunday at 9:15am between the 8am and 10:30am Masses. The program has opportunities from Pre-K through adult. All are welcome to learn more about the Catholic faith. **Classes resume this Sunday, February 1st at 9:15am.**

In addition to these opportunities, if you are not Catholic and wish to explore more about Catholicism, we offer OCIA classes at 12Noon on Sundays.

Parents, if you are not receiving CFF emails, contact [formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org) to make sure your email is on the distribution list. The calendar events will also be posted in the monthly calendar online and in the bulletin at the beginning of each month. Hard copies of the calendar can be found in the church Narthex and the Parish Center.

**For additional information or questions,  
please email:**

**[Formation@StAgnesShepherdstown.org](mailto:Formation@StAgnesShepherdstown.org)**

**or the Parish Office**

**[Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org](mailto:Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org)**

# Blessed are

# THE YOUTH CORNER

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### This Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

### February 1, 2026

#### Upcoming Events:

**February 1st:** CFF, Youth Group, and CSS will meet in the Parish Center @ 9:15am. Youth Souper Bowl Collection at each Mass. First parent meeting for parents of First Reconciliation students @9:15am in the Parish Center.

**February 8th:** CFF, Youth Group, and CSS will meet in the Parish Center @ 9:15am. Youth Souper Bowl Collection at each Mass. Second parent meeting for parents of First Reconciliation students @9:15am in the Parish Center.

**February 15th:** No CFF, Youth Group, or CSS classes (President's Day)

**February 17th:** ~~The Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper has been Cancelled.~~

**February 18th:** Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent



# Volunteering and VIRTUS

**Volunteering:** The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate faith in action! Advent (the beginning of the Liturgical year) is a great time to begin volunteering if you are new to volunteering at church.

**What is the purpose of VIRTUS?** The VIRTUS program is designed to educate individuals to help them protect the vulnerable in the community. The program helps people know what resources are available to get help and educates people to know how to gently care for victims of abuse.

**Does everyone need to be VIRTUS trained to Volunteer?** With the changes to VIRTUS some ministries no longer need to be VIRTUS trained yet some still do.

**All volunteers who have direct contact or prolonged contact with minors** are required to be VIRTUS trained as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Forms are located in the church narthex and the parish center on how to complete this process. All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS trained. If you have been trained in the past, you must have the latest training Version 4.0 to be considered fully compliant.

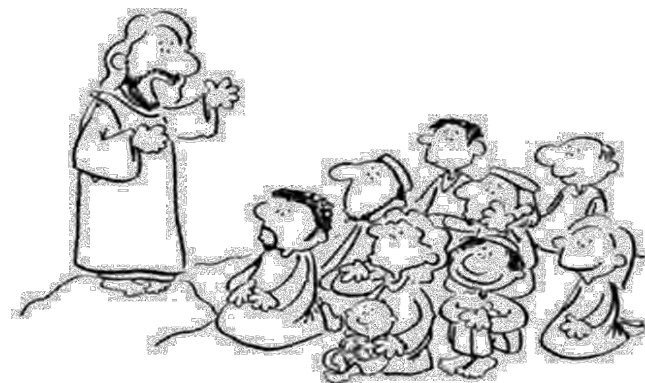
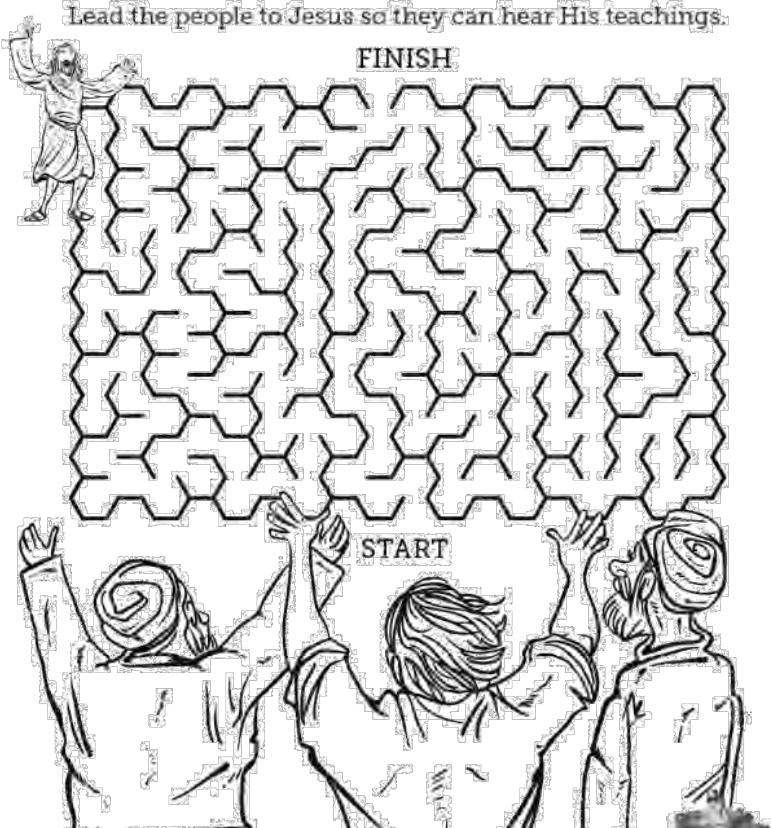
Ministries that are **NOT** required to complete VIRTUS training are Eucharist ministers, Lectors, Money Counters, Cantors, Funeral luncheon volunteers, and volunteers that provide maintenance services in the parish.

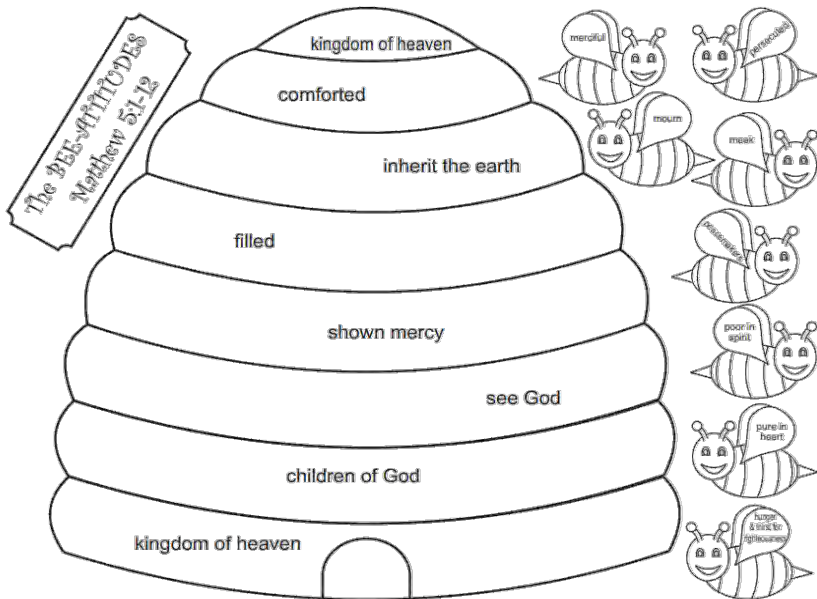
Volunteers that work directly or have prolonged contact with minors will be required to update their VIRTUS every three years. Background checks need to be renewed every 3 years. For example, choir members need to be VIRTUS trained if there are youth (under 18) in the choir or there are youth musicians. There are many intricacies for who needs VIRTUS trained.

**For additional information or questions please contact** [formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org). You can also reach out to the parish center during normal business hours (M-F 9am-4pm), or contact Helen Harris or one of the Mass Coordinators for opportunities to volunteer for one of the Liturgical Ministries.

5		2	8			3		7
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7	9		1		5	8		
	3					9	7	1
	1	7		9		5		
							8	

Lead the people to Jesus so they can hear His teachings.

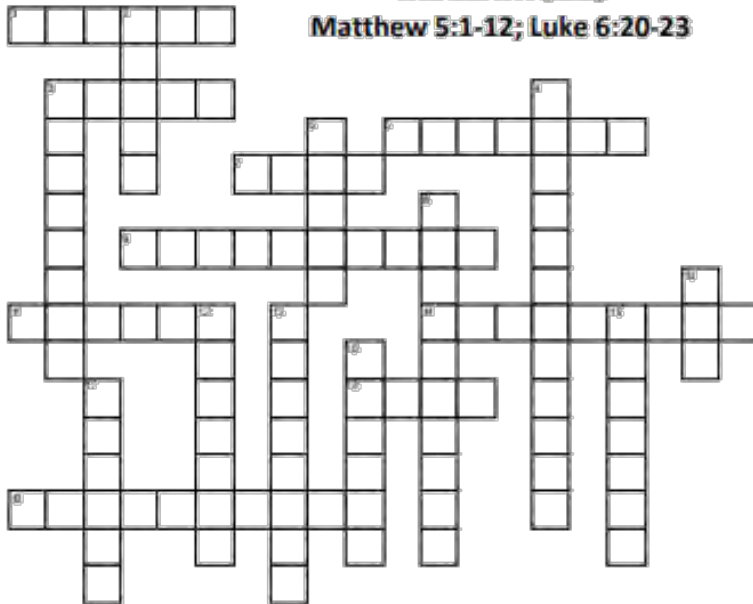




The BEATITUDES  
Matthew 5:1-12



**THE BEATITUDES**  
Matthew 5:1-12; Luke 6:20-23



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

**ACROSS**

- God's children should \_\_\_\_\_ because your reward in heaven is great. (Mt. 5:12) two words
- Those who \_\_\_\_\_ will be comforted. (Mt. 5:4)
- It was the custom of the teacher to \_\_\_\_\_. (Mt. 5:1) two words
- Those who are \_\_\_\_\_ will inherit the earth. (Mt. 5:5)
- If you are persecuted, you will be blessed. (Mt. 5:11)
- Those who \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness will be filled. (Mt. 5:6)
- Those who are the peacemakers will be called \_\_\_\_\_. (Mt. 5:9) three words
- Woe to you who are \_\_\_\_\_, for you have already received your comfort. (Lk. 6:24)
- What happened to the prophets in the Old Testament? (Mt. 5:12)

**DOWN**

- Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. (Lk. 6:25)
- Those who are \_\_\_\_\_ will be shown mercy. (Mt. 5:7)
- Jesus said that those who are \_\_\_\_\_ are blessed because their's is the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 5:3) three words
- When Jesus saw the crowd and when His disciples came, Jesus began to \_\_\_\_\_. (Mt. 5:2)
- Those who are \_\_\_\_\_ because of righteousness will receive the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 5:10)
- Those who are pure in heart will see \_\_\_\_\_. (Mt. 5:8)
- God's children should \_\_\_\_\_ because your reward in heaven is great. (Mt. 5:12)
- If you are \_\_\_\_\_, you will be blessed. (Mt. 5:11)
- If people \_\_\_\_\_ say all kinds of evil against you, because of Jesus, you will be blessed. (Mt. 5:11)
- What did Jesus see that prompted Him to go up on a mountainside? (Mt. 5:1)
- Those who \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness will be filled. (Mt. 5:6)

- HAPPY
- HEAVEN
- MOURN
- PURE
- POOR
- GENTLE
- HUNGER
- HEART
- SPIRIT
- EARTH
- MERCIFUL
- REWARD



## Racial Justice Initiative

Bishop William Barber and Jonathan Wilson-Hargrove of Our Moral Majority posted the following online on this past Monday, January 26th:

"From 1920 until 1938 a flag on Fifth Avenue in New York City proclaimed the uncomfortable reality to passers-by on New York's busy streets. In the South where the authoritarian regime of Jim Crow held a grip on the government 60 years after the end of the Civil War, masked men regularly kidnapped people who defied white supremacy, brutally murdered them in public, celebrated their extrajudicial execution as a moral victory, then lied about what the victims had actually done."

This account may sound familiar after witnessing video of masked ICE agents seizing Alex Pretti, summarily killing him, with an agent clapping in celebration, and then afterward seeing officials lie about the victim. We saw, as many Black Americans surely would, not merely an execution, but more like a lynching with a message.

Many Christians in the era of lynchings of Black Americans remained silent. How will we present day Christians respond?

## Music Notes

In honor of Black History Month, MUSIC NOTES highlights the often overlooked contributions of Black composers to classical music. Despite their influence, Black composers have not received the recognition they deserve in mainstream classical music history. The community's impact on jazz, soul, R&B, spirituals, blues, and gospel is well known, but their role in shaping classical music—including symphonies, operas, chamber works, ballets, ballads, choral works, and songs—remains less familiar. This month, we celebrate a few notable composers and their legacies.

**Florence Price** (1887- 1953), a deeply religious African American born in Arkansas had a remarkable talent for blending folk tradition and classical forms. Here are several recommendations for your listening delight. Just Google: Florence Price.

- *Five Folksongs in Counterpoint* (includes "Short'nin' Bread" and "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot").
- *Symphony No. 1 in E Minor*—premiered during Chicago's World Fair (1933) and performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Price became the first Black woman to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra (Four movements).

## Camp Carlo: Catholic Summer Camp

### INTERESTED IN A CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP?

Grow in your faith while having fun outdoors in Huttonsville! Spend time riding horses, swimming, hiking, and many more fun activities and make friends with other young people. Participate in regular Mass, Adoration, and entertaining Catechesis. Register today and find more information at [campcarlowv.org](http://campcarlowv.org).

**High School Week: June 28—July 4**    **Week 1: July 5—11**  
**Week 2: July 12—18**    **Week 3: July 19—25**

## Chesapeake Bay Trust Track 3 Grant Update

Recall that this grant springboards from our Track 2 grant from the Trust wherein we developed a stormwater management design with the Thrasher Group to improve our handling of stormwater on the St Agnes campus that impacts not only our neighbors who experience flooding in major rain events, but also the Chesapeake Bay. The Track 3 award allows us to implement the plan which includes redirection of the downspouts from the church's south roof to the upper pond, creation of a bioswale to catch runoff and direct it to the upper pond, and reconfiguration of the outlet structures on both the upper and main ponds to accommodate larger volumes of stormwater. We will soon be able to announce the contractor we will be working with.

Our Grant Group (Mike Drewes, Judy Lilga, Sue Kemnitzer, Fanny Smith, Greg Welter, Beth Yates, and Fr Andy) have been diligently working with our engineers, The Thrasher Group, as well as Josephine Saikali from Region 9. The team is incredibly grateful to John Reardon, Director of Buildings and Properties for the diocese, for his participation and guidance throughout the process.

### Acknowledgements:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3, Chesapeake Bay Program, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust contributed to funding for these projects. This project had been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under assistance agreement 4I-95300301-2 to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the EPA, nor does the EPA endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial products mentioned in this document.



## Little Black Books

Little Black Books, our Lenten Devotional, are available in the Narthex in both **regular and large print**.

E-books and mobile app available at <https://littlebooks.org/pages/little-books-on-the-go>.

## Lost & Found Clean-Out Feb 8!

We keep a **Lost & Found basket** in the church at the end of the hall near the restrooms, and it is once again **overflowing!** If you are missing something, please check the basket! There are jackets, glasses, jewelry, umbrellas, and so much more. **There are also three photos that were left by the font in November.** Please check the basket! *We are extending the date to clean out the box by a week due to the weather last weekend. Check the box by Feb 8th!*

## St Margaret's Pantry

Catholic Charities of the Eastern Panhandle in Martinsburg serves the unhoused and those struggling financially with basic hygiene and cleaning products. This month, the pantry is in need of 3-in-1 body and shampoo wash, small bottles of dish soap, travel-size packs of Q-tips, unscented men's/women's deodorant, and 13 gallon trash bags. The items can be placed in the green bin located in the Parish Center or brought directly to Catholic Charities (224 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg).

Questions? Please contact Gretchen Matz [gin60@aol.com](mailto:gin60@aol.com).

## Scripture Sharing Zoom

Our Scripture Sharing group continues to meet via Zoom on **Mondays at 12noon (except major holidays)**.

## The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) is a Catholic organization dedicated to serving the poor that was founded by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam in 1833 in Paris, France. Work is focused on a person-to-person ministry, which includes going in pairs to the homes of those in need to better understand their circumstances. Our St. Agnes Conference primarily serves people in Jefferson County, WV. Please let us know if you would consider joining SVdP, and/or supporting us financially with a donation (contact: [SVdP@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:SVdP@stagnesshepherdstown.org)).

## JCCM Food Pantry Needs

**FOOD:** Spaghetti sauce/pasta, ramen, crackers, canned meat (chicken, spam, ham, tuna), canned veg (not green beans/corn), hearty soups, canned pastas (Spaghetti-o's, ravioli, etc.), canned chili, canned fruit, cereal, mashed potatoes, jelly/jam, peanut butter, sugar

**HOUSEHOLD & HYGIENE ITEMS:** Laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, copy paper, paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene items

## Shepherdstown Shares Needs

**FOOD:** Regular ground coffee, regular tea bags, brown rice, pasta sauces, ramen noodles (not the cups of soup), small applesauce cups (unsweetened), snacks, crackers (i.e. Ritz or saltines), milk (½gal or full, whole or 2%), canned fruit, canned soup, diabetic-friendly Items (candy, pudding/Jell-o, applesauce)

**HOUSEHOLD & HYGIENE ITEMS:** Snack and sandwich-size Ziploc bags, sturdy paper bags (especially with handles), **cat food—huge need**, toilet paper, baby wipes, cat litter

## Volunteering at St Agnes

**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 church narthex and the parish center on how to complete this process. All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS-trained.

## Parish Financial Activity

### Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$4,711
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$138
<b>Total</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	<b>\$4,849</b>
Tithe to help those in need	\$471

(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

## Parish Financial Activity

### Collections – Year-to-Date (thru January)

Offertory Collections	\$31,174
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$2,380
<b>Total</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	<b>\$33,554</b>
Tithe to help those in need	\$3,117

(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

### 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 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.

## SJS Annual Benefit Dinner

Saint Joseph School's largest fundraiser of the year, its benefit dinner, will take place **Saturday, March 7, from 6-10pm** in the SJS gym. It will have a fiesta theme.

To buy tickets for the event and/or be a sponsor or advertiser, please email [sfa@sjswv.org](mailto:sfa@sjswv.org) or scan the QR code.



## Heritage Baptist Church Clothes Closet

The Heritage Free Will Baptist Church runs a Clothes Closet in the building behind their meeting space, run by a nice couple, Buddy and Donna, and their able assistant, Sherry. All labor is volunteer.

**Location:** 2395 Middleway Pike, Bunker Hill, WV 25413

**Drop-off:** Tuesdays 1-5PM, Thursdays 1-6PM.

**Open for families to pick up items:** 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 9am-12noon.

They accept all clothing, some household items, hats, shoes, and toys – all sizes from infants to XXX. Donations can be on hangers or folded in bags. Clothes go directly to those in need of them – free of charge.

Each Saturday they average from 55-65 families served. In addition, they take cash donations and these are used to purchase toiletries, also given at no charge.

## Legion of Mary Morning of Reflection

The Legion of Mary invites everyone to their 4th annual Morning of Reflection. Join them on **Saturday, February 7th from 8am to 12noon** at St James. RSVP by contacting [legionofmary@stjameswv.org](mailto:legionofmary@stjameswv.org).

## Men's Discernment Retreat

The 2026 Men's Discernment Retreat, open to men 18 and older, is scheduled for **February 13-15, 2026** at Priestfield Pastoral Center. For more information and/or to register, go to [wvpriests.org](http://wvpriests.org).

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Good Shepherd Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers (GSIVC) services include transportation to appointments, assistance with grocery shopping, companionship, and providing gently-used medical equipment. They welcome donations of gently-used equipment, as well: wheel-chairs, walkers, crutches, bedside commodes, canes, shower chairs, and more. If you or someone you know is in need of equipment or assistance or to volunteer or donate items, contact Good Shepherd Caregivers at 304-876-3325 or visit <https://www.gsivc.org/>.

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## St Leo's Variety Show—Auditions

AUDITIONS for the Second Annual St. Leo Variety Show will be held **on Thursday, February 12th and Friday, February 13th**, from 6 to 8 pm, 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 26th, in the Parish Hall. For more information, please contact: Dave Lasko (540)533-9828.

## Open Positions at St Joe's School

SJS is seeking to fill these positions:

- ⇒ **Middle/High School Principal**
- ⇒ **Elementary/Middle School Principal**

To send in a resume, contact Principal Maria Byrd at [mbyrd@sjswv.org](mailto:mbyrd@sjswv.org). View the job listing on [Indeed](http://Indeed) or contact St Joe's Parish Office.

## SJS Open Enrollment

Families of current Saint Joseph School students may start the re-enrollment process beginning Jan 30, for the 2026-27 school year. They also may enroll children who are not currently attending. Enrollment for new families who are active in area Catholic parishes opens Feb 6, and all other families may start applying Feb 13.

West Virginia Hope Scholarship funds of \$5,437 per student are available. For more information, go to [hopescholarshipwv.org](http://hopescholarshipwv.org).

To apply or re-enroll at SJS, visit [sjswv.org](http://sjswv.org). For more information, contact 304-267-6447 or [pmaartenhicks@sjswv.org](mailto:pmaartenhicks@sjswv.org).

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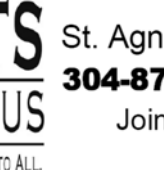
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