

# Saint Agnes



"But I say to you, Love your enemies..."  
Matthew 5:44

*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

## 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](mailto:Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org)

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

## Pastoral Council

Connie Bonner ~ Christine Wiegman-Green

Patrick Green ~ Shaná Harris ~ Colin Hayden

Amie Ho-Leung ~ Kathryn McAteer ~ Bill Sagle

Gil Sateia ~ Becky Tokarcik

## St. Agnes Chapel

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

## Sunday Readings

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8+10, 12-13

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

## Finance Council

Pat Barth ~ Mike Drewes ~ Todd Hershey

Sue Kemnitzer ~ David Matera ~ Arnold Thomas

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am

Sunday, 10:30am

### Weekday Mass

Monday at 11am

### Ash Wednesday Mass

Wednesday at 12noon

### Liturgy of the Word & Distribution of Ashes

Ecumenical Service Wednesday at 7pm

### Stations of the Cross

Friday at 7pm

### First Reconciliation

Saturday at 4pm

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

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

## Ash Wednesday, February 22

On Ash Wednesday, February 22, we will have a Mass at noon. At 7pm, we will host an ecumenical service with Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes.

## Mardi Gras!

Come join the parish and celebrate Mardi Gras after the Youth Centered Mass at 6PM on February 19th. Everyone is welcome to come for Mass and stay for the event or just come at 6pm.

Enjoy some cake and some fun ice breakers, community building games. Don't forget to wear your purple, green and gold. Weather permitting, we will be outside under the tent; otherwise we will be in the Narthex. This is a great way to come together and celebrate as we begin to prepare for the Lenten season.

## Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

Our St Agnes Youth Group will be hosting a pancake supper as a Fat Tuesday celebration on February 21 in anticipation of Lent. Please come enjoy a great pancake supper and support our youth program! We will be serving at the parish center from 4-8pm. Besides pancakes (with traditional and more festive toppings available), we will be serving bacon, sausage, eggs, orange juice, coffee, and tea. And, we also offer carryout. You will not want to miss this opportunity to support our young people while NOT making dinner!

## Simple Supper & Stations of the Cross

On Friday, February 24, at 6pm, our youth are serving a Simple Supper at the parish center. All are welcome. At 7pm, we have youth led Stations of the Cross. RSVP simple supper link: <https://forms.gle/cp2j3hDxNUFYZP6k8>



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm Mass for

**Sr. Mary Janelle, SND**

Sunday, 10:30am Mass for

**Ned Cochran**

May Sr Mary and Ned 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 Leonard Harris, Shayla Harris Brown, Ron McCafferty (brother of Pat Merhaut), and Richard Hitchcock. 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.

## Anniversary Blessing

On February 24th, Jan and Anneke Sengers will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Though Anneke is not able to physically join us, Jan and their children will be present at the 10:30am Mass this weekend to receive a blessing in honor of this momentous occasion.

## Preparing for Lent

### Fasting Guidelines

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by everyone 18 years and older, who has not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, enough to maintain strength, may be taken, according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but consuming liquids, including milk and juices, is allowed. In addition, fasting can also take the form of deliberate abstinence from things other than food such as selfishness, gossip, bickering, sloth, electronics, television, smoking, etc.

### Abstinence Guidelines

Abstinence is observed by everyone 14 years of age or older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or the ability to work is affected, the law does not oblige. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays during Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence. If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, other suitable forms of self-denial are encouraged.

## Little Black Books

Little Black Books, our Lenten Devotional, are available in the Narthex in both regular and large print. There are also Purple books available for the children.

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend at St Agnes at the Masses we will be bringing the catechumenates preparing for baptism and the candidates who will be preparing to enter more deeply into communion with the church. The question asked of them is "What do you ask of the church?" Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a book called The Cost of Discipleship which is about the Sermon on the Mount that we have been reflecting upon and is our gospel this weekend. Bonhoeffer, who stood against Nazis and would lose his life under Hitler, once said there is no such thing as "cheap grace." God's grace is free, but it is also costly. My mind and heart all this week has been turning to Nicaragua where political prisoners and Catholic priests were deported from the country by a dictator, Daniel Ortega. Bishop Rolando Alvarez understands costly grace and, in an act of civil disobedience for his country and people, refused to get on the plane. Pope Francis offers these words. "The news from Nicaragua has saddened me a great deal, and I cannot but remember with concern Bishop Rolando Álvarez of Matagalpa, whom I care about greatly, sentenced to 26 years imprisonment, and also those who have been deported to the United States. I pray for them and for all those who are suffering in that dear nation, and I ask for your prayers. Let us also ask the Lord, by the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, to open the hearts of political leaders and all citizens to the sincere search for peace, which is born of truth, justice, freedom and love, and which is achieved through the patient pursuit of dialogue. Let us pray together to Our Lady," he said.

In a time when in our country, because of scandal and crisis, it is difficult to make an argument for the Church, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Bishop Rolando are perhaps the best argument. The origins of the church are not the state, and the church has always had its prophetic witnesses who have been able to stand up for human rights and justice. We can certainly think of Martin Luther King as an example of this in our country. Let's pray for Bishop Rolando but also reflect on what actions this Lent we might take to bring about systemic change to structures of oppression. The church is called to be nonpartisan, but that also means that it has a responsibility to enter into politics because tyrants only surrender under political pressure. We have a responsibility to do all that we can as Catholics in America, who have the privilege to live in a democracy, to stand up for the human rights of all people and nations and, in this case, our neighbor, Nicaragua.

Auxiliary Bishop Silvio Baez of Managua exiled in Miami had this to say about Bishop Rolando and what is happening in Nicaragua: "Those who put righteous people in jail and banish citizens from their own country are criminals. These abominable acts are not just the whims of deranged people, legal irregularities or non-compliance with international rules. No. To offend in anger, to defame out of revenge, to imprison unjustly, to torture viciously and to condemn to exile are true crimes and those who act in this way are criminals, who will have to be brought to justice sooner or later," Baez said.

Fr. Andy

## An Ecumenical Lent

We are excited to announce a wonderful, ecumenical Lenten opportunity through our Shepherdstown Ministerial Association! Beginning on Ash Wednesday right here at St Agnes, we will begin a weekly Lenten series with the other churches in our Shepherdstown Community. Each week, a different church will host and a preacher from yet a different church will lead. This is a superb opportunity for us as we seek to continue to deepen our relationship among the churches while making this a meaningful Lent. Please join us for as many sessions as you can!

### Shepherdstown Ministerial Association 2023 Midweek Lenten Schedule

Week	Date/Time	Location	Preacher
Ash Wednesday	February 22, 7pm	St Agnes	Rev Karen Erskine-Valentine
1	March 1, 7pm	Shepherdstown Presbyterian	Fr Andy Switzer
2	March 8, 7pm	Asbury UMC	Rev Gusti Newquist
3	March 15, 7pm	Trinity Episcopal	Pr. Pam Boomer
4	March 22, 7pm	New Street UMC	Rev GT Schramm
5	March 29, 7pm	St Peter's Lutheran	Rev Dee Ann Dixon

## 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!

## New Course Offerings

Below are the upcoming courses for the next Cycle of VLCFF which runs from February 27 to April 2. Both of these courses will be facilitated by Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. They are hybrid courses that include both online material through the VLCFF website and a weekly, two hour Zoom lecture/discussion. These are available to everyone in the diocese as usual **at no cost**.

### Introduction to Prayer

"Prayer is our means of taking a sighting, of re-orienting ourselves – by re-establishing contact with our goal. In the presence of God many components of our life fall into perspective and our journey makes more sense. Prayer is inseparable from living" (Casey, p.5). This course explores prayer as essential to our lives as Christian people, as individuals and within our community of faith. Through this course, students will explore the qualities, forms and expressions of prayer that help to form and sustain our lives as Catholic Christians. Successful completion of this course earns 2.5 CEU's. This course is part of the VLCFF Certificate for Certification sequence. We will meet on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm.

### Introduction to Paul and Paul's Letters

The course is an in-depth look at Paul, including his autobiography according to his letters, then moving on to discuss the authentic letters of Paul as both history and theology. We will cover topics such as Paul and Politics, Paul and Women, Paul and the Second Coming, Paul and Slavery, Paul and Judaism, and Paul on Salvation and Suffering throughout the five weeks of this course. Students will read a variety of materials including some of the most important articles written about Paul in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. At the completion of this course students will be able to situate Paul in his first-century environment and talk intelligently about how Paul's theology is relevant for today's church. Successful completion of this course earns 2.5 CEU's. We will meet on Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm.

To register email Rodica, [rodicastoicoiph@gmail.com](mailto:rodicastoicoiph@gmail.com).

## Haiti Coffee

There is fresh whole bean and ground coffee from Haiti available for sale (\$10/bag) at the Parish Center. \$3 per bag is tax deductible.

## Ash Wednesday Special Collection

On February 6, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated large areas of southern Turkey and northwest Syria. The death toll has surpassed 20,000 and continues to climb. Thousands of people have been injured and many are trapped beneath the rubble. The earthquake is the worst to strike Turkey this century. Within the subsequent 24 hours, the region experienced multiple aftershocks and a second 7.5 magnitude quake. Across affected areas, apartment buildings and schools have been leveled. Telecommunications are disrupted, preventing families from identifying and accounting for missing loved ones. In Syria, displaced people are seeking shelter in schools and community centers in areas already devastated by years of war. Across southern Turkey, schools are closed, airport transportation is impaired and hospitals have been declared unusable.

Catholic Relief Services is supporting local partners in their efforts to provide urgent relief and assistance for long-term recovery. CRS has partnerships with Caritas Turkey and Caritas Syria, as well as other local partners. To support the efforts of these organizations, Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023, and for collection baskets to remain available for the collection through the first Sunday of Lent. Bishop Brennan appreciates your generosity this past summer to those affected by the severe storms and flooding in Eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia. But he feels impelled once again to ask you to do what you can to help those affected by this most recent disaster.

All funds collected in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be given to Catholic Relief Services with the special designation for use in the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Recovery Effort. Checks can be made out to St Agnes with "Disaster Relief" on the memo line. Donations can also be made on the diocesan website at <https://dwc.org/disaster-relief/>.

As we hold the victims and first responders in our prayers during these critical days, let us also spend time in prayer and discernment as we prepare for this upcoming collection. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering this horrible loss.

## Book Discussion Group

Our March 17 Book Discussion selection is **FORGIVE EVERYONE EVERYTHING** by Greg Boyle & Fabian Debora. The book hinges on a central theme of sacraments. "If we're open and willing to see God in every person, as we are called to do, then not a day goes by without a sacrament," Fabian says, "It happens all the time." Gregory Boyle, SJ, spends his days at Homeboy Industries accompanying ex-gang members as they rebuild their lives. We meet at 11 am at the Parish Center and all are welcome.

## Family News

Youth Centered Mass: Feb. 19th and Mardi Gras Celebration 5PM! No formal CFF today. Please bring your canned food to Mass today.

**Sock Collection:** The youth are collecting NEW socks to distribute to the needy as we deliver our "Meals to the Hungry" Please consider donating new socks by bringing them to church or dropping them off at the parish center during the week. This is one of the Youth's Lenten Projects.

**Youth Fundraiser Event:** Pancake Supper, Feb. 21 in the parish center. Families, please consider donating a pound of bacon or sausage to help cut the expense of the event. Donations need to be dropped off at the parish center prior to Feb. 21. Thanks.

**Parents:** We want to offer a Lenten Group for Parents at the Parish Center which would occur at the same time as CFF. The group would start Feb. 26th. Mark your calendars. It is a great way to extend your own faith and build community with other families. The Youth Lenten Group will also be meeting during Lent on Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Parish Center. It is not to late to join in either group. The Feb. 26th parent small group meeting will be in the Parish Center Library the youth small group meeting will be in the teen room.

**Youth Led Stations of the Cross and Simple Supper:** Feb. 24th 6PM. Meal is in the Parish Center, Stations at the Church (7 PM). Menu: Tomato Soup and Grilled Cheese Sandwiches. Please RSVP if you plan to attend the meal to help us with a count of the number attending the Simple Supper. Thanks! RSVP simple supper link:  
<https://forms.gle/cp2j3hDxNUFYZP6k8>

**"Monsters, Inc."** Come join in the fun. RSVP Movie Night Link: <https://forms.gle/oZbtzPirhzHmi9eR6>

Can you still come if you forget to RSVP — Of Course!!!!

Other things coming up in February: Check out the "Dates To Remember"

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](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org).

# THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel:

*Matthew 5: 38-48*

February 19, 2023

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time

### DATES TO REMEMBER (Events for February)

- **Feb. 19:** Meal Prep for the Hungry 11:30 AM
- **Feb. 19:** Youth Centered Mass 5 PM
- **Feb. 19:** Mardi Gras Event 6 PM
- **Feb. 21:** Pancake Supper—to support Youth Activities 4-8 PM
- **Feb. 22:** Ash Wednesday; Mass—Noon, Liturgy of the Word 7 PM
- **Feb. 24:** Simple Supper and Youth Led Stations of the Cross 6 PM
- **Feb. 25:** First Reconciliation 4 PM
- **Feb. 26:** Parent Lenten Small Group and Youth Lenten Small Group (consider signing up) 9:15 AM Parish Center.
- **March 4:** Family Movie Night & Pizza Party after the 5:30 PM Mass. Come to Mass, Pizza and a Movie!
- **March 5:** CFF at 9:15, Youth and Parents Small Faith Group Meetings 9:15 Parish Center.



**Congratulations to our First  
Reconciliation Students who  
will be receiving their First  
Reconciliation this Week on  
Saturday, Feb. 25th at 4 PM.**

## What Lent Means to Us

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time for us to get ready for Easter. We try to pray more than usual. We try to share with others more than usual. Some of us even try to give up something we enjoy, such as candy or another kind of treat. We call these three actions *praying*, *sharing*, and *fasting*. On the line after each situation below, tell whether the child is *praying*, *sharing*, or *fasting*.

## PRAYING • SHARING • FASTING

1. Alex sings at Sunday Mass. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Miah teaches her little sister how to play *Candy Land*. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Lucy invites a new classmate to join her for lunch. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Mark learns the Apostles' Creed by heart. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ian kneels by his bed and asks God to bless his mom and dad and all of his friends. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Maddie says, "No, thanks," when Frances offers her a candy bar. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Dylan orders a glass of milk when the rest of the team has ice cream after practice. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Mitchell donates part of his allowance to the food bank during Lent. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Kayla and her friends help Mrs. Johnson clean up her yard because she has arthritis. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Juan's family prays the Rosary together once a week during Lent. \_\_\_\_\_

**Find the words  
form this week's  
Gospel in the  
word search  
puzzle**

evil  
tunic  
mile  
love  
pray  
Father  
recompense  
brothers  
heavenly  
resistance  
cheek  
service  
borrow  
enemy  
children  
unjust  
greet  
perfect  
strikes  
cloak  
give  
neighbor  
persecute  
rain  
collectors  
pagans

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



## Easier Puzzle

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

## Challenging Puzzle

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



### Spring Catholic Culture

#### Lenten Fast and Abstinence

During Lent, Christians remember and share the time Jesus spent in the desert, when he fasted and prayed to prepare for his journey to his Death. In remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice—his suffering and Death on the Cross—Christians join with Jesus to prepare for Easter with works of penance, including fasting and abstinence. To fast is to limit the kind and quantity of food and drink. To abstain is to do without a kind of food or drink.

The Church requires all Catholics fourteen years of age and older to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. All Catholics from the ages of eighteen to sixty are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

To meet the Church's fasting and abstinence requirements for Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent, Catholics:

- ❖ Eat only one regular size meal
- ❖ Eat two smaller meals (or less) in addition to the main meal
- ❖ Do not eat or snack between meals
- ❖ Do not eat any meat, soup made with meat, gravy, broth, or any other dish prepared with meat

Out of love for God and others, Catholics are also encouraged to volunteer to make other sacrifices during Lent:

- ❖ To give up a favorite food or television program
- ❖ To perform extra acts of charity and kindness
- ❖ To read and meditate on the Sunday Gospels
- ❖ To pray the Stations of the Cross
- ❖ To unite their own sacrifices with the sacrifice and suffering of Christ



Puzzle #1

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

## The Gospel at Home

### This Week's Gospel: Matthew 5:38–48

Jesus asks us to go beyond treating others in the same way we want to be treated ourselves. He asks us to care for each other as God does—to love other people without expecting love in return and to even love to our enemies. This is an invitation that may take a lifetime to grow into and fulfill. It is a challenge for the family to keep this message alive in a world that puts a premium on competition and on being "better."

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds** (Preschool): All parents want their children to live by the Golden Rule and so must be role models for this behavior. The Golden Rule lesson is best learned within the home. Ask your child to share the booklet the class made and talk about how reconciliation helps us all be good friends.

**Promise** (Grades K–1): Jesus taught us that we must love and forgive our enemies. Your child explored the call to turn the other cheek and walk the extra mile. Talk with your child about how members of the family need to forgive one another. Support that conversation by being quick to forgive your child when he or she needs mercy.

**Good News** (Grades 2–3): Ask your child to share what Jesus said about forgiveness. Give examples of ways your family can show love to your "enemies." Ask your child to share the story of "Mean Manny," and how Olivia handled someone bullying them. How does mercy help us treat others as God does?

**Venture** (Grades 4–6): Young people are most sensitive to bullying words. In class this week, your youngster talked about the effect that these kinds of words have on young people.

They also read and discussed different endings to a story about bullying. Invite your young person to share this story with the family. Talk about what Jesus means when he asks that you love your enemies and to pray for those who do you harm. Discuss how important forgiveness is for the good of your family. Talk, too, about how praying the Our Father can help you learn how to forgive.

**Visions** (Grades 7–9): One of the most difficult of Jesus' teaching is "turning the other cheek." In class, your youngster was asked to wrestle with this statement. Encourage your young person to share with the family why this was so important to Jesus and how it can work in society. Ask your youngster to tell you about the Ulster Project and its mission to restore peace in Northern Ireland. Review the four moral codes with your son or daughter, and discuss which ones are appropriate to live by. How does Jesus' New Law affect how we treat, and are treated by, others?

### Pray Together

Set aside some time for the whole family to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we approach Lent. There may be a penance service at your parish church, or you can go together at one of the times when private confession is being offered. Even though your younger children have not yet received the sacrament, it would be good for them to see their parents and older siblings participating. When you get home together, thank God for the gift of forgiveness.

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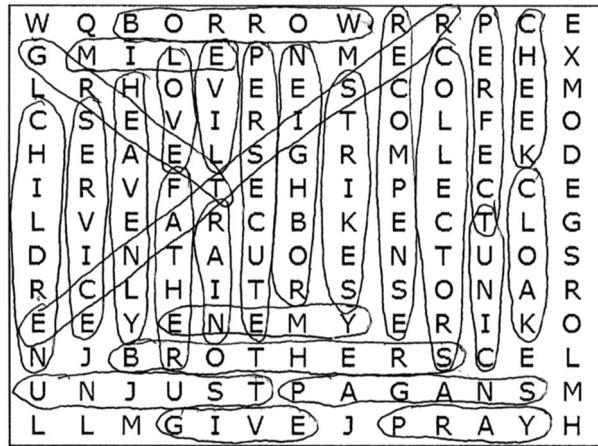
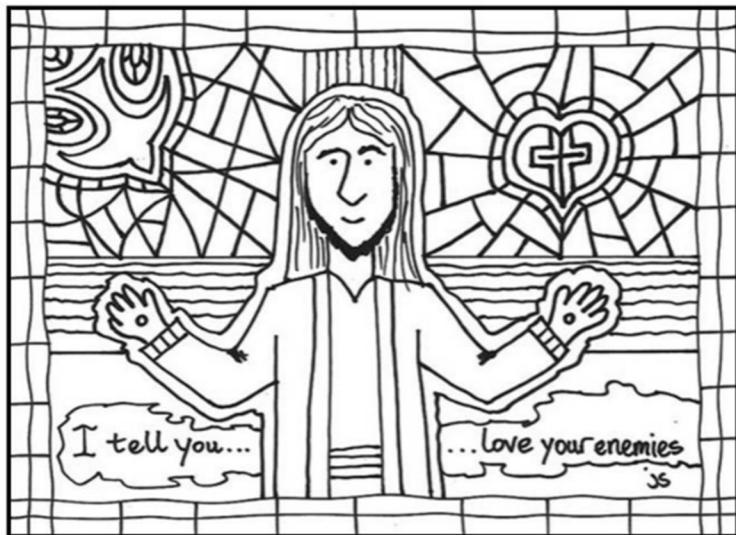
Scan here for  parent resources  
or visit [www.gospelweeklies.com/parent/](http://www.gospelweeklies.com/parent/)

Puzzle #2

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

### What Lent Means to Us

1 praying; 2 sharing; 3 sharing;  
4 praying; 5 praying; 6 fasting;  
7 fasting; 8 sharing; 9 sharing;  
10 praying.



## Our Policy for Protecting Our Children

Please know that we follow the [Diocesan Safe Environment Program](#) in all our youth programs. All staff and volunteers who work with youth are required to complete the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston's Safe Environment program. **All** adult parishioners are **encouraged** to complete the program to increase awareness and provide a safe environment for the children of our parish and greater community. The process is completely online now. There are directions available in the Narthex for both creating a new Virtus account as well as directions available to help you log into your VIRTUS account if you already have an account.

Safe Environment Certification includes:

1. Virtus workshop — Complete online training at [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org). Step-by-step instructions are available.
2. Background Check — Completing Screening One form
3. Diocesan Policy — Reading the Diocesan Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children & completing the DWC Policy form

All of the above steps are now completed online. If you do not have access for this online procedure, please contact St. Agnes Parish Office at 304-876-6436.

If you already have a VIRTUS account, log into your account and complete any required updates. If you are new to VIRTUS, select the green box "First-time Registrant" and follow the prompts to create an account and to complete the required training and paperwork.

If you have any questions or for additional information, please contact our Safe Environment Coordinator at 304-876-6436 or [formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org).

## Bulletin Ads

Our St Agnes bulletin ads are a major yearly fundraiser for us with an income potential of more than \$10,000. To realize that potential, we have to sell the ads. And, you guessed it, we are asking for your help! If you have a business, please consider advertising with us. If you know a business owner, please pass along our ad information to them. We can assure you, from experience, that our ads are widely viewed by our parishioners and the larger community. They are an effective way to bring attention to businesses. Not only are the ads printed in each bulletin, they also appear on our website.

For \$125, a business gets a 1x1.5 inch space for an entire year (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023). 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. We are happy to help with ad design.

Though we are well into our ad year, we are still accepting ads and we prorate the cost accordingly. Contact the office for more information: 304-876-6436, or [office@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:office@stagnesshepherdstown.org).

## This Far by Faith

**St Agnes Music Ministry Presents:**

### **THIS FAR BY FAITH**

You are cordially invited to begin your Lenten journey with the music and stories of composer, teacher, liturgist, and pianist,

#### **RAWN HARBOR.**

To conclude Black History month, Mr. Harbor will draw on the best of spirituals, gospel hymns, songs and stories of faith "then and now." Bring an open heart, mind and voice and enjoy some food for your soul. You'll be glad you did! All are welcome!

#### Concert

Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 3pm

St. Agnes Church

In collaboration with

The Shepherdstown Ministerial Association

## How Can You Help?

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

International Disasters:

Turkey, Syria, Ukraine, Poland, Africa, South America...

Go to [svdpusa.org](http://svdpusa.org) and click on donate dropdown and "donate now." There, enter an amount and click on "Designate to" and there select "International Relief and Development." These funds will go to SVDP International in Paris for use in International needs.

### **WE CAN ALL HELP!**

## Knights Support Eagle Scout Project



Matthew Hippchen, a St Agnes youth and local Eagle Scout, will be supported in his quest to build a playground structure at Page Jackson Elementary by our Knights of Columbus.

## 2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in March. 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](mailto:jslilga8@gmail.com).

## St Agnes Racial Justice Initiative News

There will be a new book added to our Racial Justice Library in the church narthex this Sunday, The Crucible of Racism, by Patrick Saint-Jean, SJ. It is authored by a Black, Haitian-born, son of Southern Baptist parents, who became a Catholic and then came to the US to become a Jesuit. It is a unique story that is also an engaging reflection on racism, the Church, and finding a hopeful path forward in dealing with the call to racial justice, motivated by the example of his maternal grandmother, Tatie, and informed by the practices of his cherished Ignatian spirituality.

The book is being donated by Kimberly Rae Connor, a current member of our RCIA group who is planning to join our St. Agnes community. She is a college professor with a special background in African religions and also a friend of the author.

Rev. Bryan Massingale, the author of Racial Justice and the Catholic Church, says of the book: "This is a courageous book. It was written by someone who has endured the crucible of disappointment to emerge as a visionary of hope. He takes his readers on a spiritual retreat that confronts injustice as it fosters growth in friendship with Jesus."

There are so many good reads available about racial justice out there and in our St. Agnes Racial Justice Library. Check them out. Massingale's book quoted here is one of them, also in our narthex library.

Our next Racial Justice Initiative Meeting will be on Zoom at 3:00pm, Tuesday, February 21st. The link can be found on the St Agnes website on the events calendar.

## Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We are still in need of donated **blankets**, and **comforters** (any size) and also used **sleeping bags**. Items should be clean and in fair condition and can be dropped off at the parish center. If you would like to join our ministry, email Barbara Mueller at [barbaramueller596@gmail.com](mailto:barbaramueller596@gmail.com).

## Parish Financial Activity

### Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$6,734
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$1,420
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$8,154
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$11,900
Total Collections Compared to Target	-\$3,746
	↓
Tithe to help those in need (St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)	\$673

## Cash Card Sales After Masses

We have received numerous requests from parishioners asking that we resume the sale of cash cards after Masses. Prior to the pandemic, cash card sales at the church brought a considerable profit to the parish. While we have continued to sell cards in the office, it is not a convenient way for most folks to purchase them. It would be helpful to begin the sales after Mass again. To do so requires the help of numerous volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact the parish center and someone will call you back to discuss it with you.

## Recycling at St Agnes

We are trying to do a better job of caring for the Earth here at St Agnes. Toward that end, we have added recycling baskets at the church in the narthex and also at the parish center in Hendrix Hall. We are able to recycle paper, cardboard, plastic, and glass. It is important to note that paper and cardboard that are soiled with food cannot be recycled. Please throw those items in the trashcan. We use compostable utensils here at St Agnes. Compostable utensils, cups, and containers are not recyclable and should also be thrown away.

Don't forget that we work with Jim King to recycle glass here behind the parish center. Parishioners are welcome to bring their glass recycling from home and place it in the bin. It is helpful if glass items are placed in bags first and then into the bin.

We continue to find new ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle at St Agnes. We know we must live in communion with all living things, and we hope everyday to do just a little bit better!

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.

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**St Agnes Columbarium Garden**  
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 200 South Duke St  
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## Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes

We have six spots remaining for our Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes! Please join Fr. Timothy Huffman and Fr. Bradley Greer of the Diocese of Steubenville on a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes June 9-18, 2023. Departing from Pittsburgh. \$4295 includes round trip airfare, hotels, deluxe motorcoach transportation and more. For more information, please visit [www.qohtours.com](http://www.qohtours.com) or call 1-800-213-4295.

## Men's Priestly Discernment Retreat

Do you desire a life of service to God? Are you open to giving yourself completely to God in a life of consecration and sacrifice in building up the kingdom of God here in West Virginia? Could the Lord be calling you to be a Priest of Jesus Christ in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston? The annual diocesan Men's Priestly Discernment Retreat will be held on March 3-5 at the Priest Field Pastoral Center (4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV 25430). This event is open to men 18 years and older who are simply open to reflecting on God's will for them in their lives. The weekend will consist of Holy Mass, prayer, reflections on the diocesan priesthood, and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession. For any men interested in attending, please sign up at [wvpriests.org](http://wvpriests.org).

## Sacred Art in Action

### Byzantine Icon Workshop

June 19-23, 2023

Presented by Iconographer Tatiana Gubenko  
 St Agnes Church, Shepherdstown, WV

Pre-registration required

For more information & to register visit:  
[tagubenko@yahoo.com](mailto>tagubenko@yahoo.com)  
 Or call  
 1-571-426-0319

## Summer Camp

Camp Carlo  
 Huttonsville, West Virginia  
 June 25 – July 29, 2023

This camp is open to students in grades 3 through 12. The rate is \$325.00 per child with scholarships available. Early Bird Special Rate of \$275 applicable through June 1, 2023. There are 5 one-week camps from which to choose. Please contact Camp Carlo Director, Deacon Raymond Godwin at [rgodwin@frontiernet.net](mailto:rgodwin@frontiernet.net) or Camp Carlo Assistant Director, Maggie Moran at [mmoran@dwc.org](mailto:mmoran@dwc.org) for more information.

## Still Need a Summer Job?

The Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Camp is dedicated to leading young people to Christ and His Church. If you're committed to growing in faith, modeling faithful Catholic community life to young people, and living the adventure of His Creation, we want YOU at Camp Carlo for Summer 2023! If you are interested in serving the youth of West Virginia as a camp counselor for Summer 2023, please reach out to Deacon Raymond Godwin ([rgodwin@frontiernet.net](mailto:rgodwin@frontiernet.net)) or Maggie Moran ([mmoran@dwc.org](mailto:mmoran@dwc.org)) for an application.

## Save the Date

Gala to support St Joseph School  
 April 29, 2023 at 6:30pm  
 St Leo's Catholic Church  
 Inwood, WV

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