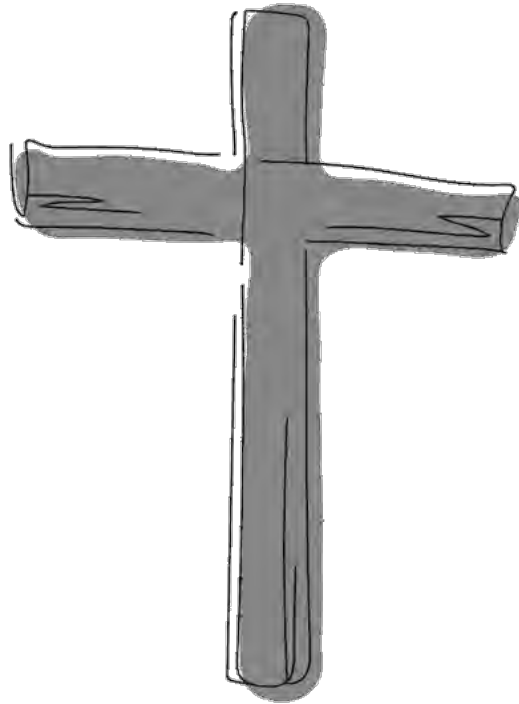


S a i n t A g n e s



*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 ~ 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
www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org

St. Agnes Chapel

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

Sunday Readings

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Hebrews 2:10-11, 13b-18++
Luke 2:22-40

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

Weekday Mass

Monday and Wednesday, 11am

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30pm

Parish Office: Monday through Friday 9am-4pm

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

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Ann Kessel, Mike Vojtasko, Ellen Potter, Melanie & Shannon Stotler, Kathy Sutherland, Ron Mancini (son-in-law of Bob & Martha Rizzo), Richard Morris (brother-in-law of Georgette Rush), Daniel Thompson, and Shelly Stowell (daughter of Nina Hockman). 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 Lee Faison (brother-in-law of Rosalie Bielicki), who died this past week. May Lee share in the fulness of God's love and peace.

The Week at a Glance...

Sun Feb 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Souper Bowl of Caring Collections After All Masses• CFF, AFF, Youth Group 9:15am• Perpetual Memorial Mass 10:30am• OCIA 12noon
Mon Feb 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon
Tues Feb 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Racial Justice Initiative Zoom 3pm• Board Games Group 3:30pm• ESL Class 6pm
Sat Feb 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Souper Bowl of Caring Collections after All Masses
Sun Feb 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CFF, Youth Group, AFF 9:15am• KoC Chili Cook-Off After 10:30am Mass• OCIA 12noon

The Disciple Maker Index Survey

During the last few weeks, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has asked parishioners to take part in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey. The purpose of the survey is to provide Bishop Mark Brennan with invaluable information to serve each of you and our catholic community.

We, the leadership, are a bit later getting started because...

1. We felt that here at St Agnes we came together and worked harder than others in the state and provided an outstanding Synod Report with a wealth of information.
2. We also felt there were some issues/problems with the survey and spent some time working with the diocese before disseminating information.

Some of you may have received an email from a parishioner who jumped ahead of us. **Unfortunately, the link to the survey that was provided in that email was incorrect and opens a survey to a different parish, St Agnes Catholic Church in Charleston.** Each parish has its own separate link. **The correct link for the survey for St Agnes Shepherdstown is <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/xd46yx>.**

Our lead contact person is Helen Harris. She has also been appointed by Bishop Brennan to be on the Envisioning Team for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Helen at liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

We encourage each of you to take the survey.

The Cindy Huesman Memorial Exhibit

ENDS FEB 23 | RECEPTION: FEB 8, 2025, 1-3PM

Firehouse Gallery: 108 N. George Street, Charles Town
Cynthia Ann Huesman (Cindy), a St Agnes parishioner and member of the Firehouse Gallery, passed away on April 23, 2024. In her honor, the Gallery is hosting a solo exhibition and sale of her artwork and crafts, as well as some of her supplies. Her artwork included pastels, oils, watercolors, Pysanky egg painting, Medieval manuscript decoration, and much more. **Exhibit/Sale Hours:** Thursday, Friday, Sunday, 11am-5pm, Saturday, 10am-4pm.

Souper Bowl of Caring—25th Year

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 Souper Bowl of Caring. On the weekend prior to the Super Bowl and on Super Bowl Sunday weekend, 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' 25th year participating and helping those in our region who are in need. Last year we collected \$1440.41. Our goal is to surpass our collection from last year. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Dear Parishioners,

Where The Mind Is Without Fear
by Rabindranath Tagore

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country
awake.

Fr. Andy

KoC Chili Cook-Off

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Chili Bowl on February 9th; the tasting will be after 10:30am Mass and open for everyone. The chili cooks will be competing for gift card prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25. Those that attend will taste-test and vote for the best chili. It is too late to enter your chili, but all are welcome to join us next Sunday, February 9th to taste-test all of the good homemade chilis and vote for your favorite! Join us after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, February 9.

SFD Super Bowl Sunday Dinner

The Shepherdstown Fire Department will be hosting its annual Super Bowl Sunday Dinner on Sunday, February 9th. The Menu will include fried chicken, ham with all the trimmings, homemade rolls, desserts, iced tea, and coffee. The event is free for kids under the age of 6, \$5 for kids 6-15, and \$10 for everyone 15+. The meal will be served from 12noon to 3pm in Barron Hall at the Shepherdstown FD, 8052 Martinsburg Pike. Plan now to attend and support your local volunteers so that they may provide fire protection and emergency services to Shepherdstown and the surrounding communities. Questions, call 304-876-6686 or 304-995-7435.

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

This weekend is February's Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend. We will collect donations and be selling delicious Haiti coffee. The Knights will be handing out blue bags to be filled with non-perishables for Shepherdstown Shares and the JCCM food pantries.

New Directories Are Here!

Our new photo directories have arrived! If your picture appears in the directory, your free copy is in the Narthex with your name on it. Directories are sorted alphabetically by last name, so that should make them pretty easy to find!

Take Action!

PROTECT THE WATER PROTECT THE FARMERS

It is imperative that we make our voices heard with regard to the proposed water bottling facility planned for Middleway where groundwater extraction would be used. How can you take action?

- Send public comments by **February 4, 2025, 5pm** to planningdepartment@jeffersoncountywv.org.
- Attending the meeting and give public comment on **February 11, 2025 at 7pm at Jefferson High School.**

To learn more or to submit public comment, go to the Jefferson County Foundation's website at bit.ly/middlewaywater or scan the QR code.



It is abundantly clear that building this plant in a rural area raises numerous concerns not only for that immediate area but also for the infrastructure for the entire county. Clean, safe water is one of the most basic human needs, and we cannot survive without it!

Hospice Valentine's Project

Hospice of the Eastern Panhandle has a tradition of giving a thank you gift to doctors, nurses, social workers, nursing home staff, pharmacists, funeral home staff, and others who support Hospice. Before the pandemic, they were able to give home baked goods with the help of volunteer bakers.

This year, Hospice is asking churches and other organizations to help them by donating **pre-packaged, individually wrapped snack foods** like chips, pretzels, popcorn, granola bars/protein bars, nuts, trail mix, snack cakes, brownies, cookies, hard candies, candy bars, or packs of gum—they cannot deliver anything homemade due to continued Covid, Flu, and RSV concerns; **everything must be store-bought**. Monetary donations are also accepted (made out to St Agnes with "Hospice" in the memo line), as we have a couple of folks willing to shop. **Please bring your donations to church or the Parish Center by Wednesday, February 5th. No donations can be taken after that time.** For questions, please contact Judy Lilga by phone 301-432-2276, or email jslilga8@gmail.com.

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!

Racial Justice Initiative

Reflecting on the spirituals in “O Black and Unknown Bards” (1917), poet and author of “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” James Weldon Johnson asked, “Heart of what slave poured out such melody?” Folklorists, musicologists, and historians have also pondered the origin of the spirituals, but most accept poet and scholar Sterling A. Brown’s assertion that regardless of their birthplace, the spirituals are “the Negro’s own.” The spirituals constitute one of the earliest, largest, and best-known bodies of American folk song that have survived to the twentieth century. In *Slave Religion* (1978) scholar Albert Raboteau identifies several kinds of antebellum spirituals, including shouts, anthems, and jubilees, each serving different occasions and reflecting different moods. Although the spirituals are principally associated with African American church congregations of the antebellum South and the earlier, more informal and sometimes clandestine gatherings of enslaved people known as “hush arbors,” most scholars now agree that a process of mutual influence and reciprocal borrowing credit the following as all contributing to the creation of the spirituals: evangelical sermons and hymns, biblical stories, traditional African chants and praise songs, and the combined experiences of enslaved people in the South. A debate over African and European musical contributions was once quite contentious and consumed the bulk of scholarly attention devoted to the spirituals, but in *Sinful Tunes and Spirituals* (1977) musicologist Dena Epstein has established that African influences account for many of the elements of spirituals. How they were subsequently acculturated can only be projected theoretically as a syncretic merging of African and Christian forms and beliefs.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, W. E. B. Du Bois’ examination of African American culture led him to the “sorrow songs” in which “the soul of the black slave spoke to men” as providing a model for survival and an interpretive framework for that culture. *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903) foregrounds the issue of African survivals and features the music and message of the spirituals as related to the history of black people striving for humanity in a society of oppression. As the “singular spiritual heritage of the nation and the greatest gift of the Negro people,” the spirituals fascinated Du Bois because of their tension between polarities of joy and sorrow. He came to see them as reflections of the African American struggle to merge a double self into “a better and truer self” that held out “faith in the ultimate justice of things . . . that sometime, somewhere, men will judge men by their souls and not by their skins.” As the preeminent interpreter of spirituals, Du Bois’s influence is borne out by the subsequent role the spirituals have played in providing a foundation for the development of a distinctive African American aesthetic articulated in many nonmusical genres. Key distinguishing terms by which we have come to evaluate this tradition have derived from the spirituals, including the pattern of call and response and the act of signifying. Reinforcing the importance of oral traditions, the spirituals give compelling testimony to the presence and influence of retained African elements in the development of African American culture. The history of their reception and appreciation also reveals aspects of broader cultural currents, including the positions African Americans assumed in relation to their enslaved past, and the roles played by representatives of the dominant culture who either aided in the preservation and promotion of the spirituals or exploited and appropriated them.

Most important for interpreting the meaning of the spirituals is an appreciation of the context—social and religious—in which they were performed and the insight they lend into the extraordinary power of music to shape the experience and conscious identity of a people. The spirituals created by enslaved people became a unique means to “keep on keeping on” under the physical and psychological pressures of daily life, testifying to the belief that the supernatural interacted with the natural and the whole world rested in the hands of God. As one contemporary reviewer described them, the spirituals were “God’s image in Ebony.” In creation as well as performance they exhibited the essential characteristics of spontaneity, variety, and communal interchange. The form of the spirituals was flexible and improvisational, thereby able to fit an individual slave’s experience into the consciousness of the group, creating at once an intensely personal and vividly communal experience. Capable of communicating on more than one level, as noted by Booker T. Washington and Frederick Douglass in their autobiographies, on occasion the spirituals functioned as coded songs to communicate information between enslaved people. Washington affirmed that the freedom in their songs meant freedom in this world and Douglass insisted that references to Canaan implied the North. But formally and thematically spirituals were open to change and improvisation as a spiritual in one situation might mean something else in another. In nearly every instance, however, there is reflected an intertwining of theological and social messages, borne out in Douglass’s description of how “every tone was a testimony against slavery, and a prayer to God for deliverance from chains.”

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.

2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in February. 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.

February 21st Book Discussion Group

February’s selection is *The Wind Knows My Name*, a 2023 novel by Isabel Allende. All are welcome to attend. We meet in the Parish Center at 11 am on Friday, February 21st. Please join us. NPR Review: “*In a literary career spanning five decades Allende’s storytelling walks a lyrical romanticism on roads imposed by social and political turmoil. This story is a fable joined by today’s hard news. In her latest novel, Allende disrupts the mainstream narrative about our southern border. She discovers something in Nogales, via El Salvador and Vienna: the human capacity for hope and decency in the midst of despair.*”

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THE YOUTH CORNER

The Presentation of the Lord

This Week's Gospel:

Luke 2:22-40

February 2, 2025

CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

CFF, Youth Group, or Adult classes are in the Parish Center today, Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 9:15am. Next week, February 9th, we will have regular CFF, etc. classes. **There is no Intergenerational Mass this month due to the Super Bowl.**

The Youth Group has multiple projects going on currently. If you are a teen and interested in becoming active in our Youth Group, they meet at 9:15 every Sunday that there is CFF. They meet in the Teen Room in the Parish Center.

Also, **for this weekend and next weekend (Feb. 1-2 and 8-9) our Youth Group will be collecting money after each Mass for our Annual Souper Bowl collection.** The money goes to JCCM and Shepherdstown Shares to help provide food for those less fortunate. The collection will occur both the weekends of Feb. 1-2 and Feb. 8-9. The idea is that so much money is spent on the Super Bowl and during Super Bowl Sunday, that we need to also focus on those less fortunate with the "Souper Bowl" collections because we are all called to follow the Gospel and reminded by the words of Jesus to "Feed My Sheep" and to "Feed the Hungry." In 2023, St. Agnes Parish was able to collect \$1553.00. Our goal is to surpass last years collection of \$1440.41. With the increased need for food among the hungry, it would be wonderful if we could not only surpass our 2024 collection, but also our 2023 collection.

It is that time of the year when we need an **Inclement weather policy for CFF.** Should we experience wintry precipitation, we will do our best to make a decision regarding in person CFF class by 8pm the evening prior. 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.

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

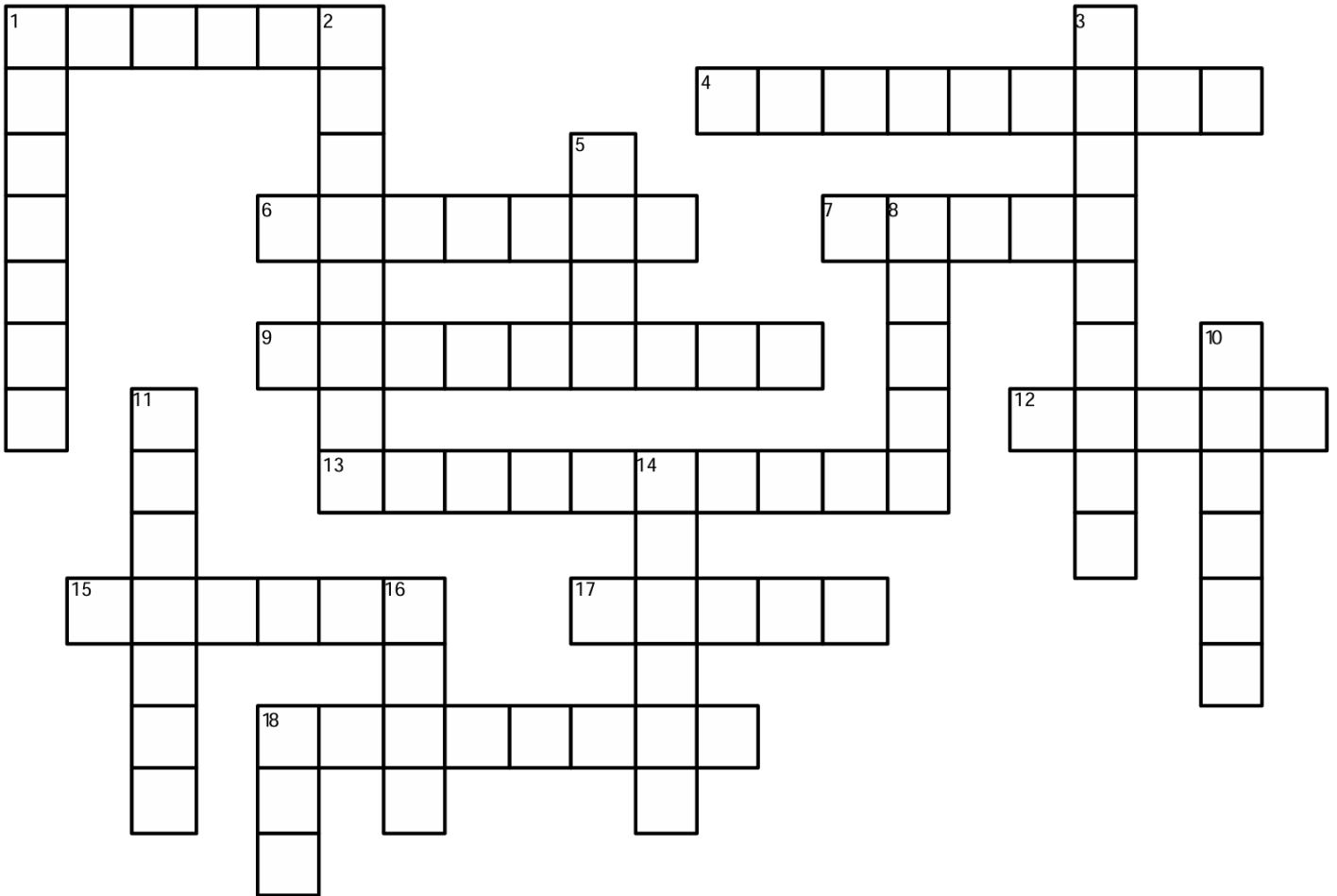
Fr. Andy's **Adult Continuing Education Class** is still occurring on every Sunday that there is CFF in the Parish Center at 9:15am. Although there is a core group every week, all adults are always welcome to "drop in" on Fr. Andy's class. There is always a huge turn out but we always have space for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

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

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

JESUS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE

Luke 2:21-40



ACROSS

- 1 It was revealed to which man that he would see the Savior before he died? (Lk. 2:26)
- 4 God's _____ through Jesus is for all people. (Lk. 2:30-32)
- 6 The prophetess Anna was in the temple worshipping God with _____. (Lk. 2:37)
- 7 What was the name given by the angel before he was conceived? (Lk. 2:21)
- 9 What was the city Joseph and Mary took the baby Jesus to be presented? (Lk. 2:22)
- 12 The law of Moses required a sacrifice of two _____. (Lk. 2:24)
- 13 Who revealed to Simeon that he would see the Savior before he died? (Lk. 2:26) two words
- 15 As Jesus grew up, the _____ of God was upon Him. (Lk. 2:40)
- 17 As Jesus grew up, the _____ of God was upon Him. (Lk. 2:40)
- 18 Simeon's hymn of praise speaks of Jesus as being a light to the _____. (Lk. 2:32)

DOWN

- 1 Simeon identified himself as God's _____. (Lk. 2:29)
- 2 A town in Galilee where Joseph and Mary returned after Jesus was presented in the Temple? (Lk. 2:39)
- 3 According to the law of Moses, the _____ male is to be set aside or consecrated to the Lord. (Lk. 2:23)
- 5 Who was the prophetess and a daughter of Phanuel, who never left the temple because she saw the child who would redeem Israel? (Lk. 2:36-38)
- 8 What was the number of days after the birth of a male child when he was to be circumcised? (Lk. 2:21)
- 10 The place where Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus to be presented to the Lord. (Lk. 2:27)
- 11 The town of Nazareth was located in this region. (Lk. 2:39)
- 14 The prophetess Anna was in the temple worshipping God with _____. (Lk. 2:37)
- 16 Simeon prophesied that Jesus would be opposed, attacked or rejected by _____ people. (Lk. 2:34)
- 18 Who sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world?

Q A G L Y L T P I N S P E A K J D G T R
 K N X N E S S O O G V U Q O N O L R U E
 B N O A I I P I W N A M O E C S I E O S
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 glory
 holy
 Israel
 Joseph
 man
 mother
 opposed
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 prayer
 revealed
 sacrifice
 Simeon
 speak
 temple
 word

Anna
 child
 destined
 eyes
 favor
 God
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 Jerusalem
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 Mary
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 parents
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 salvation
 Simeon
 Spirit
 took
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Youth Events: At a Glance
Dates for the Calendar

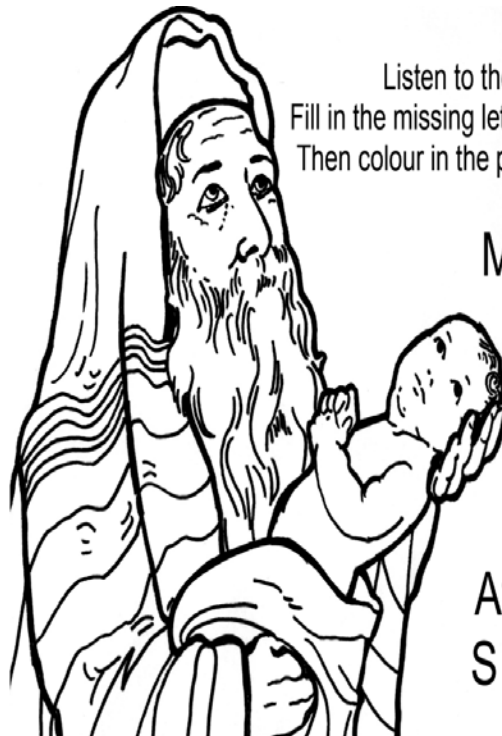
February 2: CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes meet in the Parish Center at 9:15am. **Youth Group's Souper Bowl Collection after each Mass this weekend!**

February 9: **CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes meet in the Parish Center at 9:15am. **Youth Group's Souper Bowl Collection after each Mass this weekend!**

February 16: President's Day holiday, no CFF classes.

February 23: CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes resume in the Parish Center 9:15am

** Also available via Zoom. Please see a previous sent parent email for the ZOOM link or contact the Parish Center.



Listen to the story told in today's Gospel.
 Fill in the missing letters to complete the sentences below.
 Then colour in the picture of Simeon holding baby Jesus.

M _ _ _ and J _ _ _ _
 presented Jesus in
 the T _ _ _ _ .

At the Temple they met
 S _ _ _ _ and A _ _ _ .

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

The Gospel for this Sunday is about Jesus' Presentation at the Temple. We hear Simeon and Anna's joy at meeting the Christ child who is the promised Messiah. The lessons all talk about Jesus as our light in the world. Another theme is the Jubilee Year 2025 underway right now in the Church.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned that while everyone is different, God made each of us special. Talk with your young child about why Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to the Temple. Make sure they understand why Simeon and Anna were so happy about meeting Jesus there.

Promise (Grades K-1): In class, your child learned that Jesus is the light of the world. Talk with your child about how light and darkness can change how things look or seem, and how that matters for our faith with Jesus as our light. Ask your son or daughter about Simeon who was waiting when Jesus' parents took him to the Temple for the Presentation.

Good News (Grades 2-3): The class learned about the Presentation of the Lord when his parents took the baby Jesus to the Temple. Your child also learned why two people, Simeon and Anna, were waiting to see Jesus at the Temple. Ask your son or daughter why both were happy to see the baby.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your youngster learned why Jesus is our light in the world. Ask your son or daughter about Simeon and Anna who were waiting to see the Lord at the Presentation at the Temple. Discuss too how Harriet Tubman found freedom for many enslaved people in the United States. Talk about the Liturgy of the Eucharist and what happens to the bread and wine at Mass. Take some time to make plans for the Jubilee Year, which is also discussed in the lesson.

Visions (Grades 7-8): Your young person learned about why we call Jesus our light in the world. Have your son or daughter tell the family about Simeon and Anna from the Gospel readings. Take some time to discuss the Jubilee Year and make some plans to celebrate in 2025.

Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, gather in a comfortable spot in your home. Let each person in the family ask in his or her own words for God's help to see Jesus as a light in their lives. Pray that your family can bring that light to others.

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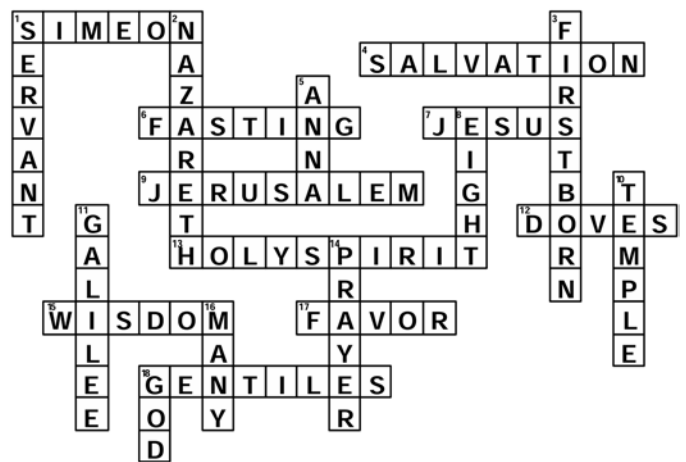
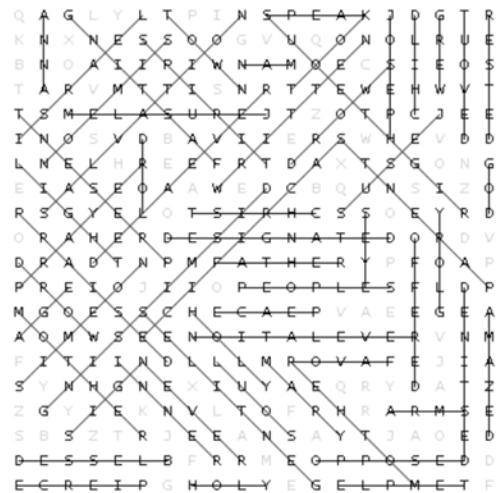
Scan here for parent resources
or visit gospelweeklies.com/family



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.



SOLUTIONS:

Mary, Joseph,
Temple, Simeon, Anna

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

St. Agnes Perpetual Mass Memorial



On the first Sunday of each month Mass will be celebrated for all of our family members, loved ones, and friends enrolled in the St. Agnes Perpetual Mass Memorial. Newly enrolled this month:

Magdalena Legayada Melocoton
by Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh
and Rev. Andrew Switzer

John Robert Rowgh
by Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh

Larry Merhaut
by Judy Lilga

Helen Overholt
by Judy Lilga

Lorna O'Connor
by Elaine & the Choir of St Agnes

Nora Patricia "Trish" Scalley
by Elaine Rendler-McQueeney (and Hank)

Spotlight on Ministry

We are in need of ministers—will you will discern and consider joining a ministry? We need your prayerful consideration. Youth and adult altar servers needed. Contact Helen Harris at liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

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*. To see if we will be closed: check our website, call the parish office and listen to the recording, or you can access this information on the CFF/Youth Facebook page (see Youth Pages for how to join). Please note, **if Jefferson County Schools are delayed or closed, there will be no weekday Mass**. The Parish Center office will also follow the school system's decision and will be closed if schools are closed.

Let's Maximize the Cash Card Potential!

Our cash card program was recently able to donate \$4000 to St Agnes! Many thanks to those of you who go out of your way to support our cash card program by purchasing them through the office.

We would love to once again be able to offer cash card sales before and after Masses as well, but that requires many volunteers. Back before the pandemic, we were able to do so and our cash card program thrived to the point where St Agnes would receive \$10,000 to \$15,000 on a yearly basis. **If you would be interested in helping us to reintroduce cash card sales before and after Masses, please contact the office.** Purchasing cash cards is a great way to help financially support St Agnes at no additional cost to the purchaser.

Religious Item Recycling

St. Mary's Recycle Mission Group has been working with Catholic churches, Convents, Schools, The Knights of Columbus, and other organizations, as well as with Parishioners who have things at home in helping rescue and recycle used Religious items that are no longer used.

They can take in or give just about anything of Religious nature that can be used by other churches, convents, or religious organizations such as:

- Vestments including Chasubles, Stoles, Albs, etc. (even if they are soiled or tattered, as we have them professionally cleaned and/or restored if possible so they can be worn, we can also use them to make new vestments, rosary cases or missal covers; we accept any style, color, vintage)
 - 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
 - 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)**

Stay Informed

If you are not already signed up for our email blasts, you can sign up on the website at <https://stagnesshepherdstown.org/join-our-mailing-list/>.

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Weekend of 1/19/2025

Offertory Collections	\$2,077
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$180
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$2,257
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ - \$9,743

Tithe to help those in need \$208
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Weekend of 1/26/2025

Offertory Collections	\$9,807
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$650
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$10,457
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ - \$1,543

Tithe to help those in need \$981
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

Collections – Year-To-Date (thru January)

Offertory Collections	\$50,515
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$2,895
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$53,410
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$48,000
Total Collection Compared to Target	↑ + \$5,410

Tithe to help those in need \$5,051
(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!



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!

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.

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. Link to the course: [The Black Catholic Experience in America - Frederick Community College](#).

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

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SJS Benefit Dinner

A Back to the '80s dinner fundraiser for Saint Joseph School is **scheduled for 6:30pm on Saturday, March 8, in the SJS gym**. All attendees must be ages 21 and older. Tickets cost \$90 per person; two for \$175; or \$650 for a table of eight. They may be purchased using the QR code on the flier or by going to <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/onlineticketpurchase.php?groupId=586>. The event will feature dinner, beer, wine, a 50/50 raffle, tip jars, and silent and live auctions. For more information, please email sfa@sjswv.org. Ticket sales end Sunday, Feb. 23.

Help Us Serve at Mary's Refuge!

We are seeking dedicated volunteers to support our mission:

- 1. Certified Dietitian/Nutritionist:** Assist 1-2 hours weekly to provide guidance for healthy living.
- 2. Alumni Coordinator:** Build connections and offer support to past residents.
- 3. Volunteer Coordinator:** Help organize and manage our amazing volunteer team.

Your skills can make a difference! If interested please send an email to life@marysrefuge.com.

All volunteers must complete Virtus, a background check, and attend volunteer training.

And stay up to date with 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/>.



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 fine tuning their design for upgrading our stormwater management!

For our Track 4 grant, we will soon begin planning for plantings in the southeast area.

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:

⇒ **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>.

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