

S a i n t A g n e s



St. Agnes is an inclusive Catholic community dedicated to the love of God and service to others. We rejoice in the Gospel, the celebration of the Liturgy, and the Sacraments. We welcome the opportunity to share God's message and to bring all into the life of Christ.

Pastoral Contacts

Pastor: Rev. Andrew M. Switzer
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh
Coordinator of Faith Formation: Bill Donahue
Assistant Administrator: Beth Yates
Accounting: Lizzie Lowe
Liturgy: Helen Harris
Music Ministry: Elaine Rendler-McQueeney

Pastoral Council

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

Finance Council

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

St. Agnes Church

200 South Duke Street, Shepherdstown

St. Agnes Parish Office

106 South Duke Street, Shepherdstown
P.O. Box 1603, Shepherdstown, WV 25443
Telephone 304-876-6436
Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org
www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org

St. Agnes Chapel

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

Sunday Readings

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 67:1-2, 4-5, 6-7
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am

Sunday, 10:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday at 11am

Church Open for Prayer

10am-3:30pm, Monday-Saturday

(except holidays)

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

Parish Office: Tuesday–Friday, 9am-4pm

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



Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm Mass for

Liz Staley



Sunday, 10:30am Mass for

Jerry Cooperman

And for the intentions of

Pat Larsen

May Liz and Jerry share in the fulness
of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Robert "Bob" Lohman, father of Holly Trevathan, who died this past week. May Bob share in the fulness of God's love and peace.

Remember in Prayer

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

2nd Friday Prayer Group

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

Celebrating 90 Years

On Sunday, January 1, 2023, Pat Larsen turns 90. We wish Pat a very Happy Birthday and many more!

Your Help Is Needed!

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

Helen Harris

Homebound Ministry

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

Christmas Flowers

Our Christmas flowers have been given

in memory of Edythe Myers and Bailey Tune by Zach & Tricia Myers; Roger Hedrick, Art & Mae Gedeon, Scott Rees, Jacquelyn Klann, and Jason Morrison by Eileen Hedrick; G. Herbert & Elizabeth Mofses and H. Max & Margaret Derr by Max & Shirley Derr; John & Elsie Piccolomini and George & Dorothy Buys by John & Dotty Piccolomini; Rex A. Norton by Hilda Norton; Elvira Risi and Almerinto Risi by Maria Lamanna; Bill Fritchman by Nancy Curry; Bob & Esther Kubitschek by Margaret Kubitschek; Frank & Cecilia Vassallo by Eric & Anna Sokel; Paul Curry and Mr & Mrs Arnold Thomas by Arnold & Victoria Thomas; deceased Family & Friends by Lyle & Theresa Rush; Francis Snowden, Rebecca McCauley, Jaysen Quintana, Sandra Walker, and Leo Hamson by Marie Snowden; To all my family and friends who have gone by Russ Forrest; the Pulaski Family and the Robertson Family by Carol, Gregg, Scott, Jeanne, and Stephen Robertson; Richard & Jane Nau by Tim & Gretchen Matz; the Burleigh family, the Thompson family, the Moler family, the Robertson family, and the Greaser family by Bryan & Judy Robertson; Ralph Horley by Paula Horley;

and as a gift to St Agnes by Alan & Mary Ellen DeBord, Dennis & Janice Wark, Patricia Keefer, and Stan & Lucille Nelson.

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!

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

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

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

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

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

Support Catholic Charities WV!

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

You can give to Catholic Charities:

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

Year End Giving

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

After-Mass Coffee Service

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

Shepherdstown Shares

Shepherdstown Shares is moving into its third year thanks to the support of the Shepherdstown community. Their mission statement: to respond to the crises in the lives and needs of the people of our community. They are feeding more people than ever and are falling short by nearly \$200 a week.

Shepherdstown Shares is a 501(c)(3) organization, so any donation is tax-deductible. If you would like to make a one-time donation or set up routine donations, please check out their website shepherdstownshares.org. Or mail your check to PO Box 1780, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

Kolofata Potholder Fundraiser & More!

Celebrate with us! Thanks to all of you, and especially to our seamstress extraordinaire, Regenia Carder, the potholder fundraiser for Kolofata raised nearly \$600 in sales and over \$600 in donations from attendees!

As many of you know, we had received a challenge grant from an anonymous couple who offered a \$1 match up to \$5,000 for every \$2 in new donations (and fundraisers) we received for the Kolofata Girls' Education Project by December 31, 2022. Thanks to this fundraiser and many donations, as of Monday, December 19, 2022 we have raised \$10,000 and will receive the \$5,000 match.

If you haven't donated yet but have been thinking about it, please send donations to St. Agnes Church and on the memo-line write *Kolofata* or donate online on our parish website. Although we met this fundraising challenge, we are still a long way from our crucial long-term goal of having the funds on hand when a girl starts school to guarantee that we can cover her educational expenses for a minimum of three years (middle school, high school or university). **In this moment** we rejoice and thank all of you who care about these young girls, Muslim and Christian, half a world away whose lives and whose families' lives are changed forever because you are enabling them to receive an education! Thank you.

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

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

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

New Hymnals

The Gift of Music
Memorialize this year's hymnal

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

Book Discussion Group January 2023 Selection

Our first selection of 2023 is a book by Fr. Peter Daly, a friend of Fr. Andy who was a visiting celebrant at St. Agnes a couple of times in 2022. The title *is Strange Gods: A Novel About Faith, Murder, Sin and Redemption* by Peter J. Daly and John F. Myslinski. On his visits to St. Agnes Fr. Daly distributed copies of his book. If any parishioners have a copy they are willing to loan, please put your name on the inside cover and contact Eileen Dooley at dooleywoods@comcast.net or drop the book off at the parish center. We'll make sure to return copies to their owners.

We meet on the third Friday of the month at the parish center at 11 am. We welcome participants who come regularly or occasionally or just once. Watch the bulletin for a list of upcoming selections.

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

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

Haiti Coffee

We have Haiti coffee available at the parish center for purchase!

Message from the Parish Nurses

Gabriele Davis, BSN, RN, Parish Nurse
Lynn Dunlevy, BSN, RN (retired), Faith Community Nurse
Barbara Mueller, RN (retired), Faith Community Nurse

December 2022

PARISH NURSING NEWS

We will be checking blood pressures and blood sugars after all Masses the first full weekend of January 8 and 9.

This is the time of year where folks often use extra heat sources in the home. If you are using space heaters, please keep them away from curtains and anything flammable. Check cords and plugs for fraying and damage to avoid electrical fires. Use kerosene heaters only in well ventilated areas. Please be safe and stay warm.

There are numerous respiratory illnesses going around along with Covid this year. RSV has been hitting older adults as well as children. The flu is also making the rounds. If you have trouble breathing, any cold symptoms with or without fevers, sore throat, etc., please see your doctor or go to urgent care. It is important to get a proper diagnosis and appropriate medications especially if you are immunocompromised or elderly.

If you have time or talent to share, please contact Gabriele at Gabriele@wvdavis.us to volunteer, or contact the parish office at 304-876-6436 and leave your name and contact information.

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

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

No one, not Fr Andy nor Fr Mat nor St. Agnes staff, will ever write to you personally asking for 'favors' or to request that you to make a purchase or send money. **You can usually tell by looking closely at the email address who sent the message.** Emails from St. Agnes always come from <<email>>@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

Emails from Fr. Andy will be from aswitzer@stagnesshepherdstown.org or aswitzer@dwc.org. These scammers are very crafty and often make some very slight variation on the actual email address, so you really have to look very carefully.

If you receive an email similar to this, simply delete it and be aware that email scams, phishing, and more, are part of our digital world. To protect yourself, it's important that you learn how to recognize these scams.

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

Family News

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

There is NO CFF today, January 1st. Our next CFF class will be January 8th from 9:15—10:15 AM for K-8 and Pre Confirmation.

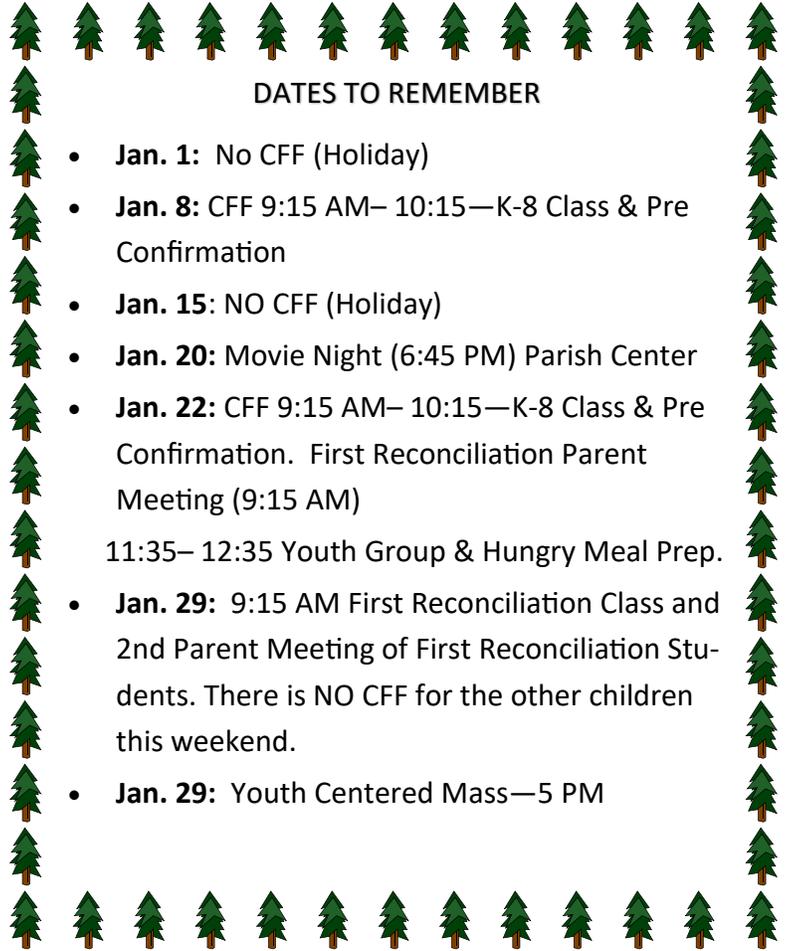
There is NO CFF on January 15th for the MLK Holiday.

First Reconciliation Parents Meetings will be Jan 22 and Jan. 29 at 9:15. First Reconciliation will be Feb. 25th at 4 PM

Other things to look for in January: Youth Centered Mass (Jan. 29) Family Movie Night II (Jan. 20) Hungry Meal Prep (Jan. 22)

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

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



DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Jan. 1:** No CFF (Holiday)
- **Jan. 8:** CFF 9:15 AM– 10:15—K-8 Class & Pre Confirmation
- **Jan. 15:** NO CFF (Holiday)
- **Jan. 20:** Movie Night (6:45 PM) Parish Center
- **Jan. 22:** CFF 9:15 AM– 10:15—K-8 Class & Pre Confirmation. First Reconciliation Parent Meeting (9:15 AM) 11:35– 12:35 Youth Group & Hungry Meal Prep.
- **Jan. 29:** 9:15 AM First Reconciliation Class and 2nd Parent Meeting of First Reconciliation Students. There is NO CFF for the other children this weekend.
- **Jan. 29:** Youth Centered Mass—5 PM



THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel: *Luke 2: 16-21*
January 1, 2023

Mary the Holy Mother of God

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

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

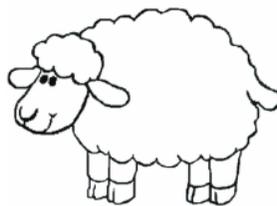
wonderful
 peace
 angel
 engaged
 augustus

sheep
 praising
 shepherds
 bethlehem

everyone
 glory
 mary
 orders

surprised
 saviour
 baby
 nazareth

heaven
 frightened
 joseph
 hometown

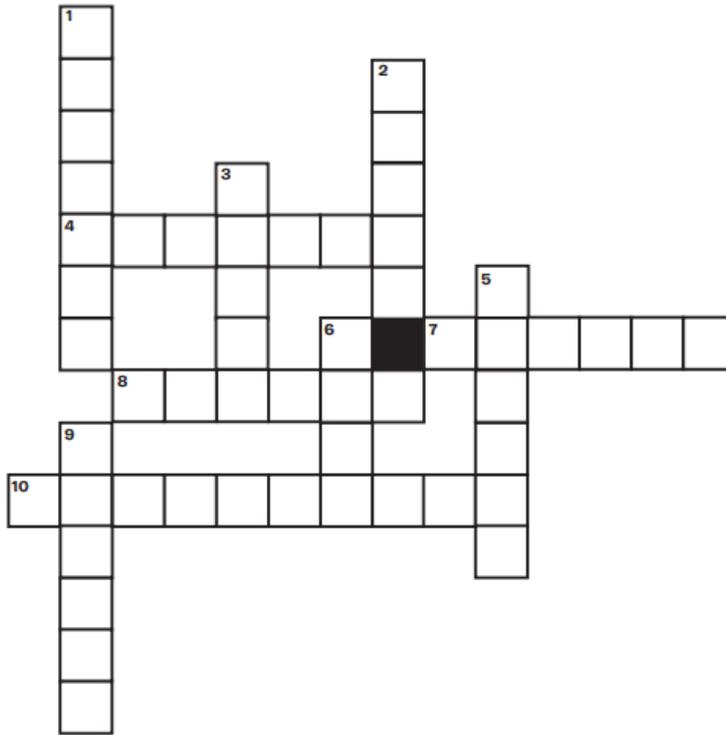


Baptism Crossword

The last day of Christmas Time is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Complete this crossword to discover how much you know about the Sacrament of Baptism.

Choose your answers from these words:

- BAPTIST
- CHRIST
- CHURCH
- COUSIN
- FIRST
- GODPARENTS
- INFANTS
- JORDAN
- NAME
- WATER



Across

4. Most of us are baptized when we are _____.
7. Baptism makes us members of the _____.
8. Jesus was baptized in the _____ River.
10. The people who promise at our Baptism to help us live the Christian life are our _____.

Down

1. John the _____ baptized Jesus.
2. Baptism is the _____ of the sacraments.
3. Its primary sign is _____.
5. The white garment shows we have put on _____.
6. The priest or deacon says, "I baptize you in the _____ of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
9. John the Baptist was Jesus' _____.

Helpful Resolutions

Make New Year's resolutions that will help others as well as yourself. Write your resolutions in the spaces below and keep them in a safe place all year. Check your progress every Sunday, and don't get discouraged if you mess up. The important thing is to keep trying.

I resolve to help...

- my **family** by _____.
- my **classmates** by _____.
- my **grades** by _____.
- my ability to **make and keep friends** by _____.

New Year's Prayer

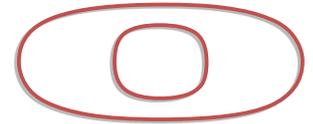
God, my Creator and Helper,

I want to make changes in my life that will help others as well as myself. These are my resolutions this new year. I believe I can succeed in keeping them. I resolve not to give up when I fail, but will ask for your help and keep on trying. With your guidance, I can do better. I promise to check my progress once a week during the coming year. Amen.

My Success

Check the box with ink if you did OK that week. Use pencil if you need to improve.

Week	Week	Week	Week
1 <input type="checkbox"/>	14 <input type="checkbox"/>	27 <input type="checkbox"/>	40 <input type="checkbox"/>
2 <input type="checkbox"/>	15 <input type="checkbox"/>	28 <input type="checkbox"/>	41 <input type="checkbox"/>
3 <input type="checkbox"/>	16 <input type="checkbox"/>	29 <input type="checkbox"/>	42 <input type="checkbox"/>
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	17 <input type="checkbox"/>	30 <input type="checkbox"/>	43 <input type="checkbox"/>
5 <input type="checkbox"/>	18 <input type="checkbox"/>	31 <input type="checkbox"/>	44 <input type="checkbox"/>
6 <input type="checkbox"/>	19 <input type="checkbox"/>	32 <input type="checkbox"/>	45 <input type="checkbox"/>
7 <input type="checkbox"/>	20 <input type="checkbox"/>	33 <input type="checkbox"/>	46 <input type="checkbox"/>
8 <input type="checkbox"/>	21 <input type="checkbox"/>	34 <input type="checkbox"/>	47 <input type="checkbox"/>
9 <input type="checkbox"/>	22 <input type="checkbox"/>	35 <input type="checkbox"/>	48 <input type="checkbox"/>
10 <input type="checkbox"/>	23 <input type="checkbox"/>	36 <input type="checkbox"/>	49 <input type="checkbox"/>
11 <input type="checkbox"/>	24 <input type="checkbox"/>	37 <input type="checkbox"/>	50 <input type="checkbox"/>
12 <input type="checkbox"/>	25 <input type="checkbox"/>	38 <input type="checkbox"/>	51 <input type="checkbox"/>
13 <input type="checkbox"/>	26 <input type="checkbox"/>	39 <input type="checkbox"/>	52 <input type="checkbox"/>



The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 and Luke 2:16-21

God blessed us by becoming a member of the human family. This is what Christmas celebrates. The Holy Family and God's incarnation is why there is something so very human about this feast, something that touches us in a way deeper than mere nostalgia. Christmas celebrates God's becoming one of us and one with us. Jesus comes as an infant, placed in the care of a struggling, but lovely family. We are reminded at Christmas that our families are shrouded in the same holiness that Jesus' family is. We look to their lives together as an example of how to love each other through celebrations and struggles. We also remember that Mary is the human Mother of God. When we say Mary is the Mother of God, we are saying that we believe Jesus is God.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child will be bringing home new characters to add to their manger scene. Place the scene where everyone can see and enjoy it. Invite your child to move the figures around to tell you about the night of Jesus' birth and the visit from the Magi. Remind your child to thank Mary and Joseph for their sacrifices that allowed Jesus to come into their family.

Promise (Grades K-1): Ask your child to show you the connect-the-dots picture of Christmas on the front page of the lesson booklet. Together you can place the figures from the Magi story into the manger scene your child has made. Be sure to visit the manger in your parish church during Christmas time. While you are there, thank Mary for being a wonderful mother to Jesus. Say a prayer there that everyone will hear the Good News of Jesus.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week's lesson focuses on the point that Jesus is the Son of God and the son of Mary. Have your child lead

your family in acting out the Christmas and the Mary, Mother of God plays in the lesson booklet. Talk to your child about how Mary fulfilled her calling to be Jesus' mother with her whole heart. Assure your child that you try your best to follow Mary's example. Share why this story is important for all of Jesus' followers. Your child has made a manger scene. Display your child's work where all in the family can enjoy it.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Christmas time is often filled with various activities, and it may be difficult to find time to share as a family. Try to set aside time with your child to talk about the Christmas story. It is good to remember that Jesus Christ came so that all people could be saved. Talk about all the elements of Jesus' birth—Mary's saying yes to God, the journey to Bethlehem, the vision of the angels, the shepherds at the manger, and the visit of the Magi. Talk about the ways you can make sure that Jesus is at the center of your family's Christmas.

Visions (Grades 7-9): Read together as a family the Christmas story presented as a play in this week's lesson. Talk about why the shepherds were the first to hear of the great mystery of Jesus' birth. Consider doing the same for the Mary, Mother of God account from this week. Your youngster's class learned the Greek word *Theotokos* as it refers to Mary. Ask your young person to explain the word to your family. Play the Story Cards Game from this week's lesson.

Pray Together

Pick one of the feast days during the season (not a Sunday) to attend Mass together as a family. Use the opportunity to pay a visit to the manger scene at your parish church and pray that you will always be faithful followers of Jesus and always bring joy to the world.

Baptism Crossword

ACROSS

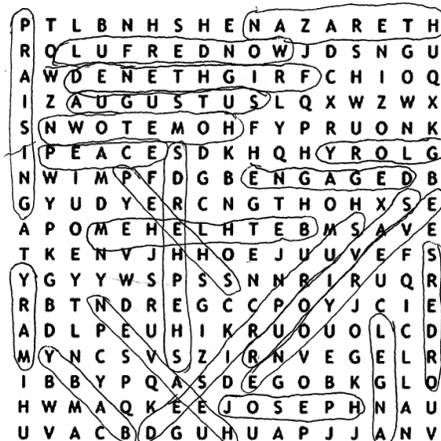
- 4— infants
- 7— church
- 8— Jordan
- 10— godparents

DOWN

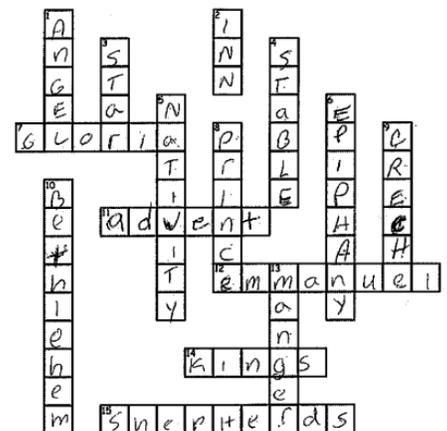
- 1— Baptist
- 2— first



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



Solution from last week!



Adult Faith Formation Courses

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

Survey of Catholic Doctrine

January 9th - February 12th, 2023

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

New Testament

January 9th-February 12th, 2023

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

St Agnes Racial Justice Initiative News

As we celebrate the feast of the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, we share the story of another mother pregnant with her first child, who in our present day failed to find, not a room at the inn, but the necessary attention to her care at a premier hospital in our country that ended in a near-death experience.

The woman had a history of blood clots, lived in fear of their possible fatal consequences, knew about diagnosing and treating them, and while gasping for breath the day following the birth of her daughter, Alexis Olympia, her hospital staff personnel failed to pay attention to her voiced concerns that stemmed from her experience and knowledge, even while having access to her medical history. She experienced a pulmonary embolism. The subsequent coughing triggered by the embolism, even after treatment, caused a rupture of her C-section wound, and the resulting return to surgery revealed a large hematoma that required even more surgery. The woman spent the first six weeks of her child's life bedridden. The woman was an elite athlete, wife of the co-founder of Reddit, an international celebrity with a net worth of millions. She was a Black woman. She was Serena Williams.

Given her economic and public status, of all people she should have been able to count on the very finest, attentive medical care this country has to offer. Sadly, it was not the case.

In America, the color of your skin, no matter who you are, can determine the quality of your health care.

(Source of story: [Under the Skin - The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation](#) by Linda Villarosa, cited also in last week's bulletin item. Hope to have this book available for our Racial Justice Library soon.)

Updating Our VIRTUS (Protecting Our Youth)

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

Scripture Sharing

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

IRA Charitable Gifts & Charitable Benefits Under the CARES ACT

A gift through your IRA is a great way to support St Agnes. Here is some information on how you can maximize your giving in 2022:

IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

- Donors age 70½ or older may make a gift of any amount, up to \$100,000 per individual (\$200,000 for couples with individual IRA accounts), from your IRA without paying income tax on the donated amount.
- For donors who have a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), making a gift directly from your IRA to St. Agnes can be counted toward satisfying your RMD for the year, as long as certain rules are met.
- In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.
- QCDs don't require that you itemize, which due to the recent tax law changes, means you may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving.
- Funds should be transferred directly from the donor's financial institution to St. Agnes.

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

Thank you for supporting St Agnes!

This information is not intended as legal, accounting, or financial advice. Please consult with your tax, legal, and financial advisors to determine whether this or other gift plans are applicable to your tax and financial needs.

Shelter Volunteers Needed

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

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.

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week (Christmas)

Offertory Collections	\$18,009
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$985
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$18,994
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$11,500
Total Collections Compared to Target	↑ +\$7,494

Tithe to help those in need \$1,801
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

Collections – Year-To-Date (thru December)

Offertory Collections	\$463,283
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$44,787
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$508,070
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$598,000
Total Collection Compared to Target	↓ -\$89,930

Tithe to help those in need \$46,328
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

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St Leo's Fish Fry Fridays

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

Considering a Catholic High School

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

Catholic Radio

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

Enrollment Dates for St Joe's School

Re-enrollment for the 2023-24 academic year for current students and their siblings who are not attending Saint Joseph School begins Friday, February 3. Enrollment for new families who are active members of area Catholic churches begins Friday, February 10, and all others may start the enrollment process on Friday, February 17. You can apply at sjsvw.org. For more information, email mpartington@sjsvw.org or call the school office at 304-267-6447.

Together in Holiness Marriage Conference

Together in Holiness Marriage Conference

February 11, 2023

St. Michael Church | Wheeling, WV

Presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation
and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Registration: \$27/couple and \$18/individual
Early Bird discount available through January 9.

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For more information, please visit togetherinholiness.org or email TH@forlifeandfamily.org.



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Luke 6:31



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