

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

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Psalms 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27+28, 29-30

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

Weekday Mass

Monday, 11am

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30pm

Parish Office: Monday through Friday 9am-4pm

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

The Week at a Glance...

Sun Jan 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No CFF Bernadette Jarrell Baptism 10:30am OCIA 12noon Intergenerational Mass 5pm
Mon Jan 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon SVdP Meeting 7pm
Tues Jan 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Games Group 3:30pm ESL Class 6pm KoC Business Meeting 7pm
Wed Jan 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Icon Workshop 11am Pastoral Council 6:30pm
Fri Jan 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Discussion Group <i>Judaism is About Love</i> 11am
Sat Jan 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter Writing Campaign 9:30am Name Tag Weekend KoC Raffle Ticket Sales after all Masses to Support Seminarians
Sun Jan 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No CFF (MLK Holiday) OCIA 12noon Youth Feeding the Hungry Food Prep 11:30am Defend Your Rights Project Presentation 1pm

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

Last weekend was our Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend. We sold 2 bags of Haiti coffee for a total of \$20, and an extra \$25 was donated. We also collected \$22 for Mary's Refuge; \$30 for the Kolofata girls' education project; \$17 for feminine hygiene supplies and diapers for the needy; and \$18 for Feeding the Hungry and Homeless. Thanks to all who donated to these worthy causes.

KoC Chili Cook-Off

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Chili Bowl on February 9th. We are looking for chili cooks to compete for gift card prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25. The tasting will be after 10:30 Mass and open for everyone. Those that attend will vote for the best chili. The Knights will be selling raffle tickets for the funding of Seminarians at the event and at all masses starting this weekend. If you are interested in cooking, please contact Fergus Sugrue at 240-876-8478 or mfs1son@verizon.net



Mass Intentions

Sunday, 10:30am for

Eugene Stemmler



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

In your kindness, please pray for Larry Merhaut who died this past week. May Larry share in the fullness of God's love and peace. Larry's funeral services will be held on Wednesday, January 15th at 1pm.

Funeral services for Richard Hitchcock will be on Tuesday, January 21st at 11am at Holy Family Catholic Church in Middletown, MD and livestreamed online here: <https://vimeo.com/event/1643151>.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Richard Morris (brother-in-law of Georgette Rush), Daniel Thompson, Shelly Stowell (daughter of Nina Hockman), Teresa Verteramo (mother of Rosanne Hutton), and Mark Switzer. Names are placed in the bulletin for one month then moved onto the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

Accompaniment Ministry

Over the last several months, St. Agnes, in coordination with our Diocese, has explored the establishment of an ecumenical, community-based immigrant support committee known as the Accompaniment Ministry.

The purpose of this committee "is to accompany immigrants who are living on the margins of society just as our Creator did." The range of accompaniment and support continues to evolve and may include activities such as language interpretation, transportation, basic daily needs, and access to existing medical and legal resources. In the coming months please be on the lookout for updates on this effort and possible areas where your individual gifts and talents may be of help to our brothers and sisters. For additional information or questions, please contact the Parish Office.

Defend Your Rights Project Presentation

On **Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 1pm**, St Agnes will be hosting an information session on the **Defend Your Rights Project**. The WVU Immigration Clinic and the West Virginia Innocence Project are partnering to re-launch a program they offered in 2018 to offer legal assistance to immigrants. This event is open to anyone, so please extend an invitation to anyone you know who may have an interest. All are welcome!

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This might be hard for us today to believe, but there was a time in the church where this feast was bigger than Christmas. Throughout the Christmas season, we have been going through the mystery of Jesus' birth. We had one gospel that had him as a young boy in the temple. We would not be reflecting on his birth or any other part of his life if it was not for his Baptism. He went forward to John the Baptist as one of those who were going for a Baptism of Repentance of Sins; though Jesus was without sin, I believe he saw himself in solidarity with the collective sin of the world. The Baptism of Jesus, though, revealed something so much more—a whole new life in the Spirit that would bring healing, love, peace, and justice for the world. I recently heard a scientist say that we are made up of molecules of all those that have gone before us, meaning that we could have molecules of Jesus. I wonder if this is why sometimes we get significant people that change the world like a Dorothy Day, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, or a Gandhi—they carry some of these special molecules that have come before them. There is actually something else significant about baptism. In Jesus' baptism in the waters of the Jordan, the whole new life in the Spirit was opened up that would launch his public ministry. Still to this day, we are plunged into those same baptismal waters and invited into his life in ministry so that we could carry those same molecules that allowed him to change the world. We become an extension of his public ministry as we leave the old sinful self behind again and again and become part of his new creation that brings healing love, peace, and justice to the world.

Fr. Andy

Cash Cards Donates \$4000 to St Agnes

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.

Write-In to Protect Our Water!

Back in December, we brought to your attention the proposal to build a water bottling plant in Middleway, a community not far from us. 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. Without clean, safe water, we have nothing. We simply cannot survive without it. Due to the karst geology of our region, what happens to the water in one part of the county ultimately affects the water for the entire county. The non-profit, Jefferson County Foundation, Inc, has been active in educating the community about many of these problems; the foundation's website (<https://www.jeffersoncountyfoundation.org/zoning/water-bottling-facility-in-middleway/>) is an excellent source of information.

Here at St Agnes we want to add our voices to what is at stake for such a facility to be built here. We are encouraging the young and the old to write to the Jefferson County Planning Commission to deny the request. Members of our *Laudato Si'* initiative are sponsoring a 'write in' at the parish center on **Saturday, January 18, 9:30am to 3pm**, and will help you with the phrasing of your request and getting your comments to the Commission before the deadline for close of public comments for the February 17th hearing. This is a community event so please extend an invitation to family, friends, and neighbors. **Your opinion matters!** The effect on the Zoning Ordinances is a very real potential risk here. **See you on Saturday!**

Prayer Sponsors Needed!

We need **prayer sponsors for our children preparing for First Eucharist!** A prayer sponsor is someone who shows support and offers prayer for a child preparing to receive their First Eucharist. You will be assigned a child, and asked to faithfully pray for them every day. A prayer sponsor may send a card to the child (anonymously) and let them know they are being prayed for, but the giving of gifts is not necessary. This is about the gift of prayer, not material gifts. We ask that if you send a card to sign it "your prayer sponsor." It is nice to stay anonymous until **the First Eucharist luncheon on May 10th**. We ask, if you can, please come to the **First Eucharist Mass on Sunday, May 11th at 10:30am** to support your First Communicant. If interested in being a sponsor, email Bill Donahue formation@stagnesshepherds-town.org or call the office. *Thank you for praying for our youth during this time of formation.*

Danny DuVal
Nora Goldizen
Evelyn McCreery
Saoirse Mello
Connor Pender
Carter Phipps
Charlie Turano

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.

NEW—Upcoming ESL Classes

St. Agnes ofrecerá clases gratuitas de inglés como segundo idioma. La clase de cinco semanas es del 14 de Enero al 18 de Febrero en el Centro Parroquial St. Agnes los Martes por la noche de 6:00 a 7:30. Si usted o alguien que conoce desea mejorar sus habilidades en inglés, por favor pídale que venga a partir comenzando el 14 de Enero. El registro se puede encontrar a <https://bit.ly/learn-english-2025>. **En caso de mal tiempo, seguimos las políticas de cierre de escuelas del condado de Jefferson.**



St. Agnes will be offering free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. **The five-week class will be held January 14 through February 18 at the St. Agnes Parish Center on Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30pm.** If you or anyone you know would like to improve their English skills, please have them join us starting January 14. The registration form can be found at <https://bit.ly/learn-english-2025>. **In the case of bad weather, we follow Jefferson County school closure policies.**

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

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We are still in need of blankets, comforters, sleeping bags and men's ties—Full/King/ Queen-size, clean, and in good-condition—can be dropped off at the parish center. **Articles that we cannot use to make a sleeping bag:** down comforters, wool blankets, mattress covers, pillows and pillow cases, curtains or drapes, or towels **We do use sheets, however we have a lot of them and don't need them at this time.**

Email barbaramueller596@gmail.com

Adult Faith Formation (AFF) Classes

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

Racial Justice Initiative

Our parishioner, Jan Sengers, shares the following poem by one of his fellow residents from the Asbury Methodist Village community, Dorothy Mbori.

Before the Ships Sailed by Dorothy Mbori

Before the ships sailed,
The beauty of my skin was never in question.
The scars of my heritage
Were worn with pride.
The words of my tongue
Were spoken with confidence.
The fluidity of my body when I danced,
Was synonymous with a hypnotic snake's stare,
Beautifully arresting.
The nakedness of my body
Was revered and customary.
The purity of it commonplace and unexciting.
Before the ships sailed
We were all brothers and sisters,
Free to move from horn to horn.
Though different cultures, we were,
Though different languages, we spoke,
We never judged, just accepted.
Before the ships sailed
We flourished in our land,
We were children of kings and queens,
With our own rules and laws
And we walked with our heads held high.
Pride heavy on our shoulders.
Though we cannot go back
To the moment when the ships sailed
We can still wear our skin with pride,
Display our scars with confidence,
Speak our language with conviction,
And sway to the our music, to the rhythm of our
drumbeats
Because
Though the ships did sail,
The soul of who we are,
And the pride our ancestors instilled in us,
Still stayed on the land and within us.
Our bodies might have sailed with the ships,
But our souls remained on the land.

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.

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!

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

THE YOUTH CORNER

The Baptism of the Lord

This Week's Gospel:
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

January 12, 2025



CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

Today there will be no CFF, Youth Group or Adult Classes. We will instead have our **Intergenerational Mass Sunday evening at 5pm**. This Mass also fulfills your Sunday obligation. There will be **no CFF, etc. next Sunday, January 19th for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day**. There will be Meal for the Hungry prep on Jan. 19th after the 10:30am Mass. Youth are encouraged to attend and help prepare the meal. Classes for CFF, etc. will resume on January 26th 9:15am.

Last weekend, the youth group asked for materials to help with their combined project with the "Sleeping Bags for the Homeless" project. Please consider donating to their project. If you have questions please contact the Parish Center.

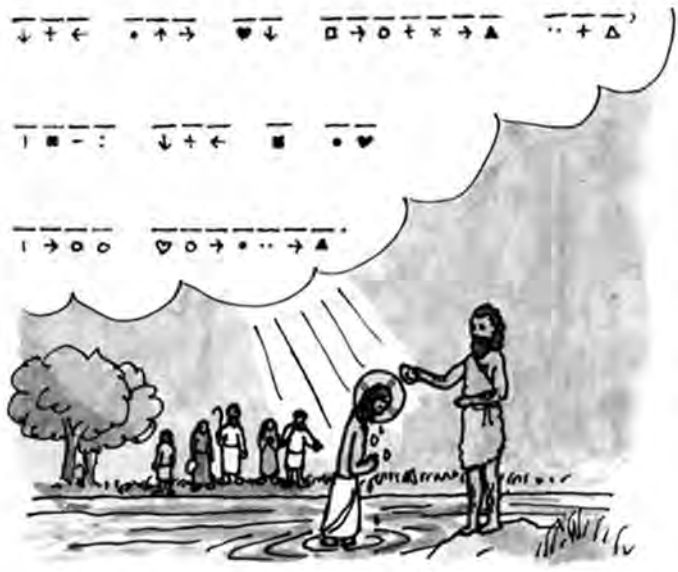
It is that time of the year when we might need an **Inclement weather policy for CFF**. Should we experience wintry precipitation, we will do our best to make a decision regarding in person CFF class by 8pm the evening prior. Check our website, call the parish office at 304-876-6436 and listen to the 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.

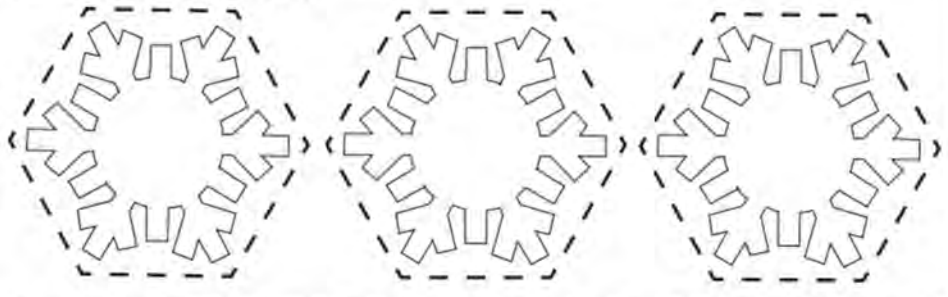


After Jesus was baptized, a voice came from the clouds and said something to Jesus. What did it say? Use the code to find out!

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

Being Grateful

Being grateful adds up. Notice the deep snow in the winter scene below. Write something you are grateful for on each of the snowflakes. Cut out the snowflakes and the winter scene. Glue the snowflakes to the winter scene and hang the picture where you will see it every day. Use it as a reminder to thank God every day.



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Youth Events: At a Glance
Dates for the Calendar

January 12: Intergenerational Mass at 5pm at the church. No CFF, Youth Group, or Adult Classes today.

January 19: No CFF, Youth Group, and Adult Classes today for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.
 Feeding the Hungry Meal Prep 11:40am in the Parish Center

January 26: CFF, Youth Group, and Adult Classes resume in the Parish Center at 9:15am

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

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 Plenum Publishing Group

Isaiah 42 Word Puzzle

Use the words at the bottom to fill in the blanks!

Here is my _____ whom I uphold,
 my chosen one with whom I am pleased,
 upon whom I have put my _____;
 he shall bring forth justice to the nations,
 not crying out, not _____,
 not making his _____ heard in the street.
 A bruised reed he shall not _____,
 and a _____ wick
 he will not quench,
 until he establishes justice on the earth;
 the coastlands will wait for his teaching.



I, the Lord, have called you
 for the victory of justice,
 I have grasped you by the hand;
 I formed you, and set you
 as a covenant of the people,
 a _____ for the nations,
 to open the _____ of the blind,
 to bring out _____
 from confinement,
 and from the dungeon,
 those who live in darkness.

Words for Isaiah 42 Word Puzzle

PRISONERS
 SMOLDERING
 SHOUTING

VOICE
 SERVANT
 SPIRIT



EYES
 LIGHT
 BREAK

Put the numbered letter in the right order to find out what the voice said.

A voice was heard saying:



2	9	5	8	1	11	4	3	7	10	6
O	S	R	Y	Y	N	A	U	M	O	E

Word Search

- | | | |
|---------|---------|----------|
| all | baptize | beloved |
| bodily | dove | filled |
| fire | hearts | heaven |
| Holy | Jesus | John |
| Messiah | not | opened |
| people | pleased | powerful |
| praying | sandals | son |
| Spirit | voice | water |
| well | worthy | you |

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

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The story of Jesus' baptism in Sunday's Gospel shows the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. After John baptizes Jesus in the Jordan, God announces to the crowd that Jesus is his beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove settled on him. Baptism gives us new life as adopted children of God and gives all the gift of that Holy Spirit. Living the Gospel helps those who follow Jesus be a witness to the world that the Good News is for everyone.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned that the Sacrament of Baptism makes people members of God's family—the Church. Take time to show your child pictures of his or her Baptism. Share the names of the godparents. This is also a good opportunity for you to make sure that your child knows how to make the Sign of the Cross.

Promise (Grades K–1): In class, the children shared the story of Jesus' baptism. Talk to your child about the memories you have of his or her Baptism. Talk about the white garments, the candle, the godparents, the priest or deacon who performed the ceremony, and the pouring of the water. Help your child with all the information needed to complete the back of the Baptism "strip."

Good News (Grades 2–3): This week your child learned that Jesus' baptism by Saint John was the beginning of his work teaching about God's love. Your child also became familiar with the rite of the Sacrament of Baptism. The class also learned that people are baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Whenever you make the Sign of the Cross, you are reminded that you are members of God's family, the Church. As a family, try to begin all your activities with the Sign of the Cross.

Venture (Grades 4–6): This week your young person learned that Baptism makes them members of the Church. Baptism is also a call for everyone to act justly. Your youngster learned the principles of Catholic social teaching. Ask them to share those with the family. Discuss how the Holy Spirit speaks with us and directs our lives. During any discussions, consider using a Talking Stick like the one from the lesson.

Visions (Grades 7–8): The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord has been an opportunity for your teenager to learn more about two of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation—Baptism and Confirmation. Baptism is also a call to make a difference in all the communities to which we belong. Take some time to share together how important it is for your family to be active members of the Christian community, to worship together, and to be signs to others of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world.

Awaken (Teens/Adults): Discover a new level of spiritual growth for parents with *Awaken*, the new adult level of the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies, developed to deepen your faith journey alongside your children. Scan the QR code to learn more.

Pray Together

Before the evening meal or at some other time when you are all together, renew your baptismal promises to believe what the Church teaches and to follow in the footsteps of Christ. Pray together the Apostles' Creed.

Volunteering: The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate our faith in action!

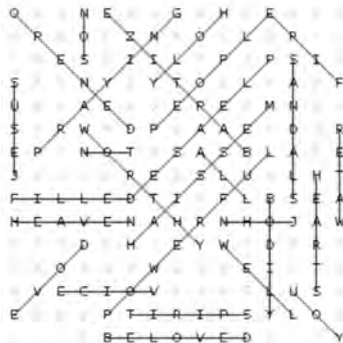
All volunteers are required to be VIRTUS trained as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. If you would like to volunteer for any parish ministry including with our youth, you must be VIRTUS trained. Forms are located in the church narthex and the parish center on how to complete this process.

All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS trained.

The Baptism of the Lord



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

A voice was heard saying:
You are my son

SOLUTIONS:

Code Puzzle: You are my beloved Son, with You I am well pleased.

Spotlight on Ministry

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Also known as Eucharistic Ministers or Bread and Cup Ministers are confirmed and must be at least 16 years of age. These ministers are also commissioned by the bishop to assist with the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ to the St. Agnes community during the Mass. Some volunteers also deliver the Eucharist to members of our parish who are homebound and/or in a nursing home as part of the Bread and Cup Ministry to the Homebound.

HOSPITALITY/USHER MINISTERS Hospitality ministers are so much more than ushers. It's not just about finding you a seat in our worship space, it's about welcoming both parishioners and visitors into the life of our liturgy. You'll find the Hospitality Ministers are often the first to arrive and the last to leave each liturgy. We have found many families have enjoyed doing this ministry together.

LECTORS The Ministry of the Lector is a person who agreed to serve the Church as a proclaimer of the Word of God. The introduction to the Lectionary for Mass also calls for a spiritual preparation for proclaiming the Word of God. When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself is speaking because he is present in his word. Therefore, the readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone, for they are an element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy. Lectors will be trained both in knowledge of Scripture and good principles of public speaking.

SACRISTAN/MASS COORDINATOR Welcome to the Mass Coordinator/Sacristan Ministry! This is a very rewarding and meaningful ministry to assist with the smoothness of the liturgy. This ministry requires extensive training to learn more about the Mass and the preparation of our liturgical celebrations. A Mass Coordinator/Sacristan has three main roles: Security (of the sacristy and most importantly, the Eucharist) Mass Set Up, Clean Up, and Coordination.

Contact: Helen Harris

liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org

For Our Younger Parishioners

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

Homebound Ministry

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

Bishop Evelio's Presentation

On December 20, 2024, Auxiliary Bishop Evelio of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC joined St. Agnes during Las Posadas where he shared his story of the struggles he faced getting into this country as an immigrant from El Salvador. Listen to his story by visiting our website.

Upcoming Faith Formation Courses

There are Two Upcoming Faith Formation and Catechetical Certification Opportunities! These are 5-week courses beginning January 20th and are offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). Hybrid models, these courses are composed of both weekly live 2-hour Zoom lectures/discussions and a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through 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. **For further information or to register, please contact the course instructor, Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu, at rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com.**

Survey of Catholic Doctrine

This course is part of the level one certification for catechesis and open to all who are interested in learning more about their faith. If you are a catechist, a Catholic school religion teacher, or a member of an OCIA team, you will find this course especially helpful! During this course we will come to a better understanding of some of the major doctrines of the Catholic Church, including: the Trinity, original sin, church, salvation history and the communion of saints. By the completion of the course, participants will be familiar with concepts such as the magisterium, ecumenism and eschatology. We meet on Zoom on Wednesday evenings 7-9 pm beginning January 23rd. This course is a basic course and is an introductory course in the Catholic Faith.

Scripture and Justice

What is our biblical vision of a just community? How are we ordered towards justice and cooperation through the Old and New Testaments? How does scripture provide us with the framework for living justly today? In this course we will study how scripture forms the basis for our Catholic understanding of justice and how justice is an essential part of God's plan for the reign of God, the message of Christ, and the way we, the baptized, are to live in the world today. We meet on Zoom Monday evenings from 7-9pm beginning January 20th.

The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston offers Catechetical Certification and recognizes VLCFF courses for various levels of certification. Certain courses are especially designed for volunteer catechists, Catholic school religion teachers, members of OCIA teams and all those who would be enriched by formal training in this field. For further information regarding the VLCFF certification program please contact Dr. Stoicoiu. There are 6 required courses for level one certification including the Survey of Doctrine class below. Both classes are open to all adults interested in deepening their faith and growing in their understanding of the theology and Tradition of the Church.

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/>.



JCCM Food Pantry Current Needs

- Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta
- Canned meat (chicken, spam, ham, tuna)
- Soups (hearty and condensed)
- Canned pasta, Canned chili, Canned fruit
- Rice (small bags)
- Cereal
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Jelly and peanut butter
- Syrup, Pancake/biscuit mix
- Instant oatmeal
- Crackers
- Cooking oil
- Deodorant, Shampoo/Conditioner
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper, Wipes
- Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent
- Cat/Dog food

Tithing Report for October – December

Bereavement Fund	\$397
Saint Joseph School	\$750
Saint Vincent de Paul Society	\$900
Local Assistance	\$750
Diocesan Collection – World Mission Sunday Collection	\$250
Diocesan Collection – Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services	\$50
Diocesan Collection – Retirement Fund for Religious	\$770
Diocesan Collection – Catholic Charities West Virginia/CCWVa	\$3,000

Shepherdstown Shares Current Needs

- Toilet paper, Baby Wipes
- Regular Ground Coffee
- Brown Rice
- Pasta Sauces
- Ramen noodles (not the cups of soup)
- Small Applesauce Cups (unsweetened)
- Snacks, Crackers (i.e. Ritz or Saltines)
- Milk (1/2gal or full gallons—whole or 2%)
- Diabetic-Friendly Items (Candy, pudding, Jell-o, applesauce)
- Snack and sandwich-size Ziploc bags
- Sturdy paper bags (especially with handles)

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week (Including Christmas)

Offertory Collections	\$10,582
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$505
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$11,087
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ - \$913

Tithe to help those in need \$1,058
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)



Supporting our St. Agnes community is easy!

Just go to the "Giving" button at the top of our website homepage or use the QR code at the right to make a one-time or recurring gift. Any amount is a valued contribution towards our ministry. Thank you!

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston maintains an Office of Safe Environment in accordance with the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. **To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org 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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2025 Quo Vadis Retreat

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Vocations Office has set the dates for the 2025 Quo Vadis Retreat for boys who will be in grades 6-8 for the 2025-2026 school year.

The camp is set for June 30-July 3 at the scenic Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville. The camp is free! Registration form is available online at our diocesan vocations' website - wvpriests.org

SJS Gala Benefit Dinner

Save the date! St Joe's is hosting a benefit dinner on **Saturday, March 8 at 6:30pm** in the SJS Gymnasium (110 E Stephen St, Martinsburg, WV). More info about the dinner can be found on the St Joseph's School website.

Open Positions at Saint Joe's School

Saint Joe's School is seeking to fill these positions:

⇒ **Principal for new high school—starts Jan 2025**

⇒ **Pre-K Aide/After-School Care Worker**

To send in a resume or letter of introduction, contact Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjswv.org. These have been posted to Indeed <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Saint-Joseph-School/jobs>.

St Leo's Variety Show Auditions

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

CBT Grants update

Our grant group—Sue Kemnitzer, Fanny Smith, Judy Lilga, Mike Drewes, Scott Hutton, Greg Welter, Beth Yates, and Fr Andy-- is actively working on the next steps in the grant process with the help of Josephine Saikali from Region 9.

For our Track 2 design grant, our engineering firm, Thrasher Group, is actively working on our project.

For our Track 4 grant, the area to the north of the church has five new trees!

Program partners: United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3, Chesapeake Bay Program, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

This project had been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under assistance agreement 4I-95300301 or CB-96375501 to West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP).



INVESTING IN AMERICA



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](#).

 <p>S&L CONSTRUCTION, LLC</p>	<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@lonelypetuniaetsy.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>Alan Norton, LIC</p>	<p>Traditional, Cremation Pre-Arrangements Trappist Caskets Available</p> <p>304.724-6500</p> <p>Alan Norton, LIC</p>	 <p>ARNOLD & BAILEY ATTORNEYS AT LAW</p>	
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