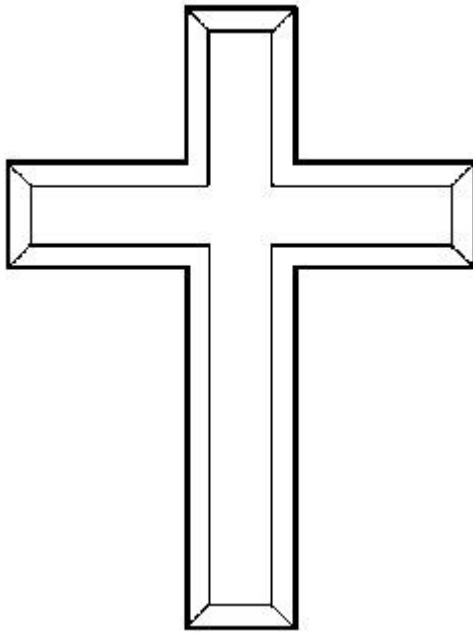


S a i n t A g n e s



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

Pastoral Council

Connie Bonner ~ Derek Gallagher
Heather Garcia ~ Christine Wiegman-Green
Patrick Green ~ Shaná Harris ~ Colin Hayden
Brendan Jarrell ~ Bill Sagle ~ Gil Sateia
Vanessa Santiago ~ Becky Tokarcik

Finance Council

Pat Barth ~ Steve Bledsoe
Mike Drewes ~ Todd Hershey
Sue Kemnitzer ~ David Matera ~ 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
Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org
www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org

St. Agnes Chapel

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

Sunday Readings

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
Psalm 40:1+3a, 6, 7-8, 9
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
John 1:35-42

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am

Sunday, 10:30am

Weekday Mass

Monday and Wednesday at 11am

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30pm

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

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



Mass Intentions

Sunday, 8am Mass for

Mike Tadesko

Sunday, 10:30am for

Maureen Maidhof

May Mike and Maureen share in the fulness
of God's mercy and peace.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill especially Nell Thompson, Harold Paulin (father of Maria Stewart), Patricia Windsor (mother of Valerie Ater), Pat Doyle, Henry & Barbara McDonald, Rebecca Ramsey, Marie Snowden, and Barbara Mueller. 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 February. Please contact Judy at any time with names of individuals you would like to add or if you would like to join the group. Judy: 301-432-2276 or jsiliga8@gmail.com.

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

Thanks to all of you who remembered it was Service, Justice, Peace weekend and braved the weather to attend Mass and donate! We collected \$22 for feminine hygiene products and diapers, \$12 for feeding the hungry, \$5 for the Kolofata project, and we sold two bags of coffee totaling \$20. Service, Justice, and Peace volunteers are there after the liturgies the first weekend of every month. If anyone is willing to help with this important ministry, please email Eileen Elliott at eepeace-lan@gmail.com or call 304-886-3612. It's an easy job, talking to other parishioners after the liturgy for a few minutes, once a month or less.

Holy Land Collection This Weekend

In light of the current Hamas-Israeli war and the escalation in violence in the Holy Land, Bishop Brennan has approved a special collection for the Holy Land region to be held the weekend of January 13-14, 2024. The money collected will be sent to The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support. They will provide the essentials of water, food, and emergency kits on the ground in the Holy Land. CNEWA has offices in the region and know where and what kind of help is needed the most.

Checks should be made payable to St Agnes and on the memo line indicate *CNEWA Holy Land Collection*.

A Parishioner's Journey

Camino de Santiago

A journey + a metaphor for life

Sunday, January 14, 2024 (NEW DATE)
After the 10:30 Mass, Parish Center

Parishioner, Christine Wiegman, recently expanded her life journey with a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Come hear Christine as she shares the personal story of her pilgrimage.

NOTE: If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the website.

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. 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. If you have not yet joined the group, please do! Contact Bill Donahue at formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org to join.

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

Hispanic Outreach Committee Forming

St. Agnes is in the process of forming a Hispanic Outreach committee. Is God calling you to join this committee? ¿Dios te está llamando a unirte a este comité?

As it is for all church committees, VIRTUS certification is required. VIRTUS can be completed in English or Spanish. Please reach out to the office at 304-876-6436 if you are interested in joining this committee! Gracias.

Dear Parishioners,

Today's readings are about listening and discernment. This is really where we are as a church during this time of the synod. The story of Eli and Samuel really shows what discernment is about; it is having an openness to listening to the Lord, and the recognition that we need each other's help to do that. I have learned that the best mentors or guides in my life have been those that do not give the answer, but rather they either ask the right question or have pointed me in the right direction. This is what Eli does for Samuel. He points him in the right direction and shows him the right posture to have, and Samuel is led deeper into the mystery of God's love and discovers his call. I really believe this is what the liturgy we celebrate is supposed to do: pull us into the greater mystery of God's love that provides orientation and direction for our lives in the week ahead. The gospel today is the call of discipleship, and Jesus asks the disciples a question, "What are you looking for?" I recently heard Pope Francis say that God more often comes to us with questions rather than answers. The powerful thing about the question, "what are you looking for," is that Jesus' desire is to fulfill the greatest desires of the human heart. This is a principle of good spirituality, that our greatest potential for love or human desires are from the Lord and we should pay attention to those. The disciples desire to stay with Jesus. This gives their lives a certain orientation and direction where they will be called to a life of ministry and service which will be a great adventure. Their call is also ours as followers of Jesus.

Fr. Andy

Human Trafficking Seminar

The US Attorneys of West Virginia are partnering with St. Michael Parish in Wheeling to conduct a seminar on human trafficking—Human Trafficking: Facts, Fiction, and Federal Law— on Thursday, January 18, 8:30am-11:30am. The event has speakers specific to religious organizations as well as law enforcement and community members. This is a free event that will be hosted in person in Wheeling and Charleston and **virtually** via WebEx. Registration is required. To register, call 304-234-7743 or use the QR code below.



Racial Justice Initiative News

As we celebrate the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday, let us acknowledge that the inspiration and continuing motive for his work for racial and economic justice was directly related to his desire to follow Jesus of Nazareth. It was an essential expression of his Christian faith. He saw himself as a hopeful and devoted servant of the Kingdom of God that Jesus embodied.

Cornell West, philosopher and professor at Union Theological Seminary, sums it up this way:

"The American Dream is individualistic. King's is seen as collective. The American Dream says, 'I can engage in upward mobility and live the good life.' King's dream was fundamentally Christian. His commitment to radical love had everything to do with his commitment to Jesus of Nazareth and his dream had everything to do with community, with a 'we' consciousness that included poor and working people around the world, not just black people."

Also this from Martin Luther King, Jr. himself from his final sermon on the night before he was assassinated:

"Like everybody I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go to the mountain. And I have looked over. And I have seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. So I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

Martin Luther King, Jr. is an example to all who claim to be Christian of how to be one.

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We want to thank all parishioners of St. Agnes Catholic Church and Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church for donating all the supplies that go into making sleeping bags and those parishioners that have donated old used sleeping bags. This year we have made 34 sleeping bags, along with 18 donations of used and new sleeping bags. This gave us a total of 52 sleeping bags distributed to two agencies who serve the homeless: JCCM in Jefferson County and Immanuel's House in Berkeley County.

We are always in need of donated **blankets, comforters** (any size), and used **sleeping bags** (clean and in fair condition). Items can be dropped off at the parish center. Please join our team of sewers! For more information, contact Barbara Mueller by email at baramueller596@gmail.com.

~ The Sewing Ladies ~

Scripture Sharing

Our Scripture Sharing group continues to meet via Zoom (link found on website under events calendar) on Mondays at noon except for holidays. All are welcome!

Feeding the Homeless and Hungry

We began the New Year with Ellen Potter and her husband preparing and serving the community meal, also known as the Hungry and Homeless Meal, on January 3 at the Zion Episcopal Church in Charles Town. At our request, Ellen shared this information to give some insight into what goes into the work of this ministry:

"My husband and I provided meals this past Wednesday night and after your previous email, I was curious as to what we spent. First, let me tell you what we served: pulled pork sandwiches with homemade Cole slaw, Greek pasta salad, and brownies. We also provided BBQ sauce, 2 pieces of fruit (banana and clementine), and water.

The total cost was around \$203. The biggest savings was when pork butts were on sale for \$.99/lb a few weeks ago so we bought six and froze them until we needed them. Otherwise, they are \$2.99/lb, which would have added another \$90 dollars to the total."

The manager of Food Lion permitted Ellen to exceed the limit on the amount of pork she could purchase at the discounted price when she explained why she was purchasing. So, our thanks to Shepherdstown Food Lion!

Heartfelt thanks go out to all of our chefs and to all of you who support this ministry in all the ways that you do.

Remember, you can donate to this ministry on SJP weekend each month. If you are interested in joining our chefs or in getting additional information, please email Kate Didden at katedidden@gmail.com.

All St Agnes Volunteers... Must Be VIRTUS Trained

The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston requires that all volunteers in all parishes, schools, etc., must be Virtus trained. **And they will soon be auditing to verify compliance. If you volunteer in any capacity at St Agnes, you must do the training!**

VIRTUS training is designed to help adults recognize the signs that indicate a child or vulnerable adult might be suffering abuse. It also helps adults by offering key points to help children and adults, who might confide in them, deal with potential situations. Finally, it helps adults know who to contact and what the next steps are if they suspect or discover a child or vulnerable adult is being abused. All this training is designed to help adults help others through a difficult situation.

It is truly in the best interests of everyone to have all volunteers VIRTUS trained.

The good news is that the training is all online and can be completed in a short period of time. Our Coordinator, Bill Donahue, can assist with verifying your training status and/or initiating your training. For questions or concerns, contact formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org or call the office at 304-876-6436.

Godspell

TO OPEN THE SEASON OF LENT...
ST. AGNES CATHOLIC CHURCH
PROUDLY PRESENTS

GODSPELL

2012 Revised Version
Conceived and originally directed by John-Michael Tebelak
Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
Originally Produced on the New York Stage by Edgar Lansbury / Stuart Dupcan / Joseph Beruh

February 2, 3, 4, and 16, 17, 18
Friday / Saturday 8:00pm, Sunday 3:00pm

St. Agnes Catholic Church: 200 S Duke St,
Shepherdstown, WV

Free and Open to the Public. Donations Gratefully Accepted

For Reservations Call 304-876-6436 or Visit StAgnesShepherdstown.org

To open the season of Lent, the holiest time of the year, St. Agnes Catholic Church will present a production of Godspell (2012 Revised Version), which was originally conceived and directed by John-Michael Tebelak and with music and new lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. A dedicated and talented group of St. Agnes youth is joined by equally dedicated and talented friends from Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, Asbury United Methodist Church, and the community of Shepherdstown to present this musical, which is drawn directly from the teachings of Jesus. Godspell has been described as a timeless celebration of Christian friendship, loyalty, and love based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew. Certainly no easy task, as time pulls our kids in multiple directions, but our youth and their friends are dedicated to bringing the message of the gospels to light. We hope you will join and celebrate with us, and "Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord!"

The Gift of Music



Memorialize this year's hymnal

Our 2024 Hymnals are here! Envelopes can be found in each hymnal if you would like to dedicate a hymnal to a loved one (either in memory of or in honor of). Place completed forms in the offertory basket.

CFF, AFF, Youth Group & Family News

CFF: There are no formal CFF classes today. Instead, all families are encouraged to attend the Intergenerational Mass at 5 PM. Catechesis always occurs at Mass but Fr. Andy integrates additional catechesis. Regular CFF classes will occur again, January 21st at 9:15 AM in the parish center.

Youth Group: **Intergenerational Mass** tonight at 5 PM. We need your help not only with the ministries but in training the younger teens. **Next week we will be preparing the meal for the hungry after the 10:30 Mass. (Jan. 21)**

ADULT Classes: **Growing in Faith** will not meet today, Jan. 14th. Please consider joining our community for the Intergenerational Mass at 5 PM.

RCIA and RCIC: We will meet on Jan 14th at Noon in the Parish Center.

Volunteering: All volunteers are required to be VIRTUS trained. If you would like to volunteer for any parish ministry or to work 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.

Keep watching this spot, the Youth Facebook Page, our church calendar and the church website for additional activities. **Remember to join the CFF Google Classroom (link was sent to your email).** It is a one stop spot to find all the latest forms, classroom information, recorded classes, etc.

Most importantly, if you are a parent and not receiving CFF announcements and emails, please contact the Parish center at 304-876-6436 or contact 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!

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THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel:
John 1: 35—42

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Titles of Jesus

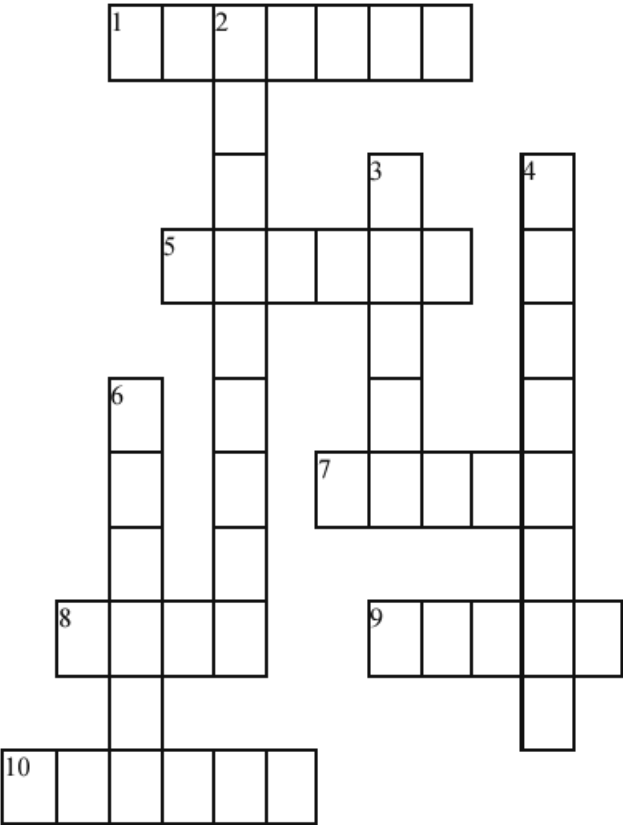
There are many names for Jesus besides the one his parents gave him. These are called *titles*. Look at the titles in the box. Then write each title on the line after the sentence that best describes it.

Titles			
Son of David	Good Shepherd	Light of the World	Emmanuel
Son of Man	Living Bread	Alpha and Omega	Rabbi
Lamb of God	Nazorean		

1. Jesus is "God with us." An Advent hymn uses this title for Jesus.
2. Jesus' message of love and peace can enlighten all nations of the world.
3. Jesus is the beginning and the end—the source of our being and the eternal destiny we want to reach.
4. Jesus is descended from Israel's greatest king.
5. Jesus was known as *teacher* to many people he met.
6. Jesus brings us life in the Eucharist.
7. Like all of us, Jesus grew up in a particular place at a particular time.
8. Jesus is the ideal sacrifice who gave up his life for us.
9. Jesus leads us, protects us, and guides us to safe places.
10. In addition to being divine, Jesus is truly human.

It's Your Turn

Can you make up two more titles for Jesus? Use them in your prayers to Jesus.



Behold the Lamb of God John 1: 35-48

Across

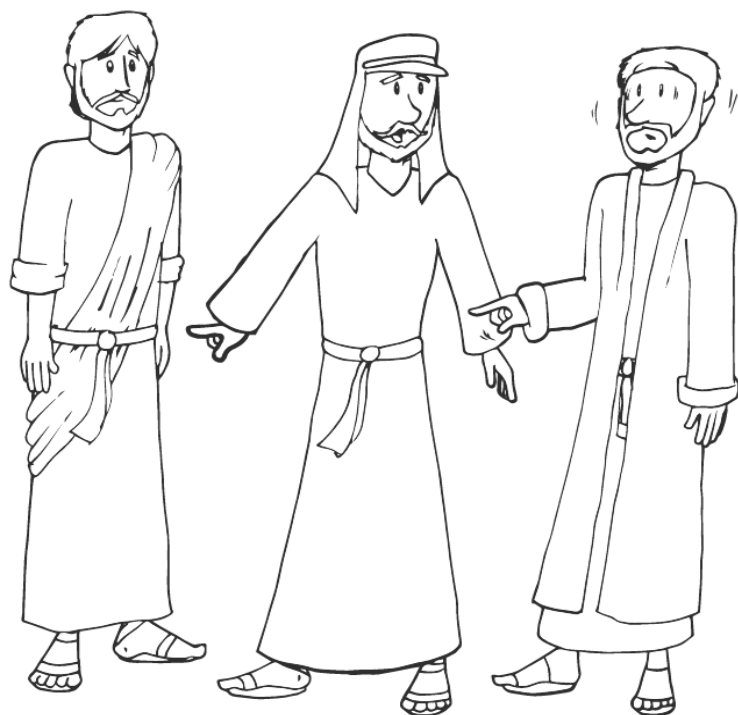
1. The question of the disciples: "Rabbi, where are you _____?"
5. This also means Peter.
7. Peter
8. Peter's father.
9. One of the disciple who heard what Jesus said.
10. He was the brother of Simon Peter.

Down

2. At what time of day did the two disciple follow Jesus.
3. A teacher
4. Messiah
6. Take a look at

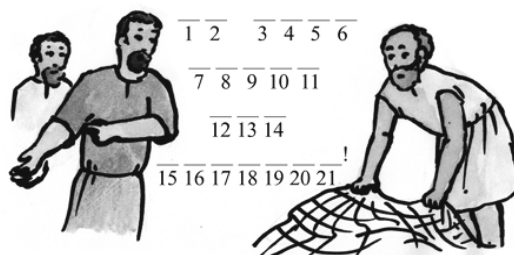
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FOUND
LAMB
MESSIAH
COME
ANDREW
TEACHER
REMAINED
RABBI
PETER
BROTHER
SIMON
JOHN
LOOKING
GOSPEL
WATCHED
STAYING
GOD
CEPHAS
SEE



TAHEM
FHEDSW
HENOA
VSIEU

What did Andrew say to his brother Simon in today's Gospel reading?
Fill the spaces with the letters in the right order to find out!



A black and white line drawing of Jesus with a beard and long hair, wearing a robe, gesturing towards a man, a woman, and a young boy. The man is holding a long staff and standing on a rocky path. The woman and boy are walking towards Jesus. The background shows a rocky landscape with some small plants. The drawing is signed 'JENNY PHILLIPS 94' in the bottom right corner.

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist points to Jesus as "the Lamb of God." The Gospel also tells of the call of the first disciples. The story echoes the call of each member of the Church—to share in the mission of Jesus, his joy, and his sufferings. The title "Lamb of God" links Jesus to the symbol of Israel's redemption—the Paschal Lamb.

Promise (Grades K–1): This week, your child explored the experience of having friends among family, schoolmates, and neighbors. Your child learned how Jesus made friends and gathered followers. Ask your child to show the story cutout he or she made in class and tell how all of us are connected to one another and to Jesus.

Good News (Grades 2–3): This week, your child learned about the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Ask your child to tell you about this part of the Mass. The family can also play together the “Jesus, Come and See!” game. Talk about ways your family can show that you are followers of Jesus.

Venture (Grades 4–6): The class learned about one of the Church's more recently canonized saints, Pope Saint John XXIII, and how he helped to renew and change the Church. Ask your youngster to tell you about Saint John.


The class also discussed vocations and learned that everyone has a call from God. Some are called to serve in a special way. Talk about the vocations to the priesthood, sisterhood, and brotherhood and others who serve. Have your son or daughter to tell you about Saint André of Montreal. Ask to see the set of cards members of the class made, including your young person's own patron saint.

Visions (Grades 7–8): This week's lesson focused on God's call—a person's vocation. The young people discussed the various ways people live out their Christian vocation. Ask your son or daughter to share with the family the story of Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande, whose defense of the poor led to his death. Talk about ways your family can be good and true disciples of Jesus and what it means to live a holy life. Talk, too, about helping one another discover what God's calling is for each of you.

When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, try to join in a morning prayer or an evening prayer together each day for a week. The prayer does not have to be formal or structured, and it certainly does not need to be long. Pray together in your own words, too, that God will call good leaders and ministers for the Church and that each member of your family will be open to listening to God's call and answering with a resounding yes!



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



Titles of Jesus:

1-Emmanuel; 2-Light of the World; 3-Alpha and Omega; 4-Son of David; 5-Rabbi; 6-Living Bread; 7-Nazorean; 8-Lamb of God; 9-Shepherd; 10-Son of Man

We have found the Messiah!

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

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New Virtual Learning Courses

Two 5-week courses are being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). These hybrid models are composed of both weekly live 2-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences. 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 course instructor, Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu, at rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com.

Ecclesiology: Pilgrim Church (Begins Week of January 15)

This is the second in a series of courses on the theology of the Church and builds on the course The Beginnings of the Church. We will continue our exploration of the Church and how, as a living organism, it both maintains its continuity with Jesus and reshapes its own self-understanding. We will examine questions of authority, community and governance and look at social and political changes in the Church through the 15th century. This will then aid our conversation as we look at Vatican II and its understanding of the episcopal and papal offices and the models of Church presented by the Council. 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. The Zoom sessions will be held on Mondays at 7pm for 5 weeks, beginning January 15th.

Introduction to Scripture (Begins Week of January 15)

If you are new to studying the Bible, have questions about reading the Bible, want to learn more about the Bible but don't know where to start; or, if you are working towards your certification for catechesis, this course is for you!! Learn what the Bible is and where it comes from, understand how Roman Catholics read the Bible and what the differences are between a Catholic Bible and a Protestant Bible, start to build your Bible vocabulary by learning about the synoptic Gospels, what is inspiration, and much more. 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. The Zoom sessions will be held on Wednesdays at 7 pm for 5 weeks beginning January 17th. This course is part of the course sequence for level one catechist certification.

Glass Recycling

St Agnes is very fortunate to have a partnership with Jim King so that we can offer glass recycling to our parishioners. You will find the black recycling bin behind the parish center at the north end of the parking lot. It is helpful if you secure your glass in bags before placing in the bin.

Spotlight on Ministry

My Name is Robbie Babbitt. My wife and I have been attending St. Agnes since 2019. My faith has been a continual response to the grace of God. No matter how I move away, I am always called back. As a young adult, I rejected the Church outright. The emphasis on rote allegiance to the ideology and hierarchy turned me off. I was first brought back by a messenger of God when I married my wife, Maggie. As time went by, I realized that I was letting my rejection of the structure of the Church stand in the way of my relationship with Jesus. I decided it was time I moved toward Jesus and let go of my ego that kept focusing on what is wrong with the Church.

My first ministry was as Eucharistic Minister at Mother of Sorrows in Centreville, Maryland. This is where we raised our family and belonged for over 20 years. I was asked to serve by our good friend Father William Lawler. Though I didn't feel "faithfully adequate" to be in this position, I accepted whole heartedly. When the skies did not burst open and strike me with lightening, I figured God must be calling me.

I am now an Altar Server and a Eucharistic Minister here at St. Agnes. I was never an Altar Server as a child so I find it amusing that I became a Server at the young age of 68! God calls us in funny ways. I see my ministry as a model of how we can all contribute to the Mass. No one will judge whether you are worthy to take part in the Mass. Your willingness to answer the call is all that matters.

Book Discussion Group

The January 19, 2024 Book Discussion Selection

Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival and Hope in an American City by Andrea Elliott, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. "It is an astonishing story about the power of resilience, the importance of family and the cost of inequality—told through the crucible of one remarkable girl."

We meet at 11am in the Parish Center. Please join us!

Free Community Safety Trainings

2024 FREE Community Safety Training Available for ERT and anyone interested

The Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency is offering the following training opportunities:

Community CPR and Stop the Bleed: February 13, March 12, April 9, May 21, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12 and December 10. All classes start at 6 pm. CPR courses last 3 hours. To register and for more information go to the Jefferson County Emergency Services website: <https://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/county-agencies/jcesa/community-cpr-first-aid>

Interested in joining the St. Agnes Emergency Response Team? Please contact Michele Goldman at mgoldman9797@gmail.com or Teace Noel at wvnoels@gmail.com.

Epiphany Home Blessing

Traditionally, Catholics bless their home and those who live in their household on the Feast of the Epiphany each year. We have blessed chalk in the Narthex available for you to take home. Here is the blessing:

All: Make the Sign of the Cross.

Leader or Head of Household:

Peace to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord.

All: *Blessed be God forever!*

Reader:

God our Father, source of love and harmony, bless our home. In our kitchen, nourish us with stories and spirit. Help us remember here Jesus' gift of himself in a meal. In our bedroom, give us rest. Make them peaceful places, where we find energy to serve your people who do your work.

In our living room, give us strength to welcome all guests, Christ in disguise. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Using blessed chalk, write on the outside (or inside) of your house, above or next to an entrance:

"20 + C + M + B + 24"

This is the date of the new year and the names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar). This is also an abbreviation for the Latin prayer *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ bless this house).

Homebound Ministry

For any 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).

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$8,555
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$3,060
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$11,615
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ −\$385

Tithe to help those in need	\$856
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)	

Prayer Sponsors Needed

We are looking for prayer sponsors for our children preparing for First Eucharist. A prayer sponsor is someone who would like to show support and offer prayer for a child preparing to receive their First Eucharist. If you are interested in serving as a prayer sponsor, please call or email the parish office. You will be assigned a child, and you faithfully pray for them every day. A prayer sponsor may send a card to them (anonymously) and let them know they are being prayed for, but the giving of gifts is not necessary. We want this to be about the gift of prayer, not material gifts. We ask that if you send a card to sign it "your prayer sponsor." It is nice to stay anonymous until the First Eucharist celebration. We ask that the prayer sponsor come to the First Eucharist Mass on Sunday, April 28th at 10:30 AM where you can introduce yourself. If interested in being a prayer sponsor, please call the office or contact Bill Donahue at formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

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!

Meals for the Needy Needs

Our youth ministry utilizes plastic grocery bags to distribute meals each month. They have run out of those bags. Please help them out by donating your plastic grocery bags at the parish center.

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.reportbishopsabuse.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.reportbishopsabuse.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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Enrollment at St Joe's School

Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year begins Feb. 2 for families whose children already attend Saint Joseph School and for their siblings who do not currently attend. Catholic families who are active in local parishes may start the application process on Feb. 9 and the general public can apply starting Feb. 16.

To apply, go to sjsww.org.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is again offering the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to Catholic and non-Catholic families. For the 2024-25 school year, here are dates of note:

All application windows open Feb. 1.

Phase I (Catholic families): Application period closes April 30; awards given May 21

Phase II (Catholic and non-Catholic families): Application period closes July 14; awards given Aug. 1

Phase III (Catholic and non-Catholic families): Application period closes Aug. 23; awards given Sept. 17

For more information, go to wvcatholicschools.org.

If your child is currently attending public school or entering kindergarten, you also might qualify for the Hope Scholarship. To learn more, go to <https://www.hopescholarshipwv.com/>.

Together in Holiness Marriage Conference

*Married and engaged couples are invited to the 3rd annual **Together in Holiness** marriage conference, presented by the St John Paul II Foundation and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, on **February 10, 2024 from 10:45 am - 6:00 pm at St. James Catholic Church in Charles Town, WV.** This 1-day conference will help you strengthen your relationship with your spouse and discover God's plan for your family. Registration: \$32/couple and \$5/child for on-site childcare. An Early Bird discount is available through December 11, 2023 as well as scholarships upon request. For more info, visit togetherinholiness.org/wheelingcharleston or email cameron@forlifeandfamily.org.*

St Joe's Seeks Pre-K Aide

St Joe's School is seeking a teacher's aide for a classroom of toddlers. Aides support teachers in planning and implementing daily programs. Job responsibilities include ensuring the daily care of every child by following all licensing guidelines and the school's standards of care. Aides also help maintain a fun and interactive environment that is clean and organized.

Job requirements include: Must be at least 21 years old and have a high school diploma, 2 years PK or elementary education experience preferred, ability to meet state licensing requirements, scheduling flexibility, certification in ACDS (Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist) preferred. If interested, please send a résumé to Katie MacKinnon, PK director, at kmackinnon@sjsww.org.

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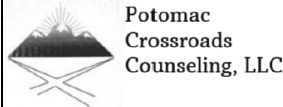
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