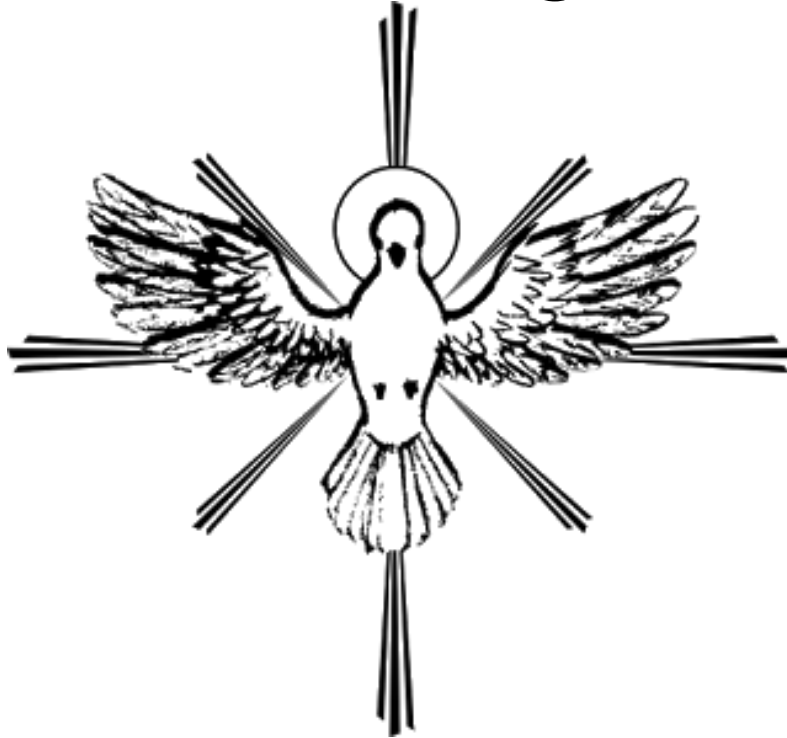


# S a i n t A g n e s



*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](mailto:Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org)  
[www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org](http://www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org)

## **St. Agnes Chapel**

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

## **Sunday Readings**

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10++  
Psalm 19:7, 8, 9, 14  
1 Corinthians 12:12-30  
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

## Weekly Schedule

### Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

### Weekday Mass

Monday, 11am

### Scripture & Communion

Wednesday, 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 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CFF, AFF, Youth Group 9:15am</li> <li>• OCIA 12noon</li> </ul>
Mon Jan 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon</li> </ul>
Tues Jan 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accompaniment Ministry Meeting 12noon</li> <li>• Board Games Group 3:30pm</li> <li>• ESL Class 6pm</li> </ul>
Sat Feb 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SJP Weekend</li> <li>• Souper Bowl Collections after All Masses</li> </ul>
Sun Feb 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CFF, AFF, Youth Group 9:15am</li> <li>• Perpetual Memorial Mass 10:30am</li> <li>• OCIA 12noon</li> </ul>

## Souper Bowl of Caring—25th Year

Seeking to love God by loving their neighbors, America's teens are transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving through Souper Bowl of Caring. On the weekend prior to the Super Bowl and on Super Bowl Sunday weekend, youth collect one dollar (or more) donations in soup pots as worshippers leave church. Each group donates their collection directly to the charity of their choice— here at St. Agnes, our donations will be split between the Shepherdstown Shares food pantry and the JCCM food pantry that serve our community.

Watch for our youth and their soup pots after each Mass on February 1st and 2nd as well as February 8th and 9th (Super Bowl Sunday).

In addition, you can give online again this year. To do that, go to our St Agnes Website, to giving and to the online giving. From there click "Give Online Now" and Souper Bowl is listed in the dropdown menu. And, of course, you can always drop your donation by the office directly or through snail mail, just note "Souper Bowl Collection" on your check's memo line.

This is St. Agnes' 25th year participating and helping those in our region who are in need. Last year we collected \$1440.41. Our goal is to surpass our collection from last year. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## Scripture Sharing Zoom

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



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm for

**Claire Williamson**

**Sr. Mary Janelle**



Sunday, 10:30am for

**Bob Bowden**

May Claire, Sr. Mary Janelle, and Bob share in the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Richard Rizzo (brother of Bob Rizzo) and Lorna O'Connor (mother of Rob McClimans), who died this past week. May Richard and Lorna 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 Melanie & Shannon Stotler, Kathy Sutherland, Ron Mancini (son-in-law of Bob & Martha Rizzo), 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.

## Hospice Valentine's Project

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

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

## Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

Our next Service, Justice, and Peace weekend will be next weekend. There will be Haiti coffee for sale as well as the opportunity to donate to feeding the poor, providing feminine hygiene products and diapers, educating girls in Cameroon, and Mary's Refuge for single mothers who need support. We hope you remember to bring a donation no matter how large or small to help our neighbors.

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate what is known as what Pope Francis has called Word of God Sunday. I think it calls us, as a faith community, to ask ourselves what narratives shape and form us. This calls for us to look and examine our hearts. The greed of the technology world, through algorithms, can pretty much predict our behaviors and use that to their own benefit.

Thomas Halik in his book, *Afternoon of Christianity*, describes well where I think we are as a culture today. Using the image of St Augustine, he speaks of "a contest of two loves pervading the world and the church— love of self to the point of rejecting God and love of God to the point of transcending the self." This is going to take quite a bit of discernment as we watch, within Christianity and the political sector, the use of the language of God and symbols in ways that incite racism, sexism, plantation capitalism, and violence-- what civil rights leader Dr. James Lawson calls the poisons in the culture. Halik says "our age also needs a new theology of history, a new vision." "[I]f nations, cultures, and religions, can no longer isolate themselves from one another," he says, if "nations surround themselves with walls of indifference to others and abdicate their shared responsibility for justice in the world, will become to quote Augustine again 'great robber bands'." Today the gospel gives us the mission of Jesus in what is sometimes called his inauguration, where he sets out on a mission of selfless love that comes to liberate the oppressed. This is the dangerous mission that stands against the narratives of abuse of power of tyrants and their arrogance. We are called to be formed by the narrative of Torah prophets and Jesus. May we be open to the conversion we are always in need of and, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, live out the Jesus story.

Fr. Andy

## Laudato Sí 10th Anniversary

### Series Announcement:

#### ***Laudato Si' at 10: Envisioning a Livable Future***

This is an online, 7-part serial conference hosted by John Carroll University in collaboration with the Hank Center at Loyola University Chicago, marking the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Sí: On Care for Our Common Home*. There will be four events in winter/spring 2025 and three in fall 2025. The four winter/spring events will cover: the current state of climate science (January 29); the contributions of Catholic social thought (February 17); the political economy of climate change (March 11); and environmental politics (April 9). All the events will be "Zoomcast"; register for Zoom links at [www.jcu.edu/livable-future](http://www.jcu.edu/livable-future).

## The Cindy Huesman Memorial Exhibit

### THE CYNTHIA HUESMAN MEMORIAL ART SALE

JANUARY 30—FEBRUARY 23

RECEPTION: FEBRUARY 8, 2025, 1-3PM

FIREHOUSE GALLERY

108 N. George Street, Charles Town, WV 25414

Cynthia Ann Huesman (Cindy), a St Agnes parishioner and member of the Firehouse Gallery, passed away on April 23, 2024. In her honor, the Gallery is hosting a solo exhibition and sale of her artwork and crafts, as well as some of her supplies. Her artwork included pastels, oils, watercolors, Pysanky egg painting, Medieval manuscript decoration, and much more. We encourage art lovers to visit this exhibit and sale.

**Exhibit/Sale Hours:** Thursday, Friday, Sunday, 11am-5pm, Saturday, 10am-4pm.

**Reception Hours:** Saturday, February 8, 1-3pm.

## Help Protect Our Water!

Once again, we want to keep our attention on the proposal to build a water bottling plant in Middleway, a community not far from us. It is abundantly clear that building this plant in a rural area raises numerous concerns not only for that immediate area but also for the infrastructure for the entire county. Clean, safe water, is one of the most basic human needs. We cannot survive without it! The karst geology of our region causes a ripple effect wherein 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. **Mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 7pm! Representatives from the Foundation will be speaking at the Shepherdstown Community Club on this very issue.**

Members of our Laudato Si' initiative held a 'write in' at the parish center on Saturday, January 18, to help folks send their thoughts to the Commission before the deadline for close of public comments for the February 17th hearing. If you missed the event, there is still time to make your feelings known to those who hold our future in their hands. Once again, the Jefferson County Foundation's website noted above has helpful information to assist you with this task.

## 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!

## KoC Chili Cook-Off

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Chili Bowl on February 9th; the tasting will be after 10:30am Mass and open for everyone. We are looking for chili cooks to compete for gift card prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25. 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 ending on January 26th. If you are interested in cooking, please contact Fergus Sugrue at [mfs1son@verizon.net](mailto:mfs1son@verizon.net) or 240-876-8478. There is a deadline of this Sunday, January 26 to contact Fergus to enter your chili.

## 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.

Durante los últimos meses, St. Agnes, en coordinación con nuestra Diócesis, ha explorado la posibilidad de establecer **un comité ecuménico de apoyo a inmigrantes basado en la comunidad, conocido como Ministerio de Acompañamiento.**

El propósito de este comité “es acompañar a los inmigrantes que viven al margen de la sociedad, tal como lo hizo nuestro Creador”. La gama de acompañamiento y apoyo continúa evolucionando y puede incluir actividades como interpretación de idiomas, transporte, necesidades básicas diarias y acceso a recursos médicos y legales existentes. En los próximos meses, esté atento a las actualizaciones sobre este esfuerzo y las posibles áreas en las que sus dones y talentos individuales pueden ser de ayuda para nuestros hermanos y hermanas.

(Para obtener información adicional o si tiene preguntas, comuníquese con la parroquia a: [office@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:office@stagnesshepherdstown.org))

## 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).

## 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 anonymously send a card to the child 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](mailto: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

## Spotlight on Ministry

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

## 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.

## 2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in February. If you have names to add or if you would like to join the group, contact Judy Lilga: 301-432-2276 or [jslilga8@gmail.com](mailto:jslilga8@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto:barbaramueller596@gmail.com)

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

# THE YOUTH CORNER

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Week's Gospel:

*Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21*

January 26, 2025

## CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes resume today, Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 9:15am in the Parish Center. Next Sunday, February 2nd, we will also have regular CFF, etc. classes at 9:15am.

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

It is that time of the year when we need an **Inclement weather policy for CFF**. Should we experience wintry precipitation, we will do our best to make a decision regarding in person CFF class by 8pm the evening prior. Check our website, call the parish office at 304-876-6436 and listen to the recording, or you can also access this information on the St. Agnes CFF/Youth Facebook (closed) group page.

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

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

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

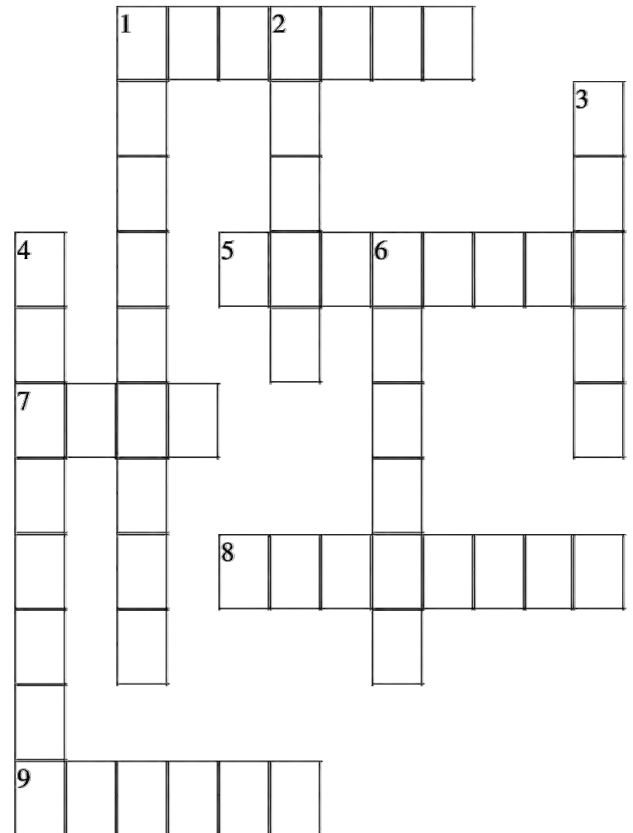
**"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing"  
Luke 4:14-21**

**Across**

- 1. When Jesus read.
- 5. Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit.
- 7. The good news is for them.
- 8. Jesus' home town.
- 9. Book.

**Down**

- 1. Where Jesus taught.
- 2. They would see.
- 3. Time of fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy.
- 4. "...to proclaim release to the \_\_\_\_\_"
- 6. A prophet.



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

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| account      | all       |
| back         | blind     |
| eyewitnesses | favor     |
| fulfilled    | Galilee   |
| hearing      | hometown  |
| Isaiah       | Jesus     |
| Nazareth     | news      |
| poor         | praised   |
| proclaim     | prophet   |
| release      | report    |
| sat          | Scripture |
| spirit       | stood     |
| teach        | truth     |
| upon         | word      |
| anointed     | prisoners |
| captives     | recovery  |
| free         | Sabbath   |
| good         | scroll    |
| instructed   | synagogue |
| Lord         | unrolled  |
| orderly      | your      |

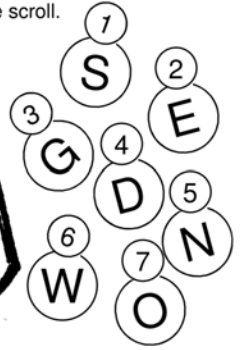
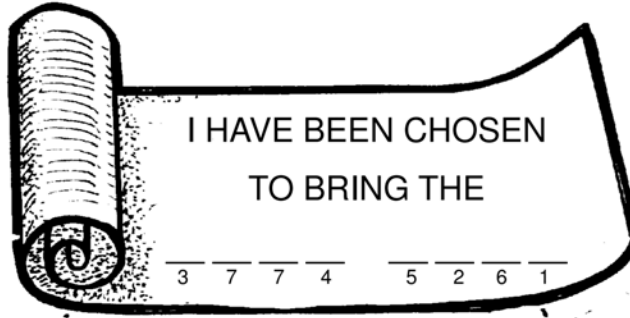


*In today's Gospel reading, Jesus stood in the synagogue and read from the book of the prophet Isaiah. What did it say?*

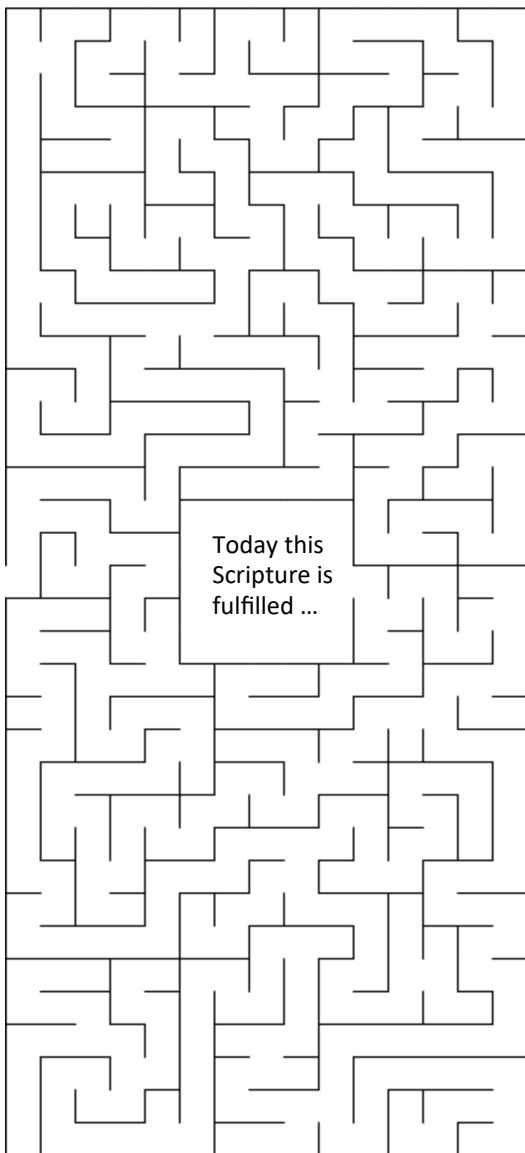
**Look at this page in the mirror to find out!**

**Video Link: Who was the prophet Ezra?**  
<https://youtu.be/Q6z-o8hfziQ>

Use the numbered letters on the right to complete the sentence in the scroll.



START (go through the maze to get to the scripture quote)



# The Gospel at Home

**This Week's Gospel: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21**

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says he fulfills the words of the prophet Isaiah. He is chosen to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, and freedom to captives. Those who follow Jesus are called to continue his work of mercy, love, and acceptance.

**Exploring the Gospel Message**

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child learned that Jesus has Good News to tell. The class also explored how they can share Good News with others in many ways. Take some time to drive or walk around your neighborhood. Look for signs of Good News in what you see in each house or building you pass. When you get back home, talk about how your family can be Good News for others. Have your child show how he or she can pray using hands. Have your child sign and say a prayer for your family.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** Your child learned that Jesus grew up in a real town with real neighbors. The class also learned the importance of their own neighborhood. Ask your son or daughter to teach the family to play the "I can be a good neighbor" game. Go with your child to deliver the "Good Neighbor Award" your child wrote in class.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** Your child's class shared what is Good News for them and how they bring Good News to others. Talk about the Good News that Jesus shared with his friends and neighbors—care for the poor, sight to the blind, freedom for those in slavery. Your child also learned about the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Talk about ways to help one another be attentive to the readings at Mass. Ask your child to share the story "Birdie's Good News" with the family.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Ask your young person to share with the family what he or she learned about the Gospel of Luke. The class also learned what is needed to build community. Talk about ways your family can be prophets, feed the hungry, and bring Good News to the poor. Set up a prayer place in your home. Decorate it with a Bible, candles, and maybe a statue or religious picture. Gather there for a morning and evening prayer during the week.

**Visions (Grades 7-8):** The class this week explored information about the Gospel writer named Luke. Ask your youngster to share what the class learned. The class also learned that Jesus acted as a Spirit-filled prophet when he read the words of Isaiah in his hometown synagogue. How can your family bring Good News to the poor? Look in your daily newspaper or online for stories about people who need to hear Jesus' words. Talk about their situations.

**Pray Together**

When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, make a family litany of people in your family, in your neighborhood, at work, at school, or in the world who need to experience the Good News. Take turns reading the names or the situations. All can respond by saying, "Lord, help us be Good News for (name)."

Copyright © 2025 Pflaum Publishing Group, a division of Bayard, Inc.

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



## SOLUTIONS:

**Youth Events: At a Glance**  
**Dates for the Calendar**

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

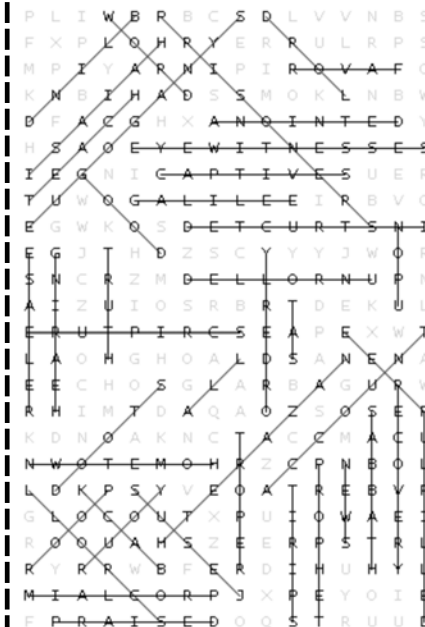
**February 2:** CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes meet in the Parish Center at 9:15am.

**Youth Group's Souper Bowl Collection after each Mass this weekend!**

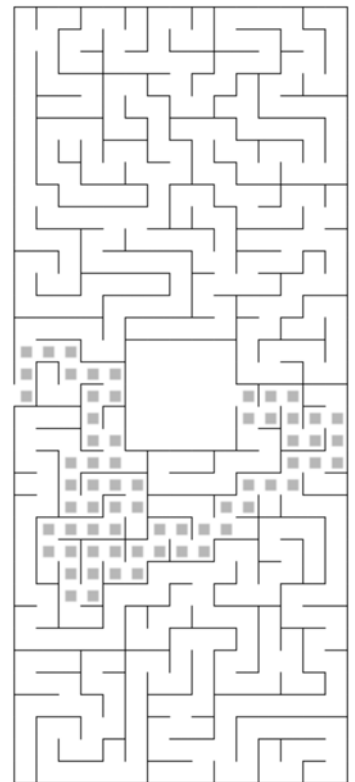
**February 9:** CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes meet in the Parish Center at 9:15am.

**Youth Group's Souper Bowl Collection after each Mass this weekend!**

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



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



**"I have been" puzzle:**  
**GOOD NEWS**

**SUDOKU #2 Answer from Last Week's Bulletin**

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



## Racial Justice Initiative

Starting next week and throughout the month of February, The Racial Justice Initiative will be recognizing Black History Month in several ways. Every Sunday in the bulletin we will feature a series of commentaries on African American Spirituals, describing their origin, meaning, and influence, adapted from the scholarship of our parishioner Kimberly Connor. We are also including this and other resources, like links to performances of the music, on the parish website and adding books on the Spirituals to the Racial Justice Library in the Narthex. We intend to present collaborative congregational performances of the Spirituals. Finally, we will host a viewing of "Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood," a documentary created by the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi, to advance her cause for canonization. Sister Thea is one of six Black Catholics currently under consideration for sainthood. An accomplished musician and educator, Sister Thea was well-known for incorporating the Spirituals into worship and included the Spirituals in her teaching as foundational for understanding African American religious cultures.

## February 21st Book Discussion Group

February's selection is *The Wind Knows My Name*, a 2023 novel by Isabel Allende.

"In a literary career spanning five decades Allende's storytelling walks a lyrical romanticism on roads imposed by social and political turmoil. This story is a fable joined by today's hard news. In her latest novel, Allende disrupts the mainstream narrative about our southern border. She discovers something in Nogales, via El Salvador and Vienna: the human capacity for hope and decency in the midst of despair."

- NPR Review

All are welcome to attend. We meet in the Parish Center at 11 am on Friday, February 21st. Please join us.

## 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.

## Stay Informed

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

## 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.

## Religious Item Recycling

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

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

- Vestments including Chasubles, Stoles, Albs, etc. (even if they are soiled or tattered, as we have them professionally cleaned and/or restored if possible so they can be worn, we can also use them to make new vestments, rosary cases or missal covers; we accept any style, color, vintage)
  - Crucifixes
  - Statues (any size, no outdoor concrete statues)
  - Rosaries (damaged ok)
  - Chalices (Pottery ok but please not by mail)
  - Altar Ware
  - Candle Sticks
  - Tabernacles
  - Relics
  - Monstrances
  - Altar Stones
  - Altar Books/Missals/Lectionaries
  - Holy Medals
  - Holy Cards
  - Linens
  - Paraments
  - Framed Religious Pictures
  - Used Musical Instruments
  - Prayer books/Breviaries/Catholic Encyclopedias
- (Please No Religious Books/Reading Books/Story Books, Hymnals, Pamphlets/Magazines/DVD's, VHS Tapes, Christmas items, or Wax Candles)**

## For Our Younger Parishioners

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

## The Gift of Music



### Memorialize this year's hymnal

Our 2025 Hymnals are here! Envelopes can be found in each hymnal if you would like to dedicate a hymnal to a loved one. Place completed forms in the offertory basket.

## 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](mailto:English-Class@stagnesshepherdstown.org)

## Homebound Ministry Volunteering

Our Homebound Ministry is always looking for new volunteers. Our volunteers help folks out with rides to appointments with their doctors and various therapies, to pick up prescriptions, and for grocery shopping. From time to time, there might also be a need for caregiver breaks wherein a volunteer would just simply sit with an individual so their caregiver can have a break, take care of shopping, or get to their own appointments. Please contact Judy Lilga [jslilga8@gmail.com](mailto:jslilga8@gmail.com) or 301-432-2276 for more information or to volunteer!

## SJS Benefit Dinner

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

## Old St Agnes Cemetery

Did you know that St. Agnes has a historic cemetery? It has gone by many names since it was first deeded to the Catholic community for burial practices in 1795, including: Roman Burying Ground; Roman Burial Ground; Roman Church Burying Ground; Roman Catholic Church Cemetery; Old Catholic Colored Cemetery; Irish Cemetery, and The Catholic Cemetery. The small cemetery is often not known to historians in the area and gets confused with Rose Hill, which runs parallel to it along the East side. It is adjacent to Shepherd University, reachable from W High Street through Rose Hill cemetery. This is one of the oldest Catholic cemeteries in West Virginia. The little cemetery is where some Irish C&O Canal workers, who died of the Asiatic cholera in 1832, are buried. In 1986, it had become overgrown and was cleared of brush and trees. In 2008, John Griffith took the lead to get the property cleaned up again, with the newly formed Knights of Columbus. It has been mowed and maintained since that time. The cemetery has been registered with the WV State Historic Preservation Office, Billion Graves, and with Find A Grave. Headstones are being repaired and reset. Additional research continues on it and the individuals who may be buried there. As most graves are unmarked, our next steps are to make arrangements for Ground Penetrating Radar to look for burials. **St. Agnes Cemetery committee:** John Griffith and Theresa & Lyle Rush.

## About the Black Catholic Experience

**On February 26 from 12noon to 2pm**, Frederick Community College's Institute for Retired Learning is offering a course on The Black Catholic Experience in America. Link to the course: [The Black Catholic Experience in America - Frederick Community College](#).

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

The Riddell Law Group  
Nicola D. Smith, Esq.  
Christian Riddell, Esq  
304-267-3949

## Personal Touch

CLEANING SERVICE

**304-839-8285**

Residential & Commercial

## I WANT TO SAVE YOU MONEY



Michele  
Ours  
Maiden

Contact me today to switch

**304-876-0822**

INSURANCE OUTFITTERS®

Locally Inspired Insurance® Since March 3, 1989



7866 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown, WV 25443 • InsuranceOutfitters.com®

## CRISIS FOOD HOTLINE



**(844) 843-6631**

Call if you or a neighbor are  
experiencing a food emergency

*We can help.*

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



## NEED A NEW INVESTMENT ADVISOR?



**Call me today!**

**MISSION:ADVICE**

**Tom Maiden** MBA, CFP®

**304-870-4200**

**MissionAdvice.com**

Mission:Advice LLC (DBA Mission:Advice)  
is a West Virginia Registered Investment Advisor.

7866 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown, West Virginia 25443

## SJS Sweats for Vets Drive

Thanks to the generosity of SJS families, parishioners from the Eastern Panhandle, and Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown MD, the items collected for Sweats for Vets in Nov and Dec is as follows: three pairs of pants, one top, 55 sweat suits, one pair of long underwear, four sets of gloves, four stocking hats, seven headbands/ear warmers, 153 pairs of socks, and seven pairs of slippers. The overall Sweats for Vets drive collected 600 sets of sweat suits. Some were handed out Jan 18 at the VA in Martinsburg and the rest will be handed out throughout the year as the need arises. Thank you to all who donated!

## 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](mailto:life@marysrefuge.com).

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

**And stay up to date with Mary's Refuge:** Mary's Refuge invites you to stay up-to-date with their baby bulletin. You can find the bulletin through this QR code or visit <https://marysrefuge.com/baby-bulletin/>.



## CBT Grants update

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

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

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

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

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



**INVESTING IN AMERICA**



## Open Positions at Saint Joe's School

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

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

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

	<p><b>Sid Sponaugle</b> 304-671-7761</p> <p>Residential Shingle Roofs GAF Certified WV000540</p>	<p><b>Myers Hill &amp; Associates</b> Estate Planning &amp; Elder Law 299 Rock Cliff Drive Martinsburg, WV 304-263-9099</p>	 <p>Paintings, NoteCards, Figurines For Sale or on Commission mcbart.LonelyPetunia/etsy.com</p>	<p><b>Patriot Tree Service</b> 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><b>Funeral Home</b> Alan Norton, LIC</p>	<p>Traditional, Cremation Pre-Arrangements Trappist Caskets Available</p> <p><b>304.724-6500</b></p>	 <p><b>ARNOLD &amp; BAILEY</b> ATTORNEYS AT LAW</p>	
<p><i>Potomac Crossroads Counseling</i></p>  <p>Kathleen Morotti LPC, LCDAC, BC-DMT Shepherdstown 304-876-3500</p>	<p><b>Shepherdstown PHARMACY</b></p>  <p>7670 Martinsburg Pike 304-876-9966 The Knott Family</p>	<p><b>Two Rivers Counseling</b> adults, teens, children &amp; couples</p> <p>Robyn Harrison-Taft, MA, LPC, NCC www.2riverscounseling.com <b>304-725-7176</b></p>	 <p>James A. Schmitt 304-876-2462</p>	<p><b>304 725-2002</b> WWW.AROLDANDBAILEY.COM S. ANDREW ARNOLD, ESQ.</p>
 <p><b>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS</b> IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.</p>	<p>St. Agnes KofC <b>304-876-6436</b> Join Us!</p>	<p><b>Steel House Farm</b> Gerrardstown, WV <b>304-582-5707</b> Pasture raised, GMO-Free, Chicken, Eggs, Pork, Beef, and Turkey <b>SteelHouseFarm.com</b></p>	 <p>17316 Shepherdstown Pike Sharpsburg, MD 21782 800-354-0478/301-432-7223</p>	 <p><b>Darnell &amp; Company A.C.</b> CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING <b>David E. Darnell</b> 304.725.5712 ddarnell@darnellco.com</p>
 <p>Incredible Facials Expert Waxing Amazing Make Up</p> <p><b>Sokel Makeup &amp; Skin Care</b> 123 N. Charles St, Charles Town by Appointment <b>304-728-8801</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Gagan Singh, MD</b> <b>Dr. David Yeh, MD</b> <i>The Medical Eye Center</i> 710 Somerset Blvd, Suite 101 Charles Town, WV 25414 New Patients Welcome Call for an appointment 304-725-2121</p>		<p><b>Ginger's</b> Flowers and Gifts</p>  <p>317 West Race St. Martinsburg WV 25401 304-267-8936 gingersflowersandgifts.com gingersflowersandgifts@gmail.com</p> <p><b>KFB GRAPHICS</b> • Graphic Design and Consulting • Photo Restoration • 35mm Slide/Negative Scanning kfb@myactv.net • 304-279-4690 Kathleen f. Bielicki Graphic Designer/Artist</p> <p><b>SACRED ART ACTION</b> Preservation-Ecumenical Multi-Cultural Using the Arts as prayer &amp; personal expression. All ages, walks of life &amp; skill levels sacredartinaction.org</p>	
 <p><b>Sons of Italy</b> Open to ALL of Italian descent Meetings Last Tuesday of the Month <b>Bob Rizzo 304-676-5687</b></p>	 <p>Society of St. Vincent de Paul 106 S. Duke Street Shepherdstown, WV "Caring for the poor" 304.839-5443 STA.SVDP.PREZ@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Cathy Bowden Travel</b> Affiliated with Avoya Travel Network/American Express Specializing in cruises and tours</p>  <p>800-859-1107   304-267-1068 Cathy.Bowden@AvoyaTravel.com Www.AvoyaTravelExpert/CathyBowden</p>		<p><b>mindcross</b> InfoTech Services</p> <p>Training, data organization, security, backups, and more</p>
 <p>Mowing - Edging Mulching - Weed Control Fertilizing - Overseeding Aeration - Cleanup Licensed &amp; Insured <b>MendzelasMowing.com</b> 304-270-8093</p>	 <p><b>LITTLE BRICK COFFEE</b> FUEL TO GET YOU STARTED</p> <p>JUST ACROSS THE BRIDGE IN MD CRAFT COFFEE DRINKS, TEA, PASTRIES, GLUTEN FREE SNACKS</p>	 <p><b>Mercedes Prohaska</b> <b>304-264-1832</b> <b>www.mercedesmoves.com</b> Proudly Licensed in West Virginia and Virginia I will donate 3% of my Proceed back to St Agnes</p>  <p>Family-Owned Craft Brewery 240-200-9832 potomacridgebrewing@gmail.com 16609 Shepherdstown Pike, Sharpsburg, MD 21782</p>		<p><b>Scott &amp; Rosanne Hutton</b> 304.725.2617 training@mindcross.com</p> <p><b>Lisa and Aron</b> CareGivers 304-707-2297 Savedbygrace7277@gmail.com</p> <p>Helping through all stages of life</p>
<p><b>Friend of St. Agnes Catholic Church</b> <b>Hub City Sprinkler, Inc</b> Fire Protection System Supplier Hagerstown, MD</p>	 <p>140 East German St 304-870-4527</p>	<p>STATE FARM® INSURANCE AGENT <b>Tammy Sirbaugh, CLU</b> 217 Oak Lee Dr, Suite 2A Ranson, WV 25438 www.tammysirbaugh.com <b>State Farm</b> 304-725-5433</p>  <p>Mowing Mulching Patios Lighting Pruning ...and much more. <b>Lawn Services</b></p>		<p><b>Guiding Hands</b> In home Care</p>