

# 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**

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

## Weekly Schedule

### Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm  
 Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

### Weekday Mass

Monday and Wednesday, 11am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday, 4:30pm

**Parish Office:** Monday through Friday 9am-4pm

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

## The Week at a Glance...

Sun Jan 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perpetual Memorial Mass 8am</li> <li>• CFF, AFF, Youth Group 9:15am</li> <li>• OCIA 12noon</li> </ul>
Mon Jan 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon</li> <li>• Hispanic Outreach Committee 1pm</li> </ul>
Tues Jan 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Games Group 3:30pm</li> <li>• ESL Class 6pm</li> </ul>
Wed Jan 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance Council 6pm</li> </ul>
Fri Jan 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2nd Friday Prayer Group 11am</li> </ul>
Sat Jan 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KoC Raffle Ticket Sales After All Masses (to Benefit Seminarians)</li> </ul>
Sun Jan 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No CFF</li> <li>• Bernadette Jarrell Baptism 10:30am</li> <li>• OCIA 12noon</li> <li>• Intergenerational Mass 5pm</li> </ul>

## 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 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. Again, if interested in being a sponsor, email Bill Donahue [formation@stagnesshepherds-town.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherds-town.org). *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

## St. Agnes Perpetual Mass Memorial



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

Hans van Leeuwen

By Jan Sengers

Gladys Sosa

By Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh

Barbara and Danny Baker

Judy Lilga

Richard Hitchcock

Theresa & Lyle Rush

Steve Herridge

Theresa & Lyle Rush

Bridget Akajiofor Chukwuđum

Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh

## Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Larry Merhaut, Teresa Verteramo (mother of Rosanne Hutton), Mark Switzer, Josh Carter, Jack Brown (grandson of Marie Snowden), Mike Phillips, and Ron Mancini (son-in-law of Bob & Martha Rizzo). Names are placed in the bulletin for one month then moved onto the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

## In 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.

Dear Parishioners,

Journey of the Magi by T.S. Elliot

'A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.'  
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,  
Lying down in the melting snow.  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.  
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling  
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,  
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,  
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly  
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
A hard time we had of it.  
At the end we preferred to travel all night,  
Sleeping in snatches,  
With the voices singing in our ears, saying  
That this was all folly.  
Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,  
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;  
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the  
darkness,  
And three trees on the low sky,  
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.  
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,  
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,  
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins,  
But there was no information, and so we continued  
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon  
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.  
All this was a long time ago, I remember,  
And I would do it again, but set down  
This set down This: were we led all that way for  
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,  
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different; this Birth was  
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.  
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death.

Fr. Andy

## Christmas Flowers

Our Christmas flowers have been given **in memory of** Richard & Sarah Jane Nau by Tim & Gretchen Matz; Mr. & Mrs. George Buys, Mr. & Mrs. John Piccolomini, and Mr. & Mrs. Ron Burkett by John & Dotty Piccolomini; Friends & Family by Lyle & Theresa Rush; Burleigh Family, Thompson Family, Moler Family, Greaser Family, and Robertson Family by Bryan & Judith Robertson; Rex. A. Norton by Hilda Norton; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Curry and Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Thomas by Arnold & Victoria Thomas; Barbara McDonald by Henry McDonald; Arthur Klann, Roger Hedrick, and Sally & Bob Syme by Eileen Hedrick; Francis Snowden, Rebecca McCauley, Jasen Quintana, Sophia Hansen, and Sandy Walker by Marie Snowden; Phillip Mueller and Kenneth & Anna McCullough by Barbara Mueller; William Fritchman by Nancy Curry; Albert "Pete" Roberts, Lucy Ortega, and Clay Brown by Matt & Claudia Dressler; Frank & Cecilia Vassallo by Eric & Anna Sokel; Gary Dunlevy, Jerry DeFilippo, Edward Brewer, and Delma Brewer by Lynn Dunlevy; The Kemerer and Lattus families by Greg & Debbie Lattus; Elvira Risi and Almernto Risi by Maria Lamanna; Michael Schaefer by Susan Schaefer; Edythe Myers by Zach & Tricia Myers; Nathan Staubs, Jaimie Nichole Staubs, Dr. Anthony Bodola & Mary Bodola, James Duncan, and Travis Duncan by Renee Snyder; Rebecca & John Gomes by Richard & Delcina Gomes; **in honor of** Fr Andy by Zach & Tricia Myers; Heather Schaefer by Susan Schaefer; **and as a gift to St Agnes** by Raymond & Lucille Nelson, Ralph & Rosie Lorenzetti, Dennis & Janice Wark, Robert & Katherine McMillan, Peggy & Frank Dougherty, and Barb Lugaila.

## 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.

## Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

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

## 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.

## NEW—Upcoming ESL Classes

St. Agnes ofrecerá clases gratuitas de inglés como segundo idioma. La clase de cinco semanas es del 7 de Enero al 11 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 7 de Enero. El registro se puede encontrar a <https://bit.ly/learn-english-2025>.

St. Agnes will be offering free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. **The five-week class will be held January 7 through February 11 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 7. The registration form can be found at <https://bit.ly/learn-english-2025>.



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)

## 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 + 25"**

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*).

## 2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in January. 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).

## Racial Justice Initiative

Did you know that the very first anti-slavery organization in the world was founded here in America?

In 1775, the Society for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage (later known as the Pennsylvania Abolition Society) was established by Quakers in Philadelphia. It was organized as a response to an actual case of a Native American woman, Dinah Nevil, and her four children, who had been brought to Philadelphia by a slave trader. She publicly claimed that she and her children were "free people." The mayor of Philadelphia intervened to allow a court case to be brought by Quakers who sued for the family's freedom. They lost in court. But an anti-slavery society had been born. After ongoing efforts, Nevil and her children won their freedom in 1781.

Another event propelled the society's ongoing development. In the Summer of 1783, two free African American men were accused of being runaway slaves. When their attempts to enlist the help of influential whites failed to materialize, they both committed suicide in prison rather than live enslaved. The ensuing shock and anger, especially among many Quakers, led to a re-evaluation of their anti-slavery efforts and a reinvigoration and reorganization of the society that in 1787 became the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. It became a non-sectarian organization enlisting the likes of Benjamin Franklin as president, and other notables, such as Thomas Paine, Noah Webster, John Jay, and the Marquis de Lafayette, as members.

America has, from its origins stories in support of racial justice, and, like this story, may have small beginnings in response to the need of real individuals that blossom into much greater impacts on the cause for racial justice. May we learn from such examples as this.

## 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.

## 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!

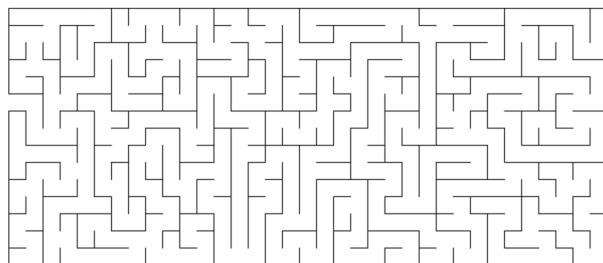
# THE YOUTH CORNER

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

Epiphany of the Lord

This Week's Gospel:  
*Matthew 2:1-12*

January 5, 2025



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



**Happy New Year!** CFF, Youth Group, or Adult classes will meet today, Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 9:15am in 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.

**Next weekend, January 12th** there will be no CFF, Youth Group or Adult Classes on Sunday morning. We will instead have our **Intergenerational Mass Sunday evening at 5pm**. This Mass also fulfills your Sunday obligation. There will be no CFF, etc. on 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.

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.



**Epiphany of the Lord**  
Matthew 2:1-12

1		2							
		3				4			
5									
									6
						7			
8									
						9			
10									



**Across**

1. the wise men paid \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.
5. How did Herod call the wise men?
7. Herod asked the scribes and chief priests where he would be born.
8. Bethlehem was in this province.
9. These men frm the East were called \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Reaction of Herod whe he heard the wise men.

**Down**

2. One of the gifts.
3. City in Judea where Jesus was born.
4. The wise men first came to find Jesus in this city.
6. According to the prophecy, the ruler would \_\_\_\_\_ God's people.

Today we are celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany.  
The Epiphany is a special part of the Christmas season.  
What's it all about?  
Connect the dots to find out!

**EPIPHANY**

# Put Yourself in the Christmas Story

Fill in the blanks below.

1. Your name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Best friend's name \_\_\_\_\_
3. Favorite dog's name \_\_\_\_\_
4. Favorite Christmas carol \_\_\_\_\_
5. A problem you have \_\_\_\_\_



Color the angel.

Fill in the blanks in the story below with the names and words you have written above. This can be YOUR story this Christmas.

One cold winter night, \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup>'s very best friend,  
 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup>, were camping out in a tent. The dog \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup>  
 was with them. They had been asleep for hours when they heard voices singing  
 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup>. They looked outside and saw angels surrounded by light. The  
 angels told \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> to go to Bethlehem to  
 visit the newborn king. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> had nothing  
 to give the baby, but they went anyway. In Bethlehem, they found the infant and his parents.  
 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> knelt before the infant and said, "You're the newborn king we've been  
 waiting for. I hope you'll help me. My problem is \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>  
 \_\_\_\_\_." \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> couldn't be sure, but the  
 baby seemed to smile yes. Then I knew that everything would be OK.

## Word Search

- |            |          |            |
|------------|----------|------------|
| Bethlehem  | born     | calling    |
| child      | child    | diligently |
| dream      | exact    | found      |
| frightened | gifts    | gold       |
| Herod      | homage   | inquired   |
| Israel     | Jesus    | joy        |
| Judea      | King     | knelt      |
| Mary       | men      | Messiah    |
| mother     | myrrh    | people     |
| place      | priests  | rising     |
| road       | ruler    | search     |
| secretly   | shepherd | star       |
| stopped    | time     | treasures  |
| warned     | wise     | written    |

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

# The Gospel at Home

**This Week's Gospels: LUKE 2:1-14 and Matthew 2:1-12**

Christmas celebrates God's becoming one of us and one with us. Jesus comes as an infant, placed in the care of a struggling but loving family. The Feast of the Epiphany, a word that means "manifestation," celebrates how Jesus was revealed as far more than the king of the Jews. He is revealed as God's Son. Matthew's story of the visit of the Magi from the East makes it clear that Jesus came to all people who seek God.

**Exploring the Gospel Message**

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your young child is happy because Christmas is finally here. The cover of their lesson for the week is a picture of the whole Nativity story. Display the picture where everyone can see it. Take time to let your young child tell the story to the whole family.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** Christmas has arrived. Use this week's lesson booklet to connect the classroom with your home. Have your child show you the picture drawn of baby Jesus in the manger on page 1. Your youngster also learned about the Magi and helped them find their way through a maze puzzle. Ask your child what message can we all share at Christmas. Sing "Silent Night" together—or some other familiar carol.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** The lesson booklet your child brings home this week contains a simple and beautiful rendering of the Christmas story. Before one of the family meals during the Christmas feast, take time as a family to share the story together. Talk together about why the incarnation is so important to Christians and how your family can honor Jesus as the Magi did.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Because Christmas can be busy and even a bit stressful, it may be difficult to find time to share as a family. Make an extra effort to talk about the Christmas story as a family. Your youngster also spent some time in class looking ahead to 2025. How can your family make the new year one filled with little "epiphanies" that help you learn more about your faith and help you share your faith with others?

**Visions (Grades 7-8):** This week in class, your son or daughter studied all the feasts that are part of the celebration of Christmas. Ask him or her to share with the family what these feasts are. The Epiphany feast celebrates Jesus' revealing himself to all nations as a Savior for all people. Talk together about the journey of the Magi, and why it is such an important part of the Christmas narrative. Ask your young person to share the picture of the Magi by the Chinese artist He Qi (Woo Chee). Talk about how the artist gives a clear vision of the event.

**Pray Together**

Pick one of the feast days during the season to attend Mass together as a family. Use the opportunity to pay a visit to the manger scene at your parish church and pray together in your own words that God will help you always trust in his promises and care for those in need. In that way your family will keep the Christmas spirit alive all year long.

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Magi / Epiphany Video: <https://youtu.be/UdfWxjXXA58>

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

**Volunteering:** The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate our faith in action! **All volunteers** are required to be VIRTUS trained as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. If you would like to volunteer for any parish ministry including with our youth, you must be VIRTUS trained. Forms are located in the church Narthex and the parish center on how to complete this process. All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS trained.

## SOLUTIONS:

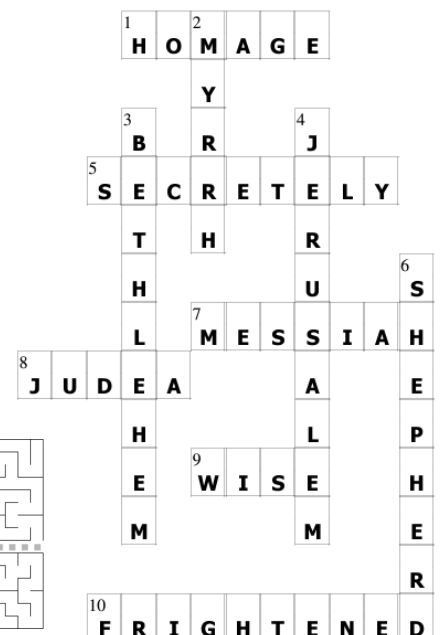
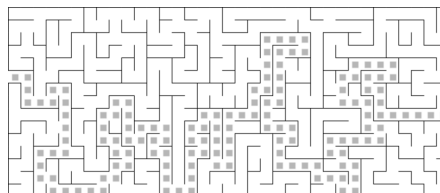
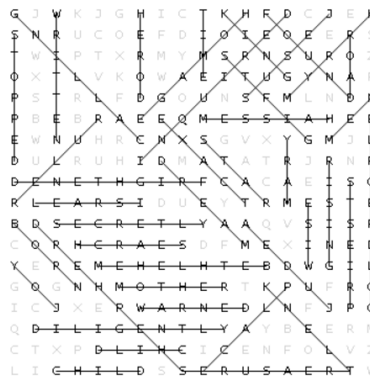
**Youth Events: At a Glance**  
**Dates for the Calendar**

**January 5:** CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes resume in the Parish Center at 9:15am

**January 12:** Intergenerational Mass at 5pm at the church. No CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes today.

**January 19:** No CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes today (Martin Luther King Jr. Day). Meal Prep. for the Hungry 11:40am in the Parish Center

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





## 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

## Spotlight on Ministry

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS** serve the public worship of the Church community. Together, the ministers support the full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgical celebrations. Please refer to the listing below for discernment.

**Training/review/updates** will resume in January beginning with Eucharistic Ministers. My observance tells me we can all benefit from review and updates. Parishioners are welcome and urged to participate in any of these ministries. The ministries include everything from Altar Servers and Eucharistic Ministers to Music and Art in the liturgical space. Some of the ministries require initial training and the time commitment for volunteers varies by the ministry.

**ALTAR SERVERS** The role of Altar Server is very critical to the Liturgy. Altar Servers support the celebration of the Liturgy by assisting in certain ritual functions, such as— Servers carry the cross, carry the incense and censer when used, hold the book for the Presider, present the bread, wine, and water to the priest during the preparation of the gifts or assist him when he receives the gifts from the people, wash the hands of the priest, assist the priest celebrant and deacon as necessary such as carrying the cross during processions, and assisting in certain practical matters including setting the altar table, etc. Training for Altar Servers can begin in fourth grade and includes learning all the parts of the Mass and how to perform the required duties and the various objects used in the liturgy (their names and use). It may also include many months of serving with an experienced mentor to gain confidence. Many Altar Servers participate throughout middle school and high school. Adults also serve in this ministry. Here at St. Agnes our servers do a wonderful job enhancing our liturgical celebrations!

Contact: Helen Harris

[liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org)

## A Christmas Poem

### Christmas Poem by Mary Oliver

Says a country legend told every year:

Go to the barn on Christmas Eve and see  
what the creatures do as that long night tips over.

Down on their knees they will go, the fire  
of an old memory whistling through their minds!

I went. Wrapped to my eyes against the cold

I creaked back the barn door and peered in.

From town the church bells spilled their midnight music,  
And the beasts listened — yet they lay in their stalls like  
stone.

Oh the heretics!

Not to remember Bethlehem,

or the star as bright as the sun,

or the child born on a bed of straw!

To know only of the dissolving Now!

Still they drowsed on —

Citizens of the pure, the physical world,

They loomed in the dark: powerful

of body, peaceful of mind,

innocent of history.

Brothers! I whispered. It is Christmas!

And you are no heretics, but a miracle,

immaculate still as when you were thundered forth  
on the morning of creation!

As for Bethlehem, that blazing star

still sailed the dark, but only looked for me.

Caught in its light, listening again to its story,

I curled against some sleepy beast, who nuzzled

my hair as though I were a child, and warmed me

the best it could all night.

## 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)
- Regular tea bags

## Cash Cards Make Sense & Cents

Purchasing cash cards through St Agnes is an easy way to support the church financially at no additional cost to you. Cards are available for purchase in the Parish Center office during regular office hours: Monday to Friday 9am-4pm. *Please call first to check for availability.*

## 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/>.



## Important VIRTUS Update!

Just a reminder, if you have not logged into your VIRTUS account recently, please do so and make sure you are up to date. **Everyone must complete the VIRTUS 4.0 training by Jan. 6, 2025.** If you did VIRTUS within approximately the last year and a half, you did the 4.0 training. If you are not sure, you can find out by logging into your account—there will be a notification that you need to update. If you have any questions or problems, email Bill Donahue at [formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org) and he can help you with the process.

We have taken the months of November & December to make sure we are compliant for the January deadline.

**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 can be found in the Narthex and the Parish Center on how to complete this process. All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS-trained.

## 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!

## 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.

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.

## Parish Financial Activity

### Collections – Year-To-Date (thru December)

Offertory Collections	\$485,198
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$54,930
<b>Total</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	<b>\$540,128</b>
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$624,000
<b>Total Collections Compared to Target</b>	<b>↓ -\$83,872</b>

Tithe to help those in need	\$48,520
<small>(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)</small>	

## Parish Financial Activity

### Collections – Last Week (Including Christmas)

Offertory Collections	\$22,846
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$275
<b>Total</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	<b>\$23,121</b>
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
<b>Total Collections Compared to Target</b>	<b>↑ +\$11,121</b>

Tithe to help those in need	\$2,285
<small>(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)</small>	

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

## CRISIS FOOD HOTLINE



**(844) 843-6631**

Call if you or a neighbor are experiencing a food emergency

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



### 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/>.

### For Our Younger Parishioners

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

### 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.

### 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](#).

### 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.

### 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).

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### 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).



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### 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](mailto:mbyrd@sjswv.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>200 South Duke St Shepherdstown, WV 304-876-6436</p>	 <p><b>Funeral Home</b></p>	<p>Traditional, Cremation Pre-Arrangements Trappist Caskets Available</p> <p><b>304.724-6500</b> Alan Norton, LIC</p>	 <p><b>ARNOLD &amp; BAILEY</b> ATTORNEYS AT LAW</p>	
<p><b>Potomac Crossroads Counseling</b></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></p> <p>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>
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<p><b>Sons of Italy</b></p>  <p>Open to ALL of Italian descent Meetings Last Tuesday of the Month <b>Bob Rizzo 304-676-5687</b></p>	<p><b>Society of St. Vincent de Paul</b></p>  <p>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></p>  <p>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>
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