

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 ~ 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

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7b-8
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

Saturday, at 5:30pm

Sunday, at 8am and 10:30am

Weekday Mass

Monday and Wednesday at 11am

Stations of the Cross

Friday at 7pm

Reconciliation

Saturday at 4:30pm

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

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

The Week at a Glance...

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Sunday, Mar 17 | <p>Fifth Sunday of Lent/St. Patrick's Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CFF, Growing in Faith • RCIA 12noon • Intergenerational Mass 5pm |  |
| Monday, Mar 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon | |
| Tuesday, Mar 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Racial Injustice Initiative</i> Zoom 3pm | |
| Wednesday, Mar 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Council 6:30pm • <i>Stubblefield Institute</i> Online Hate Speech Conversation 5:30pm | |
| Friday, Mar 22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeping Bag Project 9:30am | |
| Sunday, Mar 24 | <p>Palm Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CFF/Growing in Faith • RCIA 12Noon • <i>Hispanic Ministry Committee</i> El Salvador Presentation 12noon • <i>Youth Feeding the Hungry</i> Food Prep 11:30am |  |

2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in April. 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 jslilga8@gmail.com.

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday in Lent, we will be offering Stations of the Cross at 7pm at the church. Stations of the Cross are a meaningful way to pray and meditate on Christ's sacrifice for us. As always, all are welcome!

Mass Intentions



Saturday, 5:30pm for
Claire Williamson



Sunday, 8:00am for
John & Barbara King

May Claire, John, and Barbara share
in the fullness 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 Chet Gore, Barbara Mueller, Amirra Umpenhour, Laddin Audia, Lizzy Walls, Georgette Rush, Janet Armstrong, Mary Katherine Raygor, Paula Russo, and Larry Merhaut. Names are placed in the bulletin for one month and then those names are placed on the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.


New Hispanic Ministry Committee Hosts First Event

With the support of the pastoral council, St Agnes has started a Hispanic ministry committee. We want to take steps so that St Agnes lives up to its mission to be inclusive and so that the Hispanic community knows that their cultures and gifts are welcome here.

For our first event, we have decided on **Palm Sunday March 24th at noon**. Father Andy and the head of Hispanic Ministry for the Eastern Panhandle, Enid Roman DeJesus, will give a presentation on our recent trip to El Salvador and learning from the culture of El Salvador and walking the footsteps of Martyr and Saint, Bishop Oscar Romero, who stood against the oppression of his people. March 24th, Palm Sunday, was the day he was actually assassinated, so this is a sacred day for us to gather to honor the El Salvadoran people and Archbishop Oscar Romero who worked to build the Kingdom of God.

Music Notes

There are different ways of praying in liturgy. Sometimes we pray together in song, sometimes we pray together in silence. Recently, there have been questions about the music that's played for meditation after communion. It is the National Anthem of Ukraine - a symbol of oppressed peoples everywhere. It is heard in symphony halls around the globe and online. At a general audience last week, Pope Francis renewed his invitation "to pray for the populations that suffer the horror of war in Ukraine, in the Holy Land and in other parts of the world... let us ask the Lord for the gift of peace."

 Peace to you,
Elaine

Dear Parishioners,

We are moving closer to the Easter season, and this past Sunday our children preparing for First Communion along with those who are in the RCIA process helped make a meal for our brothers and sisters who are homeless. This was truly a joyful occasion on Laetare (rejoicing) Sunday. I looked around the room, and I saw St Agnes at its best—young and old using their hands to prepare this meal. This is what it means to be a church that is intergenerational. I was amazed at, in just a few hours, how much work was done because we were not trying to do it alone but rather working as a team as the body of Christ where each person has something to contribute. During the meal preparation, I reminded our First Communion kids that they were making this meal for Jesus as we read in Matthew 25, "I was hungry, and you gave me food...what you did for the least of my brothers and sisters you did for me." This Wednesday, some of them served that meal to the hungry in our area knowing that they were taking it to Jesus. Many lessons were learned that day: that we are all the body of Christ and the Lord needs all our hands in the world. We all share in the mission of the gospel. We can all learn from each other, and, as we work together, we grow as a community and we see we are in this together as when we work together in ordinary things like a meal. Jesus can do great things. These words that we say during the Mass remind us that it is not just ordinary bread and wine that is transformed, but our very lives.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
Through your goodness we have received
The bread we offer you:

Fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are you Lord God of all creation,
For through your goodness we have received
The wine we offer you:

Fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink
Blessed Be God forever.

Fr. Andy

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!

Holy Week

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

Monday, March 25

11am Mass

Holy Thursday, March 28

7:00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper

(all those present will be invited to
participate and have their feet washed)

9:30pm Night Prayer –Church open for

quiet prayer & reflection until 11pm

Good Friday, March 29

9:00am Morning Prayer

3:00pm Stations of the Cross

7:00pm Liturgy of the Passion

and Death of the Lord

Holy Saturday, March 30

9:00am Morning Prayer

NO Reconciliation or 5:30pm Mass

8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass

Reception following Mass

Easter Sunday, March 31

8:00am Easter Morning Mass

10:15am Children's Program before Mass

10:30am Easter Morning Mass

11:45am Easter Egg Hunt

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

Lately we are hearing from far too many parishioners that they are receiving emails or text messages from someone posing as Fr. Andy or Fr. Mat. **If you ever receive an email or text from someone posing as St. Agnes staff asking for money, gift cards, etc., it's a SCAM.**

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

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

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

EPEC Domestic Violence Follow-Up

Last Sunday, March 10, two representatives from the Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center gave a very informative talk on the free resources available to any and all who may have been or who are currently in the midst of domestic abuse, stalking, or sex trafficking situations. These resources and services are available to women, men, and children of all ages. Of the 2,000 cases that were reported and dealt with by the EPEC staff in 2023, about 15% were contacts made by men. EPEC has resources that include law enforcement interventions, pro bono lawyers, a 16 bed shelter for those that need housing, and much more. Please note that pamphlets outlining EPEC's services are available on the Pamphlet Rack at the end of the hallway near the bathrooms at church. An excellent book to read that includes case studies of domestic abuse and interventions to break the cycle of abuse is: *No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us*, by Rachel Louise Snyder.

For questions about the presentation or EPEC, please see Eileen Dooley, Judy Lilga, or Eileen Elliott.

Online Hate Speech Conversation

Moderation of Online Hate Speech—A Community Engagement Conversation hosted by the Stubblefield Institute on Wednesday, March 20, 5:30pm at the Student Center at Shepherd University. There will be small group conversations followed by a panel discussion. Panelists: Stephen Balkam, founder, Family Online Safety Institute; Rita Caufield, legal redress chairperson, Berkeley County NAACP; James Denvil, partner, global regulatory, Hogan Lovells.

As greater access to broadband collides with a turbulent election year, West Virginians are increasingly being exposed to online hate speech. In this event, experts will discuss online hate speech and share thoughts on how much is coming from outside groups trying to divide us. They will talk about whether such activity should and could be regulated — and by whom — and offer advice on how to handle online hate speech when it occurs. The event is free but seating is limited and reservations are required. More information at stubblefieldinstitute.org/event/moderation-of-online-hate-speech/

Scripture Sharing

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

Operation Rice Bowl

Please consider making a generous donation today and join us in praying that we may grow closer to God by serving one another this Lent.

ORB Website: <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>
Catholic Relief Services (CRS) carries out the commitment of the US Bishops to assist poor and vulnerable overseas.

Easter Vigil

Interested in helping out with the Easter Vigil? Every year, St. Agnes prepares a celebration after the Easter Vigil to welcome our newest parishioners. We are looking for food donations. If you are interested, contact Bill Donahue: formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org or the Parish office: 304-876-6436.

Spotlight on Ministry

PART 1: WHAT IS THE EASTER TRIDUUM?

As the Christian community enters into the final week of preparation for Easter Sunday, a week often called Holy Week, members of the Catholic community will begin to start talking about something called Triduum. Taken from a Latin root that mean "three days," it is a period of time where we as church are invited into the paschal mystery, his death and resurrection from the dead.

Starting on the Thursday before Easter Sunday, each day is traditionally marked with a particular liturgy. On Holy Thursday there is the Mass of the Lord's Supper that marks the Last Supper that Jesus had with his disciples, wherein he showed them what it means to serve by washing their feet. It is also meant to mark what is seen as the establishment of the celebration of the Eucharist (or Mass).

Good Friday is marked with fasting and prayer as a way to remember Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. The Good Friday liturgy involves the reading of Jesus' passion and death from the Gospel of John as well as an opportunity to pray with and venerate a cross – the instrument of Jesus' death and our salvation.

We are always in need of ministers. Will you share your time and talent? Please consider joining one of our ministries at St Agnes. There's so many ways to get involved and grow in your faith. Altar Servers needed. Please contact Helen Harris at liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

JCCM Food Pantry Current Needs

Canned meats (especially chicken)
Mac and Cheese
Soup (tomato and hearty soups)
Canned Beans
Rice
Jelly
Syrup, Pancake Mix
Crackers
Coffee (Instant and Ground)
Canned fruit, Canned pasta
Cooking Oil,
Razors, Shampoo, Conditioner
Paper towels, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent
Cat and Dog Food

Homebound Ministry

For any parishioners who have needs (groceries, rides to doctors or pharmacies, etc.), our **HOMEBOUND MINISTRY** is willing to help. Please call Judy Lilga (301-432-2276).



THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel:

John 11: 1—45

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent

CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

CFF: There is no CFF this morning. Families are encouraged to attend the Intergenerational Mass at 5 PM, March 17th. There will be a social after the Mass. There is no CFF Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.

Confirmation Day Retreat: Is scheduled for Sunday, April 14th from 9 AM to 7 PM concluding with Mass at St. Agnes.

Youth Group: Watch for emails etc. for Egg Hunt and Children's Easter Program. (Easter Sunday, March 31st)

ADULT Classes: Growing in Faith classes will resume April 7th. We encourage everyone to experience the various faith opportunities in the upcoming week. Also, the Intergenerational Mass will occur at 5 PM on March 17th.

RCIA and RCIC: Will meet today at 12noon in the Parish Center.

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.

If you are a parent and not receiving CFF announcements and emails, please contact the Parish center at 304-876-6436 or Bill Donahue at: **formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org**

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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John 11: 1-45

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Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6839918/>

Youth Events: March at a Glance

March 17: Intergenerational Mass 5 PM at the church followed by a meal. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day! No CFF at 9:15 AM—come to Mass and Catechesis at 5 PM.

March 24: Palm Sunday—No CFF—Fr. Andy's Presentation about El Salvador after the 10:30 Mass Youth Prepare the Meal for the Hungry—Parish Center after the 10:30 Mass

March 28: Holy Thursday—1st Eucharist and Confirmandi should attend.

March 29: Good Friday—Stations at 3 PM Mass at 7 PM—Confirmandi should attend

March 30: Easter Vigil - 8 PM Confirmandi should attend

March 31: Easter Sunday—No CFF—Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the parish after the 10:30 AM Mass sponsored by St. Agnes Youth group.

Stations of the Cross—Every Friday Night during Lent at 7 PM at the church

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

The Scrutinies - What They Are and Why They Are Important

If you are a cradle Catholic sitting in the pew during the third, fourth, and fifth Sunday of Lent, and RCIA members join you at Mass, you are present for "the Scrutinies", whether you realize it or not. What are they, and why are they important for all of us during this Lenten season of repentance and renewal?

Special Rites

The Scrutinies are three special rites that help prepare the Elect, those participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), to enter the Catholic Church. They take place during the period of RCIA formation known as Purification and Enlightenment, near the end of their formation.

The season of Lent involves a more intense period of examination and preparation for the Elect, and hopefully for those of us already living the Catholic faith. Though they are meant for the RCIA Elect, the Scrutinies can help all Catholics seeking to live a life of continuous conversion.

The Three Scrutinies

The Scrutinies are associated with three specific Gospel stories on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent:

- **Jesus encountering the Samaritan woman at the well**, where He offers Himself as the Living Water,
- **Jesus healing the man born blind**, where He gives Himself as Light of the World, and
- **Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead**, where He reveals Himself as the Resurrection and the Life.

April 2, 2017



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus finds out that his friend Lazarus has died.

Can you find your way through the maze to the tomb where Jesus will raise him from the dead?



"Jesus raises Lazarus."
John 11:1 - 44



The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: John 12:20-33

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus faces religious leaders who are plotting against him. Many Jews and Greeks in Jerusalem were coming to him, and this angered Jesus' opponents. Jesus explains his fate by using the parable of a grain of wheat falling to the ground. Unless it dies, it remains a single grain. If the seed dies, it will produce a rich harvest.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child explored how seeds grow and the ways children can grow in love. Ask your child to share the story, "Hooray for Spring!" with the family. Invite your child to share the stories of the four saints who gave their lives to God. Talk about ways your family grows in love for God and for one another.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week, your child learned what Jesus meant when he compared himself to a grain of wheat. They also saw how bread is made. Consider making some bread as a family to experience it first hand. The class also completed a Eucharist Crossword and learned what the words of Jesus are in the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass. Talk as a family about what it means to you that Jesus is the Bread of Life.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week in class, your young person explored the Gospel message about the seed falling to the ground and dying in order for there to be a great harvest of grain.

The class also explored the Lord's Prayer and how the Seventh, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments call us to respect others' belongings and friendships. Ask your young person to explain the three Commandments to the family. Ask your child to share the story of Saint Oscar Romero with the family.

Visions (Grades 7-9): The class discussed how the grain of wheat becomes bread. They also discussed how the bread of the Eucharist helps us understand who Jesus is and how the Mass gathers us together as a people. As a family, share your experiences of Mass. What are some of your best experiences? Why are these experiences so special? Also ask your son or daughter to share what he or she learned about the Prophet Jeremiah from the play the class performed. Ask why Jeremiah's message was so hard for the people to hear.

Pray Together

One evening before the family meal, stand around the table and give each person a small piece of bread. Ask each person to imagine how simple seeds planted in the soil became this delicious bread. Let each member of the family say a simple thank-you prayer for the life and Death of Jesus. Then pray the Lord's Prayer together, eat the pieces of bread, and enjoy the meal.

This week's Gospel is from Cycle A because of the Scrutinies

The reflection from the Gospel Weeklies would be read this week if we did not have the Scrutinies.



The Celtic Cross

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



SOLUTIONS:

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In today's Gospel reading,

Community Garden Starting Up

The Gardens, all kinds of them, have been with us forever. Some of the earliest stories read to us or that we learned to sing are about gardens and farms, i.e. The Garden of Eden and Old McDonald's Farm. Those memories come ripe to arouse our senses, the smell of a particular plant, the colors and positions of various plants, the feel of leaves and fruit, the taste of a favorite vegetable fresh from stalk, and the sound of autumn leaves as you walk in the garden; but more about that next week. This week is a good time to look at a different aspect of the garden, a hymn that was penned in 1912 by C. Austin Miles, a Methodist minister, *I Come to the Garden Alone*. The lyrics, shown below, are truly mesmerizing; this song starts us on a journey to examine the sounds, or lack thereof, the inhabitants, the water and the light, and companionship with God. Several groups here at St Agnes are working to build a garden that will offer the opportunity for everyone to be the builder and maintainer of that space: **a garden for all**.

The Intergenerational Community Garden is getting ready for the new season. We welcome **any** level of involvement and would love to have your participation. Potential areas of engagement include:

- Planting seeds
- Watering
- Weeding
- Harvesting

If you are interested, please email Samantha Yates and Fanny Smith at samanthaeyates@gmail.com.

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain: And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We are still in need of donated **blankets**, and **comforters** (any size) and also used **sleeping bags**. Items should be clean and in fair condition and can be dropped off at the parish center. If you would like to join our ministry, email Barbara Mueller at barbaramueller596@gmail.com.

Our Lady of Ferguson

Some of you may have noticed an icon that appears above the Racial Justice Library in the narthex of St. Agnes. This is Our Lady of Ferguson, created by Mark Doox. We wanted to offer an explanation of why we hung a reproduction of this icon to illustrate our parish's commitment to racial justice.

Our Lady, Mother of Ferguson and All Those Killed by Gun Violence, simply known as Our Lady of Ferguson, is an icon of the Madonna and Child. The icon, which depicts the Virgin Mary as a Black Madonna, was created in 2015 by the iconographer Mark Doox (formerly Mark Dukes). It was commissioned by the Rev. Mark Francisco Bozzuti-Jones, an Episcopal priest at Trinity Church in Manhattan. Created after the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, the icon has been referenced as a symbol against gun violence, particularly towards members of the African-American community in the US.

The icon was painted in the Byzantine style using acrylic paint and collage techniques. Our Lady of Ferguson depicts the Virgin Mary as a Black Madonna, holding her hands up. Where her womb would be, there is a small black silhouette of the Child Jesus, with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, also with his hands and arms extended, in the crosshairs of a gun. The posture taken by both Jesus and Mary are a reference to "Hands up, don't shoot," a popular slogan associated with protesting police brutality after the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO. The position of the hands is also in the orans (one who is pleading) posture found in other Christian icons. The icon focuses on Marian intercession against police brutality and gun violence, particularly towards people of color.

The icon received publicity after Father James Martin, an American Jesuit priest and author, shared a photograph of the icon on Facebook on June 9, 2016. In his post, Martin wrote "Our Lady prays for all who are targeted by gun violence: African-Americans, the poor and marginalized, and police officers. All are her children. All are our brothers and sisters. Let us ask Our Lady to pray for us."



Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress

Indianapolis, July 17-21, 2024
With Bishop Mark Brennan

Participate in the pivotal moment in the Church and draw deeper intimacy with our Lord. Join our diocese by registering today! Scan the QR code to attend this historic event. Please visit the DWC website for more information, including itinerary and cost: <https://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/>



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:

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 are 6-9pm (3 hours).

To register and for more information go to the JCES website: <https://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/county-agencies/jcesa/community-cpr-first-aid>

Interested in joining the St. Agnes Emergency Response Team?

Contact Michele Goldman at mgoldman9797@gmail.com or Teace Noel at wvnoels@gmail.com

Catholic Daughters Women's Retreat

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas is sponsoring a Resting in Jesus- Day of Recollection for Women Retreat. The event will be held on Saturday, April 13th from 9:15am-3:15pm at Priest Field. The event will highlight presenter Sr. Faustia Szaboova, ISMM (St. Faustina's Order), and there will be Mass, talks, confession, adoration, time for personal prayer, and spiritual conversations with the Sisters. Lunch is included! Tickets are available and limited; \$10 for CDA members, \$15 for non-members. Tickets will be on sale starting the weekend of March 16th. Call the St. Joseph Parish Office at 304-267-4893.

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 via QR code or visit <https://marysrefuge.com/baby-bulletin/>.



Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

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|--|-----------------|
| Offertory Collections | \$10,650 |
| Monthly Mortgage Assistance | \$2,051 |
| Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance) | \$12,701 |
| Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance) | \$12,000 |
| Total Collections Compared to Target | ↑ +\$701 |

Tithe to help those in need \$1,065
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

Laudato Si' and EarthBeat

SPRING CLEANUP AT MORGAN'S GROVE PARK

Stewards of Creation: An invitation for all to participate in the upcoming Spring Cleanup Event at Morgan's Grove Park. March 23rd, 11:00am-4:00pm.

Pope Francis, in his encyclical Laudato Si', reminds us of our responsibility towards our common home, urging us to be "protectors of God's handiwork." Through our collective effort in the cleanup, we embody the call to action, fostering a culture of love and care for nature!

This event is a meaningful way to connect with your community and reflect on our role as stewards of creation. We encourage parishioners of all abilities to join us, bringing gloves, tools, and a heart ready to serve. Although not required, you can RSVP for this event on the Morgan's Grove Park Facebook page under Spring Cleanup.

EarthBeat: <https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat>
Read Laudato Si': https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

If you have ideas/wish to join us, contact Carrie Blessing carriejaneblessing@gmail.com or Kimberly Connor cnork@usfca.edu.

Shepherdstown Shares Current Needs

Toilet paper, Baby wipes
Regular, ground coffee
Brown Rice,
Ramen noodles (not the cups of soup)
Pasta sauce
Small applesauce cups (unsweetened)
Anything for diabetics
Crackers, such as Ritz or Saltines

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

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Teachers and Substitutes Sought For SJS

Saint Joe's School is seeking substitute teachers for these positions:

- Full time **math** substitute until May 2024 (may become full-time)
- Long-term school **nurse** substitute from mid March - May.

For more information or to send in a resume or letter of introduction, contact Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjswv.org.

And seeking two Lead Summer Camp Pre-K Teachers

Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to PK Director Katie MacKinnon at kmackinnon@sjswv.org.

Tours of St Joe's School

St Joe's School group tours for prospective families

We are excited to announce group tours for families interested in sending their children to SJS!

Those considering grades K-8 are invited to visit on Wednesday, March 20, at 9 a.m., or email mpartington@sjswv.org to set up another time to visit. Those interested in our Early Childhood Education Program (for those ages 4 and younger) may stop by on Thursday, March 21, at 9 a.m., or email kmackinnon@sjswv.org to schedule another time to visit.

Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year has begun. To apply, please click on the "apply" tab at sjswv.org. For more information, please email mpartington@sjswv.org or call the school office at 304-267-6447.

Lenten Study w/ Soup & Evening Prayer

St Peter's Lutheran Church has extended an invitation to join them for this Lenten study on Wednesday nights in Lent. John Burns will be teaching his book *Modeling Mary in Christian Discipleship* at 6pm at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Each session will include a soup supper. The evening will close with Evening Prayer in the spirit of the Iona Abby.

Modeling Mary in Christian Discipleship looks at the life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as a pattern for our discipleship. Mary's life reveals that discipleship is not a linear journey from new belief to mature faith but involves progress and regression, clarity and confusion, faith and unbelief, celebration and suffering. We often take two steps forward then one step back. Throughout the journey, Christ's mercy, love, forgiveness, and patience stays true as we learn to follow Jesus together. Books are available at the Shepherdstown Lutheran Parish office, 110 N King St, Shepherdstown. \$10 covers the cost of the book.

For more information, please call 304-876-6771 or email shepherdstownlutheran@gmail.com.

St Joe's St. Patrick's Day Benefit Dinner

A St. Patrick's Day dinner for Saint Joseph School is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at St. Leo Catholic Church in Inwood. Tickets cost \$80 per person; \$150 for two; or \$600 for eight. They may be purchased by going to <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/onlinepurchase.php?groupId=586>. The event will feature pub-style food & drink, tip jars, games, plus silent and live auctions. If you have something you'd like to donate for the auctions or if you would like to be a sponsor/advertiser, please contact the school's School-Family Association (SFA) at sfa@sjswv.org.

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| <p>St Agnes Columbarium Garden <i>Your Niche For All Time</i></p> <p>⌘ ⌘ ⌘</p> <p>200 South Duke St Shepherdstown, WV 304-876-6436</p> | <p> Schmitt Construction Company</p> <p>James A. Schmitt 304-876-2462</p> | <p>Shepherdstown PHARMACY </p> <p>7670 Martinsburg Pike 304-876-9966 The Knott Family</p> | <p>KFB GRAPHICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graphic Design and Consulting• Photo Restoration• 35mm Slide/Negative Scanning <p>kfb@myactv.net • 304-279-4690</p> <p>Kathleen f. Bielicki Graphic Designer/Artist</p> |
| <p>A B</p> <p>ARNOLD & BAILEY</p> <p>ATTORNEYS AT LAW</p> | <p>Myers Hill & Associates Estate Planning & Elder Law 299 Rock Cliff Drive Martinsburg, WV 304-263-9099</p> | <p> Darnell & Company A.C. CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING</p> <p>David E. Darnell 304.725.5712 ddarnell@darnellco.com</p> | <p> KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS</p> <p>St. Agnes KofC 304-876-6436 Join Us!</p> <p>IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.</p> |
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