

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
Coordinator of Faith Formation: Bill Donahue
Assistant Administrator: Beth Yates
Accounting: Lizzie Lowe
Liturgy: Helen Harris
Music Ministry: Elaine Rendler-McQueeney

Pastoral Council

Connie Bonner ~ Derek Gallagher
Christine Wiegman-Green ~ Patrick Green
Shaná Harris ~ Colin Hayden
Brendan Jarrell ~ Bill Sagle
Gil Sateia ~ 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

Wisdom 6:12-16
Psalm 63:1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am

Sunday, 10:30am

Weekday Mass

Monday & Wednesday at 11am

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30pm

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

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

JHS JROTC Collection for Shoe & Coat Fund

This weekend as well as Thanksgiving weekend, our St Agnes youth who are members of Jefferson High School's Junior ROTC will be collecting for the Jefferson County Shoe & Coat Fund after each Mass. You will find them standing outside the main church doors. The Shoe & Coat Fund raises money to be used to purchase clothing items for less fortunate children in our community. 100% of the profits collected go directly towards buying clothes for these children. A basic outfit costs roughly \$100, and this is not counting a good winter coat. These kids need more than one basic outfit, and oftentimes there are multiple children in these families. Thus, we need to raise a lot of money to help them out. Cash or check only, and please makes checks payable to Jefferson High School with Shoe & Coat fund in the memo line.

Jesse Tree Project

This Advent season, St. Agnes will be working with twelve different agencies in our local community to provide gifts for young and older people that are less fortunate. Beginning on November 18, a Jesse Tree will be located in the Narthex of the church which will be decorated with gift tags. A red velvet trimmed basket will be located under the tree for envelope donations. If you are interested in participating, please take a tag or more. Each tag will have information about a suggested gift and may include information about the person. If you select a gift tag for a gift card, please bring cash or check and place your donation, along with the gift tag, in the basket or bring them to the parish center or place in the collection basket during Mass. St. Agnes volunteers will purchase the gift cards. Please indicate "**Jesse Tree GIFT**" on the memo line of the check or on the envelope if your offering is cash. If your tag is for a specific gift, please wrap it and attach the gift tag to the outside and bring it to the **Church or Parish Center** no later than **12:00 noon, Sunday, December 3**. Any questions? Please contact **Katie Hershey at (240)818-9595**. Many thanks for your generosity!



Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm Mass for the intentions of

Maureen Maidhof

Sunday, 10:30am Mass for

Deceased Members of the Catholic Daughters Court 392

May the deceased members of the Catholic Daughters Court 392 share in the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill especially Todd Hershey, Stef Hale (friend of Jackie Gore), Jim Keller, Joe Vernice, Maureen Maidhof, Anne Oxford, and Georgette Rush. Names are placed in the bulletin for approximately one month and then those names are placed on the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in December. 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.

St Agnes Racial Justice Initiative News

Dr. Emilie Amt to Speak at St. Agnes

This **Sunday, November 12th, at 11:45am**, St. Agnes will be hosting noted historian and award-winning author, Dr. Emilie Amt. Dr. Amt, who earned her Ph.D at Oxford University, is an Emeritus Professor of History at Hood College, and a foremost expert in Western Maryland African American history.

She will touch upon the history of slavery in our area and how the Civil War affected both free and enslaved Blacks who lived here. She will also recount how she, who was a scholar of Medieval history, came to devote herself to African American history. In addition she will point to a number of historical and racial justice efforts like the restoration of the Halfway African American Cemetery outside of Hagerstown, and the Tolson Chapel in Sharpsburg. Her most recent book, Black Antietam, is available in the racial justice library in the church narthex.

This program is open to the public. Please join us and bring along others who might have an interest. Hope to see you there!

Scripture Sharing

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

Catholic Daughters of the Americas 2023-2024 Education Contest

The Martinsburg Court of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas is our local sponsor for the Catholic Daughters National Education Contest for grades 4-12 and also adults whether Catholic or not. Entry options include essay, poetry, art, computer art, music, and photography. There are monetary awards at both the local level as well as the national level. The deadline for entry is January 31, 2024. Information sheets along with entry forms can be found in the Narthex and also at the parish center.

Cash Cards for Christmas Giving

There is a cash card for everyone on your Christmas gift list! While we don't routinely stock every possible gift card, we can order almost anything and have it here in time for Christmas. You can check out the list of available cards at <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>, and simply call the office with your order. You may order cards anytime, and they will be in within a week. In order to have your cards by Christmas, we will need to have your orders in no later than December 10th so that we will have them at the office by the 21st of December.

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

The Service, Justice, and Peace committee thanks all parishioners who contributed to the various charities last weekend. Ten bags of Haiti coffee were sold, which brought in \$100. Feminine Hygiene products and diapers received \$75. The fund for educating girls in Kolofata collected \$111.00, and \$32.00 was collected to feed the hungry and homeless. This is an increase over last month and as the year winds down, it is wonderful to see the generosity of so many St. Agnes people.

The Month of November at St Agnes

- The Book of the Dead is placed at the baptismal font, and all are invited to write the names of family and friends who have died in this book (This is for names not entered in previous years. Please do not enter names a second time, if you placed a name in the book in the past, it remains and will be included in our prayer throughout this month.). Our community will then remember and pray for these faithful departed by reading their names during the intercessions each Sunday in November.
- The community is also invited to bring pictures and mementos of deceased family and friends to place at the font.

Coffee with a Cause

We have freshly roasted Haiti coffee for sale in the parish center, both ground and whole bean.

November is Black Catholic History Month

Some people forget that Christianity did not originate in Europe and even express surprise when they learn that Black Catholic History began in the Acts of the Apostles (8: 26-40) with the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch by Philip the Deacon. This text is important for several reasons. First, it chronicles the conversion of the first Black African in recorded Christian history. Second, the text suggests that the man was a wealthy, literate, and powerful emissary of the Nubian Queen and also a faithful, practicing Jew prior to his baptism. Clearly, he was not an ignorant heathen. Third, the Ethiopian Eunuch's conversion predates the conversions of Saints Paul and Cornelius. Most significantly, many cite this conversion as the very moment when the church changed from a Hebrew and Hellenist community to the truly universal and Catholic Church. (excerpt from the Resource Package of the Office of Black Catholics Archdiocese of Washington, DC)

At Home with the Word

As the 2023 church year winds to a close on Christ the King Sunday (November 26), it is time to pick up your 2024 copy of **At Home with the Word**. Available in regular and large print editions, these books can be found in the Narthex as well as the parish center.

Preparing for Advent

It may come as a shock, but the first Sunday of Advent is only 3 weeks away! We have Advent wreaths and candles along with Little Blue Books, our Advent devotional (regular and large print), available in the Narthex and also the parish center.

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!

Shepherdstown Shares Needs

Toilet paper
Coffee (we divide it)
Peanut butter, smooth and crunchy
Sugar (we divide)
Instant oatmeal
Cereal (low sugar, no artificial color/flavor, please)
Fresh apples

The Potholder Plus Sale Is Next Weekend!

A STORY FROM LAST YEAR'S KOLOFATA POTHOLDER SALE

We enclose a small note card in the bag that each pot-holder comes in, and this year we'll also provide note cards to accompany jewelry and wine bag purchases. Last year one of our parishioners gave a potholder to a friend, also a Shepherdstown resident and a member of one of our sister churches, who loved the potholder and was intrigued by the Kolofata story briefly summarized on the notecard. She called one of our committee members whom she knew to learn a bit more. She loved what she learned about the Project and made a generous donation!

For those who are not donors, a brief explanation. We send Kolofata Project Updates two or three times a year describing what is happening in and around Kolofata, the actions of Boko Haram, and an update on the girls. This past October we highlighted the serious, impending famine facing Kolofata's people because this year's rains weren't sufficient for a healthy first crop, and also put the second planting in jeopardy. This situation increases the likelihood of Boko Haram and criminal element raids on the harvests and livestock of defenseless subsistence farmers further exacerbating famine conditions. We told how the number of girls now in school had DOUBLED from forty last year to eighty-five, middle school through university, this year.

Last year's Shepherdstown donor had moved out of state in the course of the past year. So, we were surprised to receive a note and check from her. She said she had been thinking about the Project and knew it was about time to donate again. She was glad to hear from us – and she increased her already generous donation by 50%.

We hope you buy the lovely items available for \$5 or \$10 (cash or check only) this year and when you give them as gifts, please enclose the notecard. You never know what little miracle may come of it!

Book Discussion Group

SIBLINGS ALL, SIGN of the TIMES

The Social Teaching of Pope Francis

Our November 17, 2023 Book Discussion

There were mixed reviews of last month's *Shoes of the Fisherman* but we all agreed it was an easy read. Not so this month. This book will challenge us. "In introducing an in-depth reading of Pope Francis's themes, the authors begin by tracing his continuity with the themes and social teachings of the Second Vatican Council. In the second part they highlight his original contributions, especially in *Fratelli tutti*."

Everyone is welcome to join our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We meet the third Friday of the month at 11am in the parish center.

Fr Mat's Kolofata Fundraising Dinner for 12

Six, two-person dinner packages will go to the highest bidders. Who will you attend with: a spouse, a friend, an adult family member, a child over 14? Perhaps you will invite someone you want to get to know better as your guest. Closed bidding starts on November 18 and ends on December 3. Minimum bid is \$100 per "package." There will be a box for bids at the Kolofata Potholder Plus sale. One "early bird" Dinner Package will be awarded on November 19 from the bids received by that date. The remaining bids are included in the bidding for the remaining five dinner packages awarded to the highest bidders on December 3.

The Menu

*Beverages – wine, beer and non-alcoholic –
and Hors d'oeuvres*

Two Soups in a Bowl

Each guest may choose one of the following 3 entrees:

Charbonneau's Beef Bourguignon (meat)

Coquilles Saint Jacques (seafood)

Fennel and Black Olive Risotto

Risotto ai finacchi con olive nere (vegetarian)

Dessert

Coffee or Tea

JCCM Food Pantry Current Needs

Spaghetti Sauce

Canned meat (chicken, spam, ham, tuna)

Canned beans (pork and beans, black beans, etc)

Canned vegetables (not green beans/corn)

Soups (hearty and condensed)

Creamed soup

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

Toothpaste/Toothbrush

Deodorant

Shampoo/Conditioner

Paper towels

Toilet paper

Laundry Detergent

Diapers/Wipes

Cat/Dog food



THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel:
Matthew 25: 1—13

November 12, 2023

Thirty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

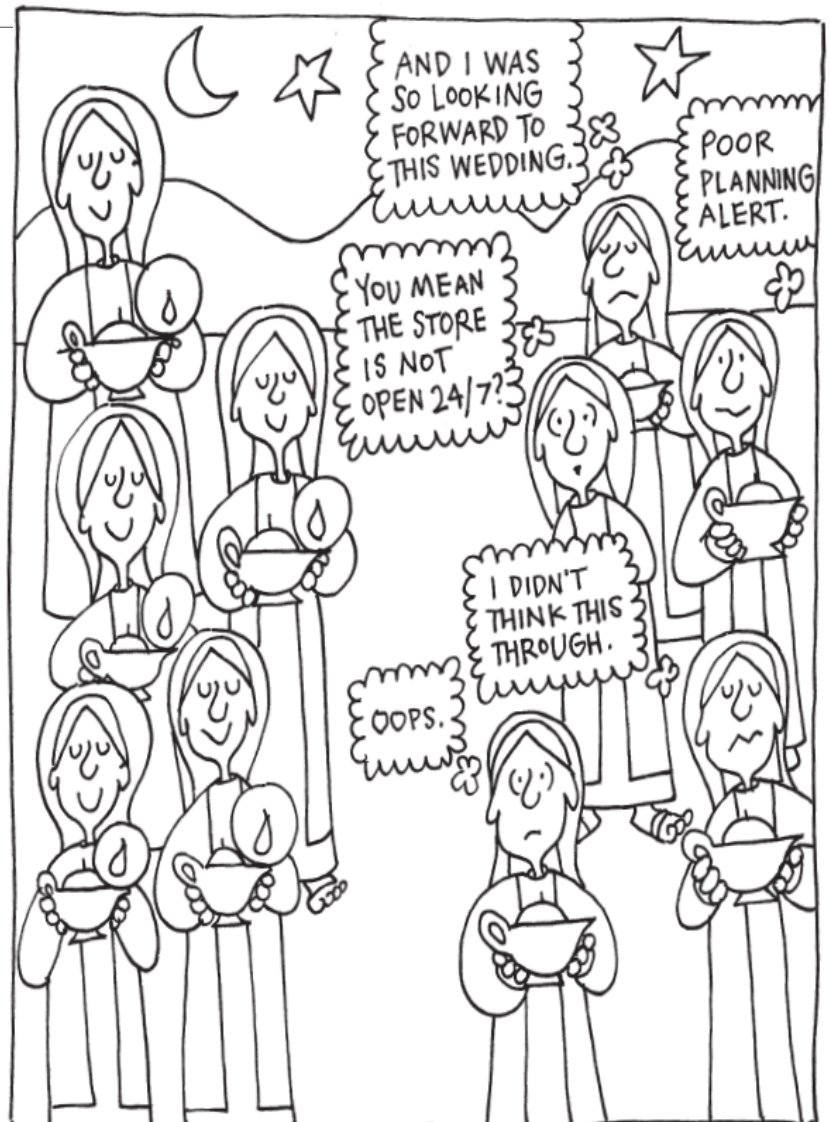
The bridegroom was late.

5 of them were FOOLISH

They did not have enough oil. Their lamps went out. They could not meet the bridegroom.

5 of them were WISE

They had spare oil for their lamps. They could go to meet the bridegroom.



Draw 5 lit lamps and 5 unlit lamps in the spaces above.

CFF, AFF, Youth Group & Family News

This Weekend, CFF does NOT meet at 9:15 AM. This Sunday evening at 5PM is our Intergenerational Mass for all families. The Mass is geared for our children, teens and family catechesis. CFF will meet again on November 19 at 9:15 AM. There are no CFF classes Thanksgiving weekend.

Youth Group: Next weekend is Meal for the hungry prep at 11:45. CFF families are also welcome to participate.

ADULT Classes: This Sunday there will be a speaker after the 10:30 AM Mass and the Intergenerational Mass to help us grow our faith. We will also honor our veterans at each of the 4 Masses this weekend. Adult Growing in Faith class will meet next weekend, Sunday, November 19th.

Parents of Children in First Reconciliation: The first parent meeting will be at 4 PM at the church, this Sunday, November 12. At least one parent is asked to be there with your First Reconciliation child. This is a wonderful opportunity to help your child begin to understand the sacrament.

Interested in being part of the Intergenerational Winter Musical? Contact Joe Yates, our resident director, at joeyates47@gmail.com. Rehearsals start today after the 10:30 Mass in the Parish Center. The shows will occur in February. No experience necessary, just a willingness to have fun.

Keep watching this spot, the Youth Facebook Page, our church calendar and the church website for additional activities. Also don't forget to **put on your calendar:** the 1st Saturday in December (Dec. 2) is Decorating Fr. Andy's Tree! We will be meeting in the parish center after the Shepherdstown Parade Festivities to make decorations for and to decorate Fr. Andy's tree. This is the 2nd annual occurrence for the event! Come make decorations for the tree and enjoy snacks, music, and hot chocolate.

Finally, if you are a parent and not receiving CFF announcements and emails, please contact the Parish center at 304-876-6436 or contact Bill Donahue at: formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org. Parents are also encouraged to join our **Youth Facebook Group**. Please email Bill at the above email address for the link to the closed group. You shouldn't be able to find Our Youth Facebook Page any other way!

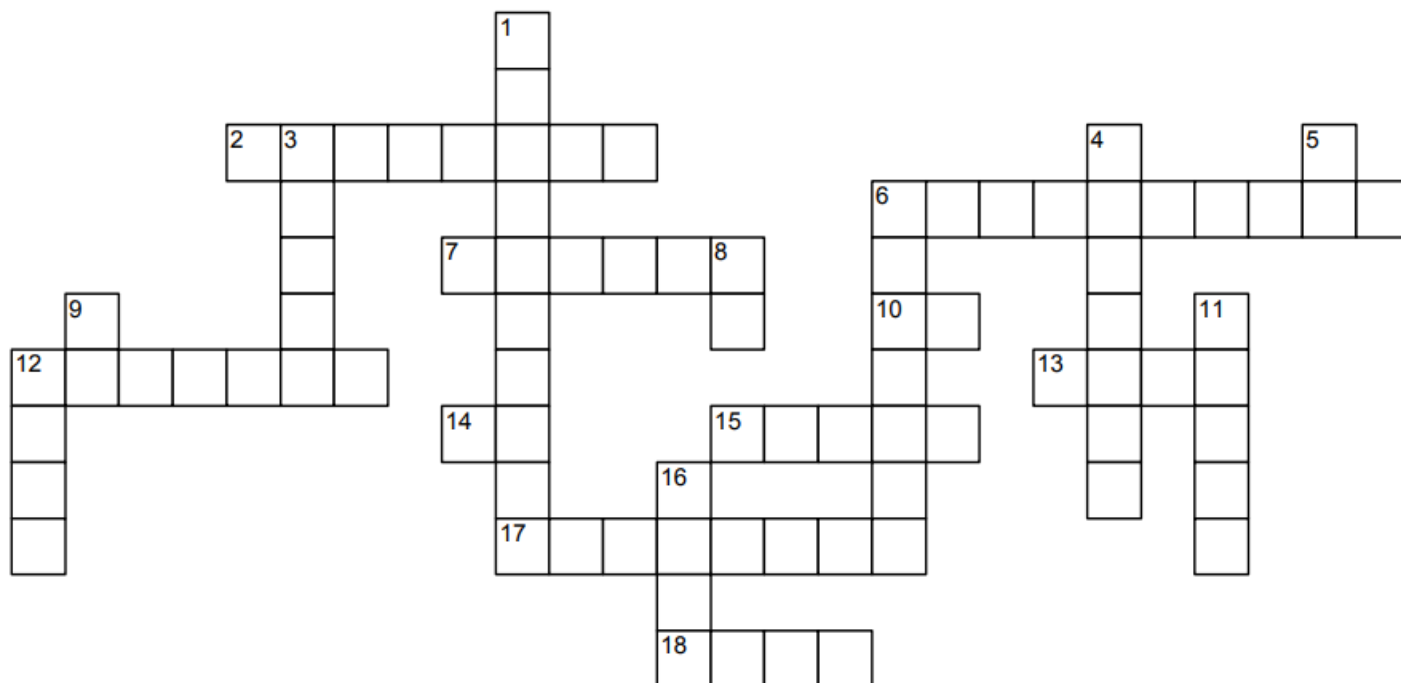
Matthew 25: 1-13

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

BRIDEGROOM
 DOOR
 ASLEEP
 HEAVEN
 FOOLISH
 KINGDOM
 WEDDING
 MIDNIGHT
 DROWSY
 BANQUET
 OIL
 WISE
 TRIMMED
 COME
 WATCH
 MEET
 LAMPS
 VIRGINS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6320973/>

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN BRIDESMAIDS



Across

- 2 Since the bridegroom was late in coming, all the bridesmaids were _____. (Matthew 25:5)
- 6 The bridesmaids were responsible for preparing the bride to meet the _____. (Matthew 25:1)
- 7 Jesus is teaching a lesson about the kingdom of _____. (Matthew 25:1)
- 10 Was the door to the wedding banquet open to the bridesmaids who were not ready when the bridegroom came? (Matthew 25:10-11)
- 12 Those bridesmaids who did not take oil in jars for their lamps were called _____. (Matthew 25:3)
- 13 Number of foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:2)
- 14 Were the bridesmaids, who went to get more oil for their lamps, allowed into the wedding banquet? (Matthew 25:12)
- 15 Who is telling this parable?
- 17 At what time did the bridegroom come? (Matthew 25:6)
- 18 Those bridesmaids who took oil in jars for their lamps were called _____. (Matthew 25:4)

Down

- 1 Who went to the wedding banquet with those bridesmaids who had enough oil? (Matthew 25:10)
- 3 The ten bridesmaids took their _____ and went out to meet the bridegroom. (Matthew 25:1)
- 4 What event was to begin when the bridegroom arrived? (Matthew 25:10)
- 5 Will Jesus open the door to heaven to those who do not believe in Him?
- 6 A reception for a special event is called a _____. (Matthew 25:10)
- 8 Did the bridesmaids, who did not have enough oil, receive oil from those who had enough? (Matthew 25:9)
- 9 Do we know when the Lord will return on the Lord's Day?
- 11 We are to be _____ to meet the Lord when He comes.
- 12 Number of wise bridesmaids (Matthew 25:2)
- 16 The bridegroom said to the foolish bridesmaids who wanted to enter the wedding banquet, "I don't _____ you." (Matthew 25:12)

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the bridegroom and 10 girls to tell his disciples to remain vigilant. The parable describes some of the girls as foolish and some as wise. Those who were ready for the bridegroom went into the wedding feast. The bridegroom, however, didn't even acknowledge those who didn't prepare. Jesus teaches us to always be prepared and to do good things. We never know when he will return. This is an opportune time to recognize that when we make good choices, we are preparing for Jesus' coming.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child may not realize how many choices he or she makes each day. Discuss choices that have been made already today. Have your child describe what happens in "Peyton and the Surprise Kitten." Ask whether Peyton is ready to take care of her new pet. If you have pets, discuss what has to be done to take care of them. Your child can act out the story of "The Little Red Hen."

Good News (Grades 2-3): Have your child tell the story of "The Wise and Foolish Girls." Discuss why wisdom is a gift. Talk about what's in your child's "Conscience Toolbox." Consider sharing your own toolbox that lets you determine right from wrong. Hold a family discussion on sin and talk about how sin is unloving, but God forgives our sins as well.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week's class focused on being prepared for certain situations, but also for the return of Jesus. Have your young person describe what happened to Juan during "The Happy Dance" story. Ask how your son or daughter thinks Sonia reacted to Juan's apology. Discuss how Jesus' Parable of the Ten Girls connects with Juan's story, especially the consequences of not being prepared. Discuss how your family can be prepared for Jesus' return. Talk about the importance of the Responsorial Psalm, and together recite Psalm 63:2-8. Have your youngster host a family game of "Wise and Foolish Choices." Ask him or her to tell you about Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini.

Visions (Grades 7-9): Your young person's class discussed the difference between being wise and being foolish. Have your child identify who was wise and who was foolish in the opening story by Matt Schoenbauer, and then again in "The Right Side." Discuss why Josh was able to forgive Louise. Talk about how Jesus' parable is a good lesson for us to prepare. Make a list of preparations your family will need to make for next week. Have each member of the family write a definition of wisdom, then discuss the meaning and combine them into one definition. Play a rousing round of "The Wisdom Game" with your family.

Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about this Sunday's Gospel lesson, pray to have the strength to remain prepared for Jesus' return. Practice being prepared for upcoming events and situations. Then finish the prayer by reciting one at a time, "Jesus, give me the wisdom to always be prepared."



In today's parable, ten bridesmaids are waiting with their lamps. How many of them brought extra oil? Figure out the problems on each lamp. Color in the ones that equal 10 to find out the answer! *Answer to this puzzle in next weeks bulletin.*

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



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SOLUTIONS:



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



What is the Purpose of VIRTUS Training and Why Is It Important?

The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston is requiring all volunteers to be VIRTUS trained. This is part of the Diocese's Safe Environment policy that St. Agnes is required to follow. **All volunteers, with no exceptions, must be Virtus trained, even those who are not involved with the youth.** We must be in compliance by the end of 2023. **If you volunteer in any capacity at St Agnes, you must be Virtus trained.**

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

Our Safe Environment Coordinator, Bill Donahue, can assist with verifying your training status and/or initiating your training. The training is 100% online. If technology is not your thing, he will be happy to help with that, too! For questions or concerns, contact Bill at 304-876-6436 or formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org. Please help us achieve full compliance. The real purpose of the training is to keep our children safe, and that really does matter!

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 <<email>>@stagnesshepherdstown.org. Emails from Fr. Andy will be from aswitzer@stagnesshepherdstown.org or aswitzer@dw.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.

Homebound Ministry

For any parishioners who have needs (groceries, rides to doctors or pharmacies, etc,) our **HOMEBOUND MINISTRY** is willing to help. Please call Claire Williamson (304-876-1357), or Judy Lilga (301-432-2276).

St Agnes Christmas Bazaar



Raffle Items



Displayed in Narthex

\$2 each, 6 for \$5 or 15 for \$10

All proceeds benefit St. Agnes



Christmas Bazaar



December 2nd

Parish Center, 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.



Craft Tables & Baked Goods

Also serving chili, soup,
cornbread & drinks to warm you
after the parade



Ministry Opportunities

Our liturgical ministries could really use your gifts! We need Altar Servers at all Masses. All Masses are in need of ministers, but Saturday 5:30pm is in desperate need (Hospitality, Lectors, and Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion). Contact Helen Harris for more information: liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

After-Mass Coffee Service Ministry

The After-Mass Coffee Service ministry really needs you! Can you bake or buy some pastries? Your help would probably only be needed once a month. We especially need help at the 8:00 and 10:30 services. Training will be provided. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Chuck at cvpierpont@comcast.net.

Community Safety Trainings

FREE Community Safety Training Available

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

Community CPR and Stop the Bleed: November 15, and December 13. Classes start at 6 pm. To register and for more information go to : <https://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/county-agencies/jcesa/community-cpr-first-aid>.

Contact Michele Goldman with any questions, mgoldman9797@gmail.com or 540-539-0498.

SMA Caroling Group

The Shepherdstown Ministerial Association is sponsoring their 2nd annual caroling group in Shepherdstown this Advent. If you have any questions or would like to join the group, please contact Betty Rini by email at shepherdstownministerialassoc@gmail.com.

Suggested singing dates: December 3, 10, 17, maybe 24th if we have hearty souls who are willing. Singing times 2-4 PM. You do not need to be a concert singer--just someone who likes to sing Christmas hymns. You do not need to attend every scheduled day. This year we will have a music coach to help us practice before we go to sing. We will meet for fellowship—hot cider, cocoa, and cookies after each event. Invite your friends who enjoy singing!

St Joe's Needs After-School Care Worker

Saint Joseph School is seeking someone to work in their after-care program. The hours are 3 to 5pm, Monday through Friday. The aides clock students in and out of after-school care. Must be comfortable working on a computer and operating hand-held radios. Classroom management skills are preferred. The pay is \$14/hour. Job requirements include must be at least 21 years old and have a high school diploma, 2 years experience in regulated child care or relatable experience, ability to meet state licensing requirements, scheduling flexibility, Certification in ACDS (Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist) preferred.

If you are interested, please send a résumé to Katie MacKinnon, PK director, at kmackinnon@sjsvw.org.

St Joe's Schools Seeks Both Full & Part-Time Teacher Aides

St Joe's School seeks both a full and part-time teacher aid for first grade. For more information on essential responsibilities, qualifications, and how to apply visit their website <https://sjsvw.org/> under News & Announcements.

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We are always in need of donated **blankets**, and **comforters** (any size) and also used **sleeping bags** (clean and in fair condition). Items can be dropped off at the parish center. Please join our team of sewers! For more information, contact Barbara Mueller by email at barbaramueller596@gmail.com.

St Joe's Seeks Substitute Teachers

Saint Joseph School is seeking substitute teachers for infants through eighth grade. Substitutes for infants through prekindergarten classes must be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma. Substitutes in grades K-8 must have a bachelor's degree. Experience working with children is a must. A background in education is preferred. The pay is \$12.15 per hour. If you are interested, please send a résumé to mbyrd@sjsvw.org.

Together in Holiness Marriage Conference

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

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$14,598
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$1,010
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$15,608
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$11,900
Total Collections Compared to Target	↑ +\$3,708

Tithe to help those in need	\$1,460
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)	

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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St Joe's School Hiring K-5 Teacher

SJS is seeking a full time contract classroom teacher who might be assigned to teach students from kindergarten through fifth grade. The teacher promotes academic and social behaviors in children in a developmentally appropriate manner and continues to reinforce these behaviors on a consistent basis. The teacher also fosters independence through the gradual release of responsibilities by allowing students to develop the skills to perform tasks without assistance. Pay: \$34,000 to 44,000 per year. Reports to Principal. For more information visit their website <https://sjswv.org/> under News & Announcements.

St Joe's Seeks Pre-K Aide

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

For more information visit their website <https://sjswv.org/> under News & Announcements.

Part-Time Math Interventionist Needed

SJS is seeking a great communicator with excellent interpersonal skills for the role of part-time middle school math interventionist teacher. The teacher will have solid classroom management skills, be responsible for developing learning activities and hands-on material, tending to individual student needs, and communicating regularly with co-teachers, administration and parents.

For more information visit their website <https://sjswv.org/> under News & Announcements.

Staff Accountant Sought

Saint Joseph School is seeking a full-time staff accountant. This position is responsible for summarizing transactional data into the general ledger, conducting bank and credit card reconciliations, payroll processing and assisting with financial reporting for nonprofit organizations.

For more information visit their website <https://sjswv.org/> under News & Announcements.

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