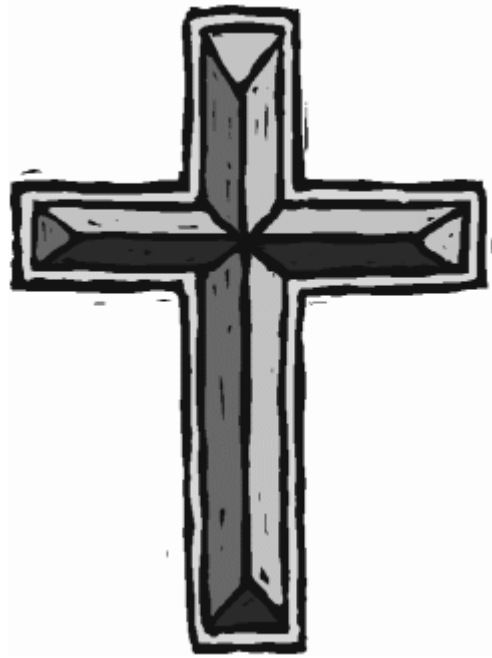


# S a i n t A g n e s



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

## **St. Agnes Chapel**

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

## **Sunday Readings**

Proverbs 31:10-13, 16-18, 20, 26, 28-31++  
Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6  
Matthew 25:14-30

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am

Sunday, 10:30am

### Weekday Mass

Monday & Wednesday at 11am

### Thanksgiving Mass

Thursday at 9am

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

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

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



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm Mass for

**William Holleran**

Sunday, 10:30am Mass for the intentions of

**Maureen Maidhof**

May the William 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 Bill Seymour, 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](mailto:jslilga8@gmail.com).

## Prayer Sponsors Needed

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

Again, if you are interested in being a prayer sponsor, please call the parish center or contact Bill Donahue at [formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org). Thank you for praying for our youth during this time of formation.

Lena Abe

Emma Golden

Augustine Laverick

Roman Leuters

McKenna Pender

Dominic Scarano

Ian Walters

Frances Wilson

## 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, soup, cornbread

& drinks to warm you

after the parade

## JHS JROTC Collection for Shoe & Coat Fund

Thanksgiving weekend, St Agnes youth, members of Jefferson High School's Junior ROTC, will collect for the JCS Shoe & Coat Fund after each Mass. They will be outside the main church doors. This fund raises money for the purchase of clothing for less fortunate children in our county. 100% of the collection goes directly to buying clothes for them. A basic outfit costs roughly \$100, and this is not counting a good winter coat. Kids need more than one basic outfit, so the need is great. Cash or check only, and please make checks payable to Jefferson High School with Shoe & Coat fund in the memo line.

Dear Parishioners,

I recently had the opportunity to take a field trip with parishioner Dr Jim Broomall and his history class to Gettysburg. In one day, I learned so much about the Civil War thanks to Dr Broomall's expertise. I also became even more aware of the tragedy of war. One thing that was really interesting was Dr Broomall showed us a letter that was written by a soldier who lost his brother in the war. The soldier was probably poor and uneducated, and yet you could hear the deep pain of his loss. Dr Broomall then read another letter that sounded much more flowery and even had spiritual reasons to explain the death. Dr Broomall was pointing out that we are influenced by the narratives we tell, and how, over time, they can change. One bright student said something that impressed me. He said that it is sort of like Mark's Gospel is much blunter and more direct than the Gospel of Matthew. We should not forget this young man's insight as we approach the gospel this weekend. We often read the parable of the talents from a capitalistic perspective; you work hard you get rewarded, and if you are lazy you will be punished. Bishop Stowe, when he was with us, was talking about liberation theology and how important it is to read the narrative from the perspective of the people on the bottom. This leads me to go another direction with the parable, regardless whether it was its historical meaning or not, because, as Pope Francis has reminded us, the poor and their voices have a certain authority. There have been some theologians that call this the magisterium of the poor. I take this interpretation from scripture scholar William Herzog whose book is titled *Parables as Subversive Speech*. In his book he tells the story of peasants in Nicaragua. Herzog points out that they see the master as a greedy capitalist. However, their priestly mentor, Ernesto Cardinal, leads them away from their materialist interpretation and encourages a more spiritualized version of the parable. Herzog will then argue that the one who buried the talent was being saucy and naming the cruelty of the Master and was being punished for that. In a sense, this interpretation was an act of civil disobedience. I bring this up because I think Pope Francis' call to synodality challenges us to listen to voices on the periphery; that they are the best to interpret reality. They show us the subversiveness of Jesus and how he has come to challenge and liberate unjust structures.

Fr. Andy

## 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!

## Longings of Advent

Longings of Advent. These events are still being tweaked a bit, but please go ahead and mark your calendars for ecumenical experiences of prayer and spirituality this season—December 6, 13, and 20th at 1pm and 7pm; December 17th at 4pm. We will be having services at New Street Methodist Church, St Peter's Lutheran Church, and right here at St Agnes. There will be a diversity of prayer experiences—Evening prayer, Taizé, lessons carols. Also we will have the opportunity to experience a labyrinth walk, spiritual exercises of St Ignatius, and Lectio Divina. These may be new experiences for some, but they are a great way to enter this beautiful season!

## 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 **Steve Bledsoe at 678-447-1343**. Many thanks in advance for your generosity!

## 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!

## 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).



## Preparing for Advent

The first Sunday of Advent is only 2 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.

## 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.

## The Potholder Plus Sale Is This Weekend!

### A STORY FROM LAST YEAR'S KOLOFATA POTHOLDER SALE

We enclose a small note card with each potholder, 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, a member of one of our sister churches. The friend 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 more what she learned about the Project and made a generous donation!

For those who are not donors, a brief explanation of our outreach to sponsors. 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. 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 making devastating famine conditions worse. 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.

The Shepherdstown donor/friend had moved out of state in the course of the past year. So, we were a bit surprised and pleased 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 receive the Update 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!

## Fr Mat's Kolofata Fundraising Dinner Q&A

Six, two-person dinner packages will go to the highest bidders. Closed bidding starts on November 18 and ends on December 3. Minimum bid is \$100 per "package." 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.

### How and where do I bid?

*There is a wooden locked box for bids located on the table where the Potholder+ items are paid for.*

*There are bidding forms in the pocket on the front of the box.*

### May I bid on more than one dinner package?

*You may bid on as many dinner packages (up to 6) as you wish. Just indicate on the bid form that this is a bid on "1<sup>st</sup> dinner package," "2<sup>nd</sup> dinner package," etc.*

### May I increase my bid on a dinner package that I have already bid on?

*Yes, you can increase your bid. Just note on the later bid you submit that it is an increased bid for the dinner package you previously bid on.*

### The date (February 4, 2024) and location (Parish Center) of the dinner are listed, but not the time. How come?

*Once the high bidders are determined, they and Fr. Mat will mutually agree on a time – afternoon or evening.*

### 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*

## 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.

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

# THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel:  
*Matthew 25: 14-30*

November 19, 2023

Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

## Using the Master's Talents

- sort out the pictures -

How well do you know the parable from today's Gospel?  
Put the numbers 1 to 6 in the boxes  
in the correct order of the story.



## CFF, AFF, Youth Group & Family News

**CFF:** Meets today at 9:15 AM in the Parish Center. There are no CFF classes Thanksgiving weekend. Saturday, December 2 is Decorating Fr. Andy's Tree! We will be meeting in the parish center after the Shepherdstown Parade Festivities (12:30—1PM) 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. Also occurring in the Parish Center on Dec. 2 is the Fall craft show. You might be able to get a little Christmas shopping done too.

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

**ADULT Classes:** Adult Growing in Faith class will meet today at 9:15 in the parish center.

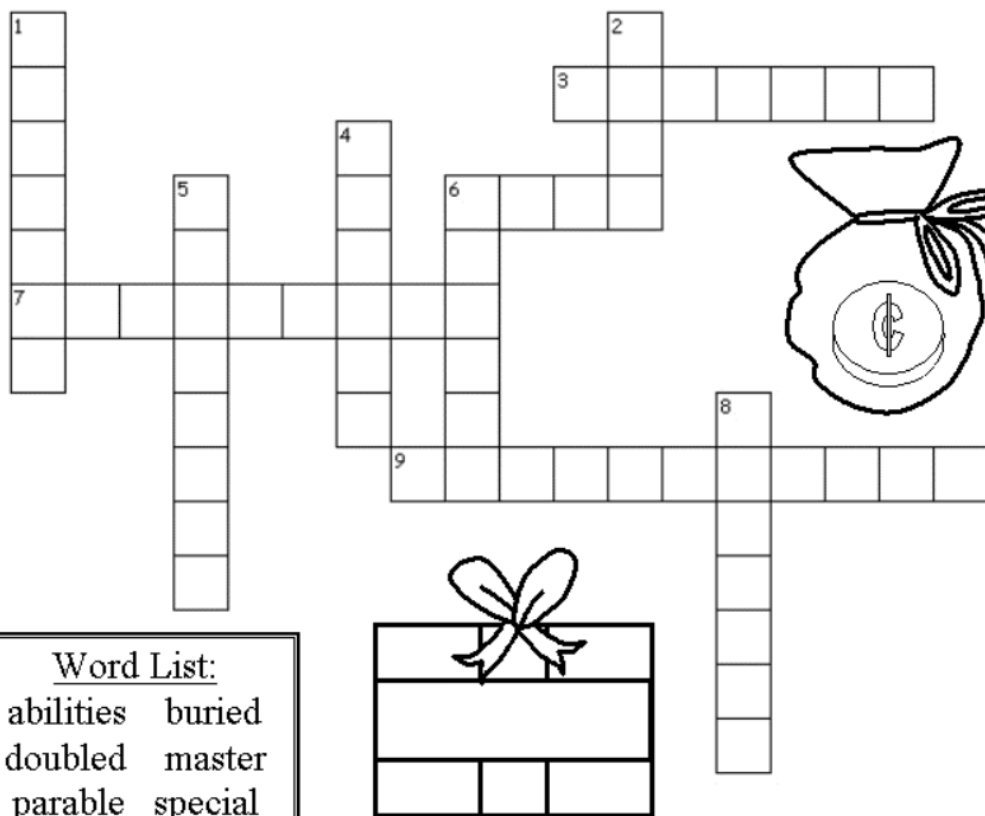
**Parents of Children in First Reconciliation:** The second parent meeting occurs today at 9:15 AM in the parish center. At least one parent is asked to be there with your First Reconciliation child. This is a wonderful opportunity to help your child understand the sacrament.

There is **NO CFF**, Youth Group or Adult Growing in Faith Classes **Thanksgiving Weekend**. However, there **will be** RCIA and RCIC on Sunday, November 26th at Noon.

**Interested in being part of the Intergenerational Winter Musical?** Contact Joe Yates, our resident director, at joeeyates47@gmail.com. Rehearsals just started so it is not too late to join in. The shows will occur in February.

**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. First Reconciliation will occur at 4 PM, December 9th.

Most importantly, if you are a parent and not receiving CFF announcements and emails, please contact the Parish center at 304-876-6436 or contact Bill Donahue at: [formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto: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!



### Word List:

abilities buried  
doubled master  
parable special  
trustworthy take  
valuable more

### Across

3. The type of story Jesus told about the talents is called this.
6. The master rewarded the servants who increased his talents by giving him \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The Master gave to each servant according to their \_\_\_\_\_.
9. If you are \_\_\_\_\_ with a few things God will give you more responsibility.

### Down

1. We are each given a \_\_\_\_\_ ability that no one else has.
2. If we don't use our special gift God will \_\_\_\_\_ it away.
4. The servant who received one talent did this with it.
5. Our abilities are very \_\_\_\_\_ to God, he wants us to use them wisely.
6. This person in the story is used to describe God.
8. The first two servants did this with their talents.



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

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ABILITIES  
 ACCORDING  
 ACCOUNTS  
 ADDITIONAL  
 DISCIPLES  
 ENTRUSTED  
 FAITHFUL

FORWARD  
 JOURNEY  
 MASTER  
 MATTERS  
 PARABLE  
 POSSESSIONS  
 RESPONSABILITIES

SERVANTS  
 SETTLED  
 SHARE  
 SMALL  
 TALENTS

# Happy Thanksgiving

## The Gospel at Home

### This Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a pointed story about three servants. Their master entrusts them with varying amounts of money. Two of the servants double their money, but fear gets in the way of the third servant. All he can do is preserve what he has. The challenge for all of us is to recognize the gifts we have been given and our responsibility to care for those gifts. That means caring for the world we live in and caring for one another. It also means having the courage to be our best selves.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Promise** (Grades K-1): The Gospel calls both children and parents to use their God-given gifts. Point out to your child what you see as his or her best gifts. Be sure to mention ordinary gifts like a sense of humor, thoughtfulness, or good cheer. Ask your child to teach the family how to play the Hide It! game. It is a game he or she learned in class.

**Good News** (Grades 2-3): This week, your child learned the Parable of the Talents told through a short play. Spend some time talking about the three people who received money from their boss. Why did Joshua hide the money while the other two doubled the boss's money? Talk, too, about how each member of the family can put God's good gifts to work for others.

**Venture** (Grades 4-6): Take some time this week to talk about the gifts and talents that God has given your family. Talk, too, about how each of you can use these gifts. Ask your youngster to explain to the family why Jesus used parables to teach about God's kingdom. Let your youngster lead in sharing how the family can use its gifts and talents to make things better and to have a positive effect on people's lives. Have your youngster tell the family about Saint Roque González.

**Visions** (Grades 7-9): In their discussion of the Sunday's Gospel, your teenager's class talked about the value of work and how people have many talents for work. Your young person learned that work is the enterprise that gives people purpose and self-worth and allows all to share in God's creative activity. Discuss the work each member of the family has to do. Talk about the talents each of you brings to your work. Ask your son or daughter to share the class's discussion about the qualities that make ideal Catholic men and women. November 19 is also World Day of the Poor, so consider a discussion about reaching out to the poor.

### Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about the week's lesson, make a litany prayer of all the many gifts and talents each member of your family possesses—such as honesty, gracefulness, intelligence, prayerfulness, athletic ability, kindness, and so forth. After each is mentioned, the whole family can say together: "Thanks be to God!"



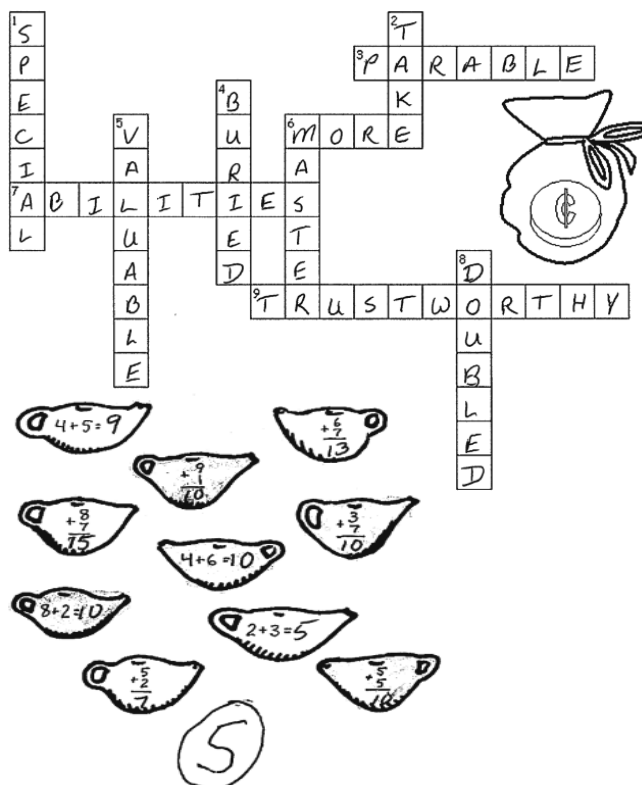
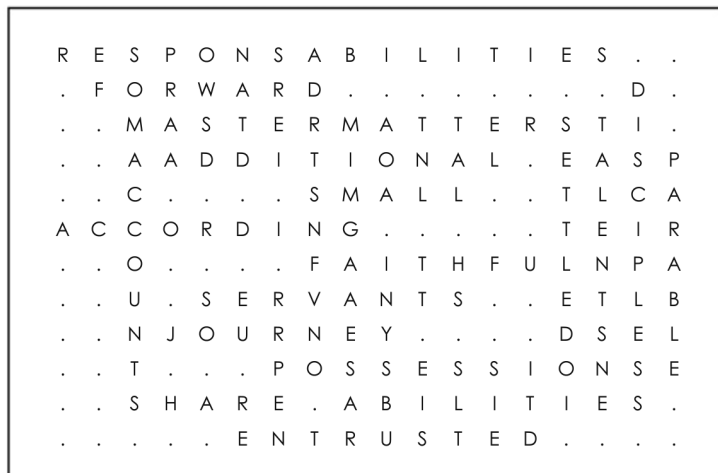
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4	8	3	2	1	7	6	9	5
2	6	9	8	3	5	7	1	4
1	9	5	4	8	6	2	3	7
3	7	8	9	2	1	4	5	6
6	4	2	7	5	3	1	8	9
9	2	4	5	7	8	3	6	1
5	3	7	1	6	2	9	4	8
8	1	6	3	9	4	5	7	2

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



## SOLUTIONS:





## St Agnes Racial Justice Initiative News

While celebrating November as Black Catholic History Month, in which American Black Catholic priests and religious are often highlighted, it is also worthwhile in this time of synodality to look to notable Black Catholics among the laity. One such example is Daniel Rudd, who established the American Catholic Tribune, the first Black Catholic newspaper in the United States and was a main driving force in the establishment of an American Black Catholic Congress.

Born into slavery in 1854 in Bardstown, KY, as a life-long Catholic he exhibited an abiding faith that the Catholic Church represented the world's best hope for realizing the equality of all God's children. In his own words, "The great Church of Our Lord and Savior is quietly pursuing her mission, 'to teach all nations,' placing the seal of approval at all times upon justice and equality and condemning in all seasons the injustice heaped upon the poor and despised Negro."

He was also a fervent supporter of then Bishop John Ireland of St. Paul, MN, who was known as "the consecrated blizzard of the Northwest," for being the most outspoken proponent of legal and social equality for Black Americans in the late 19th and early 20th century, reprinting the bishop's sermons on racial issues in his newspaper.

Rudd had an indomitable belief that the Catholic Church should and could play a central role in achieving racial justice, even though that belief was often challenged by the actions of his fellow Catholics in a land that saw in his day the end to Reconstruction and the rise of Jim Crow laws and lynchings.

His lifelong commitment to realize a central role for the Catholic Church in the pursuit of racial justice serves as an example to us all as we still face challenges to the realization of his dream.

## 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 any-time, 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.

## Book Discussion Group

Our December Book Discussion Selection  
December 15, 2023 @ 11 in the Parish Center

A couple of years ago we decided that our December selection would be a "lighter" read, a book that would put us into the spirit of the Advent/Christmas season. This year's choice is not exactly "light" but it comes well recommended. Join us in reading *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan.

## Laudato Sí Action Committee

In the spirit of Pope Francis's latest encyclical, *Laudato Si*, *Care for Our Common Home*, there are opportunities for getting involved in important local conservation efforts. Here are two examples. One happened last week, but please come to the one on November 21st to learn more if you can!

**Town Run Watershed Group Meeting.** Hosted by Alana C. Hartman, Potomac Basin Coordinator, WV Department of Environmental Protection. The purpose is to organize efforts to maintain the health of Town Run which flows from Morgan's Grove Park through Shepherdstown to the Potomac. Town Run is the secondary source for Shepherdstown drinking water. November 16 from 9:30 to 11 am at the Shepherdstown Library, 145 Higbee Lane.

**Shepherdstown Green Infrastructure Plan Showcase and Information Session.** Learn how to manage stormwater using nature-based methods such as rain gardens, tree planting etc. Candidate design concepts will be discussed including one for St. Agnes. This is a joint project of the WV Department of Environmental Protection, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Corporation of Shepherdstown, and Downstream Strategies. **November 21 at 5:30pm at the Shepherdstown Community Club, 102 East German Street.** For more information, visit <http://www.shepherdstown.us/shepherdstown-green-infrastructure-plan-showcase-and-information-session-scheduled/>

## 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 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](mailto: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!

## 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](mailto: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!

## 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](mailto:aswitzer@stagnesshepherdstown.org) or [aswitzer@dwc.org](mailto: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.

## Parish Financial Activity

### Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$13,003
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$1,140
<b>Total</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	<b>\$14,143</b>
<b>Weekly Target</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	<b>\$11,900</b>
<b>Total Collections Compared to Target</b>	<b>↑ +\$2,243</b>

Tithe to help those in need \$1,300  
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

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

## Community Safety Training

### FREE Community Safety Training Available

The Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency offers **Community CPR and Stop the Bleed training**: December 13. Class starts 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](mailto:mgoldman9797@gmail.com) or 540-539-0498.

## 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 childcare. 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](http://togetherinholiness.org/wheelingcharleston) or email [cameron@forlifeandfamily.org](mailto:cameron@forlifeandfamily.org).*

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.

## CRISIS FOOD HOTLINE



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### 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@sjswv.org](mailto:mbyrd@sjswv.org).

### St Joe's Seeks Pre-K Aide

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

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.

### 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@sjswv.org](mailto:kmackinnon@sjswv.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://sjswv.org/> under News & Announcements.



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