

# 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 ~ Carmela Cesare ~ Peg Eackles  
Christine Wiegman-Green ~ Patrick Green ~ Shaná Harris  
Colin Hayden ~ Richard Hitchcock ~ Amie Ho-Leung  
Kathryn McAteer ~ Bill Sagle ~ Gil Sateia ~ Becky Tokarcik

## **Finance Council**

Pat Barth ~ Mike Drewes ~ Todd Hershey  
Sue Kemnitzer ~ David Matera  
Bob Morrow ~ Arnold Thomas ~ Richard Walton

## **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**

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122:1-2, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:37-44

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am

Sunday, 10:30am

### Weekday Mass

Monday and Wednesday at 11am

**Bishop Brennan has lifted the request that everyone mask. However, we still encourage masking for love of neighbor.**

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

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

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

## Don't Miss the Pancake Breakfast!

### **Pancakes, Pancakes, Pancakes, and more! Gluten Free Options Available!**

Want a great way to finish off your Thanksgiving weekend? Our youth are providing a Pancake Breakfast after the 8 and 10:30 AM Masses at the Parish Center, this Sunday, November 27. You can eat in or take it to go! There is no particular cost for your breakfast, but the youth would very much appreciate your generous donations (checks to St Agnes with pancake breakfast in the memo) toward furnishing their youth room and youth activities. Come hungry!

## Calling all St Agnes Families... For Some Advent Fun

We are gearing up for the holidays and want to decorate Father Andy's tree in the rectory! Kids and family members will design ornaments, decorate the tree and enjoy pizza and goodies while sipping on hot cocoa! Come out to enjoy the fun on Saturday, December 3rd from 12 to 3 after the Christmas parade in town! Please let me know if you would like to drop your child off to participate. We will have adults and teens available to help! We have the large room reserved in the Parish Hall, as well. Contact Erin Valasek for more information at 410-937-4612 or [info@mountaineerpopcorn.com](mailto:info@mountaineerpopcorn.com).

## News from Pastoral Council

Pastoral Council met on Tuesday, November 15. Discussion involved creating a young adult group and young family group. Members of St Agnes interested in starting these groups presented their ideas. Fr Andy also discussed an Advent program: Mary had a baby. Watch for more information in the coming weeks regarding these groups. Discussion continued with formation of small faith groups.

Next meeting December 21.

## Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill especially Ed Kelly, Rose and Aubrey Smith (parents of Beth Healey), Roy Shilling, Marion Webber, Fred Brigham, Bill Conner, Leslie Johnson (sister of Bill Donahue), Harry Paulin (father of Maria Stewart), Emily Stransky, John Griffith, and Barbara Broomall. 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.

## Youth Christmas Eve Program Practice

All St Agnes youth ages kindergarten to 6th grade are invited to join the fun! At 5:15pm on Christmas Eve, our youth will perform a couple songs at church just prior to the 5:30pm Mass. Rehearsals for this group will be held at the parish center from 9:15 to 9:45am on Sundays, December 4, 11, and 18. This is part of the CFF class activities, but kids who are not enrolled in CFF are also invited to participate. Please come and sing along with us!

## Ecumenical Advent Bible Study

The Shepherdstown Ministerial Association is hosting an Ecumenical Advent Bible study each Wednesday of Advent. The book, Mary Had a Baby—based on African American spirituals, is available at the parish center for \$10 per copy (but please don't let the cost of the book prohibit you from joining the book study!).

Study sessions are being held Wednesdays at 1pm at New Street Methodist Church at the corner of Church and New Streets and at 6:30pm at St Peter's Lutheran Church at the corner of King and High Streets.

For more information, please call the office at 304-876-6436.

## Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

It is getting cold outside, and we are making warmer sleeping bags. We are in need of donated **blankets**, and **comforters** (any size). We are also accepting donations of used **sleeping bags**. Items should be clean and in fair condition. Donations can be dropped off at the parish center.

## Cash Cards for Christmas Giving

There is a cash card for everyone on your Christmas gift list! The office has a list of cards available that we do not normally keep in stock. We would be happy to give you a copy or email it to you. 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 15<sup>th</sup> so that we will have them at the office by the 21<sup>st</sup> of December.

Dear Parishioners,

On Sunday, November 20, at 4pm, we hosted at St Agnes the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service. The celebration was standing room only. We had the young people from the Shepherdstown Middle School band and Shepherdstown Elementary School choir perform. It was a joyful, festive, and prayerful night; we had a lot of fun! I said at the beginning that the young people in the band were a witness to our community, country, and world. They had different instruments, but together they would make harmony. In a time when people can be so divided, they showed the beauty of unity and diversity. Our whole service was that of people from different convictions, beliefs, and faith backgrounds coming together to celebrate—everyone there created harmony. I thought it was really a call of the synod that St Agnes hosting this event “enlarged the space of our tent.” How did it happen? Certainly, there were those that worked to do planning and preparation, and a big thanks to them for making it possible. The truth is though that I think the celebration surpassed our expectations. As we celebrate this season of Advent, it is a season of expectation. We hear an image in the gospel this Sunday of the Lord coming like a thief. I would suggest that, in our Thanksgiving Ecumenical service, like a thief the Holy Spirit stole the show and surpassed our greatest expectations. This Advent image in Isaiah of all the nations climbing to the Lord’s Mountain in Jerusalem for a time of unity and peace, I believe we got a glimpse of that Advent hope during the Thanksgiving Ecumenical service of diversity coming together in harmony. This is a witness to us of John the Baptist’s cry, “He must increase we must decrease.” As the Baptist was talking about Jesus, may we be open to that Holy Spirit when she shows up like a thief. Lets celebrate and let her steal the show!

Fr. Andy

## Homebound Ministry

If there are 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).

## 2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in December. Please contact Judy (see below) at any time with names of individuals you would like to add or to join the group. Please contact Judy: 301-432-2276, [jslilga8@gmail.com](mailto:jslilga8@gmail.com).

## Historic Houses of Worship Tour December 26, 2022

After a three year hiatus due to Covid concerns, the Historic Houses of Worship (Church) Tour is returning this year to Shepherdstown. *The date for the tour is December 26, from 4-7 p.m.* St. Agnes will be represented by having both the chapel and the church sites open on the tour. This tour was very well attended in the years leading up to the Covid shut-down, and many tour participants visited both the chapel and the church. In order for St. Agnes to be a welcoming presence during the tour, we need volunteers to help at both sites. Volunteer Greeters will be needed to greet the tour participants, hand out a brief history and help people gather in groups for the tours. Docents will be needed to guide people around the church, and at the chapel, to talk with small groups as they sit in the pews. Docents will be given training and fact sheets from which to lead the tours. One can volunteer for a portion of the 3-hour time frame or the whole time. Please consider volunteering for either the chapel or the church to help make our part of the wider Shepherdstown tour a great success! Please contact Judy Lilga if you are interested in volunteering or have any questions - 301-432-2276 or [jslilga8@gmail.com](mailto:jslilga8@gmail.com).

## Advent 2022 (First Day of Advent November 27)

### Advent Reconciliation

Our Advent Communal Reconciliation will be on Saturday, December 17, at 4pm.

Advent Reflection Books\*\* have been carefully crafted to help you explore the depths of Scripture and deepen your relationship with Christ. They help us to spend some quiet time with the Lord each day. These Little Blue Books can be found in the Narthex. The books can also be downloaded onto your phone or e-reader. Check out their website at <https://littlebooks.org/seasonal-books/advent-christmas-season>.

### At Home with the Word\*\*

This is your guide to a deeper understanding of the Sunday scriptures. It provides the readings for this liturgical year, along with insights from scripture scholars, and action steps. It also includes prayers, citations for weekday readings, and other resources for scripture study. You can pick up your copy of At Home with the Word in the Narthex or at the Parish Center.

### Advent Wreaths & Candles\*\*

Advent wreaths and candles are available for purchase in the Narthex.

**\*\*A donation envelope is included with each item which can simply be placed in the offertory basket.**

## Updating Our VIRTUS (Protecting Our Youth)

The diocese of Wheeling Charleston and St. Agnes Catholic Church value the safety of our youth. The church uses VIRTUS as a training for adults who work and interact with our youth. We are in the process of having all volunteers of the church VIRTUS trained to help protect children. VIRTUS training is all online and the training is straight forward, and you can complete it at your convenience and in the comfort of your home.

If you are already VIRTUS trained in the diocese, your VIRTUS training is still valid. We are asking people to log in and update anything necessary and electronically sign any documents you might need to sign. To update, all you need to do is log into your VIRTUS account and virtually sign the updated documents. If you have trouble logging into your VIRTUS account, please contact Bill at the office or at [formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org). The parish will be audited annually to make sure our VIRTUS records are complete and up-to-date.

Over the next couple of weeks, Bill will be going through all of the VIRTUS accounts. You may receive an email regarding your VIRTUS account. You will be asked to log into your account and complete any necessary electronic document signatures. This would only be the Diocesan Safe Environment Policy Form and/or an updated Background Check Form. At no time would you need to pay for anything or need to enter any credit card or bank information. If you have any questions regarding an email, please contact the parish office prior to giving out personal information. The email will come from [virtus.org](mailto:virtus.org).

If you are a volunteer or someone that wishes to be trained but have never had VIRTUS training, you can find instructions for VIRTUS training in the Narthex of the church or in the parish center. You can also reach out to Bill (contact info above) for help.

Please help us fulfill our obligation to the children to help keep them safe.

## Book Discussion Group

This year's **December 16**, selection is *The Three Questions*, written and illustrated by John J Muth.

If anyone would like to suggest a book, we welcome the recommendation.

## Scripture Sharing

Our Scripture Sharing group continues to meet on Mondays at noon, with the exception of holidays. All are welcome! The Zoom link is on the website events calendar.

## Catholic Charities in Dire Need

Catholic Charities is in dire need of the following items for their pantry (all items are purchased from donated funds and are used solely for those in need):

Bleach Tablets (WalMart)  
Laundry Detergent (Pods)  
13 Gallon Trash Bags  
Dishwashing Soap  
Soap (mild brands – no Zest or Irish Spring)  
Shampoo (3 in 1 is preferred - shampoo, conditioner, body wash) If not, individual items will do.  
Conditioner  
Deodorant (men and women)  
Razors (men and women)  
Toothpaste  
Shaving Lotion  
Toilet Paper  
Cleaning Supplies (Pine Sol, Fabalouso or other liquid cleaner)

All donations are sincerely appreciated and very much needed. Our needs are year round. If you are unable to shop, cash donations will enable us to shop for you. Items can be dropped off at the Catholic Charities office at 224 South Queen Street, Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Donations can be mailed to Catholic Charities, Attention: Laura Brigantic, 224 South Queen Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401.

## The Christmas Potholder Fundraiser For Kolofata is Back!

Thanks to everyone who shopped at our Christmas Potholder sale on November 19 & 20. Regenia Carder's potholders were a huge hit. Of the 95 handstitched potholders, just 30 remain. Purchases and donations totaled \$525. Thanks to an anonymous match of \$1 for every \$2 raised, we have added \$762 to our Fund!

As those who came by discovered, there are also gift bags complete with bows, ribbon and tissue paper at a great price, and bags of gift tags. We have just 15 of the special gift bags with a colorful cooking utensil and potholder that sold out so quickly at our last sale. **This is your last opportunity - on December 3 at 5 pm before the 5:30 Mass; after the 5:30 Mass; and December 4 after both Masses!**

**Cash or checks only, please. All proceeds benefit the Kolofata Girls' Education Project.**

We'll also be selling Haiti Coffee (\$10 a bag) – another great Christmas gift. **Cash or checks only, please.** All proceeds benefit Haitian Coffee Growers. The situation in Haiti is desperate. This is a concrete way to help!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Nov. 27:** No CFF Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Nov. 27:** Pancake Breakfast to support our Youth Group. Breakfast available at the parish center (eat in) or to go if you prefer after the 8 AM and 10:30 AM Masses. Donations welcome.
- **Dec 3:** Youth Decorating the Rectory Tree—Come join in the fun. Parish Center 12—3 PM
- **Dec 4:** CFF 9:15 AM— 10:15—K-8 Class—Practice for Children’s Christmas Program
- **Dec 11:** 9:15 AM— 9:45 Practice for Children’s Christmas Program (K-6) Parish Center
- **Dec 11:** Youth Centered Mass at 5 PM
- **Dec 18:** CFF 9:15 AM— 10:15—K-8 Class—Practice for Children’s Christmas Program

# THE YOUTH CORNER

What is an Advent Wreath?  
<https://youtu.be/eC0FGQLBp7w>

First Sunday of Advent

This Week’s Gospel: *Matthew 24: 37-44*  
November 27, 2022

## Family News

Nov. 27th—Pancake Breakfast to benefit our Youth Teen Room Project and other youth activities. Donations welcome!

December 3rd— Youth decorating of Fr. Andy’s Christmas Tree. 12 Noon—3 PM in the parish center. Contact Erin Valasek at 410-937-4612 or [info@mountainpopcorn.com](mailto:info@mountainpopcorn.com) to let her know if you would like to drop your child off to participate or if you will be doing the event as a family.

December 4, 11, and 18 at 9:15 AM: Practice for the children’s program for Christmas Eve Mass (Grades K—6)

Youth Centered Mass: Sunday December 11 at 5 PM

Please keep watching this section, the St. Agnes Website, as well as the CFF/ Youth page for continuing announcements regarding Faith Formation and youth activities.

As we update our email lists, 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](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org)



Prayer for 1st week of Advent

“Lord God, let your blessing be on us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

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L	D	U	O	N	R	S	I	E	R
E	R	T	S	O	G	L	T	K	O
I	I	N	T	B	L	E	A	A	T
F	N	E	O	S	A	F	E	W	S
I	K	M	T	O	R	N	T	A	L
E	I	O	S	R	E	A	D	Y	L
L	N	W	I	V	E	S	R	S	I
E	G	Y	D	E	A	R	A	K	M

FLOOD	EATING	DRINKING
WIVES	HUSBANDS	ARK
FIELDS	WOMEN	MILLSTONE
AWAKE	BURGLAR	READY



### Keeping the Ten Commandments Every Day



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

#### Applying the Commandments

Read the situations described below. Decide which commandment applies to each situation. Then put a check in the column that indicates if the situation involves keeping or breaking the commandment.

#### Situation

	Commandment	Keeping	Breaking
1. Urging little kids not to throw stones at a turtle they caught			
2. Not repeating a rumor you heard about a classmate			
3. Attending Sunday Mass with your family and then helping prepare a big Sunday brunch			
4. Overcharging your neighbor by telling him it took three hours to weed the flower bed when it only took two			
5. Using Jesus' name to express your anger			
6. Cutting your grandparent's grass while your dad paints their porch			
7. Having bad feelings toward your friend because you think you deserve his new bike much more than he does			
8. Beginning each day with the thought that everything you do that day will help spread God's kingdom			



#### HOPE:

The first candle of advent

**Advent in 2 Minutes**  
**Video Link:**  
<https://youtu.be/eC0FGQLBp7w>

# A GUIDE TO ADVENT

<b>Sunday 27</b> Commit to one way you will "walk in the light of the Lord" this Advent (see <i>Isaiah 2:5</i> ).  <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>Monday 28</b> Gather food and personal items to donate to your local food bank or homeless shelter.	<b>Tuesday 29</b> Look through photos and videos of past family Christmases.	<b>Wednesday 30</b> Decorate your room for Christmas.	<b>Thursday 1</b> Sing Christmas carols with your family.	<b>Friday 2</b> Make a Christmas star and hang it in your room.	<b>Saturday 3</b> If you're planning to make gifts for your friends or family, get busy!  <i>Saint Francis Xavier</i>
<b>Sunday 4</b> At Mass, ask Jesus to help you be a peacemaker at home and at school.  <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>Monday 5</b> Pray the Hail Mary today.	<b>Tuesday 6</b> Give someone a treat today in honor of the generous Saint Nicholas.  <i>Saint Nicholas</i>	<b>Wednesday 7</b> Call or visit an older relative or neighbor who would enjoy talking to you.  <i>Saint Ambrose</i>	<b>Thursday 8</b> Pray the Hail Mary today. Make sure you go to Mass too! Today is a Holy Day of Obligation.  <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	<b>Friday 9</b> <i>Learn more about Saint Juan Diego.</i>  <i>Saint Juan Diego</i>	<b>Saturday 10</b> Clean your room today without being asked.
<b>Sunday 11</b> Christmas is almost here! Share the joy of this special day called Gaudete "Rejoice" Sunday.  <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>Monday 12</b> Learn more about the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Look online for her image.  <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	<b>Tuesday 13</b> The name <i>Lucy</i> means "light." How can you bring light into someone's life today? With a smile? A joke? A kind word? <i>Saint Lucy</i>	<b>Wednesday 14</b> If you've been mean to a brother, sister, or friend, say you're sorry. Remember to be kind to others.  <i>Saint John of the Cross</i>	<b>Thursday 15</b> Make special Christmas cards for your grandparents.	<b>Friday 16</b> Say kind words or do a kind action to cheer someone up.	<b>Saturday 17</b> Ask your mother or father how you can help at home this weekend.  <i>Pope Francis's Birthday</i>
<b>Sunday 18</b> Think of ways to be a messenger of Jesus' Good News in your words and actions.  <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>Monday 19</b> Make special Christmas cards for your parents.	<b>Tuesday 20</b> Read today's Gospel (Luke 1:26-38). Find the angel's words that are the first lines of the Hail Mary.	<b>Wednesday 21</b> Read today's Gospel (Luke 1:39-45). Find Elizabeth's words that are part of the Hail Mary.  <i>Saint Peter Canisius</i>	<b>Thursday 22</b> In today's Gospel (Luke 1:46-56), Mary prays a prayer of praise called the <i>Magnificat</i> . Thank God for the many gifts in your life.	<b>Friday 23</b> Thank God for the greatest gift of all—Jesus.  <i>Saint John of Kanty</i>	<b>Saturday 24</b> Read the story of Jesus' birth that will be proclaimed in the Gospel at Midnight Mass (Luke 2:1-14).  <i>Christmas Eve</i>



**November 30**

## Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle

St. Andrew was the first disciple of Jesus. He preached the teachings of Jesus around the globe. He was crucified in 60 AD by the order of Roman Emperor Aegaeas. His crucifixion took place on an x-shaped cross in Greece, hence the symbol. St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland.



# The Gospel at Home

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



## This Week's Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

The Church's three-year cycle of Lectionary readings begins again on the first Sunday of Advent. We start reading from Year A, which is organized around Matthew's Gospel. The prophet Isaiah's words are used prominently in Advent. They are read as the First Reading each week and are quoted by Matthew in the Gospels. We begin the new Church year by hearing Jesus speak of his coming in glory. He cautions us always to be ready for him and to live each day in the light of God.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Promise** (Grades K-1): Your child made a simple Advent calendar in class this week. Display the calendar and open one panel each Sunday leading up to Christmas. The class learned different ways to prepare for Christmas. Ask your child to share some of these ways. Help your child choose one or two things to do for Advent. Using the pictures as a guide, request that your child tell you the story, "The Video Game Problem." Discuss what choices Frank could have made so he could have spent time with his family.

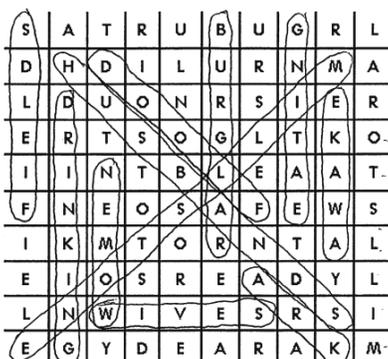
**Good News** (Grades 2-3): In class this week, your child reviewed the Ten Commandments. Talk with him or her about how to live the Commandments. The class also performed a play to learn about the prophet Isaiah. The words of Isaiah are used during Advent and Christmas. Ask your child to tell you how Isaiah spoke for God. Talk about ways your family can be ready for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

**Venture** (Grades 4-6): At the beginning of this new Church year, look together at the liturgical year calendar in your young person's lesson booklet. Talk about the importance of following the life of Jesus throughout the year. Your youngster also learned about the prophet Isaiah. Have your child share Isaiah's vision with the family and discuss why peace is a necessary goal for everyone. In preparing for Christmas, plan things to do as a family. Use the Week 1 Calendar List in the lesson booklet to give you ideas for this coming week.

**Visions** (Grades 7-9): In class this week, the young people considered how they could make Jesus' birth meaningful during this Advent. As a family, brainstorm activities that will help prepare your family's hearts and home for Christmas. Make sure what you choose to do is realistic. Your youngster can share some of the ideas discussed in class. Use a large format calendar to record the activities your family completes together. Advent is also a reminder of Christ's Second Coming.

## Pray Together

Plan to have a family Advent wreath. The wreath traditionally has three purple candles and one pink, but four, all-white candles will do. During the first week of Advent, light one candle each evening. During the second week, light two; during the third week, light three. If you have colored candles, the third week is for the pink candle. All four candles will be lit during the fourth week. Say a prayer that shows how you are excited for Jesus' coming. It can be as simple as: "Come, Lord Jesus, come."



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- 1-5th Commandment, Keeping;
- 2-8th Commandment, Keeping;
- 3-3rd Commandment, Keeping;
- 4-7th Commandment, Breaking;
- 5-2nd Commandment, Breaking;
- 6-4th Commandment, Keeping;
- 7-10th Commandment, Breaking
- 8-1st Commandment, Keeping

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

## The Advent Wreath

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple, and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

## JCCM Food Pantry Current Needs

Canned meats (Vienna sausage, chicken)  
Mac and Cheese  
Tomato Soup (condensed)  
Hearty Soups (not condensed)  
Canned Fruit  
Hearty Soups (not condensed)  
Tomato Soup (condensed)  
Canned Chili  
Rice (small bags)  
Instant mashed potatoes  
Jelly/Peanut Butter  
Crackers  
Boxed Pancake Mix & Syrup  
Cooking oil  
Coffee (Instant and Ground)  
Sugar  
Canned pasta (Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, etc)  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Shampoo/Conditioner  
Paper towels  
Toilet paper  
Dish Soap  
Laundry Detergent  
Toothbrushes/Toothpaste  
Deodorant

## Sacred Art in Action

### Free Demonstrations

St Agnes Parish Center

### "Foundations of Orthodox Iconography Techniques"

November 30th - Wednesday - 3pm to 5pm

Iconographer and Instructor - Tatiana Gubenko

Space is limited

email confirmation to [tagubenko@yahoo.com](mailto:tagubenko@yahoo.com)

Or call 571-426-0319

## Blessing of the Advent Wreath

The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent.

When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

*All make the Sign of the Cross as the leader says:*

***Our help is in the name of the Lord.***

*Response (R/.) Who made heaven and earth.*

*Then the Scripture, [Isaiah 9](#): (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or [Isaiah 63](#) (lines 16-17 & 19) or [Isaiah 64](#) (lines 2-7) is read:*

*Reader: **The word of the Lord.***

***R/. Thanks be to God.***

*With hands joined, the leader says:*

***Lord our God,***

***we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:***

***he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,***

***he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,***

***he is the Savior of every nation.***

***Lord God,***

***let your blessing come upon us***

***as we light the candles of this wreath.***

***May the wreath and its light***

***be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.***

***May he come quickly and not delay.***

***We ask this through Christ our Lord.***

***R/. Amen.***

## St Agnes Racial Justice Initiative News

The Racial Justice Initiative would like to point out a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Black Christian Spirituality being offered in a local ecumenical context. Starting on Wednesday, November 30th, there will be two different gathering times offered for reflection on Advent themes based on the publication, [Mary Had a Baby](#), that utilizes Black Spirituals as a discussion aid. One at 1:00pm, each of the four Wednesdays of Advent, hosted at the New Street United Methodist Church, the other at 6:30pm at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, both in Shepherdstown. Members of the St. Agnes Racial Justice group are planning to attend along with Fr. Andy, who highlighted this in his weekly bulletin message last Sunday.

Also the Racial Justice Initiative will not be meeting on Zoom for the month of December. There are so many activities in December for us all. We will resume in January. As always, there is a wealth of reading material to be found in the racial justice library in the church narthex.

## Shelter Volunteers Needed

Jefferson County Community Ministries is currently recruiting volunteers for their Cold Weather Shelter season which runs from October 31, 2022 through April 30, 2023. Volunteers watch over those in the shelter each night in a caring, compassionate manner. Individual volunteer shifts begin at 7pm and run through 7am the following morning. There is a shelter manager on duty every night ensuring the safety of all and that JCCM protocols are being followed. If you would care for more information or would like to sign up to volunteer, please email their Volunteer Coordinator (kaz@jccm.us).

## Amazon Smile

If you are an Amazon shopper, you can start using AmazonSmile to help St. Agnes if you haven't already. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. The only thing you have to do is set St. Agnes as your charity of choice and then start using <https://smile.amazon.com> when you shop. You can learn more about Amazon Smile and how to sign up on the St Agnes Website under the "Giving" tab.

## Trinity Episcopal Church Christmas Cookie Walk & Handmade Craft Market

Trinity Episcopal Church (corner of Church and German Sts) will host their 11th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk & Handmade Craft Market on Saturday, Dec 3, 10am-4pm. They will have Bill Simmons' award winning BBQ, delicious homemade soups, and dozens of cookies baked with love. There will also be A Living Nativity at 1pm, 5pm, 6pm, and 7pm. Proceeds to benefit Trinity Youth.

## Parish Financial Activity

### Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$5,973
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$447
<b>Total</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	<b>\$6,420</b>
<b>Weekly Target</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	<b>\$11,500</b>
<b>Total Collections Compared to Target</b>	<b>↓ -\$5,080</b>

Tithe to help those in need \$597

(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

## Please Don't Fall Victim To Email 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 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 that 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.

## Catholic Radio

*The Eastern Panhandle Catholic Community Calendar can be heard on Fridays at 1030am and weekdays at 3:30pm on [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL) and at 530am, 1017am & 4:40pm on FM 106.5 and AM 740.* And just send your parish and organization programs, events, announcements and prayers, to [comcal@LoRadio.org](mailto:comcal@LoRadio.org) and dedicated volunteers will get them broadcast. For more information on Catholic radio in West Virginia, call 304-598-0026.

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.

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## The St Vincent de Paul Home Visit Going to Those in Need

At the heart of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul ministry is the "home visit," where volunteers, called "Vincentians", visit neighbors in their homes. When we are contacted, we set up an appointment with the individual to help determine the exact nature and details of help required. We talk with them, as a friend would; we may pray with them; we create a dialogue that allows them to open to us and share what is truly happening in their lives. By visiting them in their homes, we can see, firsthand, the exact situation in which a person is living and experiencing. People who need help often are not able to take time off from work, arrange for childcare, or find transportation to seek resources. Therefore, our volunteers go to them. It is here we can help someone in need-- not only with direct assistance but with emotional and spiritual support. Sometimes, our friends (we do not refer to them as "clients") need a great deal of help, other times someone to pray with is all that is needed. We are there to let our friends know that someone cares. We strive to eliminate the barriers to self-sufficiency created by poverty, incarceration, homelessness, and other distressed situations and turn them into positive and hope-filled new beginnings. The goals are to help people regain self-sufficiency, cultivate positive relationships, and begin to lead responsible lives in their own communities. This is an important and personally rewarding ministry that needs "your" help to help those in need.

If you would like more information about how you can help, contact Mike Vojtasko at 304-876-2963 or via email addressed to [mcvojtasko@gmail.com](mailto:mcvojtasko@gmail.com).

## CRISIS FOOD HOTLINE



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



### St Leo's Fish Fry Fridays

Fried fish or shrimp dinner with French fries or sweet potato fries, coleslaw, and roll for \$15; combo dinner for \$20. First Friday of each month, beginning September 2nd. Dine in or carry out. Call ahead-304-279-8770. Open 12:00pm-6:00pm. 2109 Sulfur Springs Rd, Inwood WV.

### 2022 Lessons & Carols Christmas Concert

Ready your heart for Christmas, 2022 by joining us for the 2022 Lessons and Carols Christmas Concert at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hagerstown, Maryland. You are invited to join the Catholic Parishes of South Washington County as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season. The concert will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 7:00pm in the Church. Please consider coming to this evening that will be filled with guided reflections, carols, and joy-filled hearts as we prepare for the Solemnity of Christmas. We invite you to come and bring a donation of non-perishable food items for our local food pantries. For additional information, or questions, please contact Matthew Richardson at 717-903-6844.



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Luke 6:31



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