

S a i n t A g n e s

"Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know the he is near, at the gates."



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 Staff

Pastor: Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Anthony Maciorowski
Coordinator of Faith Formation: Brigitte Schmidt
Director of Music: Elaine Rendler-McQueeney
Director of Liturgy: Rodica Stoicoiu
Parish Secretary: Beth Yates
Administrative Assistant: Larry Halvey Goodwin
Accounting: Lizzie Lowe

Pastoral Council

Emma Ashford ~ Catherine Bragaw ~ Shirley Derr
Betty Gregory ~ Nina Hockman ~ Fred Klein
Tom Ruhf ~ Dan VanBelleghem

Finance Council

Pat Barth ~ Max Derr
Mike Drewes ~ Bob Morrow ~ Sue Kemnitzer
Richard Walton ~ Patricia Wright

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

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Masses

Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

Weekday Masses

Monday & Wednesday at 12noon

Mass at Canterbury Friday at 10:30am

Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass at 7pm

Reconciliation: Saturday at 4:30pm

Parish Office: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

Cash Card Sales: After all weekend Masses and weekdays during office hours (please call first)

Sat, Dec 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bereavement Brunch 10am • First Reconciliation 4pm • Social Concerns Weekend • Perpetual Memorial Mass 5:30pm
Sun, Dec 2	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>First Sunday of Advent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Concerns Sunday • CFF (K-6) 9:15am • Choir Rehearsal 9:15am • AFF with Denis Woods 12noon Parish Center • Youth Mass 5pm
Mon, Dec 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SVdP Advisory Board 6pm
Tues, Dec 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFF (4-6) 6:15pm
Wed, Dec 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA 7pm
Thurs, Dec 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OWLS 12:30pm
Fri, Dec 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass at Canterbury 10:30am • Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 7pm
Sat, Dec 8	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Screening after all Masses
Sun, Dec 9	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Second Sunday of Advent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFF (K-8) 9:15am • Youth Prepare Homeless Meal 11:30am • Choir Rehearsal 4pm • Advent Vespers 5pm • Campus Mass 6:30pm

KOC Christmas Card Sale

The Knights will again be taking orders for Christmas Cards after all Masses this weekend and next as part of their Keep Christ in Christmas program. Card Samples will be available for you to see. Please take a moment to look at these elegant cards. Prices range from \$7 to \$12 per box. Boxes contain 12-18 cards. Your generous support will help further the charitable work of St. Agnes Council, Knights of Columbus.

In your kindness please pray for Norma Welch (mother of David Welch), Pat Thomas (mother of Tress Ratledge), and Mary E. Carroll (mother of Melanie Turner) who recently died. May Norma, Pat, and Mary share in the fullness of God's love and peace.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill especially Lizzie Lowe, George Stebbins, Fr. Frank Reese, SJ, Cindy Morrow, Ed Dashiell, Laura Brown (daughter of Marie Snowden), and Anneke Levelt Sengers. Names are placed in the bulletin for approximately one month and then placed on the sick list near the baptismal font.

Together we pray as a community for all who are listed in the prayer book in addition to those listed above. Your personal prayer requests may be added to the prayer book at any time.

New Hymnals

The Gift of Music

Memorialize this year's hymnal

Our 2019 Hymnals will be here on December 2, the start of our new liturgical year! You will find envelopes in each hymnal if you would like to dedicate a hymnal to a loved one. Place completed forms in the offertory basket.



"St Agnes University"

Presents

AN INTRO TO POLITICAL ETHICS

Second Session

(but no pre-requisites)

"Scratch an American, you'll find a Utilitarian"

DENIS WOODS

(Former Chair of the Political Science Dept.
Shepherd University)

Sunday, Dec. 2nd, Noon to 1p.m
in the Parish Center

Social Concerns Advent Giving Tags

Please bring your gifts for the Social Concerns Advent Giving Tag Project not later than **Sunday, December 9** by 12noon to either the church or the parish center! Social Concerns will then sort and distribute gifts that afternoon.

Dear Parishioners,

Last Sunday afternoon, there was an hour of quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. There were 25-30 of us present, praying for healing for all who have been hurt by the church and abusive priests. I am grateful for those who took the time out of their Sunday afternoon and joined in this prayer. I ask those who attended to let me know your thoughts. Was this time helpful? Would it be beneficial to you to have this quiet prayer scheduled again.

Our church is experiencing some tumultuous times here in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, across the United States and around the world. This great institution is not doing very well being the people of God, living the gospel that Jesus taught and lived. My hope is in the belief that this very public scrutiny will help us humbly assess where we are as the People of God. Priests and bishops, the shepherds of the church, need to sincerely listen to the voice of the people and to the prompting of the Holy Spirit that we might more genuinely do the ministry to which we have been called.

I shared a book with the Parish Pastoral Council this past week, *Millennial Catholicism: What Needs Fixed First*, written by Paul Tedesco. I have known this author for many years, he has served as a priest in our diocese, and has some excellent insights. Unfortunately, this book is only available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). It has not been published in print form, perhaps it will in the future. You can download the book on your kindle or ipad for only \$2.99. I find it to be excellent and thought provoking. The Pastoral Council will be discussing the book at our February meeting.

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Saturday of this week (December 8) is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. This is not a day of obligation but is a good day to gather and celebrate. Mass for the feastday will be on Friday evening at 7 PM. This could be a part of your Advent preparation for the Christmas Feast.

*Fr. Mat*

## Memorial Christmas Flowers

Parishioners may memorialize our Christmas season decorations. Memorials will be listed in our Christmas bulletin. Complete an envelope, found on the narthex table or included in your monthly envelope mailing, and place it in the offertory basket by Sunday, December 16.

## St. Agnes Perpetual Mass Memorial



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

**Hugh Smith**

by Mary & Fred Dubay  
and Sandy, Sid & Tabitha Sponaugle

**Robert Butler**

by Eileen Dooley & Denis Woods

**Bud Sponaugle**

by Mary & Fred Dubay

**Daniel Bielicki**

by Frank, Rosalie & Kathleen Bielicki

## Confirmation 2020

If you currently have a son/daughter in 7th grade or 8th grade, or older that has not been confirmed, they are invited to begin the journey of Confirmation formation with an anticipated Confirmation date in the fall of 2020.

The preparation is an important journey for the students and for the parents. With this in mind, we will have a meeting for parents on Sunday, January 13th at 9:20 in the Parish Hall. Come learn about the opportunities your son/daughter will have to grow in their faith.

If you have any questions regarding Confirmation, please contact Brigitte at the parish office. I look forward to seeing you on January 13th.

## Youth Mass

December 2nd at 5pm

Start your Advent Season off with Youth Mass! Following Youth Mass, we will enjoy sampling your favorite Christmas cookies! Each family is asked to bring at least one dozen of their family's favorite holiday treat. We will also be serving hot chocolate. All are welcome! \*This counts as your CFF Class for grades 7 and 8.

## Advent 2019 (First Day of Advent December 2)

### **Advent Vespers**

Please join us on Sundays, December 9, 16 & 23, at the church at 5pm for Vespers, an evening prayer of praise and thanksgiving. All are welcome!

### **Advent Reconciliation**

Our Advent Communal Reconciliation will be on Saturday, December 22, 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 as well as in the Parish Center.

### **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 both the Narthex and the Parish Center.

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

### **Advent Giving Tags**

**(Available in the Narthex!)**

We are working with local agencies to provide gifts for low income and elderly members of our community. Please select a tag from the wreaths next to the St. Agnes mosaic, purchase a gift for the specific person, wrap it, place the tag on the outside of the wrapped gift, and bring it to the church or parish center **no later than 12 noon on Sunday, December 9**. Social Concerns will sort and deliver all the gifts to the various agencies.

## 'Tis the Season (*Almost*)

Remember getting ready for Christmas when you were a child? From decorating the tree to baking cookies, each moment brought you excitement and joy. Preparing for Christmas can be as joyful as it was then. Don't let this be just another Advent where you get distracted and busy.

Rediscover the joy in the season with Best Advent Ever, a free email program that will help you prepare for Christmas in a way that will allow you to have a Christmas as memorable and joyful as when you were a child. You'll receive...

- ◆ **Short Inspirational Videos**
- ◆ **Practical Tips**
- ◆ **Real-Life Stories of Hope**
- ◆ **Sign up at [DYNAMICCATHOLIC.COM/ADVENT](http://DYNAMICCATHOLIC.COM/ADVENT)**

## The Season of Advent

This Sunday marks the beginning of the Advent season and hence the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. Advent is understood as a time of preparation. During the first three weeks of Advent the emphasis is on preparing our hearts and minds for the second coming of Christ, the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God (the Eschaton), which will bring all things to their completion. This sense of looking forward is captured in the readings and prayers. As baptized Christians who work for the coming of the Kingdom, Advent allows us a specific season to focus on the hope and anticipation that mark this time of year.

This tension between the "now" and the "yet to come," is expressed in our Church building through the repeating almond or mandorla pattern that is seen in the baptismal font, the pattern on the floor, the shape of the building itself. The mandorla is the shape that is formed when two circles intersect. It represents the meeting point between the now and the Kingdom of God. When we worship we stand between two worlds, Advent allows us a time to focus on the Kingdom to come, the world we are called to build.

If the first three weeks of Advent are "Eschatological" (the coming of the Kingdom), the last week is "Incarnational" (literally, the enfleshment of God). In this last week we look back to the first coming of Christ, when the Son of God took on human form, when the promises of God were fulfilled and the Son of God comes to dwell with the people of God.

The Season of Advent invites us to pause and mark the many ways that God is with us (Emmanuel) in our lives, that we may give thanks for the light in the dark and devote ourselves to preparing the kingdom. Consider taking time for quiet prayer and contemplation, take advantage of the various communal prayer opportunities such as Sunday Evening Prayer, Communal Penance Service, etc., as part of your own preparation and recognition of God's presence among us.

## Christmas Music Ministry

Interested in participating in Christmas choir?

We sing each Sunday at the 10:30 Mass during Advent as well as Christmas Eve Mass, 9:30 PM. It's a brief and rewarding commitment. Use your musical gifts in service of the worshipping community at St. Agnes.

Advent:

1st SUNDAY: December 2: Rehearsal 9:15-10:15;  
no evening rehearsal

2nd, 3rd & 4th SUNDAYS: December 9: Rehearsal 4- 5:30

CHRISTMAS EVE: 12/24 Mass in the Night 9:30 PM  
Carols and Mass begin at 9:30pm.

Contact Dr. Elaine Rendler at the parish office.

Book Discussion  
Eileen Dooley: 304-876-3320  
dooleywoods@comcast.net

**December 21 @ 10:30  
In the Parish Center**

Our December selection is *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Please join us for what promises to be a delightful discussion.

## Emergency Class Cancellation and Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, we will be posting all closings on our website. Please go to [www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org](http://www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org) or the St. Agnes CFF/Youth Facebook (closed) group page for cancellation information. You can also call the parish office at 304-876-6436 and listen to the recording. We will try our best to make a call regarding CFF classes by 8pm the evening prior for any known snow emergencies. We are not able to call your home to advise you of any changes. It will be the parent's responsibility to check from home for cancellations. Please know that if you feel it is unsafe to travel, we want to ensure your safety and support your decision to stay home.

## Amazon Smile

We would like to remind you as Christmas shopping season gets into full swing that Amazon Smile offers a way to support your favorite charity (Saint Agnes Catholic Church) through your purchases. You do have to shop through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and designate Saint Agnes Catholic Church (yep, you have to spell "saint" out) as the nonprofit you are supporting. There is no added cost to you, just a small donation goes to the church.

## World AIDS Day December 1, 2018

World AIDS Day originated at the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention. Since then, every year United Nations agencies, governments and civil society join together to campaign around specific themes related to AIDS. For more information on how to donate or get involved, check out <https://www.worldaidsday.org/>.

Excerpt from...

### "Simple Acts to Save Our Planet"

By Michelle Neff



Use nonchemical de-icers. While ice melters are certainly convenient when we are trying to clear off our sidewalks and driveways in the wintertime, they contain harmful chemicals. What's more, salt-based products can be harmful to pets and could contaminate drinking water. Not good! Instead, look for pet-safe, non-chemical de-icers.

## Message from the Parish Nurses

Lynn Dunlevy, BSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse  
Barbara Mueller, RN, Faith Community Nurse  
December 2018

### LESS HOLIDAY STRESS MORE JOY!!!

The holiday season can be a time of joy, wonder, and personal renewal. Or it can leave you drained: emotionally, physically, and even financially. Stress and depression can be detrimental to your health and well-being. But with using these coping tips, you can minimize your stress and ensure a worry-free holiday season that can be "a joyful time" for you and your family.

Visit: [www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org](http://www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org) for this Parish Health Newsletter and "Christmas Greetings from the Parish Nurses Team." Click on: Parish Health Newsletter to read both pages of the newsletter.

Copies of the Parish Health Newsletter can be found in the narthex of the church.

**Please note:** Back issues of the Parish Health Newsletter can be found on the St. Agnes website by opening up Ministries and clicking on Parish Health.

## Social Concerns Weekend

### It's That Time Again

We'll be collecting for support of our Homeless Dinners. The Youth served 40 guests and over 50 meals on Nov. 14. We're running a bit low on funds so any donation is appreciated. Last month we received \$213 in contributions and distributed \$500 in cash cards to meal preparers.

We're also selling Haitian Coffee and CRS Decaf Coffee (Peace on Earth Coffee). These coffees make excellent hostess gifts during the holidays – and help the coffee farmers!

**Don't forget that all Christmas Gift Tag gifts are due back to the Church or Parish Center by December 9. Members of the Social Concerns Committee will sort and deliver the gifts that afternoon.** If you took a tag, please bring the gift. The Social Concerns Committee needs to purchase missing gifts out of its funds, funds that otherwise would be used for other valuable ministries. There were a record number of gift tags this year. We are grateful to all of you for responding so generously!

## Volunteer Opportunity

Consider preparing free tax returns in your community. You'll receive specialized training from an IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer who will ensure you are more than ready for tax season. Contact Kate Didden at 304 262-1584 or email [kdidden@mhthtwv.org](mailto:kdidden@mhthtwv.org).

## Docent Training

Love our worship space? Want to learn more about why it's built the way it is? Would you like to learn the how and why? Consider becoming a Church docent— learn all about our worship space and share that knowledge with others. If interested send an email to [aff@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:aff@stagnesshepherdstown.org) or call the Parish office.



## Shepherdstown Fire Department Free Community Dinner & Open House

The Shepherdstown Fire Department will be having its annual Free Community Christmas Dinner and Open House on Sunday, December 2nd, from 12Noon until 3pm. They will provide a free dinner to all who attend as their gift to you for your continued support of the organization.

The special guest of the day will be Santa Claus, bring your own camera if you wish. There will be free gifts for all children, fire safety literature, fire, rescue, and ambulance displays.

## Parish Financial Activity

### Collections – Last Week

|                                                                |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Offertory Collections                                          | \$10,932        |
| Monthly Mortgage Assistance                                    | \$750           |
| <b>Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)</b>         | <b>\$11,682</b> |
| <b>Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)</b> | <b>\$12,500</b> |
| <b>Total Collections Compared to Target</b>                    | <b>↓ -\$818</b> |

|                                                                  |                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Tithe to help those in need</b>                               | <b>\$1,093</b> |
| <small>(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)</small> |                |

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

|                                                                |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Offertory Collections                                          | \$427,513          |
| Monthly Mortgage Assistance                                    | \$76,089           |
| <b>Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)</b>         | <b>\$503,602</b>   |
| <b>Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)</b> | <b>\$587,500</b>   |
| <b>Total Collection Compared to Target</b>                     | <b>↓ -\$83,898</b> |

|                                                                  |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Tithe to help those in need</b>                               | <b>\$42,751</b> |
| <small>(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)</small> |                 |

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is committed to the protection of its children and young people. The Diocese complies with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People by maintaining an Office of Safe Environment. To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families/Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact one of the Bishop's designees at 888.434.6237 (toll free) or 304.233.0880: Sister Ellen Dunn, ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Msgr. Frederick Annie, ext. 267, or Msgr. Anthony Cincinnati, 270. For more information on the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment, please go to [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), then click the "Diocese" tab, then click "Office of Safe Environment" under the "Offices" menu. To learn more about the Catholic Church's efforts in preventing sexual abuse of children in the United States, visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Under "Issues and Action," click "Child and Youth Protection" from the drop down menu.

## Catholic Daughters' News

CDA Members: Don't forget the Christmas Social on Tuesday, December 11, 6:00 PM, Lackey Hall at St. Joseph's Church. New or "gently used" donations are being accepted for St. Joseph's Angels for the following items: winter coats (size 2T-5T); pajamas (size 18 months- 3T); potty training seats; and diaper pull-ups (size 4-5). Your donations may be brought to the social or dropped off at St. Joseph's Parish office. For more information, contact Darlene Pulz at 304-267-2939.

## Cash Cards Make Cents For Christmas Giving!

Cash Cards can help you simplify your Christmas giving and provide funds for St. Agnes! We have many in stock, and we can special order a huge variety of cards. Once an order is placed, the cards will be in and ready for pick up the following weekend. Please note that Sunday, **December 16**, is the last day to place special orders to insure arrival before Christmas.

### CASH CARD CORNER getting cash back for St. Agnes!

Fall is upon us! We have cash cards for all of your autumn needs, fun & games or sweat & toil!



\$235.07 Earned from Last Week's Sales  
**\$4,800.00 in Sales**  
31 Participating Families

We offer in stock cards 7 days a week and can special order cards for 300+ merchants for quick delivery! Cards are sold after all Masses and in the Parish Office Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm.

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Exodus 20:8-11 (NABRE)  
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