

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.

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Deacon: Rev. Mr. Anthony Maciorowski

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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

Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:37-44

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 12noon

Canterbury Mass

Friday at 10:30am

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)



Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm Mass for

Michael Kubek



Sunday, 8:00am Mass for

Willie Franklin "Pete" Jones

May Michael and Pete share in the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill especially Ann Marie Huebschman and Kenny Harder (brother-in-law of Georgette Rush). 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.

How Catholics Read the Bible

Have you ever wondered where the Bible comes from? Who were the Gospel writers? What about all those other "Gospels" we hear about in the news? What is the Catholic approach to scripture?

How Catholics Read the Bible is a three week short course that looks at the history of the Bible and the approach that the Catholic Church takes to reading the Bible. We will meet Monday afternoons at the Parish Center from 1-3 pm. There are a couple of books you will need to order so please let us know you are attending- contact aff@stagnesshepherdstown.org or call the office.

Advent Quiet Morning

Date: Saturday, December 7, 9am-12noon

Advent Quiet Morning:

Reflections on writings from the Desert

Advent is often a season of rushing around, parties, buying, and some anxiety. Take a morning to ponder what the Desert Fathers and Mothers have to teach us about what seems to be the opposite of our experience of Advent.....awareness, silence, stillness. This rich and ancient tradition has much to offer the 21st century. Come and learn from these wise souls and rest a while...and breathe.

Lost & Found

Our lost and found basket (by the exit nearest the restrooms) is once again overflowing. Please take a look and see if any of the items are yours!

Sat, Nov 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent Wreath Tags Available in Narthex
Sun, Dec 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Sunday of Advent • No RCIA • No CFF • Advent Wreath Tags Available in Narthex • Choir Rehearsal 9:15am • Full Choir Rehearsal 4pm
Mon, Dec 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SVdP Advisory Board 6pm
Tues, Dec 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Catholics Read the Bible 1pm • No CFF
Wed, Dec 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA 7pm
Fri, Dec 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass at Canterbury 10:30am
Sat, Dec 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent Retreat 9am • Korben Felice Cook Baptism 11am • Social Concerns Weekend • Perpetual Memorial Mass 5:30pm
Sun, Dec 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Sunday of Advent • Social Concerns Sunday • RCIA 9am • CFF 9:15am • Choir Rehearsal 9:15am • Advent Wreath Tag Gifts Due by 12noon! • Social Concerns meeting 12noon • Confirmation Class 4pm • Youth Mass 5pm
Mon, Dec 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary • SVdP Meeting 7pm
Tues, Dec 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Catholics Read the Bible 1pm • No CFF • KOC Meeting 7:30pm

Christmas Choir

New Members Welcome!

The Choir sings each Sunday of Advent with rehearsals at 9:15am, beginning on Sunday, December 1st (today).

- ◆ Rehearsal 9:15am December 1st with full Rehearsal at 4pm on December 1st.

Questions? Contact Elaine Rendler-McQueeney at elaine.rendler@hotmail.com.

Please consider lending your voice to enrich our Advent and Christmas celebrations!

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday we enter the Advent Season, we begin a new church year. It is always good to make a new beginning, whether it be a fresh and new beginning or perhaps only building on the successes of the past year.

In this new year, what will we undertake ... this is a new church year ... does this mean we will undertake something new for the Lord and for God's people ...

In this new year, perhaps we will undertake something concrete to counter climate change, global warming to ease the burden and anxiety of low-lying nations where the rising seas surround and threaten a way of life ...

In this new year will we begin to care for others and not be so concerned about our wealth, our nation, our issues, and begin to image and take seriously the issues of others as important and significant ...

In this new year, may we dare to pray that the church becomes more transparent, that we will confess our failures and be more humble before God and a world desperate for genuine witness!

In this new year perhaps we can be open to God's grace, God's beauty that can lead us to what is right, just, and good!

As church, may we commit ourselves to making this the very best year possible ... a faith-filled people bringing the gospel to life!

Fr. Mat

SVFD Annual Free Community Christmas Dinner

The Shepherdstown Fire Department will be having its annual Free Community Christmas Dinner and Open House on **Sunday, December 1st, from 12Noon until 3pm**. We will provide a free dinner to all whom attend as our gift to you for your continued support of our organization.

The special guest of the day will be Santa Claus, bring your camera if you wish.

There will be free gifts for all children, fire safety literature, fire, rescue, and ambulance display.

This special holiday event is for people of all ages and you won't want to miss it. Come join us at the fire department located at 8052 Martinsburg Pike, just west of Shepherdstown.

Reflections on Carmelite Spirituality

Reflections on Carmelite Spirituality

By Dr. Jan V. Sengers, OCDS

Dr. Sengers is Professor Emeritus from the University of Maryland and a longtime member of St. Agnes

He has been a member of the Discalced Carmelite Secular Order since 1972.

At noon on Sunday, December 15, Dr. Sengers will be sharing his decades of experience in Carmelite prayer and contemplation. The Season of Advent is the perfect time for reflection and growth in our relationship with God and one another.

Advent Has Begun!

Advent Reconciliation

Our Advent Communal Reconciliation will be on Saturday, December 14, 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.

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.**

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 8**. Social Concerns will sort and deliver all the gifts to the various agencies.

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 22.

CCHD Collection Results

As always, the people of St. Agnes have been generous in giving to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). \$652 was collected to add to our title of \$750 for a grand total of \$1402. While CCHD is primarily funded by this annual parish collection, donations are welcome at any time! Check out the CCHD website to donate or learn more about the grants that are offered:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/>

CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty program of the bishops of the United States. Founded in 1969, CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by funding organizations where low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities.

Social Concerns Weekend

December 7 & 8, 2019

There is lots happening this upcoming Social Concerns Weekend. All wrapped gifts for the Gift Tag project are due by noon on Sunday, December 8. If you take a tag or two or more, please return the gifts by then. Otherwise, Social Concerns members need to shop for the gifts that afternoon using funds we usually use for other purposes. We don't want anyone on our gift tag list to be disappointed.

We'll be collecting funds to feed the hungry and homeless and also collecting new socks, hats, scarves and gloves. Youth and parishioners will be serving the meal on Christmas Day. We'd like to be able to offer warm clothing as well as great food. Please bring donations to church or drop off donations at the Parish Center. There is a basket in the entry.

We received word Friday that Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center, EPEC (formerly Shenandoah Women's Center) has a desperate need for women's winter coats. You can drop off women's coats at the office on Martin St. M-F from 9 – 4, or leave them at the parish center and someone will take them to EPEC. We'll be accepting donations for feminine hygiene products for EPEC as well.

A Christmas gift suggestion: The situation in Haiti remains grave. We can't personally do anything to help the political situation but purchasing the Fair Trade Just Haiti coffee we will be selling helps the farmers with much needed income during this crisis – and it is good coffee! On Feb. 2, 2020, Kim Lamberty, founder and president of Just Haiti, Inc. will be speaking after the 10:30 Mass. Mark your calendars!

ICON Workshop Rescheduled!

Early Christian Byzantine Iconography Workshop
A Series of Six One Day Friday Classes
January 17, 2020 – February 21, 2020

Message from the Parish Nurses

Gabriele Davis, BSN, RN
Lynn Dunlevy, BSN, RN, Faith Community Nurse
Barbara Mueller, RN, Faith Community Nurse
December 2019

COLD WEATHER PRECAUTIONS

Stay safe at home, in your car and in your habits during the cold season. Take precautions in your home by preventing drafts, installing carbon monoxide monitors, and heating your home safely.

Make sure you have a basic first aid and emergency kit in your car. Know the proper tire pressure for your car, and keep at least a half tank of gas in your car at all times during the winter months.

Get your flu shot! Practice good hand hygiene. Plan your exercise ahead to help you follow through. Be creative at home or use your local gym.

Visit: www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org for more details.
Click on: Parish Health Newsletter to read the entire article.

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 clicking on Ministries then clicking on Parish Health.

Catholic Charities WV

Catholic Charities WV needs your help! We provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change. **Donate at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org, or at any Christmas Mass, just simply note CCWV in the memo.** We're waiting in joyful hope: 24 Days Until Christmas!

Book Discussion

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

3rd Friday of the Month at 10:30am
All are welcome!

We've had a change in plans! On November 15, we discussed the first 8 chapters of *Jesus of Nazareth: What He Wanted, Who He Was* by Gerhard Lohfink. We found the book challenging but valuable – and our discussion very helpful. We have decided to meet on December 18 at 10:30 to discuss the rest of the book and do a recap. Please join us.

On January 17, 2020 we'll begin discussion of *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr, and we'll continue the discussion of this book on February 21.

For a change of pace, our March 20 selection will be *Gods of the Upper Air: How a Circle of Renegade Anthropologists Reinvented Race, Sex, and Gender in the Twentieth Century* by Charles King.

New Hymnals



The Gift of Music

Memorialize this year's hymnal

Our 2020 Hymnals will be here on December 1, 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.

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) meets each Sunday morning, 9:00-10:15, at our historic St. Agnes Chapel (Church and Washington Streets). All interested in learning about the Catholic faith are welcome to attend. Give Fr Mat a call should you like more information.

December CFF Calendar

Dec 1 – No CFF

Dec 3 – No CFF Tue night Class

Dec 8 - CFF Class 9:15 a.m. (K-7)

4pm Confirmation Class

Youth Mass 5pm (7, 8th and all are welcome)

Christmas Cookie sharing after Youth Mass

Dec 10 – No CFF Tue night class

December 14, 4pm Communal Reconciliation

Mandatory for Confirmation Students

Dec 15 CFF Class 9:15 a.m. (K-Confirmation)

Dec 17 CFF Tue night Confirmation class 6:15

Dec 22 - Cooking for the homeless at 11:30pm

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Children's 15 min program prior to Mass.

Dec 25- Youth Serve Homeless meal 5pm.

Enjoy the Blessings of Christmas Family Time.

We will return to CFF January 5th.

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 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.

The Advent Wreath

Wreaths are used by Christians fairly early in the medieval period and specifically Advent wreaths first appear in the 16th century and become common in Catholic homes over the next two hundred years. They represent the two-fold understanding of Advent mentioned last week. The circle of the wreath represents eternal life as does the use of evergreens. There are four candles: three purple and one pink or rose. The three purple candles reflect the penitential and preparatory nature of the season (also mentioned last week). On the first two Sundays of Advent we light two of the purple candles. On the third Sunday of Advent we light the rose candle. This third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday and the lighter color represents a lightening of the mood, a focus on the joy to come. The final purple candle is lit on the final week of the Season.

The light of the four candles also represents the light of Christ, the light in the darkness, light of the world. Some Advent wreaths especially represent the light of Christ by adding a fifth white candle that is lit on Christmas Eve.

• Praying with an Advent Wreath

Traditionally, families gather to light the Advent wreath before dinner and after the food has been blessed. There are many prayer texts available, often using the O Antiphons as part of the prayer and all reflecting the two-fold nature of the Advent Season.

Resources for praying with the Advent Wreath: See Prayers for Lighting the Advent Wreath at Loyolapress.org.

Here you will find Advent activities, art, information on another Advent custom – the Jesse Tree and other inspiration.

Youth Mass

December 8th 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!

Please note that confirmation students do not have class in the morning, but we will be gathering before Youth Mass at 4pm in the parish center for class.

If you would like to assist at the Mass in Hospitality/ Reader, please email Joe Yates, joeyates47@gmail.com.

Cold Weather Shelter Save the Dates!

St Agnes will be assisting the Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church with hosting the Cold Weather Shelter the week of **December 14-20**. Orientations will be scheduled once folks volunteer to participate. Volunteers are needed as chaperones as well as to assist with morning meals. For more information or to volunteer, contact Dan VanBelleghem, dvanbell@citlink.net.

Separated/Divorced Support Group

St. Agnes would like to offer a Separated and Divorced Support Group, depending on interest in this area. The program would be offered for a 9 to 10 week period, meeting once a week at a location to be determined. The program would be headed by Mr. Richard Hitchcock of St. Agnes. Mr. Hitchcock headed a similar program in the Diocese of Orlando. If you are interested in attending this program or have any questions, please contact Mr. Hitchcock at 803-331-2565.

Coats for Kids

Today is the last day to donate to the KOC Coats for Kids Campaign. Last year the Knights gave 156 coats to students here in the Jefferson County school system, the Boys Club, and our own St Agnes students.

Lector Books Available

Attention All Lectors! Your lector books are ready for pick up! You will find them in the Narthex in front of the St. Agnes mosaic. Please note that we have begun using these new books, so you will want to get yours now!

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$6,766
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$365
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$7,131
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ -\$4,869

Tithe to help those in need \$677
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

Collections – Year-To-Date (thru November)

Offertory Collections	\$447,000
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$80,227
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$527,227
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$564,000
Total Collection Compared to Target	↓ -\$36,773

Tithe to help those in need \$44,700
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

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; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. For more information on the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment, please go to 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, please visit <http://www.usccb.org>. Under "Issues and Action," click "Child and Youth Protection" from the drop down menu.

Ignite Your Faith Rally

These retreats are an opportunity for ALL middle and high school students and teens preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation to gather. Small parishes and large parishes will be represented. Participants will have fun, meet new friends, pray, learn, laugh and have the opportunity to grow in their faith. The day is high energy, just like the participants, with lots of music and movement.

Dates 2019-2020:

December 8th in Charles Town

February 23rd in Wheeling

March 29th in Charleston

*Capacity is 200 people. We will take reservations first come, first served.

For more information or to register, go to <http://www.wvcatholicism.org/ignite-youth-rallies--confirmation-days.html>.



Look for St. Agnes CFF/Youth on Facebook - This is a closed group for parishioners who are parents of K- HS youth of St. Agnes to find out what activities are happening for their children. We will also share resources to support you in forming your children in the faith.

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For more information, contact Beth Yates at 304- 876-6436 or

Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org

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