

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 Staff

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

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David Godfrey ~ Michele Goldman ~ Shaná Harris
Michael Keefe ~ Fred Klein ~ Albert Leung

Finance Council

Mike Drewes ~ Jack Lantzy
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Arnold Thomas ~ 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

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 29:1-2, 3ac-4, 3b+9c-10
Acts 10:34-38
Mark 1:7-11

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Sunday, 10:30am (attendance limited to 30)

FM Radio Mass Sunday at 10:30am

RSVP Required for both options

Masks are required & social distancing will be observed for both the in-church and parking lot options
(Videotaped Sunday Mass available on the Website)

Weekday Masses

No weekday Masses are currently scheduled.

Reconciliation: Call the office for an appointment

Parish Office: Monday– Friday 9am-12noon

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



Mass Intentions

Sunday, Video Mass for
Suzanne Larsen Hellyer



Sunday, 10:30am Mass for
Thomas Bonner

May Suzanne and Thomas 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 Jack Brown (grandson of Marie Snowden), Roland Bodin, Charles Vogelsong (relative of Lorraine Javorsky), Bill Hennesy, Stephy Scott (cousin of Lizzie Lowe), and Lisa Rickman. 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.

CFF News

Today as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, please take the opportunity to talk as a family about your child's baptism. CFF classes are scheduled to begin January 24th via Zoom at 9 AM. Materials for currently registered students are being gathered in the parish center for distribution before the beginning of classes. Parents of registered students, please watch your email for days to pick up materials from the parish center as well as a parent meeting (via Zoom) to help facilitate access to the digital materials for your child. If your child is not registered for CFF yet, it is NOT too late. CFF registration forms are available at the parish center, the church, and online on the parish website: <https://stagnesshepherdstown.org/child-faith-formation/>.

Please keep watching the CFF/ Youth page for continuing announcements regarding Faith Formation as well as activities in which to participate. We are in the planning stages of a youth garden project. More to come on that project later. If you are having issues accessing the Facebook page please contact the parish center at 304- 876-6436 or Bill Donahue at formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org

Haiti Coffee Back in Stock!

We have our Haiti Coffee back in stock in the office! We currently have 8 bags of whole beans and 4 bags of ground beans as well as 4 bags of decaf available. It is helpful to call the office in advance to make certain we still have some before you stop by. Remember that \$3 per bag is tax deductible.



Christmas Flowers

Our Christmas flowers have been given in memory of Jack McIntyre and Kevin McIntyre by Mary & Bill Gray; Rex Norton by Hilda Norton; Frances Snowden, Rob & Joan Hopkin, Phyliss Smallwood, and Sophia Hansen by Marie Snowden; and the Moler Family, the Thompson Family, the Burleigh Family, the Greaser Family, and the Robertson Family by Judy & Brian Robertson; and as a gift to St Agnes by Bill Conner and Joan & James Keller.

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

Due to the Pandemic, there are more homeless people in Jefferson and Berkeley County, and there is now a need for more sleeping bags. In December a few of the sewing ladies that can sew at their own homes have completed 21 sleeping bags made from your donations of comforters. We are in need of more 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. Please call before coming as the parish center door is locked at all times.

~ The Sewing Ladies ~

Clothing Donations Needed

CCWVa is seeking winter clothing for a soon to be released female inmate. Tops: 3X; Bottoms: 2X; Slip on shoe: Size 9.5; Diabetic/compression socks; XL adult diaper/briefs. Please drop off new or nearly new items at the Parish Center or contact Siobhán Bertone if you have questions. Thank you for your care of those in our community. sbertone@ccwva.org or 304 267-8837 ext 10.

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We are not always aware that this feast is the culmination of the Christmas season. The Baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of his public ministry, the time when Jesus, God-among-us, walks among suffering humanity, takes on the pain, sickness, and oppression all around him. The face of God is turned towards us with infinite compassion, forgiveness, and love. The Gospel narrative is the unfolding of that presence, God's embrace of our wounded humanity, from the moment of his baptism through the passion. We take time through today's liturgy to reflect on Jesus' Baptism which inaugurates his public ministry; it takes us also to the special moment in our own lives of Baptism, the gift of the Spirit, and the call to discipleship.

In a time of immense fear from pandemics, division, war, and hatred, we remember in faith the presence of God who entered into our pain; we pray for healing and restoration of all creation. We pray together in community, as Church, as God's holy people in need of divine mercy, so that we can discern the face of God in each other -- most especially, those who are victims of sinful practices.

We need the encounter with this Jesus in all the sadness and difficulties we are facing. Pope Francis emphasizes that the Christian message is about a willingness to make ourselves vulnerable by entering into the pain of others; not to offer answers, but rather to just be a loving presence. At a baptism, what do we say? The god-

parents and faith community, whether it is the baptism of a child or an adult who is making a profession of faith, pledge to provide an environment of faith, hope, and love so that, along with the parents, this new Christian can grow and mature in the life of the Spirit. Really what we are saying is that we are all here for them to celebrate the joys and, also, to walk through the pain. I really appreciate the line from St Paul in First Corinthians 12 that when one part in the body of Christ suffers, we all suffer with them, when one has joy we share the joy. The hope is that this makes the burden less and the joy more abundant. We then, after supporting each other as a family, roll up our sleeves and take up the joys and burdens of the human family which Jesus embodied. We do that by a life in the Spirit.

In this difficult time in human history, it is my hope and prayer that we all realize we have the family of St Agnes to fall back on, that we truly could be all in for each other. The world could then say, "see how these Christians love one another." This is not a sentimental thing, but rather it is what the world needs us to embody and put into action.

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Beginning Wednesday of this week, I will be taking some vacation time. Father Jim Conroy will celebrate Mass next weekend, and Father Leonard Smith will be available to assist with any needs that come up.

Fr Andy

## Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program

For the 30th consecutive year, the Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program (**TAP**) is striving to keep Catholic school education affordable for Catholic families who may need some financial assistance to make that dream a reality. Applying for **TAP through FACTS** is easy and affordable. You are encouraged to apply if your child is already enrolled or has been accepted by one of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for the 2021-2022 school year. Learn more about who is eligible and how to apply at this website: <https://wvcatholicschools.org/financing-options/>.

## Pandemic Relief Fund

Our parishioners have continued to donate funds specifically to help those who might be out of work due to the pandemic, to those who might not be able to afford medication at this time, or whatever the need might be. Please do not hesitate to call Fr. Andy (304-876-8086). Each situation will be held in complete confidence.

## Shepherdstown Shares Day of Gratitude

**SHEP SHARES FOOD PANTRY** declares A DAY OF GRATITUDE AND HOPE. Visit Facebook Live to celebrate the day on January 16, 2021, at 1:00 PM. A recording will also be available on our YouTube channel.

We declare **GRATITUDE** for the generosity this community has shown our new food pantry through donations of resources and volunteer labor. We uphold **HOPE** that the community will continue to support those in need. The pantry is open Mondays, 1:00-3:00 PM and Saturdays, 2:00-5:00 PM, Trinity Episcopal Church Chapel. For more information, go to [ShepherdstownShares.org](http://ShepherdstownShares.org).

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the weekly gathering where interested individuals are introduced to the Catholic faith. RCIA will begin meeting on Zoom from 9-10:15am each Sunday beginning this weekend. If you or someone you know has an interest in learning more about the Catholic faith, please call the office.

## A 21st Century Christmas Story

Two St. Agnes parishioners were delivering canned goods to Shepherdstown Shares when they learned of the needs of two young families with infants and one with a toddler. They contacted one of our parishioners who was able to provide these families with some contacts of agencies that might be able to help long term and our parishioners contacted the Social Concerns Committee for immediate help. We were able to use some of the remaining Gift Tag funds to supply Walmart cards for formula for the infants and diapers for the toddler.

We will continue to assist in situations like this as long as we have the resources. Shepherdstown Shares' space is very limited. Our provision of gift cards is a perfect solution for them – and supports our Cash Card program in a small way. If you want to donate please send your check to *St Agnes Social Concerns Committee* and write *Gift Tag Project* on the memo line.

The volunteers at Shepherdstown Shares are not trained social workers. If you are an active or retired social worker who could provide “consulting services” so the volunteers could get advice in directing people to additional assistance, please call our parish office.

## How Catholics Read the Bible

How Catholics Read the Bible: Have you ever wondered why there are four Gospels? Who collected the books of the Bible and organized it? How do Catholics read and interpret scripture? Where does science fit? History?

Taught by Rodica Stoicoiu, How Catholics Read the Bible is a 3 week short course offered to St. Agnes parishioners. We will be meeting for two hours a week on Zoom to discuss and explore these questions and more!

The course will meet on January 19, January 26 and February 2 from 7-9 pm. Please register for the class here: <https://stagnesshepherdstown.org/adult-faith-formation/>.

## Mass at St. Agnes

This past weekend we had 118 “views” of our video Mass. As always, there were 5 present for the taping of the Mass. For our 10:30am Mass on Sunday, we had a total of 39 people in attendance between those in the church and those who attended the radio Mass.

The St Agnes community is extremely blessed to have so many selfless volunteers who put their faith into action! We have them to thank for not only our Sunday Mass and our Mass online but also the success of our Radio Masses. We are extremely grateful for their generous donations of their time and talents that help us reach people in creative ways.

## January Social Concerns Weekend

Happy New Year! We are observing Social Concerns Weekend this weekend but frankly in the midst of the corona virus it has been impossible to do what we have done in the past – collect for homeless meals and for feminine hygiene products and sell Haitian Coffee. A new freshly roasted batch of Just Haiti coffee arrived this week thanks to Black Dog Coffee who roasts it for us. Here's the report from JCCM about meals served to the homeless last month. The average would be even higher but for the snow days and Christmas when a local church hosted a community Christmas dinner which the homeless attended (curbside service only).

### December Meal Report Meal Attendance

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Days Served             | 26                |
| Total Meal #            | 1040              |
| Highest #               | 62                |
| Lowest #                | 17                |
| Average #               | 40                |
| Total Individuals       | 126 (adults only) |
| More than 50% (13 days) | 27                |
| Only once               | 37                |

The JCCM Coordinator added this note:

“Because of being so cold and snow and rain, we stopped seeing some elderly friends who used to come all the time. Also we have more families with children and elderly parents.”

The need for meals is growing so if you can make a contribution please send a check payable to *St Agnes Social Concerns Committee* and on the memo line write *Homeless Dinners*.

Thank You!

## 2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in February, so please feel free to contact Judy (see below) at any time with names of individuals for whom you would like our group to pray. They can be the same names entered month after month, as we realize some circumstances warrant many prayers over a long period of time. Please do not hesitate to e-mail or call on different occasions throughout the month - you may give Judy one name now and in a week or two, other names may come to mind that you would like to add to the prayer list. Also, if you would like to join our 2nd Friday Prayer Group, please give Judy a call: 301-432-2276 or e-mail <[jslilga8@gmail.com](mailto:jslilga8@gmail.com)>.

## Discernment Retreat for Men

Do you desire a life of sacrifice and faithful service to God and His People? Do you desire to give yourself completely to God in a life of consecration and commitment to building up the kingdom of God here in West Virginia? Perhaps the Lord is calling you to be a Priest of Jesus Christ in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston! The annual diocesan Men's Priestly Discernment Retreat will be held Saturday, March 20 at the Pope St. John XXIII Pastoral Center (Charleston) from 10AM – 5PM. This is open to men 18 years and older who are open to reflecting on God's will for them. The day will consist of Holy Mass, prayer, reflections on the priesthood, and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession. Contact Rick Teachout: 304-233-0880 ext. 442 or [rteachout@dwc.org](mailto:rteachout@dwc.org).

## JCCM Food Pantry Collection

We continue to accept non-perishable donations for the food pantry at Jefferson County Community Ministries, but we ask that you leave your donations at the parish center. Unfortunately, our drivers do not have easy access to the church to pick up donations to transport to JCCM since we are not permitted to leave the church unlocked and unattended at this time.

## Homebound Ministry During Pandemic

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).

### Tithing Report for July - December

|                                                                                |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Birthingright                                                                  | \$750   |
| GSIVC (Good Shepherd Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers)                          | \$1,500 |
| Hospice of the Panhandle                                                       | \$800   |
| Jefferson County Community Ministries                                          | \$2,000 |
| Jefferson County Sheriff's Department                                          | \$200   |
| Kolofata Scholarship Fund                                                      | \$1,000 |
| Saint Joseph School                                                            | \$600   |
| Saint Vincent de Paul Society                                                  | \$1,800 |
| Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church                                              | \$300   |
| Social Concerns Committee                                                      | \$1,050 |
| Local Assistance                                                               | \$500   |
| Diocesan Collection - Catholic Communications Campaign                         | \$200   |
| Diocesan Collection - Diocesan Scholarship Association--Membership Drive       | \$50    |
| Diocesan Collection - The Catholic University of America                       | \$50    |
| Diocesan Collection - World Mission Sunday Collection                          | \$250   |
| Diocesan Collection - Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services | \$50    |
| Diocesan Collection - Catholic Campaign for Human Development                  | \$750   |
| Diocesan Collection - Retirement Fund for Religious                            | \$750   |
| Diocesan Collection - Catholic Charities West Virginia                         | \$3,000 |

## Dispensation

The faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are still dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice. Full statement at [DWC.org](http://DWC.org).



## Parish Financial Activity

### Collections – Last Week

|                                                                |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Offertory Collections                                          | \$395              |
| Monthly Mortgage Assistance                                    | \$0                |
| <b>Total</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)         | <b>\$395</b>       |
| <b>Weekly Target</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance) | <b>\$12,000</b>    |
| <b>Total Collections Compared to Target</b>                    | <b>↓ -\$11,605</b> |

**Tithe to help those in need** \$40  
(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](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, please visit <http://www.usccb.org>. Under "Issues and Action," click "Child and Youth Protection" from the drop down menu.

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