

S a i n t A g n e s



“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
Matthew 22:34-40

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
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 ~ Carmela Cesare ~ Peg Eackles
David Godfrey ~ Michele Goldman ~ Michael Keefe
Fred Klein ~ Albert Leung

Finance Council

Mike Drewes ~ Jack Lantzy
Sue Kemnitzer ~ Bob Morrow ~ John Stollery
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

Exodus 22:21-27
Psalm 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
Matthew 22:34-40

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Masses

Saturday 5:30pm & 10:30am

RSVP Required

Masks are required & social distancing will be observed
(Videotaped Mass available on the Website)

Weekday Masses

No weekday Masses are currently scheduled.

Confession

Confession is available each Saturday 4:30-5pm

Reconciliation: Saturday at 4:30pm

Parish Office: Monday- Friday 9am-12noon

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



Mass Intentions

Sunday, Video Mass for

Rose Marie Bires

May Rose Marie share in
the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Sandra Leiter, cousin of Barbara Mueller, who died this past week. May Sandra share in the fulness 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 Jean Heidler (sister of Sheila Hennessy), Nancy Hitchcock, Rita Noel (sister of John Noel), Bart Rogers, and Mary Frances Usary (friend of Lorraine Javorsky). 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.

Memorial Wall & Book of the Dead

In this time of Covid-19 when our font is empty, we are taking our memorial to loved ones virtual! During November, we will have a virtual Memorial Wall on our website with pictures of family members that would normally be around the baptistry.

We will also have a virtual Book of the Dead as well as the actual physical book to which the names submitted will be added.

If you have had a loved one pass away in the last year, you can find information on adding names to the virtual and real Book of the Dead on the website.

All are invited to submit photos of family members who have died to the virtual Memorial Wall. Please visit the St. Agnes website for information on submitting photos and names.

Congratulations, Deacon Ray!

On October 18, Deacon Ray celebrated the 46th Anniversary of his ordination as a deacon. Congratulations!

Celebrating Baptism

Last Saturday, October 17, we celebrated the baptism of Naomi Mary Wright, the daughter of Gina and Josh Wright and granddaughter of Patty and Bill Wright. May the Lord bless Naomi as she begins her life in the church!

All Souls' Day Mass

Our All Souls' Day Mass will be celebrated in the St Agnes Columbarium Garden on Monday, November 2, at 12noon. No reservations are necessary. Masks will be required and social distancing must be observed.

Advent/Christmas Gift Giving in the Midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic

The 8 agencies we (the Social Concerns Committee) have received gift requests from these past several years have had to make significant changes in light of the covid-19 virus:

They can't accept physical gifts this year

They need our "virtual" gifts earlier than usual – by November 24 at the latest!

One thing hasn't changed – the number of people who depend on us to brighten their Christmas.

Last year we distributed 187 gifts and lots of Christmas stockings to those who might have been forgotten at Christmas but for the generosity of St. Agnes parishioners. There will be no Advent wreaths with gift tags this year though the need is even greater. Instead, these agencies have asked us to provide gift cards.

We are asking that you provide **cash/check donations** to the Social Concerns Committee. The agencies will tell us what gift cards they need, and we will order them through our Cash Card program. The agencies will then do the shopping themselves or distribute the cards, whichever is the best and safest arrangement for their clients. **PLEASE DONATE CASH/CHECKS ONLY, NOT GIFT CARDS!**

We have made a commitment to the agencies that we will provide a minimum of 12 "gifts" per agency. **That means we need to raise at least \$2400 in the next month.** We welcome donations in any amount.

Thank you!

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

St. Agnes Social Concerns Committee - and on the memo line write Christmas.

You can drop donations in the collection basket at Mass; bring them to the parish office; or mail to:

St Agnes Social Concerns
PO Box 1603
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Volunteers for Mass Check-ins

Are you a smartphone user? Are you familiar with apps? Do you want to learn a new app to help St. Agnes? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we'd like you to join our Mass check-in team so that we can do contact tracing in the event of a covid outbreak.

We'll supply the phone and training! The only requirement is that you come to Mass 45 minutes early to check people in as they come to the Church. You are not required to stay for Mass.

To volunteer or find out more, contact rosanne@mindcross.com

Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Seeks Volunteers

The Emergency Cold Weather Shelter is due to open on November 1st. As with much in life these days, there is some uncertainty. At this point in time and community health, we have most of the weeks covered by some of the larger host churches who can provide space that allows the required social distancing. We are also well along the way in preparing for the kind of safety screening and cleaning that is required.

We have relied on faithful volunteers over the nearly 10 years of providing this respite from the winter weather to individuals without home. This year, in this time of pandemic, we know that many of our usual volunteers will be unable to serve, so, to fill gaps in coverage, we are advertising for assistant shelter managers as well.

If you might be interested and able to volunteer for this season's (November through March) shelter program, please email info@jccm.us. This is a wonderful experience, ready to be shared by our neighbors serving other neighbors.

SVFD Apple Butter Sales

The Shepherdstown Fire Department will be making apple butter this year, and it will be for sale on Saturday, October 31, from 8am until 8pm. No advance orders will be accepted for apple butter, there will be an abundance for sale.

Due to COVID19, the fire department will NOT be having arts and crafts nor any foods on Saturday.

This activity is a major fundraising event for our organization. Plan now to purchase your apple butter from the Shepherdstown Fire Department located on Route 45 just west of Shepherdstown.

Shepherdstown Shares Food Pantry

Shepherdstown Shares will open a food pantry soon, and they need freezers, refrigerators, and sturdy shelving (Preferably metal). If you can donate any of those items, please contact SS at cfhosimon@gmail.com.

Roy Shilling Is Moving

After being a faithful and active member of St. Agnes Church for nearly 35 years, later this month, Roy Shilling will be moving to a retirement community in Ellicott City. His constant smile and gentle and caring nature will be sorely missed. At this weekend's 5:30 Mass, Roy will be recognized for his faithful service and receive a blessing and a gift on behalf of all parishioners. Roy's new address is 3010 North Ridge Road, Unit C501, Ellicott City, MD 21043. His cell number is 301-302-3235. Please keep Roy in your prayers as he turns the page in his life's story.

Coats for Kids Collection

The Knights of Columbus are once again collecting money for their annual Coats for Kids drive. This is their 4th year of providing new coats to our area school children. Last year \$3000 was donated by the parish and the Shepherdstown Community. Please make checks payable to the Knights of Columbus with Coats for Kids as the memo. Contact Bob Rizzo for more information, 304-676-5687.

Food Pantry Collection

We continue to accept non-perishable donations for the food pantry, 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.

At Home with the Word

The 2021 edition of *At Home with the Word* is available at the church for pick up after Mass. Copies will also be available at the parish center during the week. For those who prefer larger print, we do have some copies of the large print edition available as well. The new liturgical year begins with the First Sunday of Advent on November 29, 2020.

Advent Little Blue Books

Advent will be here before we know it! It begins on November 29, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Little Blue Books, our Advent devotionals, are available for you to pick up (both regular and large print editions) after each Mass. Copies are also available at the parish center on weekdays.

For those who prefer to have these things on their e-reader or to use an app on their phone, Little Books are available in these formats as well. The e-books cost \$4 per season and can be found on the Little Books website: <https://littlebooks.org/seasonal-books/advent-christmas-season>. The phone app provides all three seasons (Advent, Lent, and Easter) at a total cost of \$10. You can purchase and download the Little Books app for your iOS or Android devices from your app store.

Catholic Corner

The Second Vatican Council Begins!!

The Council was announced by John XXIII in January 1959 but unlike previous ecumenical Councils this was not being called as a result of a crisis in the Church. John XXIII stated his desires for calling the Council as a positive hope for the future rather than as a corrective for the past. He stated his vision thus: first he hoped it would promote “the enlightenment, edification, and joy of the entire Christian people” and second that it would “extend a renewed cordial invitation to the faithful of the separated communities to participate with us in this quest for unity and grace, for which so many souls long in all parts of the world.” This vision was reflected in the Council itself, that took a positive, pastoral approach! For John XXIII this was expressed in his use of the term *aggiornamento* or “updating”.

And so the preparations began! By the time the Council opened certain “alignments” among the bishops were clear. A small but significant collection of Cardinals, bishops and theologians were led by Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani (who’s motto was *Semper Idem*, “always the same”). This conservative group held that the Council should be doctrinal in action, follow in the footsteps of what had come before and reaffirm the doctrine of the Church. They tended to view the most important aspects of John XXIII’s pastoral approach with great suspicion. In the majority though were the moderates who viewed their position in keeping with the tradition of the Church and who supported John XXIII’s desire to “open the windows and let in the fresh air.” Conciliatory and approachable, the leaders of this group drew on some of the greatest theologians of the twentieth century including Karl Rahner and Yves Congar.

The first major document to be discussed was the document on the Liturgy. The document was brought to the Council on October 22nd 1962. The theme of *aggiornamento* was clear! This was visible in the universal call to holiness and the call for full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy by all the baptized. The latter was seen as a right and duty of all the baptized not just the clergy. After much discussion, which included use of the vernacular, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy was the first document to pass the Council by a vote of 2,147 to 4!!

1. John W O’Malley, *What Happened at Vatican II* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008) 108.
2. *Ibid.*, 116-118.

Knights News

Our St Agnes Council of the Knights of Columbus recently received the “Star” award and was presented with a plaque to commemorate the award. Despite changes caused by covid, the Knights have continued their projects to support the church and the local area. We thank them for their dedication!

Coordinator of Faith Formation Position

We now have put together a committee that will take on the responsibility of selecting our new Coordinator of Faith Formation for our young people who will plan, direct, and oversee the catechetical and spiritual formation here at St. Agnes.

The job description and application for this part time position can be found on the St. Agnes website. We are looking for a practicing Catholic in good standing with knowledge of faith formation with a Bachelor’s Degree (preferably in Theology, Catechetics, Youth Ministry, or related field) or a minimum of two years experience in Catholic Faith Formation.

Fall Faith Formation

Faith Formation K- Pre Confirmation (grades 7 and up) will be held virtually using the Pflaum Gospel Curriculum that has been modified for home learning as well as classroom based. **We will publish the start date as soon as we have that pinned down.** We hope to slowly transition into the classroom as the pandemic passes. The care, welfare, safety and security of your children has always been and will continue to be a priority. This school year is the first of a two year process for Confirmation here at St. Agnes. Please register your student now for Confirmation 2022. Registration Forms can be found on our parish website.

Sacraments Course

This five week course (October 18-November 21) will look at the history and theology of the sacraments. Beginning with a look at the Liturgy we will then explore Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation (the sacraments of Initiation). We will then look at the sacraments of healing, that is, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Sick. Finally, we will examine the sacraments of communion, also known as the Sacrament of Marriage and the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

If you are a catechist or work with the RCIA, couples preparing for marriage, or parents preparing to baptize their children, or are an adult interested in deepening your faith, please join fellow Catholics from across the Diocese as we learn more about our Tradition.

This course is a hybrid model. It is composed of both weekly live two hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through the University of Dayton’s Virtual Learning Community For Faith Formation (VLCFF)

This course is being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston who pays 100% of the tuition

The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu

For further information or to register please contact Jeanne McKeets at jmckeets@dwc.org.

Voting

You will find on the St. Agnes website a presentation by our parishioner, Denis Woods, on

HOW A CATHOLIC DECIDES HOW TO VOTE.

Denis Woods is a trained theologian and the former Chair of the Political Science Department at Shepherd.

Prayer Before an Election From the USCCB

Lord God, as the election approaches,
we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.
We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.
We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, Men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.
We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.
We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.
We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymnals for Home

If you like to sing along with the hymns while watching our online Mass, we have some good news for you! Since we are not permitted to use our hymnals at church at this time and the current ones will soon be replaced by those for 2021, this year's hymnals are available for parishioners to take home. Please feel free to pick one up either at church at the weekend Masses or at the parish center during the week.

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).

Upcoming Election

What if..... I obtained an absentee ballot but now want to vote in person?

Answer: If you change your mind, take the absentee ballot you received and give it to the poll clerk at either early voting in person at the courthouse or your polling place on election day. If you do not turn in your absentee, you will be required to use a provisional ballot that will not be counted until canvassing on November 8th.

Absentee Ballots – Just a reminder, the last day to mail your absentee ballot is October 28th. You can either put it in the mailbox, drop it off at your County Clerk's office (see contact info below) or someone from St. Agnes can drop it off for you.

For West Virginia: <https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/GoVoteWV.aspx>.

For Maryland: <https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html>.

Voting in Person – voting early in person at your county clerk/board of elections office has begun. Please check the country clerks website (or GoVoteWV.com.) for the hours for voting. If you would like to vote in person and need a ride, please contact Teace Noel at 304-886-2940.

Tracking an Absentee Ballot

Absentee voters may track the status of their absentee ballots by entering the requested information at the following link: [Absentee Ballot Tracking](#).

Important Dates

Oct. 28 - Last day to return absentee ballot

Oct. 31 - Early voting (in person) ends

Nov.2 - Deadline to hand-deliver ballots

Nov. 3 - Election Day

County Clerk/Election office contact info

Jefferson County—County Clerk
100 E Washington St,
Charles Town, WV 25414
304-728-3215

Berkeley County—County Clerk
400 West Stephen Street, Suite 201
Martinsburg, WV 25401
304-264-1927

Washington County – Board of Elections
35 W. Washington Street, Room 101
Hagerstown MD 21740
240-313-2050

If you need assistance with any of the above, please contact Teace Noel at (304) 886-2940 or via email at wvnoels@gmail.com

FALL BACK!
Turn Your Clocks Back 1 Hour
Saturday Night, October 31st

2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in November, 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>.

Cash Cards Available

Cash Cards are still for sale! The office is open on Monday — Friday from 9am-12noon and by appointment to take care of your cash card needs! It is best to call or email the office with your order in advance. Your continued support of our Cash Card Program is very much appreciated!

Savoring that Morning Coffee

Just Haiti coffee sales have suffered a major decline as a result of the economic shutdowns in the US at this critical time when our producers and their families are most in need of their livelihoods. How can we help? **Buy more coffee!** We have 5 bags of whole bean and 7 bags of ground available for sale in the parish center. Remember that \$3 per bag is tax deductible. This really is a win-win.

St. Joe's in Need of Substitute Teachers

St Joe's School is in need of substitute teachers for students age 2 through grade 8. If interested, please call the school office at 304-267-6447 or email Principal Patrick Blanc at pblanc@sjswv.org.

Pandemic Relief Fund

Some parishioners have donated 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.

Glass Recycling Is Here!

St Agnes is partnering with Jim King of Shepherd University in order to offer a painless way to recycle our glass. We invite you to drop off your glass recycling (well rinsed out and without lids) in the large black bin that you will find on the parish center porch. Jim will pick it up routinely for us. Through a grant, Shepherd University has a glass crusher & sifter that turns the glass into sand that can be used in sandboxes, horseshoe pits, concrete, and more. Jim is happy to arrange a demonstration or answer any questions by email (jim.king.AIA@gmail.com) or text 304-546-5213.

Diocese Streams Daily & Sunday Masses

The Diocese is streaming daily Mass, Monday-Friday at 12:05 pm from the Cathedral of St. Joseph. The Saturday 6pm Mass is also being streamed and it remains online through Sunday. The link is <https://dwc.org/home/mass/>.

Goretti High School Position

St. Maria Goretti Catholic High School and the Archdiocese of Baltimore are seeking applications to fill the position of President, St. Maria Goretti High School. St. Maria Goretti is a regional high school and Tri-State candidates who have had business, non-profit or educational leadership experience are encouraged to apply. More information is available at archbalt.jobs.net.

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$3,819
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$390
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$4,209
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ -\$7,791

Tithe to help those in need \$382

(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

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I will donate 5% of any sale made from a St. Agnes member to the St. Agnes Mortgage!



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304-267-8936 gingersflowersandgifts.com
gingersflowersandgifts@gmail.com

Mass at St. Agnes

This past weekend we had 49 people present for the 5:30pm Mass and 52 individuals in attendance for the 10:30am Mass. These numbers include those who chose to sit outside for Mass as we continue to have a limit of 50 inside the church. There were 5 present for the recording of the Sunday video Mass, and, as far as we know, there were 136 who tuned into the video Mass.

Read the Encyclical!

Find the full text of the Encyclical at:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html (english)

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/es/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html (spanish)

An Outdoor Mass Option

Though we are limited inside the Church, if you'd like to celebrate on Sunday and the weather cooperates, bring your lawn chair, mask, and social distancing skills and listen through the outdoor speakers! Communion will be brought to you!

Online Mass Reservations

Reservations for Masses are now being done online. To reserve a seat, go to our website at www.stagnesshepherdstown.org and click on the **Mass Reservations** button. Simply select your Mass and tell us who you are and how many will be attending. To assist those who find the online reservations challenging, our thoughtful tech volunteers have put together a brief **"How to reserve a seat for Mass" video** to help guide you through the process. The video can be found both on our website under "parish news and events" in the New Tutorial *Attending Mass During Pandemic* as well as on the Eventbrite website where you actually make your reservation. If you have any problems using the online system, feel free to call the office by 3pm on Friday, and we will make the reservation for you.

Keep in mind, there is a limit of 50 people at each Mass, masks are required, and social distancing must be observed.

Dispensation Remains in Effect

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.



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304-263-4971

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