

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

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

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Fred Klein ~ Albert Leung

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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

Sirach 27:30-28:7

Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

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

Saturday, 5:30pm Mass for

Bailey Tune



Sunday, Video Mass for

Nicholas Cordero

Peter Tamara



Sunday, 10:30am Mass for

William Loudon Robertson

May Nicholas, Peter, Bailey, and William share in
the fullness of God's mercy and peace.

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!

Mass at St. Agnes

This past weekend we had 45 people present for the 5:30pm Mass and 46 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 118 who tuned into the video Mass.

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 updates 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.

Please submit your online reservation by 3pm on Saturdays.

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

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill especially Pauline Javorsky, Paul Lemieux (nephew of Sue Kemnitzer), Richard Hitchcock, Diane Benner (daughter of Barbara Mueller), and Pete Macias (friend from NSUMC). 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.

Fall Faith Formation

Faith Formation K- (Pre Confirmation grades 7 and up) will be held virtually starting September 27th using the Pflaum Gospel Curriculum that has been modified for home learning as well as classroom based. 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.

Blessing of the Catechists September 20, 10:30am Mass

On Sunday, September 20 at the 10:30am Mass, our catechists will receive a blessing. Here is our team for the coming year:

Grade 1: Karen Wilson

First Reconciliation/Eucharist: Kakie McMillan

Grades 2 & 3: Brandi Farmer

Grades 4, 5, and 6: Matt Ward with Michael Hippchen

Pre-Confirmation: Amy Hayden and Leo Bonner

Dear Parishioners,

I want to share a few thoughts, as pastor, about the upcoming election in November.

The Catholic Church community strives to maintain a prophetic voice at all times, and as such it must strive to remain nonpartisan, which in no way denies the ever present responsibility of words and actions, especially at critical moments in history. This is very clear in the Catholic Social teaching which is our guiding doctrine.

We all recognize the primacy of conscience in discerning the common good for our society. The discernment process can be one of much struggle; it requires prayerful patience and compassion towards others in building up a community of faith and justice. That is a crucial part of the solidarity of Christian disciples.

That needs emphasizing at this time, because regrettably some leaders in our church use their pastoral leadership to impose party politics of a particular stripe on the faithful. That is totally wrong. As Pope Francis reminds us, the role of the pastor is to form consciences, not to replace them. As your pastor, my goal is to show you the respect you deserve as you grapple with these issues. Part of being a faith community is being able to disagree and still love and respect each other.

Let me just address one point that needs the discernment of the community, community of memory,

of hope and accountability towards all. It gets expressed in terms of a consistent life ethic as Pope Francis so well explains. This means that all life from conception to natural death is regarded as truly sacred. That life process includes every stage of our shared humanity without exception; it is never intended to isolate just one aspect only to the detriment of the many others. Let's ask ourselves how we care about the children of immigrants fleeing from violence, how we protect the poor and needy among us, how we approach the different from us in a way that bestows dignity, how we build up relationships of truth, solidarity and respect? There is no consistent life ethic that bypasses these and many other fundamental concerns about our Catholic wellbeing.

We exercise responsibility for ourselves, others, those others who are downtrodden, and the future of our country through the vote. Let's discern deeply, pray ardently, and especially, remember what is best in the best Christian tradition, for our future and the common good.

All those voting, do so as adults, and I pray with you that we can do so in a way that reflects our cherished Christian values that will endure through difficult times.

Fr. Andy

Coordinator of Faith Formation Position

We are in the process of putting together a committee that will take on the responsibility of selecting our new Coordinator of Faith Formation who will plan, direct, and oversee the catechetical and spiritual formation here at St. Agnes.

In the meantime, if anyone is interested in being considered for this part-time position, please feel free to send your resumé to the office. 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. More information will be forthcoming.

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.

In Search of Volunteers

Hello, everyone. We are looking for four to five people willing to volunteer their help with our Columbarium Garden. Specifically, in the past few weeks a couple of our beautiful "powder-coated" garden benches, which visitors use to share a moment with their deceased loved ones in prayer and meditation, have been beset by tiny spores from the garden mulch. We intend to address that problem in the coming days.

In the meantime, we could use help to keep the benches clear of the spores. If you could find a bit of time during the week to assist us, please contact Judy Lilga at 301-432-2276 or jslilga8@gmail.com. Once you are shown the simple technique involved in cleaning the benches, you can schedule your own time to come help.

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!

A Note of Gratitude



Many thanks to our Knights of Columbus for taking on the job of cleaning the iron work in the church. Great job!

Getting in Tune with the Season of Creation

These are weeks of special celebration of creation. Many excellent resources about this “season of creation” were shared in last week’s bulletin. During these *Covid19* times we yearn for healing. Healing of all that is wounded, violated, crushed, and torn apart: Our fragile bodies, the polluted rivers, the degraded soil, the gutted mountains, the mindless slaughtering of so many species . . . all this undoing of the gift of creation on a planetary scale like in no time before. Truly, our prayer is full of lament. Many of us come together in worship and prayer through the weekly recording of St Agnes Sunday liturgies. How grateful we are for this, as well as for the many generous efforts to remain strong as a community of faith, hope, and love.

This week, we might also want to reach through the ages by tuning in to the timeless music and verse through which creation and our Creator continually lift us up. Here are just three wonderful examples which were composed many centuries apart:

“Frondens Virga” by Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)

“O leafy branch,
Standing in your nobility as the dawn breaks forth... “
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGXXrUvNzec>

“Be thou my vision”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TascswZPj8U>

“Oh, Shenandoah”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QvoqvX2VPE>
“Oh Shenandoah, I long to hear you... “

(Just download the links, listen, and be inspired!)

Recycle Your Glass!

In keeping with this Season of Creation, don’t throw away your bottles and jars! Through a grant, Shepherd University has a glass crusher & sifter. And they want your glass. Their process turns the glass into sand that can be used in sandboxes, horseshoe pits, concrete, and more. For information on how to get your glass to them, to see a demonstration, or for any other questions, contact Jim King by email (jim.king.AIA@gmail.com) or text 304-546-5213.

Thank You, Brigitte!



Brigitte Schmidt has served as our Coordinator of Faith Formation for the last six years. Though she will remain a St. Agnes parishioner, she is moving on to other things, we want to thank her for her dedication to the families of St. Agnes. Best wishes, Brigitte!

Haiti Coffee

We have 7 bags of whole bean, freshly roasted Haiti coffee as well as 3 bags of ground. You can purchase a bag for \$10 at the parish office. If you can’t get there during office hours (9-12, M-F) call or e-mail and we will make alternative arrangements.

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.

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.

Election 2020

As stated previously, voting in elections is not only a civic duty but part of our Catholic beliefs. Due to safety concerns caused by the coronavirus, you may prefer to vote by mail. If you choose to vote by mail, you should request your ballot as far in advance of the election as possible. Following are instructions on how to do this.

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

Requesting an absentee ballot to vote by mail

To vote via mail, you must first request an absentee ballot. Below are three options:

1. Apply online

For West Virginia: <https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/GoVoteWV.aspx> (full set of instructions)
or <https://sites.omniballot.us/54/absentee/app/home> (Absentee application)

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

Notes:

- You must choose a reason for requesting an absentee ballot. In most cases choose “medical reasons/Covid.” Keep in mind, just being anxious about COVID is a sufficient reason. You do not have to be sick with COVID.
- A signature is required for online requests. To sign your name, you can use a digital pen, mouse, or pad.

2. Apply by mail

a) Download the **absentee application form** from your County Clerk/BOE website

WV: <https://sos.wv.gov/FormSearch/Elections/Voter/Absentee%20Ballot%20Application.pdf>

Complete the form and return it via mail, fax, or email to your County Clerk’s office.

b) Pick up the form from St. Agnes (please call ahead of time) or the Shepherdstown public library. Both will fax or scan it and email it for you for free.

3. Call

Call your County Clerk or Elections office and ask them to mail you the absentee ballot request form.

Jefferson County: (304)-728-3215,

Berkeley County: (304) 264-1927)

Washington County, MD: (240) 313-2050

Addresses

Jefferson County – County Clerk 100 E Washington St. Charles Town, WV 25414	Berkeley County – County Clerk 400 West Stephen Street Suite 201 Martinsburg, WV 25401	Washington County – Board of Elections 35 W. Washington Street, Room 101 Hagerstown MD 21740
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Important Dates

Aug. 11 - Request for absentee ballots may begin

Sept. 18 - Mailing of ballots begins

Oct. 13 - Voter registration deadline

Oct. 21 - Early voting (in person) begins

Oct. 28 - Last day to request absentee ballot

Oct. 31 - Early voting (in person) ends

Nov. 3 - Election Day

2nd Friday Prayer Group

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

St. Joe's Hiring 3rd Grade Teacher

Saint Joseph School is seeking a certified elementary school teacher to lead one of its third-grade classes. We are blessed to have a high volume of students in that grade, so hiring another teacher will allow us to keep our class sizes small and ensure our students are safely spread apart. If you are interested, please email a résumé and cover letter to Principal Pat Blanc at pblanc@sjsvw.org.

St. Joe's in Need of Substitute Teachers

Do you enjoy working with children and a certified teacher or substitute who wants to work in a small Catholic school whose mission is to challenge, inspire and educate students ages 2 through eighth grade? If so, St Joseph School invites you to apply to become a substitute teacher. Please call the school office at 304-267-6447 or email Principal Patrick Blanc at pblanc@sjsvw.org.



Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$6,240
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$530
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$6,770
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ -\$5,230

Tithe to help those in need \$624
 (St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

Shepherdstown Shares

Shepherdstown Shares **Share Your Change** initiative will continue each Sunday during the Farmers Market hours for the Fall season. Thanks to our community's generosity we have already collected close to \$1,000 to feed those who are experiencing food insecurity during COVID-19. We will be encouraging children to gather their change and drop it in our big jar on Sunday, September 6th. Our table is located next to the library. As always, you can donate during the week by bringing your change to JSB and ask that it be deposited in the Shepherdstown Shares account.

We are thrilled to announce we will be partnering with JCCM to open a food pantry in Shepherdstown! All indicators point to an increase in food insecurity this Fall and Winter. The pantry will be in the Trinity Church Chapel. We are developing the program now. If you would like to volunteer please email shepshares@gmail.com.

Find us on Facebook, check out our webpage ShepherdstownShares.org or email us at shepshares@gmail.com.

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/>.

Homebound Ministry During Pandemic

If there are parishioners who have needs such as groceries, rides to doctors or pharmacies, or other types of support, our **HOMEBOUND MINISTRY** is willing to help. Please call Claire Williamson (304-876-1357), or Judy Lilga (301-432-2276).

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.

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