

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 Contacts

Pastor: Rev. Andrew M. Switzer
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh
Associate of Youth Faith Formation: Bill Donahue
Assistant Administrator: Beth Yates
Accounting: Lizzie Lowe
Associate of Liturgy Ministry: Helen Harris
Associate of Music Ministry: Elaine Rendler-McQueeney

Pastoral Council

Connie Bonner ~ Derek Gallagher
Christine Wiegman-Green ~ Patrick Green
Shaná Harris ~ Colin Hayden ~ Brendan Jarrell
Bill Sagle ~ Gil Sateia
Vanessa Santiago ~ Becky Tokarcik

Finance Council

Pat Barth ~ Steve Bledsoe
Mike Drewes ~ Todd Hershey
Sue Kemnitzer ~ David Matera ~ Arnold Thomas

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 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am

Sunday, 10:30am

Scripture & Communion

Monday and Wednesday at 11am

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30pm

Parish Office: Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm

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

Christmas Flowers

Our Christmas flowers have been given in memory of the Lattus family, the Kemerer family, and Wayne Kemerer by Greg & Debbie Lattus; Edythe Myers by Zach and Tricia Myers; George & Dorothy Buys, John & Elsie Piccolomini, and Ron & Shirley Burkett by John & Dotty Piccolomini; Kay Boal by James Boal & Christine Mougín-Boal; the Burleigh family, the Thompson family, the Moler family, the Greaser family, and the Robertson family by Bryan & Judy Robertson; Bruce Hughes Schmidt by Brigitte Schmidt; Patricia & Serge Vernice and Howard Shelkowsky by Joe & Teri Vernice; Elvira Risi and Almerito Risi by Maria Lamanna; Frank & Cecilia Vassallo by Eric & Anna Sokel; Francis Snowden, Rebecca McCauley, Jaysen Quintana, Sophia Hansen, and Sandra Walker by Marie Snowden; Bailey Tune & Lorraine Rose by Rebecca Tokarcik; Bill Fritchman by Nancy Curry; Richard & Sarah Nau by Tim & Gretchen Matz; Paul & Hermine Curry by Arnold & Victoria Thomas; Cynthia Nocjar by David & Christine Nocjar; Philip Mueller and Kenneth & Anna McCullough by Barbara Mueller; Rex A. Norton and Adam Mikolajczyk by Hilda Norton; Tom & Alma Bonner, Ellis & Randy Armstrong, and Mary Lou & Richard Anderson by Leo & Connie Bonner; the McCafferty Family, the Merhaut Family, and Fred Dase by Larry & Pat Merhaut;

in honor of Renee Mougín by James Boal & Christine Mougín-Boal;

and as a gift to St Agnes by Shawn & Lisa Becker, Erick & Amy Schlanger, Michael & Peg Eackles, and Stan & Lucille Nelson.

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

Happy New Year! This weekend will be the first Service, Justice, and Peace weekend of 2024. Hopefully this new year will be healthy and happy for us all, and we can share the wealth! We will have volunteers available to take your donations for feeding the hungry and homeless, Kolofata, and feminine hygiene products and diapers. Haiti coffee will be for sale as well.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill especially Rebecca Ramsey, Marie Snowden, Barbara Mueller, Bill Seymour, Todd Hershey, Anne Oxford, and Georgette Rush. 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.

2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in January. Please contact Judy at any time with names of individuals you would like to add or if you would like to join the group. Judy: 301-432-2276 or jsilga8@gmail.com.

Holy Land Collection

In light of the current Hamas-Israeli war and the escalation in violence in the Holy Land, Bishop Brennan has approved a special collection for the Holy Land region to be held the weekend of January 13-14, 2024. The money collected will be sent to The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support. They will provide the essentials of water, food, and emergency kits on the ground in the Holy Land. CNEWA has offices in the region and know where and what kind of help is needed the most.

Checks should be made payable to St Agnes and on the memo line indicate *CNEWA Holy Land Collection*.



Sunday, January 14, 2024 (NEW DATE)

After the 10:30 Mass, Parish Center

Parishioner, Christine Wiegman, recently expanded her life journey with a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Come hear Christine as she shares the personal story of her pilgrimage.

NOTE: If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the website.

Hispanic Outreach Committee Forming

St. Agnes is in the process of forming a Hispanic Outreach committee. Is God calling you to join this committee? ¿Dios te está llamando a unirse a este comité?

As it is for all church committees, VIRTUS certification is required. VIRTUS can be completed in English or Spanish. Please reach out to the office at 304-876-6436 if you are interested in joining this committee! Gracias.

Dear Parishioners,

In the last week we have had some interesting characters at the manger to greet Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. On the Feast of Holy Mary Mother of God to Kick off the new year, we hear of these characters, the shepherds, who come to greet Jesus in Bethlehem. On the Feast of Epiphany, we see the Magi who follow the star to the baby Jesus and offer the gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. I recently read a legend that Pope Francis tells of the shepherds. As the story goes, the shepherds hurried to Jesus all bringing their gifts. They brought what they had—some their labor, some a precious item. There was one shepherd who had nothing to give. He was very poor and, as the others were lavishing gifts to Mary and Joseph, he was very embarrassed. As Joseph and Mary were finding it hard to receive all these gifts, especially Mary who was holding the baby, seeing that the shepherd had empty hands, she asked him to draw near and put the baby Jesus in his arms. That shepherd in accepting him became aware of receiving what he did not deserve and holding the greatest gift all. He looked at those hands that always seemed empty, and they had become the cradle of God. He felt loved, and, overcoming his embarrassment, he could not help but begin to show Jesus to others. He could not keep to himself the greatest gift of all. I want to thank you for the many gifts you have given me during Christmas. I am blessed to call you family, and as your pastor I know I am loved. I look out often at all of you at the Masses, and I cannot help but see in you and the many faces, young and old, the love of Christ still coming to birth in our world. Let us take the example, as we enter the new year of The Magi and the Shepherds, that in our arms as a community we hold the greatest gift of all. May we extend that love of God to all people.

Fr. Andy

In Case of Inclement Weather...

It is that time of year when we need to be prepared for inclement weather! Should we experience wintry precipitation, we will do our best to make a decision regarding in person CFF class by 8pm the evening prior. Check our website, call the parish office at 304-876-6436 and listen to the recording, or you can also access this information on the St. Agnes CFF/Youth Facebook (closed) group page. If you have not yet joined the group, please do! Contact Bill Donahue at for-mation@stagnesshepherdstown.org to join.

Please note, if Jefferson County Schools are delayed or closed, there will be no **weekday Mass**. The office will also follow the school system decision and will be closed if school's are closed.

Epiphany Home Blessing

Traditionally, Catholics bless their home and those who live in their household on the Feast of the Epiphany each year. We have blessed chalk in the Narthex available for you to take home. Here is the blessing:

All: Make the Sign of the Cross.

Leader or Head of Household:

Peace to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord.

All: *Blessed be God forever!*

Reader:

God our Father, source of love and harmony, bless our home. In our kitchen, nourish us with stories and spirit. Help us remember here Jesus' gift of himself in a meal. In our bedroom, give us rest. Make them peaceful places, where we find energy to serve your people who do your work.

In our living room, give us strength to welcome all guests, Christ in disguise. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our love for each other may go out to all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Using blessed chalk, write on the outside (or inside) of your house, above or next to an entrance:

"20 + C + M + B + 24"

This is the date of the new year and the names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar). This is also an abbreviation for the Latin prayer *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (May Christ bless this house).

Advent Calendar Review

As we approach Christmas, our online Advent calendar is winding down. If you didn't have the opportunity to look at the entry each day, it will be up on the website through the 12 days of Christmas. But MOST IMPORTANTLY, we have two parish community projects to follow-up on:

1. The 3D puzzle of St. Agnes is being passed around the parish. Let's keep it going.
2. Don't forget to submit one image (per person) of "your favorite thing" from the Christmas holiday by January 8th. We will post all images on the Narthex monitor so we can enjoy those special memories in each other's lives. Send your image to tech1@stagnesshepherdstown.org or text it to 571.216.4744.

For questions, look at the Advent calendar on December 10 and 23.

Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar Checks

Our parish nurses will be available after each Mass this weekend for blood pressure and blood sugar checks.

Thank You From the Jesse Tree Project

Through the generosity of the parishioners of St. Agnes Church, the church assisted 226 individuals from 10 organizations this year. This included 15 teen moms (and their children) who are seeking support through Young Lives of the Eastern Panhandle and 20 veterans who are seeking comfort and peace through counseling services provided by Father Mat and the VA Medical Center. The church also assisted 50 children through the Boys and Girls Club and Shepherdstown Elementary School, and 96 seniors through Canterbury Center, Shenandoah Center, Willow Tree Manor, Jefferson County Council on Aging, and Good Shepherd Caregivers. And the church provided 30 meals to local residents through Shepherdstown Shares. As we distributed your donations, each organization expressed their overwhelming appreciation for the support and how much this meant to the individuals they were supporting. Your generosity made a huge difference in the lives of these 226 individuals and is a witness to God's love and the importance of celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you!

All St Agnes Volunteers... VIRTUS Deadline Has Arrived!

The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston requires that all volunteers in all parishes, schools, etc, must be Virtus trained. If you volunteer in any capacity at St Agnes, this means you!

VIRTUS training is designed to help adults recognize the signs that indicate a child or vulnerable adult might be suffering abuse. It also helps adults by offering key points to help children and adults, who might confide in them, deal with potential situations. Finally, it helps adults know who to contact and what the next steps are if they suspect or discover a child or vulnerable adult is being abused. All this training is designed to help adults help others through a difficult situation.

It is truly in the best interests of everyone to have all volunteers VIRTUS trained.

The good news is that the training is all online and can be completed in a short period of time. Our Coordinator, Bill Donahue, can assist with verifying your training status and/or initiating your training. For questions or concerns, contact the office at 304-876-6436 or formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

Meal for the Needy Needs

Our youth ministry utilizes plastic grocery bags to distribute meals each month. They have run out of those bags. Please help them out by donating your plastic grocery bags at the parish center.

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:

Bob Edwards

by Judy Lilga

Evelyn Starr Farris

by Kathryn & Davitt McAteer

Bob Edwards

by Jane Edwards

Maureen Maidhof

by Judy Lilga

Maureen Maidhof

by Jane Edwards

Magdalena Hack OCD

by Jan V. Sengers

Delores Snyder

by Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh

Mary Catherine Fallon

by Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh

Susan Bowers

by Jane Edwards

We Need Your Help

Have past experience working on a school yearbook, directory, photo album, scrapbook, or publication? Have experience in scheduling activities for yourself or others? Would you be interested in contributing your experiences toward the next St. Agnes Church Photo Directory? If you have applicable experiences or an interest in helping, please contact the office at Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org or Gil Sateia at snoremaster@comcast.net. Thanks in advance!

CFF, AFF, Youth Group & Family News

CFF: CFF classes begin again today, January 7 at 9:15 AM in the parish center. Next Sunday, January 14th - CFF will meet as usual at 5 PM for the intergenerational Mass.

Youth Group: will meet today in the teen room at 9:15 AM. Planning needs to begin for Lent and Spring activities.

ADULT Classes: **Growing in Faith** will not be meeting today, Jan. 7th.

RCIA and RCIC: We will meet on Jan 7th at Noon in the Parish Center.

Volunteering: All volunteers are required to be VIRTUS trained. If you would like to volunteer for any parish ministry or to work with our youth, you must be VIRTUS trained. Forms are located in the church narthex and the parish center on how to complete this process. All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS trained.

Keep watching this spot, the Youth Facebook Page, our church calendar and the church website for additional activities. **Remember to join the CFF Google Classroom (link was sent to your email).** It is a one stop spot to find all the latest forms, classroom information, recorded classes, etc.

Most importantly, if you are a parent and not receiving CFF announcements and emails, please contact the Parish center at 304-876-6436 or contact Bill Donahue at: **formation @stagnesshepherdstown.org** Parents are also encouraged to join our Youth Facebook Group. Please email Bill at the above address for the link to the closed group. You won't be able to find Our Youth Facebook Page any other way!

	1			4	6	3
			1			2
9	4	6		5		
8				2		6
	9	1	3			
		7	4	9		8
5	2			1	8	7
		3				
		9				

THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel:
Matthew 2: 1—12

January 7, 2024

Epiphany of the Lord



THE THREE WISE MEN

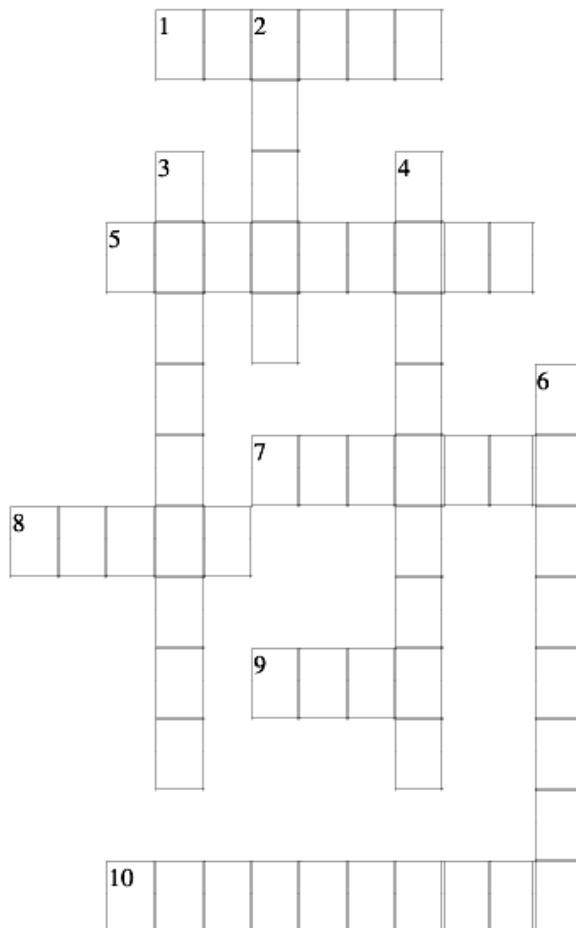
Matthew 2:1-23



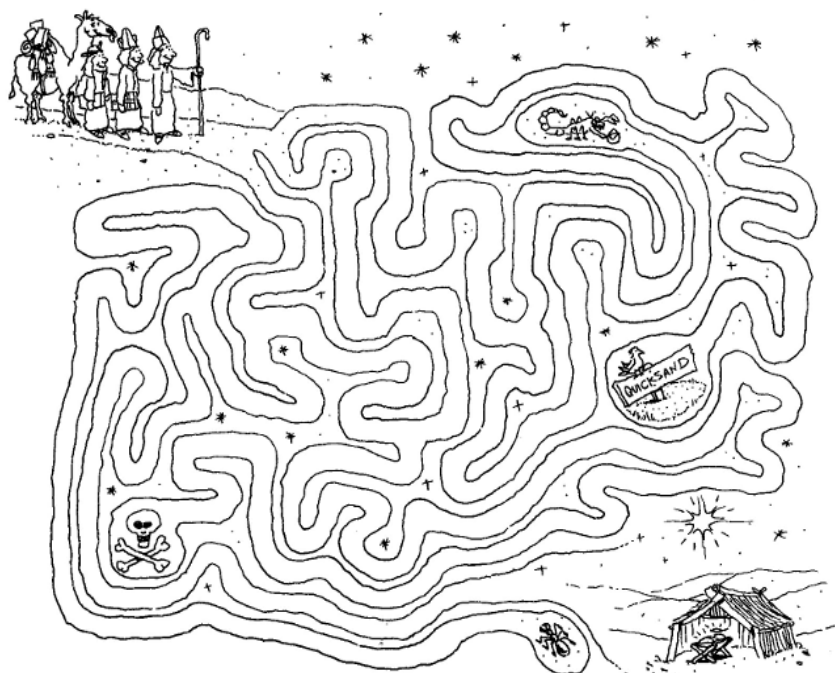
The three wise men bring gifts and worship Jesus

Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew 2:1-12



The wise men are following the star to baby Jesus. Help them find their way.



The wise men followed a special star that led them all the way to baby Jesus.

BREAK THE CODE

6 1 9 3 5

6 4 11 7 10 8 12

13 1 7 14 7

2 4 4

1=E	2=T	3=A	4=O
5=N	6=W	7=S	8=I
9=C	10=H	11=R	12=P
13=J	14=U		

Across

1. the wise men paid _____ to Jesus.
5. How did Herod call the wise men?
7. Herod asked the scribes and chief priests where he would be born.
8. Bethlehem was in this province.
9. These men frm the East were called _____.
10. Reaction of Herod whe he heard the wise men.

Down

2. One of the gifts.
3. City in Judea where Jesus was born.
4. The wise men first came to find Jesus in this city.
6. According to the prophecy, the ruler would _____ God's people.



S	H	M	Y	R	R	H	S	E	A	R	C	H	U
E	H	J	H	T	O	I	I	G	A	M	D	R	I
R	E	E	A	E	M	K	I	N	G	S	R	N	T
U	R	S	M	R	A	N	R	U	T	E	R	D	S
S	A	U	A	A	R	A	H	O	U	S	E	O	A
A	I	S	J	R	Y	A	M	O	T	H	E	R	E
E	F	O	U	N	D	E	M	E	R	R	H	E	C
R	C	H	I	L	D	E	N	R	A	W	R	H	H
T	N	C	H	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	R
J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	E	C	L	L	I
S	G	I	F	T	S	H	U	L	S	H	O	O	S
Y	R	T	N	U	O	C	U	A	E	T	G	H	T
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E	M	A	E	R	D	E	E	R	M	C	E	R	T

GOLD
FOUND
GIFTS
HEROD
DREAM
WARNED
TREASURES
RETURN
CHRIST
SEARCH
MAGI
EAST
MARY
STAR
JERUSALEM
RULER
SHEPHERD
MYRRH
MOTHER
COUNTRY
CHILD
KING
JESUS
HOUSE

The Gospel at Home

Epiphany & the Baptism of the Lord Gospels: Matthew 2:1-12 & Mark 1:7-11

On Epiphany, a word that means "manifestation," Jesus was revealed as far more than the king of the Jews. Matthew's story of the visit of the Magi from the East makes it clear that Jesus came for all people who seek God. Then for the Baptism of the Lord, John Baptist points to Jesus as one who is coming after him who is much greater than him. Of Jesus, John said, "I am not worthy to bend down and untie his sandals." Jesus comes to John to be baptized in the Jordan River. When he comes up out of the water, the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove and the Father speaks from Heaven. God the Father is pleased with his beloved Son.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Promise (Grades K-1): This week, your child learned how Baptism is the sacrament that welcomes us into God's family. The class learned about what takes place at Baptism. Have your child explain what he or she learned. Talk about some of the things you might see at a Baptism.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week, your child learned about the Sacrament of Baptism. Discuss how Baptism is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation. Through these sacraments, we become members of God's family. Answer questions about the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Share stories about when members of the family experienced these sacraments. Discuss, too, what happened at Epiphany and at Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Ask your child to share the story of "The Three Skaters" with the family. The story expresses the meaning of the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The class also learned that Baptism has responsibilities for our parents as well as ourselves. Talk with your young person about how you have undertaken your responsibility of raising him or her in the faith. Ask your youngster how he or she keeps God's Commandments. Ask your son or daughter what actions show love for God and others. Your young person can tell you the story of Jesus' baptism. Talk about questions your son or daughter has about faith.

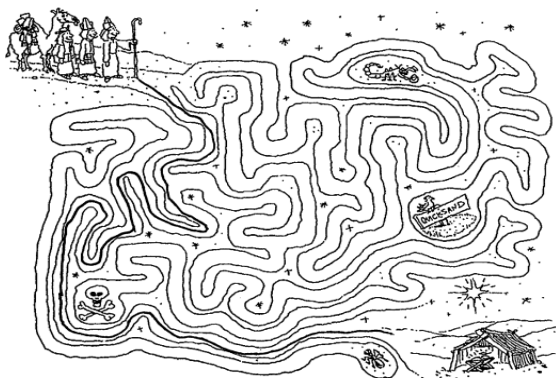
Visions (Grades 7-9): This week's lesson focused on the Epiphany and the Sacrament of Baptism and what took place when Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River. Ask your young person how the Holy Trinity is present at Jesus' baptism. What are some of the signs we use in Baptism? Talk about your teen's own Baptism. Hold a family discussion on how Baptism and the Sacraments of Initiation call us to live like Jesus, then pray for help to do just that.

Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, try to join in a morning prayer or an evening prayer together each day for a week. The prayer does not have to be formal or structured, and it certainly does not need to be long. Pray together in your own words, too, that God will help your family to live out the call of Baptism to live as Jesus taught us.

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Scan here for
parent resources
or visit gospelweeklies.com/family



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3	5	8	7	1	6	4	2	9
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8	3	5	1	2	7	9	4	6
4	9	1	3	6	8	5	7	2
2	6	7	4	9	5	3	1	8
5	2	4	6	3	1	8	9	7
1	8	3	5	7	9	2	6	4
6	7	9	8	4	2	1	5	3

SOLUTIONS:

S	H	M	Y	R	R	H	S	E	A	R	C	H	U
E	H	J	H	T	O	I	I	G	A	M	D	R	I
R	E	E	A	E	M	K	I	N	G	S	R	N	T
U	R	S	M	R	A	N	R	U	T	E	R	D	S
S	A	U	A	A	R	A	H	O	U	S	E	O	A
A	I	S	J	R	Y	A	M	O	T	H	E	R	E
E	F	O	U	N	D	E	M	E	R	R	H	E	C
R	C	H	I	L	D	E	N	R	A	W	R	H	H
T	N	C	H	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	R
J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	E	C	L	L	I
S	G	I	F	T	S	H	U	L	S	H	O	O	S
Y	R	T	N	U	O	C	U	A	E	T	G	H	T
L	C	H	E	Y	J	R	S	E	E	E	A	E	R
E	M	A	E	R	D	E	E	R	M	C	E	R	T

BREAK THE CODE

W E C A N
6 1 9 3 5

W O R S H I P
6 4 11 7 10 8 12

J E S U S
13 1 7 14 7

T O O
2 4 4

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4						
5	S	E	C	R	E	T
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7						
8	J	U	D	E	A	
9						
10	F	R	I	G	H	T

New Virtual Learning Courses

Two 5-week courses are being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). These hybrid models are composed of both weekly live 2-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences. The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of any books associated with the courses. For further information or to register, please contact course instructor, Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu, at rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com.

Ecclesiology: Pilgrim Church (Begins Week of January 15)

This is the second in a series of courses on the theology of the Church and builds on the course The Beginnings of the Church. We will continue our exploration of the Church and how, as a living organism, it both maintains its continuity with Jesus and reshapes its own self-understanding. We will examine questions of authority, community and governance and look at social and political changes in the Church through the 15th century. This will then aid our conversation as we look at Vatican II and its understanding of the episcopal and papal offices and the models of Church presented by the Council. You will be able to work online taking quizzes and accessing material, as well as meet once a week via Zoom for class lecture and discussion with the course facilitator. The Zoom sessions will be held on Mondays at 7pm for 5 weeks, beginning January 15th.

Introduction to Scripture (Begins Week of January 15)

If you are new to studying the Bible, have questions about reading the Bible, want to learn more about the Bible but don't know where to start; or, if you are working towards your certification for catechesis, this course is for you!! Learn what the Bible is and where it comes from, understand how Roman Catholics read the Bible and what the differences are between a Catholic Bible and a Protestant Bible, start to build your Bible vocabulary by learning about the synoptic Gospels, what is inspiration, and much more. You will be able to work online taking quizzes and accessing material, as well as meet once a week via Zoom for class lecture and discussion with the course facilitator. The Zoom sessions will be held on Wednesdays at 7 pm for 5 weeks beginning January 17th. This course is part of the course sequence for level one catechist certification.

Glass Recycling

St Agnes is very fortunate to have a partnership with Jim King so that we can offer glass recycling to our parishioners. You will find the black recycling bin behind the parish center at the north end of the parking lot. It is helpful if you secure your glass in bags before placing in the bin.

Spotlight on Ministry

I started attending the Catholic Church the latter part of 1985. While attending I was in awe with communion among other things. I could not believe that communion was happening every time I attended. I watched the involvement of the laity in so many different ministries. Without any prompting from family, when asked by a Sister in the church if I was interested in the faith I said, yes. I started the inquiry process, Pre-catechumenate. Long story short, I became in full communion with the church Easter, March 26, 1989. Soon after, I was asked to join a ministry and I did. I continued to educate myself in the faith. It was and is through this education that I became more involved and my faith in the church grew stronger. **TO BE CONTINUED!**

Book Discussion Group

The January 19, 2024 Book Discussion Selection

Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival and Hope in an American City by Andrea Elliott, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. "It is an astonishing story about the power of resilience, the importance of family and the cost of inequality—told through the crucible of one remarkable girl."

We meet at 11am in the Parish Center. Please join us!

Prayer Sponsors Needed

We are looking for prayer sponsors for our children preparing for First Eucharist. A prayer sponsor is someone who would like to show support and offer prayer for a child preparing to receive their First Eucharist. If you are interested in serving as a prayer sponsor, please call or email the parish office. You will be assigned a child, and you faithfully pray for them every day. A prayer sponsor may send a card to them (anonymously) and let them know they are being prayed for, but the giving of gifts is not necessary. We want this to be about the gift of prayer, not material gifts. We ask that if you send a card to sign it "your prayer sponsor." It is nice to stay anonymous until the First Eucharist celebration. We ask that the prayer sponsor come to the First Eucharist Mass on Sunday, April 28th at 10:30 AM where you can introduce yourself. If interested in being a prayer sponsor, please call the office or contact Bill Donahue at formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

The Gift of Music



Memorialize this year's hymnal

Our 2024 Hymnals are here! Envelopes can be found in each hymnal if you would like to dedicate a hymnal to a loved one (either in memory of or in honor of). Place completed forms in the offertory basket.

Tithing Report for July - December

Birthright	\$400
Caring Cupboard	\$500
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)	\$250
Good Samaritan Free Clinic	\$1,500
GSIVC (Good Shepherd Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers)	\$2,000
Jefferson County Community Ministries	\$3,500
Jefferson County Sheriff's Department	\$200
Kolofata Scholarship Fund	\$1,000
Local Assistance	\$491
Saint Vincent de Paul Society	\$1,500
Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Dept.	\$300
Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church	\$350
Shepherdstown Volunteer Fire Department	\$750
Diocesan Collection - Catholic Communications Campaign	\$100
Diocesan Collection - Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$1,000
Diocesan Collection - Education of DWC Seminarians	\$100
Diocesan Collection - World Mission Sunday Collection	\$250
Diocesan Collection - Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services	\$50
Diocesan Collection - Retirement Fund for Religious	\$750
Diocesan Collection - Catholic Charities West Virginia/CCWVa	\$3,000

Homebound Ministry

For any parishioners who have needs (groceries, rides to doctors or pharmacies, etc,) our **HOME-BOUND MINISTRY** is willing to help. Please call Claire Williamson (304-876-1357), or Judy Lilga (301-432-2276).

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We are always in need of donated **blankets**, and **comforters** (any size) and also used **sleeping bags** (clean and in fair condition). Items can be dropped off at the parish center. Please join our team of sewers! For more information, contact Barbara Mueller by email at barbaramueller596@gmail.com.

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$12,626
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$75
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,701
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$11,900
Total Collections Compared to Target	↑ +\$801

Tithe to help those in need	\$1,263
<small>(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)</small>	

Collections – Year-To-Date (thru December)

Offertory Collections	\$487,244
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$66,205
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$553,449
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$630,700
Total Collection Compared to Target	↓ -\$77,251

Tithe to help those in need	\$48,724
<small>(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)</small>	

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult) is for those who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith and discerning if they might want to be professed members of the Catholic faith. The goal is to see where the process takes you. Father Andy is leading our RCIA process. If you are interested in learning more or joining the group, please call the office at 304-876-6436. All are welcome!

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston maintains an Office of Safe Environment in accordance with the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. **To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities:** Contact your local law enforcement; numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** In addition to civil authorities, the diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the **EthicsPoint** platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

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Catholic High School Survey

With Bishop Mark Brennan's blessing, we are exploring the possibility of expanding Saint Joseph School to include a high school (at least grades nine and 10). Please take part in this survey regarding the potential for a Catholic high school to service the educational needs of high school-aged students in Berkeley County and the surrounding area.

Because time is of the essence, please complete this survey as soon as possible by going to <https://forms.gle/nJ4t1BvZp3nkQMPC9> or scanning the QR code shown here and share it with anyone who might be interested. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.



Scripture Sharing

Our Scripture Sharing group continues to meet via Zoom (link found on website under events calendar) on Mondays at noon except for holidays. All are welcome!

Together in Holiness Marriage Conference

*Married and engaged couples are invited to the 3rd annual **Together in Holiness** marriage conference, presented by the St John Paul II Foundation and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, on **February 10, 2024 from 10:45 am - 6:00 pm at St. James Catholic Church in Charles Town, WV.** This 1-day conference will help you strengthen your relationship with your spouse and discover God's plan for your family. Registration: \$32/couple and \$5/child for on-site childcare. An Early Bird discount is available through December 11, 2023 as well as scholarships upon request. For more info, visit togetherinholiness.org/wheelingcharleston or email cameron@forlifeandfamily.org.*

St Joe's Seeks Pre-K Aide

St Joe's School is seeking a teacher's aide for a classroom of toddlers. Aides support teachers in planning and implementing daily programs. Job responsibilities include ensuring the daily care of every child by following all licensing guidelines and the school's standards of care. Aides also help maintain a fun and interactive environment that is clean and organized.

Job requirements include: Must be at least 21 years old and have a high school diploma, 2 years PK or elementary education experience preferred, ability to meet state licensing requirements, scheduling flexibility, certification in ACDS (Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist) preferred. If interested, please send a résumé to Katie MacKinnon, PK director, at kmackinnon@sjswv.org.

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