

Saint Agnes Catholic Church

Pro-Life, Pro-Family, Stewardship Parish 49th Street and Staunton Avenue, Charleston WV 25304 Phone: 304-925-2836 www.stagnescharlestonwv.org Vol. 306

PARISH OFFICE AND STAFF

304-925-2836 / Fax: (304) 205-7985

Office Hours

Mon. through Fri. from 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Rev. José Manuel Escalante

Pastor.....jescalante@dwc.org

Tabitha Hoeflicker

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Mr. Aaron Allred

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Mrs. Rosemary Severn

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Office Email: stap1101char@dwc.org

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/stagnescharlestonwv

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	05:00 P.M. (Vigil Mass)
Sunday	08:00 A.M., 10:30 A.M., and 12:30 P.M. (Spanish)
Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	06:00 P.M.
Wednesday	08:30 A.M.
Thursday	06:00 P.M.
Friday	08:30 A.M.

(For holy days, see pg. 2 or check our website.)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & BENEDICTION

Thursdays 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday from 3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
or by appointment.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK WITHIN THE MASS

The Third Friday of the month at 8:30 A.M.

May the Lord bless you all!

December 24, 2023



Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Therefore the child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.” – Lk 1:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPi

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. Agnes Parish, a Christian family located in Kanawha City, is a multi-generational community committed to Catholic spiritual and moral values. We share the Gospel of Christ through the liturgical, charitable, and social efforts as we endeavor to live out our baptismal call. All are welcome, especially visitors, guests, and those new to the community.

WEEKEND ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING

Dec. 16-17

Attendance: **160**

05:00 P.M. **31**; 08:00 A.M. **35**; 10:30 A.M. **52**; 12:30 P.M. **42**

1st Collection \$ 4,141 .⁰⁰

2nd Collection \$ 655 .⁰⁰

St. Agnes Debt Reduction	
St. Agnes Bldg. & Maintenance	\$ 15 . ⁰⁰
St. Agnes Outreach	\$ 27 . ⁰⁰
Archdiocese for Military Services [11-12-23]	\$ 4 . ⁰⁰
Retirement Fund for Religious [12-10-23]	\$ 60 . ⁰⁰
Christmas Offering	\$ 40 . ⁰⁰
Christmas Flowers	\$ 200 . ⁰⁰
TOTAL	\$ 5,142 .⁰⁰

Thank you for your generosity!

DONATE ONLINE



If you would like to support
our Parish, go to
www.stagnescharlestonwv.org
and Click Donate



Christmastide Mass Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sat. Dec. 23, 5:00 pm -Vigil Mass
Sun. Dec. 24, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm Spanish
(No 8:00 am Mass)

Christmas Eve
Sun. Dec. 24, 6:00 pm -Bilingual

Christmas Day
Mon. Dec. 25, 12:00 am & 10:30 am
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Mon. Jan. 1, 6:00 pm -Bilingual

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MASS INTENTIONS (DEC. 25-31)

Christmas Day

Monday 25	12:00 A.M.	Noah Canipe (D) by Kenny & Mandy Canipe
	10:30 A.M.	People of the Parish
Tuesday 26	06:00 P.M.	No Mass
Wednesday 27	08:30 A.M.	Mercedes Villamizar (D) by Paul Spence
Thursday 28	06:00 PM	Manuel E. Sánchez (D) by Fr. Escalante
Friday 29	08:30 A.M.	Joann Mills (D) by Bill & Julie Timmermeyer
Saturday 30	05:00 P.M.	Evelyn Benz Wood (D) by Daniel & Lisa Wood
Sunday 31	08:00 A.M.	Mike & Inez Maggio (D) by Kathy Maggio-Sheetz
	10:30 A.M.	Vernon Emilia Young (D) by Michele Sturey
	12:30 P.M.	Hispanic Community

OFFER A MASS

We invite you to offer a Mass for your loved ones, living or deceased. Offer a Mass for anyone who is in need of God's assistance, for the sick, unemployed, or for any good intentions you have. If you would like to schedule a Mass, please contact the parish office or fill out the Mass Intention envelope from the narthex of the church and drop it in the collection basket. A suggested donation for a daily Mass is \$10.00 and \$20.00 for a weekend Mass.

INTENTION OF THE MONTH OF POPE FRANCIS

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



<https://popesprayerusa.net/2022/02/14/pope-francis-reveals-2023-prayer-intentions/>

DAILY READINGS OF CHRISTMASTIDE – DECEMBER 25-31

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From Saint Agnes Church

“Behold, the Virgin shall be with Child and bear a Son,
and they shall name Him Emmanuel, which means
God is with us.” —Matthew 1:23.



MYSTERIUM FIDEI ENCYCLICAL OF POPE PAUL VI ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST

SEPTEMBER 3, 1965

Offered Also for the Dead

30. We will pass over the other citations and rest content with recalling the testimony offered by St. Cyril of Jerusalem, who wrote the following memorable words for the neophytes whom he was instructing in the Christian faith: "After the spiritual sacrifice, the un-bloody act of worship, has been completed, we bend over this propitiatory offering and beg God to grant peace to all the Churches, to give harmony to the whole world, to bless our rulers, our soldiers and our companions, to aid the sick and afflicted, and in general to assist all those who stand in need; we all pray for all these intentions and we offer this victim for them . . . and last of all for our deceased holy forefathers and bishops and for all those who have lived among us. For we have a deep conviction that great help will be afforded those souls for whom prayers are offered while this holy and awesome victim is present." In support of this, this holy Doctor offers the example of a crown made for an emperor in order to win a pardon for some exiles, and he concludes his talk with these words: "In the same fashion, when we offer our prayers to God for the dead, even those who are sinners, we are not just making a crown but instead are offering Christ who was slaughtered for our sins, and thus begging the merciful God to take pity both on them and on ourselves." (21) St. Augustine attests that this custom of offering the "sacrifice which ransomed us" also for the dead was observed in the Church at Rome, (22) and he mentions at the same time that the universal Church observed this custom as something handed down from the Fathers. (23)

https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_03091965_mysterium.html

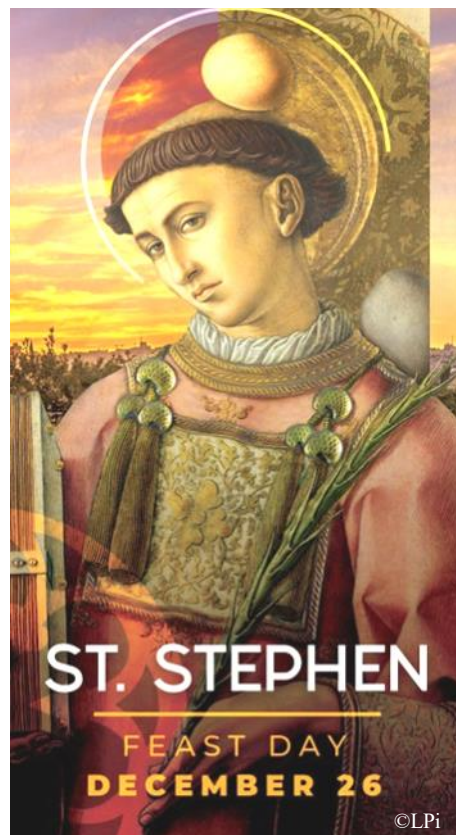
MINISTRY OF THE SICK

For more information contact us at 304-881-3228

Please pray for our sick and homebound...

Nancy Baker, Dustin Basham, Edgel Blake, John Blake, Harry Bowe, Francisca E. Calderon, Steve Bukovinsky, Connie Carey, Jeff Carroll, Betsy Chigo, Jannell Cochran, Sara Coen, Joanna Collins, Jesús Correas, Tom Crutchfield, John Cincinnati, Cathy Dorsey, Sister Nancy Dunn, Eva Celine Elkins, John Elswick, Cindy Fish, James Ford Jr., Dana Fox, Susie Fox, Jay & Tiara Francis, Lucy Fulcher, Mary Hanson, Ann Harris, Chris Hunter, Bonnie Jackson, Carolyn Jones, Christopher Jones, Matthew Jones, Thomas Jones Jr., Camille Keller, Mary Keeler, Elizabeth Kelley, Marianne Kogoy, Christine Lawrence, Suzanne Lawrence, Mara Lomas, Rev. Charles McGinnis Jr., Rick Mason, Tammy Milam, Tina Miller, Marsha Morton, Bing Murphy, Bridget O'Connell, Sarah Price, William Rader, Linda Radochio, Joan Reishman, Reynolds Family, Joel Riveria, Maria Roberts, Alberto Rodriguez, Magdalena Pineda, Kevin Sarrett, Mary Maggio-Sheets, Diana Smith, Keith Smith, The Smith Family, John & Sara Snyder, Theresa Sprouse, Mike Surdyk, Vivian Sword, Andrew Tignor, Nancy Tompkins, Barbara Theierl, Sharon Wade, Matt Wazelle, Jim Wegmann, Danny Whelan, Bill Wilson, Anna Wise, John Witek, Christine Wood Saaty, Shari Woodrum, Wright Family.

(Please contact the parish office if you would like to remove your name or family member's name from our prayer list.)



The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin. Despite the danger he faced, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death. Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

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LECTOR SCHEDULE — December 23-24

Weekend	Mass Time	Liturgical Celebration	Lector's Name
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Sat. 23	05:00 P.M.	Vigil Mass	Lou Dent-Smith
Sun. 24	10:30 A.M.	Sunday Mass	Ashley Murphy
	12:30 P.M.	Sunday Mass (in Spanish)	Juanita Mata
	06:00 P.M.	Christmas Eve Bilingual Mass	Sarah Casey

THE JOURNEY

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, “Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?” I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them. Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn’t go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey. This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — Meditation —

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don’t trust the Lord or just need to toughen up? I don’t think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, “But she was greatly troubled at what was said.” An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled. Her anxiousness and God’s presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It’s about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances. Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord’s messenger say to us what he said to Mary, “Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God.”

— Father John Muir
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CHAPTER ONE THE SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Article 1 THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM. VII. The Grace of Baptism.

IN BRIEF

1281 *Those who die for the faith, those who are catechumens, and all those who, without knowing of the Church but acting under the inspiration of grace, seek God sincerely and strive to fulfill his will, are saved even if they have not been baptized (cf. LG 16).*

1282 *Since the earliest times, Baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit; children are baptized in the faith of the Church. Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom.*

— Catechism of the Catholic Church.

LITURGICAL EVENTS & NEWS



Catholic Charities
West Virginia

Catholic Charities West
Virginia is on a mission
to end poverty, one
family at a time.

Join us! Please donate.

- Give to the second collection at Christmas masses
- Donate online at: www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org
- Mail donations to: 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003



Come to me, all who are
weary and are heavily laden,
and I will give you rest.
-Matthew 11:28

BE ON HIGH ALERT FOR SCAMS

If you receive an email from Father Escalante or anyone in the Diocese, requesting anything, please disregard it. It is probably a charity fraud!

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS

A five-week course is being offered through the University of Dayton's VLCFF. This course is intended for leadership teams and individuals who are or will be involved in implementing RCIA. It will be held at St John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston on Thursdays from 6-7:30pm, beginning Jan. 18th. Tuition and the cost of the books are free. To register, please contact Gerri at gwright@dwc.org or (304) 720-8311. Registration deadline is January 5th.

MAUI WILDFIRES 2023

RELIEF, RECOVERY AND REBUILDING

Bishop Larry Silva of the Diocese of Honolulu has asked for prayers and financial support for the communities devastated by the recent wildfires on the island of Maui. Bishop Mark Brennan has added a donation link to the dwc.org website for those who are able to give to support the recovery efforts. You can find more information in Bishop Silva's full letter, which is available on our website, <https://stagnescharlestonwv.org/news-event/> Thank you for your generosity!

SAFE ENVIRONMENT



To report suspected cases of child sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, please contact one of the Bishop's designees at 888 434-2637 or 304 233-0880: 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.

WELCOME TO ST. AGNES!

If you are new to our area or parish and have not registered yet, we invite you to do so. You can find the parish registration forms in the narthex of the church and online at <https://stagnescharlestonwv.org> After you have completed the form, you can drop it off at the parish office or place it in the mail.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Saint Agnes church is looking for a part-time Administrative Assistant. The successful candidate must be customer focused, be intermediate to proficient in Microsoft Office and able to pass a background check. If interested, please send your resume to Fr. Escalante at stap1101char@dwc.org. Job description and salary will be discussed at time of interview.

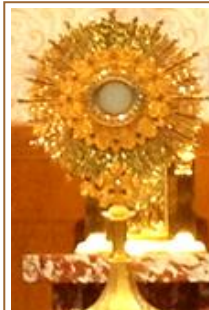
ST. AGNES OUTREACH

Common Grounds, the St. Agnes supported food pantry, could really use our parishioners' help to replenish our food stocks. If you would like to donate, please drop by the Common Grounds Food Pantry at 6600 MacCorkle Ave., on Tues. or Thurs. btw 10:00 am & 2:00 pm. A basket is available in the narthex of the church for food donations. For more information call (304) 720-9690 or (304) 552-5286. Thank you for your support!

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND

Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, 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. Checks can be made out to St. Agnes with "CNEWA Holy Land Collection" on the memo line.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!



JOIN US FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Prayer intentions for vocations & peace

Thursdays at 5:00pm,
followed by Mass at 6:00pm.



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Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

24 de Diciembre, 2023

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO

Lc 1, 26-38

[En] la liturgia de este Cuarto Domingo de Adviento, se narra la Anunciación, donde el ángel Gabriel llega a la casa de María buscando un espacio para Dios. María le hace ese espacio con su “Yo soy la servidora del Señor, hágase en mí tal como has dicho” (Lucas 1,38). Esto quiere decir, si lo acepto, aquí está el espacio de mi ser y de mi corazón, para alojar a Dios con todas sus consecuencias. Alegrémonos con María y vivamos con fe esta Navidad ya entre nosotros.

“«Hágase en mí según tu palabra». Es la última frase de la Virgen en este último domingo de Adviento, y es la invitación a dar un paso concreto hacia la Navidad. Porque si el nacimiento de Jesús no toca nuestra vida—la mía, la tuya, la de todos—, si no toca la vida pasa en vano... Que la Virgen nos ayude a decirlo con nuestra vida, con la actitud de estos últimos días para prepararnos bien a la Navidad” (Papa Francisco 12-20-2020). ¿Qué espacio está listo en tu hogar para recibir a Jesús? ¿Tu corazón está dispuesto a decir hágase en mí como tú lo deseas? Pidámosle, a María nos ayude a preparar el corazón como una cuna, para que el niño Dios tenga su espacio especial para esta Navidad y que nunca se vaya de ahí.

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HORARIO LITÚRGICO DE NAVIDAD (Del 25 al 31 de Diciembre)

Lunes 25	12:00 A.M.	Día de Navidad
	10:30 A.M.	Misa de Media Noche Misa del Día en Inglés
Martes 26	06:00 P.M.	No hay Santa Misa
Miércoles 27	08:30 A.M.	Santa Misa en Inglés
Jueves 28	05:00 P.M.	Hora Santa y Bendición
	06:00 P.M.	Santa Misa en Inglés
Viernes 29	08:30 A.M.	Santa Misa en Inglés
Sábado 30	3:30-4:30 P.M.	Confesiones
	05:00 P.M.	Santa Misa en Inglés
Domingo 31	08:00 A.M.	Santa Misa en Inglés
	10:30 A.M.	Santa Misa en Inglés
	12:30 P.M.	Santa Misa en Español

INTENCIÓN DEL MES DEL PAPA FRANCISCO Por las personas con discapacidad



Oremos para que las personas con discapacidad estén en el centro de atención de la sociedad, y que las instituciones promuevan programas de inclusión que potencien su participación activa.

<https://www.aciprensa.com/noticias/todas-las-intenciones-de-oracion-del-papa-francisco-para-los-12-meses-de-2022-36904>



IV LA CELEBRACIÓN LITÚRGICA DE LA EUCARISTÍA EL DESARROLLO DE LA CELEBRACION

La presentación de las ofrendas (el ofertorio): entonces se lleva al altar, a veces en procesión, el pan y el vino que serán ofrecidos por el sacerdote en nombre de Cristo en el sacrificio eucarístico en el que se convertirán en su Cuerpo y en su Sangre. Es la acción misma de Cristo en la última Cena, "tomando pan y una copa". "Sólo la Iglesia presenta esta oblación, pura, al Creador, ofreciéndole con acción de gracias lo que proviene de su creación" (San Ireneo de Lyon, *Adversus haereses* 4, 18, 4; cf. *Ml* 1,11). La presentación de las ofrendas en el altar hace suyo el gesto de Melquisedec y pone los dones del Creador en las manos de Cristo. Él es quien, en su sacrificio, lleva a la perfección todos los intentos humanos de ofrecer sacrificios.

(Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, § 1350).

LECTURAS DIARIAS DEL TIEMPO DE NAVIDAD— DEL 25 AL 31 DE DICIEMBRE

Lunes	Martes	Miércoles	Jueves	Viernes	Sábado	Domingo
Is 52, 7-10/Sal 97, 1. 2-3. 3-4. 5-6/ Heb 1, 1-6/Jn 1, 1-18 o 1, 1-5. 9-14	Hch 6, 8-10; 7, 54-59/Sal 30, 3-4. 6 y 8. 16 y 17/Mt 10, 17-22	1 Jn 1, 1-4/ Sal 96, 1-2. 5-6. 11-12/Jn 20, 2-8	1 Jn 1, 5—2, 2/Sal 123, 2-3. 4-5. 7-8/Mt 2, 13-18	1 Jn 2, 3-11/ Sal 95, 1-2. 2-3. 5-6/Lc 2, 22-35	1 Jn 2, 12-17/Sal 95, 7-8. 8-9. 10/Lc 2, 36-40	Eccl 3, 2-6. 12-14/ Sal 127, 1-2. 3. 4-5/ Col 3, 12-21 o 3, 12-17/Lc 2, 22-40

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For more information contact Frank DeChiazza at (304) 419-1668.

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