

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

Office Secretary: Amy Fresch

Pastoral Council

Connie Bonner ~ Gerry Fitzgerald ~ Bassell Franks

Heather Garcia ~ Christine Wiegman-Green

Patrick Green ~ Shaná Harris ~ Colin Hayden

Cate Hershey ~ Blanche Landry

Brendan Jarrell ~ Vanessa Santiago

Finance Council

Steve Bledsoe ~ Carmela Cesare

Mike Drewes ~ Mike Keefe

Sue Kemnitzer ~ 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

Email: Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org

www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org

St. Agnes Chapel

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

Sunday Readings

Luke 19:28-40

Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm 22:7-8, 16-17, 18-19, 22-23

Philippians 2:6-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

See Holy Week Schedule

Weekday Mass

Monday and Wednesday, 11am

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30pm

Parish Office: Monday through Friday 9am-4pm

Cash Card Sales: During parish office hours (call first)



Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm for

Rita Rose and Jeremiah Kiefer



Sunday, 8am

John King



Sunday, 10:30am

Maureen Maidhof

May Rita, Jeremiah, John, and Maureen share in the fullness of God's mercy and peace.

The Week at a Glance...

Sun Apr 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palm Sunday • No CFF • Landscape Committee Meeting 11:45am • OCIA 12noon
Mon Apr 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon • SVdP Meeting 7pm
Tues Apr 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial Justice Initiative Zoom 3pm • Board Games Group 3:30pm
Wed Apr 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Icon Workshop 11am • Pastoral Council 6:30pm
Thurs Apr 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Thursday • Holy Thursday Mass 7pm • Night Prayer Following Mass until 10pm
Friday Apr 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Friday • Morning Prayer 9am • Book Discussion Group 11am • Stations of the Cross 3pm • Good Friday Liturgy 7pm
Sat Apr 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Saturday • Morning Prayer 9am • OCIA Retreat 9am • Youth Feeding the Hungry Food Prep 1pm • Holy Saturday Vigil Mass 8pm
Sun Apr 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Sunday • No CFF • Easter Sunday Mass 8am and 10:30am • Children's Program 10:15am • Egg Hunt 11:45am
Mon Apr 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Monday • <i>Parish Office Closed</i>

Shepherdstown Friends Peace Vigil

Mark your calendars! Shepherdstown Quakers are offering a Peace Vigil for Hero Policemen of January 6th, **to be held it on Good Friday, April 18th from 12noon until 3pm on McMurrin Lawn** in the heart of downtown Shepherdstown. There will be speakers and music—looking forward to seeing you there!

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Georgette Rush, Dan Howar, Michael Barney (brother of Peachy Staley), Sally Little, Moon Yee Liu-Ho (mother of Amie Ho-Leung), and Mary Raygor. Names are placed in the bulletin for one month then moved onto the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

No Gifts....

In anticipation of our celebration of Fr Mat's 50th anniversary of ordination, we need to talk about gifts. It will not surprise you that Fr Mat has asked that there be no gifts. We also know that sometimes people just have trouble complying with that kind of directive. And so we have asked Fr Mat to give us a little guidance for those that fit into that category. He would prefer that donations be given to St Agnes, and then he will let us know where he would like those funds to be directed. Please note "Fr Mat" on the memo line of checks made out to St Agnes.

Fr Mat's Anniversary Luncheon

On **Sunday April 27 after the 10:30am Mass**, we will host a luncheon to celebrate Father Mat's 50th Ordination Anniversary.

Fried Chicken will be provided. We are asking parishioners to bring an accompanying dish to share. If your last name begins with: **A-K** please bring a salad (coleslaw, pasta salad, potato salad, etc.), **L-S** side dish (baked beans, mac & cheese, veg, etc.), **T-Z** please bring a dessert.

Holy Thursday Collection

Last year on Holy Thursday, we helped the Romero Scholarship with a special collection. This year we have an opportunity to help a special population. On Holy Thursday this week, our special collection will be for Mountain State Justice, a good justice initiative for this Holy day. Mountain State Justice is a non-profit legal services organization providing high-quality free representation to low income and vulnerable West Virginians. Since the program's launch, they have served hundreds of people through free, in-depth, confidential consultations and ongoing representation.

Dear Parishioners

After our presentation by Denise Giardina on Bonhoeffer last week, this a great poem to get us started on Holy Week.

Fr. Andy

Who Am I?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*Who am I? They often tell me
I would step from my cell's confinement
calmly, cheerfully, firmly,
like a country squire from his country house.*

*Who am I? They often tell me
I would talk to my warders
freely and friendly and clearly,
as though it were mine to command.*

*Who am I? They also tell me
I would bear the days of misfortune
equably, smilingly, proudly,
like one accustomed to win.*

*Am I then really all that which other men tell of?
Or am I only what I know of myself,
restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage,
struggling for breath,
as though hands were compressing my throat,
yearning for colours, for flowers,
or the voices of birds,
thirsting for words of kindness, for neighbourliness,
trembling with anger at despoticisms and petty humiliation,
tossing in expectation of great events,
powerlessly trembling for friends at an infinite distance,
weary and empty at praying, at thinking, at making;
faint, and ready to say farewell to it all?*

*Who am I? This or the other?
Am I one person today, and tomorrow another?
Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
and before myself a contemptibly woebegone weakling?
Or is something within me still like a beaten army,
fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?*

*Who am I?
They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.
Whoever I am, thou knowest, O God, I am thine.*

Holy Week

Sunday, April 13—Palm Sunday

Mon, April 14 & Wed, April 16—11am Weekday Mass

Holy Thursday, April 17

7:00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper

(all those present will be invited to participate and have their feet washed)

9:30pm Night Prayer –Church open for

quiet prayer & reflection until 10pm

Good Friday, April 18

9:00am Morning Prayer

3:00pm Stations of the Cross

7:00pm Liturgy of the Passion
and Death of the Lord

Holy Saturday, April 19

9:00am Morning Prayer

NO Reconciliation or 5:30pm Mass

8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass

Reception following Mass

Easter Sunday, April 20

8:00am Easter Morning Mass

10:15am Children's Program before Mass

10:30am Easter Morning Mass

11:45am Easter Egg Hunt

Holy Thursday Canned Goods Drive

We plan to collect canned goods/non-perishable items. Please have your children bring these items as we collect the gifts on Holy Thursday. "Whatever you do for the least of My brothers and sisters, you do for Me." We do the Lord's work when we help the poor. Holy Thursday's collection will be for the less fortunate.

2025 St Agnes Scholarships

St. Agnes announces the 2025 Annual Scholarship Award! Active, participating members of St. Agnes who are graduating high school in 2025 are encouraged to apply for a scholarship to assist in furthering their education. The scholarship may be used for any institute of higher learning or trade school. Applications are available in the Narthex and the parish center or can be emailed to interested applicants (office@stagnesshepherdstown.org).

Deadline for application submission to the Parish Center office is May 2nd.

Easter Vigil Volunteers

The Cana Committee is planning our Easter Vigil reception on Saturday, April 19. They are looking for parishioners to donate a dessert or appetizer. If you would like to help, please contact Melinda Yates at Melinda14y@gmail.com.

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

This weekend is the April *Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend*. We will collect donations and be selling delicious Haiti coffee. The Knights will be handing out blue bags to be filled with non-perishables for Shepherdstown Shares and JCCM food pantries.

The Triduum

"When we go to Mass, we do not go only to pray. No, we go to renew, to bring about again this mystery, the Paschal mystery. It is important not to forget this. It is as though we were to go to Calvary, it is the same to renew, to bring about again the Paschal mystery." - Pope Francis

St Agnes invites you to take the time to attend the Triduum. What is the Triduum? Triduum is three days of prayer and observance, specifically Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday; a time when we all come together at one liturgy. You may ask; why are these liturgies only done once? In the words of a former pastor, who would have the energy to do it more? Please come to experience this beautiful and prayerful moment in the life of our church.

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist. Also, we are reminded that we are called to serve and be served. Though it can be uncomfortable, having a stranger wash our feet prepares us to figuratively wash the feet of strangers in our neighborhoods, people who are homeless, elderly, or incarcerated, and those who are different from us racially, intellectually, or economically. It is the time to refill the parish food pantry to overflowing so that it is plentiful for those in need.

Good Friday, we focus on the agony of the crucifixion and lift up the whole suffering world in prayer. The beauty of the Triduum is that although we know the end of the story, we still pause in the middle to fix our eyes on our crucified Lord. We can't deny our part in this story; Jesus died for our salvation. Being together and providing service gives each person a chance to recognize God's endless love for us, despite our sinfulness.

The Easter Vigil is the mother of all vigils because on this night, the Church waits, watching over the resurrection of Christ and celebrating it in the sacraments. We hear the salvation story and welcome neophytes into the community. A new Paschal candle is lit, the alleluias return, and we renew our baptismal promises. At the end of the Easter Vigil and again on Easter Sunday morning, we triumphantly sing a familiar Easter hymn, such as *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* in full Jubilation.

*some excerpts from Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays

Drinking Water Bill Goes to Senate

HB 2233 is moving forward with a vote on the Senate floor. On Tuesday, the Deputy Director of WV Rivers presented a clear case to the Judiciary Committee on how a provision in this bill bypassed public input and puts our health at risk by allowing more toxic pollution in our rivers and streams. Despite a proposed amendment to restore legislative oversight on drinking water use removals, the amendment failed.

Nearly 2,000 West Virginians have spoken out. Let your voice be heard! You can find their information here: <https://wvrivers.salsalabs.org/lookup/index.html>.

Racial Justice Initiative

On April 1st the Associated Press reported that nearly 400 books dealing with diversity, equity and inclusion issues had been banned and removed from the library of the US Naval Academy on directives from the present federal administration. Not only is the US Naval Academy the premier service academy in the nation, it is also ranked #4 by US News and World Reports among all U.S. liberal arts institutions.

Among the banned books are:

- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou (two years NYT best seller)
- *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church* by Fr. Bryan Massingale
- *White Too Long: The legacy of White Supremacy In American Christianity* by Robert P. Jones (2021 American Book Award recipient)
- *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi (NYT best seller)

These banned books, and a number of others that were banned, are on the shelves of our St. Agnes Racial Justice Library in the church narthex.

This book banning by our government is a chilling development. As Catholics, with a long history of social justice teachings, we are called not only to be aware of such assaults on human dignity, rights and freedom, but also to stand up for the preservation and honoring of our common Christian values.

Please Don't Fall Victim To Email and Texting Scams!

Lately we are hearing from far too many parishioners that they are receiving emails or text messages from someone posing as Fr. Andy or Fr. Mat. **If you ever receive an email or text from someone posing as St. Agnes staff asking for money, gift cards, etc., it's a scam.**

No one, not Fr Andy nor Fr Mat nor St. Agnes staff, will ever write to you personally asking for 'favors' or to request for you to make a purchase or send money. **You can usually tell by looking closely at the email address who sent the message.** Emails from St. Agnes always come from office@stagnesshepherdstown.org. Emails from Fr. Andy will be from aswitzer@dwc.org or aswitzer@stagnesshepherdstown.org ONLY. These scammers are very crafty and often make some very slight variation on the actual email address, so you really have to look very carefully.

If you receive an email similar to this, simply delete it and be aware that email scams, phishing, and more, are part of our digital world. To protect yourself, it's important that you learn how to recognize these scams.

For more information on how to improve your virtual safety, check out <https://us.norton.com/blog/how-to/how-to-protect-against-phishing>

THE YOUTH CORNER

Palm Sunday of the
Lord's Passion

This Week's Gospel:
Luke 22:14—23:56

April 13, 2025

Holy Thursday Unscramble

*What happened on Holy Thursday?
Unscramble the words to fill in the blanks
and use the letters in circles to fill in the last blanks.*

The day ○_____ (EFROBF) He died, Jesus
went to celebrate the _____○_____
(SPSVROEA) with His ○_____
(ISLEPSCDI)

During the meal, Jesus began to wash their feet, but
Peter would not let Him. Jesus told him, "Now
○___ (UOY) don't understand what I'm doing, but
○_____ (DRAWFTRAE) you will."
Peter replied, "You will ○_____ (VNEER) wash
my feet!" Jesus said, "If I do not wash you then you will
have no part with Me." Then Peter said,
"Then Lord, wash not just my feet but my head and
_____○__ (DNSHA) too!"

Then Jesus took ○_____ (EADRB) and made it
into His Body and took wine and made it into His Blood.

This ○_____ (STLA) Supper was the first Mass.
Jesus wants to ___○___ (CMOE) to us in Holy
Communion and then go ○___ (TOU) and do His
work in the _____○ (LWROD)

Jesus finished His work by offering His
_____ to God the Father for us on the cross.



CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

This weekend there is no CFF because of
Palm Sunday or next weekend on Easter
Sunday. There will be a children's
program on Easter Sunday at 10:15am
(before the 10:30 Mass). There will also
be an Easter Egg Hunt for our children
organized by our Youth Group after Mass
at 11:45am.

CFF, Youth Group, and AFF will resume
on April 27th in the Parish Center at
9:15am.

Please check out the First Eucharist
students' banner in the Narthex.

First Communion will occur on May 4th
during the 10:30am Mass.

Also this weekend our Youth Group will
be giving out their homemade cookies
and a Hail Mary Prayer Card as part of
their Child Abuse Prevention Awareness
Month project.

Last weekend, our Youth Group also
created Easter Baskets for children in
need.

In addition to the many social justice
activities that our youth are involved in,
our youth are also rehearsing our **Annual
Play**. Be on the lookout for upcoming
information. Hopefully everyone will be
able to support the production.

**Again, First Communion will be held on
May 4th at the 10:30am Mass. This is a
change from the original schedule.**

*Families are encouraged to attend as
many activities during Holy Week as
possible. There are the holiest days of the
Catholic year!*

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

apostles	Passover	kingdom
bread	body	covenant
betrayed	greatest	Israel
Simon	denied	Mount
Olives	pray	angel
blood	Judas	sword
Peter	Galilean	prophecy
insults	council	Messiah
Pilate	accuse	Herod
flogged	Barabbas	crucify

Volunteering: The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate our faith in action!

All volunteers are required to be VIRTUS trained as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. If you would like to volunteer for any parish ministry including 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.*

If you have been trained in the past, **you must be have the latest training Version 4.0.** If your Virtus 4.0 has been **over** a year ago, you will be asked to complete the **refresher** module. Logging into your online VIRTUS account is the best way to determine if your VIRTUS is up to date. If your home screen is "green", all is good. Any "red" section needs to updated.



HOSANNA TO THE KING WHO COMES

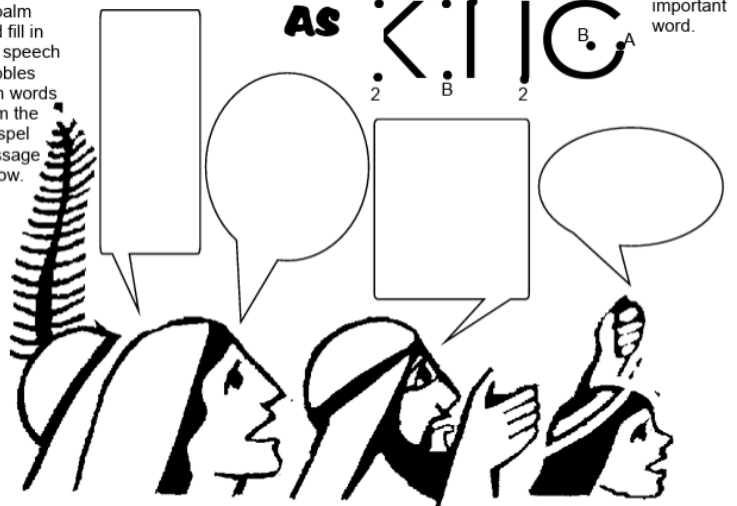
7	5	3		9
		4		
		7	9	8
1	2			9
		4		6
9				7
	2	4	6	7
6				4
				5

JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

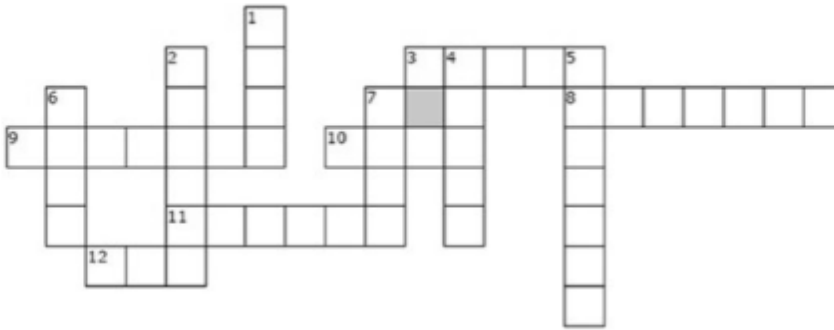
Draw more branches of palm and fill in the speech bubbles with words from the Gospel passage below.



Join the dots to reveal an important word.



As Jesus was riding into Jerusalem people waved branches of palm to show how happy they were. Others were joyfully praising God singing "Hosanna", "Blessings to the King", "Son of David" and "You come in the name of the Lord". Some people even spread clothes on the road for him.



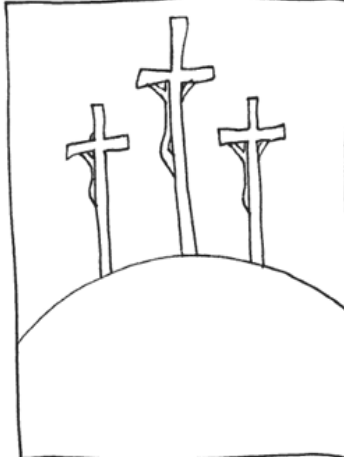
ACROSS

- 3. The Son of God
- 8. A word used for praise and adoration which means "save us"
- 9. A small town
- 10. A young animal of the horse family; especially one under one year
- 11. To stretch out over a large area
- 12. To secure with a piece of rope

DOWN

- 1. What a person is called
- 2. To express admiration or approval of something or someone
- 4. To go into a place
- 5. Said something in a loud voice; called out; yelled
- 6. A male ruler of a country
- 7. A pathway for vehicles, persons, and animals; a street or highway

VILLAGE	JESUS	SHOUTED	ENTER
COLT	SPREAD	PRAISE	NAME
TIE	ROAD	HOSANNA	KING



What Easter Means

Solve the puzzle to find out what Easter means. Use this code to help you. The first word has been done for you.

a = ♦	g = ♥	n = ✖
c = *	h = ○	o = +
d = †	i = ■	r = ▲
e = >	l = ☆	s = ◇
f = ★	m = ◊	v = ⚡

- 1. Jesus

◊	■	>	◊
d	i	e	d

 but rose to new

☆	■	★	>

.
- 2. Jesus

☆	♦	**	>	◊

 his friends.
- 3. He

*	♦	◊	>

 to save them.
- 4. Jesus

☆	♦	**	>	◊

 me too.
- 5. He wants me to

☆	♦	**	>

 him.
- 6. I can

☆	♦	**	>

 him by

☆	♦	**	■	✖	♥

 others.
- 7. I can love others by

◊	○	♦	▲	■	✖	♥

 with them.

**Youth Events:
At a Glance**

Dates for the Calendar

April 13: No CFF—Palm Sunday

April 17: Holy Thursday: First Communion Children will be part of the Eucharist Procession. Please arrive at the church at 6:30pm for practice.

April 18: Good Friday: Intergenerational Stations of the Cross 3pm. We need Youth there to help!

April 20: No CFF—Easter Sunday Children's program at 10:15am followed by the 10:30am Mass. There will be an Egg Hunt after Mass in the area where we do the annual parish picnic.

April 27: CFF, Youth Group, and AFF in the Parish Center at 9:15am. **

May 4: First Communion at the 10:30am Mass.

** Also available via Zoom.
Please see a previously sent parent email for the ZOOM link or contact the Parish Center.

The Gospel at Home

PALM SUNDAY

This Week's Gospel: Luke 22:14–23:56

At this Palm Sunday Mass, the Gospel is the story of Christ's passion from Luke's Gospel. Palm Sunday with its reenactment of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem is the lead-in to the holiest days of the year. The events of this week follow Jesus' steps through the Last Supper, the agony in the garden, his betrayal, his trial and condemnation, his Death on the Cross, and his burial.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Be sure to take a blessed palm home after Sunday Mass. Make a little ceremony of placing the palm behind a crucifix or holy picture or in some other prominent place in your home. Talk with your young child about how this palm branch shows how your family welcomes Jesus into your home. Retell the story of Palm Sunday using the figures made during *Seeds* class.

Promise (Grades K–1): Ask your child to share with the family about Jesus' journey through death to resurrection. Your child can use the Holy Week story pages from the lesson booklet. Try to keep family awareness high all week by some special prayer or activity for each day of Holy Week—especially Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Have your child show the signs of new life and the picture created during the lesson.

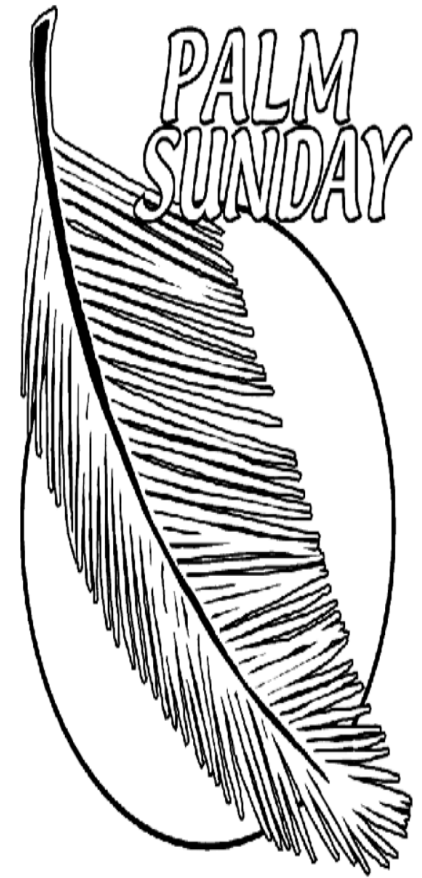
Good News (Grades 2–3): This week your child's class participated in a play that dramatized the events of Holy Week. Together the class made the journey from Palm Sunday to the burial of Jesus after the crucifixion. Together plan how you will spend these important days of the Church year. Plan to attend at least one of the Holy Week services as a family.

Venture (Grades 4–6): This week in class, your youngster identified the events celebrated on each of the important days of Holy Week. The class also learned about the Stations of the Cross and Easter Vigil. As Lent comes to a close, visit your church and make the Stations of the Cross together as a family.

Visions (Grades 7–9): The class this week went through all the celebrations of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. As a family, make a Holy Week plan. Decide what celebrations you can attend in the parish. Plan, too, to make each of the days of this week special in your home. Ask your young person to take the lead in sharing with the family what each of the days celebrates and then decide how you will reflect that at home. Be sure to stick to the plan.

Pray Together

One of the elements of the Good Friday liturgy is the veneration of the cross. Every Catholic home should have a cross or a crucifix prominently displayed. After you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, one day this week, gather around a crucifix. Pray together the prayer from the liturgy: "Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. Come let us adore." If possible, pass the crucifix from one family member to the next. Each family member can then gently kiss the crucifix. Then, repeat the prayer.



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

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The day **BEFORE** (EFROBF) He died, Jesus went to celebrate the **PASSOVER** (SPSVROEA) with His **DISCIPLES** (ISLEPSCDI).

During the meal, Jesus began to wash their feet, but Peter would not let Him. Jesus told him, "Now **YOU** (UOY) don't understand what I'm doing, but **AFTERWARD** (DRAWFTRAE) you will." Peter replied, "You will **NEVER** (VNEER) wash my feet!" Jesus said, "If I do not wash you then you will have no part with Me." Then Peter said, "Then Lord, wash not just my feet but my head and **HANDS** (DNSHA) too!"

Then Jesus took **BREAD** (EADRB) and made it into His Body and took wine and made it into His Blood.

This **LAST** (STLA) Supper was the first Mass. Jesus wants to **COME** (CMOE) to us in Holy Communion and then go **OUT** (TOU) and do His work in the **WORLD** (LWROD).

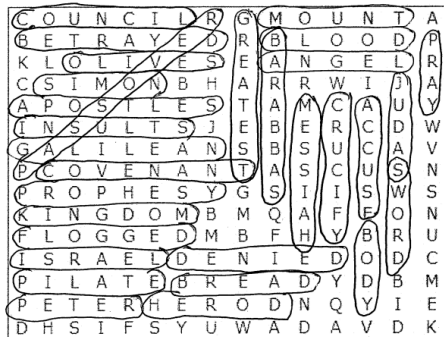
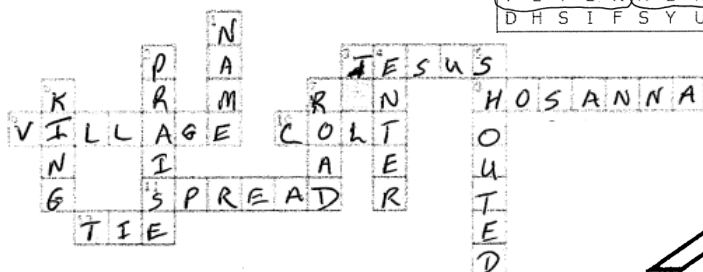
Jesus finished His work by offering His **BODY AND BLOOD** to God the Father for us on the cross.



SOLUTIONS:

What Easter Means:

1-life; 2-loved; 3-came; 4-loves; 5-love; 6-love, loving; 7-sharing



Lazarus

by Edwin Arlington Robinson

"No, Mary, there was nothing—not a word.
Nothing, and always nothing. Go again
Yourself, and he may listen—or at least
Look up at you, and let you see his eyes.
I might as well have been the sound of rain,
A wind among the cedars, or a bird;
Or nothing. Mary, make him look at you;
And even if he should say that we are nothing,
To know that you have heard him will be something.
And yet he loved us, and it was for love
The Master gave him back. Why did he wait
So long before he came? Why did he weep?
I thought he would be glad—and Lazarus—
To see us all again as he had left us—
All as it was, all as it was before."

Mary, who felt her sister's frightened arms
Like those of someone drowning who had seized her,
Fearing at last they were to fail and sink
Together in this fog-stricken sea of strangeness,
Fought sadly, with bereaved indignant eyes,
To find again the fading shores of home
That she had seen but now could see no longer
Now she could only gaze into the twilight,
And in the dimness know that he was there,
Like someone that was not. He who had been
Their brother, and was dead, now seemed alive
Only in death again—or worse than death;
For tombs at least, always until today,
Though sad were certain. There was nothing certain
For man or God in such a day as this;
For there they were alone, and there was he—
Alone; and somewhere out of Bethany,
The Master—who had come to them so late,
Only for love of them and then so slowly,
And was for their sake hunted now by men
Who feared Him as they feared no other prey—
For the world's sake was hidden. "Better the tomb
For Lazarus than life, if this be life,"
She thought; and then to Martha, "No, my dear,"
She said aloud; "not as it was before.
Nothing is ever as it was before,
Where Time has been. Here there is more than Time;
And we that are so lonely and so far
From home, since he is with us here again,
Are farther now from him and from ourselves
Than we are from the stars. He will not speak
Until the spirit that is in him speaks;
And we must wait for all we are to know,
Or even to learn that we are not to know.
Martha, we are too near to this for knowledge,
And that is why it is that we must wait.
Our friends are coming if we call for them,
And there are covers we'll put over him
To make him warmer. We are too young, perhaps,

To say that we know better what is best
Than he. We do not know how old he is.
If you remember what the Master said,
Try to believe that we need have no fear.
Let me, the selfish and the careless one,
Be housewife and a mother for tonight;
For I am not so fearful as you are,
And I was not so eager."

Martha sank

Down at her sister's feet and there sat watching
A flower that had a small familiar name
That was as old as memory, but was not
The name of what she saw now in its brief
And infinite mystery that so frightened her
That life became a terror. Tears again
Flooded her eyes and overflowed. "No, Mary,"
She murmured slowly, hating her own words
Before she heard them, "you are not so eager
To see our brother as we see him now;
Neither is he who gave him back to us.
I was to be the simple one, as always,
And this was all for me." She stared again
Over among the trees where Lazarus,
Who seemed to be a man who was not there,
Might have been one more shadow among
shadows,
If she had not remembered. Then she felt
The cool calm hands of Mary on her face,
And shivered, wondering if such hands were real.
"The Master loved you as he loved us all,
Martha; and you are saying only things
That children say when they have had no sleep.
Try somehow now to rest a little while;
You know that I am here, and that our friends
Are coming if I call."

Martha at last

Arose, and went with Mary to the door,
Where they stood looking off at the same place,
And at the same shape that was always there
As if it would not ever move or speak,
And always would be there. "Mary, go now,
Before the dark that will be coming hides him.
I am afraid of him out there alone,
Unless I see him; and I have forgotten
What sleep is. Go now—make him look at you—
And I shall hear him if he stirs or whispers.
Go!—or I'll scream and bring all Bethany
To come and make him speak. Make him say once
That he is glad, and God may say the rest.
Though He say I shall sleep, and sleep for ever,
I shall not care for that... Go!"

Mary, moving

Almost as if an angry child had pushed

Parish Library

Come visit the Parish Library! We have hundreds of volumes ranging from history to theology to social justice and everything in between. While the library is currently undergoing some construction, feel free to drop in and check out a book (or two, or three!)

If you find a book you'd like to read, simply fill out the card in the back of the book with your name and today's date, and leave it in the basket on the check-out and returns shelf. Your due date will be three weeks from that date. (We appreciate timely returns, so that everyone can have a chance to enjoy the library's offerings!)

Need help choosing a book? This week, your parish librarian (Dana Getka) recommends:

Transfiguration: A Meditation on Transforming Ourselves and Our World by John Dear

Most would agree that our troubled world is in desperate need of peace, healing, and reconciliation. But how many of us are willing to take Ghandi's words to heart and truly "be the change we wish to see in the world?" In his brief but beautiful text *Transfiguration: A Meditation on Transforming Ourselves and Our World*, peace activist John Dear takes the transfiguration of Christ as his guiding light as he considers how peace cultivated within the individual soul radiates outward, transforming everything into which it comes into contact. Now more than ever we need people of faith not only following in the footsteps of Christ, but also carrying His banner of peace and nonviolence into the world outside the church doors. Will you take the first step?

Find *Transfiguration* in the Spirituality & Worship section under the letter "D"!

April 18th Book Discussion Group

This meeting falls on Good Friday. We will meet at 10:30 rather than 11am on this date. We have two "reads" this month: a short book by Francis Schaeffer, *Art and the Bible*, and a somewhat long (but not too long) letter, the first Appalachian Pastoral, *This Land is Home to Me*.

Long before synodality was a household, or at least a church word, the people and the twenty-five (arch) bishops of the twenty-five (arch)dioceses extending over the thirteen states of the region known as Appalachia engaged in a synodal process to create the pastoral letter, *This Land is Home to Me*, published in February, 1975. This year marks the 50th anniversary of this letter.

West Virginia is the only state that falls entirely within the boundaries of Appalachia. In a sense it is the heart of Appalachia. Many of us in our parish come from parts of the country outside the Appalachian region and aren't aware of the rich Catholic heritage of this and the succeeding pastorals, *At Home in the Web of Life*, written on the 25th Anniversary of the first pastoral and the people's pastoral, *The Telling Takes Us Home*.

On Sunday, May 18 after the 10:30am Mass, we will have the opportunity to learn more about this first pastoral from a person intimately involved in its creation. Mark your calendars! Here's the link to read the pastoral online: <https://www.ccappal.org/pastoral-letters>.

CPR/First Aid Training at SFD

CPR/First Aid class offered **Saturday May 3rd at 9am**. Class will be held at the Shepherdstown Fire Dept. To register, contact Dave Smith with SPC at 304-283-6235.

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$7,504
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$380
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$7,884
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$13,500
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ -\$5,616

Tithe to help those in need \$750

(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

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.

Supporting our St. Agnes community is easy! Just go to the "Giving" button at the top of our website homepage or use the QR code at the right to make a one-time or recurring gift. Any amount is a valued contribution towards our ministry. Thank you!



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Stations of the Cross and Nature Trail

St. Agnes has an outdoor Stations of the Cross and Nature Trail that runs directly behind the Church. Over the years, a number of parishioners have worked to maintain the trail and keep it open. Last Fall, David Hippchen made cleaning up the trail his Eagle Scout project. The Scouts removed the debris, cut back the underbrush, and planted some bulbs.

The trail begins on the North side of the Church and passes behind the Columbarium, and there is a sign at the entrance. The trail is generally pretty flat, but, there is a slope up to the first Station.

Support Group for Federal Employees

Potomac Crossroads Counselling, LLC has created a new, free support group for federal employees that will focus on coping with the immense stressors caused by the administration's stark changes to federal jobs. This is a 6 week trial run, to be reassessed by members as to whether they want to extend. The ultimate goal is to promote a focus on being a survivor rather than a victim—feeling empowered rather than disempowered. AND they're open to focusing on whatever else is on your mind in a supportive way! Contact: Kathleen Morotti, 304-876-3500 or pccfrontoffice4781@gmail.com

MEETINGS: Wednesdays 5:30pm, Online or In-Person

Open Positions at Saint Joe's School

Saint Joe's School is seeking to fill these positions:

⇒ **Middle School Social Studies Teacher**

To send in a resume, contact Deacon Patrick Michel, Ed.D. at deaconpat@stjosephwv.org. View the job listing: <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Saint-Joseph-School/jobs>.

CBT Grants update

Our grant group—Sue Kemnitzer, Fanny Smith, Judy Lilga, Mike Drewes, Scott Hutton, Greg Welter, Beth Yates, and Fr Andy-- is actively working on the next steps in the grant process with the help of Josephine Saikali from Region 9.

For our Track 2 design grant, our engineering firm, Thrasher Group, is fine tuning their design for upgrading our stormwater management!

For our Track 4 grant, we will soon begin planning for plantings in the southeast area.

Program partners: United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3, Chesapeake Bay Program, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

This project had been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under assistance agreement 4I-95300301 or CB-96375501 to West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP).



INVESTING IN AMERICA



Mary's Refuge Golf Tournament

Join Mary's Refuge in a fundraiser for young mothers in need by sponsoring or participating in their Links of Love Tournament on **April 28th**. More information about sign-ups, sponsoring, or attending can be found on the Mary's Refuge Website <https://marysrefuge.com> under 'upcoming events.'

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