

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

Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
John 20:1-18++

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

Scripture & Communion

Wednesday, 11am

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30pm

Parish Office: Tuesday through Friday 9am-4pm

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

The Week at a Glance...

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>
Tues Apr 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Day • Board Games Group 3:30pm
Wed Apr 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Feeding the Hungry Food Delivery 5pm
Friday Apr 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeping Bag Project 9:30am
Sat Apr 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Flash Mob 9am-3pm
Sun Apr 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFF, Youth Group, AFF 9:15am • Celebration of Fr Mat's 50th Ordination Anniversary 10:30am (Followed by Luncheon)

Landscape Flash Mob April 26

All are welcome! Join your fellow parishioners on **April 26, 9am-3pm** as we celebrate **Earth Day** by planting trees and shrubs on the St. Agnes campus. **This is an event for everyone, young and old and everyone in between.**

There is no better way to spend a spring Saturday than getting outside and getting dirty! Please bring your gloves and wear old clothes. We promise to keep you hydrated and energetic as we will have **food and drinks** available to keep you going. We will be having expert help and instruction from Shawn Walker, Arborist, as well as the tree experts from Cacapon Institute. Shawn may even do a Disc Golf demonstration. **Help us prove that many hands really do make light work!**

Paschal Candle

On Saturday, March 29, Fr Andy, Fr Mat, and a few parishioners gathered in the parish center to create our 2025 Paschal Candle.

The candle has since been carefully decorated. This very candle will be lit at the Easter Vigil and proclaimed the light of Christ!



Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Shelly Stowell (daughter of Nina Hockman), 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.

Behind the Scenes

Throughout the year, so much preparation and work happens behind the scenes here at St Agnes, but never more than through Lent, the Sacred Triduum, and Easter. Our heartfelt thanks go out to so many.

Music Ministry: Music is such a universal language that enriches each of our liturgical celebrations. Our choir and musicians have been giving of their time, diligently rehearsing for many weeks in addition to sharing their gifts at our 10:30am Mass throughout Lent. It is through all of their preparation that it all looks so effortless. They would love to have you join them! Contact Elaine Rendler for more information.

Liturgical Ministry: We are very fortunate to have devoted liturgical ministers who so willingly give of their time and talents throughout the year and especially during Holy Week. Through Triduum and Easter, we will have had more than 60 liturgical minister spots to fill in order to keep our celebrations moving smoothly. We simply would not be able to do it without them. Many of our liturgical ministers graciously agreed to participate multiple times through Triduum and Easter because we just don't have enough volunteers to cover all of our needs. They would love to have you join them! Contact Helen Harris for more information.

Decorating the Church: Have you ever noticed the banners and flowers at the church and how often they change? If you've been paying attention, you will have noted that on Laetare Sunday, some pink flowers were placed by the altar. We began to see more changes on Palm Sunday with changes to the altar and ambo banners and the addition of potted palms. On Holy Thursday, all of the banners change. Then on Good Friday the church is bare except for the cross that is draped. On Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, the Easter banners are up and the church is filled with flowers. You have probably surmised by now that a lot of work goes into keeping up with these changes. We indeed have a group of dedicated volunteers to thank for maintaining our church space so beautifully. And, you guessed it, they would love to have help! If you would consider being a part of this ministry, please call the office, and we will get you connected.

CRS Rice Bowls—Time to Return

Your Lenten alms through CRS Rice Bowl make a global difference for millions of our sisters and brothers experiencing the greatest need. You can drop off your rice bowl at the Parish Center or the offertory. Any checks should be made out to St Agnes with "Rice Bowl" on the memo line.

Dear Parishioners

I am writing this at the beginning of Holy Week. By the time you read it, we will be celebrating Easter. I am reminded of a piece of wisdom that a wise old priest, Father Ed Bell, gave me after I was newly ordained and celebrating one of my first Holy Weeks. I told him that our emphasis should always be on resurrection because that was the ultimate outcome of Good Friday. Father Ed looked at me and gently reminded me that we cannot enter into the resurrection without really deeply going into and experiencing Christ's crucifixion. Father Ed knew this personally because throughout his whole life and ministry he battled MS as he carried forth his ministry. We celebrate this Easter not by avoiding the cross but by moving through death to new life. Easter, though certainly a day we celebrate resurrection, is also a day where people know deeply grief and loss. I often think of the gathering at the tomb that first Easter. They could not even take new life all at once; grief and loss, even after Easter, is real. We should always remember that even though Jesus rose he still carried the scars of crucifixion. As we celebrate this Easter, let's not forget to honor both sides of the mystery, his death and resurrection, and, just like that first meeting in the upper room with his disciples when Thomas touched his wounds, by Jesus' wounds may we know that his risen life brings peace and healing to the wounds of our lives' crucifixions. Father Ed wise was right; there is no Easter without Good Friday.

Fr. Andy

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.

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. For questions, call or email the office.

SJP Weekend Results

The collection by the Service, Justice, and Peace Committee was very generous this month. Twelve bags of coffee from Haiti were purchased for \$120 and a \$2 donation; Mary's Refuge received \$65; Kolofata Girls' Education Fund received \$35; feminine hygiene and Diapers received \$50; Feeding the Hungry and Homeless received \$70. Thanks to all who made donations and bought coffee.

Holy Thursday Collection

Last year on Holy Thursday, we helped the Romero Scholarship with a special collection. On Holy Thursday this week, our special collection was for Mountain State Justice where we have an opportunity to help a special population.

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.

If you missed the Holy Thursday special collection, you are still welcome to add your donation by dropping it into the offertory or getting it to the office. Please make certain all donations are clearly marked. Checks should be made payable to St Agnes with Mountain State Justice in the memo line.

St. Agnes Youth Group are Making it Shine - Update!

Thankfully, we had good weather, not too hot or cold and no rain. Other than a tick or two, it was a very successful day to participate in an annual, state-wide project with the WV Department of Environmental Protection (WV DEP) Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP), the 2025 WV Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup.

Our Youth crew was smaller than expected but were still able to complete most of our task, we completed clean up at 3 locations:

- Potomac River Boat Ramp (End of Princess Street)
- Rumsey Monument Park (Mill Street)
- Cullison Park (adjacent Rumsey Monument – Rocky Street)

The day was fun and we cleaned up a lot of trash making Shepherdstown, WV shine!

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.

Shepherdstown Opera House Presents: No Other Land

Friday, April 25th at 7pm | Saturday, April 26th at 3pm
131 West German Street, Shepherdstown
Tickets: operahouselive.com

The Shepherdstown Opera House is screening the Academy Award winning documentary No Other Land next Friday and Saturday.

Basel Adra, a young Palestinian activist from Masafer Yatta, has been fighting his community's mass expulsion by the Israeli occupation since childhood. Basel documents the gradual erasure of Masafer Yatta, as soldiers destroy the homes of families - the largest single act of forced transfer ever carried out in the occupied West Bank. He crosses paths with Yuval, an Israeli journalist who joins his struggle, and for over half a decade they fight against the expulsion while growing closer. Their complex bond is haunted by the extreme inequality between them: Basel, living under a brutal military occupation, and Yuval, unrestricted and free. This film, by a Palestinian-Israeli collective of four young activists, was created during the darkest, most terrifying times in the region, as an act of creative resistance to Apartheid and a search for a path towards equality and justice.

Read more about the film: <https://releasing.dogwoof.com/no-other-land>

Racial Justice Initiative

Quote from United States Holocaust Museum:

"What distinguishes a concentration camp from a prison (in the modern sense) is that it functions outside of a judicial system. The prisoners are not indicted or convicted of any crime by judicial process."

What is happening now at the direction of our federal government on planes to the CECOT facility in El Salvador is essentially similar to what happened in Nazi Germany on trains to Auschwitz in Poland.

A sobering realization during this Easter season when we celebrate freeing from the tomb and resurrection to new life.

Volunteering at St Agnes

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 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 be updated.

May 16 Book Discussion Group

Our May book discussion is an excellent example of the Jesuit prayer practice of imagining oneself as a participant in a Gospel story. This is a small and creative read, Join us for a discussion of *The Diary of Jesus Christ* by Fr. Bill Cain, SJ. We'll meet at 11am on Friday, May 16 in the Parish Center and all are welcome.



Easter Flowers



Our parishioners have donated flowers *in loving memory of* the Moler, Burleigh, Thompson, Greaser, and Robertson Families by Bryan & Judy Robertson; Rex A. Norton by Hilda Norton; Frank & Cecilia Vassallo and Ed & Edna Sokel by Eric & Anna Sokel; Roger Hedrick, Scott Rees, Art Klann, and Arthur & Mae Gedeon by Eileen Hedrick; Joel David Roller by Ruth Roller & Larry Turner; Francis Snowden, Rebecca McCauly, Jason Quintana, Sandy Walker, and Sophia Hansen by Marie Snowden; Carole Rucker by John Rucker; Gary Dunlevy, Delma & Edward Brewer, and Jerry & Loren DeFilippo by Lynn Dunlevy; Edythe Myers by Zach & Tricia Myers; Bill Fritchman by Nancy Curry; Friends & Family by Lyle & Theresa Rush; the Lattus and Kemerer Families by Greg & Debbie Lattus; Thomas & Alma Bonner, Ellis Armstrong, Mary Lou & Richard Anderson, Randy Armstrong, and Carleen Bonner by Leo & Connie Bonner; John & Rebecca Gomes by Richard & Delcina Gomes; Elvira Risi and Almerinto Risi by Maria Lamanna; Mr. & Mrs. George Buys and Mr. & Mrs. John Piccolomini by John & Dotty Piccolomini; *in honor of* Fr Andy by Zach & Tricia Myers; *and as a gift to St Agnes* by Bruce & Gail Brong; Fergus & Joan Sugrue; Raymond & Lucille Nelson; Joe & Gina Brown; Ralph & Rosie Lorenzetti; Dennis & Janice Wark

Drinking Water Bill Goes to Senate

HB 2233 is moving forward with a vote on the Senate floor. Last 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>.

One Mission, One Day

We are excited to announce that the 6th Annual Catholic Schools Giving Day – One Mission, One Day to Make a Difference – will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. All 24 of our Catholic schools will be participating in this joyful day of giving.

THE YOUTH CORNER

Easter Word-Find

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

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS. Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.



EARLY in the MORNING, while it was still DARK, Mary MAGDALENE had gone to see JESUS' TOMB. But when she got there she found it EMPTY! She ran and got SIMON PETER and the other DISCIPLE to show them. The STONE had been rolled back. The two men went in and saw that the BODY was gone, and only the BURIAL CLOTHS were sitting there. They BELIEVED although they didn't yet understand what the SCRIPTURE said about the RESURRECTION of Jesus. Mary stayed WEEPING outside, but when as she stood LOOKING in, she saw two ANGELS. Then she saw a man in the GARDEN. She thought He was the gardener until He said, "MARY!" Then she knew who it was:

 -----!

Easter Vigil's Gospel:
 Luke 24:1—12

Easter Sunday's Gospel:
 John 20:1—18++

April 20, 2025

CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

This weekend there is no CFF this Easter Sunday. There will be a children's program on Easter Sunday at 10:20 (before the 10:30 Mass). There will also be an **Easter Egg Hunt** for our children organized by our Youth Group, CFF, Youth Group, and AFF will resume again on April 27th in the Parish Center at 9:15am.

Please check out the First Eucharist students banner for the Narthex. First Communion will occur on May 4th during the 10:30am Mass.

A CFF schedule change: The Last class for CFF will be May 4th. The original schedule was May 11th but due to Mother's Day family events, it was decided to cancel CFF on May 11th so that families could celebrate and travel if necessary.
Happy Mother's Day!

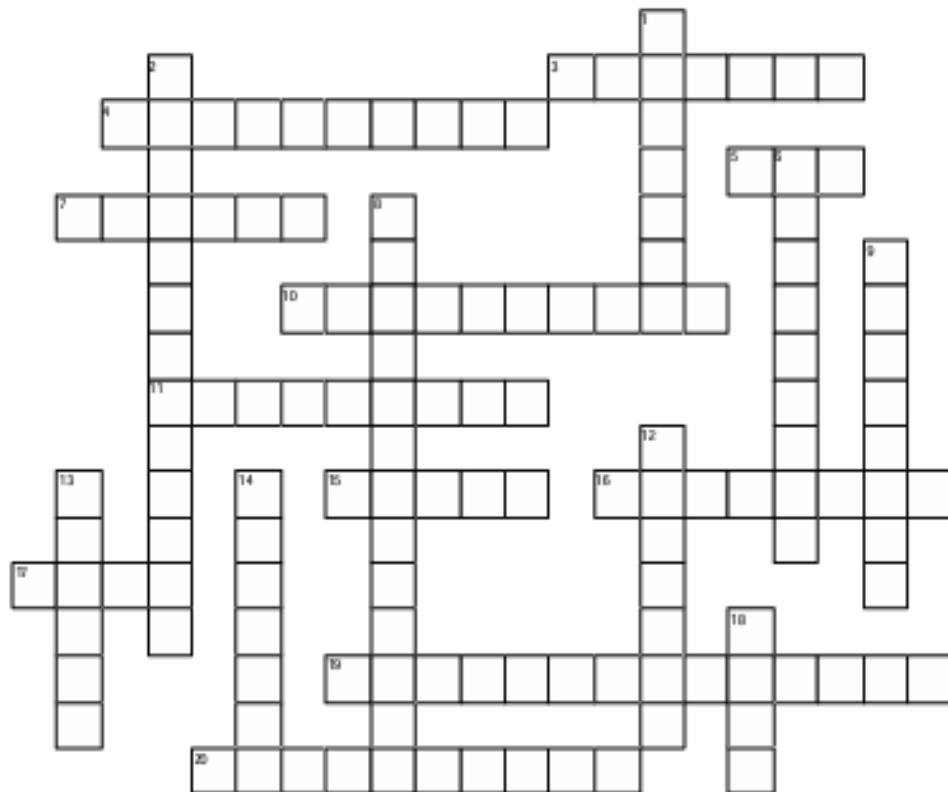
Again, First Communion will occur May 4th at the 10:30am Mass. This is a change from the original schedule.

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 regarding the production. Hopefully everyone will be able to support the event.

CFF registration for the 25-26 school year will begin over the summer.

THE FIRST APPEARANCES OF THE RISEN LORD

Matthew 28:1-15; John 20:1-18



ACROSS

- 3 The guards were so afraid that they became like _____. (Mt. 28:4) two words
- 4 What natural event took place when the angel of the Lord came to roll away the stone? (Mt. 28:2)
- 5 As Mary was standing outside the tomb and looking in, she saw _____ angels. (Jn. 20:11-12)
- 7 How did Mary Magdalene respond to the open tomb? (Jn. 20:11)
- 10 The disciples, who went to the empty tomb, still did not understand what the _____ had said that Jesus had to rise from the dead. (Jn. 20:8-9)
- 11 The chief priests and the elders of the people bribed the guards to say Jesus' _____ came and stole the body during the night. (Mt. 28:13)
- 15 When the chief priests and the elders heard the report from the guards, they devised a plan and gave the soldiers a large sum of _____. (Mt. 28:12)
- 16 Mary Magdalene thought that Jesus was a _____. (Jn. 20:15)
- 17 At what time of the day did Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb? (Mt. 28:1)
- 19 Who came and rolled away the stone in front of the tomb? (Mt. 28:2) four words
- 20 When Mary Magdalene saw the stone had been removed, who did she go and tell? (Jn. 20:1-2) two words

DOWN

- 1 Where did Jesus say to Mary Magdalene the disciples should go? (Mt. 28:10)
- 2 Besides the other Mary, who was the person to whom the risen Lord appeared? (Mt. 28:1, 9-10) two words
- 6 When the women suddenly saw Jesus, they clasped His feet and _____ Him. (Mt. 28:9)
- 8 When Peter came to the tomb, bent over and looked inside, what did he see lying there? (Jn. 20:4-5) three words
- 9 What did Jesus call His disciples? (Mt. 28:10)
- 12 After what day, when did the Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb? (Mt. 28:1)
- 13 The _____, who were watching the tomb, went into the city and reported what had happened. (Mt. 28:11)
- 14 When Mary Magdalene finally realized that Jesus was alive, she cried out, "_____" an Aramaic name which means "Teacher." (Jn. 20:16)
- 18 To his very day who still promote the story that Jesus' disciples stole His body during the night? (Mt. 28:15)



John 20:1-18

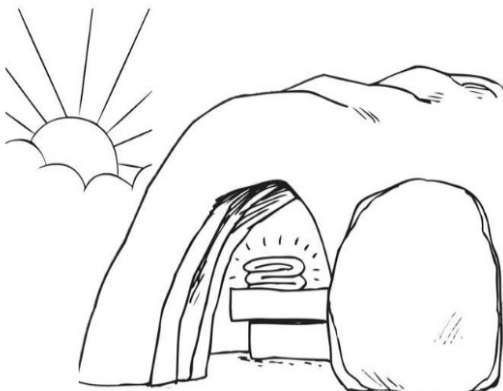
What are we celebrating on Easter?
Unscramble the letters
to fill in the blanks!



Alleluia!

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G	S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E
K	X	C	C	E	V	F	A	L	B



Mary stone Lord linen	Magdalene Simon disciple believed	tomb Peter wrappings scripture
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The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: John 20:1-9 and John 20:19-31

Easter celebrates Jesus' Resurrection. This is the very heart of the Christian faith: that God raised Jesus from the dead after his crucifixion. The promise of Jesus is that all who believe in him will be raised up to new life with God. Jesus' appearances after his Resurrection show that life with him is love, forgiveness, service to others, and giving one's life for one's friends.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned how Easter celebrates God's life-giving power over death. Talk about all the ways your family celebrates the feast—colored eggs, special treats, meals, and going to Mass. Make a large banner with the word Alleluia, and display the banner in your home throughout the season.

Promise (Grades K-1): This week the class learned the story of Jesus' rising from the dead. The class learned, too, that Jesus is present in their Christian community. Ask your child to tell the family about the Apostle Thomas and how he came to believe that Jesus is risen. During the week, use the greeting "Peace be with you" with your family. It will remind you of how Jesus greeted his friends after he rose from the dead.

Good News (Grades 2-3): In class this week, your child took part in a play that tells the story of the events on the first Easter Sunday. As a family, act out the events in the booklet. You can pass the text around to read the parts. Talk as a family about how important it is to have faith in the Resurrection of Jesus. Plan some special decoration for your home, maybe an empty tomb, that shows your family's faith in the Risen Jesus.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week, your youngster's class learned to identify the signs of new life around them. The class also learned about some of the symbols of Easter. Ask your young person to share what some of these symbols mean and why they help us remember Jesus' Resurrection: light, colored eggs, water, seeds, the lamb, the lily, and the butterfly. Share as a family how important Jesus' promise of new life is for each of you.

Visions (Grades 7-9): In class, the young people connected the new life of spring with the new life that accompanies the Resurrection of Christ. They also talked about the experience of the death of a loved one and how the promise of new life helps everyone understand that life is changed, not taken away. Talk about the loved ones you have lost and how you miss them and look forward to being with them again in heaven thanks to the promise Jesus made. Ask your youngster to share with the family what he or she learned about Mary Magdalene.

Pray Together

Make a family Easter candle. It is true that you can purchase Easter candles, but it might be a good experience to decorate a plain white candle with the signs and symbols of Easter. Each evening during the first week of the Easter feast, light the candle and spend a few moments in family prayer. Then renew your baptismal promises by making the Sign of the Cross together.

**Youth Events:
At a Glance**

Dates for the Calendar

April 20: No CFF—Easter. Easter egg hunt after the 10:30am Mass in the area where we do the annual parish picnic.

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

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

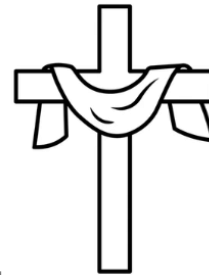
May 4: CFF, Youth group, and AFF in the Parish Center at 9:15am. Last class!**

First Communion Children will **NOT** have CFF today. They should arrive at the church **before** 10:15am.

May 11: NO CFF—Happy Mother's Day!

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

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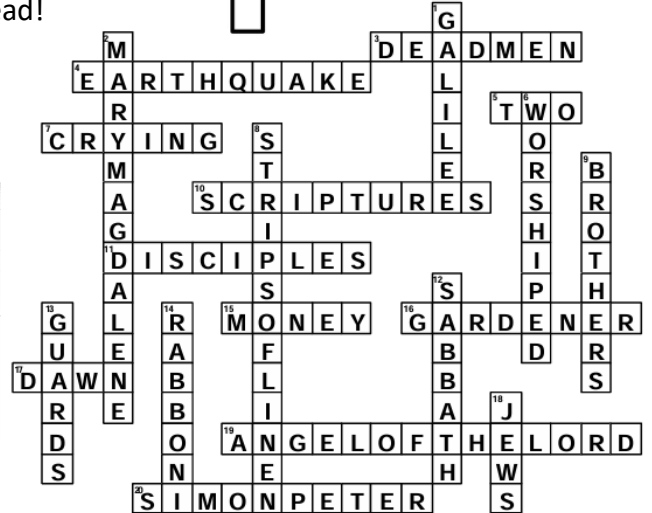
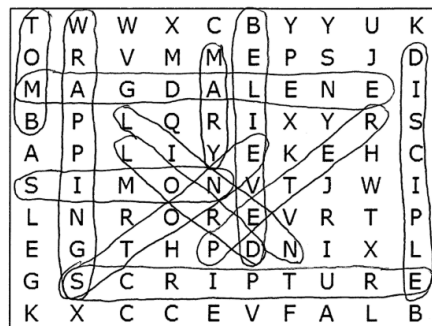
SOLUTIONS:

Answer to the Word Find Puzzle:

Jesus was raised from the dead!

Word Unscramble

Jesus is Alive!



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"!

Masterworks Chorale

On **Saturday, April 26th at 7:30pm**, The Masterworks Chorale will premiere "Sprinkle Coal Dust on my Grave."

Written by a Shepherd music alum, Walker Williams, the oratorio, with narration, soloists from the region and the student/community chorale is about the coal mining wars in the early 20th century.

The rest of the program will feature, "Frostiana," 7 Robert Frost poems set to music by Randall Thompson for the 200 anniversary of the town of Amherst, Massachusetts.

Tickets are available at the box office.

Knights of Columbus Essay Scholarships

Knights of Columbus is offering four scholarships; two worth \$500 for students attending a Catholic high school and two worth \$1,000 for St. Agnes students attending college. To participate, eligible applicants will complete a brief form, and will be provided with an essay subject.

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, June 11, 2025. Send an email to joe.bosco.nd@gmail.com to receive your application form and essay question.

Upcoming VLCFF Courses

There are 2 Upcoming Faith Formation and Catechetical Certification Opportunities **beginning the Week of April 28, 2025**. These 5-week courses, offered through VLCFF, are hybrid models composed of both weekly live 2-hour Zoom lectures/discussions as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences. The courses are underwritten by the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the cost of the tuition and any books. **For further information or to register, please contact the course instructor, Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu, rodicastoiu@dw.org.**

The Diocese offers Catechetical Certification and recognizes VLCFF courses for various levels of certification. Learn more about certification on the DWC website <https://dwc.org/catechist-formation-certification/> or contact Dr. Stoicoiu or Ms. Shirley Carter at scarter@dwc.org.

Images of Jesus Spend time this Easter Season developing a deeper understanding of Jesus by encountering him through the Gospels (we will be using modern scriptural methods of reading the Gospel texts), theology, history and the liturgy. We will be exploring answers to the question that Jesus asked his followers "who do you say I am?" and by the end of the course students will be able to form a personal answer to this question. This course is open to everyone, some background in reading scripture will be helpful. Images of Jesus is part of the Certificate in Catechesis and will be a foundational course for catechists, members of OCIA teams, and all those interested in deepening their faith. The class will meet on Wednesday evenings on Zoom at 7pm beginning on April 30th.

Poverty in the U.S. and Around the World Jesus' ministry was to the poor. The Beatitudes call out for us to thirst for justice, to seek God in the stranger, the hungry, the marginalized, and the suffering. During this Easter Season take some time to more deeply understand this fundamental call of our faith: to respond to the needs of others with steadfast love and transforming action. In this course we will explore our Judeo-Christian response to poverty as rooted in Scripture and the Catholic Social Tradition and ask essential questions such as the following. In a world of poverty and economic injustice how are we to respond? What faith-based strategies for both domestic and global poverty are possible? We will study these questions and more, with an emphasis upon the connections that work, living wage and immigration have to poverty today. This course is part of the Certificate in Social Justice series and is open to all (some background in the social justice teachings of the Church will be helpful). There are two Zoom sections being offered for this course: Monday evenings at 7pm and Thursday afternoons at 4pm.

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.

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

Mary's Refuge Mother's Day Dinner

Spice up Mother's Day with Love, Tacos, and Tiny Tootsies! Join our Cinco de Mayo Fiesta on May 4th from 4-6pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 108 W. Stephens St. Martinsburg, WV. RSVP at life@marysrefuge.com

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.'

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$8,306
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$1,999
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$10,305
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$13,500
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ -\$3,195

Tithe to help those in need \$831

(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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Check Your VIRTUS Status

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and VIRTUS now require a yearly update to your VIRTUS training. **If you completed VIRTUS 4.0 over 1 year ago, you need to complete the refresher module.** We have been told it is not the same as the initial training if you take the refresher module online.

To check your compliance status, log into your VIRTUS account. If your home page is green, you should be compliant. If your home page is red, you need to complete an update of each red section. If you have questions, please call the office at 304-876-6436 or email Bill Donahue at formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

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Homebound Ministry

For any parishioners with needs (groceries, rides to doctors/ pharmacies, etc.), our **HOMEBOUND MINISTRY** is willing to help. Contact Judy Lilga (301-432-2276).

**The Town Run
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Homer Speaker, Emily Wanger, Sarah Ward,
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Presents:

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Friday-Saturday 7pm
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INFO AND TICKETS

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 <p>Sid Sponaugle 304-671-7761</p> <p>Residential Shingle Roofs GAF Certified WV000540</p>	<p>Myers Hill & Associates Estate Planning & Elder Law 299 Rock Cliff Drive Martinsburg, WV 304-263-9099</p>	 <p>Paintings, Notecards, Figurines For Sale or on Commission mcbart.LonelyPetunia.etsy.com</p>	<p>Patriot Tree Service Patriottreeservicewv.com 304-207-0115 Trimming, Pruning, Removal, and more Emergency Tree Service</p>
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<p>Potomac Crossroads Counseling</p>  <p>Kathleen Morotti LPC, LCDAC, BC-DMT Shepherdstown 304-876-3500</p>	<p>Shepherdstown PHARMACY</p>  <p>7670 Martinsburg Pike 304-876-9966 The Knott Family</p>	<p>Two Rivers Counseling</p> <p>adults, teens, children & couples</p> <p>Robyn Harrison-Taft, MA, LPC, NCC www.2riverscounseling.com 304-725-7176</p>	 <p>James A. Schmitt 304-876-2462</p>
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