

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 5:12-16
Psalm 118:2-4, 22-24, 25-27a
Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
John 20:19-31

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

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)

The Week at a Glance...

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)
Mon Apr 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon
Tues Apr 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Games Group 3:30pm
Sat May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Communion Rehearsal & Luncheon 11am
Sun May 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zander Adams Baptism 8am • CFF, Youth Group, AFF (Last Classes) 9:15am • First Communion Mass 10:30am • Perpetual Memorial Mass 10:30am • OCIA 12noon

Holy Thursday Collection

Last year on Holy Thursday, we helped the Romero Scholarship with a special collection. On Holy Thursday this year, our special collection was for Mountain State Justice where we have an opportunity to help a special population. This year, our Holy Thursday Collection totaled \$2512.

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.

In the Running...

A pair of Canadian geese is apparently shopping around for a lovely nesting spot, and it appears that St Agnes may be on their short list. If they settle on a spot at St Agnes, we will mark the area with cones and signs.

We understand that the ganders can be very defensive about their mates and chicks, and we would be advised to leave them some distance to assure their comfort. That will mean avoiding parking too near the nest if we want to be allowed to get into our cars.

Little White Books

We have copies of the Easter devotional, Little White Books, available in the Narthex.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm for

John McNamee



May John share

in the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Virginia Babbitt (mother of Robbie Babbitt) who recently died. May Virginia share in the fulness of God's love and peace.

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.

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.



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, Jasen 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; and Dennis & Janice Wark.

Dear Parishioners

I write to you this morning with sadness and shock at the death of Pope Francis. We begin our Easter season as a church at the tomb. I reached out to Bishop John Stowe right after I heard of Pope Francis' death as we both shared our grief; I said to him that it's a sad day for the world. Bishop Stowe said yes, but Pope Francis would want us to have hope. Pope Francis has brought so much hope to our church. I still remember the first time he came out to greet us and asked the world for its blessing. This pope brought us into a new stage of Vatican II. I remember when I took my first assignment as a pastor an older priest gave me the advice to just follow what Pope Francis does in the parish and that advice has never failed me. We have watched at St Agnes the Pope's vision of synodality renew us as a community and give us a way forward as he called us to enlarge the tent ecumenically and in the broader community. I think almost every weekend in preparing homilies of something Pope Francis said or did that inspired me. On Easter Sunday at 10:30 Mass I recalled that when he was leading World Youth Day he asked who was welcome in the church; he said, "Todos, Todos, Todos! Everyone, Everyone, Everyone!" The truth is Pope Francis' arms reached much broader than the Catholic church and touched everyone in the whole world. For us as a church, this is a time to grieve and sit with our loss. We are at the tomb, but, as Pope Francis called us to in this jubilee year, we have hope. We grieve, but we grieve with hope! We will certainly be remembering the Pope at this upcoming weekend Masses and will be praying with the whole church in the days ahead. I close with these words to us from Pope Francis in his message on Easter Sunday, 20 April 2025, "All those who put their hope in God place their feeble hands in his strong and mighty hand; they let themselves be raised up and set out on a journey. Together with the risen Jesus, they become pilgrims of hope, witnesses of the victory of love and the disarmed power of life."

Eternal rest grant unto Pope Francis O Lord.
And Let Your perpetual light shine upon him.
May Pope Francis rest in peace.
Amen.

May Pope Francis' soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
Through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen

"URBI ET ORBI" MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis' Easter Sunday Message: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/20250420-urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html>

Fr. Andy

Fr Mat's 50th Anniversary of Ordination

On **Sunday April 27 at the 10:30am Mass**, we will have a Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate Father Mat's 50th Ordination Anniversary. Please join us following Mass for a reception!

We are grateful that Fr Mat has spent more than 30 years sharing his gifts with St Agnes with no plans to stop!

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.

Dinner and a Show!

St Agnes Youth Group and friends present: **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.**

Friday, June 6 at 6pm, Saturday, June 7 at 6pm, and Sunday, June 8 at 5pm, join our youth at the

Shepherdstown Community Club War Memorial Building on German Street for a Dinner & Show experience.

Reservations: visit StAgnesShepherdstown.org, scan the QR code, or call 304-876-6436. The show is a free event but donations are gratefully accepted. All Are Welcome!



Community Club Fundraiser

Last year, as part of their "raise the roof" campaign the Shepherdstown Community Club added a fundraising Friday Evening Garden Party to the Back Alley Garden Tour. It was a sell-out success that was enjoyed by all so they decided to do it again. This year, the garden party will be held at one of the premier private gardens in Shepherdstown...and you are invited! A limited number of Donor Level tickets will be sold, so get yours before they sell out. Tickets are available from the SCC website: <https://www.shepherdstowncommunityclub.org/store/p/friday-night-garden-party>

Racial Justice Initiative

In light of the passing of Pope Francis, it seems appropriate to share some statements from him on the subject of racial justice.

"The problem is not that we have doubts and fears. The problem is when they condition our way of thinking and acting to the point of making us intolerant, closed and perhaps even without realizing it - racist. In this way fear deprives us of the desire and ability to encounter the other, the person different from myself; it deprives me of an opportunity to encounter the Lord." (2019 message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees)

"We live in times in which feelings that to many seemed to be outdated appear to be reemerging and spreading. Feelings of suspicion, fear, contempt and even hatred toward other individuals and groups judged to be different on the basis of their ethnicity, nationality or religion, and as such, believed not to be sufficiently worthy to participate fully in the life of society. These feelings, then, too often inspire real acts of intolerance, discrimination or exclusion that seriously harm the dignity of those involved as well as their fundamental rights, including the very right to life and to physical and moral integrity. Unfortunately, in the political world too, it happens that one gives in to the temptation to exploit the fears and the objective difficulties of some groups and to make misleading promises out of shortsighted electoral interests." (Sept. 20, 2018 speech, World Conference on Xenophobia, Racism and Populist Nationalism)

"May this tireless worker of mercy help us increasingly to understand that our only criterion for action is gratuitous love, free from every ideology and all obligations, offered freely to everyone without distinction of language, culture, race or religion" (Sept. 4, 2016 homily, canonization of St. Teresa of Kolata)

Father Andy: On Duty

Following the Easter Vigil Mass, Fr Andy stayed to clean up and take out the trash.



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.

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.

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.

THE YOUTH CORNER

Second Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy

John 20:19—31

April 27, 2025

**CFF, AFF, Youth Group,
& Family News**

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

Please check out the First Eucharist students banner for the Narthex. First Communion will be held next weekend, 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, we decided to cancel CFF on May 11th so that families could celebrate and travel if necessary.

Happy Mother's Day!

Again, First Communion will be on May 4th at the 10:30am Mass. *This is a change from the original schedule.* Children who will be receiving their First Communion on May 4th will not have CFF on that morning. Instead, they will need to be at the church by 10:10am that Sunday.

Saturday, May 3rd, the Youth Group will be working from 12noon—4pm (whatever time you can devote) to the Earth Day project at the church. We also need volunteers Friday, May 2nd at 5:30pm to help set up for Saturday.

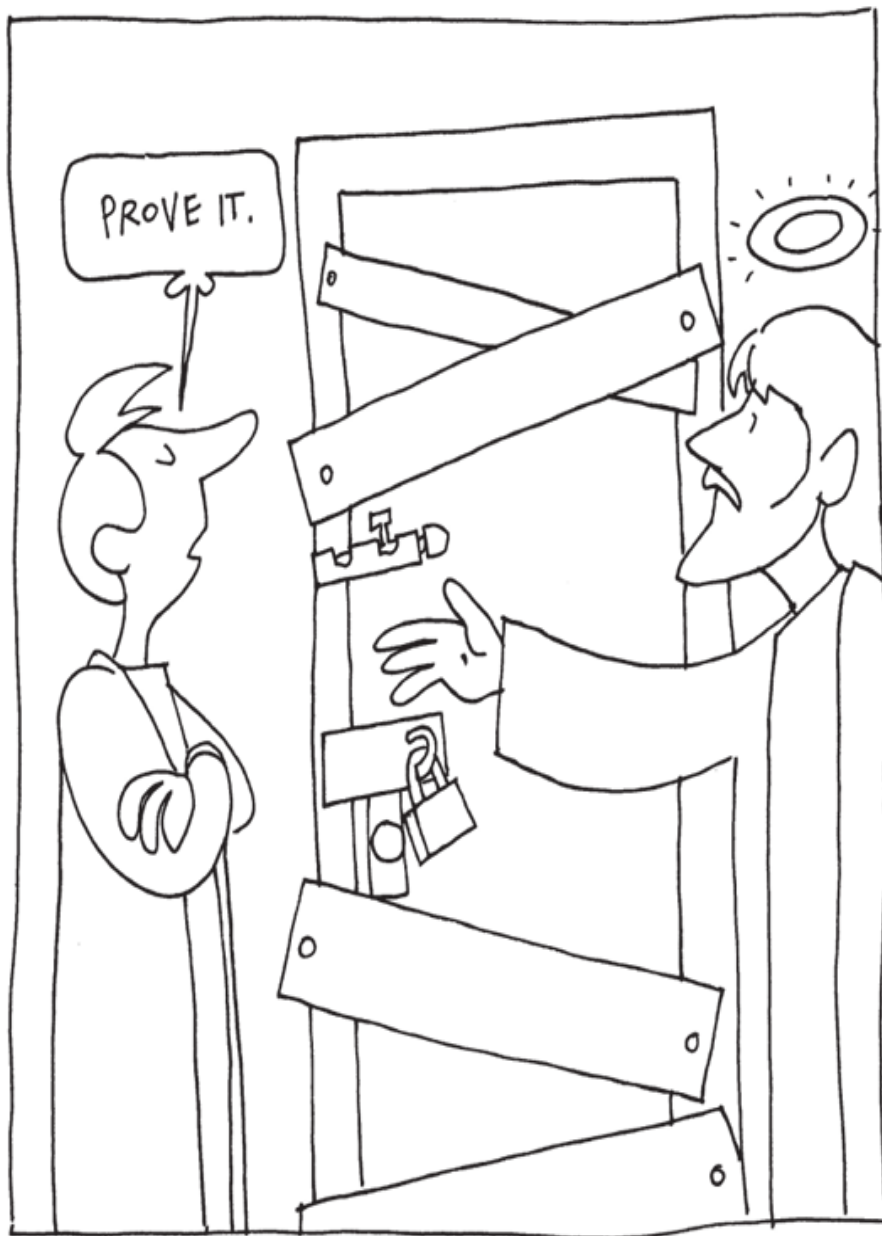
In addition to the many social justice activities that our youth are involved in, our youth are also rehearsing our Annual Play:

**The 25th Annual
Putnam County Spelling Bee
June 6, 7, and 8**

Shepherdstown Community Club

It will be a dinner theater! Hopefully everyone will be able to support the show. *See the bulletin announcement for more info and how to reserve seats!*

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

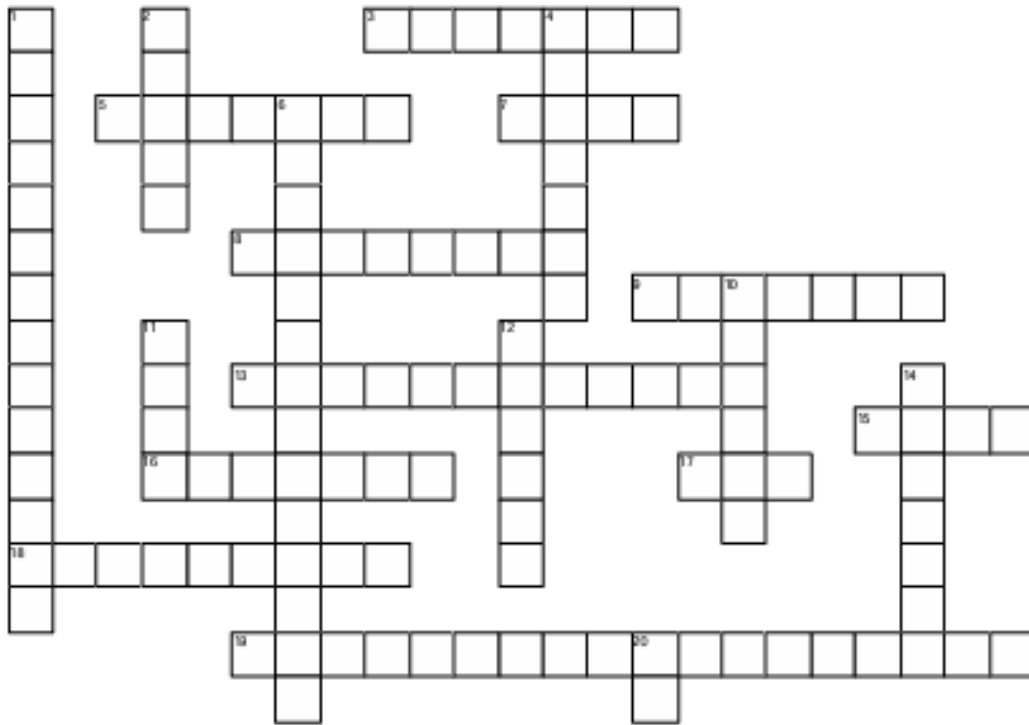


Congratulations

Fr. Mat !

JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES & JESUS APPEARS TO THOMAS

John 20:19-23 & 20:24-29



ACROSS

- 3 Unless Thomas saw the scars and wounds of Jesus, he would not _____ that Jesus had been raised from the dead." (Jn. 20:25)
- 5 What was another name for Thomas? (Jn. 20:24)
- 7 Jesus met with the disciples a second time one _____ later. (Jn. 20:26)
- 8 Jesus said, "If you do not forgive them, they are not _____." (Jn. 20:23)
- 9 After Jesus revealed Himself a second time, Thomas being present, Jesus said, "_____ are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (Jn. 20:29)
- 13 After Jesus greeted His disciples, he showed them His _____ . (Jn. 20:20) three words
- 15 The other disciples told Thomas, "We have seen the _____." (Jn. 20:25)
- 16 After Jesus greeted His disciples a second time, He said, "As the Father has sent me, I am _____ you." (Jn. 20:21)
- 17 How many disciples were locked behind closed doors? (Jn. 20:19)
- 18 When the disciples saw Jesus' hands and feet, how did they feel? (Jn. 20:20)
- 19 When Jesus met with His disciples a second time, Thomas being present, He told Thomas, "Stop _____ ." (Jn. 20:27) three words

DOWN

- 1 What greeting did Jesus give to the disciples? (Jn. 20:19) four words
- 2 Jesus is asking us to walk by _____, not by sight.
- 4 When did Jesus come and stand among the disciples? (Jn. 20:19)
- 6 After Thomas saw the scars and wounds of Jesus, what did he say? (Jn. 20:28) five words
- 10 How many disciples were present when Jesus revealed Himself a second time being behind closed doors? (Jn. 20:24-25)
- 11 What were the disciples afraid of when they gathered behind closed doors? (Jn. 20:19)
- 12 Thomas said, "_____ I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, I will not believe it." (Jn. 20:25)
- 14 Jesus said, "If you _____ anyone his sins, they are forgiven." (Jn. 20:23)
- 20 Was Thomas present with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared to them? (Jn. 20:24)

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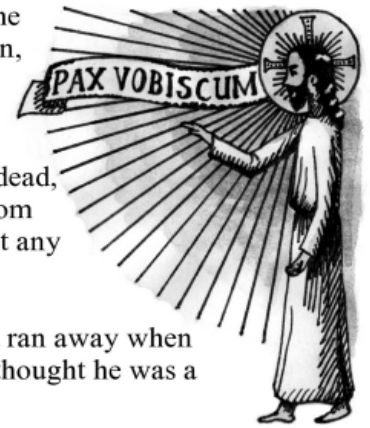
True or False: When Jesus Came to the Apostles

1. When Jesus first came to the Apostles after His resurrection, He said "Peace be with you" twice. True or False?

2. When Jesus rose from the dead, you couldn't see the marks from the nails in His hands and feet any more. True or False?

3. The Apostles panicked and ran away when they saw Jesus because they thought he was a ghost. True or False?

4. Jesus breathed on the Apostles and told them that they now had the power to forgive people's sins. True or False?



5. The Apostle Thomas was not with the others when Jesus first came to them after He rose from the dead. True or False?

6. Thomas believed that they had seen Jesus, so he wasn't surprised when Jesus came again a week later. True or False?

7. Jesus told Thomas to put his fingers in the nail-holes in His hands and put his hand in Jesus' side where the spear had gone in. True or False?

doors	locked	fear
Jesus	peace	disciples
rejoiced	Father	Receive
Holy	Spirit	retained
Thomas	Twin	nails
mark	finger	Messiah

A **Papal Conclave** is a meeting of Cardinals. The Cardinals meet to elect the next Bishop of Rome, to become the next Pope. This becomes necessary when the current Pope dies or resigns. The word *conclave* is from Latin. It refers to the fact that the cardinals are locked up together, until they have agreed on a new Pope by a 2/3 vote. Today, this happens in the Sistine Chapel.

Once the Conclave has decided on a Pope, the ballots are burned and white smoke comes from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel, indicating to the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square that a new Pope has been chosen.

For more information watch the video, "How Do They Choose The Pope?"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUtj8nd_pl4

The Gospel Weeklies summary discusses what was taught in CFF this week. This gives you a guide to talk to your children about what they learned in CFF this week!

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.

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Youth Events: At a Glance

Dates for the Calendar

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

May 2: 5:30pm Volunteers needed to help set up Earth Day Project

May 3: 12noon—4pm Earth Day Project

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

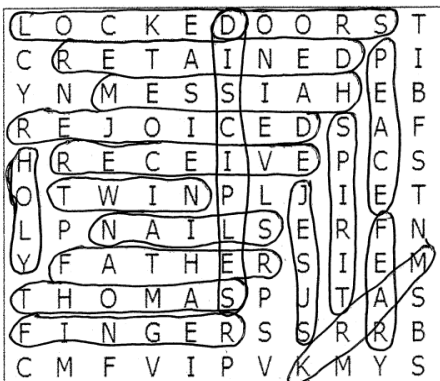
May 4: CFF, Youth Group, and AFF in the Parish Center at 9:15am. **

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.

SOLUTIONS:



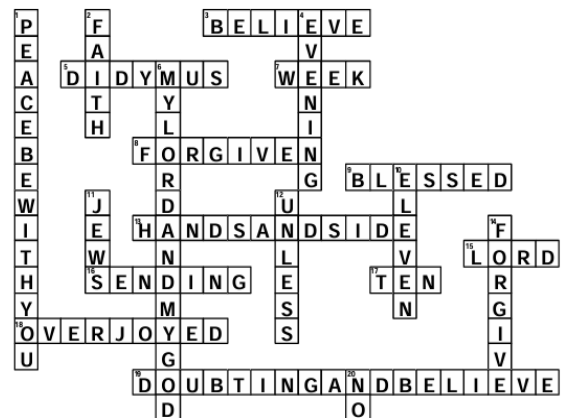
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1	2	5	6	4	8	9	7	3
7	3	6	9	2	1	5	4	8
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Please remember the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is asking all volunteers to make sure that their VIRTUS is up to date. To do that: log into your VIRTUS account and make sure your background check is up to date and your version of VIRTUS is 4.0.

You can tell if anything needs attention because they will be red instead of green in color. If you need help with this: contact Bill Donahue at formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org

Answers to True or False:

1. TRUE 2. FALSE 3. FALSE 4. TRUE
5. TRUE 6. FALSE 7. TRUE



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:

The Friendship of Women by Joan Chittister

During this Easter season of celebration and joy, there is no better time to celebrate the gift of friendship, which forms the bedrock of a joyful life. In this short but sweet book, Joan Chittister examines the beauty of female platonic love through the lens of various biblical women, from lesser-known figures like Lydia and Prisca to the famous Mary of Bethany and Mary Magdalene. This book is as instructive as it is enlightening. We are living in one of the most fractured and atomized societies in human history, but the light of true friendship reveals a better way forward. As Chittister writes, "The love of a friend comes always with a lantern in hand."

Find *The Friendship of Women* in the Scripture section under the letter "C"!

Save the Date: Boonsboro GreenFest

The Boonsboro GreenFest Swap and Recycling Event will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 9am - 2pm.

<https://www.facebook.com/BoonsboroGreenFest/>

They will take a LOT of recycling, many things that cannot usually be taken elsewhere (some examples: medications, bicycles, building materials, batteries, musical instruments, wheelchairs)! There will be a drive-thru, drop-off loop with the option to stay in your car. There will also be live music, tree giveaway, coffee & a food truck, and swaps available for items such as: clothing, sports equipment, household goods, plants, books, and craft supplies.

If you wish to volunteer, help with set-up or clean-up, please reach out to info@boonsborogreenfest.com

Save the Date—May 18th

Fifty years ago, the 25 (arch)bishops of the thirteen states that comprise Appalachia issued the pastoral letter, *This Land is Home to Me*. This was an exceptional document for many reasons. But why should we want to talk about a fifty-year old letter when there is so much happening in the world today? Over the next couple of weeks, we hope to provide some answers to that question – and entice you to attend the presentation by the "ghost writer" of the letter on Sunday, May 18 in the church after the 10:30 mass.

Upcoming VLCCFF Courses

There are 2 Upcoming Faith Formation and Catechetical Certification Opportunities **beginning the Week of April 28, 2025**. These 5-week courses, offered through VLCCFF, 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, rodicastoi-coiuphd@gmail.com.**

The Diocese offers Catechetical Certification and recognizes VLCCFF 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. *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. 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.

More information about the courses and how to sign up can be found on our website at <https://stagnesshepherdstown.org/upcoming-adult-faith-formation-courses/>.

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.

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We are still in need of blankets, comforters, sleeping bags and men's ties—Full/King/Queen-size, clean, and in good condition—can be dropped off at the parish center.

Articles that we cannot use to make a sleeping bag: down comforters, wool blankets, mattress covers, pillows and pillow cases, curtains or drapes, or towels We do use sheets, however we have a lot of them and don't need them at this time. Email barbaramueller596@gmail.com.

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, weather permitting, you should see big changes in the southeast area this weekend!

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



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. Visit OneMissionOneDay.org or scan the QR code.



Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$11,106
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$305
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$11,411
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$13,500
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ -\$2,089

Tithe to help those in need \$1,111

(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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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 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.

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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 Theater Company

Homer Speaker, Emily Wanger, Sarah Ward,
Joe Yates, Richard Yates

Presents:

Bleeding Kansas

By
Kathryn Walat

Directed by
Joe Yates

Shepherdstown Opera House

131 West German Street
Shepherdstown, WV

May 16, 17, 18
May 23, 24, 25

Friday-Saturday 7pm
Sunday 3 pm

INFO AND TICKETS

OperaHouseLive.com



	<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>
<p><i>St Agnes Columbarium Garden</i> <i>Your Niche For All Time</i></p>  <p>200 South Duke St Shepherdstown, WV 304-876-6436</p>	 <p>Funeral Home</p>	<p>Traditional, Cremation Pre-Arrangements Trappist Caskets Available</p> <p>304.724-6500 Alan Norton, LIC</p>	 <p>ARNOLD & BAILEY ATTORNEYS AT LAW</p>	
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