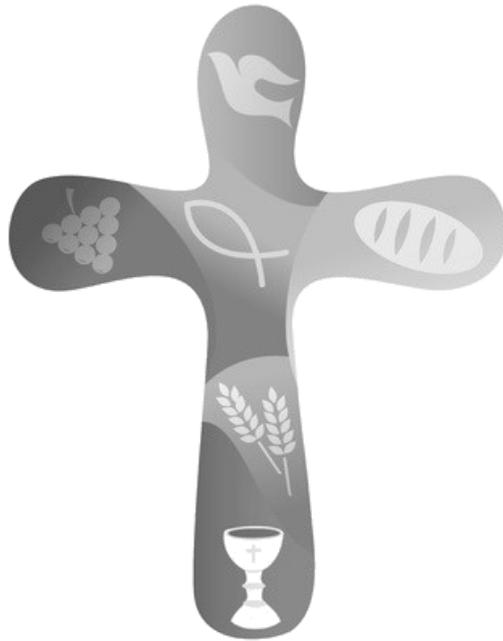


S a i n t A g n e s



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 ~ Derek Gallagher
Heather Garcia ~ Christine Wiegman-Green
Patrick Green ~ Shaná Harris ~ Colin Hayden
Brendan Jarrell ~ Gil Sateia
Vanessa Santiago ~ Becky Tokarcik

Finance Council

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

St. Agnes Church

200 South Duke Street, Shepherdstown

St. Agnes Parish Office

106 South Duke Street, Shepherdstown
P.O. Box 1603, Shepherdstown, WV 25443
Telephone 304-876-6436
Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org
www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org

St. Agnes Chapel

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

Sunday Readings

Acts 9:26-31
Psalm 22:25b-26, 27+29, 30-31
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

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-Friday, 9am-4pm

Cash Card Sales: During weekday office hours
(please call first)

The Week at a Glance...

Sunday, April 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFF K-Confirmation <i>except First Communion Students</i> 9:15am • RCIA 12noon • First Communion at 10:30am Mass
Monday, April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon
Tuesday, April 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Games Group 3:30pm
Friday, May 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Group with Denis Woods 10:30am
Sat, May 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SJP Weekend • Maureen Maidhof Memorial Service 11am • Gardening Meeting 11am
Sunday, May 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFF—Last Class 9:15am • RCIA 12noon • Cinco de Mayo Celebration after 10:30am Mass

Diocese Interim Stage Synod Report

Tasked with engaging in a synodal process here in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, local synodal sessions were modeled on the process used at the World Synod in Rome. Sessions were held in each of our six vicariates/deaneries/regions. Members of Diocesan staff served as facilitators for these synodal listening sessions.

In preparing the report, the Diocese conducted six listening sessions—one in each vicariate. While covering a wide range of topics, the listening sessions focused on two main questions that were provided by the USCCB.

The notes from each meeting were collected and given to the synod writing team, which consisted of three lay people who are not employed by the Diocese. The format for the report, as requested by the USCCB, includes a large majority of quotations; taken from the notes provided during the listening sessions. The document is available on our website, www.dwc.org/synod.

Cinco de Mayo

Since so many parishioners enjoyed last year's Cinco de Mayo, it's back! And this year it is actually on May 5th! So, we will be having a Cinco de Mayo celebration after the 10:30am Mass. We will also be celebrating the end of this year's CFF classes. We should have many activities as well as "walking tacos" again. Come join in the fun!

Mass Intentions



Saturday, 5:30pm for the intentions of

James Lowrie



Sunday, 10:30am for

Bruce Schmidt

May Bruce share in the fullness
of God's mercy and peace.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Richard Hitchcock, Charlie Lewis, Chet Gore, Barbara Mueller, Amirra Umpenhour, Laddin Audia, and Georgette Rush. Names are placed in the bulletin for one month and then those names are placed on the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

SJP Weekend

Next weekend is Service, Justice, and Peace weekend here at St. Agnes, the first weekend of May. We will be selling Haiti coffee and collecting for various charities before and after all Masses on May 4th and 5th. The parish nurses will be taking blood pressures and testing for sugar. The Knights of Columbus will be handing out the blue bags to be returned the following weekend filled with canned or boxed food for Shepherdstown Shares and JCCM, our local food pantries. Please plan ahead and bring something to contribute to these worthy causes. The Haiti coffee is delicious!

First Eucharist Celebrants

We have eight young members who are celebrating the Sacrament of First Communion on this Sunday, April 28th at the 10:30am Mass with a celebration afterwards. Please keep them in your prayers as they receive this sacrament and continue their religious journey at St. Agnes.

Lena Abe

Emma Golden

Augustine Laverick

Roman Leuters

McKenna Pender

Dominic Scarano

Ian Walter

Frances Wilson

Community Garden Starting Up

Our future garden planning meeting, big dreams edition, will be on **Saturday, May 4 at 11am** at the parish center. Feel free to send us any thoughts, dreams, wishes in advance, and there will be plenty of space for brainstorming at the actual meeting. All are welcome!

If you are interested, please email Samantha Yates and Fanny Smith at samanthayates@gmail.com.

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend I would like to congratulate our young people who are making their First Communion. This truly is a day of celebration. I would also like to thank their parents whom I personally have enjoyed working with this year in our adult classes. I have seen how seriously they have taken the preparation of their children for First Communion. I have seen clearly in the parents that they understand that they are the primary formators of their children in the faith, and they have led by example. I go back to the Rite of Baptism where we, as a community, make a commitment to supporting these parents as they raise their children in the faith. We have the responsibility of cultivating an environment of God's love so that they can grow as followers of Jesus. They remind us of what type of future we want to build for our church and the world; they give us hope. In the Easter season we often get images of the church in the New Testament at its beginning in its origins and this vibrant community that first spread the message of Jesus. They, like us, had their joys and challenges. Our young people call us back to our origins as a church and the message of Jesus' death and resurrection as they celebrate their First Communion; they remind us that as St Agnes we have a great future ahead of us. I leave you with this quote from Hans Kung and the church on how the Holy spirit leads us into the future. The quote reminds us that, as a community, the Holy Spirit will guide us and our young people throughout the joys and sorrows of life and that the vine will continue to grow and produce fruit because it has strong roots. "By looking at the history of the origins of its origins the church today can revive its appreciation of the Spirit of God, who blows where, how and when he wills, who can write straight even with crooked lines and reveal fresh ways out of apparently hopeless situations, and who, by recalling to the church of the present its origins in the past can point the way to new developments in the future."

Fr. Andy

Mothers Day Gift Bag Project

For the 10th year now, we're collecting donations to fill gift bags for Mother's Day for Bethany House and Shenandoah Women's Center, two homeless shelters in Martinsburg, WV. Bring your donations of pampering gift items, toiletries, chocolates, socks, hair ties, etc. on or before May 1st. We plan to make 40 bags, at least. We also hope to have enough to donate to Young Lives, a teen mother support group in Martinsburg!

Please drop items anytime prior to May 1st to Michelle Kwiatkowski at the Wild Rose Soap Co., 173 Ashley Dr. Shepherdstown.

JHS Presents: Mamma Mia!



Join the fun and move to the music with the Jefferson High School Performing Arts Department's production of *Mamma Mia!*, directed by Dominic Massimino. The hit PG musical featuring the music of ABBA brings together the multiple talents of students, staff, and parents alike. Performances are on Friday 4/26 at 7pm, Saturday 4/27 at 2pm and 7pm, and Sunday 4/28 at 2pm. Tickets are \$15—\$25.



Racial Justice Initiative

It has been well documented for some time that the administration of capital punishment in the United States, from jury selection, to sentencing, to the appeals process, has been tainted by discrimination against people of color. A 2020 study by the non-profit Death Penalty Information Center found that a clearly disproportionate number of people of color are prisoners on death row, and that people who kill Blacks are far less likely to get the death penalty than those whose kill Whites.

Now it has been demonstrated by the anti-death penalty non-profit organization Reprieve that racial discrimination appears to reach even into the execution chamber itself. In Reprieve's review of some 1,400 lethal injection executions in the U.S. since 1982, a significant number of those considered to have been "botched" involved Black prisoners as compared to lethal injection executions of people of other races.

Botched lethal injection executions involve excess pain and suffering during its administration that many would consider torture, sometimes enduring for hours. Though Blacks represented only a third of all such executions, half that were botched were of Blacks. In the South the discrepancy was even starker. In Arkansas, Oklahoma and Georgia, for example, three quarters of such botched executions were of Blacks, even though Blacks represented only one third or less of the total lethal injection executions.

Apart from the morality issues involved in the death penalty itself, it would seem there needs to be a moral response as to how it is carried out as well.

2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in May. If you have names to add or if you would like to join the group, contact Judy Lilga at 301-432-2276 or jslilga8@gmail.com.

Spotlight on Ministry

During the Month of May and June there will be updated trainings and workshops for the ministries. Some of the trainings will be scheduled after Masses so that it will make them easier or more convenient to attend. I ask that when you are scheduled to attend, please bring any questions with you. You will receive an email and the notification will be in the bulletin when scheduled. Please do your best to attend. Thanks to all for giving of your time and talent. We could not do it without you.

We are always in need of ministers. Will you share your time and talent? Please consider joining one of our ministries at St Agnes. There are so many ways to get involved and grow in your faith. Altar Servers are needed. Contact Helen Harris at liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We are still in need of **blankets, comforters, and sleeping bags**. Any sizes, new/used, **clean, and fair-condition** can be dropped off at the parish center. If you would like to help: Barbara Mueller at barbaramueller596@gmail.com.

St Joseph School—One Mission One Day

Saint Joseph School is taking part on May 7 in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's day of giving called One Mission One Day - an opportunity to unite our community around causes in which we truly believe and help nonprofit organizations connect to the larger community.

From 12 a.m. May 7 to 12 a.m. May 8, you may go to onemissiononeday.org and make a donation to our school and/or to any of the great participating nonprofit organizations. If you only want to give to SJS, you can go directly to <https://www.onemissiononeday.org/organizations/st-joseph-school-martinsburg-wv>.

Boonsboro GreenFest

Upcoming is the **Boonsboro GreenFest Swap & Recycling Event on Saturday, May 11th!** 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, bottle crushing, tree giveaway, and swaps. This event is public and not limited to residents of Boonsboro. If you wish to volunteer, help with set-up, clean-up, or reach out to the committee, contact info@boonsborogreenfest.com.

GreenFest: <https://www.facebook.com/events/765442532076520>

EarthBeat: <https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat>
Laudato Si': https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

If you have ideas/wish to join us, contact Carrie Blessing carriejaneblessing@gmail.com or Kimberly Connor connork@usfca.edu.

Autism Acceptance Month

April is Autism Acceptance Month. The recognition promotes autism acceptance, inclusion, and connectedness for people with autism. Social and community support can help people with autism achieve optimal health and reach their full potential. The CDC promotes early identification and provides essential data on autism to inform programs and policies that support children with autism and their families. For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/toolkit.html>.

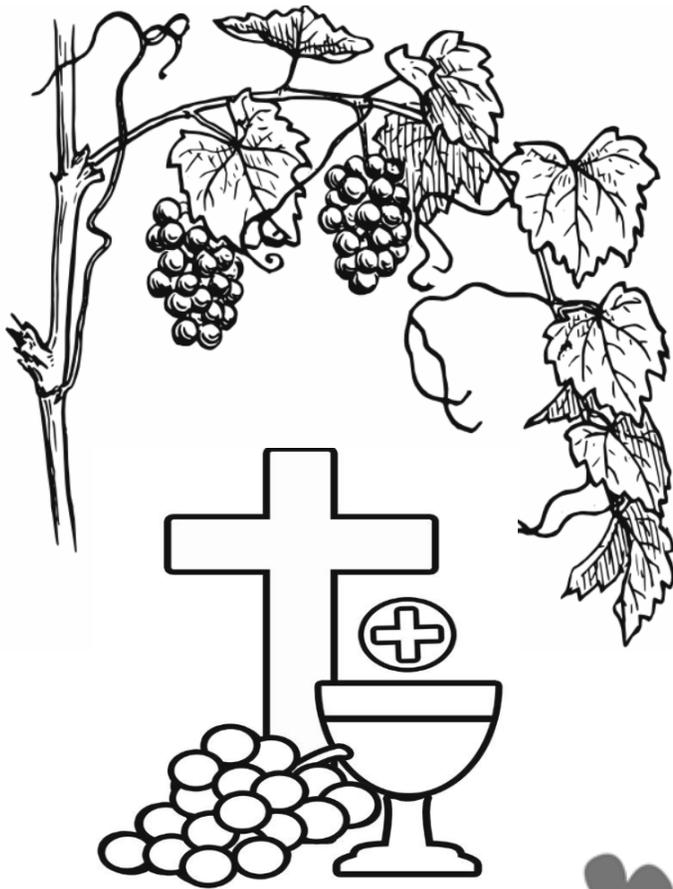
AUTISM IS NOT A DISABILITY; IT'S A DIFFERENT ABILITY
Autism, also known as (Autism Spectrum Disorder) A.S.D. is one of the elusive challenges for this coming generation. Rather than a disease, it is termed a "spectrum disorder" since the effect of autism can range from mild to severe in any person. Autism does not appear to discriminate based on genetics, education level, or socio-economic class. It does seem to be more prevalent in boys (3 times more than in girls). The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the leading pediatric health organization in the United States, recommends that all children be screened for autism at ages 18 months and 24 months, in addition to undergoing developmental and behavioral screenings during their regular well-child visits at 9 months, 18 months and 30 months. Research shows that by age 2, an ASD diagnosis by an experienced professional can be considered reliable.

Signs of Autism at Any Age

- Loss of previously acquired speech, babbling, or social skills
- Avoidance of eye contact
- Persistent preference for solitude
- Difficulty understanding other people's feelings
- Delayed language development
- Persistent repetition of words or phrases (echolalia)
- Resistance to minor changes in routine or surroundings
- Restricted interests
- Repetitive behaviors (flapping, rocking, spinning, etc.)
- Unusual and intense reactions to sounds, smells, tastes, textures, lights and/or colors

Invitation to Discuss New Gathering Space

A small group of people have been meeting to discern if our parish needs, or even wants, to build a gathering space near the Church. Father Andy has stressed the importance of making this decision in a synodal manner. We do not want a small group to make a big decision that would impact the entire parish without having everyone's input. All of our members are important and deserve to give thoughts and opinions on the various issues that go into this. **Sign-up sheets for groups will be available in the Narthex and sign-ups available on the website.** We greatly appreciate your valuable time and insight to this evolving project.



THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel:
John 15: 1-8

April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter



CFF, AFF, Youth Group & Family News

CFF: classes will meet again today, April 28th at 9:15am in the parish center **except** First Eucharist children who will meet at the church at 10am to prepare for the Sacrament. Next week will be the last CFF class for the 23-24 school year. In addition to our regular CFF class next week, we will also have a Cinco de Mayo celebration after the 10:30am Mass.

Youth Group: Will meet May 5th at 9:15am to get ready for Cinco de Mayo and plan for summer activities.

ADULT Classes: **Growing in Faith classes** will meet again today April 28 at 9:15am in the parish library.

First Eucharist: Congratulations to our children who made their First Eucharist today!

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

If you are a parent and not receiving CFF announcements and emails, please contact the Parish center 304-876-6436 or Bill Donahue formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org

Parents are also encouraged to join our Youth Facebook Group. Email Bill at the above address for the link to the closed group. You won't be able to find Our Youth Facebook Page any other way!

I AM THE
TRUE
VINE
AND
MY
FATHER
IS
THE
GARDENER

John 15:1

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

Youth Events: At a Glance

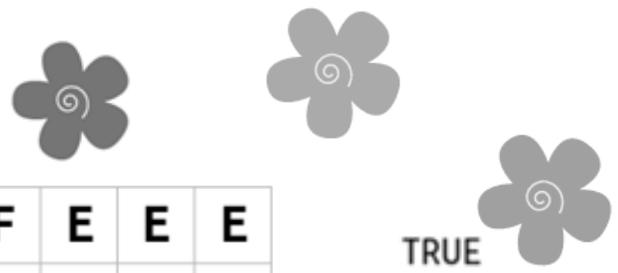
April 28: CFF (except First Communion children) at 9:15am. First Communion children need to meet at the church at 10am

May 5: CFF (final class for the 23-24 year) at 9:15am. Cinco de Mayo social gathering after the 10:30am Mass.

TBD: An Evening event of Food and Fun

July 13: St. Agnes 3rd Annual Car Show to benefit the St. Agnes Youth Program and the New Building Fund. Event in the church parking lot.

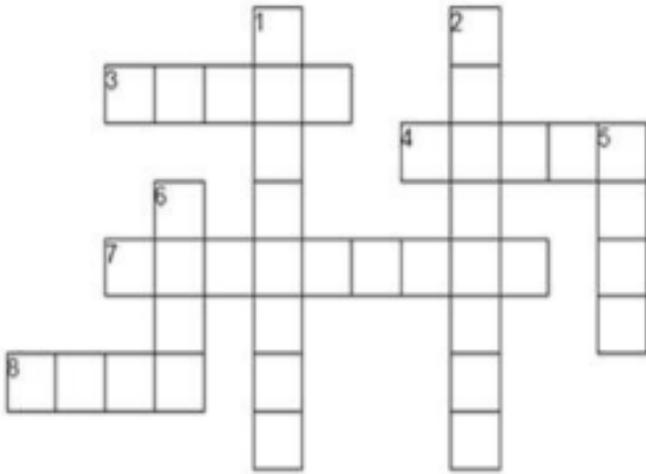
TBD: A night of trivia



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

TRUE
UNLESS
WITHERS
BRANCH
CLEANSED
FATHER
GLORIFIED
DISCIPLES
WORD
VINE
FIRE
ABIDE
PRUNES
FRUIT
BURNED
BEARS





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.

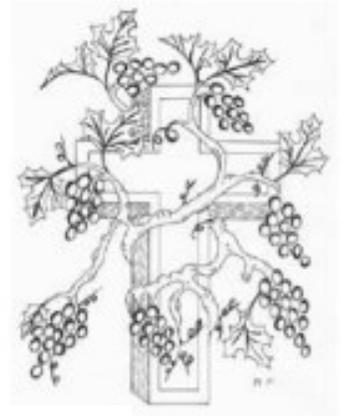
ACROSS

- 3. Praise or honor
- 4. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten
- 7. Those who follow Jesus
- 8. A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

DOWN

- 1. Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
- 2. A person who works with plants and flowers
- 5. The opposite of false
- 6. Burning flame

TRUE	FIRE	GARDENER	FRUIT
DISCIPLES	GLORY	VINE	BRANCHES



It took six days for God to make the _____ and its inhabitants. The world is _____ because God made it. God wants people like _____ to _____ our world from damage. God wants us to _____ together to _____ the world become better. Let us act with _____ to carry out God's wishes.

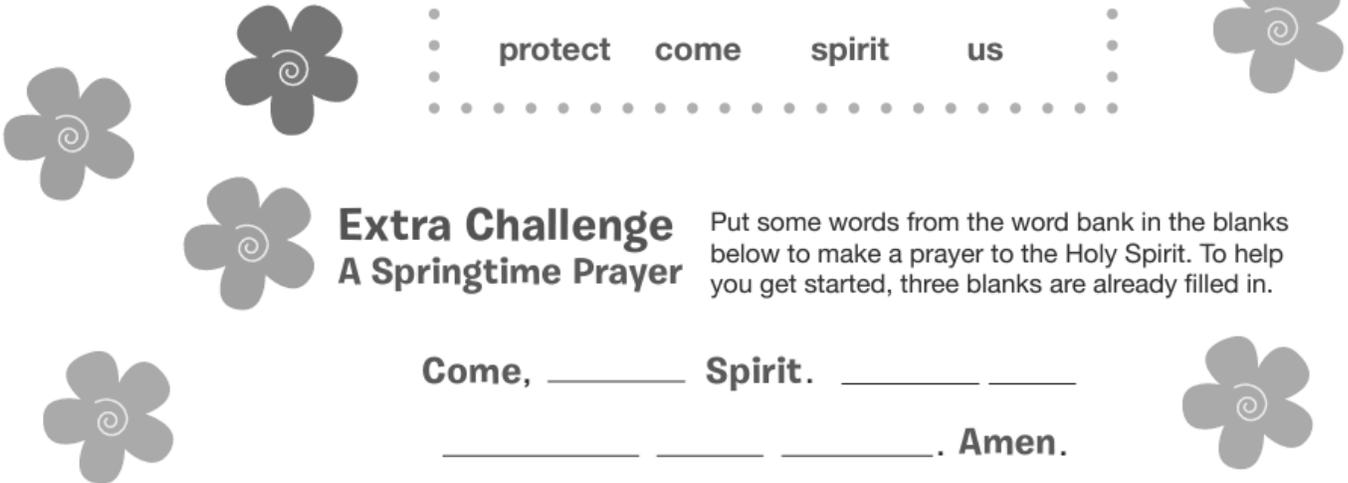
Word Bank

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- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
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| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

**Extra Challenge
A Springtime Prayer**

Put some words from the word bank in the blanks below to make a prayer to the Holy Spirit. To help you get started, three blanks are already filled in.

Come, _____ Spirit. _____
 _____ . Amen.





The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: John 15:1-8

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus compares himself to a vine and his followers to the branches on that vine. Branches get their nourishment from the vine. From this Gospel, we understand that we are all one family and that we need and depend on one another. We the branches never want to be separated from the vine that is Jesus Christ.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Promise (Grades K-1): This week, your child's class shared about being welcoming of others and about how important it is to belong. One of the most important lessons for children is learning that they are welcome in church. Talk about ways your parish makes your family feel welcome. Be sure your child shares the Mass booklet he or she made.

Good News (Grades 2-3): As part of the discussion of Jesus' image of the vine and the branches, your child's class explored ways that people are connected—ways in which they are like others. One of those ways is that we are all part of the Body of Christ, that is the Church. Discuss how we share in the life of Christ. In class, the children also started family trees. See how much more you can add to the family tree and pray for those who have gone before us.

Venture (Grades 4-6): In class this week, your youngster saw how all the members of the

Church are connected like branches to the vine that is Jesus Christ. The class read about how Sister Stephanie Baliga joked about, then did run a marathon on a treadmill because the Chicago Marathon was canceled during the pandemic. Discuss the Cardinal and Theological virtues as well as find places to display the series of common prayers from the lesson.

Visions (Grades 7-9): The class this week explored the Gospel reading about how Jesus nourishes our faith. Your young person learned about Father Eusebio Kino, who took the Good News of Christ, our true vine, to the people of Mexico, California, and Arizona after becoming a priest in 1677. Have your young person tell you about this Cowboy Priest and servant of God. Jesus makes us one, and ecumenism works to unite Christians who all belong to Jesus. Ask your young person to describe how Pope Francis has worked to unite people of faith. Be sure your youngster follows up with an interview of a Protestant or Orthodox Christian as described in the lesson.

Pray Together

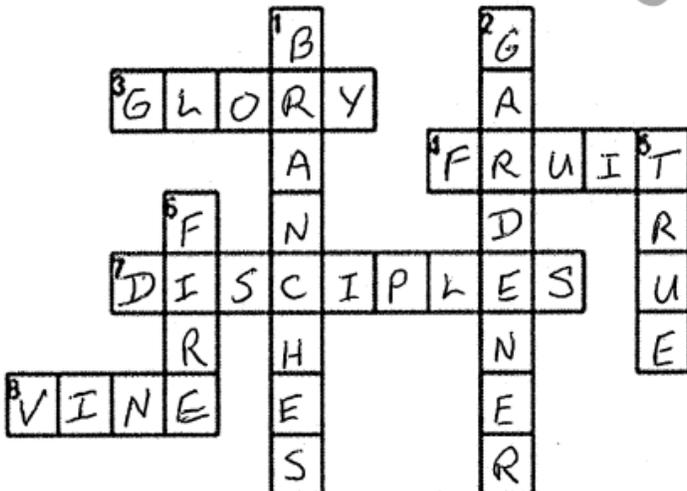
Each day this week, pray the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be to the Father together. Members of the Church throughout the world share these three prayers. Praying them together as a family can help you grow in awareness of just how many branches spring from Christ the Vine.

What God Asks of Us:
earth; the; holy; us;
protect; come; help;
spirit

A Springtime Prayer:
Come, Holy
Spirit. Help us
protect the
earth. Amen.

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

SOLUTIONS:



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

Free Community Safety Trainings

Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency
2024 FREE Community Safety Training Available
for ERT and anyone interested

Community CPR and Stop the Bleed: 6pm (CPR 6-9pm)

May 21, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10.

To register and more info go to: <https://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/county-agencies/icesa/community-cpr-first-aid>

Interested in joining the St. Agnes Emergency Response Team?

Contact Michele Goldman at mgoldman9797@gmail.com or Teace Noel at wvnoels@gmail.com

Stubblefield Institute's "A Community Response to Bullying" Conversation

"A Community Response to Bullying" - A Community Engagement Conversation

This Community Engagement Conversation continues the Stubblefield Institute's series of discussions leveraging culture and the arts to help communities address hate based violence. Prior to the moderated panel discussion, audience members will have an opportunity to participate in small group conversations.

Whether in the workplace, at school, or elsewhere, bullying can be detrimental to well-being. In this conversation, audience members and community leaders will explore ways communities can help.

Join us on May 15th at 5:30pm in the Student Center of Shepherd University (210 N. King St. 3rd Floor, Storer Ballroom). *Please RSVP on Eventbrite. For more information, <https://stubblefieldinstitute.org/event/a-community-response-to-bullying/>*

2024 Annual Car Show

This year's St. Agnes 3rd Annual Car Show will be Saturday, July 13, 2024. *Rain Date: Saturday, July 27th.* Come out, bring your "ride" to show or just look at all the great vehicles and enjoy the food and fun and help support the St. Agnes Youth Group and the New Building fund.

Camp Carlo: Catholic Summer Camp

INTERESTED IN A CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP?

Grow in your faith while having fun outdoors with LOTS of FUN ACTIVITIES in Huttonsville! Register today at campcarlowv.org.

June 30th - July 6th
July 7th - July 13th
July 14th - July 20th
July 21st - July 27th

Haiti Coffee For Sale

There is fresh coffee, whole bean and ground, from Haiti available for sale (\$10/bag) at the Parish Center.

Laudato Sí Initiative

"Together we can save two birds with one tree."

This is how artist Maya Lin recasts the conventional phrase of killing two birds with one stone to make it generative rather than destructive, as honoring rather than harming nature. It is also a kind of motto for her project "What is Missing?"

Lin is well known for memorializing important events in American life—the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement among them. "What Is Missing?" memorializes the effects of climate change. She asks us to look at a memorial not as a singular, static object, but as a work that can exist in multiple forms and places around the world. The memorial includes permanent sound and media sculptures, traveling exhibits, temporary installations, and this website - serving as the nexus for the entire project.

"What Is Missing?" as described on the website is "a multi-sited memorial created by Maya Lin to raise awareness through science-based artworks about the present sixth mass extinction of species, connect this loss of species to habitat degradation and loss, and emphasize that by protecting and restoring habitat, we can both reduce carbon emissions and protect species. Loss is merely the departure point. "What Is Missing?" is equally focused on solutions – imagining plausible visions for a sustainable future, showcasing what is being done around the world to help, and utilizing art to pose new ways of looking at the problems we face – giving us hope that each of us can make a difference."

The site offers a detailed description of its purpose when you click on "About." Additional categories include "Explore," which guides us in discovering ecological histories and stories of former abundance and loss and recovery on a "map of memory." "Solutions," shows us how we can reduce emissions and protect and restore species and habitats. "What If," invites us to consider how art can help us rethink the problems we face and give us hope that we can make a difference. And "Share Your Memory," is a place to share your memory of places close to home, building a global memorial of stories of the natural world.

Check out What Is Missing?: <https://www.whatismissing.org/> or listen to Maya Lin in conversation with Elizabeth Alexander, poet and president of the Mellon Foundation. Lin describes "What is Missing?" as part of her entire artistic vision conceptualized throughout her career: <https://www.mellon.org/events/public-memory-and-our-passing-world>

Spending time exploring this remarkable project is a beautiful way to observe Earth Day.

Let the Games Begin!

St. Agnes invites you to join us in the Parish Hall every Tuesday from 3:30-5:30 PM. You are welcome to bring games and snacks but they will be provided. *A parent/guardian needs to be present for any child attending.*

St Agnes on Social Media



[YouTube Videos](#)
[YouTube Homilies](#)



Can't make it to Mass or events? Homilies, events (such as the El Salvador presentation), and other recordings are being posted on our YouTube. The links are on the website. We are also on Facebook and Instagram; click to see what else is new!

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Did you know...The Catholic Church is deeply committed to protecting children from abuse and holding people accountable for inflicting such pain. In December 2021, the **revised Book VI of the Code of Canon Law** went into effect. This is the most recent of several documents that specifically address the issue of the abuse of children. Other documents include *Vos estis lux mundi* and *Vademecum*. These documents expand the acts which are considered abusive, clarify the manner in which the cases are processed, and hold people accountable for their action or inaction with regard to processing of a case. Of significant importance is attention given to the care of victim survivors and all who have been harmed. Bishops in the US lead the way for these changes with the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People 20 years ago. Today every diocese and eparchy must have in place systems for tending to those who have been harmed, protecting those in our care and seeking restorative justice.

Catholic Schools of DWC Giving Day

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be participating in the 5th annual Catholic Schools Giving Day, One Mission One Day to Make a Difference, on Tuesday, May 7th. More info can be found on their website: <https://www.onemissiononeday.org/>

West Virginia Voter Information

In West Virginia, the 2024 Primary Election is Tuesday, May 14. Here are important Primary Deadlines for voters in the Mountain State:

- ⇒ **May 1** - First day of early in-person voting
- ⇒ **May 8** - Last day to submit absentee ballot
- ⇒ **May 11** - Last day of early in-person voting
- ⇒ **May 14** - Last day to submit postmarked absentee ballot by mail

For more information on WV voting rules, ways to vote and election information, visit AARP WVs Online Election Guide, featuring up-to-date registration and voting information, state-specific deadlines, and find resources.

Save the Date!

Community Bible School will be held July 8-12 at Asbury United Methodist Church. Additional information coming soon!

May 17 Book Discussion

Our May 17 selection is *The Most Important Words of Jesus* by Gerhard Lohfink and Linda M. Malony. Father Lohfink died during Holy Week of this year. This is a profound and challenging book. Don't worry if you can't make your way through the entire book. We will meet at 11am on the 17th in the Parish Center.

2024 St Agnes Scholarships

St. Agnes announces the 2024 Annual Scholarship Award! Active, participating members of St. Agnes who are graduating high school in 2024 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, at the parish center, and can be emailed to interested applicants. **Deadline for applications is May 10th.**

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$5,676
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$680
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$6,356
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ - \$5,644

Tithe to help those in need \$568
(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.

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Teachers and Substitutes Sought For SJS

Saint Joe's School is seeking substitute teachers for these positions:

- **Pre-K** substitute position & full-time director position
- **K-5** full time position
- Full time **math** substitute until May 2024 (may become full-time)
- Long-term school **nurse** substitute through late May
- Full-Time **2nd-Grade Teacher Aide**

For more information or to send in a resume or letter of introduction, contact Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjswv.org.

And seeking two Lead Summer Camp Pre-K Teachers

Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to PK Director Katie MacKinnon at kmackinnon@sjswv.org.

West Virginia Flooding Survey

A research team from WVU and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry is seeking insights from West Virginians on their experiences with past floods and preparation for future floods. The team is conducting an online survey on the topic and any WV resident 18-years or older is encouraged to participate. The survey should take 20-30 minutes, and insights will help the research team create an online resource to help increase flood resiliency for WV communities. Anyone who takes the survey can choose to be entered into a raffle for one of eight \$250 gift cards. To find out more go to <https://mapwv.gov/civic/>.

Homebound Ministry

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

JCCM Food Pantry Current Needs

Canned meats (especially chicken), Mac and Cheese, Soup (tomato and hearty soups), Rice, Canned Beans, Jelly, Syrup, Pancake Mix, Crackers, Coffee (Instant and Ground), Canned fruit, Canned pasta, Cooking Oil
Razors, Shampoo, Conditioner, Paper towels, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent
Cat and Dog Food

Shepherdstown Shares Current Needs

Toilet paper, Baby Wipes
Regular Ground Coffee, Brown Rice, Pasta Sauces, Ramen noodles (not the cups of soup), Small Applesauce Cups (unsweetened), Snacks, Crackers (i.e. Ritz or Saltines)
Milk (1/2 or whole gallons of whole or 2%)
Diabetic Items (candy, pudding, Jello, applesauce, etc.)
Snack and sandwich-size Ziploc bags
Sturdy paper bags (especially with handles)

Catholic Sharing Appeal

The CSA is one of many ways that we are united in God's love as Catholics and as members of our Diocesan Family. In addition to providing funding for our own parish community, the CSA also delivers essential support for shared ministries, Catholic education, and evangelization & outreach efforts across the state. You can donate securely online (<https://csa.dwcministries.org/>), by mailing in the pledge card, or place your pledge card in the collection basket.

Scripture Sharing

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

<p>St Agnes Columbarium Garden Your Niche For All Time</p> <p>⌚ ⌚ ⌚</p> <p>200 South Duke St Shepherdstown, WV 304-876-6436</p>	 <p>Schmitt Construction Company</p> <p>James A. Schmitt 304-876-2462</p>	<p>Shepherdstown PHARMACY</p> <p>7670 Martinsburg Pike 304-876-9966</p> <p>The Knott Family</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphic Design and Consulting • Photo Restoration • 35mm Slide/Negative Scanning <p>kfb@myactv.net • 304-279-4690</p> <p>Kathleen f. Bielicki Graphic Designer/Artist</p>	
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<p>Dr. Gagan Singh, MD Dr. David Yeh, MD The Medical Eye Center</p> <p>710 Somerset Blvd, Suite 101 Charles Town, WV 25414</p> <p>New Patients Welcome</p> <p>Call for an appointment 304-725-2121</p>		 <p>Sharpsburg PHARMACY</p> <p>17316 Shepherdstown Pike Sharpsburg, MD 21782 800-354-0478/301-432-7223</p>	<p>LONELY PETUNIA</p> <p>☆</p> <p>MCB ART</p> <p>Paintings, Notecards, Figurines For Sale or on Commission Saatchiart.com/mbotsford</p>	<p>Two Rivers Counseling</p> <p>adults, teens, children & couples</p> <p>Robyn Harrison-Taft, MA, LPC, NCC www.2riverscounseling.com</p> <p>304-725-7176</p>
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