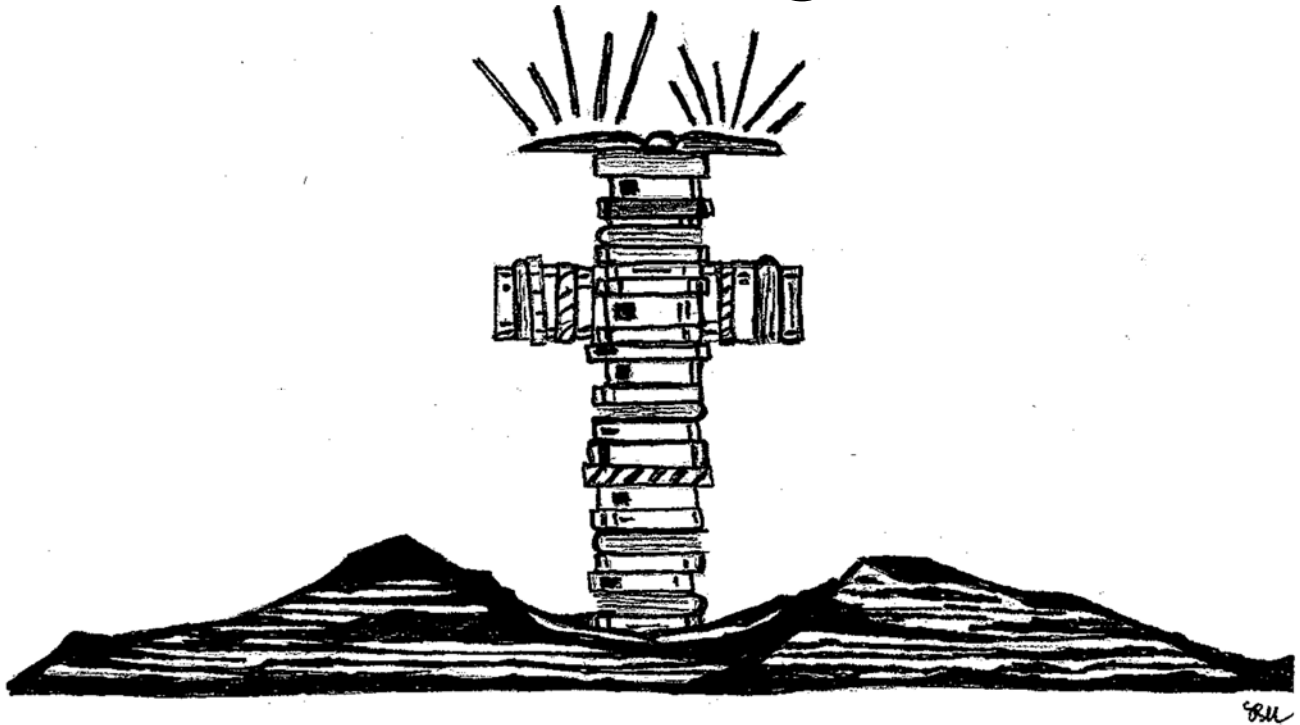


S a i n t A g n e s



*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

Temporary Administrator: Rev. Arul Anthony
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh
Assistant Administrator: Beth Yates
Accounting: Lizzie Lowe
Associate of Liturgy Ministry: Helen Harris
Associate of Music Ministry: Dr. Elaine Rendler-McQueeney
Office Secretary: Amy Fresch

Pastoral Council

Connie Bonner ~ Gerry Fitzgerald ~ Bassell Franks
Heather Garcia ~ Dana Getka ~ Patrick Green
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

Sirach 15:15-20
Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

Ash Wednesday Mass

12noon & 7pm

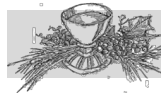
Weekday Mass

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 11am

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30pm

Parish Office: Monday through Friday, 9am - 4pm

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



Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm for

Connie Johns



Sunday, 10:30am for

Caleb Smith

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

In your kindness, please pray for Richard Roche (nephew of Denis Woods) who recently died. May Richard share in the fullness of God's love and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Pat Doyle who recently died. May Pat share in the fullness of God's love and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for James Duncan (son of Rosemary Duncan and brother of Renee Snyder) who recently died. May James share in the fullness 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 Bobby (friend of Georgette Rush), Lizzie Lowe, Sincere Walton (son of Shaná Harris/grandson of Helen and Leonard Harris), Nell Thompson, and Ron Mancini (son-in-law of Bob and Martha Rizzo). Names are placed in the bulletin for one month then moved onto the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

A Simple Request

Eleven of our children are preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Our goal is to have a prayer sponsor for each one. **It is proving quite difficult to find enough volunteers.**

A prayer sponsor is simply someone who helps to support a child preparing to receive their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist by including the child in daily prayers. A prayer sponsor may anonymously send a card to the child to let them know that they are being prayed for, but the giving of gifts is not necessary. This is meant to be about the gift of prayer.

If you should choose to send a card, simply sign it "your prayer sponsor." On May 2nd we will have a luncheon when you can introduce yourself to the child. And, if you can, please come to the First Eucharist Mass on Sunday, May 3rd, at 10:30am to support your First Communicant.

Please contact the parish office

(304-876-6436 / office@stagnesshepherdstown.org)

to sign up and receive contact information on a child that needs your prayers!

The Week at a Glance...

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Sun Feb 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">No CFF, CSS, Youth Group (Presidents' Day)No OCIA |
| Mon Feb 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Presidents' Day |
| Tues Feb 17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fat TuesdayRacial Justice Initiative Zoom 3pmPancake Supper 5-7pm |
| Wed Feb 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ash WednesdayAsh Wednesday Masses 12noon, 7pmScripture Sharing Zoom 12:30pm |
| Thurs Feb 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Finance Council 6pm |
| Fri Feb 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Book Discussion Group 11amSimple Supper 6pmStations of the Cross 7pm |
| Sat Feb 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">First Reconciliation 4pm |
| Sun Feb 22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">First Sunday of LentCFF, CSS, Youth Group 9:15amRite of Sending 10:30amYouth Feeding the Hungry Prep 11:45amOCIA 12noon |

Ash Wednesday Preparations



It is the time to clear out the palms from last year. Bring them to the church or parish center, and they will soon become the ashes that will bring us into a new Lenten Season.

Did Somebody Say Pancakes?! Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper is BACK!

There is no better way to prepare for Lent than an all-out **Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper**; and nobody does it better than the youth of St Agnes! The event is **free**, but, as always, the youth would gratefully accept **donations**.

When: Fat Tuesday, February 17, 5-7pm

Where: The Parish Center

Why: Ash Wednesday is February 18

Menu: Pancakes! And also Gluten free pancakes! Plus decadent fixings for them. Along with bacon, sausage, etc.

Carryout Available!

Dear Parishioners,
Shalom!

The season of LENT begins this Wednesday, February 18th. This is a time to (3 Rs) Reflect, Repent, and Return to God. It is a special time to journey with Jesus for the next 40 days, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

This Lent season reminds us of the mercy of God and His love for humankind. It not only makes us aware of God's mercy towards us but our mercy, love and compassion towards each another. It is a time to forgive and be forgiven, a time to mend our ways and rebuild our broken relationships. It is a time to express our highest form of humility before God and greatest form of mercy and love to one another.

What can you and I do during this Lent? Let's reflect:

1. Recognize the love and mercy of God to us.
2. What can I give up during Lent and thereafter?
3. Can you attend a few of the Lenten practices?
4. Can you grow in a bit of extra act of holiness, like: prayer, confession, fasting and almsgiving?
5. Can you reach out to the lost sheep of our parish?

Best wishes for Lent,
Fr Arul

KoC Chili Cook-Off— Thank You

A big thank you from the Knights of Columbus for all of the Chili cooks, and those that purchased Seminarian Raffle Tickets. The winners for best chili are: 1st Place Tricia Myers, 2nd Place Miles Hopkins, 3rd Place Patrick Nickoles. For those who would like to buy tickets to help support the Seminararians, we will sell them after Mass in the future, probably after Easter. If you know a Knight, just ask and we will get the tickets for you.

Preparing for Lent

Fasting Guidelines: Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by everyone 18 years and older, who has not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, enough to maintain strength, may be taken, according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but consuming liquids, including milk and juices, is allowed. In addition, fasting can also take the form of deliberate abstinence from things other than food such as selfishness, gossip, bickering, sloth, electronics, television, smoking, etc.

Abstinence Guidelines: Abstinence is observed by everyone 14 years of age or older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or the ability to work is affected, the law does not oblige. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays during Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence. If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, other suitable forms of self-denial are encouraged.

Stations of the Cross Volunteering

Attention all ministry groups of St. Agnes. We need your help! We are asking each committee to take 1 week during Lent to Lead the Stations of the Cross at 7pm each Friday night. Stations will occur in the Church and will follow the simple supper each Friday night which will occur at 6pm in the Parish Center. St. Agnes Youth Group will lead Stations of the Cross on March 13th. We are looking for groups to lead stations on Feb 20, Feb 27, March 6, March 20, and March 27. All groups and committees are welcome to lead Stations of the Cross. We have various options for Stations to choose from as well. **Contact Helen Harris** liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

Lenten Simple Supper

The parish will continue its tradition of offering a Simple Supper (meatless soup and bread) at the St Agnes Parish Center (6-6:45pm) before Stations of the Cross (7pm) each Friday during Lenten season.

The first weeks menu (February 20th):

Soup: Thai Corn & Spinach Soup

Served with Asian Noodles

Soup: New England Clam Chowder

Served with Sourdough Bread

Free ESL Classes

St. Agnes ofrecerá clases gratis de inglés como segundo idioma. La clase va a ser solamente por Zoom y comienzan Febrero 17. Clases son martes por la noche de 6:00 a 7:30. Si usted o alguien que conoce desea mejorar su inglés, por favor venga a partir en Zoom. El registro está aquí <https://bit.ly/learn-english-2026>

St. Agnes will offer free English as a Second Language classes. The classes will be on Zoom and start Tuesday, Feb 17. Classes will be Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30pm. If you or anyone you know would like to improve their English skills, please join us on Zoom starting Nov 11. The registration form can be found at <https://bit.ly/learn-english-2026>

2025 Tax Contribution Summaries Available Online

ANNOUNCEMENT: Your 2025 Tax Contribution Summary has been mailed and is also available electronically through Flocknote.

You may download an electronic copy of your summary by visiting <https://stagnes18.flocknote.com/give> or using the Flocknote App and logging in to your account. In the GIVING area, scroll to the bottom of the page and look for "2025 Donor Summary" under My Documents.

New to Flocknote? If you have not yet logged into Flocknote or need to set up your account, please email tech1@stagnesshepherdstown.org before going to Flocknote so that we can verify your email address before you attempt to login.

Community Notes

Fr Arul told us that being a “Jesus follower” is very hard indeed, especially in 2026! Our whole world is undergoing massive changes; collaboration is replaced with polarization, our borders are closed to most immigrants, basic living costs are skyrocketing, the job market is uncertain, etc., etc., ETC! As uncertainty increases, so does our fear. Our ancient DNA directs us to retreat with fear. The St Agnes community is supportive and is a refuge. Fr Arul reminds us that Jesus gave us two directives and two missions: LOVE GOD and LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR—> Be a light to the world and be salt to the earth. How do we do that with so much uncertainty and so many obstacles???

Another “C” word is essential to a strong community=COURAGE. The Bible gives us hundreds of examples. God gave us Jesus as a model of courage. The Medal of Honor society defines courage in 5 ways:

- ◇ Face difficulties head on
- ◇ Don't be afraid to go against the grain
- ◇ Stand up for your beliefs and core values
- ◇ Ask for help; create opportunities for collaboration-it brings insight
- ◇ Do the right thing especially when the wrong thing to do is easier

Think of courage as a muscle that needs to be exercised daily, or think of courage as a discipline to which we commit, or think of courage as a choice.

What happens when we act with courage=>we inspire others to exercise their courage muscles. We live a life of integrity; we bring strength to our community. We become a light in a dark world. Our actions bring a delicious flavor to flourish our earth.

Ponder the current example of the folks in Minnesota or think of Martin Luther King this Black History Month.

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

February 14 and 15 will be the second full weekend in the month, which will be Service, Justice, and Peace weekend. The Knights will be handing out blue bags to be filled with non-perishable food for the hungry. The Parish nurse will be taking blood pressures and checking sugar. Fresh roasted coffee from Haiti will be for sale and you will have an opportunity to donate to several local charities and the Kolofata girls education project.

Book Discussion Group Feb 20

Feb 20, 11am @ the Parish Center – Join Us!

Reviews for Brian Doyle's *A Sense of Wonder: The World's Best Writers on the Sacred, the Profane, and the Ordinary* highlight it as “a collection of insightful, beautifully written essays from diverse authors, curated by Doyle, focusing on the sacred in the ordinary, inspiring awe, humor, and deep reflection on life, nature, and spirituality, often with a Catholic sensibility, praised for its ability to open hearts and reveal profound truths in simple moments. Readers and critics love its uplifting nature, vivid prose, and Doyle's unique voice as editor and writer, finding it thought-provoking and deeply human.” *AI Reviews Summary*

Racial Justice Initiative

Local Black History Month Celebration in Harpers Ferry

The Hamilton Memorial Chapel Association is hosting a Black History Month Celebration on Saturday, February 21, at 2pm in the Hamilton Memorial Chapel at 390 Halltown Rd in Harpers Ferry. There will also be a dedication of this restored chapel.

The program will include speakers from the Jefferson County WV Chapter of the NAACP, the Storer College National Alumni Association, the National Trust for the Historic Preservation's "Preserving Black Churches" program, and the Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission. There will be musical selections performed by student musicians from Wind Gap Music of Shepherdstown, WV.

A great opportunity to learn about our local Black American history.

Scripture Sharing Zoom Time Change

St. Agnes Scripture Group

Reminder and New Meeting Time

A reminder to all that there is a St. Agnes Scripture Group that meets weekly to share reflections and insights into the upcoming Sunday liturgy's scripture selections. We will be meeting at a new day and time on Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30pm. The link to the Zoom meeting can be found by going to the St. Agnes website, clicking on "Info Center," then "Calendar," where you will find listings for Scripture Sharing, that will take you to the Zoom meeting connection.

We share the scripture passages from the yearly publication "At Home with the Word," that is available through the parish. That way we all share the same text.

We have wonderful discussions that offer so many rewarding and enriching insights and support to our faith. Ask any of the participants, and they will tell you that. Not sure when it began (under Fr. Andy's inspiration), but it has been in continuous operation for a few years.

New participants are always welcome.

SIGN ME UP!

As members of St Agnes community we support it through our time, talent, and treasure. Our community needs a little of your TIME—about 30 minutes, once a month. On the back of the pews will be bold cards labeled SIGN ME UP. Take a look at how you might give those 30 minutes—pray about it. Not only will your 30 minutes enrich our community—you too will benefit in a myriad of ways, new friendships; fulfill the church mission; accepting God's call of “everyone, everyone, everyone!”

Little Black Books

Little Black Books, our Lenten Devotional, are available in the Narthex in both **regular and large print**.

E-books and mobile app available at <https://littlebooks.org/pages/little-books-on-the-go>.

CFF, CSS, Youth Group, & Family News

~ February 2026 ~

CFF is well underway but it is never too late to begin attending. Our CFF Religious Education occurs in the Parish Center every Sunday at 9:15am between the 8am and 10:30am Masses. The program has opportunities from Pre-K through adult. All are welcome to learn more about the Catholic faith.

In addition to these opportunities, if you are not Catholic and wish to explore more about Catholicism, we offer OCIA classes at 12Noon on Sundays.

Parents, if you are not receiving CFF emails, contact formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org to make sure your email is on the distribution list. The calendar events will also be posted in the monthly calendar online and in the bulletin at the beginning of each month. Hard copies of the calendar can be found in the church Narthex and the Parish Center.

**For additional information or questions,
please email:**

**Formation@StAgnesShepherdstown.org
or the Parish Office**

Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org



THE YOUTH CORNER

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's Gospel:

Matthew 5::17-37

February 15, 2026

Upcoming events:

February 15: No CFF, Youth Group, or CSS (President's Day on Monday).

February 17: The Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper in the Parish Center beginning at 5pm

February 18: Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent

February 22: CFF, Youth Group, CSS will meet at in the Parish Center @9:15am

March 1: CFF, Youth Group, CSS will meet at in the Parish Center @9:15am

February 14th Honoring Saint Valentine



Saint Valentine is not officially honored on the Church's liturgical calendar. Still, this third-century saint is well-celebrated every February 14. Saint Valentine's Day is rooted in an act of disobedience. Although he was ordered not to by the emperor Claudius, Valentine honored the wish of soldiers by marrying them to their sweethearts before going into battle. For this reason, he is known as the patron of engaged couples and happy marriages.

Volunteering and VIRTUS

Volunteering: The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate faith in action! As we begin this new year it is a great time to begin volunteering if you are new to volunteering at church. What a great New Year's Resolution!

Does everyone need to be VIRTUS-trained to Volunteer? With the changes to VIRTUS some ministries no longer need to be VIRTUS-trained, yet some still do.

What is the purpose of VIRTUS? The VIRTUS program is designed to educate individuals to help them protect the vulnerable in the community. The program helps people know what resources are available to get help and educates people to know how to gently care for victims of abuse.

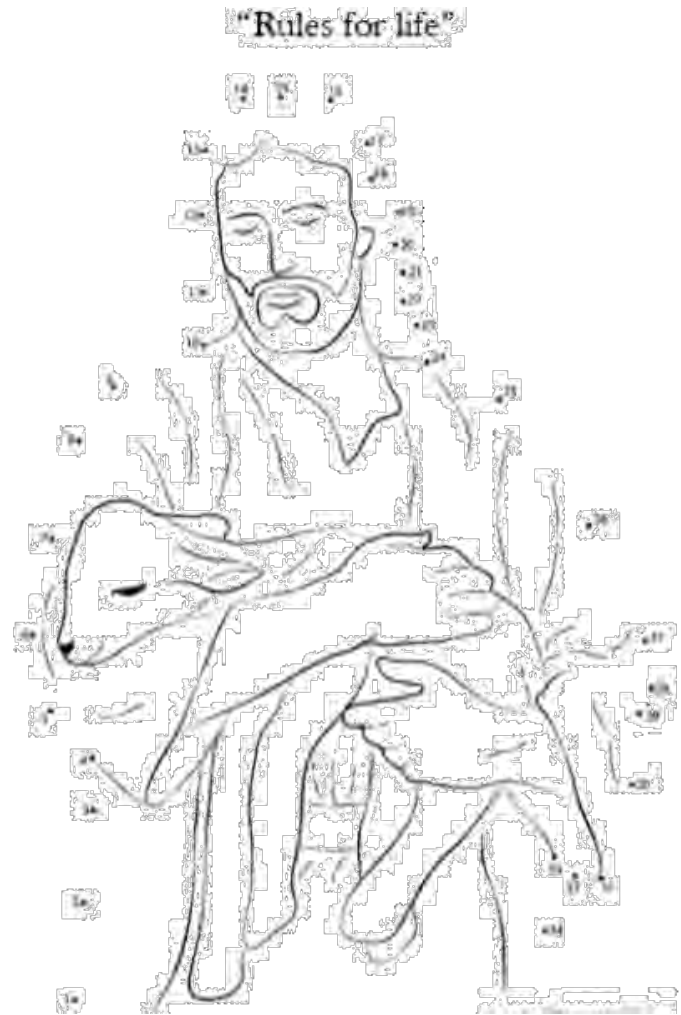
All volunteers who have direct contact or prolonged contact with minors are required to be VIRTUS-trained as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Forms are located in the church Narthex and the Parish Center on how to complete this process. All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS-trained. If you have been trained in the past, you must have the latest training Version 4.0.

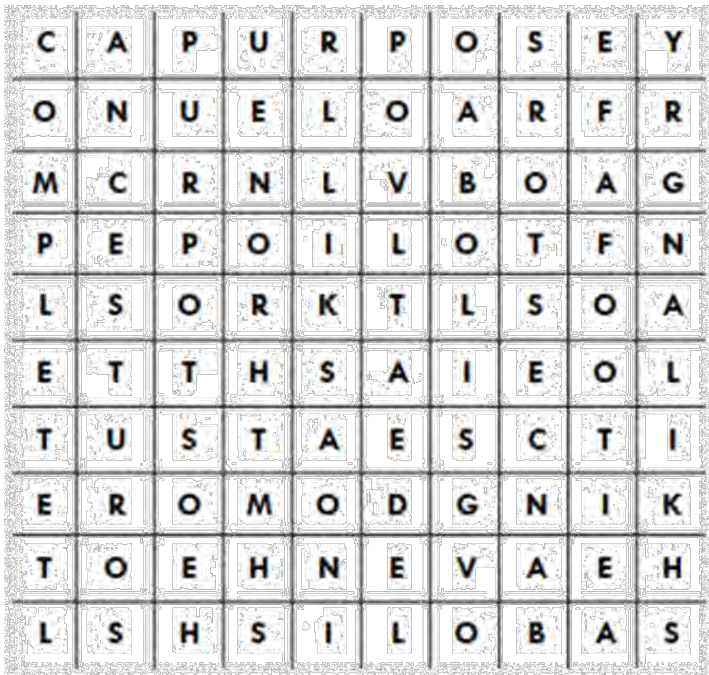
Ministries that are NOT required to complete VIRTUS training are Eucharist ministers, Lectors, Money Counters, Cantors, Funeral luncheon volunteers, and volunteers that provide maintenance services in the parish.

Volunteers that work directly or have prolonged contact with minors will be required to update their VIRTUS every three years. Background checks need to be renewed every 3 years. For example, choir members need to be VIRTUS-trained if there are youth (under 18) in the choir or there are youth musicians. There are many intricacies for who needs VIRTUS-trained. Please reach out to the lead person for the ministry you wish to volunteer for about VIRTUS requirements.

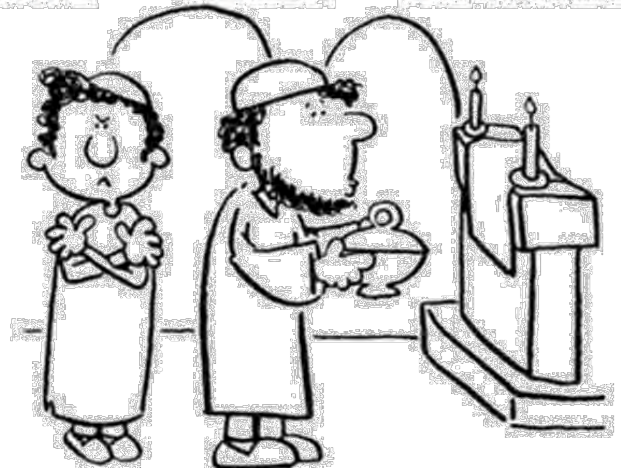
For additional information or if you have questions you can also email: formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org or office@stagnesshepherdstown.org

Finally, you can also reach out to the Parish Center during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm), contact Helen Harris at liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org, or contact one of the Mass Coordinators for opportunities to volunteer for one of the Liturgical Ministries.





- ABOLISH
- COMPLETE
- PURPOSE
- KINGDOM
- HEAVEN
- VIRTUE
- ANCESTORS
- KILL
- ANGRY
- ALTAR
- THRONE
- FOOTSTOOL



Heart Maze



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| 7 | 9 | | 3 | 5 | | 6 | 8 |
| | | | | | 3 | | 1 |
| | | | 6 | 1 | | 8 | |
| 5 | | | 9 | | | | |
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| 6 | | 5 | | | 3 | 7 | |
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| 3 | | | 1 | 7 | | | 5 |

"Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven."

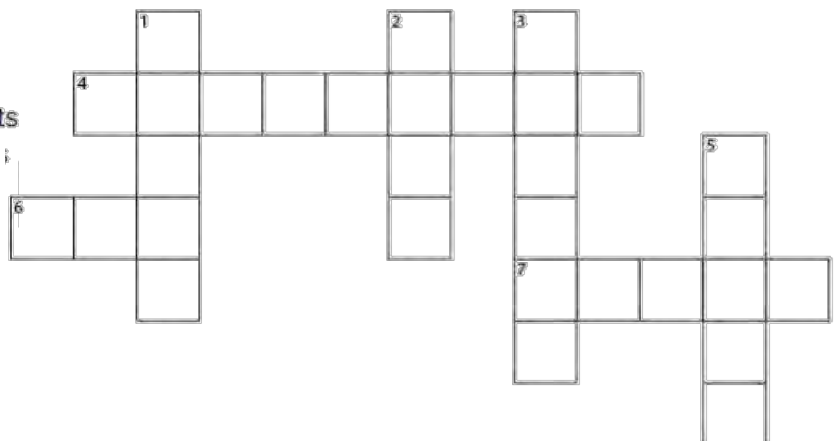
Based on Matthew 5:17-37...

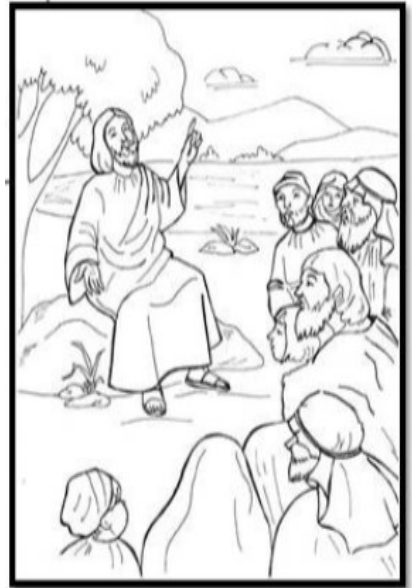
Down

1. "Whoever breaks one of these commandments will be called ___ in the Kingdom of Heaven."
2. "Do not take a false ___."
3. What is God's throne?
5. "Leave your gift there at the ___."

Across

4. What is the city of the great King?
6. "Let your 'Yes' mean ___."
7. What is God's footstool?





The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

The Law of Moses contains 613 laws. Some of these laws are simple, like, you shall or you shall not commands, of which the Ten Commandments are typical. Some of these laws govern worship. A good many of the 613 laws are what-if-laws that apply the Commandments to everyday life. In the Gospel, Jesus' New Law asks people to deepen their keeping of the laws and to follow his new Law of Love.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Rules give children a way to know they belong. They experience rules by being members of a family and a class that keep the same rules they do. Talk about family rules with your child. Share why the rules are important for everyone. Be sure to pray the Our Father, which was part of this week's lesson.

From Me (Grades K-1): The class learned how families keep rules. Ask your child what Jesus' Law of Love is. Your child learned how God's family keeps rules, so talk about your family's rules and how they help. The Word of the Week is the Ten Commandments, so consider being those important rules in a prominent place in your home.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week, your child learned to recognize good moral actions. Your child also learned what the Ten Commandments and Christian morality are and how they help all to do what's right. Talk about how Jesus' teaching deepens the Commandments, and how the rules you have in your family help all of you make right decisions and care for one another.

Notice (Grades 4-6): Your young person learned that there is a similarity between the Ten Commandments and the rules every family

needs to live by. The class read a story of a middle schooler who went against his conscience to fit in with the popular crowd. Invite your young person to summarize the story for the family, and affirm that it is important to listen to your conscience when making decisions. Talk about how you can apply Jesus' Law of Love to the arguments and conflicts your family might have. Take a few moments to ask one another's forgiveness for harmful words or actions. When you finish your conversation, you may want to share a sign of peace, like you do at Sunday Mass.

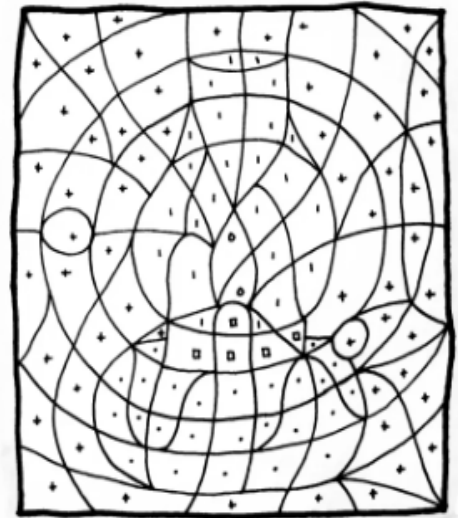
Review (Grades 7-8): This week's class began with a look at the Ten Commandments. Your youngsters also explored ways to manage feelings of anger and ways to seek forgiveness. Invite him or her to share the story "Annie's Anger" with the family. Talk together about Jesus' new Law of Love and how important it is for Christians to show love for God by loving one's neighbor as well. Discuss the importance of following moral laws and how these laws help people show love for one another. Talk, too, about how Saint Paul began to the Christians continue to help Christians today.

Lesson (Elementary): Discover a new level of spiritual growth for parents with *Anchor*, the new adult level of the *Flower Gospel Weeklies*, developed to deepen your faith journey alongside your children. Scan the QR code to learn more.

Pray Together

Plan a special treat for the whole family. Before you share the treat together, share words of love and appreciation with one another. Then, ask God to bless your family with the gift of enduring love. Enjoy the treat, then hold hands and thank God in a prayer for all he has given and done to bless your family.

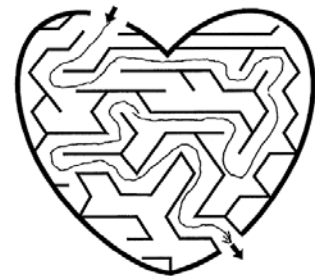
Last Week's Review



Mat 5:13-16

What did Jesus tell us we should be like?
Color in the spaces according to the code to find out!

- blue
- white
- orange
- brown
- red



Crossword Puzzle answers:

1. Least
2. Oath
3. Heaven
4. Jerusalem
5. Altar
6. Yes
7. Earth

SOLUTIONS

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

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| L | S | O | R | K | T | L | S | O | A |
| E | T | T | H | S | A | I | E | O | L |
| T | U | S | T | A | E | S | C | T | I |
| E | R | O | M | O | D | G | N | I | K |
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Scan here for parent resources
www.gospelevents.com



Free Tax Preparation

If you earned \$67,000 or less in 2025, through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), an IRS-certified volunteer will prepare and file your Federal and State tax returns for free. They have locations in Shepherdstown, Charles Town, and Martinsburg. Call 304-262-1584 or check the Mountain Heart Community Services website for more information or to schedule an appointment at <https://www.mthtwv.com/mcs/free-tax-service/>.

Operation Rice Bowl

GIVE ALMS THROUGH CRS RICE BOWL

Help communities around the world affected by hunger and poverty.

On Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, we are called to repentance and deeper communion with God and neighbor through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

In a special way, Lenten almsgiving enables us to grow in generosity, actively participate in the body of Christ and respond to God's call to love and care for others.

Your Lenten alms through CRS Rice Bowl make a global difference for millions of our sisters and brothers experiencing the greatest need. They help families in countries like Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia to access nutritious food, build sustainable livelihoods and adapt and thrive in the face of climate change.

Since 1975, the CRS Rice Bowl has served as a way for families like ours to change lives globally and in our own communities. Donations have helped provide lifesaving support to over 250 million people in more than 120 countries.

Please consider making a generous donation today and join us in praying that we may grow closer to God by serving one another this Lent.

ORB Website: csrcricebowl.org

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas.

The Gift of Music



Memorialize this year's Hymnal

Our 2026 Hymnals are here! Envelopes can be found in each hymnal if you would like to dedicate a hymnal to a loved one.

Place completed forms in the offertory basket.

Parish Library

Come visit the Parish Library located in the Parish Center! We have hundreds of volumes ranging from history to theology to social justice and everything in between. 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!)

Chesapeake Bay Trust Track 3 Grant Update

Recall that this grant springboards from our Track 2 grant from the Trust wherein we developed a stormwater management design with the Thrasher Group to improve our handling of stormwater on the St Agnes campus that impacts not only our neighbors who experience flooding in major rain events, but also the Chesapeake Bay. The Track 3 award allows us to implement the plan which includes redirection of the downspouts from the church's south roof to the upper pond, creation of a bioswale to catch runoff and direct it to the upper pond, and reconfiguration of the outlet structures on both the upper and main ponds to accommodate larger volumes of stormwater. We will soon be able to announce the contractor we will be working with. **On Wednesday, February 11, we had our Kickoff Meeting** with the Trust, Thrasher Group, and Mason-Dixon (our contractor). We look to complete the project before the end of spring.

Our Grant Group (Mike Drewes, Judy Lilga, Sue Kemnitzer, Fanny Smith, Greg Welter, Beth Yates, and Fr Arul) have been diligently working with our engineers, The Thrasher Group, as well as Josephine Saikali from Region 9. The team is incredibly grateful to John Reardon, Director of Buildings and Properties for the diocese, for his participation and guidance throughout the process.

Acknowledgements:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3, Chesapeake Bay Program, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust contributed to funding for these projects. This project had been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under assistance agreement 4I-95300301-2 to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the EPA, nor does the EPA endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial products mentioned in this document.



St Margaret's Pantry

Catholic Charities of the Eastern Panhandle in Martinsburg serves the unhoused and those struggling financially with basic hygiene and cleaning products. This month, the pantry is in need of 3-in-1 body and shampoo wash, small bottles of dish soap, travel-size packs of Q-tips, unscented men's/women's deodorant, and 13 gallon trash bags. The items can be placed in the green bin located in the Parish Center or brought directly to Catholic Charities (224 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg). Questions? Please contact Gretchen Matz gjn60@aol.com.

Music Notes

Thomas "Blind Tom" Wiggins

Thomas "Blind Tom" Wiggins (1849–1908) was an American pianist, composer, and child prodigy who was born into slavery. Beginning his extraordinary performing career at just five years old, Wiggins quickly gained recognition for his musical genius. Today, he would likely be described as an autistic savant, reflecting both his exceptional abilities and the challenges he faced.

Despite the significant barriers imposed by his race and disability, Wiggins' remarkable talent enraptured audiences across the United States. He became the first African-American to present a command performance for James Buchanan at the White House, marking a milestone in American history. Thomas was the highest earning piano (not highest paid) piano player in the 19th century. And yet he received only 10% of his earnings since he was owned by the Bethune Family. Many have heard of Helen Keller, but what about Blind Tom Wiggins? Google what Mark Twain says about Thomas!

For listening: The Battle of Manassas (a tone poem depicting the Civil War); The Ballad of Blind Tom by Elton John. (from his 2013 album The Diving Board)

JCCOA's Warm Hearts: Winter Stories

The Jefferson County Council on Aging (JCCOA) assists local seniors in ways to help them "remain safe, engaged, and rooted in the community they call home." To do this they provide a wide variety of services such as meals, wellness checks, transportation, education, and emergency support.

Check out their collection of stories "Warm Hearts: A Winter Story Collection of Care" online at <https://jccoa.org/jccoa/category/in-the-news/>

JCCM Food Pantry Needs

FOOD: Spaghetti sauce/pasta, ramen, crackers, canned meat (chicken, spam, ham, tuna), canned veg (not green beans/corn), hearty soups, canned pastas (Spaghetti-o's, ravioli, etc.), canned chili, canned fruit, cereal, mashed potatoes, jelly/jam, peanut butter, sugar

HOUSEHOLD & HYGIENE ITEMS: dish soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, copy paper, paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene items; **critically low:** denture cream, cleaning supplies, laundry pods!

Shepherdstown Shares Needs

FOOD: Regular ground coffee, regular tea bags, brown rice, pasta sauces, ramen noodles (not the cups of soup), small applesauce cups (unsweetened), snacks, crackers (i.e. Ritz or saltines), milk (½gal or full, whole or 2%), canned fruit, canned soup, diabetic-friendly Items (candy, pudding/Jell-o, applesauce)

HOUSEHOLD & HYGIENE ITEMS: Snack and sandwich-size Ziploc bags, sturdy paper bags (especially with handles), **cat food—huge need**, toilet paper, baby wipes, cat litter

Camp Carlo: Catholic Summer Camp

INTERESTED IN A CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP?

Grow in your faith while having fun outdoors in Huttonsville! Spend time riding horses, swimming, hiking, and many more fun activities and make friends with other young people. Participate in regular Mass, Adoration, and entertaining Catechesis. Register today and find more information at campcarlowv.org.

High School Week: June 28-July 4 | Week 1: July 5-11
Week 2: July 12-18 | Week 3: July 19-25

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Offertory Collections | \$5,239 |
| Monthly Mortgage Assistance | \$2,694 |
| Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance) | \$7,933 |
| Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance) | \$13,700 |
| Total Collections Compared to Target | ↓ -\$5,767 |

Tithe to help those in need \$524
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

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



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.

SJS Annual Benefit Dinner

Saint Joseph School's largest fundraiser of the year, its benefit dinner, will take place **Saturday, March 7, from 6-10pm** in the SJS gym. It will have a fiesta theme.

To buy tickets for the event and/or be a sponsor or advertiser, please email sfa@sjswv.org or scan the QR code.



Mary's Refuge Golf Tournament

Save the Date! Mary's Refuge is hosting their second annual Links of Love Golf Tournament on **April 27th at 10am**. Scholarships and sponsor information is available on their website. Scan the QR code or visit their website: <https://marysrefuge.com/golf-tournament/>



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BE ON HIGH ALERT !!

Watch Out for Email and Texting Scams Know How to Protect Yourself

Just recently, several folks received **phishing** emails from people posing as Fr Mat! Often times this happens via text as well. This happens all too frequently, and we all need to be on high alert. **If you ever receive an email or text from someone posing as Fr Mat, Fr Arul, or St. Agnes staff asking for money, gift cards, etc., it's a scam.**

No one, not Fr Arul nor Fr Mat nor St. Agnes staff, will ever write to you personally asking for 'favors' or to request for you to make a purchase or send money.

You can usually tell by looking closely at the email address who sent the message. Emails from St. Agnes are always from @stagnesshepherdstown.org. Emails from Fr Arul will be from aanthony@dwc.org or arulantony1953@gmail.com. These scammers are very crafty and often make some very slight variation on the actual email address, so you really have to look very carefully.

If you receive an email similar to this, simply delete it and be aware that email scams, phishing, and more, are part of our digital world. To protect yourself, it's important that you learn how to recognize these scams. You can check out the Federal Trade Commissions website for important information on recognizing these phishing scams, how to protect yourself from phishing attacks, what to do if you suspect a phishing attack, what to do if you responded to a phishing email, and how to report phishing: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-avoid-phishing-scams>.

175th Anniversary

Our Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will begin a year of celebration honoring the 175th anniversary of our diocese beginning on July 19, 2025 and culminating on July 19, 2026. You can find information about the events that are planned throughout the year as well as historical information on the diocesan webpage, dwc.org. 175th Anniversary prayer cards are available in the church Narthex.

Open Positions at St Joe's School

SJS is seeking to fill these positions:

- ⇒ **Middle/High School Principal**
- ⇒ **Elementary School Principal**
- ⇒ **Elementary School Teacher (K-5)**

To send in a resume, contact Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjswv.org. View the job listing on Indeed or contact St Joe's Parish Office.

SJS Open Enrollment

The enrollment process is now open to all families at Saint Joseph School as of Feb 13th. West Virginia Hope Scholarship funds of \$5,437 per student are available. For more information, go to: hopescholarshipwv.org.

To apply or re-enroll at SJS, visit sjswv.org.

For more information, contact pmaertenhicks@sjswv.org or 304-267-6447.

Homebound Ministry

For any parishioners with needs for assistance in things such as getting groceries, rides to doctors/pharmacies, etc., our **HOMEBOUND MINISTRY** is willing to help. Contact Judy Lilga (301-432-2276) for info or to volunteer.

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