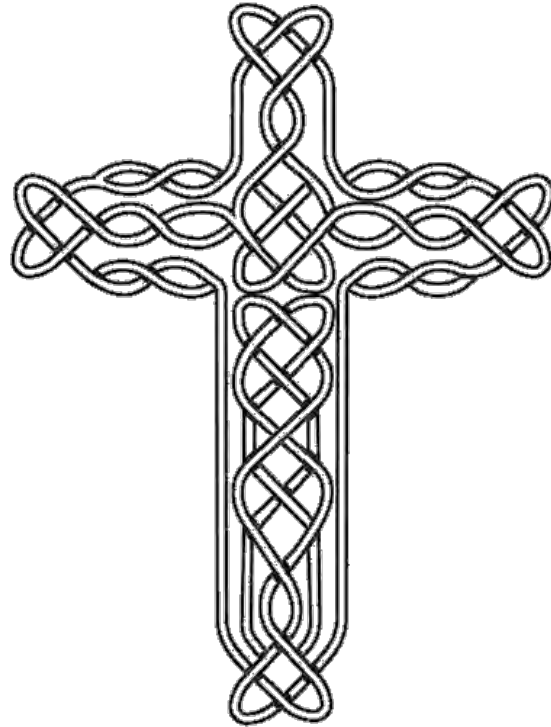


S a i n t A g n e s



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

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4 + 6

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Luke 6:17, 20-26

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 Feb 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No CFF (Presidents' Day holiday) OCIA 12noon
Mon Feb 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidents' Day Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon Hispanic Outreach Committee 1:30pm
Tues Feb 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Racial Justice Initiative Zoom 3pm Board Games Group 3:30pm
Wed Feb 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Icon Workshop 11am Pastoral Council 6:30pm
Fri Feb 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Discussion Group <i>The Wind Knows My Name</i> 11am
Sat Feb 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fr Andy Away at Anaheim Eucharistic Congress
Sun Feb 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFF, Youth Group, AFF, First Eucharist Parent Meeting 9:15am Youth Feeding the Hungry Food Prep 11:30am OCIA 12noon

Ash Wednesday Is March 5th

Ash Wednesday Masses will be Wednesday, March 5, at 12noon and 7pm.

Order of Acceptance

Since last year, five individuals have been gathering each Sunday afternoon to learn more about our Catholic faith. This weekend during the Sunday 10:30am Mass, David Hatfield, Nathan Lee, Matthew McKowen and Katlen Miller will be accepted into the Order of Catechumens. During the Easter Vigil, they will be welcomed into the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Margaret McKowen is already a baptized member of our Catholic faith. She is requesting that she complete her initiation at the Easter Vigil celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. She will be accepted into the Order of Candidates and will be welcomed into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil.

After Mass, please stay to meet and welcome them as they journey in their faith. Let us offer them support through our daily prayers as they respond to the call to full membership in our Catholic faith at St. Agnes Parish.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm for

Ron Mather

Francis Snowden



Sunday, 8am for

Linda Williams

May Ron, Francis, and Linda share in the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Helen Theresa Barb who recently died. May Theresa share in the fulness of God's love and peace.

Because of last week's wintry weather, the funeral for Leo Viger was postponed and will now be held on Wednesday, February 19th at 1pm with visitation beginning at 12:30pm.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Mason Coderre, Norma Frances Cesare (mother of Carmela Cesare), Bill Gray, Ann Kessel, Mike Vojtasko, Ellen Potter, Melanie & Shannon Stotler, Kathy Sutherland, Ron Mancini (son-in-law of Bob & Martha Rizzo), Richard Morris (brother-in-law of Georgette Rush), Daniel Thompson, and Shelly Stowell (daughter of Nina Hockman). Names are placed in the bulletin for one month then moved onto the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

Free Tax Preparation Assistance

VITA can help individuals and families who make under \$65,000/year do their taxes for free by IRS-trained tax preparers. Now until April 4th, appointments are available from 10am-4 pm at various Jefferson County locations. Call 304 262-1584 or 304-614-6927.

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.

Souper Bowl of Caring Results

Thank you for your donations to our youth's "Souper Bowl of Caring" project this year. This is the 25th year our youth have taken on this project to help feed those in need. The St. Agnes Youth collected \$1,468.22 this year, which is more than we collected last year. Your generosity once again reminds us of the Gospel readings where we are called by Jesus to "feed my sheep" and "feed the hungry." The money collected will be divided equally between JCCM and Shepherdstown Shares to help provide food for those in need.

Dear Parishioners,

In the reading this weekend, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us to be rooted in what is below the surface that brings life. The prophet gives this image of a tree by the water and its roots go into the stream. I can literally see this tree right here in Shepherdstown at the town run right near the Potomac. I recently discovered a teacher by the name of Marshall Rosenberg who does workshops on nonviolent communication. He offers this insight that people who are in touch with what is alive in them do not make good slaves. This brings us to the gospel today which is the root of nonviolent civil disobedience that Gandhi, Thoreau, and Martin Luther King as well as many other men and women would practice. They are rooted in the life of the beatitudes which I believe are what made Jesus tick. This is what his personality was, and it flowed out of how he was tuned into those life streams of the Holy Spirit. Remember before he gives us the beatitudes Jesus spent the night in prayer. To walk the way of Jesus is to live in relationship with him, and that draws us into the very heart of the Father and invites us to stay rooted in the streams of the Spirit so that she can flow out of us to bring life and justice to the world.

Fr. Andy

The Disciple Maker Index Survey

Thank you so much to all of you who went online and completed the Disciple Maker Index Survey. The electronic survey closed at 11:59pm on February 11, 2025; however, paper copies (available in the parish center and after Mass) will be accepted through February 18, 2025. Upon completion of the written survey, please place it in an envelope and leave it in the basket, at the Church, hand it to the Hospitality/Usher, or drop it off at the church office. Helen will need to have them in-hand by or on February 18.

The Envisioning Team met for the first time on February 11. It was a good meeting, and we shared our thoughts and views of the Catholic church in WV. The hope is that everyone will be willing to share their faith and go forth and spread the good news. Mark 16:15 "And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.'"

If you have any questions or think you completed the survey for St Agnes in Charleston please let Helen know so she can contact them to fix it. You will remain anonymous. Contact Helen at liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org

New Directories Are Here!

Our new photo directories have arrived! If your picture appears in the directory, your free copy is in the Narthex with your name on it. Directories are sorted alphabetically by last name, so that should make them pretty easy to find!

Take Action!

PROTECT THE WATER PROTECT THE FARMERS



Don't miss your opportunity to let the planning commission know your thoughts on the proposed water bottling plant. The public comment meeting has been postponed thanks to last week's snow, so please attend the meeting and **give public comment on March 11, 2025 at 7pm at Jefferson High School.**

To learn more, go to the Jefferson County Foundation's website at bit.ly/middlewaywater or scan the QR code. It is abundantly clear that building this plant in a rural area raises numerous concerns not only for that immediate area but also for the infrastructure for the entire county. Clean, safe water is one of the most basic human needs, and we cannot survive without it!

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

Last weekend was our Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend. We sold 6 bags of Haiti coffee for a total of \$60. We also collected \$30 for Mary's Refuge; \$70 for the Kolofata girls' education project; \$47 for feminine hygiene supplies and diapers for the needy; and \$42 for Feeding the Hungry and Homeless. Thanks to all who donated to these worthy causes.

Save the Date: Documentary Showing

On Sunday, March 2nd, after the 10:30 Mass there will be a showing of the documentary, "Going Home Like a Shooting Star," the story of Thea Bowman (1937-1990), a Black American Franciscan sister whose cause for canonization began officially in 2018.



This hour-long documentary sponsored by her home diocese of Jackson, Mississippi, tells the story of the powerful, prophetic life of Sr. Thea who devoted her life to educating and challenging the Church and our society to open its arms to fully embrace all of God's children. She was unapologetically Black, employing her superb musical and communication skills to ensure the inclusion of Black Catholic contributions to the faith and its liturgical celebration.

Little Black Books

Little Black Books, our Lenten Devotional, are available in the Narthex in both **regular and large print in English. We also have Spanish editions available this year.**

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

Stations of the Cross

Beginning on Friday, March 7, and each Friday in Lent thereafter, we will be offering Stations of the Cross at 7pm at the church. Stations of the Cross are a meaningful way to pray and meditate on Christ's sacrifice for us. As always, all are welcome!

Religious Item Recycling

St. Mary's Recycle Mission Group has been working with religious organizations and churches, as well as with Parishioners who have things at home in helping rescue and recycle Religious items that are no longer used.

The last day to turn in items is Sunday, March 2nd.

They can take in or give just about anything of Religious nature that can be used by other churches, convents, or religious organizations such as:

- * Vestments including Chasubles, Stoles, Albs, etc. (even if they are soiled or tattered, as we have them professionally cleaned and/or restored if possible so they can be worn, we can also use them to make new vestments, rosary cases or missal covers; we accept any style, color, vintage)
- * Crucifixes
- * Statues (any size, no outdoor concrete statues)
- * Rosaries (damaged ok)
- * Chalices (Pottery ok but please not by mail)
- * Altar Ware
- * Candle Sticks
- * Tabernacles
- * Relics
- * Monstrances
- * Altar Stones
- * Altar Books/Missals/Lectionaries
- * Holy Medals
- * Holy Cards
- * Linens
- * Paraments
- * Framed Religious Pictures
- * Used Musical Instruments
- * Prayer books/Breviaries/Catholic Encyclopedias

(Please No Religious Books/Reading Books/Story Books, Hymnals, Pamphlets/Magazines/DVD's, VHS Tapes, Christmas items, or Wax Candles)

VIRTUS Safe Environment Audit—March

The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston will be undergoing a **VIRTUS Safe Environment Audit the week of March 10th**. It is our goal to ensure that all of our volunteers are up to date on their VIRTUS certifications before the audit. To complicate matters, VIRTUS and the Bishop now require a yearly update to your training. If you are currently on VIRTUS 4.0 and have completed the VIRTUS update less than 1 year ago and your background check has occurred within the last 3 years, you are still compliant. **If you completed VIRTUS 4.0 over 1 year ago, you need to complete the refresher module.** We have been told it is not the same as the initial training if you take the refresher module online. To check your compliance status, log into your VIRTUS account. If your home page is green, you should be compliant. If your home page is red, you need to complete an update of each red section. If you have questions, please email Bill Donahue at formation@stagnesshepherds.town.org or call the office at 304-876-6436. Thanks for all you do for the parish and for helping us achieve diocesan compliance with VIRTUS.

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.

Sun, March 9: Legislative Advocacy 101

Join us on Sunday, March 9 at 12noon at the church

Are you happy, concerned, confused about what is happening politically in our country? Do you want to have a say but not sure what to do? Or how to do it? **We have help on the way.** What better person to provide info about how to best voice your thoughts to your legislators on the crucial issues of the day than a former Congressional staffer.

This will be a non-partisan presentation intended to give you the skills to advocate with your legislators.

Daniel Bennett was the Democratic nominee for a West Virginia House of Delegates seat and had worked as an organizer for the reelection of Senator Joe Manchin. In DC, Daniel was the Chief Technology Officer of the eCitizen Foundation dedicated to helping improve civic engagement. He co-founded DotGov Communications, the first private webhoster for Members of Congress. Daniel was Technology Liaison for a Congresswoman from California 's Silicon Valley for whom he drafted the Government Paperwork Elimination Act, the first federal law that made electronic signatures legal and allowed forms to be put on the Internet so that they could be signed and submitted electronically. He also co-drafted the E-SIGN Act allowing electronic signatures for commercial use.

Daniel served as president of the House Systems Administrators Association, co-chair of the Legislative Documents Technical Committee of OASIS/LegalXML and won the Federal Computer Week's Fed 100 Award in 2000. He is a writer on technology and politics, including co-author of "The Net Effect: How Cyberadvocacy is Changing the Political Landscape" and was a columnist for The Cloakroom, a web site for the National Journal.

Save the Date: Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

As Lent approaches, remember to put the Youth Pancake Dinner on your calendar. The Pancake Dinner will be Tuesday, March 4, 2025 in the Parish Center.

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

THE YOUTH CORNER

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Week's Gospel:

Luke 6:17, 20-26

February 16, 2025

CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

There will be **no CFF, Youth Group, or Adult classes today**, Sunday, February 16, 2025 in observance of President's Day Weekend.

Next weekend will be our **first meeting for parents of our children who will be receiving First Communion this Spring**. The meeting will be with Fr. Andy on Sunday, Feb. 23rd at 9:15am in the Parish Center. We are still looking for some additional prayer sponsors. Please see Prayer Sponsor section of the bulletin for additional information.

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

As Lent approaches, remember to put the Youth Pancake Dinner on your calendar. The **Pancake Dinner will be Tuesday, March 4, 2025** in the Parish Center. Also, each Friday during Lent, Stations of the Cross will occur at 7pm in the church. Traditionally, various groups or committees take turns sponsoring and running Stations of the Cross every Friday. **The Youth will be leading Stations on March 14 at the church** after our Simple Supper which will occur in the parish center. Keep watching this space for additional information. All are welcome to attend the Simple Supper and Youth Led Stations. The **next Intergenerational Mass is March 9th at 5pm**.

Our Annual Souper Bowl collection total for last weekend was \$680.47. This brings the overall total for the collection to \$1468.22. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and for setting an example to our youth about living the Gospel that we are called to do. We were able to surpass last year's collection by \$27.81. The money will go to JCCM and Shepherdstown Shares to help provide food for those less fortunate.

During our winter season, if there is **Inclement weather**, we will do our best to make a decision regarding in person CFF class by 8pm the evening prior. Check our website, call the parish office at 304-876-6436 and listen to the recording, or you can also access this information on the St. Agnes CFF/Youth Facebook (closed) group page.

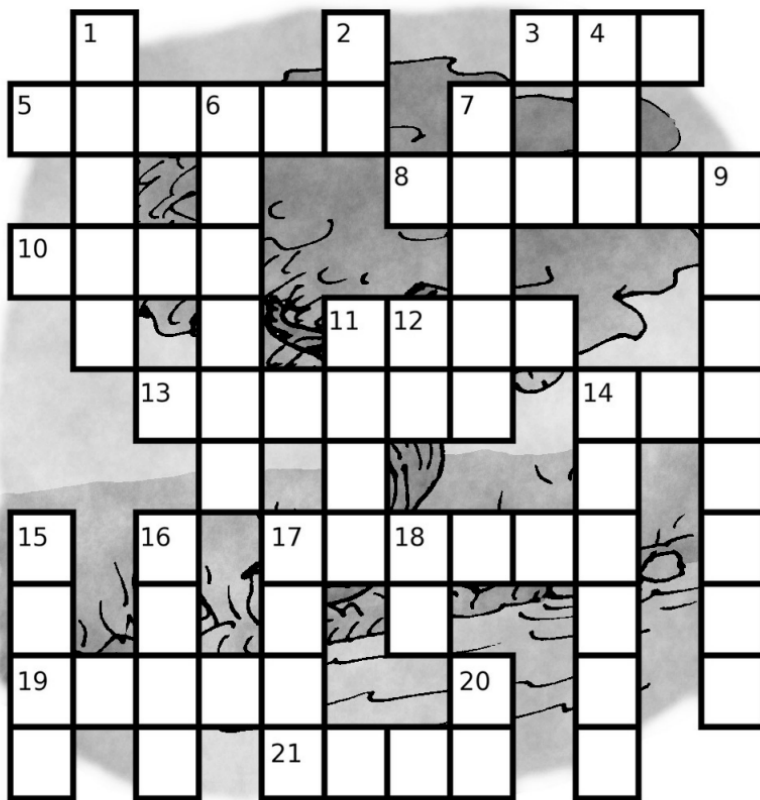
St Agnes offers a **Pre-K religious education program**. If you have a child who is in Pre-K, please consider having your child start religious education. There is no cost for the Pre-K program and it is Gospel-based. Please look at the "SEEDS" section under the "Gospel at Home" (Youth Page 4) to see what is covered each week in Pre-K.

Fr. Andy's **Adult Continuing Education Class** is still occurring on every Sunday that there is CFF in the Parish Center at 9:15am. Although there is a core group every week, all adults are always welcome to "drop in" on Fr. Andy's class. There is always a huge turn out but we always have space for more. Everyone is welcome. Come join for coffee and great discussion. Fr. Andy's class meets in the small conference room in the Parish Center.

Finally, the standard paragraph that all parents who have registered their children for CFF should be in the email list. **If you are a parent and not receiving CFF announcements and emails**, please call the Parish Center at 304-876-6436 or email Bill Donahue at formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

Parents are also encouraged to join our Youth Facebook Group. Please 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!* We are also able to communicate via Google Classroom. All parents should have received an email invitation to Google Classroom—click the link in that email to join. If you have not received these emails, please contact Bill so you can be added to the email distribution list.

Trust in the Lord Cross-Word



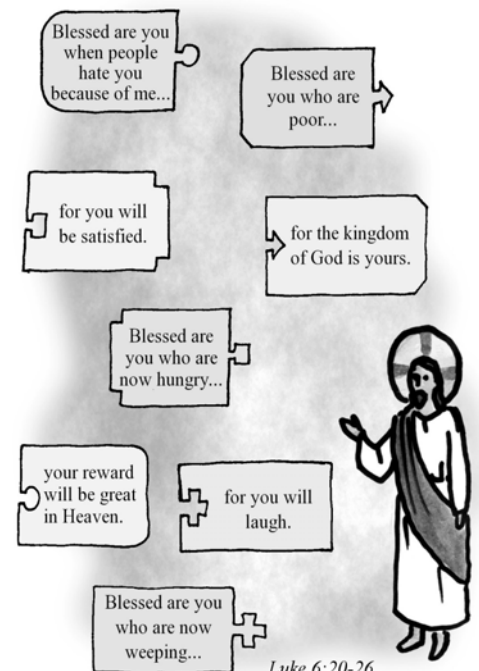
beings **it**
distress **tree**
stream **is**
human **but**
trusts **who**
cursed **he**
beside **in**
roots **his**
barren **bush**
green **Lord**
heat **that**
year **from**

*Here is today's first reading, from Jeremiah.
 Fill in the blanks using the words from the list and fit
 them into the puzzle.*

Thus says the Lord:

8a is the one who trusts in 7d 17a,
3a seeks 4d strength 18d flesh,
 whose heart turns away 16d the Lord.
12d is like a 13a 17d in the desert
11a enjoys no change of season,
14a stands in a lava waste, a salt and empty earth.
 Blessed is the one who 5a in the Lord,
 whose hope is the 15d.
 He 2d like a 11d planted 14d the waters that
 stretches out its 19a to the 6d;
 it fears not the 21a when 20d comes; its leaves stay 1d;
 in the 10a of drought it shows no 9d,
 but still bears fruit.

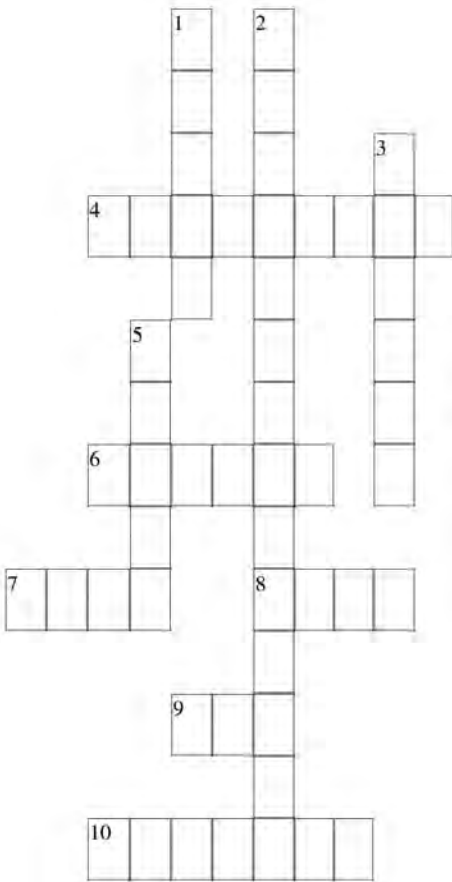
Can you match up the pieces in this puzzle?



Luke 6:20-26

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

ancestors
 defame
 false
 hate
 Jerusalem
 Judea
 leap
 multitude
 prophets
 reward
 stood
 weep
 crowd
 exclude
 full
 hungry
 joy
 laugh
 blessed
 disciples
 filled
 heaven
 Jesus
 kingdom
 man
 place
 rejoice
 rich
 twelve
 woe
 mourn
 poor
 revile
 son
 weep



Across

- 4. The people came from all over: Judea, _____, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.
- 6. They will be filled.
- 7. They have already received their consolation.
- 8. The Kingdom of God will be theirs.
- 9. Means unhappy.
- 10. Happy.

Down

- 1. Those who are laughing now will _____.
- 2. People spoke well of them (two word with a blank between)
- 3. Those who are persecuted because of Jesus will have this.
- 5. Those who weep now will _____.

.....
 : **Volunteering:** The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to
 : demonstrate our faith in action!
 : **All volunteers** are required to be VIRTUS-trained as required by the
 : Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. If you would like to volunteer for any
 : parish ministry including with our youth, you must be VIRTUS-trained.
 : Forms are located in the church narthex and the Parish Center on how to
 : complete this process.
 : **All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS-trained.**
 : If you have been trained in the past, you must be have the latest training
 : Version 4.0. **If your Virtus 4.0 has been over a year ago, you will be**
 : **asked to complete the refresher module.** Logging into your online
 : VIRTUS account is the best way to determine if your VIRTUS is up to date.
 : If your home screen is "green", all is good. Any "red" section needs to
 : be updated. **We will be audited for VIRTUS compliance the week of March**
 : **10.**
 :

**Video of the week from
 the Gospel**

<https://youtu.be/KRdvoz6Xip4>

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

In this week's Gospel, Luke gives us the Beatitudes taught by Jesus. Blessed are the poor, the hungry, those who weep, those who are hated and rejected by others because of Jesus. Jesus also cautioned those who are rich, well-fed, happy, and liked by others.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned this week that Jesus loves everyone and that he wants all of us to belong. Talk about ways we can tell others about the love of Jesus. Also, have your child show you the heart puppet he or she made in class. Talk about who your heart belongs to.

Promise (Grades K-1): What makes us truly happy was the topic featured in your child's class this week. One thing that always makes us happy is following Jesus. Have your child show the drawing of Jesus and him or her from class. How can we include everyone like Jesus does?

Good News (Grades 2-3): Have a discussion with your child about what makes us happy. Ask your child to tell you what he or she learned from the story, "A Valentine for Mr. Pinch." Be sure to have your child show the booklet about "The Beatitudes: Jesus' Map to Happiness." Discuss what Jesus teaches about true happiness.

Scan here for parent resources
or visit gospelweeklies.com/Fa25



SOLUTIONS:

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

Answers to Cross-Word puzzle:
Across: 3.who 5.trusts 8.cursed 10.year 11.that 13.barren
14.but 17.beings 19.roots 21.heat
Down: 1.green 2.is 4.his 6.stream 7.human 9.distress
11.tree 12.he 14.beside 15.Lord 16.from 17.bush 18.in
20.it

Venture (Grades 4-6): Is it fair the way food is distributed in the world? Your youngster should have some thoughts on that from class this week. Ask your young person about the organization called Kindness to Action. What do coins symbolize in that organization? Talk about how the Beatitudes teach us to see through God's eyes, and how we can hear the cries of the poor. Consider playing "The Promised Land" game with the family.

Visions (Grades 7-8): Ask your young teen how they feel blessed by life. He or she can also tell you about Sister Mary Antona Ebo, who was called to God and justice in a story the class read this week. Talk about how the Beatitudes challenge our ideas of success. Identify together who the poor are today. Consider playing a round of "Rich and Poor, A Beatitudes Game" that the class learned about this week.

Pray Together

Jesus challenged the conventional ideas about how to be happy and successful when he taught the Beatitudes. Pray for yourself and your family to be more like those who Jesus says are blessed in the eyes of God.

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



Youth Events: At a Glance Dates for the Calendar

February 16: NO CFF, Youth Group, or Adult classes this weekend for President's Day holiday.

February 23: CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes resume in the Parish Center at 9:15am. This is also the 1st parent class for First Eucharist parents. **

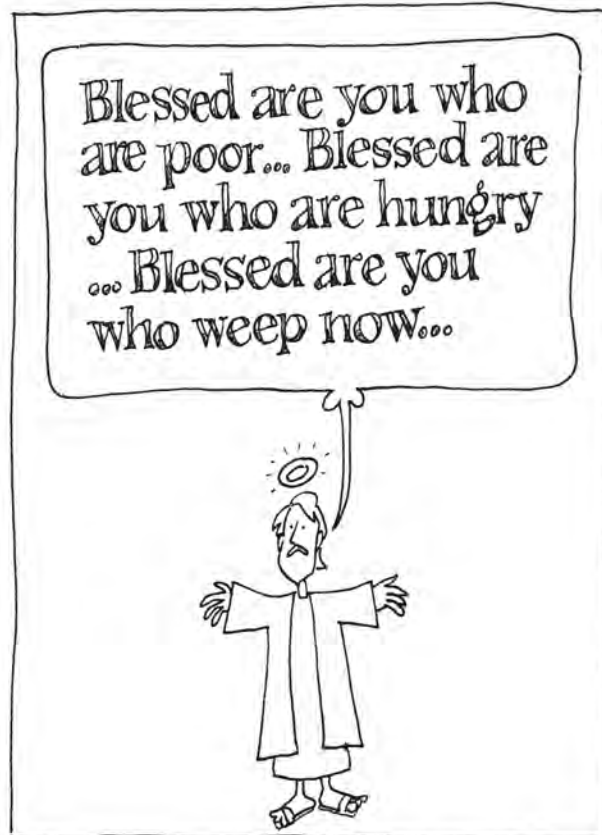
March 2: CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes in the Parish Center at 9:15am. 2nd parent class for First Eucharist parents. **

March 4: Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper (Parish Center) to support youth programs.

March 9: No CFF, Youth Group, or Adult classes today. Intergenerational Mass 5pm.

March 14: Youth-led Stations of the Cross and Simple Supper (starting at 6pm in the parish center)

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



Racial Justice Initiative

Often linked in tradition with slave uprisings led by Denmark Vesey, Nat Turner, and Gabriel Prosser, the spirituals were archetypes of protest for actual and spiritual liberation, embodying what Jon Spencer in *Protest and Praise* (1990) terms a theomusicology. Synthesizing sacred and secular meaning, creators of the spirituals drew images from the Bible to interpret their own experience, measuring it against a wider system of theological and historical meaning. Three themes dominate spirituals: the desire for freedom, the desire for justice, and strategies for survival. God is a liberator who is involved in history, and as "Wade in the Water" suggests, God will "trouble the waters" of oppression. Many spirituals like "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho" and "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?" are drawn from biblical texts that stress God's involvement in the liberation of the oppressed. Although God's liberating work was not always concretely evident, enslaved people were confident that "You Got a Right" to "the tree of life." The songs also stress a need for enslaved people's own participation in God's liberation, to be "Singing With a Sword in My Hand." Enslaved people viewed their cry of "Let My People Go" as answered with the Emancipation Proclamation, when "Slavery Chain Done Broke at Last." God makes justice for the righteous and the unrighteous because "All God's Children Got Wings," but "everybody who's talking about heaven ain't going," and anyone who stands against liberation is called to account. In "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" Jesus represents both a historical savior and whoever helps the oppressed. Jesus functions in a more personal way than God, as deliverer and comforter, because "you may have all the world," but "Give Me Jesus." He is affirmed both in his divinity and humanity, especially his identification with the oppressed who believe that "A Little Talk With Jesus Makes It Right." Hence his birth is an occasion to "Rise Up Shepherd and Follow," and "Go Tell It on the Mountain," and his life on earth a reminder to "Rise, Mourner, Rise."

Songs like "Steal Away" and "Let Us Praise God Together On Our Knees" may have served as a means to convene secret resistance meetings, while "Deep River, My Home Is Over Jordan" may imply a wish to cross over to Africa or the North. But getting to freedom is what occupies many of the lyrics that take as a theme a tired sojourner struggling through a hostile landscape while leaning and depending on God. Portraying a struggle against oppression in a variety of metaphors, many spirituals focus on the difficult movement through space and time but with the confidence to cheer the "Weary Traveler." Spatial and temporal metaphors of movement employing a variety of methods—sailing, walking, riding, rowing, climbing—all appear for a people "Bound to Go," urging them to "Travel On." The spirituals actually and symbolically moved a people toward liberation when they sang, "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder," even if they could only "Keep Inching Along." Noting the threat of adverse physical conditions, the creators appropriated symbols from their own situation and described searching for God in the wilderness, rocks, darkness, storms, and valleys. Lyrics from songs such as "O Stand the Storm," "Sinner, Please Don't Let This Harvest Pass," or "Hold On!" gave inspiration to endure. Although an enslaved person often felt "Like a Motherless Child," lost where "I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray," and for whom "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," faith is always affirmed because "All My Troubles Will Soon Be Over." Sometimes a lonely sojourner is aided by heavenly transportation, as in "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," or the activity of the *Underground Railroad that invites "Get on Board, Little Children." But the destination is always freedom, sometimes construed as Africa, the North, or heaven, as in "Roll, Jordan, Roll." The role of the community—often expressed in concepts of home as in "I Got a Home in That Rock," or as a heavenly reunion with family as in "Band of Gideon," or as a place of safety in "There is a Balm in Gilead"—is also reinforced.

- Kimberly Rae Connor, Parishioner of St Agnes

Save the Date: Boonsboro GreenFest

The Boonsboro Green Fest Swap and Recycling Event will be held on May 10, 2025 from 9am - 2pm. <https://www.facebook.com/BoonsboroGreenFest/>

The Cindy Huesman Memorial Exhibit

ENDS FEBRUARY 23RD

Firehouse Gallery: 108 N. George Street, Charles Town
Cynthia Ann Huesman (Cindy), a St Agnes parishioner and member of the Firehouse Gallery, passed away on April 23, 2024. In her honor, the Gallery is hosting a solo exhibition and sale of her artwork and crafts, as well as some of her supplies. Her artwork included pastels, oils, watercolors, Pysanky egg painting, Medieval manuscript decoration, and much more. **Exhibit/Sale Hours:** Thursday, Friday, Sunday, 11am-5pm, Saturday, 10am-4pm.

2nd Friday Prayer Group

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

Let's Maximize the Cash Card Potential!

Our cash card program was recently able to donate \$4000 to St Agnes! Many thanks to those of you who go out of your way to support our cash card program by purchasing them through the office.

We would love to once again be able to offer cash card sales before and after Masses as well, but that requires many volunteers. Back before the pandemic, we were able to do so and our cash card program thrived to the point where St Agnes would receive \$10,000 to \$15,000 on a yearly basis. **If you would be interested in helping us to reintroduce cash card sales before and after Masses, please contact the office.** Purchasing cash cards is a great way to help financially support St Agnes at no additional cost to the purchaser.

Spotlight on Ministry

We are in need of ministers—will you discern and consider joining a ministry? We need your prayerful consideration. Youth and adult altar servers needed. Contact Helen Harris at liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

STILL SEEKING: Prayer Sponsors

We need **prayer sponsors for our children preparing for First Eucharist!** A prayer sponsor is someone who shows support and offers prayer for a child preparing to receive their First Eucharist. You will be assigned a child and asked to faithfully pray for them every day. A prayer sponsor may anonymously send a card to the child and let them know they are being prayed for, but the giving of gifts is not necessary. This is about the gift of prayer, not material gifts. We ask that if you send a card to sign it "your prayer sponsor." It is nice to stay anonymous until **the First Eucharist luncheon on May 10th**. We ask, if you can, please come to the **First Eucharist Mass on Sunday, May 11th at 10:30am** to support your First Communicant.

If interested in being a sponsor, email Bill Donahue formation@stagnesshepherds-town.org or call the office. *Thank you for praying for our youth during this time of formation.*

Danny DuVal
Nora Goldizen
Evelyn McCreery
Saoirse Mello
Connor Pender
Carter Phipps
Charlie Turano

SJS Spaghetti Fundraiser

Pickup in the Cafeteria: Monday, February 17 11am-3pm
Help St Joe's raise money to help students and their family recover after losing their home to a fire. The deadline to order spaghetti meals is Thurs, Feb 13. More info and ordering: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5IdBBZGfCFn_hcdMyJWH_LYGCl-ZX1wrVQdVhhGBkTtehg/viewform

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).

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$7,709
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$1,405
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$9,114
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$13,400
Total Collection Compared to Target	-\$4,286



Tithe to help those in need **\$771**
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

Music Notes

Elaine has received several gracious emails regarding music that we have recently sung at our weekend Masses. The first song is Jesse Manibusan's Hold On To Love (2016; Spanish text 2022). The second is The House That Love is Building (2019) by Sarah Hart.

These songs, as well as many of the hymns and songprayers found in the worship aid/hymnal, Breaking Bread, can be accessed online. To access a recording performed by the composer, simply go to: <https://www.ocp.org/en-us/catholic-songs>. A large screen will direct you to type in the name of the song and the composer thus:

The House That Love Is Building

Sarah Hart

Song →

Lyrics: In the house that Love is building

Hold On to Love

Jesse Manibusan

Song →

Lyrics: There is a place for the sadness

Free! Enjoy!

Best to you!

Elaine R, MM. DMA

Open Positions at Saint Joe's School

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

⇒ **Principal of SJS**

To send in a resume or letter of introduction, contact Deacon Patrick Michel, Ed.D. at deaconpat@stjosephwv.org. These have been posted to Indeed <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Saint-Joseph-School/jobs>.

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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SJS Benefit Dinner

A Back to the '80s dinner fundraiser for Saint Joseph School is **scheduled for 6:30pm on Saturday, March 8, in the SJS gym**. All attendees must be ages 21 and older.

Tickets cost \$90 per person; two for \$175; or \$650 for a table of eight. They may be purchased using the QR code on the flier or by going to <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/onlineticketpurchase.php?groupId=586>. The event will feature dinner, beer, wine, a 50/50 raffle, tip jars, and silent and live auctions. For more information, please email sfa@sjswv.org. Ticket sales end Sunday, Feb. 23.

American Conservation Film Festival

March 6th - 9th at Shepherd University Frank Arts Center

Join the ACFF in Shepherdstown as they showcase 28 inspiring films that share powerful stories of hope and resilience, highlighting the incredible individuals making a difference for our planet. This year's lineup offers animation, documentary, and fictional films ranging from 3 to 90 minutes long. Audiences will have the unique opportunity to connect with more than a dozen filmmakers attending the festival and to hear from scientists. The Frank Arts Center offers a welcoming venue with FREE and easy parking for all attendees. Festival passes and tickets are on sale now. Admission for students (grades 5-12) is free. For more details, visit conservationfilmfest.org.

Men's Discernment Retreat 2025

Friday, March 7th—Saturday, March 8th

Join us for the annual Men's Discernment Retreat at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, WV. Open to men 18 and older. Pray, share meals, meet with current WV seminarians, and hear talks about priestly life and discernment.



CBT Grants update

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

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

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

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

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



**INVESTING IN
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About the Black Catholic Experience

On **February 26 from 12noon to 2pm**, Frederick Community College's Institute for Retired Learning is offering a course on The Black Catholic Experience in America. Link to the course: [The Black Catholic Experience in America - Frederick Community College](#).

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