

# 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

## **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](mailto:Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org)

[www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org](http://www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org)

## **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

## **St. Agnes Chapel**

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

## **Sunday Readings**

Genesis 9:8-15

Psalm 25:4-5a, 6+7b. 8-9

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:12-15

## **Finance Council**

Pat Barth ~ Steve Bledsoe

Mike Drewes ~ Todd Hershey

Sue Kemnitzer ~ David Matera ~ Arnold Thomas

## Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am

Sunday, 10:30am

Scripture and Communion

Monday at 11am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday at 11am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday, 4:30pm

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

**Cash Card Sales:** Weekdays during office hours  
(please call first)

## RCIA Rite of Election

On Sunday at 10:30am Mass, join St. Agnes Church in joy and celebration as our parish witnesses our catechumens and candidates being called forward for the Rite of Sending. On Saturday, February 24, they will be presented to Bishop Mark Brennan at 11am at the Rite of Election at St. James the Greater Church in Charles Town.

The catechumens are Matthew Billmyer, Aaron Blessing, Carrie Blessing, Evelyn Brown, and Henry Brown. The candidates are Joseph Brown, Todd Hershey, and Michael Laverick.

Please introduce yourself and welcome them as we accompany them on their journey to full communion with the Church.

## Ecumenical Presentation By Ashley Horst From Stubblefield Institute

Please join us at St Agnes church on Sunday, March 3, at 4pm for an Ecumenical presentation given by Ashley Horst from the Stubblefield Institute. Ashley will be presenting on Loving Through Hard Conversations (Learning to Dialogue Through Differences Toward Healing). As always, all are welcome!

## Free Feb. Monday Meals for Students

All college students are invited to enjoy a free home cooked meal Mondays from 6pm-7pm during the month of February. These meals are sponsored by the Shepherdstown faith communities. All students are welcome to come by and eat.

Feb 19 at St Agnes Parish Center

Feb 26 at Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church

## 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>.

## Mass Intentions



Saturday, 5:30pm for

**Robert Keller**

Sunday, 10:30am for

**Bill Hennessy**

May Robert and Bill share in the fulness  
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 Larry Merhaut, Manny Cabral, Vicky Scott (friend of Noreen Albright), Nell Thompson, Harold Paulin (father of Maria Stewart), Patricia Windsor (mother of Valerie Ater), Pat Doyle, and Henry McDonald. Names are placed in the bulletin for approximately one month and then those names are placed on the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

### Funeral Service for Barbara McDonald

Saturday February 24th 11:00am at St. Agnes

The family will receive friends for one hour before Mass, beginning at 10:00 AM. Barbara will be inurned at the St. Agnes Columbarium following the service.

## Lenten Communal Reconciliation

On Saturday, March 9, at 4pm, we will have our **Lenten Communal Reconciliation Service**. Please join us in celebrating this Sacrament of Penance as a part of your Lenten Renewal efforts. Reconciliation is also available each Saturday afternoon from 4:30-5:00 pm.

## SJP Speaker from EPEC March 10th

### **Domestic Abuse: What Everyone Should Know!**

A segment of our population is at risk and their plight is woefully underreported. This is a group whose statistics for injuries and death are alarming, yet ignored. This is a group of individuals who are on the fringe of our society. How can we, as a faith community, reach out to serve this group? Join us Sunday, March 10 after the 10:30 Mass, at 11:45, to hear two representatives from EPEC, Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center, discuss this issue both on a local and national level. For more information, please make your inquiries to Eileen Dooley, Eileen Elliott, or Judy Lilga after any upcoming Mass.

## Bereavement Committee

St Agnes needs your help! We are in need of cookie, fruit, and veggie trays for funeral receptions. You would be asked no more than 2-3x per year. Contact Jan Yates [j\\_yates348@comcast.net](mailto:j_yates348@comcast.net).

Dear Parishioners,

As we begin the Lenten season, I think it is important that we realize what this season is all about. This time of year is supposed to be a season of healing and renewal to journey with those who are moving towards Easter sacraments. A good example of this is the Scrutinies that are special prayers we pray with those who are preparing for baptism. These prayers are intended to lead the catechumenes to deeper freedom as sons and daughters of God. This is also the call to those of us that are already baptized. As we move towards Easter, what needs to be healed in us so that we can more deeply experience the freedom that the Lord wants to give us; so that we might better live out the mercy of God for those around us? Today's gospel is the story of Jesus in the desert. He certainly fasted, but he feasted on the Father's love. The desert, in biblical imagery, was often an image of a honeymoon period where we grow in our trust and dependence on God's love that wants to heal us so that we could be instruments of peace and healing for our world.

Fr. Andy

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult) is for those who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith and discerning if they might want to be professed members of the Catholic faith. The goal is to see where the process takes you. Father Andy is leading our RCIA process. If you are interested in learning more or joining the group, please call the office at 304-876-6436. All are welcome!

## UN World Day of Social Justice

In November 2007, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 20 February as World Day of Social Justice. The day was observed for the first time in 2009. Member states were invited to devote this special day to the promotion of concrete national activities in accordance with the objectives and goals of the World Summit for Social Development and the 24th session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world."

Read more about it at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/international-days/world-day-of-social-justice.html>.

## Stay Up-to-Date with Mary's Refuge

Mary's Refuge invites you to stay up-to-date with their baby bulletin. You can find the bulletin through this QR code or visit <https://marysrefuge.com/baby-bulletin/>.



## Spotlight on Ministry

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to **proclaim** liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind. To let the oppressed, go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. Luke 4:18-19

### MINISTRY: Ministry of the Lector

Those who desire to serve as Lector should be active and faithful members of the Church. The Ministry of the Lector is a person who agrees to serve the Church as a **PROCLAIMER** of the Word of God. The introduction to the Lectionary for Mass also calls for a spiritual preparation for **PROCLAIMING** the Word of God. When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel. Therefore, the readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone, for they are an element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** As Lectors we are called by God to strive to reflect on the meaning of our faith, our community and our personal call to serve the Lord. **Act with reverence:** stand, walk, kneel, speak, sing, and serve reverently. Realize that our service is more than a job or a profession. The Lector is the storyteller of the community. It is a ministry flowing from the power of our Baptism. It is a gift, a right and a responsibility. By means of our initiation into the Church and strengthened by grace, God empowers each person with the resources for ministry. Every Christian is called to ministry and gifted by the Holy Spirit.

**We are always in need of ministers.**

**Will you share your time and talent?**

**Thank you all for your service.**

*Please consider joining one of our ministries at St Agnes. There are so many ways to get involved and grow in your faith. Adult and youth Altar Servers needed. Please contact Helen Harris at [liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org).*

## Safe Environment Audit

The diocese will be auditing all churches and schools for Safe Environment and Virtus compliance the week of March 11, 2024. If you are a volunteer at St Agnes, please make sure you are Virtus compliant. This is essential! If you need assistance, please contact Bill Donahue at the office (304-876-6436) or by email at [formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org).

## Scripture Sharing

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

## Homebound Ministry

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

## Stations of the Cross

Beginning on Friday, February 23, 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!

## Lenten Study w/ Soup & Evening Prayer

St Peter's Lutheran Church has extended an invitation to join them for this Lenten study on Wednesday nights in Lent, beginning February 21st. John Burns will be teaching his book *Modeling Mary in Christian Discipleship* at 6pm at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Each session will include a soup supper. The evening will close with Evening Prayer in the spirit of the Iona Abby.

*Modeling Mary in Christian Discipleship* looks at the life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as a pattern for our discipleship. Mary's life reveals that discipleship is not a linear journey from new belief to mature faith but involves progress and regression, clarity and confusion, faith and unbelief, celebration and suffering. We often take two steps forward then one step back. Throughout the journey, Christ's mercy, love, forgiveness, and patience stays true as we learn to follow Jesus together. Books are available at the Shepherdstown Lutheran Parish office, 110 N King St, Shepherdstown. \$10 covers the cost of the book.

For more information, please call 304-876-6771 or email [shepherdstownlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:shepherdstownlutheran@gmail.com).

## Shepherdstown Shares Current Needs

Toilet paper  
Regular, ground coffee  
Ramen noodles (not the cups of soup)  
Pasta sauce  
Brown rice  
Baby wipes  
Small applesauce cups (unsweetened)  
Anything for diabetics  
Crackers, such as Ritz or Saltines

## JCCM Food Pantry Current Needs

Canned meats (especially chicken)  
Mac and Cheese  
Soup (tomato and hearty soups)  
Canned Beans  
Rice  
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

## Godspell Final Weekend Performance



### 2012 Revised Version

Conceived & originally directed by **John-Michael Tebelak**  
Music and New Lyrics by **Stephen Schwartz**  
Originally Produced on the New York Stage by  
**Edgar Lansbury / Stuart Duncan / Joseph Beruh**

**February 17 & 18**  
**Saturday 8pm, Sunday 3pm**

St Agnes Church: 200 S Duke Street  
Free & Open to the Public  
Donations Gratefully Accepted

## KOC Chili Cook-Off –SUCCESS!



Last week's Super Bowl Sunday Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the Knights of Columbus was a success! Winners of best chili are: (from left to right) 1st place Leo Bonner, 2nd Bryan Landry, 3rd Miles Hopkins.

Proceeds go towards Seminarians. Thank you to all who attended!

## Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress

Indianapolis, July 17-21, 2024  
With Bishop Mark Brennan

Participate in the pivotal moment in the Church and draw deeper intimacy with our Lord. Join our diocese by registering today! Scan the QR code to attend this historic event. Please visit the DWC website for more information, including itinerary and cost: <https://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/>



## CFF, AFF, Youth Group & Family News

**Thank you:** For your support of the youth **Souper Bowl Sunday** collection. Also thanks to everyone who came out and supported the youth **Mardi Gras Pancake Supper** fundraiser.

**CFF:** There are no CFF classes today. Classes will begin again next Sunday, Feb. 25th at 9:15 AM in the parish center. If you have not seen Godspell yet, please consider attending the production as a family.

**Youth Group:** Youth group will meet today. We will be planning for Lent and spring!

**ADULT Classes: Growing in Faith** will not meet today.

**RCIA and RCIC:** We will not meet today. Please consider attending a production of Godspell this weekend.

**GODSPELL:** If you haven't seen the production from our youth and intergenerational cast come out and support them! Shows on Feb. 16, 17 & 18. (The Last Weekend)

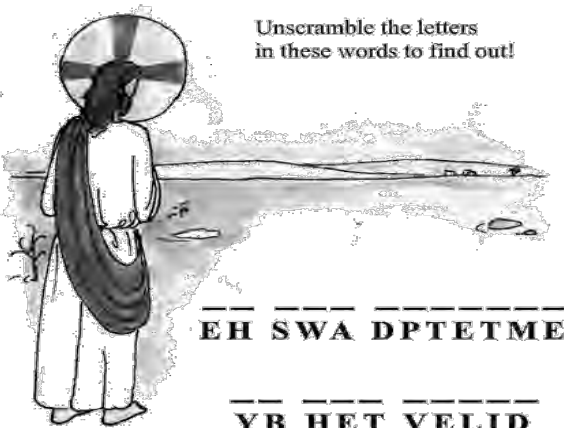
**Volunteering:** The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate our faith in action! All volunteers are required to be VIRTUS trained as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. If you would like to volunteer for any parish ministry including with our youth, you must 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.

**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.

Most importantly, if you are a parent and not receiving CFF announcements and emails, please contact the Parish center at 304-876-6436 or contact 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!

Today's Gospel reading tells us that Jesus was fasting in the desert for forty days. He was preparing Himself for His special work.

We know that Jesus was a real person. He was just like we are except that He never sinned. There was something that happened when He was in the desert that shows us that He had to decide between right and wrong just like we do. What was it?

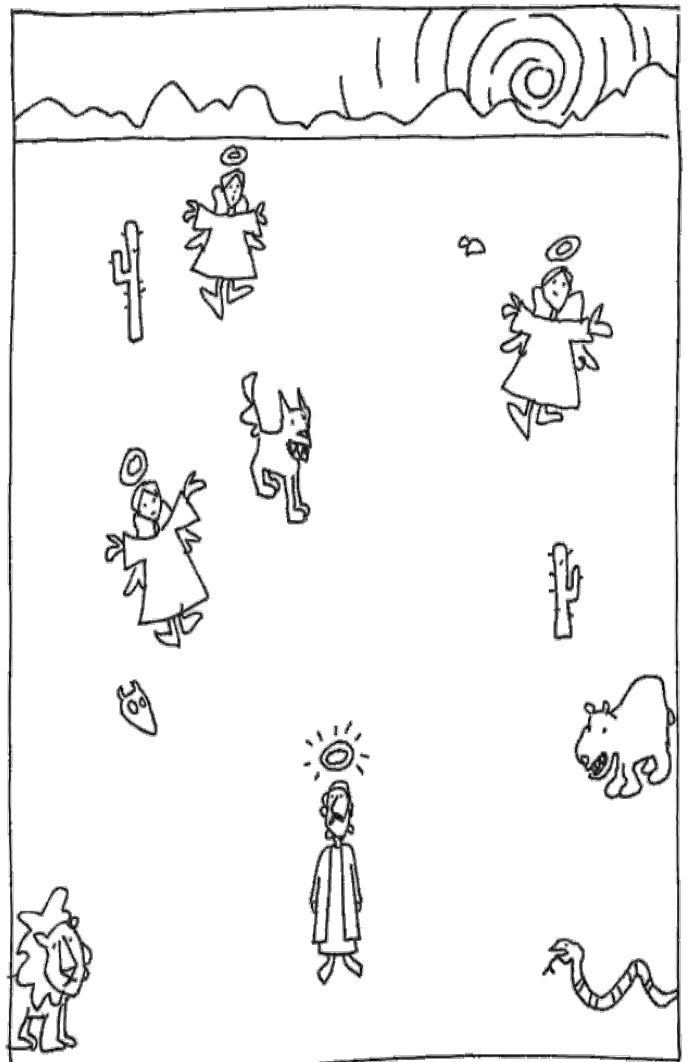


# THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel:  
*Mark 1: 12—15*

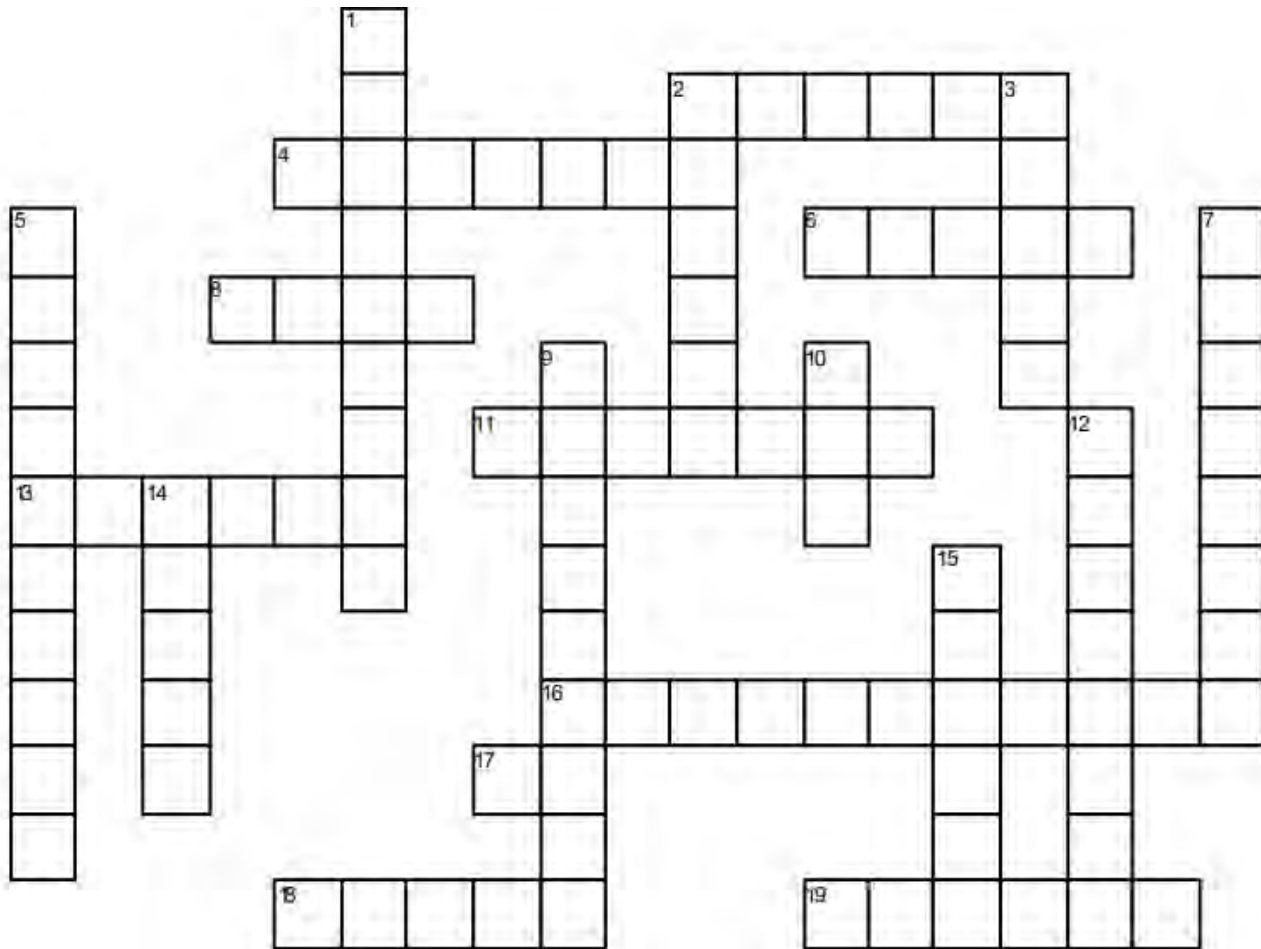
February 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent



# THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13



## ACROSS

- 2 When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, who came to attend to Jesus, (Mt. 4:11)
- 4 Each time Jesus was tempted, He began His response by saying, "It is \_\_\_\_\_." (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10)
- 6 The gospel writer tells us that after \_\_\_\_\_ days and night, Jesus was hungry. (Mt. 4:2)
- 8 Jesus said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the \_\_\_\_\_." (Mt. 4:7)
- 11 The devil wanted Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ him. (Mt. 4:9)
- 13 In the second temptation the devil took Jesus to the highest point of the \_\_\_\_\_. (Mt. 4:5)
- 16 The gospel writer Mark records that Jesus was in the desert with the \_\_\_\_\_. (Mk. 1:13) two words
- 17 Did the devil question the divine sonship of Jesus, that is, Jesus as the Son of God. (Mt. 4:3, 6, 9)
- 18 Jesus refused to change these to \_\_\_\_\_. (Mt. 4:3)
- 19 Whom did Jesus rely upon for his food? (Mt. 4:4)

## DOWN

- 1 What was the city where the temple was located? Lk. 4:9)
- 2 The devil tried to convince Jesus that they would catch Him if He would jump from the temple wall. (Mt. 4:6)
- 3 Jesus called the devil by this name. (Mt. 4:10)
- 5 The act of trying to get someone to go against God
- 7 The devil took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. (Mt. 4:8)
- 9 When we are tempted, what gives us strength? (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10) two words
- 10 The act of not following Jesus is called this.
- 12 The highest point of the temple is called this. (Mt. 4:5)
- 14 Just as the Israelites depended on God for \_\_\_\_\_ in the wilderness, so man must depend upon God for their spiritual food. (Mt. 4:3-4)
- 15 Who led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil? (Mt. 4:1)

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

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

|         |        |          |           |         |
|---------|--------|----------|-----------|---------|
| Spirit  | devil  | days     | Jordan    | stone   |
| Holy    | live   | angels   | authority | worship |
| desert  | temple | command  | bread     | world   |
| tempted | forty  | kingdoms | Jerusalem | hungry  |

## What Is Lent All About?

To find out, circle True or False after each statement. Then write the appropriate letter in the numbered boxes below.

- Lent always begins on a Friday. True False  
If the answer is true, write the letter B in the answer boxes marked 1; if false, write G.
- The word *Lent* means "winter." True False  
If the answer is true, write the letter A in the boxes marked 2; if false, write R.
- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday every year. True False  
If the answer is true, write the letter O in the boxes marked 3; if false, write C.
- Fasting is about losing weight to get in shape for Easter. True False  
If the answer is true, write the letter T in the box marked 4; if false, write W.
- The priest wears violet vestments during Lent. True False  
If the answer is true, write the letter I in the boxes marked 5; if false, write F.
- On days of abstinence, Catholics don't eat dairy foods. True False  
If the answer is true, write the letter M in the boxes marked 6; if false, write N.
- Young people up to and including age thirteen do not have to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. True False  
If the answer is true, write the letter L in the box marked 7; if false, write J.
- Sundays are the only days during Lent that are not days of fasting and abstinence. True False  
If the answer is true, write the letter H in the box marked 8; if false, write V.
- There are forty days in Lent because Jesus prayed and fasted for forty days in the desert before beginning his ministry. True False  
If the answer is true, write E in the boxes marked 9; if false, write Q.
- The main work of Lent consists of prayer, penance, and sharing what we have. True False  
If the answer is true, write S in the box marked 10; if false, write P.
- The last Sunday of Lent is called Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. True False  
If the answer is true, write T in the box marked 11; if false, write U.
- Both children and adults can fast from favorite foods and other favorite things during Lent. True False  
If the answer is true, write Y in the box marked 12; if false, write U.

## Answer Boxes

|     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |    |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|----|
| 1   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9  |   |    |    |
| and |   |   |   |   |   | 1 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 12 |



## The Gospel at Home

**This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 1:12-15**

In the Sunday Gospel, the Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness for forty days. The desert is a place of testing, but it is also a place to be close to God. Jesus' time in the desert calls us to make Lent a season of growth, a season for developing habits that will make us more loving toward God and one another.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Promise** (Grades K–1): As Lent begins, your child learned that he or she can do loving actions and can pray. Remember that, for the most part, young children will do these things in the context of the family. Talk about loving actions your family can do during Lent and set aside a time for family prayer. Ask your child to share the prayer box he or she made in class.

**Good News** (Grades 2–3): This week, your child learned about God's covenant with Noah. Ask your child to tell of God's promise. The class also learned that God is always near us. Take some time to make a family plan of special prayers and actions for the Lenten season. Ask your child to share the story of Saint Mark, "A Man of Faith and Courage." Discuss, too, the actions of the Lenten Calendar made during class.

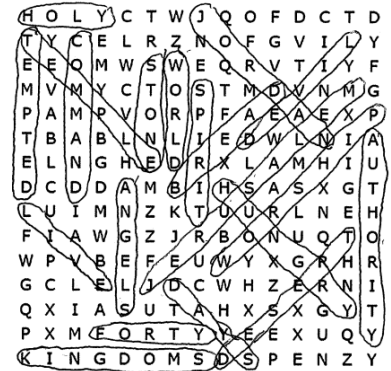
**Venture** (Grades 4–6): One of the most important words in our religious vocabulary is *covenant*. This week, your youngster's class

learned about the covenant with Noah and how, under the sign of a rainbow, God made a new relationship with his People. During this first week of Lent, make a family covenant—an agreement to spend the season doing good things for others, making personal and family sacrifices, and praying together as a family. It would be good to put your family covenant in writing. See the examples of covenants from the lesson.

**Visions** (Grades 7–9): In this week's lesson, the young people discussed whether they would get involved when they see injustice committed against a neighbor or friend. As Jesus faces a test in the desert, ask: How do we stand up when we are tested? Since young people are not required to fast, they have traditionally given up treats during Lent. You can ask your young person to share the questionnaire that shows how you might be recognized as a Christian.

### Pray Together

An important part of the Lenten discipline is prayer. When you complete your conversation about Sunday's Gospel lesson, some evening during a family meal, share a special prayer that your forty days of Lent will help your family grow in the love of God and love of others too. Ask each family member to say a prayer in his or her own words.



He was tempted  
by the Devil

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

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Scan here for  parent resources  
or visit [gospelweeklies.com/family](http://gospelweeklies.com/family)



## SOLUTIONS: What is Lent All About?

1-False; 2-False; 3-True; 4-False; 5-True; 6-False; 7-True; 8-False; 9-True; 10-True; 11-True; 12-True  
 Answer Boxes: GROWING IN LOVE AND GENEROSITY



## Laudato Si' Initiative

The Laudato Si' Initiative at St. Agnes will resume programming in the Spring. We are considering several ideas, including small group discussions, field trips and gardening work days, as well as spiritual formation and devotional practices. To prepare for what lies ahead, if you still haven't read and explored Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'* or its companion, *Laudato Deum*, Bishop McElroy of San Diego, CA, in a recent issue of the *National Catholic Reporter*, gives 5 reasons to delve into this important papal letter.

- Laudato Si' points to the single most universally inviting pathway to encounter with God.
- Laudato Si' speaks powerfully of the concept of truth.
- Laudato Si' beautifully testifies to the principle of solidarity.
- Laudato Si' speaks piercingly to the moral questions of technology and its limits.
- Laudato Si' speaks incisively and powerfully to the ethic of intergenerational solidarity.

The NCR also offers a special project that features resources and information: *EarthBeat*. You can find it here: <https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat>

You can read Laudato Si' here: [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

You can read Laudato Deum here: [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html)

If you have ideas to share or wish to join our collective efforts, reach out to Carrie Blessing [carriejaneblessing@gmail.com](mailto:carriejaneblessing@gmail.com) or Kimberly Connor [connork@usfca.edu](mailto:connork@usfca.edu).

## The Synod Continues in the Diocese

Continuing on our journey as a Synodal Church, faithful from around the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are asked to attend a gathering in their vicariate (Charleston, Martinsburg, Beckley, Clarksburg, Parkersburg, and Wheeling) between Feb 21- March 7. Each gathering will be a synodal listening session to address two questions posed by the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, who met in Rome last October.

- Where have I seen or experienced successes—and distresses—within the Church's structure(s)/organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission?
- How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?

The sessions will be held Feb. 21 at the Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, **Feb. 22 at St. Leo Church in Inwood**, Feb. 27 at St. Francis de Sales Church in Beckley, Feb. 28 at Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksburg, Feb. 29 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Parkersburg, and March 7 at St. Michael Church in Wheeling. All sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. and everyone is encouraged to attend.

## Free Community Safety Trainings

### 2024 FREE Community Safety Training Available for ERT and anyone interested

The Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency is offering the following training opportunities:

#### Community CPR and Stop the Bleed:

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

All classes start at 6 pm. CPR courses last 3 hours. To register and for more information go to the Jefferson County Emergency Services website: <https://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/county-agencies/jcesa/community-cpr-first-aid>.

*Interested in joining the St. Agnes Emergency Response Team?* Contact Michele Goldman [mgoldman9797@gmail.com](mailto:mgoldman9797@gmail.com) or Teace Noel [wvnoels@gmail.com](mailto:wvnoels@gmail.com).

## Religious Item Recycling—LAST CALL

St. Mary Recycle Mission Group recycles used Religious items that are no longer needed. 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 soiled or tattered, as we will 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)
- 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

### (Please No Religious Books/Reading Books/Story Books or Pamphlets/Magazines/DVDs/VHS Tape/Wax Candles)

Please do not throw anything out that may be questionable as they take items in any condition.

**You will find a collection box at the parish center. All donations must be in by Friday, February 23.**

## Long Term Sub Sought For School Nurse

St Joe's School is seeking a long-term substitute school nurse to provide clinical assistance to the school community during school hours for the safety and well-being of the students. The person hired for the position would be needed from mid to late March through late May.

Essential Responsibilities include: Provide emergency care and first aid to students; Maintain detailed student health records regarding clinic visits, medical difficulties of students, screening results, physical examinations, immunization records; Ensure that state and local health requirements are met by students and teachers, Is knowledgeable about the contents of the West Virginia School Health Guidelines; Makes health appraisals through observation, interview, analysis of health records, and consults with administrators, faculty and parents; Acts as health education resource for faculty Keeps inventory and orders supplies (within the budget allotted) when needed; Follows the Universal Precautions and Blood-borne Pathogen requirements; Respects confidentiality when dealing with students; Accepts other miscellaneous duties related to health/clinic care as defined by the principal

Qualifications: Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) -or Qualifies to obtain one of the above certifications combined with at least a year of clinical experience in the field; Knowledge of nursing and health care practices as applied to children and youth; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing, and to work cooperatively with others.

If interested, please email Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjsww.org.

## Long Term Sub Sought For Math

Saint Joseph School (SJS) educates in the spirit of the Gospel, inspiring Catholic values, academic excellence, global awareness and service to those in need. The ideal candidate would be one who embraces the SJS mission and who is looking for a place in which to be respected and supported, while growing professionally.

Reports to: Principal

Job type: Full time until May 2024 (potential for permanent, full-time contract position)

Pay: \$36,000 to 42,000 per year

Essential responsibilities include: developing/applying the WV College and Career Readiness mathematics curricula, planning daily lessons and activities to meet those standards, adopting a data-driven attitude toward measuring learner progress, tending to individual student needs, demonstrating an awareness of different student backgrounds and cultures, communicating regularly with parents, providing extra support to students who need it, monitoring student growth to identify strengths and areas for improvement, using learner data to constantly refine curriculum, and providing regular feedback to students

Math teaching requirements include: bachelor's degree in relevant field, ideally state teaching license in relevant field, knowledge of teaching best practices, empathy and great interpersonal skills, excellent written and verbal communication, proficiency with basic computer software such as Word and Excel, experience working with children and adolescents (previous experience as a middle school teacher is advantageous), good classroom management skills, good teamwork abilities

Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjsww.org.

## 2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in March. Please contact Judy at any time with names of individuals you would like to add or if you would like to join the group. Judy: 301-432-2276 or jsilga8@gmail.com.

## Parish Financial Activity

### Collections – Last Week

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Offertory Collections  | \$9,685         |
| Monthly Mortgage Assistance                                    | \$1,650         |
| <b>Total</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)         | <b>\$11,335</b> |
| <b>Weekly Target</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance) | <b>\$12,000</b> |
| <b>Total Collections Compared to Target</b>                    | <b>↓ −\$665</b> |

Tithe to help those in need \$969

(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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

## CRISIS FOOD HOTLINE



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## Enrollment at St Joe's School

Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year begins Feb. 2 for families whose children already attend Saint Joseph School and for their siblings who do not currently attend. Catholic families who are active in local parishes may start the application process on Feb. 9 and the general public can apply starting Feb. 16.

To apply, go to [sjswv.org](http://sjswv.org).

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is again offering the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to Catholic and non-Catholic families. For the 2024-25 school year, here are dates of note:

### **All application windows open Feb. 1.**

Phase I (Catholic families): Application period closes April 30; awards given May 21

Phase II (Catholic and non-Catholic families): Application period closes July 14; awards given Aug 1

Phase III (Catholic and non-Catholic families): Application period closes Aug. 23; awards given Sept. 17

For more information, go to [wvcatholicschools.org](http://wvcatholicschools.org).

If your child is currently attending public school or entering kindergarten, you also might qualify for the Hope Scholarship. To learn more, go to <https://www.hopescholarshipwv.com/>.

## SJS Alumni Musicians

### **SJS alumni sought for May band performance**

We are seeking SJS alums who play an instrument and would be willing to supplement our middle school band for the May 17 concert.

If you are interested, please contact Annie Woodmansey at [awoodmansey@sjswv.org](mailto:awoodmansey@sjswv.org).

## Tours of St Joe's School

### **St Joe's School group tours for prospective families**

We are excited to announce group tours for families interested in sending their children to SJS!

Those considering grades K-8 are invited to visit on Wednesday, March 20, at 9 a.m., or email [mpartington@sjswv.org](mailto:mpartington@sjswv.org) to set up another time to visit.

Those interested in our Early Childhood Education Program (for those ages 4 and younger) may stop by on Thursday, March 21, at 9 a.m., or email [kmackinnon@sjswv.org](mailto:kmackinnon@sjswv.org) to schedule another time to visit.

Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year begins Feb. 2 for families whose children already attend Saint Joseph School and for their siblings who do not currently attend.

Catholic families who are active in local parishes may start the application process on Feb. 9, and the general public can apply starting Feb. 16.

To apply, please click on the "apply" tab at [sjswv.org](http://sjswv.org).

If you need more information, please email [mpartington@sjswv.org](mailto:mpartington@sjswv.org) or call the school office at 304-267-6447.

## St Joe's St. Patrick's Day Benefit Dinner

A St. Patrick's Day dinner for Saint Joseph School is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at St. Leo Catholic Church in Inwood. Tickets cost \$80 per person; two for \$150; or \$600 for a table of eight. They may be purchased by going to <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/onlineticketpurchase.php?groupId=586>. The event will feature pub-style food and drink, tip jars, games, plus silent and live auctions. If you have something you'd like to donate for the auctions or if you would like to be a sponsor or advertiser, please contact the school's School-Family Association (SFA) at [sfa@sjswv.org](mailto:sfa@sjswv.org). Details about sponsorship and advertising opportunities can be requested.

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