

S a i n t A g n e s



*Peace is not the producer
of terror or fear;
Peace is not the silence
of cemeteries.
Peace is not the result
of violent repression...
Peace
is generosity.
It is right and duty.*

Archbishop Oscar A. Romero

*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

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-25++
Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8+10, 12-13
1 Corinthians 15:45-49
Luke 6:27-38

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

Scripture & Communion

Monday and Wednesday, 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 the intentions of

Sue Deckelman

Sunday, 8am for

Gordon Knapp

May Gordon share

in the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Teresa Verteramo (mother of Rosanne Hutton) and Cari Simon (former Director of Shepherdstown Shares) who died this past week. May Teresa and Cari share in the fulness of God's love and peace.

The Week at a Glance...

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
Mon Feb 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon
Tues Feb 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrant Ministry 12noon • Board Games Group 3:30pm
Wed Feb 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Feeding the Hungry Food Delivery 5pm
Fri Feb 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeping Bag Project 9:30am
Sat March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SJP Weekend • Perpetual Memorial Mass 5:30pm
Sun March 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFF, Youth Group, AFF, First Eucharist Parent Meeting 9:15am • Racial Justice Initiative Thea Bowman Film 11:45am • OCIA 12noon
Mon March 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon
Tues March 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fat Tuesday • Board Games Group 3:30pm • Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-7pm
Wed March 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday • Masses 12noon and 7pm

Did Somebody Say Pancakes?!

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, March 4, 5-7pm

Where: The Parish Center

Why: Ash Wednesday is March 5

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

Carryout Available!

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Mary Raygor, Bertha Ngu (sister of Fon Ngu), Mason Coderre, Norma Frances Cesare (mother of Carmela Cesare), Bill Gray, Ann Kessel, Mike Vojtasko, Ron Mancini (son-in-law of Bob & Martha Rizzo), 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.

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.

I Worried by Mary Oliver

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn
as it was taught, and if not how shall
I correct it?
Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,
can I do better?
Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows
can do it and I am, well,
hopeless.
Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,
am I going to get rheumatism,
lockjaw, dementia?
Finally, I saw that worrying had come to nothing.
And gave it up. And took my old body
and went out into the morning,
and sang.

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.

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

The Service, Justice, and Peace weekend for March will be next weekend. There will be Haiti coffee for sale as well as the opportunity to donate to feeding the poor, providing feminine hygiene products and diapers, educating girls in Cameroon, and Mary's Refuge for single mothers who need support. We hope you remember to bring a donation no matter how large or small to help our neighbors.

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>.

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.

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

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!

Stations are led by the Laity, and we are looking for Ministries/Groups to take part and lead the Stations throughout Lent.

Our youth have already volunteered and will be leading Stations on March 14, and they are hosting a Simple Supper at 6pm. Fridays March 7, 21, and 28 and April 4 and 11 are all wide open. Please consider signing up to help!

Please contact liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org!

SMA Lenten Community Read

**Shepherdstown Ministerial Association Invites you to:
A COMMUNITY READ | Lent 2025 in March & April**

Saints and Villains By Denise Giardina

SMA Community Read Discussion Group

The Discussion Group will be held on four Tuesdays in Lent at 7pm at the Parlor at Trinity House (Trinity Episcopal Church). Both In-person and on Zoom. Dates: March 11, 18, 25, April 1. Facilitators will be the Rev. Gethin Weid and the Rev. Karen Erskine-Valentine.

MEET THE AUTHOR EVENT

Dr. Denise Giardina will be with us to discuss *Saints and Villains* on Tuesday, April 8 (Place/Time: TBA). Dr. Giardina is a West Virginia native and taught English at West Virginia State College. She is a licensed lay preacher in the Episcopal Church.

For more info: contact Rev. Dee-Ann Dixon, New Street UMC, 304-876-2362 or Rev. Karen Erskine-Valentine, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 304-876-6771.

Last Chance: 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. Check out past bulletins (available on the website) for the list of accepted items.

The Disciple Maker Index Survey

Thank you so much to all of you who completed the Disciple Maker Index Survey. The survey process is now closed. Those who completed the paper survey have been mailed to the Catholic Leadership Institute. They are responsible for keying in the information.

The Envisioning Team will receive the information as soon as it is compiled and meet to discuss it. The result is to come up with an evangelization plan for the Diocese of Wheeling/Charleston. If you have any questions or think you completed the survey for St Agnes in Charleston, please let Helen know so she can make them aware. Again, you will remain anonymous. If you have any questions, contact Helen liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org

Mark 16:15 "And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.'"

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!

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.

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 due to inclement weather. We once again have the opportunity to **give public comment** in writing either by email or regular mail by March 4, 2025. Please also plan to **attend the Public Workshop** and give public comments on **March 11, 2025 at 7pm (location to be determined)**.

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!

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 song name and the composer:

[The House That Love Is Building](#) by Sarah Hart

Lyrics: In the house that Love is building

[Hold On to Love](#) by Jesse Manibusan

Lyrics: There is a place for the sadness

Free! Enjoy! Best to you!

Elaine R, MM. DMA

STILL SEEKING: Prayer Sponsors

We are still in need of Prayer Sponsors for our youth who are preparing to receive their First Eucharist. You will be assigned a child and be asked to pray faithfully for them every day, and stay anonymous until the **First Eucharist luncheon on May 10th and the First Eucharist Mass on Sunday, May 11th at 10:30am**.

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

THE YOUTH CORNER

**Seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

This Week's Gospel:
Luke 6:27-38

February 23, 2025

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

CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

CFF, Youth Group, First Eucharist parents, and Adult classes will be held, Sunday, Feb 23 in the Parish Center at 9:15am.

We are still looking for some additional prayer sponsors. Please see **Prayer Sponsors** article in this 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.

Lent begins Wednesday, March 5th. Remember to put the Youth Pancake Dinner on your calendar. **The Pancake Dinner will be Tuesday, March 4, 2025 in the Parish Center from 5pm to 7pm**. Just like last year, we will also have a gluten free option available. Please come and support the youth programs and join in this parish social event. Bring some friends. The event is open to the public.

As we begin Lent, **each Friday during Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held 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 (7pm) at the church after our **Simple Supper (6pm)** 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 will be on March 9th at 5pm**.

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.

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.

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

WORD LIST

- BLESS
- CHILDREN
- ENEMIES
- FATHER
- FORGIVE
- GIVE
- GOOD
- JUDGE
- KIND
- LOVE
- MEASURE
- MERCIFUL
- OTHERS
- PRAY
- REWARD



7 I L F 8
 3 M B 1
 4 E C R 5
 9 U E 2

Fill in the missing numbers

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9.

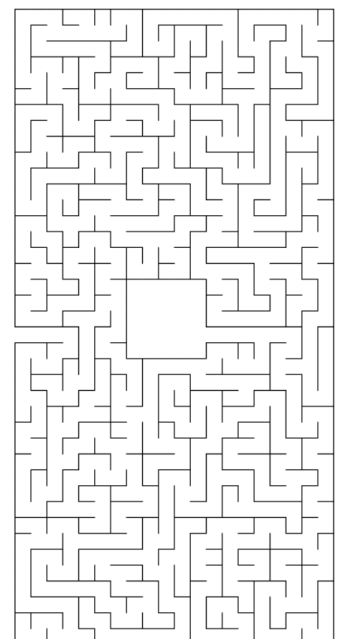
Each number is only used once.

Each row is a math equation.

Each column is a math equation.

Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

	+		x		31
-		-		x	
	x	7	-		17
+		-		+	
	+	9	-		3
0		-11			32



What was Jesus telling us to do in today's Gospel reading? Use the numbers to help unscramble the letters!



**Do Not Judge
 And You Will
 Not Be Judged**

Answer Your Questions About Lent

Here are ten questions about Lent. Below are the answers. Put the letter of each answer next to its question.

Questions

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ 1. Why do we observe Lent? | _____ 6. Why is the day before Lent called Pancake Day? |
| _____ 2. What does the word <i>Lent</i> mean? | _____ 7. What does it mean to fast? |
| _____ 3. Why does Lent have forty days? | _____ 8. What is Shrove Tuesday? |
| _____ 4. Why is the first day of Lent called Ash Wednesday? | _____ 9. What does it mean to abstain? |
| _____ 5. How is <i>carnival</i> related to Lent? | _____ 10. What is Mardi Gras? |

Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>a. It is the day before Ash Wednesday. In the old days, many people confessed their sins to a priest just before Lent began. An old word, <i>shrive</i>, means "to grant forgiveness to a sinner." The word for this action became connected with the day before Lent.</p> <p>b. It originally meant to refrain from eating meat or meat products. Catholics fourteen years of age or older may not eat meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Many people also refrain, or abstain, from eating treats like candy in Lent.</p> <p>c. The word means "spring." For Christians, this time is like spring in the sense that they are trying to turn their lives around and make new beginnings.</p> <p>d. Jesus fasted in the desert for this length of time before he began his public life, which eventually led to his Death and Resurrection. During these days of Lent, Christians prepare for the great feast of our salvation through the heroic deeds of Jesus.</p> <p>e. Lent helps us prepare for Jesus' Death and Resurrection. Some people are preparing for their Baptism into Jesus' new life at this time as well. During Lent, we do penance for our sins through prayer and almsgiving so that we can share fully in the joyous new life of Easter.</p> | <p>f. It means "Fat Tuesday" in French. Some people observe the day with feasting and celebration, which comes to a quick end as the bells toll midnight. The word <i>fat</i> refers to the rich foods that are often eaten before the Lenten fast begins.</p> <p>g. It received this name because the priest places ashes on the foreheads of believers on that day. Ashes remind us of sorrow and repentance, and of our death, after which we will return to ashes.</p> <p>h. It means eating only one full meal a day, with two very light meals and no between-meal snacks. Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine are obligated to observe this penance on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.</p> <p>i. On this day, families may make pancakes to use up all the eggs, milk, and butter or shortening—foods that Catholics will need to abstain from during Lent.</p> <p>j. In Europe and South America, people call the season before Lent <i>carnival</i>. This word means "farewell to meat."</p> |
|---|---|

Youth Events: At a Glance Dates for the Calendar

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

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

March 4: Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-7pm

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

March 14: Simple Supper at 6pm followed by Youth-Led Stations of the Cross at 7pm in the Parish Center

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

A Service of **Gospel Weeklies**
Pflaum **TTTTT** FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

© 2025 Pflaum Publishing Group, a division of Bayard, Inc. (800-543-4383) Permission is granted to reproduce this page for use by parishes, schools, and families using Pflaum Gospel Weeklies.



Do to
others as you
would have
them do to
you.

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continues his teaching following the Beatitudes. He tells us to love our enemies, pray for those who hurt us, and give of ourselves to anyone who asks. We learn the great Golden Rule: Do to others as you would have them do to you. Offer a prayer of praise as we cannot hear these words often enough.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week, your child learned that Jesus simply wants us to love and forgive others. Ask your child how he or she shares, exercises, learns, pretends, helps, laughs, and plays with others. Share with your child your own ideas on how to do these things. Be sure to check out the "My Friends and Me" booklet that your child made in class this week.

Promise (Grades K-1): Jesus taught us to be kind. Your child learned about the Golden Rule to treat others as we want to be treated. Ask your child about times this week when he or she was kind to others. Share when you felt someone was kind to you. Accept your child's Kindness Coupons with love. Thank the Lord for your child, so they can hear your love for them.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned this week about Jesus' law of love, which means being kind to others and even loving your enemies. Ask your child why Brendan Groehl's story was a good one for this week's lesson on kindness. Talk about the class activity to make the four story problems better or worse.

Copyright © 2025 Pflaum Publishing Group, a division of Bayard, Inc.

Video for this week's Gospel:

<https://youtu.be/wQENqPe-5Wk>

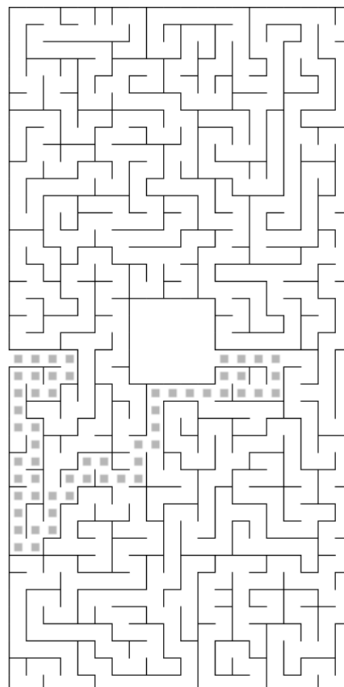
SOLUTIONS:

Questions about Lent

1-e; 2-c; 3-d; 4-g; 5-j; 6-i; 7-h; 8-a; 9-b; 10-f

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

1	+	5	x	6	31
-		-		x	
3	x	7	-	4	17
+		-		+	
2	+	9	-	8	3
0		-11		32	



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



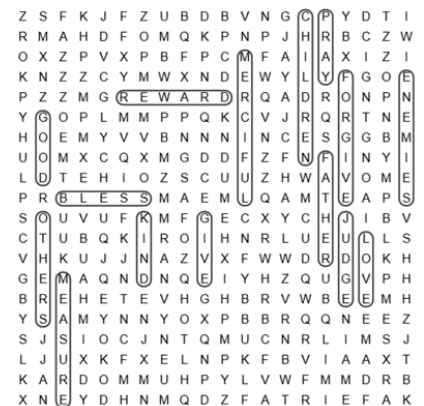
Volunteering: The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate our faith in action!

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.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.



Racial Justice Initiative

Significant contemporary comments on the spirituals include James Cone's *The Spirituals and the Blues* (1972), which links the power of song in the struggle for black survival with liberation theology. Critical of the ways in which previous Black theologians had stressed a compensatory religious function of the spirituals, Cone examines the spirituals and their secular counterpart, the blues, as cultural expressions of black people, delineating the functional techniques employed for cultural survival that the songs embody. John Lovell's comprehensive *Black Song: The Forge and the Flame* (1972) explores how the spirituals were "hammered out" in the forge of oppression and the subsequent social implications when, over time, their "flame" cast a liberative spirit far and wide. Emphasizing their African roots in the context of enslaved life, he demonstrates how the spirituals assisted in resistance to slavery, insisting that the songs project not just religious and otherworldly visions but were enslaved peoples' description and criticism of their environment and an index to their revolutionary sentiments and desire to be free. In *Black Culture and Black Consciousness* (1977) Lawrence Levine also argues persuasively for an appreciation of the profound connection between the other world and this world in slave consciousness that the spirituals describe. Like Cone and Lovell, Levine seeks to underscore the roots of resistance behind the spirituals and to re-historicize the experience of enslaved people for whom religion was wrought out of an encounter with the divine in the midst of social realities.

Essential to understanding the development of an African American literary tradition, the spirituals have functioned as the source, model, and inspiration for countless works, despite Mark Twain's observation that had the spirituals been a foreign product Americans would appreciate them more. Slave narratives make abundant references to the spirituals, but they were not fully appreciated or celebrated until the Harlem Renaissance. Along with Du Bois, Alain Locke in *The New Negro* (1925) affirmed the emotional power of the spirituals and drew attention to the originality and distinctive richness of black music, emphasizing how their function is not limited by race consciousness but affirms a universal ideal for the whole American nation. In his poetry and fiction, James Weldon Johnson alluded to spirituals directly and indirectly, making a case for how enslaved people who "sang a race from wood and stone to Christ" created a religion out of art and mediated the distinction between African religion and Christianity, thereby easing a painful transition from one culture to another. With his brother, J. Rosamond, he also collected and edited spirituals in two volumes, *Book of American Negro Spirituals* (1925, 1926), offering in his preface an extensive argument for their African origins and developing a theory of the process of folk composition based on his own observations of songleaders that synthesizes the role of individuals and the community. It was by "sheer spiritual forces," Johnson asserted, that African chants metamorphosed into the "miracle" of the spirituals. In particular, the biblical parallels with which the spirituals were imbued were and continued to be adapted by writers, Black and white, working in multiple genres, including fiction, poetry, and playwriting. What all writers understood was that in evoking the spirituals they were calling forth the spirit of a people struggling to be free, a people who asserted that "Before I'll be a slave / I'll be buried in my grave / And go home to my Lord and be free." For, as James Cone has observed, "Black history is a spiritual."

- 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/>
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1127065329163846>

They have yet to post the list of accepted items for this year, but historically they accept items such as: toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes, used batteries, various appliances and furniture, eyewear and contact casings, musical instruments, luggage, and bicycles.

Misal del Día

Este año tendremos el misal del día en la entrada del Narthex de la iglesia. Siéntase libre de usar uno durante la Misa y regresarlo al final de la Misa para que otros puedan usarlo también. Gracias.

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).

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.

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.

Shepherdstown Friends Film Screening

Bury Me at Taylor Hollow | March 8th at 11am

On Saturday, March 8th at 11am at the Frank Center Theater, there will be a screening of a moving film about natural burial. John Christian Phifer, the subject of the film and green burial expert, will join us for a community discussion immediately following the film. The filmmaker, Orion Pahl will be in attendance as well.

Following the 55 minute film, there will be about 30 minutes for Q&A. The film is a fascinating look at options to have a more traditional burial that works in harmony with the natural world and can conserve green space as well.

Tickets and more information can be found on the Conservation Film Fest website <https://conservationfilmfest.org/>

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. Visit conservationfilmfest.org.

Stay Up to Date with Mary's Refuge

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/>.



Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$4,549
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$1,055
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$5,604
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$13,400
Total Collection Compared to Target	↓ - \$7,796

Tithe to help those in need \$455
(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 our ministry. Thank you!



Find What You've Lost

Our lost and found basket at the church is overflowing with lots of things that need to go home. Have you lost a men's belt, a jacket, an umbrella? We might have it. The basket is located by the exit near the bathrooms. We will take the next few weeks to try to find the owners, but **after Sunday, March 9, anything left will be rehomed.**

In Case of Inclement Weather...

It is that time of year when we need to be prepared for inclement weather! Should we experience wintry precipitation, we will do our best to make a decision regarding in person CFF class by 8pm the evening prior. To see if we will be closed: check our website, call the parish office and listen to the recording, or you can access this information on the CFF/Youth Facebook page (see Youth Pages for how to join). Please note, **if Jefferson County Schools are delayed or closed, there will be no weekday Mass.** The Parish Center office will also follow the school system's decision and will be closed if schools are closed.

Homebound Ministry Volunteering

Our Homebound Ministry is always looking for new volunteers. Our volunteers help folks out with rides to appointments with their doctors and various therapies, to pick up prescriptions, and for grocery shopping. From time to time, there might also be a need for caregiver breaks wherein a volunteer would just simply sit with an individual so their caregiver can have a break, take care of shopping, or get to their own appointments. Please contact Judy Lilga jslilga8@gmail.com or 301-432-2276 for more information or to volunteer!

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.

The Riddell Law Group
Nicola D. Smith, Esq.
Christian Riddell, Esq
304-267-3949



304-620-0756

Mowing, Land clearing,
Hardscaping, Demolition,
Mulching, Junk removal,
Leveling/Grading, Planting,
Gravel drive install/repair,
Dumpster rentals, and more

Personal Touch

CLEANING SERVICE

304-839-8285

Residential & Commercial



Catholic
Charities
West Virginia

(844) 843-6631

Call if you or a neighbor are
experiencing a food emergency

We can help.

www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org

I WANT TO SAVE YOU MONEY



Michele
Ours
Maiden

Contact me today to switch

304-876-0822

INSURANCE OUTFITTERS®

Locally Inspired Insurance® Since March 3, 1989



7866 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown, WV 25443 • InsuranceOutfitters.com

NEED A NEW INVESTMENT ADVISOR?



Call me today!

MISSION:ADVICE

Tom Maiden MBA, CFP®

304-870-4200

MissionAdvice.com

Mission:Advice LLC (DBA Mission:Advice)
is a West Virginia Registered Investment Advisor.

7866 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown, West Virginia 25443

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, contact Deacon Patrick Michel, Ed.D. at deaconpat@stjosephwv.org. View the job listing: <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Saint-Joseph-School/jobs>.

SJS Lunch with the Franciscan Sisters

Sunday, March 23rd 12:30—1:30pm
in the St Joseph's School Cafeteria
for All Middle and High School Girls

Sr. Sarah Rose and Sr. Rita Claire are part of a young vibrant order that does campus ministry and work with those in need, besides having a contemplative calling to pray for our world.

We will hear their stories, and learn how to hear God's call for our lives. It will be a delightful afternoon!

RSVP: secretary@stjosephwv.org or 304-267-4893

By Monday March 17th

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.



Men's Catholic in Recovery

Catholic in Recovery provides healing from addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments. Join us Thursdays at 7pm at Priest Field Pastoral Center. Contact John G. (304) 725-1435 guiney@stjameswv.org or visit www.catholicinrecovery.com

CBT Grants update

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

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

For our Track 4 grant, 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 AMERICA



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](#).

	<p>Sid Sponaugle 304-671-7761</p> <p>Residential Shingle Roofs GAF Certified WV000540</p>	<p>Myers Hill & Associates Estate Planning & Elder Law 299 Rock Cliff Drive Martinsburg, WV 304-263-9099</p>	 <p>Paintings, NoteCards, Figurines For Sale or on Commission mcbart.LonelyPetunia/etsy.com</p>	<p>Patriot Tree Service Patriottreeservicewv.com 304-207-0115 Trimming, Pruning, Removal, and more Emergency Tree Service</p>
<p><i>St Agnes Columbarium Garden</i> <i>Your Niche For All Time</i></p> <p>⌚ ⌚ ⌚</p> <p>200 South Duke St Shepherdstown, WV 304-876-6436</p>	 <p>Funeral Home</p>	<p>Traditional, Cremation Pre-Arrangements Trappist Caskets Available</p> <p>304.724-6500 Alan Norton, LIC</p>	 <p>ARNOLD & BAILEY ATTORNEYS AT LAW</p>	
<p><i>Potomac Crossroads Counseling</i></p>  <p>Kathleen Morotti LPC, LCDAC, BC-DMT Shepherdstown 304-876-3500</p>	<p>Shepherdstown PHARMACY</p>  <p>7670 Martinsburg Pike 304-876-9966 The Knott Family</p>	<p>Two Rivers Counseling</p> <p>adults, teens, children & couples</p> <p>Robyn Harrison-Taft, MA, LPC, NCC www.2riverscounseling.com 304-725-7176</p>	 <p>Schmitt Construction Company</p> <p>James A. Schmitt 304-876-2462</p>	<p>304 725-2002 WWW.AROLDANDBAILEY.COM S. ANDREW ARNOLD, ESQ.</p>
 <p>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.</p>	<p>St. Agnes KofC 304-876-6436 Join Us!</p>	<p>Steel House Farm Gerrardstown, WV 304-582-5707 Pasture raised, GMO-Free, Chicken, Eggs, Pork, Beef, and Turkey SteelHouseFarm.com</p>	 <p>Sharpsburg PHARMACY</p> <p>17316 Shepherdstown Pike Sharpsburg, MD 21782 800-354-0478/301-432-7223</p>	 <p>Darnell & Company A.C. CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING</p> <p>David E. Darnell 304.725.5712 ddarnell@darnellco.com</p>
 <p>Incredible Facials Expert Waxing Amazing Make Up</p> <p>Sokel Makeup & Skin Care</p> <p>123 N. Charles St, Charles Town by Appointment 304-728-8801</p>	<p>Dr. Gagan Singh, MD Dr. David Yeh, MD <i>The Medical Eye Center</i> 710 Somerset Blvd, Suite 101 Charles Town, WV 25414 New Patients Welcome Call for an appointment 304-725-2121</p>		<p>Ginger's Flowers and Gifts</p>  <p>317 West Race St. Martinsburg WV 25401 304-267-8936 gingersflowersandgifts.com gingersflowersandgifts@gmail.com</p> <p>KFB GRAPHICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graphic Design and Consulting Photo Restoration 35mm Slide/Negative Scanning <p>kfb@myactv.net • 304-279-4690 Kathleen f. Bielicki Graphic Designer/Artist</p> <p>SACRED ART ACTION Preservation-Ecumenical Multi-Cultural Using the Arts as prayer & personal expression. All ages, walks of life & skill levels sacredartinaction.org</p>	
 <p>Sons of Italy Open to ALL of Italian descent Meetings Last Tuesday of the Month Bob Rizzo 304-676-5687</p>	 <p>Society of St. Vincent de Paul</p> <p>106 S. Duke Street Shepherdstown, WV "Caring for the poor" 304.839-5443 STA.SVDP.PREZ@gmail.com</p>	<p>Cathy Bowden Travel</p> <p>Affiliated with Avoya Travel Network/American Express Specializing in cruises and tours</p> <p>800-859-1107 304-267-1068 Cathy.Bowden@AvoyaTravel.com Www.AvoyaTravelExpert/CathyBowden</p>	 <p>mindcross InfoTech Services</p> <p>Training, data organization, security, backups, and more</p>	<p>Scott & Rosanne Hutton 304.725.2617 training@mindcross.com</p>
 <p>MMS Mowings Service, LLC</p> <p>Mowing - Edging Mulching - Weed Control Fertilizing - Overseeding Aeration - Cleanup Licensed & Insured MenzelasMowing.com 304-270-8093</p>	 <p>LITTLE BRICK COFFEE FUEL TO GET YOU STARTED</p> <p>JUST ACROSS THE BRIDGE IN MD CRAFT COFFEE DRINKS, TEA, PASTRIES, GLUTEN FREE SNACKS</p>	 <p>Mercedes Prohaska 304-264-1832 www.mercedesmoves.com Proudly Licensed in West Virginia and Virginia I will donate 3% of my Proceed back to St Agnes</p>  <p>COLDWELL BANKER PREMIER</p>	<p>Family-Owned Craft Brewery 240-200-9832 potomacridgebrewing@gmail.com 16609 Shepherdstown Pike, Sharpsburg, MD 21782</p>  <p>Lisa and Aron CareGivers 304-707-2297 Savedbygrace7277@gmail.com</p> <p>Helping through all stages of life</p> <p>Guiding Hands In home Care</p>	
<p>Friend of St. Agnes Catholic Church Hub City Sprinkler, Inc Fire Protection System Supplier Hagerstown, MD</p>	 <p>TONIC THERAPEUTIC HERB SHOP & ELIXIR BAR</p> <p>140 East German St 304-870-4527</p>	<p>STATE FARM® INSURANCE AGENT Tammy Sirbaugh, CLU 217 Oak Lee Dr, Suite 2A Ranson, WV 25438 www.tammysirbaugh.com State Farm 304-725-5433</p>	 <p>Maple 304-820-9494</p> <p>Mowing Mulching Patios Lighting Pruning ...and much more. Lawn Services</p>	