

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

Pastoral Council

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

Finance Council

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

St. Agnes Church

200 South Duke Street, Shepherdstown

St. Agnes Parish Office

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

St. Agnes Chapel

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

Sunday Readings

Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18
Psalm 116:10+15, 16-17, 18-19
Romans 8:31b-35, 37++
Mark 9:2-10

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am

Sunday, 10:30am

Weekday Mass

Monday and Wednesday at 11am

Stations of the Cross

Friday at 7pm

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30pm

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

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

Ecumenical Presentation 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!

The Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications at Shepherd University studies and promotes civil political discourse. Their website notes that, "When differing viewpoints are respected and considered in ways that avoid labeling, alienation and silencing, it can strengthen our nation's ability to solve problems."

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

Next weekend, March 2 and 3, is our monthly Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend. It's the first SJP weekend in Lent, so please remember to bring a little extra to whatever Mass you attend. There will be Haiti coffee for sale. Donations are requested for feeding the hungry and homeless, feminine hygiene products and diapers, and educating young women in Kolofata. The Knights of Columbus will be handing out blue bags to fill with foods for Shepherd Shares and JCCM food banks. Parish nurses will stay after Masses to check blood pressure and sugar. This is a positive action to fulfill giving alms during the holy season of Lent.

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 Reconciliation as a part of your Lenten Renewal efforts. Reconciliation is also available each Saturday afternoon from 4:30-5:00 pm.

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!

Mass Intentions



Saturday, 5:30pm for
Barbara & John King

Sunday, 10:30am for
Barbara McDonald

May Barbara K., John, and Barbara M. share
in the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Jerry DeFilippo, sister of Lynn Dunlevy, who recently died. May Jerry share in the fulness of God's love and peace.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Mary Katherine Raygor, Paula Russo, Larry Merhaut, and Manny Cabral. 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.

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.

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.

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 \$1440.41 after Masses the weekends of Feb. 3-4 and Feb. 10-11. Although we were unable this year to meet our fundraising goal of surpassing last year's collection for the Souper Bowl of Caring Project, every little bit collected helps people in need. 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.

The Dangerous Domestic Secret

This past September, 2023, the St Agnes book discussion group read No Visible Bruises, by Rachel Louise Snyder. This book weaves actual cases of Domestic Violence, Domestic Abuse, or Intimate Partner Violence, with statistics and data surrounding this controlling and dangerous behavior. According to the author, domestic violence accounts for 15% of all reported violent crime, yet much of this violence goes underreported.

Our book discussion group was greatly impacted by the material presented by the author, and, as this book was Shepherd University's Common Read for the year, we attended several events on the Shepherd campus which highlighted this societal issue.

In an effort to bring this issue to the forefront of our parishioners, there will be a presentation by two staff members from EPEC, Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center, who will outline for us the extent of domestic abuse in the Eastern Panhandle and nationally. Below are some facts about domestic violence, one of which may surprise you – what county in WV has the highest rate of sex trafficking?

Please plan to attend this informative presentation on Sunday, March 10, after the 10:30 Mass at 11:45 at the church.

Some facts from EPEC concerning domestic violence:

1. EPEC served almost 2,000 women, men and children in the Eastern panhandle in 2023 who were victims of domestic violence or sexual violence
2. Berkeley County has the highest number of human trafficking reports out of the entirety of WV.
3. 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men will experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime. It is important to remember that these statistics are based only on the number of reports taken, and that most people choose not to report, meaning that these numbers are likely much higher.
4. Nationwide: Stalking is the largest form of victimization among 18 to 24 year olds, with 90% of the stalking reports coming from this age group. It is why EPEC presents a lot of stalking prevention and awareness trainings at the local colleges and universities.

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

Dear Parishioners,

To begin the season of Lent, on Ash Wednesday in the homily I shared a poem by Chelan Harkin that I read recently, and I had several people comment and ask for a copy of it. The poem is on reconciliation, and, in this season of Lent, it offers perhaps a new perspective on the new beginning God wants to give us this Lent. This is something for prayer and reflection to see, in this season, the invitation to recognize that we are God's beloved who offers us wholeness and reconciliation.

If you think
the Eccentric God who made
the octopus
is gonna judge you
for your sins,
I'm afraid you've missed
the mark.

If you think this
Wild God
that spins galaxies
as a pastime
cares to get fussy
about your mistakes
or has ever made anything
that wasn't born
perfect and luminous,
you might need to repent.

If you can't yet admit
how lovable
and infinitely worthy
the fullness of your human nature is
and if you think God
wants to do anything
but perpetually pour
an abundance
of love gifts
upon you,
well, my dear, your soul
just might need
to go to confession.

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!

Racial Justice Initiative News

On Saturday, February 17th, around 500 people gathered in the Apollo Civic Theatre in Martinsburg to view a new, 42-minute documentary commemorating the history of the Sumner-Ramer Memorial School. Prominently featured in the film and in the discussion afterwards were Helen and Leonard Harris, leaders in our St. Agnes parish. Fay Asfour Stump, a retired WVA/VA educator and chairperson of the Martinsburg-Berkeley County NAACP's Education Committee, got the idea to make the film when she attended a tour with friends who had formed a Black Lives Matter Book Club in 2020. The group contacted Helen and Leonard to schedule a tour of the school and was fascinated by the history and stories they shared. The Harrises, lifelong Martinsburg residents, have been conducting tours and growing the school's museum for over 30 years, including a recent gathering for St. Agnes parishioners. Funded by the West Virginia Humanities Council, Macy's Inc., First United Bank & Trust, Berkeley County Schools, and the Apollo Civic Theatre, the film preserves an oral history of this place and the important role it played in the Black community. Multiple community members and former students at the Ramer School and Sumner School appear in the documentary, including Gloria Jackson Carter, Nancy Phillips Green, Judy Banks Joseph, Ruth Kirk Moore, Charles Roman, and Sharon Ballard Wright, and of course Helen and Leonard Harris. *The St. Agnes community thanks God for the role the Harrises continue to play in advancing our understanding of Black history and their advocacy for social justice.*

The documentary is available to view online for free at <https://www.berkeleycountywvnaacp.com/>.

Catholic Sharing Appeal

Since 2007, the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) has helped deliver essential shared ministries throughout West Virginia. Thanks to the generosity of those who have supported the CSA over the years, the diocese has been able to ensure the support needed to enliven our parishes, support our Catholic schools, and expand outreach efforts.

Upcoming is Commitment Weekend on March 3rd – a time where we, as a Catholic community, can come together and support our shared ministries through the Catholic Sharing Appeal. Hopefully we will each prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift in support of CSA. You can donate securely online, by mailing in the pledge card you received from Bishop Brennan, or place your pledge card in the collection basket. *Together, we will provide neighbors in need the light and love of Christ each and every day through our shared ministries.*

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We always need of donated **blankets**, and **comforters** (any size) and also used **sleeping bags** (clean and in fair condition). Drop them off at the parish center!

Church Feedback Cards

During the Masses the weekend of February 10th and 11th, Father Andy had an interactive homily. Participation was good. Attendees meditated for a few moments, filled out answers to questions, and engaged in conversations with people sitting near them. Results of the questions posed and discussed at the Liturgies on the weekend of February 10th and 11th were read by the Synod coordinators. Following are answers to the last question about how the Catholic Church can better support in discovering and carrying out their mission of proclaiming, in word and deed, the Risen Lord and his Gospel to the world today.

Below is a synopsis of the written answers, in order of frequency, from the sixty-six cards that were collected.

1. Inclusion. People expressed that the Church should be welcoming and open to all who seek a relationship with Christ.
2. Provide opportunities to participate in small groups.
3. Provide explicit communication about the entry points, i.e., ministries, to serve.
4. Allow women to serve in all aspects of leadership in the Church.
5. Provide direction for one to form a relationship with Christ and the Church.
6. Provide opportunities to learn more about their faith.

Further ideas and feedback are welcome, the feedback box to turn in cards and find new ones is in the back of the Church.

Book Discussion Group March 15

Our March 15 selection is Holy Envy - Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor. "Barbara Brown Taylor's new book, Holy Envy (HarperCollins, 2019), documents what she discovers about God while teaching world religions to mostly white, culturally Christian undergrads in small-town Georgia (in a county that is home to exactly one movie theater and 62 churches). In a single semester she leads them on a breakneck expedition through Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, and, finally, Christianity (on which most of them fail the initial pop quiz)". Quote from Christians for Social Action website. Please join us at 11am, March 15 in the Parish Center.

A Note from the Director

Thanks to everyone who supported our production of Godspell. Our young folks, and a few of us who are young at heart, worked very hard to create the show in a compressed time frame, and we really appreciate the great response we received. St. Agnes is blessed to have a great and active youth group as well as wonderful friends from the community who join in for our shows. We are fortunate to have wonderful folks who provide vocal support, and fantastic technical help (thanks Art, Charlie and David!). Looking forward to the next show, whatever it may be!

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.

Souper Bowl Collection: The total collected after each Mass for the Souper Bowl was \$1440.41. The money will be divided equally between JCCM and Shepherdstown Shares. Although we were unable to meet our fundraising goal for Souper Bowl this year, every little bit helps people in need. Your generosity once again reminds us of the Gospel readings where we are called by Jesus to "Feed my sheep" and "feed the hungry". Thank you.

CFF: Classes will meet today, Sunday, Feb. 25th at 9:15 AM in the parish center.

Confirmation Day Retreat: Is scheduled for Sunday, April 14th from 9 AM to 7 PM concluding with Mass at St. Agnes. Confirmation Parents should have received an email with more details.

Youth Group: Today's event is cooking for the hungry. It will be occurring in the parish center after the 10:30 Mass (11:45 AM) All are welcome to help prepare the meal. We are called to feed the hungry.

ADULT Classes: **Growing in Faith** 9:15 in the parish center.

RCIA and RCIC: Will meet today, Feb. 25th at Noon in the parish center.

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

If you are a parent and not receiving CFF announcements and emails, please contact the Parish center at 304-876-6436 or contact Bill Donahue at: **for-**

mation@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!

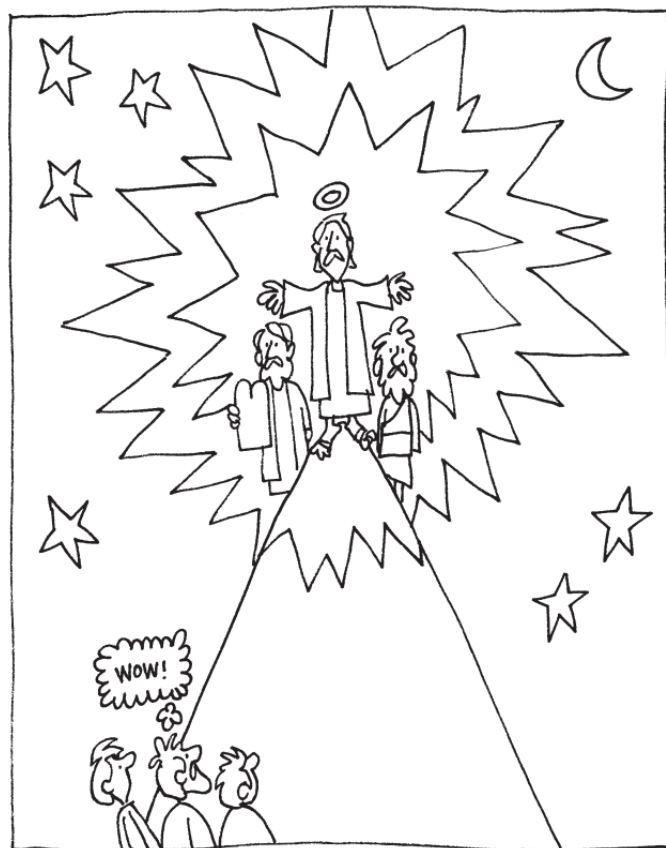
	8	7	5			3	1	
	1	9						5
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9		4				7		
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							5	3
				5	2	4		7
						8		

THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel:
Mark 9: 2—10

February 25, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent



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.

Transfiguration

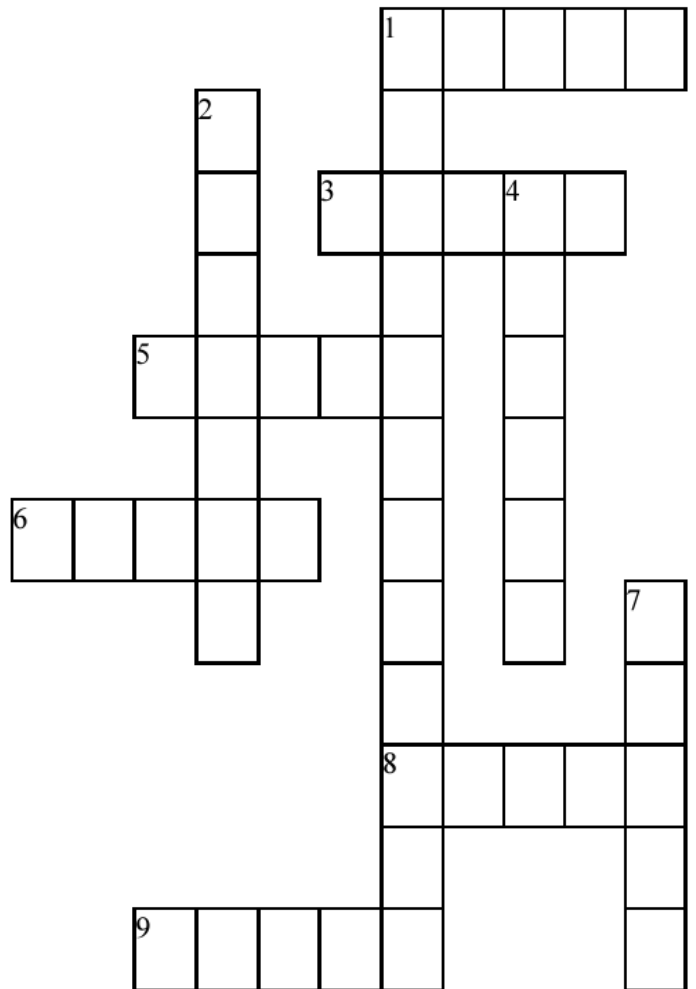
Mark 9: 2-10

Across

1. Peter wanted to build three of these.
3. He was on the mountain with Jesus.
5. He also appeared on the mountain.
6. One of the apostles who was with Jesus.
8. Peter addressed Jesus with this word.
9. The _____ casted a shadow on the mountain.

Down

1. Changed
2. This is my _____ Son. Listen to him.
4. One of the prophet who appeared.
7. The color of Jesus' clothes.



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

WHITE
SON
JOHN
VOICE
BELOVED
MOSES
ELIJAH
TRANSFIGURED
DAZZLING
CLOUD

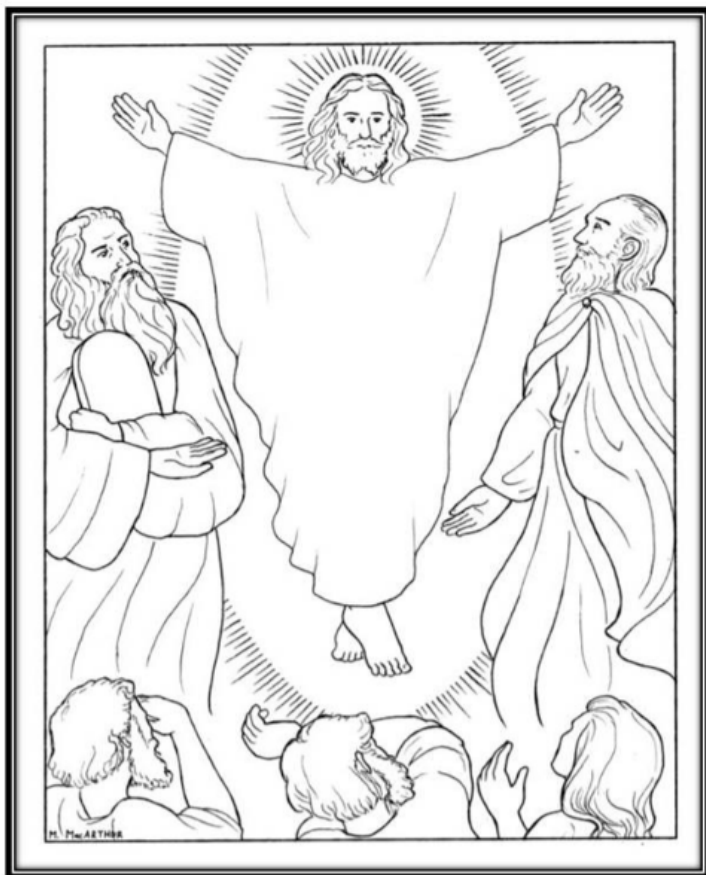
CONVERSING
JESUS
RABBI
TENTS
JAMES
LISTEN
PETER
RISEN
BLEACH
MOUNTAIN



Let us set up three tents

Second Sunday of Lent

"The Transfiguration of Our Lord"



"Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Mark 9:2-10

First Reading: Genesis 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE PUZZLE

Do the math! Answer the math problems to find the right words to fit in the spaces to answer the questions!

God wanted to test Abraham's faith.
He told him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac.

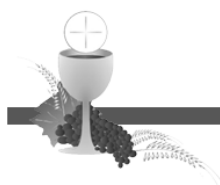
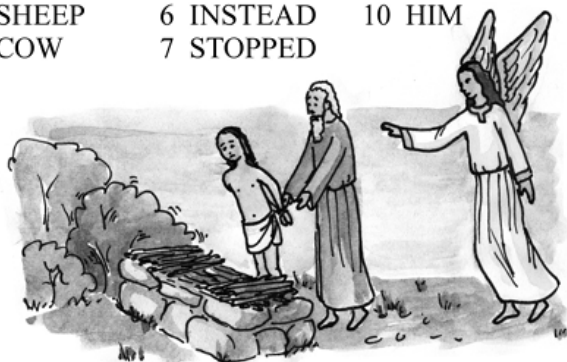
Did Abraham trust in God?
3-3=

Did God let Abraham sacrifice his son,
or did he stop him?

He and a
3+4= 6+4= 5-1=

5-3= 1+5=

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| 0 YES | 4 SENT | 8 BURNED |
| 1 NO | 5 KILLED | 9 SWORD |
| 2 SHEEP | 6 INSTEAD | 10 HIM |
| 3 COW | 7 STOPPED | |



Catholic Culture Spring

The Stations of the Cross

Next Sunday, look at the walls of your church. If it's a newer church, you might see evenly spaced crosses with a number from one to fourteen on each. In an older church, there may also be carved or painted scenes showing the sufferings of Jesus on Good Friday.

These are the Stations of the Cross. They are a popular Catholic devotion, especially during Lent. At times, you might see a person walking from station to station, stopping at each to pray and reflect on the suffering of Jesus. At specific times during Lent, usually on Friday evenings, the people of the parish might gather to pray the stations. At this time, the priest and a server or two move from station to station. The priest leads a short meditation at each station and leads prayers to which the people respond.

This devotion developed in Jerusalem as pilgrims walked the Way of the Cross, the route Jesus carried his Cross from Pilate's house to the place where he would be executed. Some say that Jesus' mother, Mary, walked the Way of the Cross many times after the Resurrection and thought about Jesus' Passion and Death. Pilgrims returning to Europe brought back stories of this devotion. Of course, not all Christians were able to travel to Jerusalem to retrace Jesus' steps on his way to his Death. In response, the faithful built outdoor "stations," a series of small shrines along a path where people could stop to pray and meditate on the events of Jesus' Way of the Cross.

The devotion grew more popular after 1342, the year when the Franciscan Order was put in charge of the holy places in Jerusalem. As members of the Order came back to Europe, they preached about this prayer.

Since the climate in Europe was cold, the outdoor stations were not available all year. That is probably the reason the Stations of the Cross now appear inside our churches.



The Stations of the Cross

1. Jesus is condemned to death.
2. Jesus takes up his Cross.
3. Jesus falls for the first time.
4. Jesus meets Mary, his mother.
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the Cross.
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
7. Jesus falls a second time.
8. Jesus meets the holy women of Jerusalem.
9. Jesus falls a third time.
10. Jesus is stripped of his clothes.
11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross.
12. Jesus dies on the Cross.
13. Jesus' body is taken down from the Cross.
14. Jesus' body is placed in the tomb.

A Service of **GospelWeeklies**
Pflaum YOUTH FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM



The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Sunday's Gospel story of the Transfiguration gives us a glimpse of Jesus' Risen life after the events of his suffering and Death. This event gives us a vision of Christian living. It gives us a notion of ourselves transformed by the power of Jesus' Death and Resurrection. Each season of Lent is another springtime in our journey of faith—growing to be people who are like Jesus.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Promise (Grades K–1): The lesson this week explored the notion of change and growth. Talk with your child about the many ways he or she has grown over the past year. Ask your child to show the booklet that shows how to make a difference. Discuss ways you can help one another when family members are grouchy or sad.

Good News (Grades 2–3): Your child learned that Jesus has two natures—both human and divine. Talk as a family about Jesus and how he is a human like you but is also the Son of God. Talk, too, about Jesus as a healer and as a teacher. Continue to plan Lenten activities for the family. Concentrate on how you can help people in need. Discuss how the Our Father prayer can be worked in Lenten prayer.

Venture (Grades 4–6): Your youngster learned about how change is a part of life. The class also explored the Fourth Commandment about honoring one's parents. Talk about how

important honoring parents is for your family—including grandparents and other relatives. Talk about respect and obedience as well. Ask your child to share the story, “Miranda’s Peaceful Sport.” Take a few minutes to review your Lenten covenant.

Visions (Grades 7–9): This week, your young person's class learned about transformation and how God transformed the life of Abraham. The class learned, too, about how the Gospel story of the Transfiguration is a promise of how all our lives will be transformed when we live forever with God. Ask your son or daughter to share with the family the story of Sister Dorothy Stang, who has been called "the martyr of the Amazon." (March 8–14 is National Catholic Sisters Week. Talk about ways your family can show appreciation to religious sisters who minister in your parish, school, or community.)

Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about Sunday's Gospel lesson, make a litany prayer of the special needs of your family, of your school or work, and of the whole world. After each need is mentioned, everyone in the family can pray together with the words, "Lord, help us all work and pray to help those in need and to change the world."

Stations of the Cross

As you look at the walls around St. Agnes you will discover 14 wooden carved plaques located in the Sanctuary, the Narthex (gathering space) and the Day Chapel. Those carvings represent the journey Jesus took during the Crucifixion. The hand painted glass stations designed by John Tapert are located on the wall of the Sanctuary behind the organ. If you have never stopped to look at our Stations of the Cross, this Lent is a good opportunity to visit them.

- : Abraham's Sacrifice
- : 0, yes; 7, stopped; 10, him;
- : 4, sent; 2, sheep; 6, instead

SOLUTIONS:

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

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

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Laudato Si' and Earthbeat

This week in *Earthbeat*, a special section of The National Catholic Reporter, Thomas Reese, SJ, suggests ways to align our Lenten practice of fasting with the principles of *Laudato Si'*. Some of the recommendations he offers for a "carbon fast" include:

1. Be very traditional: Don't eat meat, especially beef, during Lent. Our beef consumption produces huge amounts of greenhouse gasses. It also converts carbon-capturing forests into pastures, especially in the Amazon.
2. Use public transportation as much as possible. True, it takes longer, but you can do your email, read a book or pray while you ride. Consolidate your auto trips as much as possible. Walking will also be good exercise.
3. Reduce or eliminate your heating and air conditioning. Wear thick sweaters and caps indoors in the winter; T-shirts, shorts, and sandals in the summer. If possible, reduce the number of showers you take in a week, and make them short.
4. Don't use your clothes dryer, especially for towels, sweatshirts, and other non perma-press items. They can air-dry, and they will last longer. Also, air dry your dishes from the dishwasher.

Long term, Father Reese suggests, you should eliminate gas appliances and replace your appliances with more energy-efficient ones like heat pumps. And, of course, vote for candidates who will enact government programs and regulations to deal with global warming. He writes, "If every Catholic in the country spent Lent in this way, it would have an effect and would be a prophetic witness to the rest of the world. The demon of global warming can only be cast out by prayer and fasting. This Lent, let's fast from carbon."

EarthBeat: <https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat>

Read *Laudato Si'*: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

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

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/>



Spotlight on Ministry

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

"Then He took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.' And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.'" Luke 22:19-20.

MINISTRY: Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Any baptized and confirmed Catholic of at least 16 years of age is eligible for this ministry. A Eucharistic Minister is a parishioner, commissioned by the Bishop and blessed by the Pastor, who serves, distributes, and administers the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during the Holy Communion or Eucharist of the Church Service. Candidates for extraordinary ministry of Holy Communion are to be properly trained in the parish.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: Every Christian is called to ministry and gifted by the Holy Spirit. In this calling strengthened by grace, God empowers each person with the resources for ministry. The Extraordinary minister of holy communion is equipped for this ministry by the gifts of the Holy Spirit by means of our initiation into the Church and is rooted in our baptism. These gifts make that ministry effective and enable the minister to build up the Body of Christ.

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.

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 are 6-9pm. To register and for more information go to the JCES website: <https://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/countygovernment/count-agencies/jcesa/community-cpr-first-aid>.

Interested in joining the St. Agnes Emergency Response Team?

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

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).

Shepherdstown Shares Current Needs

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

Long Term Sub Sought For School Nurse

St Joe's School is seeking a long-term substitute school nurse 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@sjsvv.org.

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$7,232
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$680
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$7,912
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ -\$4,088

Tithe to help those in need \$723
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

Operation Rice Bowl

GIVE ALMS THROUGH CRS RICE BOWL

*Help communities around the world
affected by hunger and poverty.*

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

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

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

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

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

ORB Website: <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>

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

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!

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston maintains an Office of Safe Environment in accordance with the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. **To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities:** Contact your local law enforcement; numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** In addition to civil authorities, the diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the **EthicsPoint** platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

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Long Term Sub Sought For Math

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. 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 as needed, 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 interpersonal skills, excellent written and verbal communication, basic computer software proficiency (i.e. Word and Excel), experience working with children and adolescents (previous experience in a middle school is advantageous), classroom management skills, good teamwork. Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjswv.org.

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/>.



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 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 to schedule another time to visit.

Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year has begun. To apply, please click on the "apply" tab at sjswv.org. For more information, please email 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. Details about sponsorship and advertising opportunities can be requested.

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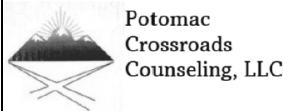
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