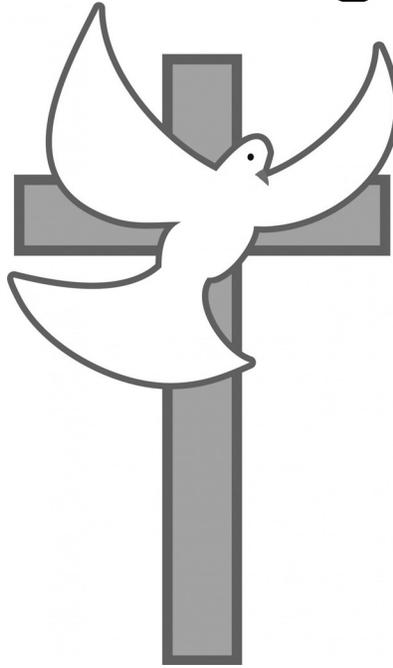


# S a i n t A g n e s



*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](mailto:Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org)

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

## **St. Agnes Chapel**

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

## **Sunday Readings**

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Mark 1:29-39

## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am

Sunday, 10:30am

### Weekday Mass

Monday and Wednesday at 11am

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

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

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

In your kindness, please pray for Claire Williamson, Barbara McDonald, and K. Suzie Stamey (sister of Patrick Green) who recently died. May Claire, Barbara, and Suzie share in the fulness of God's love and peace.

## 2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in February. 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 [jslilga8@gmail.com](mailto:jslilga8@gmail.com).

## Ash Wednesday Is February 14th

We will have three opportunities to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday:

**12noon** Ecumenical Service at St Peter's Lutheran Church

**2:30pm** Ash Wednesday Mass at St Agnes

**7pm** Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Ashes  
at St Agnes

## 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>.

## 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.

## A Note of Thanks

I would like to thank the entire St. Agnes community for their concern, kindness, and prayers over the past very trying two or three weeks. We were faced with having to deal with so much in such a short period of time, and I worry that I may not have communicated my sincere gratitude to everyone who has reached out. Please know that I appreciate you all so very much. I don't know how I could have made it without your support.

Jimmy Williamson

## St. Agnes Perpetual Mass Memorial



On the first Sunday of each month Mass will be celebrated for all of our family members, loved ones, and friends enrolled in the St. Agnes Perpetual Mass Memorial. Newly enrolled this month:

**Mary Cmar**

by Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh  
& The St. Agnes Parish Community

**Judith James Bowen**

by Eileen Dooley & Denis Woods

**Robert Edwards**

by Eileen Dooley & Denis Woods

**Gabrielle Bryant-Gainer**

by Judith Lilga

**Steven Doyle**

by Judith Lilga

**Maggie Gorman**

by Judith Lilga

**Barbara McDonald**

by Judith Lilga

Jane Edwards

Eileen Dooley & Denis Woods

Marie Snowden & the OWLS

**Claire Williamson**

by Eileen Dooley & Denis Woods

Marie Snowden & the OWLS

## Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially 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.

Dear Parishioners,

Going to El Salvador was truly a transforming experience; one that I will be processing for a long time. I realized being there that I was being evangelized by the church and people of El Salvador. I also got, with all my senses, a better understanding of how Pope Francis is guiding our church. I leave you with one image on synodality. A real gift to our trip is that Bishop Evelio Menjivar Ayala, the auxiliary bishop of Washington D.C. who is from El Salvador, joined us and really helped us to understand the history of the church and culture. One day we had to walk a long way in the mountains because, going to lunch, our bus got hung up. As I was walking in the mountains with Bishop Evelio and the rest of our group, a fellow on our trip named Jose, also from El Salvador, trailed out way ahead of us. Bishop Evelio gave this as a good example of Synodality. The bishop said he told a group of young people go ahead you can run out ahead but then wait for others to catch up. This is synodality. He said, the Germans, look at them. They are running out way ahead pushing the church to move forward, but then they need to wait for the church to catch up. We hear in the Gospel of Mark this weekend about Jesus' healings and miracles. When Jesus went out ahead, the disciples pursued him. Jesus was not going back but moving ahead. May we as church not be afraid to move forward on our mission.

Fr. Andy

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Seeking to love God by loving their neighbors, America's teens are transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving through Souper Bowl of Caring. On the weekend prior to the Super Bowl and on Super Bowl Sunday weekend, youth collect one dollar (or more) donations in soup pots as worshippers leave church. Each group donates their collection directly to the charity of their choice— here at St. Agnes, our donations will be split between the Shepherdstown Shares food pantry and the JCCM food pantry that serve our community. Watch for our youth and their soup pots after each Mass on February 3rd and 4th as well as February 10th and 11th (Super Bowl Sunday).

In addition, you can give online again this year. To do that, go to our St Agnes Website, to giving and to the online giving. From there click "Give Online Now" and Souper Bowl is listed in the dropdown menu. And, of course, you can always drop your donation by the office directly or through snail mail, just note "Souper Bowl Collection" on your check's memo line.

This is St. Agnes' 24th year participating and helping those in our region who are in need. Last year we collected \$1553.00. Our goal is to surpass our collection from last year. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## 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, 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!

## Let's Talk About...

### **WOMEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

One of our small groups will meet in the parish center at 10:30 a.m. on six First Fridays (March through June and then September and October) to discuss the six chapters of a new book with the title, Women in the New Testament.

Would you like to join in? Contact Denis Woods ([woodsdooley@comcast.net](mailto:woodsdooley@comcast.net)) by February 5<sup>th</sup> so we can order the books (\$14 to be paid later).

## Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

This weekend is our Service, Justice, and Peace weekend for February. We will have volunteers available to take your donations for feeding the hungry and homeless, Kolofata, and as well as feminine hygiene products and diapers. We will also have Haiti coffee for sale, both whole bean and ground.

## Lost & Found

Our Lost & Found basket, located at the end of the hall near the restrooms, is overflowing. It contains all kinds of items—jackets, books, sippy cups, sunglasses, and so much more! We need to clean out the basket, so please take a look and see if any of the items are yours. **Whatever remains on Monday, February 19, will be gifted.**

## Gathering for Widows and Widowers

All widows and widowers in our faith community are invited to attend a casual gathering in the home of our parishioner, Brigitte Schmidt on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am. She lives in Boonsboro, Maryland. Text 301-660-0376 to RSVP, and the address will be provided.

Community is a balm to grief; you are not alone. Come to obtain as well as provide support.

## Baptism

This Sunday at the 10:30am Mass, we celebrate the baptism of Nora Catherine Franks, new daughter of Bassell and Julia Franks and little sister to Miles. May the Lord bless Nora as she begins her life in the church!

## Spotlight on Ministry

### My Ministry Story

My name is **Mary Wermers**. I am a member of the choir, a lector, and former cantor. I have done a few other things along the way, but these are where I have served longest. I started singing with my former church choir in 4th grade. I sang with that choir through high school and college.

I met Art while we were at UMBC. We moved to Shannondale in 1988 and married in 1989. I took a break from singing and a comma in my faith as we struggled to find our place. We found St. Agnes in 1995 and have been active ever since. I started as a cantor and member of the Schola in late 1996 and stayed with the Schola/Choir. I brought my daughter Colleen into the choir and have loved watching her grow vocally and spiritually.

While my girls were in school, I started doing the read aloud in their classrooms. I found that I enjoyed reading aloud and bringing the books to life. About 10 years ago or so, I decided to start as a lector as I missed reading aloud. The missals we used at the time did not have the readings printed in them, so readings needed the lector to bring meaning and life to the story.

I love to sing, and I love to read...in general, but mostly here at St. Agnes where the community feels more like family.

*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)*

## Attention Liturgical Ministers!

Our next Liturgical schedule will begin on March 1st, so it is time to begin looking ahead to March 1 - May 31 and let us know of any dates that you will be unavailable to serve as soon as you can. Please send those dates by email to Helen Harris not later than February 6th ([liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org)).

## Godspell



### 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 2,3,4, and 16, 17, 18**  
**Friday/Saturday 8pm, Sunday 3pm**

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

For Reservations call 304-876/6436  
or visit [stagnesshepherdstown.org](http://stagnesshepherdstown.org)

To open the season of Lent, the holiest time of the year, St. Agnes Catholic Church will present a production of Godspell (2012 Revised Version), which was originally conceived and directed by John-Michael Tebelak and with music and new lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. A dedicated and talented group of St. Agnes youth is joined by equally dedicated and talented friends from Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, Asbury United Methodist Church, and the community of Shepherdstown to present this musical, which is drawn directly from the teachings of Jesus. Godspell has been described as a timeless celebration of Christian friendship, loyalty, and love based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew. Certainly no easy task, as time pulls our kids in multiple directions, but our youth and their friends are dedicated to bringing the message of the gospels to light. We hope you will join and celebrate with us, and "Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord!"

## Thank You!

To all our volunteers: Thank you so much for completing the VIRTUS training requirements. Once again you stepped up to our latest challenge and, as always, have gone beyond in your support of the St Agnes Community!

## CFF, AFF, Youth Group & Family News

**THIS WEEKEND AND NEXT WEEKEND:** Youth will be collecting after each Mass for **Souper Bowl Sunday**. Our goal is to surpass the amount we collected last year. The money collected will be divided between Shepherdstown Shares and JCCM.

**CFF:** classes will occur today, Feb 4th at 9:15 AM in the parish center.

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

**ADULT Classes: Growing in Faith** will meet today in the parish center at 9:15 AM.

**RCIA and RCIC:** We will meet on Feb. 4th at Noon in the Parish Center.

**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 or if you would like to work 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!

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

# THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel:

*Mark 1: 29—39*

February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



# Jesus Drives Out a Demon

## Word Search



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

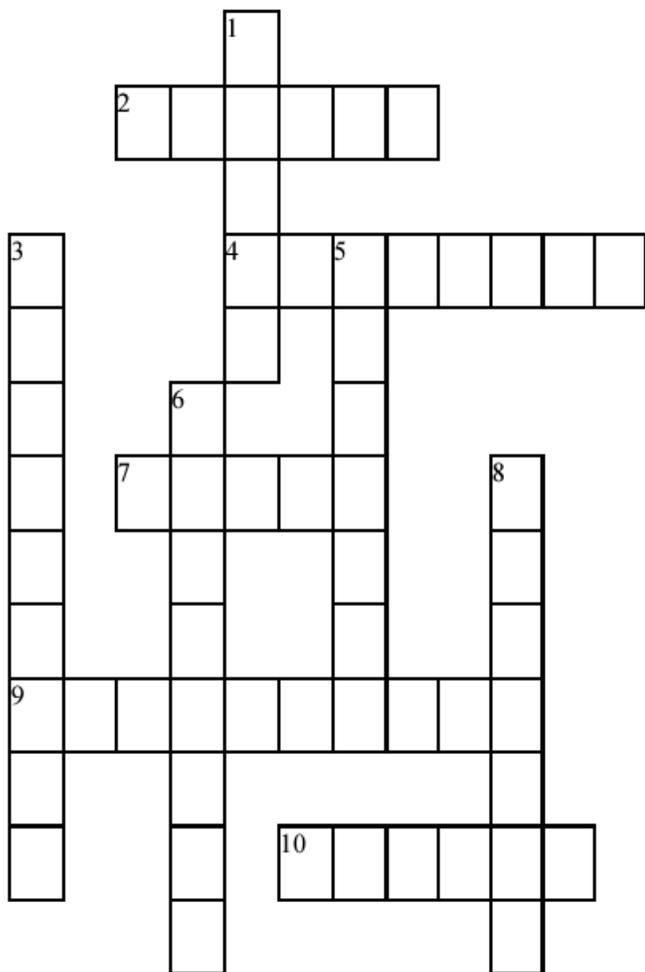


sick  
 fever  
 bedside  
 helped

crowd  
 people  
 gathered  
 watch

healed  
 diseases  
 demons  
 victims

awoke  
 pray  
 towns  
 preach



### He cured many who were sick Mark 1:29-39

#### Across

- 2. Reason Jesus came.
- 4. They were looking for Jesus.
- 7. His mother-in-law was sick.
- 9. Where Jesus went in the nearby villages.
- 10. What Jesus did in a deserted place.

#### Down

- 1. When this left her Peter's mother-in-law waited on the disciples.
- 3. Jesus drove demons out of them.
- 5. When were all the sick people brought to Jesus.
- 6. Sickesses
- 8. Took

## Let's Learn About Lent

How much do you know about Lent? Solve the True/False puzzle to test your knowledge.

1. Lent comes just before Christmas. If true, put a Y in space 1. If false, a J.
2. Lent comes just before Easter. If true, put an E in spaces 2, 10, 12, and 14. If false, an A.
3. The color for Lent is orange. If true, put a Z in spaces 3, 5, and 13. If false, an S.
4. The color for Lent is violet. If true, put a U in space 4. If false, a T.
5. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. If true, put an I in space 6. If false, a B.
6. Lent begins on Ash Saturday. If true, put an H in space 7. If false, an N.
7. During Lent, we try to make up for our bad actions. If true, put a T in spaces 8 and 16. If false, a C.
8. During Lent, some children give up candy. If true, put an H in space 9. If false, a W.
9. During Lent, most children give up orange juice and green vegetables. If true, put a G in space 11. If false, a D.
10. During Lent, many people go to church more often than usual. If true, put an R in space 15. If false, an X.

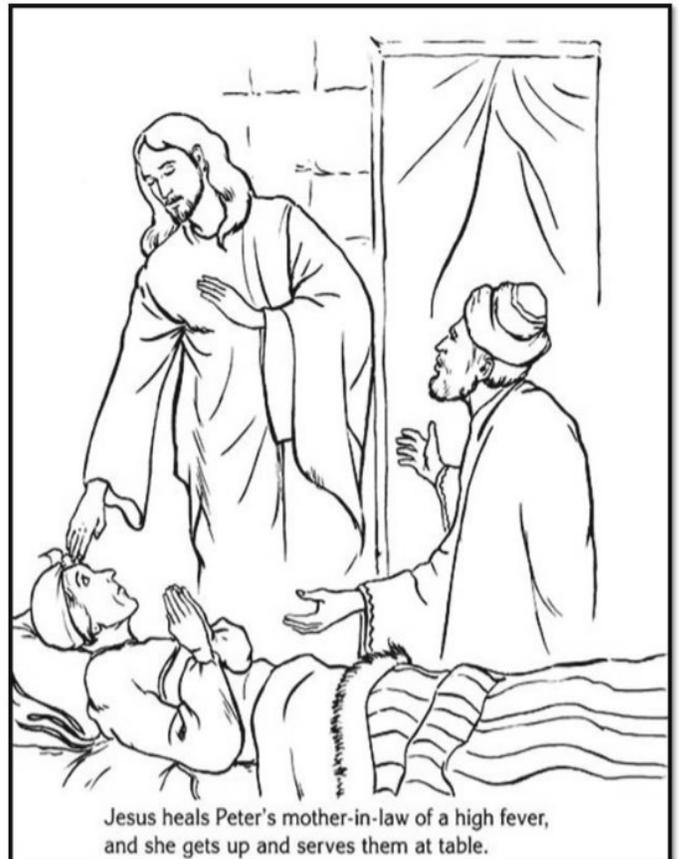
Whom do we think of during Lent?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

february 4, 2018



*At the end of today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells Simon that they will go to the nearby villages to preach. Can you find your way through the maze to the nearby village?*



Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law of a high fever, and she gets up and serves them at table.

# The Gospel at Home



### This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Jesus brings God's life-giving, healing power to the people of Galilee. The Gospel portrays Jesus as a man of action who raises up Peter's mother-in-law, heals the sick, and frees the possessed. He also seeks time to pray. We are all called to imitate Jesus' compassion and love for people.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Promise** (Grades K-1): Your child learned in class that he or she can be of help to others. Talk together about ways the members of your family help one another. Ask your child to share the story "Ben and the Sad Face" with the family. Talk, too, about ways Jesus helped people from this week's Gospel reading. Together, take a look at the booklet about Jesus helping others that your child made during this week's lesson.

**Good News** (Grades 2-3): Your child learned about Saint Martin de Porres. Ask your child to share his story with the family. Your child learned the names of all Seven Sacraments. Ask him or her to describe what a sacrament is and see if he or she can name all seven. The class also learned more about the Gospel of Saint Mark. Let everyone in the family look at the little booklet your child put together in class. Let your child share what he or she learned about Mark's Gospel.

**Venture** (Grades 4-6): This week, your youngster learned about the healing ministry of Jesus. Your child explored about the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick—the sacrament that brings help and healing to people suffering from illness. Discuss ways that you can make a difference in the lives of people who are hurting. Ask your young one who Saint Josephine Bakhita was, and take a look at the Gospel Booklet made this week.

**Visions** (Grades 7-9): During this week's class, your son or daughter saw how Jesus used prayer to help heal the sick and spiritually troubled. Ask your youngster about the lesson from the story, "Who Wins?" Ask your son or daughter to tell you about the first female disciple of Jesus. Discuss how you and your family resolve conflicts, and your youngster can tell you what he or she learned in class about it.

### Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about Sunday's Gospel lesson, create a family litany for people who are suffering from illness or who are struggling in life. Let members of the family take turns mentioning the name of a person who is in need. After each name, the family can respond, "Lord, make haste to help them." When the family runs out of names, close by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

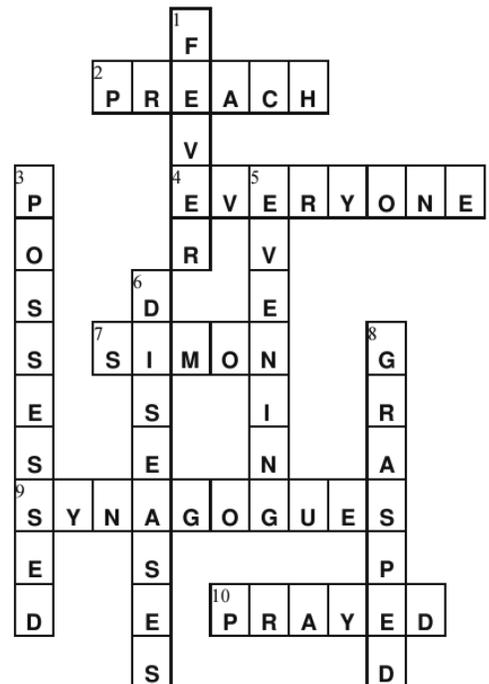


## SOLUTIONS:

1-J; 2-E; 3-S; 4-U; 5-I; 6-N; 7-T; 8-H; 9-D; 10-R  
Message: JESUS IN THE DESERT



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



## 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:**

February 13, 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)).

## 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)).

## KOC Chili Cook Off

### *The Super Bowl of Chili !!!*

Your Knights of Columbus, St. Agnes Council, #13887, is having its Annual Chili Bowl competition on one our nation's most competitive days—Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 2024. Bring your best Chili to the Parish Center and join the contest. There will be a \$75 prize for first place \$50 for second, and \$25 for third. This event begins after the 10:30 Mass and runs until 2:00 PM.

To enter please send an email or text to [raymond.nelson.jr@gmail.com](mailto:raymond.nelson.jr@gmail.com) – 410-241-4205, no later than Saturday, February 10. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge to enter.

Please come and judge for yourself which chili is best; it's a Chili Fest! We don't want to send anything home, and *anti-acid tablets will be available*.

## Religious Item Recycling

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 they are soiled or tattered, as we have them professionally cleaned and/or restored if possible so they can be worn, we can also use them to make new vestments, rosary cases or missal covers, we accept any style, color, vintage)
- Crucifixes
- Statues (any size, no outdoor concrete statues)
- Rosaries (damaged ok)
- Chalices (Pottery ok)
- 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/DVD's or VHS Tapes or 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.**

## Sacred Art in Action

Next Sacred Art In Action Monthly Iconography Session  
**Wednesday, February 7, at 11am-4pm, Open to all!**

Join these sessions for a spiritual journey to learn the ancient sacred art that has survived through the ages to this day. Icon painting helps in spiritual growth, gives practice for the hand, heart, and mind, introduces one into the world of sacred beauty. Classes are taught by Tatiana Gu-benko, an iconographer and instructor with nine years of teaching experience, whose work can be found in private collections and churches in the US and abroad. She will help you paint an icon, and walk you step by step from gilding using clay and real gold leaf to create the halo, to oiling the icon before consecration in the church. You will learn the whole process and the symbolism of each step.

For further information or to register, please contact [tatiana.istudio@gmail.com](mailto:tatiana.istudio@gmail.com).

## 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!

## 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/>

## 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!

## Homebound Ministry

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

## 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	\$5,774
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$465
<b>Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)</b>	<b>\$6,239</b>
<b>Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>Total Collections Compared to Target</b>	<b>↓ -\$5,761</b>

**Tithe to help those in need** \$577  
 (St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

### Collections – Year-To-Date (thru January)

Offertory Collections	\$40,339
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$5,232
<b>Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)</b>	<b>\$45,571</b>
<b>Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)</b>	<b>\$48,000</b>
<b>Total Collection Compared to Target</b>	<b>↓ -\$2,429</b>

**Tithe to help those in need** \$4,034  
 (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.

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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 [sjsvw.org](http://sjsvw.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@sjsvw.org](mailto:awoodmansey@sjsvw.org).

## Together in Holiness Marriage Conference

*Married and engaged couples are invited to the 3rd annual **Together in Holiness** marriage conference, presented by the St John Paul II Foundation and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, on **February 10, 2024 from 10:45 am - 6:00 pm at St. James Catholic Church in Charles Town, WV.** This 1-day conference will help you strengthen your relationship with your spouse and discover God's plan for your family. Registration: \$32/couple and \$5/child for on-site childcare. Scholarships upon request. For more info, visit [togetherinholiness.org/wheelingcharleston](http://togetherinholiness.org/wheelingcharleston) or email [cameron@forlifeandfamily.org](mailto:cameron@forlifeandfamily.org).*

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

A St. Patrick's Day dinner fundraiser 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, and 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@sjsvw.org](mailto:sfa@sjsvw.org). Details about sponsorship and advertising opportunities can be requested.

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