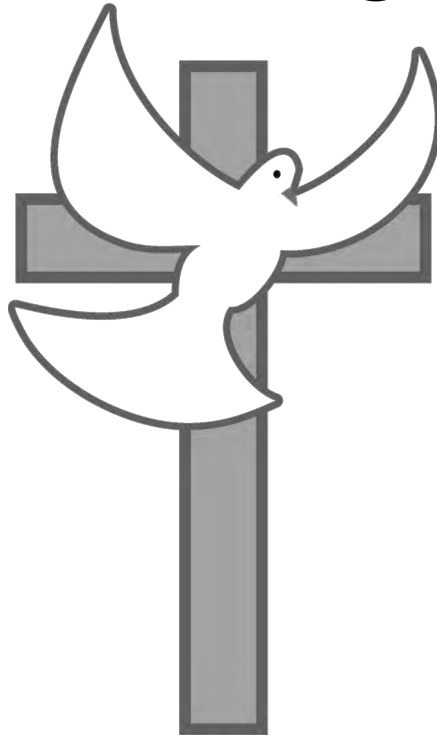


S a i n t A g n e s



*St. Agnes is an inclusive Catholic community dedicated to the love of God and service to others.
We rejoice in the Gospel, the celebration of the Liturgy, and the Sacraments.
We welcome the opportunity to share God's message and to bring all into the life of Christ.*

Pastoral Contacts

Pastor: Rev. Andrew M. Switzer
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh
Associate of Youth Faith Formation: Bill Donahue
Assistant Administrator: Beth Yates
Accounting: Lizzie Lowe
Associate of Liturgy Ministry: Helen Harris
Associate of Music Ministry: Elaine Rendler-McQueeney
Office Secretary: Amy Fresch

Pastoral Council

Connie Bonner ~ Gerry Fitzgerald ~ Bassell Franks
Heather Garcia ~ Christine Wiegman-Green
Patrick Green ~ Shaná Harris ~ Colin Hayden
Cate Hershey ~ Blanche Landry
Brendan Jarrell ~ Vanessa Santiago

Finance Council

Steve Bledsoe ~ Carmela Cesare
Mike Drewes ~ Mike Keefe
Sue Kemnitzer ~ Arnold Thomas

St. Agnes Church

200 South Duke Street, Shepherdstown

St. Agnes Parish Office

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

St. Agnes Chapel

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
Psalm 138:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 7c-8
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

Weekday Mass


Monday and Wednesday, 11am

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30pm

Parish Office: Monday through Friday 9am-4pm

Cash Card Sales: During parish office hours (call first)

The Week at a Glance...

Sun Feb 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Souper Bowl of Caring Collections after All Masses • CFF, Youth Group, AFF 9:15am • KoC Chili Cook-Off After 10:30am Mass • OCIA 12noon
Mon Feb 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon • SVdP Meeting 7pm
Tues Feb 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Games Group 3:30pm • ESL Class 6pm • KoC Business Meeting 7pm
Wed Feb 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Council 6pm
Fri Feb 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Friday Prayer Group 
Sun Feb 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No CFF (Presidents' Day holiday) • OCIA 12noon

Souper Bowl of Caring—25th Year

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. Youth collect one dollar (or more) donations in soup pots as worshippers leave church. Each group donates their collection directly to the Shepherdstown Shares and JCCM food pantries.

Watch for our youth and their soup pots after each Mass this weekend. In addition, you can give online again this year: 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' 25th year participating and helping those in our region who are in need. Last year we collected \$1440.41. Our goal is to surpass our collection from last year. **Last weekend, our youth collected \$787.75 total. Let's keep it up and match that amount or more this weekend!**

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!



Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm for

Tom Higgins

Sunday, 10:30am for

Eugene Stemmler

May Tom and Eugene share
in the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Sheri Caffarelli (aunt of Brett Gallagher), Sarah Ayanakian (granddaughter of Noreen Albright), and Linda Williams (sister of Patrick Green) who recently died. May Sheri, Sarah, and Linda share in the fulness of God's love and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Leo Viger, former St Agnes parishioner, who recently died. His funeral will be held this week at St Agnes, on Wednesday, February 12th. Visitation will begin at 12:30pm, and the funeral begins at 1pm. May Leo 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 Bill Gray, Ann Kessel, Mike Vojtasko, Ellen Potter, Melanie & Shannon Stotler, Kathy Sutherland, Ron Mancini (son-in-law of Bob & Martha Rizzo), Richard Morris (brother-in-law of Georgette Rush), Daniel Thompson, and Shelly Stowell (daughter of Nina Hockman). Names are placed in the bulletin for one month then moved onto the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

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.

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.

KoC Chili Cook-Off This Weekend!

Don't miss The Knights of Columbus Chili Bowl this Sunday, February 9th; the tasting will be after 10:30am Mass and open for everyone. The chili cooks will be competing for gift card prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25. Those that attend will taste-test and vote for the best chili. **Join us after the 10:30am Mass this Sunday, February 9 in the Parish Center. It's a great way to kick off Super Bowl Sunday!**

Dear Parishioners,

Wednesday, February 5th, was the anniversary of the death of Pedro Arrupe who was the Superior General of the Jesuits. Father Arrupe was at Hiroshima when the atom bomb was dropped. That day, he said, he celebrated Mass like never before. Being a doctor, he immediately had a field hospital that would start to treat those affected by the bomb with the other Jesuits serving the sick and suffering. Arrupe would then encourage Jesuits to pray with their eyes wide open, facing the challenges and injustices of the world, asking the Lord how best to respond. Arrupe lived the message of Vatican II, making the joys and sorrows of our world his own. I believe Arrupe's message for our country and world has never been more important. I also believe Arrupe will be canonized as a saint someday. Below is one of my favorite Arrupe quotes that was given to me at my ordination and hangs on my wall.

Fall in Love

*Nothing is more practical than
finding God, than
falling in Love
in a quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.
It will decide
what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends,
what you read, whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
Fall in Love, stay in love,
and it will decide everything.*

— Attributed to Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J. (1907-1991)

Fr. Andy

Fr Andy Elected to Presbyteral Council

Fr Andy has been elected by vote of the priests of the diocese to the Presbyteral Council for a two-year term. The council is an advisory council for the bishop. This is an appointment that comes from the bishop.

SFD Super Bowl Sunday Dinner

The Shepherdstown Fire Department will be hosting its annual Super Bowl Sunday Dinner on Sunday, **February 9th, 12noon to 3pm in Barron Hall at the Shepherdstown FD, 8052 Martinsburg Pike**. The Menu includes fried chicken, ham with all the trimmings, homemade rolls, desserts, iced tea, and coffee. The event is free for kids under 6, \$5 for kids 6-15, and \$10 for everyone 15+.

Take Action!

PROTECT THE WATER PROTECT THE FARMERS

It is imperative that we make our voices heard with regard to the proposed water bottling facility planned for Middleway where groundwater extraction would be used. How can you take action?

- Attend the meeting and give public comment on **February 11, 2025 at 7pm at Jefferson High School.**

To learn more, go to the Jefferson County Foundation's website at bit.ly/middlewaywater or scan the QR code.



It is abundantly clear that building this plant in a rural area raises numerous concerns not only for that immediate area but also for the infrastructure for the entire county. Clean, safe water is one of the most basic human needs, and we cannot survive without it!

The Disciple Maker Index Survey

During the last few weeks, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has asked parishioners to take part in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey. The purpose of the survey is to provide Bishop Mark Brennan with invaluable information to serve each of you and our catholic community. We encourage each of you to take the survey. Our lead contact person is Helen Harris, who has also been appointed by Bishop Brennan to be on the Envisioning Team for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Helen at liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

Please note: Each parish in the diocese has its own separate link. The correct link for the survey for St Agnes Shepherdstown is <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/xd46yx>. The electronic survey closes at Midnight on February 11, 2025; however, paper copies (available in the parish center) will be accepted through February 18, 2025.

An incorrect link to the survey was shared with some of you by email prior to St Agnes' official launch of the survey. So, if you have already completed the survey, you may have completed the survey for St Agnes in Charleston. You can easily verify this by looking at the web address in the link you used and making certain the last six characters of that link match the link above.

In an effort to assist the diocese with making certain they have received accurate data from this survey, we ask that you email Helen Harris if you believe you inadvertently took the survey for St Agnes in Charleston rather than our own St Agnes in Shepherdstown so that we can get that information to them.

Ash Wednesday Is March 5th

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

Shoe and Coat Fund Results

The Jefferson High School Junior ROTC is grateful to the St Agnes parishioners for their generous donations for the Shoe and Coat fund totaling \$3,891.35. Overall, the \$89,061.59 was raised for the Fund.

St Agnes on Social Media

Can't make it to Mass or events? Homilies, events, and other videos/recordings are being posted on our YouTube and on Google Drive (links on the website). Also, check out our Facebook and Instagram.

2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in February. If you have names to add or if you would like to join the group, contact Judy Lilga: 301-432-2276 or jslilga8@gmail.com.

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.

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

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

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

KoC Donates to JCO Birthright

Our Knights recently donated \$500 to Jefferson County Birthright in Ranson, WV.



Pictured, left to right: Pat Nickoles, Rebecca, Bob Rizzo
For more information about Birthright, check out their website: <https://birthright.org/ranson>

STILL SEEKING: Prayer Sponsors

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

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

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

February 21st Book Discussion Group

February's selection is *The Wind Knows My Name*, a 2023 novel by Isabel Allende. **All are welcome to attend. We meet in the Parish Center at 11 am on Friday, February 21st. Please join us.** NPR Review: "In a literary career spanning five decades Allende's storytelling walks a lyrical romanticism on roads imposed by social and political turmoil. This story is a fable joined by today's hard news. In her latest novel, Allende disrupts the mainstream narrative about our southern border. She discovers something in Nogales, via El Salvador and Vienna: the human capacity for hope and decency in the midst of despair."

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

THE YOUTH CORNER

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Week's Gospel:

Luke 5:1-11

February 9, 2025

CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes are in the Parish Center today, Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 9:15am. **There is no Intergenerational Mass this month due to the Super Bowl.**

The Youth Group has multiple projects going on currently. If you are a teen and interested in becoming active in our Youth Group, they meet at 9:15 every Sunday that there is CFF. They meet in the Teen Room in the Parish Center.

This weekend (Feb. 8-9) our Youth Group will be collecting money after each Mass for our Annual Souper Bowl Collection. The money goes to JCCM and Shepherdstown Shares to help provide food for those less fortunate. **Last week's collection total was \$787.75. If we are as successful this weekend as last weekend we will surpass our 2023 collection! We are just slightly over halfway there!** With so much money being spent on the Super Bowl and during Super Bowl Sunday, we need to also focus on those less fortunate with the "Souper Bowl" where we focus on helping the less fortunate. Please help us surpass last years collection of \$1440.41. We are all called to follow the Gospel and reminded by the words of Jesus to **"Feed My Sheep"** and to **"Feed the Hungry."** In 2023, St. Agnes Parish was able to collect \$1553.00. With the increased need for food amount the hungry, it would be wonderful if we could not only surpass our 2024 collection but also our 2023 collection. With so many people in need, please help if you can.

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

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

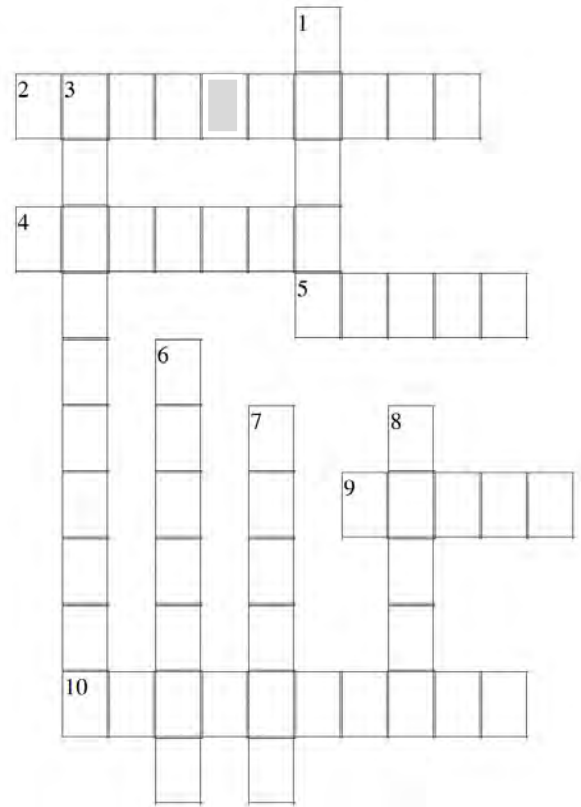
Fr. Andy's **Adult Continuing Education Class** is still occurring on every Sunday that there is CFF in the Parish Center at 9:15am. Although there is a core group every week, all adults are always welcome to "drop in" on Fr. Andy's class. There is always a huge turn out but we always have space for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

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

Parents are also encouraged to join our Youth Facebook Group. Please email Bill at the above address for the link to the closed group. *You won't be able to find Our Youth Facebook Page any other way!* We are also able to communicate via Google Classroom. All parents should have received an email invitation to Google Classroom—click the link in that email to join. If you have not received these emails, please contact Bill so you can be added to the email distribution list.



Fishers of Men Luke 5:1-11



Across

2. Where they caught the fish. (two words and a space between)
4. James and John were his sons.
5. Jesus got into the boat belonging to this fisherman.
9. What Jesus did in the boat.
10. The name of the lake.

Down

1. One of Peter's fishing partner.
3. What the disciples left to follow Jesus.
6. What the fishermen had caught the night before.
7. What Peter felt after the miraculous catch of fish.
8. Simon.

Jesus Calls:

https://youtu.be/q-yY8Jn_jr8

Youth Events: At a Glance Dates for the Calendar

February 9: CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes in the Parish Center at 9:15am. **

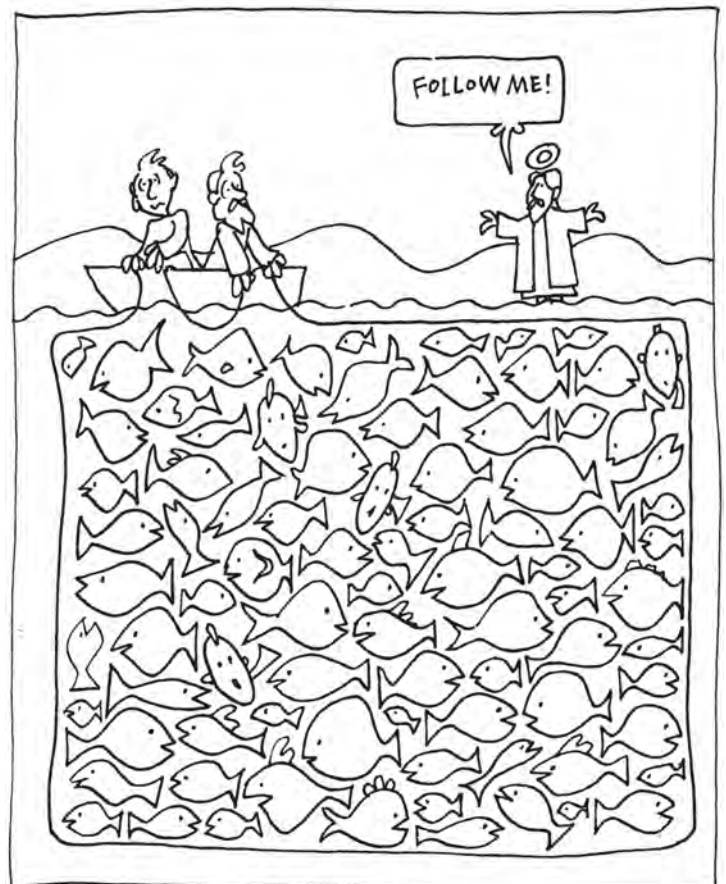
Youth Group's Souper Bowl Collection after each Mass this weekend!

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

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

March 2: CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes in the Parish Center at 9:15am. This is also the second parent class for First Eucharist Parents. **

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



Jesus Chooses Followers

c o l t w e l v e q r u
 s d j a n y g e n p o r
 r i a x e o c e s a t m
 e s m z t d m j o h c a
 w c e v f r a i s t e n
 o a s l e k m z s g l h
 l p c h k a d r e f l b
 l n s e t w e h n h o j
 o i d t a t s i b d c a
 f c h x e i e w t a x m
 s e m p f o l l o v a e
 w d i s c i p l e s t l

Simon

Peter

James

Find out what the disciples left to follow Jesus.

John

Matthew

nets

Write the next letter in the alphabet on the lines below.

fishermen

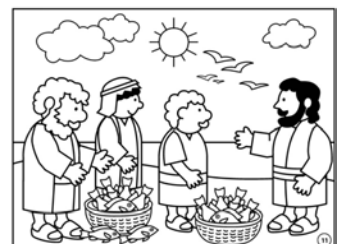
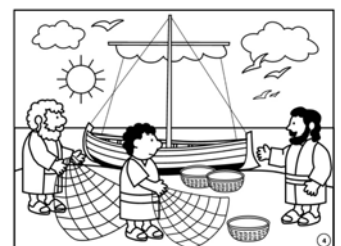
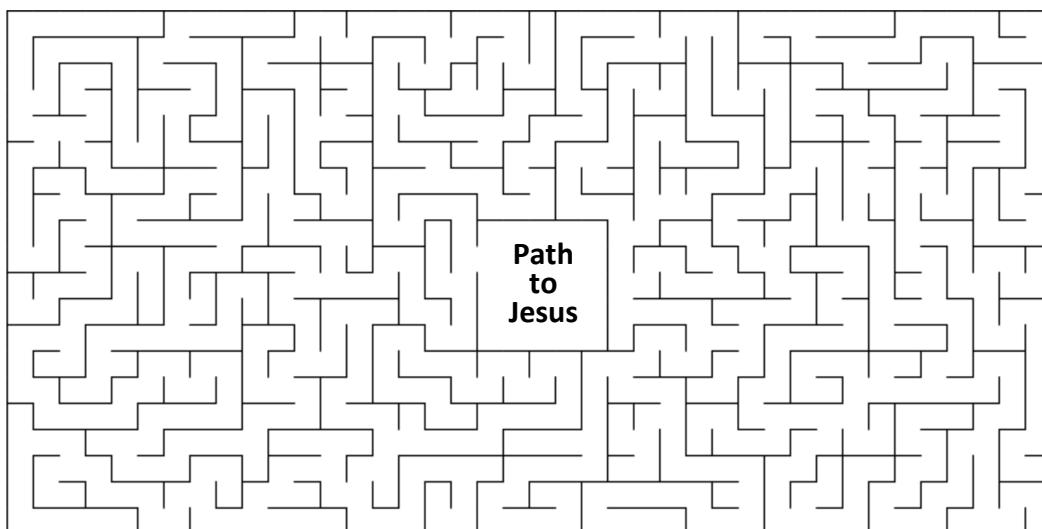
tax collector

twelve

disciples

followers

— — — — —
 D U D Q X S G H M F



The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Luke's telling of the call of the disciples focuses on Simon Peter. Jesus tells Peter to cast his net for a catch even though Peter has fished all night without catching a single fish. He does what Jesus suggests and has a tremendous catch. The great catch of fish reminds Peter of his own human weakness and sinfulness. It also is the opportunity for Jesus to call Peter to a new vocation—catching people!

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned about the call of Peter the fisherman and learned that the followers of Jesus help tell God's Good News. Your child learned about some followers of Jesus from the Americas. Ask your child to tell the family about Saint Oscar Romero, Saint Martin de Porres, and Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Talk together about little things you can do to be a good follower of Jesus.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child learned in class that Jesus called men and women to follow him. His disciples helped him spread his message of love to others. Talk about ways your family can spread Jesus' message of love. Ask your child to share the story about Max from this week's lesson. Be sure to hang the mobile your child made in a prominent place where all can see it.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned the different definitions of the verb "to follow." Ask your child to share the ways that everyone can follow others. Talk about the call Peter received to follow Jesus. Ask your child to share the story "Marielle's New Start" with the family. Ask your child to share his or her Letter to God that they all wrote in class.

Scan here for parent resources or visit goodnewsforfamily.com



1 J
2 D E E P W A T E R
3 V M
4 Z E B E D E E
5 S I M O N
6 N
7 A
8 P
9 T E A C H
10 G E N N E S A R E T
G D

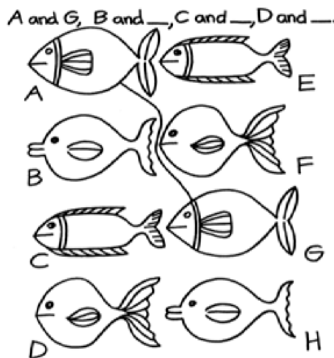
Venture (Grades 4-6): This week your youngster learned the ways people spread Jesus' message by acting out a drama. The class also put together a timeline that shows how people have lived the teaching of Jesus. Ask your young person to share the timeline with the family and explain it to you all. Talk about how God has called your family to pass on Sacred Tradition. Ask your youngster about who Robert de Nobili is.

Visions (Grades 7-8): During this week's class, your son or daughter discovered just what a call from God involves. The class also explored God's call to the prophet Isaiah and the Apostle Peter. Talk about how everyone has a vocation and through the sacraments each one is called to witness to God's love. Talk, too, about how you can help one another develop and use your gifts and talents to make a difference in the world. Ask about who Father Stan Jaszek, Dr. Paul Farmer, and Sister M. Xavier Schulze are.

Pray Together

This week's Gospel dramatizes the vocation of Peter. Each evening this week, pray as a family in your own words for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Talk about priests, sisters, and brothers who have cared for your family. Say a prayer for those people, too.

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SOLUTIONS:

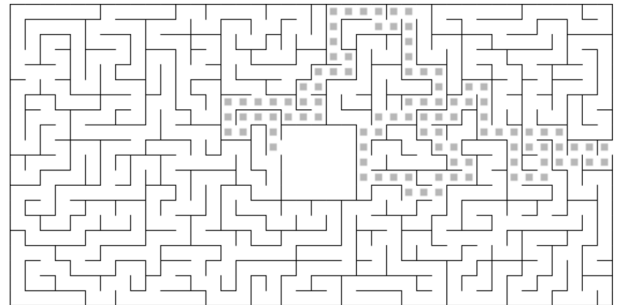
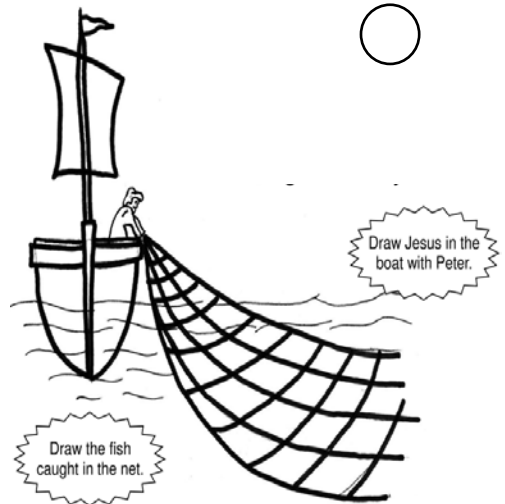
The disciples left: **EVERYTHING**

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

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.



A and G, B and H, C and E, D and F

c	o	l	t	w	e	l	v	e	q	r	u
s	d	j	a	n	y	g	e	n	p	o	r
r	i	a	x	e	o	c	e	s	a	t	m
e	s	m	z	t	d	m	j	o	h	c	a
w	c	e	v	f	r	a	i	s	t	e	n
o	a	s	l	e	k	m	z	s	g	l	h
l	p	c	h	k	a	d	r	e	f	l	b
l	n	s	e	t	w	e	h	n	h	o	j
o	i	d	t	a	t	s	i	b	d	c	a
f	c	h	x	e	i	e	w	t	a	x	m
s	e	m	p	f	o	l	l	o	v	a	e
w	d	i	s	c	i	p	l	e	s	t	l

Racial Justice Initiative

The first known reports of distinctive black religious singing date from the early nineteenth century, but many of these reports are vague and the musical notation practiced at the time was inadequate to capture distinctive features of music as performed. Before the Civil War descriptions of black music are scattered and intermittent. But when the war shattered the closed society to which enslaved Africans were confined and brought them into large-scale contact with the world outside the plantation, northerners, often agents of the federal government or missionaries, came to appreciate their distinctive music. As with ex-slave narratives, the African American authorship of the spirituals was challenged at first. But in an 1867 article published in the *Atlantic Monthly*, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, a militant New England abolitionist who commanded the first freed slave regiment to fight against the Confederacy, was among the first to describe how he heard “the choked voice of a race at last unloosed.” He diligently took down the songs sung by the First South Carolina Volunteers around evening campfires. Higginson failed to recognize the African musical components of the slave songs, but he did catch something of the communal process by which these songs evolved, describing them as a “stimulus to courage and a tie to heaven.” Noting how at the outbreak of the Civil War, enslaved blacks sang, “We’ll soon be free / When the Lord will call us home,” Higginson confirms the layered meaning of many spirituals, citing a drummer boy who confided in him that “Lord” in the song was a code for the “Yankees.”

But it was when the Port Royal Relief Committee was established as an experiment to show how formerly enslaved people could work and learn as free people that an opportunity arose for studying the spirituals, culminating in the landmark work *Slave Songs of the United States* (1867) by William Francis Allen, Charles Pickard Ware, and Lucy McKim Garrison. In their introduction the editors admit that they did “the best we can do with paper and types,” but that even their efforts “will convey but a faint shadow of the original. . . . The intonation and delicate variations of even one singer cannot be reproduced upon paper.” Since the people who composed and first sang the spirituals were not the people who wrote them down, there is considerable variety in the ways in which nineteenth century African American dialect was rendered. Because of the difficulty in knowing precisely how many words would have been pronounced as they were originally sung, the lyrics will be reproduced here in standard English.

The distinguishing musical aesthetic of the spirituals derives from West African percussive forms, multiple meters, syncopation, a call and response structure, extensive melodic ornamentation, and an integration of song and movement, each involving improvisation. Call and response embodies the foundational principle behind the performance of the spirituals, denoting the ritual requirement of what is necessary for completion. The soloist in original performances of the spirituals was viewed as a mystic whose call inspired the participating group to respond. This full sense of process and communication reinforces the communal identity and its belief that art is an appropriate response to oppression. Very much a ritual act, when spirituals were sung by enslaved people they amplified their desire for liberation and created conditions of sacred space and time wherein the biblical stories of which they sang were transformed and the history of the ancient past became the history of the present.

- Kimberly Rae Connor, Parishioner of St Agnes

Spotlight on Ministry

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

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.

Save the Date: Boonsboro GreenFest

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

The Cindy Huesman Memorial Exhibit

ENDS FEBRUARY 23RD

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

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).

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](#).

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.



SJS Spaghetti Fundraiser

Pickup in the Cafeteria: Monday, February 17 11am-3pm
Help St Joe's raise money to help students and their family recover after losing their home to a fire. The deadline to order spaghetti meals is Thurs, Feb 13. More info and ordering: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5ldBBZGfCFn_hcdMyJWH_LYGCl-ZX1wrVQdVhhGBkTtehg/viewform

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.

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$20,006
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$225
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$20,231
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collection Compared to Target	↑ +\$7,031

Tithe to help those in need **\$2,001**
(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!



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!

American Conservation Film Festival

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

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

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.

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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SJS Benefit Dinner

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

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

For more information, please email sfa@sjswv.org. Ticket sales end Sunday, Feb. 23.

Help Us Serve at Mary's Refuge!

We are seeking dedicated volunteers to support our mission:

- 1. Certified Dietitian/Nutritionist:** Assist 1-2 hours weekly to provide guidance for healthy living.
- 2. Alumni Coordinator:** Build connections and offer support to past residents.
- 3. Volunteer Coordinator:** Help organize and manage our amazing volunteer team.

Your skills can make a difference! If interested please send an email to life@marysrefuge.com.

All volunteers must complete Virtus, a background check, and attend volunteer training.

And 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/>.



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



Open Positions at Saint Joe's School

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

⇒ **Pre-K Aide/After-School Care Worker**

To send in a resume or letter of introduction, contact Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjswv.org. These have been posted to Indeed <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Saint-Joseph-School/jobs>.

	<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 Alan Norton, LIC</p>	<p>Traditional, Cremation Pre-Arrangements Trappist Caskets Available</p> <p>304.724-6500</p>	 <p>ARNOLD & BAILEY ATTORNEYS AT LAW</p>	
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