

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

Temporary Administrator: Rev. Arul Anthony
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh
Assistant Administrator: Beth Yates
Accounting: Lizzie Lowe
Associate of Liturgy Ministry: Helen Harris
Associate of Music Ministry: Dr. Elaine Rendler-McQueeney
Office Secretary: Amy Fresch

Pastoral Council

Connie Bonner ~ Gerry Fitzgerald ~ Bassell Franks
Heather Garcia ~ Dana Getka ~ Patrick Green
Colin Hayden ~ Cate Hershey ~ Blanche Landry
Brendan Jarrell ~ Vanessa Santiago ~ Jan Yates

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

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22
2 Timothy 1:8b-10
Matthew 17:1-9

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

Weekday Mass

Tuesday—Friday, 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 Mar 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second Sunday of Lent• CFF, CSS, Youth Group, First Eucharist• Parents Meeting 9:15am• OCIA 12noon
Wed Mar 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scripture Sharing Zoom 12:30pm
Fri Mar 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simple Supper 6pm• Stations of the Cross 7pm
Sat Mar 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perpetual Memorial Mass 5:30pm
Sun Mar 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Third Sunday of Lent• Daylight Savings Time Begins 2am• No CFF, CSS, or Youth Group• Landscape Meeting 11:45am• Confirmation Retreat 12noon• OCIA 12noon• Intergenerational Mass 5pm

Lenten Simple Supper

The parish will continue its tradition of offering a Simple Supper (meatless soup and bread) at the St Agnes Parish Center (6-6:45pm) before Stations of the Cross (7pm) each Friday during Lenten season.

This week's menu (March 6th):

Soup: Peanut Squash Soup served with homemade rolls

Soup: Tomato & Pinto Bean Soup served with corn bread

Free Tax Preparation

If you earned \$67,000 or less in 2025, through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), an IRS-certified volunteer will **prepare and file your Federal and State tax returns for free**. They have locations in Shepherdstown, Charles Town, and Martinsburg. Call 304-262-1584 or check the Mountain Heart Community Services website for more information or to schedule an appointment at <https://www.mhctwv.com/mcs/free-tax-service/>.

Homebound Ministry

For any parishioners with needs for assistance in things such as getting groceries, rides to doctors/pharmacies, etc., our **HOMEBOUND MINISTRY** is willing to help. Contact Judy Lilga (301-432-2276) for info or to volunteer.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Lorraine & Wayne Whitson (friends of Marie Stewart), Bobby (friend of Georgette Rush), Nell Thompson, and Ron Mancini (son-in-law of Bob and Martha Rizzo). Names are placed in the bulletin for one month then moved onto the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

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.

Garden Gifts

We've been thinking about how we can incorporate and extend the principles of Earth Day, Laudato Si', and St Francis of Assisi Day effortlessly into everyday activities; we will start with some suggestions from our gardening group and ask you to add to the list and share with us so that we may share with others. What we are hoping to do is start some meaningful discussions on each of the topics we list: recycling; fasting from harsh words; meatless Mondays or Fridays; protecting and preserving our water; making bird feeders from recycled materials; painting rocks with earth friendly or inspirational messages; volunteering; and education. We encourage all to think about these pivotal days in our year and let's develop some actions that will live into the spirit.

February Food Deliveries

In February, the Matthew 25 Crew delivered a total of 1,051 pounds of food donations to Jefferson County Community Ministries and Shepherdstown Shares. Each Tuesday morning the crew collects the St. Agnes food donations from the narthex and parish center before picking up the generous donations at Food Lion. Your donations are very much needed and appreciated.

Dear Parishioners,

Shalom!

Last week, I shared with you about, 'what is prayer' and this time, I share my reflection on "FASTING." St. Francis of Assisi is a personification of fasting. He fasted all the time. There is an incident from the life of St. Francis where an early follower of Francis was not able to sustain the extreme fasting that Francis himself practiced. Rather than shaming the young man, Francis broke his own fast so that his hungry brother could eat.

Catholics are not puritans or nastic. I think that we Christians love to eat everything, don't we? Fasting is not merely against material or human needs of a person, but as Merton would say, 'have or enjoy the materials and desires, which help us to keep our human life alive, all the same we need to discipline our needs and desires so that our deeper hunger for God may emerge'.

Let us discipline ourselves to grow in the love of God and love for the Scripture and increase our love for the needy and suffering brothers and sisters around the world. Contribute generously towards the CRS BOWL. Peace.

Fr Arul Anthony

Scripture Sharing Zoom Time Change

Scripture Group Reminder and New Meeting Time

New participants are always welcome.

A reminder to all that there is a St. Agnes Scripture Group that meets weekly to share reflections and insights into the upcoming Sunday liturgy's scripture selections. **We will be meeting at a new day and time on Wednesdays, 12:30pm-1:30pm.** The link to the Zoom meeting can be found by going to the St. Agnes website, clicking on "Info Center," then "Calendar," where you will find listings for Scripture Sharing, that will take you to the Zoom meeting connection.

We share the scripture passages from the yearly publication "At Home with the Word," that is available through the parish. That way we all share the same text. We have wonderful discussions that offer so many rewarding and enriching insights and support to our faith. Ask any of the participants, and they will tell you that. Not sure when it began (under Fr. Andy's inspiration), but it has been in continuous operation for a few years.

Youth-Sponsored Simple Supper

On Friday, March 13th, our St Agnes youth will host the Simple Supper in addition to leading the Stations of the Cross that evening. The Simple Supper will start at 6pm, and Stations will begin at 7pm. All are welcome!

Operation Rice Bowl

GIVE ALMS THROUGH CRS RICE BOWL

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

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: crsricebowl.org

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

Book Discussion Group March 20

March 20, 2026 @ 11 am | The Parish Center

Join us on March 20 @ 11am in the Parish Center to discuss *Unsheltered*. *Unsheltered* is a 2018 novel by Barbara Kingsolver published by HarperCollins. It follows two families living in the same house at two separate time periods in Vineland, New Jersey. The novel alternates between the 21st century and the 19th century, using the last words of one chapter as the title of the next one. Wikipedia

That's all we'll reveal. We hope you'll read the book and join us.

The complete list of our selections for 2025-26 is now on the St. Agnes website. Here's the link: <https://stagnesshepherdstown.org/book-discussion-group/>

SIGN ME UP!

As members of St Agnes community we support it through our time, talent, and treasure. Our community needs a little of your TIME—about 30 minutes, once a month. On the back of the pews will be bold cards labeled SIGN ME UP. Take a look at how you might give those 30 minutes—pray about it. Not only will your 30 minutes enrich our community—you too will benefit in a myriad of ways, new friendships; fulfill the church mission; accepting God's call of "everyone, everyone, everyone!"

Community Notes

Fr Arul told us that being a “Jesus follower” is very hard indeed, especially in 2026! Our whole world is undergoing massive changes; collaboration is replaced with polarization, our borders are closed to most immigrants, basic living costs are skyrocketing, the job market is uncertain, etc., etc., ETC! As uncertainty increases, so does our fear. Our ancient DNA directs us to retreat with fear. The St Agnes community is supportive and is a refuge. Fr Arul reminds us that Jesus gave us two directives and two missions: LOVE GOD and LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR—> Be a light to the world and be salt to the earth. How do we do that with so much uncertainty and so many obstacles???

Another “C” word is essential to a strong community= COURAGE. The Bible gives us hundreds of examples. God gave us Jesus as a model of courage. The Medal of Honor society defines courage in 5 ways:

- ◇ Face difficulties head on
- ◇ Don’t be afraid to go against the grain
- ◇ Stand up for your beliefs and core values
- ◇ Ask for help; create opportunities for collaboration-it brings insight
- ◇ Do the right thing especially when the wrong thing to do is easier

Think of courage as a muscle that needs to be exercised daily, or think of courage as a discipline to which we commit, or think of courage as a choice.

What happens when we act with courage=>we inspire others to exercise their courage muscles. We live a life of integrity; we bring strength to our community. We become a light in a dark world. Our actions bring a delicious flavor to flourish our earth.

Ponder the current example of the folks in Minnesota or think of Martin Luther King this Black History Month.

You’re Invited!

Shepherd University Campus Ministries will be sponsoring a Student Mass each Sunday (when the college is in session) at the St Agnes Historic Chapel: Adoration and Confession at 7pm, Mass at 8pm. All are welcome!

Mary’s Refuge Expansion

Mary’s Refuge recently purchased and is renovating a new site in Martinsburg to expand their reach and therefore their ability to help local families, made possible with help from the Diocese, St James and their Knights, and more. They are hoping to have the space finished by the end of June. The site will have office space for employees, transitional living spaces, a daycare area, education programs, and a program to support the fathers of children connected to Mary’s Refuge.

Spotlight on Ministry

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

Racial Justice Initiative

A reminder to all that the St. Agnes Racial Justice Initiative, in operation for a few years now, continues to serve. **The group meets on the third Tuesdays of each month at 3pm on Zoom.** The link can be found on the St. Agnes website by clicking on "Info Center," then the "calendar" listing found there. The next meeting on Zoom is March 17th.

We also call to your attention again that there is a Racial Justice library in the church narthex that has many great and worthwhile books relating to the subject of racial justice available for you to borrow. We have continued to add new books, donated by the group's members.

Shepherdstown Palestine Film Festival

**Please join us in the
2026 Shepherdstown Palestine Film Festival
Tickets available at operahouselive.com**

Friday, March 20 at 7:30pm — *The Voice of Hind Rajab*
Saturday, March 21 at 2pm — *Palestine 36*
Saturday, March 21 at 7:30pm — *All That’s Left Of You*

Presented with support from the
Eastern Panhandle T.E.A.M. (Together Educating and
Advocating for Peace in the Middle East)

Festival Pass You can get a 15% discount by buying a three-film pass that will admit you to all festival films and discussions at the Shepherdstown Opera House on March 20 and 21, 2026.

JCCOA’s Warm Hearts: Winter Stories

The Jefferson County Council on Aging (JCCOA) assists local seniors in ways to help them “remain safe, engaged, and rooted in the community they call home.” To do this they provide a wide variety of services such as meals, wellness checks, transportation, education, and emergency support.

Check out their collection of stories “Warm Hearts: A Winter Story Collection of Care” online at <https://jccoa.org/jccoa/category/in-the-news/>

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Good Shepherd Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers (GSIVC) services include transportation to appointments, assistance with grocery shopping, companionship, and providing gently-used medical equipment. They welcome donations of gently-used equipment, as well: wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, bedside commodes, canes, shower chairs, and more. If you or someone you know is in need of equipment or assistance or to volunteer or donate items, contact Good Shepherd Caregivers at 304-876-3325 or visit <https://www.gsivc.org/>.

Haiti Coffee For Sale

Our SJP purchases fair trade coffee beans from Just Haiti, and they are roasted locally at the Black Dog. Ground or whole beans are \$10 per bag in the Parish Center.

CFF, CSS, Youth Group, & Family News

~ March 2026 ~

CFF is well underway but it is never too late to begin attending. Our CFF Religious Education occurs in the Parish Center every Sunday at 9:15am between the 8am and 10:30am Masses. The program has opportunities from Pre-K through adult. All are welcome to learn more about the Catholic faith.

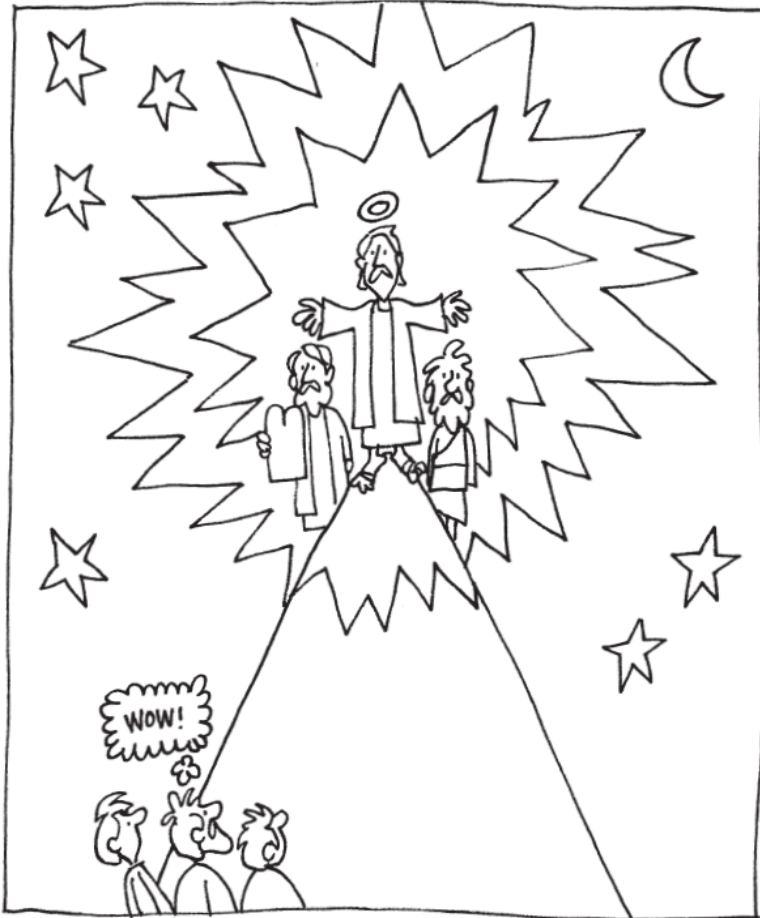
In addition to these opportunities, if you are not Catholic and wish to explore more about Catholicism, we offer OCIA classes at 12Noon on Sundays.

Parents, if you are not receiving CFF emails, contact formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org to make sure your email is on the distribution list. The calendar events will also be posted in the monthly calendar online and in the bulletin at the beginning of each month. Hard copies of the calendar can be found in the church Narthex and the Parish Center.

**For additional information or questions,
please email:**

**Formation@StAgnesShepherdstown.org
or the Parish Office**

Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org



THE YOUTH CORNER

Second Sunday of Lent

This Sunday's Gospel:

Matthew 17:1-9

March 1, 2026

Upcoming events:

March 1: CFF, Youth Group, CSS, and First Eucharist parents will meet in the Parish Center at 9:15am.

March 8: No CFF, Youth Group, or CSS. Confirmation students will have their retreat today at 12noon. They will end their retreat with Intergenerational Mass at 5pm. Instead of classes today, all CFF families are encouraged to attend this Mass!

March 13: Youth-Led Simple Supper 6pm and Stations of the Cross 7pm. All are welcome!

March 15: CFF, Youth Group, CSS will meet in the Parish Center at 9:15am.

INTERGENERATIONAL YOUTH MASS

March 8 at 5pm

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

Volunteering and VIRTUS

Volunteering: The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate faith in action! As we begin this new year it is a great time to begin volunteering if you are new to volunteering at church. What a great New Year's Resolution!

Does everyone need to be VIRTUS-trained to Volunteer? With the changes to VIRTUS some ministries no longer need to be VIRTUS-trained, yet some still do.

What is the purpose of VIRTUS? The VIRTUS program is designed to educate individuals to help them protect the vulnerable in the community. The program helps people know what resources are available to get help and educates people to know how to gently care for victims of abuse.

All volunteers who have direct contact or prolonged contact with minors are required to be VIRTUS-trained as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Forms are located in the church Narthex and the Parish Center on how to complete this process. All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS-trained. If you have been trained in the past, you must be have the latest training Version 4.0.

Ministries that are NOT required to complete VIRTUS training are Eucharist ministers, Lectors, Money Counters, Cantors, Funeral luncheon volunteers, and volunteers that provide maintenance services in the parish.

Volunteers that work directly or have prolonged contact with minors will be required to update their VIRTUS every three years. Background checks need to be renewed every 3 years. For example, choir members need to be VIRTUS-trained if there are youth (under 18) in the choir or there are youth musicians. There are many intricacies for who needs VIRTUS-trained. Please reach out to the lead person for the ministry you wish to volunteer for about VIRTUS requirements.

For additional information or if you have questions you can also email: formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org or office@stagnesshepherdstown.org Finally, you can also reach out to the Parish Center during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm), contact Helen Harris at liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org, or contact one of the Mass Coordinators for opportunities to volunteer for one of the Liturgical Ministries.

Analogies for Lent

Complete the following analogies to answer the question at the bottom of the page.

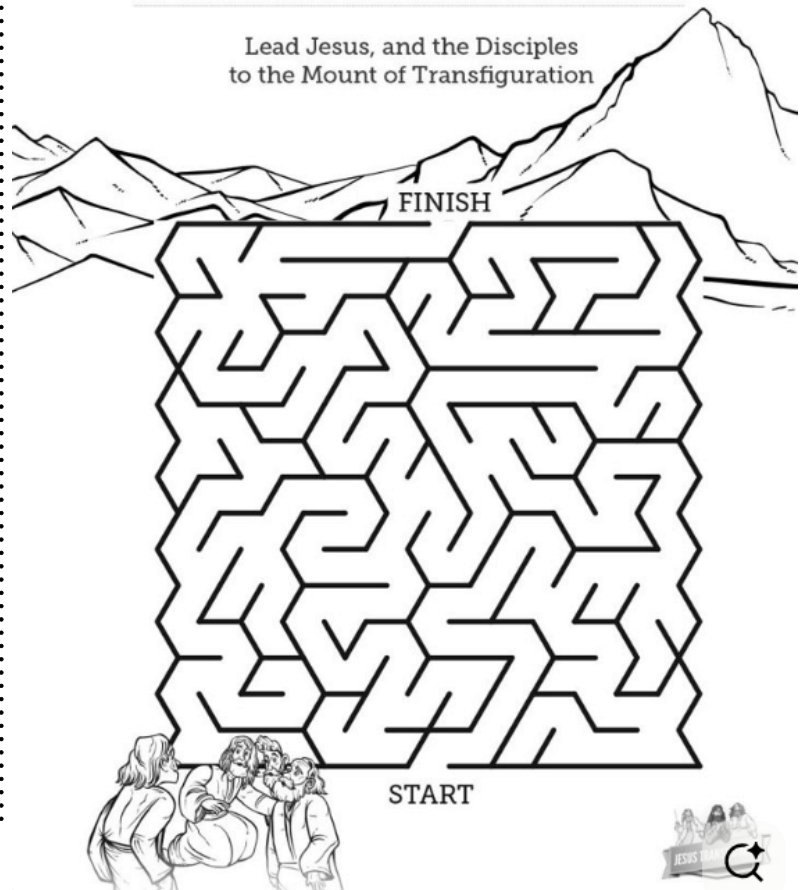
1. Abraham is to Isaac as Jesse is to _____.
If you think the answer is King David, put a P in space 1. If King Saul, a Y.
2. Our Lady of Guadalupe is to Juan Diego as Our Lady of Lourdes is to _____.
If you think the answer is Lucy, put an O in spaces 2 and 12. If Bernadette, an R.
3. King David is to Psalms as Saint Paul is to _____.
If you think the answer is Gospels, put an E in spaces 3, 6, and 11. If Epistles, an A.
4. The First Sunday of Advent is to Advent as _____ is to Lent.
If you think the answer is Ash Wednesday, put a Y in space 4. If Holy Thursday, an S.
5. Green is to Ordinary Time as _____ is to Lent.
If you think the answer is violet, put an F in space 5. If red, an M.
6. Saint Patrick is to Ireland as Saint Boniface is to _____.
If you think the answer is France, put a T in spaces 7 and 9. If Germany, an S.
7. Saint Thomas More is to lawyer as Saint Joseph is to _____.
If you think the answer is doctor, put an S in space 8. If carpenter, a T.
8. Moses is to Ten Commandments as _____ is to Two Great Commandments.
If you think the answer is Peter, put an L in space 10. If Jesus, an H.
9. John is to baptizes as Jesus is to _____.
If you think the answer is saves, put an E in space 13. If forgets, an G.

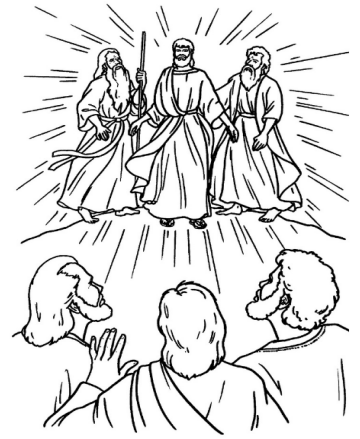
What are Christians asked to do in Lent?

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

JESUS TRANSFIGURED

Lead Jesus, and the Disciples to the Mount of Transfiguration





The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Sunday's Gospel shows both Jesus' future and our own future. The Gospel sets our sight on Easter, just as Peter, James, and John glimpse the risen Jesus for a passing moment in the Transfiguration. Lent invites us to join Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem where he will be crucified, but also where he will rise victorious over death.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week's lesson helps children reflect on how they grow and change, and how nature around them is continually changing. Ask your child to recount how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly. Make it a practice to compliment your child every day for a way he or she is growing, especially in learning loving ways to act toward others.

Promise (Grades K-1): Lent is a time for growth in loving, sharing, and forgiving. Your child is learning how the world changes with the seasons and age. Talk to your child about what an adventure it is to grow as a loving person when we listen to Jesus. Praise your child when he or she shows love, sharing, or forgiveness.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned to recognize that Jesus is God's Son and learned how prayer is a way to change one's life. Ask your child to share with the family ways of praying—blessing, asking, thanksgiving, and praise. Discuss the meaning of the Transfiguration from the lesson. Talk about various ways your family prays together, and make a plan to try at least one new kind of prayer this week.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your young person learned more about who Jesus is as told in Scripture. God's Son and our Savior gave a glimpse of who he is. Ask your child to tell the

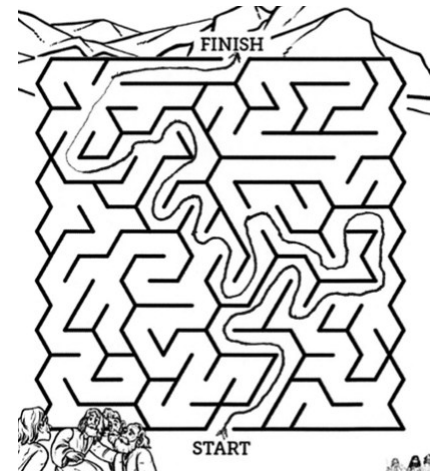
family in his or her own words about Queen Esther, Abraham and Sarah, and Saint André of Montreal. Talk about the Transfiguration, which shows Jesus' future and ours too. Jesus' Resurrection means we too will be raised in glory. Pray for guidance to always listen to and follow Jesus so you can live with God in Heaven for eternity.

Visions (Grades 7-9): Ask your youngster to share the story "A.J.'s Secret" with the family. Talk about what A.J. learned from the experience, and how he received understanding and help by sharing his troubles. Talk about Jesus' Transfiguration on the mountain. What did this event show Peter, James, and John? What is the promise this event has for all of us? Ask your youngster about the changes Sister Clare Crockett went through. Discuss any changes you would like to see in your family.

Awaken (Teens/Adults): Discover a new level of spiritual growth for parents with *Awaken*, the new adult level of the *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies*, developed to deepen your faith journey alongside your children. Scan the QR code to learn more.

Pray Together

As a special devotion, try to have a brief family prayer each of the remaining days of Lent. Use a favorite family prayer, pray in your own words, or say one decade of the Rosary. Be sure to set a definite time for your daily prayer. Try to join in a morning prayer or an evening prayer together each day for a week. Begin and end your prayer times with the Sign of the Cross.



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



Scan here for parent resources
at www.pflaum.com/parents

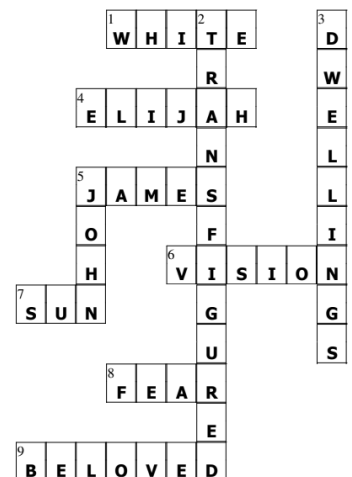
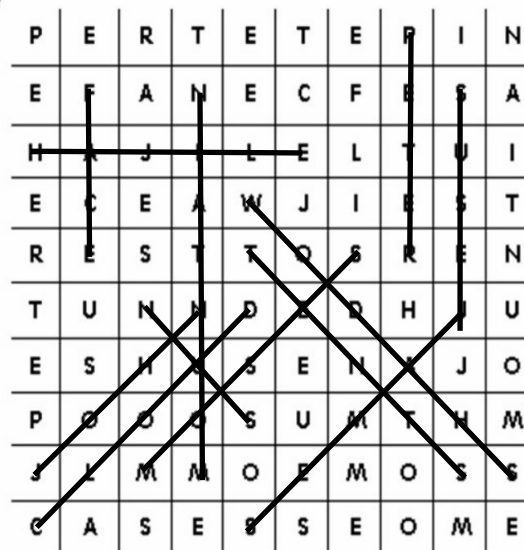
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SOLUTIONS

Analogies for Lent

- 1-David (P); 2-Bernadette (R); 3-Epistles (A);
- 4-Ash Wednesday (Y); 5-violet (F);
- 6-Germany (S); 7-carpenter (T);
- 8-Jesus (H); 9-saves (E)

Answer: Pray, Fast, Share



American Conservation Film Festival

The annual American Conservation Film Festival is coming soon to Shepherdstown! Plan now to attend the **March 13-15, 2026** for a weekend filled with 26 powerful stories and perspectives from filmmakers and conservationists across the globe.

Tickets and more information available on their website: <https://conservationfilmfest.org/>

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We are always in need of donations of blankets, sheets, comforters (any size), men's ties, and used or new sleeping bags. All items should be clean and in good condition.

If you would like to join our ministry, email Barbara Mueller at barbaramueller596@gmail.com. We meet in the Parish center on the fourth Friday of every month at 9:30am.

~ The Sewing Ladies~

Religious Item Recycling: Last Day!

St. Mary's Recycle Mission Group works 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. Items can be dropped off at the Parish Center. **They take just about anything of Religious nature others might use, such as:**

- * Vestments including Chasubles, Stoles, Albs, etc. (even if soiled or tattered, as we have them professionally cleaned and/or restored if possible so they can be worn, or be used to make new vestments, rosary cases or missal covers; any style, color, and/or vintage is acceptable)
- * 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 (no pianos or organs)
- * 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)

The last day to donate is March 1st!

Chesapeake Bay Trust Track 3 Grant Update

Recall that this grant springboards from our Track 2 grant from the Trust wherein we developed a stormwater management design with the Thrasher Group to improve our handling of stormwater on the St Agnes campus that impacts not only our neighbors who experience flooding in major rain events, but also the Chesapeake Bay. The Track 3 award allows us to implement the plan which includes redirection of the downspouts from the church's south roof to the upper pond, creation of a bioswale to catch runoff and direct it to the upper pond, and reconfiguration of the outlet structures on both the upper and main ponds to accommodate larger volumes of stormwater. We will soon be able to announce the contractor we will be working with. **On Wednesday, February 11, we had our Kickoff Meeting** with the Trust, Thrasher Group, and Mason-Dixon (our contractor). We look to complete the project before the end of spring.

Our Grant Group (Mike Drewes, Judy Lilga, Sue Kemnitzer, Fanny Smith, Greg Welter, Beth Yates, and Fr Arul) have been diligently working with our engineers, The Thrasher Group, as well as Josephine Saikali from Region 9. The team is incredibly grateful to John Reardon, Director of Buildings and Properties for the diocese, for his participation and guidance throughout the process.

Acknowledgements:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3, Chesapeake Bay Program, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust contributed to funding for these projects. This project had been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under assistance agreement 4I-95300301-2 to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the EPA, nor does the EPA endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial products mentioned in this document.



St Margaret's Pantry

Catholic Charities of the Eastern Panhandle in Martinsburg serves the unhoused and those struggling financially with basic hygiene and cleaning products. This month, the pantry is in need of 3-in-1 body and shampoo wash, small bottles of dish soap, travel-size packs of Q-tips, unscented men's/women's deodorant, and 13 gallon trash bags. The items can be placed in the green bin located in the Parish Center or brought directly to Catholic Charities (224 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg). Questions? Please contact Gretchen Matz gjn60@aol.com.

Recovering Our Soul Connection Woman's Retreat

Recovering Our Soul Connections:

A Retreat for Women Who Have Been Sexually Abused

The Recovering Our Soul Connection Retreat was developed and first offered in North Carolina with support from the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh. Its focus is on an encounter with our loving God through Scripture, prayer, art, and music. **Begins online April 1, 2026, and culminates into an in-person retreat on May 28-31, 2026,** at The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality in Charleston, WV.

Applications accepted until the retreat is full; space is limited to 8. Cost is \$200. To request an application, email soulconnection366@gmail.com.

Heritage Baptist Church Clothes Closet

The Heritage Free Will Baptist Church runs a Clothes Closet in the building behind their meeting space, run by a nice couple, Buddy and Donna, and their able assistant, Sherry. All labor is volunteer.

Location: 2395 Middleway Pike, Bunker Hill, WV 25413

Drop-off: Tuesdays 1-5PM, Thursdays 1-6PM.

Open for families to pick up items: 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 9am-12noon.

They accept all clothing, some household items, hats, shoes, and toys – all sizes from infants to XXX. Donations can be on hangers or folded in bags. Clothes go directly to those in need of them – free of charge.

Each Saturday they average from 55-65 families served. In addition, they take cash donations and these are used to purchase toiletries, also given at no charge.

Financial Status – 2/22/2026

	Last Week ⁽¹⁾	YTD ⁽²⁾
Offertory Collections	\$10,825.56	\$69,776.01
Other Income	\$673.00	\$1,995.59
Total Income	\$11,498.56	\$71,771.60
Total Expenses	(\$31,679.73)	(\$109,298.49)
Net Income (Loss)	(\$20,181.17)	(\$37,526.89)

(1) Last Week = 2/16/2026 through 2/22/2026

(2) YTD = Year-to-Date as of 2/22/2026

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!



JCCM Food Pantry Needs

FOOD: Spaghetti sauce/pasta, ramen, crackers, canned meat (chicken, spam, ham, tuna), canned veg (not green beans/corn), hearty soups, canned pastas (Spaghetti-o's, ravioli, etc.), canned chili, canned fruit, cereal, mashed potatoes, jelly/jam, peanut butter, sugar

HOUSEHOLD & HYGIENE ITEMS: dish soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, copy paper, paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene items; **critically low:** denture cream, cleaning supplies, laundry pods. **Urgently need Bottled Water.**

Shepherdstown Shares Needs

FOOD: Regular ground coffee, regular tea bags, brown rice, pasta sauces, ramen noodles (not the cups of soup), small applesauce cups (unsweetened), snacks, crackers (i.e. Ritz or saltines), milk (½gal or full, whole or 2%), canned fruit, canned soup, diabetic-friendly Items (candy, pudding/Jell-o, applesauce)

HOUSEHOLD & HYGIENE ITEMS: Snack and sandwich-size Ziploc bags, sturdy paper bags (especially with handles), **cat food—huge need**, toilet paper, baby wipes, cat litter

SJS Open Enrollment

The enrollment process is now open to all families at Saint Joseph School as of Feb 13th. West Virginia Hope Scholarship funds of \$5,437 per student are available. For more information, go to: hopescholarshipwv.org.

To apply or re-enroll at SJS, visit sjswv.org.

For more information, contact pmaertenhicks@sjswv.org or 304-267-6447.

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.

SJS Annual Benefit Dinner

Saint Joseph School's largest fundraiser of the year, its benefit dinner, will take place **Saturday, March 7, from 6-10pm** in the SJS gym. It will have a fiesta theme.

To buy tickets for the event and/or be a sponsor or advertiser, please email sfa@sjswv.org or scan the QR code.



Mary's Refuge Golf Tournament

Save the Date! Mary's Refuge is hosting their second annual Links of Love Golf Tournament on **April 27th at 10am**. Scholarships and sponsor information is available on their website. Scan the QR code or visit their website: <https://marysrefuge.com/golf-tournament/>



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BE ON HIGH ALERT !!

Watch Out for Email and Texting Scams Know How to Protect Yourself

Just recently, several folks received **phishing** emails from people posing as Fr Mat! Often times this happens via text as well. This happens all too frequently, and we all need to be on high alert. **If you ever receive an email or text from someone posing as Fr Mat, Fr Arul, or St. Agnes staff asking for money, gift cards, etc., it's a scam.**

No one, not Fr Arul nor Fr Mat nor St. Agnes staff, will ever write to you personally asking for 'favors' or to request for you to make a purchase or send money.

You can usually tell by looking closely at the email address who sent the message. Emails from St. Agnes are always from @stagnesshepherdstown.org. Emails from Fr Arul will be from aanthony@dwc.org or arulantony1953@gmail.com. These scammers are very crafty and often make some very slight variation on the actual email address, so you really have to look very carefully.

If you receive an email similar to this, simply delete it and be aware that email scams, phishing, and more, are part of our digital world. To protect yourself, it's important that you learn how to recognize these scams. You can check out the Federal Trade Commissions website for important information on recognizing these phishing scams, how to protect yourself from phishing attacks, what to do if you suspect a phishing attack, what to do if you responded to a phishing email, and how to report phishing: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-avoid-phishing-scams>.

Camp Carlo: Catholic Summer Camp

INTERESTED IN A CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP?

Grow in your faith while having fun outdoors in Huttonsville! Spend time riding horses, swimming, hiking, and many more fun activities and make friends with other young people. Participate in regular Mass, Adoration, and entertaining Catechesis. Register today and find more information at campcarlowv.org.

High School Week: June 28-July 4 | Week 1: July 5-11
Week 2: July 12-18 | Week 3: July 19-25

Open Positions at St Joe's School

SJS is seeking to fill these positions:

- ⇒ **Elementary School Principal**
- ⇒ **Elementary School Teacher (K-5)**

To send in a resume, contact Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjswv.org. View the job listing [on Indeed](#) or contact St Joe's Parish Office.

Retirement Fund for Diocesan Priests Collection

March 7-8, 2026

A special second collection is scheduled for March 7-8, 2026, to support the Priests' Health and Retirement Association (PHRA), a fund that provides health insurance and retirement benefits to retired priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Please take a moment to reflect on the many years of service by our priests and how we can take this opportunity to thank them in a very particular way with a gift to the PHRA collection.

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