

# 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](mailto:Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org)  
[www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org](http://www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org)

## **St. Agnes Chapel**

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

## **Sunday Readings**

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a  
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

## 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 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fourth Sunday of Lent</li> <li>• CFF, CSS, Youth Group, First Eucharist Parents 9:15am</li> <li>• OCIA 12noon</li> <li>• Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon</li> </ul>
Tues Mar 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Patrick's Day</li> <li>• Racial Justice Initiative Zoom 3pm</li> <li>• Finance Council 6pm</li> </ul>
Wed Mar 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastoral Council 6:30pm</li> </ul>
Fri Mar 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Discussion Group 11am</li> <li>• Simple Supper 6pm</li> <li>• Stations of the Cross 7pm</li> <li>• First Day of Spring!</li> </ul>
Sat Mar 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscaping Workday 9am-11am</li> <li>• Easter Candle Creation 11am</li> <li>• Lenten Communal Reconciliation 4pm</li> </ul>
Sun Mar 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fifth Sunday of Lent</li> <li>• CFF, CSS, Youth Group, First Eucharist Parents, Youth Feeding the Hungry 9:15am</li> <li>• OCIA 12noon</li> </ul>

## Easter Candle/Paschal Candle

Here at Saint Agnes we have the tradition of making our own Easter Candle. Parishioners are welcome to **gather and help us create our Easter Candle 2026 on Saturday Morning, March 21st, at 11 o'clock.** We will gather at the Parish Center. You are welcome to gather with us to help in the process or if you are simply curious about how this all happens.

## Simple Supper & Stations of the Cross

You are invited to a Simple Supper at the St Agnes Parish Center (6pm—6:45pm) before Stations of the Cross (7pm) during Lenten season. All are Welcome!

This week's menu (March 20th):

Butternut squash soup with artisan bread  
Potato soup with Irish soda bread

## Scripture Sharing—Back to Mondays

Our Scripture Sharing group will be returning to its original schedule of meeting every Monday (except major holidays) at 12noon, as of Monday March 16.



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm for  
**Josephine Lang & Andree Schlosser**

Sunday, 10:30am for  
**Caleb Smith**

May Josephine, Andree, and Caleb share in the fullness of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Bonnie Arnold (mother of Andy Arnold) who recently died. May Bonnie 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 Lisa Abe (sister of Bill Donahue, mother of Ryan & Julie Abe), Jon Metrey, 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.

## Holy Week

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

Tuesday, March 31

NO Weekday Mass

Chrism Mass 4pm Wheeling, WV

Wednesday, April 1

11am Weekday Mass

Holy Thursday, April 2

7:00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper

(all those present will be invited to participate and have their feet washed)

Good Friday, April 3

9:00am Morning Prayer

3:00pm Stations of the Cross

7:00pm Liturgy of the Passion

and Death of the Lord

Holy Saturday, April 4

9:00am Morning Prayer

NO Reconciliation or 5:30pm Mass

8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass

Reception following Mass

Easter Sunday, April 5

8:00am Easter Morning Mass

10:15am Children's Program before Mass

10:30am Easter Morning Mass

11:45am Easter Egg Hunt

Dear Parishioners,

Shalom! What do we do at the time of elevation during mass? There are a few things that I wish to share with you today.

1. You can follow the words of St. Thomas the Apostle, who seeing the Risen Lord, he said, "MY LORD AND MY GOD."
2. St. Dominic Savio said, "Jesus, I love you with all my heart."
3. St. Vincent de Paul said, "I believe, I adore and I hope and above all I love you."
4. St. Francis of Assisi would bow low and say with tears in his eyes, "We adore you O Christ and we bless you, here and all your churches throughout the world, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world."
5. The Church invites us to adore the Lord, truly present in the Eucharist, in silence, in admiration, in wonder and gazing at the Host and the Chalice.
6. Our mere silence can be a beautiful prayer; besides, we can add a short act of faith and love to deepen our amazement.

Best wishes for the remaining days of Lent.

Fr Arul Anthony

I would like to visit with the families of our parish after Easter, preferably in the evenings. Those who would like to have me in their homes, please contact 304-780-6090 or the Parish Center.

## Lenten Communal Reconciliation

Our Lenten Communal Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, March 21, at 4pm.

## Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

**Service, Justice, Peace Weekend is this weekend, March 14th and 15th.** Knights of Columbus will hand out blue bags to be returned with food for the needy. Coffee from Haiti will be for sale and there will be the opportunity to donate to Feed the Hungry, provide feminine hygiene products and diapers for the needy, help for young mothers and babies at Mary's Refuge, and funds to educate girls in Kolofata. The Parish nurse will be checking blood pressures and blood sugars.

**Starting this month,** we will have a green bin for donations to Catholic Charities/St Margaret's Pantry at the SJP table. Catholic Charities of the Eastern Panhandle serves the unhoused and those struggling financially with basic hygiene and cleaning products. 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.

## Fr Arul's 47th Ordination Anniversary

On **Tuesday, March 24th**, we will celebrate Fr Arul's 47th Ordination Anniversary! Following the 11am Mass (12noon), there will be a reception with light refreshments in Hendrix Hall in the Parish Center—please RSVP to the Parish Center. Next weekend's Masses will have a poster to sign! The posters will be given at the luncheon.

## Parish Landscape Workday

Join the Landscape Committee as we start our St. Agnes campus spring cleanup! We're meeting on **Saturday, March 21st from 9am-11am**. We'll focus on the area around the Parish Center—trimming, clearing, and cleaning. Please bring any small hand tools to help. We'll meet in the parking lot behind the Parish Center. Water and snacks will be provided. Hope to see you there! Have questions? Contact Scott at [landscape@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto:landscape@stagnesshepherdstown.org).

## 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/>

## The Three Scrutinies

The Scrutinies are associated with three specific Gospel stories on the third (last Sunday), fourth (this Sunday), and fifth (next Sunday) Sundays of Lent: Jesus encountering the Samaritan woman at the well, where He offers Himself as the Living Water; Jesus healing the man born blind, where He gives Himself as Light of the World, and Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, where He reveals Himself as the Resurrection and the Life.

During the Scrutinies this Lent, ask yourself: what is defective in my heart and soul that needs strengthening? Resolve to ask for God's healing grace, go to Confession and work prayerfully on those areas of your spiritual life. Join in the rite during Mass and participate fully so that you too may enter into purification and enlightenment and ready your heart for the joys of Easter.

May we all thirst for the Living Water Christ offered the Samaritan Woman at the well, have our spiritual sight restored by Him who is the Light of the World, and bear witness to new life in Christ like Lazarus, who received the Resurrection and the Life.

## 2026 Unity Campaign: LAST DAY!

Until **March 15th**, donors can contribute to any of the participating agencies and 100% of their contribution will go directly to the nonprofit organization of their choice. The Unity Campaign is an annual fundraiser powered by United Way of the Eastern Panhandle. In its seventh year, the annual fundraising campaign supports area nonprofits that promote a healthy community, youth opportunity, community resiliency, and financial security programs to individuals and families in the Eastern Panhandle. The Unity Campaign is a collaborative fundraising effort between nonprofit organizations, sponsors and the community. The Unity Campaign helps raise funds for nonprofits that serve individuals and families in the Eastern Panhandle.

Visit <https://uwayep.org/unitycampaign> for more information and to donate. A list of nonprofits can be found here: <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/unity>

**Incentive Match Fund:** When you give through the Unity Campaign, your individual gift is boosted because a portion of your donation will be matched through a \$100,000 incentive match fund thanks to an anonymous donor who has provided the funds for the Incentive Match Fund since the start of the Eastern Panhandle's Unity Campaign seven years ago.

## Racial Justice Initiative

When the Rev. Jesse Jackson died last month, at his side, along with his wife Jacqueline, was a Catholic priest, Rev. Michael Phleger, the longtime pastor of St. Sabina Catholic Church in Chicago, an historic Black Catholic community. Jesse Jackson had asked him to come and pray with him in his dying hours. Fr. Phleger was a decades-long friend and ardent coworker in the fight for racial justice.

As reported in an National Catholic Reporter article by Camillo Barone and Brian Roewe on February 17, 2026, Fr. Phleger said, "I will forever thank Mr. Jackson for the gift of calling me to come over to be there with him... He's always been a mentor and he was one that always supported me, always encouraged me, always stood with me." For Fr. Phleger, Jackson's defining trait was his relentlessness: "There was no fight too small and no fight too big for him. His consistency from a young man till the day he died, he never stopped fighting."

All over the years, Jesse Jackson had collaborated and fought alongside many other Catholic laity, religious and clergy as well. Fr. Phleger's story is a reminder that as Catholics we have a rich legacy in responding to the ongoing call to fight for the cause of racial justice.

## The Gift of Music



### Memorialize this year's Hymnal

Our 2026 Hymnals are here! Envelopes can be found in each hymnal if you would like to dedicate a hymnal to a loved one.

Place completed forms in the offertory basket.

## Spring Anyone?

Winter has almost completed its "phase into spring," and hopefully you are enjoying that yellow blanket of flowers that popped up when the ice melted at the end of February (the common name for them is winter aconite). This plant is not a native, and you need to know that it is toxic to humans and pets. All around the neighborhoods you are now seeing the little white bell shaped flower known as the snowdrop, it began blooming about the same time as the winter aconite; it is not native, and is also toxic to humans and pets. You will, no doubt, have noticed that the helleborus started showing its colorful flower in December but is now making quite a show of itself with the pink, burgundy, and white prancing, stemmed bouquets. The bluebells have broken the ground surface and are transforming from deep purple points to bright green leaves that will nestle the protean flower. Soon, starting this month, we will see a parade of spring colors, some on the ground, such as the crocuses, daffodils, lily-of-the valley, tulips, and hyacinths; colorful shrubs such as forsythia and quince; and vibrant tree limbs with no leaves just yet, but decorated with unique flowers, the spicebush, witch hazel, and redbud will be among this showy group. The display of ephemerals at Ferry Hill, located just across the bridge leading from Shepherdstown into Sharpsburg, take advantage of this wonder of nature that is right in our community.

## Shepherdstown Palestine Film Festival

Please join us in the

### 2026 Shepherdstown Palestine Film Festival

Tickets available at [operahouselive.com](https://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 on March 20 and 21, 2026.

## Point in Time Count 2026

The JCCM team led the annual Point in Time Count to determine the number of homeless individuals in Jefferson County. This data helps HUD allocate funds to support local homeless service providers. The JCCM team, alongside volunteers and community partners, visited various locations across the County. They are grateful to everyone who contributed to this successful effort. Preliminary data shows 61 individuals were counted. This is an increase from the 2025 result of 41. **As of February:** 815 Individuals received emergency food this month, 494 Nights of safe shelter provided, 56 Health Care (primary care and mental health) appointment at our facility. **JCCM is among the non-profits participating in the United Way Unity Campaign!**

# 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](mailto: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, please email:**  
**[Formation@StAgnesShepherdstown.org](mailto:Formation@StAgnesShepherdstown.org)**  
**or the Parish Office**  
**[Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org](mailto:Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org)**

# THE YOUTH CORNER

Fourth Sunday of Lent

This Sunday's Gospel:  
John 9:1-41

March 15, 2026

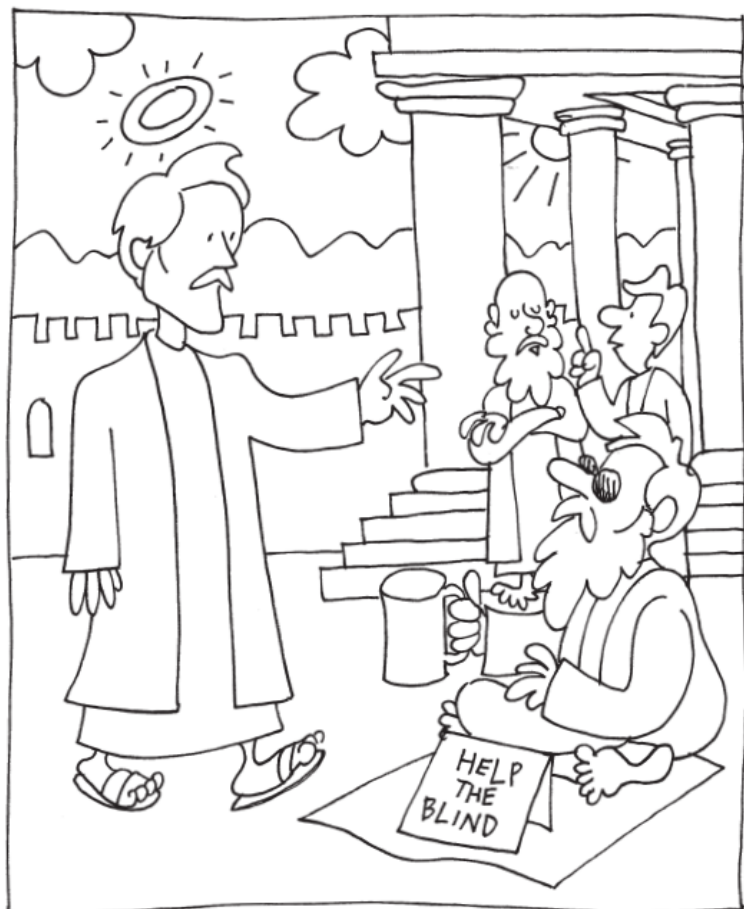
### Upcoming events:

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

**Sun, March 22:** CFF, Youth Group, and CSS will meet in the Parish Center at 9:15am. Third meeting for parents of First Confirmation will also meet in the Parish Center at 9:15am.

**Sun, March 29:** Palm Sunday—No CFF, CSS, or Youth Group

**Sun, Apr 5:** Easter Sunday—No CFF, CSS, or Youth Group



# Meal Prep: March 22

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## 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.

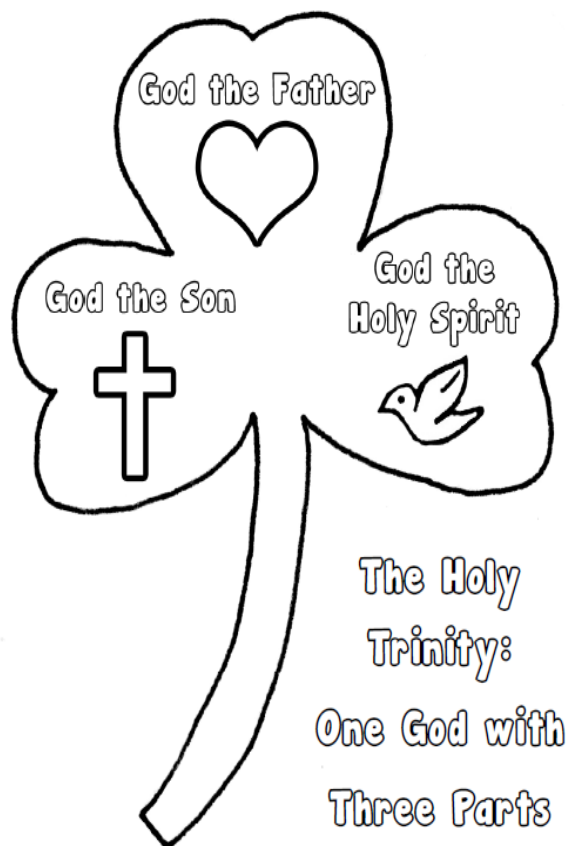
**All volunteers who have direct contact or prolonged contact with minors are required to be VIRTUS-trained** as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Forms are located in the church Narthex and the Parish Center on how to complete this process. All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS-trained.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

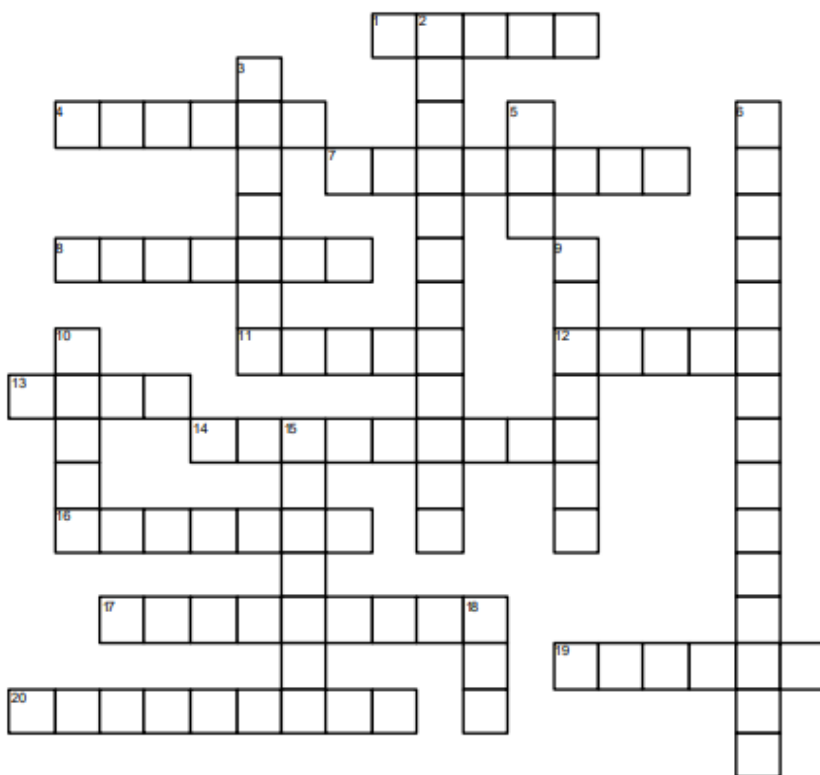
**Volunteers that work directly or have prolonged contact with minors will be required to update their VIRTUS every three years.** Background checks need to be renewed every 3 years. For example, choir members need to be VIRTUS-trained if there are youth (under 18) in the choir or there are youth musicians. 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](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org) or [office@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto: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](mailto:liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org), or contact one of the Mass Coordinators for opportunities to volunteer for one of the Liturgical Ministries.

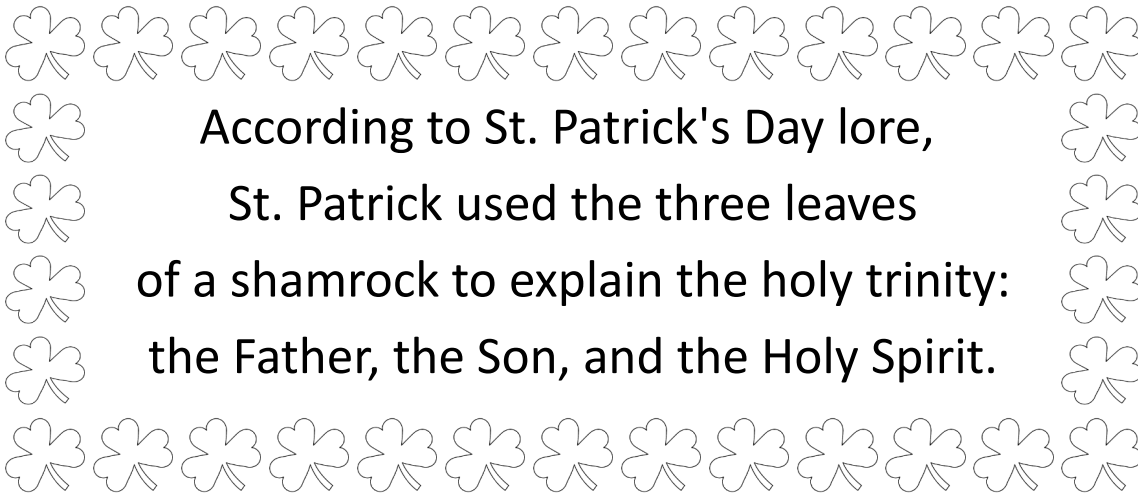


### JESUS HEALED A MAN BORN BLIND John 9:1-41



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BLIND SPAT PASTE  
 SPITTLE SIGHT RESTORED  
 PROPHET PARENTS DISCIPLES  
 SINNERS DEVOUT BELIEVE



According to St. Patrick's Day lore,  
 St. Patrick used the three leaves  
 of a shamrock to explain the holy trinity:  
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In Jerusalem, Jesus saw a man who had been born blind. No one thought that he would ever be able to see. But Jesus made some mud and put it on the man's eyes.

Then Jesus told the man to go wash in the pool. When the man came out of the pool, what do you think happened?

1. Color in every square that has a dot in it.
2. Leave the squares with no dot blank.

Then you will know what happened to this man.

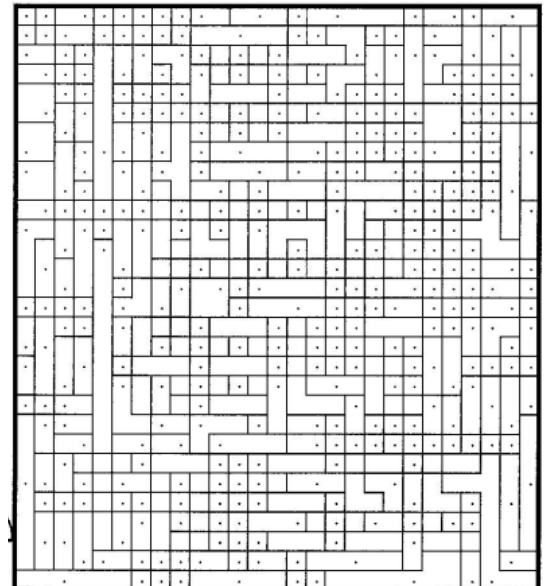


**ACROSS**

- 1 When the parents of the man born blind was questioned by the Pharisees, they told them (Pharisees) that he is old enough to \_\_\_\_\_ for himself. (Jn. 9:20-21)
- 4 Jesus was asked by His disciples, "Who \_\_\_\_\_, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (Jn. 9:2)
- 7 When Jesus heard that the man born blind had been thrown out of the synagogue, He asked if he \_\_\_\_\_ in the Son of Man? (Jn. 9:35)
- 8 When the man who was blind was asked to comment about his sight, he said that the man who healed him was a \_\_\_\_\_. (Jn. 9:17)
- 11 What title did the disciples address Jesus to ask Him questions? (Jn. 9:2)
- 12 Jesus said that He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. (Jn. 9:5)
- 13 Who did not believe that the man born blind was healed so they sent for the man's parents? (Jn. 9:18)
- 14 Jesus heard that the man born blind and was healed had been thrown out of the \_\_\_\_\_. (Jn. 9:35)
- 16 On what day of the week did Jesus heal the man born blind? (Jn. 9:14)
- 17 Upon questioning the man who was healed on the Sabbath day, who said that Jesus is not from God because He did not keep the Sabbath? (Jn. 9:13-16)
- 19 The parents of the man who was born blind were \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews because if they acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ, they would be thrown out of the synagogue. (Jn. 9:20-23)
- 20 Jesus said that since the man was born blind, the \_\_\_\_\_ might be displayed to God honoring his life. (Jn. 9:3) three words

**DOWN**

- 2 After Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with His saliva, He put it on the man's eyes. Then Jesus said, "God, wash in the \_\_\_\_\_." (Jn. 9:7) three words
- 3 When asked who sinned that this man was born blind, Jesus said " \_\_\_\_\_." (Jn. 9:3)
- 5 After the man washed his eyes in the Pool of Siloam, he was able to \_\_\_\_\_. (Jn. 9:7)
- 6 In the story of the man born blind, but now healed, speaks of physical blindness, those who refuse to believe in Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9 Not only did the Jews not \_\_\_\_\_ the man's own words, but also Jesus' power to heal. (Jn. 9:18-23)
- 10 When the man, who was born blind, was questioned by his neighbors about his sight, who did he say healed him? (Jn. 9:8-11)
- 15 The man who was born blind and was healed, testified that if Jesus was not from God, He could do \_\_\_\_\_. (Jn. 9:30-33)
- 18 Finally the Pharisees told the man born blind and now healed that he was steeped in \_\_\_\_\_ at birth. (Jn. 9:34)



- Saint Patrick -

## The Gospel at Home

### This Week's Gospel: John 9:1-41

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus opens the eyes of a man blind from birth. It is the man born blind who sees Jesus for who he really is. The man's neighbors, parents, and teachers have sight but are blind to who Jesus is. In many parishes, those preparing for Baptism receive the Creed this week, and many of this week's lessons help young people know the Creed.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds** (Preschool): Young children are proud of their ability to recognize shapes and objects and call them by name. Ask your child to name different colors and shapes in your house. Teaching them the names of the different flowers, birds, and animals around them is a concrete way to help children see the wonders of God's Creation.

**Promise** (Grades K-1): This week your child learned to appreciate the sense of sight. Ask your child to share with the family the story of the man who was born blind. Talk about what a gift it is to see the wonders of God's world. Consider taking a walk around your neighborhood or area and notice all the things we can see and believe. Then talk about the many things we can't see, but we still believe, such as love.

**Good News** (Grades 2-3): Ask your child to show you the puppets he or she made in class. You may want to use the puppets to act out the Gospel story of the man born blind. Ask your child what a creed is. Talk together about what it means to believe and why it is important that we say the Creed at every Sunday Mass. Consider going outside to find signs of Spring like the story the class read this week.

**Venture** (Grades 4-6): In class, your young person read a comic telling the story of the blind man whose sight was healed by Jesus. Have your youngster point out the part of the story that he or she found most comforting or challenging. Ask your young person to share something learned about either the Nicene or the Apostle's Creed with your family. As a family, discuss how your faith has grown with each of you, and how you hope your faith will keep growing. Consider a discussion about King David from the week's lesson.

**Visions** (Grades 7-9): The Gospel of the man born blind gave your young person's class an opportunity to learn what it means to really see. Ask your son or daughter to tell the whole family about Louie—a legally blind teenager who works to help other people see. Talk about all the different ways of "seeing." Although we often say, "Seeing is believing," talk together about how "believing is seeing." You might want to end your family chat by reciting the Apostles' Creed (found on the last page of your child's lesson). Talk about how David was chosen King of Israel.

**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

Have each member of the family write a short prayer that is only 140 characters or less. The prayer should be about how important it is to really see or to ask God to help you overcome your blindness. Younger children will need some help with their prayers. After all the prayers are written, let each person share his or her prayer with the family.



www.CatholicPlayground.com

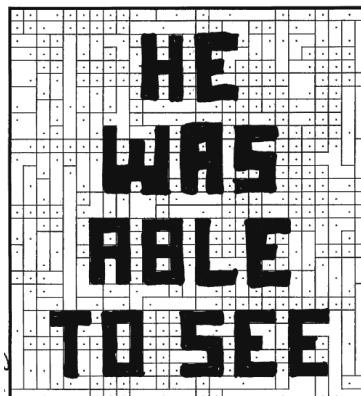
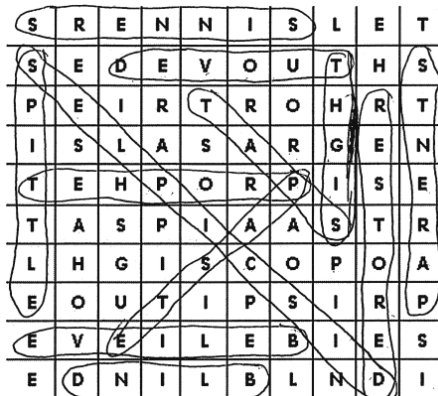
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## SOLUTIONS

Scan here for parent resources  
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## Chesapeake Bay Trust Track 3 Grant Update

It's happening! Our contractor for the work to be done on our church campus, Mason-Dixon, plans to begin work on our project in the coming weeks with a target (if mother nature is in agreement) of **the beginning of April**. Recall that this work includes redirection of the downspouts from the church's south roof to the upper pond, creation of a bioswale along with landscaping (plants and bushes) 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. Mason-Dixon is committed to causing as little disruption to activities at St Agnes as possible while they execute the necessary work. The work should not take more than a few weeks at most, weather dependent, of course.

As previously noted, this Track 3 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.

In addition to the Track 3 grant from the Trust, we have received a matching grant contribution from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. **Thanks to these two grants, the parish is not using any of its own funds!** However, the members of the grant committee are giving countless hours of their time to the effort.

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. We are 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.



## Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987. Women's History Month 2026 takes place from Sunday, March 1, through Tuesday, March 31.

Women's History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to U.S. history. From Abigail Adams to Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, the timeline of women's history milestones stretches back to the founding of the United States.

The actual celebration of Women's History Month grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, California, in 1978. Presentations were given at dozens of schools, hundreds of students participated in a "Real Woman" essay contest and a parade was held in downtown Santa Rosa.

A few years later, the idea caught on within communities, school districts and organizations across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

## Catholic Sharing Appeal

### The 2026 Catholic Sharing Appeal is underway!

Each year, the CSA invites us to pause and reflect on how deeply we are connected as one family of faith across West Virginia. Though our parishes may differ in size, location, and circumstance, we are united in our call to proclaim the Gospel, serve those in need, and hand on the faith to future generations. **You can donate online** at <https://csa.dwcministries.org/> or scan the QR code to support our parish in reaching our assigned goal of \$50,830. Everything above 50% of that goal will come directly back to the parish and will assist us in meeting our financial obligations here at St Agnes. If you have not received your form in the mail, forms and envelopes are available in the Narthex.



## Catholic Daughters Women's Retreat

### Mass, Talks, Adoration, Confession, Time for Personal Prayer and Spiritual Conversations with the Sisters

Saturday, April 18

Mass and Rosary-8:30am

Check in 9:30am | Day Ends at 3pm

St. Joseph Catholic Church Martinsburg, WV

Lunch is included. Tickets will be available starting the weekend of March 14th. Please call the Parish Office (304)267-4893 by Friday, April 10th. Space is Limited!

## 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](mailto:soulconnection366@gmail.com).

## 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://jcco.org/jcco/category/in-the-news/>

## 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.mthtwv.com/mcs/free-tax-service/>.

### Financial Status – 3/8/2026

	Last Week <sup>(1)</sup>	YTD <sup>(2)</sup>
Offertory Collections	\$28,354.63	\$105,456.29
Other Income	\$20.00	\$2,100.84
Total Income	\$28,374.63	\$107,557.13
Total Expenses	(\$12,556.91)	(\$136,121.49)
Net Income (Loss)	\$15,817.72	(\$28,564.36)

(1) Last Week = 3/2/2026 through 3/8/2026

(2) YTD = Year-to-Date as of 3/8/2026 (10 weeks)

### 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

## 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.

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.

## CRS Operation Rice Bowl

**GIVE ALMS THROUGH CRS RICE BOWL** and 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. 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](http://crsricebowl.org)

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

## 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](mailto:liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org).

## 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](mailto:@stagnesshepherdstown.org). Emails from Fr Arul will be from [aanthony@dwc.org](mailto:aanthony@dwc.org) or [arulantony1953@gmail.com](mailto: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>.

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## Camp Carlo: Catholic Summer Camp

### INTERESTED IN A CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP?

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**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**

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

## 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/>



## Save the Date

**July 19, 2026:** Closing Mass for the Diocese's 175th Anniversary Year at 10:30am (Basilica of the Co-Cathedral, Charleston).

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