

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

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 9, 13-14
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 9:28b-36

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)



Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm for

Don Barth



Sunday, 10:30am for

Brian McCormack

May Don and Brian share
in the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Kathy Dowell who recently died. May Kathy share in the fulness of God's love and peace.

The Week at a Glance...

Sun Mar 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fr. Michael Driscoll Visiting St Agnes Through Wednesday! See bulletin schedule. • CFF, Youth Group 9:15am • OCIA 12noon
Mon Mar 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Patrick's Day • Fr. Driscoll Presentations 12noon & 7pm
Tues Mar 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial Justice Initiative Zoom 3pm • Board Games Group 3:30pm • Fr. Driscoll Presentations 12noon & 7pm
Wed Mar 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Icon Workshop 11am • Fr. Driscoll Presentations 12noon & 7pm
Friday Mar 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book Discussion Group 11am • Simple Supper 6pm • Stations of the Cross 7pm
Sun Mar 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFF, Youth Group, AFF 9:15am • First Scrutiny 10:30am • Youth Feeding the Hungry Prep 11:30am • OCIA 12noon

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Sally Little, Moon Yee Liu-Ho (mother of Amie Ho-Leung), Mary Raygor, Bertha Ngu (sister of Fon Ngu), Mason Coderre, Norma Frances Cesare (mother of Carmela Cesare), Bill Gray, Ann Kessel, Mike Vojtasko, Ron Mancini (son-in-law of Bob & Martha Rizzo), 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.

Welcome Fr Michael Driscoll St Agnes Lenten Mission

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

All sessions will take place at the church on Monday (March 17), Tuesday (March 18), and Wednesday (March 19).**

- **Monday**, 12noon & 7pm - The Eucharist as a Mystery to be celebrated (liturgical dimension).
- **Tuesday**, 12noon & 7pm - The Eucharist as a Mystery to be believed (theological dimension).
- **Wednesday**, 12noon & 7pm - The Eucharist as a Mystery to be lived (ethical dimension).

Rev. Michael S. Driscoll is a priest of the Diocese of Helena in Montana and since 2017 professor emeritus in theology at the University of Notre Dame where he has taught sacramental theology and liturgy since 1994. He is the founding director of the graduate program in Sacred Music (MSM) and the Interdisciplinary Minor in Liturgical Music Ministry at Notre Dame. He is an active member of several professional groups having served in the leadership of each: North American Academy of Liturgy (NAAL), the Societas Liturgica, and the Catholic Academy of Liturgy (CAL). He has published two books, many book chapters, and numerous articles in journals such as *Worship*, *Ecclesia Orans* and *Traditio*.

**Additional information can be found on our website!

Creating a Beautiful Easter Candle

At the beginning of the Easter Vigil we gather outside around the new fire; we bless, and then we light, the Easter Candle. This candle for its very size tells us that it represents something significant and important, that is, the light of Christ. We light our individual candles from the Easter Candle, process into the church building, and sing the Easter Proclamation (Exultet). All of this is prior to the reading of a number of scripture lessons, and the baptism and full initiation of our catechumens and candidates for membership.

For more than 30 years, our parish members have made this Easter Candle. And so, once again, on Saturday afternoon, **March 29, we will gather at the Parish Center and begin to create our 2025 Easter Candle. If you would like to help Fr. Andy and Fr. Mat** in this creative process, you would be most welcome to join us beginning around **1 o'clock**. When the candle finally emerges, is decorated, lighted, and proclaimed the light of Christ, it is comforting that it is the work of many individuals. Come and join us if you are free or simply curious about how it all happens.

Lenten Communal Reconciliation

Our Lenten Communal Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, March 29th at 4pm.

Save the Date!

On Sunday, April 27, 2025 we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Fr Mat's ordination! Details will be forthcoming, but, for now, mark your calendars!

Dear Parishioners,

I recently had some Jewish friends invite me to a Shabbat service. I thought to myself, what a great way to end the week. There was a sense of celebration and festivity with it. I left thinking that I wish we, as Christians, would honor that tradition as well. There seems to be something deeply significant in the reality that God rested on the seventh day. I think it is important to remember that the first followers of Jesus were Jewish, and they would have celebrated Shabbat. And then Sunday was known to them as the day of new creation. We recognize Sunday as a day of resurrection. As Father Michael Driscoll celebrates the liturgies with us this weekend and then spends some days with us discussing how the liturgy forms us, perhaps we can see this as a time of rest and renewal so that God can work on us and renew us. As we hear of the Transfiguration in the gospel this Second Sunday of Lent, it reminds us that Lent is a season of transformation for us. When the disciples saw Jesus with Moses and Elijah on the mountain, it is said they were awakened. This is what our parish renewal is inviting us to do, be awakened. For it is in the encounter with the Risen Christ that we are transformed and can participate in the transformation of the world.

Fr. Andy

2025 St Agnes Scholarships

St. Agnes announces the 2025 Annual Scholarship Award! Active, participating members of St. Agnes who are graduating high school in 2025 are encouraged to apply for a scholarship to assist in furthering their education. The scholarship may be used for any institute of higher learning or trade school. Applications are available in the Narthex and the parish center or can be emailed to interested applicants (office@stagnesshepherdstown.org). **Deadline for application submission to the office is May 2nd.**

Success!

In the wee hours of Tuesday night, following many hours of in-person, public comment, the Jefferson County Planning Commission voted UNANIMOUSLY to DENY the Mountain Pure Bottling Plant. We thank the planning commission for their dedication!

We are grateful to our parishioners and community friends who submitted written comments through our Write-in at the parish center or by emailing or mailing comments in themselves. The Commissioners received more than 1680 written public comments! In addition, well over 500 people attended Tuesday's public workshop with the Planning Commissioners who heard from more than 100 people who gave passionate public comment in person.

Standing up for our common home matters!

Lenten Simple Suppers

Each Friday in Lent at 6pm, please make plans to join us at the parish center for a Lenten Simple Supper of meatless soup and bread. Following the suppers, we will gather at the church for Stations of the Cross. Our St Agnes youth started us off on March 14 with our Simple Supper and then led the Stations of the Cross for us. The Simple Suppers will start at 6pm, followed by Stations at 7pm.

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday in Lent, we are offering Stations of the Cross at 7pm at the church. Stations of the Cross are a meaningful way to pray and meditate on Christ's sacrifice for us. All are welcome!

Stations are led by the Laity, and we are looking for Ministries/Groups to take part and lead the Stations throughout Lent. Contact liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org

Fridays March 21 & 28 and April 4 & 11 are all wide open. Please consider signing up to help!

SMA Community Read for Lent

***Saints and Villains* By Denise Giardina**

This is a novel about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian and Nazi resister. Bonhoeffer risked his life in vocal resistance to German nationalism and finally lost it through his participation in the resistance to Hitler and the efforts to topple his regime. Dr. Giardina is a West Virginia native and taught English at West Virginia State College. She is a licensed lay preacher in the Episcopal Church.

SMA Community Read Discussion Group

The Discussion Group will be held on 3 more Tuesdays in Lent (March 18 and 25 and April 1) at 7pm at the Parlor at Trinity House (Trinity Episcopal Church), both In-person and on Zoom. Facilitators will be the Rev. Gethin Weid and the Rev. Karen Erskine-Valentine.

MEET THE AUTHOR EVENT

Dr. Denise Giardina will be with us to discuss, "Saints and Villains" on Tuesday, April 8 (Place & Time: TBA).

For more info contact Rev. Dee-Ann Dixon, New Street UMC, 304-876-2362 or Rev. Karen Erskine-Valentine, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 304-876-6771.

SJP Weekend Results

Our collection last weekend for Service, Justice, and Peace was as follows: Feeding the Hungry and Homeless, \$10; Feminine Hygiene products and diapers, \$10; Kolofata Education of girls, \$50; and two bags of Haiti Coffee sold, \$20.

Many thanks to all donors! If you missed us last weekend and would like to contribute, stop by the office. Haiti coffee is always for sale during the week at the office. The next Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend will be April 12 and 13.

Fat Tuesday Results

Thank you to everyone who came out on Fat Tuesday and supported our Youth's Annual Pancake Supper. Also, **a huge thanks to everyone who helped** cook, serve, set up and clean up for the event. These events would not be possible without everything you do to make them successful!

The youth made about \$400 on the event for Youth Activities. The youth will decide on a charity to support, and they will be tithing 10% of the money.

Parish Library

Are you a lifelong learner? Hoping to read more books in 2025? Maybe you want to delve deeper into the Catholic faith during this Lenten season.

If so, come visit the Parish Library! We have hundreds of volumes ranging from history to theology to social justice and everything in between. While the library is currently undergoing some construction, feel free to drop in and check out a book (or two, or three!).

If you find a book you'd like to read, simply fill out the card in the back of the book with your name and today's date, and leave it in the basket on the check-out and returns shelf. Your due date will be three weeks from that date. (We appreciate timely returns, so that everyone can have a chance to enjoy the library's offerings!)

Need help choosing a book? This week, your parish librarian (Dana Getka) recommends: ***Teresa of Avila: An Extraordinary Life* by Shirley du Boulay.**

In this dazzling biography, St. Teresa of Avila, the great mystic, reformer, and Doctor of the Catholic Church, comes to vivid life on the page. Although best known for her mystical visions and ecstasies—most famously portrayed in marble by Bernini—St. Teresa kept both feet on the ground, catalyzing substantial religious reform during the Counter-Reformation in Spain.

Readers will find comfort in Teresa's words and inspiration in her practical devotion to God, which so often came as a struggle to her. As Du Boulay writes, "She experienced spiritual apathy, aridity in prayer, and a sense of failure common to so many. Had we only known her as the recipient of extraordinary experiences, as a mystic as gifted in prayer as Rembrandt in art, Beethoven in music, or Shakespeare in literature, we would not be able to identify with her so closely, nor would she have touched so many lives."

Teresa was headstrong, passionate, witty, humble, and endlessly relatable. Need a heavenly friend like her? Find *Teresa of Avila* in the Biography section under the letter "T"!

Little Black Books

Little Black Books, our Lenten Devotional, are available in the Narthex in both **regular and large print in English.** **We also have Spanish editions available this year.**

Operation Rice Bowl

GIVE ALMS THROUGH CRS RICE BOWL

Help communities around the world affected by hunger and poverty.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Three Scrutinies

The Scrutinies are associated with three specific Gospel stories on the third, fourth, and fifth 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.

Reminder to Sign Up for Emails

As a reminder, we periodically send out emails with important information and events. If you are not already signed up for these email blasts, you can sign up on the website at <https://stagnesshepherdstown.org/join-our-mailing-list/>.

THE YOUTH CORNER

The Second Sunday of Lent

This Week's Gospel:

Luke 9:28b—36

March 16, 2025

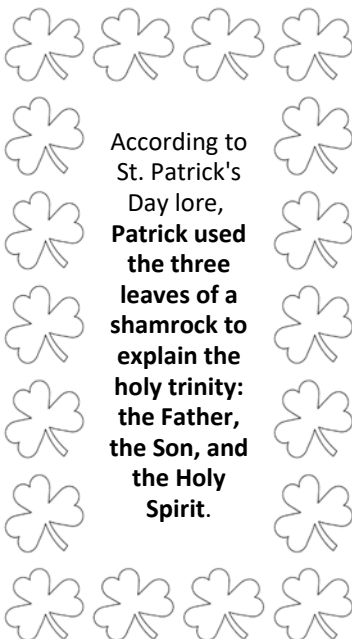
2			6	8			
	5			2		1	3
	3		9	1	7	8	
					8		
9			4				
	2	5		7		3	1
			1	6			
		1		3			5
							7



Let's Learn About Lent

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

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



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

Whom do we think of during Lent?

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

Jesus shone like the sun when He took his three friends up the mountain.



Peter was confused and said something without thinking. What did he say he could make?

Connect the dots to find out!

During the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus.

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

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ASTOUNDED
CHOSEN
CLOUD
CONVULSIONS
CROWD
ELIJAH
JAMES

JERUSALEM
JOHN
LISTEN
MOSES
MOUNTAIN
OVERSHADOWED
PETER

REBUKED
SILENT
SPIRIT
TEACHER
TERRIFIED
VOICE

CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

CFF, Sacramental Prep., and Youth Group classes this weekend at 9:15am in the Parish Center. Instead of the Adult Class (AFF) this weekend, Fr. Andy encourages everyone to attend at least one of the presentations by Fr. Driscoll either on Monday 3/17, Tuesday 3/18, or Wednesday 3/19. Presentations will be each day at 12noon and 7pm. Please see page 2 of this bulletin or check out the website for full information on Fr. Driscoll's schedule at St Agnes.

As we begin Lent, on each Friday during the Lenten season, Stations of the Cross will be at 7pm in the church. We will also have a **Simple Supper** (Meatless soup and bread) **each Friday at 6pm in the Parish Center before Stations.** All are welcome! Traditionally, various groups or committees take turns sponsoring and running Stations of the Cross every Friday. The Youth led Stations on March 14 at the church after the youth-led Simple Supper in the Parish Center.

Thank you to all the members of the parish who came out and supported the Youth's Annual Pancake Supper. We had a huge turnout and it was a great community-building event! The youth raised about \$400 for future programs. As always, the youth will tithe 10% of the money to a charity selected by our youth once final cost figures are determined.

In addition to the many social justice activities that our youth are involved in, our youth are also rehearsing our **Annual Play Production.** Be on the lookout for upcoming information regarding the production. Hopefully everyone will be able to support the event.

Families of First Eucharist children should have received an email with the updated dates for this spring. Please contact Bill (formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org) if you did not receive that email.

First Communion will occur May 4th at the 10:30am Mass. Please note, this is a change from the original schedule.

Remember Lent is a time to prepare for the celebration of Easter (April 20th), marked by 40 days, excluding Sundays, of reflection, repentance, sacrifice and spiritual growth.

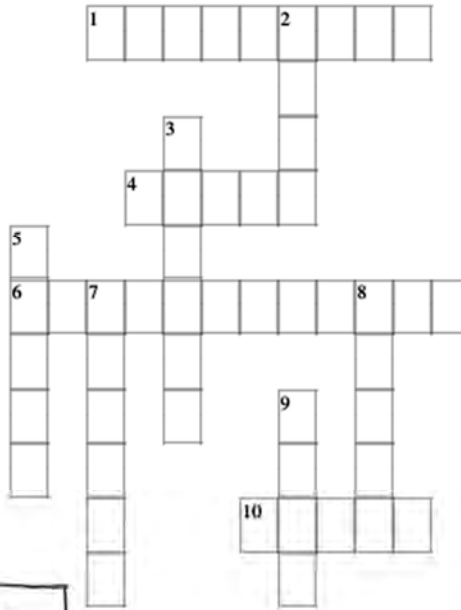
**Transfiguration
Luke 9:28b-36**

Across

1. Reaction of the apostles.
4. Number of dwellings to build.
6. What the cloud did to them.
10. One of the apostles.

Down

2. The appearance of his _____ changed.
3. "This is my son, my _____; listen to him!"
5. What they heard from the cloud.
7. Prophet on the hill.
8. Color of Jesus' clothes.



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**Youth Events:
At a Glance
Dates for the Calendar**

March 16: CFF and Youth Group in the Parish Center at 9:15am.**

First Eucharist parents are encouraged to attend one of Fr. Driscoll's presentations on 3/16, 3/17, or 3/18

March 23: CFF and AFF in the Parish Center at 9:15am.**

Youth Group will meet at 11:30am to prepare the Meal for the Hungry.

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

Volunteering: The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate our faith in action!

All volunteers are required to be VIRTUS trained as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. If you would like to volunteer for any parish ministry 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. If you have been trained in the past, you must be have the latest training Version 4.0.

If your Virtus 4.0 has been **over** a year ago, you will be asked to complete the **refresher** module. Logging into your online VIRTUS account is the best way to determine if your VIRTUS is up to date. If your home screen is "green", all is good. Any "red" section needs to updated. We will be audited for VIRTUS compliance the week of March 10th.

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

Jesus journeys to a mountain with Peter, James, and John in this Sunday's Gospel. While praying, Jesus becomes transfigured. His glory shows through as the ancient Israelite leaders Moses and Elijah speak with him. Then the voice of God tells the Apostles that Jesus is his Son, "Listen to him."

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week's lesson teaches that Jesus is God's Son. Talk with your child about your relationship with the Son of God, especially how you hear and listen to him. The class also recorded prayer times and places. This would be a good week to plan regular prayer times or maybe add to them. Encourage your child to find times and places to pray to Jesus.

Promise (Grades K-1): This week your child read about what God revealed during the Transfiguration. Ask your child what the voice from the cloud said about Jesus. Check out your child's Prayer Pocket from this week's class. Encourage your child to pray on his or her own as well as with family and friends.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child explored who they are by answering eight questions. Ask your child what he or she would shout from a mountaintop? Your child also wrote seven short prayers about what they are thankful for, so be sure to ask what some of those prayers were. Discuss as a family how you listen to Jesus. Ask your child about "Mai's Poem" from class, and how Abraham and Sarah listened to God. Ask, too, what the Transfiguration is.

Venture (Grades 4-6): In this week's class your young person learned about the time of Abraham. He or she also read a story about fifth-graders who wrote chapters about themselves for a book. Share a story from your grade school days. Ask your youngster to imagine what it must have been like for the Apostles to see the Transfiguration of Jesus. Ask your young person to explain the Lord's Prayer, then pray it together as a family. What are the welcoming, healing, and loving signs your family shares with others? Ask your youngster what he or she learned from the game based on The Lord's Prayer.

Visions (Grades 7-9): Listening to the Lord and looking at things from different points of view was how this week's class started. Have your young person describe the story of Kubisa Muzenende. Be sure to ask about Daniel Baguma, a child soldier from Rwanda. How has your family helped people? What is your young person's Lenten Commitment? Pray for his or her success. Maybe incorporate the Psalms into the prayer as the class did this week.

Pray Together

God commanded the Apostles and us to listen to Jesus, his Son. During prayer this week, include some silent time to listen to what God is telling your hearts. Share what each of you heard the Lord saying to you. Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in following Jesus' teaching in our lives.

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SOLUTIONS:



Let's Learn about Lent

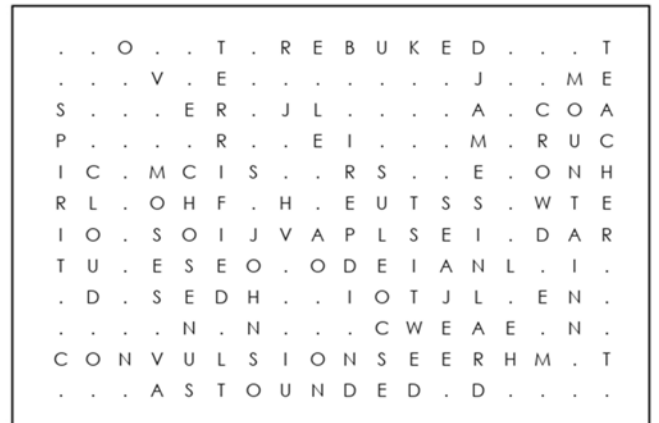
1-J; 2-E; 3-S; 4-U; 5-S; 6-I; 7-N; 8-T; 9-H; 10-E; 11-D; 12-E; 13-S; 14-E; 15-R; 16-T

JESUS IN THE DESERT

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

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


SUDOKU #2
Answer in Next Week's Bulletin



St. Patrick's Day, March 17

Praying
by Mary Oliver

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot,
or a few small stones;
Just pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't
try to make them elaborate,
this isn't a contest
but the doorway into thanks,
and a silence in which
another voice may speak.



Getting Started: Spring Planting Ideas

Welcome spring! We can actually plant several types of greens, beginning early March and, depending on the type, begin harvesting them 15 to 20 days later. Some of the greens to plant include spinach, microgreens, lettuce, and swiss chard. Early March is the best time to plant your snow peas and radishes, leeks, onions, and parsnips; this is also a good time to start those tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants indoors. Watch the bulletin for gardening tips over the next few weeks.

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.

Shepherdstown Shares Current Needs

- Toilet paper, Baby Wipes
- Regular Ground Coffee
- Brown Rice
- Pasta Sauces
- Ramen noodles (not the cups of soup)
- Small Applesauce Cups (unsweetened)
- Snacks, Crackers (i.e. Ritz or Saltines)
- Milk (1/2gal or full gallons—whole or 2%)
- Diabetic-Friendly Items
- Candy, pudding, Jell-o, applesauce
- Snack and sandwich-size Ziploc bags
- Sturdy paper bags (especially with handles)
- Regular tea bags

Check Your VIRTUS Training Status

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and VIRTUS now require a yearly update to your VIRTUS training. If you are currently on VIRTUS 4.0 and have completed the VIRTUS update less than 1 year ago and your background check has occurred within the last 3 years, you are still compliant. **If you completed VIRTUS 4.0 over 1 year ago, you need to complete the refresher module.** We have been told it is not the same as the initial training if you take the refresher module online.

To check your compliance status, log into your VIRTUS account. If your home page is green, you should be compliant. If your home page is red, you need to complete an update of each red section. If you have questions, please call the office at 304-876-6436 or email Bill Donahue at formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org. Thanks for all you do for the parish and for helping us achieve diocesan compliance with VIRTUS.

Earthbeat: Lenten Meatless Fridays

“What was the environmental impact of 28 percent of U.K. Catholics abstaining from meat on Fridays? And what is the potential?”

We came out with a measure of around 50,000 tons per year of CO2 savings. If you convert that to transatlantic flights, it's around 80,000 transatlantic flights per year. In terms of overall greenhouse gas emissions in the U.K., it's .012 percent. So, it's large and small at the same time. Catholics make up less than 10 percent of the population in England and Wales. In bigger countries, or countries with bigger Catholic populations, the same obligation could have a much bigger impact. Globally, standard diets vary across different countries, so it's difficult to apply our findings to a worldwide scale.

There are a lot of people of goodwill who want to do something at some level. It's great to see people even talking about it. A similar level of compliance from Catholics in the United States would have a 20 times greater impact in terms of CO2 emissions reductions.”

Excerpt from NCR's Earthbeat. Read more: <https://www.nconline.org/earthbeat/science/ga-shaun-larcom-effect-return-meatless-fridays-uk-catholics>

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

OCIA (formerly RCIA) is for those interested in learning about the Catholic faith to discern if they might want to be professed members. The goal is to see where the process takes you. Melanie Turner is leading our OCIA process. If interested in learning more or joining the group, please call the office. All are welcome!

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).

Please Don't Fall Victim To Email and Texting Scams!

Lately we are hearing from far too many parishioners that they are receiving emails or text messages from someone posing as Fr. Andy or Fr. Mat. **If you ever receive an email or text from someone posing as St. Agnes staff asking for money, gift cards, etc., it's a scam.**

No one, not Fr Andy 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 always come from office@stagnesshepherdstown.org. Emails from Fr. Andy will be from aswitzer@dwc.org or aswitzer@stagnesshepherdstown.org ONLY. 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.

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We are still in need of blankets, comforters, sleeping bags and men's ties—Full/King/ Queen-size, clean, and in good -condition—can be dropped off at the parish center. Articles that we cannot use to make a sleeping bag: down comforters, wool blankets, mattress covers, pillows and pillow cases, curtains or drapes, or towels We do use sheets, however we have a lot of them and don't need them at this time. Email barbaramueller596@gmail.com

Open Positions at Saint Joe's School

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

- ⇒ **Principal of SJS**
- ⇒ **Maintenance Supervisor/Technician**

To send in a resume, contact Deacon Patrick Michel, Ed.D. at deaconpat@stjosephwv.org. View the job listing: <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Saint-Joseph-School/jobs>.

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.

JCCM Food Pantry Current Needs

- Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta
- Canned meat (chicken, spam, ham, tuna)
- Soups (hearty and condensed)
- Canned pasta, Canned chili, Canned fruit
- Rice (small bags)
- Cereal
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Jelly and peanut butter
- Syrup, Pancake/biscuit mix
- Instant oatmeal
- Crackers
- Cooking oil
- Deodorant, Shampoo/Conditioner
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper, Wipes
- Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent
- Cat/Dog food

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$19,814
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$1,850
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$21,664
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$13,500
Total Collections Compared to Target	↑ +\$8,164

Tithe to help those in need \$1,981
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston maintains an Office of Safe Environment in accordance with the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. **To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org 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.

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!



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SJS Lunch with the Franciscan Sisters

Sunday, March 23rd 12:30—1:30pm
in the **St Joseph's School Cafeteria**
for **All Middle and High School Girls**

Sr. Sarah Rose and Sr. Rita Claire are part of a young vibrant order that does campus ministry and work with those in need, besides having a contemplative calling to pray for our world.

We will hear their stories, and learn how to hear God's call for our lives. It will be a delightful afternoon!
RSVP: secretary@stjosephwv.org or 304-267-4893 by March 17th.

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/>

They have yet to post the list of accepted items for this year, but historically they accept items such as: toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes, used batteries, various appliances and furniture, eyewear and contact casings, musical instruments, luggage, and bicycles.

2025 Quo Vadis Retreat

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Vocations Office has set the dates for the 2025 Quo Vadis Retreat for boys who will be in grades 6-8 for the 2025-2026 school year. The camp is set for June 30-July 3 at the Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville. The camp is free!
Registration form is available online at our diocesan vocations' website - wvpriests.org

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



Mary's Refuge Golf Tournament

Join Mary's Refuge in a fundraiser for young mothers in need by sponsoring or participating in their Links of Love Tournament on April 28th. More information about sign-ups, sponsoring, or attending can be found on the Mary's Refuge Website <https://marysrefuge.com> under 'upcoming events.'

 <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>
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