

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

Sirach 27:4-7
Psalm 92:1-2, 12-13, 14-15
1 Corinthians 15:54-58
Luke 6:39-45

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

Weekday Mass

Monday, 11am

Ash Wednesday Masses

Wednesday March 5th, 12noon and 7pm

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 March 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CFF, Youth Group, AFF, First Eucharist Parent Meeting 9:15am Racial Justice Initiative Thea Bowman Film 11:45am OCIA 12noon
Mon March 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon
Tues March 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fat Tuesday Board Games Group 3:30pm Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-7pm
Wed March 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ash Wednesday Masses 12noon and 7pm
Friday March 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stations of the Cross 7pm
Sat March 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SJP Weekend Daylight Savings Time Begins Tonight! +1 Hour at 2am Sunday Morning!
Sun March 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No CFF Legislative Advocacy 101 12noon Intergenerational Mass 5pm Seed Giveaway after All Masses (Sunday only)

Did Somebody Say Pancakes?!

There is no better way to prepare for Lent than an all-out **Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper**; and nobody does it better than the youth of St Agnes! The event is free, but, as always, the youth would gratefully accept donations.

When: Fat Tuesday, March 4, 5-7pm

Where: The Parish Center

Why: Ash Wednesday is March 5

Menu: Pancakes! And also Gluten free pancakes! Plus decadent fixings for them. Along with bacon, sausage, etc.

Carryout Available!

Youth-Sponsored Simple Supper

On Friday, March 14th, our St Agnes youth will host a 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.

Remember in Prayer

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

In your kindness, please pray for Margaret Murphy Strahan (aunt of Jen Murphy) and Mark McBee (son-in-law of Ray Shaw) who recently died. May Margaret and Mark share in the fulness of God's love and peace.

On the first anniversary of her death, please keep Anneke Sengers in your prayers. May Anneke share in the fulness of God's love and peace.

Sun, March 9: Legislative Advocacy 101

Join us on Sunday, March 9 at 12noon at the church

Are you happy, concerned, confused about what is happening politically in our country? Do you want to have a say but not sure what to do? Or how to do it? **We have help on the way.** What better person to provide info about how to best voice your thoughts to your legislators on the crucial issues of the day than a former Congressional staffer.

This will be a non-partisan presentation intended to give you the skills to advocate with your legislators.

Daniel Bennett was the Democratic nominee for a West Virginia House of Delegates seat and had worked as an organizer for the reelection of Senator Joe Manchin. In DC, Daniel was the Chief Technology Officer of the eCitizen Foundation dedicated to helping improve civic engagement. He co-founded DotGov Communications, the first private webhoster for Members of Congress. Daniel was Technology Liaison for a Congresswoman from California's Silicon Valley for whom he drafted the Government Paperwork Elimination Act, the first federal law that made electronic signatures legal and allowed forms to be put on the Internet so that they could be signed and submitted electronically. He also co-drafted the E-SIGN Act allowing electronic signatures for commercial use.

Daniel served as president of the House Systems Administrators Association, co-chair of the Legislative Documents Technical Committee of OASIS/LegalXML and won the Federal Computer Week's Fed 100 Award in 2000. He is a writer on technology and politics, including co-author of "The Net Effect: How Cyber-advocacy is Changing the Political Landscape" and was a columnist for The Cloakroom, a web site for the National Journal.

Join Us for a Seed Giveaway!

The Laudato Si' Committee and Intergenerational Garden Committee invite you to a **Seed Giveaway on Sunday, March 9th, after the 8am and 10:30am Masses.** Stop by to pick up free seeds and chat with members of the Intergenerational Garden about seed starting, gardening tips, and volunteer opportunities. Let's grow together as a community!

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.**

E-books and mobile app available at <https://littlebooks.org/pages/little-books-on-the-go>.

This Sunday: Documentary Showing

On **Sunday, March 2nd**, after the 10:30 Mass there will be a showing of the hour-long documentary, "Going Home Like a Shooting Star," the story of Thea Bowman (1937-1990), a Black American Franciscan sister whose cause for canonization began officially in 2018. Refreshments will be provided.

Getting Started: Spring Planting Ideas

Welcome spring! We can actually plant several types of greens, beginning around March 5 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.

Stations of the Cross

Beginning on Friday, March 7, and each Friday in Lent thereafter, we will be offering Stations of the Cross at **7pm** at the church. Stations of the Cross are a meaningful way to pray and meditate on Christ's sacrifice for us. 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

Our youth have already volunteered and will be leading Stations on March 14, and they are hosting a Simple Supper at 6pm. Fridays March 7, 21, and 28 and April 4 and 11 are all wide open. Please consider signing up to help!

Fr Michael Driscoll Visiting St Agnes

We are truly thrilled to have Father Michael Driscoll coming to St Agnes to help guide us in our Lenten mission. In the coming days, we will be sharing information about what to expect during his March 15-19 visit. For now, please mark your calendar!

Michael S. Driscoll, Professor Emeritus of Liturgical Studies at Notre Dame University, is a priest of the diocese of Helena, Montana. Ordained in 1977, he has spent the majority of his years in priesthood teaching. He is professor emeritus of the theology department and the founding director of the Graduate Program in Sacred Music at the University of Notre Dame. Fr. Driscoll's writings on the liturgy have brought him into the area of social justice as the lived experience of faith flowing from the Eucharist, as seen in *Sacraments and Justice* (Liturgical Press, 2014). He is very interested in making the connection between liturgy and life, between the Eucharist and ethics.

DWC Special Collection — WV Flooding

Recovery efforts continue across the Mountain State after the severe flooding that occurred earlier this month. Several counties have experienced generational flooding resulting in loss of life, property, and livelihood. More than ten counties in our state remain under a State of Emergency. With many roads just being re-opened, the scope of the devastation is becoming more visible.

Bishop Brennan of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held this weekend in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the series of disasters that have occurred. **Checks should be made out to St Agnes with "Disaster Relief" on the memo line.** Donations can also be made via <https://dwc.org/disaster-relief/>.

SMA Lenten Community Read

**Shepherdstown Ministerial Association invites you to:
A COMMUNITY READ | Lent 2025 in March & April**

Saints and Villains By Denise Giardina

SMA Community Read Discussion Group: The Discussion Group will be held on four Tuesdays in Lent at 7pm at the Parlor at Trinity House (Trinity Episcopal Church). Both In-person and on Zoom. Dates: March 11, 18, 25, April 1. 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). 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.

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.

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

The Service, Justice, and Peace weekend for March will be next weekend. From now on, SJP weekend will be on the second weekend of every month. *Next weekend, March 8-9*, there will be Haiti coffee for sale as well as the opportunity to donate to feeding the poor, providing feminine hygiene products and diapers, educating girls in Cameroon, and Mary's Refuge for single mothers who need support. The Parish Nurse will be also be there to check blood pressures and blood sugars after all Masses.

St Agnes Hosting Rite of Election

On March 15th, St Agnes will host the Rite of Election Ceremony for our regional parishes. This wonderful celebration takes place yearly and rotates among parishes. We hope to create a special event for our wider community.

To that end, the Cana Committee is asking for help with specific food item donations and gift certificates for this celebration, which will have as many as 225 people in attendance. **Please stop by the Cana Committee table after Mass to sign up for your donation.**

Find What You've Lost

Our lost and found basket at the church is overflowing with lots of things that need to go home. Have you lost a men's belt, a jacket, an umbrella? We might have it. The basket is located by the exit near the bathrooms. We will take the next few weeks to try to find the owners, but **after Sunday, March 9, anything left will be rehomed.**

Take Action!

PROTECT THE WATER PROTECT THE FARMERS



Don't miss your opportunity to let the planning commission know your thoughts on the proposed water bottling plant. The public comment meeting has been postponed due to inclement weather. We once again have the opportunity to **give public comment** in writing either by email or regular mail by March 4, 2025. Please also plan to **attend the Public Workshop** and give public comments on **March 11, 2025 at 7pm at Washington High School's Auditorium.**

To learn more, go to the Jefferson County Foundation's website at bit.ly/middlewaywater or scan the QR code. It is abundantly clear that building this plant in a rural area raises numerous concerns not only for that immediate area but also for the infrastructure for the entire county. Clean, safe water is one of the most basic human needs, and we cannot survive without it!

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 the upcoming 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 the 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: ***The Genesee Diary: Report from a Trappist Monastery by Henri Nouwen***. This book takes the form of a journal kept by the Dutch priest Henri Nouwen during his seven month stay at the Abbey of the Genesee in upstate New York. You may like this book if you:

- ◆ enjoy informal, personal writings that read like a letter from a good friend
- ◆ find it difficult to pray sometimes and could use some friendly encouragement
- ◆ are interested in the rhythms of life in a Trappist monastery
- ◆ seek beauty in the mundane, the quotidian, and the seemingly insignificant

Find *The Genesee Diary* in the Spirituality & Worship section under the letter "N"!

Blessing the Dust by Jan Richardson For Ash Wednesday

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners
or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—
did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?
This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.
This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.
This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.
So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are
but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

THE YOUTH CORNER

**Eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

This Week's Gospel:
Luke 6:39-45

March 2, 2025

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

Answer Your Questions About Lent

Here are ten questions about Lent. Below are the answers. Put the letter of each answer next to its question.

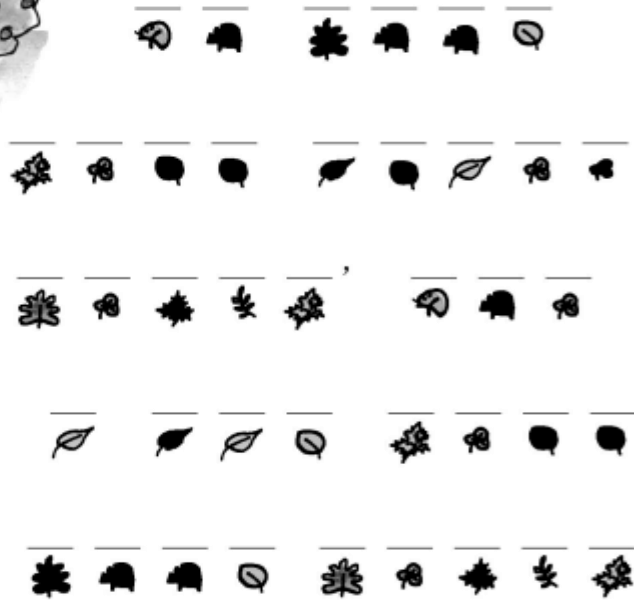
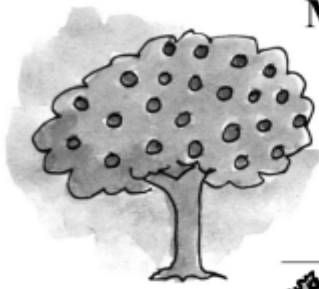
Questions

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ 1. Why do we observe Lent? | _____ 6. Why is the day before Lent called Pancake Day? |
| _____ 2. What does the word <i>Lent</i> mean? | _____ 7. What does it mean to fast? |
| _____ 3. Why does Lent have forty days? | _____ 8. What is Shrove Tuesday? |
| _____ 4. Why is the first day of Lent called Ash Wednesday? | _____ 9. What does it mean to abstain? |
| _____ 5. How is <i>carnival</i> related to Lent? | _____ 10. What is Mardi Gras? |

Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>a. It is the day before Ash Wednesday. In the old days, many people confessed their sins to a priest just before Lent began. An old word, <i>shrive</i>, means "to grant forgiveness to a sinner." The word for this action became connected with the day before Lent.</p> <p>b. It originally meant to refrain from eating meat or meat products. Catholics fourteen years of age or older may not eat meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Many people also refrain, or abstain, from eating treats like candy in Lent.</p> <p>c. The word means "spring." For Christians, this time is like spring in the sense that they are trying to turn their lives around and make new beginnings.</p> <p>d. Jesus fasted in the desert for this length of time before he began his public life, which eventually led to his Death and Resurrection. During these days of Lent, Christians prepare for the great feast of our salvation through the heroic deeds of Jesus.</p> <p>e. Lent helps us prepare for Jesus' Death and Resurrection. Some people are preparing for their Baptism into Jesus' new life at this time as well. During Lent, we do penance for our sins through prayer and almsgiving so that we can share fully in the joyous new life of Easter.</p> | <p>f. It means "Fat Tuesday" in French. Some people observe the day with feasting and celebration, which comes to a quick end as the bells toll midnight. The word <i>fat</i> refers to the rich foods that are often eaten before the Lenten fast begins.</p> <p>g. It received this name because the priest places ashes on the foreheads of believers on that day. Ashes remind us of sorrow and repentance, and of our death, after which we will return to ashes.</p> <p>h. It means eating only one full meal a day, with two very light meals and no between-meal snacks. Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine are obligated to observe this penance on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.</p> <p>i. On this day, families may make pancakes to use up all the eggs, milk, and butter or shortening—foods that Catholics will need to abstain from during Lent.</p> <p>j. In Europe and South America, people call the season before Lent <i>carnival</i>. This word means "farewell to meat."</p> |
|---|---|

March 2nd, 2025



In today's Gospel reading Jesus told a parable about trees. What did He say? Use the code to find out!



A B D E F G I N O R S T U

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 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 completely green, all is good. Any red section needs to be updated.

We will be audited for VIRTUS compliance the week of March 10th.

CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

CFF, Youth Group, First Eucharist Parents, and Adult classes today, Sunday, March 2, 2025 in the Parish Center at 9:15pm.

We are still looking for some additional prayer sponsors. Please see Prayer Sponsor section of the bulletin for additional information.

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 production.

Lent begins this Wednesday, March 5th. Remember to put the Youth Pancake Dinner on your calendar. **The Pancake Dinner will be Tuesday, March 4th in the Parish Center from 5pm to 7pm.** Just like last year, we will also have a gluten free option available. Please come and support the youth programs and join in this parish social event. Bring some friends. The event is open to the public. Check out the additional information in this week's bulletin.

As we begin Lent, each Friday during Lent, Stations of the Cross will occur every Friday night during Lent at 7pm in the church. Traditionally, various groups or committees take turns sponsoring and running **Stations of the Cross** every Friday. **The Youth will be leading Stations on March 14 (7pm) at the church after our Simple Supper (6pm),** which will be in the Parish Center. Keep watching this space for additional information. All are welcome to attend the Simple Supper and Youth Led Stations. **The next Intergenerational Mass is March 9th at 5pm.**



Youth Events: At a Glance
Dates for the Calendar

March 4: Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 5-7pm (Parish Center) to support youth programs.

March 9: Intergenerational Mass 5pm. There are no CFF, Youth Group, or Adult classes today.

March 14: Youth-Led Stations of the Cross and Simple Supper (starting at 6pm in the Parish Center)

March 16: CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes in the Parish Center at 9:15am. Third Parent Class for First Eucharist parents. **

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

Psalm 92 Unscramble

*Unscramble the missing words
to complete today's Psalm!*

It is good to give _____ (KNSHTA)
to the Lord,
to sing praises to thy _____ (MNAE),
O Most High;
to declare thy steadfast _____ (OVLE)
in the morning,
and thy faithfulness
by _____. (HGNTI)
The righteous flourish
like the _____ (LMAP) tree,
and _____ (ORGW)
like a cedar in Lebanon.
They are planted
in the _____ (UOESH) of the Lord,
they flourish in the courts
of our _____ (DGO).
They still bring forth _____ (UFIRT)
in old age,
they are ever full of sap
and _____, (ERGNE)
to show that the Lord is upright,
he is my _____, (KCRO)
and there is no
unrighteousness in him.



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

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|-----------|-----------|----------|
| bad | blind | both |
| bramble | bush | clearly |
| disciple | everyone | evil |
| eye | fall | figs |
| fruit | good | grapes |
| heart | hypocrite | log |
| neighbor | own | parable |
| person | pit | produces |
| qualified | speaks | speck |
| teacher | thorns | treasure |
| tree | | |

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospels: Luke 6:39-45

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable to teach us to worry about our own actions before we criticize things other people do. When we are good, Jesus says, we produce good from our heart. But when we do evil things, they come from our heart as well. The point is to keep our hearts pure by loving God and each other.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week's lesson taught your child about how good trees grow good fruit. Talk with your child about how we can all be good in order to act with kindness and love toward each other. Have your child show you how he or she is doing on the Loving Actions Chart from class. Talk about other loving actions that each member of the family can do.

Promise (Grades K-1): Sunday's Gospel about the parable of the good tree growing good fruit was emphasized in class this week. We can produce good in our lives with good actions. Talk about the good fruit that your child learned about on Promise page 4. How many other good actions can you and your family produce?

Good News (Grades 2-3): In class this week, your child explored what is in his or her heart. The Gospel about the good tree bearing good fruit was used to help the class think about how good things come from the heart. Ask your child what he or she learned from the story of "The Blind Men and the Elephant." Talk about all the good actions you and your family have done this week.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week's class explored ways that we express ourselves to others with messages on our clothing. The class also heard the story of "Maya's True Colors." Discuss with your youngster what the story taught him or her. Jesus' teachings from this week's Gospel tell us how to be good followers of him. Talk about how the Gospel challenges you and your young person to think about the people of God. What did your youngster think about the story of Saint Joan of Arc?

Visions (Grades 7-8): Lent begins this Wednesday. Ask your child to tell about the Ash Wednesday Service from class. Discuss how easy or difficult it is to keep promises, which is what this week's class story, "Because I Said I Would," centers on. How can you and your youngster symbolize the good tree that produces good fruit in this week's Gospel? Consider using this week's lesson on the Responsorial Psalm in your weekly prayers.

Pray Together

Ash Wednesday is this week on March 5. Pray that this Lent will help you and your family grow closer to God. Pray that your family will be bearers of good fruit for others in your life. Make Ash Wednesday a positive start for your Lenten journey.



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2	+		-		10
-		x		+	
	-	8	+		5
+		+		+	
	-		+		2
0		77		11	

Fill in the missing numbers

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9. Each number is only used once. Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation. Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Answer in next week's bulletin.

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

No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

Answers to Psalm 92 Unscramble: thanks, name, love, night, palm, grow, house, God, fruit, green, rock

Answer Your Questions About Lent:

1-e; 2-c; 3-d; 4-g; 5-j; 6-i; 7-h; 8-a; 9-b; 10-f

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

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SUDOKU # 2

Answer in next week's bulletin

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

St. Agnes Perpetual Mass Memorial



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

Linda Williams

by Patrick Green & Christine Wiegman
Eileen Dooley & Denis Woods
Jane Edwards

Lee Faison

by Eileen Dooley & Denis Woods

Helen Theresa Barb

by Judy Lilga
Barbara Brown

Bellah Ruppert

by Rev. T. Mathew Rowgh

Richard Rizzo

by Jane Edwards

Sarah Alyanakian

by Jane Edwards
Marie Snowden

Leo Viger

by Theresa & Lyle Rush
Judy Lilga

Teresa Verteramo

by Judy Lilga
Theresa & Lyle Rush
Eileen Dooley & Denis Woods

Cari Simon

by Judy Lilga

Lorna O'Connor

by Judy Lilga

Margaret (Peggy) Murphy Strahan

by Eileen Dooley & Denis Woods

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.

The Disciple Maker Index Survey

Thank you so much to all of you who completed the Disciple Maker Index Survey. The survey process is now closed. Those who completed the paper survey have been mailed to the Catholic Leadership Institute. They are responsible for keying in the information.

The Envisioning Team will receive the information as soon as it is compiled and meet to discuss it. The result is to come up with an evangelization plan for the Diocese of Wheeling/Charleston. If you have any questions or think you completed the survey for St Agnes in Charleston, please let Helen know so she can make them aware. Again, you will remain anonymous. If you have any questions, contact Helen liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org

Mark 16:15 "And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.'"

VIRTUS Safe Environment Audit—March

The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston will be undergoing a **VIRTUS Safe Environment Audit the week of March 10th**. It is our goal to ensure that all of our volunteers are up to date on their VIRTUS certifications before the audit. To complicate matters, VIRTUS and the Bishop now require a yearly update to your 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 email Bill Donahue at formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org or call the office at 304-876-6436. Thanks for all you do for the parish and for helping us achieve diocesan compliance with VIRTUS.

Shepherdstown Friends Film Screening

Bury Me at Taylor Hollow | March 8th at 11am

On Saturday, March 8th at 11am at the Frank Center Theater, there will be a screening of a moving film about natural burial. John Christian Phifer, the subject of the film and green burial expert, will join us for a community discussion immediately following the film. The filmmaker, Orion Pahl will be in attendance as well.

Following the 55 minute film, there will be about 30 minutes for Q&A. The film is a fascinating look at options to have a more traditional burial that works in harmony with the natural world and can conserve green space as well.

Tickets and more information can be found on the Conservation Film Fest website <https://conservationfilmfest.org/>

Stay Informed

If you are not already signed up for our email blasts, you can sign up on the website at <https://stagnesshepherdstown.org/join-our-mailing-list/>.

American Conservation Film Festival

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

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

STILL SEEKING: Prayer Sponsors

We are still seeking Prayer Sponsors for our youth who are preparing to receive their First Eucharist. You will be assigned a child and be asked to pray faithfully for them every day, and attend the **First Eucharist luncheon on May 10th and the First Eucharist Mass on Sunday, May 11th at 10:30am.**

May 11th at 10:30am.

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

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

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$19,681
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$3,150
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$22,831
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$13,400
Total Collection Compared to Target	↑ +\$9,431

Tithe to help those in need	\$1,968
<small>(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)</small>	

Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Year-To-Date (thru February)

Offertory Collections	\$102,460
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$8,730
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$111,190
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$107,200
Total Collection Compared to Target	↑ +\$3,990

Tithe to help those in need	\$10,246
<small>(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)</small>	

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.

Men's Discernment Retreat 2025

Friday, March 7th—Saturday, March 8th

Join us for the annual Men's Discernment Retreat at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, WV. Open to men 18 and older. Pray, share meals, meet with current WV seminarians, and hear talks about priestly life and discernment.



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 signups, sponsoring, or attending can be found on the Mary's Refuge Website <https://marysrefuge.com> under 'upcoming events.'

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.

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 storm-water 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



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.

	<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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