

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

Exodus 17:3-7

Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7ab, 7c-9

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-42

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

Sunday, 10:30am for

Maureen Maidhof

May Maureen share

in the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Michael Barney (brother of Peachy Staley). Sally Little, Moon Yee Liu-Ho (mother of Amie Ho-Leung), Mary Raygor, Bertha Ngu (sister of Fon Ngu), Mason Coderre, 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.

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.

Rite of Election—Thank You

The Cana Committee would like to extend a heartfelt 'Thank You' to the many people who helped make last weekend's Rite of Election ceremony a success! We are grateful for your time, talents, and treasure!

Looking forward, we ask that you mark your calendar for April 27th when we will help Father Matt celebrate 50 years of service in the priesthood!

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 2 more Tuesdays in Lent (March 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.

The Week at a Glance...

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
Mon Mar 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon
Tues Mar 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Games Group 3:30pm
Wed Mar 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Feeding the Hungry Food Delivery 5pm
Friday Mar 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeping Bag Project 9:30am • Simple Supper 6pm • Stations of the Cross 7pm
Sat Mar 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten Communal Reconciliation 4pm
Sun Mar 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFF, Youth Group, AFF 9:15am • Second Scrutiny 10:30am • OCIA 12noon

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.**

Spring Garden Tips

It is time to get serious about your garden. The preparation of the soil for this season will have been completed by now and the early vegetable seeds have been planted, or will be as soon as you finish reading this bulletin; a reminder of those seeds—microgreens, radishes, snow and sugar peas, kale and swiss chard, carrots and beets, to name a few. Now is the time to start seeds inside for those plants that require warmer weather such as tomatoes, peppers, basil, parsley, and squash. If you do not have a guide for planting, the WVU Extension Service has a free calendar that provides information for this area, check out their website.

Dear Parishioners,

We have had some exciting days of parish renewal! On Monday Father Michael Driscoll reflected on the importance of beauty in our celebrating the Liturgy. He went over the transcendentals which are beauty, truth, and goodness. Recently a parishioner in our adult education class, in reflecting on the readings for the Feast of the Transfiguration, shared this powerful poem from Wendell Berry. When I heard it, I found it as an invitation that moves me deeper into the mystery. The Eucharist is a mystery to be celebrated as Father Michael Driscoll reminded us these last few days. We have heard how the Eucharist is poetic and draws us deeper into the mystery. There is something exciting and even wild about it as we are drawing deeper into our journey with Christ.

The Peace of Wild Things

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron
feeds.*

*I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

Wendell Berry

Fr. Andy

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.

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.

Mission Accomplished!

Our Lenten Mission was well attended and quite a success. We are extremely grateful to Fr Michael Driscoll for sharing his time and expertise with us in such a dynamic way. The Eucharist truly is a Mystery to be celebrated, to be believed, and to be lived! If by chance you missed any or all of Fr Driscoll's presentations, audio recordings are available on the St Agnes website.

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

Middle East Peace Dialogue—April 2nd

**Pathways to Lasting Peace in the Middle East
April 2, 2025 | 7-9pm (Doors Open 6:30pm)
Storer Ballroom, Shepherd University**

Join us to engage in constructive dialogue about the current situation in the Middle East and how we can educate and advocate for peace.



RSVP using the QR code. The first 150 people will be welcomed in-person; all others will be emailed a zoom link.

Panelists: Nizar Farsakh (Political Analyst), Ruti Kadish (Founder of Tovanot), Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist (Shepherdstown Presbyterian), and Philip Farah (Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace).

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.csricebowl.org/>

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

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.

Racial Justice Initiative News

We as Christians, and possessing voices in our Catholic Church, are now entering a critical time of deciding, each of us, how to respond to the now blatant assaults on Racial Justice in our country. It can no longer be ignored.

The present administration in Washington is mandating the removal of all mentions or efforts on behalf of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) by the federal government. References to the contribution of people of historical impact and stellar service to our nation, other than white males, are being erased from Federal government websites. People serving at our armed forces bases overseas are seeing such references being removed from their bases, and from schools that serve their families, despite so many of those who serve not being of the "right" color.

For those of us who adhere to the Beatitudes of Jesus, we cannot remain silent and uninvolved - so too our Catholic leadership.

Lent is a good time to reflect on how we plan to stand up for all people created "in the image and likeness of God."

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!

Stations of the Cross and Nature Trail

St. Agnes has an outdoor Stations of the Cross and Nature Trail that runs directly behind the Church. Over the years, a number of parishioners have worked to maintain the trail and keep it open. Last Fall, David Hippchen made cleaning up the trail his Eagle Scout project. The Scouts removed the debris, cut back the underbrush, and planted some bulbs.

The trail begins on the North side of the Church and passes behind the Columbarium, and there is a sign at the entrance. The trail is generally pretty flat, but, there is a slope up to the first Station.

2nd Friday Prayer Group

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

THE YOUTH CORNER

The Third Sunday of Lent

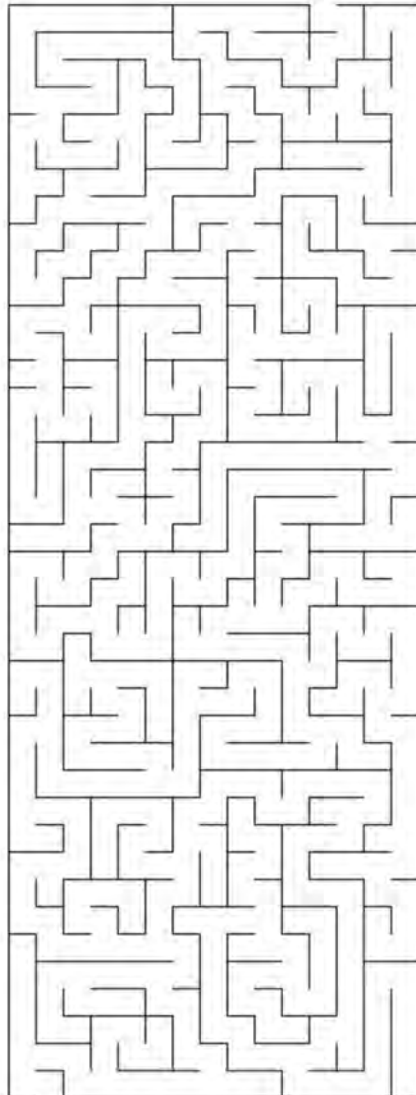
This Week's Gospel:

John 4:5-42

March 23, 2025

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3	6			7	8			
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GOD



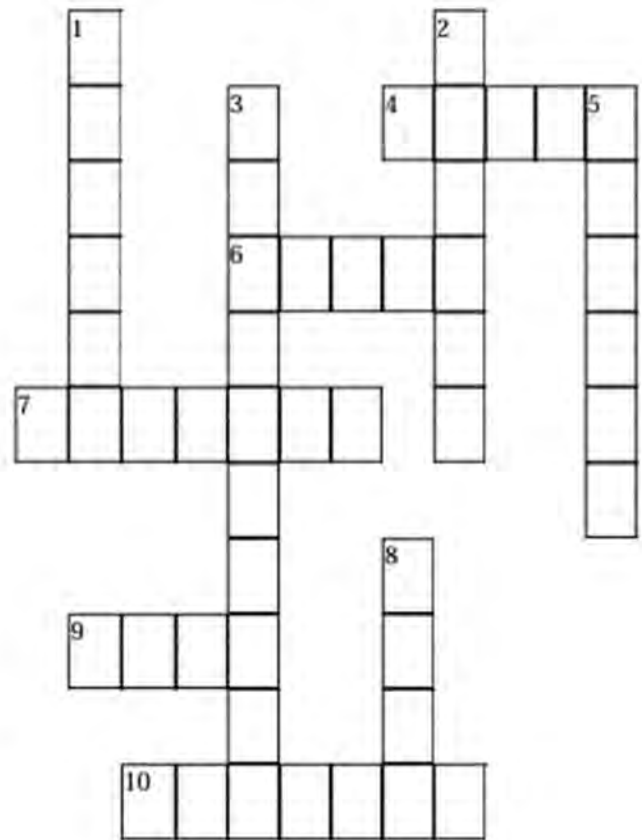
Help The Woman at the Well find God!





The Water I Shall Give
Will Become A Spring
Of Living Water
Welling Up To
Eternal Life

The Samaritan Woman John 4:5-42



Across

4. What was the name of the well where Jesus stopped to rest?
6. The tie the disciples give to Jesus.
7. The Samaritan said that Jesus was a _____.
9. How many husbands did the woman have?
10. Jesus told the woman to call him.

Down

1. What city is mentioned in this story?
2. The Samaritans knew that Jesus was the _____ of the world.
3. They worship _____.
5. Jesus could not get water from the well because he did not have this.
8. What time of the day was it when Jesus stooped to rest by the well?

CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

Each Friday during the Lenten season, Stations of the Cross will occur 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 at the church. All are welcome! Traditionally, various groups or committees take turns sponsoring **Stations of the Cross** every Friday.

Last weekend our Youth sponsored the Simple Supper and led the Stations of the Cross. Both events were well-attended and the Youth raised about \$36 for Catholic Relief Services.

This weekend on Sunday, CFF classes will be at the Parish Center at 9:15am. Our Youth Group will meet at 11:40am to prepare the Meal for the Hungry.

Next weekend on 3/30—CFF classes and the Youth Group (except for the children preparing for First Eucharist) will meet at 9:15am in the Parish Center. The children preparing for First Eucharist will meet at 11:40am to prepare the Meal for the Hungry.

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

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

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

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

ancestors	five	Jew	savior
anointed	flocks	Joseph	son
answered	food	journey	speaking
believe	gift	know	Spirit
buy	God	land	spring
children	greater	life	stay
cistern	hour	Messiah	testified
common	husband	nothing	thirsty
days	invited	place	tired
deep	Jacob	plot	told
draw	jar	possibly	town
drink	Jerusalem	right	truth
eternal	Jesus	Samaritan	two

**Youth Events:
At a Glance**

Dates for the Calendar

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.

March 30: CFF (except grade 2), Youth Group, and AFF in the Parish Center at 9:15am. ** First Eucharist candidates will meet at 11:40am today in the Parish Center *instead of* having class at 9:15am. First Eucharist candidates and their Parents (families are welcome to participate) will be preparing the Meal for the Hungry in the Parish Center.

April 2: First Eucharist children and families are encouraged to deliver and serve the meal to the Hungry at Zion Church on Washington St. in Charles Town. Families will meet at the parish center at St. Agnes to pack up the meal around 4pm before proceeding to Charles Town.

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

understand
up
water
welling
whoever
will
woman
word
world
worship



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

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

When people told Jesus about a group of Galileans killed by Pilate, he told the people that unless they repent, they will all likewise perish. To help them understand, he tells them a parable about giving a fig tree more time to grow fruit. If not, the tree would be cut down. Jesus teaches that God gives us every opportunity to grow closer to him.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): The class this week learned that Jesus wants us to grow. Your child explored how plants and animals grow. Talk about how your child has grown already. Share a story from when you were young that will show how you grew up. How does your family help plants and pets grow around your home? Reflect on how we can grow closer to God.

Promise (Grades K-1): Ask your child to answer the question: What helps us grow? This week, the class also answered the question: Who gets a second chance? Your child can share the story about a first-grade teacher who brought her baby to meet her students. Take a walk around your neighborhood and make a note of all the things that are growing. Say a prayer of thanks for all the living things that grow around us.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Who gets a second chance? That was the question explored in the *Good News* class this week. Ask your child to share the story about brother and sister, Martin and Maria. Why did the animals ask for a second chance? Ask your child how God is like a gardener. If they need help look at the Gospel reading again. Be sure to talk about reconciliation and why it is so important. Talk as a family about how the Sacrament of Reconciliation works. Thank the Lord for giving us the sacrament and for granting us second chances.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Where is the land where Moses walked? Your youngster's class talked

about how God spoke to Moses in the desert. In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus explains in a parable that there is time to change. Discuss the parable with your youngster. Ask, too, why Sam was sorry and whether Brigida forgave Sam in this week's story. The class also studied the Lord's Prayer. Consider adding it to daily prayer times. Ask, too, what Saint Paul did during his lifetime.

Visions (Grades 7-9): The class considered six situations where someone may deserve a second chance. Ask how your youngster decided each of them. Talk about times when you've had a second chance, and how much that meant. Find out the name of the Superhero from a story in class. How does the Superhero save the day? Jesus wants us to turn our hearts to him. Discuss how we need to keep trying because he never gives up on us. What is the name of this kind of change of heart? Your youngster should know. Finally, ask what is the name of God that is shared with Moses. How does that make sense?

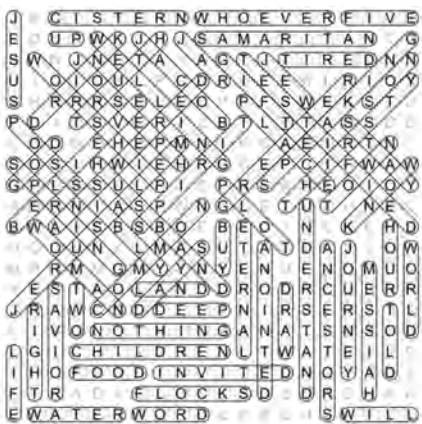
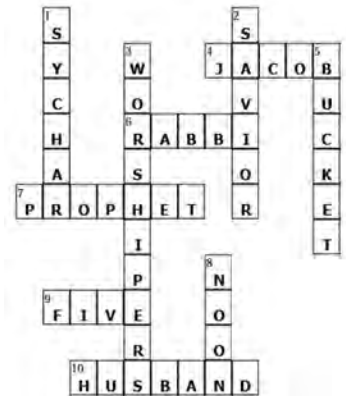
Pray Together

Lent is a great time to incorporate the Rosary into prayer time if you don't already do that. Start at the crucifix by making the Sign of the Cross. Pray the Apostle's Creed, then the Lord's Prayer first, then three Hail Marys on the next three beads. The fifth bead is the Glory Be to the Father. Then there are sets of ten beads with one in between each set. You recite one Lord's Prayer, ten Hail Marys, and one Glory Be. At the same time, recall one of the four sets of five mysteries from Jesus life. There are the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious mysteries.

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This week's SUDOKU Puzzle Solution

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



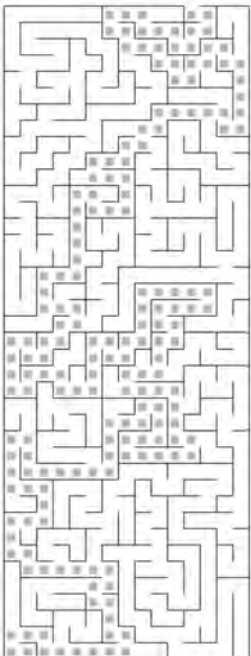
SOLUTIONS

- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
- ☆☆ This week's Pflaum Gospel is different than ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ what is read at Church. Why? When we have ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ people who want to enter the Catholic Faith ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ we use the readings from the Liturgical Cycle ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ A. These reading for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ Sundays of Lent are called scrutiny readings ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ and are part of the Order of Christian Initiation ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ of Adults (OCIA). Today we heard the ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ story of the Women at the Well from John ☆☆☆
- ☆☆ 4:5-42. ☆☆☆
- ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



SUDOKU #2 Answer From Last's Week's Bulletin

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



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.

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!

Landscaping Committee Updates

The parish grounds are really an extension of the Church. Thanks to the grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, we are in the process of making the landscape more environmentally and user friendly. With the arrival of spring, there's a lot going on.

Currently, there are two areas we are focusing on—the North side, directly next to the Church and the South side slope. Here's a quick update about both projects.

The North side will ultimately be a meditative space that connects to both the Columbarium and the Stations of the Cross/Nature trail. If you go out the side entrance you'll see that the hardscaping is now finished. The next step is to install and plant the shrub islands and put in a path from the sidewalk to the Stations of the Cross trail. We plan to add a picnic bench as well as some seating as part of this area.

On the South side slope, you may have noticed three large piles of compost. This is going to be used throughout the landscape including in the pollinator garden and to amend the soil on the North side. The South side project is going to include over 60 trees along with shrubs and perennials. There will be a walking path and informative signs. We hope this area becomes a spiritual garden for the parish where everyone can go and enjoy a moment of quiet and reflection.

These projects belong to the entire Parish. Come join us for a Parish Workday on the morning of April 26th. We will be celebrating the week of Earth Day to plant 26 trees donated by Cacapon Institute. For questions, contact Scott at landscape@stagnesshepherdstown.org

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/qa-shaun-larcom-effect-return-meatless-fridays-uk-catholics>

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**
- ⇒ **Pre-K Aide/After-School Care Worker**
- ⇒ **High School Biology Teacher**

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	\$18,394
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$575
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$18,969
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$13,500
Total Collections Compared to Target	↑ +\$5,469

Tithe to help those in need \$1,839
(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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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.

SJS Early Education Open Enrollment

Saint Joseph's School is excited to announce open enrollment for the Early Childhood Education!

For children ages 12 months to 5 years, the qualified teachers plan lessons around the five core areas of development: social emotional, adaptive, communication, physical, and cognitive. They also keep the core mission of Saint Joseph School at the heart of our program: educating in the spirit of the Gospel, inspiring Catholic values, academic excellence, global awareness and service to those in need.

Spaces are limited! If you are interested in a tour of facilities or have questions, please reach out to Pre-K Director Abby Hjort-Michel at ahjort@sjswv.org or call 304-267-6447.

To apply or re-enroll, go to sjswv.org.

For more information about enrollment, contact Patti Maerten Hicks at pmaertenhicks@sjswv.org or call 304-267-6447.

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.'

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