

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

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

Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org

www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org

Pastoral Council

Connie Bonner ~ Derek Gallagher

Heather Garcia ~ Christine Wiegman-Green

Patrick Green ~ Shaná Harris ~ Colin Hayden

Brendan Jarrell ~ Gil Sateia

Vanessa Santiago ~ Becky Tokarcik

St. Agnes Chapel

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

Sunday Readings

Exodus 17:3-7

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

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-42

Finance Council

Pat Barth ~ Steve Bledsoe

Mike Drewes ~ Todd Hershey

Sue Kemnitzer ~ David Matera ~ Arnold Thomas

Weekly Schedule

Weekend Mass

Saturday, at 5:30pm

Sunday, at 8am and 10:30am

Weekday Mass

Monday and Wednesday at 11am

Stations of the Cross

Friday at 7pm

Lenten Communal Reconciliation

Saturday, March 9, at 4pm

Scripture Sharing Zoom

Monday at 12noon

Parish Office: Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm

Cash Card Sales: Weekdays during office hours
(please call first)

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

Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Georgette Rush, Janet Armstrong, Mary Katherine Raygor, Paula Russo, and Larry Merhaut. Names are placed in the bulletin for one month and then those names are placed on the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

Ecumenical Presentation From Stubblefield Institute

Please join us at St Agnes on Sunday, March 3, at 4pm for an Ecumenical presentation given by Ashley Horst from the Stubblefield Institute. Ashley will be presenting on Loving Through Hard Conversations (Learning to Dialogue Through Differences Toward Healing).

The Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications at Shepherd University studies and promotes civil political discourse. Their website notes that, "When differing viewpoints are respected and considered in ways that avoid labeling, alienation and silencing, it can strengthen our nation's ability to solve problems."

VIRTUS and Safe Environment Audit

Our VIRTUS compliance deadline is quickly approaching - the week of March 10th; the diocese will be auditing all churches and schools for Safe Environment and Virtus compliance. **Thank you to all the volunteers who have completed the VIRTUS training!** If you are going to volunteer, have begun volunteering, are unsure of the status of your account, or if your account isn't compliant, please use this week to update. If you are not sure about your account, you can check on virtusonline.org. As always, if you are having difficulty with accessing your VIRTUS account or need help with VIRTUS, please contact Bill Donahue (formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org) or the Parish Office at 304-876-6436.

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:

Maggie Gorman

by Theresa & Lyle Rush
Judy & Bryan Robertson
Dolores Moriarty

Claire Williamson

by Theresa & Lyle Rush
Judy & Bryan Robertson
Amie Ho-Leung & Albert Leung
Jane Edwards
Dolores Moriarty

Frank Bielicki

by Amie Ho-Leung & Albert Leung

Maureen Maidhof

by Amie Ho-Leung & Albert Leung

Barbara McDonald

by Amie Ho-Leung & Albert Leung
Dolores Moriarty
Barbara Mueller

Tom Moore

by Jane Edwards

Judy Lehman Hollon

by Eileen Dooley

Steve A. Smith

by Judy & Bryan Robertson

Sheila A. Clifford

by Judy & Bryan Robertson

Jerry DeFilippo

by Barbara Mueller

Linda Evans Franklin

by Joe & Sue Bosco

EPEC Domestic Violence Discussion

WHAT CAN YOU DO WHAT CAN OUR PARISH DO ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

"It's the couple's problem." "Violence inside the home is a private matter." "If things were bad enough, she (or he) would just leave." "I have to keep the relationship going; it is what is expected of me."

These are just some of the common reasons domestic violence is a societal problem that goes underreported and takes the lives of innocent women and children. Domestic violence impacts not just the intimate partner, but also children that may be a part of the family, the medical system through ER encounters, the school system, the judicial system. Domestic violence impacts all levels of society from those living in poverty to the very wealthy, from those with little education to those who are college educated; domestic violence has no boundaries.

We asked Chief Mike King of the Shepherdstown Police department for his take on domestic violence. Here is his response: "Domestic Violence is considered a call that requires a priority response from police, an all-out emergency! Domestic Violence requires resources from the courts, police, medical, counseling, shelters, and the list goes on. It also requires citizens to recognize the signs and intervene by reporting what they see and hear so that Domestic Violence does not take another life."

If you are able, please read the book, No Visible Bruises, authored by Rachel Louise Snyder, or read excerpts online. And, please plan to attend a discussion about domestic violence presented by the EPEC (Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center) staff on: **Sunday, March 10, after the 10:30 Mass, at 11: 45, at the church.**

Church Feedback Cards

During the Masses the weekend of February 10th and 11th, Father Andy had an interactive homily. Participation was good. Attendees meditated for a few moments, filled out answers to questions, and engaged in conversations with people sitting near them. Results of the questions discussed at the Liturgies on the weekend of February 10th & 11th were read by the Synod coordinators. Further ideas and feedback are welcome, the feedback box is in the back of the Church.

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

This weekend is our Service, Justice, and Peace weekend for March. We will have volunteers available to take your donations for feeding the hungry and homeless, Kolofata, feminine hygiene products, and diapers. There will also be Haiti coffee for sale (whole bean and ground).

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday in Lent, 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. As always, all are welcome!

Dear Parishioners,

This past week I had the opportunity to speak to Derek Gallagher's history class. I was so impressed and learned so much with this young group and what Mr. Gallagher is doing. One of the things we were discussing is the power of words. Words are sacred; they can do incredible good or a lot of damage. I gave the students the lines of the saying "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." We discussed how this an untrue statement that violence and war often start with words. This is a problem especially today from texting, Facebook, an email we might send, etc. and even in political rhetoric. This Lent I believe all of us can grow on how we treat and use words. I quoted to the students this week a novel I read, The Book Thief. In it, one of the main characters who grew up in Nazi Germany saw the damage words can do. And by reading, I was inspired by good words and this quote, "I have loved words and I have hated words and I hope I have treated them right." This Sunday St Agnes will be hosting an ecumenical event through the Ministerial Association. At 4pm, presenter Ashley Horst will be helping us learn to dialogue and use words in our civility in a sacred way to build up and heal our community. May we try to make it part of our commitment to come to this Lenten gathering to help build up and renew the community around us.

Fr. Andy

New Hispanic Ministry Committee Hosts First Event

With the support of the pastoral council, St Agnes has started a Hispanic ministry committee. We want to take steps so that St Agnes lives up to its mission to be inclusive and so that the Hispanic community knows that their cultures and gifts are welcome here.

For our first event, we have decided on **Palm Sunday March 24th at noon**. Father Andy and the head of Hispanic Ministry for the Eastern Panhandle, Enid Roman DeJesus, will give a presentation on our recent trip to El Salvador and learning from the culture of El Salvador and walking the footsteps of Martyr and Saint, Bishop Oscar Romero, who stood against the oppression of his people. March 24th, Palm Sunday, was the day he was actually assassinated, so this is a sacred day for us to gather to honor the El Salvadoran people and Archbishop Oscar Romero who worked to build the kingdom of God.

Lenten Communal Reconciliation

Please join us in celebrating this Sacrament of Reconciliation at our **Lenten Communal Reconciliation** on Saturday, March 9, at 4pm. Reconciliation is also available each Saturday afternoon from 4:30-5:00 pm.

JCCM Food Pantry Current Needs

Canned meats (especially chicken)
Mac and Cheese
Soup (tomato and hearty soups)
Canned Beans
Rice
Jelly
Syrup, Pancake Mix
Crackers
Coffee (Instant and Ground)
Canned fruit, Canned pasta
Cooking Oil,
Razors, Shampoo, Conditioner
Paper towels, Dish Soap
Laundry Detergent
Cat and Dog Food

Catholic Sharing Appeal

Since 2007, the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) has helped deliver essential shared ministries throughout West Virginia. Thanks to the generosity of those who have supported the CSA over the years, the diocese has been able to ensure the support needed to enliven our parishes, support our Catholic schools, and expand outreach efforts. **This weekend is Commitment Weekend** (March 3rd) – a time where we, as a Catholic community, can come together and support our shared ministries through the Catholic Sharing Appeal. You can donate securely online, by mailing in the pledge card, or place your pledge card in the collection basket. *Together, we will provide neighbors in need the light and love of Christ each and every day through our shared ministries.*

Book Discussion Group March 15

Our March 15 selection is *Holy Envy - Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. “Barbara Brown Taylor’s new book, *Holy Envy* (HarperCollins, 2019), documents what she discovers about God while teaching world religions to mostly white, culturally Christian undergrads in small-town Georgia (in a county that is home to exactly 1 movie theater and 62 churches). In a single semester she leads them on a breakneck expedition through Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, and even Christianity (on which most of them fail the initial pop quiz).” -Christians for Social Action website. Please join us at 11am, March 15 in the Parish Center.

Homebound Ministry

For any parishioners who have needs (groceries, rides to doctors or pharmacies, etc.), our **HOMEBOUND MINISTRY** is willing to help. Please call Judy Lilga (301-432-2276).

2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in March. Please contact Judy at any time with names of individuals you would like to add or if you would like to join the group. Judy: 301-432-2276 or jslliga8@gmail.com.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult) is for those who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith and discerning if they might want to be professed members of the Catholic faith. The goal is to see where the process takes you. Father Andy is leading our RCIA process. If you are interested in learning more or joining the group, please call the office at 304-876-6436. All are welcome!

Stormwater Management Plans

Last year, the town acquired a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) to pay for a “Shepherdstown Green Infrastructure Concept Plan” and contracted with Downstream Strategies. The town decided to concentrate this initial phase on two areas, one of which is our church property. One of the yards across Back Alley from the church property is the low point for the entire area on either side of the alley and floods in heavy rain events. Additionally, Shepherdstown is part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, so we have an opportunity here to improve the water quality downstream. The goal for our property is to enhance the stormwater management infrastructure St Agnes already has in place while being good stewards of the environment. On February 16, Downstream Strategies submitted the final concept plan.

St Agnes now has the opportunity to apply to CBF for grant money so that we can implement these upgrades. We are in the process of preparing a grant application with the assistance of Region 9 (The Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council). The application deadline is next week.

In addition, through a different grant track CBF offers, another grant application is being prepared. St Agnes, in 2011, worked with a professional landscape architect on a design for our church property that, though it predates the Pope’s Encyclical, is very much in keeping with *Laudato Si*. This grant, should we receive it, would help St Agnes to bring more of this design to fruition.

The Synod Continues in the Diocese

Continuing on our journey as a Synodal Church, faithful from around the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are asked to attend a gathering in their vicariate until March 7th. Each gathering will be a synodal listening session to address two questions posed by the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, who met in Rome in October.

- Where have I seen or experienced successes—and distresses—within the Church’s structure(s)/organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission?
- How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?

The last session will be held March 7 at St. Michael Church in Wheeling, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and everyone is encouraged to attend.

THE YOUTH CORNER

This Week's Gospel:
John 4:5—42

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

Analogies for Lent

An analogy is a comparison of how one thing is like another. See if you can supply the missing word in each of the following analogies. For practice, figure out the word that completes this analogy:

Cat is to feline as dog is to _____.

Supply the missing word in each of the following analogies.

1. Advent is to Christmas as _____ is to Easter.
2. Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is to New York City as _____ is to New Orleans.
3. Green is to Ordinary Time as violet is to _____.
4. Repentance is to Lent as _____ is to Easter.
5. The First Sunday of Advent is to Advent as _____ is to Lent.
6. The Israelites' time in the desert is to forty years as Jesus' time in the desert is to _____.
7. Saint Anne is to Mary as Mary is to _____.
8. Jesus is to the Great Commandment as Moses is to the _____.
9. Green is to growth as _____ is to penance.
10. _____ is to fasting as Easter is to feasting.

Word Bank

forty days
Mardi Gras
Ten Commandments
Advent
joy
Lent
violet
Ash Wednesday
Jesus

Youth Events: March at a Glance

March 3: CFF classes, Youth Group, Adult Growing in Faith—9:15 AM in the Parish Center RCIA/ RCIC—Noon in the Parish Center

March 10: CFF classes (except Grade 2—First Eucharist Prep.) Adult Growing in Faith 9:15 AM in the parish center; First Eucharist & parents / families and RCIA/ RCIC—Noon in the parish center—Prepare the Meal for the Hungry

March 17: Intergenerational Mass 5 PM at the church followed by a meal. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day! No CFF at 9:15 AM—come to Mass and Catechesis at 5 PM.

March 24: Palm Sunday—No CFF Fr. Andy's Presentation about El Salvador after the 10:30 Mass. Youth Prepare the Meal for the Hungry—Parish Center after the 10:30 Mass

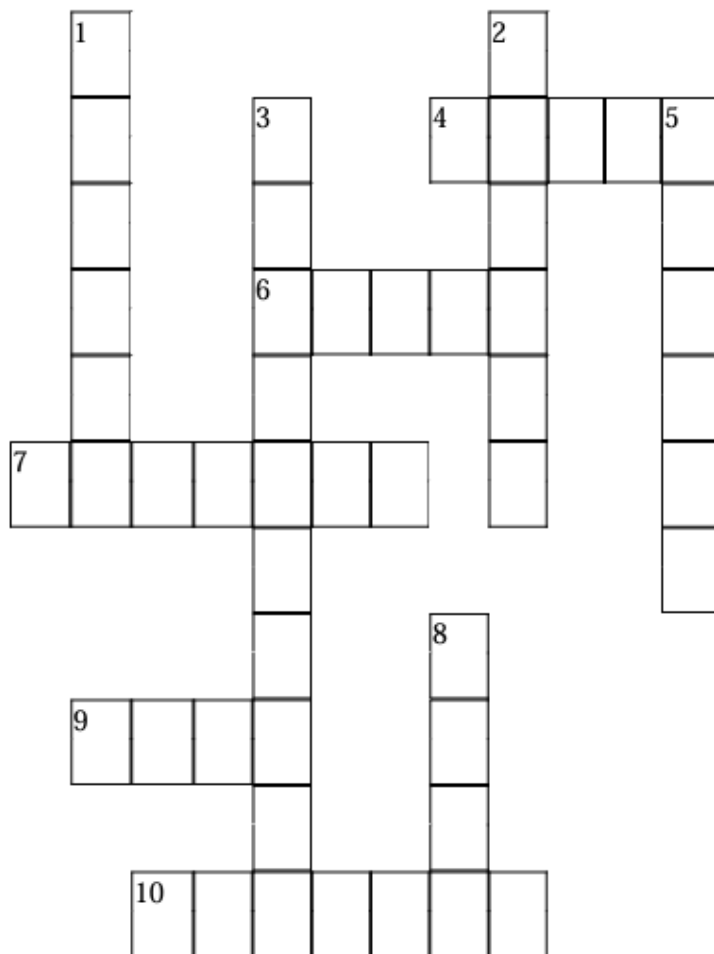
March 28: Holy Thursday—1st Eucharist and Confirmandi should attend.

March 29: Good Friday—Stations at 3 PM, Mass at 7 PM—Confirmandi should attend

March 30: Easter Vigil - 8 PM Confirmandi should attend

March 31: Easter Sunday—No CFF—Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the parish after the 10:30 AM Mass sponsored by St. Agnes Youth group.

Stations of the Cross—Every Friday Night during Lent at 7 PM at the church



CFF, AFF, Youth Group & Family News

CFF: Classes will occur today, Sunday, March 3rd at 9:15 AM in the parish center.

Confirmation Day Retreat: Is scheduled for Sunday, April 14th from 9 AM to 7 PM concluding with Mass at St. Agnes. Confirmation.

Youth Group: The youth group will meet today at 9:15 AM in the parish center to plan activities for the spring.

ADULT Classes: Growing in Faith 9:15 in the parish center.

RCIA and RCIC: Will meet today, at Noon in the parish center.

Keep watching this spot, the Youth Facebook Page, our church calendar and the church website for additional activities. **Remember to join the CFF Google Classroom (link was sent to your email).** It is a one stop spot to find all the latest forms, classroom information, recorded classes, etc.

If you are a parent and not receiving CFF announcements and emails, please contact the Parish center at 304-876-6436 or contact Bill Donahue at: **formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org** Parents are also encouraged to join our Youth Facebook Group. Please email Bill at the above address for the link to the closed group. You won't be able to find Our Youth Facebook Page any other way!

The Samaritan Woman

John 4:5-42



Across

- What was the name of the well where Jesus stopped to rest?
- The tael the disciples give to Jesus.
- The Samaritan said that Jesus was a _____.
- How many husbands did the woman have?
- Jesus told the woman to call him.

Down

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

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6774193/>

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

HUSBAND
JAR
SPIRIT
WORSHIP
ETERNAL
LIFE
WELL
FIVE
MESSIAH
TRUTH
JERUSALEM
SON
PLACE
CHILDREN
WOMAN
TESTIFIED
FOOD
JESUS
WORLD
SAMARITAN
WATER
SPRING
ANCESTORS
JOURNEY

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospels: John 2:13-25

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus makes it clear that the real temple of God lies within us. His cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem calls us all to cleanse ourselves. We have the days of Lent to make a special effort to become less selfish and more loving—to renew and deepen our covenant with God.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Promise (Grades K-1): Jesus reminded the buyers and sellers that the Temple is his Father's house and a place of prayer. Concentrate this week on finding a time for family prayer—mealtime, bedtime, early morning. Be sure that you include in your prayers the needs of people you know or needs of people who are suffering in your community or around the world.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned about the Ten Commandments this week. Ask your child to share the commandments with the family. As a family, talk about actions that show you are keeping each commandment. Ask your child to share with the family the story, "We're the Tigers." Talk about how the family is keeping Lenten plans too, and discuss how each family member can live a more holy life.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week's class centered on the Ten Commandments and the covenant God made with Moses on Mount Sinai.

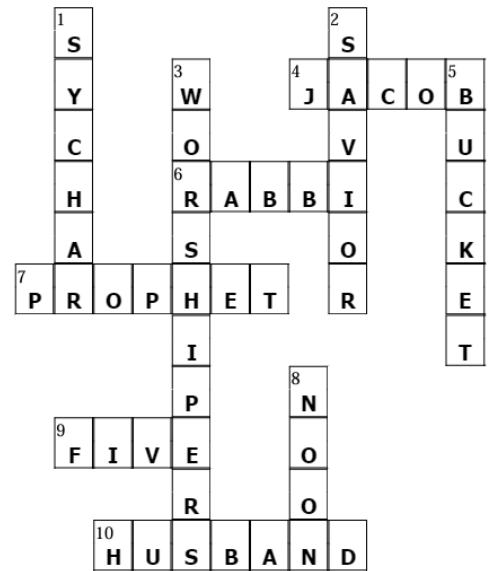
Talk together about how the commandments help your family live a good life by honoring God and others. The class had a special emphasis on the Fifth Commandment and how uncontrolled anger can lead to violence. How can family members help one another to deal with angry feelings so that they do not lead to violence? Have your young person tell the family about Saints Perpetua and Felicity.

Visions (Grades 7-9): Lent is a chance for every family to grow in faith and love. Your son or daughter learned that living out the Ten Commandments is one of the ways to do just that. Talk about the commandments, and share ways that your family can help one another live each of them. Talk about how the commandments are a covenant with God and how they helped to form God's Chosen People. Ask your young person to share the two stories about feeling angry and talk about how each member of the family deals with angry feelings.

Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about Sunday's Gospel lesson, sometime during the next week or so, attend one of the Lenten liturgies at your parish. Most parishes have either an evening Mass, reconciliation service, or Stations of the Cross in the evening during Lent. Be sure to talk together about the liturgy you attend together.

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.



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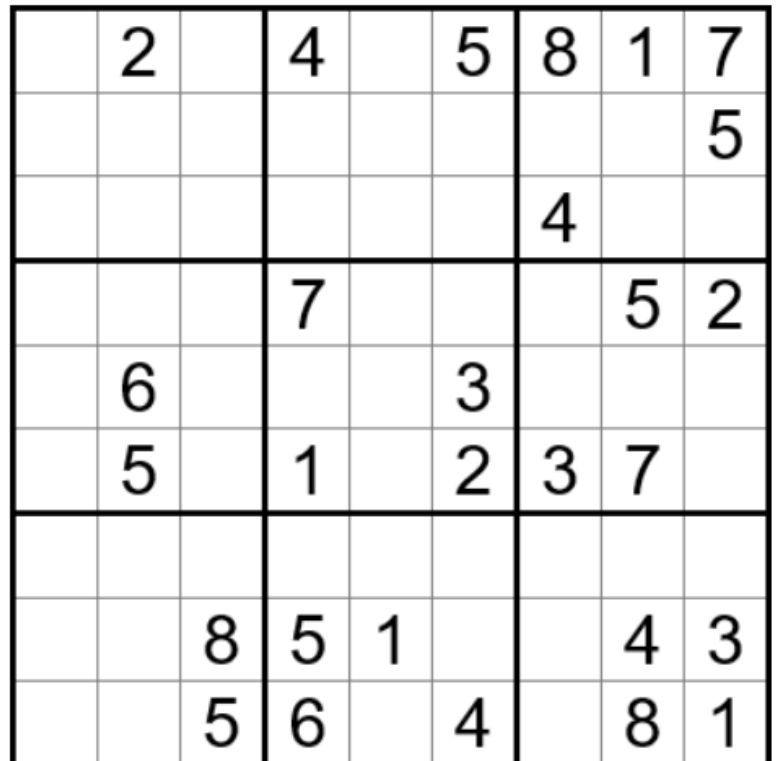


Solution to this Sudoku is on page 10!

Analogies for Lent

Example: canine. 1-Lent; 2-Mardi Gras; 3-Lent; 4-joy; 5-Ash Wednesday; 6-forty; 8-Ten Commandments; 9-violet; 10-Lent

SOLUTIONS:



Spotlight on Ministry

Minister of Hospitality

"When an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the LORD, am your God."

Leviticus 19:33-34

MINISTRY: The Ministry of Hospitality is to create a welcoming environment to all who step foot into St Agnes Church from the moment parishioners/visitors enter the parking lot until they leave. We want them to know they are welcome and we are happy they are worshiping with us. The minister should be comfortable meeting and greeting others. They must always extend a sense of welcome to others and make them feel at home. Such qualities are a blessing, especially to the stranger in our midst.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: Every Christian is called to ministry and gifted by the Holy Spirit. This calling is rooted in our baptism. By means of our initiation into the Church and strengthened by grace, God empowers each person with the resources for ministry. The Minister of Hospitality is equipped for this ministry by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts make that ministry effective and enable the minister to build up the Body of Christ. In their welcome and Christ-like attitude, Ministers of Hospitality ensure that the faithful see and experience the love of Christ.

Please consider joining one of our ministries at St Agnes. There are so many ways to get involved and grow in your faith. Adult and youth Altar Servers needed. Please contact Helen Harris at liturgy@stagnesshepherdstown.org.

Online Hate Speech Conversation

Moderation of Online Hate Speech—A Community Engagement Conversation hosted by the Stubblefield Institute on Wednesday, March 20, 5:30pm at the Student Center at Shepherd University. There will be small group conversations followed by a panel discussion. Panelists: Stephen Balkam, founder, Family Online Safety Institute; Rita Caufield, legal redress chairperson, Berkeley County NAACP; James Denvil, partner, global regulatory, Hogan Lovells.

As greater access to broadband collides with a turbulent election year, West Virginians are increasingly being exposed to online hate speech. In this event, experts will discuss online hate speech and share thoughts on how much is coming from outside groups trying to divide us. They will talk about whether such activity should and could be regulated — and by whom — and offer advice on how to handle online hate speech when it occurs.

The event is free but seating is limited and reservations are required. More information at stubblefieldinstitute.org/event/moderation-of-online-hate-speech/

KOC Supports Autism Classes



Our St Agnes Council of the Knights of Columbus recently donated \$2000 from their Tootsie Roll Drive to the Jefferson County Schools Autism Program. Pictured above, left to right in the front row are Bill Gray, Pat Nickoles, Nicole Johnson (Principal), Joe Bostic, Lisa Westlake (Autism teacher), Greg Lattus, Bob Rizzo, and in the back row are Stan Nelson, Starsha Caraday (Facilitator), and Christy Horning (Director of Special Programs).

Shepherdstown Shares Current Needs

Toilet paper, Baby wipes
Regular, ground coffee
Brown Rice, Ramen noodles (not the cups of soup)
Pasta sauce
Small applesauce cups (unsweetened)
Anything for diabetics
Crackers, such as Ritz or Saltines

Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress

Indianapolis, July 17-21, 2024
With Bishop Mark Brennan

Participate in the pivotal moment in the Church and draw deeper intimacy with our Lord. Join our diocese by registering today! Scan the QR code to attend this historic event. Please visit the DWC website for more information, including itinerary and cost: <https://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/>



Laudato Si' Initiative

As Lent unfolds, let's draw inspiration from St. Francis of Assisi, who reminds us of the power of starting with small, necessary steps:

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

In the spirit of this wisdom, let's approach our Laudato Si' commitments this Lent with humility and determination. Begin with the necessary actions for environmental care, progress to what seems just possible, and soon, we'll find ourselves achieving what once seemed impossible.

Free Community Safety Trainings

2024 FREE Community Safety Training Available for ERT and anyone interested

The Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency is offering the following training opportunities:

Community CPR and Stop the Bleed:

March 12, April 9, May 21, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10. All classes start at 6 pm. CPR courses are 6-9pm.

To register and for more information go to the JCES website: <https://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/county-agencies/jcesa/community-cpr-first-aid>.

Interested in joining the St. Agnes Emergency Response Team?

Contact Michele Goldman at mgoldman9797@gmail.com or Teace Noel at wvnoels@gmail.com.

YOUTH PAGES SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

Stay Up-to-Date with Mary's Refuge

Mary's Refuge invites you to stay up-to-date with their baby bulletin. You can find the bulletin via QR code or visit <https://marysrefuge.com/baby-bulletin/>.



Parish Financial Activity

Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$8,522
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$2,950
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$11,472
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collections Compared to Target	↓ −\$528

Tithe to help those in need	\$852
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)	

Collections – Year-To-Date (thru February)

Offertory Collections	\$80,915
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$10,667
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$91,582
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$96,000
Total Collection Compared to Target	↓ −\$4,418

Tithe to help those in need	\$8,092
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)	

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We always need of donated **blankets**, and **comforters** (any size) and also used **sleeping bags** (clean and in fair condition). Drop them off at the parish center!

Scripture Sharing

Our Scripture Sharing group continues to meet via Zoom (link is on website under events calendar) on Mondays at noon (except holidays). All are welcome!

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.

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Long Term Subs Sought For SJS

Saint Joe's School is seeking substitute teachers for these positions:

- Full time **math** substitute until May 2024 (may become full-time)
- Long-term school **nurse** substitute from mid March - May.

For more information or to send in a resume or letter of introduction, contact Principal Maria Byrd at mbyrd@sjsvw.org.

Lenten Study w/ Soup & Evening Prayer

St Peter's Lutheran Church has extended an invitation to join them for this Lenten study on Wednesday nights in Lent, beginning February 21st. John Burns will be teaching his book *Modeling Mary in Christian Discipleship* at 6pm at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Each session will include a soup supper. The evening will close with Evening Prayer in the spirit of the Iona Abby.

Modeling Mary in Christian Discipleship looks at the life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as a pattern for our discipleship. Mary's life reveals that discipleship is not a linear journey from new belief to mature faith but involves progress and regression, clarity and confusion, faith and unbelief, celebration and suffering. We often take two steps forward then one step back. Throughout the journey, Christ's mercy, love, forgiveness, and patience stays true as we learn to follow Jesus together. Books are available at the Shepherdstown Lutheran Parish office, 110 N King St, Shepherdstown. \$10 covers the cost of the book.

For more information, please call 304-876-6771 or email shepherdstownlutheran@gmail.com.

Tours of St Joe's School

St Joe's School group tours for prospective families

We are excited to announce group tours for families interested in sending their children to SJS!

Those considering grades K-8 are invited to visit on Wednesday, March 20, at 9 a.m., or email mpartington@sjsvw.org to set up another time to visit. Those interested in our Early Childhood Education Program (for those ages 4 and younger) may stop by on Thursday, March 21, at 9 a.m., or email kmackinnon@sjsvw.org to schedule another time to visit.

Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year has begun. To apply, please click on the "apply" tab at sjsvw.org. For more information, please email mpartington@sjsvw.org or call the school office at 304-267-6447.

St Joe's St. Patrick's Day Benefit Dinner

A St. Patrick's Day dinner for Saint Joseph School is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at St. Leo Catholic Church in Inwood. Tickets cost \$80 per person; two for \$150; or \$600 for a table of eight. They may be purchased by going to <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/onlinepurchase.php?groupId=586>. The event will feature pub-style food and drink, tip jars, games, plus silent and live auctions. If you have something you'd like to donate for the auctions or if you would like to be a sponsor or advertiser, please contact the school's School-Family Association (SFA) at sfa@sjsvw.org. Details about sponsorship and advertising opportunities can be requested.

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