

# 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](mailto:Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org)

[www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org](http://www.StAgnesShepherdstown.org)

## **St. Agnes Chapel**

204 South Church Street, Shepherdstown

## **Sunday Readings**

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

## Weekly Schedule

### Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

### Weekday Mass

Monday and Wednesday, 11am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday, 4:30pm

**Parish Office:** Monday through Friday 9am-4pm

**Cash Card Sales:** During parish office hours (call first)

## The Week at a Glance...

Sun Mar 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CFF, Youth Group, AFF 9:15am</li> <li>Second Scrutiny 10:30am</li> <li>First Eucharist Families Prepare Meal for the Hungry 11:30am</li> <li>OCIA 12noon</li> </ul>
Mon Mar 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon</li> </ul>
Tues Apr 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Games Group 3:30pm</li> </ul>
Wed Apr 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Eucharist Families Deliver Feeding the Hungry Meal 4pm</li> </ul>
Friday Apr 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear Blue Day — Child Abuse Prevention Month</li> <li>Simple Supper 6pm</li> <li>Stations of the Cross 7pm</li> </ul>
Sun Apr 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perpetual Memorial Mass 8am</li> <li>CFF, Youth Group, AFF 9:15am</li> <li>Third Scrutiny 10:30am</li> <li>OCIA 12noon</li> </ul>
Mon Apr 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon</li> </ul>
Tues Apr 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Games Group 3:30pm</li> <li>KoC Business Meeting 7pm</li> </ul>

## Check Out Our Landscape Committee

Everyone is welcome to join us at the next Landscape Committee meeting on April 13th at 11:45am in the Day Chapel. Come and learn about the spring and summer plans and how you can contribute your time to making the St. Agnes campus more environmentally and user-friendly. Meetings last about an hour and all levels of experience and knowledge are welcome.

## 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.



## Mass Intentions

Sunday, 10:30am for

**Albert Phillips**



May Albert share

in the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

In your kindness, please pray for Albert Phillips and Leah Read Vigil (cousin of Marie Snowden) who recently died. May Albert and Leah 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 Dan Howar, 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.

## Holy Week

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday

Monday, April 14 and Wednesday, April 16

11am Weekday Mass

Holy Thursday, April 17

7:00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Supper

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

9:30pm Night Prayer -Church open for

quiet prayer & reflection until 10pm

Good Friday, April 18

9:00am Morning Prayer

3:00pm Stations of the Cross

7:00pm Liturgy of the Passion

and Death of the Lord

Holy Saturday, April 19

9:00am Morning Prayer

NO Reconciliation or 5:30pm Mass

8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass

Reception following Mass

Easter Sunday, April 20

8:00am Easter Morning Mass

10:15am Children's Program before Mass

10:30am Easter Morning Mass

11:45am Easter Egg Hunt

Dear Parishioners,

On Monday of this past week we celebrated the feast day of Oscar Romero. Romero is the only canonized Saint to be Martyred at the Altar celebrating the Mass. Saint Oscar Romero; in our country and our world his witness and intercession are more important, I believe, than ever as we see so many violations of human rights. Oscar Romero lived out the Eucharist and embodied the death and resurrection of Jesus as he gave his life in service to his people. I hope some day he is recognized as a Doctor of the Church, because he showed how right worship leads to the action of peace and justice. Romero's story of how he became so active in standing in solidarity with his people has been best described, I believe, as an evolution. There is no single event, even the death of his friend Father Rutilio Grande although very impactful, but a series of events that made him so boldly and prophetically take up the struggle of his people. I wrote this poem after being moved by his witness at the Chapel of Divine Providence. I imagine him looking into the chalice at Mass and seeing his shadow before he was assassinated. May Saint Oscar Romero inspire us to live the Eucharist.

*Romero saw his face that day  
When he looked into the chalice  
It seemed so long since the death of Rutilio  
Who moved him to leave behind the palace.*

*Romero saw his face that day  
When he looked into the chalice  
Left him awaiting the bullet the  
Governments malice.*

*Romero saw his face that day  
When he looked into the chalice.  
If I die they can kill I shall rise  
In the Salvadorian people.*

*Romero processed his last steps to look into the  
chalice.*

*Don Saritas funeral the last mass  
Shot before he could look into  
The chalice.*

*Romeros body fell a spilled chalice.  
The blood of the martyr spilled  
Is the seed that shall rise in the  
Salvadorian people.*

*Romero gave his blood  
The blood he saw in the chalice.*

Fr. Andy

## 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.

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

Fridays April 4 & 11 both wide open. Please consider signing up to help!

## SMA Community Read for Lent

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

**SMA Community Read Discussion Group**: The Discussion Group will be held on one more Tuesday in Lent (April 1) at 7pm at the Parlor at Trinity House (Trinity Episcopal Church), both In-person and on Zoom. Facilitators will be Rev. Gethin Weid and Rev. Karen Erskine-Valentine.

**MEET THE AUTHOR EVENT**: Dr. Denise Giardina will be with us to discuss, "Saints and Villains" on **Tuesday, April 8 at 7pm at the Shepherd University Byrd Center.**

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.

## 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.

## First Eucharist Gifts

As part of their sacramental preparation, our First Eucharist candidates and their families will be bringing the gifts up to the altar during Mass. This weekend, at the 5:30pm Mass, Carter Phipps and his family will have the honor.

## CPR/First Aid Training at SFD

CPR/First Aid class offered Saturday May 3rd at 9am. Class will be held at the Shepherdstown Fire Dept. To register, contact Dave Smith with SPC at 304-283-6235.

## April 18th Book Discussion Group

Our Book Group this month will be reading a short book, *Art and the Bible*, and a long letter, *This Land is Home to Me*, the first Appalachian Pastoral Letter written by the 25 bishops of Appalachia and published in 1975. This is the 50th anniversary of the letter. More info next week. We meet at 11am in the Parish Center on April 18th, all are welcome to join us!

## April: Autism Acceptance Month

April is Autism Acceptance Month. The recognition raises awareness about autism acceptance and promotes inclusion and connectedness for people with autism. Social and community support can help people with autism achieve optimal health and reach their full potential. The CDC promotes early identification and provides essential data on autism to inform programs and policies that support children with autism and their families.

For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/autism/php/toolkit/index.html>

## 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.

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

**Deadline for application submission to the Parish Center office is May 2nd.**

## April: Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This is an opportunity for us to come together to protect our children and ensure every child has a safe and nurturing environment to grow and thrive. It is a time to reflect on the importance of safeguarding our future generation and taking proactive steps to prevent abuse and neglect.

Tragically, nearly 1 in 7 children experience some form of abuse or neglect annually in the United States. In 2022, approximately 1,990 children lost their lives due to abuse. These numbers are a stark reminder of the critical need for community involvement and support to end this epidemic.

Each one of us can make a difference. We can all learn to recognize the signs of abuse and share this knowledge within our communities. Virtus is a wonderful resource for this information; contact Bill Donahue for information on how to sign up for Virtus training. **April 4, 2025 is Wear Blue Day.** You guessed it—please wear blue on Friday to stand in solidarity for child abuse prevention.

## Oscar Romero Anniversary

On 21 December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 March as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims, which recognizes, in particular, the important work and values of Archbishop Óscar Arnulfo Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador (El Salvador), assassinated on 22 Mar 1980.

## Quick Spring Recipe from the Gardeners

One usually thinks of radishes as a raw, sharp, sometimes bitter tasting vegetable. This is a good time to try a new and different way to eat them, and once you've had radishes cooked they will become a regular on your dining table. You will find many recipes on the internet, grilling, roasting, steaming and frying; this happens to be one that is tweaked from a couple, it is simple and quick.

You will need:

- 15 to 20 radishes (removed tops and cleaned)
- 1 tablespoon of butter or oil
- 1 tablespoon vinegar (any kind)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Add the butter/oil to a hot skillet or pan. Thinly slice the radishes, then add them in. Add the vinegar (the vinegar keeps the radishes from discoloring as well as adding taste), then add the salt and pepper. When the radishes become translucent, they are done. Enjoy!

## Join in the Fun!

St. Agnes invites you to join us in the Parish Hall **every Tuesday** from 3:30-5:30 PM for some fun and games. We have games and snacks, but you are welcome to bring your own. *A parent/guardian must be present with any children who attend.*

# THE YOUTH CORNER

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

This Week's Gospel:

John 9:1-41

March 30, 2025

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



## Youth Events: At a Glance

### Dates for the Calendar

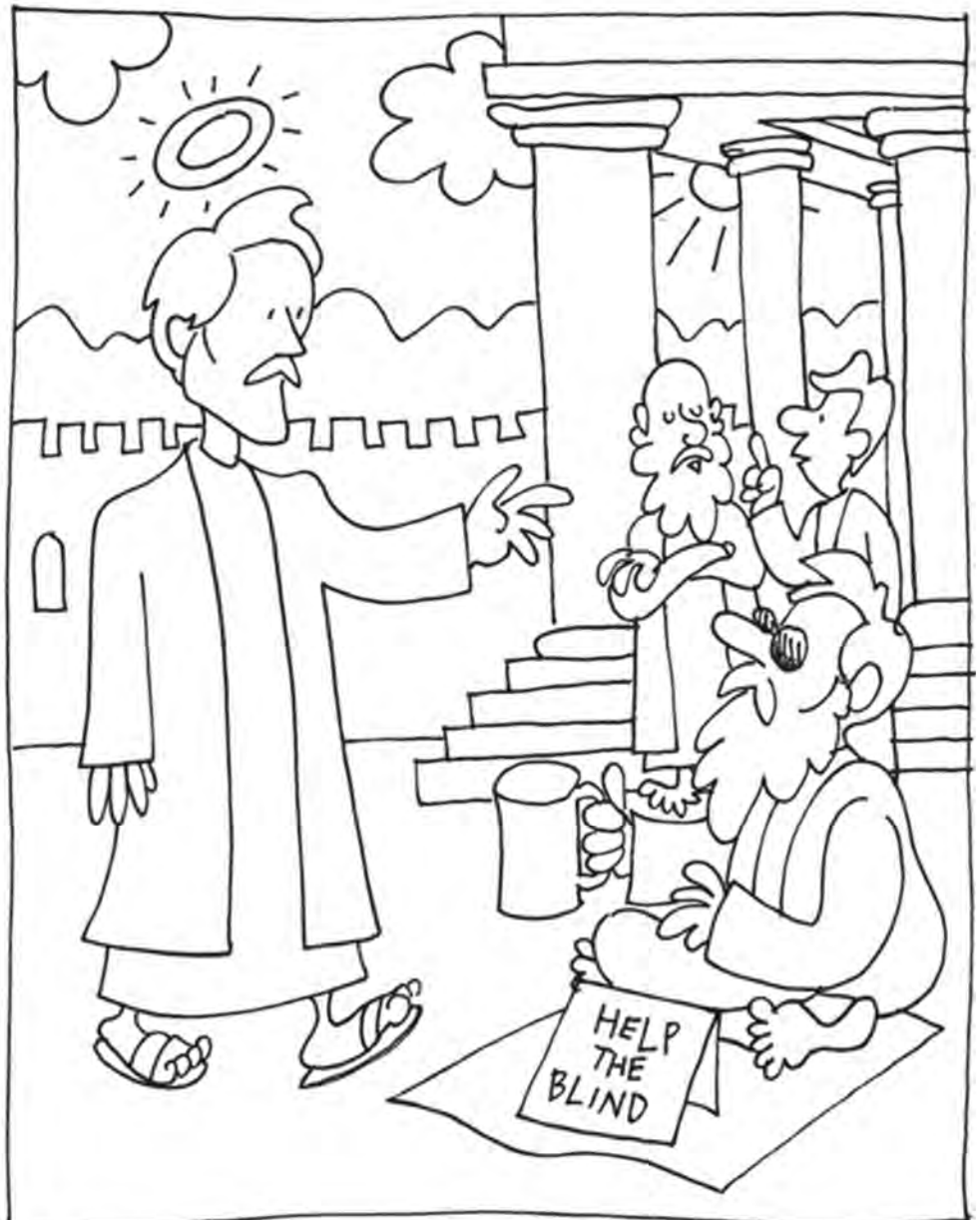
**March 30:** CFF (except grade 2), Youth Group, and AFF in the Parish Center at 9:15am. \*\*

**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 today in the parish Center.

**April 2:** First Eucharist children and families are encouraged to deliver and serve the Meal for 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.**

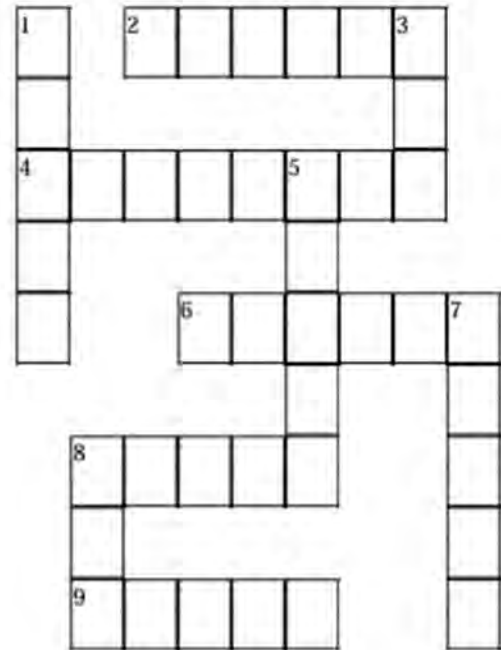
**April 6:** CFF, Youth Group, and AFF in the Parish Center at 9:15am. \*\*

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





## From Blindness to Light John 9:1-11



### Across

2. "Sent"
4. The blind man was healed so the works of God could be \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The blind man was a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Jesus gave this to the blind man.
9. When it is not possible to work.

### Down

1. The man had been blind from \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jesus cured the blind by using this.
5. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.
7. Teacher - title given to Jesus.
8. The disciples thought this was the cause of the man's blindness.



## CFF, AFF, Youth Group, & Family News

Each Friday during the Lenten season, we will have a **Simple Supper (meatless soup and bread)** each Friday at 6pm in the **Parish Center** followed by **Stations of the Cross** at 7pm in the church. All are welcome! Traditionally, various groups or committees take turns sponsoring and running Stations of the Cross every Friday. This is a great way to add to your faith traditions during Lent.

**This weekend** on Sunday, CFF, Youth Group, and AFF will be held at the Parish Center at 9:15am, and our First Eucharist Candidates (Grade 2) will meet at 11:40am in the Parish Center instead of 9:15am so that they can prepare the Meal for the Hungry.

**Next weekend** everything will return to the normal schedule (classes at 9:15am).

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 the event!

**First Communion will be on 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), marked by 40 days, excluding Sundays, of reflection, repentance, sacrifice and spiritual growth.

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

afraid      beg      blind  
 divided      eyes      God  
 light      man      Messiah  
 Moses      mud      opened  
 parents      pool      revealed  
 Sabbath      see      sent  
 sight      signs      Siloam  
 sinned      son      spat  
 spread      wash      works  
 world      worship

# Jesus meets ... THE MAN BORN BLIND

Jesus made the blind man see things for the first time ever.

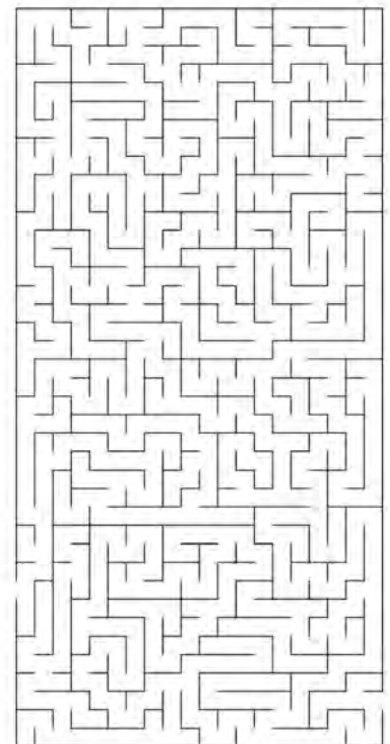
Draw 2 things he would have seen when his eyes opened after he washed in the pool.



**The man said:**  
 "LORD ... I BELIEVE YOU ARE  
 THE SON OF GOD"

ME

## FOLLOW JESUS



J  
E  
S  
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S

**Volunteering:** The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate our faith in action!  
**All volunteers are required to be VIRTUS-trained** as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. If you would like to volunteer for any parish ministry including with our youth, you *must be* VIRTUS-trained. Forms are located in the church narthex and the Parish Center on how to complete this process.  
**All parents are encouraged to be VIRTUS-trained.**  
 If you have been trained in the past, you must be have the latest training Version 4.0.  
**If your Virtus 4.0 has been over a year ago, you will be asked to complete the refresher module.** Logging into your online VIRTUS account is the best way to determine if your VIRTUS is up to date. If your home screen is *green*, all is good. Any red section needs to updated.



# The Gospel at Home

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This week's Pflaum Gospel (what the kids learned in CFF this week) 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 readings 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).

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**This Week's Gospel:**  
**Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

The Parable of the Forgiving Father is one of the most well-known from Jesus. The son does not earn the love of his father. Instead love is what the father gives. God's love and forgiveness are freely given to help us grow close to him. No matter how lost we become, the Lord will find us.

**Exploring the Gospel Message**

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child learned that God is our forgiving Father. Your son or daughter can show you the path to find Jesus as he welcomes us home. Have your child tell you how we share happiness. Have the family discuss how you all share happiness with others. Pray that the Lord will grant you all a happy life.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** God is our forgiving Father. What story do the pictures on the front of this week's *Promise* booklet tell? Have your child tell the Parable of the Forgiving Father using the pictures from this week's *Promise*. Talk about the many ways that God forgives us.

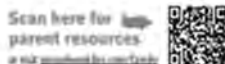
**Good News (Grades 2-3):** This week, your child's class talked about how God's love is generous. Have your child tell you what happened in the story titled, "Ella Leaves Home." He or she should also know what a parable is. The Parable of the Forgiving Father is a good example from this week's Gospel. Talk about the story with your child. This week's lesson included the story of the Exodus when God freed his People from slavery. Ask your child how love and forgiveness factor into the parable and the Exodus story?

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Have your young person point out some of the places on the cover map in the land where Joshua walked, especially Gilgal. Which ending did your youngster choose for the lesson story? Have he or she explain the choice. Talk about what the Parable of the Forgiving Father teaches us about forgiveness. For Lent, this week's lesson explores the Lord's Prayer. Be sure to add it to family prayer this week.

**Visions (Grades 7-9):** Ask your young person about the choices he or she made on the What Can I Forgive survey? Why does the mother get so upset in the story titled, "My Brother Part II"? Talk about what this week's Gospel says about the Lord's forgiveness. Allow time at home this week for an examination of conscience in preparation for the times we seek forgiveness. Consider holding the Forgiveness Prayer Service at home. Pray that your family will forgive each other as God forgives us. Find out when your parish celebrates the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation and plan to take part.

**Pray Together**

In this fourth week of Lent, forgiveness is the theme as presented in the Parable of the Forgiving Father. Add prayers of forgiveness to family prayer, and plan to take part in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation if possible. It is important to practice the forgiveness we pray for.

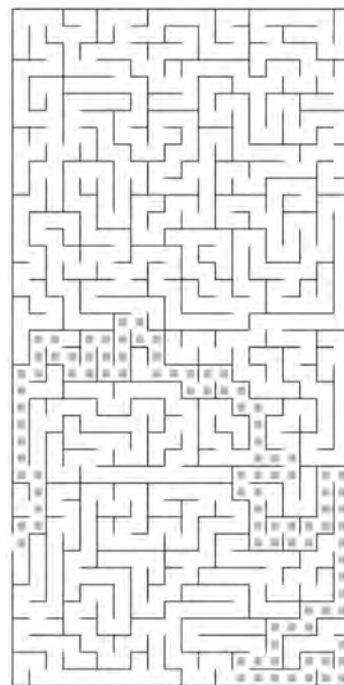


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## SOLUTIONS:

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					<b>A</b>
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8 <b>S I G H T</b>					<b>I</b>
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9 <b>N I G H T</b>					<b>I</b>

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



## Save the Date: Boonsboro GreenFest

**The Boonsboro GreenFest Swap and Recycling Event will be held on May 10, 2025 from 9am - 2pm.**

<https://www.facebook.com/BoonsboroGreenFest/>

They will take a LOT of recycling, many things that cannot usually be taken elsewhere (some examples: medications, bicycles, building materials, batteries, musical instruments, wheelchairs)! There will be a drive-thru, drop-off loop with the option to stay in your car. There will also be live music, tree giveaway, and swaps available for items such as: clothing, sports equipment, household goods, plants, books, and craft supplies.

***This event is public and not limited to residents of Boonsboro.***

If you wish to volunteer, help with set-up or clean-up, please reach out to [info@boonsborogreenfest.com](mailto:info@boonsborogreenfest.com)

## 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:

***How to Live Like a Monk:  
Medieval Wisdom for Modern Life  
by Danièle Cybulskie***

If you have ever yearned for the monastic life, or longed to bring some of its joy and simplicity into your own day-to-day, this book is for you! Beautifully illustrated and delightfully whimsical, *How to Live Like a Monk* explores the fascinating world of medieval monastic practices. With their emphasis on cultivating a healthy mind, body, and soul, these habits can be practiced in our own busy lives, where peace, fullness of heart, and deeper communion with the natural world are often so desperately needed. Find *How to Live Like a Monk* in the Spirituality & Worship section under the letter "C"!

## Operation Rice Bowl

Your Lenten alms through CRS Rice Bowl make a global difference for millions of our sisters and brothers experiencing the greatest need.

**ORB Website:** <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>  
*Catholic Relief Services (CRS) carries out the commitment of the US Bishops to assist poor and vulnerable overseas.*

## Lenten Poem

**Sabbaths 1985, V**

How long does it take to make the woods?

As long as it takes to make the world.

The woods is present as the world is, the presence of all its past, and of all its time to come.

It is always finished, it is always being made, the act of its making forever greater than the act of its destruction.

It is a part of eternity, for its end and beginning belong to the end and beginning of all things, the beginning lost in the end, the end in the beginning.

What is the way to the woods, how do you go there?

By climbing up through the six days' field,

kept in all the body's years, the body's sorrow, weariness, and joy. By passing through

the narrow gate on the far side of that field where the pasture grass of the body's life gives way to the high, original standing of the trees.

By coming into the shadow, the shadow

of the grace of the strait way's ending,

the shadow of the mercy of light.

Why must the gate be narrow?

Because you cannot pass beyond it burdened.

To come in among these trees you must leave behind the six days' world, all of it, all of its plans and hopes.

You must come without weapon or tool, alone,

expecting nothing, remembering nothing,

into the ease of sight, the brotherhood [and sisterhood!] of eye and leaf.

— Wendell Berry

## Last Chance: Free Tax Prep 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.

## 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](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherdstown.org). Thanks for all you do for the parish and for helping us achieve diocesan compliance with VIRTUS.

## 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](mailto:office@stagnesshepherdstown.org). Emails from Fr. Andy will be from [aswitzer@dwc.org](mailto:aswitzer@dwc.org) or [aswitzer@stagnesshepherdstown.org](mailto: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.

## Camp Carlo: Catholic Summer Camp

### INTERESTED IN A CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP?

Grow in your faith while having fun outdoors in Huttonsville! Spend time riding horses, swimming, hiking, and many more fun activities and make friends with other young people. Participate in regular Mass, Adoration, and entertaining Catechesis. Register today and find more information at [campcarlowv.org](http://campcarlowv.org).

June 29th – July 5th

July 6th – July 12th

July 13th – July 19th

July 20th – July 26th

## Parish Financial Activity

### Collections – Last Week

Offertory Collections	\$16,909
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$370
<b>Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)</b>	<b>\$17,279</b>
<b>Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)</b>	<b>\$13,500</b>
<b>Total Collections Compared to Target</b>	<b>↑ +\$3,779</b>

Tithe to help those in need \$1,691  
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

### 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!



## 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 facilities tour or have questions, reach out to Pre-K Director Abby Hjort-Michel at [ahjort@sjswv.org](mailto:ahjort@sjswv.org) or call 304-267-6447.

To apply or re-enroll, go to [sjswv.org](http://sjswv.org). For more information about enrollment, contact Patti Maerten Hicks at [pmaertenhicks@sjswv.org](mailto:pmaertenhicks@sjswv.org) or call 304-267-6447.

## LARCUM 2025 Event

LARCUM 2025 will gather 12-14 May 2025 at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston, WV, under the theme Nicaea at 1700. Attendees from all four traditions (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, and United Methodist) will explore matters related to the Council of Nicaea of 325, 1700 years being a rather impressive anniversary. As we delve into events from so long ago, we will ask: what does this mean for us today and how does it inform our on-going ecumenical conversations? Bishop Brennan will serve as one of the main presenters.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston maintains an Office of Safe Environment in accordance with the USCCB's *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. **To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org) to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org). **To Report to Civil Authorities:** Contact your local law enforcement; numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** In addition to civil authorities, the diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the **EthicsPoint** platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

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## 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](mailto:deaconpat@stjosephwv.org). View the job listing: <https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Saint-Joseph-School/jobs>.

## Saint Joseph's Women's Retreat—May 3

Mass and Rosary—8:30am

Check in— 9:30am

Day Ends—3:00pm

Join Saint Joseph's in a Women's Day of Recollection— for mass, talks, adoration, confession, time for personal prayer and spiritual conversations with the Sisters. The event will take place on **Saturday, May 3rd at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Martinsburg, WV**. Lunch is included. Tickets will be available starting the weekend of April 5th. Please call the St Joseph's Parish Office (304) 267-4893 by Friday, April 25th.

## 2025 Quo Vadis Retreat

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

## CBT Grants update

Our grant group—Sue Kemnitzer, Fanny Smith, Judy Lilga, Mike Drewes, Scott Hutton, Greg Welter, Beth Yates, and Fr Andy-- is actively working on the next steps in the grant process with the help of Josephine Saikali from Region 9.

For our Track 2 design grant, our engineering firm, Thrasher Group, is fine tuning their design for upgrading our stormwater management!

For our Track 4 grant, we will soon begin planning for plantings in the southeast area.

Program partners: United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 3, Chesapeake Bay Program, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

This project had been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under assistance agreement 4I-95300301 or CB-96375501 to West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP).



**INVESTING IN AMERICA**



## Mary's Refuge Golf Tournament

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

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