

# 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**

Deuteronomy 26:4-10  
Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15  
Romans 10:8-13  
Luke 4:1-13

## Weekly Schedule

### Weekend Mass

Saturday, 5:30pm

Sunday, 8am and 10:30am

### Weekday Mass

Monday and Wednesday, 11am

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

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

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



## Mass Intentions

Saturday, 5:30pm for

**Josephine Lang**

**Andree Schlosser**

Sunday, 10:30am for

**Jeannette Van Belleghem**

May Josephine, Andree, and Jeannette share in the fulness of God's mercy and peace.

## The Week at a Glance...

Sun Mar 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No CFF</li> <li>Legislative Advocacy 101 12noon</li> <li>Intergenerational Mass 5pm</li> <li>Seed Giveaway after All Masses (Today Only)</li> </ul>
Mon Mar 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scripture Sharing Zoom 12noon</li> <li>SVdP Meeting 7pm</li> </ul>
Tues Mar 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Games Group 3:30pm</li> <li>KoC Business Meeting 7pm</li> </ul>
Wed Mar 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finance Council 6pm</li> </ul>
Friday Mar 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2nd Friday Prayer Group 11am</li> <li>Youth-Sponsored Simple Supper 6pm</li> <li>Youth-Led Stations of the Cross 7pm</li> </ul>
Sat Mar 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fr. Michael Driscoll Visiting St Agnes Through Wednesday! See bulletin insert for schedule.</b></li> <li>Rite of Election at St Agnes 11am</li> </ul>
Sun Mar 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CFF, Youth Group, AFF, First Eucharist Parent Meeting 9:15am</li> <li>OCIA 12noon</li> </ul>

## St Agnes Hosting Rite of Election

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

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

## Fr Michael Driscoll Visiting St Agnes

We are truly thrilled to have Father Michael Driscoll coming to St Agnes to help guide us in our Lenten mission March 15-19. **Check out today's bulletin insert for full information!**

## Join Us for a Seed Giveaway!

The Laudato Si' and Intergenerational Garden Committees invite you to a **Seed Giveaway Sunday, March 9th, after the 8am & 10:30am Masses.** Pick up free seeds; chat with our gardeners about seed starting, gardening tips, and volunteer opportunities. Let's grow together!

## Remember in Prayer

Please pray daily for those serving in the Military, our veterans in recovery, and those recently ill, especially Sally Little, Kathy Dowell, Ho-Leung Moon Yee (mother of Amie Ho-Leung), Mary Raygor, Bertha Ngu (sister of Fon Ngu), Mason Coderre, Norma Frances Cesare (mother of Carmela Cesare), Bill Gray, Ann Kessel, Mike Vojtasko, Ron Mancini (son-in-law of Bob & Martha Rizzo), and Shelly Stowell (daughter of Nina Hockman). Names are placed in the bulletin for one month then moved onto the 2nd Friday prayer list and are remembered in prayer each month.

## Sun, March 9: Legislative Advocacy 101

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

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

This will be a non-partisan presentation intended to give you the skills to advocate with your legislators given by Daniel Bennett, former staff member to members of congress.

## SMA Community Read for Lent

### Saints and Villains By Denise Giardina

This is novel a about Dietrich Bonhoffer, the German theologian and Nazi resister. Bonhoffer risked his life in vocal resistance to German nationalism and finally lost it through his participation in a failed plot to assassinate Hitler and 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 4 Tuesdays in Lent (March 11, 18, 25, 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.*

Dear Parishioners,

I received this from Fr. Mat, and I thought it was a good way for us to enter into Lent; to remind us that our fasting calls us to feast on God's love that can bring healing to our world.

### Fasting & Feasting

Lent can be more than a time of fasting; it can be a season of feasting. We can use Lent to fast from certain things and to feast on others. Lent is a season in which we can:

**Fast** from judging others; **feast** on the Christ dwelling in them. **Fast** from emphasis on differences; **feast** on the unity of life. **Fast** from, thoughts of illness; **feast** on the healing power of God. **Fast** from words that pollute; **feast** on phrases that purify. **Fast** from discontent; **feast** on gratitude. **Fast** from anger; **feast** on patience. **Fast** from pessimism; **feast** on optimism. **Fast** from worry; **feast** on divine order. **Fast** from complaining; **feast** on appreciation. **Fast** from negatives; **feast** on affirmatives. **Fast** from unrelenting pressure; **feast** on unceasing prayer. **Fast** from hostility; **feast** on nonresistance. **Fast** from bitterness; **feast** on forgiveness. **Fast** from self-concern; **feast** on compassion for others. **Fast** from personal anxiety; **feast** on eternal truth. **Fast** from facts that depress; **feast** on verities that uplift. **Fast** from discouragements; **feast** on hope. **Fast** from lethargy; **feast** on enthusiasm. **Fast** from thoughts that weaken; **feast** on promises that inspire. **Fast** from shadows of sorrow; **feast** on the sunlight of serenity. **Fast** from idle gossip; **feast** on purposeful silence. **Fast** from problems that overwhelm; **feast** on prayer that undergirds.

Fr. Andy

## 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 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)

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

## Lenten Simple Suppers

**Each Friday in Lent at 6pm beginning on Friday, March 14th**, please make plans to join us at the parish center for a Lenten Simple Supper. Following the suppers, we will gather at the church for Stations of the Cross. Our St Agnes youth will start us off on March 14 with our Simple Supper and then will be leading the Stations of the Cross for us. The Simple Supper will start at 6pm, and Stations will begin at 7pm. **Please come support our youth.**

## Rite of Election

On Saturday, March 15 at 11am, St. Agnes Church community will host the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates for our diocese. The Rite of Election is the part of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) when the Church recognizes a catechumen's readiness for the sacraments of initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist - which will take place at the Easter Vigil. The Call to Continuing Conversion affirms the readiness of baptized adults to receive Confirmation and First Eucharist.

You are invited to join Bishop Mark Brennan along with our community as we support the Catechumens and Candidates in public witness to their journey of faith. Parishes from across the Panhandle will be in attendance.

**Discipleship:** The Cana Committee needs help with specific food item donations and gift certificates for this celebration, which will have as many as 225 people in attendance. Please stop by the Cana Committee table after Mass this weekend to sign up for your donation!

## Parish Nursing News

By Gabriele Davis, RN, BSN, Parish Nurse

There will be blood pressure and blood sugar measurements available this weekend after every Mass.

I am also available at that time if you have any questions regarding your health. I will get back to you within 24 hours with answers for anything out of my knowledge base. You can also leave a message for me at the office, and it will be forwarded to me (304-876-6436).

## 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 office will be May 2.**

## Find What You've Lost

**It's now or never.** Our lost and found basket at the church is overflowing with lots of things that need to go home. Have you lost a men's belt, a jacket, an umbrella? We might have it. The basket is located by the exit near the bathrooms. We will take the next few weeks to try to find the owners, but **after Sunday, March 9, anything left will be rehomed. That's this weekend!**

## Take Action!

### PROTECT THE WATER PROTECT THE FARMERS



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

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

## Parish Library

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

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

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

Need help choosing a book? This week, your parish librarian (Dana Getka) recommends: ***The Genesee Diary: Report from a Trappist Monastery by Henri Nouwen***. This book takes the form of a journal kept by the Dutch priest Henri Nouwen during his seven month stay at the Abbey of the Genesee in upstate New York. You may like this book if you:

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

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

## Little Black Books

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

## Operation Rice Bowl

### GIVE ALMS THROUGH CRS RICE BOWL

*Help communities around the world affected by hunger and poverty.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Getting Started: Spring Planting Ideas

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

## Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

*This weekend is the March Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend. We will collect donations and be selling delicious Haiti coffee. The Knights will be handing out blue bags to be filled with non-perishables for Shepherdstown Shares and JCCM food pantries. **From now on, SJP weekend will be on the second weekend of every month.***

## 2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in March. 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](mailto:jslilga8@gmail.com).

## Homebound Ministry

For any parishioners with needs (groceries, rides to doctors/pharmacies, etc.), our **HOMEBOUND MINISTRY** is willing to help. Contact Judy Lilga (301-432-2276).



## Jesus Was Tempted by the Devil: True or False?

How well do you know the story from today's Gospel reading?

1. Jesus went to the desert and didn't eat anything for 40 days. True or False?
2. Jesus was never tempted by the devil. True or False?
3. Jesus wasn't hungry, even after 40 days with no food. True or False?
4. The devil said that all the kingdoms of the world belonged to him. True or False?
5. Jesus said that He would only worship the devil if he gave Him all the power first. True or False?
6. Jesus wouldn't throw Himself off the Temple because He said it was "putting God to the test." True or False?
7. The devil kept bothering Jesus, even when he ran out of things to tempt him about. True or False?



Jesus spent 40 days in the desert preparing for His work. During Lent we spend 40 days getting ready to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection.

*Can you find your way into the desert to be with Jesus?*

# THE YOUTH CORNER

The First Sunday of Lent

This Week's Gospel:

*Luke 4: 1–13*

March 9, 2025

## The Temptation of Jesus

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

Spirit	devil	days	Jordan	stone
Holy	live	angels	authority	worship
desert	temple	command	bread	world
tempted	forty	kingdoms	Jerusalem	hungry



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2		4					5

**ASH LENT**

**VIDEO LINK for this week's Gospel:**

<https://youtu.be/7TjkGm-xYr4>

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

There are no CFF, Youth Group, First Eucharist Parents or Adult classes this weekend. Instead, families are encouraged to attend the **Intergenerational Mass** this Sunday, **March 9, 2025 at 5 PM**. This is the last Intergenerational Mass this spring. Mass will be followed by a Pizza Party and family social in the Church Narthex.

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

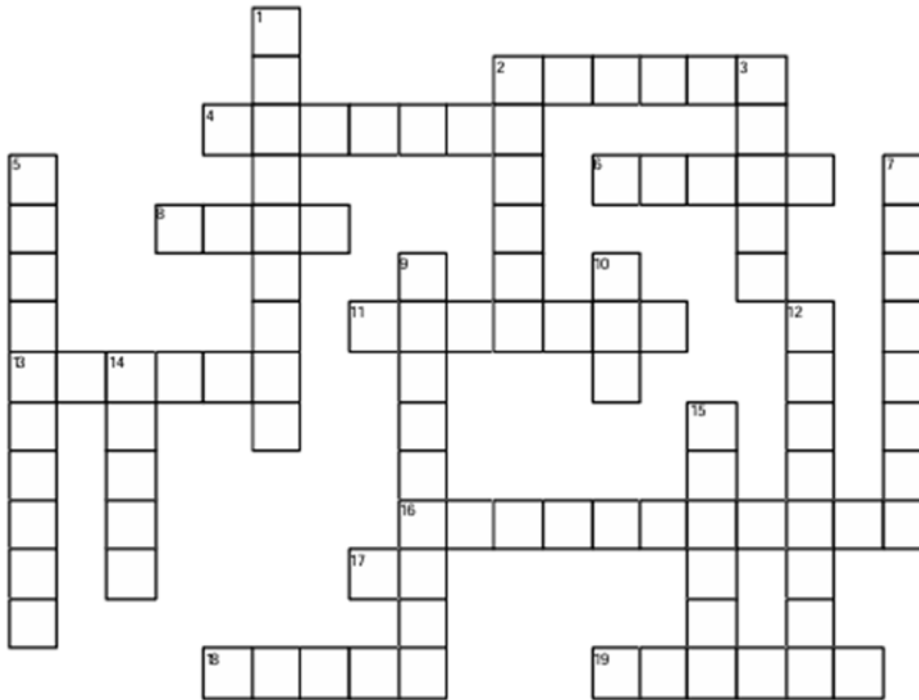
Families of First Eucharist children should have received an email with the updated dates for this spring. Please contact Bill if you did not receive that email.

First Communion will occur May 4th at the 10:30 AM Mass.

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

Often during Lent, people decide "what to give up" for Lent. Perhaps this Lent you might want to consider what positive thing you could do each day as a Lenten offering.

**THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS**  
**Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13**



**ACROSS**

- 2 When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, who came to attend to Jesus, (Mt. 4:11)
- 4 Each time Jesus was tempted, He began His response by saying, "It is \_\_\_\_\_." (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10)
- 6 The gospel writer tells us that after \_\_\_\_\_ days and night, Jesus was hungry. (Mt. 4:2)
- 8 Jesus said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the \_\_\_\_\_." (Mt. 4:7)
- 11 The devil wanted Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ him. (Mt. 4:9)
- 13 In the second temptation the devil took Jesus to the highest point of the \_\_\_\_\_. (Mt. 4:5)
- 16 The gospel writer Mark records that Jesus was in the desert with the \_\_\_\_\_. (Mk. 1:13) two words
- 17 Did the devil question the divine sonship of Jesus, that is, Jesus as the Son of God. (Mt. 4:3, 6, 9)
- 18 Jesus refused to change these to \_\_\_\_\_. (Mt. 4:3)
- 19 Whom did Jesus rely upon for his food? (Mt. 4:4)

**DOWN**

- 1 What was the city where the temple was located? Lk. 4:9)
- 2 The devil tried to convince Jesus that they would catch Him if He would jump from the temple wall. (Mt. 4:6)
- 3 Jesus called the devil by this name. (Mt. 4:10)
- 5 The act of trying to get someone to go against God
- 7 The devil took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. (Mt. 4:8)
- 9 When we are tempted, what gives us strength? (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10) two words
- 10 The act of not following Jesus is called this.
- 12 The highest point of the temple is called this. (Mt. 4:5)
- 14 Just as the Israelites depended on God for \_\_\_\_\_ in the wilderness, so man must depend upon God for their spiritual food. (Mt. 4:3-4)
- 15 Who led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil? (Mt. 4:1)

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

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

**March 14:** Youth Led Stations of the Cross and Simple Supper (starting at 6 PM in the parish center)

**March 16:** CFF, Youth Group, and Adult classes in the Parish Center at 9:15 AM. Third Parent Class for 1st Eucharist Parents. \*\*

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



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 : **Volunteering:** The church is always looking for volunteers. It is our way to demonstrate our faith in action!  
 : **All volunteers** are required to be VIRTUS trained as required by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. If  
 : you would like to volunteer for any parish ministry including with our youth, you must be VIRTUS trained.  
 : Forms are located in the church narthex and the parish center on how to complete this process. All parents  
 : are encouraged to be VIRTUS trained. If you have been trained in the past, you must be have the latest  
 : training Version 4.0.  
 : If your Virtus 4.0 has been **over** a year ago, you will be asked to complete the **refresher** module. Logging  
 : into your online VIRTUS account is the best way to determine if your VIRTUS is up to date. If your home  
 : screen is "green", all is good. Any "red" section needs to updated. We will be audited for VIRTUS compli-  
 : ance the week of March 10th.  
 : .....

# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

This Sunday's Gospel is the familiar temptation of Jesus by the Devil. Satan tempts Jesus who was led into the desert by the Holy Spirit for forty days. Jesus fasted the entire time, but he did not yield to the false power and glory promised by the Devil. Use this passage to give you and your family strength to face the temptations of every day life.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds** (Preschool): This week your child learned that Lent is a time to make good choices. The class learned to care, pray, share, and help during Lent as a way to show love as we get ready for Jesus' sacrifice and Resurrection. Ask your child what a pretzel reminds them of, and practice the action of thinking about God.

**Promise** (Grades K-1): This week your child learned about how Jesus chose to follow God the Father, which is part of the lesson from this week's Gospel. Talk with your child about how to show love during Lent, and be sure to check out your child's Lenten prayer book.

**Good News** (Grades 2-3): Your child's class learned how the Holy Spirit gives us strength against temptation during Lent. Ask your child to retell the story from this week's lesson titled, "The Temptation." Ask how your child felt when the Devil kept tempting Jesus in this week's Gospel. Share times when you have felt tempted. Pray as a family to be able to avoid temptation.

**Venture** (Grades 4-6): This week your youngster learned that Lent is a time to pray.

Ask your young person what happens in this week's story titled, "Tempted!" Jesus faced temptation in the desert, but ask your young person who filled Jesus and helped him resist Satan. Discuss how the Holy Spirit speaks with us and directs our lives. Ask your young person how studying The Lord's Prayer during Lent will help them prepare for Easter.

**Visions** (Grades 7-8): Your youngster learned that Lent is also a time of sharing. Ask your young person what he or she plans to share or give up during Lent. Maybe the family could join in a project together. Have a discussion about the Gospel when Jesus says to not put God to the test. Talk about the history of Israel, and consider making a place and time to pray together as a family during Lent. This is a great week to talk with your youngster about the temptations he or she faces. Have your youngster explain Saint Ignatius Loyola's way to pray and reflect every day called the Examen. Give it a try this Lent.

**Awaken** (Teens/Adults): Discover a new level of spiritual growth for parents with *Awaken*, the new adult level of the *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies*, developed to deepen your faith journey alongside your children. Scan the QR code to learn more.

### Pray Together

Prayer is emphasized in all the lessons this week. In addition to praying to avoid temptations as Jesus did in the Gospel reading, pray that the Holy Spirit can help your family prepare for Jesus' great sacrifice and Resurrection. Take advantage of prayers from the lessons and adapt them for use at home.

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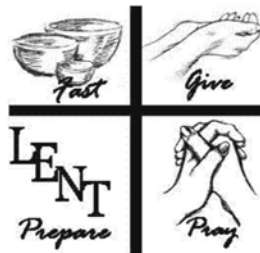
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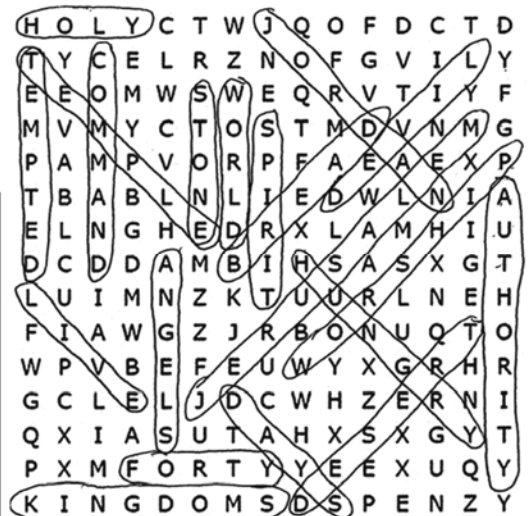
## SOLUTIONS:



Answers to True or False: 1. true. 2. false. 3. false. 4. true. 5. false. 6. true. 7. false.



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





## Virtual Faith Formation Classes

There are Two Upcoming Faith Formation and Catechetical Certification Opportunities **Beginning the Week of March 10, 2025:**

These 5-week courses are offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) and are hybrid models composed of both weekly live 2-hour Zoom lectures/discussions as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences. The courses are underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of any books necessary. **For further information or to register, please contact the course instructor, Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu, [rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com](mailto:rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com).**

The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston offers Catechetical Certification and recognizes VLCFF courses for various levels of certification. Certain courses are especially designed for volunteer catechists, Catholic school religion teachers, members of OCIA teams, and all those who would be enriched by formal training in this field. For further information, please contact Dr. Stoicoiu or Ms. Shirley Carter at [scarter@dwc.org](mailto:scarter@dwc.org). There are 6 required courses for level one certification including the Introduction to Scripture class below. Both classes are open to all adults interested in deepening their faith and growing in their understanding of the theology and Tradition of the Church.

### Introduction to Scripture

If you are new to studying the Bible, if you have questions about reading the Bible, if you want to learn more about the Bible but don't know where to start; or, if you are working towards your certification for catechesis, this course is for you!! Learn what the Bible is and from where it comes, understand how Roman Catholics read the Bible and what the differences are between a Catholic Bible and a Protestant Bible, start to build your Bible vocabulary by learning about the synoptic Gospels, learn what is inspiration, and much more. The Zoom sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm for 5 weeks beginning March 12. This course is part of the course sequence for level one catechist certification.

### Scripture and Justice

What is our biblical vision of a just community? How are we ordered towards justice and cooperation through the Old and New Testaments? How does scripture provide us with the framework for living justly today? In this course we will study how scripture forms the basis for our Catholic understanding of justice and how justice is an essential part of God's plan for the reign of God, the message of Christ, and the way we the baptized are to live in the world today. This course is part of the Certificate in Social Justice program of VLCFF. The 2 hour zoom lectures/discussions are Monday evenings from 7-9pm beginning Monday, March 10.

## VIRTUS Safe Environment Audit—March

The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston will be undergoing a **VIRTUS Safe Environment Audit the week of March 10th**. It is our goal to ensure that all of our volunteers are up to date on their VIRTUS certifications before the audit. To complicate matters, VIRTUS and the Bishop now require a yearly update to your training. If you are currently on VIRTUS 4.0 and have completed the VIRTUS update less than 1 year ago and your background check has occurred within the last 3 years, you are still compliant. **If you completed VIRTUS 4.0 over 1 year ago, you need to complete the refresher module.** We have been told it is not the same as the initial training if you take the refresher module online. To check your compliance status, log into your VIRTUS account. If your home page is green, you should be compliant. If your home page is red, you need to complete an update of each red section. If you have questions, please email Bill Donahue at [formation@stagnesshepherds town.org](mailto:formation@stagnesshepherds town.org) or call the office at 304-876-6436. Thanks for all you do for the parish and for helping us achieve diocesan compliance with VIRTUS.

## Racial Justice Initiative News

This past Sunday we had a wonderful turnout for the viewing of the documentary of the life of Thea Bowman, "Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood." Many remarked on the quality of the film and were moved by it's message.

In case you did not get the opportunity to see it, it is readily available without charge on the website of her home diocese of Jackson, Mississippi ([jacksondiocese.org](http://jacksondiocese.org)). Go to the website, click on the menu heading "Catholic Life," and then "Thea Bowman." Her cause for canonization is being lead by the diocese. The film is just under an hour in duration. The documentary is also available on a thumb drive at the parish office.

You may want to have a viewing for a parish group or other gathering. You will not be disappointed. It is a great story not only about what it means to be a Black Catholic, but also about what it means to be an American Catholic.

## Homebound Ministry Volunteering

Our Homebound Ministry is always looking for new volunteers. Our volunteers help folks out with rides to appointments with their doctors and various therapies, to pick up prescriptions, and for grocery shopping. From time to time, there might also be a need for caregiver breaks wherein a volunteer would just simply sit with an individual so their caregiver can have a break, take care of shopping, or get to their own appointments. Please contact Judy Lilga [jslilga8@gmail.com](mailto:jslilga8@gmail.com) or 301-432-2276 for more information or to volunteer!

## 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@stagnesshepherdstown.org or aswitzer@dwc.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](mailto:barbaramueller596@gmail.com)

## 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!

## Scripture Sharing Zoom

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

## 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	\$7,292
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$200
<b>Total</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	<b>\$7,492</b>
<b>Weekly Target</b> (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	<b>\$13,400</b>
<b>Total Collection Compared to Target</b>	<b>↓ - \$5,908</b>

**Tithe to help those in need** \$729  
(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](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.

**Supporting our St. Agnes community is easy!**  
Just go to the "Giving" button at the top of our website homepage or use the QR code at the right to make a one-time or recurring gift. Any amount is a valued contribution towards our ministry. Thank you!



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## SJS Lunch with the Franciscan Sisters

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

Sr. Sarah Rose and Sr. Rita Claire are part of a young vibrant order that does campus ministry and work with those in need, besides having a contemplative calling to pray for our world. We will hear their stories, and learn how to hear God's call for our lives. It will be a delightful afternoon!

RSVP: [secretary@stjosephwv.org](mailto:secretary@stjosephwv.org) or 304-267-4893 by March 17th.

## Men's Discernment Retreat 2025

**Friday, March 7th—Saturday, March 8th**

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



## Mary's Refuge Golf Tournament

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

## Free Tax Preparation Assistance

VITA can help individuals and families who make under \$65,000/year do their taxes for free by IRS-trained tax preparers. Now until April 4th, appointments are available from 10am-4 pm at various Jefferson County locations. Call 304-262-1584 or 304-614-6927.

## CBT Grants update

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

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

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

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

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



**INVESTING IN AMERICA**



## Save the Date: Boonsboro GreenFest

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

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

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

 <p><b>Sid Sponaugle</b> 304-671-7761</p> <p>Residential Shingle Roofs GAF Certified WV000540</p>	<p><b>Myers Hill &amp; Associates</b> Estate Planning &amp; Elder Law 299 Rock Cliff Drive Martinsburg, WV 304-263-9099</p>	 <p>Paintings, Notecards, Figurines For Sale or on Commission mcbart.LonelyPetunia/Etsy.com</p>	<p><b>Patriot Tree Service</b> Patriottreeservicewv.com 304-207-0115 Trimming, Pruning, Removal, and more Emergency Tree Service</p>
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