

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

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

Finance Council

Pat Barth ~ Steve Bledsoe
Mike Drewes ~ Todd Hershey
Sue Kemnitzer ~ David Matera ~ 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
Office@StAgnesShepherdstown.org
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, at 5:30pm

Sunday, at 8am and 10:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday at 11am

Scripture Sharing Zoom

Monday at 12noon

Stations of the Cross

Friday at 7pm

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

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

The Week at a Glance...

	Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sunday, Mar 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFF, Growing in Faith 9:15am • RCIA 12noon • 1st Communion Feed Hungry Meal Prep 11:45am • SJP Speaker 11:30am
Monday, Mar 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SVdP Meeting 7pm
Tuesday, Mar 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knights of Columbus Business Meeting 7:30pm
Wednesday, Mar 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Icon Workshop 11am • Finance Council 6pm
Friday, Mar 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book Discussion 11am
Saturday, Mar 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERT Training 10am
	Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sunday, Mar 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CFF/Growing in Faith • RCIA 12Noon • Intergenerational Mass 5pm

Service, Justice, and Peace Weekend

The Service, Justice, and Peace Committee thanks all the folks who donated last weekend. Seven pouches of Haiti coffee were sold for a total of \$70. We collected \$32 for the Kolofata education of girls project, feminine hygiene and diaper fund collected \$65, and people donated \$30 for feeding the hungry and homeless.

Mass Intentions



Saturday, 5:30pm for

Karen S. Stamey



Sunday, 8:00am for

Joanne Dudek



Sunday, 10:30am for

Jeremiah David Kiefer

May Karen, Joanne, and Jeremiah share in the fullness of God's mercy and peace.

Remember in Prayer

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

Funeral Mass for Anneke Sengers

Monday, March 11 at 11:00am at St. Agnes

Music Notes

There are different ways of praying in liturgy. Sometimes we pray together in song, sometimes we pray together in silence. Recently, there have been new inquiries regarding the music that's played for meditation after communion at our Masses. It is the National Anthem of Ukraine - a symbol of oppressed peoples everywhere. It is heard in symphony halls around the globe and on the internet. At a general audience last week, Pope Francis renewed his invitation "to pray for the populations that suffer the horror of war in Ukraine, in the Holy Land and in other parts of the world... let us ask the Lord for the gift of peace," he said.

 Peace to you,
Elaine

Community Garden Starting Up

The Intergenerational Community Garden is getting ready for the new season. We welcome **any** level of involvement and would love to have your participation. Potential areas of engagement include:

- Planting seeds
- Watering
- Weeding
- Harvesting

If you are interested, please email Samantha Yates and Fanny Smith at samanthaeyates@gmail.com.

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. 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.

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.

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!

2nd Friday Prayer Group

A list has begun for the 2nd Friday in April. 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 jslilga8@gmail.com.

Holy Week

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday

Monday, March 25

11am Mass

Holy Thursday, March 28

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 11pm

Good Friday, March 29

9:00am Morning Prayer

3:00pm Stations of the Cross

7:00pm Liturgy of the Passion

and Death of the Lord

Holy Saturday, March 30

9:00am Morning Prayer

NO Reconciliation or 5:30pm Mass

8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass

Reception following Mass

Easter Sunday, March 31

8:00am Easter Morning Mass

10:15am Children's Program before Mass

10:30am Easter Morning Mass

11:45am Easter Egg Hunt

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. 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. **Thank you to all the volunteers who have completed the VIRTUS training!**

Ugly Sleeping Bag Ministry

We are still in need of donated **blankets**, and **comforters** (any size) and also used **sleeping bags**. Items should be clean and in fair condition and can be dropped off at the parish center. If you would like to join our ministry, email Barbara Mueller at barbaramueller596@gmail.com.

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.

Glass Recycling

St Agnes is very fortunate to have a partnership with Jim King so that we can offer glass recycling to our parishioners. You will find the black recycling bin behind the parish center at the north end of the parking lot. It is helpful if you secure your glass in bags before placing in the bin.

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. More information about the group and a list of books can be found on <https://stagnesshepherdstown.org/event/book-discussion-group/all/>.

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).

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 this 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.

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!

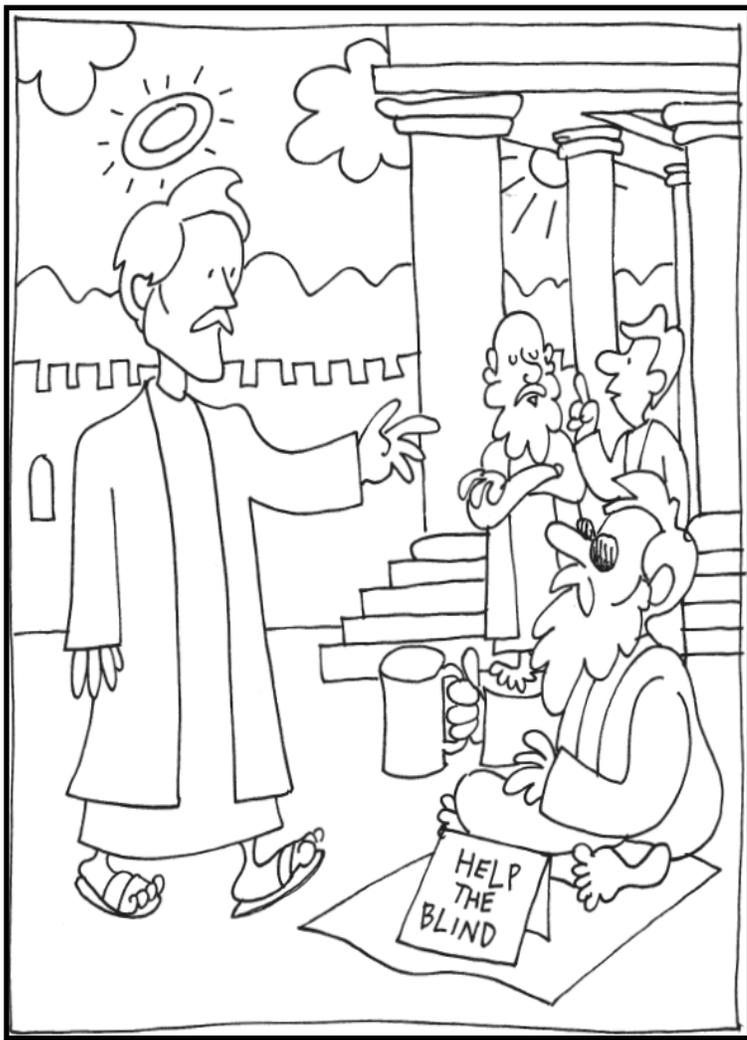
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

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!

Haiti Coffee

There is fresh whole bean and ground coffee from Haiti available for sale (\$10/bag) at the Parish Center. \$3 of each bag purchased is tax deductible.

THE YOUTH CORNER



This Week's Gospel:
John 9: 1—41

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

CFF, AFF, Youth Group & Family News

CFF: Classes will occur today, Sunday, March 10th at 9:15 AM in the parish center **EXCEPT** Grade 2 and Sacramental Prep—which will be meeting at NOON in the parish center to prepare the *Meal for the Hungry*.

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

Youth Group: Will meet March 10 at 9:15 in the Parish Center to plan the Confirmation Retreat. Also, watch for emails etc. for Egg Hunt and Children's Easter Program. (Easter Sunday)

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

RCIA and RCIC: Will meet today, at Noon in the parish center to help prepare the *Meal for the Hungry*.

Keep watching the 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: **for-mation@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!

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QUESTION: What color is Fr. Andy's vestment (chasuble: a sleeveless outer vestment worn by the officiating priest) at Mass today?

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PARENTS	POOL	BIRTH	SPIT
WORLD	MUD	EYES	SIGHT
RECEIVED	GROUND	NIGHT	BLIND
OPENED	LIGHT	LIFE	SILOAM
HOME	WASH	BORN	SINNED

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6797673/>

Youth Events: March at a Glance

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

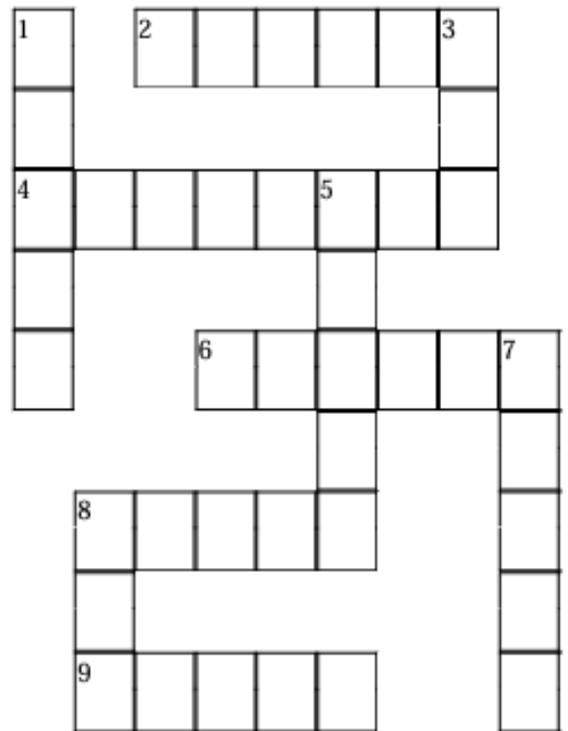
March 28: Holy Thursday—1st Eucharist and Confirmandi should attend.

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



Across

- "Sent"
- The blind man was healed so the works of God could be _____.
- The blind man was a _____.
- Jesus gave this to the blind man.
- When it is not possible to work.

Down

- The man had been blind from _____.
- Jesus cured the blind by using this.
- Jesus is the _____ of the world.
- Teacher - title given to Jesus.
- The disciples thought this was the cause of the man's blindness.

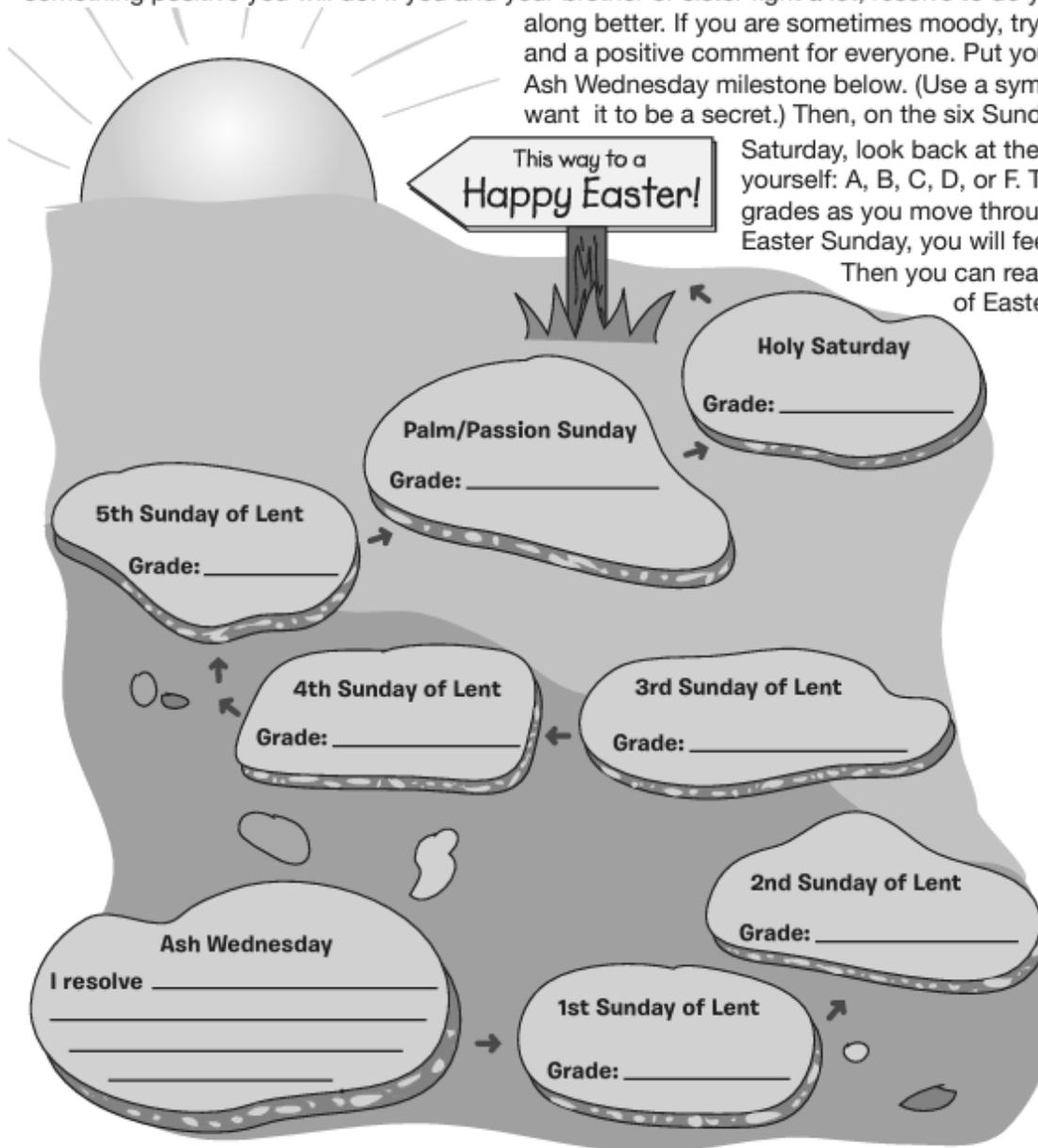
Grade Yourself This Lent

In addition to practicing some form of sacrifice this Lent, like giving up candy or potato chips, think of something positive you will do. If you and your brother or sister fight a lot, resolve to do your part to get

along better. If you are sometimes moody, try to have a smile and a positive comment for everyone. Put your resolution in the Ash Wednesday milestone below. (Use a symbol or code if you want it to be a secret.) Then, on the six Sundays of Lent and Holy

Saturday, look back at the past week and grade yourself: A, B, C, D, or F. Try to improve your grades as you move through Lent, so that on Easter Sunday, you will feel like a better person.

Then you can really enjoy the celebration of Easter.



START HERE

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.

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: John 3:14-21

This Sunday's Gospel describes Jesus as the Son God sent into the world to reveal God's love. Those who believe in Jesus believe in the power of God's love as the light of their lives—a light that can turn darkness into light and troubles into joys.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Promise (Grades K-1): This week, your child explored the Christian call to forgive others as one wants to be forgiven. This is expressed in the Lord's Prayer and in the Golden Rule. Ask your child to share the forgiveness stories he or she heard in class. Share stories about how your family members model forgiveness and are able to say, "I'm sorry." Is there anyone in the household who might need forgiveness today?

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned about the importance of rules when they play with others. The class learned, too, about finding loving solutions to problems. Talk with your child about forgiveness. The class emphasized that Jesus is the Light that shows us the way. Talk about how Jesus is the Light for your family. Don't pass up the opportunity to discuss the Ten Commandments, which the class discussed this week. See how many of the Commandments your family remembers, then check how you did. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you follow God's Commandments.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week's class learned about the Eighth Commandment.

Ask your youngster to tell you the story about the person who collects just about everything. Talk about reasons people are tempted to tell a lie. Discuss ways you can help one another be honest. Your young person also learned about the catechumenate. Ask how the catechumenate is important to many people's faith journeys. Pray that Jesus will be the Light on your family's faith journey.

Visions (Grades 7-9): This Sunday's Gospel says that people who love the light do what is true and good. The young people explored the words to John 3:16. Ask why people regard this verse as the central message of the entire Gospel. The young people also learned that doing the right thing often involves personal risk. Ask your son or daughter to tell you about Homeboy Industries and how helping the gangs in Los Angeles is the way some people show that they love the light. Your youngster also experienced a reconciliation prayer service in class. Lent is a good time to share forgiveness in the family by expressing sorrow for any times when you have hurt one another.

Pray Together

As a special devotion, try to have a family evening prayer each day this week. Use a favorite family prayer, pray in your own words, or say one decade of the Rosary. Set a definite time for this prayer. Remember that the prayer time does not need to be long or involved. The important part is praying together in the Light of Christ.

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Scan here for parent resources or visit gospelweeklies.com/family

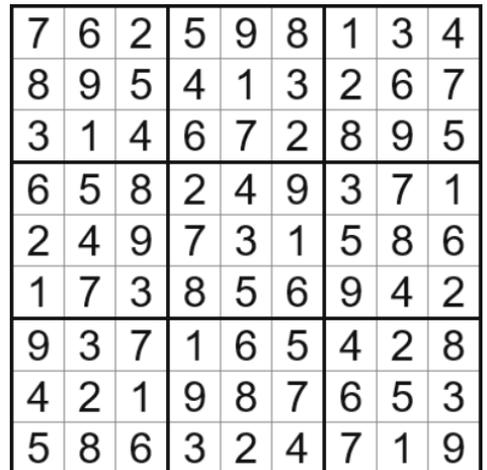


"Jesus anoints the blind man's eyes with clay." John 9:6

QUESTION: What color is Fr. Andy's vestment (chasuble: a sleeveless outer vestment worn by the officiating priest at Mass) today?

ANSWER: Today is Laetare Sunday. Fr. Andy's chasuble today is Rose-colored. This change in color (from purple) indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter.

SOLUTIONS:



Spotlight on Ministry

MINISTRY OF THE ALTAR SERVER

Altar Server is one who assists in the liturgical celebration of our faith community in any of a variety of ways (i.e., Carrying the cross or candles, handling the Sacramentary, helping the priest and deacon, etc.).

The celebration of Mass is the center of the whole Christian life for the Church, both universal and local, as well as for each of the faithful individually. In it is found the high point both of the action by which God sanctifies the world in Christ and of the worship that the human race offers to the Father, adoring him through Christ, the Son of God, in the Holy Spirit.

The service of the **Altar Server** is extremely important. Being an **Altar Server** means serving God and his people. That is what makes serving worth doing, and worth doing well.

Altar servers must have a desire to participate in the liturgy and be trained to perform their function in a correct and orderly manner. As an **Altar Server** you have a special ministry in the Church. It is your privilege to assist the priest and deacon at the altar. This means that there is a certain way that is appropriate to behave. The primary role of the **Altar Server** is to assist the priest and deacon in the celebration of the liturgy, the Mass, and other public prayer. This is done through specific actions, by setting an example for the congregation by active conscious participation in the liturgy (hymns, responses, etc.), and by being alert.

We are always in need of ministers. Will you share your time and talent? *Thank you all for your service.* Please consider joining one of our ministries at St Agnes. There's 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.

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.

EarthBeat: <https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat>

Read Laudato Si': https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_encyclica-laudato-si.html

If you have ideas/wish to join us, contact Carrie Blessing carriejaneblessing@gmail.com or Kimberly Connor connork@usfca.edu.

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/>



DWC Synod February Listening Session

On February 22, 2024, a DWC Synod Listening Session was held at St. Leo's Church for the Martinsburg Vicariate. The session was facilitated by Dr. Bernadette Kime, Diocesan Director of Worship. There were about 36 participants – 6 round tables of 5-6 participants each. The event was well attended by St. Agnes parishioners, at least 12 people. The other churches represented were St. Bernadette, St. Leo, St. Joseph, and St. James. There is a report on the notes taken at the tables present on the St. Agnes website.

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/

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

Simple Acts to Save Our Planet

With Earth Day fast approaching on April 22nd, our thoughts turn to caring for our planet. Some excerpts from *Simple Acts to Save Our Planet—500 Ways to Make a Difference* by Michelle Neff:

- **Keep a record** of your car trips to see what's necessary. It's often hard to see where our wastefulness lies. Record a diary of your trips, such as to the grocery store and running other errands, and see if you spot a pattern. Perhaps you can combine errands or cut some out altogether.
- Invest in eco-friendly sponges. To go green in your home, use a **biodegradable sponge** made out of natural and sustainable materials. Some sponges contain dyes and plastic, which are not good for our waterways and oceans. Making your home eco-friendly is not hard at all and will greatly benefit our planet!

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 Daughters Women's Retreat

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas is sponsoring a Resting in Jesus- Day of Recollection for Women Retreat. The event will be held on Saturday, April 13th from 9:15am-3:15pm at Priest Field. The event will highlight presenter Sr. Faustia Szaboova, ISMM (St. Faustina's Order), and there will be Mass, talks, confession, adoration, time for personal prayer, and spiritual conversations with the Sisters. Lunch is included! Tickets are available and limited; \$10 for CDA members, \$15 for non-members. Tickets will be on sale starting the weekend of March 16th. Call the St. Joseph Parish Office at 304-267-4893.

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	\$17,440
Monthly Mortgage Assistance	\$130
Total (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$17,570
Weekly Target (Offertory + Monthly Mortgage Assistance)	\$12,000
Total Collections Compared to Target	↑ +\$5,570

Tithe to help those in need \$1,744
(St. Agnes tithes 10% of all offertory donations)

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

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Teachers and Substitutes 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.

And seeking two Lead Summer Camp Pre-K Teachers

Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to PK Director Katie MacKinnon at kmackinnon@sjsvw.org.

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.

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. 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.

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; \$150 for two; or \$600 for eight. They may be purchased by going to <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/onlinepurchase.php?groupId=586>. The event will feature pub-style food & 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/advertiser, please contact the school's School-Family Association (SFA) at sfa@sjsvw.org.

<p>St Agnes Columbarium Garden Your Niche For All Time</p> <p>⌚ ⌚ ⌚</p> <p>200 South Duke St Shepherdstown, WV 304-876-6436</p>	 <p>Schmitt Construction Company</p> <p>James A. Schmitt 304-876-2462</p>	<p>Shepherdstown PHARMACY </p> <p>7670 Martinsburg Pike 304-876-9966</p> <p>The Knott Family</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphic Design and Consulting • Photo Restoration • 35mm Slide/Negative Scanning <p>kfb@myactv.net • 304-279-4690</p> <p>Kathleen f. Bielicki Graphic Designer/Artist</p>
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