



FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

•••• DIRECTIONS ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.

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gave her on it one other he an a

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a _ _ _ st some _ _ _ .
For _ _ _ as t _ _ L _ _ d
for _ _ _ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT DO ANGELS HAVE TO DO WITH A DISHWASHER?



The Good Shepherd Ladies' Guild is raising money to purchase a new dishwasher for our church kitchen. If we can raise enough money, we will be able to eat our special parish meals on our good china.

This is where you, our fellow parishioners, come in. We are raffling off two beautiful Angel Figurines at the Religious Goods Store. We will sell tickets for \$2.00 each and 3 for \$5.00. You will be able to decide which figurine you want to put your ticket on or put some on both. The more you buy, the more chances you have to win. Or, we will also accept any monetary donations toward the purchase.

THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH AT OUR PARISH PICNIC.

All proceeds will go toward the purchase of the new dishwasher which will benefit all ministries here at Good Shepherd.



FAITH FORMATION



Religious Education Registration For Grades K-8 Has Begun!

Forms are available in the Commons.

First class is September 24th after Mass. Come and join us as we continue to grow in faith and love.

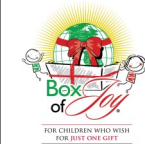
Are you thinking about volunteering in the parish?



St. Mary of the Presentation in Suffolk will be having a **VIRTUS Training on Friday, October 13th at 6:00 PM** in the church hall. The training is required for all those who are volunteering or working with children or youth of the parish. You can register at:

https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list.cfm?theme=0

All are welcome to attend!



Box of Joy Ministry Project



Once again, the Knights of Columbus Council 17335 has partnered with Cross Catholic Outreach to bring its *Box of Joy* Ministry Project to our Church of the Good Shepherd Parish. Members of the Knights will be distributing the shoe-box size cartons to parishioners following Masses starting September 16 & 17 and continuing through October. Parishioners will be invited to take home a box and fill it with items for boys and girls ranging from ages 2 to 15. **A \$9.00 donation per box is required** to cover international shipping costs to the child.

Boxes can be returned to the parish before November 5th and left in the designated area. Packing a Box of Joy is always a wonderful work of mercy for families, and blessing a child with this gift is a special experience for everyone involved! For more information, please contact Joe Campo at 757-357-2287 or the parish office at 757-365-0579. Thank you for your generosity!



"Deeper Dive" Adult Faith Formation

Deeper Dive will meet again each Sunday after Mass at 10 AM in the Cry Room. Please join us as we learn more about what the Sunday Gospels have to tell us and how we can use this information in our daily lives.

Interested in learning more about St. Benedict and his Holy Rule?



The Oblates of St. Benedict meet monthly from September to May at three deaneries in Virginia—Bristow, Bedford and Richmond. All are welcome (married or single) to come and learn how to live a Lay Christian Monastic life in our modern day, grounded in the Rule of St. Benedict since the sixth century. Benedictine Oblates (lay people) live in the world but enjoy a spiritual community life with a Benedictine Monastery near them. Locally, Richmond meetings are held at the Benedictine Abbey in Goochland. To learn more, please contact Annie McEntee, Obl.SB at annie.mcentee.oblsb@gmail.com

*We will have no weekday Mass September 19-22, 2023



There will be **Prayer Service with Communion at 12:00 PM (Noon) on Tuesday—Friday during this time.**

Parish Picnic

Sunday, October 15
12:00 pm

Sign up in "The Commons" begins September 23, 2023.
Contact Teri Gordon or Debbi Gatti for more information.



Food Pantry Needs for the Week of September 17
MACARONI AND CHEESE



Did you lose something? If so, we may have found it. Recently a piece of jewelry was found in the church parking lot. Please call the office to claim it.



The Roman Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd

300 Smithfield Boulevard, Smithfield, Virginia 23430

Website: www.cgsparish.org E-mail: admin@cgsparish.org

Father Tony's Email: pastor@cgsparish.org

Office: (757) 365-0579 Fax: (757) 365-0994 Rectory: (757) 542-3879

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 10AM-3PM

Mass Times: Saturday—5PM & Sunday—9AM

Weekday Mass Times: Tuesday—Friday at Noon

Adoration is on the 1st & 3rd Friday of each month.

Staff

Pastor - Fr. Tony Yllana, pastor@cgsparish.org

Admin Assistant - Vicki Dobbins, admin@cgsparish.org

Religious Education - Lara Detrich, formation@cgsparish.org

Music Director - Katarina Hackney, music@cgsparish.org

Youth Ministry – Scott Watterson, youthministry@cgsparish.org

Ministries

Ministry to the Sick - Deacon Stanley Stefanowicz

Pastoral Council - Joe Campo

Finance Council - Dan Falbe

Money Counters - Margaret Hickman

Building - Hart Smith and Tom Quick

Grounds - Tom Quick

Liturgical Ministries Head - Mark Lieberman

Altar Servers - Lisa & Aine Lewandowski

Children's Liturgy – Kathleen Day

Eucharistic Min (Sat) - Joan Nagy

Eucharistic Min (Sun) - Mark Lieberman

Funeral Mass Coordinator—Joan Nagy

Lectors - Michelle Romanello

Sacristan - Hart Smith

Ushers - Steve Reznick

Knights of Columbus - Shawn Huffaker, gk17335@vakofc.org

Ladies' Guild - Margaret Hickman

Men's Club - Bill Knapp, billknapp1985@yahoo.com

Parish Community Life - Debbi Gatti and Pearl Stokes

Justice & Peace - Mary Ellen Bebermeyer

Haiti Committee & E-Bulletin Board - Dave Maltby

Divine Mercy Cenacle - Dara Murphy

Special Needs Ministry - Sue Ellebracht

Works of Mary - Johanna Arocho

Mission Statement

We, as diverse members of the Body of Christ, come together to serve God, the Catholic Church, and our community. We celebrate God in the Eucharist and the word, as we help each other in the growth of our faith, share our gifts and welcome everyone.

Vision Statement

To know and love God and grow in the Kingdom Of God together.

Inclement Weather - Fr. Tony plans to be at church to celebrate Mass. However, you are not obligated to come if travel is unsafe for you.

Parish Registration and Changes – Registration forms are available on the Church website. You may notify the office if you wish to register with, or be removed from the parish records, or if you have a change of address, telephone number, or email.

Baptisms – A preparation class for parents is required. Contact Lara Detrich at the church office to register.

Funerals — Contact the office if you would like to schedule a Funeral Service. The date and time must be approved by the priest.

Marriage – Registered parishioners must contact the parish at least 6 months prior to the intended date.

Reconciliation – Before Saturday Vigil Mass or by appointment.

Visitation of the Sick – Please call the office to arrange for communion, anointing of the sick, or when someone is ill or hospitalized.



September 17, 2023

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30—28:7 | Rom 14:7-9 | Mt 18:21-35

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Forgiveness. It seems like a relatively simple *concept*, doesn't it? We ask our merciful Father for it every day when we pray the Our Father: "... forgive us our trespasses..." Then reality hits, as we remember the second part of that phrase: "...as we forgive those who trespass against us ..." *As we forgive others.* Oh, that long, hard road of forgiveness! Easier said than done. Sometimes those old sayings have some merit, don't they? And when we look at today's readings, there is nothing cryptic about them: forgive *not seven times but seventy-seven times*, let go of wrath and anger, forgive your brother and sister *from your heart*. Yes, forgiveness is a simple concept, but it's not easy. Perhaps the answer is to re-read today's Scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to give us the strength to put in the hard work if there is someone in our lives to whom we need to offer our heartfelt forgiveness.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Bishop Robert Barron, in his *Word on Fire Bible* on the Gospels, has four suggestions related to this Gospel on how to become "a better forgiver." The one that stood out to me immediately is "forgive offenses quickly." Don't let them fester and "settle deeply into your psyche." This seems like very sage advice because we can all have a tendency to "stew" about things that are bothering us, which rarely makes them better. Bishop Barron's other suggestions are: Pay attention to your own sins, go to confessions regularly, and offer forgiveness through a concrete act or sign. Which brings us back to the simplicity of it all: God will always forgive us, so we must always forgive others. Doesn't it make sense that to live in the house of our merciful Father, we must emulate him and have loving hearts rather than vengeful hearts?

PRAY Examine your heart and take a hard look at whether you are holding on to a wrong that was committed against you. Take it to God in prayer. The more we open our hearts to forgive others, the more at peace we can be. Ponder the last words of today's reading from Sirach:

Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

LITURGY AND MINISTRY

Today's Readings:

We are all the same flesh: fellow sinners, servants, and debtors, and God's mercy is for us all. We cannot seek pardon for ourselves yet refuse mercy to others. We must forgive as we have been forgiven. In the community of God's covenant, mercy is shared, *not seven times but seventy-seven times*, as Jesus teaches.

Gospel Focus:

We cannot claim forgiveness only for ourselves; God's mercy is for all.



"Encounter the Joy of the Gospel and Set the World Ablaze"

EVANGELIZED PEOPLE...

Are continuously changing and repenting.

FATHER'S CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Adults: When someone hurts you, are you more inclined to be just or to be merciful?

Children: When have you forgiven someone who treated you unfairly?

PRAYER AND VOCATIONS

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for the Month of September



Evangelization: For People living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Pope Tweets:

"To be children of the Father and to build a fraternal world, the real challenge is to learn how to love everyone, even our enemies. Concretely, this means choosing not to have enemies, seeing in others not an obstacle to be overcome, but a brother or sister to be loved."

Please Remember in Prayer:



Barbara Bonney, Gene Chappell, Justin Evans, Ellen Gauthier, Leslie Lunger, Christopher Morris, Dara Murphy, Betty Nagy, Elizabeth Perry, Alice Reece, Jean Wechsler, Irene White, Thomas Wunder and Brandon Zakaras

"The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion." (Psalm 103)

Today's Reflection

Pardoning is good for us



Hatred and resentment are moral cancers that eat away at our enthusiasm to do good. An appeal to strict justice is not enough to solve the dilemma, since taking out another's eye does not really cure the loss of one's own eye, and revenge cannot really settle the account of a grievance. But, forgiveness is a hard virtue to gain and to maintain. We can feel the problem in the question Peter asks of Jesus today: "How many times must I forgive?" And, although his proposal of "seven times" is used as a round symbolic willingness to forgive "as much as it is humanly possible to forgive," Jesus suggests we must go further still, since God forgives "seventy seven times" (or seventy times seven times). Forgiveness is not a question of just how often or how many times, rather it reflects God's unending willingness to pardon. There are no limits to his forgiveness.

It is so easy to forget God's goodness, as our first reading illustrates today (Eccl 27:30—28:7). Even the stark reality of our own death does not keep each of us alert to God's gracious promise of salvation as the guiding principal of our actions. It is not easy to see the goodness of God in the hurt we inflict on each other in our selfish interactions. Paul tells us today that we do influence each other. We affect each other. But, is it for the good (Rom 14:7-9).

Our parable today shows that we are incapable of forgiving without first appreciating the forgiveness we have received from God. Notice the three scenes:

- (1) We are insolvent, indebted, overdrawn in our account with God's goodness. God has given freely life, freedom, integrity and hope. We are incapable of achieving anything by our own resources—we have none! "Without me you can do nothing."
- (2) We are puffed up with our own importance: "Pay me what you owe me!" We can be intolerant, demanding, inexcusable and arrogant. We can be unkind and unforgiving. We can injure our neighbor, and he can hurt us. We can elbow our way roughly through life. We can so easily hold a grudge, and refuse to forgive.
- (3) The ultimate reality "God's goodness" is never simple-minded. God is not blind. The unforgiving cannot be forgiven. Forgiveness only comes from realizing that we have been forgiven. In pardoning we are pardoned. Our tenuous hold on others must quickly be consumed not by following our hatred to the hilt, but by pardoning in gentle forgiveness. Only so can we realize the equation: Insolvency cannot make demands!

And so let us forgive from our hearts, for if we leave the court with our own suit dismissed, and fail to forgive, then we find ourselves immediately rearranged and in the dock as the guilty accused!

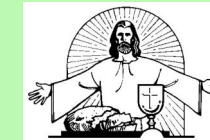
(associationofcatholicpriests.ie/homily-resource/17-sept-2023-24th-Sunday-a/)

Considering a call to the priesthood

Are you discerning a vocation to serve the Lord as a priest? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, or write: vocations@richmonddioocese.org.



**September 17, 2023
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



Readings for the Week

Monday, September 18

1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday, September 19

1 Tm 3:1-13; Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday, September 20—Memorial of the Martyrs of Korea

1 Tm 3:14-16; Lk 7:31-35

Thursday, September 21—St. Matthew

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13

Friday, September 22

1 Tm 6:2c-12; Lk 8:1-3

Saturday, September 23—St. Pius of Pietrelcina

1 Tm 6:13-16; Lk 8:4-15

Sunday, September 24—Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a



Daily Mass & Intention Schedule

Mon.	September 18	No Mass	
Tues.	September 19	Noon	Prayer Serv. with Comm
Wed.	September 20	Noon	Prayer Serv. with Comm
Thurs.	September 21	Noon	Prayer Serv. with Comm
Fri.	September 22	Noon	Prayer Serv. with Comm
Sat	September 23	5:00 pm	+Joseph Smith
Sun.	September 24	9:00 am	Good Shepherd Comm.

Parishioners are invited to remember their loved ones in a special way through prayers. If you would like to have a Mass celebrated in memory of a loved one or a special intention, please contact the parish office. **Stipends may be turned in with the collection or mailed to the office. Checks should be made out to Church of the Good Shepherd. Please write "mass intention" on the memo line of your check. Thank you.**



Church open for personal prayer:

Monday—Friday 10AM to 2PM



We invite you to check out our

On-Line Giving Program.

Visit our parish website: www.cgsparish.org
click on 'Give' then 'On-Line Giving'

Upcoming Special Collections

September 24—Retired Religious

October 1—Learn to Lead*

October 8—Mortgage



*Due to the special diocesan collection for the Catholic schools, the Mortgage collection is moved to October 8.

Parish Life This Week

Monday, September 18

6:30 PM Cub Scouts

Tuesday, September 19

12:00 PM Prayer Service with Communion

12:30 PM AFF— This is My Body

6:30 PM Boy Scouts

7:00 PM AFF—This is My Body

Wednesday, September 20

10:00 AM Divine Mercy

12:00 PM Prayer Service with Communion

12:30 PM Salt & Light

6:00 PM OCIA

7:00 PM Ladies' Guild & Men's Club

7:00 PM Youth Ministry

7:15 PM WOM Book Club

Thursday, September 21

12:00 PM Prayer Service with Communion

7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday, September 22

12:00 PM Prayer Service with Communion

Saturday, September 23

4:30 PM Rosary

6:00 PM Picnic Sign-up

Sunday, September 24

8:30 AM Rosary

10:15 AM Religious Education

10:15 AM Picnic Sign-up

Weekly Offering for:

September 9 & 10, 2023

Regular Offering needed weekly: \$ 6,250.00

(The following totals include E-Giving)

OFFERTORY:

Regular Offertory \$ 5,749.16

ADDITIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED:

Mortgage \$ 325.00

Haiti \$ 60.00

Barron Dempsey \$ 50.00

Catholic Virginian \$ 280.28

Religious Education \$ 170.00

Roof Repair Fund \$ 1,000.00

Other \$ 65.00

Mortgage Balance \$ 22,602.33

MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday 78

Sunday 194

Thank you for your continued support of the Church of the Good Shepherd!

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

