

# Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode  
Proverbs 3:5, NRSV.

**CLUES:**

**Y = T, D = I**

Y K T P Y D X Y J Z

V Q K R F D Y J O V V

C Q T K J Z O K Y, O X R

R Q X Q Y K Z V C Q X

C Q T K Q F X D X P D L J Y.

Answer: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. Proverbs 3:5, NRSV

@ChurchArt Online

## 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.



Get Your Tickets!

### 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 Roman Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd Parish. Parishioners are 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. For more information, please contact Joe Campo at 757-357-2287 or the parish office at 757-365-0579. Thank you for your generosity!

Join us for Donuts  
after Mass in the Commons  
next Sunday, October 1



### PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, October 15

12:00 PM

Join us for food, fellowship and fun!

Sign-up in the Commons if you plan on attending and what you will be bringing to share with the faith community. Contact Teri Gordon or Debbi Gatti for more information.



Food Pantry Needs for the  
Week of September 24  
SOUP

## FAITH FORMATION

\*As we begin a new year of faith formation, we ask that you pray for the catechists.



### A Catechist Blessing

Heavenly Father, you are the source of life and love.

Send down your Spirit upon our catechists.

Inspire them to be not only teachers of your truth, but witnesses of your love.

Give them the courage to heal.

Help them to see the pain of those around them so that they may offer hope through loving gestures of support and prayer.

May they be merciful to others as you are merciful.

Give them the joy to proclaim the Good News of salvation.

Help them see your will at work in their lives so that they may share it with others.

May they, in their words and deeds, offer continual praise to the one who saves us.

Give them the wisdom to teach.

Help them discover the mysteries of our faith in new and exciting ways.

May their curiosity inspire those who they instruct to become your loyal disciples.

We pray to you, almighty Father,

in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ the Master-Teacher, the Healer, and the Savior, and in unity with the Holy Spirit who inspires us with knowledge, courage, and understanding. Amen.

(thereligionteacher.com/catechist-blessing/)

### Learn to Lead Campaign

Special Collection Weekend:  
September 30—October 1



Bishop Knestout invites your participation in the *Learn to Lead* Capital Campaign that will strengthen the extraordinary ministry of our Catholic schools. Our Catholic Schools shape the lives of more than 7,000 young people— helping them realize their greater purpose— succeeding and serving God, their families, churches, and communities. If you have been blessed by a Catholic education or believe in the importance of its mission, please make a generous gift. To learn more about this campaign or make a secure online gift now, please visit [learntoleadcampaign.org](http://learntoleadcampaign.org). Thank you!

### 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](https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list.cfm?theme=0)

All are welcome to attend!



# The Roman Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd

300 Smithfield Boulevard, Smithfield, Virginia 23430

Website: [www.cgsparish.org](http://www.cgsparish.org) E-mail: [admin@cgsparish.org](mailto:admin@cgsparish.org)

Father Tony's Email: [pastor@cgsparish.org](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@cgsparish.org)

**Admin Assistant** - Vicki Dobbins, [admin@cgsparish.org](mailto:admin@cgsparish.org)

**Religious Education** - Lara Detrich, [formation@cgsparish.org](mailto:formation@cgsparish.org)

**Music Director** - Katarina Hackney, [music@cgsparish.org](mailto:music@cgsparish.org)

**Youth Ministry** – Scott Watterson, [youthministry@cgsparish.org](mailto: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](mailto:gk17335@vakofc.org)

**Ladies' Guild** - Margaret Hickman

**Men's Club** - Bill Knapp, [billknapp1985@yahoo.com](mailto:billknapp1985@yahoo.com)

**Parish Community Life** - Debbi Gatti

**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 24, 2023

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

Today's readings should bring us great joy. They are a reminder that our Lord may have high standards, but he is also "generous in forgiving" and "near to all who call upon him." In the Gospel, we hear the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. Some work all day while others arrive at the last hour. However, all are paid the same. Similarly, we can all receive God's heavenly reward - whether we are faithful Catholics since birth or converts in our final hour. This parable may evoke mixed feelings for those who see themselves as the laborers who have toiled all day and wonder why their reward is not greater. But rather than making us jealous, this parable should make us rejoice: How wonderful that everyone has the opportunity for everlasting life with the Lord! And what great comfort to know that if we falter and lose our way, it is never too late to return to God.

### GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Sometimes, knowing that we are the recipients of God's bountiful mercy, we can be tempted to lead a life focused mostly on worldly pleasures. To paraphrase St. Augustine: Make me holy Lord ... just not yet! Of course we know this isn't the right attitude or approach to life, but it's certainly tempting. Let's return to the message of the Gospel for a moment. Yes, the Lord is generous in giving all the workers the same wage. But perhaps equally as important is that we are called to be workers in the Lord's vineyard, and what an honor and privilege that is! Serving in the Lord's kingdom here on earth is not drudgery; it is life-giving and fills us with God's love and grace. Let us recall the words of St. Paul in today's Letter to the Philippians. Although he longs to "depart this life and be with Christ," he knows that staying here on earth means "fruitful labor for me." Let us also strive to keep our eyes on the Lord and labor in his field for as long as we are able.

**PRAY** The first reading from Isaiah reminds us that the Lord works in ways we can't understand: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." Let us ask God this week for the fortitude to reorient our thoughts and ways to his will, not ours, so as to "conduct [ourselves] in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ."

**LITURGY AND MINISTRY**

**Today's Readings:**

In the Gospel, the workers hired first entered into a legal contract with the owner. Those hired later were promised *what is just*. They trusted in the owner's concept of "just." Those hired last weren't promised anything, yet they went to work. The landowner was generous to all who labored for him, giving to all what he chose to give.

**Gospel Focus:**

God rewards generously those who place their trust in him.



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

**EVANGELIZED PEOPLE...**

**Are continuously working toward putting on the mind of Christ.**

**FATHER'S CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK**

**Adults:** Which has deepened your faith more—being treated justly or being treated with love and care? Who needs you to treat them with care this week?

**Children:** When have you been very fair? When have you been very generous? Which felt better?

**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:**

"The Lord does not look for the center stage, but for the simple heart of those who desire Him and love Him with ostentation, without wanting to tower above others."

**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 near to all who call upon Him." (Psalm 145)*



**Only God sees the full picture**

The core of the Gospel parable is also in the Isaiah passage: "My thoughts are not your thoughts." Try as we may, it is impossible to justify the payment of the workers in the vineyard in ordinary social terms. It could hardly be said to be fair. Yes, the owner is generous to the last comers, but why is he not generous to the others as well? It is simply that there is no reckoning up deserts when man meets God.

Devout Christians may find it hard to stomach that someone who repents on his deathbed is admitted to the kingdom no less than those who have struggled and suffered all their lives for what is right. But, this would presuppose a commercial attitude of reward and punishments from God, and it neglects the nature of love. The relationship of the believer to God must be personal love, and as such it is its own reward, for it brings its own happiness also in this life. The greater the struggle, the more a Christian turns to God and finds comfort in the security of his love. Also, fidelity through a long life does bring some advantage over a skimpy final conversion, for it may well be that the relationship of love has so deepened over the years that the Christian, faithfully following Christ, has more capacity for the full enjoyment of God's company than one who comes to know God only at the last moment. Here it is not a matter of God giving a greater reward, but of the person being more capable of receiving it.

The parable of the vineyard-workers is no blueprint for labor relations, but it illustrates very well Jesus' teaching about grace and mercy. There are consequences to be drawn, and, in *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis wrote: "The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel."

([associationofcatholicpriests.ie/homily-resource/24-sept-2023-25th-Sunday-a/](http://associationofcatholicpriests.ie/homily-resource/24-sept-2023-25th-Sunday-a/))

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
**September 29, 2023 at 11:30 AM**

Followed by 12:00 PM (Noon) Mass.  
Come and spend some time with Jesus!



**Blessing of the Animals**  
**Sunday, October 1, 2023**

**11:00 AM**

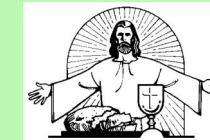
Bring your pets to be blessed at Mary's Garden.

**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@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:vocations@richmonddiocese.org).



**September 24, 2023**  
**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



**Readings for the Week**

**Monday, September 25**

Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18

**Tuesday, September 26**

Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21

**Wednesday, September 27**—Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul

Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6

**Thursday, September 28**

Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9

**Friday, September 29**—Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Jn 1:47-51

**Saturday, September 30**—St. Jerome

Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45

**Sunday, October 1**—Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32



**Daily Mass & Intention Schedule**

Mon.	September 25	No Mass	
Tues.	September 26	Noon	Vanessa Spamy (Healing)
Wed.	September 27	Noon	+Rae Guertin
Thurs.	September 28	Noon	Available
Fri.	September 29	Noon	Available
Sat.	September 30	5:00 pm	+Teresa Dunleavy
Sun.	October 1	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](http://www.cgsparish.org)  
click on 'Give' then 'On-Line Giving'

**Upcoming Special Collections**

- October 1—Learn to Lead\*
- October 8—Mortgage
- October 15—Altar Flowers



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



**Parish Life This Week**

**Monday, September 25**

6:30 PM Cub Scouts

**Tuesday, September 26**

12:30 PM AFF— This is My Body

6:30 PM Boy Scouts

7:00 PM AFF—This is My Body

**Wednesday, September 27**

12:30 PM Salt & Light

6:00 PM OCIA

7:00 PM PCL Mtg.

7:00 PM Youth Ministry

**Thursday, September 28**

7:00 PM Choir Practice

**Friday, September 29**

11:30 AM Adoration

**Saturday, September 30**

4:30 PM Rosary

6:00 PM Picnic Sign-up

**Sunday, October 1**

8:30 AM Rosary

10:00 AM Donuts

10:15 AM Religious Education

10:15 AM Picnic Sign-up

11:15 AM Play Practice

**Weekly Offering for:**

**September 16 & 17, 2023**

Regular Offering needed weekly: \$ 6,250.00

**(The following totals include E-Giving)**

**OFFERTORY:**

Regular Offertory \$ 5,113.16

**ADDITIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED:**

Mortgage \$ 570.00

Haiti \$ 35.00

Barron Dempsey \$ 125.00

Catholic Virginian \$ 25.00

Religious Education \$ 958.62

Roof Repair Fund \$ 1,000.00

Other \$ 60.00

**DIOCESAN COLLECTION:**

Retired Religious \$ 1,002.00

**Mortgage Balance** \$ 22,602.33

**MASS ATTENDANCE**

Saturday 97

Sunday 166

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

**Your generosity is greatly appreciated!**

