

Puzzle!

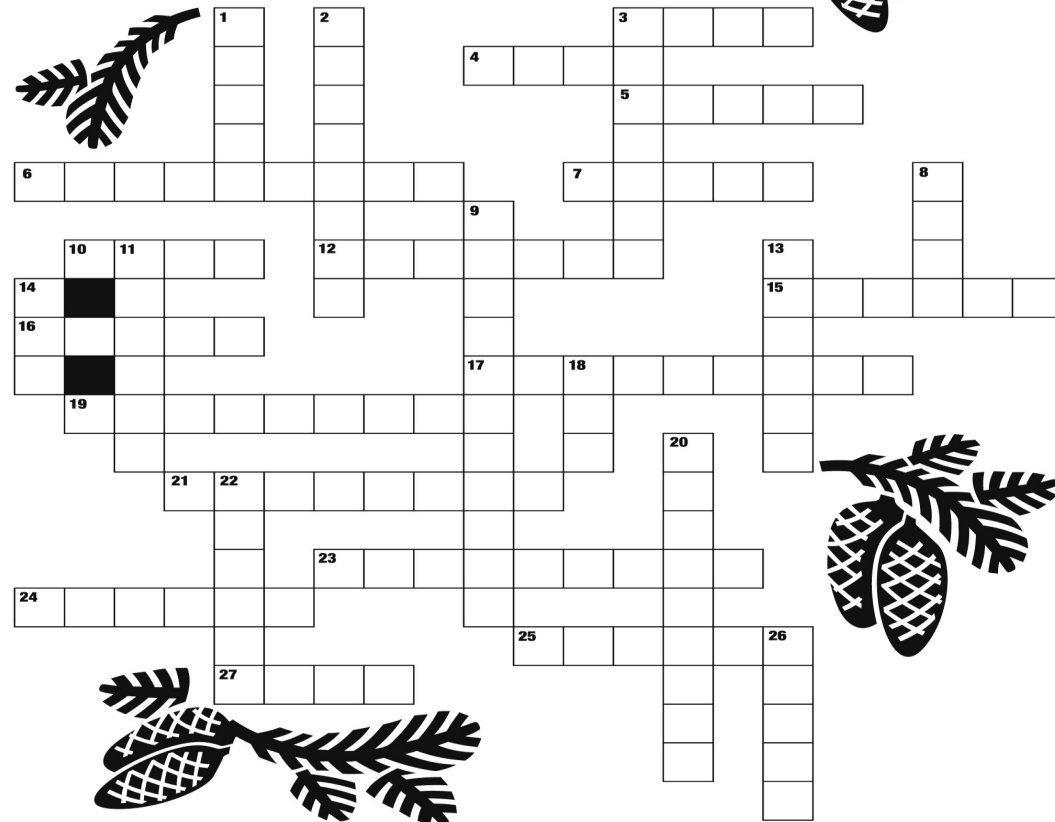
Take a break from Christmas preparations to complete this seasonal crossword.

DOWN

1. song
2. keeper of sheep
3. Anointed One
8. a gift of the magi
9. red plants
11. coming
13. Jesus _____
14. 12th month (abbrev.)
18. B&B
20. a form of holly
22. heavenly messengers
26. he ordered the slaughter of the innocents

ACROSS

3. wise men
4. author of the most famous Christmas account
5. red-suited gift-giver
6. of Ephrathah
7. presents
10. Gabriel came to her
12. has a red nose
15. "Messiah" composer
16. northern little helpers
17. patron saint of children
19. made flesh
21. home for Mary
23. tree decorations
24. crib
25. he was a carpenter
27. a nova



Answer: DOWN 1. carol, 2. shepherd, 3. Messiah, 8. gold, 9. poinsettias, 11. Advent, 13. Christ, 14. dec, 18. inn, 20. mistletoe, 22. angels, 26. Herod, ACROSS 3. magi, 4. Luke, 5. Santa, 6. Bethlehem, 7. gifts, 10. Mary, 12. Rudolph, 15. Handel, 16. elves, 17. Saint Nick, 19. incarnate, 21. Nazareth, 23. ornaments, 24. manger, 25. Joseph, 27. star

@ChurchArt Online

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

The *Haiti Helping Hands envelopes* will benefit our twinned parish in Haiti. Place these donations in the Haiti House on the table in the Commons.



Thank you for your generous support!



Charles D. Arinello Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Knights of Columbus Council 17335 is establishing a scholarship fund that will be named the "Charles D. Arinello Memorial Fund" in his honor. We will raise the money to endow this fund with donations and by selling raffle tickets for a 50/50 drawing. The tickets will be sold at the end of Mass throughout the month of December. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. The scholarship will be awarded to one of our parish graduating seniors in the spring. The drawing for the winner of the raffle will take place at the Christmas Eve Mass. So, see one of the Knights in the Commons as you leave Mass to make a donation or to buy your tickets. We will post how to apply for the scholarship in the bulletin after the New Year.



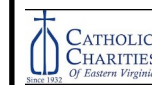
Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience

Marriage Retreat! By offering Married Couples the beautiful experience of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, the Catholic Church is affirming and supporting you in your chosen vocation—Marriage. Take advantage of this great gift to enhance your relationship and enjoy a love-filled weekend away together.

For more information or to register, go to WWME.org, click "Apply" and search for "Virginia" or your desired location. Feel free to contact Mark and Cathy Stangler at 703-378-4150 or mstang1987@aol.com with any questions.

Upcoming dates:

- January 26-28, 2024—Myrtle Beach, SC
- March 1-3, 2024—College Park, MD
- April 12-14, 2024—Herndon, VA



The Second Collection at Christmas Masses will benefit Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia

Please give to Catholic Charities through the second collection at Christmas Masses. Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia served more than 7,900 local families last year by providing: free diapers, children's clothing & parenting support; adoption services; eviction prevention and financial education; mental health counseling; Guardianship services for those with no one to care for them; and much more! Please visit www.cceva.org for more information on how your support will change lives! May God bless you and your family.

FAITH FORMATION

Youth Group Advent Bake Sale Update

Our Youth Group Advent bake sale earned \$673!



Half will be given to the Parish Capital Reserve Fund, and the other half will go towards a youth group activity. A BIG thanks to the youth for their exceptional baked items and our parish family for their generosity!



The GOSPELS Deeper Dive is back on the menu!!

Join us after 9:00 AM Mass for fellowship, study and reflection on the Scriptures for the weekend liturgies. Guaranteed to boost your knowledge and appreciation of the Bible and our Catholic Faith. Sign-up sheets are in the Commons.

Annual Diocesan Appeal



God called the Israelites through the waters of the Red Sea into the desert to become his people. John did something similar. He drew people to the waters of baptism, a prefigurement of our sacramental Baptism.

John is an image of the Church: "A voice of one crying in the desert." (Mark 1:3) The Church, from century to century, calls with love to parched souls: "All you who are thirsty, come to the water!" (Isaiah 55:1)

Our parish joins the cry of John and the universal Church. In our Annual Diocesan Appeal, your parish calls to you with the same thirst of all the souls longing for the coming of Christ. With your sacrificial gifts, you can simultaneously help us satisfy the thirst of our community, while making more room in your own heart for the coming of God. By your prayers, you can help our call ring out loudly and call many souls to the Church. Souls are thirsting for Christ right here in our streets. They need the water that only God can give. Join our Annual Diocesan Appeal this Advent, and help our voice reach them in this thirsty corner of the country.



A Year-End Gift Using Your IRA

Consider making charitable donations from your IRA to benefit our parish ministry. IRA owners age 70 1/2 and older can direct gifts from IRA accounts straight to the Church. The qualified gifts count as a required minimum distribution from an IRA and is excluded from taxpayer income. Contact your IRA administrator or your tax preparer for more information.



Food Pantry Needs for the Week of December 10
CANNED MEAT OR FISH



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 - Jerry & Martin Hackney

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

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.



December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 | 2 Pt 3:8-14 | Mk 1:1-8

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Can you hear it? The voice crying out in the desert? While John the Baptist was the one literally proclaiming, from the desert, the coming of the Lord, we should listen for echoes of his message today. John foretold that Jesus – the Father's Incarnate Son – was on his way to redeem the world. Through Jesus' passion and death, the gates of heaven were flung open so all who believe in him would have eternal life. This is the Good News he proclaimed then, and the Church proclaims today: *Christ has come! Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.* This is what we prepare for in Advent – to celebrate, on Christmas day, Christ's coming into the world, and that he will one day return in glory. The Lord gives comfort to his people in his words, and in his presence to us in the Eucharist: "According to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." So, trust in the Lord, remain vigilant, and take heed of the voices that remind us to "prepare the way of the Lord."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Each year, we are given the gift of Advent. It is a season that invites us to slow down, reflect on the gift of Jesus and prepare to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. Ironically, though, it happens at one of the most frenzied times of the year as we rush to keep up with cookie baking, tree decorating and merry-making. Advent is short – it includes four Sundays but can be three to four weeks long depending on the weekday upon which Christmas falls – and it sometimes doesn't seem long enough to truly prepare our hearts. This year Advent is three weeks and a day – so we are close to reaching the midway point, which is a good time to ask ourselves: How tuned in are we to John the Baptist's message? If we feel like we're being carried along in a wave of consumerism, it's not too late to make a course correction. We can step away from the fray and carve out time to enjoy the stillness of Advent and truly listen to the voice crying out in the desert.

SING *Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.*

LITURGY AND MINISTRY

Today's Readings:

Today's readings speak to us of preparing for the coming of the Lord through repentance. Repentance requires us to be honest about the times we have fallen short in loving God and our neighbor as the Lord commands. Knowing that we are sinners is a necessary step in recognizing our need for the forgiveness God has graciously offered us through his Son, whose coming into the world we prepare to celebrate.

Gospel Focus:

Prepare for the coming of the Lord.



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

EVANGELIZED PEOPLE...

Have lives that have changed due to their relationship with Christ.

FATHER'S CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Adults: With whom could you be more patient this week, as God has been patient with you?

Children: Whom can you be more patient with?

PRAYER AND VOCATIONS

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for the Month of December



Evangelization: For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Pope Tweets:

"Let us ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten us so that we may be able to give an account of our faith and hope to today's world with words and, above all, with the testimony of our lives."

Please Remember in Prayer:

Barbara Bonney, Gene Chappell, Justin Evans, Ellen Gauthier, Leslie Lunger, Christopher Morris, Dara Murphy, Betty Nagy, Mary Pasko, Elizabeth Perry, Alice Reece, Debbie Steiger, Marcella Stratman, Irene White, Thomas Wunder and Brandon Zakaras

During this season of Advent, talk to your family about how you are doing in attending to your spiritual life as a family. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again.

Advent Family Prayer

God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for his coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.
Amen.

(<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/prayers/advent-family-prayer/>)



Advent Reconciliation Services

December 12—Good Shepherd @ 7 PM

December 14—St. Mary's (Suffolk) @ 7 PM

December 15—St. Jude (Franklin) @ 7 PM

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Advent & Christmas Mass Information

All Catholics are obligated to attend Mass for the *Fourth Sunday of Advent* during the regular weekend Mass times **in addition to Mass for the Christmas Holyday.**

Christmas Eve Mass

Sunday, December 24 at 7:30 PM

Christmas Day Mass

Monday, December 25 at 9:00 AM



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

December 15, 2023 at 11:30 AM

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



Considering a call to the priesthood

"A voice is calling." Is Christ calling you to let Him manifest His love in you as a priest or consecrated religious? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, or write: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.



"Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation." (Psalm 85)

December 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 11

Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 13—St. Lucy

Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 14—St. John of the Cross

Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 15

Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 16

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 17—Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



Daily Mass & Intention Schedule

Mon.	December 11	No Mass	
Tues.	December 12	Noon	Diane Swifney (Healing)
Wed.	December 13	Noon	+William Smith
Thurs.	December 14	Noon	Available
Fri.	December 15	Noon	Available
Sat.	December 16	5:00 pm	+Elizabeth Arnold
Sun.	December 17	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

December 17—Catholic Virginian

December 25—Christmas

December 25—Catholic Charities



Parish Life This Week

Monday, December 11

6:30 PM Cub Scouts

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 PM Advent Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, December 13

12:30 PM Salt & Light

6:30 PM OCIA

7:00 PM Youth Group

Thursday, December 14

7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday, December 15

11:30 AM Adoration

6:30 PM Christmas Play

Saturday, December 16

4:30 PM Rosary

6:00 PM Our Lady of Guadalupe Presentation

Sunday, December 17

8:30 AM Rosary

10:15 AM Religious Education

*Don't forget to bring your Bambinelli (figures of Baby Jesus) to be blessed at Mass today.



Weekly Offering for:

December 2 & 3, 2023

Regular Offering needed weekly: \$ 6,250.00

(The following totals include E-Giving)

OFFERTORY:

Regular Offertory/Holy Day \$ 15,258.16

ADDITIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED:

Mortgage	\$ 1,357.50
Haiti	\$ 3,393.00
Barron Dempsey	\$ 28.00
Catholic Virginian	\$ 5.00
Ladies Guild	\$ 102.00
Roof Repair Fund	\$ 100.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 445.00
Other	\$ 40.00

Mortgage Balance \$ 18,692.83

MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday 89

Sunday 198



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

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

The AED is located in the Commons by the fire extinguisher outside the office.

