



Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



WORD BANK

- Shepherds
- Child
- Nazareth
- Census
- Baby
- David
- Mary
- Travel
- Town
- Register
- Born
- Night

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

“Today in the town of David a _____
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior

@ChurchArt Online

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



Charles D. Arinello Memorial Scholarship Fund

Get your tickets for the 50/50 drawing!

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.



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.



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.

Holy Land Emergency Appeal

Bishop Barry C. Knestout has asked all parishes to conduct a special collection to be taken up for the benefit of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and Pontifical Mission on the weekend of **December 30-31, 2023**. 100% of the funds collected will support high-priority, immediate emergency needs as well as long-term emergency needs to the children and families victimized by terrorism in the Middle East. Please be generous in your support of our brothers and sisters in need.

FAITH FORMATION



There are **NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** **December 24 & 31, 2023**. Take this time to gather with family and friends to share the true meaning of Christmas. See you in 2024!



We would like to welcome into our Catholic faith family, *Oliver Russell Barlow*, who became a child of God through the sacrament of Holy Baptism this weekend. We pray that he will continue to grow in faith and love all the days of his life. Congratulations and God bless!

Annual Diocesan Appeal



John warned the crowds, “*There is one among you whom you do not recognize.*” (John 1:26) When Christ comes again will you recognize Him? We probably will. He promised us that, when He comes again, “*You will see ‘the Son of Man...coming on the clouds of heaven.’*” (Matthew 26:64) It sounds like He will Make himself known clearly! Yet, He comes to us daily, in our brothers and sisters: “*Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.*” (Matthew 25:40) Jesus is hard to recognize in “the least of these.”

He is also hard to recognize in the sinner—the person who cuts you off in traffic or doesn’t uphold their end of the bargain. We need the help of grace to see Jesus alive in our neighbors. Our parish is working hard to share the light of Christ in our neighborhood. It’s an arduous task; we can’t do it if we don’t pull together as a family and community of faith. Through our Annual Diocesan Appeal, you have an opportunity to enter more deeply into this mission and we ask you to give as you can. Your community is counting on you! This Advent, please consider contributing to our Annual Diocesan Appeal. If you do, you’ll be fulfilling Christ’s command to “*love your neighbor as yourself,*” and you’ll join John the Baptist in making way for Christ in your heart!



The parish office will be **CLOSED** from **December 25—January 1, 2024** for the holidays.

There will be weekday mass at Noon Tuesday-Friday this week.



Food Pantry Needs for the Week of December 17
MUFFIN MIX



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 17, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday of Advent

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

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

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.” Such simple words from today’s second reading. And yet it is not always easy to put them into practice. It is difficult to rejoice if we or people we love are hurting. It can be hard to pray when life is pulling us in a thousand different directions. But on this Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing, we are asked to focus on a truth that can make both rejoicing and praying easier: Jesus entered humanity in flesh and blood to save us from our sins. This truth means that even if we don’t feel like there is much gladness or joy in our lives today, we can rejoice in the knowledge that we all have the chance to spend eternity in a place where pain, disappointment and suffering will be no more. With our eyes focused on that prize, praying can become a natural part of our days.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Sometimes, I can make everything so complicated. I want to create charts and checklists to ensure that I am doing everything just right. But St. Paul’s words today make me realize that living well is really not that complicated. He writes: “Retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.” That’s it! Of course, while this is not complicated, it does require us to make prayerful, faithful efforts toward this end – and it is an end for which God has given us his grace, the help of the Church, and the prayers of our brothers and sisters in Christ. This includes St. Paul, who prays for us, “May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” This is what is good in these dark days of Advent: the light of Christ is coming into our world. The Gospel says that John the Baptist testified to this truth – to the light. We can too! Let us continue to pray, to rejoice and to give thanks for God’s gifts, especially the gift of his Son.

SING *Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.*

LITURGY AND MINISTRY

Today's Readings:

In today's readings Isaiah, Paul, and John the Baptist rejoice because they have Good News. God is with them and working through them. They are anointed, blessed, and sent to do God's will. On this Gaudete Sunday, we, too, find reason to rejoice. Let us rejoice in sharing the Good News of Christ.

Gospel Focus:

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.



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

EVANGELIZED PEOPLE...

Are willing to publicly profess their faith in Christ and their love for Him.

FATHER'S CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Adults: What work of justice could you do this week to bring someone joy?

Children: What could you do for someone this week to make them happy?

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:

"Dear young people, do not be afraid of the future! Dare to dream big! Keep joy alive, a sign of a young heart that has encountered the Lord."

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

PRAYER & VOCATIONS

Awaiting Baby Jesus

My heart is beating, filled with joy, awaiting Mary's baby boy. For with this child, we embrace the birth of God's most precious grace.

Baby Jesus, soon to come!
For us comes the Promised One.
Baby Jesus, God's own Son,
you will be the Chosen One

To lead our flock into salvation.
Our eternal life awaits.
The birth of Jesus brings us nearer
Heaven's holy gates.

Sing with joy, and count the days,
for soon to come, the Lord we'll praise.
Rejoice that Jesus will soon arrive,
the Messiah and our faith alive.

(<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/prayer/childrens-prayers/seasonal-prayers/awaiting-baby-jesus/>)

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

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Monday, January 1 @ 10AM



Considering a call to the priesthood

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me." God is empowering you for a specific purpose! How will you respond to so great a love? Is He asking you to follow Him by serving in the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, or write: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.



"My soul rejoices in my God." (Luke 1)

**December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent**

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday, December 20

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday, December 21

Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45

Friday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Saturday, December 23

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Sunday, December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Vigil Mass

Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1: 1-25



Daily Mass & Intention Schedule

Mon.	December 18	No Mass	
Tues.	December 19	Noon	Available
Wed.	December 20	Noon	+Caroline McFadden
Thurs.	December 21	Noon	+Vincent Alberghine
Fri.	December 22	Noon	Available
Sat	December 23	5:00 pm	Available
Sun.	December 24	9:00 am	Good Shepherd Comm.
	December 24	7:30 pm	Christmas Vigil Mass

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



Online Giving

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 25—Christmas

December 25—Catholic Charities

December 31—Holy Land Emergency Appeal



Parish Life This Week

Monday, December 18

6:30 PM Cub Scouts

Tuesday, December 19

6:30 PM Boy Scouts

7:00 PM K of C Mtg.

Wednesday, December 20

12:30 PM Salt & Light

6:30 PM OCIA

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

7:00 PM Youth Group

7:15 PM WOM Book Club

Thursday, December 21

6:00 PM Finance Council

7:00 PM Choir Practice

Saturday, December 23

4:30 PM Rosary

Sunday, December 24

8:30 AM Rosary

7:30 PM Christmas Vigil Mass

Weekly Offering for:

December 8-10, 2023

Regular Offering needed weekly: \$ 6,250.00
(The following totals include E-Giving)

OFFERTORY:

Regular Offertory	\$ 5,853.16
Immaculate Conception	\$ 609.00
Christmas	\$ 1,622.00

ADDITIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED:

Mortgage	\$ 695.00
Haiti	\$ 730.00
Barron Dempsey	\$ 150.00
Catholic Virginian	\$ 10.00
Capital Reserve	\$ 336.50
Roof Repair Fund	\$ 3,100.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 336.50
Other	\$ 110.00

DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS:

Catholic Charities	\$ 2,012.00
Retired Religious	\$ 5.00
World Missions	\$ 5.00
Mortgage Balance	\$ 18,692.83

MASS ATTENDANCE

12/8 Noon Mass	105	Saturday	94
12/8 7 PM Mass	77	Sunday	258



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.

