



PUZZLE

cheerful giver

Jesus came to serve and give to others. This Christmas season, consider how you can follow Jesus' example by giving your time, love and kindness.

Directions: Cross out every *my, me* and *mine*. Then write the remaining words on the blanks below to read 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.



myeachmineofyoumeshouldmygiveminewhat
 youminemehavemineminemydecidedmeinmy
 myyourmineheartmemyminetomygiveminenot
 minereluctantlymeormyunderminemycompulsion
 minemymeforminemymeGodminemymylovesmy
 meamyminecheerfulmymegivermineCorinthians

“ _____

 _____,
 _____,
 _____”

2 _____ 9:7, NIV

Answer: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV

NEWS & EVENTS

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Tuesday, December 10 @ 7PM

Join us in preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.



Return to God

Wednesday, December 11 @ 7PM (St. Mary's/Suffolk)

Friday, December 13 @ 7PM (St. Jude/Franklin)

Angel Tree Return Gift Reminder!



Take a Tag Please return all **WRAPPED GIFTS** with the **Angel tags on them NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 8th!** Place the wrapped gifts under the tree in the Commons.

There are also **Haiti Helping Hands** envelopes for monetary donations to benefit our twinned parish in Haiti. Place these donations in the Haiti House on the table in the Commons. Looking forward to your generous support this holiday season!

News from the Parish Office



Take Note! As we close in on the end of another year, please be reminded that **all donations for the year 2024** should be received by **December 31, 2024** to be included in your contribution statement. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

This is the Season



This is the season we give thanks to God for all He has done for us this past year and throughout our lives. It is also a good time to begin considering how you can give back with a special year-end gift. Gifting is a great way to thank God for these blessings.

Take advantage of the charitable tax deduction for gifts made before December 31 (benefits of income tax deductions, capital gains savings, and other financial benefits), and consider the variety of gift options available to you. Your gift to our parish can make a great difference. There are a variety of ways you can contribute a gift. The easiest and most direct methods are donations of cash, stock, and an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution.

For more information on how you can help make a difference by contributing a year-end gift to our parish, please contact the parish office.



Food Pantry Needs

Food Pantry Needs for the Week of December 1
CANNED MEAT OR FISH

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



FAITH FORMATION

Volunteers Needed for Parade!



We will be participating in the **Smithfield Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 14th at 10:30 AM**. The theme is “A Country Christmas.” We will decorate a vehicle as the manger with children dressed as shepherds, sheep, Joseph and Mary. Our message is “*Away in a Manger.*”

We would love to have a large turnout to support the parish. If you would like to participate, contact Lara Detrich at formation@cgsparish.org to sign-up. Volunteers are also needed to walk behind the vehicle and hand out candy canes.

Parent Café



We are hosting two Parent Café discussion sessions on December 8th and December 15th immediately following Mass. This is open to parents and grandparents who care for children ages 0-20. Our goal is to listen to and learn from you in order to develop and strengthen the faith formation within our church. Please contact Lara Detrich at formation@cgsparish.org or sign-up in the Commons to participate.

Are you looking for something to do while your child is in Religious Education class?

Join us for a **DEEPER DIVE** into the Scriptures after the **9:00 AM Mass on Sunday.**

Come and expand your knowledge and appreciation of the Bible and our Catholic Faith.



Aging religious need your help.



Retirement Fund for Religious

“Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement,” says

Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Sister Celeste Burgos, 80. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious next weekend at the Masses. Please be generous.

“To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.” (Psalm 25)

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 10:00AM-3:00PM

Mass Times: Saturday—5:00PM & Sunday—9:00AM

Weekday Mass Times: Tuesday—Friday at Noon

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



1st SUNDAY OF Advent

Staff

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

Admin Assistant - Vicki Dobbins, admin@cgsparish.org

Religious Education - Lara Detrich, formation@cgsparish.org

Youth Ministry – Scott Watterson, youthministry@cgsparish.org

Music Coordinator

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—Doyle Agnew

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 - Joe Campo, jk17335@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

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 or at the entrance to the church. 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 prior to the baptism. 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 1, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

First Sunday of Advent

Jer 33:14-16 | 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 | Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

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

Are you one of those people who flips to the end of the book to find out what happens or maybe you roam the internet for spoilers of your favorite show? We have all been tempted to know what is going to happen before whatever it is unfolds, especially in tension-filled situations. Knowing the ending changes the way we experience the angst of the present moment, especially if it's a great ending! Like today: even as we anticipate and know the comfort and joy of the Advent season, we certainly do not begin there with our Gospel reading from Luke. In it, Jesus describes the coming of the Son of Man: this time will include moments of dismay, tribulation, assault, fright, and death. Contemplating this time of justice can be fearsome, but it is also a source of joy, because Christ is coming! We know that through Christ we have been redeemed – and that, if we remain faithful to him, we have the hope of eternal life. As Luke tells us, we can stand with our heads held high because redemption is at hand. Our Advent does not start with comfort and joy, but it sure ends there. Knowing this ending helps us have confidence and hope in God.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We are encouraged and challenged by the Word and our Advent traditions this first week to *remember how it ends!* In our first reading, the prophet Jeremiah relays consolation to the nation in crisis when God tells them the days are coming when the Lord will “fulfill the promise.” This will bring them much-hoped-for safety and security. In Luke's Gospel, Christ's coming will be with “power and great glory” and although it sounds somewhat frightening, it will usher in redemption. Those are some spoilers providing great confidence and hope. In addition to our readings, the lighting of our first candle this Advent season is a visual reminder of the culmination of our salvation story! The Light who has come into the world has and will dispel the darkness. We can stand erect and raise our heads together to glimpse this light of Advent and fill our hearts again with hope that God surely is the one who keeps his promises. That is the best spoiler of all.

SING

*O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph
And sadness flee away*



gettyimages/Andreas Schmidt

LITURGY AND MINISTRY

Today's Readings:

As we begin Advent, our readings today offer wisdom in discerning what it means to prepare our hearts for the Lord. They are beckoning us to wake up and be attentive to what is around us, for God's time is at hand. We have the blessing of this season to prepare for the coming of the Lord, and to allow our hearts to be transformed.

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: What will you do during Advent so that others can see that you have put on the light of Jesus Christ?

Children: What will you do during Advent so that others can see the light of Jesus in you?

PRAYER AND VOCATIONS

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for the Month of December



Evangelization: For Pilgrims of Hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Pope Tweets:

"Prayer opens our hearts to the Lord, and the Holy Spirit changes our lives when He enters. We should therefore pray, so that our hearts are opened to make space for the Spirit."

Please Remember in Prayer:



Barbara Bonney, Carol Kelly, Christopher Morris, Dara Murphy, Betty Nagy, Mary Pasko, Alice Reece, Debbie Steiger, and Irene White

~Monthly Synopsis for December~

As we walk through the journey of Advent into Christmas this month, we recall that Christ became a member of the human race when He was born into a family, the Holy Family. As challenging as it may be at times, family life is also our richest blessing, and when we consecrate our families to the Holy Family we will never be lacking in anything.



Spiritual Challenge

In the month of December let us challenge ourselves to make time for the family meal, particularly on Sundays. This challenge includes putting down phones and devices so that you can talk to each other uninhibited by noise and distractions. Try to live Advent in the spirit of Mary and Joseph as they prepare for the Child to come.

The School of Saints

"If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family." ~Mother Teresa of Calcutta (excerpts from *Prayers In The Pew Monthly*, December 2024. www.sitstandkneel.com)



There is NO WEEKDAY MASS or Prayer Service with Communion November 20-December 4, 2024.

The regular weekday Mass will return on December 5th.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament December 6, 2024 at 11:30 AM

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, December 9, 2024

Mass Times: Noon & 7:00 PM

(This is a Holyday of Obligation)



Considering a call to the priesthood

"Like a man away on a journey, he assigns each of us a task; be on alert." Being chosen to serve as a priest or in consecrated life is an amazing work of the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother to help you recognize and be faithful to your vocation. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org



December 1, 2024 First Sunday of Advent

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 2

Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 3—St. Francis Xavier

Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 4

Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 5

Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 6

Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday, December 7—St. Ambrose

Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 8—Second Sunday of Advent

Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6



Daily Mass & Intention Schedule

Mon.	December 2	No Mass	
Tues.	December 3	No Mass	
Wed.	December 4	No Mass	
Thurs.	December 5	Noon	Available
Fri.	December 6	Noon	Available
Sat.	December 7	5:00 pm	+Jo & Joe Horvath
Sun.	December 8	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 8—Retired Religious
December 9—Immaculate Conception
December 15—Catholic Virginian



Parish Life This Week

Monday, December 2

6:30 PM Cub Scouts

Tuesday, December 3

6:00 PM OCIA

6:30 PM Boy Scouts

7:00 PM AFF—Genesis Study

Wednesday, December 4

7:00 PM Youth Group

7:15 PM Book Club

Thursday, December 5

6:00 PM Pastoral Council

6:30 PM BSA Committee Mtg.

6:30 PM Calendar Mtg.

7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday, December 6

11:30 AM Adoration

Saturday, December 7

4:30 PM Rosary

6:00 PM Angel Tree Gift Return Deadline

Sunday, December 8

8:30 AM Rosary

10:00 AM Angel Tree Gift Return Deadline

10:15 AM Religious Education

10:15 AM Parent Cafe

10:15 AM AFF—Deeper Dive

11:15 AM Play Practice

6:00 PM Scouting BSA, Religious Medals



Weekly Offering for:

November 23 & 24, 2024

Regular Offering needed weekly: \$ 6,737.00

(The following totals include E-Giving)

OFFERTORY:

Regular Offering	\$ 4,768.16
Holy Days	\$ 150.00

ADDITIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED:

Capital Reserve	\$ 45.00
Haiti	\$ 510.00
Barron Dempsey	\$ 100.00
Catholic Virginian	\$ 5.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 23.00
Ladies Guild	\$ 50.00
Men's Club	\$ 140.00
Roof Repair Fund	\$ 10.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

Sat 70

Sun 195

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

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

