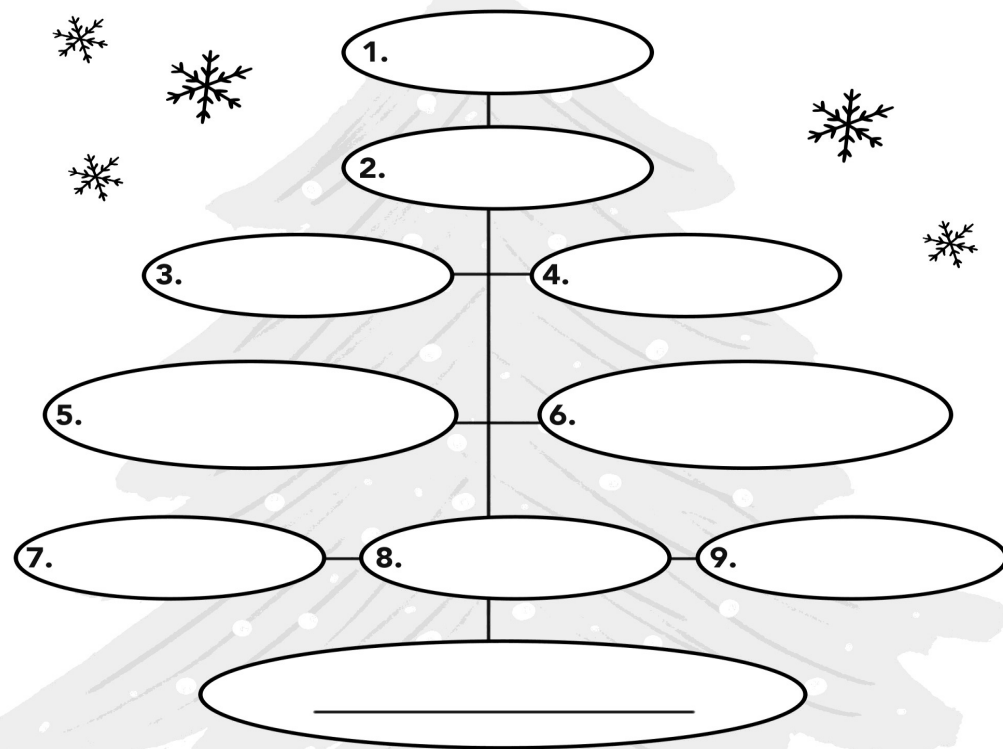


Puzzle!

Write the answer to each clue in the correct circle.
Then jot down the first letter of each answer
and unscramble those letters to form a word about this
season. Write that answer at the bottom of the tree.



CLUES

1. You trim this at Christmas.
2. One who governs
3. The first word of a popular carol, it means "Listen!"
4. You burn this to make the air sweet.
5. "For unto us is born this day a _____ ..."
6. She was betrothed to Joseph.
7. Shepherds heard them sing.
8. A Christmas song
9. 'Tis the _____ to be jolly!"

Answers: 1. tree, 2. ruler, 3. hark, 4. incense, 5. Savior, 6. Mary, 7. angels, 8. carol, 9. season; Christmas

NEWS & EVENTS

Take a Tag Help Us Help Haiti! There are Haiti Helping Hands envelopes for monetary donations to benefit our twinned parish in Haiti available on the tree in the Commons. Please take an envelope and place your donation in the Haiti House on the table in the Commons. Looking forward to your generous support this holiday season!

"Meal Preparation Group" Announcement
The Parish Life Committee has begun the Meal Group that provides a meal for those who are recuperating from illness, hospital stays, surgery, injury, or after the birth of a child. Please contact Maggie Hartley at 757-357-9409 or 757-718-3491 (cell) if a dinner would help you through a difficult time. We would provide a dinner 1-2 times a week for a couple of weeks or as needed. We would like to extend a "BIG Thank You" to our volunteers. If you would like to join our wonderful volunteer group, please call the number provided. Just leave a message with your name and phone number. Thank you for helping your Good Shepherd parish family!

Thank You Thanks to your gifts of time and talent, the Ministry to the Sick and Homebound have over 200 personalized Christmas cards to deliver! Please remember to keep all involved in this ministry in your prayers throughout this holiday season.

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. Gift-giving 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 for the Week of December 8
CEREAL OR OATMEAL

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.

Children's Christmas Play
The children will present a Christmas play on Friday, December 20, 2024 at 6:30 PM. We hope you will join us as they remind us of the Reason for the Season—The Birth of Jesus Christ!

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.

We would like to wish everyone with a birthday or a wedding anniversary in the month of **DECEMBER** a day filled with goodness and God's love and mercy.
May your journey continue to be blessed each and every day. May you look back with joy on the years of your life and with hope for those to come. May God bless you today and always.

Happy Birthday!
Happy Anniversary!

Take Note! News from the Parish Office
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.



2ND SUNDAY OF Advent

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.

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 8, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Advent

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

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

On this second Sunday of Advent, when the hustle and bustle of the season is already upon us, I find Paul's words in his Letter to the Philippians very comforting. He says he is confident "that the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Jesus will continue to be our Advocate and our Rock until the day he comes again. Yes, these are comforting words, indeed. But we know that being a disciple of Christ requires our cooperation and our daily assent to doing God's will. How do we know God's will for us? In his letter, Paul goes on to pray that our love may continue to increase in knowledge and perception "to discern what is of value." In other words, if we are going to be able to choose what is good, we must be able to recognize it and then focus on it.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

This is where "the voice of one crying out in the wilderness" speaks to us during this season in which we prepare for Christ's coming. It is a season of hope and anticipation, but it also must be a season of preparation. In today's Gospel, the proclamation of John the Baptist takes center stage; he proclaims a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" and says to "prepare the way of the Lord." These words do not suggest passivity – waiting patiently for the Lord to come. They suggest action: Repent. Prepare. Make straight his paths. Today let us consider how we can prepare for the Lord's coming in our own lives. God has made us good, and he wants to bring that goodness to completion. As we continue in this Advent season, let us stay focused on recognizing and choosing "what is of value" in our lives so that we are able to truly rejoice that the Lord draws near.

SING

Dear Savior, haste

Come, come to earth

Dispel the night and show your face

And bid us hail the dawn of grace

LITURGY AND MINISTRY

Today's Readings:

When the path to salvation appears rocky, we can be assured that God will lower mountains and level depths to lead the faithful into his glory. This holy season, we rejoice to be remembered by God because he draws near and unites himself to us through Emmanuel—God with us.

Gospel Focus:

We are made pure and blameless through Jesus Christ.



"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: In what areas of your life do you need God's forgiveness right now? What Advent practice would assist you in experiencing your repentance?

Children: What do you want to ask God to forgive you for? What can you do during Advent to show you are sorry?

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:

"May we joyfully and humbly cultivate the little seed entrusted to us. We need the patience of those who sow without expecting anything, knowing how to wait for God's surprises."

Please Remember in Prayer:



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

The Prayer to St. Joseph

During the liturgical year, Catholics express our devotion to both St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary with special feasts. But while Marian devotion is common, few Catholics are aware of how deeply the Church has held St. Joseph in veneration throughout the centuries.



The following prayer can be prayed at any time and is particularly appropriate during the Advent and Christmas seasons:

O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

O Saint Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, so that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most Loving of Fathers.

O Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss his fine head for me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

Saint Joseph, Patron of departed souls—pray for me. (Mention your intention) Amen.

"A servant of Mary will have a tender devotion to St. Joseph, and by his pious homage of respect and love, will endeavor to merit the protection of this great saint."

~St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

(excerpts from *Prayers In The Pew Monthly*, December 2024. www.sitstandkneel.com)

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)



ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Tuesday, December 10 @ 7PM

Join us in preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

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

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

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 Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org



December 8, 2024 Second Sunday of Advent

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 9—Immaculate Conception

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 10

Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 11

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

Thursday, December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe

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

Friday, December 13—St. Lucy

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

Saturday, December 14—St. John of the Cross

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

Sunday, December 15—Third Sunday of Advent

Zeph 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18



Daily Mass & Intention Schedule

Mon.	December 9	Noon & 7:00 pm	(Holyday)*
Tues.	December 10	Noon	Available
Wed.	December 11	Noon	Available
Thurs.	December 12	Noon	Available
Fri.	December 13	Noon	+William Smith
Sat.	December 14	5:00 pm	Available
Sun.	December 15	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'

REMINDER!

If you still have a recurring offering to the "Mortgage", please switch it to the "Capital Reserve" fund. The mortgage is paid in full, so the church needs to build up the Capital Reserve fund for future projects. Thank you.

Parish Life This Week

Monday, December 9

The Immaculate Conception

Mass @ Noon & 7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 10

6:00 PM OCIA

7:00 PM Advent Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, December 11

10:00 AM Divine Mercy & Potluck

7:00 PM Youth Group

Thursday, December 12

7:00 PM Choir Practic

Saturday, December 14

4:30 PM Rosary

Sunday, December 15

8:30 AM Rosary

10:15 AM Religious Education

10:15 AM Parent Café Discussion

10:15 AM AFF—Deeper Dive

11:15 AM Play Practice

6:00 PM Scouting BSA, Religious Medals



Weekly Offering for:

November 30 & December 1, 2024

Regular Offering needed weekly: \$ 6,737.00

(The following totals include E-Giving)

OFFERTORY:

Regular Offering	\$ 6,746.22
Christmas	\$ 25.00

ADDITIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED:

Capital Reserve	\$ 1,670.45
Haiti	\$ 1,650.00
Barron Dempsey	\$ 135.00
Catholic Virginian	\$ 10.00
Religious Education	\$ 40.00
Ladies Guild	\$ 168.00
Roof Repair Fund	\$ 50.00
Other	\$ 400.00

DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS: \$ 1,475.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

Sat 75

Sun 215

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

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



Upcoming Special Collections

December 9—Immaculate Conception

December 15—Catholic Virginian

December 25—Christmas

