


PUZZLE



CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth.

Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	\$

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*	(	)	-	?	>	<	:	;	{

For to us a 3 8 9 # 4 is 2 ^ ( % , to us a  ) ^ %

is 7 9 > 5 % , and the government will be on his shoulders.


And he will be called Wonderful 3 ^ ? % ) 5 # ^ ( ' \$ 9 7 8 - ; God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and & 5 1 3 5 there will be no 5 % 4 .

He will reign on David's - 8 ( ^ % 5 and over his @ 9 % 7 4 ^ \$ , establishing and upholding it with ! ? ) - 9 3 5 and righteousness from that time on and 6 ^ ( 5 > 5 ( . Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV

Answers: child, born, son, given, Counselor, Mighty, peace, end, throne, kingdom, justice, forever

NEWS & EVENTS

IMPORTANT!




WEEKDAY MASS TIME CHANGE!

Tuesday, December 17th at 11:30 AM instead of the regular time.

**"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!




**General Year-End Gift Giving**

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 we might give back some of our wealth or assets to Him 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 your 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 IRA Charitable Rollover.

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.


"Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." (Is 12)



**Food Pantry Needs for the Week of December 15**


**BAKED BEANS OR KIDNEY BEANS**

FAITH FORMATION



**OCIA: CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION OF CANDIDATES**

This Sunday, December 15, in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), we celebrate the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates, **Natalie Smith and David Amonica**, for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. The Lord has called them and brought them to this moment; may the Lord grant them light and strength to follow Christ with a resolute heart and to profess the faith of the Church. Please keep Natalie and David in your prayers as they make their journey to the Sacraments of Initiation.



**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!*

**NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES**

**December 22 & 29, 2024**

**See you in January 2025!**

**Have a blessed and safe holiday season!**


**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:**

**The OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**


**December 24-27, 2024 for the Christmas holiday,**

**and the OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**

**December 31 & January 1 for the New Year.**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF**



**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.





# 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 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](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)

**Youth Ministry** – Scott Watterson, [youthministry@cgsparish.org](mailto: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](mailto:jk17335@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

## 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 15, 2024

## Third Sunday of Advent

**Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18**

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

"I want to be a sanctuary lamp," Samantha, my childhood friend, once remarked. "To be the little flame that reminds everyone, 'God is here.'" In those short phrases, Samantha summarized not only her personal vocation, but also the all-important mission of St. John the Baptist. Like the candle burning before the tabernacle, St. John was not the long-awaited Messiah; his God-given task was to point others to Jesus. We hear this theme of St. John's message expressed repeatedly in today's readings: "The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst"; "Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!"; "one mightier than I is coming." God himself would soon be among them – indeed, he was already there. Although 2,000 years separate us from St. John the Baptist's ministry, the little flame still burns in the sanctuary to remind us that God has not only come, but he remains *in our midst*. This is cause for rejoicing: the same Jesus to whom John pointed is present among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Becoming more attuned and attentive to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist – that is, to God in our midst – entails embracing another part of St. John the Baptist's message. In today's Gospel, St. John counsels people from all walks of life to prepare for the coming Messiah by changing their lives. Only by turning away from sin and committing themselves to God will they be able to recognize and follow Christ when he comes. If we desire deeper faith in the Eucharist, our preparation must be similar: we ask God to show us the dusty corners of our souls which we have concealed from his merciful love. Then, confident in his willingness to forgive, we approach him in the sacrament of confession. This is his ardent desire: that, having come among us, he might forgive and heal us. Such is the meaning behind the consoling words of the Prophet Zephaniah in today's first reading: "He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love."

### SING

*O Christ, whom nations sigh for  
Whom priest and prophet long foretold  
Come break the captive fetters  
Redeem the long-lost fold*

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE



LITURGY AND MINISTRY

Today’s Readings:

According to the prophet Zephaniah, the Lord rejoices—yes *rejoices*—over us in gladness, and Saint Paul says to have *no anxiety at all*. If we trust in the unconditional love God has for us, our hearts and minds will know the true peace that only he can give.

Gospel Focus:

The Lord rejoices over us.



“Encounter the Joy of the Gospel and Set the World Ablaze”  
EVANGELIZED PEOPLE...  
Are engaged in works of charity and justice.

FATHER’S CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

**Adults:** To whom have your past acts of kindness brought joy? What acts of kindness could you do this week?

**Children:** What kind thing have you done for someone lately? Whom could you make happy by your kindness this week?

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:

“The heart of Christ is openness, gift, and encounter. In Christ, we learn to relate to one another in wholesome and happy ways, in order to build up God’s kingdom of love and justice on earth. United with the heart of Christ, our hearts are capable of working this social miracle.”



Please Remember in Prayer:

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

+++++Missionary Character of the Church+++++

The mission of the Church is rooted in the command of Christ before He ascended to heaven: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19).

This command is often called “The Great Commission.” It is the way Our Lord “commits” His Church to the mission of evangelizing the nations, and the Church takes it seriously. The Catholic Church has dozens of religious orders and societies explicitly devoted to sending missionaries to un-evangelized regions of the world. We must never forget that the most effective way the Church evangelizes is through a personal encounter with Christ Himself:

“Side by side with the (public) proclamation of the Gospel, the other form of transmission, the person-to-person one, remains valid and important. The Lord often used it (for example, with Nicodemus, Zacchaeus, the Samaritan woman, Simon the Pharisee), and so did the apostles.” (Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 46)  
(excerpt from *Prayers In The Pew Monthly*, December 2024. [www.sitstandkneel.com](http://www.sitstandkneel.com))



The interment for **Tom Wunder** will be on  
**Tuesday, December 17 at 1:00 PM**  
**at Albert Horton Cemetery in Suffolk.**  
Please keep his family in your prayers.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Solemnity of the Nativity of The Lord

Christmas Eve, December 24 @ 8:00 PM  
Christmas Day, December 25 @ 9:00 AM



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
December 20, 2024 at 11:30 AM

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

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



December 15, 2024  
Third Sunday of Advent

Readings for the Week

Monday, December 16

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, December 19

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

Friday, December 20

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

Saturday, December 21

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

Sunday, December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45



Daily Mass & Intention Schedule

Mon.	December 16	No Mass	
Tues.	December 17	11:30 am	+Elizabeth Perry
Wed.	December 18	Noon	Available
Thurs.	December 19	Noon	Available
Fri.	December 20	Noon	+Andy Horning
Sat	December 21	5:00 pm	+Courtney Horvath
Sun.	December 22	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:  
Tuesday—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’

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 16

Church Closed for  
Carpet Cleaning

Tuesday, December 17

6:00 PM OCIA

6:30 PM Boy Scouts

Wednesday, December 18

7:00 PM Ladies Guild & Men’s Club Mtgs.

7:00 PM Youth Group

7:15 PM Book Club

Thursday, December 19

6:00 PM Finance Council

7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday, December 20

11:30 AM Adoration

6:30 PM Christmas Play

Saturday, December 21

4:30 PM Rosary

Sunday, December 22

8:30 AM Rosary

6:00 PM Scouting BSA, Religious Medals



Weekly Offering for:

December 7-8, 2024

Regular Offering needed weekly: \$ 6,737.00  
(The following totals include E-Giving)

OFFERTORY:

Regular Offering	\$ 4,045.41
Immaculate Conception	\$ 1,110.00

ADDITIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED:

Capital Reserve	\$ 403.00
Haiti	\$ 753.00
Barron Dempsey	\$ 35.02
Religious Education	\$ 26.00
Ladies Guild	\$ 10.00
Other	\$ 400.00

DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS: \$ 1,497.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

Sat	93	Mon. 12/9 @ Noon	57
Sun	178	Mon. 12/9 @ 7PM	78

Thank you for your continued support of the Church of the Good Shepherd!  
Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



Upcoming Special Collections

December 25—Christmas

December 25—Catholic Charities

