

# PUZZLE

## A Child is Born

*Jesus received many different names — even before he was born. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) prophesies about four of these names.*

Directions: Unscramble the words on the name tags below. (Hint: The first letter is capitalized.)

MY NAME IS  
gyhMti  
\_\_\_\_\_

dGo  
\_\_\_\_\_

MY NAME IS  
lerWnofud  
\_\_\_\_\_


esnruooCl  
\_\_\_\_\_

MY NAME IS  
vrelEnsitga  
\_\_\_\_\_

eahFrt  
\_\_\_\_\_

MY NAME IS  
niPcre of  
\_\_\_\_\_


aPcee  
\_\_\_\_\_





Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

@ChurchArt Online

NEWS & EVENTS

**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.


**Haiti Helping Hands Angel Tree**   
The Haiti Ministry is in need of your support for our twin parish, St. Anthony of Padua, in Croix Fer, Haiti. The Haiti Helping Hands Angel Tree is set up in the Commons for you to take an envelope and make a donation to our twin parish. This would be a perfect Christmas gift to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Take an envelope and put cash or a check made out to "Good Shepherd" and annotate "Haiti" on the memo line then drop it in the little house next to the tree.  
You may also donate via eGiving on the parish website. 100% of all monies collected is sent to Haiti. Thank you for your generosity.


**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. **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 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.


*"Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved." (Psalm 80)*

 **Food Pantry Needs for the Week of December 22**  
**FRUIT**

FAITH FORMATION

**NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES**  
**December 22 & 29, 2024**  
**See you in January 2025!**  
**Have a blessed and safe holiday season!** 

 We would like to "THANK" everyone who participated in the *Smithfield Christmas Parade* this past Saturday. Everyone had a great time! A special thanks to **Liz and Cliff Bukowsky** for the use of their truck and to **Brendan Wesdock** for making the banner. We love our parish family!

 **OCIA: Rite of Welcoming the Candidates for Full Communion of the Catholic Church**  
On Sunday, December 22, 2024 in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), we will celebrate the Rite of Welcoming to Full Communion for **Gloria Carmona, Isabella Stanley, Andrea Duffee and Danielle Hewitt.**  
This Rite of Welcoming honors the dignity of baptism already received, recalls the signing with the cross done at baptism, First Holy Communion already received, and marks the beginning of this stage of their faith journey as candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Lord has called these seekers and brought them to this moment; may He grant them light and strength to follow Christ with resolute hearts and to profess the faith of the Church.  
We, in turn, accept their commitment and pledge our support throughout their journey of faith. Please keep the candidates in your prayers as we celebrate together their journey towards the Full Communion of the Catholic Church.

**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**



## 4TH SUNDAY OF Advent

# 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 22, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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

Ask a child, “Where is God?” and you’ll likely receive a variety of responses: “in heaven,” “in church,” “everywhere” and “in my heart” are all conceivable answers from a child’s lips. But the one we most easily write off as silly or sentimental is one that the saints would urge us to revisit more seriously: God is indeed “in my heart” – that is, he is present in our souls! This is true not only when we receive him in Holy Communion, and not only because he is “everywhere,” but because we possess *sanctifying grace*. Grace is *divine life* – God’s life – and if we are “in a state of grace” (that is, we have brought any mortal sins to confession), we have this life within us! Our model for becoming aware of this wonderful gift is our Blessed Mother, whose example in today’s Gospel teaches us to love, reverence, and obey God within us. Setting out “in haste” to serve her aged cousin, Mary carried God in her womb. We can imagine the love and joy with which she carried him. At every moment, God is present in us, too (not physically, but by grace) and we should strive to recognize and love him who has made our hearts his dwelling place.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The events of today’s Gospel suggest that Jesus’ presence in Mary is not *for* Mary alone. Prompted by love, she made the arduous journey to visit Elizabeth – itself an act of charity. But Mary brought more than her services and support to Elizabeth during a potentially difficult pregnancy; she brought God himself! Mary was so conscious of God within her that even her words, flowing from a heart burning with his love, carried a special power; at Mary’s greeting, Elizabeth was “filled with the Holy Spirit” and John the Baptist “leaped for joy.” As we become increasingly aware of God dwelling in our souls, we, too, become “Christ-bearers” to others. By being lovingly attentive to our Divine Guest, our words and actions become means by which he can act on the hearts of those we encounter each day.

### SING

*O come, divine Messiah!*

*The world in silence waits the day*

*When hope shall sing its triumph*

*And sadness flee away*

**LITURGY AND MINISTRY**

**Today's Readings:**

The Lord God is always faithful to his promises. As our celebration of Christmas draws near, we prepare for the coming of Christ by rejoicing with Mary and her cousin Elizabeth as they witness to the mysterious fulfillment of those divine promises in their lives.

**Gospel Focus:**

*God's ways are different from ours.*



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

**EVANGELIZED PEOPLE...  
Make the Eucharist the source and summit of their lives.**

**FATHER'S CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK**

**Adults:** When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan as Mary did? What can help you at such times?

**Children:** When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?

**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 Word of God spreads when we are anointed by the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, preaching would have neither soul nor life, and we would spread only ideas or precepts to be fulfilled."

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

**Please Remember in Prayer:**



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




**Christmas Prayer**  
*Glory to God in the highest!*  
My precious Lord, Jesus, I adore You with profound love and rejoice in the celebration of Your birth. Your love for us is unfathomable, it is glorious, transforming, awe-inspiring, and deeply personal. You chose to come and dwell among us, being born into poverty, rejection and humility. Yet your mother knew whom she bore, Her heart was filled with the tenderest love as she adored her Child and her God. Help me, dear Lord, to come to love You with the heart of Your mother. Invite me to adore You with St. Joseph and the poor shepherds. Reveal to me the glorious power of Your birth and change my life on account of this perfect gift of Yourself. I love You, dear Lord Jesus. Help me to love You with all my heart. Newborn Savior of the World, I trust in You. Mother Mary and St. Joseph, Pray for me and for all. Amen.

(mycatholic.life/catholic-prayers/Christmas-prayer/)


**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*



\*\*\*\*\*

**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**  
January 1, 2025  
Mass at 10:00 AM  
(This is a Holyday of Obligation)




*We would like to welcome into our parish family, **Sophia Grace Peters**, who becomes a child of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on December 22, 2024.*

*We pray that she will continue to grow in faith and love all the days of her life.*

**Considering a call to the priesthood**

"Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God." Consider following Christ more closely as a priest or in 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 22, 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Readings for the Week**

- Monday, December 23**  
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
- Tuesday, December 24**—Christmas Eve  
Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
- Wednesday, December 25**—Christmas Day  
Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
- Thursday, December 26**—St. Stephen  
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
- Friday, December 27**—St. John  
1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a and 2-8
- Saturday, December 28**—Feast of The Holy Innocents  
1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18
- Sunday, December 29**—Feast of the Holy Family  
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52



**Daily Mass & Intention Schedule**

Mon.	December 23	No Mass	
Tues.	December 24	8:00 pm	Available
Wed.	December 25	9:00 am	Available
Thurs.	December 26	Noon	Available
Fri.	December 27	Noon	Available
Sat.	December 28	5:00 pm	Available
Sun.	December 29	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 10AM to 2PM

\*Church will be open before Mass for prayer for the rest of the week.



**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**



- Tuesday, December 24**  
*Christmas Eve*  
Office Closed
- Wednesday, December 25**  
*Christmas Day*  
Office Closed
- Thursday, December 26**  
Office Closed
- Friday, December 27**  
Office Closed
- Saturday, December 28**  
4:30 PM Rosary
- Sunday, December 29**  
8:30 AM Rosary  
6:00 PM Scouting BSA, Religious Medals



**Weekly Offering for:**

**December 9, 14 & 15, 2024**

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

**OFFERTORY:**

Regular Offering	\$ 5,276.16
Immaculate Conception	\$ 346.00
Christmas	\$ 20.00

**ADDITIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED:**

Capital Reserve	\$ 2,140.00
Haiti	\$ 345.00
Barron Dempsey	\$ 100.00
Religious Education	\$ 60.00
Catholic Virginian	\$ 186.44
Roof Repair	\$ 200.00
Other	\$ 50.00

**MASS ATTENDANCE**

Sat	88
Sun	171

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



**Upcoming Special Collections**

- December 25—Christmas**
- December 25—Catholic Charities**

