

Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

- Proverbs 6:6 _____
- Psalms 78:45 _____
- Matthew 23:24 _____
- Judges 14:8b _____
- Acts 12:23 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____
- Deuteronomy 7:20 _____
- Exodus 16:20 _____
- 1 Samuel 24:14 _____
- Isaiah 50:9 _____
- Isaiah 59:5 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____
- Leviticus 11:22 _____



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



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket

@ChurchArt Online

NEWS & EVENTS

The Men's Club Fish Dinners
Every Friday of Lent
5-7:00 PM
Cost is \$12.00 per meal
(Take Out Only)



Meal consists of fish filet, French fries, hush puppies and homemade coleslaw.

THE EASTER EGGS ARE BACK!!!



The Ladies' Guild is taking orders for their 1/2 lb. handmade, dark chocolate covered Easter Eggs until Sunday, April 6th. Cost per egg is \$8.00.

The flavors this year include: Peanut Butter, Buttercream, Chocolate Cream, Cherry Cream, Nutella, Cookies & Cream and Tropical Delight (coconut, lemon and almond flavoring). All proceeds go back to parish ministries, the Isle of Wight County community and other area ministries.

Jubilee Year Resources



EWTN will be offering special programming to celebrate the Jubilee year including the **Canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis (April 27)**. Be sure to visit ewtn.com/jubilee for Jubilee resources, including EWTN's Jubilee travel app to assist you on your pilgrimage to the Eternal City.



Next week our parish will take up **The Catholic Relief Services Collection**. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and **reveal Christ's love** to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.



2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal: Sharing His Love with Others

When you contribute to the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal, you are supporting 21 important ministries of our Catholic Church that help thousands of people across our Diocese. **The goal this year for Church of the Good Shepherd is \$21,190. We are at 55% of our parish goal with \$9,795 raised thus far.** We thank you for your continued generosity to the Appeal. It is with this in mind that we hope each of you will prayerfully consider supporting the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal if you have not done so already.

Please visit richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal to make your donation today.

FAITH FORMATION

Adult Faith Opportunities



Marian or Sacred Heart of Jesus Garden

GROW a lifetime of love for scriptures through a Marian or Sacred Heart of Jesus Garden! Learn more at our upcoming Thursday sessions: March 13th, March 27th and April 10th.

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Mystery of God

(Bishop Barron Series)

March 18, April 1 & 8, 2025

7:00 PM—8:15 PM



What do Christians mean by "God"? You'll uncover the truth about who God is and why He matters.

For this and all adult faith formation information, see the table in the commons.



OCIA: CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION OF CANDIDATES

This Sunday, March 23, 2025 in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), and for the next two weeks we will celebrate the Scrutinies for our Elect. Scrutinies are rites of self-searching and repentance, given for the Elect's *spiritual readiness* to approach the waters of baptism worthily. The Scrutinies reveal what is weak, sick, and sinful in the hearts of the Elect so that it can be healed; and what is honorable, strong, and holy so that it can be strengthened. Please keep our Elect, **Dustin Garren, Colleen Garren, and Jasmyn Garren**, in your prayers as they make their journey to the Easter Sacraments.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is coming!

June 16-20, 2025

Join us for a week of growing in our faith, making friends, and continuing our mission that God has for us. Stay tuned for more information.

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.



Food Pantry Needs for the Week of March 23
BAKED BEANS OR KIDNEY BEANS



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.

THIRD SUNDAY
in
LENT

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

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 - Jean Coughlin

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.



March 23, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 | 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 | Lk 13:1-9

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

Meaningful human relationships rarely last if only one party makes an effort to maintain a connection. The same is true in our relationship with God. In the scene recorded in today's first reading – arguably one of human history's "Top Ten" most important events – God takes the initiative, but the encounter is two-sided. God causes the bush to burn and Moses approaches; God calls Moses and he responds, "Here I am!"; finally, Moses asks God his name and God reveals himself as "I am who am." Moses' cooperation with God throughout is essential for them to arrive at this monumental revelation which would allow Moses (and, by extension, all of the Israelites) to call upon God by name. Despite our many technological achievements, a free, generous, loving response to God's initiative is still the only "fruit" we can bear for him that he cannot procure himself. This is the fruit which the fig tree in Jesus' Gospel parable is meant to produce. If we truly desire and seek this relationship, God will reveal himself to us so that, no matter our stage or state of life, we can bear this fruit *even now*.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In his encounter with God, Moses exhibits an exemplary combination of boldness and humility which teaches us how we should approach our relationship with God. This is our "roadmap" which will help us fertilize the "ground" of our hearts. Consider Moses' bold, inquisitive spirit: "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight," and his prompt response to God's call: "Here I am!" Consider the audacity Moses must have had to ask God for his name. At the same time, however, consider his humility in removing the sandals from his feet and hiding his face before the majesty of God. The God who revealed himself to Moses is the same God who invites us into relationship with him. We can and should have Moses' boldness to ask God to teach us about himself. But we should also approach God with a spirit of reverence and awe. Our humility will be the fertile soil that God can use to make us his intimate friends and his representatives before others.

LISTEN

Sometimes we have habits or attitudes that prevent us from hearing God's voice. Like Moses removing his sandals, choose something you can forgo this week (for example, social media or music in the car) so that you can hear and respond to the Lord. Make sure you dedicate your extra quiet time to talking to God.

LITURGY AND MINISTRY

Today's Readings:

Today's psalm is a joyful song of thanksgiving and remembrance. We know the history of Moses' role in God delivering the Israelites from bondage, and we have heard the story of the barren fig tree, but the psalm allows us that moment of connection to God in our own particular way. He has pardoned us; he has healed us; he redeems us from destruction; he is merciful and gracious and surpassing in kindness. Our story is not just what happened then, but what is happening now, and the Lord indeed is kind and merciful.

Gospel Focus:

The Lord is kind and merciful.



"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 important work could bear fruit in your life right now if you have more confidence in God's loving care?

Children: What great work would you like to do as you grow older? What can you do to begin now?

PRAYER AND VOCATIONS

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for the Month of March



Evangelization: For families in crisis.

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

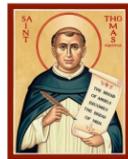
Pope Tweets:

"In the face of temptation, we sometimes fall; we are all sinners. Our defeat, however, is not definitive, because after every fall, God lifts us up by His infinite love and forgiveness."

Please Remember in Prayer:

Barbara Bonney, Carol Kelly, Betty Kinney, Christopher Morris, Betty Nagy, Mary Pasko, Alice Reece, Peggy Shaw, Debbie Steiger, and Irene White

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS' PREPARATION FOR MASS



One of the Catholic Church's many saints of the Eucharist is St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), a Dominican priest who lived in the Middle Ages and is considered the Church's greatest theologian. St. Thomas believed that no one should come to the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood "without reverent devotion and fervent love, without true repentance, or without recalling the mystery of his redemption."

In order to help others prepare themselves to receive the Eucharist worthily, the great saint composed a "Prayer Before Mass," which is one of the finest devotional prayers of the Church.

Prayer Before Mass

Almighty and ever-living God, I approach the sacrament of Your only-begotten Son Our Lord Jesus Christ, I come sick to the doctor of life unclean to the fountain of mercy, blind to the radiance of eternal light, and poor and needy to the Lord of Heaven and earth. Lord, in your great generosity, heal my sickness, wash away my defilement, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty, and clothe my nakedness.

May I receive the bread of angels, the King of kings and Lord of lords, with humble reverence, with the purity and faith, the repentance and love, and the determined purpose that will help to bring me to salvation. May I receive the sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood, and its reality and power.

King God, may I receive the Body of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, born from the womb of the Virgin Mary, and so be received into His mystical body and numbered among His members.

Loving Father, as on my earthly pilgrimage I now receive Your beloved Son under the veil of a sacrament, may I one day see Him face to face in glory, who lives and reigns with You forever. Amen.

(Prayers In the Pew monthly, March 2025. www.sitstandkneel.com)

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

Lent is marked by prayer, fasting and abstinence, and other acts of penance. Ask for God's forgiveness at our

Lenten Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

7:00 PM



There will be extra priests available to hear confession. Please bear in mind that Fr. Tony will only be available to hear confessions by appointment during Holy Week.

Considering a call to the priesthood

"I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future." We are invited to consider how God may be cultivating our hearts, preparing us for a vocation of service.



Is God calling you to priesthood or consecrated life, and patiently waiting for you to respond? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org

**March 23, 2025
Third Sunday of Lent**

Readings for the Week

Monday, March 24

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday, March 25—Annunciation of the Lord

Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday, March 26

Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday, March 27

Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23

Friday, March 28

Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday, March 29

Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday, March 30—Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 (Scrutiny Year A Readings)



Daily Mass & Intention Schedule

Mon.	March 24	No Mass	
Tues.	March 25	Noon	Available
Wed.	March 26	Noon	Available
Thurs.	March 27	Noon	Available
Fri.	March 28	Noon	+Vincent Alberghine
Sat	March 29	5:00 pm	Available
Sun.	March 30	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—Thursday 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

March 30—Catholic Relief Services

April 6—Capital Reserve

April 13—Palm Sunday



Parish Life This Week

Monday, March 24

6:00 PM Finance Council

6:00 PM Cub Scouts

Tuesday, March 25

7:00 PM Lenten Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, March 26

7:00 PM Youth Group

Thursday, March 27

10:30 AM Plants & Scripture

7:00 PM Choir Practice

7:00 PM Plants & Scripture

Friday, March 28

Office Closed

5:00 PM Fish Fry (Take Out Only)

5:00 PM Stations of the Cross (Individual or Family)

Saturday, March 29

4:30 PM Stations of the Cross

6:00 PM Easter Egg Orders

Sunday, March 30

8:30 AM Stations of the Cross

10:00 AM Easter Egg Orders

10:15 AM Religious Education

10:15 AM Deeper Dive



Easter Egg Production Monday-Wednesday mornings

Weekly Offering for:

March 15-16, 2025

Regular Offering needed weekly: \$ 6,737.00

(The following totals include E-Giving)

OFFERTORY:

Regular Offering	\$ 5,474.16
Ash Wednesday	\$ 120.00

ADDITIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED:

Capital Reserve	\$ 275.00
Haiti	\$ 75.00
Barron Dempsey	\$ 110.00
Men's Club	\$ 2,085.00
Catholic Virginian	\$ 251.10
Other	\$ 106.00

DIOCESAN COLLECTION:

Catholic Relief Services	\$ 50.00
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MASS ATTENDANCE

Sat	101
Sun	168

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

