

PUZZLE

A new creation
 Just as spring brings beauty and renewal,
 in Christ we, too, are made new.

Directions: Follow each flying butterfly to its correct number. Then write that word on the line with the corresponding number to read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

“Therefore, _____ , _____ , _____ : _____ , _____ is here!”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

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. Cost per egg is \$8.00. **The last day to place an order is April 6th!**



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.

*Join us for Donuts
 and fellowship after Mass
 in the Commons next
 Sunday, April 6*



Parish Life Committee News

A big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers on the Meal Preparation Group. All our devotion to our mission has been greatly appreciated over the past six (6) months. We should all be proud of ourselves for providing delicious home-cooked meals to those in need in our church family. Our reviews have been excellent. We all have a hidden talent as GREAT cooks!

So, if you are in need or if you know someone in need of a good meal due to illness, injury or a new baby, we can provide a dinner for you and your family for a couple of weeks. Just let us know so we can assist you. Contact Maggie Hartley at 757-357-9409 or 757-718-3491 if you need a meal or you would like to join our group and help others.



2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal: “Sharing His Love with Others”

As of 3/26/2025

Goal	\$ 21,190.00
Total Raised	\$ 14,745.00
% of Goal	70% from 28 donors

Have you made your donation to the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal? It is not too late!

Please visit richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal to make your secure online donation or contact the parish office to receive a hard copy pledge card. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to the Appeal.

FAITH FORMATION

OCIA: 2nd Scrutiny of the Elect



This Saturday, March 29th, we continue the celebration of the Scrutinies for our Elect. We pray in a particular way for those who are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The Scrutinies are ordered toward liberation from sin and the devil, and they give strength in Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life of the Elect. Please keep our Elect, **Dustin Garren, Colleen Garren, and Jasmyn Garren**, in your prayers as they make their journey to the Easter Sacraments.



40 Ways for 40 Days

In Religious Education we are encouraging the children to participate in 40 acts of love, service, and prayer throughout these 40 days of Lent. Please join us in donating to a food pantry, pro-life organization, and homeless shelter.

COP needs soups, canned meat, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, ravioli, and pork and beans. Drop off in the shopping cart in the commons.

Care Net needs Diaper Bags, Large Laundry Baskets, Baby Clothes, Teething Rings/Toys, Baby Carriers for Dad, Baby Board Books, Baby Towels, Burp Cloths and Bibs for Girls, Receiving Blankets for Boys, Baby Lotion, and Winter Maternity Clothes. Drop off in the playpen in the commons.

St. Vincent de Paul needs Men’s Tennis Shoes, Jeans, T Shirts, Underwear, and Socks. Drop off in the box in the commons.



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.



Lent 2025 Online Mission with Bruce Downes—The Catholic Guy

Experience spiritual renewal this Lent through an inspiring online Mission Even with Bruce Downes with people from all around the world. Online and easy to access, this powerful resource is perfect for individuals, families, and parish groups.

Starts April 5, 2025. Registration is required.

Register now at: missionevent.thecatholicguy.com



**Food Pantry Needs for the
 Week of March 30
 CEREAL OR OATMEAL**



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.

FOURTH 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

Lead Liturgical Musician

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, gk17335@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 30, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jos 5:9a, 10-12 | 2 Cor 5:17-21 | Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

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

We await with anticipation holidays and holiday parties – but do we look forward to the day after? To the cleanup, the back-to-the-grind, the business-as-usual? Jesus' parable in today's Gospel recounts the lavish celebration of the father who rejoices at the homecoming of his wayward son. We rightly recognize in the father's mercy the abundant forgiveness of our heavenly Father. But have we ever considered what happened the next day? The son, accustomed to his independence and dissolute life, is once again in his father's house. He must live according to his father's rules and demonstrate the sincerity of his repentance by faithfully carrying out his duties. There is work to be done – crops to be harvested, perhaps. As the weeks and months pass without another fatted calf for feasting, the son might ask if his father's love has waned. And although we may sympathize with his unease, the certainty of his father's goodness must be, for the prodigal son and for us, the guarantee of his steadfast love.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In our relationship with God, we will likely experience moments when our Father's love is keenly felt. Perhaps we will be overwhelmed with peace when we return to him in the sacrament of confession. Perhaps we will be struck by a verse of Scripture during a moment of prayer. But most of our days will look more like the prodigal son's "day after" than the festivities which marked his return. We know, however, that if the weeks that followed were comparatively boring, his father's love had lost none of its warmth or vitality. Similarly, in the days when God seems quiet, when our prayers seem to drift into space or our hearts are distracted with the concerns of everyday life, we must not despair of the Father's love. Nor can we suppose that our happiness can be found outside of his fold. We abide under the care of our Father who lovingly calls us to himself with every circumstance he places before us. To believe this, even when the festivities are over, is to live by faith.

PRAY

With so many opportunities for gratification at our fingertips, it is easy to become restless and to seek happiness in distractions. This week, find an image of Jesus or a Scripture verse about God's love and keep it with you as you work, study, or carry out monotonous tasks. When you're tempted to leave your duties aside out of boredom, take a moment instead to praise and thank God for his love.

LITURGY AND MINISTRY

Today's Readings:

In the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus presents God as a Father who loves all his children—the wayward and the dutiful—and seeks to draw them into a loving relationship and therefore share in his joy. Sometimes, like the younger son, we are swept up in God's love, forgiveness, and mercy; other times, we set up barriers and resist it. Let us reflect on how God has been coming out to meet us in our own lives.

Gospel Focus:

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.



"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: When have you been generous enough to forgive someone who hurt you deeply?

Children: Is there someone you need to forgive or ask forgiveness of?

PRAYER AND VOCATIONS

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for the Month of April



Evangelization: *For the use of new technologies.*

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Pope Tweets:

"Our bodies are weak, but even like this, nothing can prevent us from loving, praying, giving ourselves, being for each other, in faith, shining signs of hope."

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

Our sincere **"Congratulations"** goes out to our young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Thursday, March 20, 2025** by The Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout at Church of the Resurrection in Portsmouth. Thank you to our Youth Minister, *Scott Watterson*, who helped to prepare our youth for this Sacrament of Initiation.

Please keep our newly confirmed in your prayers:



Maximo Duffee
Ian Glaser
Camilla Hernandez
Zachary Jackson
Winnie Salyers
Kamell Taylor

May God bless you and guide you as you continue to learn and grow in your faith.

Sacraments vs Sacramentals

There is a fundamental distinction between Sacraments and sacramentals. "The sacraments are tangible signs instituted by Christ to give grace." This means that sacraments have grace *within them*, intrinsically. Sacraments are sacred institutions which require us to be living in union with the Church in order to receive them worthily.

Sacramentals are also tangible signs, but they don't have their holiness in them and do not confer grace the way the sacraments do. They are instituted by the Church, not by Christ directly. Their purpose is to sanctify the circumstances of our lives and to dispose us to receive grace. Using them opens us to God's holiness.

The *Catechism* (1671-73) identifies three categories of sacramentals: blessings, exorcisms, and devotional items and prayers. Of these, the blessings have greatest priority since they represent the direct intercession of the Church for our lives. (Exorcism is a form of blessing in this sense.) There are also innumerable ritual blessings of people and things. The Church blesses devotional objects which are very familiar to us: Rosaries, scapulars, medallions, crucifixes, candles, etc.

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



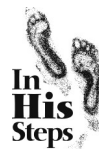
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

April 4, 2025 at 11:30 AM

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

Considering a call to the priesthood

Our Father calls us to run toward the path He has prepared for us. Is He inviting you to share this compassion with others through a vocation to 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



March 30, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Readings for the Week

Monday, March 31

Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday, April 1

Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday, April 2

Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday, April 3

Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday, April 4

Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, April 5

Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday, April 6—Fifth Sunday of Lent

Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11



Daily Mass & Intention Schedule

Day	Date	Time	Notes
Mon.	March 31	No Mass	
Tues.	April 1	Noon	Available
Wed.	April 2	Noon	Available
Thurs.	April 3	Noon	Available
Fri.	April 4	Noon	Available
Sat.	April 5	5:00 pm	+Pat Soule
Sun.	April 6	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

April 6—Capital Reserve

April 13—Palm Sunday

April 18—Holy Land/Good Friday



Parish Life This Week

Monday, March 31

6:00 PM Cub Scouts

Tuesday, April 1

5:30 PM Boy Scouts

6:00 PM OCIA

7:00 PM AFF—Mystery of God

Wednesday, April 2

7:00 PM Youth Group

7:15 PM Book Club

Thursday, April 3

6:00 PM Pastoral Council

6:30 PM BSA Committee Mtg.

7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday, April 4

11:30 AM Adoration

5:00 PM Fish Fry (Take Out Only)

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

Saturday, April 5

4:30 PM Stations of the Cross

6:00 PM Easter Egg Orders (Last Call)

Sunday, April 6

8:30 AM Stations of the Cross

10:00 AM Donuts

10:00 AM Easter Egg Orders (Last Call)

10:15 AM Religious Education

10:15 AM Deeper Dive

Easter Egg Production Monday-Wednesday mornings

Weekly Offering for:

March 22-23, 2025

Regular Offering needed weekly: \$ 6,737.00

(The following totals include E-Giving)

OFFERTORY:

Regular Offering	\$ 6,620.16
Holy Days	\$ 20.00

ADDITIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED:

Capital Reserve	\$ 65.00
Haiti	\$ 125.00
Barron Dempsey	\$ 48.00
Men's Club	\$ 1,976.00
Ladies' Guild	\$ 1,166.00
Catholic Virginian	\$ 35.00
Roof Repair	\$ 10.00
Other	\$ 400.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

Sat	76
Sun	208

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

