



Jesus gives us *life*

Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers the free gift of eternal life.

Directions: Match each clue from Holy Week with the correct image. If you get stuck, look up the Bible verses.

People spread these on the road for Jesus. (Matthew 21:8)



Mary pours this on Jesus' feet. (John 12:3)



Jesus shares this with his disciples. (Matthew 26:26)



This is placed on Jesus' head. (John 19:2)



Soldiers may have used these to compete for Jesus' coat. (John 19:23-24)



Jesus carries this himself for a while. (John 19:17)



Marks caused by these help Thomas identify Jesus. (John 20:25)



While on the cross, Jesus is thirsty and is given this. (John 19:28-29)



This is rolled away from Jesus' tomb. (John 20:1)



These are used to prepare Jesus' body for burial. (Luke 23:55-56)



These remain in the tomb after Jesus rises. (John 20:6-7)



Judas betrays Jesus for this. (Matthew 26:14-15)



Answer: palm branches, perfume, bread, crown of thorns, dice, cross, nails, vinegar on a sponge, stone, spices, linens, silver coins

NEWS & EVENTS

The Last Lenten Men's Club Fish Dinner is Friday, April 11, 2025 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 LAST EASTER EGG ORDERS ARE DUE APRIL 6!



The Ladies' Guild is taking orders for their 1/2 lb. handmade, dark chocolate covered Easter Eggs. Cost per egg is \$8.00. If you have placed an order, please pick it up by April 13th. If you have not paid yet, you must pay at pick up.

All proceeds go back to parish ministries, the Isle of Wight County community and other area ministries. Thank you for your continued support of our program.

We would like to wish everyone with a birthday or a wedding anniversary in the month of **APRIL** 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!

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.



2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal: "Sharing His Love with Others"

As of 4/2/2025

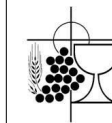
Goal	\$ 21,190.00
Total Raised	\$ 17,345.00
% of Goal	82% from 34 donors

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: 3rd Scrutiny of the Elect



This Sunday, April 6th, we conclude 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 set forth to purify minds and hearts, to fortify against temptations, to convert intentions, and to awaken the will, so that the Elect may cling more closely to Christ and to pursue more vigorously their desire to love God. 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.



PLASTIC EASTER EGGS NEEDED!

We will be hosting an *Easter Egg Hunt* after the Sunday Easter Mass on **April 20, 2025**. Please help us prepare for this event by donating plastic Easter eggs for us to hide. The eggs can be dropped off at the church office or in the box in the commons.



Food Pantry Needs for the Week of April 6 SOUP



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.

FIFTH 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, 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.

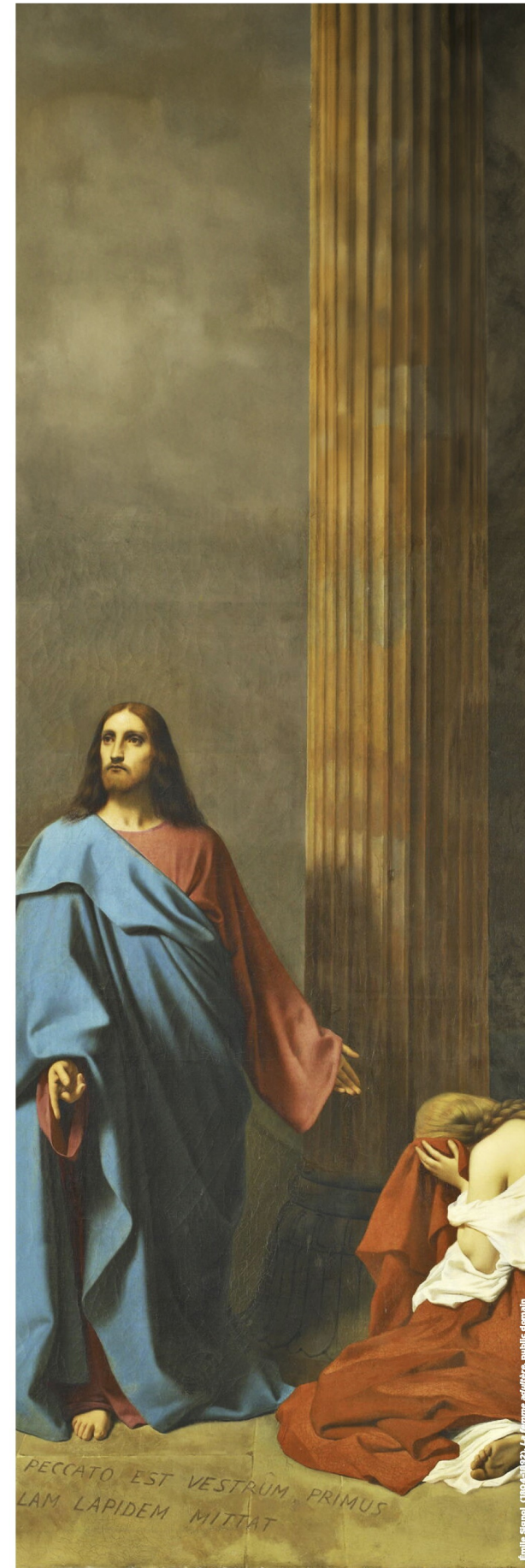
Baptisms – A preparation class for parents is required prior to the baptism. Contact Lara Detrich at the church office to register.

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.



April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Today's culture creates and sees constant change, innovation, and novelty at record speeds. But even more astounding than the technological advancements we observe around us is God's power to inspire interior transformation in each individual life. In today's Gospel, instead of condemning the woman caught in adultery whose punishment was certain death, Jesus speaks words of mercy, forgiveness, and life. Their encounter lifts the woman out of the shame of her sin, restores her dignity, and strengthens her to "Go, and from now on do not sin any more." This woman, whom others saw as hopeless, is transformed because Jesus' mercy has touched her soul. Long before, the prophet Isaiah had alluded to this time in which the Messiah would bring new life even in the most desolate places: "See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers." God constantly calls us to leave sin behind, to keep moving forward – and we can be confident that he is with us at each new step to lead us to himself.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How do we take these steps? How do we respond to God's call? In his Letter to the Philippians, Paul speaks of how he willingly gave up everything, even those things which made him righteous according to the laws of the Old Testament, and learned to depend on Jesus and the changing power of his resurrection. For us as for Saint Paul, each step along the path of transformation requires faith in God's ability and intention to heal us and draw us to himself. If we are willing to leave behind old identities and desires, we will see more clearly the true identity God created for us as we begin to live more like Jesus. Paul even describes being "taken possession of by Christ Jesus," because the change is so deep and powerful. For us as for God's chosen people in the readings from Isaiah, at first some parts of the path may look like an aimless desert, but the way will appear with each step of faith, and it is filled with mercy.

PRAY

Transformation doesn't happen all at once. Reflect on your Lenten prayers, fasting, and almsgiving and consider how they've helped to conform your will to God's. How will you be found changed on Easter Sunday? Is there something you can improve upon during these final two weeks of Lent? It's not too late to offer a loving sacrifice to God!

LITURGY AND MINISTRY

Today's Readings:

In this Lenten season, our readings reflect on mercy and repentance. Indeed, repentance is at the foundation of our Lenten calling. May we truly examine our hearts for ways we can seek God's abundant mercy and grow in our relationship with him. Like the woman caught in adultery, we must be willing to allow Jesus to see our shortcomings if we wish to receive the forgiveness he offers.

Gospel Focus:

Go, and from now on do not sin any more.



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

EVANGELIZED PEOPLE...
Are continuously changing and repenting.

FATHER'S CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Adults: Have you ever been too willing to "cast the first stone" when you disapproved of someone's behavior? How can you resist these feelings?

Children: When have you criticized or made fun of someone? What could help you act differently?

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:

"Even if our past seems burdensome, complicated, and perhaps even ruined, we can always give it to God and set out anew on our journey. God is merciful, and He always waits for us!"

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

Happy 41st Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood, Fr. Tony!

On April 1, 2025 Fr. Tony Yllana celebrated 41 years of priestly service to others.



Congratulations on this great milestone in your priesthood. Many thanks for your dedication and care in your priestly ministry.

May God continue to bless you and be with you in all you do.

Monthly Synopsis

April 2025—We enter the month of April in the penitential garb of Lent, and we will exit April in the glory of Easter. Let us make sure to adore Christ with our reverent participation at Mass this month and to thank the Lord for the gifts of family and faith He has given us so generously.



Spiritual Challenge

During the Lenten Season let us challenge ourselves both to live the Church's Lenten discipline in its basic rules and to communicate those guidelines to those under our spiritual authority. We must live by example, but we must also teach others the truth of the Catholic Faith so that nothing of the Church's wisdom falls through the cracks.

Catechism Connection

1438—The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church's penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, and pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works).

"Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving." ~St. Augustine

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



Let us pray for the eternal repose of the soul of **Margaret Perry** who passed away on March 11, 2025. May the Lord grant eternal rest unto her and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Considering a call to the priesthood

"Go, and from now on do not sin anymore." Jesus' words remind us of God's mercy and His invitation to a fresh start. In every vocation, we're called to accept His forgiveness and step forward with a renewed commitment to love and serve. This Lent, reflect on how you are nurturing a heart open to love as you journey toward Easter. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org



April 6, 2025 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings for the Week

Monday, April 7

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:12-20

Tuesday, April 8

Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday, April 9

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday, April 10

Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday, April 11

Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday, April 12

Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56

Sunday, April 13—Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14—23:56



Daily Mass & Intention Schedule

Mon.	April 7	No Mass	
Tues.	April 8	Noon	Available
Wed.	April 9	Noon	+Dara Murphy
Thurs.	April 10	No Mass	
Fri.	April 11	Noon	Available
Sat	April 12	5:00 pm	Available
Sun.	April 13	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 13—Palm Sunday
April 18—Holy Land/Good Friday
April 20—Easter



Parish Life This Week

Monday, April 7

6:00 PM Cub Scouts

Tuesday, April 8

5:30 PM Boy Scouts

6:00 PM OCIA

7:00 PM AFF—Mystery of God

7:00 PM K of C

Wednesday, April 9

7:00 PM Youth Group

Thursday, April 10

10:30 AM Plants & Scriptures

6:00 PM Liturgical Ministries

7:00 PM Choir Practice

7:00 PM Plants & Scriptures

Friday, April 11

5:00 PM Last Fish Fry (Take Out Only)

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

Saturday, April 12

10:00 AM First Communion Parent Day

6:00 PM Last Easter Egg Order Pick-up

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday

10:00 AM Last Easter Egg Order Pick-up

10:15 AM Religious Education

10:15 AM Deeper Dive



Weekly Offering for:

March 29-30, 2025

Regular Offering needed weekly: \$ 6,737.00

(The following totals include E-Giving)

OFFERTORY:

Regular Offering \$ 5,613.16

ADDITIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED:

Capital Reserve	\$ 70.00
Haiti	\$ 75.00
Barron Dempsey	\$ 100.00
Men's Club	\$ 1,869.00
Ladies' Guild	\$ 1,700.00
Catholic Virginian	\$ 10.00
Memorial Donations—PCL	\$ 430.00
Roof Repair	\$ 100.00
Other	\$ 70.00

DIOCESAN COLLECTION:

Catholic Relief Services \$ 722.52

MASS ATTENDANCE

Sat 92

Sun 198

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

