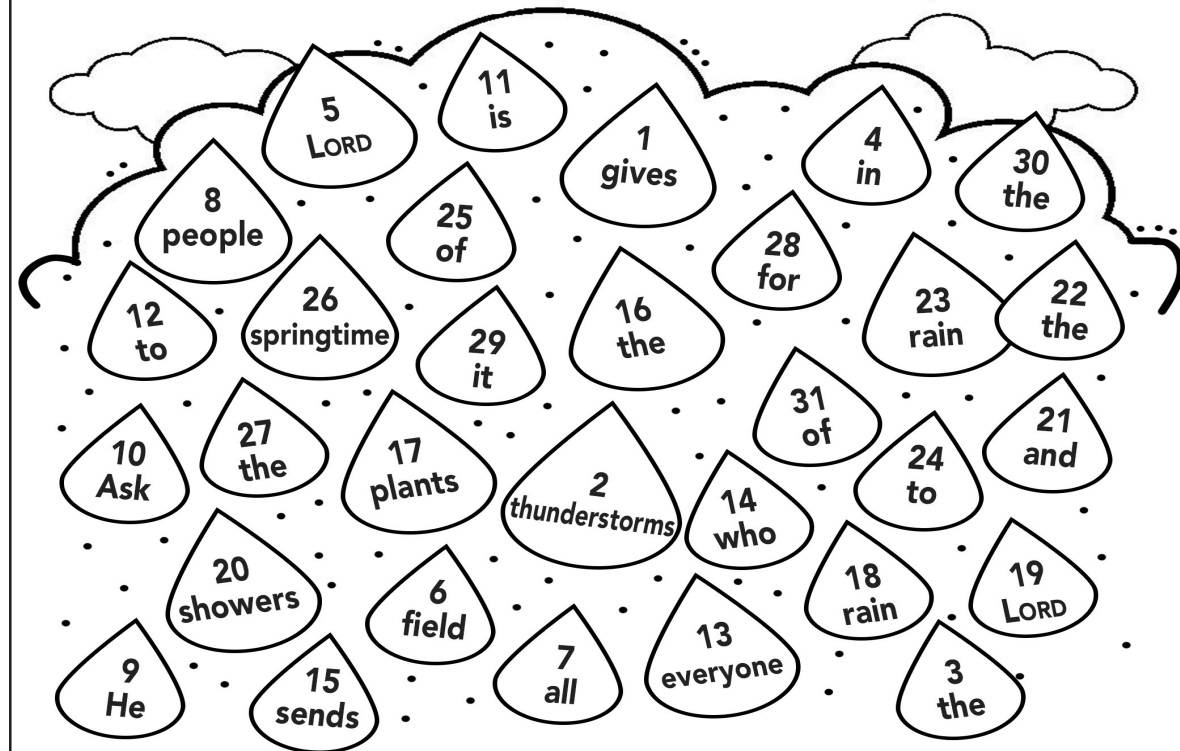


Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



_____ 10 _____ 16 _____ 5 _____ 28 _____ 18
_____ 4 _____ 22 _____ 26 _____ ;
_____ 29 _____ 11 _____ 3 _____ 19 _____ 14 _____ 15
_____ 27 _____ 2 _____
_____ 9 _____ 1 _____ 20 _____ 31 _____ 23
_____ 12 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 21 _____ 17 _____ 25
_____ 30 _____ 6 _____ 24 _____ 13 _____
Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV

@ChurchArt Online

NEWS & EVENTS

Attention ALL High School Seniors!

Applications for the *Charles D. Arinello* Scholarship are due into the Knights of Columbus **NO LATER THAN APRIL 30!** If you are interested in getting an application contact Bob Hickman or Dan Lewandowski.



CRS Rice Bowls

It is time to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl donations! No coins please! You may place them in the collection basket or use the parish online giving site to donate. Thank you for changing lives this Lent!



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

This Spring of 2025, take the steps to reconnect with your spouse through the Worldwide Marriage Encounter non-residential (return "home" after day is done) experience at the peaceful **St. Clare of Assisi Retreat Center** in Hampton, Virginia.

Friday, May 16, 2025 from 7:30pm-9:30pm

Saturday, May 17, 2025 is all day

Sunday, May 18, 2025 is until 3:30pm

For more information, please call Kevin or Angie McFarling at 757-690-1369, or to register go to the WWME.org website, click "For Couples", then "Apply", type in "Hampton, VA" in the Search box for this specific location, then click "Apply".



EMMAUS JOURNEY For Grieving Parents

August 2, 2025

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Newport News**

This retreat is a faith-based, day-long retreat given by a team of grieving parents, spiritual directors, and clergy. It offers a safe place where grieving parents can seek peace, comfort, and hope.

Visit the website evangelizerichmond.org to learn more and to register for this retreat.

"Blessed are they who mourn for they will be comforted."
(Matthew 5:4)



**Food Pantry Needs for the
Week of April 27
BAKED BEANS OR KIDNEY BEANS**

FAITH FORMATION

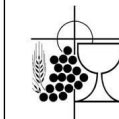


MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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.



First Holy Communion News

Next **Sunday, May 4, 2025**, we will be joined at the *Table of the Lord* by our children who have been preparing all year to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers as they grow closer to God each day.



Divine Mercy Cenacle

Jesus told St. Faustina, *"There will be no peace in the world until people turn to My Divine Mercy"*.

We have a group that meets here at Church of the Good Shepherd every third Wednesday at 10:00 am. We listen to and discuss readings from The Diary of St. Faustina, Holy Scripture, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We also pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Both men and women are welcome! All are invited to join us in turning to Jesus through His Divine Mercy. Our Church and our world have never been in greater need of His Divine Mercy! Our next gathering will be May 21, 2025. Please come and join us!

"Love is the only force capable of changing the heart of the human person and of all humanity, by making fruitful the relations between men and women, between rich and poor, between cultures and civilizations."

~Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



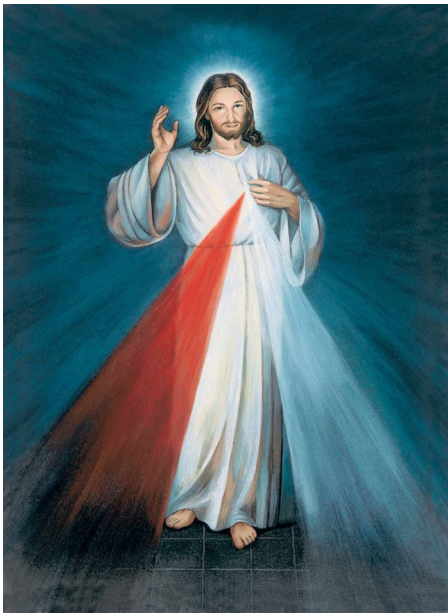
2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal: "Sharing His Love with Others"

As of 4/15/2025

Goal	\$ 21,190.00
Total Raised	\$ 18,195.00
% of Goal	86% from 36 donors

Help us reach our goal! It's 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.



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

Eucharistic Adoration is on the 1st & 3rd Friday of each month.

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 - Betsy Knapp

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 27, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 5:12-16 | Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 | Jn 20:19-31

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

On this Easter Octave, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. As Jesus revealed to the Polish nun St. Faustina Kowalska, the blood and water that gushed forth from his side during his crucifixion would become a “fountain of mercy” for all of us. In today’s first reading, we witness what happens now that the Apostles have received that mercy flowing from the foot of the cross. Motivated by the mystery of Jesus’ resurrection and ascension and emboldened by the gift of the Holy Spirit, these men are now continuing his ministry of healing. Just as the ill and possessed flocked to Christ, so now those sick in body or spirit see the power of Christ working through the Apostles. The beauty of receiving God’s mercy is that it doesn’t stop once it’s been poured into us – his mercy *compels us*, inspiring us to become living fonts of mercy to those we encounter.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In a somewhat confusing chronology, today’s Gospel takes place in time before the events in our first reading. So we go with the disciples back to “the evening of that first day of the week.” They have been through a *lot* over the past weeks. They have watched their community turn on Jesus and give him over to be brutally killed. They have walked with him through his agonizing passion and bitter death, and they have witnessed his glorious resurrection from the dead. “Overwhelming” seems too small a word. Can you imagine the weight of their experience on a physical, emotional, and spiritual level? Now, in today’s Gospel, we see them gathered together behind locked doors, shaken from the recent events, and fearing for their own lives. Somehow, mysteriously, Jesus enters the room and says, “Peace be with you.” Three times, Jesus repeats this phrase to his disciples in this reading. Untethered by space and time and in the wake of grief and glory, the Savior of the world extends himself in an intimate encounter, radically present to those who love him.

REFLECT

Throughout today’s Scriptures, we see the Lord’s relentless pursuit of the human heart. We see a God who loves us so passionately that he pours himself into us, inviting us to partake in his mission by the outpouring of his mercy and the power of his Holy Spirit. Today, pause to reflect on the mercy of God. In what areas of your life can you see God’s mercy at work? How can you be an instrument of his mercy for others?

LITURGY AND MINISTRY

Today’s Readings:
Thomas was not present with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them, and thus he insists he will not believe without seeing Jesus for himself. Jesus comes again and says, *Put your finger here...believe*. In myriad ways, God makes himself known to us each day, offering us innumerable chances to meet him. Lord, give us eyes to see you and the courage to respond like Thomas, in faith, *My Lord and my God!*

Gospel Focus:

God grants us countless opportunities to meet him each day.



“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: When has your faith in the living Christ helped you overcome fear?

Children: What could you do this Easter season to help someone feel less afraid?

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:

“When Jesus gazes within us and loves us, what does He see despite our distractions and sins? Jesus sees our fragility, as well as our desire to be loved just as we are.”



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. Faustina

On October 5, 1938, a young religious by the name Sister Faustina (Helen Kowalska) died in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Cracow, Poland. She came from a very poor family that had struggled hard on their little farm during the terrible years of WWI. Sister had had only three years of very simple education. Hers were the humblest of tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or the vegetable garden, or as a porter.

On February 22, 1931, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ appeared to this simple nun, bringing with Him a wonderful message of Mercy for all mankind. Saint Faustina tells us in her diary under this date:

“In the evening, when I was in my cell, I became aware of the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From the opening of the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red and the other pale. In silence I gazed intently at the Lord; my soul was overwhelmed with fear, but also with great joy. After a while Jesus said to me, ‘paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: Jesus, I trust in You.’”

Some time later, Our Lord again spoke to her:

“The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous; the red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My most tender Mercy at that time when My agonizing Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross....Fortunate is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him.”

(ewtn.com/Catholicism/devotions/st-faustina-13352)



There is NO WEEKDAY MASS on Tuesday, April 29th at Noon.
We will be having a Funeral Mass at 11:00 AM.
All are invited to attend.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
May 2, 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

“Peace be with you.” If you are seeking peace and purpose in your life, open your heart to the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. Let God’s mercy guide your steps. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org



April 27, 2025
Sunday of Divine Mercy

Readings for the Week

Monday, April 28
Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday, April 29—St. Catherine of Siena
Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday, April 30
Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21
Thursday, May 1
Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36
Friday, May 2—St. Athanasius
Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15
Saturday, May 3—Sts. Philip and James
1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 14:6-14
Sunday, May 4—Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19



Daily Mass & Intention Schedule

Mon.	April 28	No Mass
Tues.	April 29	11:00 am Funeral Mass
Wed.	April 30	Noon Available
Thurs.	May 1	Noon +Frances Rose
Fri.	May 2	Noon Available
Sat	May 3	5:00 pm Available
Sun.	May 4	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 3PM



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
May 4—Capital Reserve
May 18—Barron Dempsey Fund
May 25—Catholic Home Missions



Parish Life This Week

Monday, April 28
6:00 PM Cub Scouts
Tuesday, April 29
5:30 PM Boy Scouts
Wednesday, April 30
7:00 PM Youth Group
Thursday, May 1
6:00 PM Pastoral Council
6:30 PM Boy Scout Committee Mtg.
7:00 PM Choir Practice
Friday, May 2
11:30 AM Adoration
Saturday, May 3
4:30 PM Rosary
Sunday, May 4
First Holy Communion
8:30 AM Rosary
Crowning of Mary at Mass
10:15 AM Deeper Dive



Weekly Offering for:

April 19-20 & 26-27, 2025

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

**THE COLLECTION INFORMATION
WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE
MAY 4, 2025 BULLETIN**

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



If you are new to our parish, you can find the registration form on our website www.cgsparish.org or contact the parish office.

Registration Updates Needed !

Help us keep our records updated! If you have had an address, email change, phone number, birth, death, or grown children who have moved out on their own, please contact the parish office with these changes. Don’t forget us when life events occur. Thank you in advance.

The AED is located in the Commons by the fire extinguisher outside the office.

