


PUZZLE

As sweet as honey

Honey is both a sweetener and a medicine. How can our words be used in the same ways?

Directions: Use the hexagon key to fill in the missing vowels and complete Proverbs 16:24, NIV.



Gr c s w rds

r h n c mb,

sw t t th s l

nd h l ng

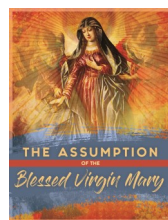
t th b n s.

PROVERBS 16:24, NIV

Answer: Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24, NIV

@ChurchArt Online

NEWS & EVENTS



Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, August 15, 2025

Mass at Noon & 7:00 PM

(This is a Holyday of Obligation)

Good Shepherd Pastoral Council is looking for New Members

Feeling the "Call to Serve"? In Good Shepherd's Mission Statement, we state *as diverse members of the Body of Christ, we come together to serve God, the Catholic Church, and our community. We help each other in the growth of our faith, sharing our gifts.* Is one of your gifts to be a member of the Pastoral Council? Fr. Andy would like two (2) more parishioners to join this important ministry.

Members of the Pastoral Council assist Fr. Andy by giving guidance when appropriate, everything from helping plan parish celebrations, to how to help replenish our emergency fund. We meet on the first Thursday of each month. Please contact Fr. Andy through the parish office if you have any questions or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Pastoral Council.



Emmaus Journey Retreat for Grieving Parents



The pain of a parent who has lost a child can be an excruciating, all-consuming grief, accompanied by an emptiness or sorrow that is isolating and unrelenting. This grief often challenges the parent's sense of identity, purpose, and faith. The journey through this pain is deeply personal and can be marked by moments of unexpected joy as they remember their child.

The Emmaus Journey Retreat is offered for parents just like this. No matter the age of your child, the circumstances of their passing, or how much time has gone by, you are invited to join us for a day retreat of healing.

Two retreats will be offered in 2025. August 2nd in Newport News and October 18th in Richmond. More information is available at evangelizerichmond.org.

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



FAITH FORMATION



VIRTUS Training Opportunity

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

6:00 PM—9:00 PM

St. Mary of the Presentation Church

202 S. Broad St. Suffolk, VA

Are you VIRTUS trained? Do you want to join one of the church ministries to share your time, talent, and treasure? You NEED VIRTUS! All parishioners who work with children or vulnerable adults are required by the Diocese of Richmond to take this training.

Register online at:

www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list.cfm?theme=0 or email office@stmarysuffolk.org for more information.



Catholic FEST 2025

October 11, 2025

10:00 AM-9:00PM

Join Bishop Knestout and the

entire diocese at a one-day festival in

Richmond. The day will be full of music, food, fun, fellowship, faith, and celebrating the Mass as the

Diocese of Richmond. If you would like more information, visit catholicfest.richmondiocese.org



JOB OPPORTUNITY:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED!

Church of the Good Shepherd is seeking an Administrative Assistant to begin working September 1, 2025. This position provides clerical, administrative and managerial support to the pastor, other staff members and ministry volunteers as required and provides reception and record keeping services for the parish. This is a part-time position that requires 20 hours per week during regular office hours. No weekends required.

Pay is commensurate on experience. If you are interested or know someone who may be a good candidate for the job, please contact Fr. Andrews Mensah or the parish office via phone 757-365-0579 or email at admin@cgsparish.org.



Food Pantry Needs for the Week of July 27

RICE OR PASTA

Help us help our brothers and sisters in need.



The Roman Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd

300 Smithfield Boulevard, Smithfield, Virginia 23430

Website: www.cgsparish.org

E-mail: admin@cgsparish.org

Office: (757) 365-0579 Rectory: (757) 542-3879

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 10:00AM-3:00PM; Friday—Closed

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. Andrews Mensah, amensah@richmonddiocese.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—Caiden Zakaras, music@cgsparish.org

Ministries

Ministry to the Sick - Betsy Knapp

Pastoral Council - Joe Campo

Finance Council - Maureen Davis

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

Walking with Moms in Need—Jean Coughlin

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. Andy plans to be at church to celebrate Mass whenever possible. 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 from 4:15PM to 4:45PM 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.



July 27, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 18:20-32 | Col 2:12-14 | Lk 11:1-13

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

“Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Sounds lovely, doesn’t it? I remember understanding this verse as though God is like a genie in a bottle and prayer is like a delivery service. But when I encountered true hardship, this interpretation was tested. I was seeking, but I couldn’t find what I wanted. My request seemed to go unanswered. I was asking, but my hands were empty. I couldn’t reconcile this. Did this mean God wasn’t telling me the truth? Trusting that couldn’t be the case, I pressed in a little harder. In time, and through the grace of God, I realized I’d been reading this verse through selfish eyes. I was understanding this passage to say, “ask for whatever you feel like in the moment, and I’ll drop it on your doorstep.” But what does Jesus *actually* say? He says that if we ask, he will always give us *the Holy Spirit*. This understanding can change how we pray. The Lord doesn’t promise to instantly cure our maladies, or to remove every ounce of pain on this side of the veil. But he does promise to send his Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be with us through it all. And that is far better than any type of delivery service.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today’s psalm echoes the Gospel message that the Lord never abandons us. In our response, we unite our voices with the universal Church as we say, “Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.” We encounter hardship on a daily basis. From the tiny irritations that tempt our tempers to flare to the heavy crosses we carry, we are reminded of how much we need God’s help. And yet, how often is our response to turn inward and grow weary, discouraged, or angry? Next time we come eye to eye with a challenge, let’s try to respond like the psalmist, and cry out to the Advocate. He is very near. *Come Holy Spirit*.

REFLECT


We are reminded in today’s readings that the Lord is always near, that he hears us, and that he responds generously. Thank God this is true even when it doesn’t seem like it. As we face our daily hardships, let’s not forget to ask Jesus for help. Don’t forget that he never rations the Spirit, and though he will never force himself on you, he’s waiting eagerly to pour his love into your heart. Ask! Seek! Knock! He knows your voice, and he is ready to respond.

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

LITURGY AND MINISTRY

Today’s Readings:
All of Scripture tells of the necessity of prayer, and Jesus exhorts us to be persistent because something powerful happens in that repetition. As we ask, as we return to the source of mercy and love, we are changed by our encounter with God. God is faithful. God is merciful.

Gospel Focus:
Ask and you will receive.




“Encounter the Joy of the Gospel
and Set the World Ablaze”
EVANGELIZED PEOPLE.
Have an active personal and communal
prayer life

FATHER’S CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Adults: Have your most recent prayers been prayers of praise, petition, or sorrow? Which kind of prayer do you need to practice more often?

Children: What are you most thankful for right now?


PRAYER AND VOCATIONS




Pope Leo XIV’s Prayer Intentions
for the Month of July

Evangelization: For formation in discernment.
Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

Pope Tweets:
“Every true encounter is free and cannot be bought: whether it is with God, with others, or with nature. We must simply become guests: make space and also ask for it; welcome and allow ourselves to be welcomed. We are called not only to give, but also to receive.”



Please Remember in Prayer:
Barbara Bonney, Christopher Morris,
Mary Pasko, Alice Reece, Debbie Steiger,
and Irene White




PRAYER FOR THE FIFTH WORLD DAY
FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY
July 27, 2025

“Blessed are those who have not lost hope”
(Sir 14:2)


How beautiful are these words of yours, Lord!
Help us to continue our pilgrimage
through time,
animated by the hope that comes from You!
Help us in this divisive world,
to bring the hope of communion.
Help us in this world, wounded by wars,
to bring the hope of peace.
Help us in this world, which is dehumanizing,
to bring the beauty of an ancient smile.
Help us to be, for our grandchildren,
for our loved ones
and for everyone we meet,
the memory of your tenderness.
Help us to bring,
in a world distracted from You,
the Hope of a new life that only You can give!

For in You, Lord, nothing is lost
For in You, Lord, everything begins again!
Amen.


(uscgb.org/resources/prayer-fifth-world-day-grandparents-and-elderly)



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
August 1, 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
“Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” If you feel God is calling you to a vocation, ask for His guidance in prayer. *Lord I will go where You want me to go. I will be who You want me to be. I will do what You want me to do. Just make it my will, and make it clear to me.* Talk to your priest or reach out the the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org



Arrangements for visits to the sick and homebound are to be made only by family members of the person needing the visit or by that person themselves. Please make your request through the parish office.

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

July 27, 2025
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time




Readings for the Week
Monday, July 28
Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday, July 29—Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus
Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Jn 11:19-27
Wednesday, July 30
Ex 34:29-35; Mt 13:44-46
Thursday, July 31—St. Ignatius of Loyola
Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Mt 13:47-53
Friday, August 1—St. Alphonsus Liguori
Lev 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Mt 13:54-58
Saturday, August 2
Lev 25:1, 8-17; Mt 14:1-12
Sunday, August 3—Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21


Daily Mass & Intention Schedule

Mon.	July 28	No Mass	
Tues.	July 29	No Mass	
Wed.	July 30	Noon	Available
Thurs.	July 31	Noon	Available
Fri.	August 1	Noon	Available
Sat	August 2	5:00 pm	Available
Sun.	August 3	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
August 3—Capital Reserve
August 15—Assumption of Mary
August 24—Barron Dempsey





Parish Life This Week
Tuesday, July 29
5:30 PM Boy Scouts
Wednesday, July 30
7:00 PM Youth Group
Thursday, July 31
7:00 PM Choir Practice
Friday, August 1
Office Closed
11:30 AM Adoration
Saturday, August 2
4:30 PM Rosary
Sunday, August 3
8:30 AM Rosary
10:15 AM Deeper Dive

Weekly Offering for:
July 19 & 20, 2025
Regular Offering needed weekly: \$ 6,750.00
(The following totals include E-Giving)

OFFERTORY:

Regular Offering	\$ 4,391.16
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ADDITIONAL FUNDS COLLECTED:

Capital Reserve/Mortgage	\$ 2,655.00
Haiti	\$ 175.00
Barron Dempsey	\$ 110.00
Altar Flowers	\$ 30.00
Catholic Virginian	\$ 10.00
Ladies Guild	\$ 36.00
Other	\$ 278.00


DIOCESAN COLLECTION:

Peter’s Pence	\$ 60.00
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MASS ATTENDANCE

Sat	103
Sun	246

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





**Welcome New Parishioners
to Church of the Good Shepherd!**
If you are new to our parish, you can find the registration form on our website www.cgsparish.org or by contacting the parish office.