

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

DECEMBER 25, 2022

CONNECT WITH US

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holycomforterparish.org

MASS TIMES *

Saturday Vigil 5 PM Sunday 8 AM + 11 AM** Monday + Friday 12 PM

(except First Friday)

7 AM Tuesday-Thursday 6 PM First Friday Saturday 8 AM

HOLY HOUR

Thursday 7 PM First Friday 7 PM

CONFESSION*

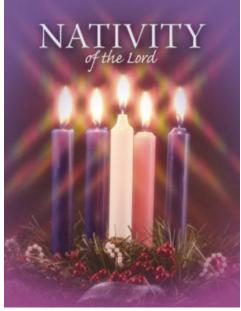
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 6:30-7:30 PM Thursday 6:30-8 PM First Friday 7:30 PM Sunday 1:30 PM

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9 AM-4 PM

* Please see Christmas Schedule

**We livestream our 11AM Sunday Mass on our Facebook page: facebook.com/holycomfortercville



STAFF

PASTOR

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deaconhenry@holycomforterparish.org

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Bridget Davis + Jack Engler + Heather Burns outreach@holycomforterparish.org Food Pantry: Mon, Tue & Wed 10:30AM -

12:30PM and Soup Kitchen: Thursday 12 PM

MINISTRIES

Finance Council Gary Krutul

gekrutul@sncomm.com **Pastoral Council** Jackson Kulick

Jackson@brgtshirts.com

Altar Servers Jackson Kulick

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Religious Education Committee Suzanne Bailey

slank@ntelos.net

Social Ministries Chuck McCurdy

cwm@virginia.edu

St. Vincent de Paul (434) 226-8022

Holy Trinity Conference info@svdp-ht.org Works of Mercy (and Funerals) Sharon Dudley

mercy@holycomforterparish.org

Wedding Coordinator Heather Burns

weddings@holycomforterparish.org Regina Caeli Homeschool Co-op Samantha Van Dyke

samantha.kepler@gmail.com

Parish Life **Emily Pierson** parishlife@holycomforterparish.org

Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound

Barbara Rainville consultrainville@aol.com

High School Youth Group Emily Pierson

youthgroup@holycomforterparish.org

PARISH VOLUNTEERS

Building and Grounds Ed Mickiewicz **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

Heather Burns Haiti Ginny Zeller Lectors Matt Freeman **Offertory Counters** Lee Faust Sacristans Suzanne Bailey Uganda Theresa Lynch Ushers **Dennis Dougherty**

Nativity of the Lord - Christmas December 25, 2022

That young men and women will answer the call to bring the word of God to his flock as priests and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

Please Send Bulletin Submissions by 3 PM Mondays to dre@holycomforterparish.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: We, the members of Holy Comforter Parish, united in faith by God, nourished by Jesus through the Word and the Eucharist, and guided by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, believe that we are called to worship, formation, service, and evangelization within our parish, our local communities, and all those in need.

PRAYER & WORSHIP



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (12/24)

3 PM: Carol Singing

3:30 PM: Children's Nativity Pageant 4 PM: Children's Christmas Mass

6 PM: Carol Singing

7 PM: Christmas Vigil Mass 10:30 PM: Carol Singing 11:30 PM: Christmas Mass

SUNDAY (12/25) NATIVITY OF THE

LORD

9 AM Christmas Mass **11 AM** Christmas Mass

MONDAY (12/26)

Parish Office Closed Today 10:30-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

TUESDAY (12/27)

Parish Office Closed Today

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

WEDNESDAY (12/28)

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

THURSDAY (12/29)

12 PM Mass

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

6:30 PM Confession

7-8 PM Holy Hour And Adoration

FRIDAY (12/30)

Parish Office Closed Today

12 PM Mass

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

SATURDAY (12/31)

8 AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass followed by

Confessions

SUNDAY (1/1) MARY, HOLY MOTHER

OF GOD

8:30 AM Mass

11 AM Mass

SAINTS OF GOD Blessed are You

12/24 Christmas at Greccio 12/25 Nativity of the Lord

12/26 Saint Stephen

Prayer for Protection

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the American People, and all people, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the SATURDAY (12/24) joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are **7 PM** The Smith Family (Heather Burns) in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Hail Mary (x3) Adopted from Pope Francis

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. 12 PM Lia Thoms I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at WEDNESDAY (12/28) least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

12/27 Saint John the Evangelist

12/28 Holy Innocents

12/29 Saint Thomas Becket

12/30 Saint Egwin

12/31 Saint Sylvester I

1/1 Mary Mother of God

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY (12/24)

3 PM: Carol Singing 3:30 PM: Nativity Play 4 PM: Children's Christmas Mass

6 PM: Carol Singing 7 PM: Christmas Vigil Mass

10:30 PM: Carol Singing 11:30 PM: Christmas Mass

SUNDAY (12/25) NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9 AM Mass 11 AM Mass

DAILY MASS (12/26-30, Mon-Fri.)

12 PM

TO REQUEST MASS INTENTIONS

Contact the Parish Office (434) 295-7185 reception@holycomforterparish.org

MASS INTENTIONS

4 PM Members of the Parish Seminarian Andrew Clark Seminarian William Yearout

Father Brian Capuano

11:30 PM † Helen and † James Savino (Patricia McAdams)

SUNDAY (12/25)

9 AM Victims of Abuse 11 AM † Jane Till Danilek

MONDAY (12/26)

TUESDAY (12/27)

7 AM Veterans

7 AM † Scarlett Makielski (Patricia McAdams) Carlos Ospina (Martha Ospina)

THURSDAY (12/29)

7 AM Unborn Children

FRIDAY (12/30)

12 PM Victims of Abuse

SATURDAY (12/31)

8 AM Elijah Schrank

5 PM Members of the Parish

SUNDAY (1/1)

8:30 AM American Families 11 AM † Jane Till Danilek

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 11, 2022

Offertory	\$8,989
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,500)
Above Weekly Budget	\$489

DUE TO PUBLICATION DEADLINES, THE OFFERTORY REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 18, 2022, WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN.

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR DECEMBER ALL

MONTH Christian Formation + Haiti + Justice and Peace

12/4/2022 Christmas Flowers

12/11/2022 Outreach

12/25/2022 Catholic Charities

STOCK DONATION INSTRUCTIONS

Your firm can send the shares through the Depository Trust Company (DTC) to Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Here are the details:

Schwab's DTC number: 0164

Account Name: HOLY COMFORTER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Account Number: 2162-7521

DON'T FORGET! GIFTS TO HOLY COMFORTER ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!!

If you will be making a tax-deductible gift before the end of the year, contributions to our parish may be made in pew, by mail, or online. Consider using the "Quick Give" feature to make a one-time gift

without creating a login. Contributions can be designated for our Offertory and for our parish ministries, as well as all Diocesan and National collections. Please visit the **online giving** link; https://holycomforterparish.org/online-giving/

HOLIDAY GIFT SHOPPING ON AMAZON

When you shop, sign in with <u>smile.amazon.com</u> and designate your support to "Holy Comforter Catholic Church." AMAZON SMILE works with your Amazon, Amazon Prime and Business Prime accounts (even in the App!) and donates to Holy Comforter at no cost to you. Every little bit helps us! Thank you!!

LITURGICAL NOTES

Entrance: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. Dominion is on his shoulder and his name shall be called the Angel of Great Counsel. **Offertory:** Yours are the heavens, yours is the earth, the world and the fullness thereof have been founded by you. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.

Communion: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation which comes from our God.

These Propers are one of four sets of Propers for Christmas. On Christmas Eve, the Antiphons have reached the climax of Advent expectation - "... tomorrow you will see his glory." At midnight (now "Mass in the night"), the Antiphons attest to the divinity of the Christ Child with several references to Him having been "begotten" before all creation. At dawn, the Antiphons speak of the Savior in terms of radiant light and joy, proclaiming that His coming is at hand as the rising of the sun heralds the arrival of day. At the day Mass (listed above), the Antiphons highlight Christ's kingly dominion and the orderliness it shall bring/restore to creation. The Communion Antiphon offers an elegant conclusion to the (more or less) 12 -hour saga. At the Vigil, the Communion declared, "all flesh shall see the salvation which comes from our God"; today's Communion completes this thought: "all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation which comes from our God". Let us reflect this holy day on the humility of God, Who, for our sake, subjected Himself the laws of creation, to Whom belongs the very same "world and the fullness thereof".

Merry Christmas!

Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy and Music

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Melinda Wells, Director of Religious Education dre@holycomforterparish.org

PLEASE DON'T FORGET: MASS CHANGE JANUARY 1ST, SUNDAY 8 AM MASS CHANGES TO 8:30AM

Please see the Christmas Schedule on page 2 in this bulletin.

- Children's Christmas Pageant: Saturday, Dec. 24 at 3:30PM
- ♦ Children's Christmas Vigil Mass: Saturday, Dec. 24 at 4 PM

Have a very Merry Christmas!

NEXT WEEK'S

READINGS

MARY,

MOTHER OF GOD

First Reading

Numbers 6:22-27

God gives a blessing for the Israelites.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 67:2-3,5,6,8

All the people sing praises to God.

Second Reading Galatians 4:4-7

God sent his Son to make us children of God.

Gospel

Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds find Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem. .

PARISH NEWS



PLEASE PRAY FOR

<u>PARISHIONERS</u> (includes ill, injured, homebound, and caregivers) Normand Auger, Emmett Dudley, Eileen Foster, Jolene Green, Colette Hall, Victoria Lannon, Mary Nguyen, Mary Polce, Hank Rainville, Ed Shaffrey, Shawn Simpson-Smith, Deacon Henry Vinklarek, Mary Wheeler, Denise Wilcox, and Charlie Anne Xavier.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Charlotte, Kent and Brittney Anderson, Blandine Attey, Sonia Bell, Christine Benteejac, Maureen Bradley, Tom Cassidy, Joseph Checkler, Roxanne Crittenden, Virginia Davis, Father Gerald Fogarty, Joe Ferguson, Richard Harmer, Sallie Harris, Beth Howard, Andrew Hunt & Family, Kajihara Family, Steve Kirchmeyer, Coty Lockett, Eduardo Mendes and family, Melodie Mougeolle and Children, Mary Mullen, Josephine Nampijja, Aimee Nyriamugisha, Isaak & Ada Pyatetsky, David Rathburn, Kathy Robinson, Residents and Staff of the Blue Ridge Detention Center, Randall Saathoff, David Shrank, Yulia Savona, Daniel and Shirley Shifflett, Aiden Smith, The Sullivan Family, Brendan and Maria Walsh, B. Waugh Crigler, Lisa Wells, Henry Francis Wojtala, Andrew Wood.

MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

Pete Bakke, Nick Bruno, Nathaniel Byrd, Michael Eiermann, Charles G. Ellison, Katharine Ernst, Jeffrey Jaeger, Trey Linebrink, Tom Logan, Matthew Mickiewicz, S. Proffitt, M. Rankin, Benjamin Schrank, Elijah Schrank, Jonathan Schrank, Joseph Schrank, Matthew Schrank, and Joey Smith.

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like a name added or removed, please call the Office 434.295.7185 or email reception@holycomforterparish.org

To arrange to receive Holy Communion or a visit from Father Joseph Mary, please call the office 434.295.7185

May God's Peace and Joy be with you. Merry Christmas! Please join us in our journey to prepare the way of the Lord by helping

the needy in our community. We meet at 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at the Church of the Incarnation. For more information about our conference, or if you would like to donate, please visit

our website at www.svdp-ht.org or email us at info@svdp-ht.org Give the Gift of Light this Christmas! As we enjoy the warmth and glow of our bright Christmas lights, many families are facing the possibility of not having electricity in their homes. A donation to our St. Vincent de Paul Holy Trinity Conference will help us provide utility cost assistance. Please donate on our website or send a check to SVdP Holy Trinity Conference 401 Alderman Rd Cville 22903. Thank you and Christmas Blessings!

MINISTRIES

<u>OUTREACH</u>: We wish you all a very Merry Christmas! We appreciate your generous support to Outreach through your contributions and donations! *Food Pantry will be closed on Mon, Dec.26th.* Please leave your donations in the basket in the Commons. God Bless you! (This USDA food pantry institution is an equal opportunity provider).

<u>Giant Food Bloomin' 4 Good Program</u>: Thank you for your support of this program which benefitted Holy Comforter's Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen!

SALVATION ARMY'S ANGEL TREE PROGRAM: A big Thank you for taking a tag from the Angel Tree and purchasing a gift! Your very generous giving provides a special Christmas for the children!

SACRISTAN MINISTRY is in need of volunteers to help maintain the beauty of the altar and to wash and iron altar linens used in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Suzanne Bailey (slank@ntelos.net or 434-326-3166) to volunteer or learn more.

<u>HAITI:</u> Merry Christmas to all and may every day be Christmas in your New Year. Thank you and God bless from your Tri-Parish Haiti committee and twin parish of St. Michel. A huge thank you to the Haiti committee for all their hard work and effort. This is the season of giving and joy, I know the effort of giving that you put into this ministry all year long and it is not seasonal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Every First Saturday, Father Joseph Mary will bless your holy objects following the Rosary after the 8 AM Mass.

ARE YOU CALLED TO BECOME A SECULAR DISCALCED

<u>CARMELITE?</u> The members of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCDS) live their vocations "in the world" rather than in a monastery, sharing the same universal call to holiness and Teresian Carmelite charism and traditions as those in religious life. The OCDS Community of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity meets at Saint Francis Church in Staunton on the 2nd Sunday of each month. For information, please contact Patricia McAdams at 434 286-4055 or pamcadams@yahoo.com.

NATIVITY OF THE LORD-CHRISTMAS-DECEMBER 25, 2022

"And the Word was made flesh..." If you think you may be called to share the good news of our Father's love as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother, call Father Brian Capuano 804-359-5661 or e-mail: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

FROM THE PASTOR





A JOURNEY OF ADEVENT -TRAVELING FROM HOPE TO JOY
Part IV

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." Luke 1:46-47

As we reflect on the last week of Advent, which has now given way to the joy of Christmas, the focus shifts ever more directly upon the miracle that took place over 2,000 years ago. There is an age-old question that asks, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" Well, perhaps it's an age-old "question" because only God knows the answer to how He created the world and all the creatures within it.

The first line of the previous Sunday's gospel from the glorious song of praise of our Blessed Mother, the Magnificat, poses to us another question. "Which comes first, to praise God or to rejoice in Him?" Perhaps you've never asked yourself that question, but it's worth pondering both the question and the answer.

This first line of Mary's song of praise identifies two actions taking place within her. She "proclaims" and she "rejoices." Think about those two interior experiences. The question can be better phrased like this: Did Mary proclaim God's greatness because she was first filled with joy? Or was she filled with joy because she first proclaimed the greatness of God? Perhaps the answer is a bit of both, but the ordering of this line in Sacred Scripture implies that she first proclaimed and as a result was filled with joy.

This is not just a philosophical or theoretical reflection; rather, it is a very practical one that offers significant insight into our daily lives. Oftentimes in life we wait to be "inspired" by God before we thank and praise Him. We wait until God touches us, fills us with a joyful experience, answers our prayer and then we respond with gratitude. This is good. But why wait? Why wait to proclaim the greatness of God?

Should we proclaim the greatness of God when things are difficult in life? Yes. Should we proclaim the greatness of God when we do not feel His presence in our lives? Yes. Should we proclaim the greatness of God even when we encounter the heaviest of crosses in life? Most certainly yes.

Proclaiming the greatness of God should not only be done after some powerful inspiration or answer to prayer. It should not only be done after we experience the closeness of God. Proclaiming God's greatness is a duty of love and must always be done, every day, in every circumstance, no matter what. We proclaim God's greatness primarily because of Who He is. He is God, and He is worthy of all our praise for that fact alone.

Interestingly, however, the choice to proclaim the greatness of God, both in good times and in difficult times, often also leads to the experience of joy. It appears that Mary's spirit rejoiced in God her Savior primarily because she first proclaimed His greatness. Joy comes from first serving God, loving Him and giving Him the honor due His name.

As we begin the season of Christmas, proclaiming must always come first, even if we feel as though there is nothing to rejoice about. But if you can commit yourself to the proclamation of the greatness of God, you will suddenly find that you have discovered the deepest cause of joy in life: God Himself.

So, we pray: Mother Mary, you chose to proclaim the greatness of God. You acknowledged His glorious action in your life and in the world, and your proclamation of these truths filled you with joy. Pray for us that we may also seek to glorify God each and every day, no matter what challenges or blessings we receive. May we imitate you, dear Mother, and share also in your perfect joy. Mother Mary, pray for us.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

To be continued...



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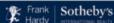
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