

# HOLY COMFORTER

# FEBRUARY 26, **2023**

# **CONNECT WITH US**

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holycomforterparish.org

# MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 5 PM

Sunday 8:30 AM & 11 AM\*

Monday + Friday 12 PM

(except First Friday)

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

**ADORATION** 

Thursday 7 PM-8 PM First Friday 7 PM-8 AM

**CONFESSION** 

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

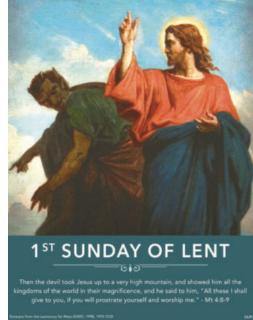
**Office Hours** 

Monday-Friday 9 AM-4 PM

\*We livestream our 11AM Sunday Mass on our Facebook page:

facebook.com/holycomfortercville

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



### Pastor

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F. <a href="mailto:jmlukyamuzi@richmonddiocese.org">jmlukyamuzi@richmonddiocese.org</a>

# Deacon

Rev. Mr. Henry Vinklarek deaconhenry@holycomforterparish.org

**Administrative Business Manager** 

Mary Frances Lilly

office@holycomforterparish.org

**Receptionist/Office Assistant** 

Melinda Crews

reception@holycomforterparish.org

**Director of Liturgy and Music** 

Daniel Kirkland

 $\underline{\mathsf{music@holycomforterparish.org}}$ 

**Director of Religious Education** 

Melinda Wells (434) 295-6559

dre@holycomforterparish.org

Outreach (434) 293-8989

Bridget Davis + Jack Engler + Heather Burns outreach@holycomforterparish.org

Food Pantry: Mon, Tue & Wed 10:30AM - 12:30PM and Soup Kitchen: Thursday 12 PM

Intern

Carl Bauman

Cbauman@richmonddiocese.org

### **MINISTRIES**

Finance Council Gary Krutul

Pastoral Council Jackson Kulick

Jackson@brgtshirts.com

Altar Servers Jackson Kulick

Jackson@brgtshirts.com

gekrutul@sncomm.com

**Religious Education Committee** Suzanne Bailey

slank@ntelos.net

Social Ministries Chuck McCurdy

<u>cwm@virginia.edu</u>

St. Vincent de Paul (434) 226-8022 Holy Trinity Conference info@svdp-ht.org

Works of Mercy Sharon Dudley

(Eucharistic Ministry to Homebound & Funerals)

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

Emily Pierson parishlife@holycomforterparish.org

barishine@noiyconnorterparish.org

**High School Youth Group** Emily Pierson

youthgroup@holycomforterparish.org

# **PARISH VOLUNTEERS**

Building and Grounds Ed Mickiewicz Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Heather Burns

Suzanne Bailey

HaitiGinny ZellerLectorsMatt FreemanOffertory CountersLee Faust

Uganda Theresa Lynch
Ushers Dennis Dougherty

# First Sunday of Lent February 26, 2023

That prayer, penance and almsgiving will dispose more men and women to follow the Holy Spirit as He leads them to discover their vocations in Christ, we pray to the Lord.

**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.

Sacristans

# PRAYER & WORSHIP



# THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

# SATURDAY (2/25)

8 AM Mass

**5 PM** Vigil Mass

# SUNDAY (2/26) FIRST SUNDAY OF

Altar Flowers Donations are

Appreciated

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11 AM Mass

**12:00 PM** RCIA

**4 PM** Vespers

**MONDAY (2/27)** 

10:30-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

**TUESDAY (2/28)** 

7 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY (3/1)

**7 AM** Mass

**10:30 AM-12:30 PM** Food Pantry

**6:30 PM** Confession

6:30-8:30 PM Youth Group

7 PM Choir

THURSDAY (3/2)

7 AM Mass

**12-1 PM** Soup Kitchen

6:30 PM Confession

7-8 PM Holy Hour

# FRIDAY (3/3) FIRST FRIDAY

9 AM-12 PM Regina Caeli

Homeschool Co-op

1 PM-5:30 PM Adoration

**5:45 PM** Stations of the Cross

6:30 PM First Friday Mass

All Night Adoration Following Mass

7:30 PM Confession

**SATURDAY (3/4) FIRST SATURDAY** 

SAINTS OF GOD

8 AM Mass

# Rosary followed by blessing of Objects 5 PM Vigil Mass

# **SUNDAY (3/5) SECONG SUNDAY OF**

# LENT

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11 AM Mass

12:00 PM RCIA

**4 PM** Vespers

## **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 joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are 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. 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 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.

2/28 Blessed Daniel Brottier

3/1 Saint David of Wales

3/2 Saint Agnes of Bohemia

3/3 Saint Katherine Drexel

3/4 Saint Casimir

3/5 Saint John Joseph of the Cross

# **NEW PARISHIONERS**

We welcome you to join our Holy Comforter Parish Family. Registration Forms are in the Office and on the Commons Credenza.

# TO REQUEST MASS INTENTIONS

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

# **MASS INTENTIONS**

# SATURDAY (2/25)

8 AM † Members of the Parish and Benefactors of Holy Comforter **5 PM** Personal Intention (Mary Frances Lilly)

# **SUNDAY (2/26)**

8:30 AM Father Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi 11 AM Members of the Parish

# **MONDAY (2/27)**

12 PM Stephanie Clarke (Dotty and George Lilly)

# **TUESDAY (2/28)**

7 AM † James Davis (Outreach)

# WEDNESDAY (3/1)

7 AM Naomi Wells (Melinda Wells)

# THURSDAY (3/2)

7 AM † Jack and † Margaret Kirkland

### **FRIDAY (3/3)**

6:30 PM † Annie Wallace (The Allen Family)

### SATURDAY (3/4)

8 AM † Mervin Ott

5 PM Members of the Parish

# **SUNDAY (3/5)**

8:30 AM Norma Petroni (The Davis Family)

11 AM Rae Ellen Graham Bell

(Richard Nordin)

# 2/25 Blessed Sabastian of Aparicio

Blessed are You

2/26 Saint Maria Bertilla Boscardin 2/27 Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

# PARISH NEWS



# **GIFTS FROM GOD**

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 19, 2023	
Offertory	\$2,984
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,500)
Below Weekly Budget	(\$5,516)

# SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

**ALL MONTH** Christian Formation + Haiti + Justice and Peace

**2/12/2023** Outreach

**2/22/2023** Ash Wednesday SVdP Holy Trinity Conference

# ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

In today's Gospel, Jesus claims, "One does not live by bread alone" (Matthew 4:4). Jesus forewent food in the wilderness for forty days to prove it was possible. Because He is so abundant, God's spirit can sustain any need. Our fasting shows us that this is possible in a personal, experiential way. Fasting is an act of faith that "No, I don't have to satisfy every urge." Relying on God, we aren't subservient to our urges.

Jesus tasked our parish with the mission to reach hungry souls with Jesus' sustaining bread of life. Through your generosity, you can help our Annual Diocesan Appeal feed those who hunger—physically and spiritually. Jesus' angels ministered to Him at the end of His fast and we, too, need your help to minister to the weak. Some souls have been fasting from His love for far too long. This Lent let's work together to end that fast. They need to know His name. May the name of Jesus be glorified through our Appeal!

# LITURGICAL NOTES

**Entrance:** When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will rescue him and honor him; with long life will I satisfy him.

**Offertory:** The Lord will overshadow you with his pinions, and you will find refuge under his wings. His faithfulness will encompass you with a shield.

**Communion:** He will overshadow you with his pinions, and you will find refuge under his wings. His faithfulness will encompass you with a shield.

Psalm 90 pervades the Propers this First Sunday of Lent. The Psalmist is referring to the just man and how he will be protected by God in all his doings because of his faithfulness. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the perfect fulfillment of this psalm, relying on His Father in all things and undoing disobedience of Adam through His perfect obedience. We see in the Gospel today how the devil manipulates the psalm by goading Jesus to test God's promises, but Our Lord gives us an example of utter dependence on God. We must strive to love the Commandments of God and the teachings of His Church in order to form our consciences, enabling us to hear the voice of God and respond to it with promptness and cheerfulness. As we strive to detach ourselves form distractions this season, let us look to the consoling words of the Entrance Antiphon from Ash Wednesday: "Your mercy extends to all things, O Lord, and you despise none of the things you have made. You overlook the sins of men for the sake of repentance. You grant them your pardon, because you are the Lord our God."

Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy and Music

# **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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

# FIRST SACRAMENTS

- ◆ Sunday, February 26 at 10:30 AM: Mandatory Parents Meeting First Sacraments Class will be practicing how to make a confession this week to prepare for First Reconciliation.
- ♦ Saturday, March 11 9:15 AM-12:00 AM: PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!
  FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT (MANDATORY)

Please remember to pray for the First Sacraments Children as they prepare for their First Reconciliation.

NEXT WEEK'S
READINGS
SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT

## **First Reading**

Genesis 12:1-4a
God promises Abram a great blessing.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 33:4-5,18-20,22 God's mercy is upon those who trust in God.

## **Second Reading**

2 Timothy 1:8b-10
Through God's grace we are called to holiness.

### Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

# PARISH NEWS



# **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

<u>PARISHIONERS</u> (includes ill, injured, homebound, and caregivers) Normand Auger, Eileen Bracuti, Stephanie Crews, Emmett Dudley, Eileen Foster, Jolene Green, Colette Hall, Barbara Isak, Ann Jackson, Victoria Lannon, Mary Nguyen, Mary Polce, Ed Shaffrey, Shawn Simpson-Smith, Mae Trentanove, Deacon Henry and Alicia Vinklarek, Mary Wheeler, Denise Wilcox, Sara Winter, and Charlie Anne Xavier.

### **FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Charlotte, Kent and Brittney Anderson, Blandine Attey, Sonia Bell, Christine Benteejac, Maureen Bradley, Tom Cassidy, B. Waugh Crigler, Roxanne Crittenden, Virginia Davis, Father Gerald Fogarty, Joe Ferguson, Roy Gaglio, Richard Harmer, Cindy Harris, Sallie Harris, Beth Howard, Andrew Hunt & Family, Kajihara Family, Steve Kirchmeyer, Teena and Raymond Klein, Chris Irwin Krupka, Shannon and 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, Matthew Schrank and Family, David Shrank and Family, Joseph Schrank, Yulia Savona, Daniel and Shirley Shifflett, Aiden Smith, The Sullivan Family, Mary Ann Uzzo, Brendan and Maria Walsh, Don and 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, 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

BECOMING A PROFESSED LAY DOMINICAN is a lifelong vocation open to all practicing Catholic men and women, single or married, who embrace Dominican Spirituality that includes the four pillars of prayer, study, apostolate, and community. Lay Dominicans meet in community once a month for prayer, study, and friendship, then —fortified by Grace and their Chapter meeting—go out into the world to serve secular society. By making a commitment to an apostolate, the Lay Dominican finds ways to share with all the Truth and Love of God for man.

The St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter is the local Dominican Laity Chapter. If you are interested in visiting the local Chapter, please email OPLaity511@gmail.com and a Lay Dominican will contact you with additional information.

# **MINISTRIES**

<u>OUTREACH:</u> We appreciate your generous support to Outreach through your contributions and donations! During the month of January, we gave out food bags to 119 households/325 individuals. And we served 244 meals at Soup Kitchen. Please leave your food donations in the basket in the Commons. God Bless You! (This USDA pantry institution is an equal opportunity provider).

WORKS OF MERCY MINISTRY is pleased to announce an opportunity to serve Holy Comforter's homebound or hospitalized members as an Extraordinary Minister (EM) of Holy Communion If you are looking for a meaningful way to "give back," this ministry promises richness. Training is provided. Call the parish office (434) 295-7185 or email mercy@holycomforterparish.org if interested. A commitment to this ministry could be a great way to start off your Lenten program. Also, a parishioner who lives at the Colonnades on Barracks Road needs a ride to Sunday's 11AM Mass. To help, email mer-

cy@holycomforterparish.org

THE HEARTS FOR HAITI fundraiser was successful. We still need two hundred additional sponsors to be where we were pre-COVID. It is a tax-deductible donation. The United States Government (USG) has initiated or is in the process of initiating an immigration policy called the "Parole program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans". The status of the "Parole program for Haitians", allowing individuals or families to come to the US for up to two years, is a bit nebulous at this point. I will be attending a course on the Parole program and will keep you informed. Also, a member of the Haiti Committee the is seriously ill, please keep him in your prayers. Please continue to keep St. Michel, Saltadare, and Haiti in your prayers. Thank you for supporting our Tri-Parish Haiti mission.

# **ANNOUNCEMENT**

PLEASE NOTE: EVERY FIRST SATURDAY, FATHER JOSEPH MARY WILL BLESS YOUR OBJECTS FOLLOWING THE ROSARY AFTER THE 8 AM MASS.

THE SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITE COMMUNITY of

Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity meets at St. Francis in Staunton on the 2nd Sunday each month from 11:30-4:00PM. If you are interested in learning more or feel called to Carmelite way of life, please visit, Sunday, March 12, 2023. Contact Patricia McAdams at 286-4055 or email <a href="mailto:pamcadams@yahoo.com">pamcadams@yahoo.com</a>. Flyers are in the Commons area.

<u>Dorothy Day Lenten reading group:</u> The Dorothy Day Guild of Central Virginia and the Office of Social Ministries at Holy Comforter is sponsoring a <u>four-week Lenten reading and discussion of The Long Loneliness by Dorothy Day</u> They will meet on Mondays, March 6, 13, 20, & 27 from 7:30pm – 8:30 pm via Zoom. To register, please contact Denise Zito, Denise.zito@gmail.com. Books available online.

THIS PAST WEEK VINCENTIANS WERE BUSY returning calls and visiting our neighbors in need. Your almsgiving helps to prevent evictions, utility disconnections and relieve stress in the hearts

of many struggling neighbors. Those we visit share in God's blessings from the charity of our Catholic Community. Thank you. We are in urgent need of members who can speak Spanish to help us support and communicate with our many Spanish speaking friends in need. If you would like to help us by joining the Society, please contact us at info@svdp-ht.org or call (434) 226-8022, and we will get back to you. Thank you! God bless you for your prayerful consideration.

# FROM THE PASTOR





# **WELCOMING LENT 2023:**

### Part I

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.

"You have abandoned your first love. Therefore, remember how far you have fallen. Repent and perform the deeds you did at first" (Rev. 2:4-5).

On Wednesday we entered the holy season of lent, a season of grace, a season of hope and joy. We marked our foreheads with ashes, proclaiming a time of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. We received ashes with the words, "Repent and believe the Gospel" (Mark 1:15) or "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return".

I invite you during this season to take into your heart these two words: LOVE and REPENT. In the text from the Book of Revelation Chapter 2, the Lord expresses his disappointment with the people he loves. They showed Him love and devotion initially, but then it faded and was lost. These are haunting words. What it means is that you can do all the right things — teach a Bible study, even stand up for the truth — and yet your heart can be cold! This challenges us to pause and do some self-reflection this season. When was the last time you spent time with Jesus? When did you come before Him and ask for His help to know Him more? I'm sure we all remember what it was like when we first came to Christ and enjoyed His presence and were amazed by it all, to be overjoyed when we sang of how our sins

have been nailed to the cross entirely at our Baptism and in the sacrament of penance!

Jesus gives three actions to help get us back to where He expects us to be: remember, repent, do the works you did at first (Rev. 2:5). These probably seem too simple, but often the best solutions are simple. Remembering is a mental action with no outward manifestation, yet is an important start, for we cannot bring ourselves anywhere if we don't remember from where we came. It leads us to the next action: repentance. Repenting calls us to turn away from sin and is observable because true repentance is accompanied by the doing of works. This is important because to get back the first love involves letting go of something AND regaining something in the process. Someone wrote a book called **The Expulsive Power of a New Affection** on how we cannot get rid of an old love unless something better comes. So, for us there must be an active action and change that needs to be done during this graced period of Lent. What is pulling you and keeping you away from your first love today? Let it go!

The call to repentance by Jesus, and the real call of Lent, is to take a new look at God, to refresh our image of him. It is to come to a vivid realization that God loves us now, as we are, and even before we changed. The main thing in Lent is not that we should do things for God but that we should become more aware of how much God is loving us. Each day we want to see more and more that God loves us powerfully, unfailingly, permanently. We want to bring home to ourselves that God is all tenderness and compassion, rich in graciousness and ready to relent.

The real repentance of Lent is to "turn" and look into the eyes of Jesus and see how much he loves us, how totally forgiving he is. It is to let God be God in every aspect of our lives, and from this new awareness of God's love there comes the power to turn our backs on sin, to turn away from what is wrong and embrace with our whole being all that is good. The means are simple: Self-denial, amplified by prayer and generous giving, open our eyes to God's love and our desire to care for other people. May all of us have a fruitful season of LENT.

Consider the following:

- Have you lost your first love? What is the state of your current relationship with Jesus Christ?
- Do you love your Catholic Church? What is your current relationship with God's loved ones?
- What is the one thing you can do differently during this Lent of 2023?



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