



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

MAY 21, 2023

CONNECT WITH US

- 208 East Jefferson Street
 Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
 Phone: (434) 295-7185
 Fax: (434) 220-1464
office@holycomforterparish.org
holycomforterparish.org
MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil	5 PM
Sunday	8 :30 AM & 11 AM*
Monday + Friday (except First Friday)	12 PM
Tuesday-Thursday	7 AM
First Friday	6 PM
Saturday	8 AM

ADORATION

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

CONFESSION

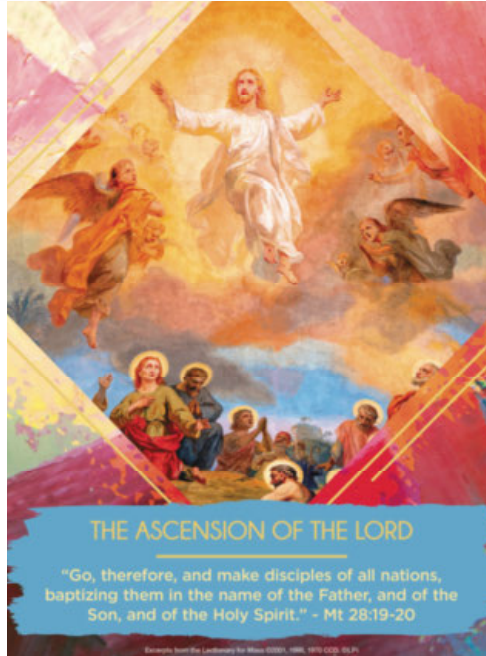
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	6:30-7:30 PM
Thursday	6:30-8 PM
First Friday	7:30 PM
Sunday	1:30 PM

Office Hours

Monday-Friday	9 AM-4 PM
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*We livestream our 11AM Sunday Mass on our Facebook page:
facebook.com/holycomforterville

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



Pastor

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.
jmlukyamuzi@richmonddiocese.org

Deacon

Rev. Mr. Henry Vinklerek
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
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 Baumann
cbaumann@richmonddiocese.org

MINISTRIES

- Finance Council** Gary Krutul
gkrutul@sncomm.com
Pastoral Council Jackson Kulick
Jackson@brgtshirts.com
Altar Servers Jackson Kulick
Jackson@brgtshirts.com
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
Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound
 Alicia Vanklarek
communionvisit@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
High School Youth Group Emily Pierson
youthgroup@holycomforterparish.org
Website Masters Erin Ferguson and Mona Reglow
Webmaster@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

The Ascension of the Lord May 21, 2023

That Christ, from his seat in heaven, will
 bless and guide all those called to serve
 Him as priests, deacons,
 sisters and brothers,
 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.

PRAYER & WORSHIP



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (5/20)

8 AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (5/21)

The Ascension of the Lord

8:30 AM Mass

11 AM Mass

12 PM RCIA

12:30 PM Shroud of Turin Talk

4 PM Vespers

MONDAY (5/22)

10:30-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

TUESDAY (5/23)

7 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY (5/24)

7 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

6:30-8:30 PM Youth Group

7 PM Choir

THURSDAY (5/25)

40 HOURS DEVOTION BEGINS

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

6 PM MASS

7:30 PM Confession and Adoration

FRIDAY (5/26)

12 PM Mass

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

SATURDAY (5/27)

8 AM Mass

4:30 PM Vespers

5 PM Extended Pentecost Vigil Mass

7 PM Wine & Cheese Reception

SUNDAY (5/28) Pentecost Sunday

8:30 AM Mass

11 AM Mass

12 PM RCIA

4 PM Pentecost Picnic-Pen Park

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.

5/22 Saint Rita of Cascia

5/23 Saint Gregory VII

5/24 St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi

5/25 Saint Bede the Venerable

5/26 Saint Philip Neri

5/27 Saint Augustine of Canterbury

5/28 Venerable Pierre Toussaint

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 (5/20)

8 AM Mark Crews

5 PM Members of the Parish

SUNDAY (5/21)

8:30 AM Madelyn Shepherd for Healing

11 AM Colette Hall and Kelton Flinn In
Celebration of their 25th Wedding Anniversary

MONDAY (5/22)

12 PM † Barbara Moore (Delaney Family)
Jack Powers

TUESDAY (5/23)

7 AM Lucas Gerling in Honor of His Baptism
(Maria Andrea Ospina Gerling)

WEDNESDAY (5/24)

7 AM † Helen Taylor (Delaney Family)

THURSDAY (5/25)

6 PM † Pam Heron (Cindy Needy)

FRIDAY (5/26)

12 PM Deceased Members of the Parish and
Benefactors of Holy Comforter.

SATURDAY (5/27)

8 AM Elizabeth (Maia) Browning
(Stelow Family)

5 PM Irene Vukorpa (Mary Frances Lilly)

SUNDAY (5/28)

8:30 AM Members of the Parish

11 AM Jane Till Danilek

SAINTS OF GOD *Blessed are You*

5/20 Saint Bernadine of Siena

5/21 Saint Cristobal Magallanes
and Companions

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

WEEK ENDING MAY 14, 2023

Offertory (Online Giving)	\$13,801.30
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,500.00)
Above Weekly Budget	\$5,301.30

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR MAY

ALL MONTH Catholic Virginian + Christian Formation + Justice and Peace + **New This Month:** Maintenance Fund

5/14/2023 Outreach

5/21/2023 Catholic Home Missions

5/28/2023 **NEW SECOND COLLECTION: MAINTENANCE FUND**

We've added a NEW second collection envelope this month for a Maintenance Fund. All contributions will be designated for repairs and maintenance to our church and rectory that can be made *anytime* in pew, by mail, or online. Thank you for your support! <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/PS-1665>

HOLY COMFORTER HAS EXCEEDED OUR ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL GOAL! THANK YOU!!

Today, the Gospel reveals that Jesus' disciples still struggled with doubt even after He rose from the dead. He didn't rebuke them this time. Instead, Jesus gave them the mission to "Make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus knew they needed help to believe Him, even after seeing Him rise. He knows us, too. Seeing is not enough! Many of His would-be followers abandoned Him despite miracles. That's why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen our weak faith.

We ask you to make an act of faith by giving to our Annual Diocesan Appeal. Like the disciples in today's Gospel, after worshipping Jesus atop a mountain, we worship Jesus at the "source and summit" of our Eucharistic faith. After worshipping, He sends us out to make disciples. The word Mass comes from the Latin word *missa*, which means "sending." We make disciples in our homes, workplaces, and our neighborhoods. We need your prayers and financial contributions to fulfill our commission to make disciples in our community. Help us fulfill it so that he will find us busy with the good work when He comes back. God be with you.

LITURGICAL NOTES

Entrance: Men of Galilee, why are you gazing in astonishment at the sky? alleluia; just as you have seen him ascend into heaven, so, in like manner, shall he return, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Offertory: Men of Galilee, why do you gaze at the sky in astonishment? This same Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven, will come by the very way in which you saw him go into heaven, alleluia.

Communion: Sing to the Lord who has ascended the highest heavens, towards the East, alleluia.

It is interesting how the accounts of the Ascension in Acts and Luke differ, which we find reflected in the Antiphons for Mass as well. In the Acts of the Apostles, which the Entrance and Offertory echo, the angel exhorts the Apostles to stop looking heavenward and trust in Christ's promise that He would return. There is a sense of longing in their heavenward gaze, similar to saying farewell to a child moving out of the house or a beloved friend moving away, or even the death of someone dear to us. The Communion Antiphon, on the other hand, reflects Luke's telling of the Ascension where the Apostles returned to Jerusalem rejoicing after our Lord's departure. Having received the angel's message, the Apostles find renewed hope in Christ's promise of the Advocate coming to aid them in all things. Bittersweetness melts away into anticipation. We have in these texts, then, a model for prayer. Turning our gaze to God, our hearts cry out in prayer begging that He come to us in our need. In an act of faith, we then believe that He hears our prayers and can rejoice in knowing that the Creator of all things knows our wants and will not leave us orphaned. Every time we go to Mass, this promise is confirmed in the reception of Holy Communion; Jesus Christ comes down to us, accompanied by His Father and the Spirit, and dwells with us. Give thanks to God when you receive Communion today for the gift of His Son, whose ascension led to the outpouring of the Spirit. We are not alone! "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy, a blare of trumpets for the Lord, alleluia."

Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy and music

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Melinda Wells, Director of Religious Education

dre@holycomforterparish.org

SAVE THE DATE!!!

HOLY COMFORTER'S ANNUAL POTLUCK PENTECOST PICNIC

Sunday, May 28, 4PM at Pen Park

Hope to see you there!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

PENTECOST SUNDAY

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

The Holy Spirit descends upon the apostles gathered in Jerusalem.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 104:1,24,29-31,34

God's Spirit renews the earth.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13

We are all one in Christ Jesus

Gospel

John 20:19-23

Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

PARISH NEWS



PLEASE PRAY FOR

PARISHIONERS (includes ill, injured, homebound, and caregivers) Normand Auger, Eileen Bracuti, Stephanie Crews, Emmett Dudley, Kelton Flinn, 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 Vinklerek, Mary Wheeler, Denise Wilcox, Sara Winter, and Charlie Anne Xavier.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Charlotte, Kent and Brittney Anderson, Blandine Attey, Fr. Dan Bain, Christine Bentejac, Maureen Bradley, Florence Cassidy, Tom Cassidy, B. Waugh Crigler, Roxanne Crittenden, Virginia Davis, Father Gerald Fogarty, Richard Harmer, Cindy Harris, Sallie Harris, Beth Howard, Andrew Hunt & Family, Julie Kajihara & Family, Steve Kirchmeyer, Teena and Raymond Klein, Chris Irwin Krupka, Mike & Sibylle Llewellyn, Shannon and Coty Lockett, Eduardo Mendes and family, Melodie Mougeolle and Children, Mary Mullen, Josephine Nampijja, Aimee Nyriamugisha, Sally Paget-Brown, 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, Monica Wadium, 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, Tom Logan, Matthew Mickiewicz, S. Proffitt, M. Rankin, Benjamin Schrank, Elijah Schrank, Jonathan Schrank, and Joey Smith.

To request Holy Communion or a visit from Father Joseph Mary, or to add or remove a name, please contact the office 434.295.7185 reception@holycomforterparish.org

2023 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL (Case for Support Overview)

CASE ELEMENT	TARGET
<u>2023 Appeal Overall Target</u>	<u>\$3,989,235</u>
Empowering The Next Generation	\$817,056
Providing For Those in Need	\$1,405,000
Strengthening Catholic Communities	\$1,272,179
Building an Effective Annual Appeal	\$495,000



Holy Comforter Parish target is \$25,150 and we will receive 30% of contributions up to that goal and 50% of all contributions over it. All proceeds will be used here for church maintenance. *Scan the QR code to contribute.*

MISSING CHILDREN'S BIBLE...a CHILDREN'S BIBLE went missing couple of weeks ago, Saturday evening or Sunday morning from Catechist Sherry Schemmel's classroom, 2nd/ First Sacraments, LL. If you found it or borrowed it, please return to Sherry Schemmel or Melinda Wells, DRE. It was a Holy Communion gift to one of her children and a family heirloom, so it's very special to her and her family.

MINISTRIES

OUTREACH: During the month of April, we handed out **133** food bags to **386** individuals in Food Pantry and we served **358** lunches in Soup Kitchen. We appreciate your generous support to Outreach through your contributions and donations. Many thanks and God Bless!

THE WORKS OF MERCY MINISTRY: Our mission is to strengthen our parish community through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. For more information about our mission to visit/pray for the ill & recovering, as well as the parish homebound, please email Sharon Dudley mercy@holycomforterparish.org.

HAITI: Father Asmith has proposed eleven initiatives he would like to concentrate on over the next five years, that is his term at St. Michel in Saltadare. We are planning on hosting Father Asmith in the late fall. The Haiti committee met with Bishop Jean Desinord, Diocese of Hinche, Haiti, this past Saturday. We presented what we were working on at St. Michel and he presented a synopsis of his twenty-year plan. He also told us of the dangers and hardships in the Port au Prince area. Please keep Haiti in your prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

40 HOURS DEVOTION: Join us for 40 hours of continuous adoration May 25-27 as we seek greater intimacy with Jesus to prepare for Pentecost, make reparation for our sins, and ask for a spiritual awakening in our Charlottesville community. Sign up on Flocknote or in the Commons. Contact Daniel Kirkland for more information.

HELP NEEDED OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Consider joining our collection counter team! We love our parish and are dedicated to our service. Plenty of street parking is available when we meet at 8 AM on alternating Mondays. Please contact Mary Frances Lilly 434.295.7185 or office@holycomforterparish.org for more info.

CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL is hiring for the 2023-2024 school year. Currently, we are seeking an Elementary Teacher (JK-5th), a full-time Spanish Teacher (capable of teaching Spanish I and II), and a School Counselor. Teacher applicants should have a current Virginia state Teaching License. If you are interested, please send resume, Diocesan Application, three letters of reference, and a copy of your teaching license to Charlottesville Catholic School, Attn: Vada Fallica, Principal; 1205 Pen Park Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901 or via email to v.fallica@cvillecatholic.org.



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. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness, and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need. We seek the face of Christ in all we meet. We are in urgent need of members who can return phone calls or visit our 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



THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION

Part VII

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete"
John 15:11

Surrounded by His disciples, Jesus is raised up above the clouds on Earth and into Heaven to be with God the Father (*Act 1:9*). This miracle, known as the Ascension of Jesus, takes place on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem forty days after Jesus rises from the dead. **He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father** (*The Nicene Creed*).

Joy is likely not an experience we associate with the departure of someone we love. *Would the apostles miss the Lord after He returned to the Heavenly Father?* Certainly, as indicated in the following text: ***"Jesus said to his disciples: 'Now I am going to the one who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts' (Jn. 16: 5ff.).*** But Jesus promised them that He would not leave them abandoned after His Ascension. For this, the apostles, and we too, are filled with joy anyway, because we perceive the completion of Jesus' mission to bring all to the Father and be with

him forever.

Jesus told the apostles, ***"Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age"*** (*Mt. 28:20*). Even as He is seated at the right hand of our Heavenly Father, Jesus remains with all Christians, for He is the Head of the mystical body, the Church. Like the apostles, we are all united in Jesus Christ when we live faithfully, serve others, and follow His commands. Not only is He with us, but when we act as Christians, Jesus works through us, offering His grace to increase the love we have for Him and our neighbor.

Jesus also remains with us in the sacraments, through which He welcomes us, nourishes us, forgives us, heals us, and strengthens us. We intimately receive Him – body, blood, soul, and divinity – in the Eucharist. We visit Him in the tabernacle when we go to pray alone or with others in adoration. We experience His tenderness when, through the priest, He speaks words of forgiveness. Christ is never far from us when we seek Him.

Not only that, but Jesus sends His Holy Spirit to live within us as well, as He promised the apostles before His Ascension: ***"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you"*** (*Acts 1:8*). This promise is fulfilled at Pentecost when the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, descends on the apostles just as He descends on us at baptism, to dwell within us. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus unites Himself to us, cheers us, and fills us with peace and joy. The Spirit transforms us and in doing so renews the church.

A final reason for the apostles' joy, and ours as well, is that the Ascension foretells what will happen to us when Jesus comes again. Our Lord became man to redeem humankind, yet He took on our flesh not only to free us from sin but also to bring us to glory. Through Him, we see the promise of a resurrected and glorified body. Through Him, we realize the body's destination is not this earth but heaven, in the company of the Father and the Son. Through our faithfulness to Jesus, He brings us to the place He has prepared for us in heaven where we will experience a glory far beyond anything we could experience in this life. So, while we are tempted to see the Ascension as a sad departure, the joy of the apostles reveals it is instead the start of the new and more intimate way to unite ourselves to Jesus. The Ascension is the initiation of Christ's presence in the sacraments and in His body, the Church. It is the promise of the Holy Spirit. It is the revelation of heaven as our end, where we will be reunited with Jesus and all the saints, body and soul, in radiant splendor for all eternity.

To be Continued...

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