



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

DECEMBER 10, 2023

CONNECT WITH US

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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	7-8 PM
First Friday	7-8 PM

CONFESSION

Mon, Weds, Fri	6:30-7:30 PM
Thursday	7-8 PM
First Friday	7 PM
Sunday	1:30 PM

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

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



Pastor

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

Deacon

Rev. Mr. Henry Vinklerek
deaconhenry@hollycomforterparish.org

Administrative Business Manager

Mary Frances Lilly
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Receptionist/Office Assistant

Melinda Crews
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Director of Liturgy and Music

Daniel Kirkland
music@hollycomforterparish.org

Director of Religious Education

Melinda Wells (434) 295-6559
dre@hollycomforterparish.org

Outreach

(434) 293-8989
Bridget Davis + Jack Engler + Heather Burns
outreach@hollycomforterparish.org
Food Pantry: Mon, Tue & Wed
10:30AM - 12:30PM and
Soup Kitchen: Thursday 12 PM

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	mercy@hollycomforterparish.org
Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound	Alicia Vinklerek communionvisit@hollycomforterparish.org
Wedding Coordinator	Heather Burns weddings@hollycomforterparish.org
Regina Caeli Homeschool Co-op	Samantha Van Dyke samantha.kepler@gmail.com
Parish Life	Elizabeth Gilbert parishlife@hollycomforterparish.org
High School Youth Group	Emily Pierson youthgroup@hollycomforterparish.org
Website	Erin Ferguson & Mona Peglow webmaster@hollycomforterparish.org
Building and Grounds	Ed Mickiewicz
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	Heather Burns
Haiti	Ginny Zeller
Lectors	Matt Freeman
Offertory Counters	Lee Faust lfaust@comcast.net
Sacristans	Suzanne Bailey
Uganda	Theresa Lynch
Ushers	Dennis Dougherty

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

That the hearts and minds of those called to serve the Lord as priests and religious brothers and sisters will be enriched in Christ and prayerfully graced with abundant spiritual gifts to serve Him, 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 (12/9)

8 AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (12/10) Second Sunday of

Advent

Altar Flowers donated by Melinda Crews in Honor of Debra Okada's Birthday

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11 AM Mass

12:30-1:30 PM RCIA

MONDAY (12/11)

7 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

TUESDAY (12/12)

7 AM MASS

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

WEDNESDAY (12/13)

7 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

7 PM Choir

THURSDAY (12/14)

7 AM MASS

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

7-8 PM Adoration and Confession

FRIDAY (12/15) Immaculate Conception

12 PM Mass

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

SATURDAY (12/16)

8 AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (12/17) Third Sunday of

Advent

Altar Flowers donated by Deacon Henry and Alicia Vinklerek in Honor of their Wedding Anniversary

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11 AM Mass

12 PM Posadas A Journey to Bethlehem

12:30-1:30 PM RCIA

4:30 PM Lessons and Carols

Concert and Potluck

(Flocknote Sign-up)

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 (3x) 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.

12/11 Saint John Damascene

12/12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

12/13 Saint Lucy

12/14 Saint John of the Cross

12/15 Blessed Mary Frances Shervier

12/16 Blessed Honoratus Kozminski

12/17 Saint Hildegard of Bingen

NEW

PARISHIONERS

Aaron Way & Katie Kinnick

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@holyccomforterparish.org

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY (12/9)

8 AM In Thanksgiving for Dominique Faust and her life (Lee Faust and Family)

5 PM In Thanksgiving for Dominique Faust and her life (Lee Faust and Family)

SUNDAY (12/10)

8:30 AM Members of the Parish

11 AM In Thanksgiving for Dominique Faust and her life (Lee Faust and Family)

MONDAY (12/11)

12 PM Julie Zackrisson (Heather Burns)
† Jaime Folke (Paula Ospina)

TUESDAY (12/12)

7 AM Robbie Gibson (Heather Burns)

WEDNESDAY (12/13)

7 AM † Helen Zink (Jeanne Mickiewicz)

THURSDAY (12/14)

7 AM † Gerard Zink (Jeanne Mickiewicz)

FRIDAY (12/15)

12 PM † Jadwiga Mickiewicz
(Jeanne Mickiewicz)

SATURDAY (12/16)

8 AM † Zygmunt Mickiewicz
(Jeanne Mickiewicz)
† Calvin Ness (Anna Stelow)

5 PM Forgotten souls in Purgatory
(Jeanne Mickiewicz)

SUNDAY (12/17)

8:30 AM † Jane Till Danilek

11 AM Members of the Parish

SAINTS OF GOD

Blessed are You

12/9 Saint Juan Diego

12/10 Blessed Adolph Kolping

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Offertory	\$3,822
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,750)
Below Weekly Budget	(\$4,928)

Due to an early publication deadline, the Offertory Report for Week Ending December 3, 2023 will appear in next week's Bulletin.

eGiving

Through our secure **Online Giving** program, you can set up recurring or one-time gifts for our Offertory, our parish ministries, and for all Diocesan and National collections.



Please **click or scan the Online Giving QR code** to be directed to our giving portal. Thank you for your support of Holy Comforter!

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

ALL MONTH Christian Formation + Haiti + Justice and Peace + Christmas Flowers

12/08/2023 Feast of the Immaculate Conception

12/10/2023 Outreach

12/24/2023 Maintenance Fund

11/25/2023 Catholic Charities

ANNUAL REPORT Please pick up a copy of our Parish Annual Report in the Commons or read it on our website or in Flocknote.

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

IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS If you have an IRA and are 72 years of age, you can make a tax-free charitable gift directly from your Individual Retirement Account to our parish of up to \$100,000. **It helps you and it helps us.**

- **How it helps you:** it can lower your taxable income and count towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).
- **How it helps us:** we can put your gift to use right away to support our parish operations and the good works of our ministries.

LITURGICAL NOTES

Entrance: People of Zion behold, the Lord is coming to save all nations; and the Lord shall cause you to hear his majestic voice for the joy of your heart.

Offertory: You will turn toward us, O God, and restore our life again, and your people will rejoice in you. Show us, Lord, your mercy and grant us your salvation.

Communion: Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high; and behold the joy that shall come to you from your God.

*The Advent mood this Sunday is shifting from the coming of Christ at the end of time to His first coming in the manger with the heralding of St. John the Baptist. Yet, the spiritual meaning of the Scriptures and Propers today remain salient to our times, weighed down as they are by our sins and weakness. "[T]he Lord shall cause you to hear his majestic voice" seems to hearken to the fulfillment of the Kingdom at the end of all things, yet the bit about saving "all nations" is already happening among us; the Church is catholic, or **universal**, opening her doors to all peoples who will hear the Gospel and receive its wonderful promise of the forgiveness of sins and adoption as the Children of God. At baptism and during confession, God indeed does "restore our life again", causing us to rejoice in him. Let us therefore heed the message of the Baptist and prepare the way of the Lord anew in our hearts, letting ourselves be molded in His likeness. As St. Augustine said: "Let us not resist his first coming, so that we may not dread the second." Jesus wants us to be free and to know the joy of that freedom. The way is a little narrow, but the end of the short path is never-ending bliss and freedom from the power of the world, the flesh, and the devil, the beginnings of which we can experience NOW. Come, Lord Jesus!*

Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy and Music

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

ADVENT IS COMING!!! SAVE THE DATES!!!

- ♦ **Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, 10:15AM: Children's Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsal (LL)**
- ♦ **Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, 12:00PM: Posada-Journey to Bethlehem**
- ♦ **Sunday, Dec. 24, 9:45AM: Children's Christmas Eve Pageant DRESS Rehearsal (in the church nave)**
- ♦ **Sunday, Dec. 24, 4:30PM: Children's Christmas Eve Pageant**
- ♦ **Sunday, Dec. 24, 5pm: Christmas Vigil Mass**
- ♦ **Monday, Dec. 25, 8:30AM & 11:30AM: Christmas Mass**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Third Sunday Of Advent

First Reading *Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11*

The Lord's salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed.

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-50,53-54

Mary sings praise to God.

Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always

Gospel *John 1:6-8,19-28*

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

PARISH NEWS



PLEASE PRAY FOR

MINISTRIES

PARISHIONERS

(Includes ill, injured, homebound, and caregivers.) Eileen Bracuti, Stephanie Crews, Kelton Flinn, Eileen Foster, Jolene Green, Colette Hall, Barbara Isak, Ann Jackson, Victoria Lannon, Mary Nguyen, 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, Leroy Anderson and Felicia Anderson, Blandine Attey, Fr. Dan Bain, Christine Bentejac, Maureen Bradley, Mary Caretti, B. Roxanne Crittenden, Virginia Davis, Hung Dinh, Arthur Eddleston, Father Gerald Fogarty, Richard Harmer, Cindy Harris, Sallie Harris, Beth Howard, Andrew Hunt & Family, Julie Kajihara & Family, Betty and Tony Kapeluch, Teena and Raymond Klein, Chris Irwin Krupka, Mike & Sibylle Llewellyn, Shannon and Coty Lockett, Eduardo Mendes and family, Karen Allison Monger, 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, Paul and Meghan Thoms, Mary Ann Uzzo, Brendan and Maria Walsh, Don and Lisa Wells, Henry Francis Wojtala.

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 or reception@holycomforterparish.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. You can bring some light and warmth to local families in need this Christmas. Please consider a donation to St. Vincent de Paul Holy Trinity Conference. Thank you and Advent Blessings! St. Vincent de Paul urges us on our way: "To this end, we should help and support one another and strive for peace and union among ourselves. This is the wine that cheers and strengthens travelers along the narrow path of Jesus Christ." You are invited to 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. There is no meeting January 2, 2024. If you would like more information about our conference, or if you would like to donate, please visit our website at www.svdhp-ht.org or email us at info@svdp-ht.org

OUTREACH: During the month of November, we handed out 160 food bags to 445 individuals in Food Pantry and served 366 lunches during Soup Kitchen. We appreciate your continued generous support of Outreach through your donations and contributions. Thank you and Advent Blessings. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Advent Toy Drive: Thank you for your donations of toys and gifts to the Salvation Army's Angel Tree and Stocking Stuffer programs! Your generosity is appreciated. Thank you for sharing the joy of Christmas!

WORKS OF MERCY: Our mission is to strengthen our parish community through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Email Sharon Dudley at mercy@holycomforterparish.org for more info about joining our mission to visit/pray for the ill & recovering, and parish homebound.

Parish Life: Feast of the Holy Innocents: Please join us on December 28th after the Noon Mass for a Lunch Potluck for the Feast of the Holy Innocents. Please sign up in flocknote.

Epiphany: Saturday January 6th we will have an Epiphany Party Breakfast Potluck at 930am. We will also be celebrating the retirement of Deacon Henry. Please bring a dish to share! Sign up in flocknote.

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED: The Walking With Moms In Need ministry will hold a meeting on December 10 at 10:00 a.m. and at 12:30 p.m. in the stairwell library below the Commons. For information about our ministry, please contact Garrett Smith gsmith@garrettsmithlaw.com or call (434) 960-7775. General info; visit www.walkingwithmoms.com.

HAITI: We have had the best month ever for sponsorship. Thank you to all those that have sponsored and all those in the ministry that have made it possible. The goal for Christmas is to reach six hundred students and Easter 700. It is \$12.50 a month on a credit card to sponsor a child or \$25 for two. We have less than five percent of our Parish sponsoring our twin parishes children in school. We had a break in the waterline for the drinking water kiosk at school that was repaired in less than 24 hours. Other than that, all is peaceful in the village and area, though gang violence is an ongoing problem and cause for people fleeing to areas. PRAY THE ROSARY FOR HAITI this Advent season. Thank you to all the parishioners that keep the ministry going, all the volunteers that make these events happen, and to all the sponsors and donors. We are also very thankful to those that have said that they were interested in participating in the Haiti Ministry. This is an extremely rewarding ministry that requires a minimal amount of time. May God bless you as we go into this Holiday Season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our annual Lessons & Carols Concert will take place on **Sunday, December 17 at 4:30pm.** Dinner will be provided, please bring a festive dessert! If you plan to attend the dinner *please RSVP in the Flocknote.*

FROM THE PASTOR



ADVENT 2023

LET US GET READY FOR THE SAVIOR

Part II

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.

**“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away
the sin of the world!”**

John 1:29

There is a Hymn which begins thus: **“Come, thou long expected Jesus, | born to set thy people free; | from our fears and sins release us, | let us find our rest in thee. || Israel's strength and consolation, | hope of all the earth thou art; | dear desire of every nation, | joy of every longing heart.”**, and so forth. Israel longed for the Messiah to come; we Christians now long for Christ to come again and bring about the fullness of his Kingdom. We lean into the “already—not yet” of the Gospel.

In Advent, we dwell on our longing for the Kingdom of God to come in its fullness. We long for the justice of the Kingdom, for the righting of wrongs, for the new heaven and the new earth. This longing isn't futile, wishful thinking for something permanently out of reach. This thirst for the coming of the Kingdom should inspire action, as a deer on a mountainside turns its head toward a stream and picks out a path forward to quench its thirst. Psalm 42:1 says: **“As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God.”** Indeed, the deer's longing for water is a survival instinct, a stimulus to action. A deer's longing isn't nostalgic thoughts of

“wouldn't it be nice if only...” If a deer is thirsty, it doesn't sigh over its longing; it moves to seek out water.

I would then ask: *“What might God be calling me to be active in through my longing for his Kingdom this Advent?”* Psalm 130:6 offers us more insight on longing: **“I long for the Lord more than sentinels long for the dawn, yes, more than sentinels long for the dawn.”** This longing is different: there's nothing that a watchman can do to make the sun rise any sooner. Does that mean their longing is futile? Will the Lord be always beyond the horizon? The guards cling to their faith that the dawn will come at some point...but meanwhile, there's the night. Meanwhile, our world is full of injustice, cruelty, hate, mistrust, and division.

And yet, sentries on duty aren't supposed to be waiting listlessly, sitting around “with their teeth in their mouth”—the longing of a sentinel isn't wistfulness because of boredom. Sentinels need to be active in their waiting—alert, scanning their surroundings with close attention even as they long for the safety of the dawn and release from their post. *What might God be calling me to pay more attention to this Advent?*

If the sentinels were to give up on the coming of the dawn, they wouldn't be able to continue their mission. If a deer were to surrender to its thirst instead of moving toward the water it longs for, it would die. Maybe the longing of Advent is part of the survival instinct of the Christian life, to keep us from being too easily satisfied with small goods (e.g. Christmas gifts). Maybe the longing of Advent is a posture of yearning that points us in the right direction, seeking God's presence among us—as it is, already here, and as it will come in greater fullness. May this Advent season see us seeking more of God's presence as we long for the fulfillment of his Kingdom and his justice.

To be continued...

Should you have any questions about our Catholic Faith, please contact Melinda Wells, DRE, at dre@holycomforterparish.org.

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