

# HOLY COMFORTER

## DECEMBER 17, 2023

#### **CONNECT WITH US**

208 East Jefferson Street Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Phone: (434) 295-7185

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office@holycomforterparish.org

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 7-8 PM First Friday 7-8 PM

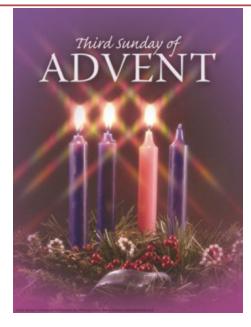
**CONFESSION** 

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@holycomforterparish.org



#### Pastor

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F. <u>imlukyamuzi@richmonddiocese.org</u>

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

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

#### **MINISTRIES**

Finance Council Gary Krutul

gkrutul@sncomm.com

Pastoral Council Jackson Kulick

<u>Jackson@brgtshirts.com</u> Jackson Kulick

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@holycomforterparish.org

**Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound** Alicia Vinklarek communionvisit@holycomforterparish.org

Wedding Coordinator Heather Burns

weddings@holycomforterparish.org

**Regina Caeli Homeschool Co-op** Samantha Van Dyke samantha.kepler@gmail.com

Parish Life Elizabeth Gilbert parishlife@holycomforterparish.org

High School Youth Group Emily Pierson

webmaster@holycomforterparish.org

**Building and Grounds** Ed Mickiewicz

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Heather Burns

Haiti Ginny Zeller

**Lectors** Matt Freeman

Offertory Counters Lee Faust

Ifaust@comcast.net

Sacristans Suzanne Bailey
Uganda Theresa Lynch

**Ushers** Dennis Dougherty

## Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

For a deeper trust and openness to the Holy Spirit in people discerning a call to serve Christ through the priesthood or in consecrated life, 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 (12/16)**

8 AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

#### SUNDAY (12/17) Third Sunday of

#### **Advent**

Altar Flowers donated by Deacon Henry and Alicia Vinklarek 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)

#### MONDAY (12/18)

7 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6 PM "O" Antiphon Vespers

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

#### **TUESDAY (12/19)**

7 AM MASS

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6 PM "O" Antiphon Vespers

#### **WEDNESDAY (12/20)**

7 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6 PM "O" Antiphon Vespers

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

7 PM Choir

#### **THURSDAY (12/21)**

7 AM MASS

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

6 PM "O" Antiphon

7-8 PM Adoration and Confession

#### FRIDAY (12/22)

**6 PM** "O" Antiphon Vespers

6:30 PM Simbang Gabi Mass

Potluck Reception following

#### **SATURDAY (12/23)**

5 PM Vigil Mass

6 PM "O" Antiphon Vespers

#### SAINTS OF GOD

#### Blessed are You

12/16 Blessed Honoratus Kozminski 12/17 Saint Hildegard of Bingen

#### SUNDAY (12/24) Fourth Sunday

#### of Advent

Second Collection: Maintenance Fund Altar Flowers donated by Parishioners

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

#### **SUNDAY (12/24) CHRISTMAS EVE**

4 PM Carols

4:30 PM Children's Christmas Pageant

**5 PM** Family Christmas Mass

#### **MONDAY (12/25) CHRISTMAS DAY**

8:30 AM Mass

11:30 AM Mass

#### **OFFICE CLOSED ALL WEEK**

#### **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

12/18 Blessed Anthony Grassi

12/19 Blessed Urban V

12/20 Saint Dominic of Silos

12/21 Saint Peter Canisius

12/22 Blessed Jacopone da Todi

12/23 Saint John of Kanty

12/24 Christmas at Greccio

### 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 (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

#### MONDAY (12/18)

12 PM † Nola Sell (Anna Stelow)

#### TUESDAY (12/19)

7 AM † Jan Dunn (Pat Jarris)

#### WEDNESDAY (12/20)

7 AM Members of our Pastoral and Finance Councils (Father Joseph Mary)

#### **THURSDAY (12/21)**

**7 AM** † Normand Auger (Annie Roesch)

#### FRIDAY (12/22)

12 PM † Joseph Stanley (Anna Stelow)

#### **SATURDAY (12/23)**

8 AM Sherry Schemmel in Honor of Her Birthday

**5 PM** Members of the Parish

#### **SUNDAY (12/24)**

8:30 AM Mark Moscotte (Father Joseph Mary) **5 PM** † Robert and Alice Perinz (Melinda Crews)

#### **MONDAY (12/25)**

8:30 AM Victims of Abuse 11:30 AM Martha Wynne Stuart (Heather Burns)

#### PARISH NEWS



#### **GIFTS FROM GOD**

#### **WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 3, 2023**

	•
Offertory	\$7,999
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,750)
Below Weekly Budget	(\$751)

Due to an early publication deadline, the Offertory Report for Week Ending December 10, 2023 will appear in next week's Bulletin.

#### **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

All contributions will be acknowledged in our annual donor recognition roster. Please indicate If your donation is being made in honor or memory of a loved one.

#### 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 12/25/2023 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

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: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Do not be anxious over anything; but in all manner of prayer, let your requests be made known unto God.

Offertory: O Lord, you have blessed your land, you have put an end to Jacob's captivity; you have forgiven the guilt of your people.

Communion: Say: Take courage, you who are fainthearted, and do not fear; behold, our God will come and he will save us.

Today is a day of rejoicing! The first word of the Entrance Antiphon in Latin is "Gaudete", which is the name the Church gives this Sunday. While it is still a time of penance, the sobriety of the season is tempered with the expectant joy of Mary, so beautifully expressed in her Magnificat, and the hopeful joy of the entire Church, as she awaits her Savior's return. Gaudete Sunday is iconic of the entire Advent season, elegantly commixing the expectant longing for the coming of the humble Christ in the manger and the coming of the glorious Christ at the end of time. The call to rejoice in the face of adversity is a supreme act of hope, trusting in God's promise to save His people even when all seems lost outwardly. Let us therefore "take courage" because we believe that "our God will come and[...]save us" both in the intimacy of our inner hearts, if we are open to Him, and then at His Second Coming when He shall judge the living and the dead, revealing all the happy consequences of the good works of the saints and righting all wrongs. Let us "foil [our] foe with joy", to quote from an old English carol, and choose to place our hope in the glorious resurrection of the dead that is to come, standing firm until then with unwavering confidence. Rejoice and be glad!

Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy and Music

#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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

#### ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

- 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 Pageant
- Sunday, Dec. 24, 5 PM: Christmas Vigil Family Mass
- Monday, Dec. 25, 8:30AM & 11:30AM: Christmas Mass

## **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS Fourth Sunday Advent**

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 The Lord promises David that he will raise

from his descendants a kingdom that will endure forever.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 89:2-5,27,29 A prayer of praise to the Lord for his faithfulness to his covenant.

#### **Second Reading**

Romans 16:25-27

Paul praises God for making his revelation

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

**December 17, Third Sunday of Advent** 

#### PARISH NEWS



#### **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

#### **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 Benteejac, 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, visit our website at <a href="https://www.svdp-ht.org">www.svdp-ht.org</a> or email us at info@svdp-ht.org

#### **MINISTRIES**

<u>OUTREACH</u>: 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. <u>Advent Toy Drive</u>: 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! <u>WORKS OF MERCY</u>: Our mission is to strengthen our parish community through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Email Sharon Dudley at <a href="mailto:mercy@holycomforterparish.org">mercy@holycomforterparish.org</a> 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. 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.

<u>WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED:</u> If you're interested in becoming involved with Holy Comforter's Pro-Life ministry, please contact Garrett Smith <u>gsmith@garrettsmithlaw.com</u> or call (434) 960-7775. General info; visit <u>www.walkingwithmoms.com</u>.

<u>HAITI:</u> We are more than halfway through Advent and hopefully enjoying the feelings of family love and happy children. Our Haiti ministry is holding its own and hopefully by years end will have the ninety plus additional sponsorships to break six hundred. If not, we will keep on trying. The support from the EU will be instrumental in bolstering the initiative, providing the necessary resources and legitimacy. PRAY FOR HAITI this Advent 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! Please RSVP in the Flocknote if you plan to attend.

There is an urgent need for sacristans who can launder and iron our easy-care altar cloths and to change the cloths with each liturgical season. If you can serve the parish in this special way, please contact the office or Suzanne Bailey at (434) 326-3166 or slank@ntelos.net.



#### FROM THE PASTOR



ADVENT 2023

LET US GET READY FOR THE SAVIOR

Part III

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.

## "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:29

Throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light" (Rm. 13:12), You know that darkness stands for the powers of evil, as light is the fit emblem of the holiness of God, and of his infinite goodness and purifying grace. Well, now, whether we who are the children of light are busy or not, it is quite certain that children of darkness work. They are always working; there is no pause in their activity, the devil will never take a nap, and neither will all his henchmen. As they say; "the devil's plough never rusts in the furrow, his sword never rests in its scabbard". The work of the night goes on horribly, there is no pause to it; therefore, let us who are of the day work, too as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. God help us to counteract the working of the silent, hidden leaven of sin by our own struggling to produce in the world a better tone of thought and feeling, and by spreading the knowledge of God's grace, and everything which will increase reverence to God and love to men!

What we must accept is that the works of the light are fruitful works, rich and sweet, and fit to be gathered, pleasant to God and profitable to men; but the works of darkness are fruitless, they come to nothing, they produce no good result. They are like the apples of

Sodom, which may appear fair to the eye, but he that plucks them shall find that he has nothing but ashes in his hand.

What then are we going to do? We must pray and acquire the virtue of FORTITUDE! The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines fortitude as "the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations ... to conquer fear" and "even to renounce and sacrifice his life in defense of a just cause" (CCC 1808). The Church's many martyrs were asked to prove their fortitude by laying down their lives, and we look to them for very tangible examples of how this virtue can be made manifest. However, most of us are not called to give up our lives in such a literal way, but we are all still called to fortitude.

Fortitude helps us to reject evil and pursue good at all costs. To grow in fortitude, we must commit ourselves to practicing perseverance and courage in the daily battle against sin and works of darkness. But above all, growing in fortitude means constant conversion. We must be aware of our weakness and turn to the Father for strength, and especially go to him for forgiveness when we have sinned, so he can give us the graces we need to continue the journey to sainthood. With the season of Advent, a focus on fortitude encourages us to be heroic and steadfast from the outset. Advent is hard, partly because none of us likes waiting, but also because, as the three purple candles on our Advent wreaths express, it is a time for penance for our own sins as well as those of others. Let us live out the gift of fortitude with each small "yes," to have a persevering spirit that is walking in deeper intimacy with our Father as we wait patiently for the joy of Christmas.

To be Continued...

Should you have any questions about our Catholic Faith, please contact Melinda Wells, DRE, at <a href="mailto:dreeparish.org">dre@holycomforterparish.org</a>.



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