



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

DECEMBER 24, 2023

CONNECT WITH US

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Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

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🌐 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	7-8 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
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Please Send Bulletin Submissions
by 3PM 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

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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 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@holycomforterparish.org
Eucharistic Ministry to the Homebound	Alicia Vinklerek 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 youthgroup@holycomforterparish.org
Website	Erin Ferguson & Mona Peglow 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 lfaust@comcast.net
Sacristans	Suzanne Bailey
Uganda	Theresa Lynch
Ushers	Dennis Dougherty

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

For men called by the Lord to be priests and consecrated religious, that the peace of Christ will guide their hearts and minds as they proclaim the good news of salvation to His people, 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 (12/23)

5 PM Vigil Mass

6 PM "O" Antiphon Vespers

Followed by Boy Choir Dinner

SUNDAY (12/24) FOURTH SUNDAY

OF ADVENT

Second Collection: Maintenance Fund

Christmas 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

Second Collection: Catholic Charities

OFFICE CLOSED ALL WEEK

8:30 AM Mass

11:30 AM Mass

TUESDAY (12/26)

NO FOOD PANTRY

12 PM MASS

WEDNESDAY (12/27)

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

12:45 PM Friends of Chesterton Academy

Celebration

7 PM Choir

THURSDAY (12/28) HOLY INNOCENTS

12 PM Mass

Followed by Holy Innocents Potluck

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

FRIDAY (12/29)

12 PM Mass

6:30-7:30 PM Confessions

SATURDAY (12/30)

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (12/31) HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY

Second Collection: Holy Land Emergency Appeal

Christmas Flowers donated by Parishioners

8:30 AM Mass

10:15-10:45 AM Choir Warm-up

11:00 AM Mass

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

12/25 Nativity of the Lord

12/26 Saint Stephen

12/27 Saint John the Evangelist

12/28 Holy Innocents

12/29 Saint Thomas Becket

12/30 Saint Egwin

12/31 Saint Sylvester I

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@holyccomforterparish.org

MA SS INTENTIONS

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)

Father Brian Capuano
(The Anderson Family)

TUESDAY (12/26)

12 PM Priests and Bishops

WEDNESDAY (12/27)

12 PM Chesterton Academy of
St. John the Evangelist (Rebecca Toscano)

THURSDAY (12/28)

12 PM Souls in Purgatory
Carlos Ospina (Paula Ospina)

FRIDAY (12/29)

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

SATURDAY (12/30)

5 PM Richard Ziminski and Family

SUNDAY (12/31)

8:30 AM Members of the Parish

11 AM Prisoners
Martha Ospina, In honor of Her Birthday
(Paul Ospina)

SAINTS OF GOD

Blessed are You

12/23 Saint John of Kanty

12/24 Christmas at Greccio

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 10, 2023

Offertory	\$14,555
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,750)
Above Weekly Budget	\$5,805

Due to an early publication deadline, the Offertory Report for Week Ending December 17, 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 DECEMBER

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
12/31/2023	Holy Land Emergency Fund

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: Skies, let the Just One come forth like the dew, let him descend from the clouds like the rain. The earth will open up and give birth to our Savior.

Offertory: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

Communion: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel.

Every so often, Christmas Eve falls on the fourth Sunday of Advent, shortening the season to its absolute minimum of three weeks (instead of four). The Propers for this Sunday often get lost in the anticipation of Christmas festivities, but it would be worth our while to meditate on them briefly because the fourth week is by far the most beautiful of all the weeks in Advent. We begin with the heart wrenching Entrance Antiphon, which begs for God to send us a Savior. There is a chant hymn associated with this text as well, titled "Rorate Caeli Desuper", which is merely a translation of the opening lines of the Antiphon – "Skies, let the Just One come forth like the dew". The accompanying verses are drawn from Isaiah 64 primarily, describing the desolation of Jerusalem because of the Babylonian captivity, and calling out to God to save His people and send the Messiah. For us, this text now symbolizes our longing for the return of the Jesus Christ to set all things right and forever banish sin and death. The Offertory and Communion Antiphons then answer the plea, showing us that God has indeed sent the Messiah in time and continues to do so through the mediation of the Mother of God, Mary most holy. She desires to bring Jesus to birth so to speak in our souls; in this way, she is our spiritual mother. Let us welcome the newborn King by her side, rejoicing that He chose to meet us in our lowliness. Veni, veni, Emmanuel! And a merry Christmas to all!

Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy and Music

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

- ♦ 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: **Family Christmas Vigil Mass**
- ♦ Monday, Dec. 25, 8:30AM & 11:30AM: **Christmas Mass**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Holy Family Sunday

First Reading *Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3*
God fulfills his promise to Abraham, and Sarah gives birth to a son.
Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 105:1-6, 8-9*
A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness to his covenant.

Second Reading *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19* (Paul examines Abraham's example of faith.)
Gospel *Luke 2:22-40*
Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses.

December 24, Fourth 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 Vinklerek, Mary Wheeler, Denise Wilcox, Sara Winter, Charlie Anne Xavier and family, and Mary Ann Ziminski.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Charlotte, Kent and Brittney Anderson, Leroy Anderson and Felicia Anderson, Fr. Stephen Arabadjis, 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, visit our website at www.svdp-ht.org or email us at info@svdp-ht.org

MINISTRIES

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 contributions and donations. Thank you and Merry Christmas! USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Advent Toy Drive: Thank you, generous parishioners of Holy Comforter, for your donations of toys and gifts for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree and Stocking Stuffer programs this Advent! Your kindness means so much to the children that received the gifts. Wishing you a joyful 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. 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: If you're interested in becoming involved with Holy Comforter's Pro-Life ministry, please contact Garrett Smith gsmith@garrettsmithlaw.com or call (434) 960-7775. General info; visit www.walkingwithmoms.com.

HAITI: A MERRY and BLESSED CHRISTMAS from the Haiti Ministry. Saltadare village is still safe and quiet. It has been an interesting year, especially the past five weeks. Things have been hectic for these past weeks, but we have had a very blessed year. We thank all the supporters of this ministry, both those who pray for Haiti and those that financially support St. Michel directly. At the beginning of December, we had five hundred and four sponsors with an additional thirty-two pledged sponsors that took the paperwork home. **We are hoping to have six hundred sponsors** by the first of the year, a hope or prayer, but this has been a year of prayers answered. **THE IRS ALLOW THIS AS A CHARITABLE DEDUCTION.** God gives you a check mark in the grace column for reducing suffering! This year we have had a financial solution (donor) as soon as we knew we had problems. Sponsorship was so low in the spring we did not know if we would make it to the fall, our prayers were answered. Thank you to all our donors. Thank you all and God bless. Continue to pray for Haiti and your Twin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 IV

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.

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

John 1:29

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you” (Is.60:1). While Advent is a short season, this time around it seems to be too short! But the significance of it remains the same for us as a people who wait joyfully for the revelation of God. We wait beyond four weeks – we’ve waited for over 2,000 years, and we expect to wait as long as it takes. Advent, as spiritual writers and teachers remind us, is a great season of preparation worthy of deeper reflection because the mysterious and mystical ways of God are always unknown to us and surprising when they come to our consciousness. God’s ways are not our ways, and it is therefore necessary – as the Blessed Mother did – to ponder them in our hearts.

The first coming, of Jesus of course, explicitly involved the Blessed Virgin Mary intimately. She bore in her body the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Mother Mary provided his human body through the great mystery of the Incarnation. That first coming is the essence of our Christmas celebration. The Word made Flesh is visible for all the world, all the ages, and all human history to see, study, evaluate and emulate.

The second coming, which is very personal and sacramental, is unique and requires attentiveness to the movements of the spirit of Christ within us. Unfortunately, a number of people overlook this important link which should be keeping us on our toes so that the “third coming of Christ” may not catch us unprepared. This

second coming is that which keeps us ever joyful because the Lord is in our midst. Pope Francis once said: *“a Christian without joy isn’t Christian”*. The Lord assures us that **“no one will take your joy away from you”** because our joy comes not from the world but from above; it is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It is having one’s heart ever joyful because the Lord has triumphed, the Lord is reigning, the Lord is at the right hand of the Father, the Lord has looked at you and me and favored us with his grace, and because we are children of a loving Father. This second coming of the three is a bit more mystical and requires faith. It is the presence of Christ who is “with us,” the One who is with us **“until the end of time” (Mt 28:20).**

“The third coming” like the first one will be a visible encounter. Jesus will come again at the end of time as the judge of all creation. He will separate the good from the evil, presenting the good and all redeemed creation to his Father, and pronouncing in turn, the sentence of damnation for those who have chosen it. These three comings of Christ focus our attention on the life of grace and the sublime attentiveness of God to his creation. St. Paul reminds us that **we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7)**. The gift of grace illuminates our hearts and souls. The sound teaching of Jesus, especially concerning our care and service for our brothers and sisters (Mt. 25:31ff.), guides our way along the journey of life. We do not walk alone, but it is Jesus who is with us, and his Church that provides the sacramental and spiritual structure that gives meaning to the daily aspects of human life and keeps us joyful.

To keep that joy alive, my suggestion

in this year is that; instead of exchanging gifts this Christmas, some families and individuals need to exchange APOLOGIES, talk about those family issues that are so heavy as to deny you the joy of Christmas. Resolve those tired arguments, MAKE PEACE, and FORGIVE EACH OTHER, so that when the Lord comes again he will find you peaceful. The Lord says, **“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison” (Mt. 5:25).**

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

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

December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

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