

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

DECEMBER 31, 2023

CONNECT WITH US

208 East Jefferson Street Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

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

ADORATION

Thursday 7-8 PM First Friday 7-8 PM

CONFESSION

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

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. jmlukyamuzi@richmonddiocese.org

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

Gary Krutul **Finance Council**

gkrutul@sncomm.com

Pastoral Council Jackson Kulick

> Jackson@brgtshirts.com Jackson Kulick

Altar Servers

Jackson@brgtshirts.com

Religious Education Committee Suzanne Bailev 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

Elizabeth Gilbert Parish Life

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

Ifaust@comcast.net

Sacristans Suzanne Bailey Uganda Theresa Lynch

Ushers **Dennis Dougherty**

Feast of the Holy Family December 31, 2023

That Catholic mothers and fathers will help their children grow strong in their faith, filled with the wisdom of God, and encourage openness to vocations to the priesthood and 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 (12/30)

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (12/31) MOST HOLY FAMILY

New Year's Eve

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

MONDAY (1/1) MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Day

OFFICE CLOSED TODAY

NO FOOD PANTRY

12 PM Mass

TUESDAY (1/2)

7 AM MASS

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY (1/3)

7 AM MASS

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

7 PM Choir

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

THURSDAY (1/4)

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

6 PM Mass

7-8 PM Adoration and Confession

FRIDAY (1/5) FIRST FRIDAY

6PM Mass

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

SATURDAY (1/6)

9:30 AM Epiphany/Deacon Henry **Retirement Celebration Potluck**

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (1/7) EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Christmas Flowers donated by Parishioners

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

SAINTS OF GOD

Blessed are You

11:00 AM Mass

12:30 PM RCIA

12/30 Saint Egwin

12/31 Saint Sylvester I

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, THURSDAY (1/4) 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

1/1 Mary, Mother of God

- 1/2 Saint Basil the Great
- 1/3 Most Holy Name of Jesus
- 1/4 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
- 1/5 Saint John Neumann
- 1/6 Saint Andre Bessette
- 1/7 Saint Raymond of Penafort

NEW **PARISHIONERS**

Glen and Cathy Murdoch Andrea and Anayara Graziani

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 (12/30)

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 (Paula Ospina)

MONDAY (1/1)

12 PM American Families

TUESDAY (1/2)

7 AM Richard Loehfelm (Melinda Crews)

WEDNESDAY (1/3)

7 AM Carl Baumann and Aveton Grimes

6 PM Don and Kristen Woehling (Lena Anderson)

FRIDAY (1/5)

6 PM Barbara Davis (Anna Stelow)

SATURDAY (1/6)

5 PM Members of the Parish

SUNDAY (1/7)

8:30 AM † Catherine and † Peter Colo (Marlene Wood)

11 AM † Jane Till Danilek

Catholic Church of the Holy Comforter | Charlottesville, Virginia

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 17, 2023

Offertory	\$24.262
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,750)
Above Weekly Budget	\$5,512

Due to an early publication deadline, the Offertory Report for Week Ending December 24, 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 JANUARY

ALL MONTH Catholic Virginian + Christian Formation + Justice and Peace

1/01/2024 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

1/14/2024 Outreach 1/21/2024 Respect Life 1/28/2024 Maintenance 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: God is in his holy dwelling place; the God who causes us to dwell together, one at heart, in his house; he himself will give power and strength to his people.

Offertory: In you have I put my trust, O Lord; I said: "You are my God, my destiny is in your hands."

Communion: My son, why have you treated us so? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you. How is it that you were seeking me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business? It is very interesting that the Entrance Antiphon today references the "holy dwelling place", which to the ancient Hebrews would have referred to the Ark/Tabernacle. It was a place where the Presence of God could be encountered physically, which is obviously now the case with the Holy Family, albeit known only to the Shepherds and Magi at the time. We also hear, though, of the Ark spoken of as God's "resting" place. This sense of God's presence among His people adds a wonderful depth of intimacy to the Incarnation and today's celebration of the Holy Family. The holy household of Joseph and Mary was a place where God delighted to take rest. The Entrance Antiphon wishes to convey to us today that God wishes to repose in our company. Our deliverance from sin and ultimately death is preparing us to "be at ease" in the presence of God eternally, which already begins in this life with the profound intimacy of receiving the Eucharist at Mass. If we have readied ourselves by regular confession and prayerful reflection before Mass, we are welcoming Jesus into our "homes" and inviting Him to be a part of our life. This is the wondrous mystery of God-made-man, that the Creator should delight to be in the company of His creatures to such an extent that He participates in their very creatureliness. O magnum mysterium!

Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy and Music

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

A very Happy and blessed New Year to Holy Comforter's Parish Family!

May His love and blessings continue to live in you, during this Christmas Season and into the New Year!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72:1-2,7-8,10-11,12-13

Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6 Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

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, Charlie Anne Xavier and family, and Mary Ann Ziminski.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

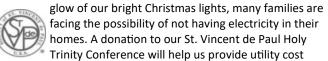
Charlotte, Kent and Brittney Anderson, Leroy Anderson and Felicia Anderson, Fr. Stephen Arabadjis, Blandine Attey, Fr. Dan Bain, Christine Benteejac, Maureen Bradley, Mary Caretti, B. Roxanne Crittenden, Virginia Davis, Hung Dinh, Arthur Eddleston, Father Gerald Fogarty, Richard Harmer, Cindy Harris, 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



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

<u>OUTREACH:</u> Thank you, parishioners, abundantly for your generous contributions and donations to the Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen during the 2023 year! Wishing you a blessed New Year! 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!

<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 mercy@holycomforterparish.org for more info about joining our mission to visit/pray for the ill & recovering, and parish homebound.

<u>Parish Life:</u> FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS: Please join us on December 28th after the 12PM Mass for a Lunch Potluck for the Feast of the Holy Innocents.gn up in flocknote.

EPIPHANY: Saturday January 6th we will have an Epiphany Party Breakfast Potluck at 9:30am. 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>.

HAITI: As we bring in the new year, we close out a good year for the Haiti Tri-Parish Ministry, Saltadare, and St. Michel. We did not reach our goal of 600 sponsored students, but we broke 500, and had three gentleman express interest in becoming active members of the ministry. As for the current status of Haiti, it is dire, as the country faces multiple crises that have worsened its long-standing problems of poverty, corruption, and violence. Thank you from the Haiti Tri-Parish Ministry, may God bless you and what you have given to St. Michel, and Haiti this past year. Please pray for Haiti and St. Michel.

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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: ASSISTANT COORDINATOR OF CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION Church of the Incarnation has an opening for a bilingual Assistant Coordinator within the Children's Christian Formation Program. Primarily would serve the Spanish-speaking families and catechists in the children's religious education program and sacraments. 10 hour/week position, with daytime, weekend, and occasional nighttime hours required. If you are interested, please visit the Parish Office or Contact: Missy Bishop, Coordinator of Children's Christian Formation, via email at missyb@incarnationparish.org or call the office at (434) 973-4381

FROM THE PASTOR





A Savior is Born

Part I

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord"

Luke 2:11

The above divine declaration was followed by a description of the sign that would help the shepherds recognize Jesus when they traveled to Bethlehem: "Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Lk. 2:21). These humble shepherds became the first of millions of human witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ. But why do the angels appear to shepherds? Why announce the savior's birth to them first, and not kings or priests?

Shepherds are sometimes considered "the common folk" and are perhaps representative of the most sinful of people. It is true that Luke especially highlights the poor and shows how Jesus had a special ministry to the downtrodden. But the evidence that shepherds were sinners is late (5th century AD), and the New Testament always presents shepherds in a good light (church leaders are shepherds, as are Moses and David in the Hebrew Bible).

Perhaps this is the first (of many) examples of the ministry of the Messiah to the lowly, as predicted in another song in Luke. Mary's canticle in Luke 1:46-55 predicted the Messiah would "humble the proud and exalt the humble" (1:52). That the announcement of the Messiah's birth was made first to a group of shepherds is a remarkable indication that the lowly are "being raised up." Since these are shepherds in the vicinity of Bethlehem, it is also quite likely that there is a subtle reference to David, a shepherd who became king of Israel. The original leader of the nation, Moses, also spent forty years as a shepherd before shepherding Israel in the wilderness.

The angel appears with the glory of the Lord and announces the "good news" of the birth of a savior. In the Roman world, one would expect the "good news" to concern the birth of a son to the emperor or an announcement concerning a great victory over an enemy. This announcement, however, does not concern the birth of a son to the emperor in Rome, but rather the birth of the real king who will defeat the real enemy of all people: sin and death itself.

The song of the angelic host draws on themes from the Hebrew Bible. The "heavenly host" is an angelic army, or at the very least an uncountable number of angels around the throne of God (1 Kings 22:18). That God should be glorified is not a surprise, nor is the fact that he is glorified in heaven (in the "highest" is indirectly a reference to "heaven"). That God brings peace is also common in the Hebrew Bible, as Psalm 29:11 says: "The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace". Those that are receiving this good news are described as those on whom God's favor rests. Let me now make a simple application.

The angel said, "For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk. 2:11). "For unto you"—Jesus came for you. This is where Christmas becomes intensely personal. It's not enough to say abstractly that you believe Christ came. Millions of people say that and are still lost in their sins. It's not enough to say that Christ came for someone else. Christ came for you with a purpose to deliver you from sin and to restore you to who you are supposed to be; creatures of God with the dignity of being children of God. In this way, we are given purpose in life and a mission to accomplish for the glory of God.

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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