



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

**JANUARY 14,
2024**

CONNECT WITH US

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🌐 hollycomforterparish.org

MASS TIMES

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

ADORATION

Thursday 7-8 PM
First Friday 7-8 PM

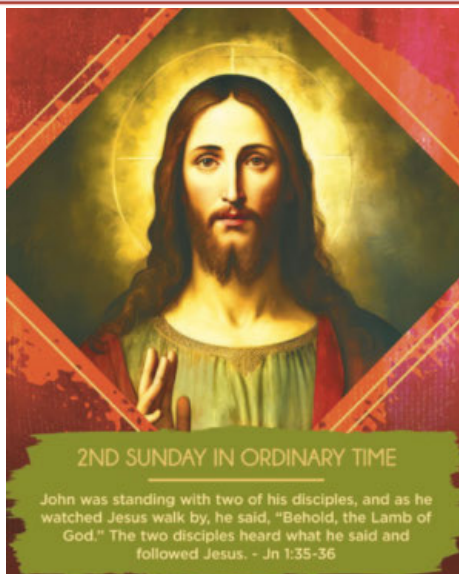
CONFESSION

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

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deaconhenry@hollycomforterparish.org

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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
Soup Kitchen: Thurs 12PM

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 in Ordinary Time January 4, 2024

That every Catholic will actively seek out their calling in Christ and work to strengthen his kingdom, especially those chosen to lead as priests or consecrated brothers or sisters, 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 (1/13)

8 AM MASS

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (1/14) SECOND SUNDAY IN

ORDINARY TIME

Christmas Flowers donated by Parishioners

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11:00 AM Mass

12:30 PM RCIA

4 PM Youth Group

MONDAY (1/15)

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

TUESDAY (1/16)

8 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY (1/17)

8 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

7 PM Choir

THURSDAY (1/18)

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

6 PM Mass

7-8 PM Adoration and Confession

FRIDAY (1/19)

9-11:30 AM Regina Caeli Homeschool Co-op

12 PM Mass

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

SATURDAY (1/20)

8 AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (1/21) THIRD SUNDAY IN

ORDINARY TIME

Altar Flower Donations Appreciated

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11:00 AM Mass

12:30 PM RCIA

4 PM Youth Group

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

- 1/16 Saint Berard and Companions
- 1/17 Saint Anthony of Egypt
- 1/18 Saint Charles of Sezze
- 1/19 Saint Fabian
- 1/20 Saint Sebastian
- 1/21 Saint Agnes

SAINTS OF GOD *Blessed are You*

- 1/13 Saint Hillary of Poitiers
- 1/14 Saint Gregory Nazienzen
- 1/15 Saint Devasahayam Pillai

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

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY (1/13)

8 AM Kulick Family (Fr. Joseph Mary)

5 PM Anderson Family
(Fr. Joseph Mary)

SUNDAY (1/14)

8:30 AM Members of the Parish

11 AM Kevin Gallagher (Fr. Joseph Mary)

MONDAY (1/15)

12 PM Rosa Vu (Nguyen Family)

TUESDAY (1/16)

8 AM Maria Vu (Nguyen Family)

WEDNESDAY (1/17)

8 AM Joseph Vu (Nguyen Family)

THURSDAY (1/18)

6 PM † Sharon Oster (Jaqueline Oster)

FRIDAY (1/19)

12 PM Kevin Gallagher (Fr. Joseph Mary)

SATURDAY (1/20)

8 AM Kevin Haag (Fr. Joseph Mary)

5 PM Gerling Family (Fr. Joseph Mary)
† John Joseph Valloric,
5th Anniversary of his Death
(Sylvia Valloric)

SUNDAY (1/21)

8:30 AM Kevin Haag and Family
(Fr. Joseph Mary)

11 AM Members of the Parish

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 7, 2023

Offertory	\$16,217
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,750)
Above Weekly Budget	\$7,467

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

THANK YOU

Altar breads and sacramental wine for all masses celebrated at Holy Comforter during the year 2022 have been provided as a gift by one of our parishioners, "in Thanksgiving to God for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist".

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

2024 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL:

Sharing His Love with Others

The 2024 Appeal will provide critical funding to three key areas of our Diocesan Church: Empowering the Next Generation, Providing for Those in Need, and Strengthening Catholic Communities.

Our parish Outreach Ministry traditionally benefits directly from the Appeal through a Fuel and Hunger Grant, and our parish receives back a portion of all funds collected. This year, the funds returned will be used for repairs and maintenance.

LITURGICAL NOTES

Entrance: Behold, the Sovereign Lord is coming; kingship, government and power are in his hands.

Entrance: Let all the earth worship you and praise you, O God; may it sing in praise of your name, O Most High.

Offertory: Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing a psalm in honor of his name; come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what great things the Lord has done for my soul, alleluia.

Communion: Andrew said to his brother Simon: "We have found the Messiah" which means Christ; and he led him to Jesus.

The season of Epiphanytide, culminating with the Presentation of the Lord on February 2, is filled with little epiphanies or "manifestations" of Jesus' saving mission for the whole world. Almost every Gospel this month touches on the healing of illnesses and exorcisms of demons, which are signs of the Messiah's arrival and of God's desire to "renew the face of the earth", restoring creation to its original glory. Hence, we see the Entrance and Offertory Antiphons exhorting "all the earth" to offer praise and worship to God. The Chosen People of Israel were God's vessel through which salvation would come to the world; in these latter times, those who are baptized now constitute the new spiritual Israel, the Catholic Church. Like St. Andrew, may our encounter with Jesus lead us to become beacons for others, leading them to the One Who gave everything to save us from eternal damnation. This intimate encounter with Christ is cultivated by a life of regular prayer and frequenting of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, Jesus Christ Himself. May the remainder of this Epiphany season be an opportunity for us to rediscover the abiding Presence of the Son of God under the forms of bread and wine. O come, let us adore Him! Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy and music

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Chalking of the Doors

"The chalking of the doors of a home encourages Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. Seeing the symbols over our doors can help to remind us, while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. It also serves as a reminder of welcoming the Magi gave to Jesus. We should strive to be as welcoming to all who come to our homes to visit us!"

A reminder, there is a basket of blessed Epiphany Chalk on the Religious Education Table in the Commons. Please take a chalk and bless your home's door Lintel for the New Year.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading Jonah 3:1-5,10

God spared the people of Nineveh because they heeded the message God sent through Jonah.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 25:4-5,6-7,8-9

The Lord teaches us his ways.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul warns the Corinthians that they must act differently because the world in its present form is passing away.

Gospel Mark 1:14-20 Jesus calls the fishermen, Simon and Andrew, James and John, to be his disciples.

January 14, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Holy Trinity Conference shares the hope your support brings to our neighbors in need. We pray with those we visit and those we visit share in God's blessings from the charity of our Catholic Community. In the past calendar year, your donations provided an average of \$668.00 in financial assistance to 244 households including 483 people. We are so grateful to God, for you, and for our fellow Vincentians who give of themselves in the service of our neighbors. Our ministry work is never measured by the amount we give or by the problems we might "fix." Our Conference meetings are prayerful opportunities to share and reflect the ways we grow closer to God, and the ways we encounter Christ in our neighbors on our home visits. Any good we do is not in our works but in our charity – love of God and neighbor. We are blessed to see how God loves. We meet at 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at the Church of the Incarnation. For information about our conference, or if you would like to donate, please visit our website at www.svdp-ht.org or email us at info@svdp-ht.org

MINISTRIES

OUTREACH: During December 2023, the Food Pantry handed out 156 food bags to 425 individuals and served 361 meals in Soup Kitchen. Thank you for continued support through generous contributions and donations to Outreach. Wishing you a blessed New Year! UDSA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

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: Please join us on Saturday January 27th after the 8am mass for a potluck breakfast to celebrate the retirement of Deacon Henry. Please sign up in flocknote to bring a dish or two, to share.

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED: The Walking with Moms in Need ministry will meet January 21 at 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in the stairwell library For information please contact Garrett Smith gsmith@garrettsmithlaw.com (434) 960-7775. For the general website see www.walkingwithmoms.com.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3670 is grateful for parishioner support of its Coats for Kids program in 2023. We spent more than \$1500 on new coats during November and December, and we gave away 30 coats at the Incarnation Food Pantry as well as 23 coats at the Holy Comforter Food Pantry. An additional 17 coats were purchased for the WALK program in the Charlottesville Public Schools. The Knights were able to buy the 70 new coats with money collected from parishioners in 2022, so we didn't solicit donations in 2023. But we'll be asking for new money before advent begins in 2024. Thanks again for your support of KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS programs for Church and community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMFORTER BULLETIN PRAYER LIST: *In an effort to maintain the prayer lists and ensure they are current, the lists will be cleared once per quarter.* If you would like your family member, or fellow parishioner to be added (back) to the prayer list, please email Holy Comforter's [Works of Mercy Ministry, mercy@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:mercy@holycomforterparish.org)...or please call the church office, 434-295-7185. Please be sure to indicate whether the person we are praying for is a parishioner, a non-parishioner friend or family member, or someone in the military. **WE WILL CLEAR THE PRAYER LISTS NEXT WEEK**, and do so again in March, June, and September. Thank you for helping us keep the prayer list current and accurate.

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



CLOSE YOUR EYES- OPEN YOUR EARS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Part II

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.

**“When the angel entered Mary’s home, he greeted her and said, “You are favored by the Lord! The Lord is with you.”
Luke 1:28**

Does bowing your head and closing your eyes make your prayer time more effective? Can you connect with God better that way? I remember as a kid that bowing our heads and closing our eyes was common position when it came to prayer. Folding my hands was also an essential part of prayer. But do these actions help us hear God better? ***“The tax collector would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ (Lk. 18:10-14).*** Does such a text give any clue to how I should position myself to hear the voice of God?

Well, how did Jesus pray? John 17:1, Mark 6:41, and Mark 7:34 seem to indicate He did just the opposite of bowing His head and closing His eyes – He looked up and kept His eyes open. Once Jesus prayed with his face to the ground (Matthew 26:39). So is that how we should pray? Then why do we often hear instructions like; “close your eyes and

bow your heads and let us pray”. Watch the next time someone says, “Let’s pray.” Everyone knows to bow their heads and close their eyes regardless of how spiritual they are. I do think bowing the head necessarily shows reverence towards God and closing the eyes helps you focus on Him by blocking out things around you if the mind and heart are not unison with such outward actions. But are they necessary for effective prayer.

Jesus never instructs anyone to bow their head or close their eyes. He was more interested in their hearts than their posture. In Luke 18:9-14 we see the Pharisee and the tax collector praying. We see that humility can be displayed in one’s actions. The Pharisee boasted in his “prayer” that he was better than others, even the tax collector standing nearby. He even boasted about his giving and fasting. The tax collector was so humbled and grieved by his sin that he couldn’t even look toward heaven and called himself a sinner. Jesus called the tax collector humble and justified before God. Perhaps that’s why some bow their head and close their eyes?

However, sit, kneel, bow, lay down, raise your hands, dance, jump, be still, bow your head, close your eyes, keep them open – I’m not sure those are the most important matters of prayer. It is the heart. Perhaps we would be better off sometimes being still and knowing He is God (Psalm 46:10). Other times we are so full of joy we must be like David and dance before him (2 Samuel 6:14). Regardless of the position you use in prayer, when you do pray, what are you saying to the Lord while in those positions? The Lord said to Samuel, “For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). You will find Him when you seek him with your whole heart (Jeremiah 29:13). **BUT WHY CLOSE YOUR CLOSE YOUR EYES? OPEN YOUR EARS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

To be continued...

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

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