



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

FEBRUARY 18, 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
<i>(except First Friday)</i>	
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	7-8 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@hollycomforterparish.org**



Pastor

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

Deacon (Retired)

Rev. Mr. Henry Vinklarek
deaconhenry@hollycomforterparish.org

Administrative Business Manager

Mary Frances Lilly
office@hollycomforterparish.org

Receptionist/Office Assistant

Melinda Crews
reception@hollycomforterparish.org

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 Vinklarek
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

First Sunday of Lent February 18, 2024

That prayer, penance and almsgiving will enable more men and women to follow the Holy Spirit as He leads them to discover their vocations in Christ, 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 (2/17)

8 AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (2/18) FIRST SUNDAY OF

LENT

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11:00 AM Mass

12:30 PM RCIA

4 PM Youth Group

MONDAY (2/19)

Presidents' Day-Office Closed

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

TUESDAY (2/20)

8 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY (2/21)

8 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

7 PM Choir

THURSDAY (2/22)

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

6 PM Mass

7-8 PM Adoration and Confession

FRIDAY (2/23) Day of Abstinence

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

12 PM Mass

5:45 PM Stations of the Cross

Soup Supper following

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

SATURDAY (2/24)

8 AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (2/25) SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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

2/20 Saints Jacinta and Francisco Marto

2/21 Saint Peter Damian

2/22 Chair of Saint Peter

2/23 Saint Polycarp

2/24 Saint Luke Belludi

2/25 Blessed Sabastian of Aparicio

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 (2/17)

8 AM Suzanne Bailey and family

(Fr. Joseph Mary)

† George Delon

(Carmelite SC of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity)

5 PM Members of the Parish

† Patrick Eugene Dougherty

(Mr & Mrs Peter Roane)

SUNDAY (2/18)

8:30 AM Murray Family

11 AM Lloyd Thomas Smith III in Honor of His Baptism (Diane Auger Smith)

MONDAY (2/19)

12 PM † Normand Auger (Therese Auger)

TUESDAY (2/20)

8 AM † Adelard Riendeau (Therese Auger)

WEDNESDAY (2/21)

8 AM Lee Faust and Family

THURSDAY (2/22)

6 PM † Haru Kajihara and the Kajihara Family (Melinda Wells)

FRIDAY (2/23)

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

SATURDAY (2/24)

8 AM Ill and Homebound

5 PM Gary Krutul and Family (Fr. Joseph Mary)

SUNDAY (2/25)

8:30 AM Members of the Parish

11 AM Travis Cole

(Deacon Henry and Alicia Vinklerek)

SAINTS OF GOD *Blessed are You*

2/17 Seven Founders of the Servite Order

2/18 Saint John of Fiesole

2/19 Saint Conrad of Piacenza

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 4, 2023

Offertory	\$7,181.50
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,750.00)
<i>Below Weekly Budget</i>	<i>(\$1,568.50)</i>

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 FEBRUARY

ALL MONTH Christian Formation + Haiti + Justice and Peace

- 2/11/2024** Outreach
- 2/14/2024** Ash Wednesday (For St. Vincent de Paul)
- 2/18/2024** Easter Flowers
- 2/25/2024** 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 Outreach Ministry traditionally benefits directly from the Appeal through a Fuel and Hunger Grant, and we receive back a portion of all funds collected. Our goal this year is to raise \$25,200, and our parish share of the money raised will be used for repairs and maintenance.



LITURGICAL NOTES

Entrance (Ash Wednesday): Your mercy extends to all things, O Lord, and you despise none of the things you have made. You overlook the sins of men for the sake of repentance. You grant them your pardon, because you are the Lord our God.

Offertory: The Lord will overshadow you with his pinions, and you will find refuge under his wings. His faithfulness will encompass you with a shield.

Communion: He will overshadow you with his pinions, and you will find refuge under his wings. His faithfulness will encompass you with a shield.

*Every so often we will encounter a particular Psalm repeated throughout the Liturgy because of its importance and relevance to the season. The First Sunday of Lent is one of those; all three Antiphons this Sunday come from Psalm 91. It consists of a prayer of confident trust in God's Providence; He will protect the one who takes refuge in Him and let no harm come to him. This Psalm like all the Psalms is perfectly fulfilled in Christ, Who, providing an example for us, chose to rely solely on His Father in following His Will. The Devil attempted to twist this Psalm, cherry-picking passages to try to force Our Lord to "test" the Father's faithfulness, undermining the entire intent of the Psalm (i.e., trust). As we embark on our Lenten penances, let us strive to trust God more and more in the daily circumstances of our lives. And let us do so joyfully! The Entrance Antiphon from Ash Wednesday is included to remind us that God desires our repentance and renewal not out of spite for our misdeeds but because He created us, and we are therefore precious in His sight. He does not want to lose us to lesser gods that will leave us unsatisfied and empty, even – God forbid – into eternity. Therefore, remember that you were created FOR God; use your penances to grow closer to Him who despises "none of the things [He has] made". *Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy and music**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

The Lenten Season has begun, but what exactly does "Fasting and Abstinence" actually mean? Below is the USCCB Definition...

Fasting and Abstinence (USCCB): Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18-59. A person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding from age 14 onwards.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading

Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18

Abraham obeyed God and prepared to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 116:10,15,16-17,18-19

A prayer of faithfulness to God

Second Reading

Romans 8:31b-34

God's faithfulness is shown in his offering of his own Son for our salvation.

Gospel Mark 9:2-10

Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

February 18, First Sunday of Lent

PARISH NEWS



PLEASE PRAY FOR

PARISHIONERS

(Includes ill, injured, homebound, and caregivers.)

Sharon Dudley, Kelton Flinn, Erin Ferguson, Eileen Foster, Jolene Green, Colette Hall, Barbara Isak, Ann Jackson, 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

Blanding Attey, Ben and Katherine Barahona, Mary Benfante, Christine Bentejac, Hope Brown, Max and Hadley Burch, Cora, Mary Caretti, Stephanie Crews, Jimmy Dominguez, Fr. Gerald Fogarty, Sue Gilbert, Genevieve Halfen, Kajihara Family, Betty & Tony Kapeluch, Joan Lincks, Mike & Sibylle Llewellyn, Shannon and Coty Lockett, Melodie Mougeolle and Children, Robert Maute, Lia Thoms Price and Family, Randall Saathoff and Family, Matthew Schrank and Family, David Shrank and Family, Joseph Schrank and Family, Yulia Savona, Aiden Smith, Paul and Meghan Thoms, Scotty Thoms, Brendan and Maria Walsh, Don and Lisa Wells, and Mary Ann Uzzo.

MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

Matthew Mickiewicz, Benjamin Schrank, Elijah Schrank, Jonathan Schrank, and Joey Smith.

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 mercy@holycomforterparish.org or please call the church office at 434-295-7185.

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



SVdP: Happy Lent! As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Many Vincentians joined the ministry to help our neighbors in need. Through our home visits, by sitting, listening, praying, and seeking to help in the best possible way, our hearts grow closer to Christ. Our meetings are a time of prayer and reflection. We invite you to join us. We regularly meet at 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at the Church of the Incarnation. If you would like more 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 Thank you!

MINISTRIES

OUTREACH: In January, the Food Pantry handed out 189 food bags to 518 individuals. And we served 344 meals in Soup Kitchen. On Feb 1, we began having diners enjoy their meal in the basement again! We appreciate your continued support through contributions and donations to Outreach. Thank you and God Bless! USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

PARISH LIFE: Join us for our Friday Lenten soup suppers following Stations of the cross. Stations of the cross will start at 5:45pm. Please see flocknote for the full schedule. Would you like to be more involved in the community life of Holy Comforter's Parish? If so, please consider joining the Parish Life Ministry! Email Elizabeth Gilbert, Elizgilbert@gmail.com.

WORKS OF MERCY: The Works of Mercy Ministry invites you to participate in a 3-session book group that will read and discuss *What to Do When Jesus is Hungry*, by Fr Andrew Apostoli, CFR. (Please start reading by Ash Wednesday. We will have our first hybrid-in-person-Zoom meeting one day in the week of February 25. (Session 1) Subsequent meetings are planned for the weeks of March 10th (session 2) and 17th (session 3). Exact days and times are to be determined. You may attend any number of sessions you wish. *ALSO... We are looking for 2 individuals to bring communion to people in hospitals, nursing homes, or other residences.* If interested, please email mercy@holycomforterparish.org

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED MINISTRY: LifeSpring is an established local ministry to women with unplanned and/or crisis pregnancies. LifeSpring supports their material needs and also provides limited medical services such as ultrasound and pregnancy tests. Walking with Moms in Need is in the process of surveying needs and resources in our community for pregnant women in need. We believe LifeSpring provides the most comprehensive/meaningful support to moms and pregnant women in need. Pope Francis has called on all Catholic parishes to be islands of mercy in a sea of indifference to the struggles of pregnant women in need. Our parish's ministry encourages you to support LifeSpring's wonderful program by picking up a baby bottle in the commons and filling it with change or contributions and returning it after Lent. If you'd like to join the ministry or learn more, please come to one of our meetings, first and third Sundays at 10:00 am or 12:30 pm downstairs in the commons library.

HAITI: Over the past 6 to 9 months, our financial situation has significantly improved and though it is not a completely secure safety net, we have saved up approximately half a year's worth of operational expenses. We need **138 additional sponsors** by July 1st. Even if we count the pledged sponsors, we are currently at 132. Our clinic operations rely on donations not included with the school. Please pray for Haiti and much needed additional support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year! Applications for JK (must be 4yrs old by Sept.30.) through 8th grade, can be submitted through our website: www.cvillcatholic.org/admissions. If you have any questions, please reach out to admissions@cvillcatholic.org.

FROM THE PASTOR



CLOSE YOUR EYES AND OPEN YOUR EARS

TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Part VII

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**

The author of the book of Ecclesiastes says there is a right time for everything, including a time to keep silent, to speak, to mourn and to dance. During Lent, Catholics and in general all Christians use the 40 days to listen for God's voice as they strive to better their relationship with God and with one another. To help keep us on track, the Church offers us three pillars to focus our efforts on, during the 40 days of Lent: PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING. While the practice of fasting during Lent is widely known and observed, many are not aware of how to properly answer the Church's prompt to incorporate PRAYER during this season. God calls us to begin or strengthen our daily prayer schedule so that we may come to know him on a personal level. If we are truly going to grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ, increasing our time in prayer is exactly where we need to start.

We typically think of prayer as our speaking to God. This is true. However, prayer is an intimate conversation with God. A conversation is a two-way street. Prayer helps us become attuned to God's voice, seek forgiveness, and grow closer to him. It's a time for self-reflection and renewal, inviting us to align our lives with God's will. Through prayer, we find comfort, hope and strength in knowing that God is with us during our 40-day journey through Lent and beyond. Many saints also offered their personal reflections on what prayer is and how it unites us to God:

St. Augustine: “Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.”

St. Theresa of Avilla: “Before prayer, endeavor to realize Whose Presence you are approaching and to Whom you are about to speak, keeping in mind Whom you are addressing”.

St. John Vianney: “My brethren, the good God looks neither at long nor at beautiful prayers, but at those that come from the bottom of the heart... There is nothing easier than to pray to the good God and nothing is more comforting.”

Try to energize your prayer life this Lent by listening to God in prayer. Say what needs to be said to God, then listen for God to respond. We will not likely hear a voice like Saul did on the road to Damascus. We listen to God through prayer when we recognize God's answers or God speaking to us—even in times, places, or ways where we do not expect to hear the voice of the Lord! Be open to listening to God through your prayers. Open Your Ears To The Holy Spirit.

People often ask me, “How do I come to know God's voice in my life?” My response is, “Start reading and then praying with the Scripture.” Scripture is often referred to as the Living Word. This explanation implies that it is indeed alive and not dead. One of the ways we experience God's presence in our lives is coming to know God's voice and the way God acts in our lives through reading the stories and words of Scripture. Learn to pray with the Scriptures.

To be Continued...

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

February 18, First Sunday of Lent

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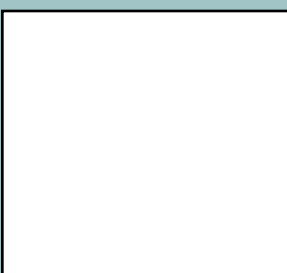
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