

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

MARCH 17, 2024

CONNECT WITH US

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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 8AM Thursday + First Friday 6 PM Saturday 8 AM

ADORATION

Thursday 7-8 PM First Friday 7-8 PM

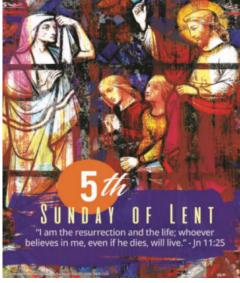
CONFESSION

6:30-7:30 PM Mon, Weds, Fri Thursday 7-8 PM First Friday 7-8 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. imlukyamuzi@richmonddiocese.org

Deacon (Retired)

Rev. Mr. Henry Vinklarek

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

(434) 293-8989 Outreach

Bridget Davis + Jack Engler + Heather

outreach@holycomforterparish.org

Food Pantry: Mon, Tue & Wed

10:30AM -12:30PM

Soup Kitchen: Thurs 12PM-1PM

MINISTRIES

Finance Council Gary Krutul

gkrutul@sncomm.com

Pastoral Council Maria-Andrea Gerling Ospina

maria.ospina@gmail.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

St. John Vianney Vocations Ministry

Paula Ospina paula.ospina.0616@gmail.com

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

youthgroup@holycomforterparish.org

Website Erin Ferguson & Mona Peglow webmaster@holycomforterparish.org

Ed Mickiewicz

Building and Grounds

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Heather Burns heather@holycomforterparish.org Haiti Ginny Zeller Lectors Matt Freeman

Offertory Counters Lee Faust

Ifaust@comcast.net

Sacristans Suzanne Bailey

slank@ntelos.net

Uganda Theresa Lynch

Ushers **Dennis Dougherty**

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 (3/16)

8 AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (3/17) FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11:00 AM Mass

12:30 PM RCIA

4:00 PM Youth Group

MONDAY (3/18)

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

TUESDAY (3/19) FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6 PM Mass

St. Joseph Spaghetti Dinner Following

WEDNESDAY (3/20)

8 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6:30-7:30 PM Confession

7 PM Choir

THURSDAY (3/21)

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

6 PM Mass

7-8 PM Adoration and Confession

FRIDAY (3/22) 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 (3/23)

8 AM Mass

8AM-1PM Confirmation Retreat

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (3/24) PALM SUNDAY

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11:00 AM Mass

12:30 PM RCIA

5PM Seven Last Words Concert

Reception to Follow

SAINTS OF GOD

3/16 Saint Clement Mary Hofbauer

3/17 Saint Patrick

3/18 Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

3/19 Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary

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 FRIDAY (3/22) already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

3/20 Saint Salvator of Horta 3/21 Blessed John of Parma 3/22 Saint Nicholas Owen 3/23 Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo 3/24 Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero

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 (3/16)

8 AM Deacon Henry & Alicia VInklarek (Holy Comforter Office Staff) **5 PM** † Annie Wallace (Allen Family)

SUNDAY (3/17)

8:30 AM Members of the Parish 11 AM Melinda Wells and Esther Kulick (Deacon Henry and Alicia Vinklarek)

MONDAY (3/18)

12 PM Titus Anderson (Mel Crews)

TUESDAY (3/19)

6 PM † Anne Marie Gaglio (Dotty and George Lilly)

WEDNESDAY (3/20)

8 AM † Jane Till Danilek

THURSDAY (3/21)

6 PM The Stelow Family (Fr. Joseph Mary)

12 PM Kevin Gallagher (Fr. Joseph Mary)

SATURDAY (3/23)

8 AM Benefactors of the Parish (Fr. Joseph Mary) Holy Comforter's HS Confirmands

5 PM † Arthur Eddleston (Sherry Schemmel)

SUNDAY (3/24)

8:30 AM † Jane Till Danilek 11 AM Members of the Parish

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

WEEK ENDING MARCH 10, 2024

Offertory	\$12,938
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,750)
Above Weekly Budget	\$4,188

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR MARCH

ALL MONTH Catholic Virginian + Christian Formation + Justice and Peace

3/10/2024 Catholic Relief Services

3/17/2024 Outreach

3/24/2024 Maintenance Fund

3/28/2024 Holy Thursday (for our Seminarians) 3/29/2024 Good Friday (for the Holy Land)

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!

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 has benefited 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 will be used for church repairs and maintenance. Brochures are available in the Church and the Commons, or scan the QR code here to contribute now.





First Reading Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord's servant will stand firm, even when persecuted.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24 A cry for help to the Lord in the face of evildoers

Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11 Christ was obedient even to death, but

God has exalted him. **Gospel** *Mark* 14:1—15:47 Jesus is

sentenced to death and crucified. The centurion who witnessed his death declared, "This man was the Son of God."

LITURGICAL NOTES

Entrance: Rejoice, O Jerusalem; and gather round, all you who love her; rejoice in gladness, after having been in sorrow; exult and be replenished with the consolation flowing from her motherly bosom.

Offertory: Praise the Lord, for he is loving; sing in honor of his name, for he is gracious. He has accomplished whatever he resolved to do in heaven and on earth.

Communion: Jerusalem, built as a city whose parts are bound firmly together! It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to give thanks unto your name, O Lord.

This Sunday's moniker, "Laetare Sunday", comes from the first (Latin) word of the Entrance Antiphon, Laetare, which means "rejoice!" It is a time for the Church to reflect on what we have been preparing for the past three and a half weeks. Humanity, "after having been in sorrow" since the Fall, now has access to salvation through Christ, Who, as today's Gospel reminds us, was to be "raised up" on a cross to expiate for our sins and usher in a new era of grace that could transform hearts of stone into living hearts. These are the days when God's spirit is being poured out on us if we will receive it. All these considerations are a source of great joy to the Church, so she dons the joyful color of rose and adorns her sanctuaries with flowers and her liturgies with organ. Let us meditate on Jesus' gift of Himself and His Church, placed on this earth to guide us to the everlasting shores, and give thanks with a joyful heart for the unbounded generosity of God towards His creatures. Reioice!

Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy and music

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Religious Education March Calendar

- March 17, Sunday, 11 AM Mass: RCIA Rite of Third Scrutiny
- March 23, Saturday, 8AM-1PM: High School Confirmation Retreat
- March 24, 9:45-10:45AM (1st half of CF) Last Supper Play (LL)

LOOKING FOR AN EASY WAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR OF

contact Melinda Wells, DRE at dre@holycomforterparish.org.

Please continue to pray for our RCIA Elect, Brian Hess and Sydney Tapscott, our First Sacraments children and our High School Confirmation class.

EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL? The U.S. Bishops are offering a *novena called the*

"Spark Series," nine days of prayer and prompts for short Eucharistic reflections and activities you can do at home. Father Joseph Mary will offering a prayer of consecration at all Palm Sunday Masses. The Novena is available on the RE Table in the Commons. For any questions, please

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY LENT

PARISH NEWS

PLEASE PRAY FOR

PARISHIONERS

(Includes ill, injured, homebound, and caregivers.)
Ann Carothers, 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 Vinklarek, 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, Michael McNeil, 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 added (back) to the prayer list, please email the Works of Mercy ministry at 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/reception@holycomforterparish.org

"Seeing Christ's face in those we serve" is the reason one member offers for participating in the Society of St.

Gospel with our neighbors in need who are facing eviction, utility cut off, or other emergency needs. With the growth of the number of neighbors in need, we are in need of additional Vincentians to continue this important ministry. Consider joining parishioners from Holy Comforter, The Church of the Incarnation, and St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish. Our April 2nd meeting is held at the Church of the Incarnation. 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

<u>OUTREACH</u>: During the month of February, the Food Pantry gave out 187 food bags to 432 individuals. We served 379 sit down meals inside for Soup Kitchen. We appreciate your continued support and through your contributions and donations to Outreach. Thank you and Lenten Blessings. The 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 start at 5:45pm. Please join us

Tuesday March 19th for Mass in honor of the feast of St Joseph at

6pm followed by a Spaghetti dinner hosted by the Knights of

Columbus. Please rsvp in flocknote. Would you like to be more involved in the community life of Holy Comforter's Parish? Consider joining the Parish Life Ministry! Email Elizabeth Gilbert,

Elizgilbert@gmail.com

WORKS OF MERCY: The Works of Mercy Ministry will continue with the second part of a two-session book group on Wednesday March, 20 at 5:30P in the conference room on the lower level. *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: Walking With Moms In Need reminds you if you took home a LifeSpring baby bottle, to be generous. We have already returned several full bottles. Bottles may be returned in the Commons after Mass on Easter Sunday or on the following Sunday. A few extra bottles are available in the Commons if you missed picking one up earlier.

HAITI: Hope for Haiti Golf Tournament: May 16 is the 4th annual golf tournament. We will need volunteers on the day of the event and in the days ahead to recruit old/new sponsors. We ALSO need golfers! To join the planning committee, please contact Dan Wassilchalk at dmw9v@uvahealth.org. Father Aysmith and the parish of St. Michel, thank you. St. Michel School school serves 600+ students from pre-K to HS completion. Sponsorships are \$150 per year. There are about 130 unsponsored students. Please continue to keep Joan McDonald and Msgr. Dumas in your prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vincent de Paul. Our ministry seeks Christ by sharing the JOB OPENINGS AT CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL:

Charlottesville Catholic School is seeking the following for the 2024-2025 school year: Elementary Teacher (JK-5) and a Part-Time Elementary Spanish Teacher. Please send resume, Diocesan Application, three letters of reference, and a copy of your teaching license to Charlottesville Catholic School, Attn: Vada Fallica, Principal; 1205 Pen Park Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901 or via email to v.fallica@cvillecatholic.org. CCS is looking for summer maintenance help. Duties would include (but are not limited to) painting and moving classroom furniture. If you are interested in this position, please contact Frank Murphy, Business Manager, by email at f.murphy@cvillecatholic.org, or call 434-964-0400.

FROM THE PASTOR





CLOSE YOUR EYES AND OPEN YOUR EARS

TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Part XI

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

Did you know that Jesus Himself prayed the Psalms? There is every evidence to believe that Jesus prayed the psalms as prayers. When Jesus was particularly frustrated by the attacks of some of the religious leaders, he may well have prayed: "For there is no truth in their mouths; their hearts are destruction, their throats are open graves; they flatter with their tongues. Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; because of their many transgressions cast them out, for they have rebelled against you" (Ps 5:9-10). When we think of Jesus praying this psalm, we are faced with three choices.

Our first choice is to believe that Jesus censored the psalms and prayed only those Psalms or verses that were appropriate to his forgiving nature. Therefore, as disciples of Christ, we are invited to join him in the censorship of certain psalms as inappropriate. The problem with this solution is that sometimes the harsh words of the Psalms do express some of our most basic feelings. If Jesus censored these words, does this suggest that he did not have

negative feelings and therefore did not share in the fullness of humanity? Or does it suggest that he had these feelings, but, unlike the psalmist, was unwilling to lift them up to God in prayer? Neither suggestion fits with the gospel's picture of Jesus who clearly got very angry and was not above denouncing the religious leaders of his time.

Our second choice is to believe that Jesus used these prayers during his lifetime but later, from the perspective of the cross, offered a new viewpoint. The one who prayed "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Lk. 23:34) revealed to us that such harsh denunciations were inappropriate in light of God's forgiving love. This places the responsibility upon each of us to bring to worship a forgiving spirit that we often do not feel. It also suggests that we are to do what Jesus could not do before the cross.

Our third choice is to believe that Jesus, indeed, experienced the fullness of humanity, including some very negative feelings. It assumes that Jesus recognized not only the reality of opposition forces, but also had negative feelings toward them. Mark suggested this real possibility when he described Jesus' response in one incident by saying, "He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart" (Mark 3:5a). With these strong feelings, is it not possible that Jesus prayed words such as those in Psalm 5 quoted above? Is it not likely that Jesus included in his prayers the negative feelings he had toward those whom he perceived as being in opposition to God? By allowing prayer to bring his negative feelings about those who threatened the reign of God into the realm of God, was not Jesus trusting that God could reign over those feelings? Would he not have lifted up natural human feelings to the only one who was able to receive the prayers and transform them into forgiving possibilities? Only from this perspective is it clear that where God rules, the enemy is not finally a threat. It is only from this viewpoint that one is able to offer forgiveness.

In a way, we can think of the psalms as a school of prayer for different circumstances in our life. The Psalms for sure were prayers of Jesus, and they are the chosen prayers for His Church and for the whole world to cherish, recite, pray, meditate on, and think about your own life and how you can apply them. (To be continued...)

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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