



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

APRIL 7, 2024

CONNECT WITH US

208 East Jefferson Street
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Phone: (434) 295-7185

Fax: (434) 220-1464

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 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

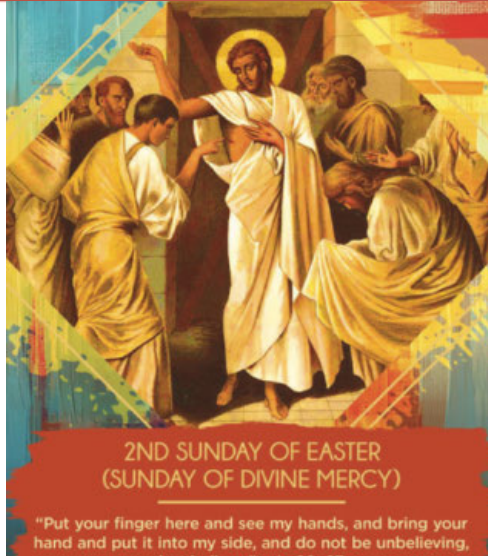
First Friday 7-8 PM

Sunday 1:30 PM

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

Please Send Bulletin Submissions
by 3PM Mondays to
dre@holycomforterparish.org



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

Deacon (Retired)
Rev. Mr. Henry Vinklerek

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
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@svdhp-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 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 heather@holycomforterparish.org

Haiti Ginny Zeller

Lectors Matt Freeman

Offertory Counters Lee Faust
lfaust@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 (4/6)

8 AM Mass
5 PM Vigil Mass
SUNDAY (4/7)

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

8:30 AM Mass
11 AM Mass
12:30 PM RCIA
3 PM Divine Mercy Holy Hour

MONDAY (4/8)

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry
12 PM Mass
6:30-7:30 PM Confession

TUESDAY (4/9)

8 AM Mass
10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY (4/10)

8 AM Mass
10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry
6:30-7:30 PM Confession

THURSDAY (4/11)

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen
6 PM Mass and Adoration
FRIDAY (4/12)

9-11:30 AM Regina Caeli Co-op
12 PM Mass
7-8 PM Adoration and Confession

SATURDAY (4/13)

8 AM Mass
5 PM Vigil Mass
SUNDAY (4/14) THIRD SUNDAY OF

EASTER

8:30 AM Mass
9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation
11 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

4/10 Saint Magdalene of Canossa
4/11 Saint Stanislaus
4/12 Saint Teresa of Los Andes
4/13 Saint Martin I
4/14 Blessed Peter Gonzalez

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 (4/6)

8 AM Lenon Family
5 PM † Arthur Eddleston
(Sherry Schemmel)
Maria-Andrea Gerling and Family

SUNDAY (4/7)

8:30 AM Members of the Parish
11 AM Gilbert Family

MONDAY (4/8)

12 PM Ed Mickiewicz and Family

TUESDAY (4/9)

8 AM † Scarlett Makielski
(CCSC of St Elizabeth of the Trinity)

WEDNESDAY (4/10)

8 AM Stelow Family

THURSDAY (4/11)

6 PM Bailey Family

FRIDAY (4/12)

12 PM Pierson Family

SATURDAY (4/13)

8 AM Kulick Family
5 PM † Raymond F. Litley
(Dolly and George Lilly)

SUNDAY (4/14)

8:30 AM † Ron Lavis (Eileen Lavis)
11 AM Members of the Parish
Theresa Lynch in Honor
of Her Birthday
(Deason Henry and Alicia Vinklarek)

SAINTS OF GOD

4/6 Saint Crescentia Hoess
4/7 Saint John the Baptist de La Salle
4/8 Saint Julie Billiart
4/9 Saint Casilda

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 2024

Offertory	\$7,130
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,750)
<i>Below Weekly Budget</i>	<i>(\$1,620)</i>

WEEK ENDING MARCH 24, 2024


Offertory	\$7,245
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,750)
<i>Below Weekly Budget</i>	<i>(\$1,505)</i>

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR April

ALL MONTH Christian Formation + Haiti + Justice and Peace
4/14/2024 Catholic Relief Services
4/28/2024 Outreach

"ALL GOOD GIVING AND EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE"
James 1:17

To meet our parish annual operating expenses of \$455,000, it is necessary for our 221 registered and active families to contribute \$2,059 per year, or about \$40 per week. If you are already tithing \$40 or more per week, thank you. If you are not, but are able to, please know how much your support is needed, especially at this time. May God bless you abundantly.

 **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.



LITURGICAL NOTES

Entrance: As newborn babes, alleluia, long for pure spiritual milk, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Offertory: The Angel of the Lord came down from heaven and said to the women: "The One whom you seek has risen, as he said he would", alleluia.

Communion: Stretch forth your hand, and feel the place where the nails were, alleluia; and be not doubtful but believing, alleluia, alleluia.

We have just celebrated eight days of Easter Sunday. The "Easter Octave" suspends liturgical time because Easter is so central to who we are that the Church has seen it fit to celebrate it eight times with all due solemnity and joy. Easter is in fact the reason we have octaves because the Church very early in the history of the Church understood the Day of Resurrection (Sunday) to be the "eighth day of creation" when Christ wonderfully remade human nature by His resurrection – the Firstborn of a new creation. Seven represents completeness and eight represent eternity; hence, liturgical octaves suspend time, giving us a foretaste of the unending Easter joys of heaven. It is eminently fitting that the octave ends with an emphasis on the Mercy of God, which was shown to the apostles locked away in the upper room who were afraid at the sight of Jesus because they had abandoned Him. He dispels their fears with the warm greeting, "Peace be with you" and shows St. Thomas the apostle mercy in the face of his utter doubt of the resurrection. Join us for the great hour of Divine Mercy (3pm Sunday) where we will sing the Chaplet in the presence of the Sacrament and the image commissioned by St. Faustina at the request of Jesus Himself. Christ is risen! Alleluia! Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy and Music

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

"In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000."

"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet."

◆ *Sunday, April 7, 3 PM: Holy Comforter Divine Mercy Holy Hour*
Please join us as we adore Christ and encounter His Mercy.
Our refuge and our shelter!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading *Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15,17-19* Peter preaches that Jesus has been raised from the dead and calls upon the people to repent.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 4:2,4,7-8,9
 A prayer seeking God's favor

Second Reading
1 John 2:1-5a
 Those who know God keep his commandments.
Gospel *Luke 24:35-48*
 Jesus appears again to his disciples and shares a meal with them.

April 7, Divine Mercy Sunday

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, 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, Deacon Henry and Alicia Vinklerek, 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



The life of a Vincentian is governed by Simplicity. Simplicity in paying rent or a power bill or an automobile repair or providing a comforter. And your donations are always greeted with thanksgiving. We do this out of prayer and kindness, peace and joy. The people we assist are so grateful for when we assist when it is most needed to fill the gap. And we pray that we can be of some assistance. Our friends can often provide for themselves, except when an illness or auto repair bill sets them back. Thank you for your support of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society during the Easter time campaign. We regularly meet at 7 pm on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Church of the Incarnation. Our next meeting is on April 16 in the conference room at the Church of Incarnation. You are welcome to attend to see if this ministry is calling you. If you would like more information about our conference, or to donate, please contact our website to www.svdhp-ht.org or email us at info@svdhp-ht.org. Thank you!

MINISTRIES

OUTREACH: During the month of March, the Food Pantry gave out 197 food bags to 451 individuals. We served 337 sit down meals during Soup Kitchen. We appreciate your continued support through your contributions and donations to Outreach. Thank you and have a Blessed Easter Season! The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

PARISH LIFE: Would you like to be more involved in the community life of Holy Comforter's Parish? Consider joining Holy Comforter's Parish Life Ministry! Email Elizabeth Gilbert, Elizgilbert@gmail.com

WORKS OF MERCY: *We are looking for 2 individuals to bring communion to people in hospitals, nursing homes, or other residences.* If interested, 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 MINISTRY: 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. Please pray for Haiti!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOB OPENINGS AT CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL is seeking the following for the 2024-2025 school year: Elementary Teacher (JK-5) and a PT Elementary Spanish Teacher. Please send resume, Diocesan Application, 3 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 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 434-964-0400.

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND is seeking the following positions: **Associate Director for the Office of Christian Formation** who will be responsible for Children and Family Ministry. Also, **seeking a Director of Campus Ministry to serve the Catholic Campus Ministries at Norfolk State University; Hampton University; Virginia Union University; and Virginia State University...** **Associate Superintendent for Operations, Office of Catholic Schools.** The Associate Superintendent will monitor and oversee the implementation of documented policies and procedures for 23 Catholic Schools serving over 8,000 students, located throughout the state of Virginia...Also, **Facilities Maintenance Technician at the Pastoral Center.** For the full ad and how to apply, Please see <https://bit.ly/3HQzKU8>. For questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist/Recruiter jobs@richmonddioocese.org

FROM THE PASTOR



CLOSE YOUR EYES AND OPEN YOUR EARS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Part XIV

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.

"I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities"
Psalm 31:7

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on the second Sunday of Easter, it is fitting to consider how the book of the Psalms helps us to embrace the Mercy of God. The book of Psalms contains many wonderful Psalms about mercy, love, and hope. The word "mercy" is often used in the Psalms when talking about God's love and care for us. One definition of mercy is God withholding the punishment we deserve. Is there any better description of love than that?

There are Psalms devoted to the praise of Divine Mercy. **Psalm 136**, for example, recounts all the merciful deeds of the Lord both in creation and in rescuing Israel from slavery, bringing the Chosen People to the Promised Land. This Psalm bears the refrain: "**for His steadfast love endures forever.**" Psalms 105 and 106 are a summary of the proofs of the mercy of the Lord in leading Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. **Psalm 106** begins: "**Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for his steadfast love (Mercy) endures forever.**" **Psalm 107** gives thanks to the Lord for all of the many ways he delivers people from trouble and danger.

Secondly, several of the psalms define the very nature of God chiefly in terms of His merciful love. **Psalm 145**, for example, repeats and elaborates upon God's self-designation as the

Merciful One from Exodus (verse 8): "**The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and His compassion is over all His works.**" **Psalm 103** is perhaps the most comprehensive exposition of the multifaceted mercy of God: He forgives, He heals, He is dependable, He provides for His people, He is compassionate toward human weakness, patient and forbearing. The Psalms also tell us how we can see the mercy of the Lord. **Psalms 112:4** states: "**Light rises in darkness for the upright; the Lord is gracious, merciful and just.**" In other words, we can only see God's mercy clearly when we are upright ourselves: a merciless and unjust heart cannot see, experience, nor understand the mercy of the Lord. **Psalm 111** reminds us that it is through remembering His "**wonderful works**" that we can best appreciate the Divine Mercy, for His mercy is no mere philosophical abstraction: it is proven in His deeds.

Many of the Psalms also encourage us to place our trust in the Lord and to hope in Him. **Psalm 32:10** promises: "**Many are the pangs of the wicked, but steadfast love (Mercy) surrounds him who trusts in the Lord.**" **Psalm 33:18** makes a similar promise: "**Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love (Mercy).**" Perhaps no Psalm says it better than **Psalm 130**, which is a cry for forgiveness and rescue from a soul cast deep into the darkness by trouble and sin: "**Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord! Lord hear my voice! Let Thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared...**"

It is no wonder, therefore, that one of the favorite verses of Pope St. John Paul II comes from the Psalms (**89:1**): "**I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, with my mouth I will proclaim Thy faithfulness to all generations.**" I ask you to consider making the Psalms your anchor when speaking to God; you will never regret it. The Lord is risen indeed. ALLELUIA!

To be continued...

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

April 7, Divine Mercy Sunday

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Timothy Dorss, CPA

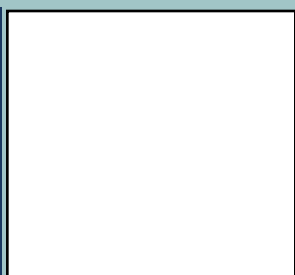
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