



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

APRIL 21, 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

Mon, Weds, Fri 6:30-7:30 PM

Thursday 7-8 PM

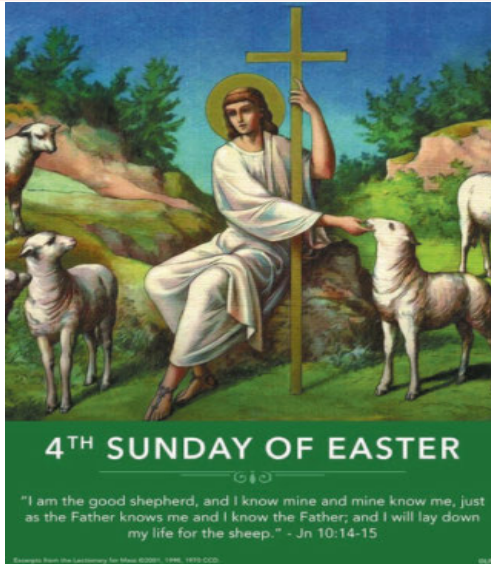
First Friday 7-8 PM

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

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office@holycomforterparish.org

Receptionist/Office Assistant

Melinda Crews
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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@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
Heather Burns heather@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 (4/20)

8 AM Mass
5 PM Vigil Mass
SUNDAY (4/21) FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY)
8:30 AM Mass
9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation
11 AM Mass
12:30 PM RCIA
4 PM Youth Group

MONDAY (4/22)

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

TUESDAY (4/23)

8 AM Mass
10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY (4/24)

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

THURSDAY (4/25)

7 PM Choir
12-1 PM Soup Kitchen
6 PM Mass and Adoration

FRIDAY (4/26)

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

SATURDAY (4/27)

6:30-7:30PM Confession
8 AM Mass
8-12 PM First Communion Retreat

SUNDAY (4/28) FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

2 PM Wedding
5 PM Vigil Mass
8:30 AM Mass
9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation
11 AM Mass The Presentation of HS Confirmands to the Parish
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

4/24 Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen
4/25 Saint Mark
4/26 Saint Pedro de San Jose Bentancur
4/27 Saint Louis Mary Grignon de Montfort
4/28 Saint Peter Chanel

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 (4/20)

8 AM Gabriel Hess (Heidi Hess)
Therese Auger in Honor of her 83rd Birthday (Diane Auger Smith)
5 PM Members of the Parish
† Arthur Eddleston (Sherry Schemmel)

SUNDAY (4/21)

8:30 AM Mia Goodbar (Heidi Hess)
† Don E. Burch (Diane Auger Smith)
11 AM Father Mario Aquinas Calabrese

MONDAY (4/22)

12 PM † Carlos Ortiz on the Anniversary of His Death (Maria Andrea Ospina-Gerling)

TUESDAY (4/23)

8 AM Daniella and Calvin Perkins

WEDNESDAY (4/24)

8 AM † Guiliana Cecilia Pugh (Jeanne Mickiewicz)

THURSDAY (4/25)

6 PM Deacon Henry Vinklarek

FRIDAY (4/26)

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

SATURDAY (4/27)

8 AM The Ill and Homebound of Holy Comforter
5 PM Calvin Perkins and Dawn Yellow (Calvin Perkins)

SUNDAY (4/28)

8:30 AM Members of the Parish
11 AM Holy Comforter's HS Confirmands

SAINTS OF GOD

4/20 Saint Conrad of Parzham
4/21 Saint Anselm
4/22 Saint Adalbert of Prague
4/23 Saint George

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

WEEK ENDING APRIL 14, 2024

Offertory	\$3,535
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$8,750)
<i>Below Weekly Budget</i>	<i>(\$5,215)</i>

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR APRIL

ALL MONTH Christian Formation + Haiti + Justice and Peace

4/14/2024 Outreach

4/28/2024 Maintenance Fund

SEMI-ANNUAL PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Copies are available in the Commons.

"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 Diocesan Appeal is underway and it is our hope for every household to participate. Our goal this year is to raise \$25,200, and our parish share will be used for church repairs and maintenance. Every gift, no matter the amount, makes a difference. Brochures are available in the Commons.



LITURGICAL NOTES

Entrance: The earth is full of the mercy of the Lord, alleluia; by the word of the Lord, the heavens were established, alleluia, alleluia.

Offertory: O God, my God, from daybreak do I watch for you; and in invocation of your name will I lift up my hands.

Communion: I am the good shepherd, alleluia; I know my sheep and my own know me, alleluia, alleluia.

"Good Shepherd Sunday", so named because of the Gospel, reminds us of the necessity of regular prayer. The Offertory Antiphon alludes to this: "from daybreak do I watch for you". We see here both an attentiveness to the Will of God and a refined awareness of God's work in our daily lives. It is in cultivating both a readiness to embrace the teachings of the Church and an interior silence in our prayer lives that we learn to "hear" the Shepherd's voice. He can speak to us through our superiors, our daily obligations, and in the solitude of prayer; we need to be "watching" for cues through this cultivated attentiveness. The good news is that the Shepherd is perpetually search for His sheep, so even the smallest effort on our part is met with a generous response from God, Who Himself inspires those meager efforts in the first place. He will spare nothing to seek us out and find us, that He might lead us to heaven and "spread a banquet before [us] in the sight of all [our] foes".

Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy and Music

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Melinda Wells, Director of Religious Education

dre@holycomforterparish.org

Religious Education Calendar

- ◆ **Saturday, April 27, 8AM-12PM: First Communion Retreat (Breakfast for children Provided)**
- ◆ **Sunday, April 28, 11 AM Mass: Presentation of HS Confirmands**
- ◆ **Saturday, May 4, 5PM Vigil Mass: First Communion**
- ◆ **Sunday, May 5, 8:30AM Mass: Crowning of Mary**

Please keep the First Sacraments children in your prayers and Rosaries and they prepare to receive First Communion.

Also, please be aware, pew space will be limited at the May 4, First Communion Vigil Mass due to families attending. Thank you so much!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

Paul is accepted by the apostles at Jerusalem.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22:26-27,28,30,31-32

The whole world shall praise the Lord.

Second Reading 1 John 3:18-24

God commands us to believe in Jesus Christ and to love one another.

Gospel John 15:1-8

Jesus teaches that he is the vine and that his disciples are the branches.

April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter

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, 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, Residents and Staff of Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention

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



Help us help our neighbors in need. During this Easter Season help spread the joy of the risen Christ by supporting our Vincentian ministry to help our friends in need. Please consider donating and joining us in our person-to-person assistance with rent, utilities, etc. We are a network of friends, inspired by the Gospel, and we see the face of Christ in those we serve. If you would like more information about our conference or to donate, please visit our website www.svdp-ht.org or email us at info@svdp-ht.org. Thank you!

MINISTRIES

OUTREACH: During the first quarter of 2024, the food pantry gave out 573 food bags to 1,411 individuals. And we served 1,060 meals during Soup Kitchen. We appreciate your continued support through your contributions and donations to Outreach. Please contact us by phone or email if you are interested in volunteering at Soup Kitchen any Thursday from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Ph: 434-293-8989/email: outreach@holycomforterparish.org. Thank you and Have a blessed Easter Season! The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

PARISH LIFE: Please join us Friday May 10th for Mass at noon to celebrate Father's Ordination Anniversary. We will have a potluck lunch to follow. Please sign up in flocknote for a dish or two to share! We hope you can make it to celebrate Father on this special day. 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: On April 12, 2024, Haiti established the Transitional Presidential Council (TPC), which brings together diverse stakeholders including political parties, the private sector, and civil society. Perhaps through prayer, there is hope for Haiti. We are still at 129 unsponsored students; we are more than two thirds towards the goal set last July and when our finances were dismal. We only need a few more people to commit to \$150 a year. The "**Hope for Haiti**" Golf Tournament is 16 May. We still have individual and team tee times available. Please contact Dan at dmw9v@virginia.edu or (410)852-6126 or register on the website: <https://dmw9v9.wixsite.com/hopeforhaiti>. God bless you and please keep Haiti in your prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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@richmonddiocese.org

FROM THE PASTOR



CLOSE YOUR EYES AND OPEN YOUR EARS

TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Part XVI

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.

“The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies”

Psalms 23:1-2 & 5

We all remember that David, the shepherd boy turned King of Israel, was son of Jesse, grandson of Ohed, and the great grandson of Boaz and Ruth. David was the youngest of Jesse's eight sons. Often given credit as the author of several Psalms, he likely composed Psalm 23, as it paralleled God's care shown towards himself with the care which he tended his own sheep. Psalm 23 addresses trust, protection, guidance, provision, rest, and comfort among many other themes. It applies directly to our lives today by reminding us to trust God as our Good and Faithful Shepherd who provides for all aspects of life, no matter the difficulty.

I chose to bring up this Psalm as we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday as a tool to nourish our appreciation of what Jesus has done for us. He became one of us, so that we might fully benefit from the example of His leadership. **"The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep ... but the hireling flees."** What an example of

dedication! What he went through is depicted in this Psalm. Some metaphors used include depicting him as our shepherd, guide, provider, host, and protector. The Psalm refers to **“the valley of death”**, a place symbolizing both life's darkest times and God's comfort during those trying times, which the Son of God went through in the garden of Gethsemane and the pains suffered during the crucifixion.

When we refer to having Jesus Christ as our Shepherd, this refers to placing all of our trust and hope in him so he may lead, protect, and provide for us just like a true shepherd would his sheep. David used this metaphor of the Good Shepherd due to personal experience serving as a shepherd himself and understanding all that went into tending the flock he cared for. Psalm 23 gives us hope by reminding us of God's eternal presence with us during difficult and trying times, never leaving, or abandoning us or forsaking us. The psalm offers comfort to those experiencing grief by reminding them they are not alone and can trust in His goodness and mercy.

The psalm expresses Christ as our loving and trustworthy shepherd who guides our steps onto paths of righteousness, teaching us how to trust him completely while finding comfort and restfulness within his embrace. Jesus claims the title and role of **Good Shepherd** for the disciples then and for us today. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus proclaims that he will protect his flock. He knows his people, and we know him. Further, Jesus gently reminds us that there are many sheep who recognize His voice and belong to Him, even if they don't outwardly belong to this fold, to the Catholic Church (i.e., the Gentiles). The Good Shepherd—the **one** Good Shepherd—emphasizes that his work is to bring in the other sheep, so that there is one flock for God to tend to with provision and care.

To be continued...

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

April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter

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