



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

DECEMBER 22, 2024

CONNECT WITH US

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- holycomforterparish.org

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil	5 PM
Sunday	8:30 AM, 11 AM
Sunday Gregorian Mass	2 PM
Monday + Friday	12 PM
Tuesday + Wednesday	8 AM
Thursday	6 PM
Saturday	8 AM

ADORATION

Monday	1-3PM
Wednesday	6-9PM
Thursday	7-8PM
Friday	1-3PM

CONFESSION

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

Office Hours

Monday-Friday	9 AM - 4 PM
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Please Send Bulletin Submissions
by 3PM Mondays to
dre@holycomforterparish.org



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

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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

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.

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
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
- That Man is You: Band of Brothers** Steven Sisman
steven.sisman@gmail.com
- 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
- Lectors** Matt Freeman
- Offertory Counters** Lee Faust
lfaust@comcast.net
- Sacristans** Suzanne Bailey
slank@ntelos.net
- Haiti** TBD
- Uganda** Theresa Lynch
- Ushers** Dennis Dougherty

PRAYER & WORSHIP



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (12/21)

6 AM Rorate Mass
Followed by potluck breakfast
5 PM Vigil Mass
6 PM O Antiphon Vespers

SUNDAY (12/22) Fourth Sunday of Advent

Second Collection: Maintenance Fund
Altar Flowers Donated by Holy Comforter

8:30 AM Mass
9:45 AM-10:45 AM Pageant Rehearsal
11 AM Mass
12:30 PM RCIA (LL)
1 PM Confession
2 PM Gregorian Mass
3:30 PM O Antiphon Vespers

MONDAY (12/23)

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry
6 PM O Antiphon Vespers
7 PM Simbang Gabi Mass

TUESDAY 12/24 Christmas Eve

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry
4 PM Caroling
4:30 PM Children's Nativity Pageant
5 PM Family Mass
10:30 PM Caroling
11:30 PM Gregorian Mass

WEDNESDAY (12/25) Christmas Day

8:30AM Mass
11:30 AM Mass

THURSDAY (12/26) St. Stephen

12 PM Mass

FRIDAY (12/27) St. John the Evangelist

12 PM Mass
1 PM Chesterton Academy Reception

SATURDAY (12/28) Holy Innocents

8 AM Mass
Followed by blessing of children
5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (12/29) Holy Family

Altar Flowers Donated by Holy Comforter

8:30 AM Mass
11 AM Mass
1 PM Confession
2 PM Gregorian Mass

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

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONER

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 (12/21)

6AM Steven & Anna Sisman and Family
5PM RCIA Catechumen & Candidates

SUNDAY (12/22)

8:30AM Michael & Rebecca Toscano and Family
11AM Deceased Friends and Family (Sandra Jordan)
2PM Members of the Parish

Monday (12/23)

7PM Matt & Tina Blumenfeld and Family

TUESDAY (12/24)

5PM Simon Ospina (Paula Ospina)
11:30PM Ed & Pam Kent and Family (Melinda Wells)

WEDNESDAY (12/25)

8:30AM † Pam Heron (Lindy Reedy)
11:30AM † Helen & † James Savino (Patricia McAdams)

THURSDAY (12/26)

12PM † Normand Auger (Therese Auger)

FRIDAY (12/27)

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

SATURDAY (12/28)

8AM Ill & Homebound of Holy Comforter Carlos Ospina in Honor of his Birthday (Paula Ospina)
5PM Members of the parish

SUNDAY (12/29)

8:30AM Marianne Masci (Diane Auger Smith)
11AM Robbie Gibson (Diane Auger Smith)
2PM Fr. David Mott (Diane Auger Smith)

SAINTS OF GOD

12/21 Saint Peter Canisius
12/22 Blessed Jacopone da Todi
12/23 Saint John of Kanty
12/24 Christmas at Greccio

12/25 Nativity of the Lord
12/26 Saint Stephen
12/27 Saint John the Evangelist
12/28 Holy Innocents
12/29 Saint Thomas Becket

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

GIFTS FROM GOD

Week Ending December 8, 2024

Offertory \$12,120

Weekly Offertory Budget (\$9,100)

Above Weekly Budget \$3,020

Due to a publication deadline, the Offertory report for Week Ending December 15, 2024 will appear in next week's Bulletin.



To access Holy Comforter's online giving, please click on the QR code.

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR DECEMBER

ALL MONTH Christian Formation + Haiti + Justice & Peace

12/1/2024 Christmas Flowers

12/8/2024 Outreach

12/9/2024 Immaculate Conception

12/15/2024 Retired Religious

12/22/2024 Maintenance Fund

12/25/2024 Catholic Charities

STOCK DONATION INSTRUCTIONS

Donations of stock may be made to Holy Comforter through the Depository Trust Company (DTC) to Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.

Here are the details: Schwab's DTC number: 0164

Account Name: HOLY COMFORTER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Account Number: 2162-7521

IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you have an IRA and are 72 years of age, you can make a tax-free charitable gift directly from your Individual Retirement Account to our parish of up to \$100,000. [It helps you and it helps us.](#)

● **How it helps you:** it can lower your taxable income and count towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

● **How it helps us:** we can put your gift to use right away to support our parish operations and the good works of our ministries.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

LITURGICAL NOTES

Introit: Skies, let the Just One come forth like the dew, let him descend from the clouds like the rain. The earth will open up and give birth to our Savior.

*This Sunday, the Church cries with the voice of ancient Israel in the days before the New Covenant, begging the heavens to **rorate** or "rain down" the Savior. Taken as a whole, this Introit stunningly illuminates Isaiah's passage: "So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Is. 55:11). God spoke in eternity, and the Word He spoke was Jesus. The Word came down from the heavenly realm and took root in the flesh of the Virgin Mary and returned to the Father after His course was run, having procured our salvation. Truly, he did not return "empty"! At the same time, the Church's cry for the Savior to come points to the end of time, though this meaning is more understated since we are so close to Christmas. Nevertheless, as we anticipate the historical coming of Jesus Christ in the lowly manger, let us stir into flame within our hearts the desire for union with God, ultimately fulfilled in heaven and fully realized at the resurrection of the dead when He comes again. Come, Lord Jesus! Veni Emmanuel! Come, thou long expected Messiah!*
Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy & Music

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

RCIA Rite of Acceptance and Welcome

Last week, was the Rite of Acceptance for our unbaptized RCIA inquirer, Catechumen Brandon Gillespie. The rites also give parishioners the opportunity to witness and support our Catechumens and Candidates as they journey into our glorious Catholic Church. This Sunday, at the 8:30AM Mass, parishioners will witness the Rite of Welcome for the baptized, our Candidates. *Please remember our Catechumen and Candidates in your prayers and Rosaries. As well, please introduce yourself, welcoming them to Holy Comforter. You are their community and your support is very important to making them feel at home. Thank you and God bless you!*

Brandon Gillespie (Catechumen)
Kennedy Kahle (Candidate)
Tristan Morris (Candidate)

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY

First Reading

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Responsorial

Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

Gospel

Lk 2:41-52

December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

PARISH NEWS



PLEASE PRAY FOR

PARISHIONERS

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

Ann Carothers, Teresa Cook, Veronica Deighan, Kelton Flinn, Jolene Green, Colette Hall, Jim and Bobbie Hoskins, Ann Jackson, Mary Nguyen, Ed Shaffrey, Mae Trentanove, Mary Wheeler, Denise Wilcox, 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, Mary Caretti, Kaylee Carter, Petra Vera Chavez, Molly Clarke, Stephanie Crews, Nancy Joan Debiese, Jimmy Dominguez, Linda Doyle, Fr. Gerald Fogarty, Sue Gilbert, Paula Goodburn, Genevieve Halfen, Liana Haseltine, Mark Rowland Huckabe, Kajihara Family, Betty Kapeluch, Kelly Lembo and Family, Joan Lincks, Mike & Sibylle Llewellyn, Shannon and Coty Lockett, Chelsea Massey, Dot McAllister, Michael McNeil, Fr. Richard Mooney, Melodie Mougeolle and Children, Robert Maute, Lia Thoms Price and Family, Lawrence Randolph, Randall Saathoff and Family, Yulia Savona, Matthew Schrank and Family, David Shrank and Family, Joseph Schrank and Family, Tara Singh, Aiden Smith, Christopher Tomaselli, Paul and Meghan Thoms, Scotty Thoms, Alicia Vinklerek, Brendan and Maria Walsh, Don and Lisa Wells, and Residents and Staff of Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention.

MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

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

If you would like your family member/fellow parishioner added, email the Works of Mercy ministry mercy@holycomforterparish.org or please call the church office at 434-295-7185.

To request Holy Communion or a visit from Father Joseph Mary please contact the office 434-295-7185 or email reception@holycomforterparish.org

Bonjour! Join Father David from Saints Peter and Paul and Father Joseph Mary from Holy Comforter on an unforgettable spiritual journey to France from April 24th to May 4th, 2025. *Our 11-day pilgrimage includes first-class hotel accommodation, round-trip airfare, breakfast and dinner, entrance fees, train fares, deluxe motorcoach, and so much more! We will take you through breathtaking locations, from the picturesque town of Lisieux, poignant Omaha Beach, historic Mont-Saint-Michel, magnificent Chartres Cathedral, and serene Nevers. Experience each destination's rich history and spiritual significance as we embark on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Our itinerary includes visits to sacred sites such as Lourdes and Paray-le-Monial, daily Mass celebrations, and iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the beautiful Basilica of Sacre Coeur. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to immerse yourself in the beauty and wonder of France. **Book today with Alba's Tours, LLC**, and prepare for an enriching and unforgettable experience! **Au revoir!***

MINISTRIES

OUTREACH: For the month of December, donations of canned fruits would be appreciated. We kindly thank you for your time, donations and contributions to Outreach all year! The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. Have a blessed Christmas!

ADVENT TOY AND GIFT DRIVE: **Thank you** for participating in the Salvation Army Angel Tree and Stocking Stuffer programs and for sharing the joy of Christmas with a child! May God bless you with a joyful Christmas.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Please give the gift of light this Christmas. Help us bring light and warmth to our local families. Donate today at www.svdp-ht.org. Christmas Blessings!



PARISH LIFE MINISTRY: *Please join us for a potluck breakfast following the Rorate Caeli Mass at 6 AM on Saturday December 21st.* Please sign up in flocknote to bring a dish or two to share!

THAT MAN IS YOU! BAND OF BROTHERS **We will take a small break and kick off the Spring session on Saturday, February 8th, 2025.** We look at the leadership role that has been entrusted to men and address the temptations and struggles men face in a culture that attacks authentic manhood. If interested, please email Steven Sisman steven.sisman@gmail.com

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED MINISTRY: Helping Moms in Need. If interested, please contact Garrett Smith at 434-960-7775

WORKS OF MERCY: Are you doing any works of mercy? Works of Mercy Ministry would like to hear, mercy@holycomforterparish.org.

HAITI: This week's Gospel emphasizes the importance of doing God's will and building a solid foundation. It resonates deeply with your Tri-parish Haiti Ministry at St. Michel. Since 2003, our ministry has been dedicated to building lasting relationships with the people of Saltadere, Haiti. This aligns with the Gospel's call to love and serve one's neighbor, building a foundation of faith and action. You are not only providing immediate relief but also sowing seeds of hope and resilience. This continues to build a foundation that can withstand and eventually overcome the trials faced by the community. Wishing everyone a blessed and Merry Christmas!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT -- DECEMBER 22, 2024

God chose to become man to lead us in a path of righteousness, is God calling you to grow in holiness? He may be inviting you to the priesthood. Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Matthew Kiehl, Vicar for Vocations; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

THE INTERIOR CASTLE BOOKSTORE: In preparing for Christmastide, consider stopping in at *The Interior Castle Bookstore* in Lexington! Featuring works by Tomie dePaola during December. We are selling stocking stuffers as well as honey and other items from monasteries across the country. Open Saturdays 10-4pm and by appointment (928-606-2682), 6 South Randolph St. Lexington, VA Please see our website <https://www.theinteriorcastle.org>

FROM THE PASTOR



WAITING ON GOD TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE

Part III

Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi

“So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it”

Isaiah 55:11

It is very important that we acknowledge that we are not the first of God’s people to WAIT on His word to be fulfilled for our good and His glory. In Jeremiah, God raises up a prophet through whom He speaks to his people words of both judgment and salvation. It was Jeremiah’s job to call God’s people back to God. If they continued in unfaithfulness, they would face God’s words of judgment pronounced in the Sinai covenant. If, however, they returned to God, they would once again experience God’s covenant promises of living in His presence in a kingdom of justice, righteousness, peace, wholeness, and restoration. That is, they would dwell with God in a kingdom with no evil. Because Jeremiah was afraid to take on this ministry (1:6), the Lord not only promised to be with him (1:8) and to give him the words to say (1:7-9), He also promised to watch over His word to fulfill it (1:11-12). It is important to know that God would fulfill His word; it

would not fail. Because Judah continued in disobedience, God fulfilled his word of judgment against them in 587 BC. But God’s word of salvation did not fail.

Through Jeremiah God also promised to restore his people on the basis of a new covenant that would provide all His people with new hearts, forgiveness, God’s Spirit, and a personal knowledge of Him (Jer.31:31-34). This new covenant, Jeremiah declared, would be established by God’s faithful shepherd who would gather God’s scattered flock (23:1-8). **We know this good shepherd to be Jesus (Jn 10:1-18), the Word of God who became flesh and dwelt among us (Jn. 1:14).** Through Jesus’s life, death, resurrection, and exaltation, God has already fulfilled His promises of both judgment and salvation, even as we await their full expression in His eternal kingdom.

There is coming a day when all who trust in Christ will experience no more evil, or sin but only righteousness, justice, and peace. On that day, we will face no more sickness, disease, or death but only healing and wholeness. More importantly, on that day we will dwell with God and He with us. * All of this is to be accomplished in God’s time; we have to exercise WAITING. We may face sin, evil, and suffering in this world, but we need not lose hope. God’s promises are meant to drive our faith into patient-WAITING.

God is watching over His word to perform whatever he intended to achieve. God is faithful, not one word will fail. You cannot outwait God – His lovingkindness is everlasting! He will be faithful to move in your life. He will not forsake you. And you will be blessed and transformed by the lessons you have learned through your seasons of waiting on Him. For sure our salvation is at hand.

To be Continued...

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

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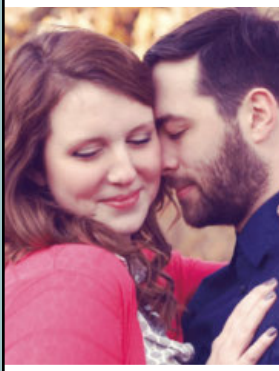
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