

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

DECEMBER 29, 2024

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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 8 AM Saturday

ADORATION

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

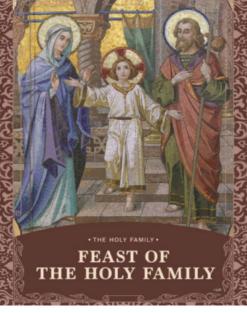
CONFESSION

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

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

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



Pastor

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

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

Soup Kitchen: Thurs 12PM-1PM

10:30AM -12:30PM

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 info@svdp-ht.org **Holy Trinity Conference**

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 Matt Freeman Lectors **Offertory Counters** Lee Faust

Ifaust@comcast.net

Sacristans Suzanne Bailey

slank@ntelos.net

Haiti **TBD** 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 (12/28) Holy Innocents

8 AM Mass

Followed by blessing of children

5 PM Vigil Mass (Holy Family)

SUNDAY (12/29) Holy Family

Altar Flowers Donated by Parishioners

8:30 AM Mass

11 AM Mass

1 PM Confession

2 PM Gregorian Mass

MONDAY (12/30)

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

12:30-3 PM Adoration

6:30 PM Confession

TUESDAY 12/31)

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6 PM Mass

WEDNESDAY (1/1) Mother of God

12PM Mass

6 PM Gregorian Mass

THURSDAY (1/2)

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

6 PM Mass

Followed by Adoration and

Confession

FRIDAY (1/3)

12 PM Mass

12:30-3 PM Adoration

6:30 PM Confession

SATURDAY (1/4)

8 AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (1/5) Epiphany of the Lord

Altar Flowers Donated by Parishioners

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11 AM Mass

12:30 PM RCIA

1 PM Confession

2 PM Gregorian Mass

SAINTS OF GOD

12/28 Holy Innocents

12/29 Holy Family

12/30 Saint Egwin

12/31 Saint Sylvester I

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. WEDNESDAY (1/1) 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 THURSDAY (1/2) 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

1/1 Mary, Mother of God

1/2 Saint Basil the Great

1/3 Most Holy Name of Jesus

1/4 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

1/5 Epiphany of the Lord

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@holycomforterparish.org

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY (12/28)

8AM III & 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)

Monday (12/30)

12PM Elie Chemaly (Diane Auger Smith)

TUESDAY (12/31)

6PM Debby Kesler (Diane Auger Smith)

12PM Martha Ospina in Honor of Her Birthday (Paula Ospina)

6PM Karen Olsen (Diane Auger Smith)

6PM † Mary Blake (Thomson Family)

FRIDAY (1/3)

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

SATURDAY (1/4)

8AM III & Homebound of Holy Comforter 5PM † Meredith Howell

(Kathleen Thomson and Bridget Davis)

SUNDAY (1/5)

8:30AM Members of the Parish

11AM Alicia Vinklarek

2PM † Jerry Nave

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

GIFTS FROM GOD

Week Ending December 15, 2024

Offertory \$8,480 **Weekly Offertory Budget** (\$9,100)Below Weekly Budget (\$620)

Due to a publication deadline, the Offertory report for Week Ending December 22, 2024 will appear in next week's Bulletin.

GENEROSITY IS AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE



★ ■ For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but 🗱 🎞 might have eternal life (John 3:16).

To meet our parish annual operating expenses of \$473,200, it is necessary for our 226 registered and active families to contribute \$2,094 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.

SECOND COLLECTIONS FOR JANUARY

ALL MONTH Catholic Virginian + Christian Formation

+ Justice and Peace

1/12/2025 Outreach 1/19/2025 Respect Life

1/26/2025 Maintenance Fund

May the Peace of the Holy Family be with you always.



First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

LITURGICAL NOTES

Introit: God is in his holy dwelling place; the God who causes us to dwell together, one at heart, in his house; he himself will give power and strength to his people.

Christ is born! Sing for joy! It is symbolically beautiful that the Entrance Antiphon for today's Mass is a psalm about God dwelling in His temple and uniting us in community from His holy place. The Church is teaching us the importance and preciousness of the family. We are all temples of the Holy Spirit according to St. Paul, and this indwelling first took place in the Holy Family. God was literally in their midst, and they were all united in the pursuit of His will. They are a type of the Church and an example to all of us. Let us pray in a special way for our families and all families this Christmas, which are under attack from the secular society at large. Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Daniel Kirkland, Director of Liturgy & Music

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Happy Feast of the Holy Family!

(No Christian Formation nor RCIA today...Looking forward to seeing everyone next Sunday, January 5, same times!)



Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

PARISH NEWS



PLEASE PRAY FOR

PARISHIONERS

(Includes ill, injured, homebound, and caregivers.)
Ann Carothers, Teresa Cook, 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 Vinklarek, 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 11day 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-alifetime 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!

<u>PARISH LIFE:</u> Are you interested in being an integral part of planning the events for Holy Comforter's Parish Family? If so, please contact Elizabeth Gilbert at Elizgilbert@gmail.com.

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, contact us! mercy@holycomforterparish.org. HAITI: The new year's sponsorship program between our Tri-Parish Ministry and St. Michel College School exemplifies the Gospel and Epistle readings' themes of family, community, and mutual support. Just as the Gospel recounts the Holy Family's journey, the Tri-Parish Ministry strives to provide protection, education, and a hopeful future for the children in Haiti, paralleling the Holy Family's search for refuge and guidance. The commitment to raising 280 new sponsorships by June 2025 demonstrates resilience and faith in collective efforts. In Saltadere, this support empowers children through education, reflecting love and communal support's transformative power. This program strengthens global kinship, embodying the Holy Family's journey and Epistle's virtues, and is a testament to faith, compassion, and unity. A happy and Blessed New Year to all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

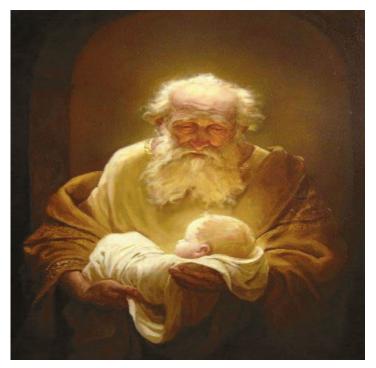
Feast of the Holy Family -- December 29, 2024: Are you called to serve the family of the Lord and share the Father's love as a priest? Call the Vocations Office, (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Matthew Kiehl, Vicar for Vocations; write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org

THE MEMBERS OF THE SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES:

The members of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites are lay Faithful, inspired by the Holy Spirit to answer the call to holiness through mental prayer, study, community and apostolic works of charity. The Community of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9:00AM -1:30PM, at St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, Staunton, Va. If you desire to learn more about this way of life, please pick up a brochure in the Commons. To arrange a visit, please contact: Patricia McAdams, OCDS: 434-286-4055 or pamcadams@yahoo.com

FROM THE PASTOR





JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi

"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world." John 1:9

In these glorious days of Christmas, we take it that the baby Jesus, although he has not spoken any word, by his being and what was prophesied about him is the light of the world. If you follow him now, you will have no regrets. True, he will reveal your sins, which is a precious gift — like the fortunate early diagnosis of a deadly cancer — but even more, he will reveal all that is beautiful. He is the light and revelation of God the Father. In him we see the history of redemption and the work of our salvation come to completion.

The old man Simeon, when he saw Jesus in the temple for the first time brought in by his parents, held the Child Jesus in his arms, and the Holy Spirit revealed to him the light he was holding in his arms. Simeon was a righteous man who had been promised by God that he would not die before he had seen with his own eyes the promised Hope of Israel, the appointed Messiah Who would save His people from their sin. No doubt when Simeon saw Mary with the baby Jesus his heart was stirred by the Holy Spirit so that he would take the baby into his arms and sing his memorable song of praise

and thanksgiving: "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bondservant to depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples – a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel" (Lk. 2:29-32). Simeon would also declare to Jesus' mother: "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed. A sword will pierce even your own soul, so that the inner thoughts of many people might be revealed" (Lk. 2:34-35).

See here how comfortable the death of the good man Simeon is. He departs in peace with God, peace with his own conscience, in peace with death. Those that have welcomed Christ, welcome life even in death. Joseph and Mary marveled at the things which were said of this Child. Simeon showed them likewise what reason they had to rejoice with trembling. To this day, Jesus, his doctrine, and people, are still spoken against; his truth and holiness are still denied and blasphemed; his preached word is still the touchstone of men's characters. The secret good affections in the minds of some, will be revealed by their embracing Christ; the secret corruptions of others will be revealed by their enmity to Christ. Men will be judged by the thoughts of their hearts concerning Christ. He shall be a suffering Jesus; his mother shall suffer with him because of the nearness of her relation and affection.

Jesus said of himself: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn. 14:6). He gives the light of truth, of spiritual sight, of knowledge, of holiness, of joy, of heaven. We should rejoice in the light of "the Sun of Righteousness." When Christ gives us light, we must reflect it: "You are the light of the world, a city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a lampstand, and it gives light to everyone in the house..." (Mt. 5:14-16). The lighthouse, when its lights burn truly, will warn the mariner against danger and enable him to pursue the right and safe way. In the celebration of the BIRTH OF JESUS, we may guide someone from the darkness and danger of sin to the light and safety of God's mercy in Christ.

Today we have the full and final revelation of God in the inspired Word of God. Let us like Simeon take all that God has written in His word into our hands and open our eyes and heart to perceive the salvation that has come to us and believe with childlike expectation that our eyes will soon see our Savior – as we wait for Christ's return in the clouds for His people.

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



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