

HOLY COMFORTER

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

CONNECT WITH US

208 East Jefferson Street Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

C 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, 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

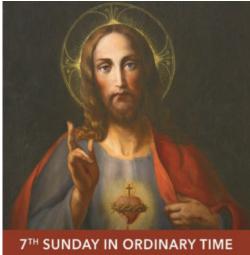
CONFESSION

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

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

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



Pastor

Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi jmlukyamuzi@richmonddiocese.org

"Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." - Lk 6:38

Administrative Business Manager Mary Frances Lilly office@holycomforterparish.org

Receptionist/Office Assistant
Melinda Crews
reception@holycomforterparish.org

Director of Liturgy and Music Daniel Kirkland <u>music@holycomforterparish.org</u>

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 CHAIRS

FINANCE COUNCIL Gary Krutul

gkrutul@sncomm.com

Offertory Counters

PASTORAL COUNCIL Maria-Andrea Gerling Ospina

maria.ospina@gmail.com

LITURGY AND WORSHIP Daniel Kirkland

Music Ministry, Altar Servers Lectors – Matt Freeman

Sacristans – Suzanne Bailey slank@ntelos.net

Ushers – Dennis Dougherty

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist –

Heather Burns heather@holycomforterparish.org

Funerals and Works of Mercy Ministry mercy@holycomforterparish.org

Homebound Eucharistic Ministry

communionvisit@holycomforterparish.org

Weddings

weddings@holycomforterparish.org Altar Flower Guild – Jeanne Mickiewicz

Jean4greens@yahoo.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Melinda Wells

Children's Formation, Sacramental Preparation,

Adult Education, Library

Religious Education Committee—

Suzanne Bailey slank@ntelos.net

RCIA—Diane Auger Smith / Victoria Lannon

dianeaugersmith@gmail.com

—Victoria Lannon gregnbuk@gmail.com

Regina Caeli Homeschool Cooperative -

Samantha VanDyke samantha.kepler@gmail.com

That Man Is You – Steven Sisman

steven.sisman@gmail.com

Youth Ministry – Anna Sisman

youthgroup@holycomforterparish.org

CHARITY AND OUTREACH Chuck McCurdy

cwm@virginia.edu

Outreach (Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry) - Bridget Davis bridget@holycomforterparish.org

Walking with Moms in Need -

Garrett Smith gsmith@garrettsmithlaw.com

Uganda—Gregory Lannon gregnbuk@gmail.com

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Holy Trinity

Society of St. Vincent de Faul, Holy Trinity

 $Conference - \underline{info@svdp-ht.org}$

K of C—Nicholas Pierson gk3670@vakofc.org

PARISH COMMUNITY LIFE Elizabeth Gilbert

<u>parishlife@holycomforterparish.org</u>
Holy Comforter Sociable Seniors 55+ —

Barbara Cassidy <u>bcc32968@gmail.com</u>

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 (2/22)

8 AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (2/23) Seventh Sunday in

Ordinary time

Second Collection: Maintenance Fund Altar Flowers Donated Anonymously

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11 AM Mass

12:30 PM RCIA

1 PM Confession

2 PM Mass

MONDAY (2/24)

Presidents Day-Office Closed

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

12:30-3 PM Adoration

6:30 PM Confession

TUESDAY (2/25)

8 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6 PM Schola

WEDNESDAY (2/26)

8 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6-9 PM Adoration

6:30 PM Confession

7 PM Choir

THURSDAY (2/27)

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

6 PM Mass

Followed by Adoration and Confession

FRIDAY (2/28)

9-11:45 AM Regina Caeli Co-op

12 PM Mass

1-3 PM Adoration

6:30 PM Confession

SATURDAY (3/1)

8 AM Mass

8-12 AM First Reconciliation Retreat

5 PM Vigil Mass

SAINTS OF GOD

2/22 Chair of Saint Peter

2/23 Saint Polycarp

2/24 Blessed Luke Belludi

2/25 Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio

SUNDAY (3/2) Eighth Sunday in

Ordinary time

Altar Flowers Donated by Therese Auger In memory of her parents Adeliade & Claire Riendeau

8:30 AM Mass

9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11 AM Mass

12:30 PM RCIA

1 PM Confession

2 PM 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 FRIDAY (2/28) 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

2/26 Saint Maria Bertilla Boscardin 2/27 Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

2/28 Blessed Daniel Brottier

3/1 Saint David of Wales

3/2 Saint Agnes of Bohemia

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 (2/22)

8AM † Naomi Wells (Melinda Wells) 5PM Members of the Parish

SUNDAY (2/23)

8:30AM Matthew and Miranda Schrank and Family (Melinda Wells)

11AM Stephanie Crews (Mel Crews)

2PM Lia Thoms Price (Melinda Wells)

MONDAY (2/24)

12PM Lia Thoms Price (Melinda Wells) † Nate Capps

(St. Thomas Aguinas Chapter Lay Dominicans)

TUESDAY (2/25)

8AM Simon Ospina (Paula Ospina) Wittek Family (Schemmel Family) Patricia Sifka and Family

(St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter Lay Dominicans)

WEDNESDAY (2/26)

8AM Ancestors of Lauren O'Neill † Normand Auger (Therese Auger)

THURSDAY (2/27)

6PM Woojin Park and Family (Fr. Joseph Mary)

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

SATURDAY (3/1)

8AM Holy Comforter's Ill and Homebound 5PM Joshua and Sandra Jordan (Fr. Joseph Mary)

SUNDAY (3/2)

8:30AM † Carol Storm

11AM Ed and Marianne Walendowski

(Fr. Joseph Mary)

2PM Members of the Parish

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

GIFTS FROM GOD

Week Ending February 16, 2025

\$14,191 Offertory

Weekly Offertory Budget

(\$9,100)

Above Weekly Budget

\$5,091

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



Mile 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 FEBRUARY

ALL MONTH Christian Formation + Haiti + Justice

and Peace

2/9/2025 Outreach

2/23/2025 Maintenance Fund

2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal: Sharing His Love with

Others The 2025 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 been awarded a \$2,500 Fuel and Hunger grant each year which is funded by the Appeal. And, last year our parish share of contributions made was over \$8,000. Thank you for your support!

LITURGICAL NOTES

Entrance (Domine, in tua misericordia): O Lord, I have placed my trust in your merciful love; my heart has rejoiced in your salvation. I will sing unto the Lord who has dealt bountifully with me.

Offertory (Intende voci): Hearken to the voice of my prayer, O my King and my God, for it is you, O Lord, whom I implore.

Communion (Narrabo): I will relate all your wondrous deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing to the honor of your name, O Most High. There is a striking line in today's Gospel that illuminates the Propers: "love your enemies and do good to them[...]and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked." We have all sinned and are therefore in need of mercy, so Our Lord exhorts us to show mercy as we have been shown mercy. How fitting a response, then, is the Communion Antiphon, which is a response of wonderment and a call to share what has been so freely given. The "mode" of the chant, which determines the most important note of the scale and giving the chant a particular quality, is a solemn one, befitting the opening word, "narrabo" (I will tell/narrate). We get the sense that something great is about to unfold, and it is in fact the wondrous mercy of God, of the Cross and how our sinful nature has been crucified with it. Musically, the melody rises on the words "mirabilia tua" ("your wondrous deeds"), extending the word "tua" to express importance rhetorically and joy musically. We therefore join the Offertory Antiphon and raise our voices in prayer, asking for God's mercy upon us and the strength to pass on that mercy to all whom we encounter. We know our prayer will be answered because God is merciful, and the chant emphasizes this again with its choice of mode, which is very settled and stable, and also by a drawing out of the words "quoniam ad te" ("for it is to you [that I pray]"). By choosing these words in particular to highlight, the music is telling us that, "of course your prayer will be answered because it is He Who is merciful whom you are praying to." Let us rejoice in the mercy of God and ask for pardon for those who do not know to ask it for themselves.

DANIEL KIRKLAND, DIRECTOR OF LITURGY & MUSIC

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

St. Jerome taught that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. One way to become familiar with Scripture is to read the Daily Readings. To acquaint you with this practice--or to supplement any practice you already have--the Religious Education Committee is offering copies of the March edition of "Give Us This Day," a booklet of prayers, reflections, and Daily Readings. One booklet per family is available on the Religious Education table in the Commons.

Please pick up a booklet after Mass this weekend.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading

Sirach 27:4-7

In his conversation is the test of the man. meet to pray and break bread.

Responsorial

Psalm 92: 2-3,13-16

The just shall flourish like a palm tree.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15: 54-58

Thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

Luke 6:39-45

Each tree is known by its yield.

PARISH NEWS

PLEASE PRAY FOR

PARISHIONERS

(Includes ill, injured, homebound, and caregivers.)
Ann Carothers, Teresa Cook, Connie Flamm, Kelton Flinn, Jolene Green, Colette Hall, Jim and Bobbie Hoskins, Ann Jackson, Mary Nguyen, Mary Showalter, Mae Trentanove, Mary Wheeler, Denise Wilcox, and Mary Ann Ziminski.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Leroy and Felicia Anderson, Blanding Attey, Ben and Katherine Barahona, Mary Benfante, Christine Bentejac, Hope Brown, Brad and Debbie Ferguson, Max and Hadley Burch, Mary Caretti, Kaylee Carter, Petra Vera Chavez, Molly Clarke, Stephanie Crews, Nancy Joan Debiese, Jimmy Dominguez, Linda Doyle, Gene Flamm, 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 call the church office at 434-295-7185.

To request Holy Communion or a visit from Father Joseph Mary, call the office 434-295-7185/reception@holycomforterparish.org

HAITI: From Bob Fromm..."I recently returned from a mission trip to the Haiti border, assisting Medical Missionaries in delivering supplies to various medical facilities, including the border hospital in Banica, the Sisters of St. Joseph medical convent, border clinics, St. Joseph's Hospital in Thomassique, our clinic of St. Michel, and Our Lady of Altragrace clinic. We made nine trips across the border, that also included computers for the schools in the Diocese of Hinch. This mission support trip, was a work of the Tri-Parish ministry and other organizations. It provided hope and life to tens of thousands. The Grace of Our Lord blesses our communities for these accomplishments.

This weekend's readings encourage reflection on sources of hope, trust, and identity, fostering a deeper engagement with faith and relationship with God. The mission trip experience echoes these themes as the Tri-Parish ministry, Monica Walker's Computers-for-Haiti, and Medical Missionaries provided hope, security, and a brighter future for the served communities.

With a loss of sponsors this year, over 150 new sponsors are needed by June. Sponsor online in Parish Giving or send a check to Holy Comforter and write Haiti sponsorship in memo line. Thank you & God Bless, Bob"

MINISTRIES

OUTREACH: During the month of January, we served 253 meals at our Thursday Soup Kitchen. We thank the students at the CCS and the congregants at CBI for providing homemade bread item and desserts, respectively. And thank you parishioners for your continued support to Outreach with your time, donations and contributions. For the month of February, any kind of canned fruit is welcome. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, HOLY TRINITY CONFERENCE: We continue to provide assistance to those facing evictions and utility cut offs through the unique ministry of going to visit our friends. For more info or to donate: https://www.svdp-ht.org

<u>PARISH LIFE:</u> Join us for a Mardi Gras potluck on Tuesday March 4th at 5:30pm. We will celebrate with king cake and carry on our tradition of burying the Alleluia banner for lent. Please sign up in flocknote to bring a dish, or two!

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED MINISTRY: will meet bi-weekly through March 2. Join us as we complete our study period! Meetings are 10pm in the library. Garrett Smith (434) 960-7775

<u>ALTAR FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:</u> The Altar Flower Ministry needs volunteer arrangers. If you have experience and interest, contact Jeanne Mickiewicz <u>Jean4greens@yahoo.com</u>

33 DAYS TO EUCHARISTIC GLORY is the first Eucharistic Consecration which is an initiative of your Parish Council. This spiritual resource presents profound truths, astonishing historical facts, powerful practical examples, a daily virtue to adopt, extraordinary prayers, and inspiring stories—all in an easy-to-follow daily format. The first "group" will begins February 26, engage for 33 days, and culminate with a public Consecration at Holy Mass on Laetare Sunday, March 30. The book can be purchased new for \$19.79 or used for \$6.39 if you do an Amazon search for " 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory by Matthew Kelly." You should also consider obtaining the associated Journal. See the Flocknote to join a new group for info and Q & A.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMFORTER SOCIABLE SINGLES 55+: A NEW AND EXCITING SOCIAL GROUP FOR SENIORS 55+ IS STARTING AT HOLY COMFORTER! Activities will be planned once or twice a month throughout the year and will include; SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES Novenas, Rosaries, and Special Prayers, LOCAL ACTIVITIES Bowling, Movies, Luncheons, Wineries/Beer Halls, Dinners, Card Games, Bingo, Board Games FIELD TRIPS to LOCAL OR NEARBY STATES including Cathedrals, Saint Relics, Gardens. First Meeting: TBD For more information, contact Barb Cassidy bcc32968@gmail.com

WOMEN'S CURSILLO WEEKEND: April 24 - 27, 2025 at Blessings Lodge at Camp Overlook. Applications are due by March 27, 2025. Space is limited, first received basis. Sponsors & pastoral approval are required Active catholic women on their spiritual journey are invited to participate in this inspiring short course on how to deepen your Christian living in the world. Please see Holy Comforter Parish contact, Garrett Smith with any questions (434 960-7775). If you have experienced a Weekend, remember to "make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend!"

FROM THE PASTOR





WE ARE PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Part VIII

Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I
who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I
now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave Himself up for me."
Galatians 2:20

Paul made the cross a strong focus of his teaching because God had revealed to him the great power in the work of Christ at the cross. He understood that there was great power in understanding and relying on what happened at the cross. Our new identity in Christ, which should lead us to praise God for the new life we have in the risen Christ, should also lead us to praise God because our old selves died with Christ at the cross. Through the cross, God has provided us with the one way we can experience liberation from sin in our lives.

Our faith must rest on the fact that our old selves died with Christ at the cross. We must see ourselves as God sees us. The sinful nature that produces sin in us was condemned by God at the cross. We were judicially separated from it by God. We died to it. We have been freed from the old mas-

ter, sin, and are now alive to a new master, Christ! Do you now see the priceless value of the cross? The Cross indeed is our HOPE to reach our destiny, thus we stand as PILGIMS OF HOPE.

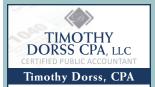
As we rest in these spiritual realities based on our union with Christ, the Holy Spirit works in us to produce the godly character He desires for us. This is all the work of God through His amazing grace, obtained by the cross. We need not struggle, strive, or follow a rule system in order to have the life of Christ become more and more evident in our lives. That way leads only to frustration and failure! God's way is by faith—trusting in Christ increasingly to live out His life through us because He is our life!

St. Paul says: "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). And he continues elsewhere: "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:1-3).

Rest in these facts from God's word: Your old sinful nature was crucified with Christ at the cross 2000+ years ago. You have been separated from it. Christ has not only you saved you from your sins, but He has also delivered you from the power of their source, your sinful nature. You are now united with Christ and His life is living in you and through you! No doubt the power of the cross moves us from death to life. It starts us on our journey as a new creation, leading us to maturity and growth in Christ all along the way. It is a message so simple but so paradoxical; a message that contrasts man's wisdom against God's folly; a message we are entrusted to proclaim to the nations. What is this message that seems weak and foolish to the world but is indeed the power of God for those who are being saved? The power and joy in the cross.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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



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