

HOLY COMFORTER

MARCH 23, 2025

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MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 5 PM
Sunday 8:30 AM + 11 AM + 2 PM
Monday + Friday 12 PM
Tuesday + Wed 8 AM
Thursday 6 PM
Saturday 8 AM

ADORATION

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

CONFESSION

 Sunday
 1 PM

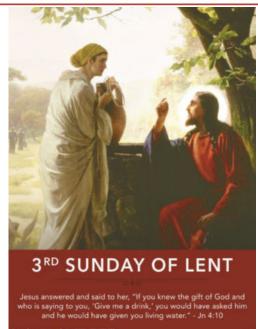
 Mon + Wed + Fri
 6:30—7:30 PM

 Thursday
 7—8 PM

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9 AM—4 PM

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



Pastor

Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi jmlukyamuzi@richmonddiocese.org

Administrative Business Manager Mary Frances Lilly 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 CHAIRS

FINANCE COUNCIL Gary Krutul

gkrutul@sncomm.com
Offertory Counters—Lee Faust

PASTORAL COUNCIL Maria-Andrea Gerling Ospina maria.ospina@gmail.com

LITURGY AND WORSHIP Daniel Kirkland

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

Religious Education Committee—
Suzanne Bailey slank@ntelos.net
RCIA—Diane Auger Smith + Victoria Lannon
dianeaugersmith@gmail.com

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Regina Caeli Homeschool Cooperative – Samantha VanDyke samantha.kepler@gmail.com

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youthgroup@holycomforterparish.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY Chuck McCurdy cwm@virginia.edu

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

Walking with Moms in Need –
Garrett Smith gsmith@garrettsmithlaw.com

Haiti- Robert O'Brien raobfpc@gmail.com
Uganda—Gregory Lannon gregnbuk@gmail.com

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Holy Trinity Conference – info@svdp-ht.org

K of C—Nicholas Pierson gk3670@vakofc.org

PARISH COMMUNITY LIFE Elizabeth Gilbert

parishlife@holycomforterparish.org

Holy Comforter Sociable Seniors 55+ — Barbara Cassidy bcc32968@gmail.com

Building and Grounds Greg Gerling ggerling1@netscape.net

Maintenance Ed Mickiewicz

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 (3/22)

8 AM Mass

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (3/23) Third Sunday of Lent

Altar Flowers Donations Appreciated Second Collection: Maintenance Fund 8:30 AM Mass RCIA Penitential Rite 9:45-10:45 AM Christian Formation

11 AM Mass RCIA First Scrutiny

12:30 PM RCIA

1 PM Confession

2 PM Mass

MONDAY (3/24)

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

1-3 PM Adoration

6:30 PM Confession

TUESDAY (3/25)

Solemnity of the Annunciation

8 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6 PM Schola

WEDNESDAY (3/26)

8 AM Mass

10:30-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6:30 PM Confession

6-9 PM Adoration

THURSDAY (3/27)

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

6 PM Mass

Followed by Adoration and Confession

FRIDAY (3/28) DAY OF ABSTINENCE

9-11:45 AM Regina Caeli Co-op

12 PM Mass

1-3 PM Adoration

5:45 PM Stations of the Cross

followed by Knights of Columbus Soup Supper

5:45-8:45 PM RCIA Retreat

6:30 PM Confession

SATURDAY (3/29)

8 AM Mass

8-3 PM RCIA Retreat

5 PM Vigil Mass

SAINTS OF GOD

3/22 Saint Nicholas Owen 3/23 Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo 3/24 Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero 3/25 Annunciation of the Lord

SUNDAY (3/30) Fourth Sunday of Lent

Altar Flowers Donations Appreciated Second Collection: Catholic Relief Services

8:30 AM Mass RCIA Second Scrutiny 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 11AM RCIA Catechists and Sponsors 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

3/26 Saint Catherine of Genoa 3/27 Saint Gregory of Narek 3/28 Saint Catherine of Bologna 3/29 Saint Ludovico of Casoria 3/30 Saint Peter of Regalado

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 (3/22)

8AM † Jean Andrus (Heidi Hess) 5PM Members of the Parish

SUNDAY (3/23)

8:30AM † Vada Murphy

(Hilton-Beard Family)

2PM † Douglas McAdams (St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Secular Discalced Carmelites)

† David Solomon (Rebecca Stangl)

MONDAY (3/24)

12PM Gabriel Charles Hess (Heidi Hess)

TUESDAY (3/25)

8AM Donna Heston (Heidi Hess)

† Helen Savino (Patricia McAdams)

WEDNESDAY (3/26)

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

THURSDAY (3/27)

6PM Jane Burns and Family (Heather Burns)

FRIDAY (3/28)

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

SATURDAY (3/29)

8AM The III and Homebound 5PM George Lilly (Mary Frances Lilly)

SUNDAY (3/30)

8:30AM Members of the Parish 11AM Dick & Sherry Schemmel and Family 2PM † Michael MacFarlan (Patricia McAdams)

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

GIFTS FROM GOD

Week Ending March 16, 2025

Offertory \$9,365 **Weekly Offertory Budget** (\$9,100)Above Weekly Budget \$265

"THERE IS NO MORE PROFITABLE PRACTICE AS A COMPANION TO HOLY AND SPIRITUAL FASTING THAN THAT OF ALMSGIVING." Pope St. Leo the Great



226 registered and active families to

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 MARCH

ALL MONTH Catholic Virginian + Christian Formation

+ Justice and Peace

3/5/2025 Ash Wednesday

3/9/2025 Outreach 3/16/2025 **Easter Flowers** 3/23/2025 Maintenance Fund Catholic Relief Services 3/30/2025



2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal: Sharing His Love with Others

The 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.

NEW THIS YEAR are "Matching Gifts" through Double the Donation. Check to see your employer is participating! Thank you for your support!!

LITURGICAL NOTES

Entrance (Oculi mei): My eyes are forever turned towards the Lord; for he shall release my feet from the snare; look upon me and have mercy on me, for I am abandoned and destitute.

Offertory (Iustitiae Domini): The ordinances of the Lord are right, bringing joy to all hearts, sweeter than honey or the honeycomb. Therefore your servant will observe them.

Communion (Passer invenit): The sparrow has found herself a home, and the turtle dove a nest in which to lay her young: at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God! Blessed are they who dwell in your house, they shall praise you for ever and ever.

All the chants this weekend are lovely in the variety of the their depictions of the To meet our parish annual operating texts! The Entrance Antiphon sweeps us off our a feet with a beautiful upward expenses of \$473,200, it is necessary for our motion on "Oculi mei" (My eyes), elevating us to a prayerful state of waiting for the Lord and slowly descending until the very end and settling on "abandoned contribute \$2,094 per year, or about \$40 and destitute." It presents us with a rhetorical flourish that encapsulates the humble prayer of turning to God and begging for His mercy on account of our great need. On the other hand, the Offertory Antiphon presents us with a stable melody, circling around the fourth note of the scale ("Fa" – of the Do Re Mi variety), which feels very settled and beautifully captures the immutability of God's commandments as an anchor in times of triumph and tribulation. Interestingly, the very last note of the chant settles just below that fourth note of the scale (from "Fa" to "Mi") and leaves it feeling suddenly open-ended. God's commandments are a source of stability, but will we observe them? The choice is ours. Finally, the Communion chant presents us with some literal text paining, featuring lightly fluttering patterns imitative of bird wings. The delicacy of the melody captures the smallness and humility of the sparrow and turtle dove, which were lowly offerings that poor could afford to offer at the Jewish temple. The sweetness of the melody captures the pure contentment in the certainty that there is a place for the lowly in the House of God. Let us reflect on our true dependance on God and approach Him with lowly hearts seeking His mercy. Jesus, I trust in You!

DANIEL KIRKLAND, DIRECTOR OF LITURGY & MUSIC

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

The Last Supper Play

Children's & HS Christian Formation invites Holy Comforter's Parish Family to a reenactment of "The Last Supper" THIS Sunday, March 23, 10:15AM (LL). A play directed by Mrs. Sherry Schemmel with actors from Children's & HS Christian Formation.

Holy Comforter Family Stations of the Cross will be April 4 at 5:45PM with Soup Supper by the Knights of Columbus following.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading Joshua 5:9a,10-12

The Israelites celebrate the Passover in the promised land.

Responsorial

Psalm 34:2-7

A prayer of praise to God.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Paul preaches our reconciliation with

Gospel *Luke* 15:1-3,11-32

Jesus teaches about forgiveness in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

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, 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 <u>mercy@holycomforterparish.org</u> or call the church office at 434-295-7185.

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

Haiti: Despite daunting challenges, Haitians beyond Port-au-Prince are finding a fragile yet profound sense of normalcy, bound by faith and resilience. In Saltadere, the St. Michel Parish stands as a steadfast beacon. By divine providence, the community is experiencing a promising "third crop" farming season, traditionally the least productive and recently marked by aridity. These blessings reflect God's grace and the strength of their labor Despite tropical storms, the tin-roofed St Michel church remains a sanctuary, requiring minimal repairs over the years. The compound has grown, adding a security wall and modern conveniences. A future capital campaign envisions replacing the rectory to better serve clergy, and visitors to medical teams, and UVA students. In this Lenten season, St. Michel Parish inspires hope, faith, and perseverance. Blessings, Bob bobfromm@usairforce.vet

<u>CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL</u> has job openings for the 25-26 school year: 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher, Learning Specialist, and Director of Development. Please send resume, Diocesan application, three 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 to v.fallica@cvillecatholic.org.

MINISTRIES

<u>OUTREACH:</u> Thank you, parishioners, for your continued support to Outreach with your time, donations, and contributions. During the snowy month of February, we gave out 118 bags of food to 345 individuals in the food pantry. For the month of March any kind of canned fruit is welcome. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and leader.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, HOLY TRINITY CONFERENCE: gratefully



acknowledges receipt of a generous Food and Fuel grant from the Diocese of Richmond to support our work with residents of Charlottesville and Albemarle facing eviction or utility

shutdown. We continue to provide assistance to those facing evictions and utility cut offs through the unique ministry of going to visit our friends. For info or to donate, please go to https://www.svdp-ht.org WORKS OF MERCY MINISTRY: Have you decided on a penance for Lent this year? Consider this: There are many lonely men and women in Charlottesville's nursing homes. One way you can help is to join the Works of Mercy in making cards for nursing home residents. All supplies will be provided and there is no charge to participate. After Lent we hope that card-making will continue. If you are interested in finding out more information, email mercy@holycomforterparish.org WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED MINISTRY: We will begin a Parish Baby Bottle Campaign to support LifeSpring by handing out baby bottles after each Mass this weekend. LifeSpring is a pro-life, Christian non-profit that provides ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, spiritual support, clothing, diapers and other items at no cost in order to support women with unplanned or crisis pregnancies. Read your bottle to learn more. Please return the Baby Bottles on Palm Sunday filled with your generous alms to support this important charity. We will schedule listening sessions to get your feedback later in Lent. Our report will be available on the Walking With Mom's in Need page of the Parish website.

EUCHARISTIC ADORERS needed between 6PM-9PM, contact Patricia McAdams pamcadams@yahoo.com. A Lenten Opportunity!

33 DAYS TO EUCHARISTIC GLORY is the first Eucharistic Consecration which is an initiative of your Parish Council. This spiritual resource presents profound truths, a daily virtue to adopt, extraordinary prayers, and inspiring stories—all in an easy-to-follow daily format. The first "group" began February 26 and will engage for 33 days, culminating 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

CHESTERTON ACADEMY'S ESSAY COMPETITION FOR \$5K TUITION CREDIT NEW DATE! A place where faith and authentic friendships can flourish, offering rich and rigorous academics: that's Chesterton Academy, Charlottesville's classical high school in the Catholic tradition. We invite current and rising high schoolers to compete for a \$5,000 tuition credit in our essay competition on Saturday, April 12th. See details: ChesteronSJE.org.

FROM THE PASTOR





LENT – THE WAY TO VICTORY WITH CHRIST

Part IV

Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" Matthew 16:24

A lot of people give up something during the season of Lent. It is a long-standing tradition within Christianity that Jesus' followers sacrifice something tangible in imitation of and appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice he made for the sins of the world when he died on the cross. It is also a practice of doing what Jesus instructed in the gospels when he said that **one must deny oneself, take up the cross, and follow him if one wants to be his disciple**.

Why is self-denial a good idea? Why is giving up something or sacrificing something during Lent a worthy pursuit? Is it because Jesus commanded it of his disciples? There is more to it than that! Jesus never said it should only happen forty days before Easter. He expects us to continuously carry it out for love of him and him only. St. Benedict writes in the 49th chapter of his rule that *"the life of a monk ought to be a continuous Lent."* It is an

invitation to every disciple of Jesus to take on certain Lenten disciplines, to wash away the negligence of other times.

There are many ways one can deny the self. Giving up a meal is probably the most popular one. Some give up television, etc. Some don't use electricity or motorized vehicles between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. Whatever it is you choose to give up, it is not about the act—the point is that we all will deny something we like to do or that consumes a lot of our time so we can take that time to focus on our relationship with Jesus. To deny yourself is an act of trust that Jesus is sufficient to meet the needs of whatever it is you are sacrificing in his honor. It is not meant to be a discussion point but a maturity point. In fact, when we fast, we are not supposed to advertise it to anyone (Matt. 6:16-18). We also must avoid giving up something because everyone else is doing it. Even though a lot of people may be fasting or denying themselves through the spring months, the focus is supposed to be on Christ, not human beings. Finally, we must avoid the trap of sacrificing something because we think the act of doing so makes us holy. The grace of Christ, our relationship with Jesus and our obedience to him bring about holiness.

To "deny yourself and take up your cross" invites us into what the cross really means—not just death and suffering, but God choosing human relationships. The cross represents God's commitment to humanity. The cross represents what we do when we are not in a relationship with the other and think only of ourselves—because to be truly ourselves is to be sure of our connectedness. If we reject the cross, we leave each other. Lent cannot be just about ourselves and our sacrifices; we must define our identity as connected to Christ and a community of believers. We don't do Lent alone. Lent is a radical communal experience in many ways. Lent is a denial of the self in the best way, not the solitary self that denies the need for Christian community or the self that thinks it can survive on its own. The solitary self rejects the most profound challenge of humanity—belonging.

Jesus' charge, therefore, is not a demand to deny your true self. Instead, it's an invitation to realize we need connection with others to be alive in God our Father

TO BE CONTINUED...

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



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