

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

MARCH 30, 2025

CONNECT WITH US

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m holycomforterparish.org

MASS TIMES

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

ADORATION

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

CONFESSION

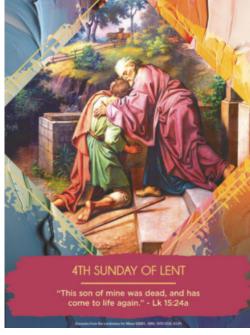
Sunday 1 PM Mon + Wed + Fri 6:30-7:30 PM

7-8 PM Thursday

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9 AM-4 PM

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



Pastor

Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi imlukyamuzi@richmonddiocese.org

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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 10:30AM -12:30PM

Soup Kitchen: Thurs 12PM-1PM

MINISTRIES CHAIRS

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LITURGY AND WORSHIP Daniel Kirkland

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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

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youthgroup@holycomforterparish.org

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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 (3/29)

8 AM Mass

8-3 PM RCIA Retreat

5 PM Vigil Mass

SUNDAY (3/30) Fourth Sunday of Lent

Altar Flowers Donated Anonymously for Father Joseph Mary

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

MONDAY (3/31)

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

12 PM Mass

1-3 PM Adoration

6:30 PM Confession

TUESDAY (4/1)

8 AM Mass

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY (4/2)

8 AM Mass

10:30-12:30 PM Food Pantry

6:30 PM Confession

6 PM Schola & Choir Rehearsal

6-9 PM Adoration

THURSDAY (4/3)

12-1 PM Soup Kitchen

6 PM Mass

Followed by Adoration and Confession

FRIDAY (4/4) DAY OF ABSTINENCE

9-11:45 AM Regina Caeli Co-op

12 PM Mass

1-3 PM Adoration

5:45 PM Family Stations of the Cross followed by Potluck Soup Supper

6:30 PM Confession

SATURDAY (4/5)

8 AM Mass

8-3 PM RCIA Retreat

5 PM Vigil Mass RCIA Third Scrutiny

SUNDAY (4/6) Fifth Sunday of Lent

Altar Flowers Donations Appreciated

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 Family 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 WEDNESDAY (4/2) 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

4/2 Saint Francis of Paola

4/3 Saint Benedict the African

4/4 Saint Isadore of Seville

4/5 Saint Vincent Ferrer

4/6 Saint Crescentia Hoess

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 (3/29)

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

2PM † Michael MacFarlan (Patricia McAdams)

MONDAY (3/31)

12PM † Mary Showalter (Kelton Flinn and Colette Hall)

TUESDAY (4/1)

8AM Stephen Crews (Melinda Crews)

8AM Idette Charlie (Elizabeth Charlie)

THURSDAY (4/3)

6PM † Douglas McAdams (Patricia McAdams)

FRIDAY (4/4)

12PM Phil Carr (Melinda Crews)

SATURDAY (4/5)

8AM Matthew Schrank (Melinda Wells) 5PM † Geraldine Desmond (Melinda Wells)

SUNDAY (4/6)

8:30AM Maureen Bradley 11AM Members of the Marish 2PM † Joseph Cannone (Peter Zinman)

SAINTS OF GOD

3/29 Saint Ludovico of Casoria 3/30 Saint Peter of Regalado 3/31 Saint Stephen of Mar Saba 4/1 Saint Hugh of Grenoble

PARISH NEWS



GIFTS FROM GOD

GIFTS FROM GOD

Week Ending March 23, 2025

Offertory \$6,352 **Weekly Offertory Budget** (\$9,100)**Below Weekly Budget** (\$2,748)

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



To meet our parish annual operating expenses of \$473,200, it is necessary for our 226 registered and active families to contribute 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 **Easter Flowers** 3/30/2025 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. Brochures and return envelopes are available in the pews and in the Commons. To date, we have raised \$18,148 which is 67% of our \$27,280 parish goal! Thank you for your support!!

LITURGICAL NOTES

Entrance (Laetare Ierusalem): Rejoice, O Jerusalem; and gather round, all you who love her; rejoice in gladness, after having been in sorrow; exult and be replenished with the consolation flowing from her motherly

Offertory (Laudate Dominum): Praise the Lord, for he is loving; sing in honor of his name, for he is gracious. He has accomplished whatever he resolved to do in heaven and on earth.

Communion (Oportet te): My son, you should rejoice; for your brother who was dead has come back to life; he was lost and he has been found. Today's Gospel is one of the most beloved stories of reconciliation offered by our Lord Jesus Christ as representative of the Father's superabundant love for His creatures. The Communion Chant, which is typically a selection \$2,094 per year, or about \$40 per week. If you from the Gospel of the day, captures in a simple and beautiful way the joy of the Father as He is encouraging the Prodigal's brother of the necessity of rejoicing. It is in a "mode" (essentially a musical scale) that highlights intervals that sound major or pleasant to our ears. The ancients gave it the descriptor "perfectus" (perfect) because chants set to that mode often sound contented and settled. On the other end of the spectrum is the Offertory Chant, which also highlights the love of God, but does so in a solemn way, taking its cue from the first word "Laudate" (praise), which often has a more worshipful, and thereby formal, sense. The Entrance Chant, for which this Sunday is named (Laetare Sunday), uses a mode which the Medievals described as "laeta" (joyful) because the particular combination of steps in the scale gives it a particularly jubilant character. All in all, the chants this weekend provide a brief reprieve from the mournful character of the season, reminding us that God's love for us knows no bounds and is ready to receive us into communion with Him. We need but turn away form our sins with conviction and lean on Him with unshakeable confidence. Jesus, I trust in You! DANIEL KIRKLAND, DIRECTOR OF LITURGY & MUSIC

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Family Stations of the Cross

Holy Comforter Family Stations of the Cross will be April 4 at 5:45PM Followed by a Potluck Soup Supper. Please bring a pot of soup to share!

All are welcome!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading Isaiah 43:16-21

The Lord is doing something new for his people.

Responsorial Psalm 126:1-6

A song in praise of the Lord's marvelous deeds

Second Reading Philippians 3:8-14

Paul says that he counts all things as lot and focuses on one goal, Christ.

Gospel John 8:1-11

Jesus does not condemn the woman caught in adultery.

PARISH NEWS

PLEASE PRAY FOR

PARISHIONERS

(Includes ill, injured, homebound, and caregivers)
Ann Carothers, Phil Carr, 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, Stephen Crews, 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, Geraldine Newton, 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, please call the office 434-295-7185 or email reception@holycomforterparish.org

Haiti: In the face of Haiti's ongoing challenges, glimmers of hope emerge. The World Food Program (WFP) has stepped up, delivering record-breaking hot meals and cash aid, extending emergency support to 1.85 million Haitians. With regained access to Croix-des-Bouquets, essential supplies like rice and beans reach nearly 150,000 people. These efforts reflect not only resilience but a commitment to Haiti's future. During this Lenten season, reflect on Christ's call to serve others. Join with us in the spirit of this Lenten time by supporting the Tri-Parish Haiti Ministry, offering aid and hope to those in need. Become a committee member or donate—reach out to Bob Fromm at bobfromm@usairforce.vet . Your generosity can mirror the promise of renewal and solidarity.

God bless, 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 <u>v.fallica@cvillecatholic.org</u>.

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 served 242 individuals in the Soup Kitchen. For the month of April, canned tuna would be appreciated. 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: Members of the Walking with Moms in Need ministry is sponsoring our annual Baby Bottle fundraising campaign! 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. Our ministry will report on our work over the past year, and 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!

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

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: ChestertonSJE.org.

FROM THE PASTOR





LENT – THE WAY TO VICTORY WITH CHRIST

Part V

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

Lent is a time when we are taught to strive to "deny ourselves," but what does that mean? What are we denying ourselves and why? Pope Francis tells us: "Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt." Thomas a Kempis, who wrote *The Imitation of Christ*, said: "Learn to die to the world now, that then you may begin to live with Christ. Learn to spurn all things now, that then you may freely go to Him. Chastise your body in penance now, that then you may have the confidence born of certainty." Some medieval theologians often interpreted self-denial in this "spurning the world" sense, arguing that the call of Christ is to move away from attachment to all earthly things

and that a good Christian should keep himself as a stranger here on earth, a pilgrim whom its affairs do not concern at all.

But is Christ's call to "deny" ourselves really a directive to shun all things in this world? In Mark 8:35, Christ says, "whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it." Essentially, he is saying that whoever prioritizes his own happiness in this world will not find it, while the person who abandons this self-centered pursuit and puts Christ first will find happiness in abundance. There is nothing in there about disliking all the things in the world. There is nothing about denying all pleasures. It's simply a matter of priorities and obedience. Self-denial doesn't mean being imprisoned by unreasonable self-abasement; rather, it is freedom to let go of egotism and replace the primacy of our own will with that of obedience and dependence on Christ.

This is not to say that the Christian life is easy. In the book *The Cost of Discipleship* it is stated that there are demands to discipleship; that grace is not cheap, but rather costly:

"Costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus, it comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. It is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: 'My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.""

We therefore must keep in mind that the Lenten season with its spirit of self-denial—so crucial to our Christian identity—isn't so much about our own valiant efforts to avoid things or "go without" as much as it is a call to passionately place ourselves in Christ, finding our identity in him, and letting him work through us for the sake of our neighbor and for the world. With the season of Lent underway, let us not once praise ourselves for the effort. It's not about us. It's about living our lives for another—for the sake of Christ and the Gospel and gaining true life in the process.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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



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