

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

JANUARY 18 - St. Charles of Sezze
20 - Sts. Fabian & Sebastian
21 - St. Agnes
23 - Sts. Vincent & Marian Cope
24 - St. Frances de Sales
25 - Conversion of St. Paul

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday January 18
5 PM - Roland Arthur Thibodeau (Florelle Pritchett)
Sunday January 19
8:30 AM - Members of the Parish

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUNDAY (1/19)

7 - 7:45 AM: Reconciliation
8:30 AM - MASS
11 AM - MASS

MONDAY (1/20) - DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
NOON - MASS

TUESDAY (1/21)

10 AM - NOON: Food Pantry
NOON - MASS

WEDNESDAY (1/22)

10 AM - NOON: Food Pantry
NOON - MASS
NOON - AA Meeting
6:30 PM - Medjugorje Rosary Prayer Group
7 PM - Choir Practice

THURSDAY (1/23)

8 AM - MASS
NOON - 1 PM: Soup Kitchen

FRIDAY (1/24)

8 AM - MASS
10 AM - NOON: Food Pantry
NOON - AA Meeting

SATURDAY (1/25)

8 AM - MASS
3:30 - 4:30 PM - Reconciliation
5 PM - Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (1/26) - THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7 - 7:45 AM: Reconciliation
8:30 AM - MASS
9:45 - 10:45 AM: Christian Formation Classes
11 AM - MASS



Offertory 1/11 & 1/12: \$6,186
Justice & Peace: \$385
Catholic Virginian: \$91
Catholic Charities: \$70
Haiti: \$60

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR _____

PARISHIONERS: Winifred Smith, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Norman Bednarczyk, Nicholas Sisman, and Mary Ann Williams.

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES: Josephine Nampijja, Gloria Aberg, Grace Dawn Wicke, Melyssa Dove, Nicole Carpenter, Beth Mauk, Evan Dotas, Dave Halley, Cullen McQuhae, Bill & Marie Jones, Ray & Cecilia Caretti, Jessica Caretti, Christine Bentéjac, David Rumpf, Mrs. Jessica Viglietta, Pam D. Goines, Janet D. Gunther, Charlie Joseph Previtali, Nicole Shaw, Jean Clayton, Rich Hawkins, and Jim Cannon.

MILITARY: Brian Fagan, Jamie Torbet, Mike Eiermann, David Alvey, Charles G. Ellison, Eric Emmott, and Matthew Mickiewicz.

NEWS FROM HAITI

Anne Knasel (STA): anne@stagebridge.net
Ginny Zeller (HC): ginnyannzeller@gmail.com
www.saltadere.org

A CARDINAL FOR HAITI: Bishop Chibly Langlois, bishop of Les Cayes, has been named a cardinal by Pope Francis. He will be installed at a ceremony at the Vatican on February 22.

PLEASE HELP OUR TWIN PARISH: As 2014 begins, the committee hopes to increase the amount we send in support of our twin parish and its four schools. We plan to continue our relationship with the community by supporting the improvements to the clean water supply. There is also some ideas for improving health care for Saltadere. To do this we will need your continuing prayers and sponsorships and general support. Thank you for your help.

BI-PARISH HAITI COMMITTEE: The committee's next meeting will be January 19th at Holy Comforter at 1 PM. *All are welcome.* To learn about the Bi-parish committee, you can e-mail Anne Knasel or Ginny Zeller. Or visit the website!

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 8:23—9:3

The prophet Isaiah describes the anguish of a conquered people, but he promises that they will triumph and will see a great light as on the "day of Midian."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10—13, 17

Paul speaks to the Corinthians with both anger and indignation because they are quarreling among themselves as to whom they should show allegiance. Some wish to follow Paul; some, Peter; others Apollos; others, Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his mission by going to Capernaum, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah. He selects Peter, Andrew, James and John as his disciples, inviting them to be "fishers of men."

JUSTICE & PEACE

PANTRY: Why all this fuss about tuna fish week after week? It's really simple. Tuna is a relatively inexpensive source of protein and can be stretched in many recipes. Also, quite a few of those who come to us are homeless. A can or two of tuna is easy to carry. Please keep those fish swimming down Jefferson Street.

TODAY IS RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY!

EVERY YEAR, PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF RICHMOND CELEBRATE RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY ON THE 3RD WEEKEND OF JANUARY TO PRAY FOR AND TO PROMOTE A GREATER RESPECT FOR THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH. TODAY THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION TAKEN TO SUPPORT MINISTRIES AND PROGRAMS OF THE DIOCESE THAT SERVE THE DEFENSE AND PROMOTION OF THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE – PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY. A LIST OF ALL PARISHES AND CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS WHO RECEIVED DIRECT SUPPORT FROM THIS COLLECTION CAN BE VIEWED AT WWW.CDRCMFL.ORG.

FINANCE

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

Date	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
July-December	\$209,928	\$200,000	9,928

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

MEDJUGORJE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP: Start your New Year by praying the rosary. Come join the Medjugorje Rosary Prayer Group on Wednesday's in the Chapel at 6:30 PM. [*Note the time change.*] Our Blessed Mother's message to everyone on January 2, 2014 says: "Dear children, for you to be able to be my apostles and to be able to help all those who are in darkness, to come to know the light of the love of my Son, you must have pure and humble hearts." Come together and be with us to pray the Rosary of the Blessed Mother for she who so loves us. All are Welcome!!! Any questions, please contact Barbara Cassidy on 434-202-1540.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTERS: John the Baptist tells us to reform our lives. Learn how to use the graces of your Sacrament of Marriage to renew your marriage and draw closer to God. Let the Lord strengthen, renew, and rekindle your marriage by attending an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on Feb. 21-23, Sep. 12-14, Nov. 14-16 in Herndon, VA; Apr. 11-13 in Fredericksburg, VA; Jun. 27-29 in Richmond, VA; Aug. 8-10 in Roanoke; or Oct 10-12 in Norfolk. Visit renewmarriage-vasouth.org or call (757) 483-3209.

MARTIN LUTHER KING PROGRAM/MASS: The Office for Black Catholics invites you to our annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Program and Mass Monday, January 20, 10 AM, Holy Rosary, 3300 R Street, Richmond, VA 23223. This year's theme is "Free at Last: True Freedom in the Spirit". Fr. George Clements will be the main presider. Reception immediately following. For more information, please contact Angela Jackson, (804) 622-5262 or email obc@richmonddiocese.org. For a complete listing of OBC events, visit us at www.richmonddiocese.org/obc. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cdrobc.

41st MARCH FOR LIFE: St. Thomas Aquinas Church has reserved a bus to travel to Washington D.C. on Wed., January 22 for the Annual March for life. We will depart between 8 and 8:30 AM and return around 9 PM. The cost of the bus ride is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. For those interested in attending this very important pro-life event, please contact Delia Laux at dflaux@embargmail.com or 434-245-9330. More information will follow your registration.

UPCOMING RETREATS AT SHALOM HOUSE:

- February 15: A Day of Nature Photography with Bill Fox 9 to 3, includes lunch.
- March 5 - 8: The Samaritan Woman. This is a five-day directed retreat to spend time with Jesus at the well. It is particularly suited to those in life transition, those feeling spiritually dry and those entering a new phase of spiritual growth.
- March 21 - 23: Centering Prayer Retreat led by Sr. Charlotte Lee, OSB. The theme of the retreat is Listening with the Ear of the Heart.

For more info, call Shalom House at 804-883-6149 or go to shalomhouseretreatcenter.com for a registration form.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: P/T ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Church of the Incarnation is looking for an individual to play a vital role in our parish ministry. The selected individual will work under the supervision of the Pastor and Director of Christian Formation, and will work with the entire parish staff as a member of the parochial team responsible for the management of sacramental records, ministry participation records, maintaining parish census, handle parish correspondence, and maintain parish files and records. Excellent communication and computer skills required. Knowledge of Spanish helpful but not required. Flexible Hours. Full day Fridays required. Closing date: January 27. Proof of employment eligibility in the United States is necessary at point of hire. Visit the Parish Office for job description and responsibilities and employment application or e-mail resume to Business Mgr. at izzy@incarnationparish.org.

PARISH OFFICE HELP NEEDED

The parish office is ☺ looking for volunteers willing to sit at the front desk to answer phones and greet visitors. Bring your laptop or library book. WiFi available! Any help you could give us would be so appreciated. For more info or to give it a try, contact the office at 295-7185 or by email at office@holycorforterparish.org. THANKS!!!

FROM THE PASTOR

LIVING CHRISMAS IN THE ORDINARY TIME

“I Just need Christmas back, these days seem so ordinary” one young fellow told me. Yes the Advent and Christmas season was the richest, most joyful, most meaningful we all enjoyed, and many people desperately didn’t want it to end. These feelings remind of the occasion of the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor when Peter said to Jesus. **“Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” But he did not know what he was saying” (Lk.9:33)** The disciples did not remain long on the top of that mountain to enjoy that vision they had to come down and live the ordinary life.

After the baptism of the Lord, we come down to live the ordinary life of a faithful Catholic Christian. Though continue marveling at Mary’s trust and faithfulness, Joseph’s gentleness and obedience, and carrying within us the miracle of **Emmanuel- God is with us**, we make that effort to live a virtuous life every day. Surely it is a real challenge to live each day of the year with that miraculous joy in my heart. Emmanuel is still with us...still with me...so why shouldn’t the awe and wonder remain? They can, they should, and they will as long as I continue doing what I did this Advent – making room each day in my heart for the infant King. I can still behold this wondrous Child and cradle Him in my heart. I can still turn my mind each day toward the knowledge that GOD stooped toward a sinful world with love and became like us so that He could save us. That’s the point. He came to save us, and that’s why I can’t exactly have perpetual Advent and endless Christmas. The manger was only the beginning; the means to the end. Without that end, it might be reduced to just a lovely story or a fairytale. But remember, even fairytales have dragons, and ours had to be slain and destroyed forever. The baby in Mary’s arms made the dragon tremble with fear; the Man would vanquish the fiery beast for all eternity. The ordinary time reminds us that, Emmanuel came, He grew, He lived and loved and healed and taught and laughed and cried. And finally, He died. For you. For me. I need to keep turning the pages of this classic in order to see my own character become who I was written to be. I see the first glimpse of my own becoming at His crib; I see it more wholly at the cross. I have to follow Him to the cross. Yet I still long for the purer heart I experienced this Christmas to remain with me, even as I see the joyful season fading. The trees must now come down, the lights put away, the decorations back in their boxes, and the remnants of the holiday swept up.

Except, I think, for my nativity scene. This year I think I may keep it up. (Visual aids!) These ordinary days can seem so uninspired. Thus I intend to keep starting at the beginning. Purposefully and decisively, my heart’s aim will be to carry the infant Jesus within me, with all the joy and awe and wonder that surrounds Him, even as I continue walking through the rest of the amazing story. It may not be easy, but I will keep Christmas in my heart. In fact, as the one Feast ends the other one begins. As we proceed into this period of spiritual edification and renewal, we are all the more powerfully reminded of the personal challenge that is placed before each one of us: to respond fully and wholeheartedly to God, as the all- holy Mother of God did, as all the Saints did, and as all the truly faithful people seek to do. The ordinary time helps us to be constantly renewed and regenerated; we need to climb up high; we must struggle and apply ourselves fully and completely and thoroughly to this task of a new physical, moral and spiritual way of life; we must leave behind all that is useless, all earthly things that do not edify and raise us up to God, so that unburdened and free from all these things, we may rise toward the mountain of God, toward heaven, toward Christ transfigured in glory(Lenten connection). It is precisely this gradual ascent toward God that prepares us, through cleansing and enlightenment, for the mystery and the gospel to be revealed also in our own heart and mind, and to reflect the spirit and the light of God, **to set the world ablaze.**

Formation Notes

Dear Friends,

I woke this morning (1/14) to yet another *New York Times* piece on Pope Francis. This article (there's at least a couple a week these days) focused on the specific ways Francis "reshapes" the Vatican – the way it "is run, and who is running it." It turns out he is turning his rhetoric about the pernicious influence of wealth into some pretty specific action. After his recent appointment of new cardinals, he "pointedly instructed" them "not to consider the job a promotion or to waste money with celebratory parties." There is speculation that he is going to turn Castel Gandolfo into a museum or a rehabilitation center.

Thomas Reese, SJ, former editor of *America* magazine and current senior analyst for *The National Catholic Reporter*, recently noted on public radio that Francis has said nothing about wealth and money-centered culture that either of his two predecessors did not say. The difference of course is what people are calling Francis's style.

What does "style" mean, anyway? Beyond our Restoration Hardware and Williams Sonoma catalogues, and our red carpet obsessions with couture this time of year.

I am no anthropologist, and can speak with no authority on this stuff that seems to obsess our species these days. But when people refer to "Francis's style," I think a sense of trust is involved. I know I felt it as soon as he stepped onto the balcony after his election, and smiled at the crowd. A sense that he tells the truth, that he speaks that truth to power, even when it entails confronting the power of money and entrenched interests in the world (and even in the Curia.) He does not embed his critiques in Latin documents read only by insiders and academics. He seems to actually (and happily) live the Gospel values he pronounces. (Pardon that extravagantly split infinitive.) He makes his points in simple, honest ways, without the benefit of butlers or ermine or Prada loafers. Most of all, he very effectively avoids the appearance of hypocrisy that has plagued the Church since Medieval times.

Francis treads honestly in two worlds, the world of faith and the world of material reality. Augustine wrote about these conflicting realms in his *City of God*, counter-posing God's *civitas* with the earthly cities that we in fact inhabit. In a famous quote, the Church Father Tertullian asked "what does Athens to do with Jerusalem?" The quote contrasts the "truths" of philosophical inquiry and scripture-based understanding. But it also underscores this sense of duality, the counter-position of our material life in

which wealth seems to have significance, and God's realm, in which wealth is at best irrelevant, and at worst pernicious. This duality pervades the Gospels as Jesus relentlessly instructs his disciples on the reality God's kingdom. He brilliantly illustrates this duality in all three of the synoptic gospels when he holds up the Roman coin, and asks everyone to note whose face is actually on that bit of wealth.

When Francis insists that his wealth critique also be applied to the hierarchy, when he speaks of "airport bishops" who are more interested in their careers than their flocks, and warns that priests can become "little monsters" if they are not trained properly as seminarians (NYT 1/14), you can almost hear a sigh of relief from the people in the pews. We've known this for a long time. And now our pope says so, too.

Many blessings on your week,
Dawn
dawnaberg@gmail.com
434.295.6559

Upcoming Events

January 29th

A Pizza Night as an **orientation and welcome for our First Sacraments class** and their families! We have an astonishing 19 young Catholics signed up so far. Such a happy sign of growth in our parish community.

February 22nd

The first of our 2014 Saturday evening series, we host a discussion of Pope Francis's first papal document, ***Evangelii Gaudium*** ("The Joy of the Gospel.") You can easily access the document on the Vatican website: www.vatican.va. I will also pull together some copies before-hand and have them out on the Christian Formation table in the Commons. (Or, if you'd like to RSVP attendance ahead of time, I can e-mail you an attachment of the document.) More on this to come. It could be a wonderfully lively evening.

March 1 & 9

Parts I and II of the screening of the film ***Clare and Francis*** as the next installment of our **Saints Film Series**. We assemble downstairs just after the 5 pm mass, taking a look at the Saint honored by our current pope – for the first time in Church history – with his choice of papal name. Adult refreshments served. A collection will be taken up to support the work of IMPACT after the film.