

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

**SATURDAY (12/1)**

**8 AM** MASS  
**3:30-4:30 PM:** Dante Reading Group (*Lower Level*)  
**3:30-4:30 PM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)  
**5 PM:** Vigil MASS

**SUNDAY (12/2) FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**7-7:45 AM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)  
**8:30 AM:** Children's MASS and BAPTISM:

*Samantha Eakes*

**9:45-10:45 AM:** Christian Formation (*Lower Level*)

**11 AM:** MASS

**12:15 PM:** High School Youth

Ministry/Confirmation (*Lower Level*)

**12:30-1:15 PM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)

**1:30 PM:** Latin MASS

**5-6:30 PM:** St. Nicholas Celebration (*Lower Level*)

**MONDAY (12/3)**

**10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry

**NOON:** MASS

**5:15 PM:** Schola Rehearsals

**TUESDAY (12/4)**

**10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry

**NOON:** MASS

**WEDNESDAY (12/5)**

**10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry

**NOON:** MASS

**NOON:** AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

**6:15 PM:** Rosary Prayer Group (*Chapel*)

**6:30 PM:** Sung Vespers (*Church*)

**7 PM:** Choir Rehearsal (*Loft*)

**THURSDAY (12/6)**

**8 AM:** MASS

**NOON:** Soup Kitchen

**4:30 PM:** Wedding Rehearsal

**6:30 PM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)

**7 PM:** Holy Hour and Adoration

**7:15-8:30 PM:** Consolation of Philosophy Study

Group (*Lower Level*)

**FRIDAY (12/7)**

**8 AM:** MASS

**8:30 AM-12 PM:** Regina Coeli (*Lower Level*)

**NOON:** AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

**7 PM:** Vigil MASS (*Immaculate Conception*)

**HELP WANTED**

We are in need of Sacristans to help with altar care, laundering of altar linens, and cleaning wax from brass candles. This is a rewarding ministry that can accommodate most schedules. Several tasks can be performed in your home. If interested, please contact Suzanne Bailey at (434) 296-5033 or [slank@ntelos.net](mailto:slank@ntelos.net).

**SATURDAY (12/8) IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holy Day of Obligation)**

**8 AM** MASS

**NOON:** MASS

**3:30-4:30 PM:** Dante Reading Group (*Lower Level*)

**3:30-4:30 PM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)

**5 PM:** Vigil MASS (*First Sunday of Advent*)

**SUNDAY (12/9) FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**7-7:45 AM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)

**8:30 AM:** MASS

**9:45-10:45 AM:** Christian Formation (*Lower Level*)

**11 AM:** MASS

**12:15 PM:** High School Youth

Ministry/Confirmation (*Lower Level*)

**12:30-1:15 PM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)

**1:30 PM:** Latin MASS

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, December 1

**8 AM** †Emma and †Hershal Grubb (Gloria Vitale)

**5 PM** †Helen and †Joseph Vitale (Gloria Vitale)

Sunday, December 2

**8:30 AM** Members of the Parish

**11 AM** †Giovanna and †Antonino Vitale (Gloria Vitale)

**1:30 PM** †Etheleen Marriot (Holli Traud)

Monday, December 3

**NOON** †Barry Carothers (Ann Carothers)

Tuesday, December 4

**NOON** President Trump (Alice Makielski)

Wednesday, December 5

**NOON** †Jorgen Noble (Bethany and John Noble)

Thursday, December 6

**8 AM** †Alvina Mueller (Bethany and John Noble)

Friday, December 7

**NOON** †John Bushong (Bethany and John Noble)

**7 PM** Members of the Parish

Saturday, December 8

**8 AM** †Matthew Grimes (Bethany and John Noble)

**NOON** Members of the Parish

**5 PM** †Helen and †Joseph Vitale

Sunday, December 9

**8:30 AM** †Martha Brogley (Bethany and John Noble)

**11 AM** Members of the Parish

**1:30 PM** †Rev. John F. Knue (Holli Traud)

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Our Music Minister, Daniel Kirkland, is organizing a Children's Caroling Choir to sing before the 4:30 PM Christmas Vigil Children's Mass. Interested parents may sign up in the commons, or e-mail Mr. Kirkland directly, [music@hollycomforterparish.org](mailto:music@hollycomforterparish.org)

**GIFTS FROM GOD**

**NOVEMBER 24 and 25, 2018**

Offertory (plate)	\$3,403
Offertory (online)	\$1,765
Weekly Offertory Budget	<u>(7,500)</u>
<i>Below Weekly Budget</i>	<i>(\$2,332)</i>

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

Next weekend will be our monthly collection for Outreach. Donations to all Parish Ministries (*Christian Formation, Haiti, Justice and Peace, as well as for altar flowers and The Catholic Virginian*) may be made at any time. To contribute online, please look for the link on our website: [holycomforterparish.org](http://holycomforterparish.org)

**THINKING ABOUT A YEAR-END GIFT?**

***How about an IRA Charitable Rollover?***

There is still time to make a tax-deductible gift to Holy Comforter. If you have an IRA and you're 70 ½ years old, you can make a gift through an IRA Charitable Rollover. [It helps you and it helps us.](#)

**How it helps you:** it can lower your taxable income and count towards your required minimum distribution.

**How it helps us:** we can put your gift to use right away in providing important funding to our parish.

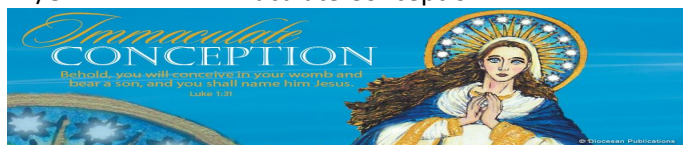
For more information, please contact Mary Frances Lilly, 434.295.7185, [office@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:office@holycomforterparish.org) or Maggie F. Keenan, Director of Planned Giving, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, 804.622.5221 or [mkeenan@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:mkeenan@richmonddiocese.org)

**AMAZONSMILE**

Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to Holy Comforter Catholic Church when you do your holiday shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/54-0576301](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-0576301).

**SAINTS TO REMEMBER**

12/2	St. Bibiana
12/3	St. Francis Xavier
12/4	St. John Damascus
12/5	St. Sabbas
12/6	St. Nicholas
12/7	St. Ambrose
12/8	Immaculate Conception



**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**First Reading**

*Baruch 5:1-9*

Jerusalem shall see the splendor of God's glory.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6*

A song of praise for God's great deeds

**Second Reading**

*Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11*

Paul prays for the Philippians.

**Gospel Reading**

*Luke 3:1-6*

John preaches repentance and baptizes in the region of the Jordan.

**PARISH NEWS**

**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Kindly notify us at [office@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:office@holycomforterparish.org) if you would like a name added to or removed from this list.

To arrange to receive Holy Communion or a visit by Father Joseph Mary, please call the parish office 434.295.7185.

**THE ILL & HOME BOUND**

**Parishioners:** Phillip Carr, Kitty Moore, Richard Fagan, Raymond Painley, Jack Valloric, Mildred Dudley, Pam Heron, Mary Griffin, Mike Charlie, Eileen Foster, Fran Cannon Slayton, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Rose Bowker.

**Friends and Relatives:** Marian Dolliver, Helena McQuhae, Cullen McQuhae, Ann Ramsey, Alice Starbucks, Louis Ross, Marsha Yost, Richard Yost, Will DeGregorio, Alice Stavicksey, Marlene Schmidt, Elizabeth Scott, Blandine Attey, Susan Allport, Scott Painley, Jeremy Breedlove, Scarlett Makielski, Rev. John Abe, Samantha Nelson, Joel Rivera, Judge Conrad, Claudia Hartland, Aileen Green, Christine Fitzgerald, Mary Dominicis, Daniel Moore, Katie George, James Worley, Thomas Johnson, Brenda Gayle Johnson, Sue Newman, Carolyn Ann Davis, Andy Gillespie, JoAnn Fox Klein, Susan Steeby, Suzanne Lank, John Lank, Susan Straub Martin, Josephine Nampijja, Christine Bentéjac, Kimberly Hasenus Hulick, John Patrick Dennison, Christine Russo Carpenter, Benedict Pax, Residents of Albemarle County Regional Jail and Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention.

**MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY**

Jeffrey Jaeger, Pete Bakke, Michael Eiermann, Tom Logan, William Murray, Trey Linebrink, Jeff Woodside, Charles G. Ellison, and Matthew Mickiewicz.

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION**

**This Sunday, December 2,** Confirmation students will meet with Jackson Kulick from **12:15-1:45**. All other high school students will meet with Sue. We will begin looking at the teachings of Catholic Social Justice beginning with the dignity of the human person. **Next Sunday, December 9,** Confirmation students will again meet with Jackson. We will also have a guest speaker who will talk to us about a service opportunity with Alyssa House. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PRE-K-8**

Classes will meet at the regular time, 9:45-10:45 this Sunday. Please join us for a family celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas this **SUNDAY EVENING** from 5-6:30 PM. We will hear stories of St. Nicholas, share a potluck meal together and participate in games and crafts. Please join us!

Our annual **Nativity Play** will take place during the **Christmas Eve Mass at 4:30 PM** \*(please note change in time). If your child would like to participate, please join us for a **practice on Saturday, December 15 at 3 PM**. We will assign costumes and parts for the play.

**First Sacraments**

The final class for preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place this **Sunday, December 2 from 9:45-10:45** in the chapel. Classes for preparation for First Holy Communion begin on January 13.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

**ADVENT RESOURCES**

Many resources are available to deepen your faith and enhance your spiritual growth during the holy season of Advent. Plan to meet with Sue Dougherty on **Sunday, December 2 at 9:45** to learn about an at-home retreat called "*Theotokos*," which offers daily meditation through the eyes of the Mary, the Blessed Mother, as well as other daily reflections. Please be sure to visit the Christian Formation table in the Commons as well as the website in the coming weeks to find material and information about these resources.

**"SHORT STORIES EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD READ"**

This discussion group will share 5 classic short stories from which we can glean important lessons to enrich our Catholic Faith. Join Susan Neale who will facilitate the discussions on **January 6, 13, 20, 27, and February 13**. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Commons or email Sue Dougherty, [cre@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:cre@holycomforterparish.org), if you are interested.

**YOUR PERSONAL FAITH AND THE SUNDAY READINGS:**

Are you interested in sharing with others a rich discussion of the Sunday Scripture readings that can carry you through your week and draw you closer to Christ? If so, please contact Sue Dougherty or use the sign up in the Commons. Facilitators are needed.

**SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

**ANGEL TREE PROGRAM 2018**

Holy Comforter is participating with the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program again this year to spread the joy of Christmas to children in our community. Please take a tag from our tree, attach the tag to your gift and return it **UNWRAPPED by December 8<sup>th</sup>** to Holy Comforter or to the Salvation Army Office at 207 Ridge Street. Angel Tree gifts will be distributed to the children on December 12. Thank you for reaching out in the name of Jesus to those in our community who are in need.

**HAITI**



**Haiti Gift Fairs!** We will host a fair **TODAY, December 2** after the Mass at Crozet Catholic Community and next Sunday, December 9 at Holy Comforter.

**Bi-Parish Haiti Committee**

The next meeting will be announced. For more information, contact Ginny Zeller [ginnyannzeller@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyannzeller@gmail.com)

**UGANDA**

There is an immediate need for a new or gently used laptop computer. Please notify Theresa Lynch if you can help: [osgarlynch@gmail.com](mailto:osgarlynch@gmail.com)

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS**

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RICHMOND**



**Office of Vocations**

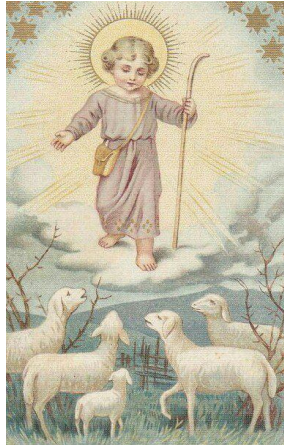
"The LORD is our righteousness." Are you being called to bring the word of God as a priest? To learn more, contact Fr. Michael Boehling or Fr. Brian Capuano at 804.359.5661, or [vocations@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:vocations@richmonddiocese.org).

**LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

There will be an international display of nativity sets at the Pastoral Center, 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond. Come see how different cultures use their native art forms at Christmas. The display is free and open to the public from 10 AM to 2 PM, December 11-13.

**From Our Pastor**  
**Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.**

**ADVENT AND THE DIVINE INFANCY (part 1)**



***“The Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.”***  
***(Daniel 4:17)***

Advent is here, a time to prepare ourselves for the celebrations of the birth of Christ in the world. In our meditations we shall be reflecting on how God has decided to reveal Himself in the human history. The month of December, according to the Church’s traditions, is dedicated to the **“Divine Infancy.”** As with so many consecrated phrases in the Religion, that pairing of words touches upon a great mystery that a “little child” can understand, while the greatest minds of Christendom, past and future, could never completely measure its heights. For a moment, let us situate ourselves somewhere between the little child and the greatest minds — hopefully without ceasing to be childlike. For there to be a “Divine Infancy,” there must be an Infant who is God. For that Infant to be known as an infant by us, He must be of our own cognizance — a man like us. In other words, if we do not see a baby, we will not know that Baby; if we do not see a boy, we will not know that Boy. Thus, for there to be the month of the Divine Infancy, there must first have been the Mystery of the Incarnation, the Mystery of the God-made-Man. **There is no December 25 without March 25.**

Babies are wonderful, innocent, lovable, and so cute. But they also cry and poop and need attention, sometimes in the middle of the night, when parents are trying to get some needed sleep. Which brings us to the wonder of Christmas. The Almighty Creator took shape as a crying, hungry baby born to a Jewish girl in an animal trough in an obscure village in the outskirts of the Roman Empire.

It does not fit in the human understanding that God becomes a child in time, for He is not from any other divine Person. He is God revealing Himself as vulnerable as a baby. It is beyond our understanding that Mary would look at a Divine Person and say, “Thou art My Son.” It would be that One Person to whom those words are spoken in eternity by the Father. The human language falls short of bringing out the reality of this Divine Mystery, because nature is overwhelmed by the **“Emmanuel” - God with us.**

God is present in our world. As Richard Valantasis in his book Centuries of Holiness, has written: “everything in the world—every religious tradition, every scientific exploration, every medical breakthrough, every political situation, the environment, outer space—everything in the world has been altered by the presence of God in the physical universe.”

Furthermore, every part of our life—how we eat, bathe, work, play, celebrate or worship—is to be spiritual activity, following the leading of the Holy Spirit. So it is important that to benefit from presence of The Almighty in our midst, we need to be well disposed for that consciousness by digging into this season of Advent, that we may remain open to the Holy Spirit. **So that God's will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

***(To be continued...)***