

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

**SATURDAY (1/27)**

**8 AM:** MASS

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

**5 PM:** Vigil MASS

**SUNDAY (1/28)**

**(Altar Flowers Provided by the Conaway-Petroni Family)**

**7-7:45 AM:** Reconciliation

**8:30 AM:** MASS

**9:45-10:45 AM:** RCIA (*CRE Office*)

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

**11 AM:** MASS

**1:30 PM:** Latin MASS

**4-5:30 PM:** High School Youth Ministry

**MONDAY (1/29)**

**NOON:** MASS

**6 PM:** Women's Gregorian Chant (*Schola*) Rehearsal

**7 PM:** Men's Gregorian Chant (*Schola*) Rehearsal

**TUESDAY (1/30)**

**10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry

**NOON:** MASS

**WEDNESDAY (1/31)**

**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 (2/1)**

**8 AM:** MASS

**NOON:** Soup Kitchen

**FRIDAY (2/2)**

**10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry

**NOON-2 PM:** MASS and Adoration

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

**SATURDAY (2/3)**

**8 AM:** MASS

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

**5 PM:** Vigil MASS

**SUNDAY (2/4)**

**(Altar Flowers Provided by Anonymous Donation)**

**7-7:45 AM:** Reconciliation

**8:30 AM:** MASS

**9:45-10:45 AM:** RCIA (*CRE Office*)

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

**9:45-10:45 AM:** Adult Presentation: *Lenten Family*

*Activities*

**11 AM:** MASS

**1:30 PM:** Latin MASS

**4-5:30 PM:** High School Youth Ministry

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**First Reading**

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Job laments his sufferings and his life.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 147:1-6

A song of praise for the Lord's goodness to the lowly.

**Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Paul explains the conditions under which he preaches the gospel and the reasons why he will not accept financial help from the Corinthians.

**Gospel Reading**

Mark 1:29-39

Jesus cures Simon's mother-in-law and many others as well.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, January 27

**8 AM** Peter Savoie (Paul Savoie)

**5 PM** Members of our Parish

Sunday, January 28

**8:30 AM** †Edward Bradley (The Conaway-Petroni Family)

**11 AM** Peter Savoie (Paul Savoie)

**1:30 PM** †Albert Lorenzoni (The Delany Family)

Monday, January 29

**NOON** Peter Savoie (Paul Savoie)

Tuesday, January 30

**NOON** Peter Savoie (Paul Savoie)

Wednesday, January 31

**NOON** Peter Savoie (Paul Savoie)

Thursday, February 1

**8 AM** †Brian Dorsey

Friday, February 2

**NOON** Peter Savoie (Paul Savoie)

Saturday, February 3

**8 AM** Peter Savoie (Paul Savoie)

**5 PM** Peter Savoie (Paul Savoie)

Sunday, February 4

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

**11 AM** †Alec DeJong (Amy Franklin)

**1:30 PM** Sandy (Paul Savoie)

**WELCOME NEWLY REGISTERED PARISHIONERS!**

Jeffrey and Wendy Watson Stone and Family

**GIFTS FROM GOD**

**JANUARY 20-21, 2018**

Offertory (plate)	\$3,596
Offertory (online)	\$1,523
Weekly Offertory Budget	<u>7,403</u>
<i>Below Weekly Budget</i>	<i>(\$2,284)</i>

Sanctuary Renovation \$7,378  
 Fuel and Hunger Grant (Outreach) \$2,500

**SECOND COLLECTIONS ARE ACCEPTED ONLINE**

Online donations to our Holy Comforter Parish offertory are most welcome! Additionally, all diocesan and parish second collections are accepted, as well. You can find the **Online Giving** link on our website: [holycomforterparish.org](http://holycomforterparish.org)

**PARISH NEWS**

**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Kindly notify us if you would like a name added to or deleted from this list, [office@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:office@holycomforterparish.org)  
 To arrange to receive Holy Communion or a visit by Fr. Joseph Mary, please call the parish office 434.295.7185.

**THE ILL & HOME BOUND**

**Parishioners:** Dominique Faust, Kay Colo, Raymond Painley, Jack Valloric, Mildred Dudley, Pam Heron, Kay Russo, Mary Griffin, Mike Charlie, Eileen Foster, Tam Nguyen, Joe Murray, Helen Edwards, Fran Cannon Slayton, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Rose Bowker, Charley Moore.

**Friends and Relatives:** Joel Rivera, Judge Conrad, Claudia Hartland, Aileen Green, Teresa Hall, Heather Johnson, Christine Fitzgerald, Mary Dominicis, Daniel Moore, Katie George, James Worley, Father Gerald Fogarty, Mary Ann Kline, Beatrice Stack, Thomas Johnson, Brenda Gayle Johnson, Sue Newman, James Worley, Carolyn Ann Davis, Andy Gillespie, JoAnn Fox Klein, Susan Steeby, Suzanne Lank, John Lank, Susan Straub Martin, Josephine Nampijja, Christine Bentéjac, David Rumpf, Kimberly Hasenfus Hulick, John Patrick Dennison, Christine Russo Carpenter, Benedict Pax, Residents of Albemarle County Regional Jail, Residents of 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.

**ROSARY PRAYER GROUP**

Come join our rosary prayer family in praying the rosary every Wednesday at 6:15pm in the Chapel. Start the New Year with a dedication to praying the rosary.

**Intention Book**

Please write your intentions in the Intention Book outside of the Chapel. We pray every week for every intention listed.

**LOW GLUTEN ALTAR BREAD**

Holy Comforter offers low gluten hosts that have been fully approved by the Holy See for use in any Catholic Mass. Every host is individually packaged to prevent cross contamination. Please notify an usher if you require this option.

**SAINTS TO REMEMBER**

- 1/28 St. Thomas Aquinas
- 1/29 St. Gildas the Wise
- 1/30 St. Hyacintha of Marescotti
- 1/31 St. John Bosco
- 2/1 Bridgid of Ireland
- 2/2 Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple
- 2/3 St. Blaise

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS**

**WOMEN'S CURSILLO WEEKEND**

A Women's Cursillo Weekend will be held April 12-15, 2018, at Camp Overlook (near Harrisonburg). The purpose of the Catholic Cursillo Movement is to support people in living out their faith in their everyday lives. It is an inspiring 3-day retreat led by a dedicated team of lay adults and a Catholic priest from our area.



If you are a registered Catholic parishioner, you are encouraged to **submit your application by Saturday, March 31, 2018**, and must be sponsored by a person (male

or female) who has made a Cursillo weekend previously. If you do not know anyone who has made a Cursillo weekend and who can sponsor you, please contact Karen and Roy Norville at [valleycursillo@gmail.com](mailto:valleycursillo@gmail.com) and we can arrange a sponsor for you. For more detailed information and to download an application, please go to the Valley Cursillo website: [www.valleycursillo.com](http://www.valleycursillo.com)

P.S. The next **Men's Cursillo Weekend** will be held October 18-21, 2018, at Camp Overlook as well.

**CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Since 1974, **National Catholic Schools Week** is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This year, the celebration runs from January 28 through February 3. Our own Charlottesville Catholic School will take part in this national celebration by participating in various activities throughout the week. Please join the faculty, staff, and students of Charlottesville Catholic School as they kick off the week with an Open House on January 28 from 1:00 – 3:00pm. We invite you to drop by to tour our beautiful campus and learn more about all that Charlottesville Catholic School has to offer everyone in our great community. For more information about CCS or Catholic Schools Week activities, contact Admissions Coordinator, Katrina Kuhn ([k.kuhn@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:k.kuhn@cvillecatholic.org)) or call 434.964.0400.

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION****ADULT FAITH FORMATION****A Sacred Walk, End of Life Issues**

Many thanks to those who attended this presentation. If you are interested in taking part in a book study using Donna Auther's book, *A Sacred Walk, Dispelling the Fear of Death and Caring for the Dying*, or if you would like more information about preparing the "Five Wishes" document, please email Sue Dougherty at [cre@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:cre@holycomforterparish.org). Also contact Sue if you were unable to attend but would like to learn about what Hospice has to offer.

**New Opportunities!** The more that we nourish our spiritual life, the closer we grow to God! It is an ongoing life-long process. Please consider taking part in one of the upcoming Adult Faith Formation opportunities:

- *With Jesus to the Cross: A Lenten Guide on the Sunday Mass Readings – Year B.* Will meet on Sunday from 8:45-9:45 in the chapel from Feb. 18 through March 25.
- *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*, by Henri Nouwen. This 4-week book study will be facilitated by parishioner Dianne Murray on Mondays. The time can be evening or morning depending on the needs of the participants.

Please indicate your interest by signing the clipboard on the Christian Formation Table in the lobby.

**LENTEN FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

Learn what you can do to make Lent a sacred time of preparation for Easter in your family by attending a presentation on Sunday, February 4 from 9:45-10:45 in the Chapel. Some useful hands-on materials and practices will be offered.

**FIRST SACRAMENTS AND CONFIRMATION**

Please pray for our students preparing to receive these Sacraments of Initiation. Prayer cards are on the Christian Formation table in the commons.

**First Sacraments**

*Eamon Barnaby, Henry Darby, Jace Forst, Tristan Garbaccio, Madison Grider, Cullen Juge, Madeline Tracci, Shiloh Weaver, Olivia Wetzel, Elisabeth Worley.*

**Confirmation**

*Olivia Barnaby, Eamon Dougherty, Hewson Duffy, Christopher Kovalski, Stephanie Langan.*

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY**

Catechesis for both Confirmation and other high school youth continues this Sunday from 4:00-5:30 with a discussion of the Sacraments of Initiation including Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

**SOCIAL MINISTRIES****HAITI**

**St. Michel Saltadere:** Father Petina awaits the arrival of students and parishioners over Spring Break. The visitors will bring our prayers for our twin parish and they will assess the needs of school, clinic and water supply with emphasis on computers, student pictures and solar panel operation. Please keep the travelers and our twin parish in your prayers.

**Bi-Parish Haiti Committee Meeting:** Next Meeting is February 4, 2018 in the Community Room at St. Thomas. All are welcome. For more information, contact Anne Knasel [anne@stagebridge.net](mailto:anne@stagebridge.net) or Ginny Zeller [ginnnyannzeller@gmail.com](mailto:ginnnyannzeller@gmail.com).

**VIRGINIA VESPERS**

Catholics are called to pray for our civic leaders as we engage in the public square. Join Arlington Bishop Michael F. Burbidge and Richmond Bishop Barry C. Knestout, along with the Virginia Catholic Conference, their public policy agency, at a special liturgy for Virginia's elected officials and the needs of the state. The third annual **Virginia Vespers: Evening Prayer for the Commonwealth** will be held at the beautiful, historic Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, at 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018. The hour-long service draws on an ancient Christian liturgy and includes Scripture and sacred music provided by local Catholic school choirs. A wine and appetizers reception follows.

Register at [www.vacatholic.org](http://www.vacatholic.org).

**FROM THE PASTOR 2018**  
**THE JOURNEY WITH THE MAGI (Part 3)**



Wise Men Follow the Star

***“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel”  
 (Numbers 24:17)***

In one sense, the prophecy from the book of numbers applies to Israel itself, particularly with reference to David’s conquest of the Moabites (2 Samuel 8:2). However, the concept of the scepter, a symbol of kingship, refers not only to David, but to David’s greater Son, and refers back to Genesis: **“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people. (Genesis 49:10).** This passage from Genesis refers to the coming Messiah, to be descended from Judah, so by inference, it has been suggested by theologians that Numbers 24:17 also refers to the coming Messiah. When the wise men finally saw this sign, they dropped everything. The possibility that this was a Divine moment captivated them and they followed. This journey wasn’t a light overnight. This had to have taken months. Like any long trip, it took planning. It took a whole lot of money to outfit a caravan, to employ guards, to buy provisions and places to stay along the way. But their commitment to find where God was showing up caused them to reorganize their whole lives. Their time, their comfort, their money—all of it was tied up in finding Jesus. They could have noted the appearance of the star in their log books, indicated their conviction that this phenomenon probably signaled something or someone very special, and then gone about their business. But no. They put commitment to their conviction, feet to their faith, and commenced a journey (which was no doubt difficult and dangerous at times) all because they knew, at the end, they would finally meet the new King. When God presents us with some new opportunity, are we willing to get up off our rusty-dusty and begin a journey of faith? The story of the Wise Men says there is something special that awaits at the finish. One of the things that has intrigued me about this story is the incredible wrong turn these folks took as they neared the end of their trip. Instead of following the star to Bethlehem, they stopped off in Jerusalem to ask directions of Herod. ***Who is helping you in case of doubt about your faith? Do you have the humility to ask for help?***

The wise men knew that this was not just any star. It was His star — that is, the star of the Messiah. This also indicates that they knew the prophecies in Numbers 24 and Genesis 49. for they said, **“We have seen His star.”** The star belonged to Jesus. The faithful Christian, like the star, belongs to Jesus. Every beam in that star shown forth for Jesus. It was His star. It is well for us to forget ourselves in the person of Christ so that our every movement, our every action, shines forth Christ. You may be a very little star twinkling for Jesus. However feeble your light may be, let it be plain that you are His star. People may wonder who you are, but they should never wonder whose you are. Each one of us is meant to be the star that leads people to Jesus and must always be going toward Christ. Souls are much better led to Christ by example than driven by exhortation. It is a small thing to shine for Jesus, but it is a great thing to lead people to Jesus. Our mission is not complete until we bring others face to face with the living Christ. When the star came to where Jesus was, it stood still and just as our minds should become settled and fixed and focused in upon Jesus. Never indulge your mind in things so sublime outside Jesus for there is no deeper spirituality than is to be found in Christ. We will do well to live Christ-like lives so that when we ultimately die people will find us still shining for Jesus and pointing to the place where the Savior may be found. What you believe should determine how you behave. Be willing to put feet on your faith, and then get going and follow the star. ***(to be continued--).***