

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

**SATURDAY (12/9)**

**8 AM:** MASS

**3:30:** Dante's *Inferno* Book Study (*Lower Level*)

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

**5 PM:** Vigil MASS

**6 PM:** Adult Formation A Sacred Walk: Dealing with End of Life Issues (*Lower Level*)

**SUNDAY (12/10) SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**(Altar Flowers Donated In Memory of All Who Served in World War II by Joanne Mackey)**

**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:** First Sacraments Parent Orientation (*Lower Level*)

**9:45-10:45 AM:** Gospel of Mark Study (*Chapel*)

**11 AM:** MASS

**12:15 PM:** Sanctuary Renovation "Town Hall"

Meeting (*Church*)

**12:45-1:30 PM:** Reconciliation

**1:30 PM:** Latin MASS

**4-5:30 PM:** Confirmation Preparation

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

**MONDAY (12/11)**

**NOON:** MASS

**5-7:30 PM:** MIRA Rehearsal (*Church*)

**6 PM:** Lawyers Helping Lawyers (*Lower Level*)

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

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

**TUESDAY (12/12)**

**10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry

**NOON:** MASS

**WEDNESDAY (12/13)**

**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 (12/14)**

**8 AM:** MASS

**NOON:** Soup Kitchen

**7 PM:** Advent Penance Service (*Church*)

**FRIDAY (12/15)**

**8 AM:** MASS

**10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry

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

**7:30 PM:** MIRA Early Music Ensemble "Nowell, Sing we Both Alle and Some" (*Church*)

**SATURDAY (12/16)**

**8 AM:** MASS

**11 AM:** Baptism: *Robert Jude Brennan*

**3:30:** Dante's *Inferno* Book Study (*Lower Level*)

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

**5 PM:** Vigil MASS

**SUNDAY (12/17) THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**(Altar Flowers Donated 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 (*Lower Level*)

**9:45-10:45 AM:** First Sacraments Preparation (*Lower Level*)

**9:45-10:45 AM:** Gospel of Mark Study (*Chapel*)

**11 AM:** MASS

**4-5:30 PM:** Confirmation Preparation

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

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, December 9

**8 AM †**Cecile Savoie (Paul Savoie)

**5 PM** Members of our Parish

Sunday, December 10

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

**11:00 AM †**Clyde Pax (Jeanne and John Chamales)

**1:30 PM †**Theresa Robinson (Paul Savoie)

Monday, December 11

**NOON** Sandy (Paul Savoie)

Tuesday, December 12

**NOON** The McAdams Family (Patricia McAdams)

Wednesday, December 13

**NOON** Sandy (Paul Savoie)

Thursday, December 14

**8 AM** Katherine (Paul Savoie)

Friday, December 15

**8 AM** Sandy (Paul Savoie)

Saturday, December 16

**8 AM** Sandy (Paul Savoie)

**5 PM** Katherine (Paul Savoie)

Sunday, December 17

**8:30 AM †**Peter Colo (Marlene Wood)

**11:00 AM** Members of our Parish

**THE CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION FESTIVAL CHOIR PRESENTS**

*An Evening of Music for Advent and Christmas* on Friday, December 15, 2017. The evening begins at 7 PM with sung Advent Evening Prayer in the Worship Center. Please join us for this special musical event.

## POPE FRANCIS APPOINTS NEW BISHOP FOR RICHMOND DIOCESE

With great joy, the Diocese of Richmond announces the Holy Father, Pope Francis, appointed the Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, as the thirteenth bishop of Richmond. The Mass of Installation will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Jan. 12, 2018, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond.

### SAINTS TO REMEMBER

12/10	St. Gregory III
12/11	St. Damasus I
12/12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
12/13	St. Lucy
12/14	St. John of the Cross
12/15	St. Mary di Rosa
12/16	St. Haggai the Prophet

### NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### First Reading

*Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11*

The Lord's salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed.

#### Responsorial Psalm

*Luke 1:46-50, 53-54*

Mary sings praise to God.

#### Second Reading

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always.

#### Gospel Reading

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

### GIFTS FROM GOD

#### DECEMBER 3, 2017

Offertory (plate)	\$4,522.50
Offertory (online)	\$ 538.00
Weekly Offertory Budget	<u>\$7,403.00</u>
<i>Below Weekly Budget</i>	<i>(\$2,342.50)</i>

Flower Donations	\$767
Haiti	505

#### ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

We gather on Wednesday in the Chapel at 6:15. All are welcomed.

### 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@hollycomforterparish.org](mailto:office@hollycomforterparish.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:** Amber Eros, Dominique Faust, Colette Hall, Kay Colo, Raymond Painley, Jack Valloric, Mildred Dudley, Pam Heron, Herman Ortmann, Kay Russo, Mary Griffin, Mike Charlie, Frances Charlie, Jack Andrews, Eileen Foster, Tam Nguyen, Joe Murray, Helen Edwards, Betty Jane Prufer, Fran Cannon Slayton, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Rose Bowker, Charley Moore.

**Friends and Relatives:** Claudia Hartland, Aileen Green, Teresa Hall, Heather Johnson, Joann Walker, Christine Fitzgerald, Mary Dominicus, 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, Kristin Fagan, 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.

#### THE CARMELITE SCAPULAR

During Advent, Father Joseph Mary will be having an Investiture ceremony for the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Please sing up in the commons and see the handout about this most ancient sacramental of the church.

#### VESPERS

A sung Vespers service (evening prayer) will be celebrated regularly on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the church. The psalms will be sung to Gregorian psalm tones, which are easy to learn and contemplative, allowing the participant to focus on the words while raising the voice to God in praise. This is what St. Augustine meant when he famously said that singing is praying twice. Please come and join in the universal prayer of the Church!

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### ADULT FORMATION

Our **Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark** continues following the 8:30 Mass this Sunday and ends next Sunday, Dec. 17 with the grand finale summary! Join us for these last sessions even if you have not attended the previous ones. There are still many “take aways” to be gleaned from God’s Word through Mark.

### ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Make your Advent season meaningful by beginning each day with a reflection on the joy of anticipating the celebration of the Birth of Christ in us and in His coming again. Many online resources are available that come directly to your email. In addition to Dynamic Catholic’s “Best Advent Ever,” [dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/advent-reflections-2017](http://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/advent-reflections-2017), here are some others:

Sacred Space-Ignatian Spirituality:

[pray-as-you-go.org/prayer-resources/messengers-of-joy-advent-2017](http://pray-as-you-go.org/prayer-resources/messengers-of-joy-advent-2017) and Loyola Press:

[www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/prayer/daily-inspirations](http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/prayer/daily-inspirations)

### CHRISTMAS CHILDREN’S MASS AND NATIVITY PLAY

The annual presentation of the Nativity by the children will take place during the **Family Christmas Mass on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 4:00pm**. Children ages 4 and older are invited to participate. If you are interested in having your child take part in the play, please email Sue Dougherty, CRE at [cre@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:cre@holycomforterparish.org) as soon as possible. There will be a practice for the play on either Saturday, Dec. 16 or Sunday, Dec. 17 depending on the availability of the majority of those interested.

### HIGH SCHOOL YM

**Confirmation students** will meet for Session 2 from 4:00-5:30 pm this **Sunday, Dec. 10**.

**All other high school students** will meet concurrently for a learning session. We will have a Christmas social for all high school students on **Sunday, Dec. 17**.

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

### SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES

The Carmelite Community of Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity meets at St. Francis in Staunton on the 2nd Sunday each month from 11:30-4:00PM. If you are interested in learning more or feel called to a Carmelite way of life, please consider visiting us Sunday, December 10, 2017. You may pick up a flyer in the vestibule or contact Patricia McAdams at 286-4055 or [pamcadams@yahoo.com](mailto:pamcadams@yahoo.com).

### K OF C COATS FOR KIDS

After all Masses this weekend, parish members of the Knights of Columbus will be collecting money for COATS FOR KIDS. Checks should be made payable to Knights of Columbus #3670. Thank you.

### CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

#### Enrollment

CCS is currently taking applications for students entering Pre-K through 8th grade in the 2018-2019 school year. Visit [www.cvillecatholic.org/admissions/](http://www.cvillecatholic.org/admissions/) to apply or contact Katrina Kuhn ([k.kuhn@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:k.kuhn@cvillecatholic.org)) to schedule a tour of the school. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn more about a school community rooted in its three core pillars of Christ, Community, and Scholars. We are CCS!

#### Employment Opportunity

Part-time Aftercare Assistant. This person should have experience working with children ages 4-13 and be available from 3:30-5:30pm Mon. through Fri. CPR certified and teaching experience is recommended but not required. Please contact Chris Tillson ([c.tillson@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:c.tillson@cvillecatholic.org)) if you are interested.

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

### HAITI

**Singing Rooster Coffee** will be available for sale in the Commons today. All proceeds support St. Michel School in Saltadere.

**St. Michel School:** Will have second quarter exams next week and have vacation from December 22 to January 8. Student sponsorship and donations fund school costs. Please help by sponsoring a student—see notebook in the Commons. Please keep students, families and teachers in your prayers.

**Arts and Crafts from Haiti:** Thank you to all who supported St. Michel through their purchase of Haitian Arts and Crafts during our sale and thank you to all our Haiti Ministry members who made the sale possible.

**Bi-Parish Haiti Committee Meeting:** Next Meeting is February 4, 2018. All are welcome. Contact: e-mail Anne Knasel at [anne@stagebridge.net](mailto:anne@stagebridge.net) or Ginny Zeller at [ginnyannzeller@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyannzeller@gmail.com).

### ANGEL TREE PROGRAM 2017

Thank you for participating in the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program! All 60 tags were taken and the returned gifts have been delivered to the Salvation Army Office at 207 Ridge Street. Thank you for reaching out in the name of Jesus to those in our community who are in need.

*"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel." (2<sup>nd</sup> Week)*



**"Sound the trumpets in Zion, summon the nations; call the people together and tell them the good news: See your savior comes, see his reward is with him." (Joel 2:15; Isaiah 2:11)**

While the world is busy shopping, decorating, cooking, eating, drinking, and partying, Catholics are looking for ways to incorporate more time for prayers, acts of charity, and giving up little everyday pleasures or actual daily use items. Our Catholic Church is always asking us to be counter-cultural. This is especially hard when being cultural means not to miss the yummy treats, parties, shopping, and time with family and friends. We are encouraged to show to the world that Jesus really is the reason for the season without neglecting to enjoy those cultural and seasonal things in proportion to the time and energy required to pour into our spiritual preparation for Christmas. Each year, as the Church recalls this mystery of the Incarnation, she urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has shown us. This holy season of Advent teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of his contemporaries; his power has still to be communicated to us all. We shall share his power, if, through holy faith and the sacraments, we willingly accept the grace Christ earned for us, and live by that grace and in obedience to Christ. The Church asks us to understand that Christ, who came once in the flesh, is prepared to come again. When we remove all obstacles to his presence, he will come, at any hour and moment, to dwell spiritually in our hearts, bringing with him the riches of his grace.

**There are a number of ways we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmas. One of these way is the "The Philip's Fast."** Both the Western and Eastern Churches used to observe Advent with the traditional Lenten practices: fasting and abstinence, prayer and almsgiving. While fasting during Advent is no longer practiced in the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox and the Eastern Catholic Churches continue to observe an Advent fast known as "Philip's Fast," named after the Apostle Philip, because it begins on November 15, the day after his feast day (November 14, in the Eastern calendar). It runs through Christmas Eve, December 24—a period of 40 days, mirroring Lent. While Roman Rite Catholics are no longer bound to fast during Advent, those who can practice it do not commit any sin, since repentance during this season can help us better appreciate our Christmas celebration. Pope St. John Paul II called on Western Catholics to learn more about the traditions of our Eastern brethren, and we can observe Philip's Fast in our own way, by doing the same sorts of things we do during Lent—abstaining from meat (especially on Fridays), not eating between meals, restricting the amount of food that we eat. Combining these practices with almsgiving (this time of year is particularly hard for the poor) and efforts to increase our prayer (and perhaps to spend a bit of time in front of the Blessed Sacrament or to attend weekday Mass when we can), and we can begin to return Advent to its proper role as a season of preparation. And when Christmas Day finally arrives, we may find that our fast has increased the joy of our feast. **Another practice is the Advent Penance Services.** Many Catholic parishes, like **Holy Comforter**, have special penance services for Advent. Please join your fellow parishioners on **Thursday evening, December 14, 2107 at 7 PM.** Confession is an important part of preparing room for the coming of Christ into our hearts that is, allowing Him to draw us into deeper conversion. *(To be continued-).*