

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (12/23)**8 AM:** MASS**3:30-4:30 PM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)**5 PM:** Vigil MASS (4th Sunday of Advent)**SUNDAY (12/24) FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT*****(Altar Flowers Provided by the Generous Donations of Holy Comforter Parishioners and Friends)*****7-7:45 AM:** Reconciliation**8:30 AM:** MASS (4th Sunday of Advent)**4 PM:** Children's Christmas MASS and Nativity Play**6:15 PM:** Carol Singing**7 PM:** Christmas Vigil MASS**11:30 PM:** Latin Christmas MASS**MONDAY (12/25) THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD*****(There will be a second collection today for Catholic Charities) (Parish Offices are closed today)*****8:30 AM:** MASS**11 AM:** MASS**TUESDAY (12/26)*****(Parish Offices are closed today)*****NOON:** MASS**WEDNESDAY (12/27)*****(Parish Offices are closed today)*****10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry**NOON:** MASS**6:15 PM:** Rosary Prayer Group (*Chapel*)**6:30 PM:** Sung Vespers (*Church*)**7 PM:** Choir Rehearsal (*Loft*)**THURSDAY (12/28)****NOON:** MASS**NOON:** Soup Kitchen**FRIDAY (12/29)****10 AM:** Memorial Mass *Herman Ortmann***10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry**NOON:** MASS**NOON:** AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)**SATURDAY (12/30)****8 AM:** MASS**11 AM:** Memorial Mass *John J. Lux***3:30-4:30 PM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)**5 PM:** Vigil MASS**SUNDAY (12/31) THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH*****(Altar Flowers Provided by the Generous Donations of Holy Comforter Parishioners and Friends)*****7-7:45 AM:** Reconciliation**8:30 AM:** MASS**11 AM:** MASS**1:30 PM:** Latin MASS**MONDAY (1/1) MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD*****(Parish Offices are closed today)*****NOON:** MASS**7 PM:** MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

First Reading*Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3*

God fulfills his promise to Abraham, and Sarah gives birth to a son.

Responsorial Psalm*Psalm 105:1-6, 8-9* A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his faithfulness to his covenant.**Second Reading***Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19* Paul examines Abraham's example of faith.**Gospel Reading***Luke 2:22-40* (or shorter form: *Luke 2:22, 39-40*) Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses.**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!

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

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

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

12/24	St. Charbel Makhlouf
12/25	Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ
12/26	St. Stephen
12/27	St. John the Apostle
12/28	Holy Innocents
12/29	St. Thomas Becket
12/30	Bl. Eugenia Ravasco

RECENTLY DECEASED PARISHIONER

Jack Andrews
Alec DeJong
Herman Ortmann

GIFTS FROM GOD

DECEMBER 17, 2017

Offertory (plate)	\$5,891
Weekly Offertory Budget	<u>7,403</u>
<i>Below Weekly Budget</i>	<i>(\$1,512)</i>

Outreach	\$881
Haiti	425
Flower Donations	335

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 23

8 AM Christina (Paul Savoie)

5 PM Members of our Parish

Sunday, December 24

8:30 AM Clementine Ishimwe (Scarlett Makielski)

4 PM Andrew (Paul Savoie)

7 PM Thanksgiving for the Blessings

(Dominique Faust)

11:30 PM For our Priests and Parishioners

(Dominique Faust)

Monday, December 25

8:30 AM Andrew (Paul Savoie)

11:00 AM †Lorene Primich, †Brett Bacek (Judith Pateman)

Tuesday, December 26

NOON Andrew (Paul Savoie); For the Souls in Purgatory (Dominique Faust)

Wednesday, December 27

NOON Andrew (Paul Savoie); For the Sick and Suffering and Their Families (Dominique Faust)

Thursday, December 28

NOON All who are Lonely this Christmas Season

(Dominique Faust)

Friday, December 29

NOON †James Wright (Anne and Ben Shealy)

Saturday, December 30

8 AM †James Wright (Susan and Henry Wingate)

5 PM Christine and Marie José (Dominique Faust)

Sunday, December 31

8:30 AM †James Wright (Jane and Christopher Jones)

11 AM †Peter Bednar (Michael Bednar)

1:30 PM Jack Andrews (Eileen and Al Bracuti)

Monday, January 1

NOON Mary Nguyen (Vu Nguyen)

7 PM Members of and Visitors to Our Parish

2017-2018 CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve (Sunday, 12/24)

4 PM: Children's Christmas Mass and Nativity Play

6:15 PM: Carol Singing

7 PM: Christmas Vigil Mass

11:30 PM: Latin Christmas Mass

Christmas Day (Monday, 12/25)

8:30 AM: Mass

11 AM: Mass

Daily Masses (Tuesday-Friday, 12/26-12/29)

NOON: Mass

Saturday 12/30

8 AM: Mass

5 PM: Vigil Mass

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Sunday 12/31)

8:30 AM: Mass

11 AM: Mass

1:30 PM: Latin MASS

Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Monday 1/1)

NOON: Mass

7 PM: Mass

Daily Masses (Tuesday-Friday)

1/2 **NOON:** Mass

1/3 **NOON:** Mass

1/4 **8 AM:** Mass

1/5 **NOON-2 PM:** Mass and Adoration

Saturday 1/6

8 AM: Mass

5 PM: Vigil Mass

The Epiphany of the Lord (Sunday 1/7)

8:30 AM: Mass

11 AM: Mass

The Baptism of the Lord (Monday 1/8)

NOON: Mass

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

HIGH SCHOOL YM, YOUTH AND ADULT FORMATION

CLASSES will resume on Sunday, January 7, the Feast of Epiphany!

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@hollycomforterparish.org as soon as possible.

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. 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, Kay Russo, Mary Griffin, Mike Charlie, Frances 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: Judge Conrad, 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.

TICKET LOTTERY FOR BISHOP BARRY C. KNESTOUT INSTALLATION MASS

Those hoping to participate in the joy and excitement of the Jan. 12 Mass of Installation for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond's new Bishop may enter a lottery. Seating for the 2 PM event at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart will be limited. To enter the drawing for admission tickets please visit by Friday, December 29, 2017: richmonddiocese.org/installation-mass-details

The drawing will be held in early January with two tickets awarded to each selected registrant. Those selected will have 48 hours to respond before the tickets are released to alternates. Tickets are not transferrable and may not be sold.

Questions? Contact newbishop@richmonddiocese.org or (804) 622-5294.

THE CARMELITE SCAPULAR

Father Joseph Mary has scheduled the Investiture Ceremony for the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It will take place during the 7 PM Mass on January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God. Please sign up in the commons and see the handout about this most ancient sacramental of the church.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

HAITI

St. Michel Parish: Is getting ready to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord. Typically, at this season Father Petina has many marriages to celebrate. Our Haiti Ministry is grateful for the wonderful support of our parishioners. Please keep St. Michel School students, families and teachers in your prayers.

Arts and Crafts and Coffee from Haiti: Thank you to all who supported the sales and thank you to all our Haiti Ministry members who made the sales possible.

Help Needed: The Haiti ministry could use help with preparing computers for Haiti.

Bi-Parish Haiti Committee Meeting: Next Meeting is February 4, 2018. All are welcome. For more information, contact Anne Knasel anne@stagebridge.net or Ginny Zeller ginnyannzeller@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

CASA ALMA: Christ Rooms Opening!

Following months of exploration and prayer, members of the Casa Alma extended community are opening Christ Rooms this January! Hosts will open a room in their home to welcome someone in need of temporary housing. Each host will be connected with a support household who will provide encouragement.

Dorothy Day called for a Christ Room effort. She wrote, "When we succeed in persuading our readers to take the homeless into their homes, having a Christ Room in the house as St. Jerome said, then we shall be known as Christians because of the way we love one another."

While we hope our hospitality network will grow to include hosts of all faith practices, we're beginning with a special invitation to Christians to open and support Christ Rooms. *Would you like to learn more? Get in touch with us!* cvillecw@gmail.com or 434-202-2221

Save The Date: Saturday, January 20 for a community event to open conversation on Catholicism and white supremacy. The day will include prayer and song, great speakers, small groups, and invitations to action for faith-rooted racial justice. Details and registration coming soon!

FROM THE PASTOR
WHAT IS CHRISTMAS TO YOU?



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved.” (John, 3:16-17)

Christmas is traditionally a time when we tend to focus on buying gifts, writing Christmas cards and preparing food for a feast spent with loved ones. How can we make this Christmas to be different? What can we do differently this year as we prepare our hearts to receive the greatest gift ever, **“LOVE FROM GOD?”** What a wonderful opportunity to reflect that Love in our lives, just as the moon reflects the light from the sun. The true meaning of Christmas is love. God loved His own Son and provided a way—the only Way—for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His only Son to take our punishment for our sins. He paid the price in full, and we are free from condemnation when we accept that free gift of love. "But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

I invite you to celebrate this year's Christmas in the spirit of Pope Francis by contemplating and taking seriously to heart the following words: **“Christmas is usually a noisy party. We could use a bit of silence to hear the voice of LOVE.”** *Christmas is you* when you decide to be born again each day and let God into your soul. *The Christmas pine is you* when you resist vigorous winds and difficulties of life. *Christmas decorations are you* when your virtues are colors that adorn your life. *The Christmas bell is you* when you call, gather and seek to unite. *You are Christmas lights* when you illuminate with your life the path of others with kindness, patience, joy and generosity. *The Christmas angels are you* when you sing to the world a message of peace, justice and love. *The Christmas star is you* when you lead someone to meet the Lord. *You are the wise men* when you give the best you have no matter who you are giving to. *Christmas music is you* when you conquer the harmony within you. *The Christmas gift is you* when you are truly a friend and brother to every human being. *The Christmas card is you* when kindness is written in your hands. *The Christmas greeting is you* when you forgive and reestablish peace even when you suffer. *The Christmas dinner is you* when you shared bread and hope with the poor man who is by your side. *You are Christmas night* when, humble and conscious, you receive in the silence of the night the Savior of the world without noise or great celebrations. *You are a smile of trust and tenderness in the inner peace of a perennial Christmas that establishes the Kingdom within you.*

Let us all look forward to celebrating in this spirit. Jesus desires to knock at the door of our hearts and call us to something more out of the ordinary. Let us have the courage to listen for the way. Merry Christmas and May God richly bless you.