

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

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 *(Investiture Ceremony for the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel)*

TUESDAY (1/2)

NOON: MASS

WEDNESDAY (1/3)

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 (1/4)

8 AM: MASS

NOON: Soup Kitchen

FRIDAY (1/5)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON-2 PM: MASS and Adoration

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Every nation on earth shall worship the Lord.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage

SATURDAY (1/6)

8 AM: MASS

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

5 PM: Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (1/7) THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

(Altar Flowers Provided by the Generous Donations of Holy Comforter Parishioners and Friends)

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*)

11 AM: MASS

1:30 PM: Latin MASS

4-5:30 PM: High School Youth Ministry

MONDAY (1/8) THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

NOON: MASS

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

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

7 PM: Pastoral Council Meeting (*Lower Level*)

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

12/31	St. Sylvester
1/1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
1/2	St. Basil the Great
1/3	St. Genevieve
1/4	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
1/5	St. John N. Neumann
1/6	Epiphany of the Lord

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Tuesday, January 2

NOON Thi Thanh (Vu Nguyen)

Saturday, January 6

5 PM In Thanksgiving for Father Gerald Fogarty

Sunday, January 7

8:30 AM God's Mercy and Graces (Joel Rivera)

11 AM In Thanksgiving for Father Michael Suarez

1:30 PM In Thanksgiving for Father Dan Kelly

GIFTS FROM GOD

Due to our publishers Christmas Holiday deadline, the Offertory Report for December 23/24 and December 25th will appear in next weekend's Bulletin.

TRACK YOUR GIVING IN 2018

Have you considered using Online Giving? By creating a login and contributing online you'll always have a report of your giving history available. You can access your report easily and securely via the web, and your information will always be up-to-date with your latest contributions. You can find the **Online Giving** link on our website: 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
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: Joel Rivera, 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.

RECENTLY DECEASED PARISHIONERS

Alec DeJong
Herman Ortmann

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!

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.

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

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

LOW GLUTEN COMMUNION

Holy Comforter offers low gluten altar bread produced by **Cavanagh Company** in Greenville, RI.

These wafers are approved for use in the Catholic Mass by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. They are made of wheat starch and water. **The gluten content of their low gluten wafer is below 20 parts per million.** The baking of the low gluten wafers is done in a dedicated bakery using positive air pressure to create a room that is totally free of contaminants. The equipment is also dedicated to the low gluten baking and is not used for regular altar bread production. They are packaged in boxes of 25 individually wrapped wafers to prevent cross contamination in transit and while stored.

Please notify an usher if you require this option.

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.

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.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

CHRISTIAN FORMATION PRE-K-8

When classes resume on **Sunday, Jan. 7**, we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany (also known as Three Kings Day) with King Cake for all. Who will find the baby Jesus?

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

When we meet next on **January 7**, we will address the topic of "The Four Marks of the Church and its Mission in the World." We'll have a brief Epiphany celebration, but reschedule our social for Sunday, Jan. 21.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

"A SACRED WALK: END OF LIFE ISSUES" has been rescheduled for **January 21st at 12:00 pm** following the 11:00 AM Mass. Please join us to hear our presenters from Hospice of the Piedmont, Donna M. Authers and Ron Cottrell talk about the sacred journey of traveling with a loved one facing the end of life and how to plan ahead, then go on living! Lunch will be served!

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

CASA ALMA

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!

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

COMMONWEALTH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

New Year's Resolutions

Have you made any New Year's Resolution for 2018? If not, there's still time and CCC would like to help! This year, let us all resolve to provide Comfort and Compassion in our Communities.

Become a foster parent-start the process now.

Visit www.cccofva.org/foster-care to see what it takes to become a foster parent.

Get financial counseling to buy a new house.

Whether trying to improve credit scores, create a workable budget, purchase a home, or avoid foreclosures, CCC's certified financial and housing counselors can help develop a plan to achieve financial goals through one-on-one counseling and classes and workshops. Learn more at www.cccofva.org/income-and-asset-building.

Resolve to have healthier relationships with counseling.

Our counseling covers a variety of issues such as depression, anxiety, marital problems, anger issues, grief, domestic violence, adjustment issues, custody cases, and co-parenting issues. Learn more at www.cccofva.org/counseling-services.

Welcome the stranger by supporting CCC services for refugees and immigrants

Refugees and immigrants come to us with great need, having left their homes, possessions, and often even their families in search of safety and a new start. CCC provides services that help these individuals achieve stability and equips them with the skills and guidance they need to begin their new lives in the United States. To learn how you can help, visit www.cccofva.org/volunteer.

MARCH FOR LIFE 2018

Registration is now open for the March for Life Pilgrimage for youth and young adults! This overnight pilgrimage is for **January 18-19, 2018** and is intended for **middle and high school youth, campus ministry students, and young adults**. The Diocese has only been allotted 500 tickets this year, so don't delay! evangelizerichmond.org/events/marchforlife2018

CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

CCS is currently taking applications for students entering Pre-K through 8th grade in the 2018-19 school year. Visit www.cvillecatholic.org/admissions/ to apply or contact Katrina Kuhn (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!

FROM THE PASTOR
ACCEPTING OUR FAMILY LIFE



“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one--These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children.” (Dt.6:4-9)

As we celebrate the feast of the holy Family I would like to call your attention to the fact God wants your family life to be happy. His Word, the Bible, provides guidelines for each family member, describing the role that God wants each one to play. When family members fulfill their roles in harmony with God’s counsel, the results are very satisfying. Every family on earth exists because of our heavenly Father—and he certainly knows what makes families happy. Today the Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement to say yes to God. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God. And Jesus as God-man, took very good care of them because he was able to do it as God.

The book of Sirach reminds children to take care of their parents even when it becomes difficult. The author mentions four rewards which God promises to those who honor their parents and take good care of them. The first reward is “riches” of all kinds. The second is a long life: “Whoever respects his father will live a long life.” The third promise is forgiveness of sins, and the fourth is God’s prompt answer to prayers (Sirach 3). Paul sets before us the rule that makes a family a holy family: where every member plays his/her role; where Heartfelt Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Gentleness, Patience, Bearing with One another, and over all of these, Love, that should be flourishing (Colossians 3).

The family becomes holy because the individual members in the family respond positively to God’s call. The holy family of Nazareth is holy and inspirational because each member responded to the demanding word of God spoken in the very trying circumstances of their daily lives. As much as this family was holy, it was also human. They had to live in the same world we do — with deadlines to meet, bills to pay, and problems to confront. More than a few times, their patience and their love were tested. **But through it all, this was a family that loved, prayed and trusted God and each other.** At one time or another, every one of them – Mary, Joseph and Jesus – actively surrendered themselves to the will of God. Mary consented to conceive a child out of wedlock. Joseph listened to angels and fled to another country, turning his family for a time into refugees. Jesus gave everything on the cross for the will of the father and for the love of us all. Think of another holy family, your family— yes even the crazy in-laws and out-laws and uncles. Remember your joys and struggles, the successes and disappointments, the ups and downs, the crashes and bruises. All these challenges make your family vulnerable and strong. Remember the love and forgiveness that brings back the joy of your family. Think of another holy family: our Church. We have our own struggles because we are human: ups and downs; disappointments and joys. We certainly are not perfect, but with love and forgiveness we can move on and come together to praise God. We are a family: holy, surprising, vulnerable, fragile, imperfect, a bit scandalous and even maybe a little crazy. But, as a holy family, we do not judge who’s in and who’s out. God walks with us and keeps us together as we struggle to do His will. This is the holy family that we celebrate; this is who we are! Thanks be to God. Merry Christmas.