

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

March 13 St. Leander of Seville
 14 St. Maximilian
 15 St. Louise de Marillac
 16 St. Clement Mary Hofbauer
 17 St. Patrick
 18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem
 19 St. Joseph, Husband of Mary

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 12

5 PM Members of the Parish

Sunday, March 13

8:30 AM †Shirley O'Rourke (Martha Cassell)

11 AM Sick Members of the Parish

3 PM Members of the Parish

Monday, March 14

NOON: Ben Shealy (Susan Wingate)

Saturday, March 19

5 PM Members of the Parish

Sunday, March 20

8:30 AM Shirley O'Rourke (Jean & John Chamales)

11 AM Sick Members of the Parish

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS
 PALM SUNDAY**

Gospel at the Procession with Palms

Luke 19:28-40

Jesus sends his disciples for a colt and then rides into Jerusalem.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord's Servant will stand firm, even when persecuted.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ was obedient even to death, but God has exalted him.

Gospel Reading

Luke 22:14—23:56 (shorter form: *Luke 23:1-49*)

From the cross, Jesus speaks words of forgiveness and promises that the good thief will be with him in paradise.

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

SATURDAY (3/12)

8 AM: MASS

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

5 PM: Sunday Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (3/13) FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

8:30 AM: MASS

9:45-10:45 AM: Christian Formation

11 AM: MASS

12:30-2 PM: Dante Book Group (*CRE's Office*)

1 PM Bi Parish Haiti Committee (*Lower Level*)

3 PM Latin MASS

MONDAY (3/14)

10 AM: Prayer Group (*Chapel*)

NOON: MASS

TUESDAY (3/15)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: MASS

WEDNESDAY (3/16)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

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

7 PM: MASS

THURSDAY (3/17)

7:30 AM: MASS

NOON: Soup Kitchen

FRIDAY (3/18) ABSTINENCE

8 AM: MASS

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

5:30 PM Soup Supper

6:30 PM: Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY (3/19)

8 AM: MASS

10-5 PM: Lenten Retreat

3:30 - 4:30 PM: Reconciliation

5 PM: Sunday Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (3/20) PALM SUNDAY

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

8:30 AM: MASS

9:45-10:45 AM: Christian Formation

11 AM: MASS

12:30-2 PM: Dante Book Group (*CRE's Office*)

UPCOMING WEDDINGS

April 9, 2016: Mary Schwab and Brad Botkin

May 13, 2016: Kristina Zambelli and Matthew Loftus

May 15, 2016: Jenna Cerrone and Christopher Levy

GIFTS FROM GOD

Offertory March 5-6, 2016 \$5196.50
 Outreach \$188.00
 Justice and Peace \$ 285.00
 Easter Flower \$233.00
 Catholic Relief \$1612.00

Weekly Offertory Budget \$7173.00
 Offertory Received \$5196.50
 Weekly Deficit \$1976.50

THE ILL & HOME BOUND:

Please call the parish office at 295-7185, to arrange to receive Holy Communion or a visit by Fr. Joseph Mary.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Parishioners: Helen Edwards, Betty Jane Prufer, Fran Cannon Slayton, Jim Cannon, Ron Lavis, Sue Newman, Amber Eros, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Norman Bednarczyk, Nicholas Sisman, Mary Ann Williams, Rose Bowker, Hermann Ortmann, Katherine Russo, Charley and Kitty Moore, Mary Frances Lilly.

Friends and Relatives: George William Polhill, II, Claudia Hartland, Betsy Boyce, Michael Norton, Leslie Gilliam, Ed Shaffrey, Jane Sargent, Josephine Nampijja, Grace Dawn Wicke, Melyssa Dove, Nicole Carpenter, Beth Mauk, Evan Dotas, Dave Halley, Cullen McQuhae, Bill & Marie Jones, Christine Bentéjac, David Rumpf, Mrs. Jessica Viglietta, Pam D. Goines, Charlie Previtali, Nicole Shaw, Jean Clayton, Rich Hawkins, Kimberly Hasenfus Hulick, Kristin Fagan, June Atherton, Natalie Potter, Harper Grace, J. Sloan, Paul Hillard, Dale Evans, Marie Johnston, Suzanne Lank, Stanley Lank, Diane Schmidt, Earl Scheetz, Shirley O'Rourke, Xavier Van Bastelaer, Mary Griffin, Makala Thomas, Sibylle Llewellyn, Duncan Nixon, John Patrick Dennison, Christine Russo Carpenter, Lisa Light, Elaine Roberti, Benedict Pax, Jerry Colgate, Timothy Lee Smith, Ned Foss & Jennifer Rinehart, Janet Dunham, Susie Jackson, Fr. Michael Hann, Fr. Joseph Torretto, Mike Charlie, Joel Rivera, Pam Heron, Elizabeth Scott, Kwasi Johnson, Marianne Rossner, Angie Lee, Residents of Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, Residents of Albemarle County Regional Jail, Residents of Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention, In memory of James Brazell.

Members of the Military: William Murray, Trey Linebrink, Jeff Woodside, David Alvey, Brian Fagan, Jamie Torbet, Mike Eiermann, Charles G. Ellison, Eric Emmott, and Matthew Mickiewicz.

Recently Deceased Member of the Parish

Shirley Elaine O'Rourke

PARISH NEWS

2016 FIRST SACRAMENTS CLASS

Please keep these children and their families in your prayers: Lucy Barnaby, Ignatius Blumenfeld, Anders Netland, Tommy Nguyen, Louisa Pesch, Megan Pounsberry, Emily Wetzel, Finbar Wilkinson, Karam Talya, Leo Manka, Esa Pannone, Helena Stewart, Sarah Katherine Zeller Kangas, Philip Tristan ZellerKangas.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

Holy Comforter has a new Wedding Coordinator. Please welcome parishioner, Sile (pronounced Shee-la) Allen as she receives the mantle from Gloria Salvetti. We want to thank Gloria for her many years of faithful service to Holy Comforter. Sila can be reached at seesaw77@mindspring.com. Cell: 434-409-0718 or landline: 434-971-5944. The first step for planning a wedding is to call the office.

MEDJUGORJE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Please join us on Wednesdays in the Chapel at 6:15 for 45 minutes of reflection, prayer and the Rosary. The Sorrowful Mysteries help us to reflect on the Passion of our Lord during this season of Lent. All are welcome.

History of the Rosary by Fr. William Saunders

Part 3 The structure of the rosary gradually evolved between the 12th and 15th centuries. Eventually 50 Hail Mary's were recited and linked with verses of psalms or other phrases evoking the lives of Jesus and Mary. During this time, this prayer form became known as the rosarium ("rose garden"), actually a common term to designate a collection of similar material, such as an anthology of stories on the same subject or theme. During the 16th century, the structure of the five-decade rosary based on the three sets of mysteries prevailed.

Our Blessed Mother's Message to Mirjana, 2/25/2016:

In this time of grace, I am calling all of you to conversion. Little children, you love little and pray even less. You are lost and do not know what your goal is. Take the cross, look at Jesus and follow Him. He gives Himself to you to the death on the cross, because He loves you. Little children, I am calling you: return to prayer with the heart so as to find hope and the meaning of your existence, in prayer. I am with you and am praying for you..... "

LIGHTHOUSE BOOKLET

Is Jesus Really Present in the Eucharist?

Statistics are reporting that over 70% of Catholics polled in America do not believe in the Real Presence of the Lord Jesus in the Eucharist — a verifiable crisis of faith. Using key sources from scripture and tradition, Bishop Michael Evans explains how Jesus is present today when

we celebrate the Mass. This highly readable and accessible text is a must read for all Catholics seeking the proper answer to this dire question.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

BI-PARISH HAITI COMMITTEE

Medical Clinic project and School activities are on the agenda for a visit by parishioners over Spring Break. Father Stephen, Bob Fromm and students: Peter, Maria, Katie, Hattie, and Jane will visit Saltadere March 6-13. Please keep our twin parish and the travelers in your prayers.

Thank you to all those who donated soccer items for our twin parish. And thank you for all the support you give to our twin parish.

Next meeting will be at 1pm March 13 at Holy Comforter.

All are welcome. Contact: e-mail Anne Knasel at anne@stagebridge.net or Ginny Zeller at ginnyannzeller@gmail.com. Website: www.saltadere.org

FOOD PANTRY

If you're a little short on time and a little short on cash, could you manage to throw a decent dinner together? Most of us could once in a while. But if you're working two minimum wage jobs, the problem becomes a little more complex. That's the problem many of the people we help face on a regular basis. Your support of our pantry is crucial. Thanks for your support.

The Holy Comforter Church's Outreach program has been blessed by a \$2,500 grant from the Diocese of Richmond Fuel and Hunger Fund. This grant will allow us to provide more nutritious food for our Soup Kitchen and will also allow us to add basic hygiene items, such as shampoo and toothpaste, to our pantry bags.

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE SECULARS OF THE ORDER OF DISCALCED

CARMELITES are lay people inspired by the Holy Spirit to answer the call to holiness through prayer, study, and apostolic acts of charity. Their spiritual formation is founded on the Carmelite Saints and Doctors of the Church, St Teresa of Jesus, St John of the Cross, and St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The *Community of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity* meets at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Staunton, on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 11:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. If you desire to learn more about this way of life, please pick up a brochure located in the

vestibule of the church. For further information, and to arrange a visit, please contact Patricia McAdams at 286-4055.

CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

is seeking to fill a part time position for their After Care Team. To apply, please download an application from the Catholic Diocese of Richmond (richmonddiocese.org/human/apply.htm) and submit it with your resume and letter of interest by mail to Charlottesville Catholic School, 1205 Pen Park Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901; by fax to (434) 964-1373; or by email to Ms. Sue Dougherty, at s.dougherty@cvillecatholic.org

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT 4/8-4/10/2016

Shalom House Retreat Center, Montpelier, VA

For women and men who have known regret, sorrow, guilt or shame from abortion. The weekend combines living scripture meditations, spiritual exercises, and discussion in a guided process that leads to the heart of God's love and compassion. For more info, contact Marty Montgomery-Jennings at 804-704-0429 or Maggie Carlson at 804-432-2589 or email RV4hope@gmail.com

2016 WOMEN'S CURSILLO WEEKEND: 4/21-4/24/2016

Catholic Women are invited to spend an inspiring long weekend at Camp Overlook near Harrisonburg, with other women who want to deepen their relationship with God and enrich the way each lives out her faith every day. The weekend will be led by a team Catholic women who have made a Cursillo weekend before, along with Fr. Dan Bain and Ms. Patty Huffman participating as spiritual directors. Mass will be held each day, along with engaging reflection times and talks on specific issues of Catholic Christian living. Great food and fun included. Cost: \$60.00 (donations will be accepted at the end of the weekend to allow others to go on a Cursillo Weekend).

For information and downloadable applications, visit the Valley Cursillo website: www.valleycursillo.com or call Rob and Ann Michel at 434-978-3954.

Applications are due Monday, April 14

INTRODUCTION TO CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP,

Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Church of the Incarnation, (1465 Incarnation Drive, Charlottesville.) Centering Prayer was developed by Cistercian Monks, particularly Fr. Thomas Keating, and is supported by Contemplative Outreach, an interfaith network of individuals and groups practicing this prayer. The presenters will be Marianne Gordon, a member of Christ

Episcopal Church and Herb Ely, a member of Church of the Incarnation. Both are certified as presenters by *Contemplative Outreach* and will facilitate this workshop. (Six follow-up sessions are available as well.) This method of prayer is an updated form of ancient Christian meditation practices.

Space is limited. RSVP to herb@ely.fm or 434-295-6969 to reserve a spot. There is no fee for this workshop - a donation basket will be available. Please bring your own lunch.

From the Pastor
IT IS LENT AGAIN (part 6)

Fasting a form of self-denial.

St. John of the Cross one the doctors of the Church who lived during the 16th.C, said that; **"we cannot rise up to God if we are bound to the things of this world."** So, we give up good things, and gradually we grow less dependent on them, less needy. When we fast, we follow holy examples, set for by people like, Moses and Elijah who fasted 40 days before going into God's presence (Ex 34:28, 1 Kgs 19:8). Anna the Prophetess fasted to prepare herself for the coming of the Messiah (Lk 2:37). They all wanted to see God, and they considered fasting a basic prerequisite. We, too, wish to enter God's presence, so we fast.

Jesus fasted (Mt 4:2). And since he needed no purification, he surely did this only to set an example for us. In fact, he assumed that all his followers would follow his example. **"When you fast,"** he said, **"do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting"** (Mt 6:16). Note he did not say, "If you fast," but "when."

And when is now. In Lent the Church extends the idea of fasting, beyond the minimal skipping of meals, to a more far-reaching program of self-denial. Jesus said: **"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself ... daily"** (Lk 9:23). So we deny ourselves certain things for the greater glory that awaits us.

The Bible spells out specific spiritual benefits of fasting. It produces humility (Ps 69:10). It shows our sorrow for our sins (1 Sm 7:6). It clears a path to God (Dn 9:3). It is a means of discerning God's will (Ezr 8:21) and a powerful method of prayer (8:23). It's a mark of true conversion (Jl 2:12).

Fasting helps us to be detached from the things of this world. We fast, not because earthly things are evil, but precisely because they're good. They're God's gifts to us. But they're so good that we sometimes prefer the gifts to the Giver. We practice self-indulgence rather than self-denial. We tend to eat and drink to the point where we forget God. Such indulgence is really a form of idolatry. It's what St. Paul meant when he said, **"their god is the belly ... with minds set on earthly things"** (Phil 3:19).

How can we enjoy God's gifts without forgetting the Giver? Fasting is a good way to start. The body wants more than it needs, so we should give it less than it wants. We may ask; **WHY ALL THIS?** All of this is part of our preparation for heaven. We are destined to lose our earthly goods anyway. Time, age, illness and "doctor's orders" can take away our taste for chocolate, our ability to enjoy a cold beer and even the intimate embrace of a loved one. If we have no discipline over our desires, then these losses will leave us bitter and estranged from God. But if we follow Jesus in self-denial, we'll find a more habitual consolation in the ultimate good -- God himself.

No one says that fasting is easy. In fact a Benedictine monk once said; **"Fasting can seem very hard, and it can seem that if I do not eat I will become weak and will not be able to work, or pray, or do anything. Yet, there is that marvelous moment,"** he adds, **"when, after some hours have passed, my stomach has stopped growling and I've even forgotten what I've given up, there is a lightness, a freedom, a clarity of the senses and a brightness of attitude and feeling, an incomparable closeness to the Lord."**

Lent is a special season, but God wants these 40 days to have a lasting effect on our lives. So, in a sense, fasting is for always. We could say that it's good for a person to try to make some small sacrifice at each meal, always, and not just during Lent. If there is any way we can work with Christ to redeem the world, practicing self-denial in everyday, ordinary eating and drinking, to take a bit less, to avoid eating between meals, to skip a snack or dessert, without making a big deal of it, is simple and doable. To force myself to curb my appetites, to not satisfy my desires -- even for a short period of time -- this is a good way to honor my God and to benefit my neighbor.