

**SAINTS TO REMEMBER**

March 27 Lazarus  
 28 St. Catharine of Bologna  
 29 St. Ludovico of Casoria  
 30 St. Peter Regalado  
 31 St. Stephen of Mar Saba  
 April 1 St. Hugh of Grenoble  
 2 St. Francis of Paola  
 3 St. Benedict the African

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, March 26  
 8 PM Members of the Parish  
 Sunday, March 27  
 7:00 AM John & Jeanne Chamales (John & Sylvia Valloric)  
 11 AM Sick Members of the Parish  
 3 PM: Shirley O'Rourke (Martha Cassell)  
 Saturday, April 2  
 8 AM Members of the Parish  
 5 PM †Jack Raines (Mike and Denise James)  
 Sunday, April 3  
 8:30 AM †Shirley O'Rourke (The Slezak Family)  
 11 AM Sick Members of the Parish

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER**

**First Reading**

*Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16*

Peter and the apostles perform many signs and wonders.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24*

A song of praise to the Lord.

**Second Reading**

*Revelation 1:9-11a,12-13,17-19*

John describes the instruction he received to write down his vision.

**Gospel Reading**

*John 20:19-31*

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

**SATURDAY (3/26)**

**10 - NOON: Reconciliation (Note time change.)**

8 PM: Easter Vigil MASS

**SUNDAY (3/27) EASTER SUNDAY**

NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION

7 AM: MASS

9 AM: MASS

11 AM: MASS

3 PM: Latin MASS

**MONDAY (3/28)**

OFFICE CLOSED

10 AM: Prayer Group (*Chapel*)

NOON: MASS

**TUESDAY (3/29)**

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: MASS

**WEDNESDAY (3/30)**

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: MASS

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

**THURSDAY (3/31)**

8 AM: MASS

NOON: Soup Kitchen

**FRIDAY (4/1)**

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: MASS followed by Adoration until 2PM

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

**SATURDAY (4/2)**

8 AM: MASS

3:30-4:30PM: Reconciliation

5 PM: Vigil MASS

**SUNDAY (4/3)**

NO CHRISTIAN FORMATION

8:30 AM: MASS

11 AM: Children's MASS

12:30 PM: Dante Book Group (CRE 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 19-20, 2016     \$5477.00

Justice & Peace \$141.00  
 Outreach \$218.00  
 Easter Flowers \$90.00  
 Catholic Virginian \$31.00  
 Catholic Relief \$35.00  
 Haiti Food \$80.00  
 Saturday Retreat \$140.00

Weekly Offertory Budget     \$7173.00  
 Offertory Received     \$5477.00  
*Weekly Deficit*     \$1696.00

**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 Bednarcyk, 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**

**Adult Formation opportunity:** Please join us for a study and discussion on the Holy Year of Mercy. We will use a DVD by Fr. Michael Renninger, pastor of St. Mary Catholic Church in Richmond called "Reflections on the Year of Mercy. The 5 sessions, led by Sue Dougherty, will be held from 9:45-10:45am beginning Sunday, April 10 through Sunday, May 8. Please email Sue at [cre@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:cre@holycomforterparish.org) if you are interested in attending.

**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 Wetzell, Finbar Wilkinson, Karam Talya, Leo Manka, Esa Pannone, Helena Stewart, Sarah Katherine Zeller Kangas, Philip Tristan Zeller Kangas.

**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 4 - Tradition does hold that St. Dominic (d. 1221) devised the rosary as we know it. Moved by a vision of our Blessed Mother, he preached the use of the rosary in his missionary work among the Albigensians, who had denied the mystery of Christ. Some scholars take exception to St. Dominic's role in forming the rosary. The earliest accounts of his life do not mention it, the Dominican constitutions do not link him with it and contemporaneous portraits do not include it as a symbol to identify the saint.

In 1922, Dom Louis Cougaud stated, "The various elements which enter into the composition of that Catholic devotion commonly called the rosary are the product of a long and gradual development which began before St. Dominic's time, which continued without his having any share in it, and which only attained its final shape several centuries after his death." However, other scholars would rebut that St. Dominic not so much "invented" the rosary as he preached its use to convert sinners and those who had strayed from the faith.

Moreover, at least a dozen popes have mentioned St. Dominic's connection with the rosary, sanctioning his role as at least a "pious belief."

**FEATURED LIGHTHOUSE CD**

*7 Secrets of Divine Mercy*

Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis have made it clear that Divine Mercy is at the very center of the Christian faith. Enter into the Year of Mercy with best-selling author, Vinny Flynn, as he shares his 7 Secrets of Divine Mercy, and Christ's message of love for each of us, and for the whole world.

**SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

**BI-PARISH HAITI COMMITTEE**

**Easter in Haiti:** Let us pray with Father Petina and the parish of St. Michel that God will bless them with Easter blessings. Father Petina sends thanks to the students, Fr. Stephen and Bob Fromm for their visit.

**Report from the travelers to Haiti:** See the website for more details and pictures.

**Help** is needed to prepare donated computers for Haiti. See contact information below.

**Next meeting:** April 10 at St. Thomas Aquinas at 1 PM. All are welcome. Contact: e-mail Anne Knasel at [anne@stagebridge.net](mailto:anne@stagebridge.net) or Ginny Zeller at [ginnyanzeller@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyanzeller@gmail.com). Website: [www.saltadere.org](http://www.saltadere.org).

**FOOD PANTRY**

Since the first of the year the price of food, especially fresh produce has risen regularly, but many people in our community are still working part time to earn up to \$9.00 an hour. It's hard to feed a family, as well as pay the rent and provide clothing for rapidly growing children on that amount of money. That's where we come in, providing at least some help through our pantry program. We can't solve all the problems in our community, but if we combine the food we distribute with the care we show, we do a lot of good. Please help.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**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](mailto:RV4hope@gmail.com)

**WALK FOR LIFE – Saturday, April 16**

**Registration - 8:30. Fun Run - 8:45. Walk - 9:00.**

Here is an opportunity to put your faith into action!

Help local women choose life for their babies. Be a fundraising walker in the upcoming Walk for Life. All proceeds benefit The Pregnancy Centers of Central Virginia. Pick up a fundraising form in the Commons or visit [www.pccvfriends.org](http://www.pccvfriends.org). The Walk for Life is an easy, stroller-friendly, 1.5 mile walk, and it is an event that appeals to all ages. There will be a continental breakfast, balloons, face painting, a Fun Run for kids and exciting prizes. Raise funds, save lives! For additional information, please contact Keri-Ann Byrne at 434-979-4516 or at [Keri-Ann@virginiapregnancy.org](mailto:Keri-Ann@virginiapregnancy.org).

**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](http://www.valleycursillo.com) or call Rob and Ann Michel at [434-978-3954](tel:434-978-3954).

**Applications are due Monday, April 14**

*From the Pastor***ALLELUIA THE TOMB IS EMPTY (# 1)**

***“And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.” And those who have died in Christ have perished.***

In most cases when something is said to be empty there is usually a negative connotation for instance, “my fuel tank is empty, the wine bottle is empty, the treasury is empty,” etc. On the day of the Resurrection of Jesus, however the word EMPTY takes up a triumphant and victorious character.

When very early in the morning on the first day of the week some women went to the tomb with spices to anoint the body of Jesus they found the stone used to close the tomb had been rolled away and going in they found the tomb empty. They were confused and disappointed, but two angels on the ground told them that the one they seek is alive and not among the dead; thus, the empty tomb is, after all, a wonderful indication that the Lord has risen to life.

From the event above we understand emptiness from a different perspective. It speaks of a plus instead of a minus situation. In fact there is more to it than the absence of our Lord Jesus Christ from the tomb. When humanity failed in Adam we became empty by losing our connection with God. To beget our redemption Jesus Christ emptied himself of his equality with God and took our human form (Phil.2:7-8). This he did so that we can be refilled. The tomb became empty so that our lives may be filled with the power of the risen Lord.

Furthermore the emptiness of the tomb is an indication of the futility of life without Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ is absent from any segment of our lives we stagger in hopeless and senseless emptiness. Attentive to this the preacher said “vanity upon vanity; all is vanity,” (Eccles. 1:2). The empty tomb is also an indication of the futility of the power of the devil. It shows that the promises of the devil are but empty promises (Luke 4:3-13). By his resurrection Jesus emptied our lives of sin and evil and filled us with good things (Psalm 107:9; Rom.15:13).

Arguments for and against the empty tomb had preoccupied biblical scholars for a long time. It makes no sense to me to go into all of such arguments and there is no room for it because the joy of the risen Lord so much fills our mind and heart that there may not be any room for such baseless arguments.

It will be more profitable to explore what actually happened between the time of the burial of Jesus Christ and his resurrection on the third day. When Jesus died his body was buried in the tomb but his spirit descended into hell (as we proclaim in the creed: “**He descended into hell.**”) The hell referred to in this passage is not the lake of fire described in the book of Revelation (20:14). Hell as used here refers to hades which in Greek means a place of the dead. We see this very clearly in the book of Revelation (20:12) which tells us the dead would first be judged before their fate is determined. St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians (4:8-10) tells us what this descending into hell means and St. Peter supports his view (1 Pet.3:19) by telling us that he descended into hell to preach to the souls there, and to share with them the good news of the new heaven and of the new earth.

Jesus the Lord of the living and the dead stands triumphantly between heaven and earth to make a point that even death cannot release anyone from the authority of God’s Son. He is Lord of both the living and the dead. As people of faith we hold on to the view that people must decide to either yield or rebel against Him, but they have the opportunity to make this choice only while they are still living. Now that Lent is over, have you recommitted yourself to Christ’s rule over your life? His authority causes anger or fear in individuals who have not yet yielded to Him, but those who have experienced His loving kindness, trusted in His goodness, and surrendered to His authority, take comfort in his real living presence in the Eucharist, and know Him as the Lord who is full of compassion and mercy, who instills in those who love and serve him, the same character as His, to rise from the dead. Alleluia praise the Lord. Can you name your EMPTY TOMB?