

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

December 4 St. John Damascus
 5 St. Sabbas
 6 St. Nicholas
 7 St. Ambrose
 8 St. Immaculate Conception
 9 St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
 10 St. Gregory III

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 3
8:00 AM Julie Zackrisson (Martha Cassell)
5:00 PM Members of the Parish
 Sunday, December 4
8:30 AM Deceased Members of the Parish
11:00 AM Patrick Moran Family (Judy Pateman)
 Monday, December 5
NOON †David Drucker (Jaylene Drucker)
 Thursday, December 8
NOON †Josephine and Fred Scarleta †Les and Angela Gillen (Peter and Ginnie Gillen)
7 PM
 Saturday, December 10
5:00 PM Members of the Parish
 Sunday, December 11
8:30 AM †Peter Colo (Marlene Wood)
11:00 AM †Frank Wachter (Rosemarie Calzadilla)

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

First Reading
Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
 In the day of the Lord, all sorrow and mourning will cease.
Responsorial Psalm
Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
 The Lord will save his people.
Second Reading
James 5:7-10
 Be patient, and be ready; the coming of the Lord is near.
Gospel Reading
Matthew 11:2-11
 Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

WELCOME OUR NEWLY REGISTERED PARISHIONERS!

Gina and John Condi
 Howard Mitchell, III
 The Kristina and Brian Shonat Family

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (12/3)

8 AM: MASS
9 AM: Cursillo (*Office*)
3:30-4:30 PM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
5 PM: Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (12/4) SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Altar Flowers Provided by Anonymous Donation)

7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
8:30 AM: Children's MASS
9:40-10:50 AM: RCIA (*CRE Office*)
9:45-10:45 AM: Christian Formation: St. Nicholas Celebration (*Lower Level*)
11:00 AM: MASS
4 PM: Youth Ministry (*Meeting at Casa Alma*)

MONDAY (12/5)

10:30 AM: Divine Will Prayer Group (*Chapel*)

NOON: MASS

TUESDAY (12/6)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: MASS

WEDNESDAY (12/7)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: MASS

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

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

7 PM: Vigil MASS (*Church*)

THURSDAY (12/8) THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holy Day of Obligation)

NOON: MASS

NOON: Soup Kitchen

7 PM: MASS

FRIDAY (12/9)

8 AM: MASS

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

SATURDAY (12/10)

8 AM: MASS

9 AM: Cursillo

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

5 PM: Vigil MASS (**Haiti Craft and Coffee Sale**)

SUNDAY (12/11) THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Altar Flowers Provided by Ginnie Gillen)

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

8:30 AM: Children's MASS (**Haiti Craft and Coffee Sale**)

9:40-10:50 AM: RCIA (*CRE Office*)

9:45-10:45 AM: Christian Formation (*Lower Level*)

9:45-10:45 AM: First Sacraments Parents Meeting (*Chapel*)

11:00 AM: MASS (**Haiti Craft and Coffee Sale**)

4 PM: Youth Ministry

GIFTS FROM GOD

Offertory November 19-20, 2016 (Plate)	\$4,662.50
Outreach	\$230
Campaign for Human Development	593
Justice and Peace	285
Weekly Offertory Budget	\$7,173.00
Offertory Received	<u>4,662.50</u>
Deficit	(\$2,510.50)
Offertory November 26-27, 2016 (Plate)	\$4,819.50
Offertory (Online)	1,195.00
Outreach	\$377
Archdiocese for the Military Services	225
Haiti	397
Weekly Offertory Budget	\$7,173.00
Offertory Received	<u>6,014.50</u>
Deficit	(\$1,158.50)

PARISH NEWS

ADVENT RETREAT AND THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR OF MERCY SCHEDULE 12/16-12/18

The privileges for the Jubilee of Mercy may change But GOD'S MERCY IS NOT LIMITED

Friday December 16

4-6 PM: Adoration and Benediction.

Saturday December 17

8 AM: MASS Followed by The Rosary.

9:00AM: Confessions

10 AM-NOON: Leader, Fr. Brian Capuano, St. Joseph Parish, Petersburg

1-4 PM: Adoration and Confessions

5 PM: MASS.

Sunday, December 18

8:30AM: MASS followed by The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy.

11 AM: MASS and Unveiling The Gift of Divine Mercy for the Parish, followed by The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy and Close.

BEST ADVENT EVER

"Wrap Presents and Be Present."

Rediscover Christmas, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic, will help you slow down and focus on what really matters during the busy season. Sign up at BestAdventEver.com. Flyers are available in the Commons with more details.

PARISHIONER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

12/23 Regina and Stephen Grammatico (1972)

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

THE ILL & HOME BOUND:

Parishioners: Shawn Simpson-Smith, Mary Fusco, Eileen Foster, Jack Valloric, Tam Nguyen, Rachel Witt, Jack Andrews, Joe Murray, Helen Edwards, Betty Jane Prufer, Fran Cannon Slayton, Ron Lavis, Sue Newman, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Norman Bednarczyk, Nicholas Sisman, Mary Ann Williams, Rose Bowker, Hermann Ortmann, Katherine Russo, Charley and Kitty Moore.

Friends and Relatives: Ron Lavis, James Worley, Carolyn Ann Davis, Blandine Attey, Andy Gillespie, Michael James McNeil, JoAnn Fox Klein, George Lilly, The Campbell Family, Fred Crane, Bill Eddy, Susan Steeby, Lisa Marshall, John Lank, Susan Straub Martin, George William Polhill, II, Claudia Hartland, Betsy Boyce, Michael Norton, Leslie Gilliam, 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, Diane Schmidt, Earl Scheetz, Shirley O'Rourke, Xavier Van Bastelaer, Mary Griffin, Makala Thomas, Sibylle Llewellyn, Duncan Nixon, John Patrick Dennison, Christine Russo Carpenter, Elaine Roberti, Benedict Pax, Jerry Colgate, Timothy Lee Smith, Ned Foss & Jennifer Rinehart, Janet Dunham, 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: Tom Logan, William Murray, Trey Linebrink, Jeff Woodside, David Alvey, Brian Fagan, Jamie Torbet, Mike Eiermann, Charles G. Ellison, Eric Emmott, and Matthew Mickiewicz.

SACRISTANS NEEDED

Help is needed to maintain our sacred space. There is an urgent need for someone who can assist in maintaining and ironing altar cloths. Please contact the office or Suzanne Bailey (slank@ntelos.net; 296-5033) for details.

LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA (IN THE COMMONS)

The True Meaning of Christmas

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's books, tapes, homilies, retreats, and television series have inspired countless souls all over the world. This digitally-mastered presentation combines classic recordings of his timeless reflections on the meaning of the Incarnation of Jesus, mixed with Gregorian Chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!

MEDJUGORJE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Please join us this Advent season in preparation for the birth of our Savior. We pray the rosary every Wednesday in the Chapel at 6:15 pm. Please add your prayer requests to our intention book outside of the Chapel. All are welcomed!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COATS FOR CHRISTMAS

Council 3670 will be distributing coats for Christmas to children in-need from our community. Each coat costs \$20. If you would like to contribute to this effort, Knights will be accepting donations the weekend of December 17th & 18th.

HAITI

Meet Father Petina, pastor of St. Michel, at the "Who is My Neighbor" event December 17 after the 5:15 PM Mass at St. Thomas. See this week's bulletin insert for further information. During his visit, Father Petina will meet with the Haiti committee and the twinning pastors to plan our upcoming visits to Saltadere and to report on progress made at the school and the medical clinic.

Haitian Craft and Coffee Sale: Haitian crafts and fair-trade Haitian coffee will be on sale *here after all Masses the weekend of December 10th and 11th*. Please stop by to see some wonderful ideas for Christmas gifts.

Bi-Parish Haiti Committee: December meeting will be with Father Petina and will include making plans with him for future support we may be able to provide to our twin parish. **All are welcome.**

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

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

HIGH SCHOOL FORMATION

The next meeting of our High School Youth Ministry will take place **THIS Sunday, December 4**. We will meet at the church at **3:45 pm** and travel to Casa Alma for their Open House, returning to Holy Comforter by 5:30pm. Learn how you can become involved in this beautiful outreach ministry in our community.

FIRST SACRAMENTS

An orientation for all parents whose children are preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be held on **Sunday, December 11, at 9:45** in the chapel. Please mark your calendar and plan ahead, as it is important be present for this event. Registration forms for First Sacraments are due by **Monday, December 5**. If your child was baptized outside of Holy Comforter Parish, a Baptism certificate must be included with the registration fee.

CONFIRMATION 2016-2017: The next Confirmation preparation class will take place on **Sunday, December 18** following the 11:00 Mass. Registration is still open to all students who are at least 15 years of age and in the 10th grade. Registration forms are available in the Commons and on the website.

Christmas Nativity Play: Children of the parish are invited to participate in the reenactment of the Nativity Story according to the Gospel of Luke during the Christmas Eve Family Mass at 2:30 PM. Please use the Sign-Up Genius to indicate roles that your child(ren) might like to play. There will be a PRACTICE for the play on **Saturday, Dec. 17 at 4:00 PM**. Please contact Sue Dougherty at cre@holyccomforterparish.org for more information.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

EVENING OF MUSIC AT CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Church of the Incarnation Festival Choir presents An Evening of Music for Advent and Christmas on Friday December 16 at 7 PM in the Worship Center. A reception will follow the concert in the Parish Hall.

SIMBANG GABI

The Filipino Commission of the Diocese of Richmond will host Simbang Gabi, a long treasured Philippine tradition that lasts for nine consecutive days before Christmas Day. Its liturgical significance emanates from the Season of Advent, being the time of spiritual preparation to worthily welcome and receive the Child Jesus in our midst. Please join us for the opening Mass at 11 AM on Saturday, December 10 at Star of the Sea, 1404 Pacific Avenue, Virginia Beach. The main celebrant and homilist is Most Reverend Ramon C. Arguelles, D.D., Archbishop of Lipa. Reception immediately following. The first day of Simbang Gabi begins on Thursday, December 15, 7:00pm at Holy Rosary in Richmond and St. Luke in Virginia Beach. The full schedule is available in the commons. Please join us for our Simbang Gabi Novena Masses!

FROM THE PASTOR
TIME TO IGNITE THE LIGHT WITHIN
ADVENT 2016 #2



“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”(Mt.5: 14)

Jesus told those at the Sermon on the Mount. **You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.** What kind of people did he say this to? Farmers, fishermen, tax collectors, housewives, in short these were ordinary folks in a tiny remote village in an obscure part of the world. Such a statement of faith. It must have sounded absurd at the time even to them. But so are we. Who are we? We might see ourselves as nothing but this is how God sees us. **(Phil 2:15) children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.** You and I are the light of the world. Something we need to remind ourselves all the time. What does it mean? We have a responsibility for the world to be a signal that guides, to penetrate the darkness and expose evil and error, for Jesus said, **“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil and everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”** (Jn. 3:20-21).

We are aware that light is used to prevent sin (*security lights in dark areas*). Light is used to produce growth (*plants*). Light does not exist for its own glory. While we struggle to ignite the light within we have to keep in mind that we are not the source of light; we are reflectors of a much greater source. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”(Jn. 9:12). We are like the moon. The moon gives off no light of its own. It just reflects the sun’s light. There is **One, the Son of God**, who has touched our lives and given us the power and authority to touch others.

I came across a story of Benjamin Franklin; to convince the people of Philadelphia of the advantage of street lighting, he decided to show his neighbors by placing one in front of his house. He purchased an attractive lantern, polished the glass, and placed it on an extended pole in front of his house. Each evening, he would light the wick and hang out the lantern. Before long all of his neighbors noticed the light and even those far up the street noticed the warm glow around his house. The people passing by his house were delighted because it made walking in the dark so much easier. Soon, other placed lanterns in front of their homes and eventually the city recognized the need for having well lighted streets. This is what Jesus is talking about a CITY on a hill cannot be hidden. There is a candle in each one of us, some brightly burning, some dark and cold. There is a Spirit who brings a fire ignites a candle and makes His home. This Advent is the time to allow the Holy Spirit in us to ignite that candle that we may hold out our candles for all to see and give glory to the Heavenly Father. **(To be continued.).**

ADVENT SNAPSHOT 2nd. SUNDAY.

- WE NEED TO PREPARE FOR CHRIST’S COMING.
- ALLOW HIM IN OUR DAILY LIVES.
- REPENT AND RENEW OUR LIVES THROUGH PRAYER AND PENANCE.
- DO SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE.