

**SAINTS TO REMEMBER**

January 1 Solemnity Of Mary, Holy Mother Of God  
 2 St. Basil the Great  
 3 St. Genevieve  
 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
 5 St. John N. Neumann  
 6 Epiphany of the Lord  
 7 St. Raymond Penyafort

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, December 31  
**5 PM** Members of our Parish Ministries  
 Sunday, January 1  
**8:30 AM** Members of and Visitors to our Parish  
**11:00 AM** The Bacek Family (Judith Pateman)  
 Saturday, January 7  
**5 PM †** Ralph Marra (Barbara Marra)  
 Sunday, January 8  
**8:30 AM** Members of and Visitors to our Parish  
**11:00 AM** Members of and Visitors to our Parish

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS  
 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.

**THE GREAT NEWS**

**HOLY COMFORTER HAS BECOME A MOTHER AGAIN**

Holy Comforter Catholic parish has always been proud of being a mother of the two Catholic parishes in Charlottesville: **St. Thomas Aquinas and Church of the Incarnation**. On December 15, 2016, a decree from our Bishop Francis X DiLorenzo has made the Crozet Catholic Community **"a Mission Parish to be administered and nurtured by Holy Comforter Catholic Church."** It is a blessing to be a mother once again, as it is a clear sign of our faith-filled community. A spirit of Evangelization is found among the Parishioners of Holy Comforter. Long live Holy Comforter and may we continue to grow.

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

**SATURDAY (12/31)**

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

**SUNDAY (1/1) SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**(Altar Flowers Provided by Members of the Parish)**

**7-7:45 AM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)  
**8:30 AM:** MASS  
**11:00 AM:** MASS

**MONDAY (1/2) CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED TODAY**

**NOON:** MASS

**TUESDAY (1/3)**

**10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry  
**NOON:** MASS

**WEDNESDAY (1/4)**

**10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry  
**NOON:** MASS  
**NOON:** AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)  
**6:15 PM** Medjugorje Rosary Prayer Group (*Chapel*)

**THURSDAY (1/5)**

**NOON:** MASS  
**NOON:** Soup Kitchen

**FRIDAY (1/6)**

**8 AM:** MASS  
**10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry  
**NOON:** AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

**SATURDAY (1/7)**

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

**SUNDAY (1/8) THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**(Altar Flowers Provided by Members of the Parish)**

**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 (*Lower Level*)  
**9:45-10:45 AM:** First Penance Children's Class (*Lower Level*)  
**9:45-10:45 AM:** First Penance Parents' Meeting (*Chapel*)  
**11:00 AM:** MASS  
**1:30 PM:** Latin MASS  
**4 PM:** Youth Ministry (*Bernard Moore Room*)

**VOCATIONS**

"God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts." If the Spirit of Jesus is prompting you to love and serve Him as a priest, call Father Michael G. Boehling, Vicar for Vocations, at (804) 359-5661 or email mboehling@richmonddiocese.org.

## GIFTS FROM GOD

*Due to Bulletin publication deadlines, the Christmas Offertory will be reported next week. Thank you for your generosity to our Parish.*

### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

You will notice something different in this month's packet of offertory envelopes. We have made a switch to *Our Sunday Visitor*, the nation's only Catholic not-for-profit offering envelope supplier. Our parish will realize a significant cost savings and we hope you will find them more colorful and appreciative of your sacrifice.

### e-GIVING

As a reminder, we offer electronic giving, as well. All the current envelope collections are available there. Please visit [www.holycomforterparish.org](http://www.holycomforterparish.org) and click the **Online Giving** link to get started or to access your existing account.

## PARISH NEWS

### LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA (IN THE COMMONS)

*Don't Just Try... TRAIN!*

Take life to the next level. Inspiring, yet practical, Matthew Kelly offers a life-changing message and a valuable training partner for life's spiritual marathon. Encouraging young and old to adopt a program of spiritual discipline. Kelly insists, "If you want your future to be different from your past, you have to change your habits."

### MEDJUGORJE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Merry Christmas to everyone, as we celebrate the most holy birth of Jesus Christ, come join us in praying a weekly rosary in the Chapel at 6:15 every Wednesday evening. We also pray for our Parishioners intentions and prayer requests. Please add your intention to our intention book which is outside of the Chapel. All are welcomed to come pray with us. We look forward to meeting you and having you join our prayer group family.

### HAITI

**Thank you** to all who have contributed by prayer, work and generosity to the ongoing progress at St. Michel, Saltadere, Haiti. Father Petina thanks all from our twinning parishes on behalf of his parish community.

**Bi-Parish Haiti Committee:** The next meeting will be on January 22, 2017. **All are welcome. Contact:** e-mail Anne Knasel at [anne@stagebridge.net](mailto:anne@stagebridge.net) or Ginny Zeller at [ginnyannzeller@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyannzeller@gmail.com). Website: [www.saltadere.org](http://www.saltadere.org).

### 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:** Normand Auger, Mike Charlie, Frances Charlie, Clyde Pax, Jack Andrews, 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, 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

Sacristans Needed: Help is needed to maintain our sacred space. Time commitments from as little as one hour per week for one month out of the year. Training provided. Please contact the office or Suzanne Bailey ([slank@ntelos.net](mailto:slank@ntelos.net); 296-5033) for details.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### CHRISTMAS FORMATION CLASSES K-8

CF class will resume on Sunday, January 8 at 9:45 with a small Epiphany Celebration. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and blessings in the New Year!

### FIRST SACRAMENTS

The first class for First Penance preparation will be held on **Sunday, January 8 at 9:45 am**. Children will meet downstairs, while parents will meet with Sue Dougherty in the chapel. Parents who were not able to attend the orientation meeting will also receive that information. If you have not already done so, please bring registration forms and, if your child was not baptized at Holy Comforter, a copy of their Baptismal Certificate.

### HIGH SCHOOL FORMATION

Our next Youth Ministry meeting will be held on Sunday, January 8, at 4:00 PM in the Bernard Moore Room. We will take a look at Divine Revelation: How do we know that God is real? It's a very important question that you'll want to be able to answer!

## CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

### CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The faculty and staff at Charlottesville Catholic School wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and blessed New Year!

Charlottesville Catholic School is a nationally recognized school offering pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. We are a regional Catholic School, serving the families of Charlottesville and the surrounding counties of Central Virginia. We value excellence in education, as evidenced by our standardized testing scores ranking among the highest in the country. We believe that nurturing Catholic values of faith and community, along with excellence in education, fosters character, leadership development, and citizenship.

Charlottesville Catholic School is now accepting applications for the 2017-18 school year. Contact Katrina Kuhn (434-964-0400 or [k.kuhn@cvillecatholic.org](mailto:k.kuhn@cvillecatholic.org)) to learn more and schedule a tour. Applications are available at <http://cvillecatholic.org/admissions/>.

### DIOCESE'S SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

*Diocese of Richmond in Compliance with Dallas Charter*  
Independent auditors have determined the Diocese of Richmond is in compliance with the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

## COMMONWEALTH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

*Serving those in need throughout the Diocese of Richmond.*

CCC serves our communities in four areas:

Children's Services - *We believe each child is unique and deserves to grow-up in a healthy, nurturing home.*

Housing Services - *We believe that individuals and families can achieve and maintain stable housing and meet their financial goals.*

Resettlement Services - *We believe in meeting the basic needs of refugees so that they can live free from oppression and fear.*

Counseling Services - *We believe in guiding people through difficult situations toward productive, happy lives.*

If you are interested in additional ways to be a part of CCC's mission, YOU CAN:

Become a foster parent to kids and teens

Donate coats, blankets, and gloves to our homeless services programs

Become a refugee advocate in your local community

Donate diapers, wipes, and clothing for our baby closet

Refer someone struggling with addiction to our counseling program

### OFFICE FOR EVANGELIZATION

*"Encounter the Joy of the Gospel and Set the World Ablaze"* is the Diocese of Richmond's five-year pastoral plan for evangelization, anchored in Jesus' joyful message. It captures the joy of the Gospel re-imagined in two movements: the internal conversion of individuals and parishes and the external proclamation of this Good News to the world.

Year 1 (2014) Personal Encounters with Jesus Christ

Year 2 (2014-15) Focusing on the Domestic Church

Year 3 (2015-16) Equipping the Parish

Year 4 (2016-17) Missioning disciples Locally

Year 5 (2017-18) Missioning Disciples Globally

### DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE 2017: FULLY ALIVE

The Youth of our Diocese will gather at the Richmond Marriott from Friday, February 10 to Sunday, February 12 for a high energy weekend of faith, fellowship and fun. Registration is open until January 10 through parishes. For more information, contact Sue Dougherty, Coordinator of Religious Education, [cre@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:cre@holycomforterparish.org)

**The Holy Comforter Parish Staff extends our heartfelt wishes that God will bless and keep you all New Year!**

**FROM THE PASTOR 2017**

***"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me" (Jn.6:38)***

The end of one year and the beginning of another is usually a time to look back to what has been and to look forward to what can be. This includes to looking into the positive as well as into the negative things. To look forward to what can be or should be possible is also an important exercise. For us the Children of God and disciples of Jesus Christ we have one vision in view by the mission statement give to us by the Master; **"My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work."(4:34)** If this can be our focus in 2017 we will never fail to accomplish the mission for which we were born.

The prophet Joel, inspired by God, spoke as follows: "I will pour out my Spirit on all mankind. Your old people shall dream dreams and your young people shall see visions." It is important to dream, to try to imagine how, for example, we can help in some small way to make Holy Comforter the best parish ever. "I have a dream," these words have been immortalized by Martin Luther King, Jr. The dream was a clear vision of where he wanted to take his people: calling them from bondage to freedom. It was like an Exodus event. Not all of us are called in this way to be leaders. But all of us are called to make our own contribution to its realization. All are called to make a difference in our own and others lifestyles so that the will of God is realized.

Another great visionary Nelson Mandela. In just a few short sentences he described his life's journey as "The long walk to freedom." May be up to now you have been in bondage of your own whims preventing you to experience the freedom of the children of God. One may begin to listen and follow the voice of the Master who leads to true freedom.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, writes about the mystery hidden for all ages in God and which now has been made known to us in Christ. It is the dream or vision of God's plan for the world and the mission of the Church in that plan: to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

Jesus, our Savior and God, became man to give us full freedom as Sons of God. In Jesus and with Jesus we can realize all our dreams and hopes because he said: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart: and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

On the threshold of the New Year 2017 I greet you and convey my sincere congratulations on this blessed occasion. I extend my wishes that the New Year be one filled with faith, hope, love, joy, and prosperity for us all. May our Lord and Savior be someone to whom we can turn in our weak, joyful and painful moments. May our Mother Mary refuge of sinners and Mother of Mercy help us to internalize the **Magnificat song this year that we may enjoy all that comes from the good hand of God the Father.**