

**SAINTS TO REMEMBER**

December 18 Sts. Rufus and Zosimus  
 19 St. Nemesius  
 20 St. Ammon and Companions  
 21 St. Peter Canisius  
 22 St. Chaeremon  
 23 St. John of Kanty  
 24 Vigil of Christmas

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, December 17  
 8:00 AM Ryan Gerling  
 5:00 PM Members of the Parish  
 Sunday, December 18  
 8:30 AM †Peter Colo (Kay Colo)  
 11:00 AM †Ronald Richard Nowicki (Rob Nowicki) †Dave Gerling (Maria A. Gerling)  
 Monday, December 19  
 NOON Sandra Johnson  
 Thursday, December 22  
 8 AM Clementine Ishimwe (Alice Mikielski)  
 Friday, December 23  
 NOON Clementine Ishimwe  
 Saturday, December 24  
 2:30 PM Members of and Visitors to our Parish  
 5 PM Members of and Visitors to our Parish  
 7 PM Members of and Visitors to our Parish  
 Sunday, December 25  
 8:30 AM Members of and Visitors to our Parish  
 11:00 AM Members of and Visitors to our

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS  
 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

Parish  
**First Reading**  
*Isaiah 52:7-10*  
 The good news, the Gospel - the Lord comforts his people by announcing our salvation.  
**Responsorial Psalm**  
*Psalm 98*  
 Sing a New Song.  
**Second Reading**  
*Hebrews 1:1-6*  
 Now God speaks to us more clearly than ever before. His Son is with us - God is with us; we are his people.  
**Gospel Reading**  
*John 1:1-18*  
 The Word of God is the living Word. The Word became flesh and lives in our midst.

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

**SATURDAY (12/17)**

8 AM: MASS (followed by *The Rosary*)  
 9 AM-4:30 PM: ADVENT RETREAT (see schedule within)  
 9-9:45 PM: Reconciliation  
 10 AM-NOON: Father Brian Capuano, Petersburg, "*The Incarnation, the Church, the World and You*"  
 NOON: Lunch  
 1-4 PM: Penitential Service and Confessions  
 2 PM: Children's Rehearsal  
 5 PM: Vigil MASS (*Knights of Columbus Coat Drive*)

**SUNDAY (12/18) FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
 (Altar Flowers Provided by Anonymous Donation)**

7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (Chapel)  
 8:30 AM: MASS (followed by *The Chaplet of Divine Mercy*) (*Knights of Columbus Coat Drive*)  
 9:30 AM: Children's Choir Rehearsal  
 11:00 AM: MASS, *Unveiling The Gift of Divine Mercy for the Parish* (followed by *The Chaplet of Divine Mercy*) and *Close The Jubilee Year of Mercy*  
 (*Knights of Columbus Coat Drive*)  
 NOON: Children's Choir Rehearsal

**MONDAY (12/19)**

10:30 AM: Divine Will Prayer Group (Chapel)  
 NOON: MASS

**TUESDAY (12/20)**

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry  
 NOON: MASS

**WEDNESDAY (12/21)**

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

**THURSDAY (12/22)**

NOON: MASS  
 NOON: Soup Kitchen

**FRIDAY (12/23) CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED TODAY**

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

**SATURDAY (12/24) VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS**

2:30 PM Children's MASS  
 4:30 PM Christmas Carols with Choir (Commons)  
 5 PM MASS with Choir  
 7 PM Vigil MASS

**SUNDAY (12/25) THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

(Altar Flowers Provided by Members of the Parish)  
 7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (Chapel)  
 8:30 AM: MASS

11:00 AM: MASS

<b>GIFTS FROM GOD</b>
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Offertory November 10-11, 2016 (Plate)	
\$4,487.50	
Feast of the Immaculate Conception	\$855
Outreach	1,623
Justice and Peace	75
Christmas Flowers	267
Weekly Offertory Budget	
\$7,173.00	
Offertory Received	
<u>4,487.50</u>	
<i>Deficit</i>	
(\$2,685.50)	

*There will be a second collection on Christmas*

<b>PARISH NEWS</b>
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*for Catholic Charities*

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS**

**December 24, 2016**

2:30 PM Children's MASS

5 PM MASS with Choir (Carols begin at 4:30 PM)

7 PM Vigil MASS

**NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

**December 25, 2016**

8:30 AM MASS

11 AM MASS

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**December 31, 2016**

5 PM Vigil MASS

**January 1, 2017**

8:30 AM MASS

11 AM MASS

**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.

**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.

**PARISHIONER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

12/23 Regina and Stephen Grammatico (1972)

**WELCOME OUR NEWLY REGISTERED PARISHIONERS!**

Gina and John Condi

Ann and Paul J. Dierdorf

The T. J. Gram Family

Howard Mitchell, III

The Kristina and Brian Shonat Family

**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:** 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 Hasenus 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.

**LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA (IN THE COMMONS)**

Prepare the Way of the King

Dr. Scott Hahn - one of the most eminent Catholic theologians in our country today- reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind - Jesus Christ.

**MEDJUGORJE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP**

During this Advent season as we prepare for 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.

**December 2, 2016 Message to Mirjana**

"Dear children, my motherly heart is crying as I am looking at what my children are doing. Sins are multiplying, the purity of soul is all the less important; my Son is being forgotten - honored all the less; and my children are being persecuted. That is why, you my children, apostles of my love, with soul and heart invoke the name of my Son. He will have the words of light for you. He manifests Himself to you, He breaks the bread with you and gives you the words of love so that you may transform them into merciful acts and, thus, be witnesses of truth. That is why, my children, do not be afraid. Permit my Son to be in you. He will make use of you to care for the wounded and to convert lost souls. Therefore, my children, return to the prayer of the Rosary. Pray it with feelings of goodness, sacrifice and mercy. Pray, not only with words, but with merciful acts. Pray with love for all people. My Son, by His sacrifice, exalted love. Therefore, live with Him so that you may have strength and hope; that you may have the love which is life and which leads to eternal life. Through God's love, I am also with you, and will lead you with motherly love. Thank you."

**HAITI**

**Thank you to all who made possible a wonderful parish gathering with Father Petina.** He is returning to Saltadere, Haiti, Tuesday with gratitude for the blessing of the twinning relationship of St. Michel parish with those of St. Thomas Aquinas and Holy Comforter.

**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 [ginnyanzeller@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyanzeller@gmail.com). Website:

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

[www.saltadere.org](http://www.saltadere.org).

**HIGH SCHOOL FORMATION**

All High School students are encouraged to come to the Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) in Richmond on February 10-12. This is an exciting and fun event that brings together Catholic Youth from across the state for talks by nationally known speakers, worship, fun activities and plenty of fellowship. ***This year, we have been invited by the youth minister at Church of the Incarnation, Patrick Drury, to join their group for this event.*** This is a fantastic opportunity and we hope that you will join us. Please contact Sue Dougherty for more information [cre@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:cre@holycomforterparish.org). Register BEFORE December 20 to get the cheapest rate.

<http://evangelizerichmond.org/events/dyc2017/>

**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.

**CONFIRMATION 2016-2017:** The next Confirmation preparation class will take place on **Sunday, December 18** following the 8:30 Mass. Registration is still open to all students who are at least 15 years of age and in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration forms are available in the Commons and on the website. Please contact Sue Dougherty for details [cre@holycomforterparish.org](mailto:cre@holycomforterparish.org).

**CHRISTMAS FORMATION CLASSES K-8**

Religious Education classes will break for the Christmas and New Year's holidays and resume on Sunday January 8. We will have a small Epiphany

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS**

Celebration that day. Our Catechist and staff wish

all of our families a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year!

**CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

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>

**FROM THE PASTOR**  
**TIME TO IGNITE THE LIGHT WITHIN**  
**ADVENT 2016 #4**



**“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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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.