

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

May 21 St. Godric of Finchale
 22 St. Rita of Cascia
 23 St. John Baptiste de Rossi
 24 St. Vincent of Lerins
 25 St. Bede
 26 St. Philip Neri
 27 St. Augustine of Canterbury

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 20

5 PM Members of and Visitors to our Parish

Sunday, May 21

8:30 AM Sylvia Cote (Paul Savoie)

11:00 AM Members of our Parish

Monday, May 22

NOON John Johnson (Paul Savoie)

Tuesday, May 23

NOON The Souls in Purgatory (Paul Savoie)

Wednesday, May 24

7 PM Vigil Mass (The Ascension of the Lord)

Thursday, May 25

NOON †Lester C. Berlin (Cynthia and Les Berlin)

7 PM Mass (The Ascension of the Lord)

Saturday, May 27

5 PM Members of and Visitors to our Parish

Sunday, May 28

8:30 AM Members of our Parish

11:00 AM †Richard Simeone (Barbara Marra)

1:30 PM: Members of our Parish

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS
 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14

After Jesus' ascension to heaven, the apostles return to Jerusalem and gather in prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8

The Lord is our salvation.

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:13-16

If you suffer for Christ, you will be blessed.

Gospel Reading

John 17:1-11a

Jesus prays for his disciples.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (5/20)

8 AM: MASS

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

5 PM Vigil MASS

(*St. Michel Student Sponsorship Fair*)

SUNDAY (5/21) SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(*Flowers Donated by Carol and Steve Ham*)

8:30 AM: MASS

(*St. Michel Student Sponsorship Fair*)

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

11 AM: MASS (*St. Michel Student Sponsorship Fair*)

NOON: Catechist Brunch

4-5:30 PM: High School Youth Ministry (*Lower Level*)

MONDAY (5/22)

NOON: MASS

TUESDAY (5/23)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: MASS

WEDNESDAY (5/24)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

6 PM: Choir Rehearsal

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

7 PM: Vigil MASS

THURSDAY (5/25) The Ascension of the Lord

(*Holy Day of Obligation*)

NOON: MASS

NOON: Soup Kitchen

7 PM: MASS

FRIDAY (5/26)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: MASS (*For Deceased Members of the Parish*)

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

4 PM: Wedding Rehearsal

5 PM: Wedding Rehearsal

SATURDAY (5/27)

8 AM: MASS

2 PM: WEDDING (*Colleen Owens and Richard Seney*)

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

5 PM Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (5/28) SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(*Flowers Donated in Memory of Joan and Cliff Fusco, by the Mackey Family*)

8:30 AM: MASS

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

11 AM: MASS

NOON: Baptisms (*Alice Ridge and John Condi*)

1:30 PM: Latin MASS

PARISHIONER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

May 23, 1998: Colette Hall and Kelton Flinn

GIFTS FROM GOD

Offertory May 6-7, 2017 (Plate)	\$4,911.50
Weekly Offertory Budget	\$7,173.00
Offertory Received	<u>(4,911.50)</u>
Deficit	<u>(2,261.50)</u>

ONLINE GIVING

Have you considered using Online Giving? By creating a login and contributing online you'll always have a report of your giving history available. You can access your report easily and securely via the web, and your information will always be up-to-date with your latest contributions. You can find the **Online Giving** link on our new website: holycomforterparish.org.

2017 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL UPDATE

Building our Family of Faith

If you have already made your 2017 Appeal gift, please accept our gratitude for your commitment! We have raised \$11,971 in pledges and cash donations, which is 67% of our \$17,790 goal.

If you have not had the opportunity to contribute, please pick up a pledge envelope from our parish office. You can also donate securely online, as well as learn more about the nineteen ministries the Appeal supports, by visiting <http://richmondccatholicfoundation.org/giving/annual-appeal/>.

Please join us in supporting the 2017 Annual Appeal.

PARISH NEWS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINEES

Nominations are being sought for parishioners to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council. The Council is an advisory body to the Pastor that relays concerns and provides suggestions to promote the functional and spiritual development of the parish. Each year 3 positions are filled by Parishioners to serve a 3-year term. Members meet the second Monday of each month from August to June. To be eligible, a parishioner must be a registered and active member of Holy Comforter parish and be a confirmed Catholic.

To nominate yourself or an eligible parishioner, please fill out a nomination form, available in the Commons. During the weekend of June 3rd and 4th, there will be a Pastoral Council Member available after each of the Masses to answer questions. If there are more than 3 interested Parishioners, we will then hold an election. Thank you for considering volunteering for this very important position.

MEDJUGORJE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

In celebration of the 5th week of Easter and the month of Mary, please join us in praying the Rosary to our most Blessed Mother. Everyone is welcome. Many of you made rosaries a few weeks ago, bring them with you. If you don't have a rosary, we have plenty to share. If you don't remember how to pray the rosary, no problem, we would love to show you. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our Rosary Prayer Family. We meet every Wednesday at 6:15 in the Chapel.

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: Herman Ortmann, Kay Russo, Jim Morrisard, Mary Griffin, Mike Charlie, Frances Charlie, Clyde Pax, Jack Andrews, Shawn Simpson-Smith, Mary Fusco, Eileen Foster, Jack Valloric, Tam Nguyen, Rachel Witt, Joe Murray, Helen Edwards, Betty Jane Prufer, Fran Cannon Slayton, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Norman Bednarczyk, Nicholas Sisman, Mary Ann Williams, Rose Bowker, Charley Moore, Kitty Moore.

Friends and Relatives: Mary Ann Kline, Beatrice Stack, Thomas Johnson, Brenda Gayle Johnson, Sue Newman, James Worley, Carolyn Ann Davis, 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, Josephine Nampijja, Grace Dawn Wicke, Melyssa Dove, Nicole Carpenter, Beth Mauk, Evan Dotas, Dave Halley, Cullen McQuhae, Bill & Marie Jones, Christine Bentéjac, David Rumpf, 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, 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, Jamie Torbet, Mike Eiermann, Charles G. Ellison, Eric Emmott, and Matthew Mickiewicz.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

HAITI

Sponsorship Fair at Holy Comforter This Weekend: Sponsorships are the main means of supporting the students of St. Michel School. Please support or renew your support for the students of St. Michel's School in Saltadere.

Contact with Student Sponsors: New pictures of St. Michel students were taken by visitors to Saltadere in March. They are now being sorted and entered into a database. Please be sure we have your correct e-mail (Contact sponsorshipprogram@gmail.com) as this is our chief method for updating you on school progress.

Bi-Parish Haiti Committee: Next Meeting will be July 9 at the Knasel's home. All are welcome.

Website: www.saltadere.org

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

RECOGNITION OF CONFIRMANDS

Holy Comforter students who were confirmed by Bishop DeLorenzo on May 6 will be recognized at the 11:00 am Mass this weekend. Congratulations to David Colavincenzo, Alyssa Connor, John Emery, and Isaac Francis. Thank you for your prayers on their behalf during their time of preparation.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Our final official meeting for this school year will be this **Sunday, May 21 at 4:30 PM**. This will be a **family social** featuring homemade pizza! We will also evaluate the year and talk about opportunities for the summer and plans for next year. **Current 8th grade students and their families are invited and encouraged to attend!**

CHRISTIAN FORMATION REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

Get a jump-start on registration for Christian Formation for the 2017-18 school year and receive a discount! Registration forms will be available throughout the month of May and on the Holy Comforter website. This will help us plan for the next school year. Be an early bird and avoid the fall frenzy!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for the week of **August 7-11!** Holy Comforter Children ages 4-11 are invited to participate in **"Birthday Blast, A Celebration of Life!"** Registration begins soon. Also, volunteer helpers are needed! If you are interested in helping, please contact Sue Dougherty at cre@holyccomforterparish.org.

SUMMER CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Although our formal CF classes are winding down for the summer, learning about our faith and deepening our relationship with God and one another never stops! Look for opportunities for family catechesis as well as adult discussions and studies coming to Holy Comforter during the summer months! Check the bulletin, the HC Website and Facebook page to stay informed about upcoming offerings!

MIDDLE SCHOOL CATECHIST FOR 2017-18 NEEDED

We extend much gratitude and appreciation to our middle school catechist, Robyn Jackson, who has so faithfully and skillfully filled this role for the past few years. As she is regrettably unable to be a catechist in the 2017-18 school year, we are looking for an energetic, enthusiastic, and dynamic person who is eager to share his or her faith journey with our middle school students. If you are interested, please contact Sue Dougherty, Coordinator for Religious education.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION INSTITUTE 2017-19 CLASS

The Spiritual Direction Institute offers a two year program, first developed in 1989 by the late—and much loved—Msgr. Chester Michael; it's a program that has benefitted over 600 people. Participants in SDI learn to deepen their own spiritual life through this ecumenical program that is built around group discussion, lectures, daily personal prayer and study, reflections on the great spiritual masters of our Christian tradition, Lectio Divina and other disciplines. Apart from the benefits to the individual participants and the group, many "graduates" of the program have gone on to be effective spiritual directors. For more information, visit www.chestermichael.org. If you're interested in following up, please contact Bev Mirmelstein: at bevmirm@gmail.com or 434-996-9178.

PARISH LIFE

DOGMA ON DRAFT

Dogma on Draft is back! Please join Parish Life every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Kardinal Hall from 6-8:30pm. Stop-by anytime for a pint, bratwurst, or great conversation. Contact Kees Boogaart keesboog@gmail.com for details.

PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION JUNE 4TH

Save the Date! The Holy Comforter Feast Day is on Pentecost. Parish Life will host a special gathering after each Mass (on Saturday and Sunday) with refreshments and fellowship. More details to come.

FROM THE PASTOR**IT TAKES FIFTY DAYS TO CELEBRATE EASTER (part 5)**

"All power in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. You, then, are to go and make disciples of all the nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. -----and, remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the world." (Mt. 28: 18-20)

We are coming towards the end of our fifty days of Easter celebrations, and we are preparing ourselves to witness the ascension of the Lord to his father with all victory gained over sin and death. Throughout the forty days following His resurrection, the Lord manifested Himself at intervals to the apostles, to some individually and to all as a body, and instructed them in "the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." Much that He said and did is not written, as St. John points this out in his gospel, "These are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you might have life through his name." (Jn. 21:25)

Jesus gave His disciples clear instructions before He left them. They had work to do, so that when He comes back they would not be embarrassed or ashamed that He found them not doing what He told them to do.

Jesus told them that they would receive the Holy Spirit. From their reading of the Old Testament stories of the prophets, they understood that this would be God's presence and power in their lives. The prophets could not have accomplished their ministry without the presence of the Spirit in their lives; neither could the disciples accomplish their ministry of witnessing. The Holy Spirit was to empower them for service. We might have the image that the disciples turned into super heroes with the Holy Spirit so that they were able to do supernatural things, but that wasn't the power that the Holy Spirit gave the disciples. Rather, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples courage to face rejection and persecution and still continue with their ministry. The Holy Spirit gave them the ability to love in the face of hate. The Holy Spirit gave them the ability to forgive the unforgiveable. The Holy Spirit enabled them to be faithfully obedient until the Master returns.

I'm sure that it was not easy waiting for the Holy Spirit. The disciples were not much different than you or me. They were men and women of action and they wanted to be about the task that the Lord had given them. But, they waited because they knew that they couldn't accomplish their task as witnesses without the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

The same instructions Jesus gave to His disciples before He returned to heaven are for us today. If you and I are believers, we need to be sharing with others the Good News about Jesus. We need to be obedient to what God's word teaches us so we can share that with others. We must learn from time to time to wait patiently for the fulfillment of God's promises in our lives. We have the Holy Spirit living in us giving us the power to God's Work until He returns. Are you being obedient to Jesus' instructions? If not, will you ask Him to forgive you and ask Him to help you be obedient to share the Good News with others?