

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (2/10)

8 AM: MASS

NOON: Baptism: *Presley Louise Redman*

1:30 PM: Wedding: *Mary Margaret Bradbury and Matthew Looby*

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

5 PM: Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (2/11) Second Collection: Outreach

(Altar Flowers Provided by Anonymous Donation)

7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation

8:30 AM: MASS

9:45-10:45 AM: RCIA (*CRE Office*)

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

11 AM: MASS

1:30 PM: Latin MASS

4-5:30 PM: High School Youth Ministry

MONDAY (2/12)

NOON: MASS

5:15-8 PM: Youth, Women and Men's Schola Rehearsals (*Lower Level*)

TUESDAY (2/13)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: MASS

WEDNESDAY (2/14) ASH WEDNESDAY

(Fast & Abstinence)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: MASS

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

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

6:30 PM: Sung Vespers (*Church*)

7 PM: MASS

THURSDAY (2/15)

8 AM: MASS

NOON: Soup Kitchen

FRIDAY (2/16) (Abstinence)

8 AM: MASS

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

SATURDAY (2/17)

8 AM: MASS

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

5 PM: Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (2/18)

(Altar Flowers Provided by Parishioner Donations)

7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation

8:30 AM: MASS

9:45-10:45 AM: RCIA (*CRE Office*)

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

9:45-10:45 AM: Adult Formation (*Chapel*)

11 AM: MASS

4-5:30 PM: High School Youth Ministry

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 10

8 AM Christine (Paul Savoie)

5 PM Members of our Parish

Sunday, February 11

8:30 AM †Jerard, Vincent and Edward Zinc (Jeanne and Ed Mickiewicz)

11 AM †William Boyd (Boyd and Trebour Family);

† P. J. Iannaconi (Soup Kitchen Volunteers)

1:30 PM Christine (Paul Savoie)

Monday, February 12

NOON Christine (Paul Savoie)

Tuesday, February 13

NOON Christine (Paul Savoie)

Wednesday, February 14

NOON †Benjamin S. Barlow (Mary Frances Lilly)

7 PM Andrew (Paul Savoie)

Thursday, February 15

8 AM Andrew (Paul Savoie)

Friday, February 16

8 AM Andrew (Paul Savoie)

Saturday, February 17

8 AM Andrew (Paul Savoie)

5 PM Anna Witkowski (Witkowski Family)

Sunday, February 18

8:30 AM †Wayne Norcross (The Shealy Family)

11 AM †April Montgomery; Members of our Parish

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-15

God establishes a covenant with Noah, giving a rainbow as its sign.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

A prayer praising God for his covenant

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

In our baptism, we are saved through Christ's death and Resurrection.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:12-15

Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan.

LOST AND FOUND

Please check the coat rack for any items you may have left behind.

GIFTS FROM GOD

FEBRUARY 3-4, 2018

Offertory (plate)	\$3,657.50
Offertory (online)	4,473.00
Weekly Offertory Budget	<u>7,403.00</u>
Above Weekly Budget	\$ 727.50

Sanctuary Renovation \$11,500

SECOND COLLECTIONS ARE ACCEPTED ONLINE

Contributions for Outreach and our Sanctuary Renovation Project may be made by mail, in church or online. Please find the **Online Giving** link on our website: holycomforterparish.org

PARISH NEWS

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Kindly notify us at office@holycomforterparish.org if you would like a name added to or removed from this list. To arrange to receive Holy Communion or a visit by Father Joseph Mary, please call the parish office 434.295.7185.

THE ILL & HOME BOUND

Parishioners: Ginnie Gillen, Kay Colo, Raymond Painley, Jack Valloric, Mildred Dudley, Pam Heron, Kay Russo, Mary Griffin, Mike Charlie, Eileen Foster, Tam Nguyen, Joe Murray, Helen Edwards, Fran Cannon Slayton, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Rose Bowker, Charley Moore.

Friends and Relatives: Samantha Nelson, Joel Rivera, Judge Conrad, Claudia Hartland, Aileen Green, Teresa Hall, Heather Johnson, Christine Fitzgerald, Mary Dominicus, Daniel Moore, Katie George, James Worley, Father Gerald Fogarty, Mary Ann Kline, Beatrice Stack, Thomas Johnson, Brenda Gayle Johnson, Sue Newman, Carolyn Ann Davis, Andy Gillespie, JoAnn Fox Klein, Susan Steeby, Suzanne Lank, John Lank, Susan Straub Martin, Josephine Nampijja, Christine Bentéjac, David Rumpf, Kimberly Hasenfus Hulick, John Patrick Dennison, Christine Russo Carpenter, Benedict Pax, Residents of Albemarle County Regional Jail, Residents of Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention.

MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

Jeffrey Jaeger, Pete Bakke, Michael Eiermann, Tom Logan, William Murray, Trey Linebrink, Jeff Woodside, Charles G. Ellison, and Matthew Mickiewicz.

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Please add your intentions to the Intention Book located outside of the Chapel. We pray every Wednesday at 6:15pm in the Chapel for every intention listed.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

(From the United States Conference on Catholic Bishops)

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

2/11	Our Lady of Lourdes
2/12	St. Saturninus & Companions
2/13	St. Catherine de Ricci
2/14	St. Valentine
2/15	St. Claude de la Colombiere
2/16	St. Onesimus
2/17	Founders of the Orders of Servites

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

HAITI

Meeting rescheduled: Due to the icy weather on February 4, we have rescheduled for today. We are planning to have a fundraising dinner on March 18 during Father Petina's visit. Please keep the Spring Break travelers and our twin parish in your prayers.

Toothbrushes and Toothpaste Donations Sought: Our religious education students are coordinating the distribution of toothbrushes and toothpaste to St. Michel students. Collection boxes will be available in the commons area until February 18. They will be delivered by UVA students during their upcoming mission trip to Saltadere. Mesi Anpil! Thank you!

Bi-Parish Haiti Committee: There is a meeting TODAY February 11, 2018 at 1:30 PM in the Community Room at St. Thomas. All are welcome. For more information, contact Anne Knasel anne@stagebridge.net or Ginny Zeller ginnyannzeller@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

New Opportunities! The more that we nourish our spiritual life, the closer we grow to God! It is an ongoing life-long process. Please consider taking part in one of the upcoming Adult Faith Formation opportunities:

With Jesus to the Cross: A Lenten Guide on the Sunday Mass Readings – Year B. Will meet on Sunday from 8:45-9:45 in the chapel from Feb. 18 through March 25.

Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life, by Henri Nouwen. This 4-week book study will be facilitated by parishioner Dianne Murray on Mondays. The time can be evening or morning depending on the needs of the participants.

Please indicate your interest by signing the clipboard on the Christian Formation Table in the lobby.

LENTEN FAMILY ACTIVITIES

All families, please mark your calendars for Friday, February 23 at 6:00 pm to join us for Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper. Student-led, child friendly Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary will be followed by a pot-luck soup supper. Please plan to join us!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND CONFIRMATION

This Sunday, February 11, our High School Youth Ministry will be taking part in a service project during our regular time at 4:00-5:30. **Next Sunday, February 18,** Father Michael Suarez will join us as a special guest speaker, focusing on the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Registration is now OPEN for the 2018 Catholic Men's Conference! All men over 18 are invited on March 17, 2018 to Saint Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg, VA for our 6th Annual Diocesan Men's Conference.

This year's theme, "Truly Present," will explore Jesus' presence to us and our call to be present in all our relationships in the world as husband, father, brother, and friend. This year will feature a dual-track conference with keynote speakers in English and Spanish, breakout opportunities, Reconciliation, Adoration, and Mass. Let all your friends know!

Registration is available online for \$55 until March 10, 2018. After that point, registration will only be available at the door for \$60. As always, the conference is free for priests and religious brothers.

Please contact the Center for Marriage, Family, and Life at cmfl@richmonddiocese.org or 804-622-5109 for more information.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER (WWME)

"He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp." As Jesus cured the leper, let the love of God heal and strengthen our marital bonds so we can live within our camp with joy". The next WWME weekends are: March 2-4, 2018 in Herndon, VA and Aug 3-5, 2018 in Chapel Hill, NC. Early sign up is recommended.

Please visit: <https://renewmarriage-vasouth.org/>, or contact us: applications@renewmarriage-vasouth.org, or by calling 757-690-1369.

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

Employment Opportunity: The parish is seeking a Coordinator of Christian Formation for preschool and elementary aged children beginning July 1. Applicants should have five years' experience as a Catechist or Teacher; a Bachelor's Degree (Master's Degree or Certificate in Religious Education, Theology, or related field is preferred); and familiarity with diocesan policies related to Catechesis. Fluency in Spanish is preferred. Most importantly, the applicant should have a servant's heart like Jesus. Send cover letter, diocesan application, and resume to Nancy Brinkac at mnbrinkac@comcast.net.

WOMEN'S CURSILLO WEEKEND

A Women's Cursillo Weekend will be held April 12-15, 2018, at Camp Overlook (near Harrisonburg). It is an inspiring 3-day retreat led by a dedicated team of lay adults and a Catholic priest from our area. The purpose of the Catholic Cursillo Movement is to support people in living out their faith in their everyday lives. If you are a registered Catholic parishioner, you are encouraged to **submit your application by Saturday, March 31, 2018.** For more detailed information and to download an application, please go to the Valley Cursillo website: www.valleycursillo.com

COMMONWEALTH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Love shouldn't hurt

On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States—more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year. CCC offers a 24-week program that teaches the harmful consequences of abusive actions. It teaches ways to handle conflicts and identify feelings, attitudes, and behaviors. For more information visit www.cccofva.org/counseling.



FROM THE PASTOR 2018
THE JOURNEY WITH THE MAGI (Part 5)



“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”
(Mt. 2:11).

The Magi were driven by the spiritual hunger and began the journey seeking the King of Kings: Seeking to find Him, seeking to know Him, seeking to get close to Him, seeking to worship Him. And this is the greatest goal we can ever have in life. They knew who Jesus was and recognized that he was worthy of their worship. After they inquired of Him and their encounter with Herod, as the Gospel states, they continued the journey following the star ***“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.”*** After they had laid down their gifts, they bowed down and began to worship Him. Therefore the fourth and most important of all of their gifts was the gift of worship. The wise men did not hug Him or stand in amazement of how cute He was. Instead they bowed their knees in total reverence to the King of Kings. We cannot also overlook the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels all had one thing in common. They all came to Jesus for one reason; to WORSHIP HIM. Luke tells us that the angels announced the birth to the shepherds and began to sing, ***“Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”*** (Luke 2:14). After the shepherds were told of the birth of the Messiah, they visited Him and returned praising and glorifying God. More than anything we can give to God, He is more interested in our worship. It is Jesus who said, ***“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*** (John 4:23, 24). Furthermore, God is not so much concerned about anything we can do for Him, as He is about our relationship with Him. In other words, He is interested in your relationship and not your workmanship. He wants true worship and not empty lip service. He desires to have the heart of someone who is adamant on giving Him the glory He so well deserves. Revelation 5:12 says, ***“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”*** John goes on to write, ***“And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth..... and all that are in them, I heard saying: ‘Blessing and honor and glory and power, be to Him who sits on the throne...’ Then the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.”*** (Rev. 5:13, 14). One person we know for sure was not interested in worshipping the child was Herod. Upon hearing of the birth of a King, Herod was immediately felt threatened and was ready to take Him out. He did not know that Jesus was not at all interested in his earthly throne. He left the right hand of His Father in heaven and came to die for the sins of men. Of Herod the gospel says; ***“And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.’”*** (Matt. 2:8). However, being warned by God in a dream, they departed without returning to the power-hungry, wicked Herod. When he realized he was deceived by the Magi, he was enraged and gave an order to kill every male child two years and under. What is your attitude in worship? Whom do you seek to worship? And how do you worship? ***(To be continued--).***