

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

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*)

10-10:45 AM: Choir Rehearsal

11 AM: MASS

4-5:30 PM: High School Youth Ministry

MONDAY (2/19) PRESIDENTS' DAY

(PARISH OFFICES CLOSED TODAY)

NOON: MASS

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

6-7 PM: Lawyers Helping Lawyers (*Lower Level*)

TUESDAY (2/20)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: MASS

WEDNESDAY (2/21)

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: Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY (2/22)

7 AM: MASS

NOON: Soup Kitchen

FRIDAY (2/23) (Abstinence)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: MASS

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

6 PM: Family Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper

SATURDAY (2/24)

8 AM: MASS

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

5 PM: Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (2/25)

(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

1:30 PM: Latin MASS

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, February 19

NOON Andrew (Paul Savoie);

Mary Nguyen (Vu Nguyen)

Tuesday, February 20

NOON Andrew (Paul Savoie)

Wednesday, February 21

NOON † Eugene Bernard Morris (The Blumenfeld Family)

Thursday, February 22

7 AM Judie Sutton Chroman (The Shealy Family)

Friday, February 23

NOON Sandy (Paul Savoie)

Saturday, February 24

8 AM Christine (Paul Savoie)

5 PM Members of our Parish

Sunday, February 25

8:30 AM The Keener Family

11 AM † Edward Bradley (Judy Zacharias)

1:30 PM † Antoinette Lappin (The Myatt Family)

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

First Reading

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Abraham obeyed God and prepared to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

A prayer of faithfulness to God

Second Reading

Romans 8:31b-34

God's faithfulness is shown in his offering of his own Son for our salvation.

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

GIFTS FROM GOD

FEBRUARY 10-11, 2018

Offertory (plate)	\$5,495.50
Weekly Offertory Budget	<u>7,403.00</u>
<i>Below Weekly Budget</i>	<i>\$1,907.50</i>

Outreach \$1,838

SECOND COLLECTIONS ARE ACCEPTED ONLINE

Contributions for 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: Scarlett Makielski, Rev. John Abe, 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.

LOST AND FOUND

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

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

2/18	St. Simon of Jerusalem
2/19	St. Conrad of Piacenza
2/20	St. Eucherius
2/21	St. Peter Damian
2/22	Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
2/23	St. Polycarp
2/24	St. Ethelbert

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be led by Father Joseph Mary on Fridays during Lent. A cross-bearer and two candle bearers are needed for one hour each week. Please use the sign-up sheet on the credenza to volunteer. This is a wonderful family activity and training will be provided!

LOW GLUTEN ALTAR BREAD

Holy Comforter offers low gluten hosts that have been fully approved by the Holy See for use in any Catholic Mass. Every host is individually packaged to prevent cross contamination. Please notify an usher if you require this option.

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Come join our Medjugorje Rosary prayer family every Wednesday at 6:15 PM in the Chapel. This is the perfect Lenten offering to our most Holy Mother. We look forward to seeing you. All are welcomed.

January 25, 2018 Our Lady's Public Message through Marija Pavlovic: *"Dear children! May this time be for you a time of prayer, so that the Holy Spirit, through prayer, may descend upon you and give you conversion. Open your hearts and read the Sacred Scripture, that through the testimonies you also may be closer to God. Above everything, little children, seek God and the things of God and leave earthly ones to the earth, because Satan is attracting you to the dust and sin. You are called to holiness and created for Heaven; therefore, seek Heaven and the things of Heaven. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN FOR PCCV

The 2nd Annual Baby Bottle Campaign in support of the Pregnancy Centers of Central Virginia (PCCV) starts today! This is such a great family Lenten activity!! Pick up a bottle as you leave Mass today, fill it with coins, cash, or checks payable to **The Pregnancy Centers of Central Virginia**, and return the bottle church no later than Palm Sunday, March 25. Let's exceed our collection from last year of \$2,173. We can do it together!!!

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.

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 from age 14 onwards.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND CONFIRMATION***Kudos and Thanks!***

Kudos to **Olivia Barnaby and Stephanie Langan** who attended the Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) last weekend. They joined 1,400 **(yes, that is one thousand four hundred!)** youth across the diocese to hear talks about how we can be "Truly Present" to the work of Christ in our lives, to participate in Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, and a service project, as well as lots of fun social activities. How amazing and heartwarming it was to witness the youth of our diocese experiencing Christ in such a profound way!

Thanks to other high school students who took part in a service project of their own by preparing sandwiches for the soup kitchen last Sunday. They, too, generously gave their resources and time for our brothers and sisters in the community.

This week, we will extend hospitality to Fr. Suarez who will be with us to discuss Lent, Reconciliation and any other questions about our faith that you might have. Please join us from 4:00-5:30 in the Bernard Moore Room.

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!

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

HAITI

Visits: Father Petina, pastor of St. Michel will visit next month. He will be accompanied by Dr. Joseph who is the clinic doctor in Saltadere. 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: Your donations of toothbrushes and tooth paste are being collected today and will go with our UVA students on their mission trip to Haiti. Thank you to our religious education students for sponsoring this important project and to all who donated!

Bi-Parish Haiti Committee: The next meeting April 15, 2018. All are welcome. For more information, contact Anne Knasel anne@stagebridge.net or Ginny Zeller ginnyannzeller@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

CASA ALMA

Roundtable on Black Liberation Theology at Casa Alma on Tuesdays 2/27, 3/6 and 3/13 from 7:00-8:30pm. Come to one or all sessions; materials will be provided. All are welcome!

CARMELITES

The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelite Community of Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity meets at St. Francis in Staunton on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM. If you feel called to a Carmelite way of life or are interested in learning more, please pick up a flyer in the Commons or contact Patricia McAdams: (434)286-4055 or pamcadams@yahoo.com.

GIVE IT UP. PAY IT FORWARD.

Are you thinking of giving something up for Lent? This year, give it up and pay it forward at the same time! Donate the money you would have spent on your morning latte or pastry to CCC instead. We make donating easy with our online donation form at www.cccofva.org/donate.

Lenten Reflection 2018

CHOOSE TO SUFFER FROM 'THE FOOLISHNESS OF LOVE'**"We are fools for Christ..." (1Corinthian 4:10)**

This year, Easter Sunday will fall on April 1st – which is considered 'all fools' day! And interestingly, Ash Wednesday, February 14th, the beginning of Lent, has fallen on St. Valentine's Day. All of this sounds weird and exciting at the same time, as a number of people have observed. Someone commented that couples could hold hands, get ashes together, and take on a "couple's penance" for the season of Lent by sacrificing together. Looking at our parish theme for the month of February which is "following in the footsteps of the Holy Family," I can say this year's Lenten season can bring forth great, wonderful fruits that can hold the couples and our families strongly together. You can abstain from the same things, together as a couple and as a family. This can be a tremendous experience, because you will receive support and encouragement from your significant other when you are feeling a bit lazy and unmotivated to keep to your penance. As experience has shown, it is always easier doing difficult things together than when you are just alone.

The opportunity the Church has this year is to emphasize the type of love that ought always to mark our faith and characterize our Lents. St. Paul said; **"We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored!" (1Cor. 4:10)** As Christians, we should love God more than any man has ever loved any woman. We should be willing to sacrifice for him more. We should be willing to make more time for him than those in love make for each other. We should be more passionate about pleasing him than any boyfriend seeks to make happy the woman to whom he wishes to propose.

Lent is a time when we can focus above all on whether God's love for us and our love for him are as they ought to be. As Pope Emeritus Benedict VI used to stress, "Lent is not about making minor course corrections in our lives, but about experiencing a radical and total conversion." We should become crazier with the love of the one who has loved us to the point of shedding blood!

Why not as a family become Lenten prayer buddies and make it your goal to pray for each other's intentions during the entire season in an even more powerful way. Undertake acts of charity together. It could be visiting a shelter or volunteering at the soup kitchen, take on some community service, teaching poor children, or even getting involved in some other parish ministry together.

If you have had some differences in the last couple of months, take this opportunity to sit down together on a given day, maybe after the Stations of the Cross, and talk about it and resolve it. Decide on some concrete steps to follow during the season of Lent to strengthen your relationship. Ask the real St. Valentine to assist you with his prayers.

There are so many different and creative ways to celebrate love on during this season. Remember this season has a somber mood characterized by the mysteries of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord, which was God's ultimate Act of Love for each one of us. **There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13).** Let this season help you to rediscover the spiritual force of God in your relationship, and to begin living out your love for each other in more Christ-like ways. Probably there is powerful romance in that. **(To be continued...)**