

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (3/17)

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

SUNDAY (3/18)

Second Collection for Sanctuary Restoration

(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 (*Loft*)
11 AM: MASS
4-5:30 PM: High School Youth Ministry

MONDAY (3/19)

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 (3/20)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry
NOON: MASS

WEDNESDAY (3/21)

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 (3/22)

8 AM: MASS
NOON: Soup Kitchen

FRIDAY (3/23) (Abstinence)

8 AM: MASS
10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry
NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)
6:30 PM: Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY (3/24)

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

SUNDAY (3/25) PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Second Collection for Catholic Relief Services

(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 (*Loft*)
11 AM: MASS
1:30 PM: Latin MASS
4-5:30 PM: High School Youth Ministry

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 17

8 AM Sandy (Paul Savoie); †Patrick Barr (The Blumenfeld Family)

5 PM Members of our Parish

Sunday, March 18

8:30 AM †Alec J (Amy Franklin)

11 AM †April Montgomery (Food Pantry Volunteers)

Monday, March 19

NOON Sandy (Paul Savoie)

Tuesday, March 20

NOON Sandy (Paul Savoie)

Wednesday, March 21

NOON Sandy (Paul Savoie); All people with Down Syndrome

Thursday, March 22

8 AM Andrew (Paul Savoie)

Friday, March 23

8 AM Andrew (Paul Savoie)

Saturday, March 24

8 AM Andrew (Paul Savoie)

5 PM Andrew (Paul Savoie)

Sunday, March 25

8:30 AM Andrew (Paul Savoie)

11 AM †Bill Boyd (Soup Kitchen Volunteers), and Members of the Parish

1:30 PM †Helen and James Savino (Patricia McAdams)

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS
PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

Gospel at the Procession with Palms

Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16

Jesus enters Jerusalem as the crowds shout, "Hosanna!"

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord's servant will stand firm, even when persecuted.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

A cry for help to the Lord in the face of evildoers

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ was obedient even to death, but God has exalted him.

Gospel Reading

Mark 14:1—15:47

Jesus is sentenced to death and crucified. The centurion who witnessed his death declared, "This man was the Son of God."

GIFTS FROM GOD

MARCH 10-11, 2018

Offertory (plate)	\$3,339.73
Weekly Offertory Budget	<u>7,403.00</u>
<i>Below Weekly Budget</i>	<i>(\$4,063.27)</i>

Outreach	\$1,750
Sanctuary Renovation	260

ALL PARISH COLLECTIONS ARE ACCEPTED ONLINE

Contributions for Offertory and all second collections may be made by mail, in church, or online. Please find the **Online Giving** link on our website: holycomforterparish.org

AMAZONSMILE SUPPORTS HOLY COMFORTER!

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop at smile.amazon.com, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Please select Holy Comforter Catholic Church <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-0576301> when you shop! Thank you for your support!!

PARISH NEWS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join us for Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6:30 PM in the Church. All are welcome. A cross-bearer and two candle bearers are needed! Please use the sign-up sheet on the credenza to volunteer.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday (no morning Mass)

7 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper with Adoration until Midnight

Good Friday (no morning Mass)

3 PM Stations of the Cross

5:30 PM Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday (no morning Mass)

8PM Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

7 AM Mass

9 AM Mass

11 AM Mass

1:30 PM Latin Mass

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: Richard Fagan, 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: Blandine Attey, Susan Allport, Fred Cardona, Scott Painley, Jeremy Breedlove, Scarlett Makielski, Rev. John Abe, Samantha Nelson, Joel Rivera, Judge Conrad, Claudia Hartland, Aileen Green, Teresa Hall, Heather Johnson, Christine Fitzgerald, Mary Dominicis, 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.

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

3/18	St. Cyril of Jerusalem
3/19	St. Joseph
3/20	St. Herbert
3/21	St. Nicholas of Flue
3/22	Bl. Clemens August von Galen
3/23	St. Turibius de Mogrovejo
3/24	St. Catherine of Sweden

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

During this Lenten season come join us on Wednesdays at 6:15 in the Chapel. During Lent we are praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy alternating with the Sorrowful Mysteries. What a beautiful expression of gratitude and love for our Savior during this holy season of Lent, come join us! All are welcome. Don't forget to write your intentions in the intention book outside of the Chapel. Every week we pray for intentions listed.

WORKSHOP FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND

All three Catholic parishes in the area are jointly sponsoring a workshop for Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound on Saturday, March 24th, from 9 AM to 1 PM at Charlottesville Catholic School. Michael Suarez S.J. is our speaker. The morning will start with Mass, followed by his presentation and discussion, then finish with a potluck lunch. Please contact Barbara Rainville for information and registration at (434) 295-8493 or consultrainville@aol.com

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN FOR PCCV

Please pick up a baby bottle, fill it with your loose change, and return it by Palm Sunday. The Baby Bottle Campaign is a fund raiser for the Pregnancy Center of Central Virginia. Thank you!!

SOCIAL MINISTRIES**HAITI**

Greet Father Petina, pastor of our twin parish, after the 12 noon Mass today, March 18, at St. Thomas Aquinas:

Join Father Petina and Dr. Joseph in the community room to learn more about our twin parish.

Dinner Auction 6 PM Tonight: This fundraising event will be held at Charlottesville Catholic School. Space is limited but still time to RSVP after the noon Mass in the community room. Please keep our twin parish in your prayers.

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

OUTREACH CELEBRATION OF DEDICATED SERVICE

Please join us at The Pointe Restaurant on Tuesday, March 20th at Noon to bid farewell to our long-standing Outreach Coordinator, Ann Friedlander. The cost is \$20 for lunch and a group gift. RSVP to Bridget bridget@holycomforterparish.org or 434.293.8989. Thank you!

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS**WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY**

March 21st is World Down Syndrome Day and several downtown restaurants will be celebrating by donating the proceeds of your purchases to Charlottesville's Down Syndrome Association and to Ruby's Rainbow, an organization that grants scholarships to adults with Down syndrome. Please see the flyer in the Commons for details.

WWME

"Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear;" As we celebrate Palm Sunday, let us keep our ears open to the love from our spouses and God by participating in a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME)** weekend. The next weekends are: Aug 3-5, 2018 in Chapel Hill, NC and Sep 21-23, 2018 in Herndon, VA. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: <https://renewmarriage-vasouth.org/> or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vasouth.org or 757-690-1369.

IMPACT RALLY

You and your friends are invited to attend the IMPACT Rally at Church of the Incarnation from 6:30-8 PM on Tuesday, March 20. *Holy Comforter will gather at 5:30 PM in the Stone Chapel for dinner!* We will receive updates on the two issues IMPACT is addressing this year: affordable housing for seniors, and affordable housing throughout the community. Then on Tuesday, April 24 from 6:30-8 PM, the Nehemiah Action will take place in the Martin Luther King Jr. Performing Arts Center, to hear stories from some of the people facing the issues being addressed and learn what proposals IMPACT will have for decision makers at the Action. Please contact Suzanne Bailey if you will attend and how many will be joining us for dinner: slank@ntelos.net

CHRISTIAN FORMATION**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND CONFIRMATION**

This Sunday, March 18, we will wrap up our discussion on racism and explore the work of the Holy Spirit in the sacraments, focusing on Eucharist and Confirmation in particular. Please join us from 4:00-5:30!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Please consider joining one of these Adult Formation Opportunities currently in progress. One session is not dependent on the other, so you are most welcome to join at any time:

With Jesus to the Cross: A Lenten Guide on the Sunday Mass Readings meets each Sunday of Lent from 9:45-10:45. This Sunday, we will meet on the lower level in lieu of the chapel.

Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life, by Henri Nouwen. This book study, led by parishioner Dianne Murray, meets on Mondays from 9:30-11:00 in the Bernard Moore Room on the lower level.

From The Pastor

Lenten Reflection 2018, Part 5

CHOOSE TO SUFFER FROM 'THE FOOLISHNESS OF LOVE'

"The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal.2:20b)

As we journey through these days of Lent, we walk with our eyes fixed on the love of God for us as demonstrated in the message of the Cross, where the one perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ was offered. What is the meaning of the cross for us? St. Paul reminds us: ***For the Jews request a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified — to the Jews a stumbling-block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks — Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor.1:22-24)***. We find life, service, relationship, total self- giving to one another in love in the message of the cross. Before Christ, the cross was an instrument of the cruelest punishment and a symbol of horror. After His sufferings, it became the **sign of the victory** of good over evil and of life over death. It became the reminder of the limitless love of God and a source of happiness. The incarnate Son of God sanctified the cross with His blood and made it the carrier of His blessings and holiness. Because of these properties, the sign of the cross became an essential component of Christian life since apostolic times, used in all Church services and private prayers. For instance, water is blessed and becomes holy with the sign of the cross, and bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ; in summary, all Sacraments acquire their spiritual power through the sign of the cross. As flies cannot tolerate flame, so demons cannot stand the presence of the cross. The sign of the cross protects a Christian from accidents and misfortunes and attracts God's help to us. That is why Catholic Christians revere the cross so much, bless themselves with the sign of the cross, wear a cross on their chest and adorn their homes and churches with crosses.

The cross reveals to us the character of God: His love for lost sinners and His perfect justice meet at the cross. If we want to grow in our love for God, which is the first and greatest commandment, then we must be growing to understand and appreciate the cross, which shows us His great love. If we want to grow in godliness, we must grow in understanding the significance of the cross, which confronts the most prevalent and deceptive of all sins, namely, pride.

The cross is the place where all the wounds of sin are healed and love cherished. If you suffer from emotional problems--guilt, anxiety, depression, anger, or whatever--there is healing in the cross of Christ. If you are going through tragedy or suffering, there is comfort in abundance as you contemplate the sufferings of the spotless Savior on your behalf. Peter wrote to the slaves who were suffering unjustly under cruel masters, the following words; ***"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness for by His wounds you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls...."(1Pt. 2: 24-25)*** The words about Christ's wound must have spoken to the hearts of these slaves who were whipped unjustly. Peter knew that meditating on the cross would produce in them a heart of overflowing gratitude to the One who bore so much on their behalf. Therefore the centrality of the cross is crucial to our faith and to all sound doctrine. Satan hates the cross because it sealed his doom and he is relentless in his attacks to undermine and hinder anybody who promotes the message of the cross. If he can convince Christians that they are not ongoing sinners in daily need of repentance and the cleansing blood of Jesus, then the world will be plunged into hatred and then love disappear from the face of the earth. ***(To be continued--)***.