THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (12/15) 8 AM MASS 3:30-4:30 PM: Dante Reading Group (Lower Level) 3:30-4:30 PM: Reconciliation (Chapel) 5 PM: Vigil MASS SUNDAY (12/16) THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Altar Flowers Provided in Loving Memory of Thomas Mullen by Mary Mullen 7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (Chapel) 8:30 AM: MASS 9:45-10:45 AM: Christian Formation (Lower Level) 11 AM: MASS 12:15 PM: High School Youth Ministry/Confirmation (Lower Level) MONDAY (12/17) 10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry NOON: MASS 5:15 PM: Schola Rehearsals **TUESDAY (12/18)** 10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry NOON: MASS WEDNESDAY (12/19) 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 (Loft) **THURSDAY (12/20)** 8 AM: MASS **NOON:** Soup Kitchen 6:30 PM: Reconciliation (Chapel) FRIDAY (12/21) 8 AM: MASS NOON: AA Meeting (Lower Level) **SATURDAY (12/22)** 8 AM MASS 2-4:30 PM: Advent Communal Penance Service 5 PM: Vigil MASS SUNDAY (12/23) FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Altar Flowers Provided by Holy Comforter **Parishioners** 7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (Chapel) 8:30 AM: MASS 9:30 AM: Christmas Play Rehearsal (Lower Level) 11 AM: MASS 12:30-1:15 PM: Reconciliation (Chapel) 1:30 PM: Latin MASS

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 15 8 AM + Michelle Sale (The Petroni-Conaway Family) **5 PM †**Leona and **†**Roy Hatch and Family; +Bertha and +Tony Ruvolot, Sr. and Family (Norma Petroni) Sunday, December 16 8:30 AM **†**Catherine and **†**Peter Colo (Marlene Wood); +Alec DeJong (Donna DeJong) 11 AM Members of the Parish Monday, December 17 **NOON †**Teresa and **†**Giovanni Petroni and Family, **†**Anita and **†**Phillip Heck (Norma Petroni) Tuesday, December 18 **NOON** Members of the Parish Wednesday, December 19 **NOON †**Renzo Petroni (Gina Petroni) Thursday, December 20 8 AM Members of the Parish Friday, December 21 8 AM Members of the Parish Saturday, December 22 8 AM Members of the Parish 5 PM Jose Rodriguez Soriat (Ms. Crowley) Sunday, December 23 8:30 AM Members of the Parish **11 AM** Members of the Parish 1:30 PM: Intentions of James Savino (Patricia McAdams) SAINTS TO REMEMBER 12/16 St. Haggai the Prophet 12/17 St. John of Matha

St. JUIII UI Matila
St. Malachi the Prophet
Bl. Urban V
St. Dominic of Silos
St. Peter Canisius

St. Chaeremon

12/22

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

<u>Christmas Eve</u> (Monday, 12/24) **4:30 PM:** Children's Christmas Mass and Nativity Play **6:15 PM:** Carol Singing **7 PM:** Christmas Vigil Mass **11 PM:** Latin Christmas Mass <u>Christmas Day</u> (Tuesday, 12/25) **8:30 AM:** Mass **11 AM:** Mass

GIFTS FROM GOD

DECEMBER 8 and 9, 2018

Offertory (plate)	\$4,632
Offertory (online)	\$4,725
Weekly Offertory Budget	<u>(7,500)</u>
Above Weekly Budget	\$1,857

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Christmas Day will be the annual Diocesan Collection for Catholic Charities. Donations to all Parish Ministries (Christian Formation, Haiti, Justice and Peace, as well as for altar flowers and The Catholic Virginian) may be made at any time. To contribute online, please look for the link on our website: <u>holycomforterparish.org</u>

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading

Micah 5:1-4

The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

A prayer for God's salvation

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

Through his obedience to God's will, Christ consecrated all.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-45

Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

PARISH NEWS

MUSIC MINISTRY

Our Music Minister, Daniel Kirkland, is organizing a Children's Caroling Choir to sing before the 4:30 PM Christmas Vigil Children's Mass. Interested parents may sign up in the commons, or e-mail Mr. Kirkland directly, <u>music@holycomforterparish.org</u>

HELP WANTED

We are in need of Sacristans to help with altar care, laundering of altar linens, and cleaning wax from brass candles. This is a rewarding ministry that can accommodate most schedules. Several tasks can be performed in your home. If interested, please contact Suzanne Bailey at (434) 296-5033 or <u>slank@ntelos.net</u>.

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Prepare your heart for Christmas on Saturday, December 22, 2-4:30 PM. Free babysitting will be offered!

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Kindly notify us at <u>office@holycomforterparish.org</u> 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: Phillip Carr, Kitty Moore, Richard Fagan, Raymond Painley, Jack Valloric, Mildred Dudley, Pam Heron, Mary Griffin, Mike Charlie, Eileen Foster, Fran Cannon Slayton, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Rose Bowker.

Friends and Relatives: Marian Dolliver, Helena McQuhae, Cullen McQuhae, Ann Ramsey, Alice Starbucks, Louis Ross, Marsha Yost, Richard Yost, Will DeGregorio, Alice Stavicksey, Marlene Schmidt, Elizabeth Scott, Blandine Attey, Susan Allport, Scott Painley, Jeremy Breedlove, Scarlett Makielski, Rev. John Abe, Samantha Nelson, Joel Rivera, Judge Conrad, Claudia Hartland, Aileen Green, Christine Fitzgerald, Daniel Moore, Katie George, James Worley, 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, Kimberly Hasenfus Hulick, John Patrick Dennison, Christine Russo Carpenter, Benedict Pax, Residents of Albemarle County Regional Jail and 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.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Holy Comforter, Incarnation, and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parishes are developing a new tri-parish Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Society was founded in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam to assist the poor in honor of their patron, St. Vincent de Paul, who is known as "The Apostle of Charity." The new conference, to be called the "Holy Trinity Conference," will provide our neighbors in need with spiritual and material assistance. Information will be provided after Masses following the Feast of the Epiphany. Meanwhile, prayerfully consider becoming a Vincentian and growing spiritually by offering person-toperson charitable service. To learn more right away, please see <u>svdpusa.org</u> or contact Chuck McCurdy <u>cwm@virginia.edu.</u>

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COATS FOR KIDS

After all Masses this weekend, parish members of the Knights of Columbus will be collecting money for Coats for Kids. Please make checks payable to "Knights of Columbus #3670." Thank you!

THE CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION FESTIVAL CHOIR PRESENTS.... An Evening of Music for Advent and Christmas on Wednesday, December 19, 2018. The evening begins at 7 PM with sung Advent Evening Prayer in the Worship Center. Please join us for this special musical event.

CATHOLIC GUILD

ARE YOU A CATHOLIC EXECUTIVE OR BUSINESSMAN THAT IS TIRED OF WORKING IN CORPORATE AMERICA? WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE THE FULLNESS OF YOUR FAITH IN THE WORKPLACE? Then consider joining or starting your own Catholic Guild. Mark Wilson, along with Fr. Sebastian Nkoa, from Douala, Cameroon, will present the Guild they are forming.

Location: St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Library

Time: Sunday, 3:30 pm December 30th

For background information see the following links:

curvware.com/REDISCOVERGUILDS.docx

curvware.com/Catholic Guild.pdf

If you plan to attend or for further information please email mark@curvware.com

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM 2018

Holy Comforter delivered the gifts you purchased to the Salvation Army. Thank you for reaching out in the name of Jesus to those in our community who are in need.

HAITI

Thank you to all who purchased items and sponsored St. Michel students at our Haiti Craft Sale Sunday. Your support for the Haiti Ministry this year has made possible a good, Catholic and comprehensive education for the many students at St. Michel School. Also, you have made possible good primary health care in this rural village of Saltadere.

Bi-Parish Haiti Committee

For more information about getting involved in this ministry, contact Ginny Zeller ginnyannzeller@gmail.com

UGANDA

There is an immediate need for a new or gently used laptop computer. Please notify Theresa Lynch if you can help: <u>osgarlynch@gmail.com</u>

THE ALYSSA HOUSE

Thank you for your warm welcome, your encouragement and your generous donations! Alyssa Angels are still available. Contact <u>pgcoldewey@gmail.com</u> for angel information or to learn about volunteer opportunities. Merry Christmas and God bless. Pat Coldewey

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

YOUR PERSONAL FAITH AND THE SUNDAY READINGS: Are you interested in sharing with others a rich discussion of the Sunday Scripture readings that can carry you through your week and draw you closer to Christ? If so, please contact Sue Dougherty or use the sign up in the Commons. Facilitators are needed.

COMING IN THE NEW YEAR

SHORT STORIES EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD READ

This discussion group will share 5 classic short stories from which we can glean important lessons to enrich our Catholic Faith. Join Susan Neale who will facilitate the discussions on **January 6, 13, 20, 27, and February 13**. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Commons or email Sue Dougherty, <u>cre@holycomforterparish.org</u>, if you are interested.

A SEMINAR ON SACRED LITURGY

Don't miss this opportunity to join parishioner Ed Murray to deepen your sense of liturgy as an expression of dayto-day faith by exploring Dave Brubeck's *Mass to Hope*. More about this exciting 5-Session Seminar coming soon!

ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATON PRE-K-8

Christmas Eve Nativity Play: To parents of children participating in the Nativity Play at the Christmas Eve Children's Mass: A final "dress rehearsal" for the Nativity Play will take place on Sunday, December 23, following the 8:30 Mass. Please note, there is no religious education that day.

Holiday Break: Our last Christian Formation class for this year will be **Sunday, December 16**. Classes will resume on **Sunday, January 6**, the Feast of the Epiphany.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION:

This **Sunday, December 16**, our guest, Pat Coldewey, will join us for her presentation about Alyssa House and we will do a service project for them. We'll also have some "Christmas cheer" and time to socialize. Our next meeting **on Sunday, January 6** will be both a Confirmation class with Jackson and a class for other students with Sue to continue our study of principles of Catholic Social Justice.

From Our Pastor Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.

ADVENT AND THE DIVINE INFANCY (part 3)



Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You." (1Kg. 8:27)

"Will God indeed dwell on earth?" is a question that sums up the wonder of the incarnation. The Mystery of the incarnation is explained by a creedal statement of an early council of the Church: *...we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the onlybegotten Son of God..., God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father... For us men, and for our salvation, He came down from heaven... He took on flesh from the Virgin Mary, and became man." (Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed A.D. 325, 381). So, following the saintly fathers, we live in wonder of that same Christ, perfect in divinity and perfect in humanity; that same true God and true man, of a rational soul and body like ours in all ways except for sin. All that our present day "super-beings" offer provides little help when it comes to the doctrine of the incarnation. In the first place, these are fictional characters and nobody really believes in them. In addition, these "super-heroes" of our time are vastly different from the person of Christ, who is God incarnate. There is nothing in fact or in fiction in the history of man which matches the mystery of the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Humanly speaking, no one anticipated God's intervention into human history by the birth of a child, born in a manger. Not even Judaism was looking for a Messiah to come in this way. Furthermore, we have become so accustomed to the biblical narratives of the birth of our Lord and the creedal formulations of the doctrines involved that we have often ceased to appreciate the mystery of the incarnation. If we are to properly appreciate this mystery, we must first come to recognize the importance of the coming of our Lord as God incarnate, something that is vital to every one of us.*

We are quickly approaching Christmas. Strangely enough, this is a time of depression, not just for men and women in general, but particularly for the Catholic Church. The "let down" is noticeable, I think, for all of us. Some of this is probably the fact that we have not ceased to tie our faith with individuals other than to the person of Christ. Something like; "I go to Mass hear Father so-and-so." St. Paul would ask; "Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?" (1Cr. 1:13). And, a great deal of our depression is related to the fact that much of our concentration is turned away from the message of Christ's incarnation. The great joy of Christmas is inseparably bound with the fact of His incarnation. It is probably not necessary to remind you that December 25th is hardly to be considered the time when our Lord was actually born. No one really knows the exact date of our Lord's birth. We do know that by the end of the fourth century Christ's birth was celebrated on January 6th, and then later on, celebration was divided between January 6th and December 25th. In early Rome, the Feast of Saturnalia was celebrated for seven days from the 17th of December to the 24th. It is said that this festive week was marked by a spirit of merriment, gift-giving to children and other forms of entertainment. Throughout the centuries various elements of pagan celebrations have been included in the observance of Christmas. It is due to these "other-than-Christian" elements that the central focus of Christmas on the incarnation has been obscured. If we are to truly enter into the spirit and celebration of Christmas in Christian worship then we must focus our attention on the event of the incarnation, which is the heart of the Christmas message. (To be continued...)