

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (3/9)

8 AM: MASS

10 AM: Baptism: *Sophia Grace Davis*

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

5 PM: Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (3/10) FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Altar Flowers Provided by Anonymous Donation

7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)

8:30 AM: MASS

9:45-10:45 AM: Adult Formation *With Jesus to the Cross (Chapel)*

9:45-10:45 AM: Christian Formation and First Sacraments Preparation

11 AM: MASS

12:30-1:15 PM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)

1:30 PM: Latin MASS

MONDAY (3/11)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

10:30-11:45 AM: Divine Will Prayer Group (*Chapel*)

NOON: MASS

6:30 PM: St. Vincent de Paul (*Lower Level*)

TUESDAY (3/12)

7 AM: MASS

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: Midday Prayer

5:15-9 PM: Schola Rehearsals

WEDNESDAY (3/13)

7 AM: MASS

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry

NOON: Midday Prayer

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

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

6 PM: MASS

THURSDAY (3/14)

7 AM: MASS

NOON: Midday Prayer

NOON: Soup Kitchen

6:30 PM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)

7-8 PM: Holy Hour and Adoration

FRIDAY (3/15) (Lenten Abstinence Observed)

NOON: MASS

NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

6 PM: Stations of the Cross

NEW DAILY MASS SCHEDULE!

Monday Noon

Tuesday 7 AM

Wednesday 7 AM

Thursday 7 AM

Friday Noon (*except First Fridays at 6:30 PM*)

Saturday 8 AM

SATURDAY (3/16)

8 AM: MASS

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

5 PM: Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (3/17) SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Altar Flowers Provided by Tina and Matt Blumenfeld in Memory of Patrick Barr

7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)

8:30 AM: MASS

9:45-10:45 AM: Adult Formation *With Jesus to the Cross (Chapel)*

9:45-10:45 AM: Christian Formation and First Sacraments Preparation

11 AM: MASS

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 9

8 AM Joseph Blumenfeld

5 PM Member of the Parish

Sunday, March 10

8:30 AM †Richard C. Yost (The Petroni-Conaway Family)

11 AM †Donald Goodrich (Judy Harmon)

1:30 PM Abigail Blumenfeld

Wednesday, March 13

7 AM Intentions of Tiffany Paitsel (Jill and Steve Paitsel)

Saturday, March 16

8 AM †Patsy Lyons Massie (Margaret Marsh)

5 PM Member of the Parish

Sunday, March 17

8:30 AM †Maria C. Stevenson (The Petroni-Conaway Family)

11 AM †Lorene Primich (Judy Pateman)

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

First Reading

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

God makes a covenant with Abraham, promising him many descendants.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14

A prayer to God who is our salvation

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Paul encourages the Philippians to remain firm in their faith that Christ will subject all things to himself.

Gospel Reading

Luke 9:28b-36

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

GIFTS FROM GOD

MARCH 2 AND 3, 2019

Offertory (plate)	\$4,164
Offertory (online)	\$1,778
Offertory (other)	\$7,000
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$7,500)
Above Weekly Budget	\$5,442

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Our monthly collection for Outreach will be taken *next Sunday* so we can begin the Annual Diocesan Appeal In-Pew pledge process begins this weekend. To contribute online, please look for the link on our website: holycomforterparish.org

2019 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Building Our Family of Faith

In complement to the funds returned to our parish through the parish sharing formula, the 2019 Appeal may also benefit our Outreach Ministry. Last year we were awarded a \$2,500 Fuel and Hunger Grant.

Recently, many of you received a letter from Bishop Knestout asking for your support of the 2019 Annual Diocesan Appeal. We hope you will prayerfully consider this request. For those of you who did not receive a mailing or have not had time to respond to it, we will conduct our In-Pew pledge process at all Masses during the weekends of March 9-10 and 16-17.

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

3/10	Four Martyrs of Sebaste
3/11	St. Eulogius
3/12	St. Theophanes the Chronicler
3/13	St. Euphrasia
3/14	St. Matilda
3/15	St. Louise de Marillac
3/16	St. Heribert of Cologne

LENT

The three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In view of our new daily Mass schedule, our music director is providing parishioners with an opportunity to focus on the first of those pillars by offering **Midday Prayer**. Traditionally known as "sext," or the "sixth hour of the day," parishioners will have the opportunity to join their prayers to a portion of the psalm-centered Liturgy of the Hours, the universal prayer of the Church. Midday Prayer will be offered at Noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, preceded by the Angelus, also traditionally prayed at the sixth hour. The Angelus will also be recited before the noon Masses on Monday and Friday.

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: Bill Phillip, Phillip Carr, Kitty Moore, Richard Fagan, Raymond Painley, Mildred Dudley, Pam Heron, Mary Griffin, Mike Charlie, Eileen Foster, Fran Cannon Slayton, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti.

Friends and Relatives: Anne Marie Richards, Christy Ackerman, Mary Caretti, Hallam Harper, Chris Irwin Krupka, Traci McQuhae, Brett McQuhae, Marian Dolliver, Helena McQuhae, Cullen McQuhae, Ann Ramsey, Alice Starbucks, Louis Ross, 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.

MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

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

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.

LENT RESOURCES FOR PARISHIONERS AND FAMILIES

Various booklets and handouts to help you with your Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are available on the Christian Formation table in the Commons. Feel free to pick up materials for you and your family.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

HAITI

Travelers to Saltadere: Two parishioners will visit our twin parish by way of the Dominican Republic. Please keep their visit in your prayers as they bring greetings from the Charlottesville twinning parishes to our brothers and sisters of St. Michel parish.

Bi-Parish Haiti Committee

The next meeting will be held on March 24 at 1:30 PM here at Holy Comforter. For more information about getting involved in this ministry, contact Ginny Zeller ginnyannzeller@gmail.com or visit saltadere.org

IMPACT

Please plan to attend the **Nehemiah Action on Thursday, April 11th from 6:30-8 PM. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Performing Arts Center.** This is the largest public meeting in Charlottesville, with 1,000 people in attendance. There is power in numbers. A large turnout by itself is an effective way of communicating to public policy makers the importance of the problems we point out and the modest solutions we propose.

To prepare for the Action, we invite you to the **IMPACT Rally to be held on Tuesday, March 12th from 6:30-8 PM at the Church of the Incarnation.** The Holy Comforter team is offering participants from our parish a **LIGHT SUPPER at 6 PM. in the Conference Room.** During dinner we can share information about the affordable housing crisis and IMPACT's efforts. FREE Tickets for the Nehemiah Action will be distributed at the Rally. **Please let us know if you will be able to attend.** slank@ntelos.net

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The last of three information sessions for the new Charlottesville area Holy Trinity Conference will be held this Tuesday, March 11 from 6:30-7:30 PM here at Holy Comforter. Please contact Chuck McCurdy, cwm@virginia.edu for more information.

NEW MINISTRY FORMING!

We plan to strengthen our parish community through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Members of this ministry will coordinate with our homebound Eucharistic Ministers to identify and visit parishioners in their homes or hospitals; prepare simple meals or help run quick errands; provide rides to Mass; send uplifting cards or notes; and pray for them.

Please prayerfully consider how you can to help this ministry to thrive, then contact Diane Auger Smith at dianeaugersmith@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

FIRST SACRAMENTS

The final preparation class prior to the retreat will be on **Sunday, March 17.** This will be an important meeting to summarize the lessons. Please reserve **Saturday, April 27 from 9-12** on your calendar for the First Holy Communion Retreat.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY AND CONFIRMATION

There is NO CLASS for High School students this week. Please pray for students attending the Antioch Retreat this weekend. Next **Sunday, March 17**, John Kronstain will return to lead a discussion on the topic of chastity.

ELEMENTARY CHRISTIAN FORMATION

This week children will receive rice bowls and other family resources that can be used by your family during Lent. We hope that you will take advantage of them.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

WITH JESUS TO THE CROSS:

A Lenten Guide on Sunday Mass Readings

Enhance your Lenten experience with a discussion of the Sunday readings and the opportunity to continue to reflect on the Scriptures through the weeks of Lent, **March 10 – April 14, from 9:45-10:45** in the Chapel. See the flyer and sign up on the Christian Formation table in the Commons.

DANTE DISCUSSION GROUP

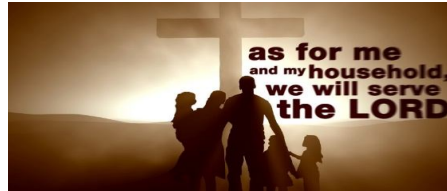
At 3:30 on Saturday, March 23, Holy Comforter's Dante discussion group will begin reading Dante's "Paradise" - the last and theologically richest part of the Divine Comedy, Dante's trilogy on the afterlife. Journey with us as we learn truths about Christian living from a cast of familiar characters, including Solomon, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Peter (who offers a deeply enraged consideration of corruption in the church). All are welcome, our pace is slow and easy, and knowledge of the earlier parts is not required! We meet on the lower level; please contact John Bugbee bugbee@virginia.edu for more details.

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The CRE oversees all Christian Formation programs for children, youth and adults. Applicants should have at least two years of catechetical experience and a college degree in theology/pastoral ministry or education. Please send a cover letter, resume, and references to Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F. at jlukyajm@holycomforterparish.org by April 1, 2019.

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

FOR MY BENEFIT, MY FAMILY AND MY CHURCH, I WELCOME AND EMBRACE LENT (Part 2)



"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah." (Jer. 31:31)

I believe very often we hear the word "covenant," but do you really know what it means? The covenants of God are the cornerstone of the Bible and yet very few in our churches are familiar with its meaning or its application in our relationship with God. Its basic meaning is an **agreement**. In scriptural terms, it is an agreement between God and man, initiated by God. God chooses to reach out to man and offer him an agreement. Simply stated, God says, "If you will do this, then I will do that". There are basically six parts common to covenants: **The Parties:** A covenant is an agreement or treaty between two people or groups of people. **The Promises:** each party declares his promises to the other party. **The Conditions:** Each party is responsible to fulfill his promises. If one fails to keep his promise (breaks the covenant), the other is no longer bound to the covenant. **The Duration:** The length of time that the covenant is binding upon each party. **The Sign:** Often there is a visual object used as the sign of the covenant. When the parties of the covenant look upon the sign, they are reminded of the covenant. This may be an object or the covenant contract itself. **The Dedication:** A dedication is performed, often in the form of a ceremony. This often involves the shedding of blood.

God promised that the people of Israel would be his chosen people, and he would be their God (*Ex. 6:7*). God issued the Ten Commandments and the laws in Leviticus to be obeyed by the Hebrews. If they complied, he pledged prosperity and protection in the Promised Land.

The letter to the Hebrews points out that; *"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe"* (Heb.1:1-2). So by and through Jesus Christ the Son of God, a New Covenant was established. The New Covenant promises salvation from sin and eternal life with God. Jesus as the high priest, constantly intercedes for his followers before his Father in heaven.

Both the Old and New Testaments are the story of the same God, a God of love and mercy who gave his people the freedom to choose and who gives his people the opportunity to come back to him by choosing Jesus Christ. The Old Covenant was for a specific people in a specific place and time. The New Covenant extends to the entire world. Jesus is the Savior of the world.

In the Covenant there is a key binding force and that is "Commitment." I am tempted to believe that may be one of the reasons our culture has avoided words such as "covenant" because it is a commitment. Our society today in general does not like commitments. The only commitment that we commit to today is to our own desires and happiness. We will do what is necessary and go wherever is needed to make us happy. The most tragic loss is that we, as a nation, have forgotten the God of the Covenant, who committed Himself to us; the God who created us and gave us life. It is a shame if we present ourselves as a people who no longer serve God and our fellow man. Instead, we serve ourselves.

We need to confirm during this Lent with the people of Israel as they established before Joshua that: ***"Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God" (Jos. 24:16-18). (To be continued...)***