

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**SATURDAY (1/4)****8 AM:** MASS**3:30-4:30 PM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)**5 PM:** Sunday Vigil MASS**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (1/5)*****Altar Flowers Provided through the Generosity of Our Parishioners*****7 AM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)**8:30 AM:** MASS**9:45-10:45 AM:** Christian Formation (*Lower Level*)**9:45-10:45 AM:** RCIA (*CRE Office*)**11 AM:** MASS**12:30 PM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)**1:30 PM:** Latin MASS**MONDAY (1/6)****10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry**NOON:** MASS**TUESDAY (1/7)****7 AM:** MASS**10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry**NOON:** Angelus and Midday Prayer**4:30 PM:** Youth Schola Rehearsal (*Lower Level*)**6 PM:** Women's Schola Rehearsal (*Loft*)**7 PM:** Men's Schola Rehearsal (*Loft*)**WEDNESDAY (1/8)****7 AM:** MASS**10 AM-NOON:** Food Pantry**NOON:** Angelus and Midday Prayer**NOON:** AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)**7 PM:** Choir Rehearsal (*Loft*)**7:30 PM:** Confraternity of St. Joseph (*Lower Level*)**THURSDAY (1/9)****7 AM:** MASS**NOON:** Angelus and Midday Prayer**NOON:** Soup Kitchen**6:30 PM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)**7 PM:** Holy Hour and Adoration**FRIDAY (1/10)****NOON:** MASS**NOON:** AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)**SAINTS TO REMEMBER**

1/4	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
1/5	Saint John Neumann
1/6	Saint André Bessette
1/7	Saint Raymond of Peñafort
1/8	Saint Angela of Foligno
1/9	Saint Adrian of Canterbury
1/10	Saint Gregory of Nyssa
1/11	Blessed William Carter
1/12	Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys

SATURDAY (1/11)**8 AM** MASS**3:30-4:30 PM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)**5 PM:** Sunday Vigil MASS**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (1/12)*****Altar Flowers Provided in Loving Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Severin, Jr. by Richard Severin*****7 AM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)**8:30 AM:** MASS**11 AM:** MASS**12:30 PM:** Reconciliation (*Chapel*)**1:30 PM:** Latin MASS**MASS INTENTIONS****Saturday, January 4****8 AM** President Donald Trump (Alice Makielski)**5 PM** Members of our Parish**Sunday, January 5****8:30 AM** †Catherine and †Peter Colo (Marlene Wood)**11 AM** Members of and Visitors to our Parish**1:30 PM** †Helen and †James Savino (Patricia McAdams)**Monday, January 6****NOON** Kathleen Thomson and Family (Jack Engler)**Friday, January 10****NOON** Bridget Davis and Family (Jack Engler)**Saturday, January 11****5 PM** †Tripp Kaufman (Anonymous)**Sunday, January 12****8:30 AM** †Hunter Lang (Annie and Tom Tromey)**11 AM** Maureen and †Edward Bradley (The Davis Family)**1:30 PM** †James Lillis (Patricia McAdams)

When they saw the *star*,
they rejoiced
exceedingly
with great joy.

Matthew 2:10

GIFTS FROM GOD

DECEMBER 21-22, 2019

Offertory (plate)	\$9,117
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$7,500)
Above Weekly Budget	\$1,617

CHRISTMAS

Offertory (plate)	\$10,200
Catholic Charities (plate and online)	\$2,743

DECEMBER 28-29, 2019

Offertory (plate)	\$3,494
Offertory (online)	\$3,083
Weekly Offertory Budget	(\$7,500)
Below Weekly Budget	(\$923)

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Our monthly collection for Outreach will be taken next weekend.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Just as you rely upon receiving income on a regular basis, ***Holy Comforter depends on your regular contributions.*** We appreciate the efforts of parishioners who make consistent donations throughout the year, even during inclement weather and vacation travel. Online Giving is a safe and secure option for setting up regular contributions. Follow the link on our website holyccomforterparish.org to get started! Thank you.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

The servant of the Lord shall bring justice to all.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10

The Lord will give peace to the people.

Second Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

The Spirit of God comes upon Jesus as he is baptized by John.

HEARING LOOP AVAILABLE

Please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the T, T-Coil or Telephone position. For additional assistance, please ask one of our ushers.

PARISH NEWS

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Kindly notify us at office@holyccomforterparish.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: Eileen and Al Bracuti, Phillip Carr, Maureen Clark, John Eros, Richard Fagan, Eileen Foster, Jolene Green, Mary Griffin, Colette Hall, Ruth Henahan, Pam Heron, Michael Ludgate, Theresa Lynch, Kitty Moore, Jim Morrisard, Marie and Joe Murray, Dan Petruso, Shawn Simpson-Smith.

Family and Friends: Kathleen Gough, Gordon Brookman, Elizabeth Leverage Hilles, Lucien Garo, Felicia Anderson, Leroy Anderson, Maryjane Fuller, Gayle Christensen, Dorothy Lilly, Raymond Painley, Michelle Edwards, Fran Cannon Slayton, Barbara Lachance, Mike Charlie, Hernan Enrique Caceres, Veronica Natalia Chavez, Maria Sol Montel, Veronica Rodriguez, Luz Alejandra Bringas, Carolina Silvia Brizuela Perez, Rodolfo Martin Arruabarrena, Gustavo Caceres, Kwasi Johnson, Ben Tensley, Randy T. Johnson, Christy Ackerman, Chris Irwin Krupka, Traci McQuhae, Brett McQuhae, Helena McQuhae, Cullen McQuhae, Ann Ramsey, 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, Mr. Kosh, 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, Susan Straub Martin, Josephine Nampijja, Christine Bentéjac, Kimberly Hasenfus Hulick, John Patrick Dennison, Christine Russo Carpenter, Benedict Pax, Brian Driscoll, Aimee Nyiramugisha.

MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

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

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.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

CLASSES RESUME THIS WEEKEND!

Welcome back students and catechists!!

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BEING A SUBSTITUTE CATECHIST?

Your opportunity has arrived! Substitute CF catechists are needed! If interested in supporting our wonderful Holy Comforter Parish in this very special way, please contact Melinda Wells, cre@holyccomforterparish.org 434 295-6559

SINGLE ADULTS GROUP

For more information, or to join, please contact Melinda Wells, cre@holyccomforterparish.org 434 295-6559

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY NEWS

CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Enrollment for the 2020-21 school year at Charlottesville Catholic School is now open. CCS serves students in Junior Kindergarten through 8th grade. For more information or to apply, visit www.cvillecatholic.org, call 434-964-0400, or email admissions@cvillecatholic.org.

CASA ALMA

Do you have a vehicle to donate? A guest in one of our Christ Rooms needs a reliable vehicle. She would like to move to an affordable apartment in an outlying county and continue her career path here in Charlottesville. Please consider donating your vehicle to Casa Alma so we can help our guest reach self-sufficiency. Contact Laura or Steve at 434-202-2221 or cvillecw@gmail.com for more details. Thank you!

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!

Give the gift of time to each other this year! On the Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, learn to prioritize the important things. That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** Weekend. Attend one of the upcoming weekends on February 21-23, 2020 in VIRGINIA BEACH and March 20-22, 2020 in FAIRFAX. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website: renewmarriage-vasouth.org

COMMONWEALTH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Because of your support, Commonwealth Catholic Charities serves the most vulnerable in our communities every day. Your contributions this year will give the gift of food, family, warmth, home, and hope to our neighbors in need.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

IMPACT



Please come to a meeting on Sunday, January 19 between the Masses in the basement. There will be updates on the research being gathered on IMPACT's new issue (problems facing undocumented immigrants, particularly the inability to obtain a driver's license) and on its ongoing issue (affordable housing) AND we will discuss what we need to do to get 60 parishioners (counting ourselves) to attend the Nehemiah Action in the spring.

HAITI

Joyeux Noel from Father Patina!

Hello brothers and sisters,

Christmas, is God with us, to save us. It is God who is made man, to save man from all evil. Christmas, is the feast of peace, of love, of fraternity, of unity, of charity on the whole Earth.

May this Christmas holiday be for you a moment of joy, protection and blessing. On the words on behalf of faithful of the Saint Michael parish of Saltadere, Haiti, I wish each of you, a Merry Christmas 2019 and a blessed and happy New Year 2020 in peace and total joy.

I love you so much.

Bi Parish Committee



Please keep Father Petina and our twin parish in your prayers as we celebrate the birth of Our Savior.

For more information on getting involved in this ministry, please contact Ginny Zeller ginnyannzeller@gmail.com or visit www.saltadere.org

DIOCESE BICENTENNIAL PRAYER

*Father of lights,
the radiance of your Son has guided the advance of the Gospel across the Diocese of Richmond for two centuries, strengthening our Church from the Eastern Shore to the Cumberland Gap.*

Grant that the nearness of your Son may dispel the darkness of our sins, so that as our love increases more and more, we may dare more than ever to fearlessly proclaim the word.

Holding fast to the word of life, may we shine like stars in the world.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Imprimatur:
+Barry C. Knestout, Bishop of Richmond

FROM THE PASTOR

Very Rev. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi, V.F.

THE POWER OF BABY JESUS

(Part 1)



“And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them.” (Is. 11:6).

As Christians we look forward to celebrating Christmas and we feel the joy it brings in our life. But do you know that there are people who feel offended because of Christmas? If you doubt that statement, just try putting up a manger scene on public property. Or try saying “Merry Christmas” instead of “Happy Holidays.” But how can it be that people get offended by what was once considered innocent displays of Christmas cheer? To be sure, sometimes Christians can be offensive in the way we share our faith, and we do not disagree with those who argue for not subjecting others to unnecessary embarrassment. But at the heart of the matter is this truth: ***Some people are unhappy with Christmas because they want nothing to do with Jesus Christ.*** They’ve heard enough and seen enough, nothing more is needed. However we hold on to this truth from the prophet Isaiah: ***“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Is. 9:8).*** With that in mind, I propose that we revisit the birth of Christ to ask an all-important question: ***Who is that baby in the manger?*** On one level, we know who he is. He is Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary. This we know and this we believe and this we proclaim with all other Christians. But that hardly exhausts the answer. Who is that baby? And who is he to us? The letter to the Hebrews says this; ***“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. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven (1:1-3).***

It is wonderful to know that God has appointed Jesus as heir of all things. I understand this from a personal point of view. When my father died in 1989, I found out that my name and that of my brother and sisters had been written in his will. That meant that along with my brother, my sisters and my mother, I shared in my father’s property. It also meant that I received a nice jacket he used to wear. I received it because I was entitled to what my father possessed. To say that God has appointed Jesus heir of all things means that God has given everything to his Son. The deepest oceans. The farthest stars. The darkest corners. The highest mountains. Creatures seen and unseen. They all belong to him. Today it doesn’t appear that everything belongs to Jesus because Satan is a squatter who illegally claims the earth as his domain. But in the end Satan will be overthrown and Jesus installed as the rightful king of the universe. This means that when you come to the end of everything, Jesus is there! ***The King of kings and Lord of lords.*** It may seem from a brief glance at the scoreboard that Satan is winning in the cosmic struggle between good and evil. But as they say in the election business, those are just “partial returns.” When all the votes are counted, those who stand with Jesus will find themselves on the victorious side. As one of the hymns goes; ***“Jesus shall reign where ’ere the sun, doth its successive journeys run; his kingdom spread from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.” (To be continued...)***