



DECEMBER 3, 2023
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**CLUSTERED CATHOLIC PARISHES OF
THE ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS**

SACRED HEART CHURCH

255 W. Main St (office - 214 W. Locust St.) Covington, VA 24426
540-962-6541 sacredheartcovington.org
Mass Schedule: Sunday 11:00 AM

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

620 Jefferson Ave. Clifton Forge, VA 24422
540-863-5371 stjosephcf.org
Mass Schedule: Sunday 9:00 AM

SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART

1499 Shady Ln. (P.O. Box 38) Hot Springs, VA 24445
540-839-2603 shrineofthesacredheartparish.org
Mass Schedule: Saturday 5:00 PM; Sunday 9:00 AM

Fr. Augustine Lukenge, Pastor

434-755-1208

Fr. Tom Collins, Retired Priest In-Residence

540-588-8492

Fr. Dan Kelly, Retired Priest In-Residence

434-270-6037

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions are available before each Mass at all churches.

Sacrament of Matrimony:

In order for a Catholic to enter a sacramentally valid marriage, he/she must respect and follow the Church's discipline regarding this sacrament. Call the parish office for specific information. Normally, about six months should be allowed to prepare for this sacred covenant. Parish registration is necessary.

Sacrament of Confirmation:

Students are required to be registered in the parish & be participating in the parish Rel. Ed. Program. Confirmation classes are separate and obligatory.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Parents are required to attend one Baptism preparation class (seminar). Baptism is celebrated within the weekend Mass. Call the parish offices for a seminar date.

Today's Gospel

"Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come."

Mark 13:33-37

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

St. Joseph Parish 540-863-5371

Office Hours: Call for appointment

In Emergency	Fr. Lukenge	434-755-1208
Council Chair	Paul Cormier	540-968-6410
Vice Chair	Libby Burger	540-691-6618
Secretary	Mary Asma	540-965-5551
Worship	Paul Cormier	540-968-6410
Community Life	Kathy Smestad	540-862-5333
Justice & Peace	Mary Asma	540-965-5551
Grds & Maint.	Jimmy Withrow	540-494-3987

Sacred Heart Parish 540-962-6541

Office Hours: Call for appointment

In Emergency	Fr. Lukenge	434-755-1208
Council Chair	Laurie O'Doherty	703-282-9203
Vice Chair	Leo Mulcahy	540-862-3021
Secretary	DeDe Rogowski	540-962-7344
Worship	Tom O'Doherty	540-962-6795
Community Life	Alvina Nida	540-747-2211
Justice & Peace	John Stec	540-862-1917
Grds & Maint.	Ron Brunetti	540-962-1565
Religious Educ.	Dianne Garcia	540-691-4896
K of C Contact	Don Rogowski	540-962-7344

Shrine of the Sacred Heart Parish 540-839-2603

Office Hours: Call for appointment

In Emergency	Fr. Lukenge	434-755-1208
Council Chair	Herb Godschalk	540-255-3690
Vice Chair	Beth Eley	646-842-1555
Secretary	Sue Godschalk	540-255-2499
Worship	Eileen Judah	540-968-6409
Community Life	Deborah Lambert	540- 468-3438
Justice & Peace	Tom Misiak	540-997-1478
Grds & Maint.	Louis Pokrywka	540-925-2413



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR
MILITARY MEN & WOMEN:

Sacred Heart – Arthur Headley, Jessie (Jesus) Morals, Joel Moscoso

St. Joseph – Michael Buchanan, Joshua Crawford, Andy Shepard

PRAYER LIST

St. Joseph

Mark Asma, Clair Dilley, Tom Greenwood, Rita Luther, Sally Putnam, Bob Umstead, Terry Windsor.

Sacred Heart

Pam Austin, Nola Beach, Josephine Brown, Mack Brown, Wanda Callaham, Robert Childs, Esther Ewing, Jay Ewing, Tony Forbes, Roberta Frampton, Arthur Headley, Marcella Jordan, Raphael Lopez, Heidi Mulcahy, David Palance, Maria Perron, Paul Perron, Shaun Perron, Pam Poole, Michael Rybka, Cathy Savage, Maureen Stec, Sophia Veras, Bill Withrow

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Molly Sasser, John W. Smith, Clarissa Westenburger

Diocese of Richmond Seminarian

Mr. Aventon Grimes



WEEKLY DONATIONS BUDGETED NEEDS: \$1400.00

St. Joseph

Sunday Offertory	\$872.00
Christmas Family	100.00

Sacred Heart

Sunday Offertory	\$1,397.00
2 ND Collections	161.00
Votive	46.00

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,017.63
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Jesus and the Eucharist Study

Every parish across the country is invited to host the Jesus and the Eucharist study during the Year of Parish Revival. This seven-session series will immerse participants in the kerygmatic proclamation (Sessions 1–4) and unveil God’s saving work in the Eucharist (Sessions 5–7).

Each session opens with an exhortation from a different bishop, followed by lectio divina prayer with scripture. The main lesson is drawn from content created by the Augustine Institute and will include personal testimonies from Catholics across the country. We will then transition into small group discussions. Each session will be 2 hours or less.

BELOW IS AN OVERVIEW OF EACH SESSION:

Session 1: What’s Our Story?

The Bible is the story of God’s love for us. He created us out of love, redeemed us by his love, and transforms us in his love.

Session 2: Who Is Jesus?

Jesus is both God and man, therefore he reveals who God is in relation to us. Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15) He asks this same question of us: who do you say Jesus is?

Session 3: Am I Saved?

Salvation is a gift from God through Jesus Christ that requires our “yes.”

Session 4: Why a Church?

Jesus didn’t simply leave us a written message or instruction manual to follow. He gave us a living, dynamic Church where we encounter him personally and allow ourselves to be transformed into his likeness.

Session 5: God Is With Us

God’s presence in the Old Testament foreshadows the gift of the Eucharist, one of the seven sacraments of the Church. Jesus established the Eucharist to give us strength and accompany us at every moment of our earthly journey.

Session 6: The Story of the Eucharist

The story of the Eucharist can be traced throughout Scripture. From Genesis to the present day, this session explores how the Cross is the new Tree of Life, and the Eucharist is its fruit.

Session 7: Bread for the Journey

The Eucharist sustains us on our spiritual journey. Our participation at Mass through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist is an offering of thanksgiving to God. We are then sent forth to share what we have received.

**Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Tuesdays @ 6:30 PM
January 9, 16, 23, & 30, & February 6, 13, & 20**



CALENDAR

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

St. Joseph - 12NOON Tuesday and Thursday
Sacred Heart – 11:30AM Wednesday;
Friday 10:45AM Adoration and Benediction; Mass
at 12Noon

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Holy Day of Obligation)
December 7 – Vigil Mass at Shrine of the Sacred
Heart at 5:00PM
December 8 – Mass at Sacred Heart at 12 Noon; St.
Joseph at 5:30PM.

Our Lady of Guadalupe – December 12 Masses:
Shrine of the Sacred Heart - 9:00AM
St. Joseph - 12Noon
Sacred Heart - 6:00PM

The Nativity of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)
December 24 – Vigil Masses:
Shrine of the Sacred Heart – 5:00PM
Sacred Heart – 5:00PM
St. Joseph – 10:00PM
December 25 Masses:
Shrine of the Sacred Heart – 9:00AM
Sacred Heart – 11:00AM
St. Joseph – No Mass

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Holy
Day of Obligation)
December 31 Vigil Mass:
Shrine of the Sacred Heart – 5:00PM
January 1 Masses:
Shrine of the Sacred Heart – 9:00AM
St. Joseph – 9:00AM
Sacred Heart – 11:00AM

NOTICES

CALENDAR

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sacred Heart – 5PM before Mass and 7PM
December 13: St. Joseph – 7:00PM

CLUSTERED PARISH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND POTLUCK DINNER

Sacred Heart will host a Tri-Parish Children's
Christmas Pageant and potluck dinner on
Sunday, December 17th in the parish hall at 5PM.
All parishioners from our clustered parishes are
invited. Please bring a dish of your choice and
join us. You are welcome to attend even if you
cannot bring a dish. There will be a special
appearance by Santa!

WATCH!

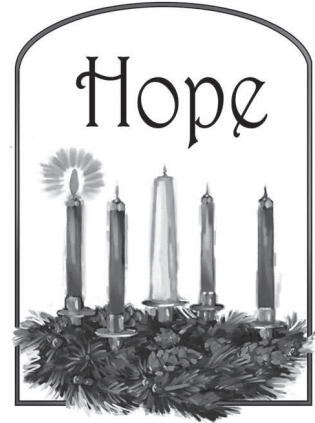
Happy New Year! The Church's calendar begins
today. The word "Advent" means "coming" and
starts with a message similar to the theme of last
week's Mass. Be ready and watch for the coming
of Jesus. This can be understood in three ways.
First, we anticipate Christ's advent on Christmas.
We transcend the materialism of the modern
world by a focus on the real meaning of the feast:
God enters human existence in a totally personal
way. Second, we look forward to Jesus' arrival in
our lives through the blossoming of our faith.
We bring his body into the world through our
union with him in the communion of saints.
Finally, we speculate on the end of this universe
at the conclusion of time. The universe is not
self-sustaining. Eventually it will terminate in
some sort of extinction. Time is finite. It will
reach a culmination either in a vast cataclysm or
total dissolution. Then the real universe will
begin in God.

DAILY READINGS

Sun. Dec. 3	Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 19b; 64: 2-7; Psalms 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Psalms 85: 8; Mark 13: 33-37
Mon. Dec. 4	Isaiah 2: 1-5; Psalms 122: 1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Psalms 80: 4; Matthew 8: 5-11
Tues. Dec. 5	Isaiah 11: 1-10; Psalms 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10: 21-24
Wed. Dec. 6	Isaiah 25: 6-10a; Psalms 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 15: 29-37
Thurs. Dec. 7	Isaiah 26: 1-6; Psalms 118: 1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Isaiah 55: 6; Matthew 7: 21, 24-27
Fri. Dec. 8	Genesis 3: 9-15, 20; Psalms 98: 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12; Luke 1: 28; Luke 1: 26-38
Sat. Dec. 9	Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26; Psalms 147: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Isaiah 33: 22; Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 1, 5a, 6-8
Sun. Dec. 10	Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; Psalms 85: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Peter 3: 8-14; Luke 3: 4, 6; Mark 1: 1-8

VOCATIONS

“Father, you formed us in your image.” Are you considering your work to be of service to Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father Matthew Kiehle (804)359-5661 email: vocations @richmond diocese .org.



THE HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT

Today we begin the beautiful and holy season of Advent. With all that we have going on this time of year, it's no wonder Advent that does not always seem to get the attention it deserves. But if we will commit to living this season well, we will experience a deeper conversion to Christ and find real transformation in our lives as Christian stewards.

Why? Advent calls us not only to look back in grateful contemplation of Christ's first coming, but it also calls us to look forward in preparation for His Second Coming. Advent is a time to reset and regroup, to repent over any misplaced priorities, to turn our minds and hearts back to God while we still have time. We do so not out of fear or guilt, but rather, out of gratitude for Love Incarnate lying in a manger bed.

Whatever we feel God calling us to do this Advent — committing to a daily Gospel reflection, visiting a lonely neighbor, or donating money to those in dire need — there is no time to waste.

Jesus makes this clear in our Gospel passage from Matthew. He tells the parable of a man going off on a journey. Before he leaves, he “places his servants in charge, each with his own work.” We, of course, are the servants in this parable, each with a mission to accomplish in building the Kingdom of God. Jesus warns us over and over in this passage to remain vigilant to the work He has given us to do because we do not know when we will be called to give an account for it.

Our lives are a gift. This holy season is a gift. Let us recommit to living the stewardship way of life. Love came down to us as a Baby. And He is coming again. Be watchful!