



DECEMBER 10, 2023
SECOND 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

*"I have baptized you with water;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

Mark 1:1-8

CATHOLICS IN ALLEGHANY, BATH & HIGHLAND

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	540-862-5338
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
Organist	Dr. Leszek Fiutowski	304-456-5473.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR
MILITARY MEN & WOMEN:

Sacred Heart – Arthur Headley, Jessie (Jesus) Morals, Joel Moscoso
St. Joseph – Michael Buchanan, Joshua Crawford, Andy Shepard



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 Callahan, 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 \$1,724.00

Sacred Heart

Sunday Offertory \$3,398.00
 Christmas Flowers 457.00

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Sunday Offertory \$2,981.75

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



DAILY READINGS

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
Mon. Dec. 11	Isaiah 35: 1-10; Psalms 85: 9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Luke 5: 17-26
Tues. Dec. 12	Zechariah 2: 14-17 Judith 13: 18bcde, 19 Luke 1: 26-38
Wed. Dec. 13	Isaiah 40: 25-31; Psalms 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Matthew 11: 28-30
Thurs. Dec. 14	Isaiah 41: 13-20; Psalms 145: 1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Isaiah 45: 8; Matthew 11: 11-15
Fri. Dec. 15	Isaiah 48: 17-19; Psalms 1: 1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Matthew 11: 16-19
Sat. Dec. 16	Sirach 48: 1-4, 9-11; Psalms 80: 2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Luke 3: 4, 6; Matthew 17: 9a, 10-13
Sun. Dec. 17	Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11; Luke 1: 46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; Isaiah 61: 1; John 1: 6-8, 19-28

VOCATIONS

“He will feed his flock like a shepherd.” Allow our Lord to enrich your life through service to Him. Call Father Matthew Kiehle (804)359-5661 email: vocations @richmond diocese .org.



HONOR THE MERCY AND JUSTICE OF GOD

We serve a merciful and patient God. In His kindness, He warns us that we will be called to make an account one day for the way in which we made use of the gifts He has given us. The most precious gift He has given us is His own Son, Whose birth we are preparing to celebrate.

St. Peter describes the loving kindness of the Father in our Second Reading today, saying God “is patient with you, not wishing that anyone should perish but that all should come to repentance.” Yet, in the same passage we receive this warning: “The Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar... and the earth and everything on it will be found out.”

How are we to assimilate these two truths — the merciful love of God and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of living as His disciple? St. Peter tells us we should conduct ourselves “in holiness and devotion.” Indeed, this is the goal of our Advent “reset” — to return to living lives focused on Christ, in gratitude for all He has done for us.

In our Gospel passage from Mark, John the Baptist instructs us to “prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” We must make good use of the gift of time we have been given this Advent season. Let’s be sure to get to Confession, prioritize a daily reading the of Scriptures, and reach out to someone in need with a word of comfort or an act of service.

In this way, we will honor both the mercy and justice of our God, and we will be prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ and give account for all His gifts to us.