



DECEMBER 17, 2023
THIRD 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 am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
'make straight the way of the Lord,'"*

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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. Avention Grimes



WEEKLY DONATIONS BUDGETED NEEDS: \$1400.00

St. Joseph

Sunday Offertory \$

Sacred Heart

Sunday Offertory \$1,986.00
Various 2nd Collections 160.00

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Sunday Offertory \$1,820.00

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

First Friday Mass beginning with Mass at 11am
followed by 8 hours of Adoration. Benediction will
be at 8PM; First Saturday Mass at 9AM beginning
with the Rosary and Litany of Our Lady followed by
Mass at 9:30AM.

ADVENT SCHEDULE

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 Christmas Day 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

John the Baptist makes both an act of humility and of hope for a coming superior. Sandals were the most common and least valuable possessions. They were thongs made of animal skin or plant fiber. They consisted in a flat sole tied to foot with straps. It was the duty of a slave to tie these straps for a superior. John pictures the "one who is to come" as so great that the Baptist is unfit to be even his slave.

NOTICES

CLUSTERED PARISH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND POTLUCK DINNER

Sacred Heart will host a Tri-Parish Children's Christmas Pageant and potluck dinner this afternoon 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!

JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST STUDY

The Jesus and the Eucharist study, which is part of the National Eucharistic Revival, will be presented starting Tuesday, January 9 through February 20 at 6:30 PM in Sacred Heart Parish Hall. See Menu item "Jesus And The Eucharist" on the parish website for more details.

CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Families today face many struggles, both through cultural pressure and through the personal struggles that accompany family life. Despite these struggles — and partly as a result of conquering them — families have great capacity for love and joy, a joy that is strengthened through the peace and truth found in Christ. On Sunday, December 31, the Feast of the Holy Family, Fr. Augustine and Fr. Tom will lead a Consecration to the Holy Family after Communion at each of the Mass in the clustered parishes. This Consecration is being sponsored by Sacred Heart - St. Joseph Knights of Columbus Council.

A copy of the Prayer Card that will be distributed and a Trifold suggesting how to prepare for the Consecration are located under the Menu item "Consecration to Holy Family" on all three parish websites.

DAILY READINGS

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
Mon. Dec. 18	Jeremiah 23: 5-8; Psalms 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1: 18-25
Tues. Dec. 19	Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a; Psalms 71: 3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Luke 1: 5-25
Wed. Dec. 20	Isaiah 7: 10-14; Psalms 24: 1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 1: 26-38
Thurs. Dec. 21	Songs 2: 8-14; Psalms 33: 2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Luke 1: 39-45
Fri. Dec. 22	1 Samuel 1: 24-28; 1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1: 46-56
Sat. Dec. 23	Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24; Psalms 25: 4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Luke 1: 57-66
Sun. Dec. 24	2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalms 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 38; Luke 1: 26-38

VOCATIONS

"The One who calls you is faithful." Will you be faithful to His call? Listen; God may be inviting you to be a priest, deacon or consecrated religious. Call Father Matthew Kiehle (804)359-5661 email: vocations@richmond diocese .org.



GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is a Latin word, meaning "rejoice." The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing.

Our First Reading, from Isaiah, expresses a fitting motto for us. "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul." It is God Who is the source of our joy and contentment — not things or achievements or comfort, but our relationship with God.

This is why stewards can share so freely of their time, talents and material possessions — because ultimately, we are not attached to these things. We recognize them as good gifts from our loving Father, but we are attached to the Giver of the gifts, not the gifts themselves. This allows for great freedom in life and the capacity for great joy in the Lord.

In fact, we can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: "He came for testimony, to testify to the light... He was not the light but came to testify to the light." This is our calling too — to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior — by the way we make use of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to our care.

When God Himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any "clutter" in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day.