



DECEMBER 24, 2023
FOURTH 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

*"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word."*

Luke 1:26-38

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
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

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

Margo Oxendine, Molly Sasser, John W. Smith, Clarissa Westenburger

Diocese of Richmond Seminarian

Mr. Avention Grimes



WEEKLY DONATIONS BUDGETED NEEDS: \$1400.00

St. Joseph

Sunday Offertory \$2,461.00

Sacred Heart

Sunday Offertory \$1,130.00
COPE Food Pantry 390.00

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Sunday Offertory \$907.00

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

David became king of Israel about 1000 B.C. His first move was to build himself a palace in Jerusalem. Next he wanted a religious structure to illustrate his hold on the national religion. His religious advisor, Nathan, enthusiastically supported this move but later had second thoughts. To placate the king he predicted that his dynasty would last forever.

NOTICES

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.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

"And you, Mary, the Virgin of expectation and fulfilment, who hold the secret of Christmas, make us able to recognize in the Child whom you hold in your arms the heralded Saviour, who brings hope and peace to all. With you we worship him and trustingly say: we need You, Redeemer of man, You who know the hopes and fears of our hearts. Come and stay with us, Lord! May the joy of your Nativity reach to the farthest ends of the universe!"

Pope John Paul II, Christmas 2003

DAILY READINGS

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
Mon. Dec. 25	Isaiah 52: 7-10; Psalms 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Hebrews 1: 1-6; John 1: 1-18
Tues. Dec. 26	Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59; Psalms 31: 3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Psalms 118: 26a, 27a; Matthew 10: 17-22
Wed. Dec. 27	1 John 1: 1-4; Psalms 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20: 1a and 2-8
Thurs. Dec. 28	1 John 1: 5 – 2: 2; Psalms 124: 2-3, 4-5, 7b-8; Matthew 2: 13-18
Fri. Dec. 29	1 John 2: 3-11; Psalms 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Luke 2: 32; Luke 2: 22-35
Sat. Dec. 30	1 John 2: 12-17; Psalms 96: 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Luke 2: 36-40
Sun. Dec. 31	Genesis 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3; Psalms 105: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19; Hebrews 1: 1-2; Luke 2: 22-40

VOCATIONS

“Be it done unto me according to your word.” Obedience to the Lord’s will is the fruit of humble prayer. If you think God is inviting you to a deeper consecration as a priest, deacon, brother or sister. Call Father Matthew Kiehle (804)359-5661 email: vocations @richmond diocese .org.



LAST DAY OF ADVENT

There is just one day left until the celebration of Christmas begins. Let’s live this last day of Advent well.

We read in today’s Gospel passage from Luke the wonderful words of the Blessed Mother’s “fiat,” her “yes” to God’s plan. “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” These are among the most beloved words in the Gospel. But the next sentence is also important for the Christian steward.

After Mary’s fiat, we read, “Then the angel departed from her.” Our Blessed Mother was left with a lot of unexplained details about God’s plan for her! Yet, she followed God’s will perfectly. She gave herself and her life fully to God as a gift. She was the first disciple. We are called to follow her example today.

This Christmas let us resolve to make our whole life a gift to the One Who has given us everything. He will give us all the help and strength we need.