



APRIL 7, 2024  
Second Sunday of Easter  
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**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](http://sacredheartcovington.org)  
Mass Schedule: Sunday 11:00 AM

**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH**

620 Jefferson Ave. Clifton Forge, VA 24422  
540-863-5371 [stjosephcf.org](http://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](http://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**

*"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."*

**John 20:19-31**

## 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 – Joshua Crawford, Andy Shepard

## PRAYER LIST

### St. Joseph

Mark Asma, Clair Dille, Tom Greenwood, Rita Luther, Sally Putnam, Carol Turner, 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, Mitchell Garcia, Paulino Gutierrez, Arthur Headley, Raphael Lopez, Heidi Mulcahy, David Palance, Maria Perron, Paul Perron, Shaun Perron, Pam Poole, Michael Rybka, Cathy Savage, Maureen Stec, Sophia Veras, Karen Wenke, Bill Withrow, Becky Woodson

### 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

<b>St. Joseph</b>	
Sunday Offertory	\$1,221.00
<b>Sacred Heart</b>	
Sunday Offertory	\$1,414.00
COPE Food Pantry	300.00
Votive	14.00
<b>Shrine of the Sacred Heart</b>	
Sunday Offertory	\$1,839.70

## CALENDAR

### WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

St. Joseph - Tuesday and Thursday at 12Noon  
Sacred Heart - Wednesday at 11:30AM followed  
by the Rosary.

Friday - 10:45AM Adoration and Benediction; Mass  
at 12Noon

Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> is the Soleminity of The  
Annunciation of the Lord. Mass will be celebrated  
at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart at 9:00AM and at  
Sacred Heart at 11:30AM.

The Alleghany Highlands Spring Life Chain will be  
held today, from 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm at the  
intersection [light], on the sidewalk entrance to the  
Wal-Mart Industrial Park. Pray silently while  
holding a sign explaining a truth about abortion.  
Please arrive at 1:15 pm to pick up your sign and  
take your place in the life chain. Park at the  
Highlands Community Bank.

## WHERE WAS THOMAS

John's version of the Easter event includes a story not  
mentioned in the other gospels. Only ten apostles are  
present. Judas is dead and Thomas is absent. If John's  
version is correct we must ask why Thomas did not  
join the group?

We cannot fathom his motives, but John may give a  
clue. He says that Thomas was called "Didymus,"  
which is the Greek word for "twin". Some have  
suggested that he was often divided or "of two  
minds" in making decisions. Actually, the name  
"Thomas" itself means "twin", so to call him "Thomas  
Didymus", means "Twin twin," or really dubious.

## NOTICES

Cedar Ross and Zion Jack, sons of Ross and Claire  
Noel, will be baptized next Sunday, April 14, at  
11AM Mass at Sacred Heart. There will be a  
covered dish luncheon reception in the parish  
hall following Mass. Please bring a dish of your  
choice and join us in celebrating this milestone  
in their faith journey.

The next Adult Faith Formation, Lectio: Prayer:  
Finding Intimacy with God, uses the discipline of  
Lectio Divina to show you how to make prayer an  
effective effort of love and intimacy. In six  
sessions, Finding Intimacy with God captures the  
secret to opening our hearts and minds to  
Scripture as the means to hear from God and  
then respond in conversation, basking in his  
presence and resolving to live in and through his  
love. Sessions begin on Tuesday, April 9 @ 6:30  
PM in Sacred Heart Parish Hall and continue each  
Tuesday until May 14. If you would like a free  
Participant Guide (over 100 pages), contact Don  
Rogowski @ 540-962-7344 or [formed@  
sacredheartcovington.org](mailto:formed@sacredheartcovington.org) by Monday, March 25.  
View the trailer at [https://watch.formed.org/  
/lectio-prayer-with-dr-tim-gray/videos/lectio-  
prayer-trailer](https://watch.formed.org/lectio-prayer-with-dr-tim-gray/videos/lectio-prayer-trailer)

Sacred Heart - St. Joseph Council Knights of  
Columbus thank all who are collecting aluminum  
cans and dropping them off in the orange bin  
located along the side of the Sacred Heart  
Rectory garage. Over 900 lbs. or more than  
29,000 cans have been recycled. Currently, the  
recycling rate is about 650 pounds per year. The  
proceeds from recycling aluminum cans are used  
to fund Council charitable efforts. Be creative  
and ask your friends, neighbors, or a business to  
save aluminum cans for you to drop off at the  
Rectory garage.

## DAILY READINGS

Sun. Apr. 7	Acts 4: 32-35; Psalms 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 John 5: 1-6 John 20: 29; John 20: 19-31
Mon. Apr. 8	Isaiah 7: 10-14; 8: 10; Psalms 40: 7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10: 4-10; John 1: 14ab; Luke 1: 26-38
Tues. Apr. 9	Acts 4: 32-37 Psalms 93: 1ab, 1cd-2, 5; John 3: 14-15; John 3: 7b-15
Wed. Apr. 10	Acts 5: 17-26; Psalms 34: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 3: 16; John 3: 16-21
Thurs. Apr. 11	Acts 5: 27-33; Psalms 34: 2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20; John 20: 29; John 3: 31-36
Fri. Apr. 12	Acts 5: 34-42; Psalms 27: 1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 4: 4b; John 6: 1-15
Sat. Apr. 13	Acts 6: 1-7; Psalms 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19; John 6: 16-21
Sun. Apr. 14	Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19; Psalms 4: 2, 4, 7-8, 9; 1 John 2: 1-5a; Luke 24: 32; Luke 24: 35-48

## VOCATIONS

"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." If you are considering a vocation to be a priest, sister or brother who proclaims the truth and peace of Jesus Christ? Call Father Matthew Kiehle (804)359-5661 email: vocations @richmond diocese .org.



## DIVINE MERCY

On this second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. We celebrate this feast today since God's mercy was shared with us through the resurrection of Jesus. To put it simply, today, we are celebrating Jesus' merciful love for us and how we can partake in it.

No matter where we are on our journey as a disciple of Christ, we are all in need of God's merciful love. There are countless times throughout our day when we miss the mark. For instance, we might fail to respond in kind to our spouse or kids, fall into gossip in our workday, or even forget to think positively of others. These shortcomings call us to humble ourselves and receive the unwavering mercy of God.

Jesus is Mercy itself. He was born into time to save us from sin. And to ensure His Mercy was always available to us, He gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In our Gospel, Jesus encounters the apostles after the resurrection and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Jesus gave us the gift of this sacrament because He wants to help us reach eternal life. He knows we cannot do it without His merciful love, and a resolve to do better and to follow Him more faithfully.

Today, may we recall the precious gift God has given to us through His Son — Mercy itself. May we never forget that, with a contrite heart and a resolution to do better, God is always willing to forgive.