



DECEMBER 8, 2024
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 email: stjoseph@ntelos.net
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. Ernest Dugah, Administrator

804-914-4977

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.

MT CARMEL CATHOLIC CEMETERY

Low Moor, Virginia

Contact: Mr. Carl Withrow (540) 968-3267

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

St. Joseph Parish 540-863-5371

Office Hours: Call for appointment

In Emergency	Fr. Dugah	804-914-4977
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. Dugah	804-914-4977
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. Dugah	804-914-4977
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 –Joshua Crawford, Andy Shepard



PRAYER LIST

St. Joseph

Mark Asma, Clair Dilley, Katie Greenwood, Tom Greenwood, Ed and Sandra Haverlack, Rita Luther, Sally Putnam, Carol Turner, Terry Windsor.

Sacred Heart

Pam Austin, Debbie Brokaw, Josephine Brown, Mack Brown, Wanda Callaham, Karen Cody, Wanda Dameron, Esther Ewing, Jay Ewing, Rev. David Hanks, Tony Forbes, Roberta Frampton, April Headley, Arthur Headley, Raphael Lopez, Brooke Nogueira, David Palance, Paul Perron, Pam Poole, Michael Rybka, Cathy Savage, Maureen Stec, Bill Withrow, Becky Woodson

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Molly Sasser, Clarissa Westenburger

Diocese of Richmond Seminarian

Mr. Aventon Grimes

WEEKLY DONATIONS BUDGETED NEEDS: \$1400.00

St. Joseph	
Sunday Offertory	\$1,328.00
Sacred Heart	
Sunday Offertory	\$3,175.34
Christmas Flowers	394.00
Shrine of the Sacred Heart	
Sunday Offertory	\$3,337.54

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
First Friday 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.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is tomorrow, Monday, December 9th. **THIS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.** Mass will be celebrated at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart at 9AM and 5PM; at Sacred Heart at 6:30PM and at St. Joseph at 12NOON.

NOTICES

Sacred Heart will host a Tri-Parish Children's Christmas Pageant and potluck dinner on December 15th 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!

The next Sacred Heart Pastoral and Finance Council meeting will be held Tuesday, December 10, at 5:30pm in the parish hall.

If you would like to subscribe to emails of late breaking news at Sacred Heart, email news@sacredheartcovington.org to be added to the Sacred Heart News email distribution list. News emails are blind copied for your privacy

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 Saturday, Dec. 28 & Sunday, Dec. 29, the Feast of the Holy Family, Fr. Ernest and Fr. Tom will lead a Consecration to the Holy Family at each 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.



EVERY LOFTY MOUNTAIN MADE LOW

Baruch had one of the more unusual backgrounds of all the prophets. He was a private secretary to another prophet, Jeremiah. He lived during the Jewish exile in Babylon (Iraq). Following Jeremiah's lead, he preached that the exile would end. He said that the people of Israel would return home in triumph. Baruch pictures mountains being leveled to facilitate this homecoming. The "mountains" are the political obstacles to be hurdled before it could happen. The church cites this passage to suggest a cosmic preparation for the coming of the Son of God.

DAILY READINGS

Sun. Dec. 8	Baruch 5: 1-9; Psalms 126: 1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11; Luke 3: 4, 6; Luke 3: 1-6
Mon. Dec. 9	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
Tues. Dec. 10	Isaiah 40: 1-11; Psalms 96: 1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Matthew 18: 12-14
Wed. Dec. 11	Isaiah 40: 25-31; Psalms 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Matthew 11: 28-30
Thurs. Dec. 12	Zechariah 2: 14-17; Judith 13: 18bcde, 19; Luke 1: 26-38
Fri. Dec. 13	Isaiah 48: 17-19; Psalms 1: 1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Matthew 11: 16-19
Sat. Dec. 14	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. 15	Zephaniah 3: 14-18a; Isaiah 12: 2-3, 4, 5-6; Philippians 4: 4-7; Isaiah 61: 1; Luke 3: 10-18

VOCATIONS

Are you seeking “knowledge and full insight to help you determine” your vocation in Christ as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life? Contact Father Matthew Kiehle (804)359-5661 email: vocations @richmond diocese .org.

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

*Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:
all flesh shall see the
salvation of God.*

The Gospel of St. Luke 3:4,6



TURN YOUR HEARTS TO CHRIST

The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge as we reflect and prepare for the two “comings” of Christ — His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.

Our First Reading, from Baruch, is a wonderful reminder that God has triumphed over sin and death and that we — His faithful disciples — will live in the light of His glory one day. Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He has given us. While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, (ironically more than ever at this time of year), this reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made for eternal life with God. We are called to prepare for eternal life by the way that we use our time, our talents, and our treasure now.

The Gospel reading from Luke shows us how personal and detailed is God’s love for humanity as He prepared the way for Christ’s coming among us. We are told the precise time, place, and person, John the Baptist, He appointed to announce the arrival of our Savior. John tells us how to celebrate to the fullest this first “coming” on the feast of Christmas and how to prepare for the second coming — through repentance.

Let’s turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept into our lives and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ this Advent. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about — moving closer ever closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.