



DECEMBER 22, 2024  
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](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) email: [stjoseph@ntelos.net](mailto: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](http://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



**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, Esther Ewing, Jay Ewing, Rev. David Hanks, Tony Forbes, Roberta Frampton, April Headley, Arthur Headley, Raphael Lopez, Brooke Nogueira, David Palance, Paul Perron, Michael Rybka, Cathy Savage, Maureen Stec, Rayvi Veras, 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**

<b>St. Joseph</b>	
Sunday Offertory	\$1,444.00
Retired Religious Fund	292.00
<b>Sacred Heart</b>	
Sunday Offertory	\$2,981.00
COPE	241.00
<b>Shrine of the Sacred Heart</b>	
Sunday Offertory	\$1,171.00



## Diocese of Richmond

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Office of the Bishop

Christmas 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we come to the close of a very busy year, we find ourselves waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ at Christmas. Soon we will be entering the new Year of Jubilee in 2025.

During the Advent and Christmas season, we can become anxious by the seemingly endless challenges we must face. We can be distracted from the true gifts that define this holy season ~ the gifts of peace, joy, unity, and most importantly, the gift of Jesus Christ. When we embrace these precious gifts, we truly embrace this holy season.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, parishes throughout the Diocese will take up a special second collection to support the life changing work of Catholic Charities. In the Diocese of Richmond there are two Catholic Charities agencies: Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia, and Commonwealth Catholic Charities. Both agencies impact many lives & communities every day. Their mission expresses this love and joyful hope through volunteers, staff, and board members by providing food, clothing, shelter, guidance, and support for individuals and families on their way to a brighter future.

As you gather for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, I encourage you to consider a generous gift to Catholic Charities through the second collection. Through your generosity you are making the work of these extraordinary organizations possible. Please be assured of my gratitude for your past support for the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors across this Diocese and the world. I ask you to please continue that generosity this Christmas by giving to Catholic Charities.

For all the good you do, especially in this holy season of Christmas, may God grant every grace and blessing to you and all those who are dear to you, as I remain,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout  
Bishop of Richmond

## CALENDAR

### WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

St. Joseph – Tuesday and Thursday at 12Noon  
Sacred Heart – 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.

### CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS, DECEMBER 24

Shrine of the Sacred Heart – 5:00PM  
Sacred Heart – 5:00PM  
St. Joseph – Carols & Readings at 9:30PM; Mass at 10PM;

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASS, DECEMBER 25

Shrine of the Sacred Heart – 9:00AM  
Sacred Heart – 11:00AM  
No Mass at St. Joseph on Christmas Day

## NOTICES

The next Adult Faith Formation is Lectio: Salvation, New Life in Christ. Sessions begin on Tuesday, January 28 @ 6:30 PM in Sacred Heart Parish Hall and continue each Tuesday until April 1 (10 sessions, each ~1 hour). If you would like a free Participant Guide (over 200 pages), contact Don Rogowski @ 540-962-7344 or [formed@sacredheartcovington.org](mailto:formed@sacredheartcovington.org) by Monday, January 13. View the trailer at <https://vimeo.com/386007441>

If you would like to subscribe to emails of late breaking news at Sacred Heart, email [news@sacredheartcovington.org](mailto: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.

## ELIZABETH AND MARY

The Hebrew version of name Elizabeth is Elisheba, which means "God is fullness". This was also the name of the wife of Aaron, the first Hebrew priest. Appropriately, her husband is also a priest. She is barren and elderly, so the couple have no children. In this regard she is similar to other famous women in the bible, including Sarah, Rachel and Hannah. Each of these bore children after a promise from God. Elizabeth is called the "kinswoman" of Mary. While this is assumed to mean "cousin," the exact relationship is unknown.

When Mary learns that Elizabeth is pregnant, she journeys to Ein Kerem, a suburb west of Jerusalem. Her visit is accompanied by manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth's baby stirs in her womb. Mary expresses a prayer of joy.

## DAILY READINGS

Sun. Dec. 22	Micah 5: 1-4a; Psalms 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 38; Luke 1: 39-45
Mon. Dec. 23	Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24; Psalms 25: 4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Luke 1: 57-66
Tues. Dec. 24	2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalms 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Luke 1: 67-79
Wed. Dec. 25	Isaiah 52: 7-10; Psalms 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Hebrews 1: 1-6; John 1: 1-18
Thurs. 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
Fri. Dec. 27	1 John 1: 1-4; Psalms 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20: 1a and 2-8
Sat. Dec. 28	1 John 1: 5 – 2: 2; Psalms 124: 2-3, 4-5, 7b-8; Matthew 2: 13-18
Sun. Dec. 29	1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28; Psalms 84: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10; 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24; Colossians 3: 15a, 16a; Luke 2: 41-52

## VOCATIONS

“It is by God's will that we have been sanctified.” How is God calling you to grow in holiness? If He may be inviting you to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life, contact Father Matthew Kiehle (804)359-5661 email: vocations @richmond diocese .org.



## MARY'S EXAMPLE OF STEWARDSHIP

**Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this fourth Sunday of Advent, and fittingly so, as we draw near to the celebration of her Son's birth. After our Lord Himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life.**

**Today's Gospel passage from Luke describes Mary's actions immediately after her "yes" to the angel Gabriel's message. "Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah... and greeted Elizabeth." Mary immediately begins to think of others before herself, setting out quickly to be with her cousin, modeling two of the pillars of stewardship – Hospitality and Service.**

**What warmth and humility the Mother of our Savior shows, traveling to Elizabeth to spend time with her, rejoicing with Elizabeth over her own incredible pregnancy, and assisting her in a time of need. And what joy this hospitality and service brings to Elizabeth.**

**Our Blessed Mother's example of a stewardship way of life is one that we, her children, can follow in our own lives today. With all the gifts God gives us — our time, our talents, our material possessions — we, too, can offer ourselves to God by using these gifts to serve and glorify Him. In so doing, we will effectively spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world around us today.**

**We will be stewards after our Mother's own heart.**