



DECEMBER 12, 2021  
THE 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](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

**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 baptizing you with water,  
but one mightier than I is coming.  
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals..."*

**Luke 3:10-18**

## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

**St. Joseph Parish 540-863-5371**

Office Hours: Call for appointment

In Emergency	Fr. Tom Collins	540-588-8492
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.	Bob Gardiner	540-863-9452

**Sacred Heart Parish 540-962-6541**

Office Hours: Call for appointment

In Emergency	Fr. Tom Collins	540-588-8492
Council Chair	Mark Taylor	540-968-1183
Vice Chair	Greg Kristoff	540-962-8900
Secretary	Zelpha Withrow	540-962-2181
Worship	Janice Campbell	540-969-9073
Community Life	Alvina Nida	540-747-2211
Justice & Peace	John Stec	540-862-1917
Grds&Maint.	Ron Brunetti	540-962-1565
K of C Contact	Greg Kristoff	540-962-8900

**Shrine of the Sacred Heart Parish 540-839-2603**

Office Hours: Call for appointment

In Emergency	Fr. Tom Collins	540-588-8492
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**

Clair Dilley, Bob and Sandra Gardiner, Tom Greenwood, Rita Luther, Marie Martin, Sally Putnam.

**Sacred Heart**

Sergio Arambula, Natalie Austin, Rob Bennett, Betty Jo and Robert Brown, Josephine Brown, Mack Brown, Tom Callaham, Wanda Callaham, Edith Collins, Norma Ellis, Jay Ewing, Steven Felder, Tony Forbes, Delores Goodwin, John Misorek, Jonnie Noel, Mary O’Neill, Michael Rybka, Thomas Wade, Dave Wenke

**Shrine of the Sacred Heart**

Henslee Faulkenberry (infant great granddaughter of Sara Belle Worsham), Margaret Fields, Fr. John McGinity, John W. Smith, Clarissa Westenburger



## WEEKLY DONATIONS BUDGETED NEEDS: \$1400.00

**St. Joseph**

Sunday Offertory	\$830.00
Roof Fund	100.00

**Sacred Heart**

Sunday Offertory	\$3,150.00
Misc. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collections	50.00
Christmas Flowers	350.00

**Shrine of the Sacred Heart**

Sunday Offertory	\$2,245.00
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Thank you for  
your support!

## CALENDAR

### WEEKDAY MASSES

12NOON Tuesday and Thursday at St. Joseph  
11:30AM Wednesday, and 12NOON Friday at Sacred Heart \*(10:45AM Friday, Holy Hour with Benediction at Sacred Heart)

First Saturday Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart in honor of the Blessed Mother: 9:00AM Rosary and Litany of the Blessed Mother followed by Mass at 9:30AM

Contact Fr. Tom (540-588-8492) to schedule a time for weekday Mass at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart.

#### Friday, December 17th at Sacred Heart:

6:30 PM - Communal Celebration of Anointing of the Sick.

7:30 PM Communal Celebration of Reconciliation with Individual Confessions and Absolutions

The December Sunday Brunch for St. Joseph Church will be held on Sunday, December 19th.

## REJOICE ALWAYS

Some people think that religion must always be very serious and even somber. It's not supposed to be fun! Today's readings are a reminder that true religion should be joyful. In the New American Bible the single word "joy" appears 219 times; while the words "sad", "sadden", "saddens", "sadly" and "sadness" occur only a total of 24 times.

The Catholic Church celebrates two "Joy" Sundays: the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete, Latin for "Rejoice") and the fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare, another Latin word for "Rejoice".) We are supposed to be somewhat sad during Advent, but we cannot help but be filled with joy because we know how the story ends, with the Nativity.

## NOTICES

Each Christmas Season, parishes across the Diocese of Richmond host a 2nd collection for the benefit of Catholic Charities. In spite of the ongoing challenges and growing community need resulting from the pandemic, CCC has never waived from serving our most vulnerable neighbors. Whether that is responding to the Afghan refugee crisis, providing groceries to families without food, ensuring mothers and their babies have a safe place to live, and beyond – CCC is there to help. CCC now needs your help in supporting these critical ministries through the Christmas Second Collection.

Our clustered parishes share a subscription to FORMED. FORMED is an online resource for videos, books, documentaries, and much more for the whole family. It is FREE.

1. Go to [FORMED.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup)
2. Enter: Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Hot Springs
3. Enter your name and email

After you are registered, visit [FORMED.org](https://formed.org) and click "Sign In", just enter your email and click the link in your email. You'll be signed in on that device and no more passwords

"PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH" with Free Advent Daily Reflections. Signup at [daily.formed.org](https://daily.formed.org)."

*Presence, The Mystery of the Eucharist*, explores the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and her embers. It is the crescendo of the entire story of salvation. Join us to watch the series and experience the power of God's mercy in a new way. Series begins on Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30PM to 7:45PM in the Sacred Heart parish hall.

*Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

## DAILY READINGS

Sun. Dec. 12	Zephaniah 3: 14-18a; Isaiah 12: 2-3, 4, 5-6; Philippians 4: 4-7; Isaiah 61: 1; Luke 3: 10-18
Mon. Dec. 13	Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Psalms 25: 4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Psalms 85: 8; Matthew 21: 23-27
Tues. Dec. 14	Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13; Psalms 34: 2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Matthew 21: 28-32
Wed. Dec. 15	Isaiah 45: 6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Psalms 85: 9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Isaiah 40: 9-10; Luke 7: 18b-23
Thurs. Dec. 16	Isaiah 54: 1-10; Psalms 30: 2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b; Luke 3: 4, 6; Luke 7: 24-30
Fri. Dec. 17	Genesis 49: 2, 8-10; Psalms 72: 1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1: 1-17
Sat. Dec. 18	Jeremiah 23: 5-8; Psalms 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1: 18-25
Sun. Dec. 19	Micah 5: 1-4a; Psalms 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 38; Luke 1: 39-45

## VOCATIONS

Do you rejoice in the Lord? Is He asking you to consider a vocation as a priest or deacon? Call Father Brian Capuano 804-359-5661 e-mail: vocations @richmonddiocese.org.



## GAUDETE SUNDAY

We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete is the Latin word for "rejoice") this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures take on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior's birth.

Our Second Reading gives us cause for joy as St Paul reminds us, "The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all...." Then he gives us a prescription for maintaining this peace: "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Paul's instructions for obtaining peace come as an early Christmas gift. They remind us that we can and should go to God with all our needs and present them to Him along with our thanks. This guidance calls to mind a vital aspect of a stewardship way of life: gratitude to God in response to His great love and countless gifts to us.

The Gospel passage, from Luke, shows us how to live out this sense of thankfulness, making our lives a "Christmas gift" to Christ in joyful response to His love for us. When the crowds hear John the Baptist's message that their Savior is coming, they ask him what they should do to prepare. He responds, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do the same." He tells tax collectors to stop collecting more than is prescribed and soldiers, to be satisfied with their wages. In other words, he tells them to be good and generous stewards of all God's gifts to them!

As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ's extravagant love. Let's avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let's look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him.