



SEPTEMBER 17, 2023  
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

**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**

*Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant,  
as I had pity on you?'*

**Matthew 18:21-35**

## 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



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

Kevin Albrecht, Mark Asma, Clair Dilley, Bob Gardiner, Tom Greenwood, Rita Luther, Sally Putnam, Bob Umstead, Terry Windsor.

### Sacred Heart

Pam Austin, Josephine Brown, Kevin Brown, Mack Brown, Wanda Callaham, Robert Childs, Lisa Dickson, Esther Ewing, Tony Forbes, Roberta Frampton, Arthur Headley, Marcella Jordan, Raphael Lopez, Alvina Nida, David Palance, Maria Perron, Paul Perron, Shaun Perron, Michael Rybka, Cathy Savage, Maureen Stec, Sophia Veras, Thomas Wade, Bill Withrow

### Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Margaret Fields, Molly Sasser, John W. Smith, Clarissa Westenburger



## WEEKLY DONATIONS BUDGETED NEEDS: \$1400.00

### St. Joseph

Sunday Offertory	\$787.00
Jean Ann Manner Memorial	250.00

### Sacred Heart

Sunday Offertory	\$1,927.00
Haitian Twin Parish	654.00
Various 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collections	40.00

### Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Sunday Offertory	\$2,036.50
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**Please give to those who have given a lifetime.**

# Retirement Fund for Religious

**Elderly religious need your help.** Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to serving others by praying for us, ministering to all, educating the young, caring for those who are sick and helping those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation will make a real difference by providing essential care, medicine and other necessities. Please give generously.

*Top row, from left:*  
 Brother Charles Douglas, SSJ, 88;  
 Sister Marianna Danko, SSML, 80;  
 Father James Day, OSST, 77.  
*Bottom row, from left:*  
 Sister Celeste Burgos, MHS, 79;  
 Sister Brenda Cherry, OSP, 84.

**retiredreligious.org**

**To give at your parish:** Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

**To donate by mail:** Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

Amount:  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (for e-newsletters) \_\_\_\_\_

(Arch)diocese \_\_\_\_\_

**Data Preference** (Please check Yes or No.)

The data I provided may be used to complete this transaction and may be used and stored in the records of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Retirement Fund for Religious.

Yes, I agree.

No, the data I provided may only be used for this transaction.

**Please check with your employer about matching gifts.**

**National Religious Retirement Office • 3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington DC 20017-1194 • Phone (202) 541-3215 • Fax (202) 541-3053**



**Done a los que donaron su vida.**

# Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos

**Los religiosos ancianos necesitan su ayuda.** Al igual que los que aparecen en la foto, casi 25,000 hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes de órdenes religiosas ancianos han dedicado su vida al servicio de los demás rezando por nosotros, asistiendo a todos, educando a los jóvenes, atendiendo a los enfermos, ayudando a los necesitados y generalmente por un pago escaso o ninguno. Hoy día, las comunidades religiosas carecen de ahorros suficientes para su jubilación. Su donativo mejorará mucho las cosas proporcionando cuidados esenciales, medicamentos y otras necesidades. Sean generosos.

*Arriba, desde la izq.:*  
 Hermano Charles Douglas, SSJ, 88;  
 Hermana Marianna Danko, SSMI, 80;  
 Padre James Day, OSST, 77.  
*Abajo, desde la izq.:*  
 Hermana Celeste Burgos, MSHS, 79;  
 Hermana Brenda Cherry, OSP, 84.

**Para entregarlo a su parroquia:** Haga su cheque pagadero a su parroquia. (Escriba RFR en la línea del memo.)

**Para donar por correo:** Haga su cheque pagadero a Retirement Fund for Religious. No envíe efectivo.

**Cantidad:**  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Otro \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección \_\_\_\_\_

Ciudad \_\_\_\_\_ Estado \_\_\_\_\_ Código postal \_\_\_\_\_

Dirección electrónica (para boletines electrónicos) \_\_\_\_\_

(Arqui)diócesis \_\_\_\_\_

**retiredreligious.org**

**Su preferencia con los datos** (Marque Sí o No.)

Los datos que proporciono se pueden usar para completar esta transacción y almacenarse para los registros del Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos.

- Sí, de acuerdo.
- No, los datos que proporcioné se pueden usar solo para esta transacción.

**Verifique con su empleador los donativos paralelos.**

**National Religious Retirement Office • 3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington DC 20017-1194 • Teléfono (202) 541-3215 • Fax (202) 541-3053**

## CALENDAR

### WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

St. Joseph - 12NOON Tuesday and Thursday

Sacred Heart - 11:30AM Wednesday

Friday – 10:45 Adoration and Benediction, Mass at 12 Noon

First Friday Mass at Sacred Heart beginning with Mass at 11am followed by 8 hours of Adoration. Benediction will be at 8PM.

First Saturday Mass at Sacred Heart at 9AM beginning with the Rosary and Litany of Our Lady 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.

## CRITICAL HELP NEEDED

There is an immediate and urgent need for Volunteer Drivers to take Josephine Brown's husband, Mack, to his radiation treatments from Selma to Fairlea WV. He started radiation treatment on Thursday July 27. Radiation treatments are daily, 5 days a week for eight weeks. ALL treatments begin at 1:00 p.m. and last 1/2 hour. The treatments take place in Fairlea, WV at the Greenbrier Medical Center, just past the WV State Fair Grounds. **IF YOU CAN BE A DRIVER AT ALL, YOUR HELP IS MOST APPRECIATED AND NEEDED.** Please contact Josephine Brown at 540-958-9978. We have exhausted all other transportation options.

Thank you to all have helped so far and are continuing to help with this critical need. God Bless You!

## NOTICES

The 2023 Annual Clustered Parish Picnic, hosted by the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, is today, Sunday, September 17th, beginning at 1pm at the Old Dairy Barn, 46 Old Dairy Road, Warm Springs, VA. Meat and drinks will be provided. St. Joseph parishioners are asked to bring a side dish and Sacred Heart parishioners should bring a dessert. Please join in good food and fellowship.

### CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are ready and eager to bring our families back together for another fun year of learning and fellowship. Our children's Wednesday Night Religious Education program will be starting back on Wednesday, September 20th with a pizza party, registration and a group lesson! Please plan to come. Looking forward to having everyone back together again!

**SAVE THE DATE:** The 2023 Fall Life Chain will be on Sunday, October 1, from 1:30pm to 2:45pm on the sidewalk at the entrance to Walmart Industrial Park. More Information to come.

The Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be on September 24th and 25<sup>th</sup>. Elderly religious who have dedicated their lives to serving others need your help. Religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation will make a difference. Please give to those who have given a lifetime usually for little or no pay. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you!

There will be a Sacred Heart Centennial Celebration meeting in the parish hall on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to attend.

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

## DAILY READINGS

Sun. Sept. 17	Sirach 27: 30 – 28: 7; Psalms 103: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Romans 14: 7-9; John 13: 34; Matthew 18: 21-35
Mon. Sept. 18	1 Timothy 2: 1-8; Psalms 28: 2, 7, 8-9; John 3: 16; Luke 7: 1-10
Tues. Sept. 19	1 Timothy 3: 1-13; Psalms 101: 1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6; Luke 7: 16; Luke 7: 11-17
Wed. Sept. 20	1 Timothy 3: 14-16; Psalms 111: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6; John 6: 63c, 68c; Luke 7: 31-35
Thurs. Sept. 21	Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-13; Psalms 19: 2-3, 4-5; Matthew 9: 9-13
Fri. Sept. 22	1 Timothy 6: 2c-12; Psalms 49: 6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20; Matthew 11: 25; Luke 8: 1-3
Sat. Sept. 23	1 Timothy 6: 13-16; Psalms 100: 1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Luke 8: 15; Luke 8: 4-15
Sun. Sept. 24	Isaiah 55: 6-9; Psalms 145: 2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Philippians 1: 20c-24, 27a; Acts 16: 14b; Matthew 20: 1-16a

## VOCATIONS

"None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself." Is God calling you to live for others as a priest, sister or brother? Call Father Matthew Kiehle (804)359-5661 email: vocations @richmond diocese .org.



## STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE

Today's readings call us to look inward to the state of our hearts, our thoughts and emotions.

Our first reading, from Sirach, addresses the complicated emotion of anger. "Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord?" We have all been wounded by others at some point, some perhaps quite deeply. Our emotions are gifts from God. But we must steward them well, rather than allowing them to overcome us.

How do we do this? Sirach tells us. "Remember your last days, set enmity aside... Remember the Most High's covenant and overlook faults." We embrace the stewardship mindset — not brooding over hurts but recalling all the gifts our good God has given us, all the love He continually pours out upon us, and we put our focus and trust in Him.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus reminds us of the true position we have before Him in light of all that He has done for us, comparing the kingdom of heaven to a "king who decided to settle accounts with his servants." In the parable, a debtor is brought before the king, owing such an overwhelming debt that it could not possibly be repaid. Yet, the king is filled with compassion for the servant, forgives the debt and lets him go free.

Doesn't that sound like each of us in relation to the King of Kings? The Father has given us life, and then sent His only Son to die for us to free us from our sin "debts" and make eternal life with Him possible for us. It is impossible for us to repay this debt. All we can do is thank God by giving Him our whole selves — inside and out. What joy and freedom we find in the stewardship way of life!