



DECEMBER 31, 2023
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

**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
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. 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

*"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him"*

Luke 2:22-40

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

Mark Asma, Clair Dilley, Tom Greenwood, Rita Luther, Sally Putnam, 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, Arthur Headley, Marcella Jordan, Raphael Lopez, Heidi Mulcahy, David Palance, Maria Perron, Paul Perron, Shaun Perron, Pam Poole, Michael Rybka, Cathy Savage, Maureen Stec, Sophia Veras, Bill Withrow

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

St. Joseph

Sunday Offertory	\$692.00
2 nd Collection	20.00
Catholic Charities	665.00

Sacred Heart

Sunday Offertory	\$3,059.00
2 nd Collections	150.00
Catholic Charities	785.00

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Sunday Offertory	\$1,968.63
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Jesus and the Eucharist Study

Every parish across the country is invited to host the Jesus and the Eucharist study during the Year of Parish Revival. This seven-session series will immerse participants in the kerygmatic proclamation (Sessions 1–4) and unveil God’s saving work in the Eucharist (Sessions 5–7).

Each session opens with an exhortation from a different bishop, followed by lectio divina prayer with scripture. The main lesson is drawn from content created by the Augustine Institute and will include personal testimonies from Catholics across the country. We will then transition into small group discussions. Each session will be 2 hours or less.

BELOW IS AN OVERVIEW OF EACH SESSION:

Session 1: What’s Our Story?

The Bible is the story of God’s love for us. He created us out of love, redeemed us by his love, and transforms us in his love.

Session 2: Who Is Jesus?

Jesus is both God and man, therefore he reveals who God is in relation to us. Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:15) He asks this same question of us: who do you say Jesus is?

Session 3: Am I Saved?

Salvation is a gift from God through Jesus Christ that requires our “yes.”

Session 4: Why a Church?

Jesus didn’t simply leave us a written message or instruction manual to follow. He gave us a living, dynamic Church where we encounter him personally and allow ourselves to be transformed into his likeness.

Session 5: God Is With Us

God’s presence in the Old Testament foreshadows the gift of the Eucharist, one of the seven sacraments of the Church. Jesus established the Eucharist to give us strength and accompany us at every moment of our earthly journey.

Session 6: The Story of the Eucharist

The story of the Eucharist can be traced throughout Scripture. From Genesis to the present day, this session explores how the Cross is the new Tree of Life, and the Eucharist is its fruit.

Session 7: Bread for the Journey

The Eucharist sustains us on our spiritual journey. Our participation at Mass through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist is an offering of thanksgiving to God. We are then sent forth to share what we have received.

**Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Tuesdays @ 6:30 PM
January 9, 16, 23, & 30, & February 6, 13, & 20**



CALENDAR

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

St. Joseph - 12NOON Tuesday and Thursday
Sacred Heart – 11:30AM Wednesday;
First Friday Mass will be celebrated on January 5th beginning with Mass at 11am followed by 8 hours of Adoration. Benediction will be at 8PM. There is a sign-up sheet for Adoration as you enter the church; First Saturday Mass will be celebrated on January 6th at 9AM beginning with the Rosary and Litany of Our Lady followed by Mass at 9:30AM.

ADVENT SCHEDULE

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)
December 31 Vigil Mass:
Shrine of the Sacred Heart – 5:00PM
January 1 Masses:
Shrine of the Sacred Heart – 9:00AM
St. Joseph – 9:00AM
Sacred Heart – 11:00AM

CLOTHE YOURSELVES

A virtue is simply a habit of doing something good. Eventually it becomes almost automatic. This builds self-discipline and helps you pass through circumstances when you have to act quickly without thinking. How do you develop a virtue if you are weak in it? Part of the answer is given by Paul in the second reading. He suggests that we "clothe ourselves" or "put on" these good habits. He seems to be implying that we have to pretend that we have the virtues, even if we don't. After a while the pretense becomes a reality. In other words, when you act out a scenario eventually you come to "wear" the role. Pretend to be good and gradually you become good.

NOTICES

WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND A BLESSED YEAR AHEAD! MAY GOD'S LIGHT GUIDE YOU IN 2024.

JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST STUDY

The Jesus and the Eucharist study, which is part of the National Eucharistic Revival, will be presented starting Tuesday, January 9 through February 20 at 6:30 PM in Sacred Heart Parish Hall. See Menu item "Jesus And The Eucharist" on the parish website for more details.

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. Today Fr. Augustine and Fr. Tom will lead a Consecration to the Holy Family after Communion at each of the Masses in the clustered parishes. This Consecration is being sponsored by Sacred Heart - St. Joseph Knights of Columbus Council.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Our Father in Heaven, we praise and thank You for Your faithfulness that is seeing us on into this brand new year. Help us to take courage for the journey by reflecting on your faithfulness in the past - not only to us but more importantly to all who have followed You down through the ages. As there has not failed one single promise of Yours in the past, we have every reason to trust You for the future. We praise and thank You. In Jesus' precious Name. Amen.

DAILY READINGS

Sun. Dec. 31	Genesis 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3; Psalms 105: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19; Hebrews 1: 1-2; Luke 2: 22-40
Mon. Jan. 1	Numbers 6: 22-27; Psalms 67: 2-3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4: 4-7; Hebrews 1: 1-2; Luke 2: 16-21
Tues. Jan. 2	1 John 2: 22-28; Psalms 98: 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Hebrews 1: 1-2; John 1: 19-28
Wed. Jan. 3	1 John 2: 29 – 3: 6; Psalms 98: 1, 3cd-4, 5-6; John 1: 14a, 12a; John 1: 29-34
Thurs. Jan. 4	1 John 3: 7-10; Psalms 98: 1, 7-8, 9; Hebrews 1: 1-2; John 1: 35-42
Fri. Jan. 5	1 John 3: 11-21; Psalms 100: 1b-2, 3, 4, 5; John 1: 43-51
Sat. Jan. 6	1 John 5: 5-13; Psalms 147: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mark 9: 7; Mark 1: 7-11
Sun. Jan. 7	Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalms 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2: 2

VOCATIONS

“By faith Abraham obeyed.” If you should be called to serve the Lord as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, pray for a deep faith and obey Him in love. Call Father Matthew Kiehle (804)359-5661 email: vocations@richmond diocese .org.



TRUST GOD

Today, we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Just as the Holy Family is holy, we are also called to be holy. This holiness is achievable by living as disciples of Christ.

St. Paul calls us to put on “heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience... as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.” Let us “give thanks to God the Father” by being good stewards of His love and mercy to all our family members.

Today’s Gospel says a lot about trust and surrender to our Lord. When Simeon and Anna prophesized about what was to come, Jesus’ parents were “amazed at what was said about him.” We can imagine that two parents would be taken back by these words! Yet, the Holy Family surrendered their lives to God and had unwavering faith and trust in His plan.

God’s plan will fulfill our hearts more than we could have ever imagined. Like the Holy Family, we just need to trust, surrender and be attentive to God’s voice.