

CATHEDRAL *of the* SACRED HEART

Dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, 1906
Serving Virginia Commonwealth University
Twinning with St. Paul's, Carissade, Haiti

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 2024

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond

Very Reverend Anthony E. Marques, VF
Rector

823 Cathedral Place, Richmond, VA 23220

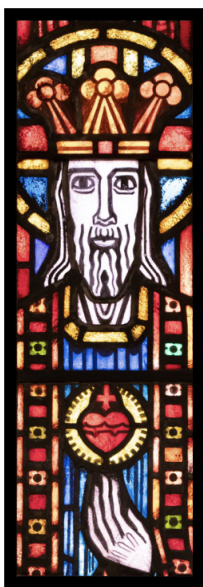
www.richmondcathedral.org

Office: (804) 359-5651

Emergency: (804) 254-0699

Monday–Friday: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

To register as a parishioner: bit.ly/jointhecathedral



Christ the King window in the Cathedral (1931)

MASSES

Tuesday–Friday: 12:00 N

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday: 6:00–7:00 pm

Saturday: 4:00–4:45 pm

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday: 6:00–7:00 pm

Advent Season

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming.” “Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation” (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar*, no. 39).

The Church adopts several liturgical changes during Advent to express the meaning of the season: (1) the priest wears violet (purple) vestments (rose may be worn on the Third Sunday of Advent); (2) the Gloria is suppressed (except on a major feast days); (3) the music is characterized by moderation; (6) floral decoration is simpler; and (6) the Advent wreath marks the passage of time (four weeks).

Rector: Very Rev. Anthony Marques.....tmarques@richmonddiocese.org

Deacons: Rev. Mr. Christopher Malone...cmalone@richmondcathedral.org

Rev. Mr. Mark Matte.....mmatte@richmondcathedral.org

Business Manager: Robin Thomas.....rthomas@richmondcathedral.org

Baptisms and Catechesis: Joy Weir.....jweir@richmondcathedral.org

OCIA: Maria Thorsen.....mthorsen@richmondcathedral.org

Weddings: Janice Guzman.....afw@richmondcathedral.org

Music: Daniel Sáñez.....dsanez@richmondcathedral.org

VCU Campus Ministry: Chris Spilka.....cspilka@richmonddiocese.org

Office Manager: Katherine Leer.....kLeer@richmondcathedral.org

Bookkeeper: Lisa Hearl.....lhearl@richmondcathedral.org

Facilities: John Marike.....jmarike@richmondcathedral.org

Finance Council: Rosie Sinclair.....rbsinclair28@gmail.com

QR Code for Parking

Parking validation for Saturday and Sunday Masses only.



When parking in the VCU Deck (801 W. Main St.):

1. Pull and keep a ticket to enter deck
2. Use this code from this bulletin or:
3. Take a photo of the code with your phone
4. When leaving the deck, insert your ticket first, then when asked for payment, scan the code and the gate will open.

Valid until June 2025

COMMUNITY

CALENDAR

| | |
|---|--|
| Saturday, November 30 4:00 pm | St. Andrew Confessions |
| 5:00 pm | First Sunday of Advent Mass (+Timothy Kolb) |
| Sunday, December 1 9:00 am | First Sunday of Advent Mass (+Allen West) Cathedral Facebook Livestream |
| 11:00 am | Mass (+James Miller) |
| 5:00 pm | Mass (<i>pro populo</i>) |
| Monday, December 2 12:00 N | First Week of Advent No Mass |
| 7:00 pm | Commonwealth Catholic Charities Holiday Festival of Music |
| Tuesday, December 3 12:00 N | St. Francis Xavier Mass (+Collective month's mind) |
| 6:00 pm | OCIA |
| Wednesday, December 4 7:30 am | First Week of Advent Lauds (bit.ly/cshlauds) |
| 12:00 N | Mass (+Clare Francis) |
| 6:00 pm | Confessions and adoration OCIA inquiry session Advent Bible Study |
| 7:00 pm | |
| Thursday, December 5 12:00 N | First Week of Advent Mass (+Antonio Buffa) |
| Friday, December 6 12:00 N | St. Nicholas Mass (+Elena Curran) |

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Pope's monthly intention (December): For pilgrims of hope: We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Vocations (1st Sunday of Advent): "Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36). God calls us to be watchful and alert to His voice. Is He calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Be open and vigilant in prayer and talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

Sick: William Gorman, Richard Heberle, Margaret Huber, Madeline Peace, Elizabeth Storm.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA): Inquirers: Madelyn Clark, James Gropp, Fabrizio Jimenez, Sara Kelly, Sara Omer, Sara Papa, Josh Singh, Russel Williams; Catechumens: Sydney Jones, Anna Pletch, Wray Walker; Full Communion: Benjamin Ackerly, Jason Austin, Erica Banks, Nishaun Battle, Amanda Booth, Daniel Goetz, Grayson Hannegan, Ashley Jefferson, Eleana Legree, Corina Nuckols, Kellie O'Brien, Breille O'Connor, Faith Skibins, Avery Witherow; Confirmation and First Communion: Andrew Farrell, Janille Olario, Kathleen O'Neill, Jonathan Saldivar, Hans Smetane.

YOUNG ADULTS

December 4 Confessions and adoration | 6:00 pm | Cathedral
Bishop Barron's *Advent Gospel Reflections* | 7:00-8:15 pm | Cathedral

For more information, visit evangelizerichmond.org/young-adults.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Fiscal Year 2025

(July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

Offertory Collection

| | November 23–34 | Year-to-Date |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Weekly amount budgeted | \$18,500 | \$388,500 |
| Weekly amount received | \$16,928 | \$309,994 |
| | -\$1,572 | -\$78,506 |

The Cathedral typically spends \$100 each week on flowers, which are beautifully arranged by a team of volunteers. Poinsettias and lilies are used to decorate the church at Christmas and Easter respectively. The total flower budget is \$7,800 annually. Parishioners are welcome to make contributions for flowers at any time in honor or memory of someone.

Breakfast with Santa

December 14 | 9:00–11:30 am | Parish Hall

It's the most wonderful time of the year as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. It's also time to register for the Knights of Columbus Breakfast with Santa. This event is free but requires registration by December 9, so there is enough food and an age-appropriate toy for each child. Have your child bring some money if her or she would like to purchase gifts for parents, grandparents, or siblings from the Elf gift shop. Items are just \$1 to \$3 including gift wrap. Registration: <https://bit.ly/KnightsBWS24>

Opening of the Jubilee Year Mass

December 28 | 5:00 pm

Bishop Knestout will soon inaugurate the 2025 Jubilee Year. The theme of this Holy Year is "Pilgrims of Hope." Pope Francis will open the 2025 Jubilee Year at the Vatican on Christmas Eve; bishops around the world will do so in their cathedral churches one week later, on the Feast of the Holy Family.

The Jubilee Year is an opportunity to grow closer to God by practicing the faith with greater vigor. It is the Cathedral's privilege to host the opening of this special year. More information about the Jubilee Year is available at <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>.

Missals and More at the Cathedral Gift Shop

The Cathedral Shop is now selling 2025 missals for \$10. Those who pre-ordered missals can also pick them up.

The gift shop sells a wide range of items that make great Christmas gifts, including Cathedral rosaries and Knights of Columbus Christmas cards. All proceeds directly benefit the parish.

Christmas Poinsettias

Parshioners may make donations to help pay for Christmas poinsettias that will be placed in the sanctuary. A donation of \$20 can be made in honor or memory of a loved one.

If you would like to make a donation or dedicate a donation, please write "Christmas Flowers" on your check as well as the name(s), or include this information with your donation online (<https://bit.ly/49hBZvU>). For more information, please contact Robin Thomas (business@richmondcathedral.org).

WORSHIP

Advent Wreath

By custom, the Advent wreath is blessed and lit on the First Sunday of Advent, both in the church and in the home. The wreath functions as a calendar for the season, as the Church waits—in the sense of preparing and looking forward—to the first coming of Christ at Christmas, and to his Second Coming (Parousia) at the end of time.

“The candles represent the four weeks of Advent and the number of candles lighted each week corresponds to the number of the current week of Advent. The rose candle is lighted on the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete [“rejoice”] Sunday” (*Book of Blessings*, no. 1511).

Angelus

Throughout Advent, the Angelus will be prayed before each Mass. This is a beautiful prayer that recounts, in capsule form, the Incarnation (Christ’s coming among us as a man). The Angelus is a powerful Advent prayer that welcomes the Son of God into our lives. This follows the example of Blessed Mary, who welcomed the Son of God at the Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38).

Notes from the Choir Loft

“E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” (see Revelation 22:20), composed by Paul Manz (1919–2009) and published in 1954, has been performed around the world and recorded hundreds of times. Selling well over one million copies, the piece was written as a lamentation for the composer’s son, who was stricken with a rare, crippling double pneumonia. The opening motif for the composition simultaneously expresses hope and grief, while the text prays for the immediate presence of Christ to dispel the darkness of doubt and night. (The son recovered, and this motet was dedicated to him.)

Cathedral Foundation Organ Campaign

Turning “Pipe” Dreams Into Reality

The Cathedral’s new gallery pipe organ will be a featured performer during Commonwealth Catholic Charities’ annual Holiday Festival of Music (December 2). Led by conductor Daniel Myssyk, the brass of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra will perform with the new instrument. The evening includes a festive arrangement of “Joy to the World,” J.S. Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio*, a string of Christmas carols, the final movement of Saint-Saens famed Organ Symphony, and the high-octane Widor Organ Toccata with organ and brass. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.cccofva.org/tickets>.

Adopt-a-Stop

Music has long been part of the celebration of faith in our community. The resounding tones that can only be created with a gallery pipe organ have once again raised our spirits at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. You can be part of this historic event by Adopting a Stop or Picking a Pipe: AdoptAStop.org.

THE EUCHARIST: OUR TREASURE

“This is the bread of everlasting life which supports the substance of our souls.”

—St. Ambrose (339–397 AD)

SERVICE

Advent Giving Tree

November 23 – December 15 | Church vestibule

The Cathedral’s annual Advent Giving Tree project is underway. If you would like to participate in this project, you can take one or more ornaments from the tree, and then drop off the requested items under the tree with the ornament attached. Financial gifts can be dropped off in the collection baskets or at the Cathedral office (please follow any specific instructions on the ornament). This year’s charities include:

- All Saints Catholic School
- Circle Center Adult Day Services
- Ronald McDonald House
- Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation
- Haiti
- Mary’s Choice RVA
- St. Francis Home

Ongoing Service Project

December 18 | 12:30–3:30 pm | FeedMore, Henrico

The Cathedral’s Social Justice Committee is committed to helping FeedMore by assembling meals one afternoon each month, usually the third Wednesday, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. No special skills are required; the work involves standing at tables to assemble meal items, with some light lifting and stooping.

Please note Feedmore’s new location at 8020 Villa Park Dr., Henrico, VA 23228. Park in front in designated volunteer spaces and enter through the main entrance. Required dress is long pants, a non-sleeveless shirt, closed toe shoes and a baseball cap or hairnet. Please sign up by the Monday prior to each service date using this link: <https://bit.ly/feedmoreservice>. For questions, contact Richard Robbins at crrobb28@gmail.com.

Rosary Ministry

Monday–Friday | 3:00 pm | St. Mary’s Hospital, Richmond

The Rosary Ministry at St. Mary’s Hospital needs volunteers. Rosary Ministry volunteers pray the rosary on weekdays throughout the year, with a particular need on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The rosary is prayed in the chapel, usually by two volunteers, while being televised through closed circuit TV, directly to the patients’ rooms, so they can pray along.

Parking at the hospital is free and convenient. For more information, please contact Mike O’Toole: (804) 908-3721, otoolemj@verizon.net.

Ushers

The liturgical ministry of ushers facilitates the reverent and orderly celebration of Mass (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 105). Scheduling is done conveniently online and training is provided. Parishioners who would like to serve as ushers are asked to contact Father Tony (tmarques@richmonddiocese.org).

CATECHESIS

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Knights of Columbus Poster Contest

Deadline: December 8

Children in Kindergarten through 8th grade are invited to participate in the “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster contest. Forms can be picked up in the parish hall. Posters (size 11 x 17) should be returned to the parish hall by Sunday, December 8. Winners will be announced at the Breakfast with Santa on December 14. You do not need to be present to win.

Children’s Choir—Christmas

Beginning December 8

The Cathedral Children’s Choir will be led by parishioner Amy Hruska (aghruska@verizon.net) in preparation for the 4:00 pm Mass of Christmas Eve. Choristers must be present for every rehearsal. Children in 2nd to 8th grade are invited to participate.

- December 8: 10:05–10:55 am
- December 15: 10:05–10:55 am
- December 22: 10:00–11:00 am
- December 24: 3:00 pm call for the 4:00 pm Mass

Baptism Information Class

December 15 | 12:15 pm | Parish hall

Parents seeking baptism for their child(ren) ages 0–6 are invited to a short information session in the parish hall. The presentation will review the steps involved in having a child baptized and a tour of the church.

Baptism is the first sacrament and the foundation of being a Christian. According to the literal meaning of the term, baptism is an “immersion” into the death and resurrection of Christ that shapes all of life: it forgives sins, it makes one son or daughter of God, and it joins one to the Church.

For more information, please contact Joy Weir (jweir@richmondcathedral.org).

Children’s Christmas Pageant

December 24 | 3:45 pm

Help us tell the story of the birth of Jesus and be a part of the blessing of our beautiful crèche. Angels and shepherds are needed for the pageant. Ages 4 to 18 are invited to participate. If you are in middle school or high school, you can assist in an important way. Register your child or teen to participate today at <https://bit.ly/pageants24>.

Last Week in Catechesis

A special Advent program took place last Sunday after the 11:00 am Mass and Eucharistic procession. One activity featured the Angelus as a meaningful prayer for the Advent season. This prayer focuses on the Incarnation and establishes a discipline of prayer, as it is traditionally recited at 6:00 am, 12:00 N, and 6:00 pm. The Angelus will be prayed before Mass throughout Advent.

ADULT

Interested in Becoming a Catholic?

OCIA Inquiry Session

December 4 | 6:00 pm | Parish office

The process of becoming a member of the Catholic Church is called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), and follows the mission commanded by Christ: “Go forth and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

The OCIA inquiry session is an opportunity to learn more about the process of joining the Catholic Church. For more information, please contact Maria Thorsen (mthorsen@richmondcathedral.org).

Bishop Barron’s Advent Gospel Reflections

Women’s Group | December 4, 11, 18 | 1:30–2:30 pm

Young Adults and Adults | December 4, 11, 18 | 7:00–8:15 pm

Advent is not meant to be a time of passive waiting, but rather of hopeful preparation for the coming of the Lord. In his *Advent Gospel Reflections*, Bishop Robert Barron invites readers to enter more deeply into the prayerful nature of the season. This devotional booklet features the full Gospel reading for each day of Advent, a daily reflection from Bishop Barron, and space for journaling and answering reflection questions.

Small groups will come together each week to pray, reflect, and discuss the Advent Gospel readings. A \$5 donation is suggested for the cost of the book. Registration: <https://bit.ly/BBAdvent24>.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

The official name of the catechumenate is being changed from the *Rite* of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) to the *Order* of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). The catechumenate is the process for entering the Catholic Church.

This change in terminology reflects a more accurate translation of the Latin name for the catechumenate (*Ordo initiationis christianae adultorum*). “Order” designates a collection of rites marking the various stages and circumstances of the catechumenate.

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults includes four groups of people: unbaptized adults, unbaptized children above the age of seven, those baptized in another Christian denomination, and Catholics who did not receive instruction in the faith and seek the sacraments of Confirmation and/or First Holy Communion.

Friday Penance

Every Friday is a day of penance, even outside Lent (*Code of Canon Law*, canons 1250–1251; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1438). Catholics are encouraged to undertake some work of penance on Fridays. The preferred penance is to abstain from eating meat, although another penance may be substituted, such as fasting, charitable works, or prayer.

“Friday should be in each week something of what Lent is in the entire year. For this reason we urge all to prepare for that weekly Easter that comes with each Sunday by freely making of every Friday a day of self-denial and mortification in prayerful remembrance of the passion of Jesus Christ” (*National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Pastoral Statement on Penance and Abstinence* [1966], no. 23).

HAPPY ADVENT AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

ACTIVITIES

ADVENT GIVING TREE (Church)

POTLUCK LUNCH AND ADVENT ACTIVITIES
Sunday, November 24: 12:30–2:00 pm ([click](#))

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF MUSIC ([click](#))
Monday, December 2: 7:00 pm

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS ([click](#))
Friday, December 13: 7:30 pm

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA ([click](#))
Saturday, December 14: 9:00 am

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON CONCERT
THREE NOTCH'D ROAD ([click](#))
Monday, December 16: 11:00 am

RECTORY OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, January 5: 12:00 N – 2:00 pm

WHAT THE SHEPHERDS SAID:
A CHRISTMAS SOJOURN CONCERT ([click](#))
Tuesday, January 7: 7:30 pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Wednesdays: 6:00 pm

MONTHLY HOLY HOUR
Tuesday, December 17: 6:00 pm



Nativity window, Cathedral
Photo credit: Donald Traser
(Chigot, 1956)

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays: 6:00 pm
Saturdays: 4:00 pm

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE
Wednesday, December 18: 6:00 pm
Tuesday, December 24: 10:00 am

MASSES

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Holy day of obligation
Monday, December 9: 12:00 N, 6:00 pm

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY
OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)
Holy day of obligation
Doors open 1 hour before Christmas Masses
Tuesday, December 24:
4:00 pm (3:45 pm pageant)
7:00 pm | [Livestream](#)
Wednesday, December 25:
12:00 midnight (11:00 pm prelude)
11:00 am

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR MASS:
Saturday, December 28: 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 29: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
Holy day of obligation
Tuesday, December 31: 6:00 pm
Wednesday, January 1: 12:00 N