

CATHEDRAL *of the* SACRED HEART

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY

December 15, 2024

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond

Very Reverend Anthony E. Marques, VF
Rector

823 Cathedral Place, Richmond, VA 23220

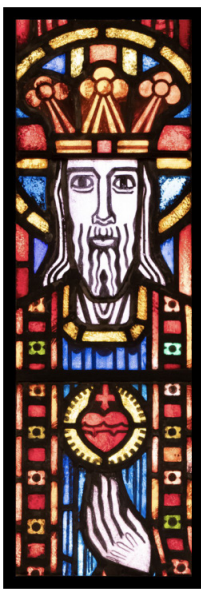
www.richmondcathedral.org

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

“Is it not I, Your Mother, Who is Here?”: A Holy Hour in Commemoration of Our Lady of Guadalupe Tuesday, December 17 | 6:00–7:00 pm

Each month, a holy hour takes place that includes Exposition of the Most Holy Eucharist, Scripture readings, sacred music, silent prayer, and benediction. The holy hour is a way to deepen one’s love and appreciation for the Eucharist, which is Christ himself.

This month’s holy hour will focus on Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast day is observed on December 12. On the outskirts of Mexico City in 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared St. Juan Diego (1474–1548), saying to him, “Do not let your heart be troubled, and let nothing upset you. Is it not I, your Mother, who is here?”

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

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

Rev. Mr. Mark Matte.....mcmatte@verizon.net

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

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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, December 14 4:00 pm	St. John of the Cross Confessions
5:00 pm	Third Sunday of Advent Mass (+Sebastiano Sparacio)
Sunday, December 15 9:00 am	Third Sunday of Advent Mass (+Katherine McGeehan) Cathedral Facebook Livestream
11:00 am	Mass (+Donald Slater)
5:00 pm	Mass (<i>pro populo</i>)
Monday, December 16 11:00 am	Third Week of Advent Holiday concert and luncheon
12:00 N	No Mass
Tuesday, December 17 12:00 N	Third Week of Advent Mass (month's mind, +Rangeley Thornton) Office closed
6:00 pm	Monthly holy hour OCIA
Wednesday, December 18 7:30 am	Third Week of Advent Lauds (bit.ly/cshlauds)
12:00 N	Mass (+Peter Lutjen)
6:00 pm	Advent penance service and adoration
7:00 pm	Advent Bible Study
Thursday, December 19 12:00 N	Third Week of Advent Mass (+Antonio Evola) Office closed
Friday, December 20 12:00 N	Third Week of Advent Office closed Mass (+Mary Fay)

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 (3rd Sunday of Advent): "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). Are you filled with joy at the Lord's invitation to serve Him in priesthood or consecrated life? This deep sense of joy is a sign that God may be calling you to share His love with others in a special way. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

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

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA): Inquirers: Madelyn Clark, James Gropp, Fabrizio Jimenez, 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, Hans Smetane.

YOUNG ADULTS

December 17	Monthly holy hour
December 18	Advent penance service and adoration 6:00 pm Cathedral Bishop Barron's <i>Advent Gospel Reflections</i> 7:00-8:15 pm Cathedral

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Fiscal Year 2025

(July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

Offertory Collection

	December 7-8	Year-to-Date
Weekly amount budgeted	\$18,500	\$425,500
Weekly amount received	\$17,235	\$348,099
	-\$1,265	-\$77,401

Each year during Advent, we light four candles to remind us of the light of Jesus coming into the world. As we anticipate the joy of his birth, we are reminded that he is among us, inspiring us to share our gifts and talents. Christmas is a time of giving. Consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Cathedral before the end of the year. This would be a beautiful gift to our parish.

Opening of the Jubilee Year

December 28 | 5:00 pm Mass

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 2025 Jubilee marks the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (325 AD), which declared the divinity of Christ.

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>.

Baptismal Font

The Cathedral's original marble baptismal font has been restored and will be installed for the Opening of the Jubilee Year Mass (December 28). The restored font will be located where the holy oils are currently kept, and the holy oils will be placed on top of the current baptismal font (which will no longer be used). The Cathedral Foundation graciously helped fund the restoration of the original font.

Baptism

Congratulations to Jordan Briggs, Jude Bui, Jonathan Celi, Guy Higgins, Luca Natsios, Thiago Soares, Mollie Wheeler, Marley O'Connor, Montgomery Jones, McKinley Jones, who were recently baptized.

"Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1213).

WORSHIP

Gaudete Sunday

December 15

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as *Gaudete* Sunday. The name is taken from the Entrance Antiphon for today's Mass: "Rejoice [Latin: *Gaudete*] in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice [*gaudete*]. Indeed, the Lord is near" (Philippians 4:4-5).

Today the Church joyfully anticipates the coming feast of Christmas ("The Lord is near"). Accordingly, the rose candle is lit on the Advent wreath, and rose-colored vestments may be worn.

Advent Penance Service

December 18 | 6:00–7:00 pm

Several priests will be on hand to hear confessions for the parish's Advent penance service.

The individual form of penance will be used, rather than the communal one. Confessions will take place alongside the normal Wednesday evening Eucharistic adoration.

Notes from the Choir Loft

"When the Lord Turned Again" (Psalm 126:1-4) is one of a few pieces that survive from the hand of the prolific English composer Adrian Batten (ca. 1591–ca. 1637). Little is known about him. He sang at James I's funeral and was the organist and choirmaster of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Batten's signature style is heard in this weekend's motet, described by a contemporary as "serious and somewhat sad, but not altogether devoid of more joyous touches. [H]is [writing] is skilful, and the atmosphere created by his music is a pure and devotional one. [H]is constant endeavour [is] to think of music as the servant of divine worship and not as the central figure of that service."

Cathedral Foundation Organ Campaign

Turning "Pipe" Dreams Into Reality

The past week was filled with commemorations dedicated to Our Lady, including the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Last Saturday was a uniquely poignant celebration: the reopening of Our Lady's cathedral in Paris. Our wonderful neighbors at Grace and Holy Trinity pealed their bells at the same moment that Notre Dame's bells sounded anew. Afterward, the new Cathedral organ (which was inaugurated in concert by Olivier Latry, titular organist at Notre Dame) played a festive piece by Louis Vierne, himself titular organist at Notre Dame from 1900 to 1937. We are grateful to the many people who joined us.

THE EUCHARIST: OUR TREASURE

O God, who have accomplished
the work of human redemption
through the Paschal Mystery
of your Only Begotten Son,
graciously grant that we, who confidently proclaim,
under sacramental signs, the Death and
Resurrection of Christ,
may experience continued increase of
your saving grace.
Through Christ our Lord.

Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery outside Mass,
no. 210 (© 2020, ICEL)

SERVICE

Haiti

Thanks to your generous contributions last quarter, the Cathedral provided over \$7,100 for Haiti for July through October. The Westphalia Clinic in Carissade has been serving the community since January 2009. The clinic serves 75–100 people weekly by providing a variety of medical tests and services.

In addition, St. Paul's School, which serves 410 students, was able to repair three classrooms and the roof, replace chairs, and carry out other repairs.

The Cathedral appreciates your continued support for Haiti. There is still time to contribute this year through the Advent giving tree. Thank you.

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
- Grace and Peace Community Ministries
- Haiti
- Mary's Choice RVA
- St. Francis Home

This is the last weekend to drop off Advent tree gifts. Thank you.

Ongoing Service Project

January 23 | 4:00–6:00 pm | Ronald McDonald House

The Social Justice Committee coordinates meal preparation for families receiving care at area hospitals. We meet and prepare dinner for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House (2330 Monument Avenue). For questions and to sign up, please email Christine Burroughs (cmburroug@clarityconnect.com).

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The role of an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion is to help distribute the Eucharist at Mass, so that the celebration is not unduly prolonged, or to bring the sacrament to the sick.

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion must be fully initiated and practicing Catholics. This means that they have received Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion; that they practice their faith, which includes attending Mass each Sunday and holy day of obligation; and, that if married, they be in a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church.

Parishioners who would like to serve as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion at Mass, or to the sick, are asked to contact Fr. Tony (tmarques@richmonddiocese.org).

CATECHESIS

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Gaudete Sunday Party on the Plaza

December 15 | 10:00–10:45 am

All are invited to attend this fun event. There will be crafts, games, coffee and doughnuts, and fellowship, as the parish rejoices at the coming of Christmas.

Baptism Information Class

December 15 | 12:15–12:45 pm | Parish hall

If you are seeking Baptism for your child (ages 7 and under), please attend this session in the parish hall. Following the class, a short tour of children meeting spaces is offered. For more information, contact Joy Weir (jweir@richmondcathedral.org).

Children's Choir – Christmas

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 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

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>.

Diocesan Youth Conference

February 7–9 | Registration deadline: January 5

The Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC) is an annual weekend event that gathers high school youth from diocesan parishes in one central location. DYC is a highly energetic and engaging opportunity for our high school teenagers to gather as a larger Church community and celebrate the richness of our Catholic faith. Two students to a room: \$310 (\$260 if registered before November 30). Grades 9 to 12. Registration: <https://bit.ly/DYC2025>

Last Week in Catechesis

The Lumen Christi classroom (4th and 5th grade students) restocked the Cathedral food pantry. This opportunity enabled students to practice the corporal works of mercy. By means of the food pantry, the Cathedral helps feed the hungry in the local community.

ADULT

Bishop Barron's Advent Gospel Reflections

Women's Group | December 18 | 1:30–2:30 pm

Young Adults and Adults | December 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>.

Catechumenate Meals:

OCIA Supper

Why do the catechumenate sessions begin with a meal? "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to prayers" (Acts 2:42–47).

Beginning each Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) session with a meal reminds us that we are people of the Eucharist. As a parish community, we care for those who are discerning to become members of the Catholic Church. Please consider providing a meal for an OCIA session, which takes place Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Please email Maria Thorsen (mthorsen@richmondcathedral.org) or sign up here: <https://bit.ly/meal2425>

Anointing of the Sick

"The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick has as its purpose the conferral of a special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1527).

The Anointing of the Sick should be administered when someone becomes seriously ill or weak because of old age; the sacrament should not be delayed until the verge of death. A person may also be anointed in the case of a mental illness or before surgery, if the reason for the surgery is a serious condition or if the person is elderly. The sacrament may also be received if a person recovers from an illness and falls ill again, or if the same illness worsens (*Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum*, nos. 9–11, 53).

Last Rites

The last rites are the sacraments and prayers administered on the verge of death. "Penance, the Anointing of the Sick and the Eucharist as Viaticum constitute at the end of Christian life 'the sacraments that prepare for our heavenly homeland' or the sacraments that complete the earthly pilgrimage" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1525).

The Eucharist is the primary sacrament of the dying. When this sacrament is received close to death, it called Viaticum, a Latin term meaning, "food for the journey." Holy Communion, Penance, Anointing of the Sick should also be received before the point death, once a person becomes seriously ill.