

CATHEDRAL *of the* SACRED HEART

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond

Very Reverend Anthony E. Marques, VF
Rector

823 Cathedral Place, Richmond, VA 23220

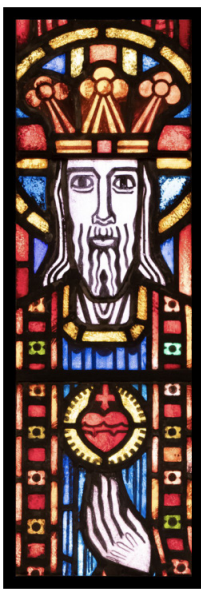
www.richmondcathedral.org

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

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Doors open one hour before Masses.

Christmas Eve

Confessions: 10:00 am

Masses: 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Christmas Day

Masses: 12:00 midnight, 11:00 am

“For us men and for our salvation, the Son of God became incarnate in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. He did so to reconcile us sinners with God, to have us learn of God’s infinite love, to be our model of holiness and to make us ‘partakers of the divine nature’ (2 Peter 1:4)” (*Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 85).

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

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

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

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.



Valid until June 2025

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.

COMMUNITY

CALENDAR

Saturday, December 21 4:00 pm	St. Peter Canisius Confessions
5:00 pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass (+Bruna Bullock)
Sunday, December 22 9:00 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent Mass (Mary Ann Duff) Cathedral Facebook Livestream
11:00 am	Mass (+David Grasse)
5:00 pm	Mass (<i>pro populo</i>)
Monday, December 23 12:00 N	St. John of Kanty Office closed No Mass
Tuesday, December 24 10:00 am	Christmas Eve Office closed Confessions
4:00 pm	Nativity of the Lord Mass (+Allen West)
7:00 pm	Mass (+Antonino Buffa, +Sebastiano Sparacio)
Wednesday, December 25 12:00 midnight	Nativity of the Lord Office closed Mass (<i>pro populo</i>)
11:00 am	Mass (+Clarence and Bruna Bullock)
Thursday, December 26 12:00 N	St. Stephen Office closed No Mass
Friday, December 27 12:00 N	St. John the Evangelist Office closed No Mass

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 (4th Sunday of Advent): "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled" (Luke 1:45). Like Mary, you are called to trust in God's plan for your life. If you feel that God is asking you to serve as a priest or religious brother or sister, believe in His promise and follow with courage. 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 28 Opening of Jubilee Year | 5:00 pm Mass

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

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Fiscal Year 2025

(July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

Offertory Collection

	December 14–15	Year-to-Date
Weekly amount budgeted	\$18,500	\$444,000
Weekly amount received	\$15,092	\$363,192
	-\$3,408	-\$80.808

The Cathedral has a Christmas wish: an increase in weekly contributions. The parish currently has a cash shortfall of \$80,000 for the fiscal year. This situation reflects the trend of falling income compounded by rising prices. During the Christmas season, parishioners are kindly asked to consider increasing their contributions to help cover this deficit, as expenses have already been significantly reduced. A weekly average of \$18,500 is needed to cover normal operating expenses. The generosity of parishioners is appreciated.

Office Closed

December 19 (12:00 N) – January 1

The parish office will be closed for the next two weeks. Father Tony and the staff wish parishioners a merry Christmas and a happy new year. If there is an emergency during this time requiring a priest, please call the emergency line.

Christmas Second Collection

Cathedral Foundation

The second collection taken up at Christmas Masses will benefit the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Foundation. This nonprofit and tax-exempt organization helps preserve the Cathedral, which is a national and state historic landmark. The Cathedral Foundation raised the money for the new pipe organs and has helped restore the original baptismal font.

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.

WORSHIP

Christmas Angelus

The Angelus will continue to be prayed at the beginning of Mass during the Christmas season, which lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 12). By praying the Angelus, we seek to imitate the Blessed Virgin Mary's great "yes" to God. Because Mary generously responded to God's plan, she conceived and gave birth to the Savior: "And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

Notes from the Choir Loft

Sir David Willcocks (1919–2015), affectionately referred to as Mr. Christmas by church musicians, is responsible for today's standard harmonizations, reharmonizations, and descants of beloved Christmas carols such as "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "The First Noël," and his famed setting of "O Come, All Ye Faithful." These and hundreds of his other works are performed by churches and choirs around the globe. The Cathedral Choir performs his jaunty setting of *Angelus ad Virginem*, recounting the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26–38).

Cathedral Foundation Organ Campaign

Turning "Pipe" Dreams Into Reality

The Cathedral's new organ will be put through its paces this Christmas season. The stillness of the season, the joy of the Lord's birth, and the boisterous singing of multitudes of heavenly hosts will be reflected by the instrument's 67 stops (88 with the choir organ). Bells shall chime, the zimbelstern will ring, the birds might sing, and the voice of God could thunder this Christmas season.

THE EUCHARIST: OUR TREASURE

"The Eucharist began at Bethlehem in Mary's arms. It was she who brought to humanity the Bread for which it was famishing, and which alone can nourish it. She it was who took care of that Bread for us. It was she who nourished the Lamb whose life-giving Flesh we feed upon."

—St. Peter Julian Eymard (1811–1868)

SERVICE

Advent Giving Tree Wrap-up

The Cathedral collected gift items from 87 ornaments. Items and monetary gifts were also sent directly to organizations, such as Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem, St. Paul's parish and school in Carissade, Haiti, Mary's Choice RVA, Grace and Peace Community Ministries, and Circle Center Adult Day Services.

The Cathedral is grateful for parishioners' generosity and for the social justice committee for delivering the gifts.

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).

Floral Designers

Parishioners are needed to help make flower arrangements for the altar and tabernacle. The presence of flowers enhances the community's worship and reflects the beauty of God. Training for the preparation of floral arrangements is provided. To volunteer, please contact Fr. Tony (tmarques@richmonddiocese.org).

Livestream Volunteers

The Cathedral parish livestreams the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. Volunteers are needed to help. Training and equipment are happily provided. The time commitment is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes per Sunday. If you would like to volunteer to conduct the livestreaming of the 9:00 am Sunday Mass, please contact Fr. Tony (tmarques@richmonddiocese.org).

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

ADULT

Nursery Closed

The nursery is closed until January 12. For families needing a respite, the Mass can be seen and heard in the parish hall.

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

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 children took a break from the classroom and enjoyed crafts and games on the plaza. The Cathedral is grateful for the many catechists who teach the Catholic faith to children and young people; Sarah Clair, Susie Puglisi, Evelyn Anderson, Sara Grey Bliley, Kelly Lash, Mary Kate Aylward, Caroline Tobe, Sienna Schall, Eileen Lapington, Theresa Ornder, Colleen Ferreira, Paula Blair, Joanie Price, Emily Fritz, Michael Spironello, Colleen Forte, Cecelia Toler, Jack Stonerock, Emma Cruz, April Ruiz, Dillon Forte, Brigid Morse, Colleen Morse, Holly Jenkins, Darcie Chin, Michelle Van Meter, Maggie Weir, Amy Lott, and Karen Mortensen.

Adult Confirmation

Classes are available for adults seeking Confirmation. This sacrament is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit that strengthens a person to live out the Catholic faith (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 1285, 1302–1303).

To register, please contact Maria Thorsen (mthorsen@richmondcathedral.org), director of OCIA.

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>

Pro populo Mass

The Mass is a sacrifice because it renews the sacrifice of Christ's death and resurrection (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1366). The grace of this sacrifice can be applied to a person or group or group of people, living or deceased. According to Church law, at least one Sunday Mass (celebrated on Sunday or anticipated on Saturday evening) must be offered “for the people” (in Latin: *pro populo*) (*Code of Canon Law*, canons 388, 534).

Month's Mind

The venerable practice of having a Mass offered one month after a person's death is known as the month's mind (as in, “calling to mind after a month”). This custom, which originated in medieval England, honors the deceased and provides comfort to his or her family and friends. Praying of the dead is a spiritual work of mercy.

Each month at the Cathedral, a collective month's mind is celebrated for parishioners and their relatives and friends who have died in the preceding month. Parishioners are encouraged to offer an individual month's mind for their loved ones.