

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

CATHEDRAL *of the* SACRED HEART

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8, 2024

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond

Very Reverend Anthony E. Marques, VF
Rector

823 Cathedral Place, Richmond, VA 23220

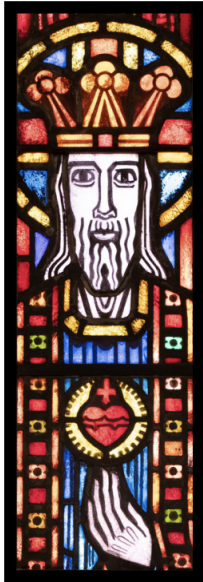
www.richmondcathedral.org

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

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 9 | Masses: 12:00 N, 6:00 pm

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception commemorates our belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary was conceived without the stain of original sin, making her a pure, immaculate vessel for Christ the Lord. The Virgin Mary, honored under this title, is the patroness of the United States.

Normally, the Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8. This year, the feast is transferred to December 9 because the Second Sunday of Advent falls on December 8.

The obligation for the Second Sunday of Advent may be fulfilled by attending the vigil Mass on Saturday, December 7 or any Mass on Sunday, December 8. The obligation for the Immaculate Conception may be fulfilled by attending the 5:00 pm Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent on December 8 or either Mass for the Immaculate Conception on December 9. (A Mass obligation does not depend on which readings and prayers are used.)

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

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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, December 7 4:00 pm	St. Ambrose Confessions
5:00 pm	Second Sunday of Advent Mass (+Walter Smith)
Sunday, December 8 9:00 am	Second Sunday of Advent Mass (+James and Serafina Nankervis) Cathedral Facebook Livestream
11:00 am	Mass (+Elena Curran)
5:00 pm	Mass (<i>pro populo</i>)
Monday, December 9 12:00 N	Immaculate Conception Mass (+Antonio Evola)
6:00 pm	Mass (<i>pro populo</i>)
Tuesday, December 10 12:00 N	Our Lady of Loretto Mass (+Most Rev. Walter Sullivan)
6:00 pm	OCIA
Wednesday, December 11 7:30 am	St. Damasus I Lauds (bit.ly/cshlauds)
12:00 N	Mass (Lester and Elizabeth Wagner)
6:00 pm	Confessions and adoration
7:00 pm	Advent Bible Study
Thursday, December 12 12:00 N	Our Lady of Guadalupe No Mass
Friday, December 13 12:00 N	St. Lucy Mass (Mike and Susan Hamann)

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 (2nd Sunday of Advent): "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths (Luke 3:4)". John the Baptist's call to prepare for Christ can also be a call to prepare your heart for a vocation. Is Christ calling you to serve Him as a priest or religious brother or sister? 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 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 11** Confessions and adoration | 6:00 pm | Cathedral
Bishop Barron's *Advent Gospel Reflections* | 7:00-8:15 pm | Cathedral
- December 15** Lunch at Brick House Diner (Arthur Ashe Blvd.) |
December 15 | 12:30 to 2:30 pm | Meet on Cathedral steps
following 11:00am Mass and caravan to the restaurant.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Fiscal Year 2025

(July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

Offertory Collection

	November 30 – December 1	Year-to-Date
Weekly amount budgeted	\$18,500	\$407,000
Weekly amount received	\$20,870	\$330,864
	\$2,370	-\$76,136

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.

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 he 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

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>.

Catholic Campus Ministry at VCU

As the fall semester ends, we are thankful for all of the ways that the Holy Spirit moved through our ministry. We connected with a large contingent of new students who have made a strong impact on our ministry thus far. We had an amazing fall retreat, where we highlighted the importance of living a balanced lifestyle. Right before Thanksgiving, our students worked in partnership with the VCU Police Department to distribute supplies to homeless. CCM is grateful to the Cathedral for its ongoing and generous support.

—Chris Spilka, Campus Ministry

Christmas Poinsettias

Parishioners 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 Lessons and Carols

December 13 | 7:30 pm | Cathedral

This prayer service is a beautiful meditation on the coming of the Messiah. Biblical readings announcing the Messiah are interspersed with sacred music. Advent Lessons and Carols proclaims God's wondrous plan of salvation brought to fulfillment by the coming of Christ.

Lectionary

Advent marks the beginning of the new liturgical year, including the next phase of the Lectionary or cycle of readings for Mass. The Lectionary for Sunday Mass is a three-year cycle of Gospel readings: Year A, Matthew; Year B, Mark (and John); Year C, Luke. The First Reading, from the Old Testament, is chosen to concord thematically with the Gospel. The Second Reading, for the most part, is drawn from one of the letters of the New Testament (mostly St. Paul) and is read continuously.

During this next liturgical year, the Church will be reading the Sunday Gospel from Luke. On special feast days like the Immaculate Conception and Christmas, the normal cycle of readings is interrupted (*General Introduction to the Lectionary*, nos. 92-110).

Notes from the Choir Loft

Like candles on an Advent wreath, four Marian antiphons mark time throughout the liturgical year. The *Alma Redemptoris Mater* (Loving Mother of the Redeemer) is sung from the First Sunday of Advent through the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2). The Cathedral Choir performs a setting by Spanish priest-composer Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599), who, after suffering several misfortunes during his adventures in the Holy Land, and being held for ransom by pirates, served as *maestro de capilla* at his beloved Seville Cathedral, where he sang as a choirboy.

Cathedral Foundation Organ Campaign

Turning "Pipe" Dreams Into Reality

During Advent and Christmas, the new gallery organ's clochettes (aka zimbelstern, with two turning stars on the case) are used frequently, particularly during the *Sanctus*. In the ancient rite of Mass, sanctuary bells were rung at specific moments within the liturgy. One of these moments was when the text "*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini*" was sung. The star-inspired zimbelstern is also used during festive Advent and Christmas hymns, a nod to the astronomical phenomena that guided the wise men to Christ.

Loving Mother of the Redeemer

There are five antiphons sung in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary that correspond to the various liturgical seasons. The antiphon sung during Advent and Christmas, until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2), is the *Alma Redemptoris Mater* (Loving Mother of the Redeemer).

Loving Mother of the Redeemer,
gate of heaven, star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again.
To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator,
yet remained a virgin after as before.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us poor sinners.

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

Next weekend is the deadline for dropping off Advent tree gifts. Thank you.

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 crobb28@gmail.com.

Lectors

Parishioners are welcome to serve as lectors at Sunday Mass. Lectors must be baptized Catholics, have received their First Holy Communion, attend Mass each Sunday and holy days of obligation, and, if married, be married in the Catholic Church.

The ministry of lector is also open to young people who are at least in the 6th grade, and who are enrolled in a Catholic school or religious education program.

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states that lectors should be "people who are truly suited to carrying out this function and carefully prepared, so that by their hearing the readings from the sacred texts the faithful may conceive in their hearts a sweet and living affection for Sacred Scripture" (no. 101). Those interested in serving as lectors are asked to contact Fr. Tony (tmarquies@richmonddiocese).

CATECHESIS

CHILDREN & YOUTH

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 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. Registration: <https://bit.ly/pageants24>.

First Penance and First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion normally takes place when a child is seven years old and in second grade. It is preceded by the sacrament of Penance. To receive First Penance and First Holy Communion, a child must already be baptized in the Catholic Church and enrolled in catechesis (home, parish, or Catholic school). Several preparation sessions are also required. Preparation for First Penance takes place in January and preparation for First Holy Communion takes place in April. Register with this link: <https://bit.ly/RE2425U>

Last Week in Catechesis

The high-school students reflected on practical ways to participate in the Advent season. Each week, these students meet in the VCU Campus Catholic Ministry (CCM) house, which has a chapel. The students reflected on the Sunday Gospel and then spent time praying before the tabernacle. It is a blessing to have this special meeting place for high school students to meet.

ADULT

Bishop Barron's *Advent Gospel Reflections*

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

Young Adults and Adults | December 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>.

Becoming a Catholic: A Journey of Faith

Are you or anyone you know interested in becoming a Catholic? The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a process for learning about the Catholic faith. Sessions focus on Catholic teachings, scripture reflections, faith sharing, prayer, and worship. This spiritual journey is for adults who have not been baptized, those who have been baptized in another denomination, and adults who were baptized Catholic but did not receive instruction in the faith. Adults who are open to discerning their personal experience of faith and learning more about the Catholic Church are welcome to OCIA.

If you are interested in discovering more about the Catholic faith, please contact Maria Thorsen (mthorsen@richmondcathedral.org).

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).

Marriage in the Church

“Since marriage establishes the couple in a public state of life in the Church, it is fitting that its celebration be public, in the framework of a liturgical celebration, before the priest (or a witness authorized by the Church), the witnesses, and the assembly of the faithful” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1663).

In order for a Catholic to be validly married, he or she must normally be married in the Church; that is, in the presence of a priest or deacon (*Code of Canon Law*, canon 1108 §1). Being married in the Church does not require that a Catholic's spouse be or become a Catholic.

I am happy to assist any couple who would like to be married in the Church.

—Fr. Tony