

PRECIOUS BLOOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

114 East Edmondson Street
Culpeper, Virginia 22701
Phone: 540-825-8945 Fax: 540-825-8987

Parish Hall – CCD Office
Phone: 540-825-1339

Epiphany Catholic School
540-825-9017



MASSES

Saturday: 6:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 & 11:30 a.m.
4:00 p.m. (SPANISH)
Daily: 8:30 a.m.
Holy Days: 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Anselme Malonda-Nkuanga, CICM, Pastor
Ramon Tirado, Deacon
Kathy Semerling, Business Manager
Toni-Ann Gambale, Office Assistant
Patricia Reed, Director of Religious Education
Miriam Medina, Dir. of Liturgy/Hispanic Liaison
Hannah Masson, Director of Music
Theresa Watson, Choir Director
John Flemming, Heritage Choir Director
Robert Wiersberg, Director of R.C.I.A.
Mary Flemming, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Jim Oliver, Principal, Epiphany School
Barbara Terry, Director, Epiphany Pre-School
Anne Schuyler, Office Manager, Epiphany School

REGISTRATION

A warm welcome is extended to new parishioners. New members can register with the parish office during office hours. Registration forms are also available in the Church vestibule and can be dropped in the collection basket during Mass. Parish registration is required for reception of the Sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation and Matrimony) and letters of eligibility to serve as Godparent or sponsor.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

is available on Saturday: 4:30–5:30 p.m. and any other time upon request.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Registered parishioners who are requesting baptism for their child should contact the parish office to sign up for the required pre-baptismal classes.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

is celebrated after a period of preparation of not less than six months. Registered parishioners who wish to marry at Precious Blood should contact the parish office during office hours before making any other arrangements.

CCD CLASSES

Sunday: 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. (K-12)

EPIPHANY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1211 Grandview Avenue
Culpeper, VA 22701
Preschool: 3 & 4 year old
Elementary: K-5
Middle School: 6-8
office@preciousbloodcatholicchurch.com
www.preciousbloodcatholicchurch.com



November 30, 2014
“First Sunday of Advent”

Mass Readings and Intentions for the Week:

Sun. Nov. 30 8:00 AM –

Sun. Nov. 30 11:30 AM – John Walsh (dec)

Sun. Nov. 30 4:00 PM – Roberto Cortes Cuevas (dec)

Mon. December 1 – For the People

Readings: Is 2:1-5, Mt 8:5-11

Tues. December 2 – For the People

Readings: Is 11:1-10, Lk 10:21-24

Wed. December 3 – Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

Readings: Is 25:6-10a, Mt 15:29-37

Thurs. December 4 – Lisa Ballard (healing)

Readings: Is 26:1-6, Mt 7:21, 24-27

Fri. December 5 – For the People

Readings: Is 29:17-24, Mt 9:27-31

Sat. December 6 8:30 AM – for the People

Readings: Is 30:19-21, 23-26, Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sat. December 6 6:00 PM – Jack S Steward Sr. (dec)

(If you would like a Mass Intention said please call or stop by the office.)

**First Sunday of Advent
Putting on the Light of Christmas**

Reading I Isaiah 2:1-5 (Zion, the messianic capital)

Reading II Romans 13:11-14 (Christian use of time)

Gospel Matthew 24:37-44 (the need for watchfulness)

Key Passage: Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. (Romans 13:12b)

Adult: What will you do during Advent so that others can see that you have put on the light of Jesus Christ?

Child: What will you do during Advent so that others can see the light of Jesus in you?



ALTAR FLOWERS are available for request. Please stop by the office.

Pope Francis: "Let us seek to live in a way that is always worthy of our Christian vocation."

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Fr. Anselme visits Culpeper Hospital twice a week on Tuesday and Friday. Please notify the rectory if you wish to have someone visited. Arrangements should also be made with the rectory for an Extra-ordinary Minister to bring Holy Communion to shut-ins on a regular basis. Emergency sick calls can be arranged at any time.



LORD HEAR THE PRAYER FOR OUR

SICK, Especially: Sam Aitken, Jan Ambrose, Hector Baez, Lisa Ballard, Ric Barklund, Amber Bouchard, Mikey Bradford, Dr. Tom Calhoun, Michael Combs, Roger Corum, Katherine Craig, Cynthia Davies, Bill Daley,

James Driscoll, Jackie Fancher, Regan Flemming, Ryleigh Flemming, David Matthew Gendron, Bill Goetz, Billy Hall, Elizabeth Hartwell, Elizabeth Hartwell, Betty Hescox, Marilyn Hoffmann, Eileen Hunter, Alex Hyde, Harold Lawrence, Mary Logan, Bryan Lorenz, Frank and Lucille McPhillips, Phillip Leo Mercer, Efen Diaz Miguel, Jim Minihan, Beth Moreland, Mary Neureither, Marcia Peacock, Shawn Peet, James Robles, Adelfa Salvador, Ines Sanchez, Cissy Staiger, Ray Tap, Joyce Vosworth and for all those who ask for our prayers and wish to remain anonymous. May they feel God's protective hand and return to good health. **Call the rectory if you want a name to remain after six weeks.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER: During this season of waiting and anticipation, we are reminded to stay awake for the coming of your Son. Jesus' love often comes into our lives in quiet, unexpected ways. Today, we generously respond to this compassion and commit ourselves to living in a manner worthy of your love. In anticipation of the coming of Jesus, the Savior, we pray. Amen. *Mark 13:24-37*

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Collection monies for 11/23 will be posted in next week's bulletin. Thank you for your patience.

THIS WEEK AT PRECIOUS BLOOD

FRIDAY DAILY MASS on Dec. 5th will be held at Epiphany.

ST. IGNATIUS PRAYER STUDY GROUP will meet Wednesdays in the lounge in the Parish Hall Facility from 9:30-10:30 AM.

BEGINNERS BIBLE STUDY will start in January. More information to follow. If you have questions please contact Mac McPhillips at (540) 547-2123 or email him at MacHimself@gmail.com

CURSILLO GROUP The Cursillo Group meets Tuesday morning in the lounge in the Parish Hall Facility.

HOLY SPIRIT INTERACTIVE (HSI) Next meeting will be WEDNESDAY, Dec 10, at 7:00 pm at Brown and Harris Wealth Management Office at 311 S East St. (Note: this is a change in location). Topic is "Rejoice. Pray. Give Thanks." All are welcome.

SECOND COLLECTION on Sunday, Dec 14th, will be for the Catholic Charities Christmas Collection.

FAITH DIRECT: Want to make a change this fall? Have you signed up for eGiving through Faith Direct yet? It is the most convenient and secure way to make your weekly offering to Precious Blood Parish. You could make a one-time contribution or set up automatic contributions to save you time. Please visit, www.faithdirect.net and use our Parish Code, VA226. Paper enrollment in the office!

NEW ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM *The Star of Bethlehem (part 1)* is the topic for Dec 7th. This documentary will be shown at the next two sessions on Dec. 7th (part 1) and Dec. 14th (part 2). All adults, including those with students in the CCD program, are encouraged to attend these informative and interesting sessions, which are held from 9:40-10:40 am (between the Masses) in the Parish Hall.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION Jesus said that faith can move mountains (Mk 11:23). St. Pope John Paul II said, "Closeness to Christ in silence and contemplation does not distance us from our contemporaries but, on the contrary, makes us attentive and open to human joy and distress and broadens our heart on a global scale. Through adoration, the Christian mysteriously contributes to the radical transformation of the world and to the sowing of the Gospel. Anyone who prays to the Savior draws the whole world with him and raises it to God." (Letter to Bishop Liege, 1996)

NEWS AND NEEDS

BREAKFAST Come join the Knights of Columbus TODAY for their "5th Sunday Breakfast!" The breakfast will take place after 8am Mass on, today, November 30th in the Parish Hall Facility. The cost is \$5 per person or \$25 per family.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS CARDS, sponsored by the Knight of Columbus, are now on sale after all the Masses until December 14th.

LEGION OF MARY AUXILIARIES You are invited to the Curia's Annual Reunion at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Warrenton on Dec. 14 from 1pm to 4pm. This is a social gathering of Legionaries (active and auxiliaries) from three parishes, with some fun attached, and it will be held in Mercy Hall (down the hill in back of the church) in celebration of Dec. 8, the Immaculate Conception. Bring a dish to share, and meet others who are devoted to Our Lady!



MUSIC NOVEMBER 29 is the birthday of C.S. LEWIS, the great Christian apologist, who was said to dislike hymn singing and organ playing in church. "If they have been helpful and edified anyone, then the fact that they set my teeth on edge is infinitely unimportant," he wrote but then also said that "The test of music or religion or even visions if one has them is always the same—do they make one more obedient, more God-centered, and neighbor-centered and less self-centered?"

ANGEL TREE gift tags are available in the foyer of the church. Please fill out the sign up log that is available in the rectory, completely and clearly. PLEASE REMEMBER the gifts are **DUE BY DECEMBER 14th**. When returning gifts please attach the tag or another tag with the Child's number. - 1 want, 1 need, 1 wear, 1 read!

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT? Stop by the office, we have just what you need for only \$10! We still have plenty of Precious Blood Catholic Church T-shirts available that would make the perfect gift on Christmas morning.



Thanksgiving has passed!
Even though celebrations

are over, this is still a wonderful time to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. I am certainly thankful for the support Precious Blood Parish has given Epiphany Catholic School. We have much to give thanks for at our school, including working with the remarkable children, parents, and teachers in our religious/learning community. Each morning in November after prayer, individual students had the opportunity to announce over the intercom what they are thankful for. Their comments were inspiring and sincere. Please help us spread the word about our great school! Most of our new families join our community because they heard about our school through a friend, coworker, or neighbor. Please invite prospective families to visit our school and take a tour of our wonderful facility. On behalf of the entire Epiphany Catholic School Family, I hope all have a blessed Holiday season.

BLOOD DRIVE Want to give the gift of life? Why not give the gift of three lives by donating blood! Precious Blood Catholic Church is having a blood drive on Friday, Dec. 12th from 12pm-5pm in the ANNEX. To make an appointment, go to www.redcrossblood.org or call Mykelle Laws at (540) 829-1190. Please note, there will be future drives in March & June of 2015. Remember, before you give blood always remember to drink lots of water, eat a good meal and bring your photo ID.

AROUND THE DIOCESE/VIRGINIA

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Let us all be thankful for the gift of our vocation. Learn how to enrich your vocation of Marriage or Holy Orders by attending an enrichment made just for you. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are 20-22 Feb 2015 in Herndon or 17-19 Apr 2015 in Fredericksburg. For more information or to apply, visit our website at renewmarriage-vanorth.org or call us at [703-378-4150](tel:703-378-4150).

LET'S TALK POPE FRANCIS Today, Nov. 30th at 6:00pm, Fr Tuck Greenell, Pastor of Saint Peter in Washington, will give a talk on Pope Francis & the Church in the church.

PLACEMENT TESTING 8th grade students attending public schools or non-Catholic private schools who are interested in attending Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Arlington need to take a placement test. The test is REQUIRED for:
-Bishop Ireton High School, Alexandria
-Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington
-Paul VI High School, Fairfax
-Pope John Paul the Great High School, Dumfries
Testing will take place on Saturday, Dec 6 (Snow Date - Dec 13) from 8:30am-12pm. The test can be taken at any of the 4 schools listed above for a fee of \$35. Students must fill out a High School Placement Test Registration Form (available under "School Forms" at <http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/catholicschools/parents.php>). The registration form must be submitted to the test site no later than Thursday, December 4, 2014. The \$35.00 fee should accompany the form.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND Fr. Brendan Bartlett, Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Winchester, VA, will lead a 9-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land from August 17-25, 2015. The itinerary includes 2 nights in Galilee and 5 nights in Jerusalem. Cost is \$2,800 per person. Package includes round-trip air from most East Coast/Midwest cities, superior tourist class hotels, daily breakfast and dinners, escorted guides, and air-conditioned motor coach. For additional information and brochures, please contact John Tagnesi, toll free at 1-888-544-4461 or itag1964@verizon.net

Head Start Teacher Assistant – MADISON – PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASSISTANT FOR AT RISK CHILDREN (3-5 years old). Should be able to accept direction or work independently and have some experience working with preschool aged children. A high school diploma or GED is required. A CDA is preferred. 40hrs/week, 35 weeks. \$9.12-\$9.84/hour. Full benefits offered as well! Send resume to drosson@skylincap.org.

How Important is Prayer?

There once was a young seminarian starting out on his journey toward the priesthood. He was a bit of a know-it-all, and wanted to be the best at everything he did. He heard about a very holy monk who was considered a spiritual master in regard to prayer and contemplation.

The seminarian sought him out, and asked the old monk to teach him all of his secrets for prayer. The monk sent him away. The seminarian was stubborn and returned again soon, asking again to learn his secrets to prayer. The monk told him to come back in one week.

When he arrived the next week, the monk took him out behind the monastery to a body of water. He still hadn't said a word. As they entered into the water up just past their waist, the seminarian grew impatient with the monk, who was still silent.

All of a sudden the monk grabbed the seminarian and held his head under the water. The seminarian struggled and thrashed about, but with the strength of an ox the old monk held him under the water. As the monk let go of him, he came up gasping for breath, embarrassed, angry, and confused. The monk looked at him and said, 'Until you pray with the same desperation that you have for air, you have not prayed.'

Prayer is as important to our soul as air is to our body! We need prayer to stay connected to the God who created us with a plan in mind.

1. **Say hello!** In many ways, this is the beginning of prayer: an acknowledgement of God's presence. When we walk into a Church, we genuflect in front of the tabernacle to humble ourselves while we acknowledge and reverence the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist inside.
2. **Be yourself.** So many people think that holiness is unattainable, He created you with your own gifts and passions, and wants to shine through you uniquely in them. Come to him as you are and let Him transform you into the saint He wants you to be!
3. **“Teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).** Jesus' apostles asked Him these words, and that conversation resulted in what we call the 'Our Father' prayer. If his own apostles asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, how much more should we ask him to teach us to pray! Ask God to help you and know that He listens. 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you' ([Matthew 7:7](#)).
4. **Hit the brakes!** Take 10 minutes every day from the time you spend on facebook or tv, and use that time to pray. Put God back at the center of your heart and mind.
5. **Keep it alive.** A prayer life that isn't kept up is like a pond with no water flowing in or out. It becomes stagnant. There's no oxygen coming in, and it becomes uninhabitable. Yet a person who cultivates their relationship with God in prayer finds a much different picture. There is fresh water flowing in and out of the pond. It is life giving!
6. **Let it transform you.** Practice makes perfect. The entire Christian life, including prayer, is something that we have to work on to become better at it. God can do amazing things in us through our reaching out to him in prayer!

'Virtues are formed by prayer. Prayer preserves temperance. Prayer suppresses anger. Prayer prevents emotions of pride and envy. Prayer draws into the soul the Holy Spirit, and raises man to Heaven' (St. Ephraem of Syria).