

PRECIOUS BLOOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

114 East Edmondson Street
Culpeper, Virginia 22701

Phone: 540-825-8945 Fax: 540-825-8987

www.preciousbloodcatholicchurch.com

email: office@preciousbloodcatholicchurch.com



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
Hannah Masson.....Director of Music
Patricia Reed.....Dir. of Religious Education
Miriam Medina.....Dir. of Liturgy/Hispanic Liaison
Danielle Gambale-Metz.....Office Staff-Notary
Theresa Watson.....Choir Director
John Flemming.....Heritage Choir Director
Julie Dawley.....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.....Business 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 Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 pm and Saturdays 4:00 to 5:30 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 arrangements.

CCD CLASSES

540-825-1339

Sunday: 9:30-10:45 a.m. (K-12)

Epiphany Catholic School 540-825-9017

1211 E. Grandview Ave.

Culpeper, VA 22701

Preschool: 3 & 4 year old

Elementary K-5

Middle School: 6-8

office@epiphanycatholicsschool.org

www.epiphanycatholicsschool.org

December 20, 2015

“Fourth Sunday of Advent.”

Mass Readings and Intentions for the Week

Sun. Dec. 20

8:00 AM + Jim Driscoll
11:30 AM + Thomas Hertz
4:00 PM + Pedro Serrano

Mon. Dec 21 Micheal Kearney

Readings: Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45

Tues. Dec 22 Loretta Parker (healing)

Readings: 1 Sm 1:24-28, Lk:46-56

Wed. Dec 23 Brian Kearney

Readings: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Thurs. Dec 24 Christmas Eve

8:30 + Jim Driscoll 5 pm For the People
7:30 Rodney Royse (sp int.) 10 pm For the People

Readings: Is 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Fri. Dec 25 Christmas Day For the People

Readings: Is 52:7-10; Hb 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

Sat. Dec 26

Readings: Acts 6:6-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

8:30 AM Rex Gile III (healing)

6:00 PM + Loyal Bouchard

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Obedience to God’s will”

Reading I Micah 5:1-4a (restoration through the Messiah)

Reading II Hebrews 10:5-10 (the second covenant)

Gospel Luke 1:39-45 (the visit to Elizabeth)

Key Passage Elizabeth said, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." (Luke 1:45)

Adult When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan for you, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?

Child When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?

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: Janice Ambrose, Brian Alexander, Ric Barklund, Mike Bosma, Joyce Bosworth, Josephine Borst, Diane Clark, Stathie Cuccherini, Bill Daley, Cynthia Davies, Danielle Gambale-Metz, Alex Green, Richard Hall, the Holmes family, Alex Hyde, Jim Hyde, Brissa LaMatta, Mary Larson, Luciana LaMatta, Jean Landon, Peg Logan, Clelia Lopez-Garcia, Jennifer McCloud, Paola Maartens, Ana Magana, Frank McPhillips, Miriam Medina, Phillip Leo Mercer, Jim Minihan, Mary Neureither, Barbara Noonan, Shawn Peet, Ariel Perez-Young, Irene Perez-Young, Gia Quiroz, Donald Rediske, Kelly Roberston, Max Rosado, Lorain Smith, Jay Way, Tootie and Ted White, Ariana Moncada Yactoyao 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**



“For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy.” (LUKE 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you “leap for joy?” If not, don’t blame the lector or priest, rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained?

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

12/13 will be in the 12/20 bulletin. Due to deadlines with the printing company we will not be able to fulfill this information today.

FAITH DIRECT

Collections	\$ 9198.00
Building Fund	352.00
Epiphany	318.34
Future Faith Foundation	318.34

FAITH DIRECT In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth. Why not help our own parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up with Faith Direct? By supporting Precious Blood Parish through Faith Direct, both you and our parish can more easily project your future contributions. You can sign up online at www.faithdirect.net using our church code: **VA226**, or by mailing a paper enrollment form available in the parish office.

THIS WEEK AT PRECIOUS BLOOD

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, Dec. 24th at 5:00 PM (Children's Mass), 7:30 PM, 10:00 PM, and Midnight (Spanish)

FRIDAY, Dec. 25th at 10:00 AM and Noon (Spanish)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Thursday, Dec. 31st at 6:00 PM and Friday, January 1st at 10:00 AM

BULLETIN DEADLINES!!!!

December 27 Bulletin deadline is on December 14

January 3 Bulletin is due on December 17th

OFFICE IS CLOSED

December 24-25, 2015 to celebrate the Birth of Jesus and January 1, 2016 to celebrate the New Year.

THANK YOU Thank you for your support of Catholic Charities this year. Your support is vital to your work, and we are grateful for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. www.ccca.net

SAINT STEPHEN'S FOOD CLOSET This week's needs are cold and hot cereal, pancake mix with syrup. We also need macaroni and cheese. Thank you.

MUSIC MINISTRY The term "**CAROL**" comes from the Old French word *carole* (a "round dance") and usually refers to songs of praise or joy, especially at Christmas even though their origins began thousands of years ago at pagan festivals. A "**HYMN**" is a song of praise or joy to God or a composition adapted for singing in a religious service. Christmas caroling, as we know it, became popular in Europe in the mid-1800s.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION There will be **NO** Eucharistic Adoration on **Christmas Eve** or **New Year's Eve**. We are greatly in need of substitutes who can fill in when needed when the regular adorer is unable to be there on any given Thursday. Call **Joanna 829-2235** if you can help with this need.

ST. PETER JULIAN PRAYER CHAIN: Do you have a prayer intention need? We will pray for you. Call **Joanna 829-2235** with your requests.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION All adults, especially parents of CCD students, are encouraged to view the conclusion of *Mary: The Mother of God* this Sunday (**Dec. 20**) at **9:40-10:40 am** in the Parish Hall. This edition of Steve Ray's *Footprints of God* DVD series follows Mary on her extraordinary journey on location in Turkey, Israel, and Greece. Down-to-earth teaching on Mary's Immaculate Conception, Assumption into Heaven, and her role as intercessor are featured. Spanish language subtitles will be provided.

CAN (Christians are Networking) Please mark your calendars! We will have a special guest speaker on Tuesday, **December 22!** Come meet Ayme Pointer! Ayme is a subject matter expert, a published author, and an internationally certified facilitator, she has successfully directed and led groups for over 24 years.

Busy Busy Father Anselme: Did you know?????

Father Anselme is a busy man, he visits many different areas of Culpeper. Here is just a few of the places he is regularly scheduled to be. You are welcome to join in these celebrations:

Homebound Mass: Father Anselme celebrates mass at Culpeper Rehab every 1st Thursday of every month at 10:30 am and at the Baptist Home every 3rd Thursday of every month at 10:30 am. All are invited to come and celebrate with those who are homebound at these facilities.

Child Help: Father Anselme celebrates mass at every 1st Thursday of every month at 4:00 pm.

Coffeewood: Father Anselme also celebrates mass at Coffeewood Correctional Center on the 2nd and 3rd Thursday of every Mass. (Unfortunately this celebration can't have visitors.)



EPIPHANY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

It has been a wonderful week to walk through the halls and hear the beautiful Advent prayers and activities coming from our classrooms. All of these actions are helping our students understand the true meaning of Christmas as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus!

On Saturday December 12, our Second Grade students, along with Precious Blood CCD students received their First Reconciliation. Our students participated in the rite of Reconciliation and did a fabulous job performing their Zacchaeus play for the families and participants. We would like to thank all of the Priests and Mrs. Reid and all of the Religious Education staff at Precious Blood for making the day special for our students. Congratulations to all of the First Holy Communion students.

On behalf of Epiphany Catholic School staff, we want to wish you a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you experience God's love in your life this Christmas and may it be a time of peace and happiness for you and your family. We look forward to seeing our wonderful students back on Monday, January 4th, 2016.

A reminder that on Wednesday January 6th, we will celebrate the Feast of Epiphany with a formal luncheon provided by the PTO. We ask that our students dress up in their best attire to make this celebration special for all.

AROUND THE DIOCESE/VIRGINIA

VOCATIONS "Strengthen your hearts in holiness." Are you being called to grow in holiness as a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister? Call Father J.D. Jaffe (703) 841-2514, or write: j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org.

CATHOLIC HERITAGE Are you a member of the Catholic Heritage Circle? If you have designated either our parish or the diocese to receive a bequest from your Trust or Will, you qualify to be a member of the Catholic Heritage Circle. So that Bishop Loverde may recognize you for your support and welcome you as a member, call the Diocesan Planned Giving Office at **703-841-3819**. For more information, please visit www.arlingtondiocese.planyourlegacy.org.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Today St. Paul prays for the Lord to increase our love for one another so that it may abound and he reminds us that we should live our lives to please God. Does your life and marriage reflect this? The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are on **19-21 Feb** in Herndon or **22-24 Apr** in Fredericksburg. For more information or to apply, visit our website at renewmarriage-vanorth.org or contact us at 703-378-4150

EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR You are invited to a diocesan-wide Eucharistic Holy Hour sponsored by the Arlington Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima (the Blue Army) on Sunday, **December 27, from 3:00 – 4:00 P.M.** at **St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 271 Winchester St., Warrenton.** At Fatima, Our Lady asked for prayer and sacrifice for the conversion of sinners, peace in the world, and an increase in vocations; we hope you will join us in prayer.

JOB OPENINGS The Catholic Diocese of Arlington is currently hiring for the positions of Website Content Manager, WorkCamp Coordinator, Administrative Assistant and Advertising Account Repre-sentative. For more information, please visit: <http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/hr/employment.aspx>.

*For me Christmas has always
been about this: contemplating
the visit of God
to his people.*

POPE FRANCIS



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND THE MANGER SCENE



St. Francis of Assisi had a special devotion to the Child Jesus, and he is credited with creating the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve of the year 1223. He recreated the scene of Christ's birth in a special service and Mass he held inside of a cave, inviting both his fellow friars and the townspeople to join in the celebration.

It is said that St. Francis was first inspired by this idea after visiting the historical place of Christ's birth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It is likely this event which deepened his devotion to the Child Jesus. Later he told a friend why he desired to create the first nativity scene in his town:

"I want to do something that will recall the memory of that child who was born in Bethlehem, to see with bodily eyes the inconveniences of his infancy, how he lay in the manger, and how the ox and ass stood by."

St. Francis set up an empty manger (the feeding trough of farm animals which served as Jesus' crib) inside a cave, and even included a live ox and donkey beside the manger just as it was believed to have happened on that first Christmas night. Through these visual aids he wanted everyone to impress more deeply into their understanding how Christ came into the world in such poverty and simplicity. This was a typical perspective of St. Francis' unique charism of simple, poverty-centered spirituality.

It is also said that St. Francis—who was radically devoted to the virtue of evangelical poverty—was inspired to recreate the original nativity scene to overcome the rampant greed and materialism prevalent at that time in Italy.

St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan who was contemporary with St. Francis, has given us a complete account of the night of the first live nativity scene:

"It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Grecio to commemorate the nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, [St. Francis] determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed.

The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise."

St. Bonaventure goes on to talk about St. Francis of Assisi's personal devotion to the Baby Jesus that sparked this event:

"The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem."

The first nativity scene is also associated with an apparition of the Baby Jesus to those gathered with St. Francis. This must have been Jesus' way of giving his blessing to the nativity scene, which was a novelty in its time and had never been done before.

Again, St. Bonaventure continues the story,

"A certain valiant and veracious soldier, Master John of Grecio, who, for the love of Christ, had left the warfare of this world, and become a dear friend of this holy man, affirmed that he beheld an Infant marvellously beautiful, sleeping in the manger, Whom the blessed Father Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep. This vision of the devout soldier is credible, not only by reason of the sanctity of him that saw it, but by reason of the miracles which afterwards confirmed its truth. For example of Francis, if it be considered by the world, is doubtless sufficient to excite all hearts which are negligent in the faith of Christ; and the hay of that manger, being preserved by the people, miraculously cured all diseases of cattle, and many other pestilences; God thus in all things glorifying his servant, and witnessing to the great efficacy of his holy prayers by manifest prodigies and miracles."

St. Francis' recreation of that first Christmas night was so popular that soon every church in Italy had its own nativity scene. The devotion spread to private homes and in modern times even to secular institutions, so much so that it's impossible to imagine Christmas without a nativity scene.

<https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/story-francis-assisi-first-navity-scene/>