Today, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is traditionally known as *Laetare* Sunday. Its name is derived from the Entrance Antiphon (Introit): “Rejoice [Latin: *Laetare*] Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast” (Isaiah 66:10–11).

As roughly the midway point of Lent, *Laetare* Sunday is a respite from the penitential rigors of the season: rose-colored vestments may be worn, instrumental music may be played, and flowers may adorn the sanctuary. Thus, the theme of *Laetare* Sunday is joy. (*Laetare* Sunday is similar to the Third Sunday of Advent, known as *Gaudete* [“Rejoice”] Sunday, when rose-colored vestments may also be worn.)

*The flowers adorning the altar this Laetare Sunday are given in memory of Curtis Payne Jr.*
March: Spiritual Works of Mercy

This month’s theme is the Spiritual Works of Mercy. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities (no. 2447).” Click here to see the many ways you may join us to get involved and gather, in-person and online, with your fellow parishioners.

**March Service Project: Comfort the Afflicted**

A few opportunities remain to send a card

As a part of our monthly theme of Spiritual Works of Mercy, Cathedral parishioners are invited to “Comfort the Afflicted” by sending an Easter card to one of our friends at The Virginia Home or to a homebound parishioner:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054BA622A5F94-easter
We welcome new members to our parish. You can fill out an online registration form found at https://richmondcathedral.org or email tbaham@richmondcathedral.org.

For Weddings: Call Janice Guzman, Parish Office at (804) 212-3891
For Funerals: Call Janice Guzman, Parish Office at (804) 212-3891
For Mass Intentions: Call Chris Ferrara, Parish Office at (804) 359-5651
Infant Baptisms: Contact Joy Weir at jweir@richmondcathedral.org or (804) 212-3893

For Adults inquiring about Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist: Contact Maria Thorsen at mthorsen@richmondcathedral.org

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**Upcoming Events for Middle and High School Youth:**

**Game On! Kickball**  
Saturday, March 20 from 10:00 a.m. to noon  |  Location: Our Lady of Lourdes  
When Father Tony learned we could resume social gatherings for 25 people, his first thought was, “Kickball Game!” Youth who are registered for MS & HS youth group will receive an evite. If you are not registered, contact Joy Weir at jweir@richmondcathedral.org if you would like to participate.

**Chesterfield Food Bank at Chalkley Elementary Distribution Center | Saturday, March 27 | 9:00 a.m. – noon**  
Chesterfield food bank distribution centers require large teams to prepare carts of food that will be loaded into people’s cars. This is a fun, fast-paced way of serving your community. On March 27 from 9:00am to noon we will be volunteering at the Chalkley Elementary Distribution Center. Contact Joy Weir at jweir@richmondcathedral.org to sign up with the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. If your middle school or high school student wants to volunteer on their own, we will have two VIRTUS trained volunteers on site.

**Diocesan Work Camp**  
June 21–25 | Rising 9th–12th grade  
Save the date for this in person service based camp for high school students. Each day we will start together in person and have a virtual “check in” with other local parishes throughout the diocese. Following, we will go as a group to a different community location each day to work in service. We will allow time for daily Mass, adoration and prayer along with time for fun and fellowship. Cost will be between $50 to $100 per student. Virtus trained adult chaperones are needed. Contact: jweir@richmondcathedral.org for more information.

**Passiontide**  
Next Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Church enters a two-week period informally known as Passiontide, which lasts through Holy Saturday (April 3). During this time, the readings and prayers of Mass turn toward the Passion of the Lord. Votive candles are not lit during this time.

**Young Couples Retreat**  
April 30 – May 1 | Wintergreen Resort  
Are you a married couple of 7 years of less and want to refocus on your relationship, celebrate your marriage, and engage in your faith? Learn more and register at evangelizerichmond.org/events/young-couples-retreat

**Bible Study: Pilgrim People**  
Monday evenings or Thursday Mornings  |  Begins Mid-April  
Come along on four major pilgrimages in Scripture — the journey of trust with Abraham and Sarah, the journey of freedom with Moses and the Hebrew people, the journey of exile and return with Israel, and the journey of discipleship with Jesus and his followers. God’s call sometimes leads and sometimes sends, and the destinations can be new and wondrous or even dark and dangerous. What makes the journey a pilgrimage is God’s abiding companionship. Commentary, study and reflection questions, prayer, and access to recorded lectures are included. Pilgrim People can be purchased on Amazon or other book retailers.

Two convenient Bible Study Group sessions over Zoom - select the session that works for your schedule:  
Mondays 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.: April 12, 19, 26 and May 3rd (facilitators Deacon Charles Williams and Chris Malone)  
Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to noon: April 15, 22, 29 and May 6 (facilitators Joy Weir and Carol Brown)

Register for the Monday evening session
Register for the Thursday daytime session

**Chrism Mass**  
Monday, March 29 | 6:00 p.m.  
The annual Chrism Mass, at which priests renew their promises made at ordination, and the holy oils are blessed by the bishop, will take place on Monday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond. Click here to register.
**Purification and Enlightenment**

“The period of purification and enlightenment, which the rite of election begins, customarily coincides with Lent. In the liturgy and liturgical catechesis of Lent the reminder of baptism already received or the preparation for its reception, as well of the theme of repentance, renew the entire community along with those being prepared to celebrate the paschal mystery in which each of the elect will share through the sacraments of initiation. For both the elect and the local community, therefore, the Lenten season, is a time for spiritual recollection in preparation for the celebration of the paschal mystery” (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, no.138).

**Reception into Full Communion**

The term “reception into full communion” applies to persons who were baptized in another Christian denomination and therefore already have partial communion with the Catholic Church (through Baptism, the Scriptures, the Creed, etc.). By making a profession of faith, and by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and, above all, the Eucharist (Holy Communion), they will have full communion with the Catholic Church.

While it is common to refer to baptized Christians joining the Catholic Church as “converts,” this term is not accurate. The Catholic Church explains that the term “convert” is not to be used to designate persons who enter into full communion, as they are not converting from unbelief or from another religion; they are already Christians. The term “convert” is used exclusively for the unbaptized who are converting from unbelief to the Christian faith (National Statutes for the Catechumenate, no. 2).

Reception into full communion is one three streams of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). A second stream includes unbaptized persons who are preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. The third stream includes Catholics who were baptized in infancy but who were never catechized (instructed), and so never received First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation.

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**THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM**

**Holy Thursday (April 1):**

*Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m.*

Church open for individual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 p.m.

**Good Friday (April 2):**

Confessions at 10:00 a.m. with multiple priests

Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m. (Church opens at 2:00 p.m.)

*Celebration of the Passion of the Lord* at 7:00 p.m.

Church open for individual Adoration of the Holy Cross until 10:00 p.m. 
Fasting and abstinence are required this day.

**Holy Saturday (April 3):**

Lauds (Morning Prayer) at 10:00 a.m.

Fasting and abstinence are encouraged on this day

*Easter Vigil in the Holy Night* at 8:00 p.m.

(Except that there will be no 5:15 p.m. Mass)

**Easter Sunday (April 4):**

*Mass at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.;* no 5:15 p.m. Mass

Doors will open one hour prior to each liturgy, except for confessions on Good Friday and Lauds on Holy Saturday.

Click Here for more information and to register

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**Parish Community Life**

**KoC Brunswick Stew Sale**

**Order by Friday, March 12 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Pick up after all Masses March 13 and 14**

The Knights of Columbus are selling their most delicious and highly anticipated Brunswick stew. The cost is $8/quart or $15/two quarts. Each order comes with a bingo card for our upcoming virtual bingo game on Saturday, March 21 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Additional cards can be purchased for $2. Please click here for a Brunswick stew order form with more information. Order early as the stew goes faster than a roadrunner.

**Usher Training**

**Sunday, March 14 | 2:30 p.m.**

If you are interested in becoming a Cathedral usher during weekend Masses, please attend the usher training session on Sunday, March 14 from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Please wear a mask and please be prompt.

Contact Daniel with any questions: dsanez@richmondcathedral.org or (804) 212-3889. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this important ministry.

**KoC Virtual Bingo**

**Saturday, March 20 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom | $2 per card**

Bingo Cards are just $2.00 each and each is good for one round of bingo Order your bingo cards by emailing rick@rickwildes.com today!

Pick up bingo cards with your stew order (which gives you one card for free) this weekend or pick them up from the Cathedral office the week of March 15.

There will be seven rounds of Bingo that evening — buy seven cards and you can play every round! A single person could play every round for $14.00. Does everyone in the family want to play a card? A family of four could each play a card and play every round for $56.00.

Great prizes, a chance to say hello to others in the parish, and play Bingo as a family while supporting the Knights of Columbus. The Cathedral Knights help our community in so many ways - ushers, porters, lectors, ministry heads, parking attendants, charitable giving and also sponsor a High School service award. Let’s show our support and have fun while doing so!

**Donate to the Cathedral**

Thank you for keeping your financial stewardship active during this challenging time, as we continue to serve our parish family. Please continue to support the Cathedral parish through your donations:

- Online: Click here
- Text: (804) 315-0903
- Mail: 823 Cathedral Pl, Richmond, VA 23220

**QR Code**

When you park in the VCU Deck, you must do the following:
1. - Pull & Keep a Ticket to Enter Deck
2. - Use this code from this bulletin OR
3. - Take a photo of the code with your phone (code located near main doors of the church)
4. - Insert your ticket first, then when asked for payment, scan the code and the gate will open.
"The greatness of Saint Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, in the words of Saint John Chrysostom 'at the service of the entire plan of salvation.'

Saint Paul VI pointed out that Joseph concretely expressed his fatherhood 'by making his life a sacrificial service to the mystery of the incarnation and its redemptive purpose. He employed his legal authority over the Holy Family to devote himself completely to them in his life and work. He turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home'" (Pope Francis, *Patris corde*, 2020).

Pope Francis writes in a footnote in *Patris corde*, "Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds I have recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. It expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph:

"Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen."
Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.
St. Joseph, pray for us.
Illustrious son of David, pray for us.
Light of patriarchs, pray for us.
Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.
Chaste guardian of the Virgin, pray for us.
Foster father of the Son of God, pray for us.
Watchful defender of Christ, pray for us.
Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.

Joseph most just, pray for us.
Joseph most chaste, pray for us.
Joseph most prudent, pray for us.
Joseph most valiant, pray for us.
Joseph most obedient, pray for us.
Joseph most faithful, pray for us.
Mirror of patience, pray for us.
Lover of poverty, pray for us.
Model of workmen, pray for us.
Glory of home life, pray for us.
Guardian of virgins, pray for us.
Pillar of families, pray for us.
Solace of the afflicted, pray for us.
Hope of the sick, pray for us.
Patron of the dying, pray for us.
Terror of demons, pray for us.
Protector of Holy Church, pray for us.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord!
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord!
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us!

V. He made him the lord of His household,
R. And prince over all His possessions.

Let Us Pray
O God, Who in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother, grant, we beseech Thee, that he whom we venerate as our protector on earth may be our intercessor in Heaven. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.