

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:11-12



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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## PARISH STAFF

Rev. Fr. Venancio R. Balarote "Jun"

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Pastor

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ldinardo@stnicholasvb.com - ext. 16

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jgardner@stnicholasvb.com - ext. 18

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Dolores Machik - Social Ministries Coordinator

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Charlene Brehl - Office Assistant

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Edward Hill, Tom Pannullo - Maintenance Assistants

Denise Foster - Sacramental Records Volunteer

Suzanne Richmond - Pastoral Council Vice Chair

Paul Battaglia - Finance Council Chair

## Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Website: www.stnicholasvb.com

Email: stnicholas@stnicholasvb.com

Phone: (757) 340-7231 Fax: (757) 340-2727

**Fr. Jun and the Parish Staff would like to wish you a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year!**

## MASS INTENTIONS

Monday December 25	11:00 a.m.	(†) Corinne Schneider
Wednesday December 27	9:00 a.m.	(†) Rita Delaney R/B The Brunner Family
Thursday December 28	9:00 a.m.	The Community of Newtown, Ct. R/B The Bryant Family
Friday December 29	9:00 a.m.	(†) Wayne Kreckner
Saturday December 30	5:30 p.m.	(†) Joshua Huber (†) Cookie King R/B Elizabeth Bowdoin
Sunday December 31	9:00 a.m.	(†) Leigh Ann Wilson R/B Robert & Carol Wilson
Sunday December 31	11:00 a.m.	(†) James Warnock
Monday January 1	11:00 a.m.	(†) Alan Pocta

*Merry Christmas!*

## POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTIONS

## Universal: The Elderly

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.



## VOCATION GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

## Christmas



That Catholic families will pray for and nurture the gift of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from among their children, we pray to the Lord.

## PASTORAL CARE

Please pray for those listed in the Book of the Sick in the Commons.

**Communion:** If you or someone you know would like to receive Holy Communion but cannot attend Mass because of hospitalization or being homebound, please notify Lora DiNardo at (757) 340-7231, ext. 16.

**Gluten Free Communion Hosts are Available.** For parishioners requesting gluten-free (less than 1%) hosts, please see an usher at least 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass. Thank you.



## YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

## PARISH OFFERTORY &amp; STEWARDSHIP

Week Ending Current Month	Offertory Received	ACH & Elec- tronic Giving	Total Giving	Offertory Budget
12/3/2017	\$11,837	\$1,167	\$13,004	\$18,961
12/10/2017	\$10,739	\$595	\$11,334	\$18,961
12/17/2017	\$14,022	\$8,226	\$22,248	\$18,962
12/24/2017				\$18,962
12/31/2017				\$18,962
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,599</b>	<b>\$9,988</b>	<b>\$46,587</b>	<b>\$94,808</b>
<b>November Offertory</b>	<b>Nov Offertory Budget</b>	<b>Year to Date Offertory Jul –Nov</b>	<b>Year to Date Offertory Budget Jul-Nov</b>	<i>Thank you for your consideration and support of St. Nicholas Catholic Church.</i>
\$56,074	\$57,420	\$269,913	\$281,520	
<b>Week Ending</b>	<b><u>Week</u></b>		<b><u>Month</u></b>	
Building & Grounds	\$45		\$1,411	
Designated Contribution	\$55		\$55	
Haiti Ministry	\$1,220		\$1,220	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,895</b>		<b>\$5,941</b>	



## CALENDAR

## Sunday, December 24

*Fourth Sunday of Advent**Christmas Eve*

- 9:00 a.m. MASS with Children's Liturgy of the Word  
 3:30 p.m. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS NATIVITY  
 4:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE MASS  
 6:00 p.m. CAROLING  
 6:30 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE MASS  
 11:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

## Monday, December 25

*Christmas Day**Church Office Closed*

- 11:00 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

## Tuesday, December 26

*Church Office Closed*

- 7:30 p.m. AA

## Wednesday, December 27

*Church Office Closed*

- 9:00 a.m. DAILY MASS

## Thursday, December 28

- 9:00 a.m. DAILY MASS

## Friday, December 29

- 9:00 a.m. DAILY MASS

- 6:00 p.m. LA PIETA

## Saturday, December 30

- 4:45 p.m. RECONCILIATION

- 5:30 p.m. VIGIL MASS

## Sunday, December 31

- 9:00 a.m. MASS with Children's Liturgy of the Word  
 10:15 a.m. FOLK GROUP REHEARSAL  
 11:00 a.m. MASS with Children's Liturgy of the Word  
 12:00 p.m. RCIA

## Monday, January 1

*New Year's Day**Solemnity of Mary**Church Office Closed*

- 11:00 a.m. SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

## THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS:

**Fourth Sunday of Advent:** Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/  
 Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38 (11) Pss IV

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (Christmas)

**Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 (13)

**Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 (14)

**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 (15)

**Day:** Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 (16) Pss Prop

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17  
 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40 (17) Pss Prop

## PARISH SOFT CONNECTNOW

How to sign up for...

*Parish Soft ConnectNow*

Keep your phone number, email, and current updated in the Parish Database:

1. Go to <https://connectnow.parishsoft.com/Richmond/>
2. Click the New User link to display the Registration Form.
3. Complete Steps 1 -3 on the form. Required fields are marked with a **red asterisk: \***.
4. Click "Submit Registration."
5. If the system can verify your registration request, it displays a confirmation message to inform you that your registration was successful. You will receive an email containing your login credentials (username and temporary password) to the email address you provided in your registration.

**ConnectNow**

## SACRAMENTS

**Baptism:** Celebrated the third weekend of every month except during Lent. Parents must be registered in the parish for at least 3 months and participate in the preparation sessions held prior to the celebration of the sacrament. Baptism classes are held the third Sunday of each month. Please call Angela Whitehouse ext. 13. to register to attend.

**RCIA:** Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about joining the Catholic Church? RCIA meets on Sundays at 12:15 p.m. Please contact Angela Whitehouse for more information at ext. 13

**First Reconciliation:** Preparation sessions for parents and children are held in the fall and early winter in the 2nd grade First Communion Class. Adults are needed to assist with workshops, retreats and office. Children must be registered in Christian Formation Class.

**First Eucharist:** Preparation sessions for parents and children are held in the winter. Adults are involved with the children as leaders, aides, assistant coordinators, and at social events. Children, usually 2nd graders, must be registered in Christian Formation Class. It is Holy Communion that draws us into a deeper intimacy with Christ.

**Confirmation:** The appropriate age for preparation and reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation is "when an individual is both at least 15 years of age and enrolled in at least the tenth grade." "Preparation for Confirmation must be a separate and distinct program from the parish youth ministry or religious education program." (Diocesan Policy and Guidelines for Preparation of Baptized Adolescents to Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, 2010 Summit Edition, Catholic Diocese of Richmond). For further information, contact Angela Whitehouse at ext. 13.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please contact Lora DiNardo at ext. 16 so that the hospitalized and homebound may receive Holy Communion or request Anointing of the Sick.

**Holy Orders and Religious Life:** Men and women who are considering Holy Orders or Religious Life are encouraged to call the Pastor.

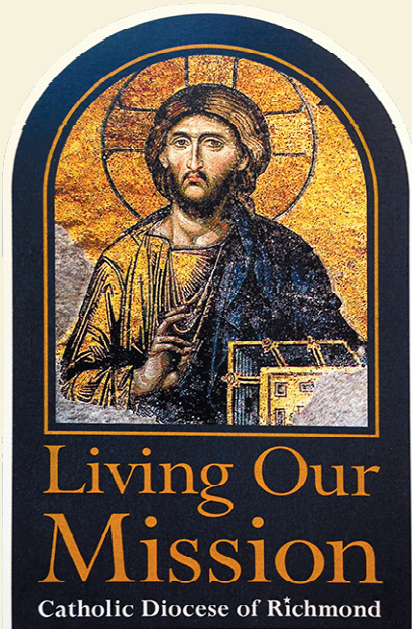
**Marriage:** Requires 6 month's advance notice before wedding date is set. Instructions offered by parish priest. Please call Lora DiNardo in the parish office to schedule an appointment.

## LIVING OUR MISSION

Living Our Mission Campaign Update

Thank you for your commitment to the *Living Our Mission* Campaign. The efforts that we make together will contribute toward the mission of our Diocese and our Parish. Please remember to honor the pledge that you made to our parish project of \$1,350,000.

Contact the parish office with questions about your pledge fulfillment or to make a gift to the campaign which is funding our Building Repair & Renovation project.

**Living Our Mission Campaign**

Parish Pledge Total \$1,355,563  
 Paid to Date \$688,180  
 Percent collected 50.77%  
 Parish share to date \$475,287

**St. Nicholas Catholic Church— Stay up to date!**

The mission statement of St. Nicholas Catholic Church is to proclaim and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through celebration of our faith and sharing our time, talent and treasures in service of the Kingdom of God. Keep up with our parish news and upcoming events by liking and following our Facebook page, **St. Nicholas Catholic Church!** <https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasvb/>

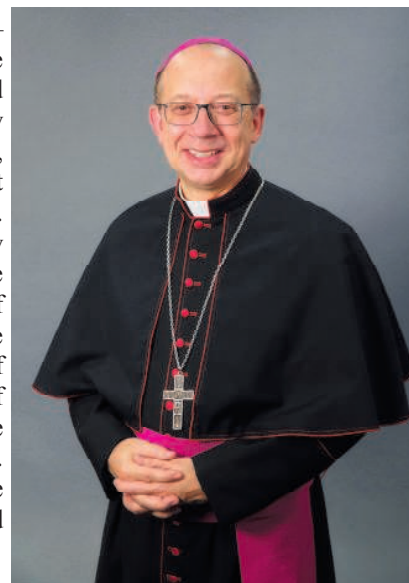
*Living Our Mission,  
 Loving Our Church*



## NEW BISHOP FOR RICHMOND DIOCESE

**Pope Francis Appoints New Bishop for Richmond Diocese  
 Bishop-designate Barry C. Knestout**

RICHMOND, Va.— With great joy, the Diocese of Richmond announces the Holy Father, Pope Francis, appointed the Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, as the thirteenth bishop of Richmond. The Mass of Installation will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Jan. 12, 2018, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond.

**Evening Prayer with Bishop-designate Barry C. Knestout  
 January 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

Please gather with us Thursday, January 11, 2018, as we celebrate Evening Prayer with our new shepherd at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Evening Prayer is open to the public but seating is extremely limited. Seats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. This is not a ticketed event.

**Installation Mass for the Most Rev. Barry C. Knestout  
 Friday, January 12th at 2:00 p.m.**

Installation Mass for Bishop-designate Barry C. Knestout, 13th Bishop of Richmond, will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Seating is by invitation only. Parishioners of the Diocese of Richmond can enter into an online lottery to attend the Installation Mass. Due to space, only one entry per person. For details and more information click <http://bit.ly/2lu9Yh2>. For further information, please email [newbishop@richmonddioocese.org](mailto:newbishop@richmonddioocese.org) or call (804)622-5294. The January 12th Installation Mass will also be livestreamed on the diocesan website.

**PRAYER FOR OUR NEW BISHOP**

*Heavenly Father, you sent Jesus to shepherd your people and the Holy Spirit to make your people one.*

*Send your Holy Spirit to anoint our new Bishop-designate Barry C. Knestout, that he may continue the work of renewal in the Church and unite our parishes, priests and people in love, truth and wisdom.*

*Give him a true shepherd's heart like that of Jesus, that he may give strength to the weak, heal the broken-hearted, console the lonely, bring back the wandering and promote the Gospel to all through words and actions.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

### CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS



### Christmas Flower Memorials

<p><i>In Loving Memory Of</i></p> <p>Gene Brock John J DePool Christina Patterson Edward &amp; Frances Baker Leo &amp; Hamara Foster Joseph John Libbon Vera Riccio Phyllis Hoffman Mel Trujillo Dr. Louis Farano Connie Barrett Mary &amp; Robert McGartland</p>	<p><i>Remembered By</i></p> <p>Myrna Brock Adda DePool Keith &amp; Grace Carlson George &amp; Denise Foster Joan Libbon Susan Trujillo &amp; Cynthia Marchant Maria Farano Mike &amp; Rosann Barrett Rosann Barrett</p>
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### CATHOLIC CHARITIES

#### Catholic Charities Second Collection

It's the season of giving! There will be a second collection for Catholic Charities at all Christmas Masses. Please spread the joy of Christmas with those less fortunate! Visit <https://catholiccharitiesusa.org/> for more information about the mission and the good work of Catholic Charities.



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America.*

### AMERICAN RED CROSS

#### American Red Cross Blood Drive

The Little Neck Churches will sponsor an American Cross blood drive in our social hall on Monday, January 15th, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please give the gift of life. If anyone would like to help with registration or at the canteen or arrange for an appointment to donate, please call or text Robin C. Anderson at 757-254-2912.

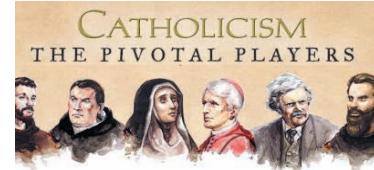
### FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

**Attention All Faithful!** Registration is recommended to facilitate Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, enrollment in the Religious Education programs, etc. If you attend Mass regularly we encourage you to register. To do so, please complete a registration form located in the Commons and return it to a staff member or to the Parish Office.

### MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

#### St. Nicholas Catholic Church Monday Night Bible Study

Bishop Robert Barron Video Series  
**CATHOLICISM: The Pivotal Players**  
 Beginning January 29th  
 13 Week Series  
 Call the parish office at 757-340-7231 or  
 email [stnicholasadmin@stnicholasvb.com](mailto:stnicholasadmin@stnicholasvb.com) to register.  
 \*Last Day of Registration is January 7th\*



### CHRISTMAS GIFT MINISTRY 2017

The generosity of St. Nicholas parishioners can be seen with numbers below. Thanks all who donated their time and treasure by filling the needs within the community through this ministry. A huge thank you to all our volunteers who decorated the gift boards, helped carry the gifts to the office, and sort and count all the presents. God bless you all.

Dolores Machik and Claire Costello

Here are the results of your labor of love  
 (as of Monday, December 11, 2017):

ACCESS: 78 gifts and \$50 in gift cards  
 Beacon Shores, Nursing Home: 115 gifts  
 Catholic Charities: \$165 in gift cards  
 Foster Children: 90 gifts plus \$50 in gift cards  
 Haiti Scholarship Fund: \$860  
 Migrant Ministries: \$550 in gift cards  
 Rural Family Development: 140 gifts  
 Social Ministry Food and Gas Cards: \$770 in gift cards  
 Seton House: \$495 in gift cards  
 St. Nicholas's Angels: 30 gifts and \$180 in gift cards  
 Vetshouse: 26 gifts cards valued at \$650

Summary:  
 Gifts: 453

Value of gift cards and cash: \$3,770



### ARTS & ENVIRONMENT

#### Volunteers Needed!

Christmas decorations will be taken down after the 11:00 Mass on January 7th. The Arts Committee would love help from parishioners with this task. In addition, parishioners are invited to take a poinsettia home from the table in the Commons after Mass on January 6th and 7th.



**St. Nicholas is twinned with St. Anne's, Maissade, Haiti**

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