

Church OF THE Holy Family

A Catholic Church

1279 North Great Neck Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454

757-481-5702 • Fax 757-481-3989
www.holyfamilyvb.org

Welcome – If you are new to our church or just visiting, we are pleased to have you share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If you would like to join our parish, registration is held in the Welcome Office after all Masses.

Wedding Policy – **Six months** before the wedding, the couple should meet with the pastor, **before** the wedding dates are selected. At least one member of the family should be a member of our parish.

Baptism Policy – Parents must be registered parishioners and attend a Baptism Class before their child may be baptized. Expectant mothers are encouraged to attend. The class is for parents only – baby-sitting is not provided.

Funeral Policy – Funerals are scheduled Tuesday-Saturday. We discourage funerals Sundays and Mondays. Participation by other priests and deacons must have prior approval of current pastor.

Church of the Holy Family Pastoral Vision

The Church of the Holy Family is dedicated to manifesting the joy of the Gospel and enriching every individual's Spiritual relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church of the Holy Family Ministries dedicate themselves in service to our Parish Community, building a just society, and outreach to those in need.

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Morning Prayer & Daily Mass

Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Reconciliation Saturday
4:00-5:00 p.m.
The Room Inside the Chapel

Summer Masses

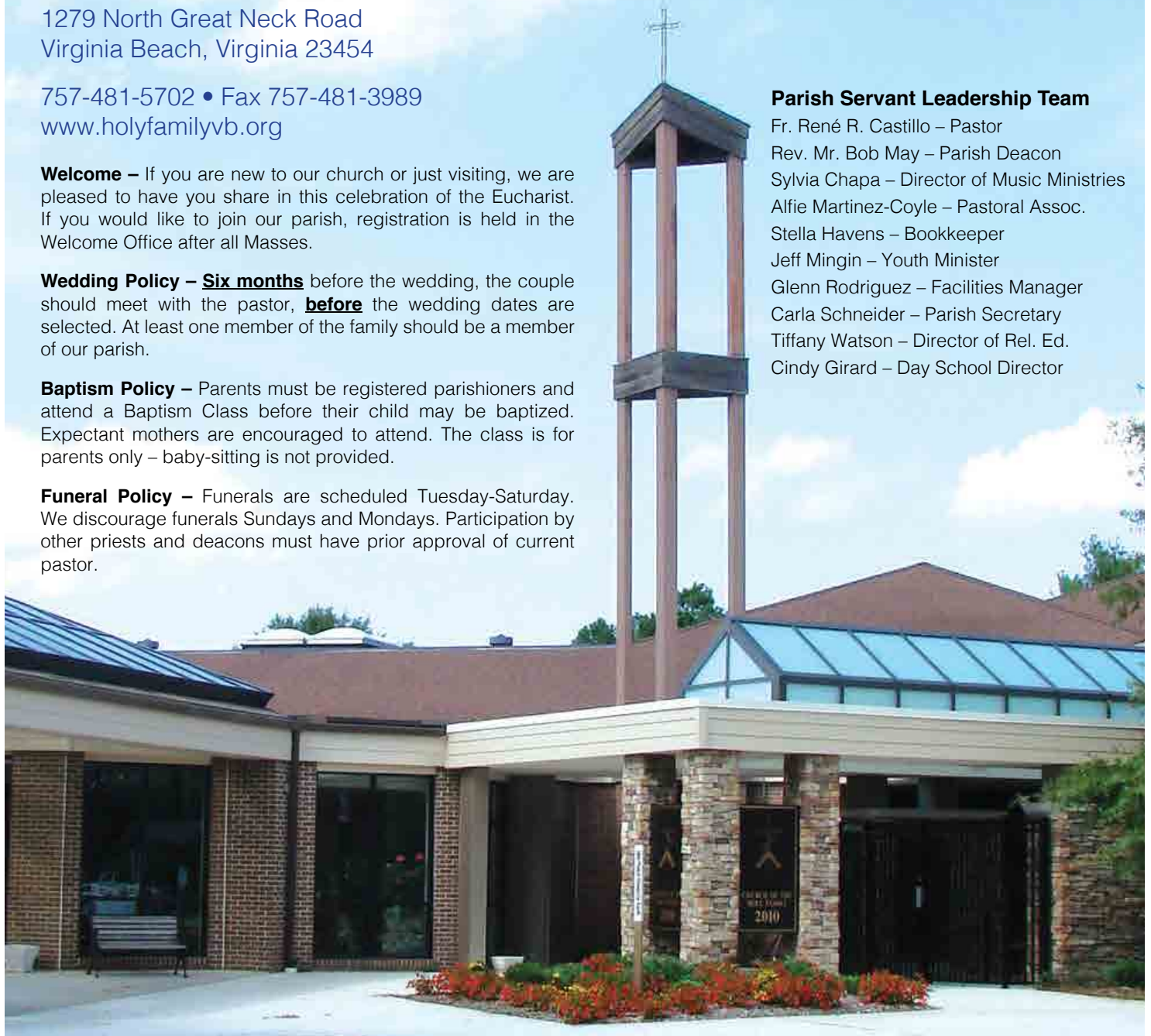
First weekend in July through
Labor Day Weekend
Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Holy Family Day School

757-481-1180

Parish Servant Leadership Team

Fr. René R. Castillo – Pastor
Rev. Mr. Bob May – Parish Deacon
Sylvia Chapa – Director of Music Ministries
Alfie Martinez-Coyle – Pastoral Assoc.
Stella Havens – Bookkeeper
Jeff Mingin – Youth Minister
Glenn Rodriguez – Facilities Manager
Carla Schneider – Parish Secretary
Tiffany Watson – Director of Rel. Ed.
Cindy Girard – Day School Director



A Parish of The Catholic Diocese of Richmond
Please remember in your prayers our sister parish, St. Jude in Baptiste, Haiti



SEPTEMBER 7/8, 2019
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
 Breviary Week III – p. 187

REMEMBER THE DEAD: Bill Wills

PRAY FOR: Briana Alessandro, Theresa Andrew, Patricia Angeline, Susana Asercion, Aurel Balcarcel, Eddie Bano, Lennie Bano, Deidre Barnes, Anthony Burton, Anthony Burton II, Jennifer Wright Case, Tucker Davis, JoAnn DeJaeger, John Dunn, Michael Eaton, Brendan Feely, Pat and Jackie Feeley, Dalton Fox, Robert Freesmeier, Robert Garrison, The Ginley Family, Roger Hall, George Heath, Kathleen Horey, Gary Jani, Sharon Johnson, Susan Kayota, Christina Kupyar, Shannon LePage, Connie Loschi, Lou Lucente, Thomas Lyver, Cheryl McLeskey, Vivian Marshall, Doris Maviglia, Debbie Merritt, Sandy Mieczkowski, Mary Miele, Sandy Nuzum, Maria Oakes, George Olson, Joyce Palacios, Sean Palmer, Carrie Pfeiffer, Ryan Piotti, Jeffery Reave, Dan Ryan, Jr., Sara Shenasky, Tonya Trimble, Sandra Ulwelling, Rose Vega, Ken Watson, Bill Wills, LaRue Wright

Some of the names to “pray for” have been in the bulletin for three months and are being removed this weekend. If you need prayers for you or your family members, please contact the Parish Office at 481-5702. These names will be in the bulletin for three months before being removed.

“Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will.”
 Mark 11: 24

PRAYERLINE REQUESTS: Please call the Parish Office at 481-5702.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday, September 8: *Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time:*
 Wis 9: 13-18b; Ps 90: 3-6, 12-17; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14: 25-33

Monday, September 9: *Saint Peter Claver, priest (USA):*
 Col 1: 24 – 2: 3; Ps 62: 6-7, 9; Lk 6: 6-11

Tuesday, September 10: Col 2: 6-15; Ps 145: 1b-2, 8-11;
 Lk 6: 12-19

Wednesday, September 11: Col 3: 1-11; Ps 145: 2-3, 10-13b;
 Lk 6: 20-26

Thursday, September 12: *The Most Holy Name of Mary:*
 Col 3: 12-17; Ps 150: 1b-6; Lk 6: 27-38

Friday, September 13: *Saint John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor of the church:* 1 Tm 1: 1-2, 12-14; Ps 16: 1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6: 39-42

Saturday, September 14: *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross:*
 Nm 21: 4b-9; Ps 78: 1b-2, 34-38; Phil 2: 6-11; Jn 3: 13-17

Sunday, September 15: *Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time:*
 Ex 32: 7-11, 13-14; Ps 51: 3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tm 1: 12-17;
 Lk 15: 1-32 or 15: 1-10

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Mass at 8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
 RCIA Inquiry (after Mass)
 LifeTeen Leadership Training Meeting 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

The Chosen Ministry Group 6:30 p.m.
 Lynnhaven Shores
 “Listening Session” with Fr. René 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Women’s Faith Sharing Group 10:00 a.m.
 Cub Scouts (Lion/Wolf/Webelos) 6:30 p.m.
 Haiti Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.
 Alzheimer’s Support Group 7:00 p.m.
 Men of Faith Group 7:00 p.m.
 Bay Island/Wimbledon
 “Listening Session” with Fr. René 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

J.O.Y. Club 11:00 a.m.
 Environmental Committee Meeting 1:00 p.m.
 Rosary (**Note time change from 6:30 p.m.**) **6:00 p.m.**
 Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Cub Scouts (Tiger/Bear) 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Patriotic Rosary 9:40 a.m.
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy 9:45 a.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Reconciliation 4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Catechetical Sunday –
 Commissioning of Catechists at 8:15 and 11:00 Masses
 K-5 Parent Meeting 9:30 a.m.
 K-5 Catechist Team Meeting 12:00 p.m.
 LifeTeen Parent Meeting 7:00 p.m.

EMERGENCY PHONE CALLS:

If you have an emergency and call the Church Office, there is an emergency number on the phone directory listing.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, September 9: Morning Prayer

Tuesday, September 10: Mass

Wednesday, September 11: Mass

Thursday, September 12: Angelita Martinez
 by Alfie Martinez-Coyle

Friday, September 13: Anna R. Richmond by Bonnie MacLeod

Saturday, September 14: Caroline Dandry
 by Charlie & JoAnne Clarkson

Sunday, September 15: 8:15: Cecilia Guardì;
 11:00: Holy Family Parishioners

SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM EMAILS:

Fr. René R. Castillo, Pastor – pastor2019@holymfamilyvb.org
 Rev. Mr. Bob May, Deacon – robmay124@gmail.com
 Sylvia Chapa, Music Director – music@holymfamilyvb.org
 Alfie Martinez-Coyle, Pastoral Associate/Liturgy Coordinator –
pa1@holymfamilyvb.org
 Stella Havens, Bookkeeper – bookkeeper@holymfamilyvb.org
 Jeff Mingin, Youth Minister – youthminister@holymfamilyvb.org
 Glenn Rodriguez, Facilities Manager –
facilitiesdirector@holymfamilyvb.org
 Carla Schneider, Parish Secretary –
secretary@holymfamilyvb.org
 Tiffany Watson, DRE – DRE@holymfamilyvb.org
 Cindy Girard, Day School Director –
dayschoolprincipal@holymfamilyvb.org

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Fr. René Castillo, Pastor; Joe Stefanowich, Chairperson; Kay Flohre, Vice-Chairperson; Audrey Douglas-Cooke, Secretary; Linda Baker; Kim Howell; “Mike” Jakubec; Mike O’Brien; Leah Rowland; Tom Rumely; Amy Schleicher (Youth Representative). ppc@holymfamilyvb.org.

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Fr. René Castillo, Paul Battaglia, Jill Broome, Buzz Crown, Stella Havens, Olive Lincoln, Dan Ryan, Rick Paradiso.

NEW EVANGELIZATION TEAM (NET):

Tom Rumely, Chairperson; Mike DeJaeger, Shannan LePage, Elizabeth Panchik, Cate Sleigh, Todd Solomon, Steve Winter, Fr. René Castillo. NET email: hfevangelization@gmail.com

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Budget 2018/2019 is \$1,072,000.00. This includes Diocesan Schools Parish Sharing Assessment of \$105,785.00.

Because of the Labor Day holiday, our financial report for August 31/September 1 and September 7/8 will be reported in the September 14/15 bulletin.

LEGACY GIVING PROGRAM:

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of parishioners who have left bequests to The Church of the Holy Family.

For more information on the Church of the Holy Family Legacy Giving Program, contact Steven Winter (Legacy Giving Chairperson) at edgewaterw@aol.com or swinter@edgewaterasset.com.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Holy Family Day School



Holy Family Day School wants to say a big “thank-you” to Glenn Rodriguez! For the last 17 years, Glenn has been Amazing, Helpful, Encouraging, Kind, Determined, Supportive, and so much more! Glenn has organized, scheduled, and directed our monthly fire drills, floor cleaning, paper towel orders, and extra helpers for the Day School. He has also worked so very hard to get our security system installed and up and running. Most recently, Glenn was responsible for the beautiful, safe, new surfacing on our playground! We wish you the best as you retire but we will miss your happy “Hi!” to the staff and children.

**Much Love and Appreciation
from Holy Family Day School!**

If you are interested in registering or need more information about Holy Family Day School, please call 757-481-1180 or email dayschool@holymfamilyvb.org.

Holy Family Learning & Leisure



Coming Attractions:

September 12 (10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
 Tour & Lunch of First Colonial Inn



Nestled on six wooded acres, First Colonial Inn is a peaceful sanctuary in the heart of Hilltop, Virginia Beach’s most popular area. First Colonial Inn offers Independent and Assisted Living and has been described as a “gracious blend of Country Inn and elegant Cruise Ship.” Bus departs from COTHF at 10:30. Please RSVP to Beverly at 373-9238.

September 19

L & L General Meeting: Program:

Convert Solar ~ Take control of your home’s electricity costs with Solar energy



L&L Hardboiled Egg Ministry:
• September 19 • October 3 & 17

Please bring eggs before noon on Thursday.
(for Brother Charles to pick up)



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

Council 10804

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the Knights who helped make Glenn Rodriguez' Retirement Party such a great success! It was a fabulous party and well deserved by Glenn! But it couldn't have happened without **YOU!**

COUNCIL MEETING

Knights of Columbus Council 10804 monthly business meeting is held on the first Thursday of each month. The Rosary will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel and **all parishioners are invited.** The members only business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Family Room.

We invite all of the men in our Parish to join our Council and help us make a difference!

Grand Knight ~ Herbert Hughes
Membership ~ Joe Stefanowich
Chaplain ~ Fr. René Castillo

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS: "Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." Are you being called to discipleship as a priest? Call the Vocations Office at (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Michael Boehling or Fr. Brian Capuano or email vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

CUB SCOUT PACK 406, which meets at Church of the Holy Family, is now registering new boys and girls for the 2019-2020 year! Cub Scouting is a year-round, family-oriented program for boys and girls who are entering kindergarten through 5th grade. The Cub Scout program has 10 purposes including character development, spiritual growth, good citizenship, sportsmanship and fitness, family understanding, respectful relationships, personal achievement, friendly service, fun and adventure, and preparation for Scouts BSA. If you are interested in learning more about Cub Scouts, or about joining Pack 406, please contact Dean or Christine Schleicher at cmpack406@gmail.com.

2019 BAPTISM CLASSES AND DATES

Class: Thursday, October 10, 7:00 p.m.

Baptism Date: Weekend of October 19/20: Saturday – at the 5:30 p.m. Mass; Sunday – at the 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Masses.

WELCOMING THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT in your life this fall. Join others at New Creation Community, 1600 Elbow Road, Chesapeake, VA 23320. Each session includes praise, worship, a talk, and discussion. The series begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 6, and will continue through early December 2019. Call Gary Hamrick at 757-641-8798 after 7:00 p.m. for more information. Make Pentecost a living reality, and experience the overwhelming love of the Father!

WEEKLY WISDOM



Twenty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time

This collection of sayings, most of which are peculiar to Luke, focuses on the total dedication necessary for the disciple of Jesus. No attachment to family or possessions can stand in the way of the total commitment demanded of the disciple. Also, acceptance of the call to be a disciple demands readiness to accept persecution and suffering and a realistic assessment of the hardships and costs.

The disciple's family must take second place to the absolute dedication involved in following Jesus.

The simile of salt follows the sayings of Jesus that demanded of the disciple total dedication and detachment from family and possessions and illustrates the condition of one who does not display this total commitment. The halfhearted disciple is like salt that cannot serve its intended purpose. (USCCB)

Please join us on September 22 as we start the "Genesis to Jesus" program between the Masses and on Monday nights. 30 minutes, and ALL are welcome to attend.

It is Not Too Late to Join Us!

The Women's Book Circle is taking the summer off. We will meet the third Thursday in September at 7:00 p.m. (September 19). Our book for September will be **The Faith Club** by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. We have decided it will be best to split the reading up to enable better discussion. For September, please read chapters 1-6. Please join us in September. All are welcome!

Women's Scripture Circle will be off for the summer months and will resume the fourth Wednesday of September, at 7:00 p.m. (September 25). We will be continuing our study of the Gospel of Luke, part two, using "Little Rock Scripture Study." Don't hesitate to join us any time.

For more information on the faith sharing circles, contact Marie Sexton at 718-4147.

Have a blessed week,
Your AFF Team

CRYPTS AVAILABLE AT PRINCESS ANNE MEMORIAL PARK: Church of the Holy Family has crypts, located at Princess Anne Memorial Park, for sale. These crypts are located in the Garden Building and in the Chapel in the Pines. Please call Stella at 757-937-6975 for more information.

GENESIS TO JESUS



BROUGHT TO YOU BY
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Discover Your Place in the Story of Salvation

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- +Survey the principle covenants God made with figures such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David
- +Deepen your knowledge of Scripture and the riches of our faith

Join Us for an Inspiring
Bible Study at

Church of the Holy Family

Beginning Sunday 9/22 at 9:30 a.m. (between the masses) or Monday 9/23 at 7:00 p.m. and ending 12/15 & 12/16

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Circle preference:

Sunday 9:30 a.m. or Monday 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25 per book _____ # of books

_____ Willing to serve as small group leader

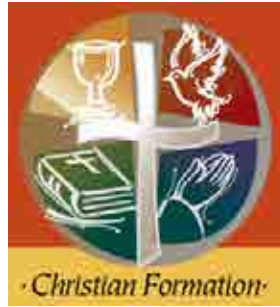
Contact: Tiffany Watson

at DRE@holyfamilyvb.org

or 757-481-570

ST. PAUL CENTER
JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

www.JourneyThroughScripture.com



Attention, parents! The summer has drawn to a close and it is once again time for Christian Formation!

Please note the following:

- CF Registration is now live on our website!
- The K-8 Parent Meeting will be held on Sunday, **September 15** at 9:30 a.m. in Family Room A
- Christian Formation Classes for K-5 and EDGE will begin **Sunday, September 22** at 9:30 a.m.



The K-8 Catechist Team is Looking for YOU!!

Do you enjoy working with the youth of our parish? Can you give of your time on Sunday mornings? Are you looking for a way to become more involved in the parish and also learn more about your Catholic faith? Then the K-8 Catechist Team is the ministry for YOU! ***We are currently looking to add 5 catechists for various grades.*** Please prayerfully consider sharing your gifts and your love of the Catholic faith with the youth of our parish. The curriculum is easy to follow and supplies are provided. A background check and VIRTUS training is required. Contact Tiffany in the Parish Office or DRE@holyfamilyvb.org if interested.



Children's Liturgy of the Word

Do you enjoy working with children? Can you give of your time during Mass? Would you like to share the Word of God with the youngest members of our parish? Can you give 20 minutes of your time on a Sunday to the children of our parish? Then **CLOW** is the ministry for YOU!

A rotating schedule that runs September-May, weekly scripts with materials are provided. ***Two adult leaders are needed for each Mass*** (8:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.) High School Teens are welcome! Please contact Tiffany in the parish office or DRE@holyfamilyvb.org if interested. A background check and VIRTUS training are required.



ARE YOU CURIOUS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

Are you an adult contemplating Baptism? Have you been baptized in another Christian faith but now find yourself being led to the Catholic Church? Are you looking to complete your Sacraments of Initiation by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation as a baptized Catholic adult? Then RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) is the place for you! Come with your questions to one of our [Inquiry Sessions](#) where you can meet team members and find out how we can accompany you on your faith journey. Classes begin in October and are held on Sunday mornings between the Masses.

Inquiry Dates

- **Saturday, September 7 (after 5:30 p.m. Mass)**
 - **Sunday, September 8 (between the Masses 9:30 a.m.)**
- We welcome you to our "Family" and look forward to you becoming part of "Church of the Holy Family"*

For more information, contact Tiffany Watson (DRE@holysfamilyvb.org).

Join the CF Nursery Team



**Rotating Schedule during CF Sundays
9:20 a.m.-10:50 a.m.**

Adults and high school youth (with one adult) are welcome! (VIRTUS and Background Check are required.) Can you give of your time to care for the smallest members of our parish family? We would love to have you join us. This ministry is vital for many of our catechists, RCIA participants, and Adult Formation attendees. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



Contact Tiffany in the parish office (481-5702/DRE@holysfamilyvb.org).

VOTING ISSUES – THE COMMON GOOD:

As Catholics, we must seek to advance the common good by carefully discerning which public policies are morally sound. A good end does not justify an immoral means. At times, Catholics may choose different ways to respond to social problems, but we cannot differ in our obligation to protect human life and dignity and build a more just and peaceful world.

HAITI UPDATE – SEPTEMBER

What's new with our sister parish in Baptiste, Haiti?



New Refrigerator

Last year, Holy Family purchased and installed a new generator. The new generator allows continuous power when electric grid is down. Now the rectory has a new refrigerator thanks to Holy Family. This is the first continuously functioning refrigerator in Baptiste.

Windows and Doors

The TQ Middle school now has windows and doors. The windows and doors were funded by Holy Family in June.

The Haitian Education Support Team (HEST) and Holy Family

Last month, Holy Family donated \$1,500 USD to the Haitian Education Support Team (HEST). The HEST trains and supports the supervisors and superintendent of schools who train the teachers in the diocese of Hinche. The Haitian superintendent Richard Joseph will be in Virginia Beach in October for The Richmond Haitian Symposium.

Next Haiti Committee Meeting

The next Haiti Committee Meeting is 7:00 p.m. September 10, at Holy Family Church. All are welcome!

WHO ARE THE MEN OF FAITH? WHAT DO THEY DO?

We are ordinary Catholic men who seek a closer relationship with God. We meet twice each month to support and encourage one another on our spiritual journey. We preview the Mass readings for the following Sunday and discuss how to apply their lessons to our daily lives. We also read and discuss good spiritual books to help us in this. We join the universal Church in praying for our needs and the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. If this interests you, please contact Ron Batdorf at ronald.batdorf@gmail.com or Bob Breault at bobbro1938@gmail.com or (610) 360-6070.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COUNTRY AND THE MILITARY:

Every Friday, we say the Patriotic Rosary after morning Mass. Everyone is welcome. If you have a family member in the military and would like us to pray for them by name, please email Mary Sorrentino at mmsorrentino@gmail.com with their name, and branch of service. Please remember that we still have military members in harm's way and keep them in your daily prayers.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Build a support system with people who understand.

Alzheimer's Association caregiver support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for caregivers, family, and friends of persons with dementia to:

- Develop a support system.
- Exchange practical information on caregiving challenges and possible solutions.
- Talk through issues and ways of coping.
- Share feelings, needs, and concerns.
- Learn about community resources.

The group that meets at Church of the Holy Family is open to parishioners and to the larger community. Please enter at the office door. Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Facilitators: Carol St. Cyr and Janet Hellmann



Music Notes

Get involved in Music Ministry! Complete a Ministry Form, and at the bottom of the first page, circle the groups you'd like to join. Email your name and all contact info to music@hollyfamilyvb.org. I'm joyful and grateful for your interest in this important liturgical ministry! *Sylvia Chapa, Director of Music Ministries*

JOB OPPORTUNITY:

Part-time Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

This position is available at Church of the Holy Family. Computer experience is a must. Major responsibilities include recording data in Parish's database, assisting staff members as necessary, answering the Church's main phone, responding to requests from parishioners, and arranging Mass intentions. This position is 27 hours per week.

Please send your résumé to Stella Havens, Business Manager, at Church of the Holy Family, 1279 N. Great Neck Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23454, or email businessmanager@hollyfamilyvb.org.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULE:

Holy Family has Eucharistic Adoration on the third Thursday of the month. **See below for schedule of other Virginia Beach Churches.** The next Adoration at Holy family will be on **September 19, from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**

St. Nicholas – Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.-6:45 p.m.

St. John the Apostle – Thursdays, 8:00 a.m.-6:45 p.m.

Star of the Sea – First Thursday of the month after the 8:00 a.m. Mass with Benediction at 3:00 p.m.

St. Luke – Monday and Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. to midnight; Wednesday 6:00 p.m. through Saturday morning, 6:45 a.m. Benediction

Holy Spirit – First Thursday of the month, 5:00-6:15 p.m. followed by daily Mass

St. Gregory – Fridays after 8:30 a.m. Mass until 5:00 p.m.

Ascension – First Friday, 9:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

St. Matthew – 24 hours/day Perpetual Adoration

CHURCH OF THE

HOLY FAMILY COLUMBARIUM

Our Columbarium offers inurnment niches for companion (2), shared (2), or single (1). Since each niche is manufactured to hold two urns, the cost of one niche is the same whether inurnment is for one or two urns. The current cost for one niche is \$2,000.

Only cremated human remains will be inurned in the Church of the Holy Family Columbarium.

Application forms are available outside the Welcome Office, or by contacting our Columbarium Custodian, Stella Havens, at 481-5702.

THE CHOSEN MINISTRY is dedicated to ministering to persons (middle school to adults of any age) who experience disabilities. We learn that we are all "chosen" to serve God and God loves all of us just as we are. We have Holy Family *The Chosen Ministry* gatherings the first three Mondays of the month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. during the school year. Our next meeting is **Monday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m.** For more information, contact Susie Stefonowich at 342-8540 or parishadvocate@gmail.com.

CREATION CARE CORNER

Can we imagine what it would be like not to have easy and convenient access to healthy drinking water? Can we even believe that the availability of healthy drinking water can be limited or even lost? Well, 1/10th of all Americans depend on the lower Colorado River for their drinking water. The increasing demand for drinking water in that region, along with the effects of climate change, are making this situation an urgent matter.

Do we know that 65% of America's drinking water comes from our nation's streams and rivers? That 44% of assessed waterways are too polluted for fishing and swimming (in some parts of the Lynnhaven and Elizabeth Rivers, swimming and fishing are prohibited)? The Rappahanock River, which is a few miles from Hampton Roads, is listed among one of the most endangered rivers.

Additionally, our drinking water across the U.S. has become contaminated by toxins from mining, agricultural, and fossil fuel industries, among other sources. These toxins are wreaking havoc on our vulnerable ecosystems, human health, and our wildlife.

In 2016, Reuters published its examination of lead-testing results from across the country. The results showed that over 3,000 communities had recently recorded lead poisoning rates that were at least double those in Flint during the peak of its contamination crisis. In 2017, the Environmental Working Group released a report stating that its researchers had found levels of 1-4 dioxane, a recognized carcinogen, in the tap water of nearly 7 million Americans in 27 states. These levels are above the EPA suggested health limits.

Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* is a wake-up call for all humanity to serve as responsible stewards not just of our lands and atmosphere, but of our vast blue waterways as well.

Can you realize how precarious an issue healthy drinking water is? What can we do about it? What will YOU do about it?

The facts in this article were taken from the American Rivers 2018 report and the Green America Magazine, fall issue, 2017.

Ed Marroni (mmarroni1@hotmail.com)

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