

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church



3570 KING WILLIAM AVE • WEST POINT VA 23181



PASTOR

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oparaiso@richmonddiocese.org
pastormcneill@gmail.com

RECTORY

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PERMANENT DEACON

Rev. Dr. Kevin McKeever (973) 983-0511
conorlew56@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Pam Watkins (804) 843-3125 ext. 101
Hours: Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
adminassistant@olbs-catholic.org

BUSINESS MANAGER

Bob Ryalls (804) 843-3125 ext. 104
cell (757) 207-0215
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COORDINATOR OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Erin Hayden (804) 843-3125 ext. 103
DRE@olbs-catholic.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR (INTERIM)

Mary Jackson (757) 515-8398
music@olbs-catholic.org

PRESCHOOL TEACHER/DIRECTOR

Vangy Lawson (804) 843-4177
preschool@olbs-catholic.org

VAN DEN BOOGAARD HALL RENTALS

Janice McGowan (804) 843-2870
hallrentals@olbs-catholic.org

GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTER

By Appointment (757) 585-8227

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
(also by appointment)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday and Tuesday in the
Mercy Center Chapel

FIRST FRIDAY BENEDICTION AND ADORATION

In the church at 6:00 p.m.
(followed by the Most Holy Rosary
at 6:30 p.m.)

RECITATION OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

6:30 p.m. (every Friday in the church)

INFANT BAPTISM

Parent preparation classes are
required for each couple planning
to have their baby baptized.
To schedule a preparation session,
please call the church office.

MARRIAGE

OLBS sponsors a preparation program
for couples who intend to marry.
The Pastor must be contacted at
least six months prior to the date
of the wedding.

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH

Those inquiring into the Catholic
Faith or seeking communion with
the Church are invited to contact
the Parish Office. Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is offered.

HOME VISIT WITH FATHER OSCAR

To schedule, please call the church
office at the number below.

Mass Schedule

WEEKENDS

Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Spanish Mass 4:00 p.m.
(first Sunday of the month)

WEEKDAYS

Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 a.m.
Friday 5:30 p.m.
(followed by the Rosary —
first Friday of the month
is followed by a holy hour)

HOLIDAYS

9:30 a.m.
7:00 p.m.

Parish Offices

CONTACT

207 W. Euclid Blvd.
West Point, VA 23181
p: (804) 843-3125 • f: (804) 843-9158
Parish e-mail: olbs@olbs-catholic.org
Parish website: www.olbs-catholic.org

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 30th & December 1st, 2024

Saturday, November 30th FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

5:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:30 pm Mass offered for Patrick McGowan (RIP)
 Requested by Mary Ann & Frank Fetterolf
 & Mass offered for Marguerite Sturtz (RIP)
 Requested by daughters, Joan Applegate &
 Carole Beasley

Sunday, December 1st FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

9:00 am Mass offered for Marian Kopacki (RIP)
 Requested by Maryann Casterline
 10:15 am **Parish Council Meeting (Mercy Center)**
 10:15 am Religious Education Sunday School
 10:15 am Adult Sunday Bible Classes (Boogaard Hall)
 11:15 am Christmas Play practice
4:00 pm Spanish Mass

Monday, December 2nd

No Daily Mass
 12 pm-10 pm Adoration in Chapel

Tuesday, December 3rd St. Francis Xavier, Priest*

9:30 am Mass offered for Joyce Drexler (RIP)
 Requested by Theresa Moody
 4:30 pm Adult Bible Study (Boogaard Hall)
 12 pm-10 pm Adoration in Chapel
 7:00 pm **Penance Service** with visiting priests
 Fr. Gregory Kandt & Johnny Minta-Mensa

**Wednesday, December 4th St. John Damascene, Priest,
 Doctor of the Church***

9:30 am Mass offered for Melvin Moody (RIP)
 Requested by Theresa Moody
 6:00 pm **Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday, December 5th

9:30 am Mass offered for Von Moody (RIP)
 Requested by Theresa Moody
 6:30 pm **Joint meeting Parish Council, Finance
 Council, and Facilities Committee**

Friday, December 6th Saint Nicholas, Bishop*

5:30 pm **First Friday Mass & Holy Hour**
 Mass offered for Mark Drexler, Jr. (RIP)
 Requested by Theresa Moody



Saturday, December 7th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

5:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
 5:30 pm Mass offered for Thomas Sturtz, Sr. (RIP)
 Requested by Marguerite Sturtz & Family
 & Mass offered for Marguerite Sturtz (RIP)
 Requested by daughters, Joan Applegate &
 Carole Beasley
 & Mass offered for a **Special Intention**
 Requested by Anonymous Request
 6:30 pm **Fried chicken dinner and Catholic investment
 seminar sponsored by Knights of Columbus**

Sunday, December 8th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

9:00 am Mass offered for Henry Kopacki, Jr. (RIP)
Anniversary of Death (12/5)
 Requested by Janice McGowan & Family
 10:15 am Religious Education Sunday School
 10:15 am Adult Sunday Bible Classes (Boogaard Hall)
 11:15 am Christmas Play practice

** Color of letters indicates vestment colors for that Sunday or
 Saint's feast day. If no color, vestments are white.*



**December 1st will be the Spanish Mass – the first Sunday of
 the month – and will take place at 4:00 pm.**

Early Advent Calendar Dates

Tuesday, December 3rd 7:00 pm Penance Service
 with Father Gregory Kandt & Father Johnny Minta-Mensah
Monday, December 9th 9:30 am Mass *Immaculate
 Conception*****
 7:00 pm Mass
*****Holy Day of Obligation*****
Sunday, December 15th 9:00 am Mass
**5:30 pm Christmas Play
 & Pot Luck Dinner**

*****Note that December 9th instead of the December 8th
 observation of the Immaculate Conception is because
 "when a holy day of obligation in Advent, Lent, or Easter
 falls on Sunday" ... "the Solemnity is transferred to
 Monday." (USCCB)**

Religious Education

Free Advent Resources!

There are two free Advent Books at the back of the Church. There is the "Word Among Us" Advent Book and the Little Blue Advent Book, as well. Both are wonderful ways to enhance your Advent in preparation for the Christmas Season. These will allow you to take a couple of minutes each day to focus on God and allow Him to help you center on what's really important in this season.

Religious education classes run from 10:15 to 11:15 am.

Our Christmas Play practice has begun. Play practice is from 11:15 am to 12:15.

Save the Date of Sunday, December 15th at 5:30 pm. There will be a Pot Luck along with the showing of "The Saviors Birth"

Safety Issue!

We want to keep our children safe! Please stay with your children, if you arrive at the hall before 10:15 am.

Tuesday Adult Bible Study– Meets on Tuesdays @ 4:30 pm.

Our group has grown, and we are now meeting at the Church Hall. Our study is on the Book of Job, newcomers are welcome to join us! Bring your Bible, notepad and pencil.

Sunday Adult Bible Study follows the 9 am Mass. Meet in the front foyer of the hall. All are welcome to attend. The study will be Lectio Eucharist.



Open to all 6th -12th Grade.

No Youth Group December 1.



The OLBS Preschool Christmas program to be held in the church on **Wednesday December 18th** at 9:20 am. Please bring your preschooler to the preschool at 9:00 am sharp. They should wear something festive and nice. They will also be given a costume headpiece that morning to wear and be returned at the end.

The entire event will end by 11:00 since there will be Daily Mass at 11:00 am.

Got FORMED?

What is FORMED? A Catholic platform with thousands of things to choose from for all ages; Talks, Bible Studies, Catechesis, Prayers, Movies, Documentaries, Audio Books, Music and so much more. Formed is paid for and gifted by our parish so you can have it for FREE! To sign up go to www.formed.org, select: Formed for parishes, type in our parish name and address, put in your name and email and you are signed up! The link will go to your email and then you can add the app. on your phone. Grow in knowledge of the Faith!



Update on Logan Chestnutt. He is currently clear with cancer on his labs and receiving Stem Cell treatments at this time. The family is thankful for all the prayers and support.

*Note: Changes to our Giving Tree this year

Our Giving Tree gifts due back! Please return gifts back under the tree with the tag attach no later than Sunday, December 8th. Gifts must be unwrapped and place in a large trash bag. Still have questions? Contact Sandy Dinh at 562-607-1422. Together we can keep the tradition of "The Giving Tree" alive.



It is with great sadness that we recognize the passing of Mike Pausic this week. Our condolences to Nancy and the rest of the family and all their friends. Mike was a dedicated parishioner and Knight of Columbus (Past Grand Knight) and he will be greatly missed.

Scotty and I would like to sincerely thank our parish family for their prayers, cards, meals, help in finding a place to rent, help in moving, visits to the hospital, phone calls, and all the love that has surrounded us during this challenging time. We know we cannot thank everyone enough for the love and care shown us during this time.

We love all of you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We pray God will multiply your Blessings beyond those you bestow on others. We are truly Blessed to be a part of this parish family. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Pam & Scotty Watkins

Changes to our Christmas Food Basket this year:

This Christmas we are teaming up with "West Point Community Lil' Free Pantry" to help the local families in the area get through the holidays. If you have not heard of them, you can go on littlefreepantry.org for more information. They are simply pantries that are located throughout town where free dry goods are supplied by neighbors to help neighbors. We want to give this a try this year to not only serve the "x amount" of families we usually do, but to serve them and those in needs around the community. We hope this way it will expand the value of our money and increase the amount of families we are able to help. Please consider donating; any amount will be appreciated. If you wish to participate, there will be envelopes and a jar to place the money in at the back of the church. We will be collecting through the month of November through mid-December. All funds will be used for replenishing the pantries for Christmas and any leftover funds will be saved to replenish accordingly throughout the year.

"Take what you need. Leave what you can" - West Point Community Lil' Free Pantry

Collection for November 23 & 24, 2024

Total Offertory	\$ 3,452
Thanksgiving	\$ 155
Christmas Flowers	\$ 165
Total received this week	\$ 3,772

Budgeted weekly average parish need \$ 4,596

Restricted, Special Use, or Sent Out of Parish:

Capital Campaign	\$ 205
Religious Education	\$ 385

Thank You for Supporting our Parish

Attendance

November 23	Saturday	5:30 pm Mass	88
November 24	Sunday	9:00 am Mass	142



December Wedding Anniversaries

Glenn & Kay Shaw	December 1, 1972
Craig & Danielle Smith	December 1, 2007
Wayne & Carole Beasley	December 12, 1980
(Francis) & Cathy Fudella	December 13, 1971
Michael & Jan Bellanca	December 28, 1963
Chris & Paula Polcyn	December 30, 1988

From The Diary of St. Faustina

Meditation:

I saw Jesus, and from His Heart there issued those same two rays, which enveloped me, whole and entire. At the same moment, all my torments vanished. **My daughter**, the Lord said, **know that of yourself you are just what you have gone through, and it is only by My grace that you are a participant of eternal life and all the gifts I lavish on you.** And with these words of the Lord, there came to me a true knowledge of myself. Jesus is giving me a lesson in deep humility and, at the same time, one of total trust in Him. My heart is reduced to dust and ashes, and even if all people were to trample me under their feet, I would still consider that a favor (*Diary*, 1559).

My Prayer Response:

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for the graces and mercy You have lavished on me. Without them, *I am nothing*, but with them and only with them, I am a participant of eternal life. May I live in this true knowledge of myself.



Eucharistic Revival

By the consecration the transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ is brought about. Under the consecrated species of bread and wine Christ himself, living and glorious, is present in a true, real, and substantial manner: his Body and his Blood, with his soul and his divinity (cf. Council of Trent: DS 1640; 1651). (CCC 1413)

NEVER STOP LEARNING

Jesus' Ascent to Jerusalem

Before his Ascension Christ affirmed that the hour had not yet come for the glorious establishment of the messianic kingdom awaited by Israel¹ which, according to the prophets, was to bring all men the definitive order of justice, love and peace.² According to the Lord, the present time is the time of the Spirit and of witness, but also a time still marked by "distress" and the trial of evil which does not spare the Church³ and ushers in the struggles of the last days. It is a time of waiting and watching. (CCC672)



Priests for Life

From someone who had an abortion...
"[The abortion] gave me grief and sorrow beyond expression. I was petrified to tell anyone. I have committed the most heinous of all crimes. Yet, the Lord forgave me, just as he forgave Paul. Yet I will always regret what I did and will probably always feel grief. But I pray that my experience can somehow prevent other women from making the same fatal mistake. I'm a nurse now, so I wear my uniform to all the pro-life things I do! It helps."
Forgiveness and healing are available.
Visit www.RachelsVineyard.org.



Knights of Columbus

Coats for Kids Program

The local Knights of Columbus Council 8116 is once again seeking donations for its Coats for Kids program.

OLBS Parish Fried Chicken Dinner and Financial Planning and Security Seminar

Prepared & Sponsored by local Council 8116

Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm

after Saturday's 5:30 Mass

Van den Boogaard Hall



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Todd Curtis, FIC, MDRT

757-254-1420

todd.curtis@kofc.org

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Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors offers faith-based investment solutions to help you

achieve your financial goals. You can invest without sacrificing your integrity.

Stations Path & Cultural Prayer Gardens

Please check out the progress on Mason Kopacki's Eagle Scout project "Stations of the Cross Outdoor Path" and the most recent work that was completed last Saturday behind the parking area.

A map of the garden area layout is on display in the Church foyer.



'The Reality of This War'

Supreme chaplain visits the "hero cities" of Bucha and Irpin during his trip to Ukraine

By Solomiia Karpiv 11/18/2024



Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori prays Oct. 19 at a memorial to 119 victims of the 2022 Bucha massacre on the grounds of St. Andrew the First-Called Church in Bucha, Ukraine. (Photo by Andrii Gorb)

During his recent visit to Ukraine, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori toured Irpin and Bucha, two cities that have become symbolic of both the brutality of Russia's invasion and the resilience of the Ukrainian people.

Russian forces seized Bucha, a town 18 miles (30 km) northwest of Kyiv, in February 2022. After they withdrew about a month later, several hundred civilians, including women and children, were found massacred. A mass grave near St. Andrew the First-Called Church held 119 bodies, and nearly 40 people were killed along Yablunska Street, where Russian soldiers established a headquarters.

On Oct. 19, Archbishop Lori visited the memorials that have been erected at both sites to learn about and pray for the victims.



As we wrap up another year, now is the time to make your year end gift!

Did you know that you can make a gift of cash, stock or a Qualified Charitable Donation from your IRA before December 31 and enjoy a charitable tax deduction and valuable tax savings on this year's tax return?

Make Your End of Year Gift Today!

Catholic Community Foundation
of the Diocese of Richmond

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WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

New members are asked to register at the Parish Office in the Mercy Center.

We invite all parishioners to join a ministry.

Contact the Chairperson of the ministry or call the Parish Office at 804.843.3125

ALTAR LINENS
Linda Drexler (804) 241-4073
vintagenotes@verizon.net

ALTAR SERVERS
Joe Drexler (804) 366-7563
liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org

ARTS & ENVIRONMENT
artsenvironment@olbs-catholic.org

BELL CHOIR

CANTORS/CHOIR
music@olbs-catholic.org

CEMETERY COMMITTEE
ceemeterychair@olbs-catholic.org

CHURCH HISTORIAN
Linda Drexler (804)241-4073
historian@olbs-catholic.org

CLEANING COORDINATOR

COMMUNITY LIFE

FACILITIES COMMITTEE
Jim Pyne
facilitieschair@olbs-catholic.org

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Richard Duke (804) 843-3125
financechair@olbs-catholic.org

HISPANIC MINISTRY
Nanci Hernandez
Jose Velasquez
hispanicministry@olbs-catholic.org

HOSPITALITY
Glenn & Kay Shaw (804) 843-3476

JUSTICE & PEACE

KNIT, PURL & PRAY

LAWN MOWING COMMITTEE
Eric Ellingson (804) 843-2184
ericellingson@verizon.net

LIBRARY
Linda Drexler (804) 241-4073
vintagenotes@verizon.net

LITURGY COMMITTEE
Joe Drexler (804) 366-7563
liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org

MINISTRY SCHEDULING
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pbv0806@yahoo.com

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS
Margaret Varboncoeur (804) 843-2867

PARISH COUNCIL
Tiffany Smith (804) 840-7984
parishchair@olbs-catholic.org

SACRISTAN
Joe Drexler (804)366-7563
Marguerite Sturtz, Sacristan Emerita

YOUTH MINISTRY
Erin Hayden (804) 843-3125 ext 103
DRE@olbs-catholic.org

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and Cremation Services*

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417 11th Street
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Email: hallrentals@olbs-catholic.org

Father Jakubowski Council #8116



***New Members
Welcomed**

***Hall Rental Available**

Contact
Jim Vadas
804.370.5341