

# Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church



3570 KING WILLIAM AVE • WEST POINT VA 23181



## PASTOR

Rev. Oscar Paraiso (804) 843-3125 ext. 102  
cell (757) 778-5118  
oparaiso@richmonddiocese.org  
pastormcneill@gmail.com

## RECTORY

(804) 843-4231

## 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  
businessmgr@olbs-catholic.org

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

### WEEKDAYS

Tuesday – Thursday 8:30 a.m.  
Friday 5:00 p.m.  
(followed by the Rosary —  
first Friday of the month  
is followed by a holy hour)

### HOLIDAYS

8:30 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 LENT**  
**March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



**Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT\***  
 4:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 5:00 pm Mass offered for Ralph Racioppi (RIP)  
 Requested by the Hayden Family

**Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT\***  
 9:00 am Mass for Mike Pausic (RIP)  
 Requested by Victoria Roane  
 10:15 am Religious Education Classes  
 10:15 am Adult Bible Study

**Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**  
 No Mass  
 12 pm-10 pm Adoration in Chapel

**Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30 am Mass for Marian Kopacki (RIP)  
 Requested by the Hayden Family  
 12 pm-10 pm Adoration in Chapel  
 4:30 pm Adult Bible Study (MC)

**Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30 am Mass for Patrick McGowan (RIP)  
 Requested by the Hayden Family  
 5:00 pm Facilities Committee (VDB kitchen)  
 6:30 pm Choir Practice

**Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30 am Mass offered for Souls in Purgatory  
 Requested by the Hayden Family

**Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
 5:00 pm Mass offered In Thanksgiving to God  
 Requested by the Hayden Family  
 5:30 pm Stations of the Cross – Knights of Columbus

**Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT\***  
 11:30 am International Dinner Meeting &  
 Cultural Prayer Gardens (Knights Hall??  
 at 312 7<sup>th</sup> Street)  
 4:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 5:00 pm Mass offered for Kyle Burch (RIP)  
 Requested by the Hayden Family

**Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT\***  
 9:00 am Mass offered for Bill & Joan Sockey (RIP)  
 Requested by the Hayden Family  
 10:15 am Altar Server practice  
 10:15 am Religious Education Classes  
 10:15 am Adult Bible Study

(MC) Mercy Center (VDB) van den Boogard Hall (Parish Hall)

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

Worship the Lord  
 your God and  
 serve him only.

**Daily Mass & Senior Lunch**

The Senior Luncheon will be held at El Rancho Mexican Restaurant, King William Ave. in West Point on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> following the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Call Jeanie Sturtz at 804-370-5821 by Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> to reserve a seat.

**Jubilee Year of Hope**

Drawing on their Jewish roots, jubilee years emphasize the sacrament of reconciliation and restoring relationships with God. They also provide an opportunity for a special jubilee indulgence, which can remove the residual effects of sin through the grace of Christ.



**Lenten Dinners**

Once again, the Knights of Columbus are planning Lenten Fish Dinners. Tickets are available after all masses for \$15 each or call 804-512-9701.

Save the dates:

March 21	Fried shrimp
April 4	Flounder, shrimp, & crabcake

**FORTY**  
**Days**  
**OF LENT**

Lent is associated with the **40 days** Jesus spent in the desert. This number, in turn, echoes several Old Testament events:

- The 40 days and 40 nights of the great flood. (Gen 7:4)
- Moses' 40 years as a shepherd in the desert before God called him to lead the Israelites out of slavery. (Acts 7:29-30)
- Moses' fast for 40 days and 40 nights on Mount Sinai before receiving the tables of commandments. (Ex 34:28)
- The 40 years the Israelites spent searching for the Promised Land. (Josh 5:6).
- The 40 days the prophet Elijah spent in the desert before meeting God on Mount Horeb. (1 Kgs 19:8)
- The 40 days that were given to the inhabitants of Nineveh before its announced destruction. (Jn. 3:4-5)

## Religious Education



Religious Education Classes are held Sundays at 10:15 am.

**Tuesday Adult Bible Study:** Join us at 4:30 pm (MC). We are studying the book of JOB.

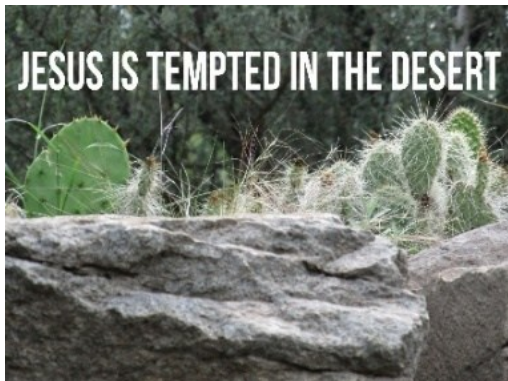
**Sunday Adult Bible Study:** We begin our study of Exodus. We meet after the 9 a.m. Mass in the front foyer of the hall.



Our next Youth Group will meet **March 16<sup>th</sup>**. All 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to join us at the hall 6:30 pm.

**Please Pray for our Elect** as they prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation into the church at Easter Vigil: Bob George, Reece Kirkland, Chris Sutton, and Lajla and David Sloniker. May the Holy Spirit guide and enlighten your hearts with the fullness of faith!

**Christ is Alive!! 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Essay Contest-** Open to children in grades 3-8<sup>th</sup> grade! You or your child may pick up a detailed information with rules from their religious ed. teacher or Mrs. Hayden. The topic: Describe a moment in the last year when you felt close to God? Deadline for turning the essay in will be by Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Two winners will be selected from each grade level across America! Prizes to be awarded.



**Altar Server Practice - For Both New and Current Altar Servers.**

Altar server practice will be held on Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup> immediately after the 9 am Mass. Each session will last approximately one hour.

New altar servers, and those who have not routinely served for more than a year, must attend BOTH sessions. There is a lot of information to cover, and we want to ensure everyone is well-prepared to participate in this important ministry.

Any child who has received their first Holy Communion is eligible to be an altar server. It is important to remember that participating in this important ministry also requires that you are able to show reverence throughout the Mass. That responsibility involves being able to sit still and pay attention to the Mass. It also involves showing respect by dressing appropriately – dress shoes, dress pants (no shorts), hair combed, etc.

If your child is interested in becoming an altar server, please contact Jody Drexler (804-815-7720) or Joe Drexler (804-366-7563).



**I Believe in Jesus Christ, His Only Son Our Lord –** In the history of salvation God was not content to deliver Israel "out of the house of bondage" [Dt 5:6] by bringing them out of Egypt. He also saves them from their sin. Because sin is always an offence against God, only he can forgive it. [Cf. Ps 51:4, 12] For this reason Israel, becoming more and more aware of the universality of sin, will no longer be able to seek salvation except by invoking the name of the Redeemer God. [Cf. Ps 79:9] (CCC 431)

**Divine Mercy Retreat-** Sign up at the entrance of the church and save the date! **Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 9 am-12 pm.** Breakfast and a powerful message of Mercy for ALL!

Help with Upcoming International Dinner

An International Dinner parish fundraiser is being planned for April 26, the Saturday after Easter. If you would like to jump in and help cooking or setup, we would love to hear from you. **A sign-up sheet is located in the foyer of the church.** Anyone of any heritage can sign up to help with any one of the ethnic foods or to help with anything needed. Also, our next meeting of the planning committee is March 15<sup>th</sup>, tentatively at the Knights hall, 312 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Collection for March 1 & 2, 2025

Total Offertory	\$ 3,823
Parish Heating	\$ 140
Votive Stand	\$ 45
Total Received This Week	\$ 4,008
<b>Budgeted weekly average parish need</b>	<b>\$ 4,596</b>

Restricted, Special Use, or Sent Out of Parish:

Capital Campaign	\$ 990
Cemetery Fund	\$ 643
Poor Box	\$ 41

\*\*\*Thank You for Supporting our Parish\*\*\*

Attendance

March 1 Saturday	5:00 pm Mass	61
March 2 Sunday	9:00 am Mass	152



Stations of the Cross assigned leaders for the following Fridays of Lent:

- March 14 Knights of Columbus
- March 21 Hispanic Community
- March 28 Facilities Committee
- April 4 Parish Council
- April 11 Cemetery Committee
- April 18 Finance Committee



March Wedding Anniversaries

Shawn & Erin Lazar	March 6, 2004
David & Donna Haviland	March 7, 1998

Help With Boogaard Center Hall Rentals Needed

We are seeking a Parish Hall Rental Manager to replace Janice McGowan who has faithfully filled this role for several years and would like to step down.

This position maintains a schedule of rentals for the van den Boogaard Hall (parish hall) and coordinates all uses of the facility. Some of the duties include:

- Meet with and prepare contracts for renters of the hall
- Coordinate paperwork for hall rentals in conjunction with Diocese rules and requirements
- Ensure that the hall is cleaned after each use by the renters
- Process payments and refunds for the renter in accordance with Parish/Diocese requirements

Additional information can be obtained from Janice at 804-366-4124, if interested. Contact the Parish Offices at 804-843-3125 and let us know of your willingness to serve in this role for the Parish.



Knights of Columbus

Council 8116 (the "Father Jakubowski Council") Knights of Columbus meets the first Monday of every month at the Columbian Club Hall at 312 7<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown West Point. If you have an interest in the Knights, just ask one of the members for information.

The Knights are also renting the Columbian Club Hall once again for events such as family gatherings, birthday parties, etc. Contact Craig or Danielle Smith at 804-398-8374.



## Priests for Life

### Lent and Life

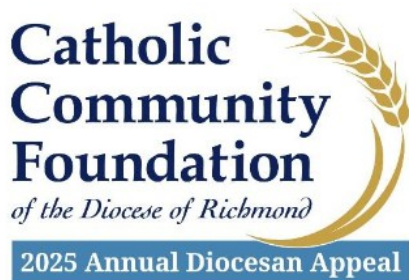
"By our gracious gift each year, your faithful await the sacred paschal feasts with the joy of minds made pure" (Preface of Lent 1). The purpose of Lent is succinctly expressed by this preface.

Catechumens prepare for baptism into the paschal mystery. The faithful are reminded of their baptism, and will renew their baptismal vows at the Easter liturgy. Baptism initiates us into the eternal life Christ gives us. The baptized are sons and daughters of God and are members of the Church, the People of Life.

The choices of the baptized are therefore to be shaped by their new identity (see Rom 6:6; Eph. 4:17-24). Christ calls the Samaritan woman to repent as she accepts the waters of new life (see John 4:15-24). Lenten repentance is necessary so that God's people may more deeply become who they are. They are called to see their sins more clearly.

Hence baptism is known as "illumination." Anyone who makes the Lenten journey is called to be more alert to the attacks on human life and dignity around them. The people of life are called to reject sin and all the devil's works and empty promises (Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Easter Liturgy).

The "pro-choice" and "right to die" mentalities are two of those "empty promises" which are firmly rejected by the baptized. A firm rejection of these positions is integral to repentance. Lent is the perfect time for us to call our congregations to a clearer understanding of why this is true, and to lead them to a deeper affirmation of life, both natural and eternal, in the celebration of the Paschal Mystery.



The 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal will be held during the weekends of March 8th/9th and March 15th/16th with an in-person process for the Appeal.

Each parishioner who attends Mass on one of these weekends understands they are being invited by their pastor to consider a meaningful gift.



It is that time of year again, the **West Point Ministers Association Lenten Soup & Sermon Series**. The series will run from Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup>. The Soup & Sermon is every Wednesday. Father Oscar has agreed to work with the pastor at St. John's Episcopal Church on April 9<sup>th</sup> this year. We need one or two parishioners to take the lead for working with their contact to plan, set up, serve, and clean up the luncheon. We will also need to have some parishioners to cook and supply some soups and desserts. Please call the parish office if you can help in any way. We would also like as many parishioners as possible to come out join us in representing our Parish. Maybe those who are able might invite one of our parishioners who struggle to make it to Mass for a great sermon and luncheon.

Here is the schedule:

- **March 12:** Jim Goebel (First Baptist Church) and Brad Bullit (West Point Community Church of the Nazarene)
- **March 19:** Karen Stanley/lay leader (Brett Reed Presbyterian Church) and Kwangmin Shin (West Point United Methodist Church)
- **March 26:** Tom Wilburn (West Point Christian Church) and Cliff Collins (The Edge)
- **April 2:** Wayne Groome (West Point Church of God) and Arthur Anderson (Mt. Nebo Baptist Church)
- **April 9:** Oscar Paraiso (Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church), Charlie and Miriam Maloney (Mattaponi Society of Friends), and Theresa Brion (St. John's Episcopal Church)

### Gifts of Stock to Your Parish

Gifts of stock avoid capital gains tax! If you own appreciated stock, you may wish to consider giving the stock to the parish rather than cash. You are able to deduct the full value, avoid the capital gain tax and make a substantial gift to the parish. A good steward uses his or her assets in a way that does the most good. To donate a gift of stock, please contact the parish office.



## 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

Ginger (757) 912-3025

### ALTAR SERVERS

Joe Drexler (804) 366-7563  
[liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org](mailto:liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org)

### ARTS & ENVIRONMENT

[artsenvironment@olbs-catholic.org](mailto:artsenvironment@olbs-catholic.org)

### BELL CHOIR

### CANTORS/CHOIR

Mary Jackson (757) 515-8398  
[music@olbs-catholic.org](mailto:music@olbs-catholic.org)

### CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Terry Frederick (804) 843-3125  
[cemeterychair@olbs-catholic.org](mailto:cemeterychair@olbs-catholic.org)

### CHURCH HISTORIAN

Linda Drexler (804) 241-4073  
[historian@olbs-catholic.org](mailto:historian@olbs-catholic.org)

### CLEANING COORDINATOR

### COMMUNITY LIFE

### FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Eric Ellingson (804) 843-3125  
[facilitieschair@olbs-catholic.org](mailto:facilitieschair@olbs-catholic.org)

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Richard Duke (804) 843-3125  
[financechair@olbs-catholic.org](mailto:financechair@olbs-catholic.org)

### HISPANIC MINISTRY

Nanci Hernandez  
Jose Velasquez  
[hispanicministry@olbs-catholic.org](mailto:hispanicministry@olbs-catholic.org)

### HOSPITALITY

Glenn & Kay Shaw (804) 366-7518

### JUSTICE & PEACE

### KNIT, PURL & PRAY

### LAWN MOWING COMMITTEE

Eric Ellingson (804) 843-3125  
[ericellingson@verizon.net](mailto:ericellingson@verizon.net)

### LIBRARY

Linda Drexler (804) 241-4073  
[vintagenotes@verizon.net](mailto:vintagenotes@verizon.net)

### LITURGY COMMITTEE

Deacon Kevin McKeever  
(973) 983-0511  
[liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org](mailto:liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org)

### MINISTRY SCHEDULING

Pattie Vadas (804) 241-5009  
[pbv0806@yahoo.com](mailto:pbv0806@yahoo.com)

### OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Margaret Varboncoeur (804) 843-2867

### PARISH COUNCIL

Tiffany Smith (804) 840-7984  
[parishchair@olbs-catholic.org](mailto:parishchair@olbs-catholic.org)

### SACRISTAN

Joe Drexler (804) 366-7563

### YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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### Vincent Funeral Home and Cremation Services

CHRIS P. VINCENT  
[vincentfuneralh@aol.com](mailto:vincentfuneralh@aol.com)

417 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
West Point VA 23181  
(804) 843-2550

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Providence Forge VA 23140  
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