

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
March 22nd & 23rd, 2025

Saturday, March 22nd **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT***

- 4:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 5:00 pm Mass offered for Barbara Schaffer (RIP)
 Requested by Cathy Fudella (sister)

Sunday, March 23rd **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT***

- 9:00 am Mass offered for Joseph Fostek III (RIP)
 Requested Mary Ann & Frank Fetterolf
- 10:15 am Altar Server practice
- 10:15 am Religious Education Classes
- 10:15 am Adult Bible Study

Monday, March 24th

- No Mass
- 12 pm-10 pm Adoration in Chapel

Tuesday, March 25th **THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD***

- 8:30 am Mass offered for Priests & Religious
 Requested by the Hayden Family
- 12 pm-10 pm Adoration in Chapel
- 4:30 pm Adult Bible Study (MC)
- 7:00 pm Confirmation (St. Bede's)

Wednesday, March 26th

- 8:30 am Mass offered for Anna Kozlowski (RIP)
 Requested by Linda, Donna, Lorraine,
 & Becky
- 6:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 27th

- 8:30 am Mass offered for Marguerite Sturtz (RIP)
 Requested by Pat & Wini Barron
- 6:30 pm Finance Council meeting

Friday, March 28th

- 5:00 pm Mass for Anthony M. LaRusso (RIP)
Anniversary of Birthday
 Requested by Anthony & Maria LaRusso
- 5:30 pm Stations of the Cross - Facilities Committee

Saturday, March 29th **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT***

- 4:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 5:00 pm Mass offered for Adele McCloud (RIP)
Anniversary of Death (2/12)
 Requested by Cathy Fudella

Sunday, March 30th **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT***

- 9:00 am Mass offered for Marian Kopacki (RIP)
 Requested by Michele & John Rouse
- 10:15 am Religious Education Classes
- 10:15 am Adult Bible Study
- 10:15 am Parish Council meeting

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

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

"I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree ..."
 Luke 13:7, ESV

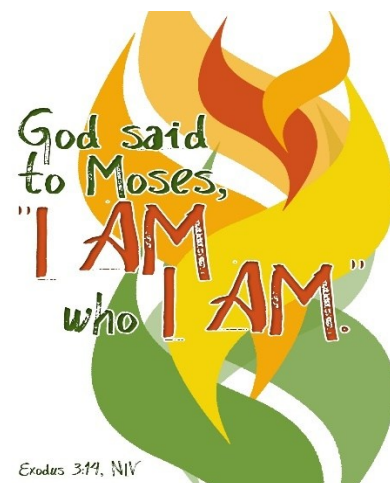


Jubilee Year of Hope

Is a year of pilgrimage and to return to our Lord. We give ourselves in prayer and returning to the one who calls us. Where are our hearts? Until our hearts return to Him, our hope is in vain. How can we return to Him? Start with prayer, spend quiet time with Him, in church, in adoration, in Word and spiritual reading. The more time spent with God, the more love overflows into action. Give where you once gave, reach out to a neighbor, help in our church, give time to a ministry. Offer forgiveness where you have been hurt, no longer letting the hurt separate us. Lastly, make a special pilgrimage and gain an indulgence. The Richmond diocese has a list of Shrines and Basilicas to visit, not far from us. Make a day trip and spend the time reflecting on God's call.

St. Theresa Cemetery – Remove Old Flowers

Dear Parishioners with beloved family members and friends buried at St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery: please remove any old displays and expired flowers before Palm Sunday, April 13th; any old displays will be discarded. Thank you from the Cemetery Committee.



Exodus 3:14, NIV

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.

Confirmation!

is celebrated at St. Bede, Tuesday **March 25th @ 7:00 pm**. We have 9 candidates who will be receiving the Sacrament this year.



All 6th to 12th graders are welcome to join us .



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

Altar server practice will be held on **Sunday March 23rd 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).

**NEVER
STOP
LEARNING**

I Believe in Jesus Christ, His Only Son Our Lord –

The name of the Savior God was invoked only once in the year by the high priest in atonement for the sins of Israel, after he had sprinkled the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies with the sacrificial blood. The mercy seat was the place of God's presence. ²⁵ When St. Paul speaks of Jesus whom "God put forward as an expiation by his blood", he means that in Christ's humanity "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself." (CCC 433)

OLBS PARISH PRESENTS
DIVINE MERCY RETREAT



This Spirit filled day will have you well prepared for receiving the gift on Divine Mercy Sunday and the power of praying the Divine Mercy for others



"Before I come as the Just Judge, I am coming first as the King of Mercy."
- St. Faustina (Diary, 83)

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ERIN 804-843-3125
3510 King William Ave | West Point, VA 23181

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

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!! 6th Annual Essay Contest-
Open to children in grades 3-8th 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 23rd. Two winners will be selected from each grade level across America! Prizes to be awarded.

Parish Scholarship Application Time

Please check with the Parish Office about obtaining a form for applying for the Parish Scholarship.

Miles for Meals Challenge (Rise Against Hunger)- The Youth group is leading the "Miles for Meals" challenge. Our goal is to raise \$2,400 to feed the 5,000 like Jesus did. We need your help! Take an envelope, take a walk and pray for those less fortunate. Mark your miles on the chart and donate \$1 per mile to your envelope. We will collect miles and envelopes on Palm Sunday. When we reach our goal, we will set up a meal packaging event that everyone can help participate in feeding the 5,000. We also have our 'meter bank' to fill, if you would rather help with that. Thank you!

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.

From The Diary of St. Faustina

Meditation:

September 25, [1937.] When I learned how great are the difficulties in this whole work, I went to the Lord and said, "Jesus, don't You see how they are hindering Your work?" And I heard a voice in my soul: **Do as much as is in your power, and don't worry about the rest. These difficulties prove that this work is Mine. Be at peace so long as you do all that is in your power** (*Diary*, 1295).

The Lord said to me, **It should be of no concern to you how anyone else acts; you are to be My living reflection, through love and mercy.** I answered, "Lord, but they often take advantage of my goodness." **That makes no difference, My daughter. That is no concern of yours. As for you, be always merciful toward other people, and especially toward sinners** (*Diary*, 1446).

My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, in difficulties in my work and relationships, may I rejoice and do what is in my power with peace. May I always be merciful.



Parish Penance Service: Mark Your Calendar
Tuesday, April 8th at 7:00 pm
Parish Penance Service



Lenten Dinners

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

Save the date: April 4 Flounder, shrimp, & crabcake

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.



STATIONS of the CROSS

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

- | | |
|----------|----------------------|
| March 28 | Facilities Committee |
| April 4 | Parish Council |
| April 11 | Cemetery Committee |
| April 18 | Finance Committee |

Collection for March 15 & 16, 2025

Total Offertory	\$ 3,755
Debt Supplemental Collection	\$ 400
Ash Wednesday	\$ 25
Religious Goods	\$ 100
Easter Flowers	\$ 716
Votive Stand	\$ 22
Mass Intentions	\$ 20
Total Received This Week	\$ 5,038

Budgeted weekly average parish need \$ 4,596

Restricted, Special Use, or Sent Out of Parish:

Capital Campaign	\$ 275
Poor Box	\$ 71
Cemetery Fund	\$ 200
Facilities Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 125

Thank You for Supporting our Parish

Attendance

March 15 Saturday	5:00 pm Mass	87
March 16 Sunday	9:00 am Mass	146

Priests for Life

Annunciation

March 25, which is nine months before the celebration of the Birth of Christ, is the Annunciation, when Jesus was conceived within the body of the Virgin Mary as she accepted her call to be the Mother of God. The Magisterium's most comprehensive statement on the sanctity of life, the encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, was issued on March 25, 1995. This feast marks the moment at which the Incarnation took place. At Mary's "Fiat," God began existing in a human nature - a human nature at the earliest stages of its development within Mary's body. "Mary's consent at the Annunciation and her motherhood stand at the very beginning of the mystery of life which Christ came to bestow on humanity" (*Evangelium Vitae*, 102). At a time when our society is beset with the evil of abortion, and when the human embryo is treated as a mere object for scientific research, the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation is more important than ever. By celebrating this Feast with special solemnity, and by spending more time meditating on its doctrinal and spiritual lessons, the faithful can be even more solidly rooted in their pro-life convictions, and spurred on to effective action in defense of life. – *ProLife Leader Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life, EndAbortion.us*



The West Point Ministers Association Lenten Soup & Sermon Series will run from Wednesday, March 12th through April 9th. The Soup & Sermon is every Wednesday.

Father Oscar has agreed to work with the pastor at St. John's Episcopal Church on April 9th 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 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)

Help Needed

Retired gentleman (Catholic parishioner) in Colonial Heritage Club subdivision between Norge and Williamsburg is looking for a reliable housekeeper to clean small home (not entire home – just 1 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen, LR – of the home approx. once per month. Call Carl 910-967-3199.



Knights of Columbus

The Knights are 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.

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

ARTS & ENVIRONMENT

artsenvironment@olbs-catholic.org

BELL CHOIR

CANTORS/CHOIR

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

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Terry Frederick (804) 843-3125
cemeterychair@olbs-catholic.org

CHURCH HISTORIAN

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

CLEANING COORDINATOR

COMMUNITY LIFE

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Eric Ellingson (804) 843-3125
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) 366-7518

JUSTICE & PEACE

KNIT, PURL & PRAY

LAWN MOWING COMMITTEE

Eric Ellingson (804) 843-3125
ericellingson@verizon.net

LIBRARY

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

LITURGY COMMITTEE

Deacon Kevin McKeever
(973) 983-0511
liturgychair@olbs-catholic.org

MINISTRY SCHEDULING

Pattie Vadas (804) 241-5009
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

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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vincentfuneralh@aol.com

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hallrentals@olbs-catholic.org