

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

April 1-2, 2017

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass times: Saturday: 5:30pm
Sunday: 10:45am

Confession: Saturday at 4:30pm

Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

Nursery: Available at 10:45 mass

Message from our Pastor:

First let me say, praise God for the glorious weather we had last weekend for our Irish Festival. It would seem God smiled on us as it was, I believe, a record year. There are very many charities around the city that will benefit from the event, thanks be to God.

Also, thank you very, very, very, very much to all who worked so hard. There were so many people who pitched in and put in long hours...not just a couple hours but like 8 hours, 16 hours, a whole week and more!!! It is amazing to see the dedication. It is one of the things that makes St Patrick a very special place and very unique. I can see in my mind the tiredness and, in the same face, the joy of so many who worked so long last weekend. It is amazing what God does through His Church when many lay down their hands in front of Him to be put to work. It is a labor of love. And it was a ton of fun!!!

I will soon start praying for good weather again next year!

Now for my pastor message I want to say a word about the scriptures. It is sort of funny that this reading came up the weekend after our big festival. I don't think it is the Lord trying to knock down our spirits but it is relevant nonetheless. In regards to our festival, I am actually always impressed at how much it is a nice family environment and things and folks don't get over the top or out of control. I am grateful for that.

Now, onto the scriptures, the second reading this weekend says "we are not in the flesh, we are in the Spirit."

This phrase has particular meaning during Lent in regards to a discipline of lent, fasting. Fasting is a wonderful discipline that helps us be sure we are "not in the flesh"

What does it mean to be "in the flesh?"

Being in the flesh means that our desires have control over us, rather than our desires being submissive to our reason and intellect.

For example, if I need 6 cigarettes to get started in the morning, it would seem that the flesh is controlling me rather than my reason, because reason would tell me it's

probably not too good for me to have had six cigarettes before I have even brushed my teeth.

Or lets says I get a dozen Krispy Crème donuts and instead of eating one or maybe two, I eat all twelve (and I will confess to you that I don't eat donuts at all because I am never satisfied with just one or two and so it's easier for me to avoid them all together...because I want to eat all twelve). If I eat all twelve, even though my reason and intellect tell me that one or two is reasonable, then I am in the flesh...my desires are controlling me in this instance.

And this can apply to all types of things. Drinking alcohol in the flesh (can I have a beer or do I need 10), using technology in the flesh (can I have conversations with real people or just through social media), watching TV in the flesh (do I pray one-tenth as much as I watch TV)...any area where we let our desires take control, we are in the flesh and not in Spirit.

Being in the Spirit is being in a place of freedom. As scripture says, 'where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.'

The flesh is slavery. It is slavery to desire. It is slavery to our senses.

Fasting is a great practice which we talk about during Lent that helps us take back control...that helps us get free of slavery to the flesh and get back in the Spirit of freedom that God wants us to live in.

Fasting is a way that we invoke the help of God to help us gain strength in these areas where we can be tempted to go overboard.

We fast from food to better show our reason and intellect that we are not as dependent on food as we thought. We fast from technology to show our reason and intellect that we can in fact live without it. We fast from cigarettes or alcohol or whatever to remind us that our intellect and reason are in control and not unruly passions.

Any kind of fasting is difficult. It is basically like rehab or detox. It purifies us and that hurts. But it gets us in better shape. It is impossible to pray and experience God when our flesh is continually bothering us with its demands. Fasting gives us 'room to breathe' and makes a place for peace where we experience God.

It also has the effect to increase our focus, which helps us in many areas of our life.

Fasting is great. Hard, but great.

Happy Lent!!!

Fr Rossi

News & Announcements:

Easter Egg Hunt: Parishioners, young and old, are invited to the Murphy's' Annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held Saturday, April 15th at noon. A hot dog lunch will be served. Please R.S.V.P. to Jane at 267-1935.

Easter Flowers: Easter morning is almost here when St. Patrick's Church will be adorned with beautiful white lilies to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. On this Sunday (4/2), there will be a separate envelop labeled, "Easter

Flowers" in your "box" or in the pews at church for your donation. Your donation with your special intension is a way for you to be a part of the preparation of our worship sanctuary. Beautiful flowers are one of our Lord's special gifts to us.

Saint Francis Home – Easter Saturday: Come join us Easter Saturday at St. Francis Home where we will be visiting residents for Easter. We also ask that you make cards or even buy and sign cards for the residents to enjoy along with the candy we will be giving with them. This is such a great way for individuals as well as families to be involved in this parish ministry. There will be a box in the church hall to leave your cards for the next few weekends. Please contact Eddie Baird or Heather Coleman if you have questions OR want to join on Easter Saturday 4/15. It is always a great experience and the residents really enjoy having visitors!

Raffle Tickets: The Knights of Columbus are raffling off a chance to win tickets to the Nascar Cup race on 4/30/17 at the RIR. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. All proceeds benefit the good works & projects in our community of the Father James Scanlon Council of St. Patrick and St. John parishes. Drawing held on 4/23/17. Tickets available after mass each Sunday. For additional info please contact GK Eddie Baird.

Charity Concert benefiting Feed the Hungry & Heal the Sick: The Knights of Columbus are organizing a Charity Concert featuring Three Sheets to the Wind, a 70's and 80's tribute band, and Diamon Heist, a Neil Diamond Tribute band. The concert will be on April 28th from 6-10 pm. For more information, or to purchase tickets, go to: FeedTheHungry.TicketLeap.com

Ministers Needed: St. Patrick's Parish is enjoying tremendous growth and we find ourselves in need of several ministers to ensure weekend Masses are celebrated seamlessly. Duties are easy to learn and you will be scheduled only once a month. Please reach out to Billie Keating with your interest and for details on becoming a Greeter/Usher, Altar Server or Sacristan. 804 347-7919; bjk6269@comcast.net

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Please join the Bible Study Group during lent for Stations of the Cross on Thursdays at noon.

St. Francis Home: St Francis Home is in need of volunteers to assist sorting donated food. Please contact Bruce at bslough@saintfrancishome.com or Edna at eharris@saintfrancishome.com if you are interested in donating a few hours of your time.

Church Cleaning: Monthly Church Cleaning: To those who volunteered, thank you, and now only December remains open for monthly church cleaning. Please consider volunteering using the sign-up sheet on the table in the downstairs hall. Or, contact me at johnjlore@gmail.com or 804-513-7173.

Contact & Follow us at:

Facebook: SPChurchHill

Emails:

Pastor Fr. Gino Rossi: ginopaulrossi@hotmail.com

Father Ernest Bulinda: livasia@gmail.com

Father Frank Wiggins: Padreop@verizon.net

Office: office@saintpatrickchurchhill.org

Michelle Dawson: mjmvcu@aol.com

Donna & Eddie Baird: donnahe Baird@yahoo.com

Kathy Butner: kathybuttner@hotmail.com

Heather Coleman: heatherscoleman@yahoo.com

Dave Stull: dstull@stjohnscatholicchurch.org

Paulita Matheny: pmatheny@stjohnscatholicchurch.org

Mike Treadwell: Mikenme2@verizon.net

Billie Keating: bjk6269@comcast.net

Fred Powell: fmpjr2009@aol.com

Ryland Paxton: paxtonr18229@mbc.edu

Mailing address:

St. Patrick's Church, 813 West Nine Mile Road, Highland Springs, VA 23075

Office Phone number: 804-737-8028

SPC Emergency #: 804-402-1221 - If someone is dying or has died and you would like to talk with a priest, please call the emergency number at any time.

Bulletin: All bulletin submissions must be emailed to Michelle Dawson the Tuesday prior by noon.

Church Support as of 3/26/17

Weekly

Actual	\$2,016.15
Budgeted	<u>\$4,107.00</u>
Difference	(\$2090.85)

Year to Date

Actual	\$154,384.48
Budgeted	<u>\$160,236.00</u>
Difference	(\$5,851.52)

Attendance: 3/25/17 = 42 3/26/17 = NO COUNT

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): The RCIA is the process where the Catholic Church welcomes new adult members into the Church. Adults wishing to learn more should please contact Fred Powell or Ryland Paxton.

Baptisms: Baptisms are held the first Sunday of the month during Mass. Baptism class is required prior to Baptizing your first child. Classes are held at 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall. The next class will be held on 6/4/17. If you are interested in attending a class & scheduling your child's Baptism, contact Kathy Buttner.

Visitation to the sick and homebound – If you or someone you know would like a visit and Holy Communion at their home. Please call the office at 737-8028. Office staff will ensure the information will be relayed to Visitation Ministry individuals.