

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

December 10-11, 2016

Third Sunday of Advent

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

Confession: Saturday at 4:30pm

Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

Nursery: Available at 10:45 mass

ST PATRICK INCREASED OFFERTORY PROGRAM

Giving Prayer & After Mass Speaker

As you know, Saint Patrick is now involved in our Increased Offertory Program to strengthen our financial health and ministries.

In recent weeks, our parish has been preparing for the Program by updating parish records and producing program materials. We hope you will respond positively and with generosity.

This week in the pews is our Giving Prayer Card. It is an opportunity for all of us to take an active role praying for generosity and growth of Saint Patrick and for each parishioner to practice the principle of stewardship — giving back a portion of our blessings to God.

Please continue to pray about your participation in this important effort.

Proverbs 3:9 *“Honor the Lord with your wealth.”*

Message from our Pastor:

Good day to all! Happy Gaudete Sunday!

If you know Latin, you know ‘Gaudete’ means ‘rejoice’. Today is ‘rejoice’ Sunday. Today is ‘joy’ Sunday.

The word “Gaudete” is taken from the first word of the introit of the Mass today. You might be asking, what’s an ‘introit?’ The introit is the introductory phrase of the Mass that you will hear if you go to a Mass without music, in which case the priest will recite the introit before saying ‘in the name of the Father...’

Or some Churches chant the introit before the opening hymn, which is preferable. We are going to work towards doing that.

In any respect, it is ‘rejoice’ or ‘joy’ Sunday. I love this Sunday.

Why? Because if we’re going to be joyful at least one day of the year, we’ve got to be joyful this Sunday. We ‘rejoice’ this Sunday because we are soooooo cloooooooose to the greatest day in the history of humanity. We are sooooo clooooooouse to Christmas, so we rejoice and are joyful, as the introit says.

Did you know the Christian life is a life of joy? I am a Christian because I want to be happy in life. The Christian life is a life of J – O – Y. Did you know that?

J – O – Y stands for Jesus, Others, Yourself. The Christian life is for Jesus first, Others second, and yourself last.

But wait a minute. I thought the Christian life was about joy. How can it be about joy if all I am focused on is Jesus and others and I don’t have any time to focus on myself?

Exactly!!!

The reason the Christian life is a life of joy is precisely because the Christian life is about focusing on Jesus first (God), and others second...before focusing on ourselves.

We are happy when we are not focused on ourselves and worrying about ourselves. When we spend ourselves in service to God and in service to others, we experience joy and happiness. Alternatively, when we focus on ourselves, we are not. Plain and simple.

Human experience bears witness to this.

I think of children in third world countries, who have nothing but their faith in God and the other children they live with in very close quarters (they don’t have separate homes to keep them apart) and all I see are smiles on their faces. They have nothing but God and each other, and they are happy.

Then in think of children with every toy and game system and cell phone known to man, and I see sadness, depression, loneliness, and anxiety. It seems backwards.

But it makes perfect sense. The more we have time to focus on ourselves, the more toys we have that cause us to be self-absorbed, the less fulfilled we will be.

Alternatively, the less we have to worry about personally, the more we can be consumed with what is going on with others, with the needs of others, and most importantly, with the will of God.

That’s what Jesus meant when he said, he who loses his life will find it, and he who tries to save his life will lose it.

Giving our lives away gives us joy. And the order we give them away is J – O – Y. Jesus first. Others second. Yourself last.

I’m not crazy. I just want to be happy. And I promise, it works.

I hope you are having a wonderful Advent!

Fr. Rossi

Please join the choir in singing our Communion Meditation "Prepare the Way"

Verse: "Prepare the way. Prepare the way. Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way. Prepare the way. Prepare the way of the Lord."

Refrain: "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus."

Community Life - Michelle Dawson

Santa Breakfast: Join us for our annual Santa Breakfast will be 12/18/16 after 10:45 mass.

Looking for Volunteers: We are looking for volunteers to help with helping with our hospitality for after 10:45 masses on Sundays. Please contact Eddie Baird for more information and if your interested.

Interested in the Knight of Columbus? For those of you who have been interested in joining the K of C or to find out more about the K of C. Please join us for our annual K of C Christmas Party at St. Patrick's Church Hall on 12/17/16 at 7pm (RSVP by 12-15 to Eddie Baird at 804.986.2898)

Weekly Church Cleaning for 2017: Please consider volunteering an hour of your time each week to help us keep the church clean for services. It is very easy and quick to learn; light dusting, floor sweeping, and checking the holy water dishes. Please fill out the form located downstairs over on the left side in a bright red jacket. You can also contact me directly at johnjlore@gmail.com or 804-513-7173. Thank you.

Simbang Gabi - Mass at dusk: The Filipino Commission for the Diocese of Richmond in coordination with the parish' Council of Women and Knights of Columbus cordially invite you to the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, December 17, at St John's second year Simbang Gabi (Mass at dusk). A reception at the Social Hall will follow for a light fare and featuring Sayaw Diversity Group to perform a collection of Philippine dances.

Keep the Christ in Christmas Car Magnets: The knights of Columbus will be selling these each Sunday through Christmas. There is a small box in the vestibule a suggested donation of \$4 will go to support vocations in our diocese.

Church Support as of 12/4/2016:

Weekly

Actual	\$3123.00
Budgeted	<u>\$4,107.00</u>
Difference	(\$948.00)

Year to Date

Actual	\$77,732.55
Budgeted	<u>\$94,524.00</u>
Difference	(\$16,791.45)

Attendance for 12/3 & 4/2016: 33/171

Children's Religious Education - Donna Baird

We have some great news to share. As you may be aware, on Sundays before Mass we have a growing number of children learning about their faith. For that reason, we are using more space in the basement. We are also happy that all parishioners can gather downstairs before Mass, but in order for our children to focus on their lessons, please be conscious of the presence of the religious education classes. The children are amazing learners but they get distracted by outside conversations. We thank you in advance for helping us in this matter. Thank you! - Religious Education Team

Baptisms: Baptisms are held the first Sunday of the month during Mass. Baptism class for new parents is held at 1 p.m. in the parish hall. The next class will be held on 1/8/17. If you are interested in attending a class and scheduling your child's Baptism, contact Kathy Buttner. Baptism information is on our website under the Sacraments tab.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): is the process where the Catholic Church welcomes new adult members into the Church. Adults wishing to learn more should please contact the SPC office or email Fred Powell: fmpjr2009@aol.com or Ryland Paxton: paxtonrl8229@marybaldwin.edu.

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.

Contact & Follow Us at:

Emails:

- Pastor Fr. Gino Rossi:** ginopaulrossi@hotmail.com
- Father Ernest Bulinda:** livasia@gmail.com
- Father Frank Wiggins:** Padreop@verizon.net
- Office:** office@saintpatrickchurchhill.org
- Angie Pometto:** apometto@gmail.com
- Michelle Dawson:** mjmvacu@aol.com
- Donna Baird:** donnahbaird@yahoo.com
- Kathy Buttner:** 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:** billie.keating@capitalone.com

Mailing address:

St. Patrick's Church
813 West Nine Mile Road, Highland Springs, VA 23075
Office Phone number: 804-737-8028

BULLETIN: All bulletin submissions must be in to Michelle Dawson the Tuesday at noon before the bulletin goes out.

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.