

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

February 25-26, 2017
Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

Confession: Saturday at 4:30pm

Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

Nursery: Available at 10:45 mass

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS:

St. Patrick on 3/1 at 7pm.

Message from our Pastor:

Hello everyone!!! Do you know what Wednesday is? I bet you do!!! Come on...don't dread it...it's not so bad...

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday...the beginning of Lent!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lent is a glorious season. It is time for us to do a little extra buckling down, to focus in on prayer, to GO TO CONFESSION, and to strive for spiritual growth. At the very least, it's a time to offer up all those little crosses we encounter on any given day as opposed to griping or grumbling...that is a penance the Lord loves us to do!

We have Mass and the Distribution of Ashes at 9am and 7pm at St John, 7pm at St Patrick, and 12:05pm at St Peter. "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Just some reminders: Ash Wednesday and all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence (i.e. no meat) and Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are fast days (i.e. no more than one meal and 2 small snacks that day for all Catholics 18-59 years old).

This past week, we celebrated the Feast of the Chair of St Peter, a day that recalls the authority of the Bishop of Rome (the Pope). I thought it would be a good time to review the scriptural references for why we go to confession (since it is only because God gave the Pope and the Bishops this ability that allows them to do what they do).

Firstly, in the Bible (James 5:16) James clearly teaches us that we must "confess our sins to one another." In fact in the early Church, they practiced public confession. People would get up in front of the whole church community and confess whatever they did wrong. I'm glad those times are over.

But what is the good of confessing if you don't get forgiven. I don't want to spill my guts if I can't be sure I am forgiven and those sins are wiped away.

Fear not. The Bible is very clear about the powers God entrusts to his followers, to Popes, Bishops and their delegates (priests).

Firstly, Jesus gives Peter alone the power to bind and loose anything. This is the reading on the Feast of the Chair of Peter (Matthew 16:19) "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Later on, Jesus gives this power to the others, (Matthew 18:18) "Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Finally, to the Apostles gathered he spoke specifically about their power to forgive sins, (John 20:21-23) "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.'"

This action or ability of a man to petition God for the forgiveness of sins (which is what a priest does when he says the prayer of absolution in the confessional), is prefigured in the Old Testament (Numbers 14:20-23) when Moses asked God to forgive the Israelites for their offenses, "The Lord answered Moses: 'I pardon them as you have asked.'"

So don't ever let anyone tell you, 'that's not in the Bible.'

Have a great Lent!!! Make a great confession!!! It always makes us feel better!!! -Fr Rossi

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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.

G I V I N G

St. Patrick's depends upon your generosity. These walls, built by generations past, now need you to nurture them. Give what you can. No amount is too small. E-Giving makes it easy. <http://saintpatrickchurchhill.org> and click on this button.



Church Support as of 2/19/17

Weekly

Actual \$2,280.00
 Budgeted \$4,107.00
 Difference (\$1,827.00)

Year to Date

Actual \$132,241.81
 Budgeted \$139,701.00
 Difference (\$7,459.19)

Attendance for 2/18 & 19/2017: 46/160

Increased Offertory Program:

UPDATE - Hello everyone. I wanted to give you all a little update on the status and results of our increased offertory campaign. It is too early to know if it will be a total success but initial indications are positive. You have likely seen in the bulletin the past few weeks that we have been close to or even slightly exceeding our budget, which is excellent! And I will tell you, this week the bank statement for St Pats came in the mail and for the first time since I have been here the balance went up! That's great! The real test will be whether we can keep it going and don't pull back in a month, 6 months or a year. We just have to stay strong. We off to a good start. And also, if you haven't made a commitment yet or turned in your commitment card, please do so by dropping it in the collection basket or mailing to the office. I am thankful to God that He has inspired so much generosity. We are 'honoring the LORD with our wealth.' Praise the Lord!!! Fr Rossi"

News & Announcements:

Sharing Sunday: We will be starting something new at St. Pat's the **first Sunday of each month** we are asking parishioners bring in a donation of non-perishable food to be donated to a local food bank in our community. Suggested items – canned goods, cereal, tuna, peanut butter, etc. We will be starting this on Sunday March 4th there will be a marked table in the basement to leave these donations.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: We will participate in Operation Rice Bowl again this year. Please don't forget to pick up your rice bowl. They will be available starting on Ash Wednesday.

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER: St John's Catholic Church (Council of Women) is having a pancake supper on 2/28/17- Fat Tuesday from 5 -7pm. Pancakes, sausage or bacon, baked apples, juice, coffee, & hot chocolate. Prices adults \$6, children 2 to 10 \$4 & under 2 free. Held at St John's Catholic Church 813 Nine Mile Rd. Highland Springs VA 23075

Lighthouse CDs and Booklets: Please take the time to check out the CDs and Booklets available in the entrance. These are a wonderful resource for enhancing your knowledge of many topics relative to our Catholic faith and beliefs. We now have available a Prayer Book for Spouses. This is a great book for married couples and as well as for those who are engaged. The requested donation for these items to cover our cost is \$4 per CD and \$3 for booklets. If you have suggestions for additional topics, please contact Kathy Buttner.

Divine Mercy Image – The beautiful picture you have seen recently is the Divine Mercy Image. There is so much to learn about the beautiful devotion of Divine Mercy! This image was described by St Faustina to an artist after Jesus appeared to her and asked her to have it painted. Faustina lived in Poland and Jesus appeared to her many times over a several year period. Sister Faustina died in 1938 and was canonized by Pope St John Paul II in 2000. Divine Mercy in My Soul, which is the diary of St Faustina, and 7 Secrets of Divine Mercy are two great resources to learn more about the life of this saint and devotion to Divine Mercy. On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23, we will have a celebration here at St. Patrick. More info to come so stay tuned!

40 Days for Life: From 3/1 through 4/9, you're invited to join with Christians in cities around the world for the Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and to pray peacefully during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the Richmond Medical Center for Women abortion clinic at 118 N. Boulevard at Grove Avenue, for one or more hours during the 40-day prayer vigil, and to help spread the word about this life-saving ministry. If you'd like more information or to volunteer to pray at home, church, or at the vigil, please contact: Ann Niermeyer, 804-714-5170, atniermeyer@aol.com. To learn more visit: www.40daysforlife.com/Richmond

Irish Festival Baked Goods: Baked goods are needed for sale at the Festival. Popular items are: Cupcakes, cookies, bars, Irish Soda Bread, pie slices, and cake. There is no sign up for bake sale donations but if you have questions, please attend the Irish Festival Meetings after the 10:45 Mass or contact Kathy Buttner.

Irish Festival: Please join us after 10:45 mass in the basement for Irish Festival meeting! The festival will be celebrated March 25 & 26th. We need volunteers to help us throw the oldest street festival in the City. For more information, you can contact Stokes McCune at stokescmcune@aol.com. **How to sign up to Volunteer for the festival:** Signup sheets for volunteering are downstairs after mass, you can also use the link <https://goo.gl/forms/k2NJZt8nmQjDO3Jw2> to sign up! Thank you!

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 the SPC office or email Fred Powell: fmpjr2009@aol.com or Ryland Paxton: paxtonrl8229@mbc.edu.

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 July 10 and remaining classes this year will be the second Sunday of September and November. 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. If you have additional questions, please contact the office.

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.