

SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 29-30, 2017

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Confession: Saturday: 4:30 pm or
by appointment.

Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

Nursery: Available at 10:45 mass

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR:

Some people think the demands of priesthood are too difficult and should be loosened. They say that's why we don't have enough priests. They say, "we should let them get married and then we will have more priests" or maybe "why don't they ease up on the whole obedience thing" or maybe "they should be paid more and then more men will want to be priests." They say "maybe if we did some of these things, we would have more priests"

But what did Jesus say in the Gospel today?

Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven is like a pearl that one finds and once he discovers it, he is willing to sell all he has to obtain it. Or it is like a treasure he finds in a field, and once he finds it, he is willing to sell all he has to obtain the treasure in the field.

In those situations that Jesus is describing, those people had plenty of things. They had plenty of homes, food, money, 401k's... (well maybe not 401k's). They had the opportunity to have other things but voluntarily gave those things up to obtain something beyond. And if they gave up all their wealth to get that pearl, you can be sure they were also giving up their freedom and independence (at least their financial freedom) and the chance to be married (afterall, who's going to marry them if they are broke). So they gave up everything.

The reason they were willing to give that stuff up was because the thing they discovered was very far beyond the stuff they had before. Those things from the past had brought them a certain amount of joy, but this pearl or this treasure that they found brought them joy to an extent that blew the other joy out of the water. That is to say, that old stuff couldn't compare to the thrill, excitement and happiness of that one pearl, or that one treasure.

And so it is when a man becomes a priest. When a man becomes a priest (or a woman becomes a consecrated religious), he wants it because he wants the pearl of great price. He has found the field with the treasure. And based on this discovery, he has determined it is worth selling all the other stuff (marriage, independence, big salaries) to get that pearl, to get the treasure. For a man who is called, the priesthood is the pearl of great price.

So it silly to say we need to do certain things to make the priesthood more appealing to men because for those who are called It is already the pearl of great price. It's worth it to trade in those other things in order to obtain it.

You might say, "if it is such a good deal, why aren't more men willing to make that deal? Why aren't more men willing to trade everything they have in order to get it?"

Unfortunately we do not always make the best business decisions. Sometimes we buy bad stocks. Sometimes we buy homes that are money pits. Sometimes we get ripped-off on craigslist. We have to be careful. "Buyer beware."

For the man who is called, there is no better deal than the deal God offers. There is no need to pray that God makes the priesthood more appealing to men. Rather, we should ask God to make men better businessmen -Fr Rossi

G I V E 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.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Volunteers Needed for a Morning of Cleaning: Help is needed to assist with parish cleaning day. It will be held on 8/5/17 from 9am – 12:30pm. The focus will be on the social hall and kitchen. Pizza lunch will be served for volunteers. Let Eddie Baird know at 804-986-2898 if you can help out. What a great way to get involved in the parish!

Sharing Sunday: Mark your calendars for **the next Sharing Sunday which will be August 6th.** Please bring non-perishable food items. We donate those to our local food bank. A table will be set up in the meeting hall for collection.

CHURCH SUPPORT AS OF 7/23/17

Weekly

<i>Actual</i>	\$2,099.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	<u>\$4,221.00</u>
<i>Difference</i>	(\$2,122.00)

Year to Date

<i>Actual</i>	\$11,101.73
<i>Budgeted</i>	<u>\$16,884.00</u>
<i>Difference</i>	(\$5,782.27)

Attendance for July 22/23 = 40/154

Financial update - I wanted to give everyone an update on our increased offertory campaign we started about 6 months ago. I have to say it was a HUGE success. I am so amazed and grateful for everyone's sacrifice. We were projecting an over \$40k loss for the year ended June 30, 2016. Thanks very much to your increased giving, as well as some cost cutting by the office, we actually ended 'in the black'!!!! For those who don't know what that means, it means we actually brought in more than we spent... by \$7K!!! All I can say is thank you very much. I know you will receive 100 fold return in Heaven. That's a promise. Also, please, **please keep it up. We want to keep this going. GREAT WORK!!!** - Fr Rossi

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 at mass the first Sunday of the month. Baptism class is required prior to Baptizing your first child. **The next class will be held on 9/3/17 at 1pm in the parish hall.** 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.

CONTACT & FOLLOW US AT:

Facebook: SPChurchHill

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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.