

# Saint Patrick Catholic Church

**March 4-5, 2017**  
**First 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

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**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: [fmpr2009@aol.com](mailto:fmpr2009@aol.com) or Ryland Paxton: [paxtonrl8229@mbc.edu](mailto: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.

## Message from our Pastor:

Happy Lent everyone!!!

I hope you are feeling the graces!!!!

These times are when God gives us a little extra help in our lives to feel His presence. Just because we are blessed enough to be part of His family as Catholics, as Christians, He gives us this time for a little extra outpouring of Himself. He is very, very, very generous to us. He spoils us!!!

So for the next 40 days we have the opportunity to be a little more spiritual and a little less stressed about the world, to have our heads a little more in the clouds and out of the mud, a little more care free from the problems of the world and little more focused on the time when we won't have any problems ever again (Heaven!!!).

Has anyone ever wondered why Lent is 40 days? Why not 45? Why no 30...like a month? Why is Lent 40 days?

Well, there are a few reasons.

40 is a very important number in the bible. Here's a few times when '40' was important.

When God destroyed the earth in the days of Noah, He caused it to rain for 40 days. God was cleansing the earth for 40 days. Sort of like the spiritual cleansing we experience during Lent.

The people of Israel wondered in the desert for 40 years after they escaped from pharaoh, until God brought them into the promised land...which is sort of like us wandering through the desert of this life until we reach our promised land...the desert was not too much fun for the Jewish people...although God provided just enough for them to get through it...again sort of like us Christians now...

Moses, as he was leading the people through the desert, spent 40 days on the mountain with God. He removed himself from regular life in order to listen and commune with God. Sort of like how we strive to focus more on spiritual things during Lent, and escape regular life a little more.

Elijah was in the desert 40 days before he went to Mount Horeb, where he encountered the presence of God in the tiny whisper. This was a very important time of spiritual renewal after completing very exhaustive work. Anyone who has ever done Christian ministry will testify that without a solid prayer life to be renewed through after doing God's work, it's impossible to persevere long-term and not get burnt out.

In the New Testament, Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying, resisting the temptations of the devil, before he began his ministry. This was similarly a time of focus and of contemplation of what awaited Him in the days ahead. He followed the example of those prophets who went before Him and demonstrates an example for those who would follow after.

I am sure there are others examples as well

Have a great Lent! It's only 40 days and it will be gone before we know it. Enjoy the extra grace. It cost God everything but He gives it to us...free!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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.



## Church Support as of 2/26/17

### Weekly

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| Actual     | \$4148.50         |
| Budgeted   | <u>\$4,107.00</u> |
| Difference | \$41.40           |

### Year to Date

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| Actual     | \$137,945.56        |
| Budgeted   | <u>\$143,808.00</u> |
| Difference | (\$5,862.44)        |

**Attendance for 2/25 & 26/2017:** 56/174

## News & Announcements:

**Irish Festival:** Please join us after 10:45 mass in the basement for Irish Festival meeting! The festival will be celebrated March 25 & 26<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to help us throw the oldest street festival in the City. For more information, you can contact Stokes McCune at stokesmccune@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!

**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.

**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 started our first Sunday this weekend 3/4, our next Sunday will be April 2<sup>nd</sup>. A table will be marked in 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.

**Lighthouse CDs Available In Social Hall:** A very generous parishioner who is a huge fan of Lighthouse CDs has donated his collection of more than 100 CDs to St. Patrick. We hope you will take a look at the many and varied titles available for you to take and listen to at your leisure. When you have finished listening, you may return them to St. Patrick or pass them along to friends. Returned CDs should be placed in the library which is the cart on your left as you enter the social hall. Please do not put them in the kiosk in the church entry.

**St. Patrick's Day:** The Ancient Order of Hibernians will be having their annual St. Patrick's Day mass at 9:00am with a breakfast to follow. All are welcome!

**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 at 804-986-2898

**2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal - Building Our Family of Faith:** The 2017 Annual Diocesan Appeal is now underway. Many of you have received a letter from Bishop DiLorenzo asking for your support. For those of you who did not receive a mailing or have not had time to respond to it, we will conduct our In-Pew pledge process at all Masses during the weekends of March 11-12 and 18-19. It is very important for all of us to make a gift to the 2017 Appeal. Each gift that is contributed to the Appeal makes a real difference because the gifts of many enable our Diocese to deliver needed ministries and services such as heating and grocery assistance to families, health insurance for our retired priests and tuition for our future priests to attend the seminary. In addition, all parishes receive back a portion of their funds collected to be used for important local priorities. All pledges can be paid in 10 convenient monthly installments. Please answer Bishop DiLorenzo's request and make a generous gift. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Lenten Dinner's at St. John's:** Don't miss the delicious Lenten Dinners at our sister parish held every Friday during Lent from 5-7 PM. Fried and baked fish and a diverse seafood selection is on the menu; and for those non-fish lovers, delicious pastas will be served. There will be also Stations of the Cross at 6:30 PM.

### Contact & Follow Us at:

**Facebook:** SPChurchHill

#### Emails:

**Pastor Fr. Gino Rossi:** ginopaulrossi@hotmail.com  
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#### 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.