

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

July 16-17, 2016

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:

Hello everyone,

There has been so much violence and sadness in the world as of late. It has been hard to witness it taking place. I pray for all the victims and all the families.

Before I comment on that I want to tell you about a special feast day that occurred yesterday (Saturday July 16th). It was the feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This is a very special feast day honoring Our Lady, Mary, and is advanced by the Carmelites, who are a religious order in the Church.

One of the things that comes out of this feast day, and from the work of the Carmelites, is a very powerful sacramental that people often wear called a "scapular."

A scapular is a small cloth worn around the neck that symbolizes a special consecration to Mary. I wear a scapular. You can purchase them at Catholic bookstores and have them blessed by a priest before you begin wearing it.

The scapular has been very, very popular among Catholics for centuries because of the graces God bestows to those who wear it faithfully.

Unfortunately, devotion and the practice of wearing scapulars has decreased in certain Catholic cultures (usually in the same cultures where religious practice has decreased recently...this includes our own culture, in our own country).

I do not profess to have answers to all the problems that are causing this violence that we see so graphically displayed in

our midst. But I will say the one single largest problem that is causing these violent acts is the absence of God from the cultures, neighborhoods and relationships of these affected peoples.

I cannot think of any way to describe this violence other than a manifestation of evil. Regardless of who is to blame in every individual situation, it is ultimately a manifestation of evil run wild since there are only two forces that can fill our neighborhoods, our cities, and our hearts...goodness/godliness or evil.

When a society hopes people will simply 'get along' without recognizing peace is a gift given by God, it is setting itself up a situation where people when hit always hit back, turning into an endless cycle of violence and evil, spiraling out of control until all we can do is shake our heads in disbelief over these videos from people's cell phones. Humanity cannot do it alone. Humanity is too prone to temptation and too weak to defeat evil ourselves. Evil will beat humanity 10 times out of 10 times. Humanity is hopeless without the help and assistance of a power bigger than itself. We are helpless without God (Jesus continually referred to us as sheep for a reason...)

Is it the chicken or the egg? Humanity is becoming more overrun by evil because it has turned away from God and likewise evil overrunning us (usually discreetly and subtly within our hearts and actions) is what turns us from God.

Sorry...I am not trying to be a dooms-day kind-of-guy, but this stuff is ugly.

But let me come back where I started, the scapular. There is a promise that is made on behalf of God in conjunction with the scapular. It says "he who dies in this will not suffer eternal fire." That is to say, those who wear the scapular can be assured of a special grace to assist them in attaining heaven.

Obviously one cannot wear a scapular and intend to defy the virtuous lifestyle that it presupposes of those who make the consecration to Mary in conjunction with wearing the scapular. But wearing the scapular is a symbol, a powerful one, of a person's openness to God, of a person's testimony that they desire the protection and assistance of God. And when we give God just a little bit to work with, even a small act of devotion such as wearing the scapular, He can do miracles...literally.

I cannot think of a reason why every person should not wear a scapular. Buy them for your kids and grandkids...in addition to one for yourself. - Fr Rossi

Outreach & Social Ministry - Heather Coleman

Prison Ministry: The Outreach Prison Ministry will be collecting toiletries for the Richmond City Jail the month of July. Items include shampoo, soap, deodorant, and toothpaste. If you can contribute please leave these items in the church hall downstairs. Ministry contact: Eddie Baird.

Community Life - Michelle Dawson

Graduate Students: Are a graduate student in the area trying to stay connected with your faith as you navigate the insane waters of a graduate program? Looking for other Catholics who understand what you're going through? If so, we invite you to connect with the Catholic Graduate Student Organization (CGSO) at VCU/MCV. For more information, contact Mario Dance (medance@vcu.edu) or MaryRebecca Anderson (maryranderson31@gmail.com) For more information or find us online at "Catholic Graduate Student Organization @ VCU"

Children's Religious Education - Donna Baird

Religious Education Registration: It's time to register your children for Religious Education 2016/2017. Classes will be held on Sunday mornings at St. Patrick's [from 9:45 AM to 10:30 AM](#) beginning in the fall. Please see Donna Baird after mass for the registration forms. Fees for this year are: First Reconciliation/First Communion classes - \$50 per child; general enrollment - \$30 per child. Deadline for registration is August 27th/28th. If your child is preparing for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist, full participation in St. Patrick's Religious Education is required including attendance at all scheduled classes and as well as weekly mass. Looking forward to another great year!

Faith Formation - Kathy Butner

Bible Study: For the summer Bible Study meets every other Thursday during the summer at 10:30 am in the Social Hall. We are discussing Pope Francis' Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Love in The Family. The books are available for \$12.00. The dates are July 28 and Aug. 11th and 25th. All are welcome!

Weekly Budget: \$4,615.00

Collection week of 7/10/16: \$2,872.00

(includes E-giving for the week)

Weekly Loss/Gain 6/26/16: \$1,743.00

Year to date budgeted: \$239,995.00

Year to date actual income: \$5,171.25

Current loss: \$234,823.75

Attendance July 9/10: 34/139

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 September 11 and the remaining class this year will be the second Sunday of 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.

Contact & Follow Us at:

Facebook: SPChurchHill

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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.