

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

October 29-30, 2016

31st Sunday in 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

Message from our Pastor:

Hello everyone and Happy All Saints day this Tuesday!!! Just a reminder, Tuesday is All Saints and it is a Holy Day of obligation. Thus all are expected to attend Mass. We have Mass at St John at 9am and 7pm, at St Patrick at 7pm and at St Peter and 12:05pm. Plus there are tons of Masses across the city. So find one! No excuses!!!

Also, a big thank you to all who helped with the Mass with the Bishop at St Peter! We have amazing and devout parishioners and I am very proud. He was very impressed with our parish. When the boss is happy, we are happy!!!

For the pastor message, I want to give a few thoughts about All Saints, which is the Catholic holiday for this time of year, and Halloween, which is the secular holiday.

As Catholics, we celebrate All Saints day. What is All Saints day? All Saints day is the day when we celebrate the fact that all our heroes who have courageously lived the virtuous life after the heart of Christ are now reigning in glory with God in heaven. All those great names we love and faces we see on the stained glass, St Joseph, St Francis, St Teresa, St Michael and the many many folks we know and love who have been canonized are in the company of God. These are our heroes. They show us that we can, with the help of God, overcome any and all adversity and become fully the Christians we are called to become. There is no limit to what God can do with even the most lost soul. And the lives of the Saints demonstrate this. And All Saints Day is the day we celebrate that.

And not only that, we also celebrate that we can have a real friendship with them NOW. We can have communion with them...that's why it's called the 'communion of Saints'...like we say in the creed every week 'I believe in the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins...'. The Communion of Saints is a fellowship of brothers and sisters that spans across heaven and earth. The Saints already enjoy the party we hope to join.

So what about Halloween?

Halloween is a goofy secular holiday. I don't much care for its roots.

If someone were to ask me if I'd let my kids celebrate Halloween, I'd tell them that I would probably downplay its importance and try to rather focus on the important day, which is November 1st. My niece and nephews go to a Catholic school and they really celebrate All Saints day so that it rightly overshadows the goofy secular holiday of Halloween.

I used to go trick-or-treating as a kid. In fact I would run from door to door to get as much candy I as possibly could. It's a goofy tradition.

The most important thing to ensure as an adult is that children understand the difference between reality and imagination, between fiction and non-fiction.

There are no such thing as vampires or werewolves. There are such things as souls and saints, and heaven and hell. Witches do not ride on broomsticks. But there are people who do evil things and even people who glorify evil. There are good and holy ways to pray, like in Church or with a Rosary. But there are also superstitious practices which can open up the door to evil - such as Ouija boards, Tara cards, and other occult things - that some think are silly games but are in fact dangerous.

Kids do not always understand where fiction ends and non-fiction begins. We know the truths of the spiritual world because God has told us what those truths are. He told us in the bible and he told us in the Catechism through His Church. Otherwise we would have no clue.

But all the other false spiritual practices that we see and hear about are what happens when people try to figure things out through their own efforts alone. Spiritual things are beyond us. It is only with God's help that we 'figure' anything out. As an additional complicating factor, there are in fact actually those who attempt to confuse us, spirits...evil spirits...remember, we have an enemy.

So, if you want to go get some candy, it's your call. But be sure that it is totally overshadowed by what is actually important during this time, All Saints Day.

Fr Rossi

Community Life - Michelle Dawson

Walk for Life: I will again be walking for the Walk for Life this year. The Walk for Life campaign is sponsored by Pregnancy Support Center of the Tri-Cities, Inc. The Tri-Cities includes Petersburg, Hopewell, and Colonial Heights. This walk is two miles and takes place on Saturday November 5 at 10am at the Monumental Baptist Church in Petersburg. I would appreciate it very much if you would sponsor me in this walk. The proceeds of the walk enable the pregnancy center to give services to both young women and men who are pregnant. The pregnancy center offers counseling and other services such as baby supplies, and all items needed to raise an infant. Beginning this weekend and the following weekend there will be someone at the end of mass collecting money for this very important cause. Thank you and God bless you. Fr. Frank.

Attention Musicians: Can you sing? Play an instrument? Know someone who can? We're hoping to again hold a Christmas concert at St. Patrick Church in the month of December. In order to do this, we need some musicians to come forward to volunteer to share their gifts with the community. We are hoping to pull together a choir from among the churches to prepare several songs. In addition to the choir, any soloist or ensemble is welcome to audition to perform at the concert. If interested in participating, please contact Angie Pometto by 10/31 to sign up. Angie can be reached at apometto@gmail.com or 703-772-6866.

Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Altar Servers: Please when it is your time to serve check in with the sacristan 15 minutes prior to mass.

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

"Holy Communion - this is a reminder that Holy Communion in the Catholic Church is reserved to actively practicing Catholics. If you are not Catholic or have been actively practicing your faith, then please refrain from receiving Communion. If you would like to learn how to be welcomed to full Communion we would love to help. All you need to do is contact a priest. Our contact info is in this bulletin."

Church Support as of 10/23/2016:

Weekly

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Actual | \$1,900.00 |
| Budgeted | <u>\$4,107.00</u> |
| Difference | (\$2,207.00) |

Year to Date

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| Actual | \$57,707.04 |
| Budgeted | <u>\$69,882.00</u> |
| Difference | (\$12,174.96) |

Attendance for 10/22 & 23/2016: 34 /112

Contact & Follow Us at:

Emails:

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

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 11/13. 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: paxtonr18229@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.