

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

July 1-2, 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

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Message from our Pastor:

Good day everyone and Happy 4th of July!!!

The 4th of July is an American holiday. We celebrate our birthday, our independence day as a country. Many people sacrificed their lives so that we could live in the country we live in and have the many blessings we are afforded by living in the United States.

As Christians, as Catholics, we love our country even though we obviously love our God and our faith first and foremost. We love especially those things about our country that enhance or encourage the functioning of our spiritual and religious life. To the extent that laws and cultures of the United States allow us and even encourage us to seek God and live good and virtuous lives, as God would have us do, then those laws and cultures are to be applauded. To the extent that laws and cultures of the United States inhibit our ability to pursue God through our religious practices, then we reject those laws and cultures. This is because God obviously takes precedence in our lives above all else. Obedience to divine laws, to God, is what pleases God...who has the keys to Heaven. Our allegiance is first and foremost to Him and His Church, which we are part of a baptized believers, as Catholic Christians. That is why I always tell young men and women who are excited to lay down their lives for their country in military service that, while although that is wonderfully honorable and laudable, they should consider laying down their lives for their Church as priests

and consecrated religious, who are the special forces of God in the Church.

Unfortunately, although we enjoy many blessings and graces because of our ability to worship God and practice our religion in the United States, there are a number of very significant dangers that are growing and stealing our religious freedom.

Last week, the president of the United States' administration for health declared that Catholic Churches and Universities have to pay for abortions through their medical insurance. This ruling was made in regards to the state of California where the issue was being argued.

Abortion is the taking of innocent life. It is a terrible evil and we will never, never, never participate in it. This action by our government disallows us as Catholics to practice our religion. It is very, very wrong. The USCCB said "it is shocking... to force all employers – even churches – to fund and facilitate elective abortions."

This is only one instance of our rights being stripped away. There have been many, many such infringements in recent years on our rights and Catholics, on our Catholic churches, on our Catholic universities and our Catholic schools that are stopping us from living the truth that God has revealed in the areas of respect-life, in the areas of family planning vs artificial contraception, and in the area of marriage between a man and a woman. There are even affronts and attacks to our ability to say what is a man and what is a woman!!! "Male and female he created them..."!!!

I do not know where the madness will end. But I can tell you, that we as a Church have been through this before. We have been around through many country's rising and falling and while there may be a few who acquiesce to the mind-of-the-times from within the Church, there will always be the martyrs who lay down their lives for the sake of the truth. And they will always have the last laugh, they will always be the ones who wear a crown of righteousness in Heaven. Remember Jesus said, "blessed are those who are persecuted because of me, for their reward will be great in Heaven."

I hope and pray for the United States on its birthday. I hope that leaders will open their hearts to conversion and the will of God. God's Spirit desires to help all leaders to guide them as they make decisions for the common good. I hope and pray those leaders will be receptive to His divine guidance.

Happy birthday America. I hope you will be as good as God wants you to be. - Fr Rossi

Community Life - Michelle Dawson

Celebrate with some treats after 10:45 mass: Join us after mass today for ice cream and snow-cones for the holiday weekend

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 Volunteers

Adult volunteers are needed to make Religious Education a success at St. Patrick! Please consider giving of your time and talent to the children of our Parish. No experience is necessary. See Donna Baird for more information or you can contact her at 804.888.3470 or donnahbaird@yahoo.com. Classes will begin in the fall.

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 14th and 28, and Aug. 11th and 25th. All are welcome!

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.

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.

Contact & Follow Us at:

Facebook: SPChurchHill

Emails:

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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.

Weekly Budget: \$4,866.00

Collection week of 6/26/16: \$1,777.50

(includes E-giving for the week)

Weekly Loss/Gain 6/26/16: \$3,088.50

Year to date budgeted: \$234,101.00

Year to date actual income: \$177,205.43

Current loss: \$56,895.57

Attendance June 25/26: 50/161