

Message from our Pastor:

Hello everyone.

I have a piece of advice for you. You maybe have heard it before.

WHATEVER DOESN'T KILL YOU, WILL MAKE YOU STRONGER.

This is a commonly known phrase.

I guess it can be sort of crass at times. Especially if we say it at the wrong time, when a little kindness is what is best for the moment.

But nevertheless, it is a true statement.

And did you know that it is not a new thought. As much as it might be touted as a modern proverb...it's not. It's actually quite old.

"we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint"

That's what Saint Paul tells us in the second reading.

What he is basically saying is that, afflictions are a good thing because they produce a good effect in us...whatever doesn't kill us will make us stronger.

When we encounter some difficulty, and persevere through it, it produces even greater endurance in our being, and allows us to handle even harder challenges because we have gone through all the sadness and depression and frustrations of that challenge, and have the vision to know we can get through it again...even something worse.

I think sometimes when we look at the great things Saints have done, we can think they are impossible for us.

But it is important for us to remember they did not (usually) just all of a sudden start doing amazing and hard and courageous works for God. They started with a small little challenge, and persevered through it and then moved on to something harder that God brought to their life, then persevered through that, and the next and so on...and at the end of their lives, they were doing things that we cannot even imagine how human beings could do such challenging things.

It's because God trained them through all those challenges they had experienced up to that moment in their lives. It didn't kill them...yes it was not too fun at the time...but they got through it and were more courageous for the next challenge.

Saint Patrick

Catholic Church

May 14-15, 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

But there is one tweak we need to make that phrase so it's fully true (tweak not tweet).

The phrase 'whatever doesn't kill us makes us stronger,' assumes that anything up to but not including something that actually kills will in fact make us stronger. But for Christians, death does not negate the ability for us to grow. For the world, death is the end and thus does not benefit us...even though the world will concur with us that adversity does make us stronger...but not death...because for the world death is game over.

But not for us. We say even *death* makes us grow...going through death produces something beneficial within our being...even though it may not be too fun at the time...it's going to make us better off. We get better AFTER death...we get better after having to go through the difficulty of our own death. Remember Jesus could go through walls after he died?!? That is cool.

OK. That's enough talk about death. It's spring time. Go out and enjoy the weather.

Fr Rossi

Community Life - Michelle Dawson

Thank you: Thank you to all who helped put together the celebration for Father Wiggin's 30th. It was a wonderful and successful event.

May: the month of Mary, our Blessed Mother. You are invited to honor her by placing flowers from your garden on St. Patrick's Mary altar throughout the month.

SENIOR TRIP: Tuesday June 7---USMC Museum and lunch in Occoquan at Madigan's Waterfront. Bus leaves the church at 0730 am. Contact Heather Coleman if you can attend at heatherscoleman@yahoo.com or 310-9538.

Concert: Enjoy a concert June 12th at 3pm featuring 17-year-old pianist Gavin Coleman who will be playing the works by Chopin. A suggested donation of \$10 will be shared with St. Patrick. For more information, contact Music Coordinator Bryce Miller.

Outreach & Social Ministry - Heather Coleman

Volunteers Needed: The St Patrick's Social Ministry also support a homeless veterans shelter, Liberation Family Service, by preparing and serving a meal for their 25 residents the 5th Sunday of the Month. We need few volunteers on Sunday May 29th to cook and serve. If available to volunteer please contact Heather Coleman heatherscoleman@yahoo.com

Our neighbor, **The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club** here in Church Hill is doing a charity event to help assist in the programs they do with the children in the community. Let's help them, a little on our part goes a long way. The event is June 4th tickets are \$10 for Adults and \$5 for children under 12. Fashion show with the children along with some local celebrities, a silent auction and luncheon furnished by Olive Garden. See Donna Paxton downstairs in the Hall for tickets you may contact her at donna@windchimeproperties.com as well. Thank you for your support.

Children's Religious Education - Donna Baird

Though our classes are over for the year, we will be making materials available to all children and their families in the parish to continue their Catholic studies through the summer. Please stop by the church hall after mass today and pick up a children's copy of "How to Pray the Rosary."

Faith Formation - Kathy Buttner

Bible Study: Meets on Thursdays at 10:30 am in the Social Hall downstairs.

Year of Mercy Holy Door Pilgrimage June 25 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. - This is sponsored by the Diocese and will take you to the two holy door sites in our Diocese - Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond and The Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Norfolk. The cost is \$15.00 and sign up is online to reserve a seat or you can call 804-622-5262. The information is posted on the bulletin board in the social hall.

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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.

Weekly Budget: \$4,866.00

Collection week of 5/14-15: \$1,876.00
(includes E-giving for the week)

Weekly Loss/Gain: \$2,990.00

Year to date budgeted: \$204,905.00

Year to date actual income: \$156,282.35

Current loss: \$48,622.65

Attendance May 14-15: 20/161