

# Saint Patrick Catholic Church

## December 12-13, 2015

### Third Sunday of Advent

**Mass times:** Saturday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 10:45am

**Advent Reconciliation Service: Tuesday 12/15/15, at 6:30 PM at St John's Parish**  
**for our Advent Reconciliation Service with individual confession.**

**Confession:** Saturday at 4:30pm

**Rosary:** Sunday at 10:10am

**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](mailto:fmpjr2009@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 the second Sunday every other month at 1 p.m. in the basement. The next class is January 10. Please contact Kathy Buttner if you are interested in attending the class and for scheduling your child's Baptism. Baptism information is on our website under the Sacraments tab. If you have additional questions, please contact the office.

**Nursery:** is available at our Sunday 10:45am mass every week downstairs in the social hall.

**Rosary:** Please join in saying the rosary each Sunday at 10:10am. There is also a need for more rosary leaders if interested. Contact Kathy Butner.

**Confessions:** Are offered each Saturday at 4:30pm in the confessional located at the front of the Church to the left...just come on in.

**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.

**Today's Music:**

**Gathering: 317 – O Come O Come Emmanuel**

**Psalm: Psalm 12 "Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel."**

**Gifts: 323 – Come O Long Expected Jesus**

**Communion 1: 320 – The King Shall Come**

**Communion 2: 328 – My Soul in Stillness**

**Sending Forth: 318 – People Look East**

## Message from our Pastor:

*On Tuesday, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Year of Mercy as Declared by Pope Francis began. It is a special year where the Catholic Church will have as its focus the overwhelming and everlasting Mercy of God. Let me tell you a story.*

*There was a king who was a very good man. He was very successful as a king because he was nationally known as being very just and equitable. All respected and loved him. But like all rulers he had to deal with problems and conflict. And this king had one evil enemy, in particular, who used to steal and pillage the king's land. He wreaked havoc in an otherwise peaceful land. Eventually the enemy was caught by the king's soldiers and brought to the king for judgment.*

*The enemy pleaded for his life. He had heard of the king's just and equitable judgment that he delivered upon all who were subject to him. "I beg your mercy sir. Please have mercy on me and do not sentence me to the punishment I deserve." But the enemy's pleas were rejected. "Why should I let you go," the king said. "For years you pillaged my land and disturbed my peaceful kingdom. Should I not act with justice? Should you not be given the punishment that is due to you as a result of the horrible crimes you committed?" The enemy, who had pleaded with the king responded, "Sir, I fully acknowledge that these horrendous crimes which you speak of I indeed committed. In justice, I deserve death as you say. But sir, in my pleading I did not ask for justice. I asked instead for mercy." The king, taken back by the request of his enemy, thought for a moment about what the enemy had asked. Never before had someone asked for this, mercy. Every other enemy of the king, when captured and forced to stand for judgment always sought to justify himself before king, saying why they were not in fact the guilty party or why some mitigating circumstance was to blame. But here, this enemy, the worst of them all, fully admitted his crime and simply asked for mercy. The king, who had never been asked for such a thing, granted the request of the enemy. Mercy. Full pardon. Complete and immediate release. His subjects were astounded.*

*The year of Mercy proclaims that every single person is in need of God's mercy. There is no one among the human race aside from the Savior himself, who can stand before God and justice themselves. None of us want God's justice.*

*But before we can receive the mercy of God, we must fully admit what we have done. Like those previous enemies of the king, we cannot say there was someone else to blame or there was some other thing that forced us to commit an offense before our King, we have to in honesty recognize our crime against the King and simply ask for Mercy. And what we proclaim, during this year of Mercy as declared by Pope Francis, is that God will be moved like that king in the story. He will, like the king, grant us full pardon. And we will be astounded.*

*I encourage every Catholic to not let this year of Mercy go by without making an effort to seek God's mercy. Most especially, to confess your sin freely and openly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the presence of the Church's minister the priest. You will hear those words "I absolve you from your sins" and you will certainly be astounded.*

*-Father Rossi*

## **Community Life - Michelle Dawson**

**Advent Reconciliation Service:** Please join us Tuesday December 15, 2015 at 6:30 PM at St John's Parish for our Advent Reconciliation Service with individual confession.

**2015 Christmas Concert:** Join us Friday evening in the church to listen to our talented choir members and friend who have put together a wonderful show of music. The concert will be on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Contact music coordinator Bryce Miller at Pianoguy35@mac.com for more information.

**Santa Breakfast:** Please come downstairs after 10:45 mass for this annual tradition & great time of fellowship.

**The Filipino Commission for the Diocese of Richmond & Filipino American community cordially invite you** to the regularly scheduled Saturday Mass at 5:30pm, December 19, at St John's for Simbang Gabi (Mass at dusk) - a glimpse of a Philippine tradition 'to get ready for the most important historical event that affected humanity' as Father Rossi had noted... A reception at the Social Hall will follow the Mass for more Filipino fare.-

**Church Cleaning Needs:** Help is needed with scheduling teams to clean St. Patrick Church each month in 2016. Please consider volunteering to perform the weekly church cleaning for a month. It only takes an hour to sweep the floor, clean the pews and do some light dusting. We provide training and a key to the church. You can do the cleaning tasks anytime during the week, day or evening, that it fits your schedule. See the red covered folder on the table by the left side of the downstairs hall. It is with the other notices, reading material, etc. and provides a more detailed description of the cleaning tasks. You may contact me directly with any questions: [johnjlore@gmail.com](mailto:johnjlore@gmail.com) or by phone at 804-513-7173 (cell), 804-213-3620 (work) or 804-562-6645 (home). Thank you, John Lo Re

**PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for the health of Father Alistair McKay who has been diagnosed with liver and lung cancer Fr. McKay appreciates your prayers on his behalf. Cards may be sent to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 314 Turner Road Salem Virginia 24153

**From the Office of Vocations:** "All were questioning in their hearts." Are you considering a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father Michael Boehling, Vicar for Vocations, (804) 359-5661, or write: [mboehling@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:mboehling@richmonddiocese.org).

## **Adult Faith Formation - Kathy Buttner**

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

## **Outreach & Social Ministry - Heather Coleman**

### **FOOD DRIVE - COMMONWEALTH CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

We will be collecting food items for CCC Food Pantry now through Epiphany Sunday. We gave bags out last week to kick off the drive however we have the list of what the needs are in the back of the church and meeting hall! Please take one and bring back with any items you are able to donate!

### **Christmas Time Visit at St. Francis Home:**

Please join us 12/19 at 9:45am (65 W. Clopton St) as we bring a little Christmas Cheer to the St. Francis Home. For those of you who aren't familiar with St. Francis Home their mission is to care for older adults of limited financial means providing them a home-like environment.

We will distribute candy/treats to the residents and visit. Please contact Eddie Baird at 804.346.9476 or at [donnabaird@yahoo.com](mailto:donnabaird@yahoo.com) or Heather Coleman at [heatherscoleman@yahoo.com](mailto:heatherscoleman@yahoo.com) if you can attend!

**Appalachian Giving Tree:** The Knights of Columbus would like to thank the St. Patrick's members that took a tag off the tree. Your generosity helped many families within that region. Thank you!

### **Contact & Follow Us at:**

**Facebook:** SPChurchHill

### **Emails:**

**Pastor Fr. Gino Rossi:** [ginopaulrossi@hotmail.com](mailto:ginopaulrossi@hotmail.com)

**Father Danny Cogut:** [dcogut@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:dcogut@richmonddiocese.org)

**Father Frank Wiggins:** [Padreop@verizon.net](mailto:Padreop@verizon.net)

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**Billie:** [billie.keating@capitalone.com](mailto:billie.keating@capitalone.com)

### **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.

**Year to date budgeted:** \$93,756.00

**Year to date actual income:** \$78,378.75

**Current loss:** \$15,377.25

**December 5-6 attendance:** 41-190