

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

September 3-4, 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:

BACK TO SCHOOL!!!

It's that time of year again folks! Time for kids to go back to school.

I remember this time of year...it was dreadful. Just kidding, but I must admit I did not enjoy school when I was younger. I enjoyed video games much more. As I got a little older, I started to enjoy it a little more...undergrad college was ok, but very stressful.

But by the time seminary studies came about, school was somewhat enjoyable. In fact, the topic I once thought was the most useless, philosophy (remember I was an accountant), became possibly my favorite.

God can make a student out of anyone...even a video game junkie. So be sure to encourage those youths as they head back to school. It is a hard withdraw from summer life - video games, swimming at the pool, sleeping until noon - to the rigors of academia.

Talking about labors, Monday is Labor Day. It is a day of rest from our labors. Work is a great gift for our lives. Work is to be embraced, not shunned. Work makes us happy, not sad. Now I know you are probably thinking that Fr Rossi has gone off the deep end a little; who would rather put in a 10-hour day at work than a 10-hour day on the beach??? Probably not many.

But I think the thing we actually try to avoid in regards to work is not work itself. I think the think we do not like about work is

the stress that comes with it, or the tiredness that can wear us down, or the personalities that sometimes can be a challenge in the place of work. But work, in-and-of-itself, which provides a creative outlet for our energies, is to be appreciated.

I have said this before and I'll say it again - there was work in the Garden of Eden BEFORE the fall. Work is NOT a result of the fall. Adam and Eve worked before they ate the apple. They labored. They expended their energy to create.

But what happened after the fall was the work which they had been doing suddenly became "toil." The work became hard, stressful, it made them sweat, and weeds began to grow in the soil that had been beforehand only full of fertility and purity.

So work is a blessing. In fact, when we work we are mimicking God. God is a worker. By that I mean, God is continually creative. God is continually producing. He is continually sustaining life, creating new life, sheltering, providing, caring, forgiving, guiding, etc. He never, never, never, never stops even for a second.

And what is so great about God is that He doesn't even have to try at it...it's not difficult...it is entirely and simply in His nature to always be creating and producing. And since His nature is coupled with an intense love for all He has already created, all the new creation that He brings about He bestows as gifts upon those things He has formerly created (that's us). In our lives, just the same, God takes us to a place where we become creative - giving and bestowing what we produce upon others as well.

Just to be clear, "produce," does not mean simply (or even primarily) material things. Not at all. God's production, God's fruit, and similarly our fruit, is ultimately to be those higher things, such as peace, joy, equanimity, justice, etc. We experience great satisfaction when we participate in God's creative work.

And Sunday, the Lord's day, (and I guess Labor day as well) is the time to step back and enjoy the fruits of labor. It is the time to look at the beauty God has created through our hearts and hands, and give thanks for being like the older brother of the prodigal Son, who was all along a part of the father's working house.

The curse is not simply the weeds that we have to fight from time to time as we seek to labor, it is even more primarily the feeling like there is no work for us left to do, that we have no purpose. But that feeling - the feeling of not being needed or not able to do anything productive - is always, always, always a lie. There is always something we can produce, always something we can do for God. That is what we are here for, that is why God put air in our lungs today.

Have a great week!!!

-Father Rossi

Community Life - Michelle Dawson

FAREWELL: After eleven years as St. Patrick's Music Director, Bryce Miller has accepted a position at Star of the Sea Parish in Virginia Beach as their new Music Director. You are invited to attend a reception to honor Bryce on Sunday, 9/11, in the parish hall after the 10:45 a.m. Mass. Please stop by to wish Bryce a cheerful and fond farewell!

Looking for Volunteers: Someone generously donated furniture for the rectory and we need manpower and trucks to be able to move it on September 10th. Contact person is Eddie Baird: donnahbaird@yahoo.com.

Outreach & Social Ministry - Heather Coleman

Box Tops for Education: As school is about to start just a reminder that SPC along with the Knights of Columbus will collect "Box Tops for Education" for All Saints Catholic School. Every label collected the school receives 10 cents. That can really add up over time! Please collect and put in the small box downstairs by the mailboxes.

Faith Formation - Kathy Butner

Works of Mercy Bible Study: This blessed Year of Mercy will end in November, but, it is still timely to learn more about God's mercy and how we can be more merciful. How have you celebrated this year of Mercy? Are you ready to learn how you can incorporate the spiritual and corporal works of mercy in the rest your life? St. Patrick will be sponsoring a 6-week study for St. Patrick, St. Johns, and St. Peter based on the book, You Did It to Me, by Fr. Michael Gaitley. Studies will be held at St. Patrick on Wednesday night starting October 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the social hall. Classes will also be held at St. Johns in Highland Springs on Tuesday night starting Tuesday, September 27 at 6:30 p.m. The study is open to St Patrick, St John, and St Peter Churches. Please email Kathy Buttner at kathybuttner@hotmail.com. Registration forms will be available in all three churches in a couple of weeks.

Church Support as of 8/28/2016

Weekly

Actual	\$2,203.00
Budgeted	<u>\$4,107.00</u>
Difference	(\$1,904.00)

Year to Date

Actual	\$28,732.24
Budgeted	<u>\$36,963.00</u>
Difference	(\$8,230.76)

Attendance for 8/27 & 28/2016: 39/150

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.

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: paxtonrl8229@mbc.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.

Contact & Follow Us at:

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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.