

SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 16-17, 2017

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass times: Saturday: 5:30pm
Sunday: 10:45am

Confession: Saturday: 4:30 pm or
by appointment.

Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

Nursery: Available at 10:45 mass

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY—LIVING AS MISSIONARY

DISCIPLES: This weekend, parishes across the country will honor those who share in the evangelizing and teaching mission of the Church through a special rite of commissioning and blessing. Here at Saint Patrick the following catechists will be commissioned to share the faith of the Church with the adults, families, youth, and children of the parish this year: **Donna Baird, Mallory McCune, Heather Coleman, Christine Navarrete, Shana McHugh, Kathryn Gaines, Fred Powell, Donna Paxton, Ian Gaines, Ryland Paxton, Kathy Buttner, Anne McMillan and Dawn Gulla.**

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR:

It is easy to become frustrated with our economic system here in America. It is very expensive to live and is getting worse. If you have ever been to Los Angeles, you would probably see the 'tent cities' that border highways and back up to neighborhoods. There are literally 'cities' of people living in tents, homeless, all bundled together so many that it looks like a whole city of buildings (except instead of buildings, they are just rows and rows of tents with people living in them).

Los Angeles is a very expensive place to live. But we have our own share of homeless here in the city. I have personally never been to a city in the US with more corners occupied by someone with a sign asking for help than here in Richmond (I am sure there are some, but I've lived in Pittsburgh, Washington D.C., Norfolk/Va Beach, and visited many other cities and nowhere was it as common as Richmond).

How people become homeless is for many reasons. From the conversations I have with folks at our weekly meals at St Peter, the biggest cause is substance abuse (drugs and alcohol). Addiction is like these terrible hurricanes that have hit the US, it rips through an otherwise peaceful place, leaving nothing but destructions and disaster in its wake. There are other reasons for the poverty: sometimes it's parents who were absent and never provided for them as kids, sometimes its criminal records that make employers leery, some have disabilities or sicknesses, and some have just hit a tough patch in their life and need a hand. These last ones are the exception to the norm; most of the time it is

one of the deeper problems mentioned before (that's why for the vast majority there's no quick or easy fix).

Most people want to do something about it or at least they want something done about it. For most, the conscience is activated when they look upon someone in need or in pain. If the problem is fixed then the conscience is assuaged and they again experience interior peace.

Many believe the answer to this problem is in more intervention by the state. Many believe that more government aid can help people get appropriate housing, more government programs can help people get off drugs and more government involvement in supervising people can help make up for absent parents. By-in-large, these people are motivated by a sincere desire to help people who are in need and are looking to the government to fix the problem. This desire to help people is a godly sentiment.

Others disagree with this approach. They acknowledge that all that government will involve more taxes on citizens and/or greater government debt being carried by the nation (the burden of younger generations). They very reasonably feel that they should not be forced by the government to give up what they have earned and made to support people who are at least sometimes in the position they are in because of bad personal choices. Stealing (forcefully taking something that is not yours) is evil, even if it is the government that is doing it.

Where o' where is the answer? The answer is the Church. The Church is what God invented to address these problems.

Those who would have the government fix these problems fail to give proper faith to the institution that was properly created for correct and aid. It is no wonder that as atheism rises and people become overall less religious, they still subconsciously look for a supra-structure to which all people belong that can fix the problems of the world. In doing so, the government is effectively made a 'church.' Unfortunately the government has no religious compass. In fact, in our country, it was designed that way. It can never inspire those who work for it and will be tasked with personally addressing these problems to do so through charity (which is what the Church does). It can only motivate with money, by paying people. And you are never going to pay someone enough to put up with all the burdens can come with walking a person out of addiction, or caring for a parentless child, or the disabled. Only charity (inspired by the love of God) will do that.

Additionally, those who do not want to give up their own money because of the bad choices of others, in a Church, would and should recognize the admonition to tithe their income, which is a gift to them from God, and which would provide for the Church's means to support its charitable works to address these issues. Additionally, they would hear in the Church St Augustine's summation of Church theology 'but for the grace of God go I,' and recall that the only reason they are not in one of those destitute situations is because God's grace has given them two parents, physical and mental health and good friends that didn't lead them into drugs.

The answer is the Church. It is not in the government nor rugged individualism.

- Fr. Rossi

CHURCH SUPPORT AS OF 9/3/17

Weekly

Actual	\$4,552.00
Budgeted	<u>\$4,221.00</u>
Difference	(\$331.00)

Year to Date

Actual	\$31,263.00
Budgeted	<u>\$42,210.00</u>
Difference	(\$10,947.00)

Attendance for September 2 = 20 September 3 = 119

Dear all - Fr Rossi here. Hope you are well. I have a question: what the heck happened? Specifically in regards to the budget, was there a stock market crash that I missed??? We did so amazing the second part of last year (Jan 17-Jun 17) since we started the increased offertory campaign but we need to keep that going!!! We are behind again. Maybe folks are just saving up for a big Christmas present to St Patrick??? I pray everyone will be able to continue giving at the level of commitment we so successfully finished off the year ended June 30, 2017. Let me know if I can answer any questions. God Bless.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dinner and Movie – Sept 30, 2017: The Bible Study Group is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner and showing of the movie “The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima” on Saturday, September 30, starting at 6:00 p.m. We are celebrating the 100th year since Our Lady appeared to the three children at Fatima. This is a great story we all will enjoy and need to see to understand the importance of Her message. If you have questions, you may contact Kathy Buttner.

Rosary Rally – October 14 at Noon: Everyone is invited to gather outside St Peter’s Church at Noon on 10/14/17 to pray the rosary. At Fatima, Our Lady requested that we pray the daily for peace. October 13 is the 100th anniversary of Our Lady’s last apparition to the three children at Fatima. This will be a public praying of the rosary for peace. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Buttner.

Our September "Women, Wine and the Word" gathering will be Friday 9-29-17 from 6.30pm to 8.30 pm in the social hall. This month’s topic will be "Being Happy with Jesus - 5 Habits of Happy People" All ladies are invited, please invite your friends & family as well and bring a light snack or wine to share for an evening of great discussion and fellowship. Please let Donna Baird know if you plan to attend at 804-888-3470 or at donnahbaird@yahoo.com

Attention men of all ages. The Legion of St. Michael, a local Catholic men’s group invites you to join us as we begin a new study on Islam. The series will start on Sat 9/23 at 8am at the home of one of the men in Chester. We will be studying the book "Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity". If you would like to join us or have questions about the group please contact legionofstmichael@gmail.com or call 804-314-1681.

Walk for Life: Again I am walking for life on Saturday 9/23/17. The walk is sponsor by The Pregnancy Center of the Tri-Cities. I will again walk for 2 miles. Last year, St. John's, St. Patrick's and St. Peter's were very generous in sponsoring me for the amount of 2,000.00 dollars. I hope and pray that you will as generous this year as you have been in the past. Next week there will be someone at each mass that will collect your gift towards this project. Checks are accepted and can be made out to The Pregnancy Support Center of the Tri-Cities. Thanks, for your generosity. - Fr. Wiggins

Thank you: On behalf of the Knights of Columbus for all those who donated school supplies during the drive. They have been delivered to the Church Hill Boys and Girls Club.

Sharing Sunday: Mark your calendars for **the next Sharing Sunday which will be October 1st.** Please bring non-perishable food items. We donate those to our local food bank.

As God is moving at East End Pregnancy Center we have seen the need to provide more accurate and impactful pregnancy testing by using ultrasound technology. In order to be able to utilize this technology we must first have a medical director to approve our ultrasounds and a nurse manager to perform the ultrasounds and oversee volunteer nurses. If you are able to volunteer your time in either position, please contact Rachael Newmister or Ann Campbell at East End Pregnancy Center at 804-564-5852 or eastendpregnancy@gmail.com. Thank you for helping us to become a medical clinic which will use technology to help women see the beauty of life that God created!

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.

Bulletin: All bulletin submissions must be emailed to Michelle Dawson the Tuesday prior by noon.

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 Fred Powell or Ryland Paxton.

Baptisms: Baptisms are held at mass the first Sunday of the month. Baptism class is required prior to Baptizing your first child. **The next class will be held on 11/5/17 at 1pm in the parish hall.** If you are interested in attending a class & scheduling your child's Baptism, contact Kathy Buttner.

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.