

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

December 23,24, & 25, 2017
Forth Sunday of Advent
& Christmas

Mass times:

Saturday at 5:30pm & Sunday at 10:45am
Nursery: Available at 10:45 mass

Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

Confession:

Saturday at 4:30 pm or by appointment.

Christmas Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
DECEMBER 24 at 6:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
DECEMBER 25 at 10:45 AM



Message from our Pastor:

Merry Christmas!!!

This bulletin message is covering both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas. It's all a little confusing this year.

Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!!!!

This is the day the Lord has made!!!

I hope that all your preparations for this day are paying off in an abundant outpouring of God's grace into your hearts and into your families.

Christmas is such a spiritual day. In fact the whole season of Christmas we are able to feel and experience an extra outpouring of God's presence during this time. I hope you can feel it.

Sometimes I think the world is missing out on all that God wants to give. So many people have forgotten what is important this time of year. So many people do the externals, like buy a tree or put up lights and even buy gifts for others, but don't really reflect upon what today is all about. Even worse, they don't feel the deeper gifts that are given during this season, these are gifts that come from God.

There are many reasons for this. Sometimes we just sort of do what our families do every year, and if our family is focused on the externals and not the spiritual, then we just sort of go along because that is what we learned. Sometimes we try to go a little deeper with the spiritual but then don't feel like it makes much of a difference so then we sort of give up. Sometimes we think we are good enough where we are at and don't need much else.

All these excuses are a shame because there is so much more. There is so much more that is gifted to us this season through what God did for us when He became an infant under the care of Mary and Joseph. It's way better than any material gift we could be given or give.

To all the folks in our Church family, especially those who faithfully pray and devote themselves to God in their daily lives, to those who fight for the advancement of the kingdom of God in the world and in their families, to those sacrifice for God regularly in their lives and who offer up their troubles to God, I say it has been a joy to walk with you as we stand hand-in-hand welcoming Christ into our midst this Christmas.

But if you are visiting with us this season, I would like to personally invite you to consider this Christmas and this message as an invitation to renew and deepen your relationship with God and the Church. I invite you to make God a more significant and even the most significant focus of your day, your week and your entire life. This is the life God wants us to live.

And here at Church we can help. We can help you learn more about the Bible, which is God's message to the world. We learn about it every week at Mass. We can help you receive spiritual food to give you strength to get through your weeks as we receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We can help you be forgiven of past regrets that can weigh people down for years through Confession. We can help work through a broken marriage or help a marriage that needs to be done in the Church for a couple to be in full communion. We can help with Confirmation if you missed it, or with Baptism for your child or yourself. We can help you in your prayers for your loved ones who have died.

At Christmas, God gave us His Son as an infant, but this was only for a time. In the times we are in, God gave us the Church as His presence in the world. this is until He returns for His Second Coming.

I pray you have the best Christmas of your life this year. It gets better every year we grow in our faith and prepares us to meet our God who did such a wonderful thing for us when He took on flesh and became man in the Incarnation at Christmas.

Merry Christmas, Fr Rossi



Communion Meditation Song

"Sacred Silence"

Verse 1:

God my Father, Christ my brother, Holy Spirit,
sanctifying me. Lord, I'm sorry, please forgive me.
Come and set me free

Refrain:

Sacred Silence, Holy Ocean, gentle water, washing over
me. Help me listen, Holy Spirit. Come and speak to me.

Verse 2:

Holy Mary, Gentle Mother, God's pure vessel praying
for me. Saints and angels, all in heaven, come and be
with me.

News & Announcements:

St. Patrick Christmas Concert: Thank you to all singers as well as instrumentalist that put on a wonderful concert last Sunday afternoon. Was a beautiful celebration. Thank you as well for your generosity, we collected \$500 to be donated to the Central Virginia Food Bank!

Thank you: Special thank you to our bible study group who took the time this week to clean and polish the brass in the church in time for Christmas! Thank you!

Sharing Sunday: Mark your calendars **the next Sharing Sunday which will be January 7th.** Please bring non-perishable food items.

Diocesan Youth Conference: Any youth grades 8-12 from St. Patrick are invited to attend the Diocesan Youth Conference held February 9-11, 2018, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Come join 1,000 young people from around the Diocese of Richmond for a weekend of fun entertainment, awesome Catholic speakers (Mark Hart and Sr. Bethany Madonna, SV), Mass with our new bishop, adoration, service, and more. Funds are available to help cover the cost of attendance, so registration is only \$30, which covers lodging, meals, and all activities. If interested, please contact Donna Baird at donnahbaird@yahoo.com to receive a registration form. Forms and payment must be returned to Donna by Sunday, January 7th, at 12:00 pm. Thank you!!

HELP: Help is needed to transform our sanctuary on Christmas Eve from one of anticipation, preparation, and waiting during Advent to one of celebration, festivity and excitement for the much-awaited birth of our Savior on Christmas morning. There will be wreaths to hang, trees to decorate, flowers to arrange and the setup of our special nativity to complete this year, we must have all in place for the celebration of the 6:00 pm Mass. We will be tackling our task on **Sunday, 12/24 from Noon to 5:00 pm**, so if you have any time, no matter how short, we welcome all who would like to help. Thank you! Contact Enza McCauley at enzamccauley@gmail.com.

Church Envelopes are Ready for Pick up: Your envelopes are ready to be picked up in the vestibule. They are arranged in alphabetical order. If you can't find your set, please contact the office so we can update your information & mail them to you.

Calendars: SPC calendars 2018 are ready to be picked up in the basement. One per family.

Volunteer: Please consider volunteering one hour each week for a month to help keep St. Patrick Church clean for Saturday/Sunday Masses. It is easy to learn and fun to do. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Church Foyer. Please call me, John Lo Re 804-513-7173 with any questions and thank you.

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 contact Fred Powell or Ryland Paxton.

Baptisms: Baptisms are held the first Sunday during mass each month. Baptism class is required prior to Baptizing your first child. **The next class will be held on 1/7/18 at 1pm in the parish hall.** If you are interested in attending a class & scheduling your child's Baptism, contact Kathy Buttner.



Contact & Follow us at:

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Office Phone number: 804-737-8028

SPC Emergency #: 804-402-1221 - If someone is dying or has died & you would like to talk with a priest, please call the emergency number at any time.

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.

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

Church Support as of 12/17/17

| | <u>Weekly</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Actual</i> | \$3,610.00 |
| <i>Budgeted</i> | <u>\$4,221.00</u> |
| <i>Difference</i> | \$611.00 |

| | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Actual</i> | \$85,639.00 |
| <i>Budgeted</i> | <u>\$101,304.00</u> |
| <i>Difference</i> | (\$15,665.00) |

Attendance for 12/16/17 = 20 and 12/17/17 = 176