

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

January 27-28, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

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.



COMMUNION MEDITATION SONG

“Ubi Caritas”

Refrain:

“Ubi Caritas est vera, est vera;
Deus ibi est, Deus ibi est.”

The love of Christ joins us together. Let us rejoice
in him, and in our love and care for all now love
God in return.

In true communion let us gather. May all divisions
cease and in their place be Christ the Lord,
our risen Prince of Peace.

May we who gather at this table to share the bread
of life become a sacrament of love,
your healing touch, O Christ.

For those in need make us your mercy, for those
oppressed, your might. Make us your Church,
a holy sign of justice and new life.

May we one day behold your glory and see you
face to face, rejoicing with the saints of God
to sing eternal praise.



Message from our Pastor:

I am always amazed at how the conventional thinking of the world is the opposite of the truth. In fact, one of the things that drew me to wanting to go ‘all in’ as a young Catholic when entering seminary was how right I continually found the teachings of the Church, which were so often in direct opposition to conventional thinking. This ‘old’ and ‘outdated’ institution was full of the treasures of truth and I was continually amazed at that, having grown up as a typical young man that viewed the Church in those derogatory ways.

The letter to the Corinthians that was read today as the second reading is exactly one of those instances.

The reading is about celibacy. Celibacy is the voluntary forgoing of marriage in exchange for a life of dedication to God. Priests are celibate. Sisters are celibate as well as other consecrated individuals.

Now if you were to take a poll of regular folks and ask them what they thought of a life of celibacy, what would they say? Boring? Lonely? Sad? Restrictive? I bet you’d hear all those responses.

But that is the exact opposite of what Saint Paul says in the letter to the Corinthians and is in fact the exact opposite of the truth.

Saint Paul says a life of celibacy is one where you are LESS anxious. He says a life of celibacy is a life where you are LESS divided in your focus. He says it is a life of MORE freedom from the concerns of pleasing a wife. He says it is a life of MORE freedom from concerns of the world.

I guess women were difficult to please even then.

The point is that whereas the world would say a life of celibacy is restrictive, oppressive and binding, Saint Paul says the opposite. He says it frees a person up, takes away restrictions associated with married life and unbinds a person for total service to God (which is the most rewarding work there is).

Obviously marriage is a wonderful thing that we revere dearly in the Church. It is also a vocation and a godly way of sacrifice and service. And, obviously, there is a difference between being a bachelor and being celibate. Being a bachelor is being single but still pursuing the potential for matrimony. Unfortunately today, many people do not get married, not out of an embrace of celibacy, but out of a lack of commitment. These relationships are usually characterized by immoral and unchaste living...which is the farthest thing from the holiness of a married vocation or a celibate vocation. I digress...

But celibacy is a unique path and one filled with many blessings and benefits, even though the world would not suspect this. It is a life of dedication to the Lord God. And the Scriptures tell us ‘where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is FREEDOM.’

-Fr Rossi

News & Announcements:

"Women, Wine, and the Word" The busyness of the holidays is over and St Patrick's "Women, Wine, and the Word" gatherings continue Friday 2-2-18 from 6.30-8.30pm in the St Patrick social hall and promises to be an evening of great discussion & fellowship. All ladies are invited to join, please invite your friends & family as well and bring a light dinner dish to share. Please let Donna Baird know if you plan to attend at 804.888.3470 or at donnahbaird@yahoo.com

Irish Festival: There will be an Irish Festival meeting after Sunday mass in the basement. Please join us if you can. Volunteer sign up sheets on tables in basement! Please sign up to volunteer!

Are you ready for Lent? Dynamic Catholic has a daily Lenten reflection beginning on Ash Wednesday called Best Lent Ever. These reflections are an excellent way to stay tuned in to Lent on a daily basis. Go to: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever>.

Sharing Sunday: Mark your calendars **the next Sharing Sunday which will be February 4th**. Please bring non-perishable food items.

Church Envelopes: If you didn't get church envelopes and would like them please contact the office.

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..

A Special Thanks: St. Patrick Church community would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Ward Centre of Richmond Schola for their delightful program in our Social Hall on Friday evening, January 19. This talented and gifted group of young people, along with their family and friends, provided an educational and very spiritual overview of their trip to Fatima, Portugal, last October; a beautiful selection of songs; and a delicious dinner, complete with authentic Portuguese "pasteis"! Our church family is very blessed to have this generous group in our parish. We wish them well as they continue to grow!

Men: Are You Ready to Accept the Challenge?
Our communities need strong Catholic men to answer the call to lead with faith, protection of families, service to others and to defend our values. For over one hundred years, Knights of Columbus have done exactly that, standing up for the Church, serving the least among us, and strengthening our parishes and families. Eligible Catholic men can now join the Knights of Columbus online in a simple, streamlined process.
As a member, you join a worldwide community of nearly two million men, including tens of thousands here in Virginia, who stand together.
Men have a duty to lead, protect, serve and defend. The world needs more committed, unified Catholic men to answer the call. Will you answer?
Visit kofc.org/joinus to learn more about the many benefits of membership in the Knights of Columbus, Council 6936.

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 during the Mass on the first Sunday of each month. Baptism class is required prior to baptizing your first child. Three (3) more classes will be held during 2018. The dates are as follows: April 15; July 1; and October 7. If you are interested in attending a class and scheduling your child's Baptism, contact Kathy Buttner. Please note you may attend class prior to the birth of your baby.

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.

Church Support as of 1/7/18

	<u>Weekly</u>
<i>Actual</i>	\$3,093.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	<u>\$4,221.00</u>
<i>Difference</i>	-\$1,128.00

	<u>Year to Date</u>
<i>Actual</i>	\$112,402.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	<u>\$126,630.00</u>
<i>Difference</i>	(\$14,228.00)

Attendance for 1/20/18 = 24 & 1/21/18 = 190