

# Saint Patrick Catholic Church

March 3-4, 2018  
Third Sunday of Lent

**Mass times:**

Saturday at 5:30pm & Sunday at 10:45am

**Nursery:** Available at 10:45 mass

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

**Stations of the Cross:**

Please join each Thursday at noon during Lent.

**Confession:**

Saturday at 4:30 pm or by appointment.



## Message from our Pastor:

*The horrible events in Florida two weeks ago are still fresh in our minds. How awful. What a different world this is compared to the world my grandparents grew up in.*

*As our country is crazy about politics, the event, because it was so emotionally powerful, has been used by many to persuade others of what is wrong with our country... 'if only we do this...if only we make this change...then we wouldn't have horrible things like this happen.'" Mostly the debate is about guns and security.*

*This was a devastating event. Horrible and very sad. It will change the lives of all those effected probably for the rest of their lives. But what is also sad is how little is said about the real root of the problem.*

*Most tend to focus on things that, while they think to themselves they are the main issue are in fact peripheral. Most do not discuss the main issues because they are afraid to discuss them, are rebellious against truth, or they are entirely ignorant to the real causes.*

*There are two things that are painfully absent from the discussion of why these things continue to happen again and again.*

*The first can be summed up by an email a parishioner sent. The email is a picture of a sweatshirt. On the sweatshirt is a print, in which is quoted a conversation between God and a student. The conversation goes like this: "dear God, why do you allow so much violence in our schools? signed, a concerned student." Underneath is the response: "dear concerned student, I'm not allowed in schools. signed, God."*

*God has been systematically removed from schools in our country. God does not force himself upon anyone. He comes by invitation only. If those in charge of schools desire him to be eliminated from the minds of students and from their daily study and routine, He will not force*

*himself on them. God's presence provides protection from evil. It is as simple as that. Evil tempts people to do evil things. The presence of God in the minds and heart of people in any location gives them strength to resist evil. It gives them hope when they might otherwise fall into despair. Children in schools have been deprived of their most supportive life-coach, their most loving Dad, their best friend - God. Adults are supposed to set the tone of an environment for children. Adults in this country have set a tone of agnosticism at best, and atheism as worst in public schools.*

*The second issue that no one discusses but that is more primary than the other issues being used as political hockey pucks, is the absolute destruction of the family during the last century. Divorce rates have gone from single digits to 50%. 40% of kids are born to unwed mothers. 25% of kids are being raised without a father. 35% of these are statistically poor because of this. No fault divorce and now the terrible attempt by society to redefine what marriage is, have undermined marriage and in doing so have destroyed the glue that keeps families together and faithful to one another. Children more and more are being raised without a dad to imitate, by a mom who is emotionally scarred, and in an increasingly less-godly environment. They rarely hear the message of proper human conduct as given us by the scriptures and less and less have good role models in their lives like parents. Rather, dark and perverted YouTube videos and other abhorrent things on the internet fill their mind, literally all day long, as they worship at the new font of knowledge, their smart phone.*

*The young man who committed these awful acts should not have excuses made for him. We are all responsible for our own actions. He should suffer the penalty for his crime. But I for one will confess that I would be an awful human being had it not been for the purifying presence of God in my life and the witness of two faithful parents. And if we as a country want to stop having these awful things occur, God must be welcomed back into those places where he has been disinvented, and our families have to again become places that grow us into decent human beings. - Fr Rossi*

## COMMUNION MEDITATION SONG

### **Within Our Darkest Night (Taize)**

Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that  
never dies away, never dies away.

Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that  
never dies away, never dies away.



### **Irish Festival:**

Volunteer signup sheets are in the basement please sign up after mass if you haven't already to volunteer! As well there will be an Irish Festival meeting after Sunday mass in the basement.

Please join us if you can.

## News & Announcements:

**Want a way to enrich your Lenten Season?** How about a little theatre? Richmond Catholic Theatre presents "The Open Door," by Richard Arena. It's a familiar story -- a family business, grown from humble beginnings and hard work, brothers respond to worldly callings and ingrained, unspoken responsibilities differently, and the loving wishes of their father. Palpable and relatable, "The Open Door" examines the lure of temptation, self-promotion and pride in the face of duty and family. Reflect on Luke chapter 15 in a new way this Lent, with Richmond Catholic Theatre! The Open Door, running March 15-17, 22-24, 2018 at 8p at the old Benedictine High School/soon-to-be Cristo Rey HS (just behind the VMFA). Tickets available at [RichmondCatholicTheatre.com](http://RichmondCatholicTheatre.com)

**Do it!!!** - We have extended confessions hours for all of Lent. 30 minutes before and after EVERY Saturday and Sunday Mass! Go! Go! Go! It will make you feel better and love God more! - Father Rossi

**Bishop's Appeal:** Many of you have received a letter from Bishop Knestout asking for your support. For those of you who did not receive a mailing or have not had time to respond to it, we will conduct our In-Pew pledge process at all Masses during the weekend of March 3rd and 4th. It is very important for all of us to make a gift to the 2018 Appeal. All pledges can be paid in 10 convenient monthly installments. Please answer Bishop Knestout's request and make a generous gift. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Brunswick Stew Sale:** The Knights of Columbus will be selling Brunswick Stew at St. John's Catholic Church on 3/10/18 from Noon to 2pm. Quarts of stew are \$8.00. You may reserve a quart(s) by signing up in the church hall. There will be somebody from the Knights of Columbus at St. Patrick's to take orders the weekends 3/4, and for pick up on 3/11.

**Sharing Sunday:** Everyone Sharing Sunday is next weekend April 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Please bring non-perishable food items. A table will be in the basement for collection.

**The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):** An RCIA class will be starting at SPC. Anyone interested is welcome to join the class. 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.

**Have you seen the great job done on the rooms made in to classrooms below the rectory?** They look wonderful and are going to be great for learning for kids and RCIA! Huge THANKS to Bill Crow whose coordinated the whole project and turned a dungeon into a great space for us at St. Patrick. Also, thanks to the Irish Festival for making this possible!

### **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](http://kofc.org/joinus) to learn more about the many benefits of membership in the Knights of Columbus, Council 6936.

## Contact & Follow us at:

**Facebook:** SPChurchHill

### **Emails:**

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### **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 & 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 2/25/18**

	<b><u>Weekly</u></b>
<i>Actual</i>	\$4,533.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	<u>\$4,221.00</u>
<i>Difference</i>	\$312.00

	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
<i>Actual</i>	\$128,984.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	<u>\$147,735.00</u>
<i>Difference</i>	(\$18,751.00)

**Attendance for 2/24/18 = 35 and 2/25/18 = 180**