

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

June 30th – July 1st, 2018
Thirteenth Sunday in 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.



Message from our Pastor:

Happy Independence Day!

Today we commemorate the declaration of independence by the founders of the United States from the British Empire. Who would have ever thought that what began as a revolution of principles and ideas would lead to the creation of a nation that, after many years, would grow to become the most significant and influential nation in the entire world. When you stop to consider the courage those men must have had,

knowing their actions were treasonous against the king and punishable by death, they become all the more admirable.

There is one idea that underpinned their thinking and motivated their desire for revolution. This is the idea that each and every individual is a sovereign person. This is clearly stated in the preamble to the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” It has been said that this is one of best known sentences in the English language.

It cannot be overstated how radical an idea this was at that time. For the majority of human history, people were ruled by kings and emperors. Think of the great empires of antiquity, the Egyptian Empire, the Roman Empire, the empires of the East, the British empire, etc. They were ruled by a king with absolute power. He was not equal to everyone else. He was above them. He had no interest in securing the rights of those he ruled beyond what might individually make his life more comfortable. The idea that poor people had the same rights as those with power or privileged blood-lines was preposterous.

But this is the exact declaration those men made to the king of the British Empire. How they eventually reached this conclusion is due entirely to the principles delineated in the Gospel which, over 1500 years, influenced and eroded away contrary ways of thinking. All men are created equal – no one is worth more or less than another. The founder’s Christian worldview clearly influenced their decision to write this, and to go to war over it and die for it.

Today we embrace this worldview whole-heartedly. We recognize that a poor child in India is equal to the son of a wealthy family in Brazil, a child in Gilpin Court is equal to a child on River Road, and a man working construction is equal to the governor or Virginia. They all possess unalienable rights, which means they have rights that cannot be taken away because they are given by their Creator.

But today also have two problems. The first is a problem we will always have to a more or lessor degree. This is the problem of being sure that although we may recognize that all these people are equal in theory, they may not be treated as such in practice. The implementation of this ideal will always be something every generation has to work at to ensure. Unborn babies, for example are not treated equally to those that are born, the disabled are often not treated equally to those are abled, etc. We will never have this perfect but will have to keep vigil about it continuously.

But the second problem is more of a recent problem and has the potential to undermine the entire ideal. This problem is associated with our deteriorating belief that these rights come to us from our Creator, from God. More and more people today declare themselves agnostic (not convinced of a belief in God) or even atheistic (seemingly convinced that there is no God). But as more and more make this declaration, then where will those people say these rights come from?

We as Christians say these rights come from God. But where does the agnostic or the atheist say these rights come from? If they are to be unalienable (meaning they cannot be taken away), they must come from ‘above’. If they come from the government, then the government can arbitrarily take them away. If they come from a king or governor, then they can take them away. We Christians say they come from God. The founders say they come from God.

This second problem is even more significant than the first. The first problem deals with improving something that is already good in its foundation. The second problem deals with destroying the foundation. If the foundation is destroyed because of a lack of belief in a Creator, so will the equality between all people that has come to be the predominate belief and assumption in the United States and everywhere else in the world that has followed this example.

Fr Rossi

News & Announcements:

Sharing Sunday: Mark your calendars now for the next Sharing Sunday which is **August 5th**. Remember your non-perishable food items. A Sharing Sunday table will be in the basement for collection.

Saint Patrick Social Ministry: For the month of June we have been collecting personal hygiene items for the residents of St. Francis Home. **Next weekend is the last weekend to bring in those items.** Razors, body wash, toothpaste and tooth brushes are among the things that are most needed. There is a collection area in the social hall.

Song Sheets: We have a supplement for the next three months that has lyrics for any songs we'll be singing that aren't in our hymnals. **Please leave those behind at the end of mass so that they can be used for future masses.**

Deacon Cassidy Bible Study: This six-part series (started 6/21) but please join for the next session which is 7/5 at 6pm at St. Pats. It is a study of St. John's First Letter.

For the Children: Interested in a at home scripture study to do with your children this summer? We have a great and fun 9-week hand-out for you. Please take one home today. They will be available on front table in the social hall after mass. Please see Donna Baird with any questions that you may have

Cyber: Cybercrime is hitting dioceses nationwide. If or when you receive an email that shows the parish's pastor or priest as the sender requesting you to purchase a gift card, rest assured it is a scam. Parishioners can & should contact the parish to verify the legitimacy of any suspicious request received through email. All cybercrime should be reported to the FBI at <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>. It is up to the victim of cyber-crimes to file complaints.

Thank you: The St. Patrick's Social Ministry want to thank you for your generosity in providing much needed items to the St. Francis home in the month of June.

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. **Two more classes will be held during 2018.** The dates are as follows: 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.



Church Support as of 6/24/18

Weekly

<i>Actual</i>	\$1,755.73
<i>Budgeted</i>	<u>\$4,221.00</u>
<i>Difference</i>	-\$2,465.77

Year to Date

<i>Actual</i>	\$191,960.05
<i>Budgeted</i>	<u>\$219,492.00</u>
<i>Difference</i>	(\$27,531.95)

Attendance for

6/23/18 = 36 and 6/24/18 = 132

Contact & Follow us at:

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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.