

Saint Patrick Catholic Church



July 28th -29th, 2018

Seventeenth 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:

Saint Paul says in the second reading there is “one hope...one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all who is

over all and through all and in all.” One, one, one. Only one, he says.

On the contrary, have you ever heard someone say, “there are many paths up the mountain.” Usually when people say this they usually say it in regard to someone who has taken an unconventional path. Usually when people say “there are many paths up the mountain” it is, at its best, a way to avoid the possibility of judging someone else regarding that person’s choice of religion or of behavior. At its worst, when it is said, it is a desire of the one who says it to simply avoid having to critically think about something and recognize that someone they know is going down a bad path.

The phrase “there are many paths up the mountain” emphasizes something different from what St Paul says in the above passage from scripture; he doesn’t much seem to have time for alternative paths. For him, there is only one path.

The question is how to reconcile what is commonly thought and said in regular parlance – there are many paths up the mountain - and what St Paul is saying, which seems to suggest there is only one way.

Firstly, it can be said that while there may be multiple paths on the mountain, not all paths are equal and not all lead up. Some are better, some are worse, and some are completely useless.

Some have a nice and pleasant grade. On this nicer path, the brush has been stomped down by other people who have climbed the mountain. The best path has water stands and food stations all along the way up the mountain. It even has clinics in case you get hurt on the way up. This is the best way up the mountain because there are many helps along the way. It is better than other ways.

Then there are other paths on the mountain, but they are much worse. They are confusing ways. They will take you up a little way then turn you left and take you off course. Some will even loop back over themselves thus wasting your time. Some paths even ultimately end up taking you completely back to

the bottom of the mountain. There are big dangerous ledges that you can fall off and die all along these worse paths, as well as tall thorn bushes. It is even hotter on these lesser paths because of their orientation towards the sun and there is little or no water to be found.

In fact, these other ways are so confusing and dangerous and twisted, that the only hope of someone who is on one of these paths is to accidentally cross that nicer path and end up taking it to the top.

When St Paul says there is only one hope, one faith, one baptism, one “way up the mountain,” he is describing the nice path. This, as you may have guessed by now is the Catholic religion. The food and water stations are the Mass and the Holy Spirit, and the clinic is Confession. The people who beat down the brush and thorns are the Saints who have climbed it already. It is the best way to get to the top.

The other paths on the mountain are other religions or faiths systems. The best hope for these paths is that they at some point connect and land you on the path of the Catholic religion that will take you to the top.

In that sense, it could be said there are many paths on the mountain, but ultimately there is only one that goes to the top, and the others are dangerous, confusing and even possibly deadly paths.

Second, it should be clear that as with any mountain you climb, there is only one point on the top of the mountain. And that point at the top is one Triune God we worship in the Catholic religion. He is the God of the scriptures and His Son is Jesus Christ. If anyone gets to the top of the mountain, there is only one person they meet there and that is Christ. Maybe you took the nice and pleasant path your entire life or maybe you were on the dangerous paths for a while and happened to finally stumble onto the nice path, but either way if you are fortunate enough to get to the top, He is the only one who gets to claim the peak.

- Fr Rossi

News & Announcements:

Religious Education 2018/2019: It's time to enroll children grades kindergarten through Confirmation in St. Patrick Religious Education Program. **Children must be enrolled by 9/2 in order to ensure the purchase of the correct educational material.** Classes will begin on Sunday, 9/9, from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. We will have class the first three Sundays each month. Please see Donna Baird about registration & if you have questions, contact her at 804-888-3470 or donnahbaird@yahoo.com.

The Knights of Columbus: For the month of August our K of C. at St. Patrick will be collecting school supplies for All Saints Catholic School. There will be a collection box in the social hall for the month of August. Please consider donating items such as paper, pencils, pens, glue sticks, crayons, tissues, hand sanitizer, and Clorox wipes. Thank you!

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.**

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.

The K of C cordially invite you to attend our First Annual Open House on Saturday, Aug. 11th at 7:00 PM at St. John's Catholic Church. Open to all Knights, their families, parishioners, and friends. We encourage you to bring a guest. Refreshments will be provided. Our Guest Speaker will discuss, but is not limited to, the following topics: Family Financial Protection, Long-Term Care, Asset Protection and Retirement, and Knights of Columbus, Humble Beginnings to Today. RSVP: Space is limited so reserve your spot at this Educational event by calling 804-729-6899 or email at AbbateAgencyMail3@kofc.org.

Reminder: Just a friendly reminder. There is no off-street parking behind the church. We have been notified that some people have been parking in spaces that are reserved for our neighbors that live behind us. The building behind us only has 11 residences and 11 spaces. Please help us be a good neighbor and refrain from parking in the back.

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. **One more class will be held during 2018.** The next date is 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 7/ 22/18

	<u>Weekly</u>
<i>Actual</i>	\$2,124.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	<u>\$3,981.00</u>
<i>Difference</i>	-\$1,857.00

	<u>Year to Date</u>
<i>Actual</i>	\$10,660.43
<i>Budgeted</i>	<u>\$15,924.00</u>
<i>Difference</i>	(-\$5,263.57)

Attendance for 7/21/18 = 25 and 7/22/18 = 144

Contact & Follow us at:

Facebook: SPChurchHill

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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.