

# SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

**August 12-13, 2017**

**Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Mass times:** Saturday: 5:30pm  
Sunday: 10:45am

**Confession:** Saturday: 4:30 pm or  
by appointment.

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

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

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR:

*One of the most difficult topics for Catholics to discuss with non-Catholics is the Church's teaching on same-sex attraction. Back in the day, it wasn't as big of an issue because these things were dealt with in counseling or more privately. But during the last 50 years and especially in the last 20, society has brought to the forefront the case of people who are attracted to members of the same sex. I remember just ten years ago how unpopular the idea of same-sex marriage was in society, and now especially among young people, it is very accepted and obviously in our country (and very unfortunately) it is legal to marry.*

*The topic of same-sex marriage we in the Church have had a lot of discussion about especially when considering political candidates. Our Bishop often puts out statements that clearly delineate the many errors in a society permitting same-sex marriage. And this is a worthy topic of discussion and worth the fight to preserve Christian marriage, marriage as defined by the inventor (God).*

*But today I want to speak more basically about the feeling that some people feel who are attracted to members of the same sex. I do not know how common it is, I have heard some statistics that 10% of the population feel attraction to members of the same sex. Whether that is true I do not know.*

*Regardless, it is not an insignificant number of people, as we all likely know people that are attracted to members of the same sex, family members, or friends, some of whom may have decided to act upon that attraction.*

*For us who are Catholic and love our faith and want to embrace the teachings of the Church, society will often tell us we are bigots. Additionally, I am sure there are those who think the Church is too 'soft' and that we need to be more forthright.*

*The position of the Church in regards to people who have a same sex-attraction is the same position that it holds in regards to all people who have not yet achieved perfect holiness, it approaches them in truth and in love.*

*It is never complicated, no matter the situation or moral dilemma, on how we should act in order that we remain faithful to Christ and still be 'on the side' of people. It may be difficult and it usually is, especially if it is a family (we obviously do not want the relationship severed...although this may be an unfortunate outcome) but it is not complicated. There is a difference.*

*People who have a same-sex attraction are people, just like other people who have not yet achieved perfect holiness (which is basically everyone walking the planet...except for a few actual living few saints who might be out there somewhere). The Church says that if someone has a same-sex attraction then they have a disordered sexual attraction. This may sound harsh and intolerant, but the Church would say that every single person who ever lived (with the exception of Jesus and Mary) has disordered attractions. If you like beer too much, you have a disordered attraction. If you like to eat donuts too much (me) you have a disordered attraction. If you are prone to getting frustrated, you have a disorder inside of you. If you have an attraction to pornography, you are disordered. If you like to gossip, you have a disordered desire for entertainment. If you are married and desire someone other than your spouse, you have disordered attraction.*

*My point is not to be negative. This is actually very good news for us all. It means that we are all in the same boat. It means that if you are human, you have inherited original sin which causes us all to have disorder affections, feelings and attractions. And the good news is not that we all have this disorder inside of us (everyone...from the Pope to the poor man on the corner), but that God has given us a way out of it through what his Son did on the cross. Jesus heals our disorder. Whatever disorder that may be. We will all struggle with disorder until we die, perfection for most only happens in Heaven. Again, not bad news...it has an end!!!*

*But on that walk towards our ultimate healing, we have two traps we can fall into. Firstly, we can fail to say disordered affections or feelings are disordered. Usually because of the possibility of estranged relationships or feeling like a bigot, we take the easy road and just sort of pretend that there's not a problem. This is wrong. Or, on the other side, because we are often not good at dealing with confrontation, we can attempt to 'take a stand in truth' but do so without love, without patience, and without a willingness to walk with a person on their road to conversion. This too is wrong and makes non-Catholics think we are merciless and harsh.*

*It's real simple in the case of people with same-sex attraction or in any other moral question wherein the Church speaks the words of Christ to the world. It must be the truth in love. It cannot be anything less. It will not be easy. Let's be honest about that. But true love is only easy in fairytales.*

-Fr. Rossi

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Religious Education Registration:** It's time to register your children for Religious Education 2017/2018. Classes will be held on Sunday mornings at St. Patrick's from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM beginning in the fall. Please see Donna Baird after mass for the registration forms or send her an email at [donnahbaird@gmail.com](mailto:donnahbaird@gmail.com). Fees for this year are: First Reconciliation/First Communion classes - \$50 per child; general enrollment - \$30 per child. Deadline for registration is September 2nd/3rd. If your child is preparing for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist, full participation in St. Patrick's Religious Education is required including attendance at all scheduled classes and as well as weekly mass. Looking forward to another great year!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** There is a need for volunteers to help with religious education for this upcoming year. No experience is necessary but VIRTUS training is required & will be provided. Please contact Donna Baird for more information at [donnahbaird@yahoo.com](mailto:donnahbaird@yahoo.com).

**Sharing Sunday:** Mark your calendars for **the next Sharing Sunday which will be September 3rd.** Please bring non-perishable food items. We donate those to our local food bank.

**THANK YOU:** Thanks so much to everyone who came out to our first "Women, Wine and the Word" gathering. Our next gathering will be Friday 8/25/17 from 6.30 - 8.30 pm in the social hall. This month's topic will be "The Women in the History of the Catholic Church" All ladies are invited, please and bring a light snack or wine to share for an evening of meaningful discussion and fellowship. Please feel free to invite friends! Please let Donna Baird know if you plan to attend [donnahbaird@yahoo.com](mailto:donnahbaird@yahoo.com)

**K of C Annual School Supply Drive:** The Knights of Columbus will be conducting a school Supply drive for the month of August benefitting the Boys and Girls Club here in Church Hill. Please consider donating paper, notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons and other school supplies to help these neighborhood kids get a good start to the school year! There will be a box in the Social Hall for Donations.

**Thank you:** Thank you to everyone who came out last Saturday and helped with parish cleaning!

**Employment Opportunity:** The Office for Black Catholics with the Catholic Diocese of Richmond has an opening for a Part-Time Administrative Assistant to provide administrative support for the Office for Black Catholics/Asian Ministry. This is a 15 hour per week position and is located at our Pastoral Center in Richmond, VA. The Administrative Assistant reports to the Director of the Office for Black Catholics and serves as liaison with other offices and parishes in the resolution of day-to-day administrative/operational issues. This position is also responsible for assisting with the coordination of retreats, programs and other events, including registration and financial and administrative aspects. Additionally, the Administrative Assistant updates all forms of social media and communications, such as Facebook, Twitter, Website, etc. and performs other daily routine duties independently. Must possess a High School Diploma or equivalent, plus three or more years of administrative experience required, including a working knowledge of computer software applications to include Microsoft Office Suite. Prior experience with event planning and project coordination is preferred. Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, and Diocesan Application to Sara Board, Human Resources Coordinator, at [jobs@richmonddioocese.org](mailto:jobs@richmonddioocese.org). Also, here is a link to the ad on our website: <http://richmonddioocese.org/administrative-assistant-office-for-black-catholics-pastoral-center-richmond-va/>

**Follow the Richmond Diocese:** Because our Faith keeps us strong and filled with JOY, we want to share it with you every day. Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter for inspirational daily messages and the latest happenings with our Pope, Bishop, priests, seminarians, lay ministers, youth, events and general news about the Diocese. Join us in prayer and service. Facebook @RichmondDiocese and Twitter @RichmondDiocese

**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 please contact Fred Powell or Ryland Paxton.

**Baptisms:** Baptisms are held at mass the first Sunday of the month. Baptism class is required prior to Baptizing your first child. **The next class will be held on 9/3/17 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 and 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 8/6/17

*Not available at the time of this writing. Will be published next week. Sorry.*