

Saint Patrick

Catholic Church

February 4-5, 2017

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

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

Confession: Saturday at 4:30pm

Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

Nursery: Available at 10:45 mass

Welcome to our newest members baptized this weekend Adrianna Elizabeth Perrault and Jessi Jeanette Yancey!

Message from our Pastor:

On Tuesday, we celebrated the Feast Day of St John Bosco. St John Bosco was an amazing saint who became known for his excellent education and formation of youths. He founded the Salesians, an order dedicated to educating youth and is the patron saint of youth.

In regards to education, I have been hearing talk of an issue that has been raised and wanted to provide a little information so that you will know where the Church stands on this issue.

It is in regards to school choice. Recently, this topic has come up. The Church does not support individual politicians, but it does take sides on issues.

The Church is pro-school choice. What does that mean?

Well let me tell you what school choice is. Currently, in most places, including here in Richmond, we all pay taxes and a portion of that tax money goes to the government (local and federal) so that the local government can provide free public education for grades K-12. Free education of youths is absolutely essential to provide equal opportunities for all children to advance socially and economically.

For most children, they have to go to the school determined by their geographic school district. If you live in such-and-such a neighborhood, you have to go to school 'X.' Etcetera.

This is all very common to us.

The problem with this, and we all recognize this, is that certain neighborhoods are not as nice as other neighborhoods...that is to say, some are more safe, have

better family environments, have less drugs and crime, etc. And when a school district has more 'bad' neighborhoods than 'good' neighborhoods, usually what results is the school itself becomes a mediocre or poor performing school.

This is commonly understood. All we need to do is look at independent school rankings provided by greatschools.org or any of the various evaluative organizations and they unanimously agree that, for example, Hanover public schools are better than the Richmond City schools, or where I was blessed to attend public school, York County, was better than Newport News public schools. That's why my parents lived in York County, even though they had to sacrifice the home they could have had if they would have lived in Newport News. They did this because they did not want to send their kids to schools with metal detectors.

This is a problem. What does it create a cycle of disadvantage for those children who are raised in bad neighborhood, sent to bad schools and eventually make bad choices.

What is school choice and how does it work to solve this problem? School choice creates the possibility for a parent to choose where they want to send their kids to school. School choice allows the parents to take the tax money that would have been sent to their own school district towards and use it towards the education cost or tuition at the school of their own choosing. This is called a school voucher or tax voucher.

You are probably thinking, 'well everyone will just send their kids to the better public school and it will be overwhelmed and not be able to take all those kids...and then the other school will just close.'

While there would be additional students going to the better performing public schools and less to the underperforming, more importantly what would happen is that schools would be forced to be competitive. They would be forced to produce good results or else they would cease to exist. And I for one believe a bad school should not exist.

But also what would happen, and has happened where school choice has occurred, is the creation of independent private schools, like Catholic schools. These schools are more efficient than the government run schools and provide superior education.

The City of Richmond spent almost \$13k per student in 2015 in public schools. Newport News spent over \$10k per student. The local private Catholic school in Newport News cost \$9k for tuition and provided a far superior education than the local public school by all measures.

Competition is good. It makes us better and makes us strive for excellence. A lack of it makes us lazy. School choice would provide the option for parents to choose where they send their kids and would create a competitive schooling system where schools had to sell themselves to parents by being the best, showing themselves the best, and truly serving their customer, the student. That is a little about school choice and why we as a Church are pro-school choice. — Fr. Rossi

News & Announcements:

Rectory Move: A HUGE THANK YOU to all of the gentlemen who helped move furniture after the 10:45 mass last weekend! It was such a huge help to get that moved in the help us settle back in to the rectory. Thank you!

Adoration: Starting **Friday 2/3 at 4pm through Saturday 2/4 ending at 4pm at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart will host a 24-hour Adoration Event** in which the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed, and the Cathedral open for anyone to come in and pray. During the overnight hours, there will be a uniformed policeman officer providing security. Cathedral Parish thanks us for the support our Parish gives to this Adoration opportunity. Cathedral Parish is extending the invitation to us and would love to see us there sometime during this 24-hour Adoration Event.

Irish Festival Time: Please join us after 10:45 mass in the basement for Irish Festival meeting! The festival will be celebrated March 25 & 26th. We need volunteers to help us throw the oldest street festival in the City. **Signup sheets for volunteering are downstairs after mass.** For more information, you can contact Stokes McCune at stokesmccune@aol.com.

Valentine's Day & an Outreach Opportunity: On Valentine's Day the parish will be visiting & presenting candy to the residents at the St. Francis home. We are asking families to consider making and signing cards at home as a family that can be presented to the residents with valentine treats. What a great way to get your family involved in this parish ministry and to get creative in making much appreciated cards for the residents. There will be a marked basket in the church hall to leave the cards. Please contact Eddie Baird at donnahbaird@yahoo.com or Heather Coleman at heatherscoleman@yahoo.com if you have any questions or would like to join us visiting the home on Valentine's

Knights of Columbus: The Knights of Columbus is hosting a pancake breakfast on 2/12/17 after the 10:45 mass to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Baptisms: Baptisms are held the first Sunday of the month during Mass. Baptism class for new parents is held at 1 p.m. in the parish hall. The next class will be held on 3/5/17. If you are interested in attending a class and scheduling your child's Baptism, contact Kathy Buttner. Baptism information is on our website under the Sacraments tab.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): is the process where the Catholic Church welcomes new adult members into the Church. Adults wishing to learn more should please contact the SPC office or email Fred Powell: fmpjr2009@aol.com or Ryland Paxton: paxtonrl8229@marybaldwin.edu.

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 1/29/17

Weekly

Actual	\$4,200.00
Budgeted	<u>\$4,107.00</u>
Difference	\$93.00

Year to Date

Actual	\$120,242.31
Budgeted	<u>\$127,380.00</u>
Difference	(\$7,137.69)

Attendance for 1/28 & 29/2017: 20/185

Contact & Follow Us at:

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BULLETIN: All bulletin submissions must be in to Michelle Dawson the Tuesday at noon before the bulletin goes out.

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.

SPC Increased Offertory Program:

The last few Sundays, parishioners returned Offertory Increase Commitment Cards. To those of you that made your commitment, thank you for your generosity and dedication to St Patrick. We are asking for a 20% increase in giving. If you have not yet responded to the request from Father Rossi, you will find in church a Commitment Card and a confidential remittance envelope for your use. Simply indicate your intended increase and include your new, increased offertory in the basket today. **We would like to receive a commitment card back from everyone, even if after prayerful consideration you cannot make a commitment.** So please fill out a card and put in the collection basket or give to an usher or mail to the parish office. Thank you and may you be blessed in your generosity to God and His Church.