

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

February 27-28, 2016

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

Confession: Saturday at 4:30pm
Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

Message from our Pastor:

Hello everyone,

First I wanted to say I am sorry for being away so much. I mentioned before, but wanted to say that we are conducting the *Living Our Mission* campaign at St Peter and it requires me to be there every weekend. I will be there this weekend and the next two weeks. I apologize and miss you tremendously ☺

So it's Lent. And lent is a time to give up stuff or to add stuff to our lives. Give up bad stuff...or at least stuff that's not too good for us, and take on stuff that is better for us.

Why do we do this? Does God like to see us uncomfortable? NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO.

That is not why we give up stuff or take on stuff. The reason we give up stuff and take on stuff is because we want to be better people...or said better, we want to be the best of ourselves.

I will give you an example from my life that is comparable to the way it works in the spiritual life.

I am a runner. I run from St Patrick to the Cathedral and back a couple times per week. It's hard. The hills are awful. And the wind, all winter long, has been blowing directly in my face all the way up that big hill on Broad Street heading into the city.

But the best part of running is not all that pain (surprise), it is the effects that come after the run. When you run, scientifically, it releases endorphins into your mind that make you feel happier. That is a nice effect. But additionally, if you run with consistency, there is a trajectory of improvement. When I started running, I could not run 3 miles at the pace that I can now run five.

And you get to carry that additional "being-in-shapedness" into the other parts of your life. For example, when I have to

go to MCV and walk through all those hall ways and flights of stairs, it's not too hard and I don't get too tired...even after a really long day. And then on my day off, when I go to my parents' house and want to do some little project around the house (like painting a room or fixing up an old bathroom), I have the energy and ability to do it...it's not too difficult physically because I am in shape to do it. There was a time in my life when I lived on chicken tenders and French fries and I could not have done such things during that time as I was out of shape, physically. (but chicken tenders and fries *are* really good).

Why do I bring all this up? Because this is the purpose of the season of Lent. We are called during Lent to get in shape, spiritually. We are not called to give up stuff and take on stuff because God thinks we are having too much fun and happiness and He has to stop that. No. God says, "I want you to have even more happiness than you have currently, so let's get in spiritual shape." He wants us to feel those 'endorphins' that come from prayer...which is a peaceful and calm heart. He wants us to have the health of a fit soul so that we can be in control of our bodies to allow us the ability to do what we want when we want (sin takes that away).

The three staples of Lent, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, are like three exercises (benching, squat thrusts, and jump rope) that get your spirit in shape. Everyone feels better when they are in shape.

When my dad and I start to get competitive about exercise, he likes to say, "yeah I used to be able to do that when I was in my 30's." Agreed. Age may effect physical condition, but when it comes to the spirit, whether you are in shape or out of shape has nothing to do with age. In fact, it's probably harder to be 'in-shape' spiritually when you are young than when you get a little older.

O' the blessedness of age. - Fr. Rossi

Nursery: is available at our Sunday 10:45am mass every week downstairs in the social hall.

Rosary: Please join in saying the rosary each Sunday at 10:10am.

Confessions: Are offered each Saturday at 4:30pm in the confessional located at the front of the Church to the left...just come on in.

Today's Music:

Psalm 27 "*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*"

Community Life - Michelle Dawson

Irish Festival: We will have meetings every Sunday after 10:45 mass. Join us! If you want to sign up to volunteer for festival signup sheets are down in the basement after mass.

Tuesday Evening Faith Formation Lenten Series

Join Fr. Danny for video and discussion about Vatican II and the Year of Mercy, Tuesdays at 6pm at St. Peter. This week's topics will be the council's teachings about Ecumenism, the Church in the Modern World, and Missionary Activity. Please bring a snack/refreshment to share!

Faith Formation - Kathy Buttner

Bible Study: Meets on Thursdays at 10:30 am in the Social Hall downstairs.

Stations of the Cross: Will be led by the Bible Study group throughout lent at St. Patrick on Thursdays at noon. Please join us.

40 Days for Life: During Lent a group of St. Patrick parishioners will be saying the rosary & prayers in front of the abortion clinic at the corner of N. Boulevard & Grove Ave. each Thursday at 4:00 p.m. All are invited to join in. Our hope is to change minds and save lives by just being present for an hour a week! Call Jane Murphy if interested - 267-1935

Best Lent Ever - Have you signed up to participate in The Best Lent Ever program from Dynamic Catholic? If you did, how is it going? If you didn't, you can still sign up go to DynamicCatholic.com/Lent. Rather than giving up something, you can add something to your Lenten practice. You can get the book, Rediscover Jesus, for free (you pay shipping). If you signed up and would like to be in a group of St Patrick, St John, and St Peter Church members who are doing this program, please e-mail me in the next week or two at kathybuttner@hotmail.com. I will gather all e-mail addresses I receive and we can add our thoughts about the topics addressed to our group only. I hope that you will consider participating if you already haven't signed up.

Children's Religious Education - Donna Baird

Children's religious education classes are held the first three Sundays of each month from 9:45 AM to 10:30 AM. If you have questions, contact Donna Baird donnahbaird@yahoo.com or at 804.888.3470

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 the SPC office or email Fred Powell: fmpjr2009@aol.com or Ryland Paxton: paxtonrl8229@mbc.edu.

Baptisms: Baptisms are held the first Sunday of the month during Mass. Baptism class for new parents is held the second Sunday every other month at 1 p.m. in the parish hall. The next class is March 13. Contact Kathy Buttner if you are interested in attending the class and for scheduling your child's Baptism. Baptism information is on our website under the Sacraments tab. If you have additional questions, please contact the office.

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.

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 and you would like to talk with a priest, please call the emergency number at any time.

Year to date budgeted: \$146,513.00

Year to date actual income: \$110,470.82

Current loss: \$36,042.18

February 20-21 attendance: 32-186