

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

January 23-24, 2016

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Confession: Saturday at 4:30pm

Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

Message from our Pastor:

This Sunday is Respect Life Sunday. This Sunday is all about us as Catholics standing up for and defending life, from natural conception until natural death.

Let me be very, very clear about something – IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE CATHOLIC AND BE PRO-CHOICE, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE CATHOLIC AND BE PRO-ABORTION, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE CATHOLIC AND BE PRO-EUTHANASIA, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE CATHOLIC AND BE PRO-EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO BE CATHOLIC AND BE PRO-DEATH PENALTY (IN THE UNITED STATES).

What do I mean by this?

Being Catholic and Christian means that we recognize the primacy of God, the God who created the heavens and the earth, as the ultimate creator, ruler, judge, and Father over every single human being. He is first and foremost, the one who decided who comes into existence, when we come into existence and when we enter out of it (die).

Whenever we enter into the role of God and make the decision about when life should begin or end, because we think that life is inconvenient (abortion), because we think that life is no longer functional enough (euthanasia), because we think we can use someone's life for the benefit of others (embryonic stem cell research), or because we want to determine a certain method of punishment for a criminal despite the availability of alternatives (the death penalty in the US)...whenever we do this, we make a serious, serious mistake. 3,000 lives are ended every day because of abortion. Laws are being passed across the country that allow those who are too 'old' or 'sick' to be euthanized. Embryos are frozen, dissected, and manipulated in a misinformed attempt to cure. And people like Richard Masterson are sentenced to be brutally executed when alternative means of punishment are available.

Death is an ugly, ugly thing. I spend a considerable amount of time in hospitals, with the sick and the dying.

But God has redeemed death. Jesus, the Son of God, died on a tree and poured out His own blood to redeem mankind from any and every situation of sickness and evil.

Ultimately, when a person decides to support one of these horrendous offences against life, they are failing to recognize the potential for a situation that God can turn into a miracle. God turned the death of His Son into a miracle for every person (we can go to Heaven because of it). God can also turn every dark and evil situation of death into an occasion for joy and redemption. BUT IT CANNOT HAPPEN IF WE TRY TO TAKE GOD'S ROLE AND BE GOD.

Instead, it becomes death X2. It becomes not only the death of the person who is actually killed, but it becomes the spiritual death of the one who stepped in and decided to take God's job. This is the Year of Mercy as declared by Pope Francis. Please pray that hearts will be opened to embrace life. Even when those hearts are afraid, or confused, or angry or whatever. And God will show the world how he can perform miracles in the face of the saddest thing in the world. -Fr. Rossi

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 February 14. Please 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.

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

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.

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.

Outreach & Social Ministry - Heather Coleman

Volunteers Needed: Volunteers are needed to help cook and serve dinner at Liberation Family Services, a homeless veteran's shelter, on Sunday Jan 31st from 5pm to 7pm. If you can help out please contact Heather Coleman 804-310-9538.

St. Francis Home Project - We will be collecting new linen items for St. Francis Home residents through February 7th. Items needed are: comforters, twin bed sheets, pillow cases (white cotton preferred but not necessary), bath towels, hand towels, and washcloths. Laundry baskets will be in the social hall as well as the entrance of the church to collect these items. Contact Kathy Buttner for more information

Children's Religious Education - Donna Baird

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

Community Life - Michelle Dawson

Irish Festival: It's that time of year again! It is time to start gearing up for the Irish Festival. We will have meetings every Sunday after 10:45 mass. Join us!

From the Office of Vocations: "There are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit." Is the Holy Spirit leading you to share your gifts as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father Michael G. Boehling, Vicar for Vocations, (804) 359-5661, or write: mboehling@richmonddioocese.org.

Faith Formation - Kathy Buttner

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

Lent: Have you decided what you are going to "give up" for Lent? Is it chocolate? How about not "giving up" anything and instead add a daily inspiration to your day. Dynamic Catholic invites you to join their Lent program and have the BEST LENT EVER and you don't have to give up chocolate! This is an online only program based on the book Rediscover Jesus by Matthew Kelly. Sign up at DynamicCatholic.com/Lent and then go to DynamicCatholic.com and order a free copy of the book. (See the poster on the bulletin board in the social hall or for more information, contact Kathy Buttner.)

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.

Budget Information Will Return Next Week

Today's Music:

Entrance - 475 Come, Now Almighty King

Psalm Refrain: Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

Gifts - 625 Where Charity and Love Prevail

Communion 1 - 615 Seek Ye First

Communion 2 - 491 God Beyond All Names

Recessional - 626 There's A Wideness in God's Mercy