

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

April 14-15, 2018
Third Sunday of Easter

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:

Happy Easter everyone. I hope you are still enjoying the extra graces this season.

Today I want to talk about a topic that might not be thought of as directly related to religion but in fact has much to do with it. And it's relevant because Tuesday is tax day, the day taxes are due to the federal government. I used to be an accountant and a CPA.

What does Christ think about taxes? You may think he has nothing to say on the topic. That is not true.

Once Christ was specifically asked about taxes and famously said "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's."

That is to say, money has imprinted on it "The United States of America." Thus give it back to them as we are required.

But the question comes up, how much should be given back? What is fair? All would agree that if 100% of our money was demanded, we would effectively be in a form of slavery. All would also likely agree that if we gave none of our money to the government, the situation would also be less than ideal, as we would have no federal highway, no national military, and no other service provided by the government. Somewhere in the middle is the answer but where.

Christians and those informed by Christian ideals tend to think, 'well what type of tax system would Christ create?'

And while this is noble, to think or at least attempt to think of things with the mind of Christ, we need to be careful of one thing: using the tax code as a vehicle for charity.

The tax code has way too many exceptions. Have you ever seen how thick the tax code is? It is thicker than the bible. If God can communicate the history of human salvation to us in a book that is shorter than the tax code, that says there is too much in the tax code.

Here is what inevitably happens.

People often have good intentions. They propose to give a tax break to someone in need, such as a working family or a single mother, both godly sentiments. The elected officials in Congress pass laws and tax code is written to do that. Congress does it again and again, passing many laudable codes. In the meantime, something else happens. Congress gets good at passing tax laws. As human nature if fallen, Congress begins to make exceptions and pass tax codes in other regards. They begin to make exceptions for this donor who pushed them into office. They begin to make exceptions for that acquaintance, sometimes even in the same legislation that with some show of charity to some other group. And you end up with the current tax code that has more exceptions than almost anyone can wrap their head around.

But certain people do wrap their heads around it. They are called CPA's. And they are hired by other people who use them to use those many laws to get out of paying taxes. It's legal. They are allowed. And it's hard to blame them for doing what is legal if it saves them money.

When Christ said "render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God" he was saying something about the domain of works that are appropriate to them. That is to say, there are certain things that are proper to the the domain of Caesar/the government and there are certain things that are proper to the domain of God and by extension the Church.

The true domain of government is to make decisions based not on charity, but on justice, particularly in regards to the tax code. Justice means giving each their due, or each giving their proper due. And when you have a system that makes possible so much lawful manipulation, each giving their proper due is highly unlikely.

In it's place, a flat tax would be more just. Each pays the same percentage. It would be the same whether you make \$20k a year or \$2 million a year. It's simple and easy and not subject to manipulation.

But what about the single mother or working family, how can we still help them and others in difficult situations. Well that is the work of charity and is proper not to the domain of government but to the domain of God and, by extension, the Church. The Church is supposed to be the one who helps in individual situations of need. The Church is the one created by God for the works of charity. That is not the government's domain.

Nowadays, many people want the government to solve all the problems in the world - homelessness, poverty, family problems, sickness, learning disabilities, discontent between peoples, etc. Too many people look to the government to fix all the problems of the world, and in doing so replace the Church with the government.

This is particularly true in regard to the tax code and the legal manipulation of money through taxes.

There may be another alternative to a flat tax that is just as simple, fair, just and discouraging of manipulation. But I can promise there will always be an unfortunate correlation between the size of the tax code, the government's failed attempt at charity, and the tendency of people to replace what is proper to the domain of the Church with the government.

-Father Rossi

News & Announcements:

Music Ministry News: Thank you all for the warm welcome while I've had the blessing of becoming the new music coordinator at St. John & St. Patrick! I look forward to each of you continuing to be active members of our congregational choirs, but if you find yourself experiencing the call to become a member of the choir that helps lead congregational singing during masses, there is no better time than now to join: consider this to be your formal invitation!! If you are interested in joining with our wonderful musicians, in any capacity, please reach out to me at (804) 256-3450 or musicministerkate@gmail.com. Instrumentalists, singers, & "joyful noisemakers" are always welcomed! Thank you! Katie

Sharing Sunday: The next Sharing Sunday is May 6th. Please bring non-perishable food items. A table will be in the basement for collection.

"Women, Wine, and the Word" Now that the Irish Festival and Easter is over we can get back to our monthly "Women, Wine, and the Word" gatherings! They will continue Friday April 27th from 6:30 -8.30pm in the St Patrick social hall. Join us for an evening of great discussion & fellowship. All ladies are invited to join, please invite your friends & family as well. Bring a light dinner dish to share. Please let Donna Baird know if you plan to attend at 804.888.3470 or at donnahbaird@yahoo.com

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. Three (3) more classes will be held during 2018. The dates are as follows: April 15; July 1; and 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.

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 4/8/18

<u>Weekly</u>	
Actual	\$4,032.00
Budgeted	<u>\$4,221.00</u>
Difference	-\$189.00

<u>Year to Date</u>	
Actual	\$154,836.00
Budgeted	<u>\$173,061.00</u>
Difference	(\$18,225.00)

Attendance for 4/7/18 = 33 and 4/8/18 = 187

Communion Meditation Song

"Sacred Silence"

Sacred Silence, Holy Ocean, gentle water, washing over me. Help me listen, Holy Spirit. Come and speak to me.

Verse 1:

God my Father, Christ my brother, Holy Spirit, sanctifying me. Lord, I'm sorry, please forgive me. Come and set me free.

Verse 2:

Holy Mary, Gentle Mother, God's pure vessel praying for me. Saints and angels, all in heaven, come and be with me.

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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.



**Please join us after 10:45
mass in the social hall
downstairs for coffee, cake,
& fellowship!**