

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

February 9th and 10th, 2019
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass times:

Saturday at 5:30pm & Sunday
at 10:45am

Nursery is available during 10:45 mass.

Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

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



Message from our Pastor:

Today I want to inform you about something that will be coming in the news. As you may have recently heard, the state of Texas has recently released a list of names of priests who have been credibly and substantially accused of sexual abuse. Texas along with many other states have decided to release this list of names as an act of transparency.

I want to inform you that in February (this month) our Diocese as well as the Diocese of Arlington will release a similar list of names of priests who have been credibly and substantially accused of sexual abuse. I tell you now so as to hopefully minimize any emotional surprise.

A couple things to note:

These all are the people substantially and credibly accused over a significant number of years. Most of the priests are already deceased or are extremely advanced in age.

These priests are currently not in active ministry in our Diocese. They were all removed years ago.

I have not seen the list of names but this is what has been told to me and I give you what I know to the best of my ability.

I do not know the exact number of names on the list.

I no way make any excuse for these awful and disgusting actions. I hate the fact that such evil things occurred. I will tell you that the percentage of abusers in the past among priests is about the same as the

percentage of abusers in society at large (teachers, doctors, parents, etc), approximately 2%. This is not an excuse but just helps me to keep a perspective and so I share it with you. The fact is there should be absolutely zero abusers in the priesthood. Priests are supposed to stand as a symbol of holiness and a model of where to look for guidance. I reiterate what I've said before, I can think of no other act so evil and wicked as these acts that have occurred that would more undermine the very purpose of the existence of priests.

Being a priest is the greatest honor of my life and I believe it is the highest calling of man. But how strong is the temptation now-a-days to feel embarrassment when I wear by Roman Collar in public. What a terrible turn of events.

But I leave you with this fact. Our diocese has a very large and growing number of seminarians. Every year, in spite of scandal and awful things from the past being continually portrayed in the headlines (some fair and some unfair), more and more men join our diocese in pursuit of a religious vocation (a women in pursuit of the religious life in their own manner).

How can this be? Wouldn't you think men and women would be turned off from giving their entire lives away to an organization that seems to have so many issues?

No. This is not the case. In fact, I dare say it is almost the opposite. The more things look bad and bleak, the more men and women want to devote their lives and sacrifice their lives to make our Church pure and holy.

I think of it like men and women of a country that they love that is attacked from an enemy. If the men and women truly love the country, they don't run, but they stay and fight. In fact, they fight harder. Remember after 9/11 in our country how many people signed up for the military? Or how many people enlisted in the armed services after Pearl Harbor?

I think it is the same thing. Men and women love God and the Church He founded (our Church, our Catholic Church) very very deeply. And when they see it in distress they want to give their lives for it all the more.

I joined seminary after the first wave of abuse stuff hit the headlines back in the early 2000's. I was not deterred from what I read. In fact, when I read about all that evil stuff in the Church, it only made the work of a priest and the Church seem more REAL, more URGENT, more IMPORTANT. For me, accounting and making money (my former life) was small potatoes compared with the work of the Church which has eternal consequences for souls. The more real evil becomes in our lives, the more real good and holiness comes as well.

I finish with these words: if you love God and your Church, then when it is attacked you should be inspired to die more for it, to sacrifice more for it. Our Church has been wounded. Will you give of yourself to care for her? Is your love true love?

Fr Rossi

News & Announcements:

Volunteer Opportunity as SPC: The St. Patrick's Nursery needs a few more volunteers. Working in the nursery is a fun way to spend your Sunday morning especially if you enjoy children & a wonderful way to give back to our growing parish. Two volunteers are needed each week, and currently we do not have enough people to keep it staffed every Sunday of the month. If you are interested in helping or would like more information on the commitment, please contact Melanie Tazza. (Text 843-693-0975 / email at tazzamk@hotmail.com)

Message from Father Frank: I have been approached by several parishioners to lead a Bereavement Group at St. John's. A Bereavement group is helpful & therapeutic in working through the death & dying of a loved one. If you have experienced a death either in your family or know of someone who is dying; this group would be very helpful to you. **Sessions will be held Thursdays at 10 am in the conference at St. Johns. They will start March 7th & continue for 8 weeks.** The last session will be 5/9. A sign up sheet will be in the meeting hall and if you have any questions please call Fr. Frank at 1-804-737-8028.

Social Ministry: We will be visiting St. Francis Home **Friday February 15th at 6pm** for a visit for Valentine's Day. We would love for you and your families to join us as residents love visitors. We will provide cards and treat bags to distribute to residents. Home made cards are encouraged as well. We will meet at St. Francis Home at 65 W. Clopton Street. If you plan to join us, please contact Eddie & Donna Baird.

Mark your Calendars: The next Sharing Sunday which is **March 3rd**. Remember your non-perishable food items. **Table in basement for drop off.**

Pope Francis-A man of his word: On Sunday February 17th at 12:45 in the St. Patrick Social Hall there will be a special showing of the film. All are encouraged to attend the viewing of this highly acclaimed film on the Holy Father. Drinks, Popcorn, and refreshments will be provided. For further information please contact Donna Baird.

Brunswick Stew: The Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual Brunswick Stew sale on Saturday 3/2/19. Stew is \$8.00 a quart being sold on a first come first serve basis. A sign-up sheet will be in the social hall beginning 2/17. Those who sign up will be assured of getting the Stew in the event of an early sell out. If it isn't sold out extras will be available after mass on 3/3. For additional details or to reserve stew you can email Eddie Baird. Thank you for your support.

Baptisms - Baptisms are held during the Mass on the first Sunday of each month. Baptism class is required prior to baptizing your first child. Upcoming class dates are 3/31, 7/7, and 10/6. If you are interested in attending a class or scheduling your child's Baptism, contact Kathy Buttner. Please note you may attend class prior to the birth of your baby.

A Year of Prayer for Our Priests: Knights of Columbus Council 6936 has committed to a year of prayer in solidarity with our priests. Individual masses will be said for Father Rossi, Father Ernest and Father Frank. We would like to ask the members of our parishes to join with us & commit to praying a rosary, or other form of prayer at least once each month for our priests. Please pray for our priests and let's let them know we stand with them.

Irish Festival: Our 34th Annual Irish Festival will be held the weekend of **March 23-24th**. We are having planning meetings after Sunday mass in the basement. **Please join us!** A great way to meet people in the parish especially for our new parishioners! **We will also have signup sheets for volunteering** downstairs after mass. Please consider giving your time for this great cause!

Contact & Follow us at:

Facebook: SPChurchHill

Emails:

Pastor Fr. Gino Rossi: ginopaulrossi@hotmail.com

Father Ernest Bulinda: livasia@gmail.com

Father Frank Wiggins: Padreop@verizon.net

Office: office@saintpatrickchurchhill.org

John Lo Re: johnjlore@gmail.com

Katie Goodloe: musicministerkate@gmail.com

Michelle Dawson: mjmvcu@aol.com

Donna & Eddie Baird: donnahbaird@yahoo.com

Kathy Buttner: kathybuttner@hotmail.com

Heather Coleman: heatherscoleman@yahoo.com

Neilann Brown:

bookkeeper@stjohnscatholicchurch.org

Paulita Matheny:

pmatheny@stjohnscatholicchurch.org

Tobie Treadwell: Mikenme2@verizon.net

Billie Keating: bjk6269@comcast.net

Fred Powell: fmpjr2009@aol.com

Ryland Paxton: Paxtonrl8229@marybaldwin.edu

Mailing address:

St. Patrick's Church,

813 West Nine Mile Road,

Highland Springs, VA 23075

Office Phone number: 804-737-8028

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.

Church Support as of 2/3/19

Weekly

Actual \$2,714.00

Budgeted \$3,981.00

Difference -\$1,267.00

Year to Date

Actual \$92,407.33

Budgeted \$127,392.00

Difference -\$34,984.67

Attendance:

2/2/19 = 30 2/3/19 = 159

Total: 189