

# Saint Patrick Catholic Church

March 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2019  
Fourth Sunday of Lent

## Mass times:

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

Nursery is available  
during 10:45 mass.

Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

Confession during Lent will be made  
available 30 minutes prior to and after  
mass.



## Message from our Pastor:

If you every wonder why Father Rossi is continually talking about confession and reminding folks to go to confession (everyone should go during Lent – we have to as Catholics go at least once per year...and we have confessions available 30 minutes before and after every weekend Mass during Lent) is because of the Gospel reading this weekend.

Some of you may be hearing the account of Jesus healing the man born blind. If you heard this reading this weekend, then you likely also had a short prayer for the people who are becoming Catholic after the homily. This is called the ‘scrutiny’ and is part of the RCIA process and is actually a prayer of exorcism over the unbaptized who are in the process of becoming baptized and will be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

But if you do not have scrutinies at your parish this weekend then you heard the Gospel account of Jesus telling the story of the prodigal son. Remember this story. It is the account of the older and younger son, the younger one takes his inheritance and squanders it on a life of immorality.

Remember the story? The older son is faithful to his dad and works hard every day while the younger one takes and wastes his money that the dad gave him. But then, once the younger son is broke and poor, he decides to crawl back to the dad and beg him to please at least be able to be a hired worker on the farm just to at least be able to get a few scrapes of food.

Remember what the dad does when he sees the younger son crawling back to beg to be at least given a job as a hired worker? What does he do?

The dad runs up to the younger son, puts a ring on his finger, gives him fine cloths and welcomes him back fully. He even throws a party for him, which upsets the older son who was a little envious of the embellishment that the younger son was receiving in spite of him wasting all his dad’s money.

So I come back to why does Fr Rossi continually annoy and remind people go to confession. Why is Fr Rossi such a broken record? Because you call me “Father” and that is what I am...that

is what a priest is...your priests are the ‘dad’ of the story of the prodigal son.

There is nothing that gives meaning to a priest’s life as does saying Mass and welcoming back into the faith someone who has been away a long time from the sacrament of Confession. One opportunity to welcome back in the confessional someone who has been away for many years is worth all the headache to get through seminary and all the other sacrifices that priest’s make (simplicity of life, celibacy and obedience). Just once makes it all worth it. Welcoming back someone who has been away a long time, like the dad in the story of the prodigal son, is what gives meaning to a priest’s life.

So that is why I continually talk about confession and remind folks to go to confession, especially those who have been away a long time. What God does in the confessional is amazing, something we will only fully realize and appreciate on the other side of eternity. Along with saying the Mass, it is the greatest privilege of a priest’s life, the greatest honor of his life.  
- Fr Rossi



## Church Support as of 3/24/19

### Weekly

Actual	\$2,009.67
Budgeted	<u>\$3,981.00</u>
Difference	-\$1,971.33

### Year to Date

Actual	\$111,487.51
Budgeted	<u>\$155,259.00</u>
Difference	-\$43,771.49

**Attendance:** 3/23=45 3/24 = 180

## News & Announcements:

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE 2019 IRISH FESTIVAL AN AMAZING SUCCESS!!!!!!** - I can say along with I think everyone who came to the festival this weekend that it was a 100% amazing success. The weather was amazing - THANK YOU GOD!!! The crowds were huge. And the many, many, many volunteers who worked so tirelessly to make it happen were really amazing. There are so many wonderful people who made this happen. All the planning, the permits, the permissions, all the people who helped with setup and prep for days and weeks ahead of time, all the people who worked the gates, who poured more than a couple drinks, who made 'coffee,' all the ladies who baked goods and worked the booths, all the people who cooked all day long (I have learned that Irish people really like to eat potatoes), the people who cleaned bathrooms, plunged toilets, counted money, cleaned before and after, setup and took down tables, I know I am forgetting many people because so many people helped in so many hidden ways. But to each and all I say a heartfelt thank you and God bless you. This festival raises money that helps some of the most worthy causes of our neighborhood, our parish that we all love, and of those who are sick and in need. It is perfect that this festival is during Lent as it is a great way for so many to give alms through the sacrifice of their hard work. And that makes is spiritual. So I hope you enjoyed the extra grace God gave you as you worked hard for Him over the weekend! God bless you for your hard work. I will start soon praying for good weather for the 2020 Irish Festival. I look forward to it greatly!!! - Fr Rossi

**Thank you to all who participate in the Kroger program for St Patrick** to receive benefits. We have received another check in the amount of \$64.91. Remember you have to renew your membership for this program each year. **St Patrick number is 89764**

**Stations of the Cross:** The Bible Study will hold Stations of the Cross every Thursday at noon during Lent. Please join them.

**FOR SALE** - 4 burial plots at Washington Memorial Park – we recently came into possession of 4 burial plots at Washington Memorial Park. They are in a beautiful location within the cemetery. The cost of the burial plots is approximately \$20k (or \$5k each) but we are planning to sell them at a discount of 20% to anyone interested in \$16k. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the office. They will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.

**Sharing Sunday:** Thank you to everyone who participated in Sharing Sunday in March! It was our best Sunday since we have started! Let's do it again! **Mark your calendars the next Sharing Sunday is April 7<sup>th</sup>.** Remember your non-perishable food items. **Table in basement for drop off.**

**Please Volunteer:** The Bible Study Group will spearhead another deep cleaning of the sanctuary on Saturday, April 13. We try to do this twice a year (polishing the brass, cleaning the pews, cleaning the balcony, scrubbing the floors, etc.) and we would like it spic and span for Holy Week! Many hands will make light work - we will begin at 9 a.m. and provide lunch. For questions, contact Jane Murphy, 267-1935.

**The National March for Life is coming to Virginia on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 in Richmond!** This March is being co-sponsored by the Virginia Catholic Conference and we are encouraging all to participate. There will be mass celebrated by Bishop Knestout at the Richmond Convention Center at 9:00am, then a Rally at the State Capitol in Richmond at 11am, and the March for Life begins at noon.

**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.

## Contact & Follow us at

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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.**