

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

September 7th – 8th, 2019

Twenty Third
Sunday in Ordinary Time



Mass Times:

Saturdays at 5:30pm
& Sundays at 10:45am

Nursery is available during 10:45 mass.

Rosary:

Sunday at 10:10am

Confession:

Saturdays at 4:30 pm
or by appointment.



Church Support as of September 1st, 2019

Weekly

Actual	\$2,425.50
Budgeted	<u>\$3,748.00</u>
Difference	-\$1,322.50

Year to Date

Actual	\$21,150.33
Budgeted	<u>\$33,731.00</u>
Difference	-\$12,580.67

Attendance: 8/31/19: 33 9/1/19: 116

Message from our Pastor:

I would like to draw your attention to the second reading today, in particular, to the revolutionary idea being espoused in it regarding slavery.

Slavery, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, is a "sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit." #2414.

Unfortunately, slavery has been around since human beings have been around. We in the United States identify primarily with the enslavement of Africans in the first centuries of our nation's founding. But slavery has existed for thousands of years. Many peoples have been enslaved at different points in history. We hear often in our scriptures about the enslavement of the Jewish people by the Egyptians. In fact, there is a whole race of people whose name is derived from the word slave, the Slav's, who inhabited Eastern Europe and were enslaved by Muslims in Spain.

Slavery is a wicked and terrible scourge on the history of mankind. We look now with horror that humans would force and subject other humans to chattel property.

Thanks be to God that the mindset that generally accepted slavery as 'ok' for thousands of years has been largely eradicated. That said, it should be noted that slavery still exists today, especially in war torn areas such as Libya, and even closer to our own home as women are often subjected to slavery by human trafficking cartels.

To the extent that slavery has come to be understand as evil by most societies is due to the spread of Christianity.

Christianity has an absolutely revolutionary idea that changed the way people treat other people and the value that people assign to other people. For most of human history, those of royal blood lineage, those with money or those with power were generally considered more valuable than those who were poor. The life of a king was more valuable than the life of a peasant. In fact, it wasn't even close - kings, queens, lords of manors, chiefs, and those of the ruling class were considered to have far more human dignity/human worth than the poor. Because this mindset was so prevalent, it was easy for people to justify in their mind that enslaving those of lesser worth wasn't a big deal...and so slavery was common for most of human history.

St Paul teaches in the second reading today the revolutionary idea that slavery is wrong. We take for granted the idea that all people have worth because they are made in the image and likeness of God. But Paul is introducing this idea for one of the first times in this letter. He meets a guy Onesimus in prison, and when Onesimus is finally released, St Paul tells them to take Onesimus in and treat him as a brother, not a slave. This was radical!!! St. Paul says welcome him as you would welcome me. This was crazy at the time!!! With this statement, St. Paul is destroying the class division between slave and free person. The effects of his words and the ensuing theology advocated by the Catholic religion for the subsequent two thousand years cannot be overstated. - Fr Rossi

News & Announcements:

NEXT Sharing Sunday: Mark your calendars the next Sharing Sunday is **October 6th**. Remember your non-perishable food items. Table in basement for drop off.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL: Congratulations to our Pastoral Associate and Director of Religious Education, Paulita Matheny for being appointed as one of the members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. The appointment is for three years and the Council serves as a consultative body to the Bishop and will provide feedback on matters that pertain to our Diocesan structures and initiatives.

40 DAYS OF LIFE: From September 25 through November 3, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and to pray peacefully during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the Planned Parenthood at 201 N. Hamilton Street, Richmond, VA, 23221, for one or more hours during the 40-day prayer vigil, and to help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Olga Lucia Mages, 804-328-1602. All are welcome! To learn more visit www.40daysforlife.com/Richmond.

Baptisms - Baptisms are held during the Mass on the first Sunday of each month. Baptism class is required prior to baptizing your first child. The next class is 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

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT 9/27 - 9/19/19:

Come to a retreat for healing...if you have had one or more abortions...if you are responsible for the abortions of others...or if you've suffered from an abortion choice of another person. If you've felt regret, grief, guilt, or anger; unforgivable, afraid, ashamed, defensive, unworthy, numb, or isolated...there is hope for healing, to accept God's mercy, and to find peace. Inquiries, registration, and participation are strictly confidential. For information & registration, contact: Marty Montgomery-Jennings @ 804-704-0429 or Maggie Carlson @ 804-432-2589 Email: RV4hope@gmail.com. Church of the Epiphany Post-Abortion Healing Ministry 11000 Smoketree Drive, North Chesterfield, Virginia 23236

Shower Program at St. Peters: We are pleased to announce we are currently in the process of organizing the shower outreach program. The effort will be co-led by Robert Peters from St. Patrick's and Lorraine Hewitt from St. Joseph's. We plan to do a pilot of the program on October 1st. Afterwards, any improvements needed will be incorporated before opening on a regular schedule in November. Showers will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Volunteer roles & responsibilities are being defined and training will be held beginning in mid-October. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please email your name, phone number and email address to: stpetersshowers@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: I wanted to inform you of something very unfortunate that happened in one of our parishes. While cleaning the church, we found a host laying on the floor in the pews. It is likely that it was a consecrated host that someone walked back to their pew with and threw on the floor. This is a sacrilege and if done willingly is grounds for excommunication from the Church. Desecration of the Blessed Sacrament is one of the worst offences that can be committed because it is an offence against the Real Presence of Jesus Christ. I pray it was simply an accident and maybe a child who did not know what they were doing. A couple things: PARENTS need to watch their children to be sure they are consuming the host and that they do not try to receive Holy Communion unless they have had their First Holy Communion. EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - if you are privileged enough to be able to help with the distribution of Holy Communion, then you need to observe every single person who comes up for Communion to be sure they consume the Host in front of you. No one is ever permitted to walk off with the Host. If they do, you need to stop them and ask them to either return the Host to you or consume it in front of you. I do this regularly and you need to as well if you want to have the honored responsibility of distributing Holy Communion. ALL PARISHIONERS - if you see someone walking away with a Host or someone in the pew with a Host then you need to say something to them. Do not be ashamed. Or walk up to the priest at that moment (not at the end of Mass) and tell the priest so he can deal with it. We must take it extremely seriously to care for and protect the Blessed Sacrament and it is everyone's responsibility. Thank you - Fr Rossi



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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