

# Saint Patrick Catholic Church

January 18 – 19th, 2020  
Second 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.



## Message from our Pastor:

*Please see and read the attached letter!  
Peace! - Fr Rossi*

## News & Announcements:

### Clearing out Clothing this New Year:

The Saint Peter's clothes closet is in need of clothing. Especially men's clothing – long pants, belts, t-shirts, and sweaters. Also, Men and Women's warm socks and coats. Your donations may be dropped off at the St. Peter's Church basement.

**Resource:** To keep up to date with the daily readings in the often-fast paced world, go to this URL [www.usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm) on your computer or phone and you can listen to the daily readings each day. Enjoy.

### NEXT Sharing Sunday:

Mark your calendars the next Sharing Sunday is **February 2nd**. Please give if you can these next coming months the need tends to rise! Drop non-perishable food items at the table in basement. Thank you.

**Baptisms** - Baptisms are held during the Mass on the first Sunday of each month. Baptism class is required prior to baptizing your first child. Classes for 2020 are 4/7, 7/7, 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:

Facebook: SPChurchHill

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### Mailing address:

St. Patrick's Church,

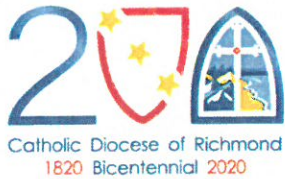
813 West Nine Mile Road,

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.



Office of the Bishop

## Diocese of Richmond

January 18–19, 2020

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Richmond,

Today we begin the celebration of the bicentennial of our local Church which will last throughout 2020. This Mass commemorates the arrival of the first bishop of Richmond and recognizes the Catholic presence in the Eastern Vicariate of our diocese. I am grateful to be celebrating this historic occasion with you.

The establishment of the Diocese of Richmond took place under difficult circumstances. First, a schism or formal division among believers had arisen in Norfolk over the question of the ownership of Church property and the authority to appoint pastors. Second, the communities of Catholics in Virginia were small, far flung, and mostly poor. These were the challenges that Right Reverend Patrick Kelly faced when he came from Ireland as the first bishop of Richmond.

Although the Norfolk Schism eventually subsided, Bishop Kelly still had no income and supported himself by teaching. He returned to Ireland after just a year and half in Virginia, having never reached Richmond. The diocese, which lacked resources, was placed under the administration of the archbishop of Baltimore for the next nineteen years.

In this historical episode, we sense the perennial need for unity in the Church. That unity flows from the Eucharist, since each celebration of Mass both expresses and strengthens the communion of the Church; that is, the bonds that unite us to God and to one another. Communion is one theme of our diocesan bicentennial.

The readings and prayers for today's Mass focus on the Church's communion. In place of the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, I have asked that a special Mass from the *Roman Missal*, for the Particular or local Church, be celebrated throughout the diocese. These readings and prayers will help unite us in giving thanks to God for the presence of the Catholic Church in Virginia through the centuries.

May this Eucharistic Celebration at the beginning of the diocesan jubilee help us live out the motto of our bicentennial, which echoes the words of St. Paul: "Shine like stars in the world, as you hold fast to the word of life" (Philippians 2:15–16).

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout  
Bishop of Richmond





## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

By Father Anthony E. Marques

Although Catholics have always been a minority in Virginia, their roots in the commonwealth extend back four hundred years. A group of Spanish Jesuits planted the seeds of Christian faith near present-day Williamsburg but were soon killed by local inhabitants (1570–1571). Their martyrdom foreshadowed the struggles of the Catholic Church in this territory. In the following centuries, the Church grew slowly amid religious and secular hostility, geographic isolation, economic deprivation, and a chronic lack of priests.

The first organized Catholic communities in Virginia took shape around 1794. At St. Patrick's in Norfolk, a schism or formal division among believers arose over the question of whether lay persons could own Church property and appoint their own pastors (ca. 1794–1821). In an effort to heal the rift, Pope Pius VII established the Diocese of Richmond on July 11, 1820. Formed from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Richmond became seventh diocese in the United States.

Parishes were small, far flung, and poor for most of the history of the Richmond Diocese. Developments in transportation (canals, railroads, trolley lines, and automobiles) led to modest growth in the Catholic population. Immigration also contributed to this gradual increase. Various ethnic groups settled in the diocese at different times: French, Irish, Germans, Lebanese (Maronites), Filipinos, Hispanics, Vietnamese, Koreans, and Africans. The Catholic Church experienced growth spurts in northern Virginia and Tidewater as the federal government and military expanded when the United States entered World War I (1917) and World War II (1941), and during the Cold War (1946–1989).

African Americans experienced even greater hardships as Catholics than other members of the Church. The first African slaves in Virginia were likely baptized Catholics (1619). Following the Civil War (1861–1865), the Church took steps to evangelize freed slaves and established separate parishes and schools for black Catholics (ca. 1865–1965). They often endured ridicule from black Protestants and prejudice within the Catholic Church. Most black parishes were closed during the civil rights era to integrate parishes (1961–1970), but many African Americans opposed the loss of their distinctive communities.

The relatively small Catholic population in the Richmond Diocese has been spread out over a territory that remained vast even as its boundaries were altered several times (1850, 1868, 1974). Virginia has long been a mission field, as far back as the official prohibition against Catholicism (1607–1786). Even after religious freedom was established in the commonwealth, many Catholics continued to face bigotry and suspicion. They gradually gained social acceptance by accommodating their religion to Protestant surroundings; by advancing professionally, helped by Catholic education; by fighting in their country's wars; and by carrying out charitable works. The diocese is still missionary country, however, since Catholics are now also a minority that lives in a secular culture with diminished religious practice. The clerical abuse scandal (2002, 2018) has also damaged the Church's credibility.

Thirteen bishops have governed the Church of Richmond over the course of its two-hundred-year history. Today, the diocese includes 200,000 Catholics (who make up five percent of the total population), 191 priests, 161 deacons, 139 parishes, and 30 schools.

The bicentennial of this local Church (1820–2020) is a testament to the perseverance of Catholics in Virginia. Despite adversity and failures, they have practiced their faith and helped to improve their society.

*A more complete narrative of the Richmond Diocese, Sowing Faith in a Catholic Frontier: Condensed History of the Diocese of Richmond, is available at [2020.richmonddiocese.org](http://2020.richmonddiocese.org).*