

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

December 3rd & 4th

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Mass Times:

Saturdays at 5:30pm

Sundays at 10:45am

Join us after 10:45 mass for
refreshments & fellowship.

Holy Hour ~

St. Patrick: After mass on the
3rd Sunday of each month

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear people of God,

After a wonderful family reunion of Thanksgiving, in a few days, the church celebrates the Feast of the **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. This is a doctrine of the belief that Mary the mother of Jesus was graced by God in such a way that she was preserved from the stain of sin from the first moment of her existence. *Immaculate* refers to the absence of sin due to the fact that she was preserved from original sin, and *Conception* refers to Mary's very beginning of life as a human person in her mother's womb. It therefore points to God's graciousness to her as she came into the world full of grace. Belief in Mary's original sinlessness celebrates God's victory over the powers of sin as this woman comes into the world. It is fitting that she should receive God's free abundant grace because of her role as the faith-filled mother of Jesus who is God, and it symbolizes the good news that in the life of every human being, grace is more original than sin. The biblical texts implicitly supporting the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception are: a) the angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary at the annunciation as "full of grace" already (Lk. 1:28); ii) Elizabeth's tribute to Mary as "blessed are you among women" (Lk. 1:42) and iii) the promise after the Fall of Adam and Eve that serpent's head would be crushed (Gen. 3:15)

Thus, the renowned biblical scholar R.E. Brown states that by the Immaculate Conception, "Mary receives a primacy in a privilege that all disciples of Jesus receive. In Christian faith we are delivered through baptism from original sin..We Roman Catholics believe that Mary was conceived free of original sin – a preparation by God for the sinlessness of Jesus who would take flesh in her womb....the immaculate conception says by anticipation the grace of Christ's redemption was given first to Mary as the first Christian disciple even from the time of her conception, since she is the only human person in history of salvation who has been immaculately conceived."

Pope Pius IX therefore declared: "*the dogma that holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her*

conception, by a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, was kept free of every stain of original sin." The three things noted in this definition are: the nature of Mary's privilege, the ground of the privilege and the mode of preservation.

Mary's holiness as deduced from this privilege should encourage us to seek her help and protection in our continual effort to overcome sin and sanctify our lives by responding positively to the promptings of the Holy Spirit so as to live as our baptism requires, and to entrust our striving for holiness to the all-holy Virgin. Since it is a holyday of obligation, kindly attend mass to receive maternal blessings from the Blessed Mother as she intercedes for us. - Fr. Maxwell



Feast of the Immaculate Conception,
Thursday December 8th

Patron Saint of the USA.

This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

The Masses for this feast are:

Saint Patrick 6:00 PM, Saint John 9am,

Saint Peter at 12:05 PM, and

Saint John 7:00 PM (Bilingual)

News & Announcements:

Volunteers Needed:

Many hands make light work! Please come to help decorate our beautiful church on Tuesday, **December 20th, at 5:00 p.m.** Pizza supper will be provided.

Let Jane Murphy know if you plan to come - 804-441-4075.

CANDLELIGHT VESPERS & CAROLS

Please join us for Solemn Advent Vespers on **Friday December 9 at 6:30pm at St. Patrick's Church.** After the service, we will enjoy refreshments before joining the Church Hill Association Candlelight Walk to Libby Hill Park for Christmas caroling!

SAVE THE DATE

Installation Mass of our Pastor Fr. Maxwell, on Saturday, December 17, at 5:30 PM at St. John's. Celebrated by Bishop Knestout. Please come and join our pastor for this wonderful celebration. Everyone is welcome. After the Mass, there will be a celebration in the social hall. R.S.V.P for the reception by 12/12 at 804-737-8028 or email us.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Box of Joy campaign. Between St. Patrick's and St. John's we sent 168 boxes to the poorest of the poor children of Central America. Additionally, any extra funds will help to support the Cross Ministry priests and religious as they lend support to the poor people of these areas all throughout the year.

COLLECTION ENVELOPES 2023

Attention parishioners, we are ordering offering envelopes for 2023. Please let us know if you are not interested in receiving a set of envelopes this year. Remember there is an easy way to make your donations without having to remember to write a check. Use e-giving, it is easy, secure and convenient. Just visit our webpage at stjohnscatholicchurch.org, click the e-giving logo and follow the prompts or call the office.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT:

Our Annual Christmas Concert will be held on December 4th, 2022, at 3:00pm in the sanctuary of St. John's Catholic Church.

All are invited to attend!

Please bring a donation of non-perishable foods, personal hygiene goods, or new baby items.

Questions? Please email Katie at musicministerkate@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Mark your Calendars:

Our annual Santa Breakfast will be on December 11th after mass.

Christmas Flowers Envelope

Don't forget to use your Christmas Flowers Envelope in memory or honor of a loved one. They are included in your envelope box for the year or available in the back of the church.

WEEKLY COLLECTION – 11/26th and 27th

Weekly

Actual	\$2,944.55
Budget	<u>\$4,139.00</u> (\$1,194.45)

Year to date

Actual	\$71,101.52
Budget	<u>\$91,058.00</u> (\$19,956.48)

Note: Actual totals include weekly collection and E-giving

MASS ATTENDANCE: 11/26: 38 11/27: 92

Saint Patrick depends upon your generosity. These walls, built by generations past, now need you to nurture them. Give what you can. No amount is too small. E-Giving makes it easy. Visit www.saintpatrickchurchhill.org and click on the logo.

Contact & Follow us at:

Office: office@saintpatrickchurchhill.org

Father Maxwell - Pastor:
frmaxwell@stpeterchurch1834.org

Father Nick – Parochial Vicar:
frnickredmond@saintpatrickchurchhill.org

Katie Goodloe – Music Minister:
musicministerkate@gmail.com

Michelle Dawson – Wedding Coordinator: mjmvcu@aol.com

Donna Baird – Religious Education Coordinator:
donnahbaird@yahoo.com

Mitzi Mead – Coordinator of Baptisms
mmead@acelaconsulting.com

Eddie Baird – Social Ministry: donnahbaird@yahoo.com

Paulita Matheny – Pastoral Associate & Director of Religious Education: Pmatheny@stjohnscatholicchurch.org

Fred Powell – RCIA Catechist: fmpjr2009@aol.com

Ryland Paxton – RCIA Coordinator:
Paxtonrl8229@marybaldwin.edu

Paul Mazur – K of C: prmazur@gmail.com

SPC Emergency # 804-402-1221:

If someone is dying or has died & You would like to talk to a Priest, please call.

Mailing address: St. Patrick's Church
813 West Nine Mile Road,
Highland Springs, VA 23075