

# Saint Patrick Catholic Church

July 29 & 30th, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time



## Mass Times:

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

Holy Hour: After mass on  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month

Sharing Sunday ~ Our next  
Sharing Sunday will be August 6<sup>th</sup>

## Message from Our Pastor

**\*I am interested in expanding the members of the pastoral council over the next few months, if you have an interest in representing the parish in the area of pastoral action, please contact me directly: [bcapuano@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:bcapuano@richmonddiocese.org). Maybe a gathering over a meal might facilitate some conversation and reflection, as I take time to get to know the communities.\***

Last week, we spoke about weeds in our lives and a practical way to begin to address them. As we all know, the “anxieties of the day” can be very time-consuming, and “peace” can be elusive.

This week we are confronted with another “hard saying” in the parable of the treasure lost in the field. First, we see that the Lord is presenting an image of the thing that can barely be put into words. What is “the kingdom of heaven?” We have popular notions of it flying around in our heads, often involving clouds, Saint Peter and a set of gates, a good and bad checklist, this is just the popular imagery, never-mind what we find in the Book of Revelation.

A key to figuring out what the kingdom of heaven is may be found at the end of the image: “out of joy [the person] goes and sells all that he has and buys the field.” This should suggest to us that the kingdom of God is something that fills you in such a way that everything else falls away, the world looks different around you, your priorities shift, your perspectives on the past changes.

Notice in the image that the person “finds” the “treasure buried in a field.” We can interpret this

as *gift*. The kingdom of Heaven is not taken, stolen, purchased through merit, it is not embraced by you living your life, but expecting someone else to pray you into it. It is not claimed simply because someone had water splashed on their head or they grew up in an historic church, or went to a famed Catholic school. Finding the kingdom of heaven is like looking up from a book in a coffee shop and noticing your “soulmate” walk through the door. I once met a couple who said that happened to them, they were married a week after the encounter and were married over 70 years.

There is another consideration in this short passage: the person finds and then “hides again” the treasure that was discovered. The “Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God” (*Deuteronomy 4: 23-24*), in that He wants you to be attached to His Heart. He created the world so that you could exist in it. In turn, you and I are to offer our hearts to Him and guard that love as the most precious thing we could offer in all of existence.

Do you want the peace that leads to joy in finding the gift of the kingdom of Heaven? Do you want that indescribable joy? If you want that, then you must provide time for silence, so that you can learn to hear. You must be willing to be bold enough to ask the Lord what is missing in your faith, and be prepared to allow the Lord to begin to speak into your life.

Please be assured of my prayers this week.

Fr. Capuano

# News & Announcements

## Donations for Veterans

This is the last weekend (7/29) we will be collecting items for inpatient Polytrauma Unit at the Central VA Veterans Healthcare System. This unit provides rehabilitation for patients with brain injuries, strokes, amputees and polytrauma (meaning multiple injuries). Both active-duty military and veteran population are seen on this unit. Patients on this unit enjoy having coffee and could use the following items. K cups- both regular and decaf and a few teas or hot chocolate, sugar packets (are better to control the amount), creamer (powder), Coffee cups (with and without lids in 12oz and 16 oz). A donation box will be downstairs in the church hall for all donations. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Dawson at [mjmvvcu@aol.com](mailto:mjmvvcu@aol.com). Thank you in advance.

## Religious Education for 2023/2024

It's time to register your children for Religious Education for 2023/2024. Classes are for students from kindergarten through high school.

If your child is preparing for **First Reconciliation/First Eucharist or Confirmation**, full participation in St. Patrick's Religious Education is required including attendance at all scheduled classes and as well as weekly mass.

Classes will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 on Sunday mornings before 10:45 mass. Please contact Donna at [donnabaird@yahoo.com](mailto:donnabaird@yahoo.com) or speak with her after Sunday mass. If you are interested in teaching, please contact Donna as well. Looking forward to another great year!

## The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a journey for Welcoming Adult newcomers (inquires) into the Roman Catholic Church. RCIA is for adults who, after having their hearts opened to conversion and faith by the Holy Spirit, seek to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church. The RCIA process assists them in becoming full, conscious, active, and ongoing participants in a life with Christ and His Church. RCIA welcomes those who are not baptized, those who are baptized in another Christian tradition and those who are baptized Catholic but never received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. An RCIA class will be starting at SPC on September 10th. Anyone interested is welcome to join the class. Adults wishing to learn more should contact Fred Powell or Ryland Paxton before September 10<sup>th</sup>.



## WEEKLY COLLECTION – July 22nd & 23rd, 2023

	<u>Weekly</u>
Actual	\$2,673.55
Budget	<u>\$3,747.00</u>
	(\$1,073.45)
	<u>Year to date</u>
Actual	\$13,924.15
Budget	<u>\$14,988.00</u>
	(\$1,063.85)

Note: Actual totals include weekly collection and E-giving

**MASS ATTENDANCE: 7/22: 40 7/23: 93**

## Contact & follow us at:

**Office:** [office@saintpatrickchurchhill.org](mailto:office@saintpatrickchurchhill.org)

**Father Capuano - Pastor:**

[bcapuano@richmonddioocese.org](mailto:bcapuano@richmonddioocese.org).

**Father Nick – Parochial Vicar:**

[frnickredmond@saintpatrickchurchhill.org](mailto:frnickredmond@saintpatrickchurchhill.org)

**Katie Goodloe – Music Minister:**

[musicministerkate@gmail.com](mailto:musicministerkate@gmail.com)

**Michelle Dawson – Wedding Coordinator:**

[mjmvvcu@aol.com](mailto:mjmvvcu@aol.com)

**Donna Baird – Religious Education Coordinator:**

[donnabaird@yahoo.com](mailto:donnabaird@yahoo.com)

**Mitzi Mead – Coordinator of Baptisms**

[mmead@acelaconsulting.com](mailto:mmead@acelaconsulting.com)

**Eddie Baird – Social Ministry:**

[donnabaird@yahoo.com](mailto:donnabaird@yahoo.com)

**Paulita Matheny – Pastoral Associate & Director of Religious Education:**

[Pmatheny@stjohnscatholicchurch.org](mailto:Pmatheny@stjohnscatholicchurch.org)

**Fred Powell – RCIA Catechist:**

[fmpjr2009@aol.com](mailto:fmpjr2009@aol.com)

**Ryland Paxton – RCIA Coordinator:**

[Paxtonrl8229@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:Paxtonrl8229@marybaldwin.edu)

**Paul Mazur – K of C:** [prmazur@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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Highland Springs, VA 23075