

# Saint Patrick Catholic Church

December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023



## First Sunday of Advent

### 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 - January 7<sup>th</sup>

## Message from Our Pastor

*St. Paul says to the Corinthians in the second reading: "as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ." Do you do that? I think, most days, I try to simply "survive" the day. If we are "awaiting" we have bags packed, not actively looking for "the bus to pick us up," as if we were standing still, but "dynamically living," engaged, hopefully, expectant...not just surviving.*

*This week, I challenge you to "see" how you are simply "surviving." Gather that up before the "eyes of your heart," offer it to the Lord at the foot of the Cross and repent of having an unhealthy self-reliance. Maybe ask the Lord for the gift of trust this week to be able to rely more deliberately upon Him and not your own resources.*

*Please be assured of my prayers.*

*Fr. Capuano*

## News & Announcements

**ST. PATRICK CHURCH  
PRESENTS:**

*Wednesday Advent Reflections*  
(and tapas)

Each Wednesday during Advent, St. Patrick's welcomes you, your family, and your friends to join us for a time of prayer and reflection.

*Sung Vespers Prayer*

6 - 6:30 pm

Vespers is a meditative prayer service consisting of two psalms and a hymn. It is a great opportunity to wind down and recenter mid-week during this busy time of year. Virginia Tilley will serve as cantor and soloist.

*All-Ages Advent Reflection* (and tapas)

6:30 - 7:30 pm We will review a Gospel reading each week, and discuss how it impacts our everyday lives. Related coloring pages and crayons will be provided.

Weekly Reflection Themes:

- Dec 6 - Peace (Psalm 23)
- Dec 13 - Joy (St. Luke 1:39-47)
- Dec 20 - Love (St. Luke 1:26-38)

Bring an appetizer, tapa, or beverage to share. We will be meeting downstairs in the church hall. If you are attending Vespers, you can drop it off beforehand.

St. Patrick Church  
215 N. 25th St. Richmond, VA 23223

**GIVING TUESDAY:** Thank you to all who supported our Giving Tuesday campaign! You helped us raise \$965.00. Your support will contribute to the ongoing success of our mission and enhance the well-being of those we serve.

## Annual Christmas Concert

Join our Music Minister Katie Goodloe & performers on December 3 at 3pm at St. Johns for our Lessons and Carols Christmas Concert. The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects the lesson's message, and a brief prayer. Please bring a donation of non-perishable foods, personal hygiene goods, or new baby items.

## CHURCH HILL HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR:

After Mass on Sunday, December 10th, we will be opening our doors to the greater community as part of the Church Hill Holiday House Tour from 12pm-5pm. This is an exciting opportunity to share the history and welcoming aesthetic of our cozy parish. With that said, we are looking for volunteers to help with refreshments during the event and the donation of prepared Holiday baked goods. Please sign-up downstairs after mass if you can help with either of these requests. Baked good donation drop offs can be made day of or on Saturday, December 9th between 3-5pm. Thank you and God Bless!

**Finances:** You may or may not have noticed the weekly deficit to the budget. All three parishes rely on one another to ensure that we can manage costs, support staff, and keep doors open. **St. Patrick is lagging behind and not pulling its weight.** Without your generosity, we are not in a place to be able to keep the Church accessible to the faithful. Moving forward, we cannot assume that the Irish Festival contributions will continue. While the Festival is not going anywhere anytime soon, we cannot assume they will always have funding to support the parish and our various needs. **We need to support ourselves.** Recently the ice machine broke down, I do not have funding to fix it or replace it and we have had additional maintenance costs in other areas of the building. Without consistent commitments to the parish general offertory, we will be forced to pull funds from our endowments – this is not sustainable long-term. Please consider making a regular contribution to the general offertory through E-Giving. If you are already doing so, thank you for your generosity. Without our combined sacrifices, I will have to consider cutting efforts to grow the parish and will be forced to slow efforts to support needed restoration and maintenance of the buildings. For those not contributing anything, why not? For those who have made a commitment to E-Giving, have you reviewed your contribution? At one point in the past, I didn't review my own contributions to the Church for ten years, I could have been making adjustments for change in pay and inflation. If you don't regularly attend St. Patrick, but consider it home, please consider making a regular contribution to ensure we can keep this little parish open in the city. Thank you in advance

for your prayerful generosity and continued support of the parish. - Fr. Capuano

**Stained Glass Window Update**

We've finally received an update regarding the stained-glass windows. Two proposals have been offered: 1) maintain and provide new covers, without completing restoration of the last of the windows: \$98,844 – this is pretty reasonable in my experience; 2) Complete new covers to all windows, finish restoration of remaining windows: \$207,804. Please let me know your thoughts and concerns. At present, we can hold the project, but it will need to be addressed at some point in the next couple of years. – Fr. Capuano



**WEEKLY COLLECTION**  
**November 25 & 26<sup>th</sup> 2023**

	<u>Weekly</u>
Actual	\$3,162.55
Budget	<u>\$3,147.00</u>
	\$15.55

	<u>Year to date</u>
Actual	\$75,846.44
Budget	<u>\$82,434.00</u>
	(\$6,587.56)

**Mass Attendance:**  
**11/25: 26    11/26: 88**

**Note: Actual totals include weekly collection and E-giving**

**Holy Day Schedule for Saint Patrick for December and January**

As you are aware, the celebration of Advent and Christmas poses some unique challenges for us this year, since the fourth Sunday of Advent is on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. To that end and given the limitation of our priests and guest celebrants, we have a modified liturgical schedule for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. Please note that Catholics are obligated to attend Holy Mass on Sunday and all Holy Days. So don't plan on coming on Christmas only to the exclusion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent!

**Friday, December 8 – (Holy Day of Obligation) Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**  
6:00 PM Mass (St. Patrick)

**Saturday, December 9:** Confessions from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at St. Patrick

**Wednesday, December 14:** Confessions from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at St. Patrick

**Saturday, December 23 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent.** 5:30 PM Mass at St. Patrick

**Sunday, December 24 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
10:45 AM Mass at St. Patrick.

**Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**  
4:00 PM Mass at St. Patrick.

**Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day**  
**MIDNIGHT Mass at St. Patrick**  
10:45 AM Mass at St. Patrick

**Monday, January 1,**  
**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**  
**Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year**  
10:00 AM Mass at St. Patrick

**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 to a Priest, please call.

**Mailing address: St. Patrick's Church**  
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Highland Springs, VA 23075  
**Office Phone # 804-737-8028**