

# Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church

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September 1, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

Thank you for all you have been doing to support your church, especially during these trying times of COVID-19. There are so many activities that keep one busy in life; raising children, working, practicing your faith, enjoying retirement. No matter where you are in the cycle of life, you have had to create a new "normal" this year that has changed everything you do and the way you do it. It is no longer possible to be a creature of habit, but we find that we must be one of adaptability. You are HEROES!

Thirty-four years ago, Sts. Peter and Paul Church originated out of a group of Catholics who lived in Lake Monticello but worshipped at Catholic churches in Charlottesville, Columbia, Gordonsville, and Scottsville. They talked about becoming a separate Catholic community in Palmyra and persuaded Fr. John T. Cummings, pastor of St. Joseph's of Columbia, to come to the Lake, with the Bishop's permission, to offer Mass for the Catholics there. And so it began.

The year 2026 will be a landmark year for us. We will be celebrating 40 years of our existence as a parish.

We should all be so grateful to God for all we have achieved - from celebrating Mass in private homes in Lake Monticello as early as 1985 and sharing a building on Saturdays at Effort Baptist Church to the dedication of our own building in 1990. We have since added on to the original building with our beautiful sanctuary, our cemetery, and our Parish Hall. We have been blessed by the many parishioners who have shared their time, talent and treasure to make all that we have possible. So many sacraments celebrated within the walls of this church and several priests who have led us every step of the way. Countless meals served to parishioners and community members for many occasions; not to mention all of the Game Days, Operas, Yard Sales, Golf Tournaments, Craft Fairs, etc. that bolsters this church's ability to be able to spread the word and works of Jesus. All who have shared in the making of its history bless Sts. Peter and Paul Church.

Over the next five years, we will recognize the milestones of forty years of Sts. Peter and Paul Church. We began as a mission of St. Joseph's/Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel, in Columbia, VA. Now look at us! We have grown from 25 families to over 350 active families; collections that have grown from \$800 a month to over \$22,000 a month; and we are still growing. We have a small parish staff but over 20 ministries that help to support the church through various works. Kelly Tatum was the first baptism celebrated here in November 1985. In April of 1986, Jeffrey Fitzgerald received his First Communion. Who knows what else we can chart by the time we reach forty.

As we journey into the future, we will strive to better define our needs spiritually, educationally, and administratively. We need to have a clear vision of where we are and where we want to be by the year 2026. This takes dedication from many people. I am your pastor but it cannot be done by me alone. I will be reaching out to the Deacons, council members, ministry leads, staff and parishioners alike. We are a family, a community, and we serve best when we serve together.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ssentamu', written over a horizontal line.

Rev. David Ssentamu  
Pastor