

St. Joseph's Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel



STS. PETER & PAUL PARISH 4309 Thomas Jefferson Parkway Palmyra, VA 22963

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm **p:** 434.589.5201 parish office **f:** 434.589.4463 **e:** office @saintspeterpaul.org

pastor@saintspeterpaul.org karen.davidson@saintspeterpaul.org

w: saintspeterpaulpalmyra.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekends Saturday 5pm: SPP Sunday 9am: St. Joseph's 11am: SPP

Weekdays Wednesday-Friday 9am: SPP Thursdays 5pm: St. Joseph's

Holy Days Vigil 7pm: SPP Holy Day 9am: St. Joseph's Noon: SPP

Confession Saturday 4pm: SPP Sunday 8:30 am: St. Joseph

(or by appointment)

Hospital Visits: Call Parish Office Or Rectory: 434.589.5200

Homebound: Call Parish Office to schedule Communion

December 19, 2021

OUR VISION

To expand and strengthen the Christian Community in which the Gospel of Jesus Christ is demonstrated and fulfilled.

OUR MISSION

In the spirit of our patron saints and missionaries, we commit ourselves to a pilgrimage of faith through Evangelization, Sanctification and Social Service ministries.

ST. JOSEPH'S SHRINE OF

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL P.O. Box 808

Serve

28 Cameron Street Columbia, VA 23038 p: 434.842.3970



<image><section-header>

Evangelize

Sanctify

WELCOME



ADMINISTRATION Pastoral Council Chair Doug Mullinex, 434-989-2667 Finance Council Chair Marlene Weaver, 434.589.2062 **Buildings and Grounds** Rich Scampoli, 434.326.2151 Cemetery Mandy Tolano, 540.595.7173 Parish Life Pat Amato, 434.589.7811 Justice & Peace Mitzi Crane, 434.589.2552 Respect Life David Cauffield, 814.525.0594 Prison Ministry Will Kulick, 540.308.5152 Good Shepherds Frank Feliciano, 434.242.0735 LITURGY & WORSHIP Director of Music Sid D'Amico, 434.996.4325 Ushers Eddie Griffin, 434.996.6008 Lectors Cynthia Aycock, 434.996.6065 **Extraordinary Ministers** Veronica Lyttle, 434.589.4010 Altar Servers Deacon Bob, 434-589-0941 Sacristv Mary Ann Mason, 434.589.6141 Greeters Rose Meyer, 434.589.5018 **EVANGELIZATION & EDUCATION** CCD/Youth Group John Verga, 434.315.4496 RCIA

Bible Study June Wimer, 434.589.2863 Celeste Shapiola, 434.981.1405 SUPPORTED GROUPS

Cursillo Ellie Henrietta, 434.981.3448 Knights of Columbus Scott Harrison, 434.964.6853

Pastor

Rev. David Martin Ssentamu, 434.589.5200 Deacon Rev. Mr. Robert Allen, 434.589.0941 Administrative Assistant Karen Davidson, 434.589.5201 Receptionist Marianne Stewart-Carbocci Custodian Patricia Harrison Whether you are a visitor or new to our parish, interested in becoming Catholic, seeking to return to the practice of your faith, or an active member of our parish, we are pleased that you have come.

Bulletin & Announcements Deadline Fridays-1 week in advance-In writing to karen.davidson@saintspeterpaul.org

Readings for the week of December 19, 2021				
Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45			
Monday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38			
Tuesday:	Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45			
Wednesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56			
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66			
Friday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Ac 13:16-17, 22-25/Ma 1:1-25			
	Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lu 2:1-14			
Saturday:	Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18			
Next Sunday:	1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf.5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21- 24/Lk 2:41-52			
Observances for the week of December 19, 2021				
Sunday:	4th Sunday of Advent			
Monday:				
Tuesday:	St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church			
Wednesday:				
Thursday:	St. John of Kanty, Priest			
Friday:	Christmas Eve			
Saturday:	The Nativity of the Lord			
Next Sunday:	The Holy Family			

DECEMBER 2021

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

BREAD & WINE Donor Diana Mariutto

Memorial

Fred Mariutto

ALTAR FLOWERS

0 Nonc

None during Advent

SANCTUARY CANDLE Donor Dianna Mariutto

Memorial Fred Mariutto







Or have a Mass said for a loved one. Contact the office for availability.



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 19, 2021

God chose to become man to lead us in a path of righteousness. Is God calling you to grow in holiness? He may be inviting you to the priesthood.

Call Father Brian Capuano at 804-359-5661 Or write vocations@richmonddiocese.org





ENCOUNTER

THE EUCHARISTIC YEAR 2022

Merry Christmas and blessed new year 2022!

I invite you dear friends and people of God that we use the year 2022 to refocus our attention on our roots as a church; namely: The Eucharist.

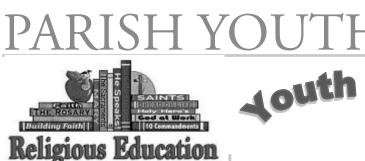
The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC # 1324) quotes Vatican Council II (LG 11), and affirmatively teaches that the Eucharist is the Source and Summit of Christian life. I would like, therefore, to invite you to pay close attention to our source and our life as a church. The Eucharist, containing the whole spiritual good of the Church – Christ himself and our Pasch, must cause in all of us, an exciting and yet intriguing attention. The Church must find itself always going back to its source and its summit to find herself along the fascinating journey leading her and her members to heaven.

I, therefore, invite you, as your Pastor, to a special year 2022 of the Eucharist for our two churches: Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Joseph. A number of spiritual activities to animate us will be communicated soon. I humbly invite each of you to enter the year 2022 with a renewed zeal and confidence in Our Lord Jesus Christ who is truly present: Body, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist.

I once again wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed Eucharistic new year 2022!

Your brother, Fr. David Pastor





For the safety of our children, if you are not attending Mass, you may pick up your child in the Commons in the front of the church before Mass.

NO CCD on 12/19 or 12/26

We are in need of teachers and substitutes to help in classrooms. We are in need of <u>volunteers</u> to help make Youth Group successful. Please prayerfully consider giving your time and talent to help the kids grow in their faith.

Students in Grades 5 through 12 meet on the 3rd Friday of the month.

CONTACT: john.verga@saintspeterpaul.org

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Mary couldn't wait to visit her much older cousin, Elizabeth, up in the hill of Judea. Both of them were expecting babies. Each of them knew that the birth of her child was a special event that could only happen because they trusted God. Your own mother trusted that God would give you life in this world. Both Mary and Elizabeth watched their children grow up to do good things. You can grow up to do good things too, if you trust in God.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, help me to trust you and to remember that you are the reason we celebrate Christmas. Amen.

COME ONE, COME ALL TO A CHRISTMAS CAROL PARTY!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 2:00PM, ST. FRANCIS HALL

Come and enjoy an afternoon of music, stories, cookies, Santa, and fellowship all in one place. Please bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share.





Join Scouting!

Do you have a son or daughter between the ages of 11 and 17? Now is the perfect time to sign him or her up for Scouts. The Scouting program helps youth develop academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership skills, and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives.

For more information contact:

Boy Scouts Troop 138 (boys): Chuck Palmer charleswpalmeriv@gmail.com (571)212-4445

INTENTIONS

MASS INTENTIONS: DECEMBER 18-26, 2021

* Represents Saint Joseph's Parish

Saturday	12/18	5pm	Jerry Brophy D		Michael & Nancy King
Sunday	12/19	9am *	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	12/19	11am	Giovanni & Anna Capuano	D	Jerry & Linda Zink
Wednesday	12/22	9am	Jeanie Bouchard D		Don & Mary Layton
Thursday	12/23	9am	Michael Gleason D [Don & Eileen Tyler
Thursday	12/23	5pm*			
Friday	12/24	9am	Dave Paolantonio	D	Kay Rupert
Friday -Christmas Eve	12/24	4pm	Marge Fusaro	D	Michael & Nancy King
Friday -Christmas Eve	12/24	9pm	George Bockman	D	Gloria Bockman
Saturday - Christmas	12/25	9am *	Allen & Richards Families	D	Dcn. Bob & Susan
Saturday - Christmas	12/25	11am	Misa Pro Populo		
Saturday - vigil	12/25	5pm	No Mass		S
Sunday	12/26	9am *	Ruby and Mac McCown	D	Glenn Showalter
Sunday	12/26	11am	Sweetie Condon	D	John Condon

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All those who serve our country, particularly...

Michael Bohtelo, Devon Burger, Gerard Holodak, Sarah and Taylor Graese, Raymond Markle, Kevin and Kathleen O'Malley, Katie Marron, James Fulford, Rhett Hartwell, Andrew Thompson, Sasha and Lonnie Kuhlow, William Furst, Matt Hendl, Luke Marron, Damien LaForenza, Mark Mason, Russ Marron, Christopher McCarthy, Amanda Illig, Zach Marron, Josiah Noble, Jose Langoria, Joseph Ayuso, Alex Ostrowski, Adam Warren, and Matthew Reinitz.

Pray God keeps them in His care.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Michael Amato, Melissa Bowling, the Compton family, Jean Dalsky, Emily Desgrosiellier, Bill Ellis, Ann Gasparro, Patricia Golgosky, Patrick Granville, Mary Anne Grimes, Phyllis Guthrie, Tom Harrison, Jack Hartwell, Margaret & Edwin Johnson, Ron Johnson, Carolyn Kerrigan, Tom Kinter, Judi Kuhlow, Jackie Kraemer, Marcia Lagomarsino, Bill Lyttle, Patti Markle, Tom Miglas, John Misorek, Irene Nadig, Rose Patterson, Jeanine Polansky, Peggy Powell, Donald Raab, Joel Rivera, Carol Scampoli, Mary Ellen Scango, Carol & Ted Starowicz, Bob Toepfert, Claire van Nierop, Cornelia Waters, Mike Waters and Ellen Stoppe Wenger.

Please call the office at **434.589.5201** for homebound or hospital visits.



December

Wedding Inniversaries

If you are celebrating your Marriage Anniversary in December and would like to be part of the Marriage Blessing at Masses on January 1st & 2nd please contact the office by **Monday, December 20th.**

You can join our Legacy Society by remembering Sts. Peter and Paul in your estate plans. Call the office for more information.



EVERDAY STEWARDSHIP

DECEMBER SCHEDULES SATURDAY 5:00PM

SUNDAY 11:00AM

Date	Lector	EM	Date	Lector	EM
12/18			12/19		
	Pat Amato			Greg Palmer	
	June Wimer	Dianna Campagna		Janet Forster	Janis Duffy
12/24	Christmas Eve - 4 PM		12/25	11 AM Only - 0	Christmas Day
С	Mary Ann Barcia		Ch	Diana George	
hr		Dianna Campagna	hr	Pat Amato	Veronica Lyttle
ist Eve	Christmas Eve	at Night - 9 PM	ıristm Day		
Christmas Eve	Doug Mullinex	Dcn. Bob	∠ ă		
S	Cynthia Aycock	Greg Palmer	as		
12/25	NO 5PM Vigil		12/26		
				Andre Durant	Deacon Bob
				Cynthia Aycock	Greg Palmer

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Pew Count Sat Sun	No new info due to early print			
First Offering	\$			
First Offering: Faith Direct	\$ 1,918			
Total	\$			
MTD Debt Reduction \$ 3,040				
Updated Craft Fair - \$ 6,032				



Throughout the Christmas season, people in need right here in our community turn to Sts. Peter and Paul for help. We must be there for them and share Christ's love. To do that, we need your help.

Your generous online donations are needed now to help sustain Christmas ministries that reflect the promise of God's love. COVID-19 and news of its variants continue to cause upheaval and uncertainty, giving ministries added importance. Your kindness will help families all around us.

We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/ VA249. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. God bless you. The Debt Reduction collection occurs at the

beginning of each month.

Our Next DEBT REDUCTION Collection

is JANUARY 1 & 2.

God bless you for your continued support.

KNOW?

- No reservations are needed this year for Christmas Masses?
- The final Liturgy of the Hours this Advent season is on Monday, December 20th at 9:00am of Facebook?
- The last day for confession before Christmas is Tuesday, December 21st at 6:00pm?

UPCOMING EVENTS

	-							
	Sat	18-Dec	Liturgy of the Hours	9:00a	FB			
			Confession	4:00p	Church			
			Vigil Mass - 4th Sunday of Advent	5:00p	Church			
	Sun		Confession	8:30a	St. Joseph's			
		19-Dec	Mass - 4th Sunday of Advent	9:00a	St. Joseph's			
			RCIA	9:30a	Lounge			
			Mass - 4th Sunday of Advent	11:00a	Church/FB			
			Christmas Carols & Lessons Party	2:00p	E/F			
	Mon	20-Dec	Liturgy of the Hours	9:00a	FB			
			Rejoice! Bible Study	1:00p	E			
ш	Tues	21-Dec	Confession	6:00p	Church			
١L	Wed	22-Dec	Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's			
ED	Office CLOSED 12/23 through 1/2							
H			Mass	9:00a	Church			
ROOM SCHEDULE	Thurs	23-Dec	Mass	5:00p	St. Joseph's			
			Cursillo	6:00p	Off-site			
ŏ	Fri	24-Dec	Mass	9:00a	Church			
œ			Christmas Eve Mass w/ Children	4:00p	Church			
			Christmas Eve Mass at Night	9:00p	Church			
		25-Dec	Christmas Day Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's			
	Sat		Christmas Day Mass	11:00a	Church			
			No Vigil Mass					
	Sun	26-Dec	Confession	8:30a	St. Joseph's			
			Mass - The Holy Family	9:00a	St. Joseph's			
			Mass - The Holy Family	11:00a	Church/FB			
	Room Ledger:		F - St. Francis (Parish Ctr)	R - St. Raphael (Church)				
			E - St. Elizabeth (Parish Ctr)	M - St. Michael (Church)				
			FB - Facebook	C - Commons (Church)				

Rejoice! <u>Bible Study</u> Letter to the Hebrews

Mondays @ 1pm in St. Elizabeth Contact: June Wimer (434-589-2863)



This program provides instruction to unbaptized and non-Catholics who are interested in becoming full members of the Catholic Church. If you, a spouse or a friend is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, direct your inquiries to the office at 434-589-5201.

EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES Sts. Peter and Paul Tuesday Dec. 21, 6 - 7pm



SIGN UP **TO SPEND AN HOUR WITH** JESUS in the Adoration Chapel M - Th, 6am - 8pm

Contact June: Phone: 434-589-2863 Email: wimer2001@yahoo.com

GENERATE DONATIONS ALL YEAR WHILE SHOPPING THROUGH AMAZON

Whenever you shop deals at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of its proceeds to Sts. Peter and Paul Church.



Here's how: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1570812

FIRST EVER MEMORY ALBUM **OF STS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH**

Many exciting things are happening as we prepare for our 40th Anniversary, and there is so much history to honor!

In continued preparation for our 2026 Celebration, we invite you to share your special thoughts and memories about Sts. Peter & Paul Church. What is your first recollection? When did you arrive? Who was our Pastor at that time? What significant experiences here hold a special place in your heart?

Our goal is to create an archive of your presence in our parish family for today and for future generations. If you have something to share with us, please contact Eileen or Tim Monahan at emttouch@gmail.com.

Thank you for your participation in this fun, memorable journey!





Wednesdays from 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Parish Hall - Room 122 Library

Our next 13-week session starts on Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Grief Share is a Bible-based ministry for those who have lost a loved one. This 13-week program offers video presentations, workbook exercises and group discussions guided by lay ministers. There is a \$20 fee for workbooks.

Please contact Cynthia Aycock at 434.996.6065 or Cynthia.b.aycock@gmail.com.



lanning 2022 Golf Tournament and Awards **Dinner**: For the past 16 years, Maggie and I have organized the annual Saints Peter & Paul Golf Tournament and Awards Dinner. We

believe it is now time for a change of hands, and perhaps, new ideas for this annual fund raising event. It is vital this **Icome & Good Luck** source of additional financial revenue be continued to both benefit our church, and also a chance to enjoy a day of fun with family and friends. If anyone is interested in assuming this responsibility, please contact us at 434.589.4551 and we will explain the planning procedure, provide all instructions, checklists, be available for any assistance, etc. Please consider volunteering to assume

this role, as planning and scheduling need to begin soon. Jim Cullinan, Golf Chairperson





Thank you to all who gave selflessly of themselves this Christmas to bring joy to someone less fortunate this year. God bless.



'Tis the Season for Potlucks

Why are we concerned about keeping potluck meals safe?

Potlucks are popular during the holiday season and are aa great way to share recipes. Preparing foods safely keeps potlucks fun by reducing the risk of foodborne illness.

How can I make sure the food I bring to a potluck is safe?

- **Thaw frozen foods safely -** Thaw food in the refrigerator, under cold running water, or in the microwave.
- Keep clean during preparation Use warm, soapy water to wash hands before preparing food, after handling raw meat or eggs, sneezing/coughing, using the bathroom, changing diapers, or handling pets. Clean surfaces with hot, soapy water. Use separate utensils and plates when handling and preparing raw meat or eggs.
- **Cook meats thoroughly** Use a meat thermometer to ensure pork is cooked to at least 145°F (degrees Fahrenheit), red meats to at least 160°F, and poultry to 165°F. Never partially cook raw meats to warm later.
- **Transport foods safely**—Use ice packs to keep cold foods at or below 40°F. If you cook a casserole at home, take it straight from the oven and either place it in an insulated bag or wrap it in several layers of foil followed by newspaper and a towel. If you can't serve it as soon as you arrive, return it to the oven.
- **Serve it safely** Always serve with clean utensils. Never leave perishable food out of the refrigerator for more than 2 hours. Keep cold foods cold (keep on ice) and hot foods hot (use warming trays or a crockpot) when serving.

For more information go to: www.foodsafety.gov



Deacon Bob and his wife, Susan, invite you to join them on Saturdays & Mondays through December 20th at 9am on Facebook for Liturgy of the Hours



"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

Ask Mary to intercede for your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences are:

> January 28 - 30, 2022 in North Myrtle Beach, SC

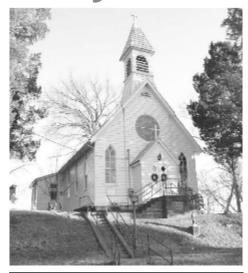
February 7 - 28, 2022 in

Chantilly, VA

Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at:

https://renewmarriage-vasouth.org/

ST. JOSEPH'S Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel



28 Cameron Street Washington & Cameron Street P.O. Box 808 Columbia, VA 23038

p: 434.842.3970 e: pastor@saintspeterpaul.org w:saintjosephcolumbia.org

ADMINISTRATION

Pastoral Council Chair Debbie Blackburn, 804.815.3737

Finance Council Chair Pat Morse, 434.589.4106 LITURGY & WORSHIP

Director of Music

Denny Barberio, 434.981.0678 **Refreshment Committee**

Pat Morse, 434.589.4106

Ushers Marvin Jackson Carroll Morse, 434.589.4106

Lectors Jo Hardy, 434.989.2609

Extraordinary Ministers Danielle Murphy, 703.969.2123

Altar Servers Michael Cary, 434.842.3095 Melissa Kenny, 434.589.3416

FORMATION & EDUCATION

CCD Celeste Shapiola, 434.981.1405 **Prison Ministry** Will Kulick, 540.308.5152

Knights of Columbus

Roundtable Chairman Denny Barberio, 434.981.0678 Ladies Auxiliary

Danielle Murphy, 703.969.2123

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

©LPi

If you have pictures or ministry information to add to St. Joseph's website, please email Melissa at: <u>kenneymg@gmail.com</u> If you would like to honor a loved one by having a Mass said for them, contact the office at Sts. Peter and Paul at 434.589.5201 to arrange an available date.

December

Wedding *Anniversaries*

If you are celebrating your Marriage Anniversary in December and would like to be part of the Marriage Blessing at Mass on Sunday, January 2nd please contact the office by **Monday, December 20th.**

10 | ST. JOSEPH'S/SHRINE OF ST. KATHARINE DREXEL



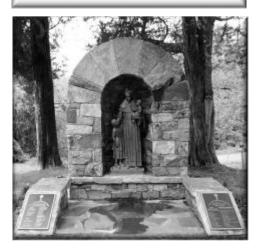
St. Katharine Drexel

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Bradford Barrows * Maria Correa * Nona Dooley * Alice Galvez-Sobral * Mauricio Granados * India Martin * Bill Miller * Pat Morse * Angelica Motta * Odila Motta * Oscar Motta * Thelma Motta * Denise Pillar * Bill Servais * Jordan Watkins * Diane Wolfe *

If you or anyone you know is homebound or needs to be added to our parish sick list, please fill out the short form on our parish's "Pray for Our Sick" page. If you'd like to join our parish email list to keep up with our parish and the needs of our parishioners, please sign up on our parish website:

http://www.saintjosephcolumbia.org/



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP -RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi





<u>CCD</u>

CCD classes meet each Sunday after Mass. Registration forms are available

in the Parish Hall. For more info, please contact Celeste Shapiola.

No Class 12/19 & 12/26

cshapiola@yahoo.com or call 434-981-1405

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

November 28th	\$ 1,323
December 5th	\$ 3 <i>,</i> 591
Georgia Wells	\$ 50
Soup Sale	\$ 166
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 115
Poor Box	\$ 47
Votives	\$6

Many thanks to All for your support!



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