

December 24, 2023

"The Eucharist - Our Life, Our Hope!"



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

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
28 Cameron Street
Columbia, VA 23038
p: 434.589.5201

Celebrating 140 years!

e: pastor@saintspeterpaul.org

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKENDS

Saturday 5pm: SPP

Sunday 9am: St. Joseph's

11am: SPP

WEEKDAYS

Wednesday-Friday 9am: SPP

HOLY DAYS

Vigil 7pm: SPP

Holy Day 9am: St. Joseph's

Noon: SPP

CONFESSION

Saturday 4pm: SPP

Sunday 8:30 am: St. Joseph's
(or by appointment)

HOSPITAL VISITS:

Call Parish Office
or Rectory: 434.589.5200

HOMEBOUND:

Call Parish Office
to schedule Communion

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

"BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED
THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO YOU BY THE LORD
WOULD BE FULFILLED."

—LUKE 1:45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

EVANGELIZE

SANCTIFY

SERVE

WELCOME



ADMINISTRATION

PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR

Doug Mullinex | 434.981.6950

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR

Steve Momper | 434.977.5453

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Charles Nicholson | 434.365.9712

CEMETERY

Mandy Tolano | 540.595.7173

PARISH LIFE

JUSTICE & PEACE

Mitzi Crane | 434.589.2552

RESPECT LIFE

David Cauffield | 814.525.0594

PRISON MINISTRY

Will Kulick | 540.308.5152

GOOD SHEPHERDS

Patricia Travers | 434.953.5432

PARISH NURSE

Catherine Heffley | 757.813.1992

LITURGY & WORSHIP

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Sid D'Amico | 434.996.4325

USHERS

Frank Pilk | 571.239.3373

LECTORS

Cynthia Aycock | 434.996.6065

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Dianna Campagna | 434.286.3665

ALTAR SERVERS

Nicole Amato | 434.589.7987

SACRISTY

Mary Ann Mason | 434.589.6141

GREETERS

Rose Meyer | 434.589.5018

EVANGELIZATION & EDUCATION

CCD/YOUTH GROUP

Christina Nealy | 434.589.5201

RCIA/BIBLE STUDY

Cynthia Aycock | 434.996.6065

SUPPORTED GROUPS

CURSILLO

Ellie Henrietta | 434.981.3551

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Doug Mullinex | 434.981.6950

PASTOR

Rev. David M. Ssentamu | 434.589.5200

DEACON

Rev. Mr. Robert Allen | 434.589.0941

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Karen Davidson | 434.589.5201

FAITH FORMATION

Christina Nealy | 434.589.5201

BULLETIN & ANNOUNCEMENTS DEADLINE

Fridays-1 week in advance-In writing to

karen.davidson@saintspeterpaul.org



Welcome

welcome

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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2023

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6,
11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 **Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3,
3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/
Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or
Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb
11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2023

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

Monday: The Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Wednesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Thursday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Friday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

Saturday:

Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve

DECEMBER 2023

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

BREAD & WINE IN MEMORY OF

O'Reilly &
Lyttle Families

DONOR

Bill & Veronica Lyttle

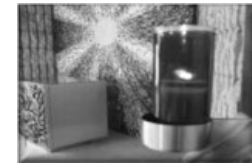


SANCTUARY CANDLE IN MEMORY OF

Fred Mariutto

DONOR

Diana Mariutto



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



From the desk of Fr. David



Merry Christmas!

One time we are going to miss the moments, events and indeed those individuals and persons sometimes we take for granted. It is therefore paramount to cherish all these for they are God’s blessings to us and they are passing swiftly.

It is a big temptation to think of that spouse, those parents, that child of yours, the opportunity we have celebrating Christmas, yes, even the privilege that the Lord grants us here on earth to celebrate the Eucharist as forever and taking all these for granted.

Whenever we come to this time of the year, I am led to look back at all those events, moments and people that have impacted my life and ministry, and I am led to give thanks to God. After Christmas, I will be on a plane going home to Uganda. I plan to give a big and deep hug to my mother and my father, and I intend to tell them how I love them. I want them to feel it this time that I really love them. And as I celebrate Christmas Masses once again this year (thanks be to God,) I will also thank God for each one of you who has impacted my life and has helped me to become a better priest and shepherd than last year. And I thank each of you for a blessing you’ve been to Jesus’ Mission among you, and through me.

Our Apostolate this year is once again focusing on the Eucharist. And as we celebrate Christmas this year, we have got to take a leap and get to realize that the one lying in the manger, that feeding trough for those animals, is the Eucharistic Jesus readying himself to feed us along the journey leading up to heaven. He is the ‘hay’ being prepared to give you and me the Eucharistic life. And so, the hope that had been lost because of the hunger of sin is once again restored to us as we gaze on the little one lying in the manger in place of the hay. Indeed, we are right to exclaim as God’s people on the journey: **“The Eucharist – Our Life, Our Hope”**.

In a spirit of gratitude, dear brothers and sisters, may we all be re-invigorated once more as we draw life from our Eucharistic Jesus born to us.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Your brother on the journey,
Fr. David



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2023

“Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.”

Consider following Christ more closely as a priest or in consecrated life. Talk to your priest or reach out to the

Office of Vocations at:

804-359-5661

Or email

vocations@richmonddiocese.org

PARISH YOUTH



Religious Education
CCD/RCIA classes resume on
January 7th, 2024

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Mary and Joseph put all their trust in God. Once they found out what God wanted, they did it. God wanted Mary to have a special baby, and she said “yes” to God. God wanted Joseph to be a good husband and father, and Joseph said “yes” to God. When that special baby from God was finally born, Joseph named him Jesus. One day God would ask

Jesus to save the world from sin on the cross, and Jesus would say “yes” to God.



PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|--------|
| MARY | WEDDING | BABY |
| JOSEPH | ANGEL | JESUS |
| HOLY SPIRIT | DREAM | VIRGIN |

V I R G I N T H W I S
 J C S H U J O S E P H
 D R E A M M R W I D A O
 S O B Y A O N U D G W
 M E N G R W E A I S D
 T B A B Y Y B M O N A E
 R E N D R O I T G J O
 S P G O H F J E S U S
 K A E I V N A G M D L
 H O L Y S P I R I T Y
 S R H N E D L S E H A

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

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Saying “yes” to God takes practice. When your parents ask you to vacuum or set the table or take the garbage out, say “yes” to them.

PRAYER

God, help me to trust you and say “yes” to you. Amen.



INTENTIONS

MASS INTENTIONS: DECEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

* Represents Saint Joseph's Parish

Saturday	12/23	5pm	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	12/24	9am*	Thomasín Cunningham	D	John & Christine Stewart
Sunday	12/24	11am	Brian Redding	D	Charlie & Betty Mauer
Sunday - Christmas Eve	12/24	6pm	Gertrude Allen	D	Deacon Bob
Monday-Christmas	12/25	7am			
Monday-Christmas	12/25	9am*	Andrew & Trudy Fornecker	D	Will & Julie Kulick
Monday-Christmas	12/25	11am	David Nadig	D	Deacon Bob
Wednesday	12/27	9am			
Thursday	12/28	9am			
Friday	12/29	9am			
Saturday	12/30	5pm	Bob Burger	D	Maureen Burger
Sunday	12/31	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	12/31	11am	Margie Jones	D	Michael & Nancy King

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All those who serve our country particularly . . .



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

Pray God keeps them in His care.



REMEMBER in your prayers

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Michael Amato, Maria Boice, Patricia Brammer, Sharon Cassidy, Nicole Colley, The Compton Family, Jean Dalsky, Connie D'Amico, Me'Shelle Durant, Bill Ellis, Bob Fint, Patricia Golgosky, Patrick Granville, Mary Anne Grimes, Phyllis Guthrie, Jack Hartwell, John Hobby, Regina Humanitzki, Tony Ingilleri, Sue Ingilleri, Margaret Johnson, Ron Johnson, Carolyn Kerrigan, Tom Kinter, Marie Knighting, Jackie Kraemer, Judi Kuhlow, Marcia Lagomarsino, Annie & Joe Lodato, Art Menard, Joan Merk, Haynes McKinley Morris, Jr., Irene Nadig, Rose Patterson, Donald Raab, Margaret Reilly, Carol Scampoli, Mary Ellen Scango, Carol Starowicz, Marylou Stock, Anna Sturhann, Claire van Nierop, Cornelia Waters, Mike Waters and June Wimer.
Please call the office at **434.589.5201** for homebound or hospital visits.

This Christmas, we donate flowers in memory of our loved ones:

Amelia Castellano	Elwin & Emma Bradway	Barb & Reg Russ
Wesley & Helen Bradway	Otto & Johanna Dunnebier	Gerald Alletto, Sr
Rosaria Alletto	Kenneth Maher	Jean Maher
Jason Todd Smith	Sal Barcia	Laurie Barcia
James Lynch	Joanne Christ	Dorothy Lynch
Edward Christ	Christian van Nierop	Catherine vanNierop
Joe Schaefer	Diana George	Bill & Patti Markle
Danielle Johnson	Cora Collins	Nancy Collins
Thomas & Gloria Salopek	Eleanor Stillwell	Stephen Stillwell
Oscar Bergman	Helen Bergman	Thomas Didio
Eleanor Ponzio	Jose & Marina Balagtas	Pedro & Marcelina Vitales
Mary Vitales	Joanne Henry	Al Jasenskask
Prospero Baniel Sr	Melitona Baniel	Ted James Schjoth Sr
June & Louis Schjoth	Herb & Judy Kinney	Bob Rae
Hank Vieyra	John Martinez	Steve Kein
James R Frawley Jr	The Frawley Family	The Knopiek Family
Bill & Betty Lovelett	Ben & Emiko Stoppe Sr	Patricia Polonis
Scott Glosick	Baker Family	Polonis Family
Toepfert Family	Buckley Family	Smith Family
Kathleen Best	Erickson Family	Klinke Family
Tom Miglas	Edward & Josephine Rebarchak	Wassil & Mary Miglas
Giovanni Capuano	Anna Capuano	Julia Bruno
Henry & Agnes Strong	Jack Ronan	Charles & Dorothy Kinney

My apologies for any misspellings.

EVERDAY STEWARDSHIP

Pew Count Sat. - 91 Sun. - 140	Dec 9/10
First Offering	\$ 3,895
First Offering: Faith Direct	\$ 2,629
Total	\$ 6,524
December MTD Debt Reduction	\$ 2,948

The Debt Reduction collection occurs at the beginning of each month.

Our next DEBT REDUCTION Collection is

JANUARY 6 & 7

Thank you and God bless you for your continued support.

Our next monthly Bake Sale January 6 & 7, 2024, after each Mass. Donations accepted before Mass. Thank you!

Luke 2:11 - "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

As Christmas is rapidly approaching, this is our time to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Lord and savior. So, amidst the presents, cookie decorating and Christmas parties, remember, Jesus is the reason for the season.

Your eGiving donations allows our ministry to continue to provide gifts to the community and you can easily get started by:

- Visiting faith.direct/VA249
 - Calling Faith Direct Customer Service at 866.507.8757
- Peace and blessings to your family this Christmas season!



Donations for Christmas dinner are gratefully accepted in the designated box.



Thank you to all the elves who helped ready the room for Lessons & Carols, to those who loaned their nativities for the exhibit within, to those who performed, to those who donated goodies, to those who attended and so much more. This would not be possible without the many hands that made it so.

Merry Christmas to all!

CHILD CARE HELP NEEDED:

A new family in our community is looking for a person who would enjoy helping them with care for their one year old daughter at their home at Lake Monticello. They are looking for a trustworthy, reliable, loyal, and responsible person, who likes working with children and could work between the hours of 8:30am and 1:30pm three days a week. Their one year old daughter is walking already, is very sociable, and is starting to communicate and explore the world around her. While the parents' schedules include working in and outside the home, the helper would be expected to play with the child at home, go for walks, play at the park, change diapers as necessary, prepare light snacks, and do some simple housework while the child is napping.

Compensation - \$20 per hour.

If interested, please contact Dr. Andrea Loving at Andrea.Freska@live.com or 703-679-0051.

UPCOMING EVENTS



ADULT FORMATION CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

includes RCIA, offering instruction to unbaptized and non-Catholic persons with interest in being members of the Catholic faith.

Classes meet every Sunday @ 9:30am.



ROOM SCHEDULE

Office is closed all week in observance of Christmas.

Sat	23-Dec	Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
Sun	24-Dec	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	11:00a	Church
		Christmas Eve Mass	6:00p	Church
Mon	25-Dec	Christmas Mass at Dawn	7:00a	Church
		Christmas Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		Christmas Mass	11:00a	Church
Tues	26-Dec			
Wed	27-Dec	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Sr. Coffee Social	10:00a	C
Thurs	28-Dec	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Cursillo	6:00p	123
Fri	29-Dec	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Adoration	9:30a	Church
		Benediction	3:00p	Church
Sat	30-Dec	Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
Sun	31-Dec	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	11:00a	Church
Room Ledger:		F - St. Francis (Hall)	R - St. Raphael (Church)	
		E - St. Elizabeth (Hall)	M - St. Michael (Church)	
		C - Commons (Church)		

BIBLE STUDY

Mondays

1:00 - 2:00pm
St. Elizabeth room
Parish Hall

STS. PETER & PAUL

Religious Store

NOW OPEN

religiousstore@saintspeterpaul.org

Great Gift Ideas:

- Rosaries
- Prayer Cards
- Jewelry
- Greeting Cards
- Crucifixes
- Books
- Home Goods
- and More

Hours:

Saturday
3:00-4:30
6:00-6:45
Sunday
9:30-10:30
12:00-1:00
or
By Appointment

SIGN UP TO SPEND AN HOUR WITH JESUS

in the Adoration Chapel

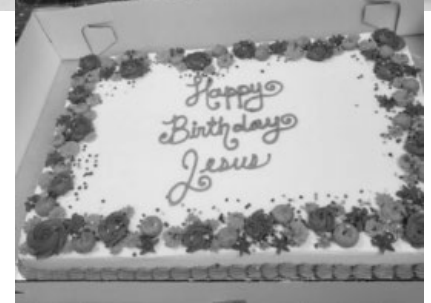
M - Th, 6am - 8pm

Pope Francis reiterates the importance of spending time in Adoration, "for only through silent Adoration will the Word of God live in our words; only in His presence will we be purified, transformed, and renewed by the fire of his Spirit. Brothers and sisters, let us adore the Lord Jesus!"

Contact: Denise Minor - dminor92@gmail.com



THANK YOU to all who contributed to Happy Face this year by donating toys, food, monetary gifts, or volunteering to help prepare for this event. A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus, who provided funding to give each child a new winter coat. We served 49 families and 112 children and are grateful to all who made Happy Face a success!



PARISH NURSE NEWS

SENIOR COFFEE SOCIAL

Wednesday, December 27th, 2023

10:00AM in the Commons

We'll continue talking about the book, ***The Fourth Quarter of Your Life***, chapter 21, ***"Living Meaningfully in a Trivial Culture"***. Come join us for coffee and conversation, even if your new. 757.813.1992 or caheffley@aol.com.

DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS IN NEED OF HELP TO CARE FOR A LOVED ONE?

Most of us have heard of JABA, but many of us do not know about the services JABA provides for caregivers, for adults with disabilities and for seniors in general in our community. JABA's Helpline is 434.817.5244 or toll-free 833.559.2428. go online at jabacares.org. JABA's "Aging Services Coordinators" can advise on types of help available and connect people to local providers. They have information about qualifying for public-funded services, as well as financial assistance.

ST. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH IS SEEKING A MUSIC DIRECTOR

The part-time Director of Music (DM) is responsible for planning and facilitating music at parish liturgical celebrations. This includes, but is not limited to weekend liturgies, funerals, weddings, Feast Days and prayer services. The DM works closely with the Parish Staff, especially the Pastor, in coordinating music for these celebrations, and provides training for musicians (i.e. Cantors and Pianists) in and outside of the parish.

Interested candidates should submit their diocesan application (<https://richmonddiocese.org/office/office-of-human-resources/>), cover letter and resume to the Pastor.

pastor@saintspeterpaul.org



CHRISTMAS/SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Sunday	Dec. 24th	6:00pm	SPP
Monday	Dec. 25th	7:00am	SPP
		9:00am	SJ
		11:00am	SPP
Monday	Jan. 1st	9:00am	SJ
		11:00am	SPP

Catholic Q & A

LIGHTING CANDLES IN CHURCH

Question: Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Answer:

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Seven out of 10 of us DO NOT have a Will!! What are we thinking? NO Will? Do we not care what happens to those assets we will leave behind?

By including the church in your estate plan, you are securing the future of our parish. Making a legacy gift to our congregation doesn't have to be difficult.

A Will should always be crafted by a qualified attorney familiar with your financial circumstances, family situation and your wishes for your estate. Advice from an attorney and other professional advisors should be sought when considering charitable giving.



Catholic Health Initiatives for Uganda

Do you have old sneakers you no longer wear?

Catholic Health Initiatives for Uganda can use them!
There is a box at the front door where they may be placed.
Just sneakers, please!

Catholic Health Initiatives for Uganda is a 501(c) (3) non-profit entity.

All donations are tax deductible.

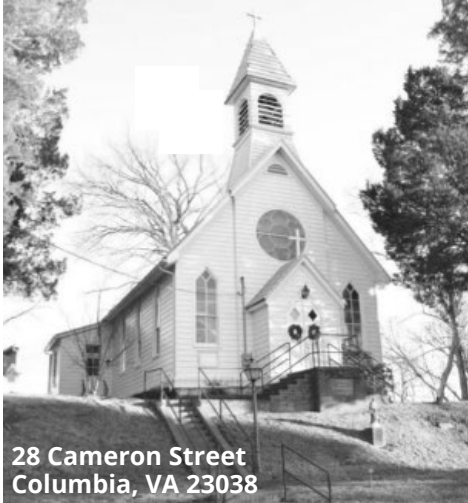
Thank you for your support!

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

Are you a U.S. Veteran in need of help? Visit the Fluvanna Community Center, 5725 James Madison Hwy by appointment only, on the first Wednesday of each month from 9am to 11:30am. Call Pamela Zirkle or Jeannette Flint at 434-529-6431 to schedule. www.dvs.Virginia.gov

ST. JOSEPH'S Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel

INTROSPECTIVE



28 Cameron Street
Columbia, VA 23038

p: 434.589.5201

e: pastor@saintspeterpaul.org

w: saintjosephcolumbia.org

PASTOR, Fr. David Ssentamu | 434.589.5200

ADMINISTRATION

PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR

Debbie Blackburn | 804.815.3732

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR

Fred Gunnels | 434.960.6092

LITURGY & WORSHIP

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Denny Barberio | 434.981.0678

SACRISTAN

Jennifer Dennis | 804.641.8941

USHERS

Marvin Jackson |

Carroll Morse | 434.589.4106

LECTORS

Melissa Kenney | 434.589.3416

ALTAR SERVERS

Michael Cary | 434.842.3095

Melissa Kenney | 434.589.3416

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Danielle Carter-Bledsoe |

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

Debbie Blackburn | 804.815.3732

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

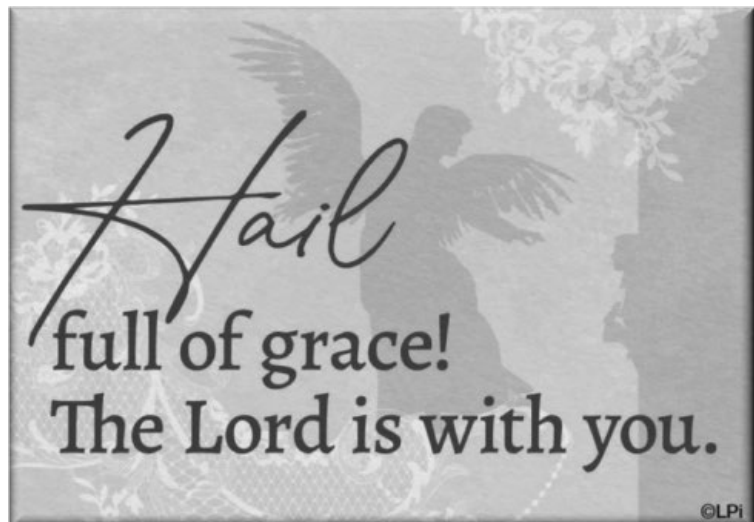
THE JOURNEY

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, "Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?" I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn't go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS





GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

4th Sunday of Advent

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, "But she was greatly troubled at what was said." An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, "Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."

— Father John Muir

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

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- Alice Galvez-Sobral * Mauricio Granados *
- Will Kulick * Andy Mallory *
- India Martin * Angelica Motta *
- Odila Motta * Oscar Motta *
- Thelma Motta * Denise Pillar *
- Christine Stewart * John Stewart *
- Jordan Watkins * Diane Wolfe *

If you have pictures or ministry information to be added to St. Joseph's website, please email Melissa at: kenneymg@gmail.com

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 at least 6 months out.



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