

December 31, 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



**THE HOLY FAMILY**

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1978 CCD

ELP

**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](mailto:karen.davidson@saintspeterpaul.org)



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 31, 2023

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

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve

Monday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace

Tuesday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Friday: St. John Neumann, Bishop

Saturday: St. André Bessette, Religious

Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord

## 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.



# ENCOUNTER



## Diocese of Richmond

Office of the Bishop

December 8, 2023

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Pastors, Administrators, and Parish Business Managers,

As the war in Israel continues, there is a heavy toll on innocent people in the region. Mounting violence and threats are intensifying each day. Our hearts and minds are attuned to children and families victimized by terrorism in the Middle East.

Our Diocese has a long history of generosity in times such as these.

I have recently been in contact with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and Pontifical Mission. CNEWA is on the ground in the key regions of Jerusalem, Gaza, Beirut, and Amman. Their goal is to support high-priority, immediate emergency needs as well as long-term emergency needs. To this end, they have launched a Holy Land Emergency Appeal aimed at helping those most in need.

By way of this letter, I am asking all parishes to consider conducting a special collection to be taken up for the benefit of CNEWA's Appeal on the weekend of December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please know that CNEWA will be able to report back on the use of all funds received and donors will know where their generosity is going. In addition, it is important to note that the Holy Land Emergency Appeal will receive 100% of the funds collected.

Thank you for your consideration. As we continue to pray for an end to this conflict, let us be intentional and dedicated in our prayers; working for peace in our own lives; in our communities; and throughout the world.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us and all in the Holy Land.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout  
Bishop of Richmond


Pastoral Center • 7800 Carousel Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23294-4201 • Phone: (804) 359-5661 • Fax: (804) 358-9159

## HOLY LAND EMERGENCY APPEAL

DECEMBER 30TH

AND


DECEMBER 31ST



**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
December 31, 2023

"I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."  
If you feel God is offering you the gift of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life as a sister, brother or consecrated virgin, talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at:

804-359-5661  
Or email  
[vocations@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:vocations@richmonddiocese.org)



# PARISH YOUTH



**CCD/RCIA classes resume on  
January 7th, 2024**

## SHARING THE GOSPEL

Love God and trust him with your life. Then you will want to do what God asks. Simeon listened to God. Anna served God for many years in the temple. Mary and Joseph did everything God asked them to do for Jesus. Everyone in the temple knew that Jesus was sent by God to be their Savior. They trusted God with Jesus' precious life.



Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



## 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](mailto:charleswpalmeriv@gmail.com) 571.212.4445

## MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus belonged to God. Look up the word "belong" in the dictionary. Thank God that you are his child, too.

## PRAYER

*God, help me to love you enough to do all that you ask me to. Amen.*

CHRIS NEALY HOSTING

## SPP & SJ'S YOUTH GROUP

JOIN US EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
STARTING JAN 17TH 6-7:30PM

### JANUARY'S AGENDA

#### WHERE?

SPP Cafe

#### WHO?

Middle & High schoolers

#### WHAT?

GAME NIGHT!

#### WHAT ELSE?

PIZZA AND POP!!!



# INTENTIONS

## MASS INTENTIONS: DECEMBER 30, 2023 - JANUARY 7, 2024

\* Represents Saint Joseph's Parish

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
Monday-MMOG	1/1	9am*			
Monday-MMOG	1/1	11pm			
Wednesday	1/3	9am	Clementine Sommerauer-birthday	I	The Witkowski family
Thursday	1/4	9am			
Friday	1/5	9am			
1st Saturday	1/6	10am			
Saturday	1/6	5pm	Joan Hansen	D	Paul & Dolores Turner
Sunday	1/7	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	1/7	11am	Diana George	D	Bob & Angela Maher

### 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 Kuhlrow, 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.



### 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 Kuhlrow, Marcia Lagomarsino, Annie 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.

## Wedding Anniversaries

If you would like to have your marriage blessed at Mass on the first weekend of the month following your anniversary, please contact the office at 434.589.5201.

## FUN DAY

WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

**Where:** St. Francis Hall

**Date:** Jan.21, 2024

**Time:** 12:30 - 4:00

**Activities:** Right, Left, Center Game  
Mind The Gap-A Trivia game for the generations

Ping Pong Table

Floor Puzzles for kids

Bring a game to share

**Refreshments:** Bring your favorite snack to share

**Prices:** \$5.00 per person

\$15.00 for families

\$5.00 for 3 chips to play Right, Left, Center  
50/50 Raffle - 3 for \$5.00 or 8 for \$10.00

# EVERDAY STEWARDSHIP

<b>Pew Count</b> Sat. - 95   Sun. - 218	Dec 16   17
First Offering	<b>\$ 3,704</b>
First Offering: <b>Faith Direct</b>	<b>\$ 2,629</b>
Total	<b>\$ 6,333</b>
<b>December MTD Debt Reduction</b>	<b>\$ 3,079</b>

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](http://faith.direct/VA249)
- Calling Faith Direct Customer Service at 866.507.8757

Peace and blessings to your family this Christmas season!



**Thanks to our parishioners from Happy Face!**

*December 9, 2023*

*St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church  
 4309 Thomas Jefferson Pky.  
 Palmira, Va. 22963*

*To the Congregation of St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church,  
 We want to thank you very much for your generous donation to Happy Face. It was extremely thoughtful of each of you. We were able to use it toward more new bikes and additional toys for the children. We served families on social services, Region Ten, and from the WIC program.*

*The Happy Face party last Saturday went very well. Jim Clifford, the pastor from Beautiful White Church shared the Christmas story from the Bible and gave a gospel presentation.*

*We had so many toys that we were able to give out two toys to each child this year! We also gave out games, books, and stuffed animals. Plus a new coat and a new pair of pajamas to every child, and the family received a holiday meal for the entire family.*

*Thank you again for your love and generosity! :)*

*The Happy Face Committee*

**Thank you to all the who made Christmas Dinner at Sts. Peter & Paul happen! Thanks to those who donated money, who prepared food, who attended, who helped clean up!**

**Happy New Year!**

**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](mailto: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

<b>Sat</b>	<b>30-Dec</b>	Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>31-Dec</b>	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	11:00a	Church
<b>Mon</b>	<b>1-Jan</b>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED - Happy New Year!</b> 		
		<b>Mary, Mother of God Mass</b>	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		<b>Mary, Mother of God Mass</b>	11:00a	Church
<b>Tues</b>	<b>2-Jan</b>	Parish Council	7:00p	123
<b>Wed</b>	<b>3-Jan</b>	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Scouts	6:30p	F
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>4-Jan</b>	Mass	9:00a	Church
		K of C Round Table	6:00p	St. Joseph's
		Cursillo	6:00p	123
<b>Fri</b>	<b>5-Jan</b>	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Adoration	9:30a	Church
		Benediction	3:00p	Church
<b>Sat</b>	<b>6-Jan</b>	1st Saturday Mass & Rosary	10:00a	Church
		Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
		Bake Sale after Mass	6:00p	C
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7-Jan</b>	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		<b>CCD/RCIA Faith Formation</b>	9:30a	Parish Hall
		Mass	11:00a	Church
		Bake Sale after Mass	12:00p	C
<b>Room Ledger:</b>		<b>F</b> - St. Francis (Hall)	<b>R</b> - St. Raphael (Church)	
		<b>E</b> - St. Elizabeth (Hall)	<b>M</b> - St. Michael (Church)	
		<b>C</b> - 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](mailto:dminor92@gmail.com)



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

**THE GIFT OF FAMILY**

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**PARISH NURSE NEWS**

**SENIOR COFFEE SOCIAL**

**Wednesday, January 31st, 2024**

**10:00AM in the Commons**

We will talk about finding and/or developing our 4th Quarter "talents". See chapter 29, pg. 156, in The Fourth Quarter of Your Life book.

Come join us for coffee and conversation, even if you're new. 757.813.1992 or [caheffley@aol.com](mailto:caheffley@aol.com).

May God's grace and blessings follow you into retirement, and may you find peace and joy in this new chapter of your life.

*Happy Retirement, Sid!*



**Thanks for more than 30 years!**

**STS. 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](mailto:pastor@saintspeterpaul.org)**





SOLEMNITY OF MARY			
MASS SCHEDULE (NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)			
DAY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Monday	Jan. 1st	9:00am	SJ
		11:00am	SPP

**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](http://www.dvs.Virginia.gov)

*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!*

## Catholic Q & A

### SERVANT SONGS

**Question:**  
What are the servant songs of Isaiah? How do they relate to Jesus' life and ministry?

**Answer:**  
The four servant songs (Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:1-6, 50:4-9, and 52:13—53:12) are strategically placed in Second Isaiah to offer hope and consolation to a suffering Israel during its Babylonian Exile.

Israel had been defeated by the Babylonians, who destroyed their temple, killed the last of the kings in David's lineage, exiled them from their land, and transported them to Babylon. This is the context in which Second Isaiah composes his powerfully poetic book of hope and consolation. A significant part of that message is the portrait of God's servant, who is called to be a source of hope and encouragement for the people.

Each of the four poems emphasizes God's choice and election of the servant. The last poem stresses the suffering and rejection of God's servant, along with his eventual death. Isaiah is certain that God will use the servant's innocent suffering as a way to redeem and remove the guilt and sin of others. Thus, the servant becomes a source of salvation for himself and for others.

Who is this servant? Many suggest that Isaiah was referring to Israel herself, as she underwent exilic suffering which would ultimately prove to be redemptive. Jesus' followers, including those for whom Mark wrote his Gospel, understood Jesus' ministry in terms of Isaiah's suffering servant whose innocent suffering and death became the means of salvation for all.

This Christmas season we continue to pray for our loved ones:

Irene & John Ringlehan	Richard & Mary Doerler	Concepcion Rodriguez
Joe & Ruth Duffy, Sr	Joanie Doerler	Joseph M Novak
Dee E Cetrone	Laura Miller	Janette Richter
Ismael Rodriguez	Luis Rodriguez	Nicholas Palmiotto
Ronnenberg Family	Walton Family	JW Padget Jr

# ST. JOSEPH'S Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel

## INTROSPECTIVE

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

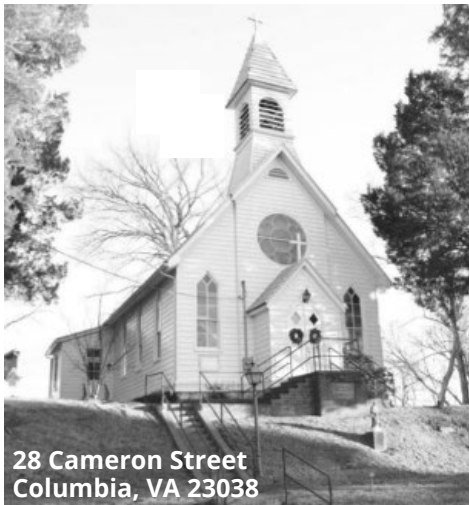
### THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— Father John Muir



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

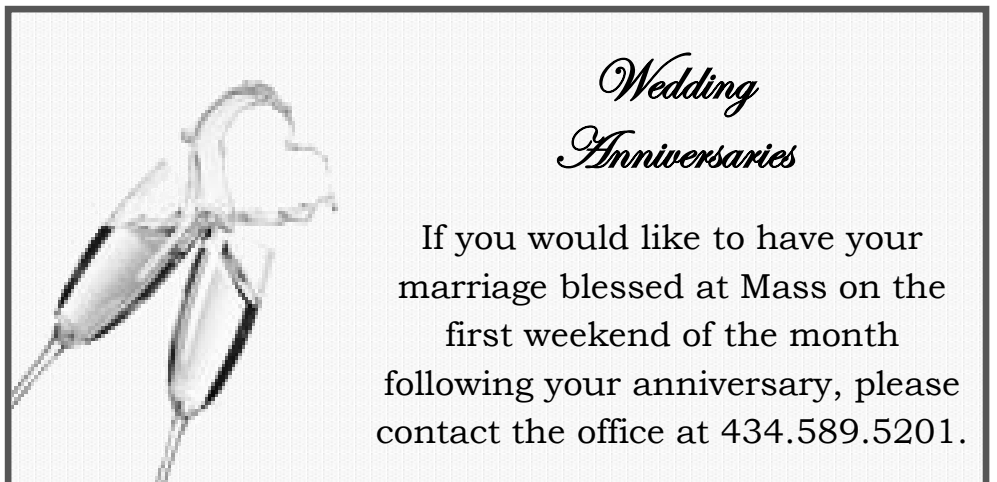
#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

#### ROUNDTABLE CHAIRMAN

Denny Barberio | 434.981.0678

#### LADIES AUXILIARY

Debbie Blackburn | 804.815.3732



*Wedding  
Anniversaries*

If you would like to have your marriage blessed at Mass on the first weekend of the month following your anniversary, please contact the office at 434.589.5201.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

- MaryEllen Agolia \* Bradford Barrows \*
- Maria Correa \* Nona Dooley \*
- 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](mailto: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.



**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP**

I have heard people say, “You don’t get to choose your family!” I believe that to be only partially true. I did not choose my father and mother, but my family is greater than my family tree of ancestors. My family includes those who have been there when both my father and mother passed away. My family includes those who came to see my newborn children in the hospital. My family includes those who celebrated with me my greatest triumphs and consoled me in my greatest times of trial. Each and every one of them I have chosen to be a part of my family.

Most of the time we talk about stewardship in terms of time, talent, and treasure. We quantify the size of our gifts, seeing them as things that have a finite value. However, true stewardship has no limits. What we are called to give is everything. When we fully empty ourselves into another and into the reality of God we find ourselves transformed. We truly grow into our own as the creations we became at baptism.

It is in that transformation that we find ourselves connected to others in a profound way. Those who were not connected to us by blood are now connected to us by spirit. Our family, the body of Christ, grows and becomes stronger. In this family, a man can be father to a Son not of his flesh and a woman mother to a Son of a divine origin. In this family, we find our hope and our home. And we must never make the mistake of thinking that is not a choice.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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*\*All events are themed with a focus on history, faith, education or community.*



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