

January 7, 2024

*"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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.

- Mt 2:10

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (©2001, 1986, 1970 CCC, OLP)

**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 JANUARY 7, 2024

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

Monday: Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/  
Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/  
1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 7, 2024

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord

Monday: The Baptism of the Lord

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; BVM

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## JANUARY 2024

### HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

**BREAD & WINE  
IN MEMORY OF**

**ALTAR FLOWERS  
IN MEMORY OF**

**SANCTUARY CANDLE  
IN MEMORY OF**

**DONOR**

**DONOR**

**DONOR**



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



# ENCOUNTER

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 7, 2024

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD


A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, “This place is boring. I want to go somewhere.” So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, “Where am I truly at home?”

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home. Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? Saint Matthew tells us of the Magi, “They were overjoyed at seeing the star.” This star will bring them home, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and his parents are.

If you’re a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that — at long last — God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, “Follow me! I will take you home!” Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their son, and you will be home.

— Father John Muir

©LPi


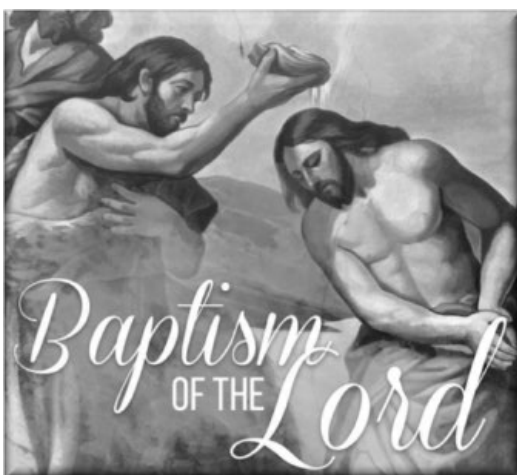


**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
January 7th, 2024

“For out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd My people.” Is Christ calling you forth out of your comfort zone to serve Him in others as a sister, brother, or priest? 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



**Religious Education**  
**Classes meet every Sunday at**  
**9:30a and conclude after the**  
**11:00a Mass.**

Dear Parents,

My name is Christina Nealy and I am the Coordinator for Religious Education and Youth Ministry at Saint Peter and Paul. I am very excited to be working with you and your children. In addition to regular CCD we will be hosting a monthly event for all youth of the parish.

We are always looking for volunteers to help in both CCD and Youth Ministry nights, to help as assistants in the classroom and during Youth Ministry nights. Please contact me if you are interested in this wonderful service opportunity:

**[Religioused@saintpeterandpaul.org](mailto:Religioused@saintpeterandpaul.org)**

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,  
Christina Nealy

## SHARING THE GOSPEL

Jigsaw puzzles are fun. Solve a puzzle with your whole family, and it comes together even faster. God helped the wise men solve a puzzle. They wanted to find the newborn king. Together the wise men read God's promises, did their homework, and followed the star. When all of their answers fit, they found baby Jesus.

## PRAYER

*God, thank you for all the people who helped me find Jesus. Amen.*

## MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Solve a puzzle together with your family.  
Work together like the wise men did.

## 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**

**Who: Youth K - 5th grade from Sts Peter and Paul and St Joseph**

**What: SNOWMAN WORKSHOP**

**When: Friday, January 19, 2024, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

**Where: Saint Peter and Paul Parish Hall**

Come join us for hot chocolate and build a marshmallow snowman with your friends. All are invited. Volunteer helpers are encouraged to join us for an evening of fellowship.



We will meet monthly on the **third Friday** of each month for a fun-filled night of activities and service. All are welcome!

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: JANUARY 6 - 14, 2024

\* Represents Saint Joseph's Parish

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
Wednesday	1/10	9am	Jeffery Anderson	D	Janet Galbo
Thursday	1/11	9am			
Friday	1/12	9am			
Saturday	1/13	5pm	Dennis Buckley	D	Bob & Muriel Toepfert
Sunday	1/14	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	1/14	11am	Tom Holodak	D	Royal & Janis Duffy

### 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.

## December Wedding

## Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following couples:

<b>James &amp; Elizabeth Kosierowski</b>	<b>25 Years</b>
<b>Eric &amp; Lisa Salopek</b>	<b>32 Years</b>
<b>Ben &amp; Anne Stoppe</b>	<b>51 Years</b>
<b>Kenneth &amp; Elaine Bergman</b>	<b>63 Years</b>
<b>Charlie &amp; Elizabeth Maurer</b>	<b>64 Years</b>
<b>Floyd &amp; Theresa Fulford</b>	<b>66 Years</b>

## 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. - 132   Sun. - 114	Dec 23 24
First Offering	<b>\$ 10,068</b>
Christmas	<b>\$ 13,401</b>
First Offering: <b>Faith Direct</b>	<b>\$ 2,629</b>
Total	<b>\$ 26,098</b>
<b>December MTD Debt Reduction</b>	<b>\$ 3,174</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 monthly Bake Sale is this weekend, after each Mass. Donations accepted before Mass. Thank you!

Your eGiving donations allows our ministry to continue to provide gifts to the community and cover expenses 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!



*Baptism of the Lord*

## 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>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 Resume</b>	9:30a	Parish Hall
		Mass	11:00a	Church
		Bake Sale after Mass	12:00p	C
<b>Mon</b>	<b>8-Jan</b>	Rejoice! Bible Study	1:00p	E
		K of C Meeting	6:00p	E/F
<b>Tues</b>	<b>9-Jan</b>	Yoga	11:00a	F
<b>Wed</b>	<b>10-Jan</b>	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Scouts	6:30p	F
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>11-Jan</b>	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Cursillo	6:00p	123
		<b>Catechist Meeting</b>	7:00p	Hall
<b>Fri</b>	<b>12-Jan</b>	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Adoration	9:30a	Church
		Benediction	3:00p	Church
<b>Sat</b>	<b>13-Jan</b>	Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>14-Jan</b>	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		CCD/RCIA Faith Formation	9:30a	Parish Hall
		Mass	11:00a	Church
<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)





**M**arried Couples! Is winter starting to get you down and you find yourself getting a little edgy with your spouse? Perhaps you deserve to get away to renew your relationship. Sign up today for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Weekend and get rid of the blahs.

For information or to register, go to [WWME.org](http://WWME.org), click "Apply" and search for "Virginia" or your desired location.

Feel free to contact Mark and Cath Stangler at 703.378.4150 or [mstang1987@aol.com](mailto:mstang1987@aol.com) with any questions. Here are a few upcoming experiences:

- January 26-28, 2024 - Myrtle Beach, SC
- March 1-3, 2024 - College Park, MD
- April 12-14, 2024 - Herndon, VA

### **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).**

## **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)**

**W**hen Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?

*We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."* — Mt 2:1-2

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





# Catholic Q & A

## WEDDING FEAST & EPIPHANY

### QUESTION:

How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

### ANSWER:

The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.

## What Will Your Legacy Be?

As Catholics we rejoice with faith in the resurrection. Yet we also know the passage from life to death can be stressful on those who survive us.

By creating a legal Will or Trust, you can provide your next-of-kin with a peace of mind, knowing that you have already determined how your estate will be distributed and who will care for minor children. They will still grieve, but they won't face the daunting task of making decisions that you could have made.

A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a Will. Be sure to include your parish or school.



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!*

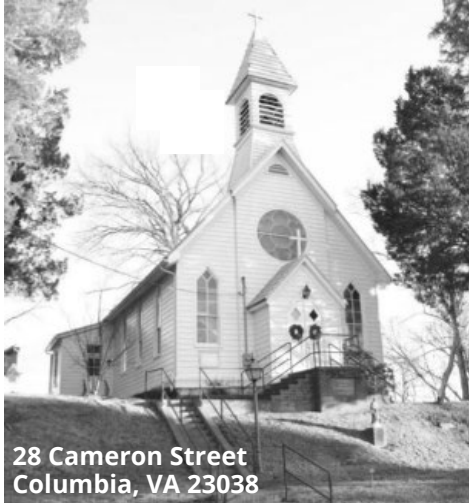
## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

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](http://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

#### WISE MEN SEE GOD IN THE SIMPLE THINGS

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort — rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS





*December* 

*Wedding Anniversaries*

**Congratulations to the following couples:**

<b>Fred &amp; Betsy Gunnels</b>	<b>52 Years</b>
<b>Jarl &amp; Carol Hannum</b>	<b>56 Years</b>



**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**

**M**y mother-in-law was the best gift-giver I ever knew. One could say my parents spoiled me growing up, but there was something about her gifts to me that made me feel overwhelmed. I guess it was that after several years I still was surprised that she would think enough of me to get me something no one else would. She was able to make me feel special every time. Of course, I believe she honored me in this way because I accepted her greatest gift to me, her daughter.

Sadly, my mother-in-law did not live long in this world. She passed away over a decade ago due to an aggressive cancer. Some of her material gifts to me remain, while others are long gone. But the memories and the effect of those gifts remain because it was never all about the gifts themselves. It was about relationship. It was about her and me. It was about love.

What we offer Jesus is never about the gift itself. It is about the motivation behind the action and the effect that action has on the body of Christ. Many of the gifts we give today to God and his people will fade away like the mist of the early morning, but the effects of those actions will last forever. It is about relationship. It is about God and us. It is about love.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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**140th**  
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**CELEBRATION**

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

**CCD resumes**  
**Jan. 7th, 2024**

**Sunday, January 14, 202, 3:00pm**  
 St. John’s Episcopal Church  
 43 Washington St., Columbia, VA  
 An afternoon of music with Susan Ash  
 Free Admission; donations to the Stained Glass Fund are appreciated.



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