

March 31, 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

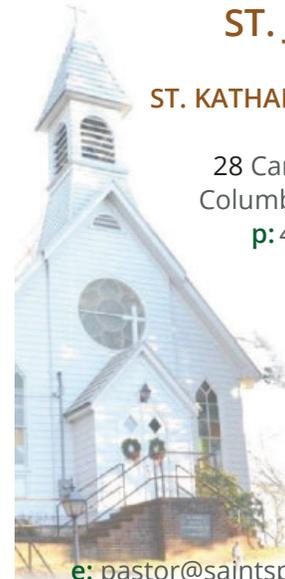
w: saintspeterpaulpalmyra.org

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

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



EASTER SUNDAY

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. - Jn 20:8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (2001, 1988, 1970 CCD, ©LPH)

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

Larry Boice | 434.510.7677

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

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



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 MARCH 31, 2024

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/ Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/ Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/ Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/ Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/ Mk 16:9-15

Next Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Jn 5: 1-6/Jn 20:19-31

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 31, 2024

Sunday: Easter Sunday

Monday: Monday within the Octave of Easter

Tuesday: Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

Wednesday: Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

Thursday: Thursday within the Octave of Easter

Friday: Friday within the Octave of Easter

Saturday: Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

He is Risen! Hallelujah!

MARCH 2024

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

BREAD & WINE



MEMORIAL:
DOMINICK & ELIZABETH
CRISPO
DONOR:
ANTHONY & PATRICIA
AMATO

SANCTUARY CANDLE



MEMORIAL:
AGOSTINO &
FRANCES AMATO
DONOR:
ANTHONY &
PATRICIA AMATO

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



ENCOUNTER



EASTER SUNDAY

March 31, 2024

“The Lord is truly risen!” Are you being called to proclaim the truth of the Lord’s resurrection as a priest, religious sister or brother? Talk to your priest or reach out to the

**Office of Vocations at
804.359.5661**

Or via email:

vocations@richmonddiocese.org



“This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him, we shall also live with him; if we persevere, we shall also reign with him”

(2Tim. 2:11-12).

Brothers and Sisters on the Journey,

Christ is Risen, and Alleluia is our song this day! I congratulate each of you on reaching Easter this year.

Catholic Christians prepare themselves to celebrate Easter after the long 40-day journey of Lent. Lent is a time of hope and anticipation making us ready for the glory of the Lord’s Resurrection; Easter comes only after a Lenten journey; Easter comes after the Cross, and there is no Easter without the Cross.

As we celebrate Easter, I am drawn to think of Christians and all other people around the world who have their hope in Jesus, and still going through all the hardships we know of or what we can imagine. I think of lives that have been changed temporarily or permanently shuttered because of wars and violence that result from man’s greed. I think of men and women, parishioners who are now bedridden because of sickness or old age. I think of the anguish that any of you could be going through even as you continue to serve God faithfully. I am aware how the negative aspects of our lives can make us fail to acknowledge or to realize that Jesus is truly risen.

St. Paul writing to Timothy has encouraged him with a trustworthy saying: If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we persevere, we shall also reign with him (2 Tim. 2:11-12). For those of us who pride in following Jesus, sooner or later the Cross is a blessing and a reality, but not the end. After embracing our crosses faithfully, then there comes the Easter glory. I invite you all, dear brothers and sisters, to remember this.

I would like to wish you all a blessed Easter as I invite you to keep your eyes on the Crucified Lord, who now promises us that the sufferings a Christian endures lead to glory. I keep you all in my prayers as we celebrate Easter. And let us hold each other in prayers that after the trials we endure while here are over, we may all behold the glory that awaits us.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

PARISH YOUTH



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

VOLUNTEER TEACHERS AND TEACHER'S AIDES NEEDED:
 Volunteers are needed as teachers, assistants and substitutes for 2024-2025 school year. We also need assistants and subs for the remainder of this year. If you are interested in helping guide the children in faith we would love to have you come help. Please send Christina Nealy an email at

Religious@saintpeterandpaul.org

I look forward to working with you!

SHARING THE GOSPEL

It was very early in the morning on Sunday. The tombstone was rolled away. Jesus was gone. All that was left inside were the strips of linen cloth. When John and Peter saw it, they were amazed. They did not understand all the promises the prophets wrote about Jesus yet. However, they knew he was alive. He had risen from the dead.

PRAYER

God, I thank you for bringing Jesus back to life. Amen.

JOB OPENINGS: CHARLOTTESVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CCS is seeking the following for the 2024-2025 school year:

Elementary teacher (JK-5)

Part-time elementary Spanish teacher

Please send resume, Diocesan application, three letters of reference, and a copy of your teaching license to CCS, Attn: Vada Fallica, Principal; 1205 Penn Park Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901 or vial email to v.fallica@cvillecatholic.org

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

Important dates to put on you calendar:

Date	Event	Time/Place
April 11th	Confirmation	7p at St. Thomas - candidates arrive by 6p
April 27th	1st Reconciliation for SPP & SJ	10a at SPP, church
May 4th	1st Holy Communion	12p at SPP, church
May 11th	1st Holy Communion	10a at SJ, church

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

SPICES STONE JESUS
 MORNING ROLLED RAISED
 TOMB WOMEN BODY

A B O L M A C R U N E
 M **S P I C E S** O N S B
 E T E D U D T E R J O
 R J P I S R O L L E D
 Y E O J M B N G S I Y
 N S C W O M E N D S R
 T U A S R D O M I T A
 I S N E N A S U W O S
 O Y R A I S E D Y M Y
 A N L W N P M U M B E
 M S E U G I O T I S A

MISSION

Tell three of your friends that Jesus is alive. Invite them to come to Mass with you.

INTENTIONS

MASS INTENTIONS: MARCH 30 - APRIL 7, 2024

* Represents Saint Joseph's Parish

Holy Saturday	3/30	8pm	No Intentions		
Easter Sunday	3/31	7am	Misa Pro Populo		
Easter Sunday	3/31	9am*	Joseph L. Gunnels	D	Mary DesRochers
Easter Sunday	3/31	11am	Joe Lodato	D	K of C
Wednesday	4/3	9am	NO MASS		
Thursday	4/4	9am	NO MASS		
Friday	4/5	9am	Juan Gutierrez	D	Suarez Family
1st Saturday	4/6	10am	Peg Finn	I	Don & Eileen Tyler
Saturday	4/6	5pm	Bernie Horan	D	Donna Horan
Sunday	4/7	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	4/7	11am	Gary Johnson	D	Usher Ministry

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 LaFonza, 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

Peter & Philomena Alonso, Michael Amato, Maria Boice, Sharon Cassidy, Nicole Colley, The Compton Family, Jean Dalsky, Catherine Doherty, Me'Shelle Durant, Bill Ellis, Caroline Faulkner, Bob Fint, Patricia Golgosky, Mary Anne Grimes, Phyllis Guthrie, Jack Hartwell, John Hobby, Regina Humanitzki, Tony Inghilleri, Sue Inghilleri, Margaret Johnson, Ron Johnson, Carolyn Kerrigan, Tom Kinter, Marie Knighting, Jackie Kraemer, Judi Kuhlow, Marcia Lagomarsino, Annie Lodato, Art & Judy Menard, Joan Merk, Haynes McKinley Morris, Jr., Irene Nadig, Rose Patterson, Donald Raab, Margaret Reilly, Carol Scampoli, Mary Ellen Scango, Kathy Seroskie, Carol Starowicz, Marylou Stock, Anna Sturhann, Rob Toepfert, Jr., Claire van Nierop, Cornelia Waters, Mike Waters

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

We honor our loved ones this Easter with flower donations for:

Ellen Gross	Deceased members of the Neubeck family
Laura W. Miller	Deceased members of the Ronnenberg family
Scott Glosick	Deceased members of the Herman family
Ismael Rodriguez	Deceased members of the Walton family
Billy Miller	Deceased members of the Joyce family
Barbara Brennis	Deceased members of the Spadaro family
Patti Markle	Deceased members of the Tokarz family
Jason Smith	Deceased members of the Christie family
Helen Bergman	Emiko & Ben Stoppe, Sr.
Stephen Stillwell	Sara & Jerry Aletto
Eva Kearns	Mildred & Tim Monahan
Kenneth Doll	Reg & Barbara Russ
Clayton Adams	Mr. & Mrs. G. Alletto
Edwin Ohl	Concepcion Rodriguez
Gary Johnson	Mr. & Mrs. K. Maher
Mullin family	Mary & Dom Demarco
Judy Kinney	Deceased members of the Doll family
Agnes Strong	Alma Madden Kehoe
Toepfert family	Harold & Florence Smith
Sal Barcia	Otto & Johanna Danneboer
Mary Vitales	Pedro & Marcelina Vitales
Melitona Baniel	Jose & Marina Bataglas
Tyler Holtz	Elwin & Emma Bradway
Smith family	Jean & Kenny Maher
Joseph Tracey	Bill & Mary Ellen Mickey
Mary Doerler	Betty & Bill Lovelett
Patricia Polonis	Prospero Baniel, Sr.
Luis Rodriguez	Rosa & Carl Meyer
Klinke family	Amelia Castellano
Judy Snyder	David DeGregory
Helen Boice	Janet DeGregory
Sally Pasley	Eric Liebezeit
Oscar Bergman	Joseph Duffy, Jr.
Richard Doerler	Lucy Benivegna
Laurie Barcia	Buckley family
Erickson family	Ted Schjoth, Sr.
Elanor Stillwell	Cavaliere family



EVERDAY STEWARDSHIP

Pew Count Sat. - 133 Sun. - 163	MAR. 16/17
First Offering	\$ 4,096
First Offering: Faith Direct	\$ 2,064
Total	\$ 6,160
March MTD Debt Reduction	\$ 3,201

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

Our next DEBT REDUCTION Collection is

APRIL 6TH & 7TH

Thank you and God bless you for your continued support.

Our next monthly Bake Sale is April 6th & 7th after each Mass. Donations accepted before Mass. Thank you!

The Lenten season fills our parish with hope and promise - opportunities abound to grow our vital ministries, explore new ways to share the good news of Christ's love, and reflect His care and mercy to those in need throughout the community. To continue to make a difference in 2024, Sts. Peter and Paul is reaching out to parishioners.

With eGiving, you can help sustain and build ministries like this year that reflect the promise of God's love. The need is great in our community, and your generous online gifts help people 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 or calling Customer Service at 866-507-8757. Thanks for your continued support. God bless you.



Saturday, March 30 at 8:00pm

Please welcome into the Catholic Church:

Kyle Austin Landes

Zoey Anne Soares

Meals on Wheels is in need of HARD PLASTIC reusable ice packs. They use them to leave clients meals in their cooler when they are away at the time of delivery.

In order to keep the food safe the ice packs must be of a certain size. The preferred packs can be ordered in sets of 4 from Amazon -

- Sport Temp Reusable Jumbo Ice Pack. Please use the shipping address below for delivery:



Fluvanna Meals on Wheels, Inc.
105 Crofton Plaza, Suite 8
Palmyra, VA 22963
(434) 589-1685

Thank you for your continued support.



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

Sat	30-Mar	Liturgy of the Hours	9:00a	Church
		Blessing of the Easter Food	10:00a	Church
		Easter Vigil Mass	8:00p	Church
Sun	31-Mar	Easter Sunday Mass	7:00a	Church
		Easter Sunday Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		Easter Sunday Mass	11:00a	Church
Mon	1-Apr	Office - CLOSED		
		Rejoice! Bible Study	1:00p	E
		KoC Officers Meeting	7:00p	E
Tues	2-Apr	Yoga	11:00a	119
		Scouts	6:30p	122
		Parish Council	7:00p	123
Wed	3-Apr	NO MASS		
		Scouts	6:30p	F
Thurs	4-Apr	NO MASS		
		KoC Round Table	6:00p	St. Joseph's
Fri	5-Apr	Cursillo	6:00p	123
		Mass	9:00a	Church
		Adoration	9:30a	Church
Sat	6-Apr	Benediction	3:00p	Church
		1st Saturday Mass & Rosary	10:00a	Church
		Confession	4:00p	Church
Sun	7-Apr	Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
		Bake Sale After Mass	6:00p	C
		Confession	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		CCD/RCIA	9:30a	E/Church
Sun	7-Apr	Sunday Mass	11:00a	Church
		Bake Sale After Mass	12:00p	C
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

Great Gift Ideas

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

First Communion & Confirmation Gifts
Now In Stock

Hours:

Saturday 3:30-4:45

Sunday 12:00-1:00

or by Appointment

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

4309 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy, Palmyra, VA 22963
religiousstore@saintspeterpaul.org

Follow "Friends of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church - Palmyra, VA" on Facebook for Store Updates

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



Women's Cursillo Weekend

APRIL 25-28, 2024

Do you want to take a deeper dive into your Spiritual Journey? If so, a *Women's Cursillo Weekend* will be held *Thursday, April 25th (7:00pm) through Sunday, April 28th, 2024, near Harrisonburg, VA.*

The Theme of the Weekend is "Called to Love". If you desire a Spiritual Boost, come walk this journey alongside other

Catholic women of all ages and be filled with the JOY Christ offers each one of us. Applications and more information about Cursillo are available at our table in the commons after masses. Come see us.

PARISH TRIP TO FRANCE IN 2025

SAVE THE DATE:

April 24 - May 4, 2025

Looking for details on this?
Information can be found on the Parish Council bulletin board in the Commons.



Occasionally we might have a parishioner who needs a temporary helping hand or can no longer drive. Can you make time to help with a ride to a doctor's appointment, church, bank or to the grocery store? This is what the "Good Shepherd" ministry is about. With your name in my call file, you might be asked to be a temporary good Samaritan (Shepherd). To learn more about Good Shepherds ministry, please contact:

Patricia Travers at 434-953-5432

PARISH NURSE NEWS

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24TH

11:00AM - 2:00PM

PARISH CENTER

(Senior Coffee Social returns May 29th at 10)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MANY HEALTH CARE

VENDORS WILL BE

ON-SITE THIS DAY



SPONSORED BY KAITLYN DUVALOIS OF
LOVING ARMS CARE, INC.
AND CATHERINE HEFFLEY, PARISH NURSE
757.813.1992 or caheffley@aol.com

LENTEN COIN CANS

It's not too late. Cans can still be turned in to the office during normal business hours.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Catholic Q & A

QUESTION:

What is spiritual communion, and do you need to be in a state of grace to receive it?

ANSWER:

The practice of making a “spiritual communion” dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin. This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion.

Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way.



Catholic Health Initiatives for Uganda

Annual Golf Classic

Monday,
September 9th, 2024
At Spring Creek Golf Club
109 Clubhouse Way
Zion Crossroad, Va. 22942



This golf tournament is our biggest fundraiser of the year and allows us to continue to provide needed health care for the poorest of the poor in Uganda.

To participate, sponsor, donate or to learn more about our tournament, use the following link or scan our QR code.
www.charitygolftoday.com/catholichealth

Sts. Peter and Paul's SPRING CRAFT FAIR AND BAKE SALE

April 13, 2024

8am - 2pm

4309 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA 22963

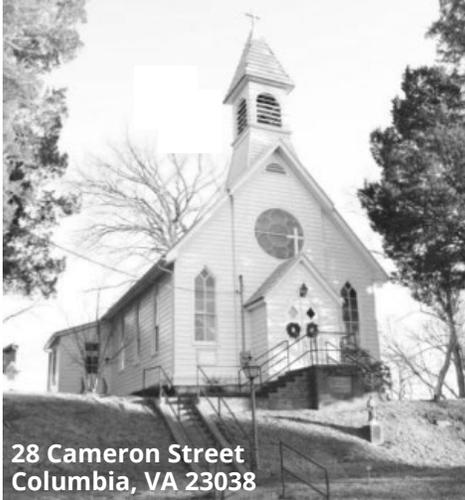


Lots of VENDORS &
Food provided by JUST A BITE Food Truck

We are in need of BAKED GOODS for the Craft Fair/Bake Sale.
Please drop off on Friday, April 12th, 10a-4p, or Saturday morning before 9a.

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

DEACON, Rev. Mr. Robert Allen | 434.589.0941

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

WHAT WOULD MARY DO?

This Easter morning, I am thinking of Mary Magdalene.

I want to know her state of mind as she approached the tomb in the darkness. Was she afraid? Was she thinking clearly? Was she tired? Had grief and trauma robbed her of her sleep the last two nights? What did she intend to do? Anoint Christ's body, yes — but what else? Kiss his hands, trace the markings where the lash had fallen upon his skin? Say goodbye? Weep? Despair?

What were the words she planned to whisper into the cold, empty darkness that morning, as she wept over God's body?

I don't know anything about her state of mind that Easter morning, except that I know she wanted to be with Christ. Perhaps that was all she knew, too. Perhaps she had no other thought, no other desire, than nearness to him. She didn't need to understand everything, and she didn't expect answers — she didn't dare hope for that.

But everything and everyone had fallen apart around her, and in Jesus' presence she knew her heart would be able to rest.

If you have ever been in the midst of a crisis in your life and found yourself pacing the floors of your house when no one else is awake, muttering the words to a prayer you know by heart, you know what Mary Magdalene felt. In those moments, we do not always feel God's presence. Sometimes, when we look for Him, we only see an empty tomb.

When these dark moments come, I pray you will remember the faithfulness of this great saint. Be like Mary Magdalene. Look for Jesus, always. You may not always find him, but he will always find you.

"She ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him.'" — John 20:2

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

OFFERTORY

MAR 17 \$ 998

Thank you for your generosity!

CCD meets every

Sunday

after Mass.

March

Wedding Anniversaries

If you are celebrating your wedding anniversary in March and wish to be part of the marriage blessing at Mass on April 7th, please notify the office at 434.589.5201 by Friday, March 29, 2024



PRAYER REQUESTS



Mary Ellen Agolia * Bradford Barrows *
 Maria Correa * Nona Dooley *
 Alice Galvez-Sobral * Mauricio Granados *
 Andy Mallory * India Martin *
 Angelica Motta * Odila Motta *
 Oscar Motta * Thelma Motta *
 Denise Pillar * John Stewart *
 Jordan Watkins * Diane Wolfe *

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

A HAPPY ENDING ISN'T THE WHOLE STORY

“Is there a happy ending?”

When my kids were young, we never made it past the first whiff of any narrative tension before I got this question. As soon as whatever princess or furry woodland animal who was the hero of the story got into any small scrape, they wanted that reassurance, “Is there a happy ending?”

I can't say I blame them. Don't we all feel that way sometimes? We enter into a relationship with someone or some situation, and we just want to protect ourselves. We want to know it's not going to go badly — or, if it does, that we will be able to come back from it. It's a human instinct, a reflex. Our inclination to protect ourselves makes it so that we sometimes want to press fast-forward on the bad stuff and skip straight ahead to the happily-ever-after.

Easter is the ultimate happy ending. It's the day of miracles. The day when all the stones roll away and all the sins are forgiven. It's the day that puts everything right.

But if we learned anything from this week — from the Passion and death of the Lord — it's that we can't press fast-forward on the hardships of life. That tension, that loss, that fear — it's crucial, isn't it? As Catholics, we are who we are because of Easter. But Easter doesn't happen without Good Friday.

So, does the story of salvation have a happy ending? We know it does. But we also remember that the ending isn't all that matters.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seventeen-foot angel towering over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. I gasped and uttered, “Oh my God!” Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out.

As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn't joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn't peaceful, it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that he was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples' shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy.

We all have our own places of the dead, too, don't we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame. Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our “cemeteries” where we don't expect much to happen. Today we enter — if we dare — those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare!

— Father John Muir

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