

May 19, 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

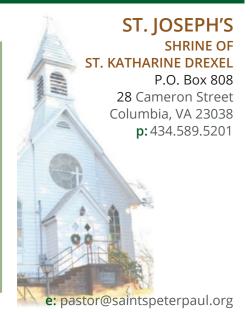
- e: office @saintspeterpaul.org pastor@saintspeterpaul.org karen.davidson@saintspeterpaul.org religioused@saintspeterpaul.org
- w: saintspeterpaulpalmyra.org

#### **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.



## **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

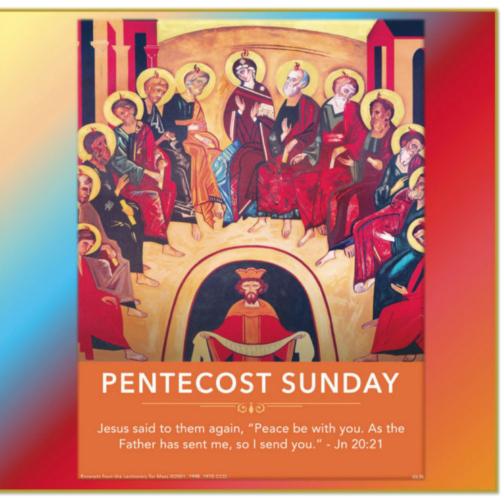
Saturday 4pm: SPP Sunday 8:30 am: St. Joseph's (or by appointment)

#### **HOSPITAL VISITS:**

Call Parish Office or Rectory: 434.589.5200

#### HOMEBOUND:

Call Parish Office to schedule Communion



# ELCOME



#### **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

| 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

Rev. David M. Ssentamu | 434.589.5200

Rev. Mr. Robert Allen | 434.589.0941

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Karen Davidson | 434,589,5201

#### **FAITH FORMATION**

1 434.589.5201

#### **BULLETIN & ANNOUNCEMENTS DEADLINE**

Fridays-1 week in advance-In writing to karen.davidson@saintspeterpaul.org

Vell Man

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 MAY 19, 2024

Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 Sunday:

or J1 3:1-5/ Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/

Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see 30)/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25/Jn 20:19-23

or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-

7/Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10/Ps 55:7-8, 9-10a, 10b-11a, 23/Mk 9:30-37 Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-7, 8-10, 11/Mk 9:38-40 Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-18, 19-20/Mk Thursday:

9:41-50

Friday: Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12/Mk 10:1-12 Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-2, 3 and 8/Mk 10:13-16 Saturday:

Next Sunday: Dt 4:32-34, 39-40/Ps 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22 (12b)/

Rom 8:14-17/Mt 28:16-20

#### OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 19, 2024

Sunday: Pentecost Sunday

Monday: Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs Tuesday:

Wednesday: St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

Thursday: Friday:

In Memory of:

Fred Mariutto

Saturday: St. Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: The Most Holy Trinity

## **MAY 2024**

#### HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

#### **BREAD & WINE ALTAR FLOWERS**

**Donor**: Diana Mariutto **Donor**: Diana Mariutto

Fred Mariutto

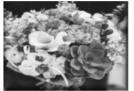
In Memory of:

**Donor**: Diana Mariutto

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** 

In Memory of: Fred Mariutto







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





PENTECOST SUNDAY May 19, 2024

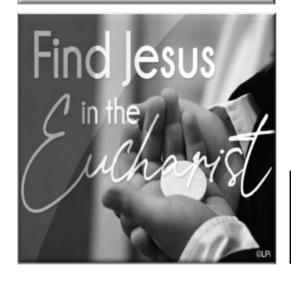
"Receive the Holy Spirit." Is the Holy Spirit preparing you to share the Lord's mission as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or reach out to the

Office of Vocations at 804.359.5661

Or via email:

vocations@richmonddiocese.org







## May 19, 2024 Pentecost Sunday

When I was twenty-two years of age in August of 2000, I experienced World Youth Day in Rome. As for many of my generation, the event was life-changing for me. Surrounded by joyful, hope-filled young people from seemingly every nation and tongue, we were gathered around the Pope, sharing a common Faith and love. The Pope spoke to us of our shared family bond in the Church and invited us to give our lives in service to others. Now twenty-four years later, my life as a priest, like that of so many others from those special days, continues on that same path of love and unity

— despite my many weaknesses. What makes that continuation possible?

This week's feast gives the answer: the Holy Spirit. The gift of God — His very life — the third person of the Trinity, is the Spirit who animates the entire Church and each member of it. He makes us one-in-love in a way that utterly exceeds



human capacity. For example, he makes the apostles speak with tongues of fire, and everyone hears them in his own native tongue. The Holy Spirit is the means by which Jesus establishes a new family, one that crosses all possible boundaries of time, space, and culture. The Holy Spirit never tires in enthusing us for mission.

Aren't we longing to experience the Holy Spirit in a fresh way? Today we celebrate this untiring flame, once ignited on earth and burning still. So, we humbly cry out: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of your love! — Father John Muir

#### **CATHOLIC TRIVIA**

QUESTION: Which Prayer is also called the Angelica Salutation?

Auswer: The Hail Mary

# PARISH YOUTH



Today is the last class of the 2023-2024 year.

Blessings for the summer.
See you next year!

#### **VOLUNTEER TEACHERS AND TEACHER'S AIDES NEEDED:**

Volunteers are needed as teachers, assistants and substitutes for 2024-2025 school year.

If you are interested in helping guide the children in faith we would love to have you come help. Please send an email to:

## Religioused@saintspeterpaul.org

I look forward to working with you!

#### SHARING THE GOSPEL

BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL SCOUTS HAVE GUIDES TO LEAD THEM ON HIKES. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS YOUR GUIDE ON YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL HELP YOU KNOW ABOUT JESUS CHRIST AND HIS LOVE FOR YOU THE SPIRIT WILL LEAD YOU TO PEACE WITH OTHERS AND TEACH YOU NEW THINGS. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL HELP YOU WHEN YOU ARE IN TROUBLE. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL GUIDE YOU TO EVERLASTING LOVE AND JOY.

### **PRAYER**

Holy Spirit, guide me to the kingdom of Heaven. **Amen.** 

#### JOIN SCOUTING!

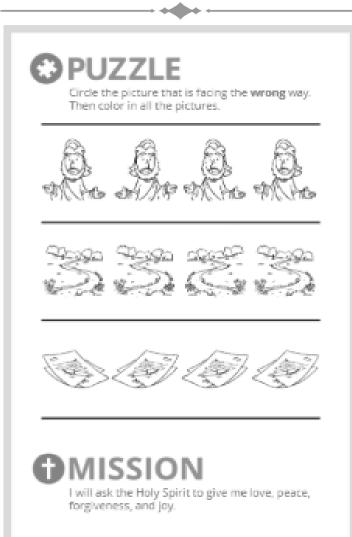
Do you have a son or daughter between the ages of 11 and 17? Now is the perfect time to sign him or her up for Scouts. The Scouting program helps youth develop academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership skills and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives.

For more information contact:

Boy Scouts Troop 138 (boys): Chuck Palmer

charleswpalmeriv@gmail.com 571.212.4445

The sacrament of <u>Baptism</u> will occur on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the 11:00am Mass. Please contact <u>religioused@saintspeterpaul.org</u> for registration and prep information. The next dates are: **July 14th and August 11th** 



# INTENTION

## MASS INTENTIONS: MAY 18 - 26, 2024

\* Represents Saint Joseph's Parish

Saturday	5/18	5pm	Ken Doll	D	Dave & Jill Thomas
Sunday	5/19	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	5/19	11am	Annette Ryan	D	Eric Salopek
Wednesday	5/22	9am	Eloy Hernandez	D	Suarez Family
Thursday	5/23	9am	Thaddeus Starowicz	D	Sharon Starowicz
Friday	5/24	9am	June Wimer	D	Bill & Veronica Lyttle
Saturday	5/25	5pm	Fr. Jerry Przywara	1	Michael & Nancy King
Sunday	5/26	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	5/26	11am	Raymond Arroyo & Remy Morris	D	Terri Arroyo

#### 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.



#### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

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

# 2024 Yard Sale

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church 4309 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy Palmyra, VA 22963

# June 7th & 8th 8am to 2pm

Lunch will be available for purchase from: JUST A BITE FOOD TRUCK



For a successful event, we need helpers for the following dates and tasks:

June 2 Move tables, shelves, racks, and tents (after Mass)

June 3 - 6: Unpacking donations (9 - 5)

June 7 - 8: Sales (7:30 - 3)

June 8: Return tables, shelves, racks, and tents & pack up unsold items

# EVERDAY STEWARDSHIP

Pew Count Sat 112  Sun 204	May 4/5		
First Offering	\$ 4,023		
First Offering: <b>Faith Direct</b>	\$ 1,826		
Total	\$ 5,849		
May- MTD Debt Reduction	\$ 2,298		
May Bake Sale - Thank you!	\$ 306		

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

# Our next DEBT REDUCTION Collection is JUNE 1 & 2

Thank you and God bless you for your continued support.

Our next monthly Bake Sale is <u>June 1st & 2nd</u> after each Mass. Donations accepted before Mass. Thank you!

Making plans for the summer? Make sure to plan for your offertory as well! When your summer travels take you away from Sunday services, eGiving lets you continue to support our church and the ministries you cherish. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

Recurring gifts sustain our parish through the busy summer months. You'll provide us with consistent support, even if you're away on a Sunday, so the programs, services, and ministries that mean so much to our community will never miss a beat.

You can sign up online at faith.direct/VA249 or call customer service at 866-507-8757.

You'll provide us with consistent support that helps us always be at the ready with programs, services, and ministries for our church families and for those in need throughout the community. Thanks for your continued support of our parish family.





#### 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal:

### 

Over the past couple of months, I hope you have gained an understanding of what it means to support the 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal. Yes, our parish is a direct beneficiary, however, supporting the Appeal is also about supporting the Catholic Church beyond the parish. For example, did you know that the Appeal:

Provides a variety of assistance to mission parishes such as funds for capital improvements, outreach ministries, and specific ministry costs.

Provides formation opportunities for youth and young adults aimed at community building, prayer, worship, service, and education.

If you have not yet made a commitment, I hope you will join me in helping to not only meet but exceed this year's goal!

Please visit <u>richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal</u> to make a secure online donation or visit our parish office for a hard copy pledge card. Thank you for partnering with us on this important ministry of our Catholic Church.



The Filipino Catholic Community of Charlottesville is inviting everyone to our May Crowning event on Saturday, May 25th at 4:30pm (Vigil Mass) at St. Thomas Aquinas. After the May Crowning, we will follow in a procession around the church, then gather in the Parish Hall to pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy. Our May Crowning celebration will conclude with food and fellowship. Everyone is encouraged to bring a potluck item and a drink to share. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Marianne Kish at 949.973.7394 or marianne.d.kish@gmail.com

# UPCOMING EVENTS



# ADULT FORMATION CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

Classes meet every Sunday @ 9:30am.



## BIBLE STUDY

## **Mondays**

1:00 - 2:00pm On Summer hiatus

		Parish Mission	10:00a	Church	
Sat	18-May 19-May	Confessions	4:00p	Church	
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church	
		Spaghetti Dinner/Rosary	6:15p	F	
		Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's	
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's	
		CCD/RCIA	9:30a	E/Church	
		Mass	11:00a	Church	
Mon	20-May				
Tues	21-May	Yoga	11:00a	F	
		Mass	9:00a	Church	
Wed	22-May	Scouts	6:30p	F	
Thurs	23-May	Worship Committee	7:00p	123	
		Mass	9:00a	Church	
		Hayward Funeral	11:00a	Church	
		Cursillo	6:00p	123	
Fri	24-May	Mass	9:00a	Church	
		Adoration	9:30a	Church	
		Benediction	3:00p	Church	
Sat	25-May	Memorial Mass	10:00a	Flagpole	
		Confession	4:00p	Church	
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church	
	26-May	Confession	8:30a	St. Joseph's	
Sun		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's	
		Mass	11:00a	Church	
Room Ledger:		<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)			

# Senior Coffee Social Returns! Wednesday, May 29 at 10:00 am in the Commons

**ROOM SCHEDULE** 

We will discuss follow up on the Health Fair. Bring Suggestions for the next book to read.

## **SPEND AN HOUR WITH JESUS**

The Chapel is <u>temporarily closed</u> while the water leak is investigated.
Adoration can be done in the church.
You are especially invited to all day adoration in the church on Fridays from 9:30a - 3:00p. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Contact: Denise Minor - dminor92@gmail.com





## **Spaghetti Dinner and Rosary**

Come join in fellowship at the close of our Parish Mission on **Saturday, May 18th after Mass** at our Spaghetti Dinner and Rosary around the fire.

This event is sponsored by our Parish Council and the Knights of Columbus

# 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



Catholic Health Initiatives for Uganda

# Annual Golf Classic

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



This 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 learn more about our tournament, us the following link or scan the QR code <a href="https://www.charitygolftoday.com/catholichealth">www.charitygolftoday.com/catholichealth</a>



#### FLOWER DONATIONS FOR MARY

During the month of May we honor
Mary, our Blessed Virgin Mother.
If you have flowers growing in your
garden or a bouquet in the store
catches your eye, bring them to the
church so they can be displayed at the
foot of Mary, weekly, throughout May.

Call the office with questions 434.589.5201



Palmyra, VA" on Facebook for Store Updates

# Catholic Q & A

#### Question:

How do we know when we receive the Holy Spirit?

#### Answer:

My brothers and I discovered something as we got older. There's a little bit of dad in us. Each time we catch ourselves using one of his gestures, expressions, or comments about a meal, we say, "I'm getting more like Dad!" Many laughs and good-natured kidding have come out of it. Mom loves it, and so does Dad, although I doubt he'd admit it!

When we are confirmed, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. There is no radical change in us that makes us seem suddenly different. Over a period of time we come to see that there is a little bit of the Spirit in us. We catch ourselves using the gifts, and often end up wondering where a bit of wisdom came from, or why we were so patient or we feel an intensity in our prayer. Perhaps we felt drawn to deepen our spiritual life or found courage in witnessing to our faith. That's when we know we have received the Holy Spirit. We take on his image. Yes, we grow in age, grace and wisdom, but we also grow in our awareness and understanding of the working of God in our life. We become more godlike, realizing we're getting more and more like God. Our thoughts, words and actions carry that quality and others too, see it in us. You might call it holiness. But be confident! There's a little bit of him in all of us.

### PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit! Enlighten us! Embolden us! Inflame us! Stir our hearts anew! You have called us to live and minister in this time, in these spaces, to these souls. Set us on FIRE with fresh inspiration and sacred direction! Amen.

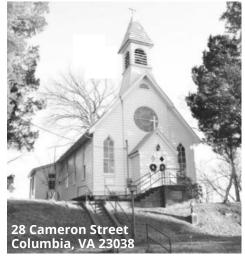
# May 12<sup>th</sup> was Mothers' Day, but let's use the month of May to celebrate **New Mothers' Month!**

Please donate baby clothing and diapers and baby supplies! There is a bassinet in the entrance to the Church. Donations will be collected for LifeSpring Pregnancy Centers, Charlottesville, supported by:

## **Knights of Columbus Council #11475** and Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Palmyra, VA

Financial donations will also be accepted, in lieu of baby supplies. Please make any checks out to "Sts. Peter & Paul Church." The church will then make one check to Lifespring. Please place all donated items in the bassinet. No wrapping needed. Questions? Please call Larry Boice: 434-510-7677.

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



p: 434.589.5201e: pastor@saintspeterpaul.orgw: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

# INTROSPECTIVE

#### **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP**

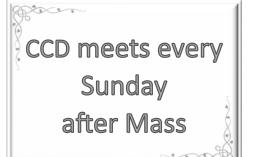
By Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

On this Pentecost Sunday, if you come to Mass at my parish you will see a sea of red all around. The choir, the lectors, the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, the people in the pews, and of course the celebrant and our deacon, will all be wearing red. We are one of those parishes that strive to reflect the color of the liturgy in our dress. It can be a sight to see.

What we put on our bodies serves only as a reminder of what is really important during these liturgical celebrations. At Pentecost, it was the Spirit of God that filled those in the first Christian community. We wear red to call to mind that very Spirit, often depicted as a fire or flame. However, if we just use red as a reminder of the power of the Spirit without letting it change us, then our actions become merely sentimental.



We are filled with the Holy Spirit through the sacraments of the Church. God touches us and enters into us in a profound way, just like in that upper room at Pentecost. That first powerful movement of the Spirit led to a Church that grew and flourished and remains alive today. What is the movement of the Spirit within calling you to do today? Do we allow God to move us and do great things through us? Red is a bold color to wear at any time. But our actions should be even bolder.



## **OFFERTORY**

MAY 5 \$ 686 POOR BOX \$ 35

Thank you for your generosity!

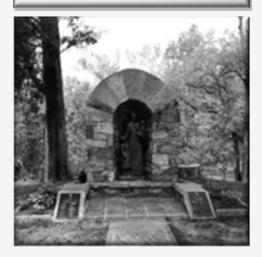


## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Mary Ellen Agolia \* Bradford Barrows \*
David Carbocci \* 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 \*

If you have pictures or ministry information to be added to St. Joseph's website, please email Melissa at: <a href="mailto:kenneymg@gmail.com">kenneymg@gmail.com</a>

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.



# RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS By Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

You Don't Have What It Takes — But You Will

Those of us in ministry love this saying: God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called.

We all know that sort of queasy feeling we get in the pit of our stomachs when it becomes clear what we're supposed to do, in any situation. It's that feeling of: Oh, no. Not me. Not now. I can't.

We've all got our list of reasons why not, don't we? We do it for everything, from big life problems to small everyday choices. I'm not going to invite my neighbor to church because I don't want to come across as pushy. I'm not going to make amends with my cousin because she'll just walk all over me again. I'm not going to say a Rosary tonight because I'm tired and it'll just stress me out.

However, even if we all put our lists of "reasons why we can't" together, I don't think any of us have reasons quite as valid as the apostles. Their job was to convert the nations — and here they are, a bunch of fishermen who haven't been out of Judea, who speak only their own languages. Were they supposed to preach the Gospel via a particularly compelling game of charades?

But even that big, giant, stop-you-dead-in-your tracks Reason Why We Can't was nothing, because God had a plan. He didn't call a bunch of equipped men. He called them, and He equipped them. Cue the tongues of fire!

God doesn't call us to do His will because we have what it takes. He calls us because He's ready to give us what it takes. Being a good steward is to answer the call of Christ knowing he will provide.





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