

May 26, 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

- **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

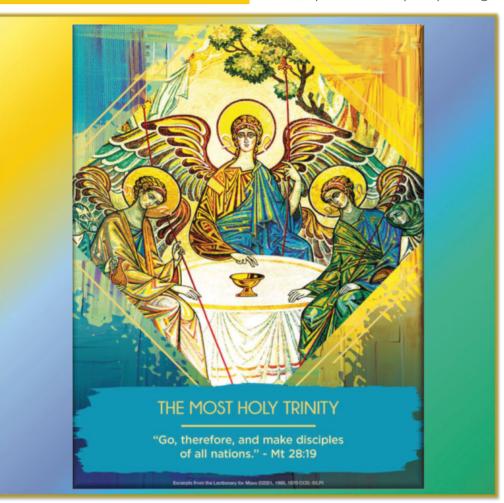
Saturday 4pm: SPP Sunday 8:30 am: St. Joseph's (or by appointment)

HOSPITAL VISITS:

Call Parish Office or Rectory: 434.589.5200

HOMEBOUND:

Call Parish Office to schedule Communion



EVANGELIZE

SANCTIFY

SERVE

ELCOME



ADMINISTRATION

PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR

Doug Mullinex | 434.981.6950

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR

Steve Momper | 434.977.5453

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Charles Nicholson | 434.365.9712

CEMETERY

Mandy Tolano | 540.595.7173

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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



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 26, 2024

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

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

Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9/Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9 and 10c/Mk 10:17-27 Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Mk 10:28-31 Wednesday: 1 Pt 1:18-25/Ps 147 :12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 10:32-45

Thursday: 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/Ps 100:2, 3, 4, 5/Mk 10:46-52 Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/ Friday:

Lk 1:39-56

Saturday: Jude 17, 20b-25/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 11:27-33

Next Sunday: Ex 24:3-8/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18 (13)/Heb 9:11-15/

Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 26, 2024

The Most Holy Trinity Sunday:

Monday: St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop; Memorial Day

Tuesday:

Wednesday: St. Paul VI, Pope St. Joan of Arc Thursday:

Friday: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday: St. Justin, Martyr

Next Sunday: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

MAY 2024

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

BREAD & WINE

Donor: Diana Mariutto

ALTAR FLOWERS Donor: Diana Mariutto

SANCTUARY CANDLE Donor: Diana Mariutto

In Memory of:

In Memory of: Fred Mariutto

In Memory of: Fred Mariutto

Fred Mariutto





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





The Most Holy Trinity May 26, 2024

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." How can you evangelize others and share in God's glory? Maybe 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







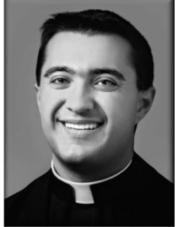
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Once I was at a meeting with representatives of various religions. On a coffee break, a man from another religion mused to me: "You know, with all our differences, all religions are really about being good people." I lowered my cappuccino and said as warmly as I could, "That's not what mine's about." His quizzical look begged for clarification. "Mine is about plunging into the life of God," I said.

Just before Jesus ascends into heaven, he commands the eleven apostles, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20). The word "baptize" means "to immerse in, to plunge into." It presupposes the use of water. But what does it mean to be immersed in God's name? In the Bible, God's name is identical to God Himself. So, to be baptized into water, using Jesus' formula, is to be plunged into the life of God. Said another way, it is to die with Jesus and rise with him as a member of his body.

The Trinity isn't a doctrine simply to accept and ponder. It's more like an ocean: a mystery into which we are baptized ... inserted, immersed, dunked, plunged. Baptism gives us power to live our lives as beloved children of God, patterned after Jesus himself, who is always with us, until the end of the ages. Hardly the same as being good people. Stranger, but much better.

— Father John Muir



You can find out more about Charlie by going to the Diocesan website, Vocations, Meet our Seminarians

Meet Charlie Tamayo!

He is in seminary at Saint John Paul II Seminary and is assigned to us for 3 months this summer. He is from Virginia Beach.

Favorite Book: The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis

Favorite Saints: St. Therese of Lisieux, St. José Sánchez del Rio, Blessed Franz Jägerstätter

Home Parish: St. John the Apostle, Virginia Beach

Welcome, Charlie!

PARISH YOUTH



Blessings for the summer!

Look for 2024-2025 registration info late summer.

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

As the disciples ate with friends, traveled, worked, shopped, and made new friends, they were to have one goal in mind - help more people follow Jesus. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the holy Spirit. Teach them to love God and love each other. Teach them to be humble. Teach them to pray. Teach them to share. And teach them to tell the people they know to follow Jesus, too.

PRAYER

Dear God, help me to teach my friends how to love and follow you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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**



Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

AUTHORITY
ELEVEN
DISCIPLES

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

MISSION

When we read the Gospel, Jesus teaches us about the Father. What have you learned so far about the Holy Spirit? Using the concordance found at the back of your Bible, look up "Holy Spirit." As a family, write down the verses, find them in your Bible, and read them out loud. Talk about each verse. If you have any questions, write them down and ask your pastor or teacher for help.

OLNATIONS

INTENTIONS

MASS INTENTIONS: MAY 25 - JUNE 2, 2024

* Represents Saint Joseph's Parish

Saturday	5/25	5pm	Fr. Jerry Przywara	ı	Michael & Nancy King
Sunday	5/26	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	5/26	11am	Raymond Arroyo & Remy Morris	D	Terri Arroyo
Wednesday	5/29	9am	Catherine McIntyre	D	Hal & Linda Smith
Thursday	5/30	9am	Elizabeth Price	1	Jamie Hicks
Friday - 1st Saturday	5/31	9am	Patricia Bozza	D	Anthony & Patricia Amato
	6/1	10am	funeral Mass for George Hartwell		
Saturday	6/1	5pm	Hal Hayward	D	Frank Pilk
Sunday	6/2	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	6/2	11am	Sara Alletto	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 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.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Peter & Philomena Alonso, Michael Amato, Jean & Mary Louise Bernard, Sharon Cassidy, Nicole Colley, The Compton Family, Jean Dalsky, Catherine Doherty, Carol Donohue, Samuel Dunton, Me'Shelle Durant, Bill Ellis, Caroline Faulkner, Frank Feliciano, 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 119 Sun 170	May 11/12
First Offering	\$ 3,956
First Offering: Faith Direct	\$ 1,812
Total	\$ 5,786
May- MTD Debt Reduction	\$ 3,433

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: Sharing His Love with Others

The purpose of the 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal is to fund ministries which one parish cannot support alone. When we come together, we are able to educate all our seminarians, provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to help those in need with basic necessities, and conduct the programs designed to build the next generation of Catholics.

When you step back and look at the Appeal's case for support of not just these ministries but many others, it is amazing to realize the impact that each of us has on moving our Church forward.

YOUR gift matters.

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 Knights of Columbus was pleased to host a luncheon for the Ugandan Priests serving in our Diocese; twenty two priests attended the festivities on Monday, May 13, and a joyous time was had by all.





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 will resume in September. Have a blessed summer.



BIBLE STUDY

Mondays

1:00 - 2:00pm Resuming on September 16

Sat	25-May	Memorial Mass	10:00a	Flagpole				
		Confessions 4:00p		Church				
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church				
		Spaghetti Dinner/Rosary	6:15p	F				
Sun	26-May	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's				
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's				
		Mass	11:00a	Church				
Office Closed Monday, May 27 - Wednesday, May 29								
Mon	27-May	KoC Officers	7:00p	E				
Tues	28-May	Yoga	11:00a	F				
Wed	29-May	Mass	9:00a	Church				
		Senior Coffee Social	10:00a	Commons				
		Scouts	6:30p	F				
Thurs	30-May	Mass	9:00a	Church				
		Cursillo	6:00p	123				
Fri	31-May	Mass - 1st Saturday	9:00a	Church				
		Adoration	9:30a	Church				
		Benediction	3:00p	Church				
Sat	1-Jun	Hartwell Funeral Mass/ reception	10:00a	Church				
		Confession	4:00p	Church				
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church				
		Bake Sale After Mass	6:00p	Church				
Sun	2-Jun	Confession	8:30a	St. Joseph's				
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's				
		Mass	11:00a	Church				
		Bake Sale After Mass	12:00p	Church				
		F - St. Francis (Hall)	R - St.	Raphael (Church)				
		E - St. Elizabeth (Hall) M - St. Michael (Church)						
		C - Commons (Church)						

Senior Coffee Social Returns!

ROOM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 29 at 10:00 am

in the Commons

We will follow up on the Health Fair.

Bring suggestions for the next book to read and discuss.

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



GOD DOESN'T TAKE A BREAK

An acquaintance who works in church ministry once told me a story about one of the students she had in Faith Formation. This student informed my friend that his family doesn't come to Mass in summer. "God takes a break in summer, and so do we," he said.

There's a lot to unpack here. First, it's tragic to think of anyone voluntarily missing out on the Eucharist for so long. It's also a real problem in the church today that a lot of our folks don't understand the beauty of the Sunday obligation. But if I had to dissect this situation and pinpoint the thing I find most troubling, it's the idea of God taking a break.

I hope it's starting to look like summer where you are. We've still got a few weeks left before it's official, but the school year should be winding up for most kids, the birds should be chirping a little louder, and hopefully your lawn is starting to green up nicely. You're probably daydreaming about the annual cabin getaway weekend or waterskiing on the Fourth of July.

All in all, summer is going to be a nice break, even if — like typical Americans — our break is full of productive work.

Thank God — literally — that He doesn't take a break, even if we do. Can we try to remember that, even in the midst of our many wonderful distractions? Let's enjoy this summer. Let's live it to the full. But let's see it for the gift that it is — and remember the thanks we owe the Giver.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS





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 www.charitygolftoday.com/catholichealth

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN Question: Who is the patron saint of stockbrokers and bankers?

Answer: Watthew



Catholic Q & A

QUESTION:

At a parish council meeting, our pastor mentioned the need for deacons. It is something I am considering. How do I know if I have a vocation? What steps should I take next?

ANSWER:

Any and all gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to the church are for the good of the community. As members of the Body of Christ, what one member does affects all. What the body does also affects each member.

A vocation or call to ministry is tested and verified by the church. Through prayer, instruction, and service, a vocation is tested, and then acknowledged by the official call to orders or to service.

If you are considering becoming a deacon, the first step would be to talk to your pastor. He will be able to give you more specific information on the program in your diocese, what is expected of you, and how you apply. You might also begin to see a spiritual director, someone who can help you with your faith journey and vocation discernment. They do so by focusing on prayer, your relationship with God, and spiritual practices. Finally, you'll need to see the diocesan vocation director in charge of deacons to apply. Best wishes!

PRAYER FOR THE FALLEN

God our creator and sustainer, today our country brings to our memory those who have defended this nation in times of trouble.

They have sacrificed their lives to protect our shores from those who would limit our freedoms or enslave us to ways that are against your will. Bring all those who have died in service to our country into your heavenly presence.

We humbly call down your blessing on those still serving; grant your heavenly protection to these men and women, and open your Sacred Heart to give them peace and comfort.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May 12th 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

28 Cameron Street Columbia, VA 23038

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

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Fred Gunnels | 434.960.6092

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Jennifer Dennis| 804.641.8941

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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

My wife and I have used the same baptismal gown for all 3 of our children. It is a very long traditional gown made with fabric taken from my wife's first communion dress and my mother-in-law's wedding gown. It is a symbol not just of each child being washed clean by the sacrament, but also of family and how faith has been passed down through generations. Faith is a gift and that gown shows how this family has taken seriously the cultivation of that faith and the sharing of it with those we love the most.

By our baptism we are called to a discipleship that compels us to share our faith with others. It is not always easy, but it would be wrong to horde that faith and not let it shine for others to see. When we think about a stewardship way of life, we sometimes focus on material goods, our talents and skills, or our time. But faith is a gift that needs to be treated in a similar way. We are heirs with Jesus Christ to this rich tapestry of faith and the Church. If all of us were to hide that faith and not seek to share it with others, that lineage would end with us.

We live during a time in history where in some lands people are finding Jesus in huge numbers, while in other places the numbers of people in the pews is declining sharply. We can spend all our time talking about these realities or we can choose to respond to our baptismal call. Jesus commanded us to go forth and make disciples of all nations. Maybe we can begin with our neighbor.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Look for CCD registration forms in August

OFFERTORY

MAY 5

\$ 1051

M & R

\$ 20

Thank you for your generosity!

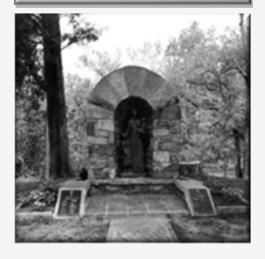


PRAYER REQUESTS

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: 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.



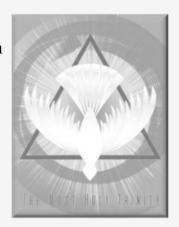
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

PRECIOUS THINGS

I once wrote an article about a school that embraced the Reggio Emilia approach to education. This meant, in practice, a lot of fascinating things, and it was a fun piece to work on. But all these years later, I could not accurately describe the Reggio Emilia style of learning to anyone except to say this: they give the kids glass bowls and china plates.

That's what stuck with me, and that's what sticks out in my memory amidst the hundreds of intervening articles and interviews on other equally fascinating topics. I remember those glass bowls and cups lining the shelves, the fine china dishes, the beautiful shiny cutlery the children used for lunch.

This was a pre-school, and these students were three-year-olds. "If they drop a cup and it shatters, then they learn that glass can break. We clean it up," the teacher said with a shrug. The idea was that a child will never learn to handle a fragile, precious thing — and grow into an adult who can respect and cherish a fragile, precious thing — if they are not sincerely trusted with a precious thing whose fragility they bear personal witness to.



The breaking, you see, was part of the education.

The disciples worshiped, but they doubted. And yet, Christ gave them the Great Commission anyway, something fragile and important, something that could be easily dropped and easily broken. Christ knew who they were, what they were. They were mere human beings, deeply imperfect, scared and hesitant, a little slow on the uptake. He knows that's exactly what we are, too. But he gives us the Great Commission just as he gave it to them. Because that is what the Faith is: it is something perfectly beautiful, passed from one flawed person to another, throughout the ages — constantly dropped, constantly broken, and constantly, miraculously, pieced back together again.

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." — Matthew 28:19-20



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