

June 09, 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.



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

w: saintjosephcolumbia.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

YOUTH MASS

Last Sunday of the Month

CONFESSION

Saturday 4pm: SPP

Sunday 8:30am: St. Joseph's
(or by appointment)

HOSPITAL VISITS:

Call Parish Office
or Rectory: 434.589.5200

HOMEBOUND:

Call Parish Office
to schedule Communion



10TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." - Mk 3:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (2001, 1986, 1975 CCD, BLP)

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

Dennis Barberio

YOUTH MUSIC MINISTER

Townes Mullinex |

USHERS

Frank Piik | 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

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

| 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 JUNE 9, 2024

Sunday: Gn 3:9-15/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7bc)/2 Cor 4:13—5:1/Mk 3:20-35

Monday: 1 Kgs 17:1-6/Ps 121:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 5:1-12

Tuesday: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 18:20-39/Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab and 8, 11/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: 1 Kgs 18:41-46/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13/Mt 5:20-26

Friday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16/Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14/Mt 5:27-32

Saturday: 1 Kgs 19:19-21/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10/Mt 5:33-37

Next Sunday: Ez 17:22-24/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/2 Cor 5:6-10/Mk 4:26-34

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 9, 2024

Sunday: 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday:

Tuesday: St. Barnabas, Apostle

Wednesday:

Thursday: St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Friday: Flag Day

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Father's Day

JUNE 2024

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

BREAD & WINE

Donor: Don & Eileen Tyler

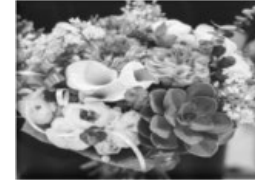
In Memory of: The Finn Family



ALTAR FLOWERS

Donor: Don & Eileen Tyler

In Memory of: The Tyler Family



SANCTUARY CANDLE

Donor: Don & Eileen Tyler

In Memory of: The Egan Family



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



ENCOUNTER


GOSPEL MEDITATION

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus asks us a stunning question this week: “How can Satan cast out Satan?” To enter into this question opens up the often-hidden dynamics of what Jesus has done and is constantly doing. If we’re honest, our response to some degree is: “How else can we cast him out? Satan is precisely how we cast out Satan!” But Jesus wants us to see this finally does not work. Here’s what I mean.

Satanas names the demonic mechanism by which we render wholeness through accusation. When we face a threat, we seek something to protect us (e.g., more money, social status, security, power, etc.). Rivals inevitably arise for these things and so do tensions. Accusation presents itself. “I’ll never be successful unless I get ahead of that guy.” “She’s already trying to get ahead of me.” “That group of immigrants is trying to take our jobs.” And so on. The accusation grows into a fear-inducing threat — things will break apart — no, they already are! Hurry! We inflict violence on the victim and — as if by magic — peace ensues. For a time. Soon fresh accusations are required to hold new chaos at bay, until there is no community left at all. This is essentially humankind’s sad history in a nutshell.

Jesus’ cross and resurrection unmasks this broken system of “casting out Satan by Satan” and ushers in a new one he calls “the Kingdom of God.” He reveals that the dynamic of accusation is nothing compared to his power of divine mercy and love. The cross (and not Satan) is the real power to tear down strongholds of sin and cast out Satan. This is why he describes himself as the “stronger man who ties up the strong man to plunder his house.” This week let’s notice the ways we “cast out Satan by Satan,” and then refuse to do it anymore. Because in the long run, that divided house cannot stand. — Father John Muir

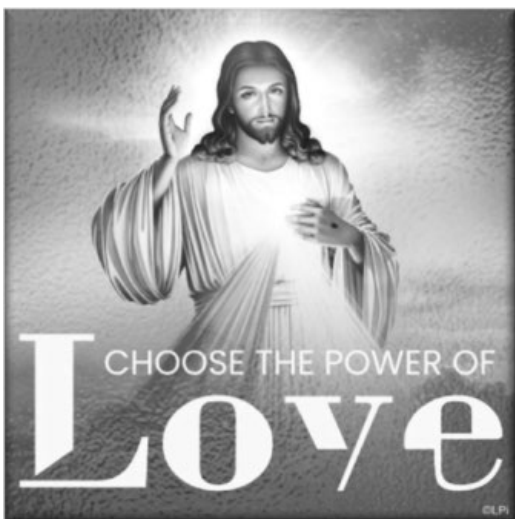



10th Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 9, 2024

“Here are my mother and my brothers.” Embrace being a part of Christ’s family and Consider serving his people 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



PRAYER OF IDENTITY

Dear God,
In the garden You asked, “Who told you that you were naked?” Who told me all kinds of things about myself — lists of flaws and failures a mile high.

It wasn’t You. Plant Your truth inside of me. Speak to me about how You see me. Remind me that I am Yours, chosen from eternity for You.

Amen.

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:

Religious@saintspeterpaul.org

SHARING THE GOSPEL

GOOD DOCTORS ARE SMART AND HELPFUL. THEY USE MEDICINES TO MAKE US WELL. JESUS WAS THE BEST DOCTOR THAT EVER LIVED, BUT HE DIDN'T NEED MEDICINES. JESUS USED THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. HE FORGAVE SINS, HEALED BROKEN BONES, AND CURED DISEASES. JESUS EVEN GOT RID OF DEMONS. NO DOCTOR HAD EVER DONE THAT BEFORE! IF YOU NEED HEALING, ASK JESUS.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, thank you for helping and healing people through Jesus. 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 Baptism will occur on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the 11:00am Mass. Please contact religiously@saintspeterpaul.org for registration and prep information. The next dates are: **July 14th and August 11th**

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

DEMONS	SINFUL	MOTHER
SATAN	FORGIVEN	BROTHERS
FIGHTS	HOLY SPIRIT	OBEYS

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

MISSION

Write a thank you note to your doctor. Then say a thank you prayer to Jesus, the best doctor ever.

INTENTIONS

MASS INTENTIONS: JUNE 8 - JUNE 16, 2024

*REPRESENTS ST. JOSEPH

Saturday	6/8	5pm	John Henry VornDick	D	The VornDick Family
Sunday	6/9	9am*	Laverne Keyser	D	Carol Hannum
Sunday	6/9	11am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Wednesday	6/12	9am	Rosemary Witkowski-birthday	I	The Witkowski family
Thursday	6/13	9am	Don Murphy	D	Patty Brammer
Friday	6/14	9am	Sal Barcia	D	Mary Ann Barcia
Saturday	6/15	5pm	Patrick Granville	D	Michael & Nancy King
Sunday	6/16	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	6/16	11am	Jean Maher	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.

Pray God keeps them in His care.



REMEMBER *in your prayers*

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 II, 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



Knights of Columbus "100 Club"

weekly winners for May:

05/01 - Neil Doherty #99

05/08 - Jean Bockman # 05

05/15 - OPEN #79

05/22 - Craig Lounsbury #98

05/29 - Florann Burnett #46

Congratulations!

EVERDAY STEWARDSHIP

Pew Count Sat. - 131 Sun. - 174	May 25/26
First Offering	\$ 4,194
First Offering: Faith Direct	\$ 1,812
Total	\$ 6,006
May- MTD Debt Reduction	\$ 3,538

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

Our next DEBT REDUCTION Collection is

JULY 6 & 7

Thank you and God bless you for your continued support.

Our next monthly Bake Sale is *this Saturday and Sunday* after each Mass. Donations accepted before Mass.

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.

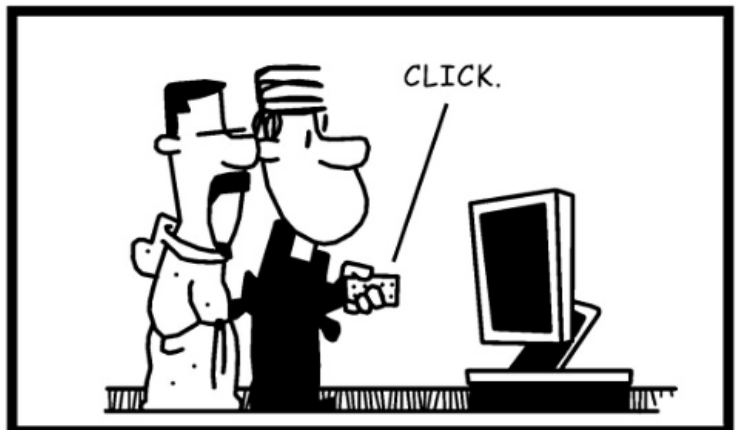
You'll provide us with consistent support that helps us always be at the ready with programs, services, and ministries for our church families and for those in need throughout the community. Thanks for your continued support of our parish family.



Flag Day is a holiday celebrated on June 14 in the United States. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The Flag Resolution stated "That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

The United States Army also celebrates the U.S. Army birthday on this date, as Congress adopted the American continental army after reaching a consensus position in the Committee of the Whole on June 14, 1775.

10th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

ROOM SCHEDULE

Sat	8-Jun	YARD SALE	8:00a	E/F
		Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
Sun	9-Jun	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	11:00a	Church
Mon	10-Jun			
Tues	11-Jun	Yoga	11:00a	F
Wed	12-Jun	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Scouts	6:30p	F
Thurs	13-Jun	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Cursillo	6:00p	123
Fri	14-Jun	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Adoration	9:30a	Church
		Benediction	3:00p	Church
Sat	15-Jun	Venture Crew 54 Car Wash	10:00a	Outside
		Confession	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
Sun	16-Jun	Confession	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	11:00a	Church
Room Ledger:		F - St. Francis (Hall)	R - St. Raphael (Church)	
		E - St. Elizabeth (Hall)	M - St. Michael (Church)	
		C - Commons (Church)		

Senior Coffee Social

Wednesday, June 26 at 10:00 am
in the Commons

We welcome Forney Shell, author of Mastering the Bucket List: From Planning to Action and Having a Successful Life: No Permission Needed.

SPEND AN HOUR WITH JESUS

The Chapel is temporarily closed 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





Chesterton Academy of St. John the Evangelist is a classical high school joyfully rooted in the Catholic tradition, opening this August in Charlottesville! **Daily Mass**, the **Socratic seminar**, and **affordable tuition** set this high school apart. Prospective students and their parents are invited to tour the school on Saturday, **June 8th** at its **new location** across from Holy Comforter Parish in Charlottesville. Following the tour, they're offering a **2-hour poetry workshop** for students led by faculty. Also, from **June 24-28**, they'll be hosting a **"Dive Into Poetry" half-day camp**. These opportunities are for **rising 8th through 12th graders**. Please see the bulletin for details, or visit our web site to sign up and get more info: ChestertonSJE.org.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the name for the long robes sometimes worn by Catholic religious sisters?

Answer: *habits*



"He said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." – **Mk 3:33-35**

**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



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, use the following link or scan the QR code www.charitygolftoday.com/catholichealth

**Jean Marron
Memorial Mass**

The Marron family invites you to join in the celebration of Jean's life as she departs on her final journey:

**Tuesday, July 16, 2024
11:00AM**

**Please RSVP to
Juleswmarron@gmail.com**

Catholic Q & A

Question:

How do I bring God into the work of my daily life?

Answer:

Whatever your daily work, you have an opportunity to encounter God and to follow His commandments in love. In the New Testament, we see that most of the Apostles didn't have a previous religious position. They were fishermen, tax collectors, and political activists. St. Paul was a tentmaker. Among the saints, we have doctors, lawyers, farmers, and stay-at-home moms. No matter your daily tasks, God can be present there!

One way concerns behavior. Start with an examination of conscience. Look at areas where you tend to struggle to imitate Christ at work. Do you gossip? Does brimming frustration become impatience at home? Pick one sin you struggle with, then choose a virtue to strengthen that area. If you tend to speak poorly of your co-workers, resolve to stop and to say one kind thing a day instead.

Another way relates to perspective, particularly your perspective of others. Jesus' incarnation reminds us of the value of every human being. Jesus is God, and each of us is created in God's image. When you encounter another person, you have an opportunity to see God in a new place and a new way — in that person in front of you. Genuinely listen to them and be present to their concerns. Loving your neighbor is loving God! Our relationship with God and the love He inspires in our hearts shouldn't remain only at church on Sunday. We can — and should — let our faith animate our lives!



St. Anthony of Padua is one of the Catholic Church's most popular saints. Saint Anthony of Padua, patron saint of lost and stolen articles, was a powerful Franciscan preacher and teacher. He's typically portrayed holding the child Jesus—or a lily—or a book—or all three—in his arms. Many people give alms to St. Anthony Bread in thanksgiving to God for blessings received through the prayers of St. Anthony.

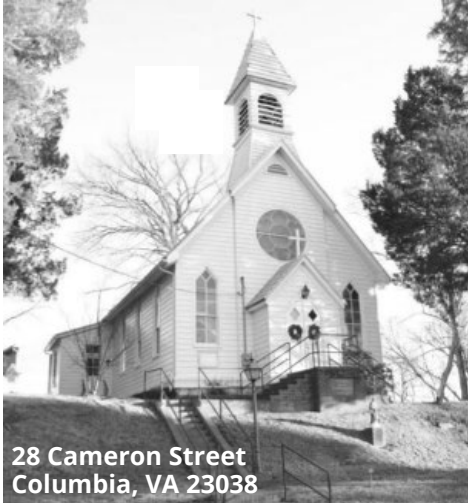
St. Anthony of Padua's life is what every Christian's life is meant to be; a steady courage to face the ups and downs of life, the call to love and forgive, to be concerned for the needs of others, to deal with crisis great and small, and to have our feet solidly on the ground of total trusting love and dependence on God.

The reason for invoking St. Anthony's help in finding lost or stolen things is traced back to an incident in his own life. As the story goes, Anthony had a book of psalms that was very important to him. Besides the value of any book before the invention of printing, the psalter had the notes and comments he had made to use in teaching students in his Franciscan Order.

A novice who had already grown tired of living religious life decided to depart the community. Besides going AWOL he also took Anthony's psalter! Upon realizing his psalter was missing, Anthony prayed it would be found or returned to him. And after his prayer the thieving novice was moved to return the psalter to Anthony and to return to the Order, which accepted him back. Legend has embroidered this story a bit. It has the novice stopped in his flight by a horrible devil, brandishing an ax and threatening to trample him underfoot if he did not immediately return the book. Obviously a devil would hardly command anyone to do something good. But the core of the story would seem to be true. And the stolen book is said to be preserved in the Franciscan friary in Bologna.

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

YOUTH MUSIC MINISTER

Sarah Kenney |

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

I have coached all three of my children in soccer at some time in their lives. I loved teaching them and their teammates the importance of functioning as one unit. If we were not all moving together toward victory, we would all find ourselves together in defeat. We used to go through one drill I called the "human foosball." We would scrimmage with players in lines like on a foosball table. If you ever got too far behind or too far ahead of those in your line, play would stop and the ball would go to the other team. The goal was to help build an awareness of where your teammates were on the pitch and to teach the lesson that no one player is a team onto themselves.

As disciples and stewards, we sometimes find ourselves far behind or maybe even too far ahead. As a consequence, our actions either hinder the ability of the Body of Christ to evangelize and pass on the faith to a new generation or present the Church as an entity that sees itself as judgmental or too holy to be in the world. We are called to community, and in that community, we must be aware of our brothers and sisters in the faith. At times, we need to help them grow in their faith. Other times, we need to slow down and realize that we cannot change the world on our own. We all have unique gifts we are called to share, and we can only bear true witness to the power of the Body of Christ when we are all moving together and making each other strong.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Look for CCD
registration forms
in August

OFFERTORY

MAY 26 \$ 659

POOR BOX \$ 9

Thank you for your generosity!



(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

IN THE FAMILY WAY

Look here: there is no one more family-oriented than me. I drive a minivan. I wear mom jeans. I wipe unidentified gunk off of kids' faces without a second thought.

I'm all about family, but I'm not always a fan of what "family" has come to mean in the modern lexicon. Family values. Family-friendly. Family-oriented. It's usually a synonym for "non-offensive." Soft. Moderate. Nice.

It's all fine, I suppose. But is it genuine? Creating a family, bringing that family physically into the world, was the hardest and most painful thing I ever did. The care and keeping of that family — the teamwork with my spouse, the feeding and watering of the children, the teaching of the writing and the reading the and praying — it's very hardcore. It's not all stuffed animals and peekaboo. It's a mental, spiritual, and physical challenge that daily brings me to my knees.

I'm not even talking exclusively about parenting young children. I'm talking about being part of a family in any way — being a son, being a daughter, being a sister and cousin and uncle. Families are complicated and strange and messy. Sometimes boundaries need to be drawn, or they need to be crossed. Sometimes walls need to be put up or torn down. It's never easy. It's never simple.

But I've never known someone who didn't want to be part of a family in some way, whether that's a blood family or one created by circumstance. And there's a reason Christ creates a family ("Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother") and not a club.

A family is a crucible, yes — but what comes out is so much more beautiful than what went in. For all the effort and even pain that is sometimes involved in a family relationship, there is nothing more defining, more fulfilling.

We are part of Christ's family, and what we can expect from that is certainly not a life of simple, clear-cut, undemanding discipleship. We can expect confusion. We can expect discomfort. But we can expect to be perpetually drawn to the heart of one who loves us without hesitation, without condition.

In the end, we're family.

"Here are my mother and my brothers." — Mark 3:33

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.



Want to be more involved in parish life but not sure what there is to do? We will be having a Ministry Fair later on in June! Prayerfully consider how you can volunteer your time and talents at Saint Joseph. All are welcome!

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