

August 25, 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

1st Saturday 10am: SPP

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

1st Saturday 9:00am: SPP

Saturday 4pm: SPP

Sunday 8:30am: St. Joseph's

HOSPITAL VISITS:

Call Parish Office

or Rectory: 434.589.5200

HOMEBOUND:

Call Parish Office

to schedule Communion



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." - Jn 6:67-69

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1999, 1978 CCD.

GLP

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 Pilik | 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

Celeste Shapiola | 434.589.5201

RCIA/BIBLE STUDY

Cynthia Aycock | 434.996.6065

SUPPORTED GROUPS

CURSILLO

Ellie Henrietta | 434.981.3551

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Jim Cullinan | 434.589.4551

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

Celeste Shapiola | 434.589.5201

BULLETIN & ANNOUNCEMENTS DEADLINE

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



Whether you are a visitor,
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 AUGUST 25, 2024

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19,
20-21, 22-23 (9a)/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/
Jn 6:60-69
Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/
Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 6:17-29
Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 25:14-30
Next Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 1a/Jas 2:1-5/
Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 25, 2024

Sunday: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:
Tuesday: St. Monica
Wednesday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist
Friday:
Saturday:
Next Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

AUGUST 2024

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

BREAD & WINE

Donor:

In Memory of:



ALTAR FLOWERS

Donor:

In Memory of:



SANCTUARY CANDLE

Donor:

In Memory of:



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



ENCOUNTER

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

We aren't comfortable with the idea of submission. Our society champions equality, and rightly so — but it's a mistake to think that submission is at odds with equality. To submit ourselves fully, we must first be free. We must first be our own masters. God has granted us that freedom with the salvation He offers. We are no longer the slaves of sin. Now He asks us to be subordinate to one another, in the name of Christ.

What a completely uncomfortable task! What He's asking is for us to be subordinate to the person who irritates us the most. The person we really can't stand. The person who doesn't respect us or appreciate what we have to offer. The person we think we're smarter than, more talented than. The person we envy.

That's the real challenge of stewardship, isn't it? Subordination. Inconveniencing myself by giving of time, of money, of relationship. Putting the needs or wants of another above my own when they haven't done anything special to earn it.

I invite you to consider the cross — the most radical expression of submission, and of stewardship, that ever existed. If there was ever someone who deserved superiority, isn't it the God who let Himself be nailed to a tree, who gave so freely of His life, His body, His blood, His everything?

To look at him in his agony is to truly understand the beauty of submission — of laying down what you have for the good of the other.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 25, 2024

"You have the words of eternal life." Could God be calling you to be a vessel of his eternal love and wisdom that guides and inspires others? Follow him to a life of service to others 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



PARISH YOUTH



Religious Education



CCD/RCIA REGISTRATION

in The Commons

before and after Mass during the month of August or M - F in the office. Please remember to bring a copy of your child(ren)'s baptismal certificate. Classes start September 8th.

SHARING THE GOSPEL

After Jesus compared himself to manna, and said he was sent from Heaven, many of his followers turned away from him. They just could not accept what Jesus was saying. It was too hard for them to understand. We have something they did not have. We have the Holy Spirit to help us. Sometimes what we learn might be hard for us to understand, too, but we never need to walk away. We can have faith in Jesus. We can ask him to help us.

PRAYER

*Dear God, give me faith to trust Jesus always.
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):

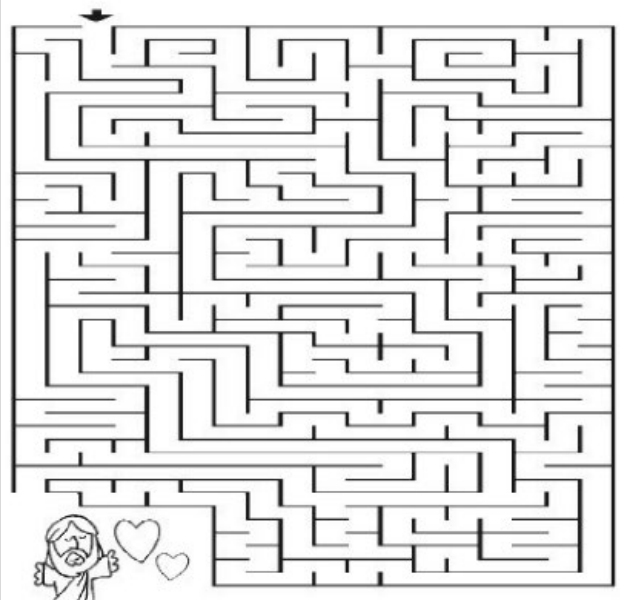
Chuck Palmer

charleswpalmeriv@gmail.com 571.212.4445

The sacrament of Baptism will normally occur on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the 11:00am Mass. Please contact religioused@saintspeterpaul.org for registration and prep information. The next dates are: **September 15th** and **October 13th**.

PUZZLE

Find your way through the maze to Jesus.



MISSION

Have you ever learned something about God that was hard to understand? Talk about it with your family, and together pray for each other. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you learn what God wants you to.

INTENTIONS

MASS INTENTIONS: AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

*REPRESENTS ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Saturday	8/24	5pm	Anne Ayuso	D	Bob & Muriel Toepfert
Sunday	8/25	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	8/25	11am	June Wimer	D	Janis & Royal Duffy
Wednesday	8/28	9am	Dottie Taylor	D	Mark & Diane Caron
Thursday	8/29	9am	David Doherty	D	Jim & Claire Kraemer
Friday	8/30	9am	Rob Morse	D	Hal & Linda Smith
Saturday	8/31	5pm	Margaret Suliga	D	Jane Suliga
Sunday	9/1	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	9/1	11am	Eleanor Schwalb	D	Mary Ann Mason

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All those who serve our country particularly . . .



Michael Bohtelo, Devon Burger, Gerard Holodak, Sarah and Taylor Graese, Raymond Markle, Connor Dobbins, Katie Marron, Kevin and Kathleen O'Malley, James Fulford, Rhett Hartwell, Andrew Thompson, Luke Marron, Sasha and Lonnie Kuhlrow, William Furst, Matt Hendl, Damien LaForenza, Mark Mason, Russ Marron, Christopher McCarthy, Zach Marron, Joe and Sophia Murphy, 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, Jean & Mary Louise Bernard, Sharon Cassidy, Nicole Colley, The Compton Family, Jean Dalsky, Connie D'Amico, Catherine Doherty, Carol Donohue, Samuel Dunton, Me'Shelle Durant, Bill Ellis, Frank Feliciano, Bob Fint, David & Pat Garner, 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 Kuhlrow, 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, and Walter Welham

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord,
In the season when faith is hard, help me to be as bold as Peter who picked you above all others saying, "To whom shall I go? You have the words of eternal life." You're my God.
I'm yours.
There is nowhere else I would rather be.
Amen.



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: According to tradition, what event took place in the home of the apostle Mark's mother?

Answer: The Last Supper.

PARISHIONER UPDATES:

If you have recently moved, changed your phone number or email, or if you have signed up for Faith Direct and no longer need envelopes, please keep the office informed so you don't miss out on important information.

Call: 434.589.5201

Email: office@saintspeterpaul.org

Come in: 4309 Thomas Jefferson Parkway (Parish Hall)

EVERDAY STEWARDSHIP

Pew Count Sat. - 124 Sun. - 185	August 10 & 11
First Offering	\$ 4,059
First Offering: Faith Direct	\$ 2,438
Total	\$ 6,497
August - MTD Debt Reduction	\$ 3,460

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

Our next DEBT REDUCTION Collection is

SEPTEMBER 7TH/8TH

Thank you and God bless you for your continued support.

Our next monthly Bake Sale is September 7th/8th after each Mass. Donations accepted before Mass. Thanks!

OUR BAKE SALES NEED HELPERS!

- ◆ Bakers are needed to provide baked goods each month.
- ◆ We also need people to sell the goodies at each Mass on the first full weekend of each month.
- ◆ Please contact Sue Scott (434.591.1205) if you are willing to do either/both of these tasks.



Chesterton Academy of St. John the Evangelist, a classical high school joyfully rooted in the Catholic faith, seeks an experienced, energetic,

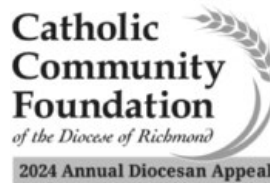
personable, and self-motivated receptionist and administrative assistant to be an integral part of our school's team. Please see <https://www.chestertonsje.org/careers> or send an email to info@chestertonSJE.org.

MARRIED COUPLES. Getting ready for school means lots of time spent on your children. After school begins, why not give yourselves some time together? Make a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!**

For more information or to register, go to WWME.org, click "Apply" and search for "Virginia" or your desired location.

Feel free to contact Mark and Cathy Stangler at 703-378-4150 or mstang1987@aol.com with any questions. Here are a few upcoming experiences:

- September 27-29, 2024 - Herndon, VA
- October 11-13, 2024 - College Park, MD
- November 15-17, 2024 - Virginia Beach, VA



2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal: Sharing His Love with Others

A Message from Fr. David

Supporting the 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal is about supporting important ministries of our Catholic Church. For example, did you know that the Appeal:

Supports the local needs of our parishes by returning a sizable portion of the dollars collected from the Appeal effort.

Provides needed resources to St. Francis – Manchester, a Richmond-based facility to aid in their ongoing ministry of serving seniors and disabled adults who have little or no means of income.

Offers stipends to bi-lingual Latino advocates who serve children in Catholic Schools.

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 richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal 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.

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.

Registration going on now. Classes resume on Sunday, September 8th.



BIBLE STUDY

Mondays

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

ROOM SCHEDULE

Sat	24-Aug	Baptism	11:00a	Church
		Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Mass	5:00p	Church
Sun	25-Aug	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		Sunday Mass	11:00a	Church
Mon	26-Aug	KoC Officers	7:00p	E
Tues	27-Aug			
Wed	28-Aug	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Senior Coffee Social	10:00a	Commons
		Scouts	6:30p	F
		Worship Committee	7:00p	123
Thurs	29-Aug	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Cursillo	6:00p	123
Fri	30-Aug	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Adoration	9:30a	Church
		Benediction	3:00p	Church
Sat	31-Aug	Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
Sun	1-Sep	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, August 28 at 10:00 am
in the Commons

We'll welcome guest speaker Denise Gibson. She's an Aging Services Coordinator from the Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA).

Copies of the book Beautiful Eucharist free and available at our meeting.

SPEND AN HOUR WITH JESUS

The Chapel is temporarily closed while we wait for the completion of the repairs. 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



Did you miss a weekly offering while on summer vacation? eGiving through Faith Direct is the easiest and most convenient way for our parish to receive your weekly offering and other Church Support. eGiving through Faith Direct will also save you time while helping our parish reduce our expenses. And getting started with eGiving is easy.

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/VA249, or call their Customer Service team at 866.507.8757.

Thank you for your trusted support of our parish family.



STS. PETER & PAUL *Religious Store*

HOURS:

SATURDAY
3:30 - 4:30pm
6:00 - 6:45pm

SUNDAY
12:00 - 1:00pm



T-Shirts

\$15

Don't see the design in the color you want or the size you need....

Custom Orders by Request

religiousstore@saintspeterpaul.org

Let's Have Fun!

PARISH TRIP TO FRANCE

April 24 - May 4, 2025

\$5,449

The travel agent will be here on Sunday, September 15th after Mass to talk about the trip and answer any questions. Brunch will be served. A detailed brochure will be available in The Commons or at www.albastours.com.

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is seeking a Safe Environment Specialist to support the Office of Safe Environment. For the full ad and how to apply, please click <https://bit.ly/3zTQ6e1>. For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist / Recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is seeking an **Administrative Assistant** to support the Office of Black Catholics and the Office of Social Ministry. For the full ad and how to apply, please click <https://bit.ly/45YnnAw>. For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist / Recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is seeking a Coordinator of Campus Ministry to serve the Catholic Campus Ministry at Roanoke College in Salem, VA. For the full ad and how to apply, please click <https://bit.ly/3zMgVAK>. For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist / Recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org

"What kind of flowers did St. Joseph plant for Jesus?"



"Sunflowers!"



Jesus's earthly father was a good man named Joseph. Joseph was a tradesman who loved Jesus very much and took care of Him and raised Him as his own.

GLPI

Catholic Q & A

QUESTION:

What kind of religious practices should we begin, once we marry, to help us practice our faith each day?

ANSWER:

Your spiritual life as a couple is important. The sacrament of Marriage is a gift and a grace, but living it well isn't always easy! It requires intentionality and perseverance. Growing your spiritual life as a couple also requires a plan. Life can be incredibly busy. There's never "enough time" for everything we want to do. But we can live by our priorities. If we don't prioritize prayer, we'll find it slowly disappear from our lives.

If you're not already praying individually, that's a good place to start. If your schedules are similar, take some quiet time at the same time to help hold each other accountable. Praying together is also important! You could start by looking at the religious practices of your family and of families around you that you respect. Talk with your spouse about the ones who make the deepest impression on you or were most meaningful when you were young. Think about what you want your future children to experience. Making faith a commitment now will mean it is engrained habit when you grow your family. Ultimately, these faith practices should help us grow in our love for God and for one another.



Dedicated to helping you heal

Virtual Support Group for those who have suffered abuse by clergy or lay personnel residing in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond.

We invite you to join the group on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. These gatherings, led by an independent facilitator, will offer a safe environment for participants to connect, share experiences, support, and heal.

Spouses and affected community members are also welcome.

Questions? Email
vac@richmonddiocese.org



QR code for joining the virtual support group.

CALL FOR GOOD SHEPHERDS:

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

434-953-5432

EYE GLASSES FOR UGANDA

Do you have old eye glasses that aren't helpful any more? Are they just piling up? Wondering what you can do with them? There is a collection box in the entrance of the church to deposit any unused, or even brand new eye glasses, which will help people in Uganda.



INTROSPECTIVE

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

August 25, 2024

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

The famous Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky said, “Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing.” In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus does something harsh and dreadful — he watches his own disciples abandon him. What could possibly be loving about that?

Well, we notice the context is Jesus’ teaching about eating and drinking his body and blood. His followers hear this and say,

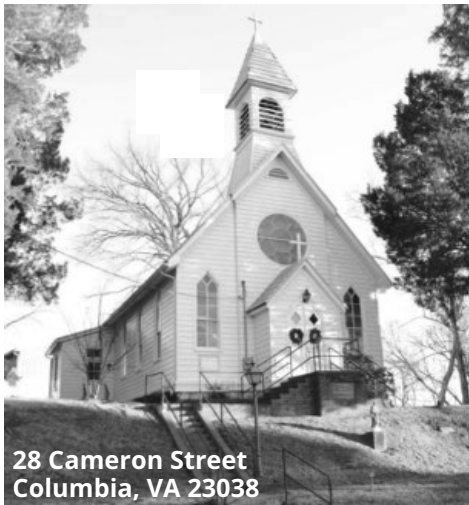


“This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” (John 6:60). We shouldn’t imagine we’d do anything different, because not even the ones who stay, like Peter, seem to understand what Jesus is saying. Then we hear this devastating line, “Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him” (John 6:66). Besides the

night of the Last Supper, only now do Jesus’ disciples abandon him. And, painfully, Jesus just lets them go.

The best way to make sense out of this is love. Jesus is God’s love in action. He wants to become one with those whom He loves. He wants to love them as His own body. Yes, the oneness manifested in the Eucharist sounds harsh and dreadful because it is rooted in love which is willing to risk abandonment and separation to attain its goal: to be one body with the beloved. It is both terrifying and wonderful that Jesus will risk losing us in order to be one with us. Our response? Lord, we cannot grasp a love so great, but please help us never to abandon it, either.

— Father John Muir



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

CCD Registration
Continues through
August. Classes start
September 8th.

OFFERTORY

AUGUST 11 \$ 2,415

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

To Whom Shall We Go?

A friend of mine, who is a far better Christian than I can ever hope to be, once shared with me that her family sneers at her belief system and lifestyle.

She believes in fairy tales they tell her. She's looking for simple solutions from a kind-faced man in the sky because she doesn't want to grapple with complicated answers to complicated problems.

Religion, they argue, is the easy way out.

As she spoke about this, her voice became unsteady. Not with anger, but with emotion. "I would never call this life easy," she said. "If I was looking for something that was easy, I wouldn't choose Catholicism."

What was unspoken was why she has chosen Catholicism. I know the answer, but only because I know her. I knew her before she chose it wholeheartedly, and I know her now, and I see the difference. I see that these words are written so clearly across the days of her life: "Master, to whom shall we go?"

Once the truth is known in your soul, you see, it can never be unknown.

Following Christ is not about easy answers and simple teachings. Sure, it all sounds very basic: love one another as I have loved you. What could be more straightforward?

But what does that mean? What does that look like in daily, modern life, in a world full of the fallen, whose flaws have given us rough edges and weakened wills?

I'll tell you what it looks like — it looks like a struggle. It looks like failure and mess and confusion and losing your way and finding it again, all because you remembered that within you there is a compass pointing due north. It's a constant state of wandering in the dark, following a Voice that asks you to go where you're afraid to go. And you follow the Voice not because it's the only voice there is and not because it's the voice that says what you want to hear, but because it's the only one that speaks the truth, and the truth pulls on you in a way you can't quite resist.

When Christ asks, "Do you also want to leave?" he is not gaslighting us. It's a genuine question. We are free to go. We are not prisoners.

But we have heard the words of everlasting life, and now we can only have peace if we follow where they lead.

"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." — Joshua 24:15

Men's Cursillo Weekend is Happening Soon!

Do you need a little help staying connected to God? We can help! A **Men's Cursillo Weekend** will be held **Thursday, October 31 (7:00pm) through Sunday, November 3 (5:00pm), 2024, at Camp Overlook near beautiful Keezletown, Virginia.**

Come walk this journey alongside other Catholic men of all ages and be filled with the JOY Christ offers each one of us.

Applications and more about Cursillo are available at www.valleycursillo.com.

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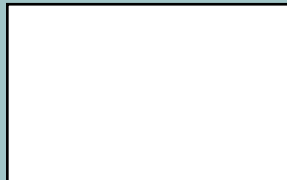
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