

September 15, 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



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." - Mk 8:34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1988, 1975 CCC, OLP

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

Linda Mangiaracina |

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 SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Sunday: Is 50:4c-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (9)/
Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22/
Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13

Next Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 (6b)/
Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Sunday: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday

Monday: Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

Tuesday: St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church;
Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin, Doctor of the Church

Wednesday:

Thursday: St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr

Friday: Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Priest, and
Paul Chông Ha-sang and Companions, Martyrs

Saturday: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Next Sunday: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SEPTEMBER 2024

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

BREAD & WINE

Donor: Don & Eileen

Tyler

In Memory of:

Bill Tyler



ALTAR FLOWERS

Donor: Don & Eileen

Tyler

In Memory of:

Bill Tyler



SANCTUARY CANDLE

Donor: Don & Eileen

Tyler

In Memory of:

Bill Tyler



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



ENCOUNTER

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP BE ACCOUNTABLE

I must confess. I have not always prayed for someone if I told him or her I would. I have fallen victim to making the phrase, "You are in my prayers," a sentence void of real emotion or intent. It is like asking the question, "How are you?" Do I always want to know how you are at the time? Then follows the most common responses of "fine" or "good." I could have had the worst day, but I still utter a response that does not reflect my true state. Many of us say things to be nice without really thinking about it. At least, I hope I am not the only one.

The truth is that words are meaningless without action. We sometimes make ourselves and others feel better by saying we will do things only to provide no action at all. Offering best wishes to those in real need without any action is worth little. Even if we think we are sincere, true faith without works is dead.

Good stewardship requires us to say what we mean and mean what we say. Stewardship is a way of living. It does ask for sentiments of love. It asks for profound actions of love. We need to offer our gifts, talents, time, and prayers to one another and then follow through. This means we need to be more mindful of what we are saying, more committed to following through, and more accountable for our actions if we fail. If we practice this way of living, not only will we be able to say we are doing the right thing, but our integrity will be intact and we will bear witness to the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself." Are you seeking a simplistic way of life? You may be called to take the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

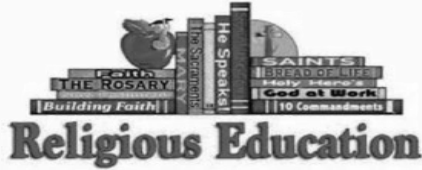
Discover that life as a priest or religious brother or sister. Talk to your priest or reach out to the

Office of Vocations at
804.359.5661

Or via email:
vocations@richmonddiocese.org



PARISH YOUTH



**Classes meet every
Sunday at 9:30AM.
Meet in St. Francis Hall**

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Jesus was the King., the Messiah that people had been waiting for. In today's Gospel reading, the disciples were confused. If Jesus was king, why was he saying he would die soon? Jesus' friends did not understand yet that by dying on the cross, Jesus would save them from their sins.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for coming to save me from my sins.



NEW! Bilingual Filipino-English Mass

Please join our growing Filipino community every 4th Sunday of the month at 4:30PM for a bilingual Filipino-English Mass at the **Church of the Incarnation** in Charlottesville. Our next Mass will be on September 22nd @ 4:30PM. Bring a dish to share for the potluck gathering after Mass in the Parish Hall. All are welcome!

If you would like to get involved and help with our Filipino-English Mass, we would love your help!
Signup to volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/>

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:

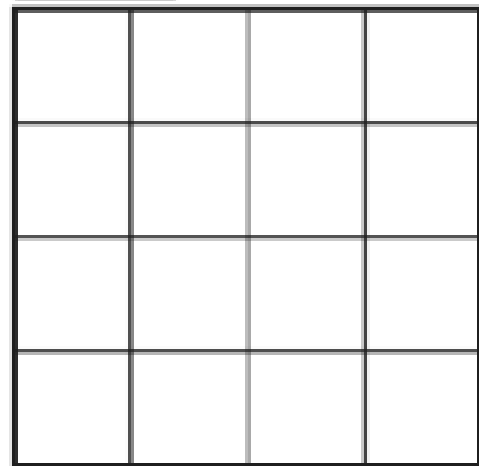
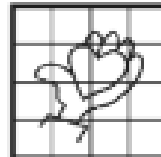
**Boy Scouts Troop 138 (boys):
Chuck Palmer**

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: **October 13th** and **November 10th**.

PUZZLE

Enlarge the picture square by square.



MISSION

With your family, talk about what you would enjoy if you were a king or queen. Tell how Jesus was different from other kings.

INTENTIONS

MASS INTENTIONS: SEPTEMBER 14 - 22, 2024

*REPRESENTS ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Saturday	9/14	5pm	Judy Snyder	D	Bob & Muriel Toepfert
Sunday	9/15	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	9/15	11am	Jean Marron	D	Charlie & Betty Maurer
Wednesday	9/18	9am	Frs. Floyd & Phil Rotunno, & James Hart	D	Janet Galbo
Thursday	9/19	9am	Sal Barcia	D	Mary Ann Barcia
Friday	9/20	9am	Samantha Buonomo	D	Jill Cangero-Guerrero
Saturday	9/21	5pm	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	9/22	9am*	Mary Beckman	D	David Beckman
Sunday	9/22	11am	Barbara Novak	D	The Novak Family

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, Russ Marron, Adam Warren, Christopher McCarthy, Zach Marron, Joseph Ayuso, Joe and Sophia Murphy, Josiah Noble, Jose Langoria, Alex Ostrowski, and Matthew Reinitz.

Pray God keeps them in His care.



PRAYER FOR CATECHISM STUDENTS

Dear God,
You never stop drawing us closer to You.
Pour Your grace upon these young disciples as they learn about You.

Attract them.
Challenge them.
Love them.
Guide them.
Bless them.
Amen.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Peter & Philomena Alonso, Michael Amato, Jean & Mary Louise Bernard, Sharon Cassidy, Nicole Colley, The Compton Family, Jim Cullinan, Jean Dalsky, Connie D'Amico, 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, Sue Inghilleri, Margaret Johnson, Ron Johnson, Carolyn Kerrigan, 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.

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. - 138 Sun. - 202	August 31 & September 1
First Offering	\$ 4,376
First Offering: Faith Direct	\$ 2,438
Total	\$ 6,814
Debt Reduction - September - MTD	\$ 2,510
Water Damage Appeal	\$ 21,977

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

Our next DEBT REDUCTION Collection is

OCTOBER 5 & 6

Thank you and God bless you for your continued support.

Our next monthly Bake Sale is **October 5 & 6** 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.

Flowers are expensive; throw in delivery on top of that! The cost adds up fast. In order to control the cost but still have beauty in the church, we are seeking volunteers to arrange fresh flowers to sit atop the tabernacle every week. We are seeking enough people so that no one has to do it every week. To find out more details of what is involved, please contact the office with questions at 434.589.5201.

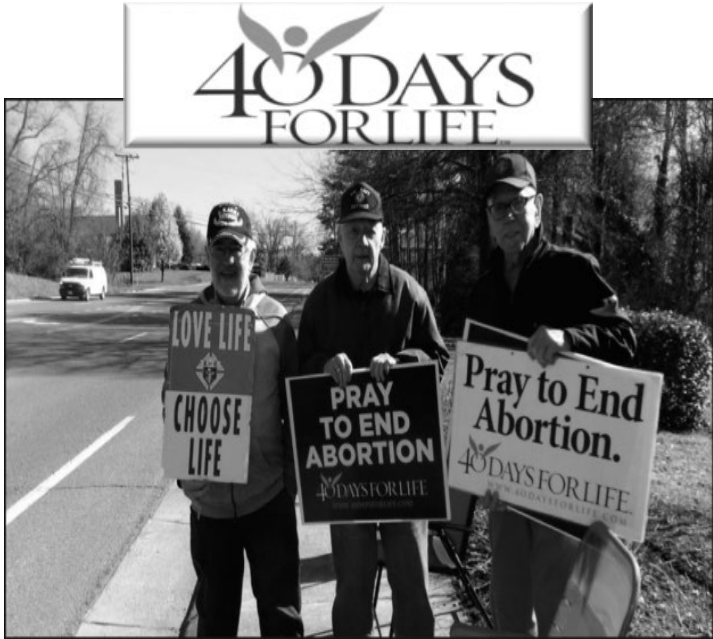


MARRIED COUPLES. Getting ready for school means lots of time spent on your children. After school begins, why not give yourselves some time together? Make a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!**

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



Knights of Columbus Council 11475 is once again participating in the Fall 40 Days for Life Campaign, standing vigil on Wednesdays (9/25-11/3/23), from 10-11am in front of Planned Parenthood in Charlottesville. If you would like to join these dedicated men and women in peaceful demonstration, they meet at Jefferson Pharmacy (9am) for carpooling. If you wish to drive yourself, there is ample parking across the street.

Contact: Larry Boice 434.510.7677

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.

Sundays
9:30am



BIBLE STUDY

Mondays
1:00 - 2:00pm
St. Francis Hall

ROOM SCHEDULE

Sat	14-Sep	LECTORS, EMHC, USHERS, AS MASS	10:00a	Church
		Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
		Scout Campout FRI - SUN	6:00p	Outside
Sun	15-Sep	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		CCD/RCIA/Adult Formation	9:30a	E
		CCD	10:30a	E
		Sunday Mass w/ Catechists	11:00a	Church
		Bake Sale After Mass	12:00p	Church
Mon	16-Sep	Bible Study	1:00p	F
Tues	17-Sep			
Wed	18-Sep	Mass	9:00a	Church
		ALTAR SERVER TRAINING	6:00p	Church
		Scouts	6:30p	F
Thurs	19-Sep	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Yoga	11:00a	F
		Cursillo	6:00p	123
		Girl Scouts	6:00p	E
Fri	20-Sep	Mass - Deacon Bob 27th Anv. Ord.	9:00a	Church
		Adoration	9:30a	Church
		Benediction	3:00p	Church
Sat	21-Sep	Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
Sun	22-Sep	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		CCD/RCIA/Adult Formation	9:30a	Church
		CCD	10:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	11:00a	Church
		KoC New Member Installation	12:30a	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

We welcome guest speaker Mr. Forney Shell. He is a local author and last visited us in June, talking about "Mastering the Bucket List". This time he will talk about "Having a Successful Life: No Permission Necessary".

Wednesday, September 25
at 10:00 am
in the Commons

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



After the joyful summer months, the Fall season is a great time to streamline your stewardship. eGiving is a way to simplify your giving and provide steady, consistent support that helps us be ready with programs, services and ministries for our church families and for those in our community. Your recurring gifts will help strengthen our parish and sustain our ministries throughout the year, even if you need to miss a Sunday service.

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

STS. PETER & PAUL *Religious Store*

religiousstore@saintspeterpaul.org

HOURS:

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

12:00 - 1:00pm

- Greeting Cards Jewelry
- Baby items Figurines
- Rosaries Graphic Ts
- Gifts for the home Special orders
- Books And more



September 14 & 15 Only

After the 5:00 pm and 11:00 am Masses

A book signing of

A Walk to Dreamland:

A Guided Meditation for Children

By

Theresa Welham

Parishioner of Saints Peter & Paul

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.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Name the prayer typically recited as the final prayer of the rosary.

Answer: Hail Holy Queen.

REMINDER - Food donations for MACAA

can be left in the baskets in the entrance of the church for transport every Tuesday. Thank you.



At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." — Mk 8:33-34

Catholic Q & A

QUESTION:

What is holy water and how do I explain the reason that it is placed at the entrances of churches to my non-Catholic friends?

ANSWER:

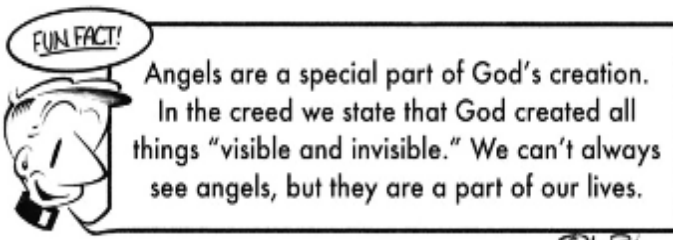
Holy water is a sacramental, a reminder of the life of the Church expressed and celebrated through the sacraments. God's grace is mediated through word and gesture (the outward signs). This comes to us through Jesus (instituted by Christ) as he entrusts to the Church his saving mission (to give grace). In turn the Church, through the sacraments, shares that grace and mission with us.

On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads to remind us of our origins, humbly created from the dust. But by blessing ourselves with holy water, we are reminded of our destiny! We are baptized sons and daughters of God. This is also a call to conversion, to live more fully our baptismal call to live as disciples of Jesus. We see holy water whenever we renew our baptismal promises. This will occur during the Easter liturgy as well, reminding us that we are indeed on a journey of faith and renewed in Christ. Blessing ourselves with holy water reminds us that we are baptized into a community faith, and always in need of turning from sin and toward God. Holy water is a visible sign of our baptism!

"Did you hear about the angel who started a match business?"



"He called it: **a match made in heaven.**"



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.



ST. JOSEPH'S Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel

INTROSPECTIVE

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

September 15, 2024

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

This morning I received a text message that a member of my extended family will likely die of cancer within the next few hours. His name is Luke. He is a 45-year-old husband and father of six. Though I am not as close to him as my sister (she is his sister-in-law and knows him well), I wonder: how can we, including Luke himself, manage such a terribly awful and unfair situation?



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

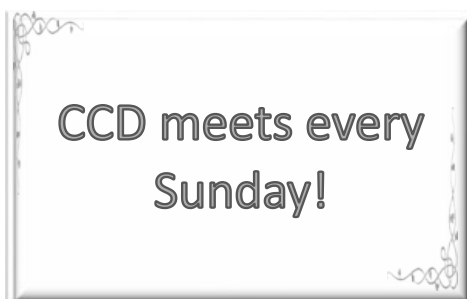
Debbie Blackburn | 804.815.3732

The words of this Sunday's Gospel offer a powerful and challenging path. Jesus says, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). Today I see with new freshness the starkness and strangeness of the words take up. The cross stands for suffering which is unjust, absurd, seemingly

hopeless, and humiliating. Jesus doesn't say "accept" or "endure" or "tolerate," but "take up." Embrace it, actively. Choose it and lift it up for others to see what terrifies and sickens us. But somehow, for Jesus, this is the path to "saving one's life." A new world is breaking in, one in which love is everything, when no relationship can be wounded or die. I trust that in the embraced suffering of Luke and his loved ones, Jesus is taking up his cross and saving us all.

By the time you read this, barring a miracle, Luke will have died. He will be carrying his cross no longer. But we all still face suffering. This week let's not just endure, but take up our crosses, big and small. That's our only hope for saving our lives.

— Father John Muir



CCD meets every
Sunday!

OFFERTORY

SEPTEMBER 1 \$661

M & R \$54

Thank you for your generosity!



RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

When I'm interviewing people for my job as a staff writer at an archdiocesan newspaper, I like to ask them this question: at the end of your life, when you meet God, what do you want to hear Him say?

I've gotten a lot of interesting answers.

"I called and you listened."

"What tee time would you like tomorrow?"

"What were you thinking?"

"Your service made things better."

It's a question I've thought a lot about, personally. What I want to hear God say when I finally see His face is this: "You can put it down now."

When Jesus asks his disciples "Who do you say that I am?" he is not just asking them to verbalize an answer. He is asking them to do something: pick up the cross. Find the problems in this world, in this life, and throw your arms around them. Drag them to God, even if it kills you. It's not enough to stand by the sidelines, watching Christ ascend to Calvary, nodding your head in approval. Yes, I agree. Yes, I believe. Yes, Jesus, good job! You have to follow in every bloody footprint he leaves in the dust. Set your face like flint. And when you meet him at the top, you better not be empty-handed. He has a cross, he will expect you to have one, too.

I hope that I can do it. I hope that I am strong enough. I am not one of those great, hardy souls. I stumble terribly under the weight of my very small cross. I grumble as I shift it from shoulder to shoulder. But every time I have been almost at the point of giving up, almost ready to lay it down, there is something — Someone — who supports my drooping arm. The Lord God is my help.

If, at the end of everything, I hear the words, "You can put it down now," then I will know I have made it. I will know I have not failed: I took up the cross.

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24

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.

All applicants must have a sponsor. Contact Karen and Roy Norville at 540-246-2371 for more information. ***Application deadline is October 8, 2024.***

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.



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