

December 22, 2024

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)



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



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

Frank Pilik | 804.622.5196

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 | 434.981.0678

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

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

Bob Maher | 540.717.2241

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 DECEMBER 22, 2024

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/
Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18
or 1:1-5, 9-14
Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/
Lk 2:41-52

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22, 2024

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
Tuesday: Christmas Eve
Wednesday: The Nativity of the Lord
Thursday: St. Stephen, First Martyr
Friday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Saturday: The Holy Innocents, martyrs
Next Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve

DECEMBER 2024

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

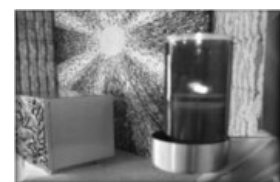
BREAD & WINE

Donor: Diana Mariutto
In Memory of: Fred Mariutto



SANCTUARY CANDLE

Donor: Diana Mariutto
In Memory of: Fred Mariutto



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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 22, 2024

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:45)

Like Mary, you are called to trust in God's plan for your life. If you feel God is asking you to serve as a priest or brother or sister, believe in his promise and follow with courage.

Talk to your priest or reach out to the

Office of Vocations
804.359.5661

Or via email:

vocations@richmonddiocese.org



JOB OPENING

Sts. Peter and Paul is looking for an

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

This full-time position requires one to maintain an efficient parish office to serve the pastor and people of the parish; to maintain accurate financial records, personnel files and prepare all necessary correspondence. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, resume and Diocesan

application to:

Father David

pastor@saintspeterpaul.org

434.589.5201



ENCOUNTER



MERRY CHRISTMAS dear friends and parishioners!

As we get closer to the celebration of Jesus' birth this year, I chose to reflect on Mary's 'Yes', and how it impacted our history in time and in eternity: Mary's 'YES' to God turned the world, darkened by sin, into a world illumined by a great light ~ the Immanuel.

The times we live in require men and women willing to say yes to God whenever opportunities avail themselves. Such opportunities are not rare. It is up to each one of us to tune in attentively, and behold, we shall recognize 'the Angel Gabriel' moment in our lives.

This Christmas I would like to thank you for your YES, that has continued to make God's presence ~ Immanuel felt and realized in our parish and our present world. I pray that each one of us continues to put the best foot forward as we bring Jesus to the waiting world. I tell you; people need to encounter Jesus through you. Please, do not shy away!

After Christmas, I will travel to Uganda to join my family in celebrating one of my little sisters, Sr. Bernadette Nambogo (LSOSF) as she perpetually says 'Yes' to God through her perpetual vows. Sr. Bernadette is my sixth sister. She joined the Little Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in 2017. On January 6th, 2025, she is to make her Perpetual Vows.

I hope to have a joyful time with my family as we celebrate Sr. Bernadette's 'Yes' to Jesus. Please keep her in your prayers, that her 'Yes' to Jesus may bear fruits for the greater glory of God.

Merry Christmas and blessed new year 2025!

Fr. David



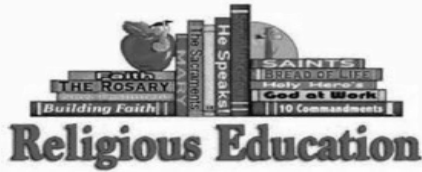
PARISHIONER UPDATES:

If you move, change your email or phone number, no longer need envelopes, etc., let us know. We don't want you to miss anything!

Call: 434.589.5201 | Email: office@saintspeterpaul.org

Come in: 4309 Thomas Jefferson Parkway (Parish Hall)

PARISH YOUTH



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

PRAYER

*Dear God, help me to say "yes" to you.
Amen.*

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Mary and Joseph put all their trust in God. Once they found out what God wanted, they did it. God wanted Mary to have a special baby, and she said yes to God. When that special baby from God was finally born, Joseph named him Jesus. One day God would ask Jesus to save the world from sin on the cross and Jesus would say "yes" to God.



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

Inquiries about the **Sacrament of Baptism**, or any of the Sacraments, should be directed to Celeste at religioused@saintspeterpaul.org for registration and prep information.

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

MARY	WEDDING	BABY
JOSEPH	ANGEL	JESUS
HOLY SPIRIT	DREAM	VIRGIN

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

MISSION

Saying "yes" to God takes practice. When your parents ask you to vacuum or set the table or take the garbage out, say "yes" to them.

INTENTIONS

MASS INTENTIONS: DECEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 29, 2024

*REPRESENTS ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Saturday	12/21	5pm	Giovanni & Anna Capuano	D	Gerard & Linda Zink
Sunday	12/22	9am*	William Keyser	D	Carol Hannum
Sunday	12/22	11am	Misa Pro Populo		
Tuesday	12/24	Noon			
Tuesday- Christmas Eve	12/24	4:30pm	Jean Pilk	D	Frank Pilk
Tuesday - Christmas Eve	12/24	8pm	Dottie Taylor	D	Parish Life
Wednesday-Christmas Day	12/25	7am	Sweetie Condon	D	John Condon
Wednesday -Christmas Day	12/25	9am*	Jack Williams	D	Patricia
Wednesday -Christmas Day	12/25	11am	Judy Snyder & Dave Moulton	D	Kathy Pol
Thursday	12/26	9am	Charles Myers	D	Bob & Cathy Heffley
Friday	12/27	9am	Emma Marinello	D	Bob & Cathy Heffley
Saturday	12/28	5pm	Dottie Taylor	D	Royal & Janis Duffy
Sunday	12/29	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	12/29	11am	Frank & Kathy Saurman	D	Hal & Linda Smith

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, 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.



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

These are the gifts of the Advent season. The gifts you help share here in our community, throughout the year, with your thoughtful stewardship.

Advent is a meaningful time to reflect on your generosity. One special way to give is eGiving. It can simplify your stewardship and provide steady, consistent support to the parish - so we can be ready with the programs, services and ministries for church and community families. Your recurring gifts will sustain our parish, even if you need to miss a Sunday service. We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/VA249 or call Customer Service at 866.507.8757.

Thank you and may God bless your generosity.



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What are the names of the two Sacraments of Healing?

Answer: The Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation/Confession.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Peter & Philomena Alonso, Jean & Mary Louise Bernard, Sharon Cassidy, Nicole Colley, The Compton Family, Jim Cullinan, Jean Dalsky, Connie D'Amico, Samuel Dunton, Me'Shelle Durant, Bill Ellis, Frank Feliciano, the Fellins, Patty Frawley, David & Pat Garner, Patricia Golgosky, Mary Anne Grimes, Michael Gross, Phyllis Guthrie, John Hobby, Regina Humanitzki, Sue Inghilleri, Margaret Johnson, Ron Johnson, Carolyn Kerrigan, Marie Knighting, Jackie Kraemer, George Kuhlow, Judi Kuhlow, Marcia Lagomarsino, Annie Lodato, Zachary W. Mayo II, Joan Merk, Haynes McKinley Morris, Jr., Irene Nadig, Rose Patterson, Gladys Pfeiffer, Margaret Reilly, Douglas Robinson, Carol Scampoli, Kathy Seroskie, Carol Starowicz, Marylou Stock, Anna Sturhann, Rob Toepfert, Jr. Cornelia Waters, Mike Waters, the Williams and Walter Welham

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

EVERDAY STEWARDSHIP

Pew Count Sat. - 104 Sun. - 197	12/07 & 12/08
First Offering	\$ 3,579
First Offering: Faith Direct	\$ 2,257
Total	\$ 5,836
Dec MTD Debt Reduction	\$ 2,022
Dec. Bake Sale - THANK YOU!	\$ 421

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

Our next DEBT REDUCTION Collection is

JANUARY 4 & 5

Thank you and God bless you for your continued support.

Our next monthly Bake Sale is **Jan. 4 & 5** after each Mass. Donations accepted before Mass. Thanks!

Everyday Stewardship -- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



When Elizabeth was visited by Mary, her joy was overwhelming. Elizabeth recognized that Mary was carrying inside her the Messiah. She was honored to receive Mary, not just because of who Mary was herself, but also because of the One she had inside her.

We meet people every day in our lives. Some we know well, some are acquaintances, and others we may have never seen before. Yet all of them are made in the image of God and carry within them the person of Jesus. If we considered this more frequently, would we act more graciously toward each other? Mary gave birth to the Son of God so that we might be able to be adopted sons and daughters of God. If we thought of this more often, would we be so quick to dismiss someone or ignore him or her?

This time of year is filled with gatherings and parties for many of us. We also find ourselves rushing about getting ready for Christmas. There are so many people that cross our paths. Will we allow the Jesus in us to greet with joy the Jesus in them? Will we pause to offer a greeting or kind word? Instead of looking at them with human eyes, will we try to see them through the eyes of faith like Elizabeth. If not, what is all of this celebration and preparation about anyway?

Schedule of Christmas and New Years Masses

December 24	Christmas Eve Mass	4:30 pm	Sts. Peter & Paul
December 24	Christmas Eve Mass	8:00 pm	Sts. Peter & Paul
December 25	Christmas Mass	7:00 am	Sts. Peter & Paul
December 25	Christmas Mass	9:00 am	Saint Joseph
December 25	Christmas Mass	11:00 am	Sts. Peter & Paul
December 31	Mary, Mother of God Vigil	7:00 pm	Sts. Peter & Paul
January 1, 2025	Mary, Mother of God Mass	9:00 am	St. Joseph
January 1, 2025	Mary, Mother of God Mass	11:00 am	Sts. Peter & Paul

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
Room 123
Next meeting is January 6, 2025

ROOM SCHEDULE

O F F I C E C L O S E D	Sat	21-Dec	Confessions	4:00p	Church
			Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
	Sun	22-Dec	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
			Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
			Mass	11:00a	Church
	Mon	23-Dec			
	Tues	24-Dec	Mass	12:00p	Church
			Christmas Eve Mass	4:30p	Church
			Christmas Mass	8:00p	Church
	Wed	25-Dec	Christmas Mass	7:00a	Church
			Christmas Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
			Christmas Mass	11:00a	Church
Thurs	26-Dec	Mass	9:00a	Church	
		Cursillo	6:00p	123	
Fri	27-Dec	Mass	9:00a	Church	
Sat	28-Dec	Confessions	4:00p	Church	
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church	
Sun	29-Dec	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's	
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's	
		Youth Mass	11:00a	Church	

SENIOR COFFEE SOCIAL

Wednesday, January 29
10:00 am, Commons

SPEND AN HOUR WITH JESUS

Hours: M - Th, 6am - 8pm

A block schedule for those who want a regular weekly adoration time is posted on the wall in the hall across from the Religious Store.

Any Questions?

Contact: Denise Minor - dminor92@gmail.com



PARISH TRIP TO FRANCE

APRIL 24 - MAY 4, 2025 \$5,449

For further information, please contact:

Alba Kim:

Phone: (804) 298-4035

Email: tours@albastours.com

Website: albastours.com

***Register by December 31 to ensure your spot on this very special journey.**

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.



STS. PETER & PAUL *Religious Store*

religiousstore@saintspeterpaul.org

HOURS:

SATURDAY

3:30 - 4:30pm

6:00 - 6:45pm

SUNDAY

12:00 - 1:00pm

For a limited time, the store is offering custom Christmas T-shirts.

Pick from pre-selected designs and colors to create the shirt of your liking.



Did you know...

You can put your tax dollars to work for Catholic Schools?

Join over **3,500** donors in our Diocese who have provided over **\$54M** in scholarships to thousands of Catholic school students...

...and **receive 65% of your donation back** as a Virginia state tax credit.



MP
McMahon Parater
Scholarship Foundation
804.622.5184
mpsf@richmonddiocese.org

GIVE YOUR SPOUSE A SPECIAL GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

Sign up now for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and receive the gift of a great marriage. Making a weekend will help you put a little Christmas in your marriage every day!



For more information or to register, go to WWME.org, click "Apply" and search for your desired location. Feel free to contact Donald & Helen Dudley at 757-690-1369 or donald.helen.dudley@wwme.org with any questions. Here are a few upcoming experiences:

January 7 - February 18, virtual (Tuesday evenings)
January 21 - February 2 Myrtle Beach, SC
March 7 - 9 Rehoboth Beach, DE
March 14 -16 Jessup, MD and Ocean City, NJ
March 21-23 Emerald Isle, NC

Catholic Q & A

QUESTION:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

ANSWER:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

This Christmas, we donate flowers in memory of our loved ones:

Deceased members of Walton, Neubeck, Ronnenberg, and Herman Families	Lucile Vieyta, Hank Vieyra	Helen Bergman, Oscar Bergman, Eleanor Stillwell, Stephen Stillwell
Sal Barcia, Laurie Barcia, Frank DeStephano	Billy Miller, Laura W. Miller, Joe & Ellen Mannix, Pat & Bill Miller	Mary & Gregory Bakumenko, Florence & Harold Smith
Prospero Baniel, Sr., Melitona Baniel, Ted Schjoth, Sr., Sally Pasley	Sara & Jerry Alletto, Kenny & Jean Maher, Tim & Mildred Monahan, Dom & Mary DeMarco	Barbara & Ray Russ, Forster Family, Otto & Johanna Dionnibier, Elwin & Emma Bradway
Janet DeGregory, David Degregory, Edwin Ohl	Alletto Family, Maher Family, Lucy BeniVegna, Joe Schafer	John & Irene Ringlehan Family, Ruth & Joe Duffy Family
Giovanni & Anna Calvano, Dominick Capuano, Julia Bruno, Baby Vincent Earl	Kenneth C. Doll, Deceased members of Spadaro. Doll, and Joyce Families	Thomas Scott Glosick, Patricia Ann Polonis
Eugene Scott	Jose & Marina Balagtas, Marcelina & Pedro Vitales, Mary Vitales	Mary Doerler, Richard Doerler, Joan Doerler

Apologies for any misspellings

We have a limited number of 2025 church calendars available.
Limit one per Household, please. Available in the Commons.



PRAYER REQUESTS



Mary Ellen Agolia * Bradford Barrows *
 David Carbocci * Maria Correa *
 Nona Dooley * Bob Fermoyle *
 Alice Galvez-Sobral * Mauricio Granados *
 Andy Mallory * India Martin *
 Angelica Motta * Odila Motta *
 Oscar Motta * Thelma Motta *
 Ron Offley * 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.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

BABY JESUS' WISH LIST

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Prayer for Advent Joy

Dear Jesus,

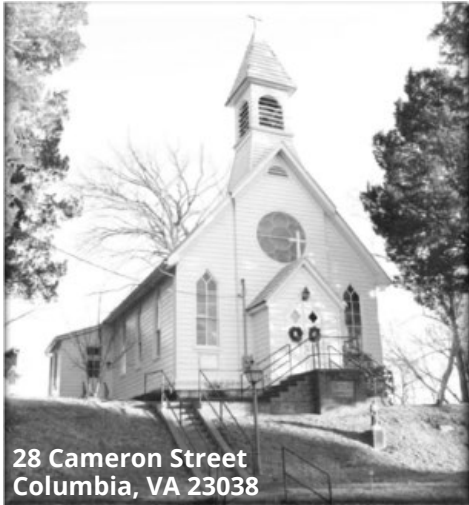
The news of your coming was met with boundless joy — fill us anew with the wonder of your presence. You are Emmanuel, God with us.

Amen.


CCD
Meets every Sunday
at 10:30 AM


OFFERTORY
DECEMBER 8TH \$ 1,086
Thank you for your generosity!

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

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

THE HIDDEN TRUTH

If you have ever been visibly pregnant, chances are that someone, somewhere, whom you do not know, has reached out to touch your stomach.

I've had this happen to me, and sure, it's a little strange. Generally, I prefer people to ask before they touch me. But it's also very sweet, this great mystical excitement inspired by a pregnant belly. We know that belly is special. We know enclosed within it is hope and potential — the very future of our world. Hidden, but real. How can we help but venerate it?

It's why the pregnant Madonna is my favorite devotional image. I even prefer it over the depictions of the Madonna and Child because I find in the sight of Mary's swollen belly more to meditate upon than I find in the unveiled face of the Christ Child. Salvation and redemption, enclosed in flesh, moving, and growing and breathing, but I cannot see it. It's real and it's true and it's there.

And it is hidden.

There is much about God that we know with certainty. But there is so much that remains beyond our sight, beyond our comprehension. Questions of evil and sorrow. Pain and tragedy. Life and death. Why don't we have all the answers? We grow very impatient about this. We're like teenagers who want to be trusted with all the family secrets. We hate feeling left out of the loop.

But truth, like life, does not come to us showing its face. Perhaps this is because we could not bear its terrible beauty. Perhaps it's because we would not recognize it if it was laid bare for us to see.

But it's there, right in front of us. We can reach out and touch it. We may not see it. We may not understand it. But we can know it. -- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



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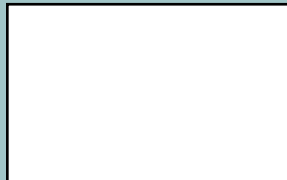
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