

January 5, 2025

*"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

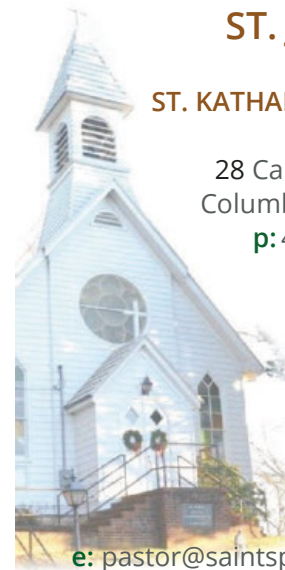
**w:** saintspeterpaulpalmyra.org

**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

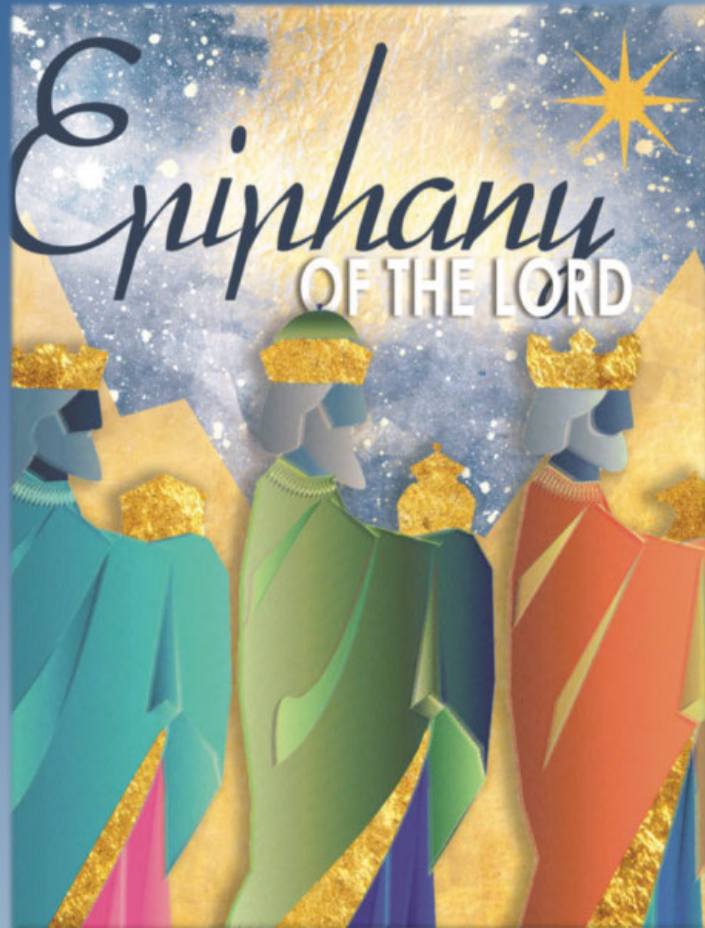
Sunday 8:30am: St. Joseph's

**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](mailto: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 JANUARY 5, 2025

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/  
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/  
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/  
Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/  
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/  
Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28,  
29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5, 2025

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord

Monday: St. André Bessette, Religious

Tuesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

## JANUARY 2025

### HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

#### BREAD & WINE

**Donor:** Bob & Angela  
Maher

**In Memory of:**  
Donna Horan



#### ALTAR FLOWERS

**Donor:** Bob & Angela  
Maher

**In Memory of:**  
Donna Horan



#### SANCTUARY CANDLE

**Donor:** Bob & Angela  
Maher

**In Memory of:**  
Donna Horan



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



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
JANUARY 5, 2025

*"They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."  
(Matthew 2:11)*

What gift can you offer Christ? If He is calling you to a vocation that serves the Church, He is asking for the gift of your life to serve His people.

Talk to your priest or reach out to the

Office of Vocations  
804.359.5661

Or via email:  
[vocations@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:vocations@richmonddiocese.org)



### **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](mailto:office@saintspeterpaul.org)

COME IN:  
4309 Thomas Jefferson  
Parkway (Parish Hall)



# ENCOUNTER



### **CHANGING OF THE GUARD**

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Colleen Smith, my new Administrative Assistant, replacing Karen Davidson.

Colleen is a career fundraiser with 25 years at UVA and other places that have included Charlottesville Catholic School, James Madison's Montpelier, and other local nonprofits in the Charlottesville

area. She is coming out of retirement for us.

Colleen and Bob have been members of our parish for 2 years; you can usually find them attending Mass on Saturday evening. They have 2 daughters and 4 grand children.

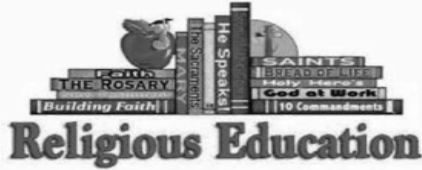
Colleen most recently was a leader in our Giving Tuesday event on December 3rd, 2024.

Colleen, thank you for taking on this new roll.

I want to wish Karen well as she returns to Georgia later this year, to be closer to her son and daughter. She will be missed.



# PARISH YOUTH



**CCD resumes January 5th  
at 9:30AM**

**Meet in St. Francis Hall**

## PRAYER

*Dear God, thank you for making the planets  
and stars so the wise men could find Jesus.*

## SHARING THE GOSPEL

Isn't God amazing? He made all the stars and planets to move, so every night sky looks a little different. When God created the world, he planned exactly when the wise men would see the star. He wanted them to find Jesus.

## Youth Group

The next Youth Group meeting is  
January 10th, 2025 from 6:30-8:00pm.

This meeting  
will be held at  
St. Joseph's  
where you will  
construct your  
favorite scene  
from the Bible  
out of Legos.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:religioused@saintspeterpaul.org) for registration and prep information.

## PUZZLE

Unscramble these words from today's Gospel:

wise-men  
child  
born

king  
star  
worship

Mary  
gifts  
dream

wsie mne

W i s e m e n

brno

— — — —

knig

— — — —

derma

— — — — —

clidh

— — — — —

wrsolp

— — — — —

lrya

— — — —

gfsti

— — — — —

srta

— — — —

## MISSION

Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem.

# INTENTIONS

**MASS INTENTIONS: JANUARY 4, 2025 - JANUARY 12, 2025** \*REPRESENTS ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Saturday	1/4	5pm	Bill Tyler	D	Don & Eileen Tyler
Sunday	1/5	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	1/5	11am	Claire van Nierop	D	Hal & Linda Smith
Tuesday	1/7	12pm	Tom Heffley	D	the Heffley Family
Wednesday	1/8	9am			
Thursday	1/9	9am			
Friday	1/10	9am	Catherine Meyers	D	the Heffley Family
Saturday	1/11	5pm	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	1/12	9am*	Will Kulick	I	The Kulick Family
Sunday	1/12	11am	Cos DiFazio, Sr.	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 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, Henry Land and Matthew Reinitz.

**Pray God keeps them in His care.**



As a Parish, we strive to be good stewards of our resources. Many families have moved away from envelopes and are now using Faith Direct to fulfill their generous stewardship commitments to our parish and the wider church through electronic donations. We also have found that many are not using their envelopes that we mail out. Help us to reduce our envelope and postage expense and at the same time support us in a secure and convenient way by enrolling with Faith Direct. It's easy to get started. Here are ways to sign up:  
 Visit [faith.direct/VA249](http://faith.direct/VA249)  
 Call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866.507.8757.  
 Thank you and may God bless your generosity.



## 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, Jim Kraemer, George Kuhlrow, Judi Kuhlrow, 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.



**F**lowers 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.

# EVERDAY STEWARDSHIP

<b>Pew Count</b> Sat. - 116   Sun. - 201	12/21 & 12/22
First Offering	\$ 4,999
First Offering: <b>Faith Direct</b>	\$ 2,435
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,434</b>
<b>Dec MTD Debt Reduction</b>	<b>\$ 3,147</b>

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

**Our next DEBT REDUCTION Collection is**

**THIS WEEKEND**

*Thank you and God bless you for your continued support.*



## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ©LPi

The song "We Three Kings" details the gifts of the Magi, but do you know what you're singing? "Born a king on Bethlehem's plan, gold I bring to crown Him again." This one is the most straightforward - gold symbolizes the Kingship of Christ. "Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom." Myrrh is an embalming spice. Already at Christ's birth, we have the symbolic reminder of his death. "Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a deity nigh." In many religious traditions, incense symbolizes prayers rising to heaven. In some pagan traditions, it is thought to help "call down" the deity. The gift of frankincense symbolizes Jesus' role as the Great High Priest, sanctifying the world through his sacrifice.

### *December Wedding Anniversaries*

Congratulations to all couples who celebrated their wedding anniversary in the month of December, especially:

*James & Elizabeth K* 26 years

*Eric & Lisa S.* 33 years

*Ben & Anne S.* 52 years

*Kenneth & Elaine B.* 64 years

*Charles & Elizabeth M.* 65 years

Santa Clause and the Knights of Columbus would like to sincerely thank everyone who donated to the parish toy drive this season. We were able to gift several families in the community with a little extra help this Christmas. Santa was able to make his visits and spent some time with the families. Toys were delivered, stories were read to the children, and grocery cards were given to mom. Most importantly we were able to relieve some holiday stress and bring joy into their homes.

From Santa and the other Knights:  
Our warmest blessings and Merry Christmas.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## ADULT FORMATION CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

includes OCIA, offering instruction to unbaptized and non-Catholic persons with an interest in being members of the Catholic faith.

**Sundays**  
**9:30am**



## BIBLE STUDY

Room 123  
**Mondays**

1:00 - 2:00pm  
*Resumes Jan. 6, 2025*

**Wednesdays**

4:00-5:00pm  
*Starts Jan. 15, 2025*

## ROOM SCHEDULE

<b>Sat</b>	<b>4-Jan</b>	Confessions	9:00a	Church
		1st Saturday Mass & Rosary	10:00a	Church
		Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5-Jan</b>	Bake Sale After Mass	6:00p	Commons
		Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		CCD/RCIA/Adult Formation	9:30a	E
<b>Mon</b>	<b>6-Jan</b>	CCD	10:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	11:00a	Church
		Rejoice Bible Study	1:00p	122
		KoC Meeting	6:00p	E
<b>Tues</b>	<b>7-Jan</b>	Mass	12:00p	Church
		Scouts - Troop Committee	6:30p	122
		Parish Council	7:00p	123
<b>Wed</b>	<b>8-Jan</b>	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Scouts	6:30p	E/F
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>9-Jan</b>	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Yoga	11:00a	E/F
		Cursillo	6:00p	123
<b>Fri</b>	<b>10-Jan</b>	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Adoration	9:45a	Church
		Benediction	3:00p	Church
		Youth Group	6:30p	St. Joseph's
<b>Sat</b>	<b>11-Jan</b>	Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>12-Jan</b>	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		CCD/RCIA/Adult Formation	9:30a	E/F
		CCD	10:30	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, 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](mailto: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](mailto:tours@albastours.com)

Website: [albastours.com](http://albastours.com)

\*Register by SOON 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.



## 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**

## CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** What is Christ often depicted pointing to when portrayed in Christian artwork?

**Answer:** The Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**STS. PETER & PAUL** *Religious Store*

[religiousstore@saintspeterpaul.org](mailto:religiousstore@saintspeterpaul.org)



### HOURS:

#### SATURDAY

3:30 - 4:30pm

6:00 - 6:45pm

#### SUNDAY

12:00 - 1:00pm



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

[mprsf@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:mprsf@richmonddiocese.org)

## GIVE YOUR SPOUSE A SPECIAL GIFT THIS NEW YEAR

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](http://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](mailto:donald.helen.dudley@wwme.org) with any questions. Here are a few upcoming experiences:

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:

Besides the Wise Men, what is significant about the Epiphany?

### ANSWER:

Epiphany means “manifestation,” or public display. The feast is usually celebrated January 6. In the US, it is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to January 6. It originates from a story unique to Matthew (2:1-12). Magi from the East come to offer homage to the newborn King, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

This part of Matthew’s infancy narrative differs from Luke’s account of the birth of Jesus. In Luke there are no Magi, star, nor gifts. Luke has Jesus being born in a stable after Mary and Joseph’s long travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Matthew seems to have the family living in a house in Bethlehem, where the Magi find them.

Why these differences? They stem from the needs and concerns of the audience the authors were addressing, as well as the theological stance of each author. Knowing the original intention helps get at the correct interpretation of the text.

Since Matthew was writing primarily to a Jewish community, his concern was to show that Jesus did not come just for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. From his very birth, Jesus not only manifests himself to Jews, but also to Gentiles, who are prominently included in the manifestation, symbolized by the Magi and their journey. This is the most significant aspect of the feast of Epiphany. How do you manifest Jesus to all with whom you come into contact?

# EPIPHANY

“**The Story of the Other Wise Man**” by Henry Van Dyke was first published in 1895. It tells the fictional story of Artaban, a fourth wise man who began a journey to visit Jesus, the newborn King. Unlike his fellow Magi, he failed to make it there for the birth of Jesus because he kept pausing to help various people in need. In fact, it took him about 33 years of searching before his quest comes to an abrupt end when he is hit in the head with a falling roof shingle. His final breath takes place in Jerusalem near the place where Jesus is being crucified. As he lies dying, he hears the voice of Jesus telling him that the gifts he has given all along the way to “the least of these” he has actually given to Jesus himself.

If you have never read this story or seen the made-for-television movie based on the tale, you really should seek it out. It is a story that reminds us of a profound truth: Jesus himself rests in the lives of all those around us in need. In the story, it was the wise man’s constant response to a stewardship call that prevented him from getting where he wanted to go. In the end, where he needed to go was more significant than where he thought he should go.

If we live lives of generosity and graciousness, we may find ourselves on constant detours from the road on which we are traveling. It is in the detours and the unexpected circumstances of our journey that often times we find our true purpose in life. We think God is somewhere we must travel to, when in reality, God is closer than we think in the least likely of places.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



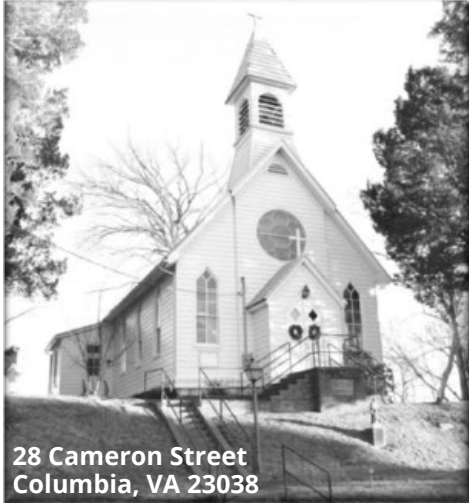
### K of C “100 CLUB” MONTHLY WINNERS - DECEMBER

12/04 - #88 Claire Kraemer	12/18 - #93 Charlie Maurer
12/11 - #70 Dave Thomas	12/25 - #57 Bob Toepfert

Congratulations to all the winners!

# 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 - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### THE LIGHT OF THE MOON

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### *December Wedding Anniversaries*

**Congratulations to all couples who celebrated their wedding anniversary in the month of December, especially**

*Fred & Betsy G.*

**53 years**

*Jarl & Carol H.*

**57 years**



# GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

## JANUARY 5, 2025 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD MATTHEW 2:1-12

Have you ever wondered why the magi had gold, frankincense, and myrrh? Matthew’s Gospel tells us, “Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matt. 2:11). Why are these things their “treasures”? One possible answer is they were magicians and astrologers, and these three items were the tools of their questionable trade. In offering them to Christ, they demonstrate that they will cease using such items to predict or control life. They place this baby-king, the God of Israel, at the center of their lives, and not their own devices of control, manipulation and prediction.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Mary Ellen Agolia \* Bradford Barrows \*
- David Carbocci \* Maria Correa \*
- Nona Dooley \* Bob Fermoye \*
- 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 \*



Isn't that what we need to do, too? Consider, for example, the magical power of money, symbolized by the magi’s gold. Seemingly whatever we ask of money, it does. It wields a god-like power over the world. It can predict the future by guaranteeing better outcomes for us — which is why it is such a tempting alternative to trusting in God. The problem is such absolute trust in money

enslaves us to the economic forces that make money so powerful. In paying homage to Jesus with “gold” (i.e., tithing), we participate in his authority over (and therefore freedom from) the magical sway of money.

What things in your life do you use to predict or control your future? What in your life seems to give you power over the world? Those are your treasures. Are you tired of feeling enslaved to them? Find a way to open them and give them to Christ, and you will be freer.

— Father John Muir

If you have pictures or ministry information to be added to St. Joseph’s website, please email Melissa at: [kenneymg@gmail.com](mailto: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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