

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

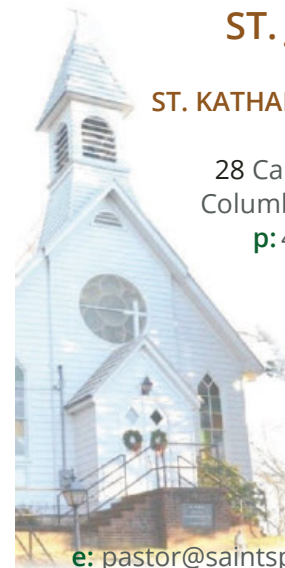
**w:** saintspeterpaulpalmyra.org

**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

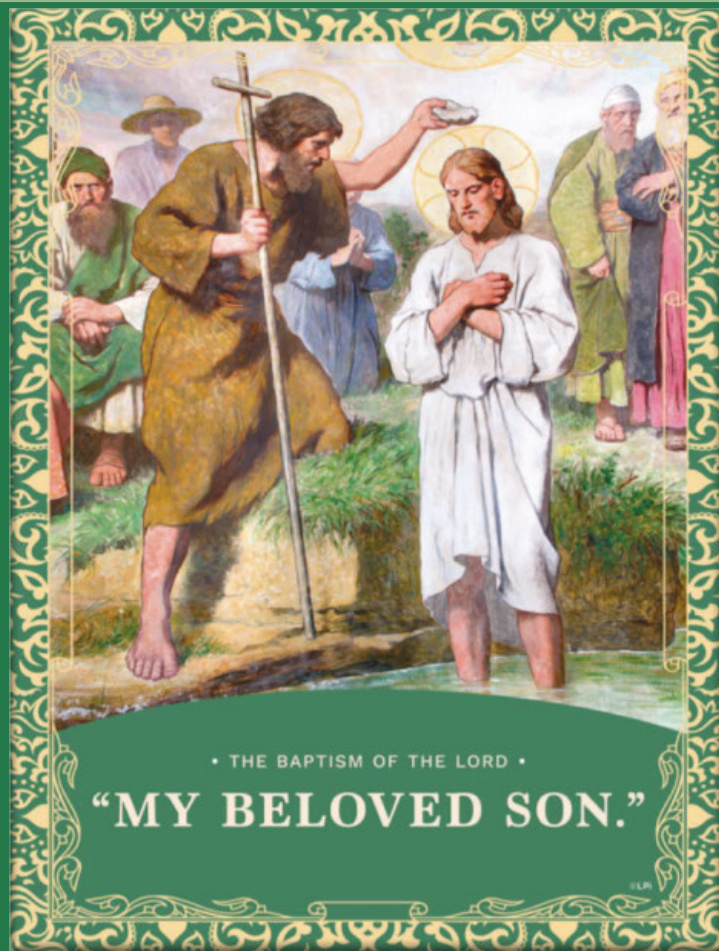
Sunday 8:30am: St. Joseph's

**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 Pilk | 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 Pilk | 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 12, 2025

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  
Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9/Mk 1:14-20  
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28  
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:29-39  
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45  
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12  
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17  
Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/  
1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-1

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2025

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord  
Monday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
Friday: St. Anthony, Abbot  
Saturday: January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for  
Christian Unity  
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## JANUARY 2025

### HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

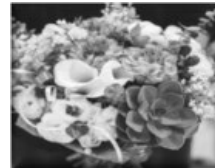
#### BREAD & WINE

**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.

## WEATHER ALERTS:

Now that winter has arrived, please tune in to CBS19 or NBC29 for the latest on closures.



BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
JANUARY 12, 2025

*"You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased"*  
(Luke 3:22)

God takes great pleasure in those who respond to his call. Do you hear His voice? He may be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life.

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

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini Reflection:** It makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. But the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow.

### **Beneath the Surface:**

When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed.

To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

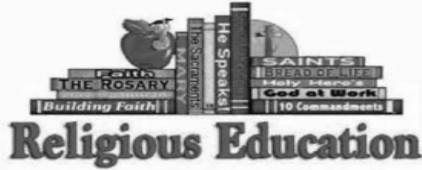
Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course it seemed natural that he would be "the one." The one they were all waiting for.



But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow — and in doing so, he sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, he is the one who brings us back to the surface. But he doesn't pull us out; he lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers his hand, gives us a leg up, and by his strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light.

# PARISH YOUTH



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

## PRAYER

*God, I want to make you and my  
parents happy. Amen.*

## SHARING THE GOSPEL

Your Dad says, "Wash your hands, please. It is almost time to eat." After you wash your hands really well, your Dad smiles. He says, "That's my boy. You did a really good job!" In today's Gospel, it was time for Jesus to be baptized. After his baptism, Jesus talked to God his Father in prayer. Jesus did everything his Father asked. God was happy with his Son and said, "I'm pleased with you."

## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



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

## PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

JOHN  
MESSIAH  
BAPTIZING

WATER  
POWERFUL  
SANDALS

HOLY SPIRIT  
FIRE  
JESUS

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

## MISSION

Find out what makes God happy. As a family, read John 15:9-12.

# INTENTIONS

**MASS INTENTIONS: JANUARY 11, 2025 - JANUARY 19, 2025** \*REPRESENTS ST. JOSEPH PARISH

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
Tuesday	1/14	12pm	Lynn McAleer	D	the Heffley Family
Wednesday	1/15	9am	Mary Jo Myers	D	the Heffley Family
Thursday	1/16	9am			
Friday	1/17	9am			
Saturday	1/18	5pm	Donna Horan	D	Anthony & Patricia Amato
Sunday	1/19	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	1/19	11am	George Polansky	D	Maureen Burger

## 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.**



The new year is filled with hope and promise as we seek to grow our vital ministries, explore new ways to share the good news of Christ's love and reflect His care and mercy to those in need throughout the community, To continue to make a difference in 2025, we are reaching out to our parishioners.

Begin the new year with eGiving to help sustain and build ministries throughout 2025 that reflect the steadfast promise of God's love. The need is great in our community, and your generous online gifts will help people around us..

Sign up today by visiting [faith/direct/VA249](http://faith/direct/VA249) or call their Customer Service team 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 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.



**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. - 138   Sun. - 198	12/28 & 12/29
First Offering (incl. Christmas)	\$ 7,846
First Offering: <b>Faith Direct</b>	\$ 2,435
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,281</b>
<b>Dec MTD Debt Reduction</b>	<b>\$ 3,447</b>

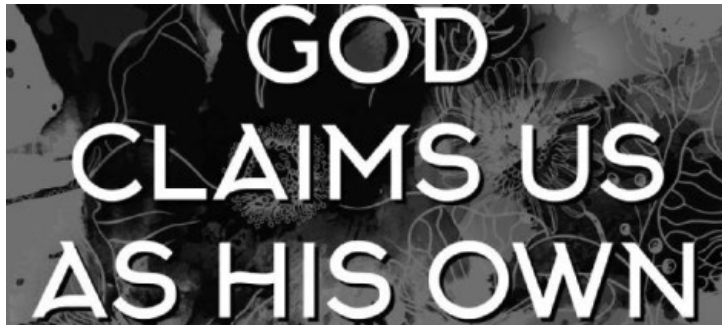
The Debt Reduction collection occurs at the beginning of each month.

**Our next DEBT REDUCTION Collection is**

**FEBRUARY 1 & 2**

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

Our next monthly Bake Sale is **February 1 & 2** after each Mass. Donations accepted before Mass. Thanks!



**Annual Giving Report  
of the  
Community Outreach and Assistance Team (COAT)**

Thanks to your generous participation and purchases during our monthly bake sales and donations to the Poor Box and the Justice and Peace Ministry collection, our Parish has been able to support those in need in our community. The amounts and how the assistance was applied are noted in the table below.

Assistance Type	Number of Families Helped in 2024	2024 Amount of Assistance
Food	4	\$650.00
Rent/Mortgage	6	\$1600.00
Electricity	19	\$3890.72
Water	1	\$75.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$6215.72</b>

Overall, in the past 3 years, through COAT, we have aided 59 families with \$14,499.59 in needed assistance. Thanks again for your continued support.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to one of the members of COAT -- John Cotter, Catherine Heffley, Rosaleen Johnson, Rose Meyer, Frank Pilik.

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Our Father,  
We seek you in so many ways and places in our life.  
We seek you for guidance and for comfort.  
But you have told us that when there is hunger, it is up to us to feed the hungry.  
We ask you to help us see you in other Christians and humbly ask you for strength in the search for what we have in common.  
Bless our efforts to look at all the ways we are united in faith, and grant us courage to change our hearts and minds to realize your will.  
We ask all this through Christ our Lord and brother, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**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 the Knights:  
Our warmest blessings and Happy New Year.**

# 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**



### ROOM SCHEDULE

<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
		CCD	10:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	11:00a	Church
<b>Mon</b>	<b>13-Jan</b>	Rejoice Bible Study	1:00p	122
		40th Anniversary meeting	7:00p	123
<b>Tues</b>	<b>14-Jan</b>	Mass	12:00p	Church
		Bible Study - Luke	6:30p	St. Joseph's
<b>Wed</b>	<b>15-Jan</b>	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Bible Study - Luke	4:00p	122
		Scouts	6:30p	E/F
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>16-Jan</b>	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Yoga	11:00a	E/F
		Cursillo	6:00p	123
<b>Fri</b>	<b>17-Jan</b>	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Adoration	9:45a	Church
		Benediction	3:00p	Church
<b>Sat</b>	<b>18-Jan</b>	Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>19-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)

## BIBLE STUDY

Room 123  
**Mondays**  
 1:00 - 2:00pm  
 .....  
**Wednesdays**  
 4:00-5:00pm  
*Starts Jan. 15, 2025*

**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](tel:(804)298-4035)

**Email:** [tours@albastours.com](mailto:tours@albastours.com)

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

## 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 the incense burner used at Mass called?

**Answer:** Turible or censer.

**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

[mpsf@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:mpsf@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:

At my grandson's Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

## ANSWER:

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment.

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

What have been the most significant moments in your life? You probably celebrate your birthday every year, so the day you were born must be pretty important. How about elementary, high school, or college graduations? Hopefully you do something special on or around your wedding anniversary if you are married. Do you have children? The birth of each child is probably near the

top on the list of moments you will never forget. Then there are the sad moments of life: deaths, breakups, and tragedies. As you reflect on all these moments, you can see that you would not be who you are today without having experienced them. Of course as a Christian, you have one moment in time that has had an even greater impact on you and perhaps it didn't even come to mind: your Baptism.

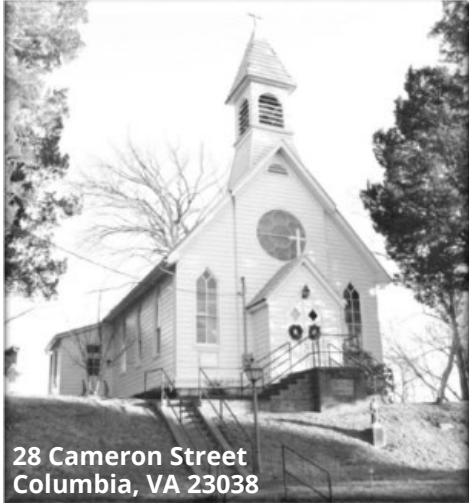


You might say you don't remember it because you were an infant. Perhaps you do not even know the date it took place. You might not feel like it has had much impact on you at all. However, it has made all the difference.

Whether you feel the difference or not, on that day you were made a new creation in Jesus Christ. You were marked for Him with an indelible mark that no one can remove, not even you. On that day, you inherited a tradition and lineage of faith that has changed the face of the earth. Today, that baptismal grace beckons you to a real and substantial relationship with the One whose name was invoked on that day. It also calls you to respond with a stewardship way of life, where your gifts make a difference and glorify God. If today is the day you start taking all this seriously, you get to add a new moment to your list.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## 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  
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EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### I HOPE I AM LIKE HIM

“Who is this Christ? Is he like you?”

Perhaps you’ve heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

“He is nothing like me,” the saint is said to have answered. “But I hope I am like him.”

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. “One worthier than I is coming,” he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God’s will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let’s examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God’s plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**



# GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

## January 12, 2025 The Baptism of the Lord Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three-day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words 'You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased' (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy penance, I thought.

But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well-pleased with me? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.

Those words are a precious gift from heaven to all of us. Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater. This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself — or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love — until those words find a home in your heart. — Father John Muir

### 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](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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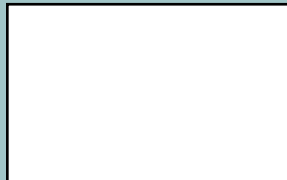
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