

January 19, 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

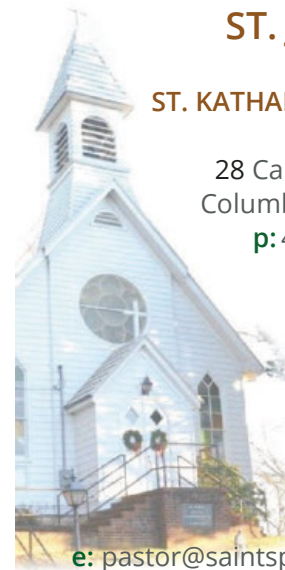
w: saintspeterpaulpalmyra.org

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

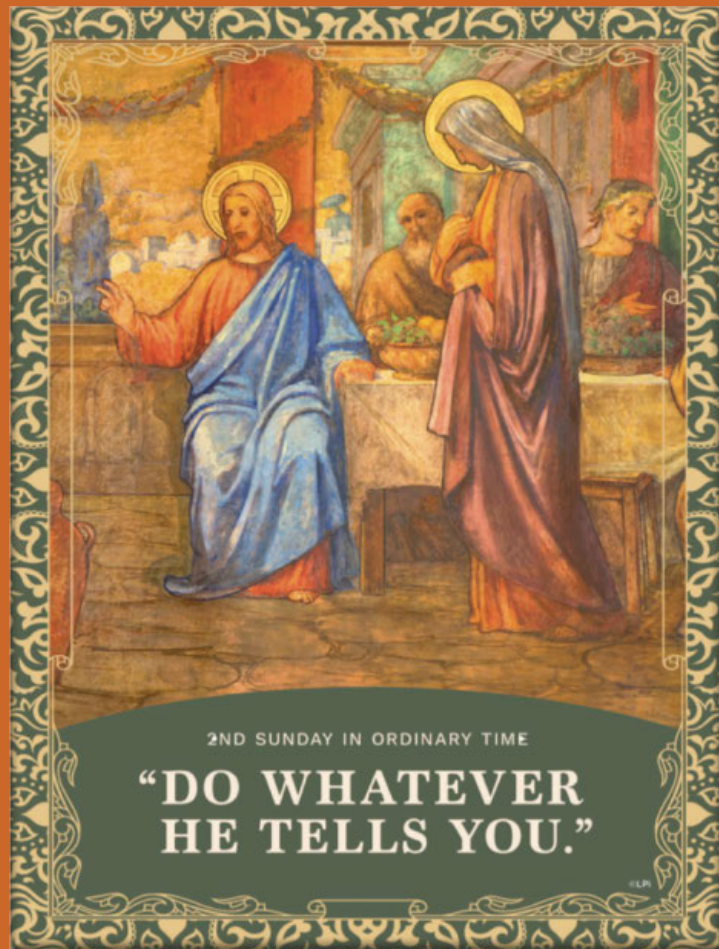
Sunday 8:30am: St. Joseph's

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 Nicholson | 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 or | 434.589.5201

Colleen Smith

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 JANUARY 19, 2025

Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)

1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/

Mk 16:15-18

Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 (see Jn 6:63c)/

1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 19, 2025

Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr;

Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday: St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

Wednesday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Thursday: St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr;

St. Marianne Cope, Virgin

Friday: St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

JANUARY 2025

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

BREAD & WINE

Donor: Bob & Angela
Maher

In Memory of:

Donna Horan

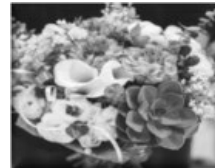


ALTAR FLOWERS

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.



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 19, 2025

“Do whatever He tells you.”
(John 2:5)

At the wedding at Cana, Jesus performed his first miracle, blessing the union of a married couple. Marriage is a sacred covenant, and like the servants at a wedding, we are called to Christ’s guidance in our marriages. Take time to pray together and invite Christ into your marriage, trusting in His power to strengthen your bond.



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)**



ENCOUNTER

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: Sometimes we forget, or even refuse, to bring small concerns and inconveniences to God because we think we should be able to handle them on our own. What a ridiculous attitude that is — as if we could handle anything on our own.

Do Whatever He Tells You

I once ran out of pizza at my kid’s birthday party.

Everyone told me it wasn’t a big deal but come on. It was a disaster. I had invited all these people over. They showed up with presents and sang “Happy Birthday” and stood around patiently while my kid ripped through his cache of gifts. The very least they were expecting was to be fed sufficiently.

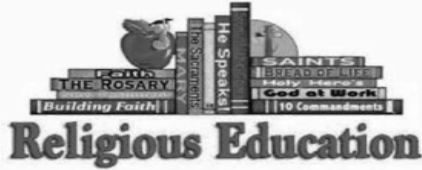
I’ll tell you what, I sure could have used the Blessed Mother that night.

I love the story of the wedding at Cana because it’s such a silly little miracle. I don’t mean to be disrespectful — of course it’s an incredibly important moment in Christ’s public life. But it’s not healing a leper. It’s not raising the dead. It’s not even walking on water. It’s saving a young couple from embarrassment.

I think sometimes we forget, or even refuse, to bring small concerns and inconveniences to God because we think we should be able to handle them on our own. What a ridiculous attitude that is — as if we could handle anything on our own. It’s so fitting that Mary, ever the observant Mother, is the one to bring the matter to Jesus’ attention. He asks her what this problem has to do with him. She doesn’t answer him, because, between you and me, I don’t think he’s asking her. I think he’s asking us. All she does is tell the waiters what I consider to be the best piece of advice in all of Scripture: “Do whatever he tells you.”

I’m so quick to throw up my hands and feel sorry for myself when I encounter a barrier in my life. What I should be doing is taking the matter to God, and then doing whatever He tells me.

PARISH YOUTH



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

PRAYER

*Dear God, help me to do everything you say.
I know you can do anything.*

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Mary had great faith in God. She also knew that God could do anything. So when the wedding serves ran out of wine, she knew Jesus could help. She said, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do." That's the smartest thing any of us can do.

CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Chesterton Academy of St. John the Evangelist is Charlottesville's affordable, classical high school in the Catholic tradition. Enrollment applications for 2025-2026 are due January 31. An essay competition will be held on February 8 for students who have applied, the winner to receive a \$5,000 tuition credit! See our website for details, as well as info on tours and shadow days: ChestertonSJE.org.

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):

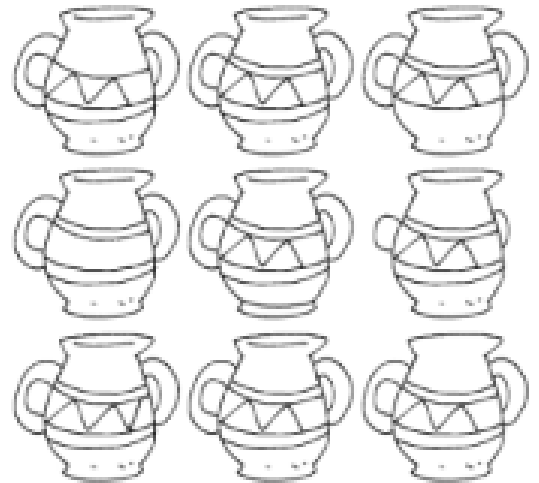
Chuck Palmer

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 the two identical jars.



MISSION

What does Jesus tell you to do in his word, the Bible? Find out by reading the Bible for 15 minutes a day with your family. You could start by reading Luke.

INTENTIONS

MASS INTENTIONS: JANUARY 18 - JANUARY 26

*REPRESENTS ST. JOSEPH PARISH

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
Tuesday	1/21	12pm	Jeanne & John Sofsky	D	Marsha Bisgrove
Wednesday	1/22	9am	Betty Myers	D	The Heffley Family
Thursday	1/23	9am	Joanne Kirk Henry	D	Patrick & Donna McCarthy
Friday	1/24	9am	Fr. Vincent Robers	D	Deacon Bob
Saturday	1/25	5pm	Claire van Nierop	D	Anthony & Patricia Amato
Sunday	1/26	9am*	Juan Mendoza Perez	D	John & Christine Stewart
Sunday	1/26	11am	Misa Pro Populo		

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 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 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.



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.

EVERDAY STEWARDSHIP

Pew Count Sat. - 110 Sun. - 166	01/04 & 01/05
First Offering (incl. MMOG)	\$ 6,251
First Offering: Faith Direct	\$ 2,258
Total	\$ 8,509
Bake Sale	\$ 295
Jan MTD Debt Reduction	\$ 2,038

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

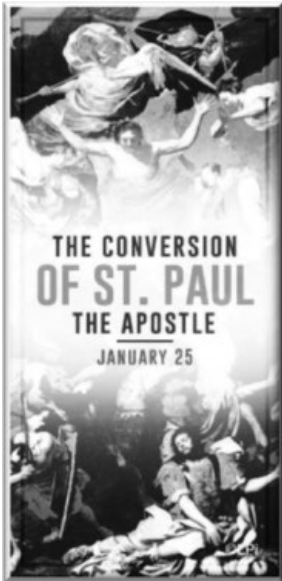
Our next DEBT REDUCTION Collection is

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!

St. Paul the Apostle



Saul's conversation to Christianity took place while he was traveling to Damascus to persecute Christians there. According to Scripture, "a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'" (Acts 9:3-4). Stricken blind by the vision, Saul continued to Damascus where he was healed and immediately began meeting with other disciples in the area and

preaching that Jesus is Lord. He changed his name to the Roman version of Saul, Paul, after his conversation because it was more common among the Gentiles.

For years he traveled all over the region starting churches and preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles. Paul's letters to the communities he served make up thirteen of the books of the New Testament today. His writings encourage new believers to learn about Jesus through Scripture and prayer, partaking in the Eucharist, and serving those in need. He was eventually beheaded as part of systematic executions of Christian leaders in Rome. St. Paul is known as the Apostle to the Gentiles, and the most prolific Christian missionary of all time. St. Paul, pray for us!



Prayer for the Miraculous

Oh God beyond my understanding, Bring Your soul-stirring power into my life today. In the places where people are saying, "It can't be done" or "There's no solution," act in such a way that responds: "There is a way, and there is a God, and He loves me." Amen.



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

.....
Wednesdays

4:00-5:00pm

Starts Jan. 15, 2025

ROOM SCHEDULE

Sat	18-Jan	KoC Memorial Mass	9:00a	Church
		Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
Sun	19-Jan	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
Mon	20-Jan	MLK, Jr. Day - OFFICE CLOSED		
		40th Anniversary Mtg	7:00p	123
		Rejoice Bible Study	1:00p	122
Tues	21-Jan	Mass	12:00p	Church
		Bible Study - Luke	6:30p	St. Joseph's
Wed	22-Jan	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Bible Study - Luke	4:00p	122
		Scouts	6:30p	E/F
		Worship Committee	7:00p	123
Thurs	23-Jan	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Yoga	11:00a	E/F
		Cursillo	6:00p	123
Fri	24-Jan	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Adoration	9:45a	Church
		Benediction	3:00p	Church
Sat	25-Jan	Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
		Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser	6:30p	St. Joseph's
Sun	26-Jan	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
		Youth 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

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

Website: 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: Who was the only apostle, excluding Judas, who was not martyred?

Answer: Saint John.

STS. PETER & PAUL *Religious Store*

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.



McMahon Parater
Scholarship Foundation

804.622.5184

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, 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 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 some dioceses move holy days, or not even celebrate them at all. Doesn't everyone do the same thing?

ANSWER:

The short answer is no, not everyone does the same thing. Although the church is universal, there are many local customs and saints that each country, sometimes just a region, will honor. For example, feast days and patronal days may not be major feast days on the church's universal calendar, but are celebrated as such in one place. Holy days of obligation are the same way. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has a certain amount of discretion in choosing days which best reflect the local church's experience and history.

Another reason certain feasts are moved is a practical one. With limited clergy, or a great difficulty for people to get to Mass, the feast day may be transferred to a Sunday. The rationale is that if a significant feast should be part of the church's celebration, then better to do so on a Sunday when people and clergy are available, rather than try to fit it on a day when one or both cannot be there.

Christmas and Immaculate Conception are always observed as days of obligation. In the USA we celebrate six holy days of obligation. There are also other special days and they are ranked, in order of importance as solemnity, feast, memorial and optional memorial.

Everyday Stewardship

There are close to 7.6 billion people currently on earth. That is a lot of people! If you try to estimate how many people have collectively been born since the beginning of time, a good guess is 108 billion! It is hard to contemplate that many distinctly different human beings created by our God. In the midst of all those people, where do you and I fit? Can we really be created to make a difference in the world? One can feel very small and insignificant when reflecting on the numbers.

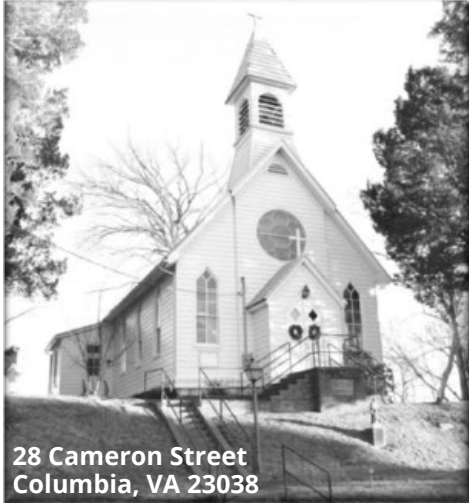
We render ourselves insignificant when we make the mistake of seeing ourselves as being just like everybody else. However, when looking at the numbers, how can one honestly think we are all the same? Another way we become insignificant is believing the lie that one person in the midst of so many does not have the power to make an impact. However, we all spend time reading books, watching movies, or listening to news about singular people who made all the difference in some part of the world. Imagine your own world without a few key people who have touched you and made a difference.

We are all created with unique gifts. We have those gifts that have been part of us from birth and those that have been imparted to us by the Holy Spirit. St. Paul tried to get the Corinthians to understand that reality when he explained to them the many gifts of the Spirit. Perhaps some of his audience back then thought they were insignificant. The message then remains the message today: God is counting on you to use what He has given you. If you don't, who will?

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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

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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

IT TAKES ALL KINDS

“If every flower wanted to be a rose,” wrote St. Therese of Lisieux, “spring would lose its loveliness.”

Who is God asking you to be today? There is an obvious answer that springs to mind right out of the gate. God wants me to be a good person (a good father, a good husband) today; today, God wants me to be a saint.

But this answer fails to get to the heart of the question. We are all striving today to serve the same Spirit, but we are given different gifts to do so. The one who has the gift of knowledge may fail if today he decides he wants to be a healer. The one who has the gift of “varieties of tongues” might falter in the expression of wisdom.

Think about the wedding at Cana and the players in the scene: the servers, the guests, the bride and groom. They all have a unique role to play, and though it is to the servers that Mary gives the instruction, “Do whatever he tells you,” her words apply to all.

Today, are we called to be the servers — do we wait on God’s instruction and carry it out, no matter how foolish or impossible it may seem to our human ears? Are we asked to be the disciples, to bear witness to a miracle and to give our testimony? Are we called to imitate the Blessed Mother herself and give encouragement to follow God’s word?

Let us examine our gifts and listen in the silence of our hearts to the direction of the Spirit. Then and only then, let us do whatever He tells us. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MT





GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 19, 2025
2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
John 2:1-12

A friend invited me to an invitation-only wine-tasting event. There were over two hundred varieties of wine. Having no idea how to approach such a massive selection, I wandered aimlessly among the tables, sipping this and that. At the end of the evening my friend asked if I had tried some of the exceptionally expensive wines. I hadn't. "The really good stuff disappears first," he said. "My man, you missed out on some amazing vino." I was so disappointed. I wasted my chance for amazing once-in-a-lifetime wine. The wine I tasted was, well, blah.

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 *



Don't we often feel a similar disappointment in life? I missed this or that opportunity. If only I had known. Optimism sputters and fades. The glory days are gone. The chances, it seems, for the really great things in life come and go so quickly. Then they are gone forever. The good stuff goes first. Then life is just blah.

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.

Not so with the Lord Jesus. In Jesus' miracle at the wedding at Cana, the steward of the feast says, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then...an inferior one" (John 2:10). That's the natural downward progression of life. The good stuff disappears quickly. But he says of the groom (who symbolizes Jesus), "But you have kept the good wine until now." This is the ever-improving trajectory of the realm of God's grace. With Jesus, the "good wine" of divine love, hope and peace gets better as our journey of faith progresses. Where are your greatest disappointments? Don't give in to the lie that the really good stuff is gone. Tell Jesus you've run out. Then learn how to taste that amazingly good wine, because he saves the best until now. — Father John Muir



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