

February 2, 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

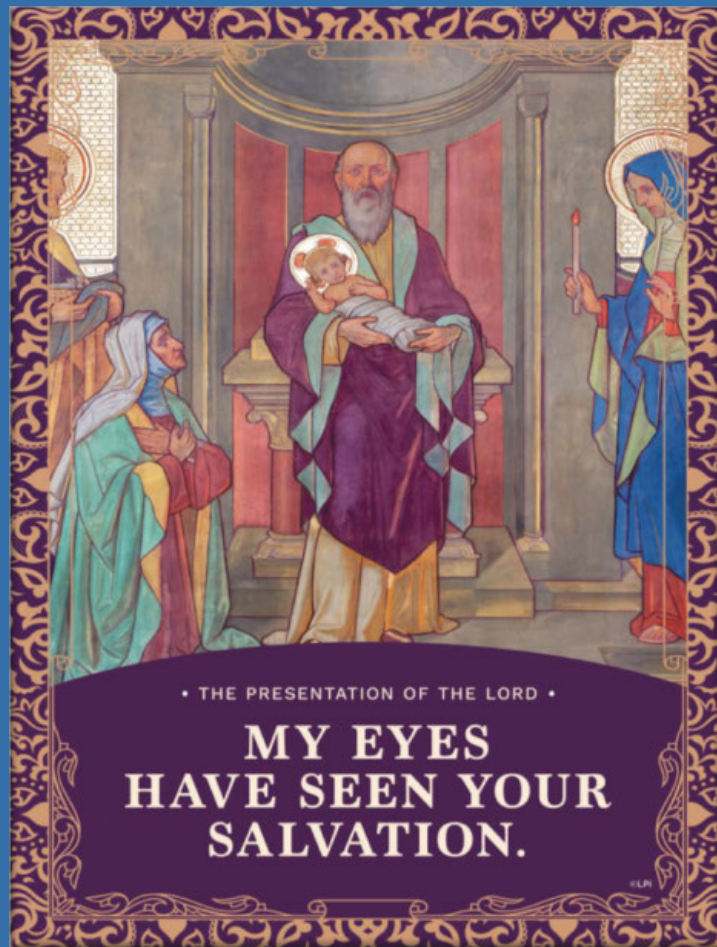
Sunday 8:30am: St. Joseph's

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 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 Nicholson | 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

colleen.smith@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 FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/
Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/
Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/
Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11/Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c)/
1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Sunday: The Presentation of the Lord,
World Day for Consecrated Life
Monday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
Wednesday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
Thursday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Saturday: St. Jerome Emiliani;
St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin; BVM
Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Marriage Day

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2 - 8, 2025

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL MEMORIAL

BREAD & WINE

Donor:

In Memory of:



ALTAR FLOWERS

Donor:

In Memory of:



SANCTUARY CANDLE

Donor:

In Memory of:



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.



PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE
FEBRUARY 2, 2025

*"When the days were completed
for their purification according to
the laws of Moses, they took him
up to Jerusalem to present him
to the Lord."*

(Luke 2:22)

God invites us to dedicate
ourselves fully to His will.
Talk to your priest or reach out
to the

Office of Vocations
804.359.5661

Or via email:
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

COME IN:

**4309 Thomas Jefferson
Parkway (Parish Hall)**



ENCOUNTER

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: The oldest trick of the devil is to distract us from thinking about our hearts. It's not hard for him to do — there are so many other things we could be doing. So, do we have the courage to look to our own hearts, to come face to face with our own choices, our own true selves?

The Thoughts of Many Hearts

When Simeon cradles the infant Messiah in his arms, he speaks of salvation and glory and revelation. He speaks of his own death. He speaks of the fulfillment of God's promise to all people.

But most memorable, in my opinion, are his words about the hearts of men. This Child, he says, will be the way "the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Perhaps you're like me. Perhaps you don't enjoy scrutinizing yourself, your actions, your intentions. You don't like reflecting on why you feel or react the way you do, and you really don't enjoy measuring those feelings and reactions against what you know they could be.

It's exhausting to sit with God, your heart in your hands, both of us looking at it, talking about it. So far too often, I opt out.

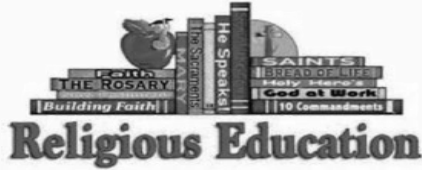
The oldest trick of the devil, you see, is to distract us from thinking about our hearts. It's not hard for him to do. There are so many other things I could be doing, after all. Answering emails. Catching up on laundry. Scrolling Facebook. Worrying about inflation and the election. Stressing about my kid's dance recital and next week's busy schedule.

But where is God truly at work? Where is the place God will point to, when my life on Earth has come to its close?

It is the very depths of my heart. The place where I am my most authentic self, for better or worse. The place where all my pretensions crumble away, and I am alone with the truth of who I am and what I choose to do.

Am I brave enough to look into the depths of my own heart?

PARISH YOUTH



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

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to save all people from sin. Amen.

SHARING THE GOSPEL

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they dedicated Jesus to God. An old man named Simeon was also in the temple that day. As soon as Simeon saw and held baby Jesus, he praised God. He knew that Jesus was going to bring God's love to all people including you.



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.



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Presentation of the Lord • Luke 2:22-40

INTENTIONS

MASS INTENTIONS: FEBRUARY 1 - 9

*REPRESENTS ST. JOSEPH PARISH

1st Saturday	2/1	10am	Carol Donahue	D	the Donahue family
Saturday	2/1	5pm	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	2/2	9am*	Debra Rogan	D	
Sunday	2/2	11am	Cosmo DiFazio, Sr.	D	Kenny Family
Tuesday	2/4	12pm	Mary Lynne Withrow	I	Colleen Smith
Wednesday	2/5	9am			
Thursday	2/6	9am			
Friday	2/7	9am	Antoni Orwinski	D	Grazyna & Slawek Witkowski
Saturday	2/8	5pm	Anna Sommerauer-birthday	I	Grazyna & Slawek Witkowski
Sunday	2/9	9am*	Misa Pro Populo		
Sunday	2/9	11am	Brian Bisgrove	D	Marsha Bisgrove

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. - 120 Sun. - 147	01/18 & 01/19
First Offering	\$ 3,267
Faith Direct	\$ 2,312
Total	\$ 5,579
Jan MTD Debt Reduction	\$ 3,368

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.

Our next monthly Bake Sale is *this weekend* after each Mass. Donations accepted before Mass. Thanks!

Women's Cursillo Weekend

Save the Date Now

Cursillo is a 3-day encounter to enrich your spirituality and raise awareness of Christ in every moment of your life.

The next *Women's Cursillo Weekend* will be held *Thursday, April 24th (7:00pm) through Sunday, April 27th (5:00pm), 2025, at the Blessings Lodge on the campus of Camp Overlook in Keezletown, VA. The Theme of the Weekend is "Anointed".*

Pope Francis made a Cursillo and recognizes how "Cursillos help people encounter Jesus, helping them understand that living in the Grace of God is beautiful." Cursillo recognizes we aren't meant to walk this journey of life alone – we need *Spiritual Nutrition* that comes from sharing with other believers to enhance our journey and share tools for a deeper connection with Christ. Come walk this journey alongside other Catholic women and be filled with the JOY Christ offers each one of us.

Applications and more about Cursillo are available at www.valleycursillo.com. All applicants must have a sponsor.

Contact Ellie Henrietta 434-981-3551 for questions and more information. *Application deadline is March 27th.*

REMEMBER A LOVED ONE WITH A SPECIAL GIFT

The remembrance can be for an anniversary, a birthday, in thanksgiving, or to remember a deceased loved ones.

Stop by the Parish Office to arrange to have the Bread and Wine, Flowers, and/or Candles donated for someone you love. All donations are for one week (Sunday through Saturday).

Altar Flowers \$25 Bread & Wine \$25
Candles \$30
Masses \$10 (per Mass)

Join us for a new Bible Study group that meets on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 at St. Joseph or Wednesday at Sts Peter and Paul from 4:00 - 5:00.

We are studying the Gospel of Luke. which starts with the birth of John the Baptist and continues through Jesus' public ministry, passion, death, resurrection, and ascension. As we journey through this Gospel, we will encounter Jesus in a new way and learn how Jesus' teachings fit into our lives.

January Wedding Anniversaries

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

Dennis M. & Duffy D. **9 Years**

Frank & Emily P. **40 years**

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

Sat	1-Feb	1st Saturday Mass & Rosary	10:00a	Church
		Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
		Bake Sale After Mass	6:00p	Church
Sun	2-Feb	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
		Bake Sale After Mass	12:00p	Church
Mon	3-Feb	Rejoice Bible Study	1:00p	122
		KoC Meeting	7:00p	E/F
Tues	4-Feb	Mass/Blessing of Throats	12:00p	Church
		Troop Committee	6:30P	122
		Bible Study - Luke	6:30p	St. Joseph's
Wed	5-Feb	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Bible Study - Luke	4:00p	122
		Scouts	6:30	E/F
Thurs	6-Feb	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Yoga	11:00a	E/F
		Cursillo	6:00p	123
Fri	7-Feb	Mass	9:00a	Church
		Adoration	9:45a	Church
		Benediction	3:00p	Church
Sat	8-Feb	Confessions	4:00p	Church
		Vigil Mass	5:00p	Church
Sun	9-Feb	Confessions	8:30a	St. Joseph's
		Mass	9:00a	St. Joseph's
		CCD/RCIA/Adult Formation	9:30a	E/F
		CCD	10:30a	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

SENIOR COFFEE SOCIAL

Wednesday, February 26
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: What country do the majority of Coptic Catholics live in?

Answer: Egypt

STS. PETER & PAUL *Religious Store*
religiousstore@saintspeterpaul.org

HOURS:

<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
3:30 - 4:30pm	12:00 - 1:00pm
6:00 - 6:45pm	



GIVE YOUR SPOUSE A SPECIAL GIFT THIS NEW YEAR

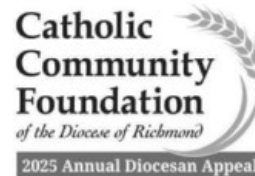
Sign up now for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend and receive the gift of a great marriage. Making a weekend will help you put a little Christmas in your marriage every day!

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:

March 7 - 9 Rehoboth Beach, DE

March 14 -16 Jessup, MD and Ocean City, NJ

March 21-23 Emerald Isle, NC



2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal: *Sharing His Love with Others*

Over the next couple of weekends, you will be hearing about the 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal.

With a goal of \$4,676,409, the 2025 Appeal will provide critical funding to many diverse and impactful ministries that affect the lives of thousands of people in our Diocese.

In early February, many of you will receive a letter from Bishop Knestout asking for your support of the 2025 Appeal. It is our sincere hope that you will answer our Bishop's request and make a generous commitment to this effort.

SPP Goal: \$ 21,430

Catholic Q & A

QUESTION:

Luke's Gospel is the only one to mention the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. What is Luke trying to communicate here and what connection does it have with Mary?

ANSWER:

February 2 is exactly forty days after December 25, the nativity of Jesus. Jewish law (Ex 13:2, 12) dictated that Jesus, as the firstborn, be consecrated to God. This was done by the parents as they presented their Son in the Temple.

Jewish law further specified (Lv 12:2-8) that a mother was ritually impure after giving birth, and that she had to wait a set period of time (forty days for a boy) before she was to offer a sacrifice to the Lord for purification.

The convergence of these two Jewish regulations occasions Luke's account of both the Presentation of the Lord and the Purification of Mary. These days the liturgical emphasis is more on the Presentation of Jesus. Luke highlights the role of Simeon and Anna, two righteous Jews who recognized Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and praised God for being able to see and experience such a marvel in their lifetimes.

Simeon's prayer concerning the special role of Jesus states that Jesus is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." This phrase eventually originated the custom of blessing candles on this day which were to be used in the ceremonies, rituals, and processions throughout the church year. Thus February 2 is also known as Candlemas Day. This day is indeed a rich feast to be savored.

World Day for Consecrated Life

God of all goodness,
you have called people to follow you
faithfully. Humans have heard that call and
many choose to follow your call
in varied and faith-filled lives.
Some follow your call in private, silent lives
as hermits;
some choose to follow you with lives lived as
virgins and widows;
while others choose public lives of vowed
men and women
as religious brothers and sisters.
Abundantly give to these men and women
the courage to follow their call as witnesses
to your gifts and faith and service to the
world.

We ask this in faith
through the name of Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

**A Food For The Poor Clergy Speaker
Is Visiting Your Church Today**

*Founded in 1982, Food For The Poor
works to end the suffering of
impooverished children and their families
in the Caribbean and Latin America.*

**FFTP FOOD FOR
THE POOR**

www.FoodForThePoor.org/churchalliances



PRAYER OF FAITH

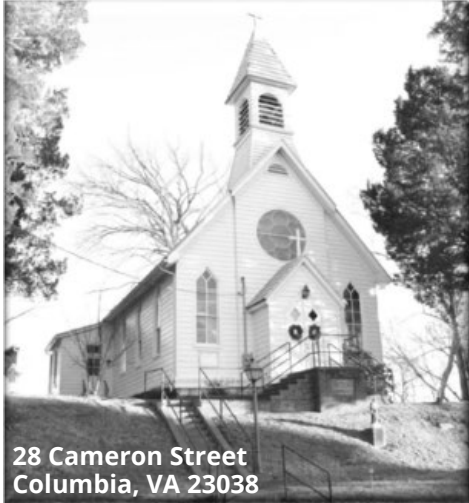
Dear God,

Open my eyes to Your movement in my
life. And, even when I don't see it or
don't understand, help me to rely on the
promises of Your love and mercy.

Amen.



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

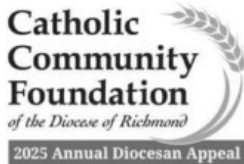
Healing Our Blindness

The value of stewardship living is difficult to see unless we are experiencing that way of life for ourselves. You can read 100 Everyday Stewardship reflections and go to church every Sunday, but unless you are actively growing in faith and trying to live a life of generous stewardship, you cannot see the power of such a lifestyle. Like most things, we need direct, purposeful experiences to really understand.

I worked in a stewardship parish for over 20 years, but it was only after I started treating all I have as God's, and began to actively offer all I am to Him for His glory, that I really got the message. That doesn't mean I am a perfect steward. Far from it! However, the stress and anxiety that comes with life has greatly diminished because all is in God's hands. I choose to act more generously than before, which provides me with a sense of fulfillment and joy. How I act towards my family, friends, and even people I meet daily has changed. Now I am more mindful of their presence, and I seek to give them a part of me that just might change their day and bring them a little closer to Christ. I am transforming into a disciple who seeks to use all I have been given to transform all that is around me.

It would be a shame to be blind to the important things for an entire life. Today, consider taking a path of life-changing stewardship. Give it all to God. In the midst of all you have been given, you just might find God in a profound way. You may even find the real person God created you to be.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



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GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

February 2, 2025
Presentation of the Lord
Luke 2:22-40

What is the secret to sharing in God’s power to overcome our difficulties? Mary teaches us this in the prophecy of her pierced heart. This Sunday, the old man Simeon prophesies that when her son faces opposition, Mary’s soul will be pierced by a sword. The seemingly pointless agony of a mother helplessly watching her son be mocked, tortured, killed and then cruelly desecrated in death by a spear — somehow this piercing of her heart releases a power by which “the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Luke 2:35). What to make of this?

Whatever problems we currently face, the deepest threat is finally that evil thoughts are hidden in the human heart: hatred, envy, pride, lust, greed and so on. Behind every tyrant’s injustice, for example, is a heart unpierced by love. Evil hides in our hearts. Mary’s pierced heart, and its suffering love for her son, reveals and scatters these evil thoughts, and replaces them with love, forgiveness, generosity and peace.

This week, I invite us to ponder Mary’s pierced heart. Her heart is quietly at work for us in the Church and world, exposing our evil thoughts and making a path for her son’s divine love. This is how she gently cooperates in our salvation. Closed hearts are our biggest problem; love-pierced hearts are the ultimate power to overcome every difficulty. — 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

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.



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

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Courtney & Shannon L. **21 years**

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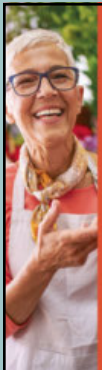
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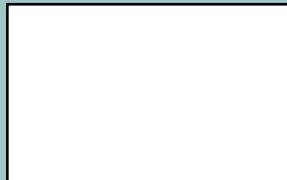
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