



**SAINT PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH**

800 East Grace Street

P. O. Box 933

Richmond, Virginia 23218-0933

Office: 804-643-4315

[www.stpeterchurch1834.org](http://www.stpeterchurch1834.org)

**Emergency** – If someone is dying or there has been a death, please call: 804-402-1221

**Mass Schedule**

**Sunday: 8:30 & 10:45 am Weekday: 12:05 pm**

**Holy Day: Call the Parish Office or See Notices**

**Confession: Mon. thru Fri., 11:45 am**

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**August 13, 2017**

**Mass Intention: Patricia Peltier**

**TODAY'S MUSIC**

**ENTRANCE** #575

God is Our Fortress and Our Rock

**PSALM** #919

Lord let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation.

**OFFERTORY** #682

Praise and Thanksgiving

**COMMUNION** #636

I Danced in the Morning

**RECESSIONAL** #702

Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above

**Holy Communion** – *This is a reminder that Holy Communion, in the Catholic Church, is reserved to actively practicing Catholics. If you are not Catholic or have not been actively practicing your faith, then please refrain from receiving Communion. If you would like to learn how to be welcomed to full Communion, we would love to help. All you need to do is contact a priest. Our contact info is in this bulletin.*

**LECTOR & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**TODAY'S MASS**

**8:30 am:** Maggie Wilkins Extraordinary Ministers: Doug Dewing, Tom Fahed, Barbara Goode

**FINANCE:** Kathleen & Anthony Seal, Kris Mednikov

**10:45 am:** Colin Schmidt Extraordinary Ministers:

Joe Naman, Steve Gerloff, Nancy Gowen

**FINANCE:** Eileen Zorzi, Mary Wayte

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**8:30 am:** Norma Bunchman Extraordinary Ministers: Adriane Allen-Henderson, Bill Lipchak, Linda Shisler

**FINANCE:** Roger & Rose Mayer, Tom Fahed

**10:45 am:** Leila Christenbury Extraordinary Ministers:

Joe Naman, Steve Gerloff, Nancy Gowen

**FINANCE:** Kathy Kelly, John Rogers

**HOMEBOUND/HOSPITALIZED**

David Adams, Joseph Birchette, Steve Campbell, William Claiborne, Camilla Hull (mother of Doyle Hull), Connie Klyver, (friend of Ginnie & Marilyn), Maria Konwerska, Cathy Lipchak, Emma Mednikov, Jim Melton, Jesse Oliver, Rachel Robinson, Marilyn Reilly, Nancy Severns, Beulah Taylor, Craig Trowbridge, Greg Stowers. Thank you for your prayers.

**If you know of anyone who is sick, hospitalized, homebound, or dying and desires a visit from a priest, please call or email us. Without your help, we have no way of knowing.**

**SCHEDULE & MASS INTENTIONS**

Mon.: Mass Intention: Frank Linari

Tues.: Mass Intention: Ann Dolbeare

Tues.: Social Ministry: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Wed.: Mass Intention: Harry Sherwin

Thurs: Mass Intention: Isabelle Spear

Fri.: Mass Intention: Imre Radvany

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR**

One of the most difficult topics for Catholics to discuss with non-Catholics is the Church's teaching on same-sex attraction. Back in the day, it wasn't as big of an issue because these things were dealt with in counseling or more privately. But during the last 50 years and especially in the 20, society has brought to the forefront the case of people who are attracted to members of the same sex. I remember just ten years ago how unpopular the idea of same-sex marriage was in society, and now especially among young people, it is very accepted and obviously in our country (and very unfortunately) it is legal to marry.

The topic of same-sex marriage we in the Church have had a lot of discussion about especially when considering political candidates. Our Bishop often puts out statements that clearly delineate the many errors in a society permitting same-sex

marriage. And this is a worthy topic of discussion and worth the fight to preserve Christian marriage, marriage as defined by the inventor (God).

But today I want to speak more basically about the feeling that some people feel who are attracted to members of the same sex. I do not know how common it is, I have heard some statistics that 10% of the population feel attraction to members of the same sex. Whether that is true I do not know.

Regardless, it is not an insignificant number of people, as we all likely know people that are attracted to members of the same sex, family members, or friends, some of whom may have decided to act upon that attraction.

For us who are Catholic and love our faith and want to embrace the teachings of the Church, society will often tell us we are bigots. Additionally, I am sure there are those who think the Church is too 'soft' and that we need to be more forthright.

The position of the Church in regards to people who have a same sex-attraction is the same position that it holds in regards to all people who have not yet achieved perfect holiness, it approaches them in truth and in love.

It is never complicated, no matter the situation or moral dilemma, on how we should act in order that we remain faithful to Christ and still be 'on the side' of people. It may be difficult and it usually is, especially if it is a family (we obviously do not want the relationship severed...although this may be an unfortunate outcome) but it is not complicated. There is a difference.

People who have a same-sex attraction are people, just like other people who have not yet achieved perfect holiness (which is basically everyone walking the planet...except for a few actual living few saints who might be out there somewhere). The Church says that if someone has a same-sex attraction then they have a disordered sexual attraction. This may sound harsh and intolerant, but the Church would say that every single person who ever lived (with the exception of Jesus and Mary) has disordered attractions. If you like beer too much, you have a disordered attraction. If you like to eat donuts too much (me) you have a disordered attraction. If you have an attraction to pornography, you are disordered. If you like to gossip, you have a disordered desire for entertainment. If you are married and desire someone other than your spouse, you have disordered attraction.

My point is not to be negative. This is actually very good news for us all. It means that we are all in the same boat. It means that if you are human, you have inherited original sin which causes us all to have disorder affections, feelings and attractions. And the good news is not that we all have this disorder inside of us (everyone...from the Pope to the poor man on the corner), but that God has given us a way out of it through what his Son did on the cross. Jesus heals our disorder. Whatever disorder that may be. We will all struggle with disorder until we die, perfection for most only happens in Heaven. Again, not bad news...it has an end!!!

But on that walk towards our ultimate healing, we have two traps we can fall into. Firstly, we can fail to say disordered affections or feelings are disordered. Usually because of the possibility of estranged relationships or feeling like a bigot, we take the easy road and just sort of pretend that there's not a problem. This is wrong. Or, on the other side, because we are often not good at dealing with confrontation, we can attempt to 'take a stand in truth' but do so without love, without patience, and without a willingness to walk with a person on their road to conversion. This too is wrong and makes non-Catholics think we are merciless and harsh.

It's real simple in the case of people with same-sex attraction or in any other moral question wherein the Church speaks the words of Christ to the world. It must be the truth in love. It cannot be anything less. It will not be easy. Let's be honest about that. But true love is only easy in fairytales.

Fr. Rossi

<b>Budgeted Weekly Income</b>	<b>\$3,288.00</b>
<b>Collection</b>	<b>2,850.00</b>
<b>Loss</b>	<b>\$ 436.00</b>

**Outreach & Social Ministry** – 115 lunches were served on Tuesday, August 8, 2017. 126 dinners were served on Wednesday, August 9, 2017. Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who serve God's people.

“After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.” Help each other hear God's plan for our marriage by participating in a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** (WWME) weekend with your spouse. The next weekends are: Sept. 15-17, 2017 in Herndon, VA and Nov. 10-12, 2017 in ATLANTIC BEACH, NC. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: <https://renewmarriage-vasouth.org/> or contact us at [applications@renewmarriage-vasouth.org](mailto:applications@renewmarriage-vasouth.org) or 757-690-1369.

**Because** our Faith keeps us strong and filled with JOY, we want to share it with you every day. **Like** us on **Facebook** and **Follow** us on **Twitter** for inspirational daily messages and the latest happenings with our Pope, Bishop, priests, seminarians, lay ministers, youth, events and general news about the Diocese. Join us in prayer and service. **Facebook** @RichmondDiocese and **Twitter** @RichmondDiocese

**Coffee** – downstairs in the parish hall after each Mass on Sunday. All are welcome. Take this opportunity to get to know your church community.

**Emails:**

**Pastor, Rev. Gino Rossi:** [ginopaulrossi@hotmail.com](mailto:ginopaulrossi@hotmail.com)

**Rev. Ernest Livasia Bulinda:** [livasia@gmail.com](mailto:livasia@gmail.com)

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