



SAINT PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

800 East Grace Street

P. O. Box 933

Richmond, Virginia 23218-0933

Office: 804-643-4315

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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 20, 2017

Mass Intention: Jonathan & Laura Bakutes (L)

TODAY'S MUSIC

ENTRANCE	#535
God We Praise	
PSALM	#922
O God, O God let all the nations praise you.	
OFFERTORY	#747
O Christ the Healer	
COMMUNION	#745
When Love is Found	
RECESSIONAL	#524
Holy God We Praise Thy Name	

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: 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

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 am: Doug Dewing Extraordinary Ministers: Kimberly Taylor, Maggie Wilkins, Robert Wilkins

FINANCE: Doug Dewing, Ron Hurst, Gabi Wolz

10:45 am: Nancy Eckler Extraordinary Ministers: Jim Martinelli, Marie Martinelli, Joe Naman

FINANCE: Chris Thomas, Richard Williams

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: Thomas Swanson
Tues.:	Mass Intention: Donald Kiesler
Tues.:	Social Ministry: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Wed.:	Mass Intention: Doris Conklin
Thurs:	Mass Intention: Alfred Konwerski
Fri.:	Mass Intention: Richard Savage

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

In light of recent events, I would like to ask: what does God think of 'free speech'?

Obviously free speech is in the constitution. It is a law. And the founders thought that it was an inalienable right given by God.

It seems this topic is always being debated, in the courts, in the public sphere, etc. It is always being asked 'do people have the right to burn flags, do people have the right to desecrate crosses in protest, do people have the right to gather as white supremacists.' Each of these are considered personally horrific to any rational person, but the question is 'is this included in free speech?'

I remember a few years back there was an ‘artist’ (more like an idiot) who turned a crucifix upside-down and put it in a urinal and said it was art. What’s worse is that there was an art gallery that actually displayed it.

This is obviously disgusting and they will be judged when they meet God, as we all will.

But as a society, is it a good thing that we have free speech? And how ‘free’ should free speech be?

In Germany it is illegal to make or pretend to make a Nazi salute. Obviously they have a very horrible past in these regards so they have setup very strict laws to attempt to ensure there is never an uprising of those horrible ideas again.

Here in the US, our ‘free speech’ is more ‘free.’ As disgusting as it is, people are free to express themselves in all those horrible ways noted above.

Rational people are horrified by these things and would love to never hear of them again. But there are only two ways for us to stop it. One of the ways is hard, and one easy...but the easy one has a negative side-effect.

The easy way is for us to make it illegal. All we have to do is make it illegal for people to burn flags, make it illegal to put crucifixes in urinals, and make it illegal to spout off white supremacist rhetoric. Then when people do it, we just call the cops and they get locked up. Quick and easy.

Unfortunately this method, although easy, has a negative consequence, one involving a slippery slope. Did you know in Canada that a priest can be fined and have even been jailed for preaching about what marriage is? They have been fined for saying marriage is between one man and one woman. Or did you know in France that there is a law being considered that will make it illegal even to say that abortion is immoral. Even to say that abortion is evil or sinful or immoral, could get someone sent to prison.

The problem is that when the laws started to be written to restrict free speech, they could and will likely be written to restrict our speech (Catholics and Christians).

Then there’s the hard way. The hard way to limit and stop free speech that we don’t like is the way of the Gospel. It is the way of conversion. It is the way of trying to convince, convert and change the crazy people who burn flags, put crucifixes in urinals and become white supremacists.

We know no one is beyond conversion and no one is beyond the possibility to be changed and become one of God’s fiercest apostles. After all, before his conversion, the person responsible for writing the largest section of the New Testament could be likened to a white supremacist who was trying to ‘purify’ Judaism (remember that Paul stood and watched as Stephen was stoned to death).

It’s not easy. And the quick and easy solution is usually not the answer. Aiding conversions, teaching morality, good

parenting, disciplining children, good communities, and a decent society cannot be replaced by a quick answer.

I will say one thing for sure, I do not believe any true interior change occurs without a very generous outpouring of God’s grace into a soul. The healing often needs to go very deep before people will change, and nothing gets down that deep but God. And ultimately that is what we want, we don’t just want speech to stop or be changed, we want their hearts to be converted. Once the heart is changed, the speech will follow.

Fr. Rossi

Budgeted Weekly Income	\$3,288.00
Collection	4,217.95
Gain	\$ 929.95

Outreach & Social Ministry – 146 lunches were served on Tuesday, August 15, 2017. 131 dinners were served on Wednesday, August 16, 2017. Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who serve God’s people.

St. Peter’s Food Pantry is in need of restocking. We are helping feed the poor of the city. On average we give out at least 5 bags of groceries per week. If you can help restock our food pantry, please consider bringing canned goods, dried goods & any non-perishable food.

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

If you are a practicing Catholic woman age 21 or older, please join us for the Catholic Woman’s Club Membership Tea on Monday, September 25 at 2 pm at the Columbian Center. The Catholic Woman’s Club promotes Catholic ideals through intellectual, cultural and spiritual development and philanthropic endeavors. For reservations, please contact Joan Walton 804-266-3612. We hope to see you on September 25th!

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
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