



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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2017

Mass Intention: Maryrose Zdanowicz

TODAY'S MUSIC

ENTRANCE	#512
Immortal Invisible God Only Wise	
PSALM	#877
The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.	
OFFERTORY	#431
Jesu Jesu Fill Us with Your Love	
COMMUNION	#510
I Want To Walk As a Child of the Light	
RECESSIONAL	#522
Heavenly Host in Ceaseless Worship	

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: Doug Dewing Extraordinary Ministers: Kim Taylor, Linda Shisler, Maggie Wilkins

FINANCE: Rose & Roger Mayer, Tom Fahed

10:45 am: Colin Schmidt Extraordinary Ministers: Marie Martinelli, Joe Naman, Mimi Schoof

FINANCE: John Rogers, Patty Talley

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 am: Will Rogers Extraordinary Ministers: Doug Dewing, Tom Fahed, Adriane Allen-Henderson

FINANCE: Gabi Wolz, Bill Lipchak

10:45 am: Leslie Williams Extraordinary Ministers: Nancy Gowen, Jim Martinelli, Mimi Schoof

FINANCE: Chris Thomas, Richard Williams

HOMEBOUND/HOSPITALIZED

David Adams, Rollo Brown, Steve Campbell, David Coffman, Bill Holzgreffe, Shirley Hudson, Camilla Hull (mother of Doyle Hull), Connie Klyver, (friend of Ginnie & Marilyn), Maria Konwerska, Emma Mednikov, Jim Melton, Nancy Naman, Jesse Oliver, Rachel Robinson, Marilyn Reilly, Nancy Severns, Beulah Taylor. 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: Mary Walsh
- Tues.: Mass Intention: Madeline Flourney
- Tues.: Social Ministry: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Wed.: Mass Intention: Miriam Penn
- Thurs: Mass Intention: Ida Rudd
- Fri.: Mass Intention: Jim Saunders

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

On Tuesday, we celebrated the Feast Day of St. John Bosco. St. John Bosco was an amazing saint who became known for his excellent education and formation of youths. He founded the Salesians, an order dedicated to educating youth and is the patron saint of youth.

In regards to education, I have been hearing talk of an issue that has been raised and wanted to provide a little information so that you will know where the Church stands on this issue.

It is in regards to school choice.

Recently, this topic has come up. The Church does not support individual politicians, but it does take sides on issues.

The Church is pro-school choice.

What does that mean?

Well let me tell you what school choice is.

Currently, in most places, including here in Richmond, we all pay taxes and a portion of that tax money goes to the government (local and federal) so that the local government can provide free public education for grades K-12. Free education of youths is absolutely essential to provide equal opportunities for all children to advance socially and economically.

For most children, they have to go to the school determined by their geographic school district. If you live in such-and-such a neighborhood, you have to go to school 'X,' etcetera.

This is all very common to us.

The problem with this, and we all recognize this, is that certain neighborhoods are not as nice as other neighborhoods...that is to say, some are more safe, have better family environments, have less drugs and crime, etc. And when a school district has more 'bad' neighborhoods than 'good' neighborhoods, usually what results is the school itself becomes a mediocre or poor performing school.

This is commonly understood. All we need to do is look at independent school rankings provided by greatschools.org or any of the various evaluative organizations and they unanimously agree that, for example, Hanover public schools are better than the Richmond City schools, or where I was blessed to attend public school, York County, was better than Newport News public schools. That's why my parents lived in York County, even though they had to sacrifice the home they could have had if they would have lived in Newport News. They did this because they did not want to send their kids to schools with metal detectors.

This is a problem. What it does is create a cycle of disadvantage for those children who are raised in bad neighborhoods, sent to bad schools and eventually make bad choices.

What is school choice and how does it work to solve this problem?

School choice creates the possibility for a parent to choose where they want to send their kids to school. School choice allows the parents to take the tax money that would have been sent to their own school district towards and use it towards the education cost or tuition at the school of their own choosing. This is called a school voucher or tax voucher.

You are probably thinking, 'well everyone will just send their kids to the better public school and it will be overwhelmed and not be able to take all those kids...and then the other school will just close.'

While there would be additional students going to the better performing public schools and less to the underperforming, more importantly what would happen is that schools would be forced to be competitive. They would be forced to produce good results or else they would cease to exist. And I for one believe a bad school should not exist.

But also what would happen, and has happened where school choice has occurred, is the creation of independent private schools, like Catholic schools. These schools are more efficient than the government run schools and provide superior education.

The City of Richmond spent almost \$13k per student in 2015 in public schools. Newport News spent over \$10k per student. The local private Catholic school in Newport News cost \$9k for tuition and provided a far superior education than the local public school by all measures.

Competition is good. It makes us better and makes us strive for excellence. A lack of it makes us lazy. School choice would provide the option for parents to choose where they send their kids and would create a competitive schooling system where schools had to sell themselves to parents by being the best, showing themselves the best, and truly serving their customer, the student.

That is a little about school choice and why we as a Church are pro-school choice. –Fr. Rossi

Budgeted Weekly Income	\$3,288.00
Collection	<u>3,150.25</u>
Loss	\$ 137.75

Outreach & Social Ministry – 162 lunches were served on Tuesday, Jan. 31. 73 dinners were served on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who serve God's people.

Our presentation of Bishop Barron's DVD continues with *Untold Blessings—Three Paths to Holiness* after 8:30 Mass.

Lighthouse Ministries CDs and Booklets – Have you noticed in the church entrance, we are now offering CDs and Booklets on various Catholic topics? The CDs are great for listening to when you are driving. We hope you will check them out. We are asking for a small donation to cover the cost. If you have any suggestions, please contact Kathy Buttner.

The Office for Black Catholics invites you to our 1st Annual Black Catholic Leadership Awards Banquet. This event is being hosted at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump, 12042 West Broad St, Richmond, VA 23233 on Sat., Mar. 25, 2017, 6:00 PM and will include live entertainment.

The purpose of this event is to recognize Black Catholic leadership within our Diocese. Funds raised for this event are given in the form of scholarships to assist Black Catholic youth in continuing their education. Donation: \$65 (General) \$40 (Senior 55+). For personal delivery of your tickets, please contact Chris Thomas (St. Peter) at 804-314-1888 or cnesmitht@gmail.com.

Emails:

Pastor, Rev. Gino Rossi: ginopaulrossi@hotmail.com

Rev. Ernest Livasia Bulinda: livasia@gmail.com

Rev. Frank Wiggins: Padreop@verizon.net

Office: stpeterchurch2@aol.com