



**SAINT PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**800 East Grace Street**

**P. O. Box 933**

**Richmond, Virginia 23219-0933**

**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**

**3rd Sunday of Lent**

**March 4, 2018**

**Mass Intention: Frank & Anne Kern**

**TODAY'S MUSIC**

<b>ENTRANCE</b>	#420
Again We Keep This Solemn Fast	
<b>PSALM</b>	#794
Lord you have the words of everlasting life.	
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	#631
God Whose Giving Knows No Ending	
<b>COMMUNION</b>	#605
O Jesus Joy of Loving Hearts	
<b>RECESSIONAL</b>	#529
Praise the Lord You Heavens Adore Him	

**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.*

**PRAYER LIST**

David Adams, Joseph Birchette, Steve Campbell, William Claiborne, Mary Davidson, Cathy Lipchak, Jim Melton, Erin Moores, Jesse Oliver, Joel Rivera, Rachel Robinson, Marilyn Reilly, John Rogers, Beulah Taylor, Richard Williams. 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: Kathleen McCall
- Tues.: Mass Intention: Victoria Reed
- Tues.: Social Ministry: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Wed.: Mass Intention: Franje Puskaric (L)
- Thurs: Mass Intention: John Simons
- Fri.: Mass Intention: John Gordon

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR**

The horrible events in Florida two weeks ago are still fresh in our minds. How awful. What a different world this is compared to the world my grandparents grew up in.

As our country is crazy about politics, the event, because it was so emotionally powerful, has been used by many to persuade others of what is wrong with our country... 'if only we do this...if only we make this change...then we wouldn't have horrible things like this happen.' Mostly the debate is about guns and security.

This was a devastating event. Horrible and very sad. It will change the lives of all those effected probably for the rest of their lives.

But what is also sad is how little is said about the real root of the problem.

Most tend to focus on things that, while they think to themselves they are the main issue are in fact peripheral. Most do not discuss the main issues because they are afraid to discuss the main issues because they are afraid to discuss them, are rebellious against truth, or they are entirely ignorant to the real causes.

There are two things that are painfully absent from the discussion of why these things continue to happen again and again.

The first can be summed up by an email a parishioner sent. The email is a picture of a sweatshirt. On the sweatshirt is a print, in which is quoted a conversation between God and a student. The conversation goes like this: "dear God, why do you allow so much violence in our schools? Signed, a concerned student." Underneath is the response: "dear concerned student, I'm not allowed in schools. Signed, God."

God has been systematically removed from schools in our country. God does not force Himself upon anyone. He comes by invitation only. If those in charge of schools desire Him to be eliminated from the minds of students and from their daily study and routine, He will not force himself on them. God's presence provides protection from evil. It is as simple as that. Evil tempts people to do evil things. The presence of God in the minds and heart of people in any location gives them strength to resist evil. It gives them hope when they might otherwise fall into despair. Children in schools have been deprived of their most supportive life-coach, their most loving Dad, their best friend – God. Adults are supposed to set the tone of an environment for children. Adults in this country have set a tone of agnosticism at best, and atheism as worst in public schools.

The second issue that no one discusses but that is more primary than the other issues being used as political hockey pucks, is the absolute destruction of the family during the last century. Divorce rates have gone from single digits to 50%. 40% of kids are born to unwed mothers. 25% of kids are being raised without a father. 35% of these are statistically poor because of this. No fault divorce and now the terrible attempt by society to redefine what marriage is, have undermined marriage and in doing so have destroyed the glue that keeps families together and faithful to one another. Children more and more are being raised without a dad to imitate, by a mom who is emotionally scarred, and in an increasingly less-godly environment. They rarely hear the message of proper human conduct as given us by the scriptures and less and less have good role models in their lives like parents. Rather, dark and perverted YouTube videos and other abhorrent things on the internet fill their minds, literally all day long, as they worship at the new font of knowledge, their smart phone.

The young man who committed these awful acts should not have excuses made for him. We are all responsible for our own actions. He should suffer the penalty for his crime. But I for one will confess that I would be an awful human being had it not been for the purifying presence of God in my life and the witness of two faithful parents. And if we as a country want to stop having these awful things occur, God must be welcomed back into those places where He has been disinvited, and our families have to again become places that grow us into decent human beings.

Fr. Rossi

<b>Budgeted Weekly Income</b>	<b>\$3,288.00</b>
<b>Collection</b>	<b>4,005.56</b>
<b>Gain</b>	<b>\$ 717.56</b>

**“Fr. Rossi – Good news everyone!!! We finally got our permits to begin work on the basement area bathrooms!!! We will be renovating the bathrooms downstairs and installing showering facilities for the homeless. Please continue to make your pledge payments to Living Our Mission, which supports this effort. Thank you for your generosity.”**

**2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal:  
Building Our Family of Faith  
A Letter from Our Bishop**

Welcome to the 2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal – Building Our Family of Faith.

As I begin my ministry as the 13<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Richmond, I think about how far this Diocese has come since its inception in 1820. In recent years, one of the key components of advancing our Catholic Faith has been the Annual Diocesan Appeal. It has become a part of the fabric that binds us together as a family of faith. When our larger ministries and parishes receive funding through the Appeal, we as a Church are ensuring that they can thrive today while building for tomorrow.

With a grateful heart, I hope all parishioners of Saint Peter will join with us this year to accomplish our most challenging goal to date of \$3,117,096. Please know that whatever level you contribute; your gift will be most humbly received.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Barry C. Knestout  
Diocese of Richmond

**Many of you have received a letter from Bishop Knestout asking for your support. For those of you who did not receive a mailing or have not had time to respond to it, we will conduct our In-Pew pledge process at all Masses during the weekend of March 11. It is very important for all of us to make a gift to the 2018 Appeal. All pledges can be paid in 10 convenient monthly installments. Please answer Bishop Knestout's request and make a generous gift. Thank you in advance for your support.**

**Outreach & Social Ministry – 142 lunches were served on Tuesday, February 27, 2018. 101 dinners were served on Wednesday, February 28, 2018. Thank you for your generous help in serving God's people.**

**St. Peter's Clothes Closet – Due to renovations, our clothes closet will be closing down next week. It will open again in the fall. Thanks so much to all who have been so generous in helping us with donations.**

**St. Peter's Pantry** is in need of restocking. **We are completely empty.** Our pantry helps to feed the poor of the city. Please donate canned foods, pull-top cans are preferred. We need cereals and grains, canned fruit, tuna, chicken, and meaty soups. We also need hygiene products.

If you are affiliated with an organization or a school, perhaps you would be interested in doing a food drive to help us with our needs.

## **CHURCH HILL IRISH FESTIVAL INVITATION**

The Mechanicsville Catholic Men's Association cordially invites the parish to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Church Hill Irish Festival Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup>. The festival is a family event benefiting not only Saint Patrick Church, but over 25 different charities. The MCMA will be cooking and serving Fish 'N Chips at the festival to support the various charities and our own Hanover based charities. Festival hours are Saturday 10 am to 7 pm; Sunday 10 am to 6 pm. Irish dance groups, a parade Saturday morning, and live music are some of the festival highlights. Bring the entire family to enjoy a great weekend while supporting many worthwhile charities.

**Want a way to enrich your Lenten Season?** How about a little theatre? Richmond Catholic Theatre presents "The Open Door," by Richard Arena.

It's a familiar story – a family business, grown from humble beginnings and hard work, brothers respond to worldly callings and ingrained, unspoken responsibilities differently, and the loving wishes of their father. Palpable and relatable, "the Open Door" examines the lure of temptation, self-promotion and pride in the face of duty and family.

Reflect on Luke chapter 15 in a new way this Lent, with Richmond Catholic Theatre!

The Open Door, running March 15-17, 22-24, 2018 at 8 pm at the old Benedictine High School/soon-to-be Cristo Rey HS (just behind the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts).

Tickets available at [RichmondCatholicTheatre.com](http://RichmondCatholicTheatre.com)

**CONFESSIONS – "Do it!!! – We have extended confessions hours all Lent. 30 minutes before and after EVERY Sunday Mass at St. Peter, St. Patrick, and St. John, and Saturday evening Mass at St. Patrick and St. John. Go!Go!Go! It will make you feel better and love God more!"**

**PLEASE HELP US!** When using your contribution envelopes, please be sure to fill in your name, amount of donation, and check number.

**LENTEN DINNERS** – Check out the Lenten Dinners at St. John, Highland Springs, every Friday evening during Lent.

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart. "Let our eyes be opened to the love of God in our marriages by participating in a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** (WWME) weekend. The next weekends are: Aug 3-5, 2018 in Chapel Hill, NC and Sept. 21-23, 2018 in Herndon, VA. 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.

**COFFEE** downstairs in the Parish Hall after each Mass on Sunday. Please join us and get to know your church family.

Emails:

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

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

Rev. Frank Wiggins: [Padreop@verizon.net](mailto:Padreop@verizon.net)

Weddings – Kris Mednikov: [krismednikov@yahoo.com](mailto:krismednikov@yahoo.com)

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