



SAINT PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

800 East Grace Street

P. O. Box 933

Richmond, Virginia 23219-0933

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

5th Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018

Mass Intention: Katherine Kolpinski

TODAY'S MUSIC

ENTRANCE	#595
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	
PSALM	#846
I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.	
OFFERTORY	#590
This is My Will	
COMMUNION	#726
I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord	
RECESSIONAL	#628
Go Make of All Disciples	

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, Jack Vonderlehr, 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: Gerald Belton
- Tues.: Mass Intention: Shirley Mauritsen
- Tues.: Social Ministry: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Wed.: Mass Intention: Albert Shinko
- Thurs: Mass Intention: Jack Shults
- Fri.: Mass Intention: Caroline Winston

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

There is one aspect of the spiritual life that to me seems a little scary.

The Church teaches that if we die in a state of mortal sin, then we continue in that state forever, namely separated from God. In other words, if we die in mortal sin, the consequence is eternal separation, which is called hell.

As an aside, if you are wondering what a mortal sin is, you can find that detailed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

But getting back to one aspect of this that is particularly scary...

What if I have been good my while life, working hard and being upright and then right before I die I commit a mortal sin? It doesn't seem fair that I would be punished and have to go to hell forever. After all, I was a good person my whole life and then right at the end I had one little slip up.

To this dilemma I respond in two ways.

First, a mortal sin is no 'little slip up.' It is a pretty big deal. It requires forethought, a free choice and a serious matter. If any of those are not present then it is not a mortal sin. The good thing about living a good life and working hard at being a decent person is that the closer you get to God, the more protection you have from falling from grace and into mortal sin.

Secondly and alternatively, consider the gospel reading today.

OUTREACH & SOCIAL MINISTRY

137 lunches were served on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. 90 dinners were served on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. Thank you for your generous help in serving God's people.

St. Peter's Outreach Ministry is in need of the following items:

Canned goods and other shelf-stable items. Pop-top cans are preferred when possible. **Through your generosity, we have given out 242 bags of groceries since January of this year.**

Handled bags – large cloth reusable bags are greatly appreciated.

Women's hygiene items.

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

St. Patrick May Procession on Sunday 5-6-18. St. Patrick will continue with a long time tradition of having our annual children's May procession to honor our blessed mother. All children and adults are invited and encouraged to participate. We will process from Patrick Henry Park on Broad St. and up 25th Street and into the church right before the beginning of Mass. We will meet in the social hall at 10:20 am to prepare. All are encouraged to wear their Sunday best for this special day. There will be an ice cream social for all after mass to continue the celebration. Please let Donna Baird know at 804.888.3470 or at donnabaird@yahoo.com if you and your children plan to participate so enough flowers can be purchased.

Virginia Catholic Conference report tracks state legislators' 2018 votes – State legislators considered proposals involving unborn life, religious liberty, immigrants, public safety, and care for creation, among other issues, during this year's Virginia General Assembly session. Diocese of Richmond Bishop Barry Knestout and Diocese of Arlington Bishop Michael Burbidge encourage the faithful to stay informed about how our legislators voted on these issues. Find out by going to the link on the homepage of the Virginia Catholic Conference website at www.vacatholic.org. The Conference represents the public policy interests of the bishops and their dioceses.

Emails:

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

Rev. Ernest Livasia Bulinda: livasia@gmail.com

Rev. Frank Wiggins: Padreop@verizon.net

Weddings – Kris Mednikov: krismednikov@yahoo.com

Office – Barbara Simons: stpeterchurch2@aol.com

Today we hear about the vine and the branches. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. If we separate ourselves from the vine then, just like a branch, we will wither and be good for nothing but burning (that is a reference to hell, where it is traditionally understood to be very hot). Mortal sin separates us from the vine. And this can be illustrated.

My folks have a grape vine in their back yard. It's enormous. It grows over a giant arbor over the deck. It has a ton of branches and big leaves and they spread out like a maze all over the arbor.

What is amazing is that if you follow all those tons and tons of branches, all those vines, and follow them all the way from their end to their starting point, all those many, many branches come back to one single point, the base of the vine. Now what is interesting is the base of the vine is probably only a few inches across, and yet it produces this massive grape arbor.

To me it seems very fragile. This giant plant, that is more like a tree, has been growing for many years to become so large, and yet all that it is comes down to this one little point, the base.

And what is scary is that I could walk out there with a hatchet and all that it would take for me to destroy that whole thing is about 30 seconds of swinging, by cutting through the base. All those many, many branches will eventually wither and die because they have been separated from their life-source.

In 30 seconds of activity I can destroy what took years and years to make.

And thus it is with us a sin. We can be on the right track growing and growing for many, many years, and then all of a sudden, in 30 seconds or so we can end up ruining it all. Mortal sin, eternal separation, hell.

It's is scary to think about. But instead of scaring us, it should actually motivate us. It should make us try to avoid sin and even the temptations of sin. Avoiding the near occasion of sin is what we say every time we say the Our Father. It should motivate us to stay alert, as Jesus continually reminds us in the gospels.

We also have another consolation that the vine doesn't. There is no way to fix the vine once it has been cut. It's dead. But there is a way for us to get fixed – the Sacrament of Confession. It heals the cut vine. It reattaches us to the base.

Fr. Rossi

Budgeted Weekly Income	\$ 3,288.00
Collection	3,010.34
Loss	\$ 277.66

