



PRAYER LIST

David Adams, Judy Burneston, Steve Campbell, Barbara Cosby, Mary Davidson, Marta Fritzne (Gabi Wolz's Mother), Jim Melton, Erin Moores, Jesse Oliver, Diane Lindenfeser Ouellette, Marilyn Reilly, David Simons, Beulah Taylor, Bob Wilkins. 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.

SAINT PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

800 East Grace Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219

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

**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 8, 2019**

Mass Intention: John Skarinbas

TODAY'S MUSIC

ENTRANCE #618

The Church's One Foundation

PSALM #933

In every age, O Lord, You have been our refuge.

OFFERTORY #605

O Jesus Joy of Loving Hearts

COMMUNION #633

Two Fisherman

RECESSIONAL #704

Lift High the Cross

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.

SCHEDULE & MASS INTENTIONS

Mon.: Mass Intention: Margie & Fred Hearl

Tues.: Mass Intention: Patricia Bower

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

Wed.: Mass Intention: L. Elizabeth Merkel

Thurs: Mass Intention: Jordan Timothy McGuire

Fri: Mass Intention: Zenaida Cayari Santos

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

I would like to draw your attention to the second reading today, in particular, to the revolutionary idea being espoused in it regarding slavery.

Slavery, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, is a "sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit." #2414.

Unfortunately, slavery has been around since human beings have been around. We in the United States identify primarily with the enslavement of Africans in the first centuries of our nation's founding. But slavery has existed for thousands of years. Many peoples have been enslaved at different points in history. We hear often in our scriptures about the enslavement of the Jewish people by the Egyptians. In fact, there is a whole race of people whose name is derived from the word slave, the Slav's, who inhabited Eastern Europe and were enslaved by Muslims in Spain.

Slavery is a wicked and terrible scourge on the history of mankind. We look now with horror that humans would force and subject other humans to chattel property. Thanks be to God that the mindset that generally accepted slavery as 'ok' for thousands of years has been largely eradicated. That said, it should be noted that slavery still exists today, especially in war torn areas such as Libya, and even closer to our own home as women are often subjected to slavery by human trafficking cartels.

To the extent that slavery has come to be understood as evil by most societies is due to the spread of Christianity. Christianity has an absolutely revolutionary idea that changed the way people treat other people and the value that people assign to other people. For most of human history, those of royal blood lineage, those with money or those with power were generally considered

more valuable than those who were poor. The life of a king was more valuable than the life of a peasant. In fact, it wasn't even close - kings, queens, lords of manors, chiefs, and those of the ruling class were considered to have far more human dignity/human worth than the poor. Because this mindset was so prevalent, it was easy for people to justify in their mind that enslaving those of lesser worth wasn't a big deal...and so slavery was common for most of human history.

St Paul teaches in the second reading today the revolutionary idea that slavery is wrong. We take for granted the idea that all people have worth because they are made in the image and likeness of God. But Paul is introducing this idea for one of the first times in this letter. He meets a guy, Onesimus, in prison, and when Onesimus is finally released, St Paul tells them to take Onesimus in and treat him as a brother, not a slave. This was radical!!! St. Paul says welcome him as you would welcome me. This was crazy at the time!!! With this statement, St. Paul is destroying the class division between slave and free person. The effects of his words and the ensuing theology advocated by the Catholic religion for the subsequent two thousand years cannot overstated.

Fr. Rossi

Budgeted	\$3,288.00
Collected	<u>2,364.31</u>
Loss	\$ 923.69

OUTREACH & SOCIAL MINISTRY

100 lunches were served on Tuesday, September 3, 2019. 78 dinners were served on Wednesday, September 4, 2019. Thank you for your generous help in serving God's people.

We are pleased to announce we are currently in the process of organizing our **Shower Outreach Program**. The effort will be co-led by Robert Peters from St. Patrick and Lorraine Hewitt from St. Joseph. We plan to do a pilot of the program on October 1st, before opening on a regular schedule in November. Showers will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Volunteer roles are being defined and training will be held beginning in mid-October. If you are interested in volunteering for this worthwhile program, please forward your name, phone number, and email address to: stpetersshowers@gmail.com.

Catholic Graduate Students, WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU! The Catholic Graduate Student Organization (CGSO) aims to link Catholic graduate students from all parts of VCU/MCV together for mutual support and fellowship. If you would like more information, please contact Mario Dance at medance@vcu.edu or call him at 804-314-1681.

Vocations – “Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” Are you being called to discipleship as a priest? The Vocations office (804) 359-5661, to speak with Fr. Brian Capuano; or write to vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – I wanted to inform you of something very unfortunate that happened in one of our parishes. While cleaning the church, we found a host laying on the floor in the pews. It is likely that it was a consecrated host that someone walked back to their pew with and threw on the floor. This is a sacrilege and if done willingly is grounds for excommunication from the Church. Desecration of the Blessed Sacrament is one of the worst offences that can be committed because it is an offence against the Real Presence of Jesus Christ. I pray it was simply an accident and maybe a child who did not know what they were doing. **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** – if you are privileged enough to be able to help with the distribution of Holy Communion, then you need to observe every single person who comes up for Communion to be sure they consume the Host in front of you. No one is ever permitted to walk off with the Host. If they do, you need to stop them and ask them to either return the Host to you or consume it in front of you. I do this regularly and you need to as well if you want to have the honored responsibility of distributing Holy Communion. **ALL PARISHIONERS** – if you see someone walking away with a Host or someone in the pew with a Host then you need to say something to them. Do not be ashamed. Or walk up to the priest at that moment (not at the end of Mass) and tell the priest so he can deal with it. We must take it extremely seriously to care for and protect the Blessed Sacrament and it is everyone's responsibility. Thank you – Fr. Rossi

Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC led by Bishop Knestout:

Join Bishop Knestout as he kicks off the 200th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Diocese of Richmond with a spiritual pilgrimage to the Basilica in Washington, DC on Saturday, October 12, 2019. The day begins at the Basilica at 10:00 am and concludes following the Sunday Vigil Mass at 5:15 pm. Registration is required. For more information including registration, transportation options, and meals, visit 2020.richmonddiocese.org OR contact 2020@richmonddiocese.org OR 804-622-5200.

40 DAYS OF LIFE

From Sept. 25 through Nov. 3, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and to pray peacefully during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the Planned Parenthood at 201 N. Hamilton St., Richmond, VA 23221, for one or more hours during the 40-day prayer vigil, and to help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: Olga Lucia Mages, 804-328-1602. All are welcome! To learn more visit www.40daysforlife.com/Richmond.

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