

Please continue to pray for the sick of our Parish. To add someone to the prayer list, call Fr. Jim or email Bonnie Toth at: bonnie3871@gmail.com.

Jodi Aerts
Dylan Anderson
Robert Berry
Sandra Burke
Julie Byron
Toni Capute
Riordan Cavoris
Justin Curtis
Mark Davis
Tony Donehoo
Carol Donato
Islea Duncan
Alan Ekberg
John Evans
Kathy Evans
Earl Fishback
Elizabeth Gillam
Lorraine Brennen Gilliam
Lynn Goss
Kathleen Murphy Groves
Kathleen Hamilton
Jeanne Harper

Jeannine Iannaco
Pablo Ignacio
Patrick Ignacio
Meja Irvin
Margaret MacDiarmid
Carolyn Martin
Jamie Martin
Greg Moore
Kathleen Moore
Beverly Moyer
Chris Moyer
Ray Moyer
Don Notestein
Patsy Notestein
Angel Ortiz
George Perry
Wendy Pessaro
Gary Peters
Laurie Peters
Frank Powell
Nelson Sanchez
Princess Sanchez

John Seaquist
Ray Servis
Jane Sliwinski
Margaret Smith
Fred Toth
Amy Tracy
Charles Watson
Danielle Weedon
Laura Williams
Louise Williams
Michael Williams
Travis Williams
Betty Jo Wolfrum

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery

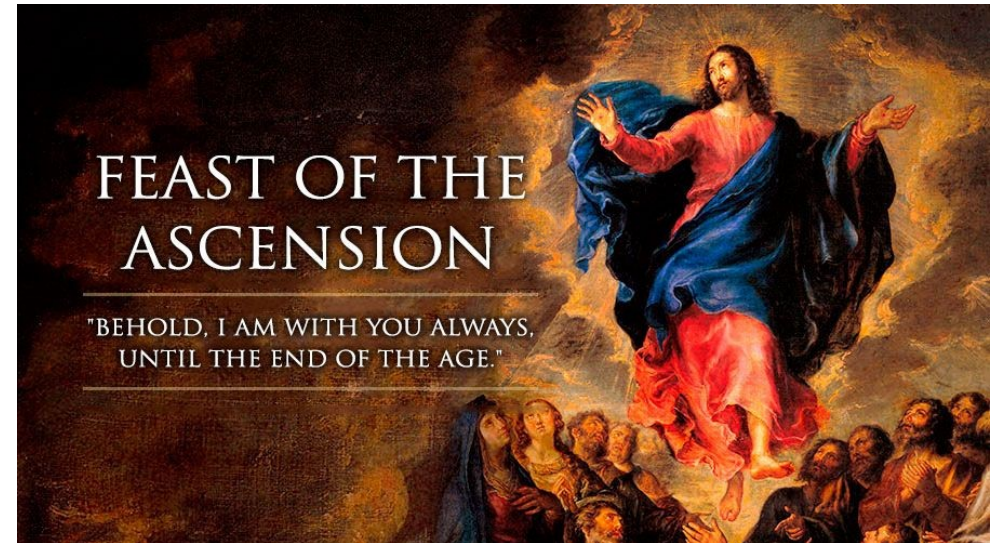
Burial plots are \$500 and crematory plots are \$250 for parishioners. All prices include perpetual care. Please see one of the committee members (Steve Bradish, Mary Fishback, Dori Garcia, Joe Gardner, Chuck Hirtz, Don Notestein or Bonnie Toth) for more information.

Phone Tree

Our Phone Tree can be used not only for prayer requests, but for any notices the church family should know about such as funerals, closings, happy events and important news. Please be sure your telephone number is up to date.

There are six people who do the calling. Notify any of them to start the phone tree: Sheila Seaquist (434-352-8756) Carol Donato (434-352-8275); Linda Gardner (434-906-8409); Joyce Hing (434-665-9844); Carolyn Conner (804-502-1350); Bernadette Servis (434-352-8803)

Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church



May 21, 2023
Feast of the Ascension

Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church

2938 Oakleigh Avenue (PO Box 668)
Appomattox VA 24522-0668

Pastor: Father James Gallagher 434-352-0104

For emergencies: Fr. Jim cell number: 434-238-7030
or Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church 434-846-5245

www.olpcatholicchurch.org

Holy Eucharist

Sunday 8:30 AM; Tuesday 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM
Thursday 12:15 PM

Bulletin news to: Bonnie Toth at: bonnie3871@gmail.com
Requests for mass cards to: Bonnie Toth at: bonnie3871@gmail.com

***A Theological Moment With Fr. Jim
“Ascension - Living with Paradox”***

Being a mature Roman Catholic means living in tension and living with paradox. A paradox means holding together two statements of faith that appear to be contradictory to one another. Some paradoxes we grew up with and don't bother us. We are both saints and sinners. Mary is mother and virgin. Some challenge us. Pope Francis does not believe that our church can validate a marriage between two gay people, but he believes at the same time that gay couples are welcome in our church. Conservative Catholics who like and black and white thinking are uncomfortable. Progressive Catholics who believe in loosening things up a bit are also uncomfortable. But, that is a paradox. The Church teaches that one can refrain from taking up arms in war time but also teaches that one has a right to self-defense.

The Feast of Ascension is a paradoxical feast. Jesus is no longer with us in his historical body, but will be with us until “the end of the age.” (Acts 1:11) In a certain sense, Jesus has stepped back, only to have us STEP UP to bring about his kingdom. The question is asked of Jesus: “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” In a certain way, Jesus turns it around and makes us accountable: “My people, you at this time will you bring about the kingdom TO THE WORLD?”

Further, we read in Acts, “Why are you standing looking up into the sky?” In other words, GET BUSY! We will still encounter this Christ in this life because as we heard the past two Sundays, he lives with us. Remember, intimacy with Christ brings integration of Christ within.

Shakespeare wrote: “I love you, let me count the ways.” Shakespeare said this tongue in cheek. Because love cannot be quantified, it is an unfathomable mystery. So it is with Christ with us and in us. Jesus will return and does return in the wonderful things that always happened. Jesus returns and is with us when reconciliation happens between family members. He was always reconciling. Jesus returns and is in us when people of different faiths are working to help the poor (including Jews and Catholics in Virginia Beach ministering to the homeless.) He always loved the poor. Besides, as I told the Rabbi: “My boss is a Jewish carpenter.” Jesus is with us and will return when the sick are healed, no matter who the doctor is. He was always healing the sick. Jesus will return when you are present to those with a broken heart. He always was present to those in sorrow. Jesus is present and returns in the joy of hearing that lay people can now vote in the Synod in Rome. He was always sharing joy and saw all as equals. Jesus is with us and returns when we seek to learn a new culture and a new language so we can learn to love “new” people. He always embraced Greeks, Canaanites and Samaritans.

So, can I live with the paradox of Him ascending into Heaven and make us accountable to bring about the Kingdom? In a way, he is still pitching in!

Parish News & Announcements

To the Parishioners of Our Lady of Peace: My family and I want to extend our sincerest thank you to all of the parishioners who helped with and attended my father's funeral and repast. The passing of my father was undoubtedly one of the hardest things my family has navigated together, but the genuine kindness and love displayed by all of you made the day of his funeral so much easier. From walking into the church and seeing the beautiful flower displays, the melodious presentation and leadership from Bonnie, Paul, Cecilia, Chere and John, the delicious food prepared by everyone and the seemingly endless number of hugs, handshakes and condolences that we were surrounded with all day. One of my favorite quotes from Victor Hugo states, “to love another person is to see the face of God.” I truly believe all of the love displayed that day made me feel God's presence, a great comfort to me in one of my greatest times of sorrow. There aren't words adequate enough to express my gratitude for everything the church provided my family with and continues to provide for my family. With warmest thanks, Piper Doeppe (daughter of Alice Doeppe)

Ministry to the Sick: If you are interested in joining this ministry, please meet with Fr. Jim on Tuesday, May 30th, after both masses to learn more about visiting our homebound.

Volunteer Receptionists needed: As we do not have a parish secretary, we are looking for volunteers to answer the phone on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. There are two training sessions offered on May 23rd following 10 am and 7:30 pm masses.

Today's Readings:

1st Reading	Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47	“God mounts his throne with shouts of joy, oh sing your praises to the Lord!
2nd Reading	Ephesians 1:17-23
Gospel	Matthew 28:16-20

May Birthdays

07: Carolyn Maples
10: Jeremy Hounsell
14: Bonnie Toth
15: Dot Mazulaitis
19: Emily Heady
19: Jim Tew
21: George Perry

May Anniversaries

02: Andrew & Kelsey Brown
16: Fr. Jim's Ordination to the
Priesthood
23: Steve & Diane Bradish