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 **Dvlan 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 lannaco Pablo Ignacio Patrick Ignacio Meia Irvin Margaret MacDiarmid Carolyn Martin Jamie Martin Grea Moore Kathleen Moore **Beverly Mover** Chris Moyer Ray Moyer Don Notestein Patsv Notestein Angel Ortiz George Perry Wendy Pessaro Garv 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**



June 18, 2023 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## **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

### "Availability, Emotionality and Empathy

So, are you ready for your birthday diner Sunday afternoon? "No! she says. I have a change of plans. "What do you want me to do with your birthday gift?" I asked. She said, "Forget about it!" "Wow, this is a shock" I said. "What is the problem?" "You really have not been available to me lately" she answered. "What are you talking about? Every few weeks we have dinner" I explained. She reiterates: "You have not been available to me emotionally. You seem disconnected, like you don't care."

Then I remembered the sign in my dentist, Dr. Tom Warwick's office: "Ignore your teeth and they will go away. "Uh, oh! In my business and in my self centeredness, I really had not been attentive to her needs. She was not going to waste her emotional energy and would perhaps look elsewhere.

This was not only a good lesson for close relationships, but for shepherding and guiding people We read in Matthew 9:36-10:8: "at the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd."

Like the story I shared about a relationship gone south, the leaders of the faith (Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes) were unavailable to the needs of the people. Not only were these leaders supposed to guide like a caring shepherd, the leaders were supposed to love the people. How does one care for another? How does one care for so many? Availability means empathy - connecting with another's story, pains and concerns. First we want to connect with others. We do that with our eyes, our listening and the expression of our faith - our body language and then our words. For me, Deacon Chris Barrett was that lesson. Once he meets you, he doesn't forget your story. I've watched him walk into a room, speak and address each person by name and ask about their personal life from a conversation they had several weeks or even months ago. You are treated like the only one in the room and even though there may be twenty people present. The good news is that empathy can be learned. It can be practiced. One says to oneself: "I am connecting now and this person, this group has my attention. It take work an is draining for some, but if we want to be different that the Pharisees and Sadducees, we get with it.

Jesus of Nazareth is empathy and availability incarnate. In today's gospel, before he sends them out, they are learning and practicing the love Jesus shows. So then they are sent out. Perhaps this is a test.

Listening with our hears and to another heart is what we are called to do. Sometimes the little things people say alerts us to the need or to their loneliness. "Mary, I notice there are tears in your eyes."

## Parish News & Announcements

**Eucharistic Ministers Meeting, Sunday June 25:** Bob Burke will host a very important meeting following the service for all Eucharistic Ministers and all who would like to become a Eucharistic Minister. Is this ministry calling you?

Vacation Bible School: July 17-21, 2023.



**ALL ABOARD**!!! We have six passengers already! Who's ready to join them and hop on board the Rocky Railway?

Registration forms are available on the table in the commons or see Alice Doeppe.

# Today's Readings:

1st Reading: Exodus 19:2 Psalm 100 We are his people, the sheep of his flock. 2nd Reading: Romans 5:6-11 Gospel: Matthew 9:36-10:9 Year to date financial report (includes E-giving): As of March 31: Income: \$63,539.46 Expenses: <u>\$63,522.27</u> Balance: \$17.09

## June Birthdays

- 02: Stephanie Hamilton Travis Williams
- 06: Katherine Hampton
- 08: Pam Skirvan
- 16: Phil Hampton
- 19: John Evans Joyce Hing
- 21: Beau Elrich
- 30: Patsy Notestein

# **June Anniversaries**

- 12: Donald & Patsy Notestein
- 13: Bob & Sandra Burke Chuck & Pat Hirtz
- 24: Les & Marie Leslie
- 28: Keith & Kathleen Hamilton
- 30: Chene & Emily Heady