

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
Patricia Bonnewitz
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



July 30, 2023
17th 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

Parish News & Announcements

The Pearl of Great Price

A Reflection by B. Sidney Smith

No human being lives long in this world without learning that it ain't exactly Heaven. Pain, conflict, and sin we soon find, in us and around us. And so we long for Heaven, and long to know where it is and, even more, how to get there.

In today's Gospel Jesus seems almost to be teasing us about our longing for Heaven, with obscure parables about fields and pearls and fishing nets, that seem to have little to do with journeying to a promised land. I had been a Christian (having converted at 19) for many long years before I finally got it through my head that Jesus wanted me to understand, first of all, what Heaven is not. Heaven is, certainly, *something* else, but it isn't *somewhere* else and it isn't *somewhen* else. It is, certainly, a place of eternal joy and peace, but it is not a prize given out for good behavior. Nor is Heaven an endless continuation of the good life I have known just without the bad bits. Heaven is nothing less than the Kingdom of God. But what is that?

The Pharisees pestered Jesus about it, hoping to trap Him in words. Jesus rebukes them, saying, "The coming of the Kingdom of God cannot be observed and no one will announce, 'Look, here it is,' or, 'There it is.' For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you." (Luke 17:20-21)

At first I found this worse help, because it just seemed to deepen the mystery. It almost made me want to look for Heaven under sofa cushions or behind the drapes. Then one day I read something by St. Catherine of Siena that set my head straight: "All the way to Heaven is Heaven," she wrote, "For Jesus said, 'I am the way.'"

Suddenly I understood what so many non-Catholics find perplexing, the presence of a crucifix over every altar of every Catholic (or other orthodox) church: a tortured young body, bloody and dying, nailed to a cross. I understood because on that cross Jesus carries the entirety of our pain, our conflict, and our sin. Through His passion, death, and resurrection He pays all our debt and opens the way, for you and me, to the Kingdom.

"Behold the wood of the cross, on which is hung our salvation. Let us adore."

G.K. Chesterton (a fellow convert) wrote that Joy is "the gigantic secret of the Christian." I have found this to be true. In taking within myself the body of Christ, accepting His invitation to shoulder my cross and to die with Him, and, doing so, to receive His life, I find growing within me a joy I'm sure I could never explain. It is the Pearl of Great Price, for which one cheerfully surrenders everything else. When one has found the Way, and journeys through Him, with Him, and in Him, then "all the way to Heaven is Heaven."

Fr. Jim expresses gratitude for all the wonderful birthday greetings. The celebration with the cake was truly thoughtful as well!

Fran Lecco's family is planning a 90th Birthday Celebration [not a surprise] at OLP on Saturday, August 26. All are welcome! If you are planning to attend, there is a signup sheet on the table in the commons. That will give the family an idea of how much food to prepare.

"The Legacy of 1963 for 2023. Why We Can't Wait." The Justice & Peace Team is planning a video presentation followed by a discussion on Saturday, August 12, at 10:30 am. The facilitator is The Rev. Dr. Jim Nelson, Director, Cornelius Corps, and is sponsored by the Belmont UMC Race & Reconciliation Project. The topic for this day is "The Birmingham Campaign." This is part 1 of a 4 part series. Others will include "The March on Washington", "The Assassination of Medgar Evers" and the "Assassination of JFK." Joins us as we see how people decided not to conform to a pattern that was thought to be a way of life and to transform minds and hearts in a non-violent way. We hope to realize how and what people did 60 years ago that will influence us today as we continue to work for racial justice in the way of Jesus. For more information, please contact Eileen Brennen (abbasgirl24522@yahoo.com).

Today's Readings:

1 Kings 3:5,7-12
Psalm 119
Romans 8:38-39
Matthew 13:44-52

Year to date financial report (includes E-giving):

July 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023:
Income: \$81,260.74
Expenses: \$79,263.37
Balance: \$ 1,997.37

August Birthdays

4th: Islea Duncan
7th: Elizabeth Ellrich
10th: Sheila Seaquist
13th: Carolyn Panuska
16th: John Seaquist
17th: Joanne Clark
19th: Janice Callahan
21st: Fran Lecco; Joe Gardner
25th: Andrew Brown

August Anniversaries

3rd: Jim & Chere Tew
9th: Matt & Joanne Clark
13th: Robert & Helen Berry
22nd: Gary & Carolyn Conner