

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 Pessararo
 Gary Peters
 Laurie Peters
 Frank Powell
 Nelson Sanchez
 Princess Sanchez
 John Seaquist
 Ray Servis
 Jane Sliwinski
 Margaret Smith
 Chere Tew
 Fred Toth
 Amy Tracy
 Charles Watson
 Danielle Weedon
 Laura Williams
 Louise Williams
 Michael Williams

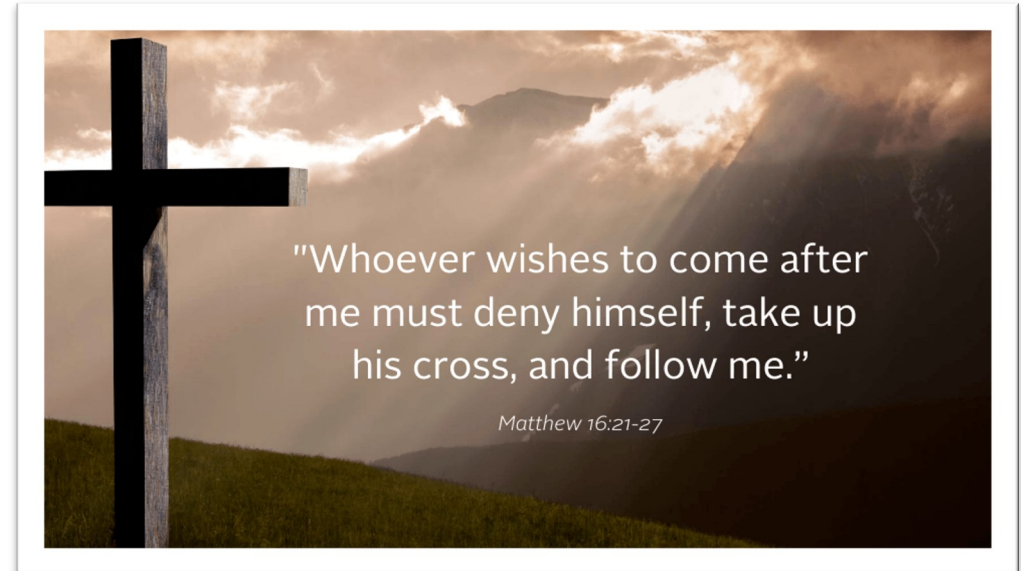
September Birthdays

2 Todd Craft
 3 Eileen Brennen
 3 Joseph White
 7 Mark Davis
 12 Louise Williams
 12 Mary Fishback
 13 Chuck Haney
 18 Arnie Johannes
 22 Sherry Hager
 23 Robert Moore
 24 Paul Portman
 25 Fred Toth
 26 Alan Budney
 27 Beau Ellrich, Jr.
 29 Donald Notestein
 30 Chene Heady
 30 Ben Goss

September Anniversaries

9 Khalid & Zina Fadeel Talya
 10 Alan and Millie Budney
 30 Nat & Dory Garcia

Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church



"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

Matthew 16:21-27

September 3, 2023

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings:

Jeremiah 20:7-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27

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 and requests for mass cards: contact
 Bonnie Toth at bonnie3871@gmail.com

A Theological Moment with Fr. Jim

(Matthew 16:21-27)

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny oneself, take the cross and follow me."

A hefty challenge to say the least! But does not the cross come to all? Do not all human beings suffer? Suffering is existential. Last week I spoke of children with disabilities. I mentioned their parents who sacrifice so much. Our bodies break down when we age (some even have quadruple heart by-pass surgery). Covid 19 or Covid 23 comes and goes and comes again. Even faith filled people suffer the pain of grief when a loved one dies.

There is shame from the abuse we suffer and the shame from the harm we do to others. So, Lord Jesus, the cross comes. As Jim Morrison of the "Doors" would say: "No one gets out alive!"

So Lord, what the heck are you talking about when you tell us to pick up our cross and follow you I believe you are telling us to "frame" our suffering as the cross. If we look at the cross, we see a vertical and horizontal dimension. It is by framing our life as a cross that we find meaning in suffering. Death is meaninglessness. But finding meaning in the face of suffering and biological death is full of life. Meaning brings life.

As the cross is multi-dimensional, there is the bar of the cross that is vertical [up and down]. It unites Heaven and earth as it touches the ground and reaches to the heavens. To carry our cross means that we reach to the heavens in prayer. We seek our "higher power." Could it be that our higher power reaches down to us?

The vertical bar touches the ground. We are human even in our most exalted moments. (Tom Brady and 7 Super Bowls!) We are reminded that we are the "created", the creature and not the Creator. Prayer is our carrying our cross.

The cross is horizontal. It unites east and west. Carrying our cross means being a unifier, a reconciler and a person of mercy. As sinners and human beings, we are on the same plain as all of humanity. Bishops are on the same plain as laity. But not only that, we are in solidarity with all who suffer. No judgements. Remember, Ghandi was a Hindu who showed Christians how to live.

We unite all our pain and sorrows to the One who made death meaningful. Remember what God said to Moses: "I heard the cry of the people and I know their suffering."

This "knowing" is a feeling in God's womb. Might that we find challenge and consolation in the Cross.

Parish News & Announcements

Religious Education is Back! Religious Education at Our Lady of Peace resumes for the 2023-2024 school year on Wednesday, September 20th. We will again meet from 4:00 PM-5:00 PM on Wednesdays when Appomattox County Public Schools are in a full-day session. We are currently talking to Appomattox County Public Schools to work through the logistics of arranging after-school transportation to OLP on Wednesdays for children who need it; please e-mail Chene Heady or talk to him after mass if your child or grandchild needs transportation. **If you have a child or grandchild who should be attending Religious Education, it's not too late to enroll them for this year.** Just e-mail Chene Heady at headycr@longwood.edu or talk to one of our teachers (Chene Heady, Beau Ellrich, Annette McCabe, Fr. Jim) after mass.

Adult Education: Have you ever wondered what it was like during the first few centuries of the Church? Was it filled with just a succession of creeds, councils, persecutions and heresies, or is there more to the story? You are invited to join us on a journey into "The Bible and the Church Fathers." We will begin a 12 week study after mass beginning Sunday, **September 10**. If you are interested in attending, please see Bob Burke to register.

"Mark Your Calendar"

Tuesday, September 12: Parish Pastoral Council meeting following 7 pm mass.

Wednesday, September 13: Craft Club - 10 am - Noon.

Monday, September 18: Fr. Jim will be away for his annual retreat. He will return on **Thursday, September 21**.

Tuesday, September 19: [No evening mass] Liturgy Meeting at 6:00 pm. We will begin to build a theme and plan for Advent 2023 liturgies.

Saturday, September 23 @ 12 Noon: Parish Picnic/Welcoming New Parish Members. Come one and all for food, fellowship, fun and games! Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided, but we invite you to bring a dish (salad, fruits, vegetables) or desert to share. There is a signup sheet on the table in the old commons. (In the event of rain, we will meet inside.)