

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
 Linda Gardner
 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
 Chere Tew
 Fred Toth
 Amy Tracy
 Charles Watson
 Danielle Weedon
 Laura Williams
 Louise 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



September 17, 2023

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings:

Sirach 27:30-28::7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35

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

Parish News & Announcements

HERE COMES EVERYBODY A Reflection by B. Sidney Smith

After Hurricane Idalia both Florida Governor DeSantis and President Biden toured the damaged areas where it came ashore. They never met. This shocked me, and reminded me of one of the many reasons I am a Catholic.

The first time I entered a Catholic church as a young adult I had a completely unexpected feeling of having come home. That sensation has never left me. Relatedly, when people ask, "Why did you become a Catholic?" I am always tempted to reply, playfully, "Because it's catholic." But I don't, because I know I would be misunderstood. Most people think "catholic" is just the name of a denomination, but the word comes to us from a time before denominations; it comes from the Nicene Creed, and it means "throughout the whole." It connotes entirety and universal inclusion, as when Pope Francis said, "the only future worth having includes all of us."

In an essay in the Catholic Virginian a few weeks ago, writer Claire Henning noted that Jesus chose "a hothead, a tax collector, a traitor, a doubter, a fanatical nationalist, and various thickheads and pessimists" for His apostles. Then as now, everyone is invited to the table. "Members of a parish," she wrote, "do not assemble because they like each other. Rather, we gather together around the person of Christ, and do our best."

I think some reject Christianity precisely because of the command Jesus gave us to love our neighbor, and even our enemies. In an age when people of differing political or cultural views, different faiths or different ethnicities, treat each other as unworthy of respect; when leaders treat political rivals as enemies and encourage their followers to engage in cancel-culture or even violence; when the Governor of Florida and the President of the United States can't even make common cause over a tragedy affecting Floridians—at such a time the command to *love* our neighbor seems almost impossible. Because let's face it, Jesus didn't command us to love our white neighbor, or our liberal neighbor, or our conservative neighbor, or our Christian neighbor. He didn't tell Peter to forgive his brother only if he happens to like him, or think well of him, or feel affection for him.

In today's Gospel, in the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, Jesus makes plain that no one of us can second-guess *His* forgiveness; indeed, that no one of us can have any expectation of His forgiveness until we have forgiven *everyone* else. Yes, even that one, rotten so-and-so we would like to despise, or get even with, or who hurt us so badly.

Groucho Marx joked that he wouldn't join any club that would accept someone like him as a member. I became a Catholic partly because it was the only club I was sure *would* accept me as a member. It is because of Jesus' command to love everyone that our Church is and can be *catholic*. As James Joyce wrote, Catholic means "here comes everybody."

Adult Education: "The Bible and the Church Fathers" begins today after mass. Bob Burke is hosting this class.

Religious Education: begins this Wednesday, September 20. If you have not yet registered your child or need more information, please reach out to Chene Heady.

Craft Club: Because had SO much fun at the Craft Club on Wednesday, September 13, we decided to meet every other Wednesday and the 4th Friday of each month. Come join us any one of the days - or all. All are welcome.

"September Calendar"

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. Bring your ideas.

Friday, September 22: Craft Club 10 am - Noon.

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 sign-up sheet on the table in the old commons. (In the event of rain, we will meet inside.)

Wednesday, September 27: Craft Club 10 am - Noon