

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](mailto: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 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  
 Michael Williams  
 Travis Williams  
 Betty Jo Wolfrum

# Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church



Matthew 23:12

Whoever  
 exalts himself  
 will be humbled,  
 and whoever humbles  
 himself will be exalted.

**November 5, 2023**

**31st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## November Birthdays

8 Joseph Afran  
 12 Yun Hi Davis  
 13 Millie Budney  
 15 Nat Garcia  
 15 Jodi Aerts  
 15 Les Leslie  
 19 Colin Swing  
 20 Christ Afram  
 22 Michael Afram  
 24 Frank Denny

## November Anniversaries

6 Don & Maureen Smith  
 12 Ray & Bev Moyer  
 17 John & Sheila Seaquist  
 25 Arnie & Kay Johannes

## 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](http://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](mailto:bonnie3871@gmail.com)

**“The Religion Trap”**  
**A Reflection by B. Sidney Smith**

A friend of mine since high school, the actor and conservative commentator Joseph Phillips, refers to liberals as "the good people." You can almost hear the scare quotes when he says it - he is referring to the habit of many on the political left of adopting an air of moral distinction. As someone who was active in the Green Party for several years, I am only too familiar with such virtue-signaling behavior.

The devil always works both sides, so virtue signaling is rampant on the political right, too. Wendy's tenure on the school board taught me that every candidate for office in these parts puts "I'm a Christian" at the top of their talking points; it's the shiboleth that shows you are the right sort, one of "the good people."

I thought of all this when I previewed today's Gospel reading, in which Jesus gives his opinion of those who wear their religion as a badge. So many people treat Christian faith as a simple matter of believing and belonging. I confess that when I converted that's pretty much what I did. Joining the club and attending the meetings, espousing the right beliefs, maybe trying a little harder to avoid obvious sin - that's right?

The trouble with a religion of believing and belonging is that it appeals to our vanity. The moral distinction of embracing the "right" faith invites us to begin thinking of ourselves as one of "the good people." We can begin to act - without any effort at all, almost without noticing - as though we had God and Jesus and ourselves all figured out.

There is no love in this. As Jesus remarks about the Pharisees, "All their works are performed to be seen." Virtue signaling is the first step in cancel culture; to declare oneself uniquely clean is to declare others Unclean. Unfit. Unworthy. And, finally, Unwelcome.

That is not the example Christ gave us. As Father Jim likes to remind us, He had friends in low places. He did not come to call the righteous. His example was an example of service, of sacrifice, and finally of *kenosis*, the complete emptying of Himself, His life poured out, in blood and water, for the sake of all.

Having come to believe and belong, which are good things in themselves, I found that I was called to something more. Believing and belonging was only stage 1 in a program of radical personal transformation. I am called to be like Him. Like a caterpillar in the chrysalis, He calls me to lose the self I know, for the sake of metamorphosis into the self I'm meant to be. To lose my life, so that I may live.

And of course I can't do it, not on my own. So, Sunday finds me at Mass, offering myself with such humility as I can muster, to the One in whose death and resurrection I am, with profound astonishment, invited to participate. And all my boasting evaporates, like dew under the sun.

**Parish News & Announcements**

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) NEWS:** We have had one parishioner fill out the form to join the Parish Pastoral Council. We have four positions that will be open and in need of someone to fill those spots. Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 14, at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend the meetings. If you would like to join PPC, please see Todd Craft, Diane Bradish or Fr. Jim.

**FR. JIM AWAY FOR FUNDRAISING:** November 4-5. He will be celebrating mass at St. Edward Catholic Church in Chesterfield County, near Richmond. The proceeds from the trip will be shared by Our Lady of Peace and St. Victoria. In Fr. Jim's absence, we welcome Fr. Paul Konde today as he celebrates masses at our two parishes: Saturday, November 4 at 4 pm at St. Victoria; Sunday, November 5 at 8:30 am at Our Lady of Peace and Sunday, November 5 at St. Victoria at 11 am.

**ACCEPTING WINE DONATIONS:** As we have gone back to sharing the Precious Blood, we are in need of wine donations. When you visit Kroger or Food Lion, please pick up a bottle. Red or blush wine is preferred. Fr. Jim says "No Thunderbird, please." Thank you!

**Grief Workshop, Saturday, November 11, 2023:** "Two Elder Guides" invite you to explore different ideas, methods and strategies to navigate through the upcoming holiday season. In our group setting we will explore: being compassionate with yourself, setting your intention to mourn and heal during the holidays, creating new holiday rituals while keeping those that are precious to you and drawing on the power of "now" to find meaning and comfort. The Justice & Peace Ministry is hosting this workshop and will provide a light lunch as well as coffee, tea and morning snacks. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please contact Eileen Brennen to register. Her email is: [ab-basgirl24522@yahoo.com](mailto:ab-basgirl24522@yahoo.com).

**St. Victoria Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, November 18 (9 am-1 pm):** Come and buy some delicious casseroles. (Fr. Jim's casseroles are called "Fidel Casseroles"). There will be crafts, baked breads, award winning Brunswick Stew, and this year there are lots of pies! Let us support our sister church. St. Victoria is located at 305 Victoria Drive, Hurt VA (just after the last Altavista exit.)