

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
Michael Burke
Sandra Burke
Julie Byron
Toni Capute
Riordan Cavoris
Justin Curtis
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
Leslie Jarrett
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



February 4, 2024

February Birthdays

Bob Burke (Feb. 2)
Biff Gilliam (Feb. 9)
Earl Fishback Feb. 9)
Helen Ravagli (Feb. 10)
Paul Harmon (Feb. 14)
Cecilia Harmon (Feb. 18)
Sandra Burke (Feb. 19)
Kelsey Brown (Feb. 19)
Carol Donato (Feb. 20)
Ronnie Haney (Feb. 24)
Caili McCabe (Feb. 26)

February Anniversaries

Jose' Edwin Alavarado Mendoza and
Nuriam Jamery Garcia Alvarado z
(Feb. 24)

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's 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 REFLECTION by B. Sidney Smith

Everybody's Looking For Him.

G.K. Chesterton wrote that "the one real objection to the Christian religion is simply that it is one religion. The world is a big place, full of very different kinds of people." I suspect many people abandon their Catholic faith, or never find it in the first place, for this reason. After all, what claim to Revelation can Catholics have that is any better than the Truth-with-a-capital-T that Buddhists, Muslims, or even principled Atheists have?

Before I became a Catholic as a young adult, I embarked on many spiritual paths. As a teen I took an interest in occult mysticism, like Rosicrucianism and the Qabalah. Subsequently I studied yoga quite seriously for a few years, particularly what is called Raja Yoga, which is all about meditation and spiritual growth. Obviously, I was looking for something.

Who isn't? Even young people, healthy and with every material advantage, are never fundamentally contented. They seek to fill the empty spaces of their soul with material success, or with fame, or with expensive habits or recreations. They look for a lover to cancel the anxiety about themselves that torments them in lonely hours.

The sick, the poor, and the oppressed seek healing, relief, and freedom. The elderly seek comfort, the anxious reassurance. All seek peace.

This seems universal; everyone is looking for something. Sometimes they think they've found it, only to realize, soon or in time, that no, that wasn't really IT. To me, visiting New Age bookstores (this was the 70s) to scrounge for tomes of occult wisdom, it seemed as though I were being called-to, almost as if by a voice saying, "come, learn, see."

It was a long time before I really understood what I was looking for.

In today's Gospel reading from Mark, the apostles go searching for Jesus to tell Him, "Everybody's looking for you." Jesus doesn't respond to this directly. He knows, of course, that He is what people seek.

Continued ...

The one real advantage of the Christian religion, to paraphrase Chesterton, is that it has Christ. We are blessed to have actually met, almost to the point of shaking hands, that which is the crown and culmination of every human longing. Our faith has taught us not only what it is we seek, but where and how to find Him.

Not everyone comes to Christ through the front door. I didn't. Some have to cut a hole in the roof and come in that way, like the paralytic at Capernaum. Those of other faith traditions have their own doorways. Many in our society, burdened with misunderstandings about Christian faith, find the doorway blocked in their own minds, but don't stop seeking.

Those of us blessed to have met Christ understand that the end of all our longing is an unfathomable reward: to walk beside Him. As He said to the apostles, "Let's get going."

Announcements & News

ANNUAL APPEAL KICKS OFF February 17th! Our goal for the annual appeal is \$4,380. We will receive 50% back if we reach our goal. There will be envelopes in the pew as well as diocesan mailings.

Mark Your Calendar for February 22nd!!!

On Thursday, February 22nd, Caeli McCabe and Kenneth Hamilton will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Thomas More Catholic Church. Be there by 6:30 pm to get a seat. St. Thomas More is located at 3015 Roundelay Road, Lynchburg A 24502.

Editor's Note: The birthday list has been corrected. Apologies to both Helen and Cecilia!