

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
Sonya Albores
Dylan Anderson
Robert Berry
Patricia Bonnewitz
Millie Budney
Michael Burke
Sandra Burke
Julie Byron
Toni Capute
Riordan Cavoris
Justin Curtis
Tony Donehoo
Carol Donato
Islea Duncan
Alan Ekberg
John Evans
Kathy Evans
Glen & Kathy Nosti
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



**Unless a Grain of
Wheat Shall Fall**

**March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Lent**

March Birthdays

Keith Hamilton, Sr. (March 2)
Betty Craft (March 3)
Bernadette Servis (March 4)
Pat Hirtz (March 16)
David Gaydos (March 16)
Kenneth Hamilton (March 18)
Charlie Graf (March 21)
Patti West (March 25)
Rob Jackson (March 25)

March Anniversaries

Reed & Jackie Johnson (March 14)
Earl & Mary Fishback (March 15)

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 Pastoral Moment with Fr. Jim

Happy Saint Patrick's Day - not only for those of you who are Irish, but anyone who has a missionary spirit and zeal to spread the Good News. Patrick was a Britton and a Roman citizen. That is different than being British.

As you know, he was taken captive by Celtic pirates and made a salve in Ireland. He fell in love with the Celtic people there. He escaped and went back to England, but wanted to go back and be a missionary. When he returned, what a missionary he was! He took the Celtic people from where they were theologically and introduced the Christian faith.

For example: the Druids who were a branch of the Celtic people believed in human sacrifice to the pagan god, Cuchulain. Patrick eventually convinced them that human sacrifice is not necessary. Patrick's God, Jesus, had sacrificed himself for all. Eventually, the belief took root. Cuchulain, the pagan god, could change himself into the sun, the moon, ice and water. Patrick convinced the Celts that Jesus is the Lord of all creation and was there at the time of creation. Hence, the Irish prayer "Christ above me, Christ below me. Christ all around me!" Furthermore, the Celtic cross has a sphere, or circle, around it. Why? The Celts still wanted their sun and moon even though they were now Christians. So, as a concession to the recently pagan Celts, we have that image of the sun or moon around the cross.

The Celts were a matriarchal society. So, from day one Patrick was about empowering women of faith into leadership roles. This was not looked well upon by the European Bishops. But through luck, you guys, Patrick did not ignore that Celtic people like the mainland bishops did. Patrick risked his life many times as well to seek release of slaves held by Celtic warlords.

Another thing: he celebrated mass in the Gaelic language, the language of the Celts instead of Latin which raised eyebrows on the mainland. This speaks of missionary zeal. This speaks of cutting edge evangelization. This is the kind of attitude I like to celebrate at Our Lady of Peace and St. Victoria.

Over the centuries, however, the powers that be have made St. Patrick "safe." They dress him up as a bishop and put him in a stained glass window. Yes, he was a bishop, but he never dressed like one. If he did, the Celts would tell him to sit in the corner and get over himself. We have forgotten about how innovative he was, for fear that lay people would become church in new ways.

Frank McCourt, who wrote "Angela's Ashes" imagines what Patrick, the unassuming saint would say about St. Patrick's Day Parades: "What is all this? You all go home and pray and help the poor!"

Might that we remember the real Patrick who challenges us even today.

Announcements & News

March Lenten Calendar:

March 17: Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 24: Palm Sunday

March 28: Holy Thursday Service (7:30 PM)

March 29: Good Friday Service (7:00 PM)

March 30: The Great Vigil of Easter (7:15 PM)

March 31: Easter Sunday Mass (8:30 AM)

Annual Diocesan Appeal Update: Our goal for the annual appeal is \$4,380. We have pledged \$2765 so far. That's 63% of our goal. Remember, we receive 50% back after the pledge drive.

The Triduum - three services, yet one liturgy. Are you interested in being part of the Triduum (Holy Week) liturgy? Please see the sign-up sheets in the commons.

Rehearsals for Holy Week: If you have signed up for one of the ministries for Holy Week, rehearsals will take place:

Tuesday, March 26: after 10 AM mass; after 7:00 PM mass

Wednesday, March 27: 5 PM

Email or call Fr. Jim if you cannot make any of the above.

Hospice Volunteers Needed! Have you ever considered being a hospice volunteer? Average volunteer time is only 2 hours per month. If you are interested, please call Centra Hospital @ 434-315-5052 and ask for Robin McLane (a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church).

