

### April Birthdays

April 03: Maria Leslie  
April 07: Kathy Ford  
April 11: Wesley Garica  
April 12: Gloria Bowden  
April 13: Luke Ford  
April 13: Beatrice Hedy  
April 13: Yvon Page  
April 13: Kellie McCabe  
April 18: Ann Baaun-Gaydos  
April 18: Avery Lecco-Smith  
April 21: Scott West  
April 22: Kaydence Lecco-Smith  
April 26: Robert Berry  
April 27: Allen Lecco  
April 27: Ilithya Velasco Ruiz

### April Anniversaries

April 18: Tom & Kathy Wall  
April 24: David & Ann Gaydos  
April 26: Ray & Bernadette Servis

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).

Dylan Anderson	John Evans	Kimberly Martin	Margaret Smith
Sid Barr	Jack Fisher	Greg Moore	Chere Tew
Robert Berry	Linda Gardner	Beverly Moyer	Jim Tew
Patricia Bonnewitz	Elizabeth Gillam	Chris Moyer	Fred Toth
Gloria Bowden	Lorraine Brennen Gilliam	Ray Moyer	Amy Tracy
Kellsei Boyce	Lynn Goss	Don Notestein	Emilia Walker
Millie Budney	Mary Graf	Patsy Notestein	Charles Watson
Sandra Burke	Kathleen Hamilton	Angel Ortiz	Danielle Weedon
Julie Byron	Jeanne Harper	George Perry	Laura Williams
Toni Capute	Pablo Ignacio	Gary Peters	Louise Williams
Deacon John Carey	Patrick Ignacio	Laurie Peters	Michael Williams
Riordan Cavoris	Meja Irvin	Frank Powell	Travis Williams
Justin Curtis	Leslie Jarrett	Nelson Sanchez	Betty Jo Wolfram
Alessia Destefano	Marge Lent	Princess Sanchez	
Carol Donato	Paul Lent	John Seaquist	
Islea Duncan	Patel Mahendra	Ray Servis	
Patricia Elder	Carolyn Martin	Jane Sliwinski	

### The Financial Corner

Collections for April 20: \$1428.00  
Attendees April 20: 105

Have you considered E-giving? It's safe and convenient. You can sign up on our website: [www.olpcatholicchurch.org](http://www.olpcatholicchurch.org) or scan the QR Code to the right. You may sign up for recurring donations or make a one-time gift.

SCAN TO



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# Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church



**April 27 2025**  
**2nd Sunday of Easter**  
**Sunday of Divine Mercy**

**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](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)

## A PASTORAL MOMENT WITH DEACON LOU (Thoughts about the Synod Process)

Ah, yes! An “I and Thou” church. I believe that like Pope John the 23rd, Pope Francis rekindled the possibility for change within the Church of Rome. Considering that after 6 decades we are still struggling to implement ALL of the changes of Vatican II, I think that the openness of some of the clergy to some of the issues raised during the synod may help to speed that up and help us to revitalize not only the Church but society as well.

We, in the developed countries, seem to have problems accepting the core values of what Islam calls “The People of the Book.” In Hebrew Scriptures we find frequent admonishment to be open to others, the stranger, refugee, the “other.” In the New Testament, Jesus expands these challenging us to see everyone as a neighbor and calling on us to clothe, feed and nurture “the others” in our world. When Mohammad moved to Medina, he recognized the need for the Jewish and Christian communities to work together with the Islamic community for mutual support. Unfortunately, mankind has forgotten all those “messages” and become inward looking and accepting only those “just like me.” We see that in clergy who have been more protective of their status and failed to do the “right thing” in areas like the abuse issues that all the churches are having to deal with. Again, the idea of bishops actually listening to the laity has been a stumbling block for many in the church, but fortunately not all, which I think of as “the Francis effect.”

I had hopes that the idea of having women deacons would be accepted. Apparently, we have been side-tracked by the “women priests” issue. When I was ordained to the diaconate, I was fully aware that it was as a Permanent Deacon and not a means to transition to the priesthood. The two are the same clerical order, but each has its own charisms and functions. The director of the diaconate in Denver when I was going through the formation process relied on a study from Canada that found the charisms of each of the orders of bishop, priest and deacon were different. What made a “good” bishop was different than what made a “good” deacon. Each has a place and purpose; each excels in different areas. With a combined bishop, priest and deacon, we have a mini-trinity that functions together making the “Holy” available to the community. As a deacon, there have been times when I know a woman could have done a better “job” than I have done. I believe that we would be able to have a better church community with women deacons.

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Carmen Acevedo Butcher, in her translation of Brother Lawrence’s “Practice of the Presence”, uses “they” and “them” rather than the more common “he” and “him.” She maintains that it is a better translation of the original. In a time when we focus on one member of the Trinity, I find it refreshing to remember that all three work together, not as individuals, but as a community. Suzanne Simard, in her research into Forest Ecology which she documents in her book “Finding the Mother Tree” documents the connections between all the plants in the forest and show they interreact with each other and support one another. Robin Wall Kimmerer, in her book “Braiding Sweetgrass” introduces us to the indigenous understanding of the interconnectedness of creation.

For the Synod presses to fully change the Church, I believe that we need to see ourselves as Butcher, Simard and Kimmerer to see community - as an interdependent, inclusive people that are dependent on each of us freely doing our part, using our charisms for the betterment of all. Simard found that the trees at the bottom of the hill by the creek were able to supply water to the trees at the top of the hill. When the tree at the top of the hill was dying, it was able to send its nutrients to the tree by the creek. When we, not only here in America but the “western world” as well, can become more like Brother Lawrence’s “them” we can create a “we” that is more like “the people of the book,” living out what we allegedly believe. Buber’s world brought to life. Some things to think about....

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Beatrice Heady was confirmed on April 9 at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Lynchburg. We honor her today with a special cake after mass. Please stay and wish her well.

Kathryn Hampton and Killian Brown will be receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist on Sunday, May 11. There will be a special cake for each of them following mass to celebrate them.

This year’s list of donors for Easter flowers is included on a separate sheet.

## RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE

Due to the threat of rain for this coming Saturday, our rummage sale has been postponed to the next weekend (May 2 and 3).

**CAN YOU HELP?** We need more “stuff” to sell **AND** volunteers to man the tables. Please see the sign up sheets on the table in the commons.