

September Birthdays

September Anniversaries

01 Stuart Desso
02 Todd Craft
03 Eileen Brennen
03 Joseph White
06 Wrenlee Simonton
12 Louise Williams
18 Arnie Johannes
22 Sherry Hager
25 Fred Toth
26 Alan Budney
27 Beau Ellrich, Jr.
29 Don Notestein
30 Ben Goss
30 Chene Hedy
30 Ed Shallock
30: Lisa Wilkerson

09 Khalid Fadhel & Zina Talya
10 Alan & Millie Budney
28 Luke & Kathy Ford
30 Nat & Dory Garcia

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.

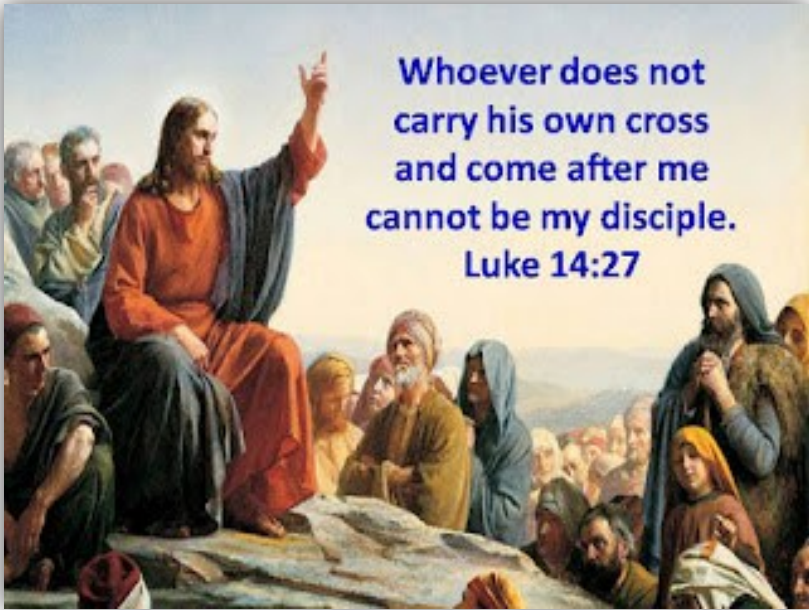
Dylan Anderson	John Evans	Kimberly Martin	Ray Servis
Sid Barr	Linda Gardner	Willard Mock	Jane Sliwinski
Robert Berry	Elizabeth Gillam	Greg Moore	Don Smith
Patricia Bonnewitz	Lynn Goss	Beverly Moyer	Margaret Smith
Gloria Bowden	Mary Graf	Chris Moyer	Maureen Smith
Kellsei Boyce	Kathleen Hamilton	Ray Moyer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

The Financial Corner

Collections August 31: \$1163.00
Attendees August 31: 86
Have you considered E-giving? It's safe and convenient. You can sign up on our website: www.olpcatholicchurch.org or scan the QR Code to the right. You may sign up for recurring donations or make a one-time gift.



Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church



September 7, 2025
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

“God and Happiness”

"God wants us to be happy." Who would dare to disagree? Happiness is a good, and God wills all that is good; surely there is no room for doubt about this. The "pursuit of happiness" is even enshrined in our nation's Declaration of Independence as an "inalienable right," one given by our Creator.

But then, in today's Gospel reading from Luke, we hear Jesus' voice: "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." And, further, "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

That hits like a cold slap across the face. How on Earth is one to be happy—which, on the hypothesis, God wills—and at the same time hate one's own life? Isn't there a contradiction here? The remainder of the Gospel passage is no easier, parables about failing to plan properly a building or a battle, and ending with the admonition to renounce all one's possessions. Happiness? Not so much.

Our life experience already gave warning that life on any given day is as likely to bring pain, loss, anxiety, or hardship as to bring pleasure or contentedness. We knew already we had a cross to bear, some of us quite heavy ones. Attempting to cast aside the cross to pursue happiness at any price always ends in tragedy, in addiction or sin or illness. If we are honest, we know that there are places in our heart that didn't exist until suffering entered in. It is impossible to avoid the suspicion that mere happiness, although certainly good in itself, isn't exactly the point of our creation, that perhaps being jolly well pleased about things as they are wasn't the final outcome God had in mind when he made us.

The poet John Donne once wrote, as much a prayer as a poem, "take me to you, imprison me, for I, except you enthrall me, never shall be free, never chaste except you ravish me." He might further have written, "never joyful, never rich unless you immiserate me." Because, it seems to me, what God wants for us makes mere happiness look pale and small, a mere trifle or bauble compared to the unimaginable richest that await our communion with Him.

A child's notion of Heaven is a place of unlimited sweets and playgrounds, with no bedtimes. To an adolescent, Heaven is a place of freedoms without consequences, privileges without responsibilities. Adults imagine a place of fulfillment without cares. The aged, a place of final rest and contentment. Each stage of this life teaches us more about happiness, and so more about Heaven, where He awaits us.

God wills human happiness, then, not as the aim of all our pursuit, but as a taste, an appetizer even, to train our mind and will to seek what is good, and to go on seeking until we find Him. Jesus' admonition isn't to be miserable, but rather to not stop at contentment with earthly pleasures and mere possessions, or even earthly loves, but to embrace them only to let them go at last, as one embraces the path only to step off it again at one's destination.

God doesn't want us to be happy. God wants us to be holy. Happiness is the signpost pointing the right way to our journey's end. We delight in it, and move along with ever greater joy—and ever greater anticipation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY'S MASS INTENTIONS:

Mark Davis
Joan Melcher

SPECIAL 2ND COLLECTION TODAY

As you may be aware, the civilian population of Gaza is in desperate need of food and medical assistance. Pope Leo and Bishop Barry have requested a special second collection to aid the suffering. The September 7 2nd collection will be sent to the Richmond Diocese who will then forward it to the appropriate charity heading up the humanitarian help.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL UPDATE

Kelsey Brown, our PPC chairperson, will speak to you today about the upcoming election process for the new council to be seated this coming November. Three members are completing their three-year term and we need your help filling these seats. Please see today's insert for more detailed information. Please also see the display on the "Parish Pastoral Council" section on the bulletin boards in Corter Hall for more information.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 9: Parish Pastoral Meeting (7:30 pm)
Saturday, September 13: OCIA Class (10:30 am - 12 Noon)
Sunday, September 15: Breakfast Sunday
Saturday, September 20: OCIA Class (10:30 am - 12 Noon)
Saturday, September 20: Mac's Kitchen
Tuesday, September 23: Liturgy Planning (11:00 am)
Saturday, September 27: OCIA (10:30 am - 12 Noon)
Saturday, September 27: Church Picnic/Welcome New Members



Next Sunday is BREAKFAST SUNDAY!