

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02: Bob Burke
09: Biff Gilliam
10: Helen Ravagli
11: Barbara Luna; Zina Talya
14: Paul Harmon
18: Cecilia Chan; Wyatt Simonton
19: Sandra Burke; Kelsey Brown
20: Carol Donato
24: Ronnie Haney
26: Caeli McCabe

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

24: Edwin & Nurium Alvarado

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

The Financial Corner

Collections: January 18: \$646; Respect for Life: \$217.00

Attendees: January 18: 62

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.

SCAN TO



DONATE

Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**
-Matthew 5:3



**February 1, 2026
Fourth 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 from B. Sidney Smith

Commandments or Beatitudes?

There is a strange tension in our day between seemingly different Christian sensibilities, one especially visible along social divides. In his book, *A Man Without a Country*, Kurt Vonnegut wrote, "For some reason, the most vocal Christians among us never mention the Beatitudes. But often they demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And of course, that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere." In a recent radio interview, noted Baptist leader Russell Moore said many pastors have told him that when they quote the Sermon on the Mount in their preaching, individuals will approach them afterwards to complain that these are liberal talking points. "When the pastor would say, I'm literally quoting Jesus Christ, the response would not be, I apologize. The response would be, yes, but that doesn't work anymore. That's weak."

Both the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes are answers to a question: "What must I do to be a good person?" Everyone asks this question because everyone finds, before they've gone very far in this life, that they have done things they are ashamed of. We are each born with a functioning conscience, but it requires forming.

I think of the Ten Commandments as moral training wheels. The first rule is to make God alone the object of worship. The rest are guardrails for preserving the relationships on which both private and public goods depend. It makes sense that one would want these rules widely known and respected.

There is a danger, however. It is a very short step from "how can I be good" to "how can I be better—than *them*." We are hardwired to compare ourselves to others because we evolved as a social animal to whom rank matters. This makes it especially easy to fall into the sin of Pride, which often brings with it its usual sidekicks, like Hypocrisy and Worldly Ambition.

Jesus, when asked to state which is the most important commandment, says something radical: it all comes down to love. If I truly love God with all my heart, I will love nothing else more. If I love others as I do myself, of course I won't break the commandments in my relations with them, but instead, in all ways, I will seek their good.

The Beatitudes are the antidote to pride, because they tell us the proud have no status in the Kingdom of God. The meek, the grieving, the persecuted, these inherit the Blessed Realm. Seekers after peace and justice, these are the great ones in the eyes of God, whose judgment alone is eternal and binding.

This is a much greater challenge than merely to live by rules. Rules are easy. The Beatitudes demand our conversion. Conversion demands sacrifice. And sacrifice, to be meaningful, means giving up what I have selfishly grasped. But the reward is the only one really worth having, to become the extraordinary son or daughter our maker intends. Jesus tells us plainly, "Seek first the Kingdom, and all these things will be added unto you."

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

This weekend, Fr. Jim "begs" in Charlottesville to help our finances. Andrew Brown and Diane Bradish will lead a prayer service with Eucharist (consecrated by Fr. Jim).

Our Annual Diocesan Appeal begins next week.. This appeal supports many wonderful programs around southern Virginia. Our goal for OLP is \$6060. The good news is that anything we contribute is subject to a refund of 50%.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

A note from our VBS Principal, Helen Dennany: Hi everyone! Vacation Bible School is happening this Summer. Yippee!! On February 7 at 1 pm (Saturday) I will have our first meeting to share ideas and begin early planning. If you love Bible Stories and love telling them to children, then come and join us for our first planning session. Note: All volunteers must be VIRTUS certified. If you need more information about VIRTUS, please reach out to Andrew Brown, our direct contact with the Richmond Diocese for VIRTUS certification. (andrew.c.brown@gmail.com)

CHURCH CLEANING HELP NEEDED

Our cleaning team needs your help. Several ladies the cleaning team have served for a long time. We thank them and understand they need a well deserved break. Do you have an hour a week to spare? If you can help, please reach out to Tina Tyree (ttyree0421@gmail.com).