



I am going to once again revisit an old topic. This one is going to take me a few weeks to do it properly. This is something we really cannot discuss enough, because it is one of the most misunderstood topics in the Catholic Church. It is also one of the most important. Do we have a relationship with Jesus Christ in our lives? This is not just a relationship we have as a Church, but something each of us should have in our own lives. For anyone who is seeking to deepen their faith, this should be the starting point.

Why do I say this is one of the most misunderstood topics in our faith? To start, there are many who will say this is not a Catholic idea. If that sounds ridiculous to you, that is a good thing, it should. Still, there are some who say the Catholic Church does not teach us we should have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. There are also many who have left the Catholic Church, because they feel they cannot have that personal relationship here. Both of these ideas are incorrect, and a starting point of evangelization should be to teach people by the example of our lives that this is not true.

I also want to talk about why some people would believe having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is not a Catholic idea. For one thing, the Church has not always done the best job of teaching this. I have seen this myself, and heard it in the stories of others, who walked away from the Church, because they could not find this relationship. We can do better.

There is yet another reason that many Catholics shy away from the idea of having a personal relationship with Christ. It is also one I have encountered many times in my life. This is an idea that has been used to attack the Catholic Church. It has been said that our rituals and traditions are meaningless, and that we have no need for the sacraments. All we really need is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This is an attack that has been very effective. It has led many people to abandon the Catholic Church to seek instead their own personal relationship with Christ.

I have two objections to this I am going to be explaining in greater detail over the next two weeks. First, while it is true that Christ desires to have a relationship with each one of us, if I abandon this community that is the body of Christ to seek a relationship that is only Christ and me, then I will never find the relationship that Christ desires to have with me. Second, seeking a relationship with Christ that is not grounded in the teaching of the Church is the gateway to embracing moral relativism. We cannot have a relationship if we do not know what that relationship is meant to be.

(Continued in next column)

I am going to close by inviting people to spend the next week reflecting on this. God has revealed himself to his people gradually throughout our history. This revelation to us reached its fullness in Jesus Christ, who is the living Word of God and became flesh to live among us. As someone who was fully human and fully God, he died for our sins and rose from the dead to lead us to eternal life. He is present to each of us in our lives. He is calling us not only to know these truths about who is he, but also to know him. We come together as a Church to deepen this relationship in our lives, but also to demonstrate to the world what this relationship is meant to be.

*Fr. Chris*



### CLUSTER PRAYER LIST

#### Those who bear the burden of years and those who have asked for our prayers:

**Sacred Heart:** Deborah Hanzlik, Janet Beaudet, Sharla Kirk, Anh Cao, Binh Cao, Phyllis Gagne, Donna Sarver, Thomas Bird, Carl Hall, John Mertz, Helen Tres, Evelyn Rivera, Kathy Marr, Debbie Stidfole Agurwal, Nancy Clemons, Anna Liszeski, David Paden, Eileen Mozucha, Barbara Kirk, Deacon Bob Baker, Jerry Chambers, Raul Rosa Viera, Emily Chudoba, Thelma Herrera Lara, Sam Mikulcik, Carlos Rivera, Mike O'Hare, Susan MacLaughlin, Sharon K. Pilarinos, Kathy Sansom, Delores Daniel, Janet Potter

**St. James:** Ronnie & Therese Parker, Felix Licicero, Anne & Sam Richeson, Crista Cole, Jimmy Carter, Mary Kain, Audrey Keith, Anita Anthony, Wayne Whitehead, Bill Brown, Casey McQuillan, Glenn Toenniges, Tomas Rose, Jimmy Clark, John Seckora, Robert McGough

**St. Johns:** Dick Clark, John Stech, Ernest & Sheree Cerny, Dorothy Kohout, Etna Traylor, Steve Kofron, Joan Lonnemann, Matt MacLaughlin, Patsy Stech, Joe Stech, Santi Santos, Stuart Reynolds, Bill Kaspar, Judy Newsome, Michael (MJ) Schofield, Frank Stech, Deborah Ryan, Candence Andusko, Donet Poindexter

#### *A Prayer for Recovery After Disaster*

God our Father, in the wake of disaster,  
visit our places of desolation with your consolation.

Bring strength to the weary and  
courage to those who feel overwhelmed.

We believe that you hold our concerns  
in your Fatherly care,  
and that you entrust us to one another  
as sisters and brothers.

Mobilize your people near and far to  
feed the hungry, shelter the displaced,  
and protect those in deepest poverty.

As we rebuild what is ruined,  
may we recover together as a stronger community.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**MEETINGS THIS WEEK:****Church of the Sacred Heart**

- Sunday, 8th 8:00am Monthly Breakfast  
9:15am Christian Formation (all grades)  
9:15am Adult Faith Formation  
9:30am First Eucharist Parent Meeting (church)  
10:00am Confirmation Meeting (church)
- Monday, 9th 7:00pm Stewardship Meeting
- Tuesday, 10th 7:00pm Alpha Formation
- Wednesday, 11th 10:30am Bible Study  
6:00pm Dance Class  
6:30pm Spanish Choir Practice
- Thursday, 12th Church Directory Pictures  
7:00pm Choir Practice
- Friday, 13th Church Directory Pictures  
7:30pm Ultreya-St Mary's Richmond
- Saturday, 14th Church Directory Pictures  
9:00am Care A Van  
11:00am Waverly Food Pantry  
6:00pm Newcomers Reception
- Sunday, 15th 9:15am Christian Formation (all grades)  
9:15am Adult Faith Formation  
9:00am Newcomer Reception  
12:00pm Newcomer Reception

**Saint James Church**

- Sunday, 8th 9:30am Religious Formation –All ages
- Monday, 9th 6:00pm Hopewell community meal @ Parish Hall  
6:30pm Mass
- Wednesday, 11th 5:30pm Reconciliation and Holy Hour  
6:30pm Mass  
7:00pm Choir Practice
- Thursday, 12th 12:00pm Mass

**Saint Johns Church**

- Monday, 9th St John's turn to feed at the Men's Shelter
- Wednesday, 11th 6:00pm Adoration—All are invited
- Thursday, 12th 4:00pm Finance Council



In this historic year of the Gattima Centennial (1917-2017), the world is at a historic crossroad... **YOU are invited to participate in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Public Square Rosary Crusade. Friday, October 13, 2017 at 2:30p.m.** – gather with others in our area at the **Chick Fil-A Restaurant in Colonial Heights** (the one outside, by Wal-Mart) parking lot. There we will publicly pray the Rosary.

**“Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His mercy and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering.”** St. Louis de Montfort

**MASS INTENTIONS****Church of the Sacred Heart**

- Saturday, 7th 5:00pm James Francis Glover req by Mike & Amy Steele  
7:00pm Spanish Holy Hour
- Sunday, 8th 8:00am Armand Gagne req by Phyllis Gagne  
11:00am Dick Beaudet req by Janet Beaudet  
1:00pm Gilberto Ruben req by Nidia & Pablo Jara  
3:00pm Rosary
- Monday, 9th 6:30pm Holy Hour & Benediction
- Tuesday, 10th 6:30pm Prayer Service w/ Communion
- Wednesday, 11th 10:00am Prayer Service w/ Communion
- Friday, 13th 10:00am Barbara Briggs req by the Family  
5:30pm Rosary
- Saturday, 14th 5:00pm Art & Joyce Rakers req by the Family
- Sunday, 15th 8:00pm Deceased Members of the Parish (Bi-lingual)  
11:00am Peter So Van Cao req by Sang Cessna  
1:00pm Deceased Members of the Parish  
3:00pm Rosary

**Saint James Church**

- Saturday, 7th 5:30pm Josephine Alessi
- Sunday, 8th 11:00am David Kump, Sr.
- Saturday, 14th 5:30pm Salvador Trujillo

**Saint Johns Church**

- Saturday, 7th 4:00pm Christina Mirro req by Elizabeth Mirro
- Saturday, 14th 4:00pm Mary Grace Catamusto req by Elizabeth Mirro

**You are invited: Every Wednesday evening at 6pm for Adoration**

**Readings for the Week of October 8, 2017**

- Monday** Saint Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs; Saint John Leonardi, Priest  
Jon 1:1—2:2, 11; Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8; Lk 10:25-37
- Tuesday** Jon3:1-10; Ps130:1b-2, 3-4ab,7-8; Lk10:38-42
- Wednesday** Saint John XXIII, Pope  
Jon 4:1-11; Ps 86:3-4, 5-6; 9-10; Lk 11:1-4
- Thursday** Mal 3:13-20b; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 11:5-13
- Friday** Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9; Lk 11:15-26
- Saturday** Saint Callistus I, Pope and Martyr  
Jl 4:12-21; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Lk 11:27-28
- Sunday** Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

## New Flu Information for 2017-2018

Getting an annual flu vaccine is the first and best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations. In 2017, a study in [Pediatrics](#) was the first of its kind to show that flu vaccination also significantly reduced a child's risk of dying from influenza. The more people who get vaccinated, the more people will be protected from flu, including older people, very young children, pregnant women, and people with certain long-term health conditions who are more vulnerable to serious flu complications.

### What flu vaccines are recommended this season?

This season, only injectable flu vaccines (flu shots) are recommended. Some flu shots protect against three flu viruses and some protect against four flu viruses.

#### Options this season include:

- [Standard dose flu shots](#). Most are given into the muscle (usually with a needle, but one can be given to some people with a jet injector). One is given [into the skin](#).
- [High-dose shots](#) for older people.
- [Shots made with adjuvant](#) for older people.
- [Shots made with virus grown in cell culture](#).

### When should I get vaccinated?

You should get a flu vaccine before flu begins spreading in your community. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body that protect against flu, so make plans to get vaccinated early in fall, before flu season begins. CDC recommends that people get a flu vaccine by the end of October, if possible. Getting vaccinated later, however, can still be beneficial and vaccination should continue to be offered throughout the flu season, even into January or later. Children who need two doses of vaccine to be protected should start the vaccination process sooner, because the two doses must be given at least four weeks apart.

### When will flu activity begin and when will it peak?

The timing of flu is very unpredictable and can vary in different parts of the country and from season to season. Seasonal flu viruses can be detected year-round; however, seasonal flu activity often begins as early as October and November and can continue to occur as late as May. Flu activity most commonly peaks in the United States between December and February.

### What happens in the body when someone has the flu?

Influenza viruses usually infect the respiratory tract (i.e., the airways of the nose, throat and lungs). As the infection increases, the body's immune system responds to fight the virus infection. This results in inflammation that can trigger respiratory symptoms such as cough and sore throat. The immune system response can also trigger fever and cause muscle or body aches. When infected persons cough, they can spread influenza viruses in respiratory droplets to someone next to them; persons can also become infected through contact with infectious secretions or contaminated surfaces. Most people who become sick will recover in a few days to less than two weeks but some people may become more severely ill. Following flu infection, secondary ear and sinus infections can occur. For example, some people may develop pneumonia. This can happen to anyone, but may be more likely to happen to people who have certain chronic medical conditions, or in elderly persons.



**Sponsor of the Week**  
 We would like to thank  
 "E. Alvin Small  
 Funeral Homes & Crematory"  
 this week for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

**2017 RED MASS**

The Very Reverend Monsignor Mark Richard Lane, Diocesan Administrator, and The Saint Thomas More Society invite everyone in the Richmond Diocese to join in worship and fellowship at the **34th Annual Red Mass and Dinner on Thursday, October 26.** Reverend Monsignor R. Francis Muench, J.C.L., Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Richmond will celebrate the Red Mass. Mass is at 5:30 p.m. at Saint Mary Church, 9505 Gayton Road, Richmond. The dinner will follow in the Saint Mary Church Upper Commons. The keynote address will be given by Professor Hadley Arkes, Founder and Director of the James Wilson Institute on Natural Rights and the American Founding. Tickets for the dinner are \$65.00 each. The Saint Thomas More Society is an educational, fraternal, and service organization of Catholic lawyers. Further information can be obtained from Society President, James Schliessmann, [jeschliessmann@hotmail.com](mailto:jeschliessmann@hotmail.com) or 804-873-1035.

**Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 8, 2017**

“This is the Lord’s doing and it is amazing in our eyes.” Being chosen to serve as a priest or in the consecrated life is an amazing work of the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother to help you recognize and be faithful to your vocation. Call Father Michael G. Boehling, Vicar for Vocations, at (804) 359-5661 or email [mboehling@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:mboehling@richmonddiocese.org).



“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;” Listen with your spouse for God’s message of love by exploring a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WME)** weekend. The next weekends are: Nov 10-12, 2017 in ATLANTIC BEACH, NC and Feb 2-4, 2018 in Clemmons, NC. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: <https://renewmarriage-vasouth.org/> or contact us at [applications@renewmarriage-vasouth.org](mailto:applications@renewmarriage-vasouth.org) or 757-690-1369.

**EVANGELIZATION  
Three Parishes – One God*****“All are called, few will respond!”***

I have written several times about the changes in attendance at our weekend services. Over the past decade or so we have witnessed a significant increase of available pew space during each mass. This needs to change if the Church is to survive in today’s culture and that begins with each of us. We are the Body of Christ and it is our responsibility to grow the Church. As you have heard, if you attended mass last month, we are all Evangelists. As members of the faith community we are charged with the life of the Church. This includes growing the membership, education of both youth and adults, care of the facilities and grounds, being involved in the day-to-day operations and finances, outreach programs, care of the poor and assisting at liturgies. We cannot do this if our only contribution is an hour some or even most weekends. Do you always see the same individuals doing a variety of things in the church? This is the 7% who give more than an hour each weekend. If this is you, thank you for your service to the Church, if not you, why? God has given each one of us special talents and abilities to serve in at least one mission of the Church. Don’t let resistance get in the way of serving God. What is more important than following the example of Jesus Christ in serving others? Yes, we must work to put food on the table and a roof over our heads, and to take care of our families. These are our basic needs for survival. What if we put God first and these things second? How would your life change? What if you gave just 1% of your time to God each week? This is only 100 minutes each week, first attend a weekend service, now what are you to do with the remaining 40 minutes each week? Maybe save them up and spend a couple of hours each month serving on our many committees or ministries. Yes, this would take you away from doing the things with your family, but it may be something that you could do as a family. Being involved gives you a voice in the future of the Church. If you would like to see things change, step up and be a part of the living church, not a pew-potato that is ready to leave or stop participating because you don’t like the way things are being done or someone said something you did not like. Sometimes walking away is the right thing to do, but usually standing up and staying in the fight is better and will accomplish more for the greater good of all.

**What are you going to do with your 40 minutes this week?**

If you feel called to “Evangelization” join us as we further our faith and do the work that God has called us to. Your Unified Parishes’ Evangelization Team meets on the third Monday each month in the Parish Center at The Church of The Sacred Heart in Prince George, please join us. We are looking for individuals who are willing to “Encounter The Joy of The Gospel and Set the World Ablaze.

