

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
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

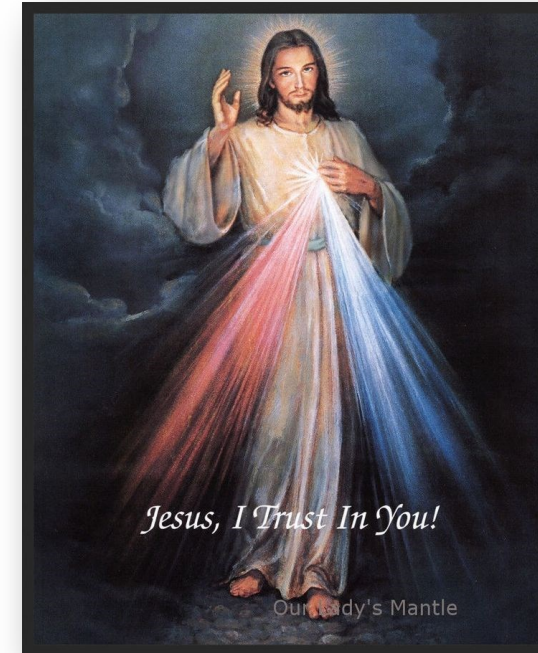
April Birthdays

Maria Leslie (April 3)
Pat Bonnewitz (April 5)
Kathy Ford (April 7)
Wesley Garcia (April 11)
Gloria Bowden (April 12)
Luke Ford (April 13)
Matthew Clark (April 13)
Beatrice Heady (April 13)
Yvon Page (April 13)
Kellie McCabe (April 13)
Ann Baaun-Gaydos (April 18)
Avery Lecco-Smith (April 18)
Scott West (April 21)
Kaydence Lecco-Smith (April 22)
Robert Berry (April 26)
Allen Lecco (April 27)

April Anniversaries

Paul & Cecilia Harmon (April 18)
David & Ann Gaydos (April 24)
Ray & Bernadette Servis (April 26)

Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church



April 7, 2024
Divine Mercy Sunday

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

CRUCIFIED IN PALESTINE

When my great-grandfather came to America from Palestine it was still under Ottoman rule. His (anglicized) name was Marcus Wolf, and he was a Catholic, like a great many Palestinians whose ancestors in that land actually walked with Jesus 2,000 years ago. When the Nakba (catastrophe) came to Palestine in 1948, and the creation of the state of Israel made a million people permanent refugees, forced from their homes by terror and violence, their villages destroyed or occupied, my great-grandfather sponsored many to emigrate and come work in his chili factory in Denver. I met them as a child, cousins with a language and culture I didn't understand, though we were kin.

It is not much remembered by westerners, but Palestine was once the Holy Land to all of Abraham's children, Christian and Jew and Muslim, living side-by-side and worshiping as neighbors do, just like all the different denominations in our own community.

That Palestine is breathing its last breath.

As a teen in school I was shown pictures and movies from the liberation of death camps, vivid memories that never fade. The trenches filled with corpses. The vacant stare of the starving, their skin taut and dry over fleshless bodies. You could number all their bones. I never thought to see such images again. Yet I turn to my TV or computer screen and there they are, the trenches filled with hastily wrapped bodies, children in the last stage of starvation, their eyes sunken and black, babies too weak to cry in their suffering.

While we celebrated Advent, Christmas, and Lent in our quiet county, more than 15,000 children were killed by bombs, sniper fire, or starvation in the land God gave to all the children of Abraham. As many more have been made orphans, and untold thousands lie under the rubble, crushed, or trapped to die slowly and alone.

The destruction in Gaza, as a proportion of buildings destroyed, and the daily rate of civilian deaths are both greater than in any war this century, including Ukraine. The famine is more severe than those in Darfur, Sudan, or Yemen. Two million people are being deliberately starved.

Continued....

I look at the photos of mothers and fathers numb with grief holding their children's shattered bodies, or carrying what they could find of them in bags. I look at them and feel as though I am pressing my fingers into Jesus' wounds. For "as you do to the least of these, you do it to me." I think of Jesus' admonition that "things that cause sin must come, but woe to the one through whom they come," and remember that the bombs are provided by my own country. May God forgive us.

In the midst of it all, the parishioners and priests of the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza celebrated Palm Sunday. Their procession was solemn. They prayed for peace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Planning Fun Summer Events: Mark your calendar: We will meet at 6:30 pm on **May 1st** to plan some fun activities for the summer such as Hill Cats' Trip, Altar Server Outing and Holiday Lake Mass/Cookout. Please join us for a fun evening of planning.

Calling all Golfers! The 3rd Annual Holy Cross "Fairways to Heaven" Golf Outing is almost here! Come participate on **Friday, May 10th** in a fun outing of Catholic fellowship at Ivy Hills Golf Club. Tee time is 1:00 pm. The cost is \$50 per person which includes all fees plus a box lunch, prizes and a social following play. Gather a foursome and send your entry form to Holy Cross Church. Entry forms are available in the commons. **Deadline** for signups is **May 1st**. Need more information or help in putting a team together? Contact Paula Warwick at 434-941-5088.

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).