

OCTOBER 2019



Fr. Paul MacNeil

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For this addition of Precious Word I asked Deacon Michael Cellars to submit his homily that he preached, here at our parish, for the Mass of Religious Freedom. Please let us continue to pray for Deacon Michael as he journeys through his last year as a seminarian.

Fr. Paul

Mass for Religious Freedom Homily, 6-24-2019

Deacon Michael Cellars

How fortuitous that today, on the solemnity of St. John the Baptist, we come together as a community to mark Religious Freedom Week. It is right and just to celebrate both the saint and cause together because one certainly plays off the other. John the Baptist, who we say is the last of the prophets, was not afraid to boldly proclaim the truth in his time. The leaders of his day had departed from the right path, aligning themselves with the Roman occupiers, and began to break the laws of faith. John had the courage to speak out against them, even against the leader of the people, Herod, for taking his brother's wife as his own. For speaking out, he was thrown in prison; where his fate would eventually be sealed. Herod's illegitimate wife's daughter seduced him with a dance and as a promised reward for her striptease was allowed a wish of anything she wanted, up to half his kingdom.... But she asked for what her mother wanted, and that was to get rid of the man who had called her out in her sin. So, John's head was served up on a platter, and for what? None other than speaking up against corruption and sin, especially when it came to those in what we call political office. Flash forward to today. How have we grown as a people?

The first amendment of the constitution of the United States of America, the very first, says that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. To truly appreciate religious

freedom, I think we have to imagine a time when we didn't have that freedom. For us as Roman Catholics, we only have to look back to before this republic was formed. Did you know in almost every single colony, Catholicism was denounced and all but illegal? Here in our very state, laws were written to exclude Catholics from practicing their religion. Our oldest Church, St. Mary's in downtown Charleston, wasn't opened until 1796, and that's not because there weren't Catholics, it was because they were refused to have a place of worship. No papist allowed! It's ironic that Charleston is known as the Holy City. It was known as a place of acceptance for all religions... well all except Catholics.

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Anti-Catholic prejudice in the United States of America is older than the country itself; and in many ways, that discrimination has never ended. Roman Catholics, even with constitutional protection, have faced the ire of so many, from colonial Protestants to even political parties. You may know or remember that The Know Nothing party of the 19th century actively sought to attack and deride those who practiced the faith. Churches and convents were torched to the ground, priests were attacked and beaten, and riots erupted throughout the land. Now why am I saying this? I think it's important that we as a people, as Roman Catholics and Americans, understand our history. In an

PRECIOUS WORD**Fr. Paul continued**

age where the guaranteed right of freedom of religion has been under attack, it's important to realize that we have been there before.

Today, in our present age, we have seen some dramatic events that have challenged us in the practice of our faith. Just recently, in California and Louisiana, state governments have passed, or are trying to pass legislation that would make it mandatory for a priest to report what he has heard in the confessional. In other states, due to the states ever reaching fingers of control, the Church has had to close down its Catholic Charities operations because of a refusal to allow those living in same sex relationships to adopt children.

The biggest danger to our first amendment, the freedom of religion, is actually those who are attempting to change its meaning. In news programs and other areas, it is now being called freedom of worship. Sounds simple enough, but these are separate things, religion and worship. Worship is what we do now, coming together. However, religion extends past what we are doing right now. It is a belief system that exists, has principles, and is practiced. It is this fundamental right that is being attacked today. Religious freedom is not only about our ability to go to mass on Sunday or pray the rosary at home. It is about whether we can make our contribution to the common good of all Americans. Can we do the good works our faith calls us to do without having to compromise that very same faith? Without religious liberty properly understood, all Americans suffer, deprived of the essential contributions we make in education, health care, feeding the hungry, and other social services that religious Americans make every day, both here and overseas. We should ponder what society, our free society, would look like without this freedom.

In 2010, Pope Benedict gave a speech in Westminster Hall, in England. What he said then is as profound then as it is now. He said: "Religion is not a problem for legislators to solve, but a vital contributor to the national conversation. In this light, I cannot but voice my concern at the increasing marginalization of religion, particularly of Christianity, that is taking place in some quarters, even in nations which place a great emphasis on tolerance. There are those who would advocate that the voice of religion be silenced, or at least relegated to the purely private sphere. There are those who argue that the public celebration of festivals such as Christmas should be discouraged, in the questionable belief that it might somehow offend those of other religions or none. And there are those who argue – paradoxically with the intention of eliminating discrimination – that Christians in public roles should be required at times to act against their conscience. These are worrying signs of a failure to appreciate not only the rights of believers to freedom of conscience and freedom of religion, but also the legitimate role of religion in the public square."

It's easy to hear all these issues and attacks on religious freedom and become upset. Well, there is hope. There is always hope, right? Our hope is first of all Jesus Christ. I'm sure all the followers of John the Baptist were pretty upset after their leader was executed. But John will always be remembered. John was the first to recognize our Lord, and they met even before birth. Remember the child that leapt in Elizabeth's womb at the sight of Mary? Well that was John.

John also plays a role in our local Church. Fun facts, our first bishop, John England, is one of the most famous and illustrious members of the American Hierarchy. He was such a huge proponent of religious liberty that 200 years after his death, as the bishops of the whole world gathered in 1965 during the 2nd Vatican Council, they turned to his writing when it came time to announce the council document *Dignitatis Humanae*- on religious freedom. Furthermore, each diocese has a patron saint, guess which one is ours? St. John the Baptist. And what is our Cathedral called? Yep, John the Baptist!

Religious liberty, freedom of religion is a part of the very fabric of our local church. It is something that we as a church have fought for a long time. It's something that we will continue to fight for. Against this rise of secularization and increasing pressure to conform, to sacrifice our beliefs now would be a slap in the face to all those who came before us. We owe it to them, and we owe it to our future generations to ensure that our freedom of religion is not infringed upon. So may St. John the Baptist and Bishop John England intercede for us! May we continue to support and defend the constitution, and may our prayer be that of our great state motto, *Dum Spiro Spero*, "While I breathe, I hope."

PRECIOUS WORD

Safety in our Sanctuary

Unfortunately in today's world a house of worship is no longer a sanctuary against the violence that happens on almost a daily basis. Whether it is a church, synagogue or mosque, individuals who have a desire to cause harm (sometimes deadly) may enter into a house of worship with terroristic intentions. As been noted each time a deadly terrorism has occurred at a house of worship the common notation is "we never thought that it would happen at OUR place of worship". It can occur any place at any time.

Here at PBOC we have taken measures to mitigate the potential of a harmful act being perpetrated upon our congregation.

- 1 - After weekend Mass begins all doors except the main entrance are locked so no one can enter church except through the narthex. Anyone can still leave the church through any door at any time.
- 2 - Enhanced security cameras have been installed in the church.
- 3 - A Georgetown County Sheriff Department (GCSO) Deputy is present during all of the weekend Masses (5:00 pm, 8:00 am and 10:30 am).

If someone attending Mass has a concern about an individual, the Sacristan and/or an Usher should be advised. The Sacristan and/or Usher will then analyze the situation and if necessary ask for assistance from the GCSO Deputy.

That being said, what should be done if a terroristic act occurs at PBOC? The immediate response should be: 1st-RUN — 2nd-HIDE — 3rd-FIGHT.

If someone enters the church and displays a weapon and/or fires the weapon, those in church should attempt to leave (RUN) as quickly as possible through the closest door.

If that is not possible you should HIDE the best you can (for example, ducking down in the pew or hiding in a closet) and block entry to the hiding place if possible.

As a LAST RESORT and only if your life is in INTIMATE DANGER, individuals in the church should attempt to incapacitate (disarm) the individual (FIGHT) with acts of physical aggression such as throwing items (hymnals, prayer books, etc.) at the individual.

With these measures in place, we pray that our vigilance will help keep our PBOC campus safe.

PRECIOUS WORD**Women's Club**

As I begin the second year of my two-year term as President of the PBOC Catholic Women's Club, I can only pray that this year is as successful and fulfilling as the first one.

We were blessed to have 197 members last year (of which 30 were new members). There are two new Membership Co-chairs this year – Trish McGlynn and Patty Drew. If you are interested in becoming a new member or need additional information, please contact Trish at triciamcglynn@gmail.com or Patty at pccdrew@yahoo.com. Our Annual Welcome Tea which was held August 25 brought in many new and returning members.

Our monthly general meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 11 AM in the Parish Life Center. After a brief business meeting, a delicious lunch is served by our Refreshment Committee. It is the perfect way to socialize, learn about new activities, and sign up to volunteer at many of our events.

Right now, we are preparing for our Annual Arts and Crafts Festival which will be held Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26. In addition to vendors from various locations, you will find our WC bake sale table, book sale, craft table, kitchen cupboard, silent auction, and finally the kitchen café where you can enjoy a bite to eat.

Our motto is "Just Say Yes" when called upon and I do hope you will say yes to this invitation to join the Women's Club. If you do, please come and see me so I can personally welcome you to this amazing club. Please visit our website at wcpboc.com where you will find a calendar of our events, photo albums, and descriptions of committees. It is a wealth of useful information.

Carol Steinis, President

NEW SIGNS!

Looking for ...

- ...the Parish Life Center?
- ...Founders Hall?
- ...the Columbarium?
- ...Stations of the Cross?

We have installed new signs directing you to our buildings and sites.



Precious Hands

Precious Hands

featuring precious people volunteering for our parish

FRAN SPENCER

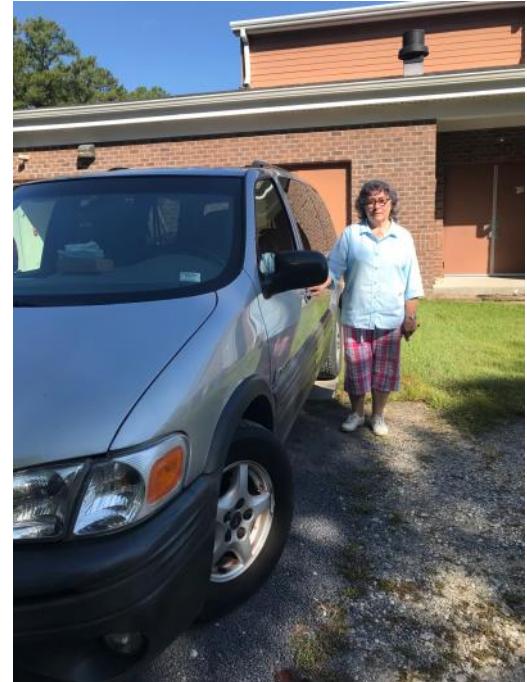
'All of you are Christ's body and each one is a part of it'
I Corinthians 12:27

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MINISTRY FOR WHICH YOU VOLUNTEER?

Provide support for Father Pat's Lunch Kitchen in cooperation with the Low Country Food Bank

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT BEING PART OF THIS MINISTRY?

Knowing that what I do not only helps in the meal preparation for Father Pat's Lunch Kitchen, but also provides our patrons with a variety of food items that they would not normally have access to.



TELL US ABOUT WHAT YOU DO FOR THIS MINISTRY?

Pick up donated groceries primarily from Food Lion & Fresh Market and deliver them to PBOC. Normally I pick up three days each week, however, I will pick up whenever the grocery stores call. Sometimes this results in picking up groceries five days a week.

HOW CAN OTHERS BECOME MEMBERS?

Volunteer for Father Pat's Lunch Kitchen. Sometimes a substitute food bank volunteer is needed and the FPLK volunteers are a good resource for this ministry.

PRECIOUS WORD

Youth

Respecting Others

Reflections on Bullying, Cyberbullying and Prejudice with author Kevin M. Dowd

PBOC hosted author Kevin Dowd on Sunday, September 15 in our PLC. He met with our Middle School and High School youth groups in the morning and parents and teachers in the afternoon. Using research studies, stories from the news, Gospel stories and lives of the Saints, his presentations offered practical and prayerful ways for adults to help children learn about and deal with issues of respect, bullying, prejudice, suicide and standing up for others and gave our youth the skills to reject bullying and embrace solidarity, community, compassion, courage and caring-to live a life of discipleship.



Religious Education

Teaching God's Children

As Catholic parents, we were reminded at our children's baptisms that we have the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. Long before parents enroll their children in religious education classes at Precious Blood, they already begin to grow in faith. It is through the living witness of their parents that children first experience their Catholic faith. Faith happens in families first! Your parish is here to support parents in the formal religious education of their children.

Religious Education classes began September 8 with an Open House for children and their parents in the PLC. Our catechists are Deanna Hoffman McCaskill, Sarah Steed, Jodi Ryba, Celeste Reid, Amy Kitowicz, Lynn Russell, Jen Sexton, Catherine Eirvin, Karyn Congdon, Nancy Brennan and Scott Walker. The High School Helpers are Jackson Barnes, Si Bodie, Lucy Joseph, Christine Brennan, Blake Joseph and Bronwen Bodie. By the grace of God and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, these teachers have been called to proclaim the Gospel and hand on the faith. Our parish children will learn through the witness of our dedicated, enthusiastic and committed catechists.

We are privileged to support parents in sharing the love of God with their children. Please pray for our children and their families as we endeavor to help them grow in their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.

PRECIOUS WORD**Knights of Columbus****Columbus H.O.P.E. Foundation**

The Knights of Columbus Council 11028 supports many different charities. One charity is the Columbus H.O.P.E Foundation – Helping Other People Everyday.

You've probably seen our brother knights here at PBOC or at your local food stores wearing yellow aprons and distributing Tootsie Rolls

The Columbus H.O.P.E. Foundation's mission is dedicated to increasing the self-reliance and dignity of our challenged citizens. We believe that these individuals should have the tools and resources necessary to lead independent productive lives. Through our support of non-profit organizations that share this philosophy, we are making the world easier to navigate for thousands of people every day.

All funds raised benefit people with intellectual disabilities. We donate to local agencies that deal solely with assisting charities that provide services to people of all ages, religious backgrounds and ethnic origins who suffer from intellectual disabilities. We donate annually to the JOY School in Pawleys Island, Georgetown Special Olympics and the Georgetown County Board of Special Needs.

The Knights are extremely appreciative for the generosity and support of our PBOC family.

K of C Council 11028 will be holding its third **Annual Pancake Supper & Silent Auction** at Eggs Up Grill in Litchfield on Tuesday, November 12th. All of the food and drinks are donated by Eggs Up Grill and the participation by Brother Knights for this event has been amazing.



For the first two years, our council has exceeded the goals that were set. We grossed and netted a combined \$19,767 and \$18,609 respectively for the charities that we support in Georgetown County. We have received generous support from local businesses with 78 sponsors in 2017 and 104 in 2018! The past turnout from the community and parish for this fundraiser has been amazing, averaging over 400 pancake lovers each year.

Our target goal for 2019 is \$11,500 and we're looking forward to another successful event. Please join us in support of our local charities.



[This Photo](#) by Un

For the past six or seven years, our Knights council has maintained a hot-dog concession at our local minor-league ballpark where the Myrtle Beach Pelicans play their home games. The stand is known as "**Windy City Wieners**", because the Pelicans are the farm team for the Chicago Cubs. Proceeds from this endeavor fund many of our local charities so, next time you're at the ballgame, stop by and say "Hello" and treat yourself to a delicious hot-dog or a frosty-cold beer and help the Knights to support our needy brothers and sisters right here in our community.

PRECIOUS WORD**Evangelization****What is Truth?**

"What is truth?" Pontius Pilate famously asks Jesus Christ on the day of His sentencing.

Today in the western world in the 21st century with our vast scientific knowledge and instant access to information through our smart phones and computers tied to a lightning fast Internet, we still seek the answer to this question – What is truth?

Many tell us that truth is what you define it to be for yourself. Your truth and my truth are what we make them to be. And these separate truths we have created for ourselves can coexist as long as I respect your truth and you respect mine.

Is truth really a relative concept described and defined within the purview of humanity as this modern thinking, first promulgated by philosopher Rene Descartes, would have it? Or is truth absolute, even if it is not completely within our grasp of understanding? Does it exist independently of humanity?

In George Orwell's classic novel Nineteen Eighty-Four, the protagonist Winston Smith finds himself asking the same question – What is truth? Winston is a member of the lowest level of the Government Party of the nation Oceana (formerly Britain) and is employed by the "Ministry of Truth". At the Ministry of Truth, he works to modify and correct news of current events to match the version of the truth that the Government Party would allow instead of actually reflecting reality.

In Winston's world, the truth is what the Government Party of Oceana – led by the ever watchful Big Brother—define it to be. The government uses tactics like the daily "Two Minutes Hate" in which the people are expected to loudly jeer and scorn televised depictions of the enemies of the state to instill within its citizens the truth. The people are also taught "Doublethink", in which an expression is actually a contradiction in terms. "War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Truth".

If anyone shows signs of thinking for themselves, the "Thought Police" are monitoring and ready to swoop in and accuse the person of a "Thought Crime". After Winston is discovered thinking for himself, he is arrested, imprisoned, and tortured over a period of time until he accepts that Big Brother's truth was correct all along.

In our modern western culture, the media is frighteningly close to the Ministry of Truth in that much propaganda is displayed on our television sets and in our newspapers, smartphones, and magazines. We have a modern code of morality known as Political Correctness, and to think

Evangelization

outside of this box is to commit a Thought Crime. The Thought Police of our day may not swoop in for an arrest of such offenders, but they instead use tactics such as labeling, boycotting, and online shaming to attempt to shut down voices of dissent. The idea that a baby in the womb is not a human being or that gender is fluid and we are not born male or female resembles the Doublethink of Winston's world.

Is truth something that is prescribed and enforced? Or is it to be sought and learned and discovered?

Earlier in the same passage of John chapter 18 where Pilate ponders "What is truth?", Jesus says "For this I came into the world, to testify to the truth." (John 18:37) Elsewhere in the book of John, Jesus says "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

2000 years ago, Jesus took on the form of human flesh so that we might understand the truth. God became human, and then gave up his human life in a brutal and sacrificial death for us. He became one of us, so that we might understand who He is. He gave up his life for us that we might know what love is. He came so that we shall know the truth, and the truth shall set us free. (John 8:32)

It is the human condition to seek and ask, "What is truth?" There are many voices in today's world that would answer that question for us. Paul says, "they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature, instead of the Creator." (Romans 1:25) We do not have to submit to "Ignorance is Truth" as did the oppressed citizens of Oceana in Nineteen Eighty-Four.

The answer to our question is in Jesus Christ and the Church that He founded. He is the truth we are seeking, even though we may not have a full understanding of Him in this life. For now, we see as in a mirror, dimly. At present we only know partially. (I Corinthians 13:12)

Jesus promised to send us help in finding the truth, through the Holy Spirit. "When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth." (John 16:13). Through repentance and reconciliation, daily quiet time spent in prayer, and frequent participation in the Holy Mass, the Holy Spirit becomes present in our lives. If we seek Him with faithful and humble hearts, we shall know the truth, and the truth shall set us free.

Patrick Tate
June 2019

Music Ministry



**Do you love to sing?
Do you know someone
who loves to sing?**



Adult Choir: Tuesdays 6:00PM-7:30PM
Children's Choir: Wednesdays 3:30PM-4:30PM
Youth Choir: Wednesdays 5:00PM-6:00PM
September through May
All rehearsals are held in the church.
We are also looking for Cantors!

We offer ongoing choral training, opportunities to develop your gifts and talents, social events, skills that will last a lifetime such as teamwork, confidence, aerobic exercise, improved memory, concentration, spatial organization and most of all to glorify God in worship.

For additional information kindly contact Andre Rakus,
Director of Music and Liturgy at 843-237-3428
or music@pbocchurch.com

Affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music



PRECIOUS WORD**Outreach**

On Monday September 16, 2019, almost 150 golfers and volunteers gathered at the Reserve Golf Club for the 26th Annual Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Parish Annual Golf Tournament. It was a hot September day on the course, and cold drinks were served throughout the day. Golfers enjoyed a hospitable bloody mary and mimosa bar coupled with an array of bagels and cream cheese. Father Paul gave a lovely invocation prayer before the shotgun start. Hot dogs and cold drinks were served at the turn, and all enjoyed a homemade spaghetti and meatball dinner at the PLC where prizes were awarded.

The Annual Golf Tournament is the chief fundraising event for all of the parish's Outreach Ministries. All of the funds raised go directly to helping our neighbors in need here in the Pawleys Island community.

The Tournament Committee needs volunteers! After 26 years, so many parish volunteers have dedicated their time, talent, and treasure to this event. We must now call out for new faces to join us to keep this tradition going. Please consider joining our Committee as we hold our first planning meeting in May of 2020. Please contact the church office if you'd like to get involved!

The Outreach Ministries are:

- ◆ Adult Learning Coaches
- ◆ Respect Life and Birthright of Georgetown supporting young mothers
- ◆ Elder Issues
- ◆ Meals on Wheels
- ◆ Precious Deliveries Holiday food programs at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas
- ◆ Christmas Angel Tree
- ◆ Fresh Express Farmers Market
- ◆ Baskerville Food Pantry Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Teach My People
- ◆ Father Pat's Kitchen
- ◆ The Church Gift Shop
- ◆ Social Services - helping those in need of emergency support.



PRECIOUS WORD

26th Annual Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Parish Annual Golf Tournament



PRECIOUS WORD

Fellowship

Homes for the Holidays Formal Gala

Did you “save the date” of December 6 for our Homes for the Holidays Formal Gala?

The venue will be The Village House at Litchfield, the newest event location in Pawleys Island. The Village House offers an indoor and outdoor event space with unique features, including a ballroom, chandelier, copper bar, large porches and a gazebo in the courtyard. The menu will include a choice of three dinner selections, plus a cocktail hour and open bar.

The entertainment will be The Maxx Band from Atlanta, a fabulous seven-member band with a great brass section.



There will also be a silent auction with fabulous gifts. The proceeds from this event will raise the funds needed to complete the purchase of a parish shuttle bus.

Invitations will be mailed to all parishioners in October. Look for it in your mail, and return the response card as soon as possible, since seating will be limited to 200 people. It promises to be an elegant evening you won’t want to miss!



PRECIOUS WORD**Inspirational Story****How My Second Birthday Changed My Life!**

My name is Kevin Farrell, a parishioner at PBOC and I have two birthdays. My beautiful and loving mother gave me life on November 15, 1943. My hero, whose age, sex, race or ethnicity I will never know, gave me my second birthday on June 22, 2010. He was an organ donor and I received his heart.

My wife and I had lived in Pawleys Island about a year when I thought I had contracted a "bug". After a few days and a couple of doctor visits, my wife suggested the only diagnostic tool she knew and asked for an x-ray. I was referred to a specialist, the virus had attacked my heart and not only it was enlarged, but I was told I would eventually need a transplant. Transplant? I knew nothing about them. However, after almost ten years of suffering through two heart attacks, five stents, two defibrillators and a pic line, my cardiologist told me it was time to go to MUSC. I had surpassed the level of care he could offer.

MUSC offered a new set of challenges. I had to be interviewed and pass a two-day marathon of testing. In short, I had to be dying, but healthy enough to accept a new heart. I also needed clearance from every major department, including a letter from my dentist. My case was then presented to a board and finally, finally I received my letter of acceptance. I had made the list. Three months later I got the call that changed my life forever. They had a heart!

We loaded up our pre-packed bags and headed to Charleston. I made it to the operating room, but when they started to hook me up my heart stopped. At that point they could have stopped the operation, but this wonderful surgeon hastened the pace and 8 hours later, I was in my room. This all began on a Monday and on Thursday I awoke to find Father Pat at my bedside with the first solid food of my new life...Holy Communion. Ten days later I was eating Chinese food with my wife on James Island.

I am sharing my story with you because I can never repay the debt I owe my hero, but I can ask you to become a hero to someone else. One organ donor can do what mine did and save eight lives. One tissue donor can positively affect the lives of 70 people.

There are no age restrictions on who can volunteer. In 2016, a 107-year-old woman donated her corneas and saved the sight of two people. There is never a cost to the donor's family.

Many of us are now getting new drivers licenses. All it takes is a simple check mark. Please consider giving someone else a second birthday — Be a donor!

Thank you

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Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Parish
1633 Waverly Road
Pawleys Island, SC 29585
address service requested

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Parish Picnic
Saturday, November 3
11:30 AM—2:00 PM



Upcoming Special Masses

All Saints Day - November 1, Holyday of Obligation
Masses: 6:00 PM vigil, 8:30 AM and 6:00 PM
With First Friday Adoration between Masses

All Souls Day - November 2
Masses: 8:30 AM, 12:00 PM at Columbarium,
5:00 PM with candle ceremony for this year's deceased

Mass for Deceased Spouses - November 7, 8:30 AM

Confirmation - November 8

Mass for Deceased Children - November 12, 8:30 AM

Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass - November 14, 6:00 PM