

**In the Catholic Church you will find or re-discover**

- ✦ ***Jesus' victory over sin and death and our freedom from fear***
- ✦ ***God's gift of forgiveness***
- ✦ ***Hope in this confusing world***
- ✦ ***Values that give real direction and purpose in life***
- ✦ ***The Bible as God's word speaking to Us today***
- ✦ ***The Sacraments—where we meet the Lord, and where the Lord meets us***
- ✦ ***The Church as a visible and organized Community of faith***
- ✦ ***The Church that walks with us on our journey to God—together***

***Pray for Guidance:***

*God of abundant life and mercy, be with me.  
Help me to find you in your Church,  
which is the body of Christ, your Son,  
who is Lord forever and ever.  
Amen.*

***WE CAN HELP YOU FIND ANSWERS***

**If you have been away from the Catholic Church for whatever reason, or if you feel that in some way the Church left you, we invite you back to take another look.**

**Our Catholic community of faith cares about you: we love you and we miss you!**

We offer one-on-one meetings for anyone who wishes to explore their faith after having been away from regular Mass attendance. In these meetings, you can discuss your questions and concerns in a confidential environment and be assisted with your individual needs.

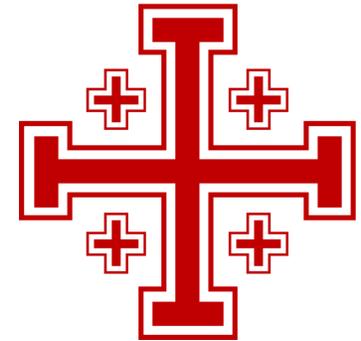
If you would like to learn more about our faith community and today's Catholic Church, please contact Deacon Kevin at 757-484-7335 or [kmorrison@clusterparishes.com](mailto:kmorrison@clusterparishes.com). Please visit our website for Mass Times and directions at [www.clusterparishes.com](http://www.clusterparishes.com).

***"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."***

Saint Augustine



# *Come home to the Catholic Church*



***The Cluster Parishes of  
Portsmouth and Chesapeake  
A Community of Catholic Parishes***

*Church of the Holy Angels  
Church of the Resurrection  
St. Mary  
St. Paul*

## **A note from our Pastor:**

***“No matter how long you have been away from the Catholic Church, or for whatever reason, we want you to return.”***

God is inviting you to dive into your faith in a deeper way than you ever have before.



You may already be feeling a strange inner pull to look into the Church again. That spiritual longing you feel is God drawing you back to Himself. God never forces; He only invites. He leaves the decision to return to the Catholic Church up to you.

### **There are as many reasons for coming back to the Church as there are people who left.**

While Christ is at the heart of the many reasons to come home to the Church, each individual's experience in returning can be unique, depending upon whatever speaks to his or her heart.

Many people come back to the Catholic Church because they feel an intense longing for the Eucharist. Sometimes it happens at a wedding, a funeral, a baptism, a First Communion or a Confirmation. Sometimes it happens when people are alone or facing difficulties in life. It's a deep hunger for the spiritual nourishment that comes when they receive the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

Others come back to the Catholic Church because they need healing or to forgive others. Some of us carry deep spiritual wounds. We struggle with anger at God over bad things that happen – a terminal illness, a debilitating injury, a broken relationship, mental or emotional problems, an act of violence against an innocent person, an unexplainable accident, some natural disaster, the death of a loved one or some other deep disappointment. Sometimes we hold onto anger and resentment toward individuals who have hurt us deeply. But this anger and bitterness can eat at the heart of a person.

The Catholic Church provides the opportunity to seek God's help in the process of spiritual healing and help you get on with your life.



### ***We Miss You!***

It doesn't matter how long you have been away from the practice of the faith. The full, active and joyous participation of every Catholic is a precious gift to our faith community. As long as any Catholic is away or feels alienated from the Church, the Church remains incomplete. We invite you to return to the Church, so that we can support each other along our common journey of faith.

### ***DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS LIKE THESE?***

- Is my own spirituality enough or do I need something more? How can I feel fulfillment and peace in my life instead of feeling too busy, frantic and stressed?
- What if I am divorced and remarried or married outside of the Church or living with someone? Can I come back to the Church?
- I am really hurting and uncertain about the Church. Can the Catholic community really help me to heal? I left the Church because I was hurt, why should I return now?
- Someone that I loved dearly has died, and I feel that God has let me down. Will I ever see that person I loved again? Can the Church help me understand why this happened to me?
- I have been away from the Church for a very long time. Will everyone stare at me, knowing that I am coming back? Is it too late to come back? Can I really feel at home in the Church again?
- I consider myself to be a spiritual person. What am I missing by not practicing the Catholic faith of my youth?
- I disagree with some of the Catholic Church's teachings—or at the least I have some real doubts. Does that mean I shouldn't come back?
- I've lived a sinful life. I am not sure that God can forgive me or cares for me. Will coming back make a difference?
- What can I expect if I do come back to the Catholic Church?