**THE PAX COMMUNITY**

PAX (Pilgrims After Christ) was formed in 1969 as a lay-led **Intentional Eucharistic Community** (IEC) in the **Roman Catholic tradition**, united around planning and celebrating the Sunday liturgy. PAX welcomes those who share a commitment to better express and celebrate Gospel values in their daily lives.

**Member participation in planning and celebrating** the weekly **liturgy** promotes vigorous faith and a caring, sharing community eager to discover how it can live out its commitment to Christian values in today's world. Celebrating together inspires support for the needs of our members and our neighbors.

Our **liturgy presiders** come from a network of Roman Catholic priests active in the D.C. area serving various institutions. The weekly presider meets with the lay planners for each liturgy to explore the meaning of the readings in their daily lives. Together they plan how to express their insights in a meaningful liturgy through theme, message, staging, setting, visuals, music, dance, meditations, homily, dialogue, etc. The group takes responsibility for implementing the Mass as planned. The PAX community supports the use of inclusive language in the liturgy.

This **inclusivity** means we are LGBT friendly and extends through **active participation in service to others**. PAX members are active in local and global projects that feed the hungry, house the homeless, assist refugees, shelter battered women, support missionary activities, and address systemic social injustices.

PAX provides **religious education programs** for both adults and children. We welcome families interested in having their children participate in the sacraments, including first communion, reconciliation (confession), and confirmation. PAX hosts an atrium for young children (age 3 – 12) to participate weekly in the **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.**

Most importantly, PAX provides a caring environment where members are more than just a name; we become an **extended family**.

**TIME AND PLACE**

Sunday Mass is celebrated at 9:00 a.m. in the community room of St. Luke Orthodox Church, 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Virginia, and occasionally in the homes of community members.

Youth religious education is held during the school year at PAX members’ homes.

* Children age 3-12 meet in the "Atrium" for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd on Saturday mornings.
* Teens meet for Journey to Adulthood on Sundays after Mass.

Adult religious education, prayer, and mission groups meet at various times and places.

**CELEBRANTS**

PAX celebrants include active Roman Catholic clergy associated with various Franciscan, Marist, and Jesuit institutions in the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area.

**STRUCTURE**

PAX is a lay-led Intentional Eucharistic Community (IEC) inspired by Vatican II. The community is guided by a steering committee of two women and two men who serve staggered two-year terms. They are assisted by other community members working in various ministries. General meetings provide community direction on major issues. Members may participate in mission groups organized around social justice concerns.

**MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

"The PAX Community gave me back my faith."

*Al Galiani*

"My family sees PAX as Christianity in action. Since finding it, we have had no desire to worship elsewhere. The thought- provoking liturgies provide both intellectual and spiritual stimulation."

*Judy Hushon*

"My weekly conversion!"

*Carl Siebentritt*

"For me, PAX is the essence of Church and of community. Its liturgies are so enriching; its fellowship, both accepting and challenging."

*Caridad Inda*

"PAX is extended family to me -- supportive, challenging and embracing.”

*Anonymous*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you are interested in celebrating with us, please drop in for any liturgy. For more information, please go to our website:

**paxcommunity.org**

and/or contact us at:

**[info@paxcommunity.org](mailto:info@paxcommunity.org)**

and/or



**PAX Pilgrims After Christ**