

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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March 29, 2020
5th Sunday of Lent
Year A

FATHER GERRY'S THOUGHTS

*"Those who trust in the Lord are like a tree planted beside the water--
in the year of drought it shows no distrust, but still produces fruit"* Jeremiah 17:8

Preparations being put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 present us with both challenges and opportunities. Our priority must be to care for our families and administer to them in every possible way.

We are committed to making the most of this time and help draw families closer to Christ. In times of crisis, people generally look to Christ and their church. COV is here to serve you.

I ask you to do three things right now:

1. Pray, remember God does not abandon his children, please join me in praying for:
-Families affected by Coronavirus
-Those struggling financially because of the crisis.
-First Responders, Medical Personnel and all Government Leaders.
-Our Parishioners, your Pastor, Bishop, and the Holy Father.
2. Inform us if you need help, and we will do our utmost to get help to you.
Just leave us a message, an email or call the rectory.
3. Continue to support the parish. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for those who have done so already and ask others to consider it.

PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK CONSIDERATIONS

We are working on a plan to have Palms available for you to pick up on Palm Sunday. Also, Father celebrates Daily and Sunday Masses, we are coming up with a plan on how to livestream or record them for you to view.

We will announce it next week.

MAIL IN DONATIONS FROM LAST WEEK:

Collection:	\$ 660
Second Collection:	
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 74,321
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 84,282

We signed the following principle checks this week:
\$159 Copier Lease Payment; \$199 Music Supplies.



NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROCEDURES

The Three Rivers Community Foundation recently agreed to transfer the administration of the John Boddie Memorial Scholarship to the church. It will continue to manage the John Boddie Endowment but permit us to decide who receives the scholarshipS and the amounts. In conjunction with the foundation, we developed a procedure to assume control of the process and incorporated into a written resolution thusly:

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that on January 30, 2020, at the Church of the Visitation, Topping, Virginia, 23169, the John Boddie Memorial Fund Scholarship Committee (the "Committee") was formed for the purpose of handling the funds that will be distributed annually to the Church of the Visitation by River Counties Community Foundation (the "Foundation" or "RCCF") from the *Fr. John D. Boddie Memorial Scholarship Fund*.

The annual distribution from the *Fr. John D. Boddie Memorial Scholarship Fund* will be based on the Foundation's spending policy for endowed funds.

The monies so received from the *Fr. John D. Boddie Memorial Scholarship Fund* will only be used for educational programs within the Parish and/or in support of Parish members' education in outside institutions.

The priorities for monetary distribution are as follows:

- *Graduating High School Seniors;
- *College Students and Trade School Students
- *Graduate Level Education;
- *Parish Programs including, but not limited to, Faith Formation for Children, Adult Education, Bible Study, and Guest Speaker Seminars;
- *Grants to St Noa School in Uganda;
- *Continuing Education and Workforce Development.

The Committee will publish scholarship information and requirements, solicit applicants, select the recipient(s) and determine an amount therein for each scholarship by majority vote of the members present. The Committee will consist of 12-14 members of the Parish, including the Pastor, who will also appoint the membership. Half of the members will constitute a quorum. The membership will biannually elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary. Meeting minutes shall be taken and announced to the Parish. An annual report will be given, either verbally or in writing after scholarship selection to the Parish. The priority order enunciated above may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the Committee membership, and Roberts Rules of Order will govern the conduct of meetings.

The Committee shall establish a checking account in its name to carry out its fiduciary responsibilities. At its discretion, and at a minimum annually, it will solicit donations from parishioners and the community for the *Fr. John D. Boddie Memorial Scholarship Fund* at RCCF.

PARISHIONER INFORMATION

Bishop Barry C. Knestout will continue to celebrate a private Mass on Sundays at 10am. To view it, go to www.richmonddiocese.org/livestream

A web page at www.richmonddiocese.org/coronavirus is the central repository for the Diocese's response to the Coronavirus The page is updated frequently and is your best resource for the most up-to-date information.

Bishop Barron offers a Daily Mass for your viewing www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/



Readings:

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14 Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11 Gospel: John 11:1-45

Father Gerry's Homily:

Fifth Sunday of Lent: March 29, 2020

In the Gospel today when Jesus had finished praying, he said, "Lazarus, come out!" Jesus says to each of us also, "Come out of your tomb, come out your bondage. Do not live in the darkness, live in the light. Do not live in fear, live in faith." When Lazarus came out of the tomb, Jesus then said, "Unbind him, let him go free." Jesus also says to each of us, "Be unbound and go free. Live with me in a new life. Jesus said to Martha,

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Jesus asks the same question of us also, "Do you believe this? Do you believe that I am the resurrection and the life? Do you believe that I can mend all the brokenness and wounds of your life? Do you believe that I not only offer you resurrection in the future but also the fullness of life now in the present?" Jesus is inviting us to share *now* in the *fullness of his life*. The resurrection of Lazarus is not just a promise about the future, it is also the power of God in our present life. God through His son Jesus can change our situation right now into a new life if we believe in Him.

Do you believe that Jesus calls you to enjoy the fullness of his life now? Do you believe that Jesus is now calling you out of any tomb you may be in? Do you believe that even now Jesus is saying to you, "Be unbound and go free?" Let us today accept Jesus' invitation, let us walk out of any tomb we may be in and allow ourselves to be unbound and go free.

How do we achieve this freedom? How do we get out of our tombs? Notice that Martha and Mary sent a message to Jesus. We too have to send a message to Jesus, and we do this by spending time with Jesus in prayer and sharing with him our wounds, hurts and anxieties. Let us keep no secrets from Jesus but lay all bare before him. That is the only way to a mature relationship with Jesus.

In this time when the whole World is fighting Coronavirus pandemic, we are called upon to change many of our usual ways of life, this can lead some of us to burry ourselves in the tomb of fear. Like Mary and Martha who sent a message to Jesus when their brother was dying, we too, should call upon our Lord to come and heal us His beloved brothers and sisters. Because we believe He is the resurrection and life.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Tom Shepherd, Catharine Aumueller & Helen Hall

PARISHIONERS

Min Tassone, John McCormack, Jim Moncure, Grace Anderson, Natalie Smith, Lorie & Sal Messina, Lee & Pat Paul, Georgia Beville, Margaret Hock, Anne Dunn, Michelle Chmiel, Tom & Cindy Jessee, Richie Siford, Carter & Peggy Williams, Karen Dame, Joe Nolte, Mike Lokie, Lynn & Jim Vajda, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawksworth, Mary Ann & Kenneth Gulick, Nancy Wirth, Chris Henkel, Vincent Recupido, Bettie Hodge, Bob & Ingrid Borden, Laurie King, Becky Nunn, Bill & Linda Gray, Peg Meushaw, Carol Smith, Allen Hines, Pat & Lee Reamy, Janine Jaboulay, Anne Paparella, Carole McPherson, Jeanne Lessner, Colin Walsh.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Frank & Gerri Lohrs daughter, Doug Meuse, Michele Brune, Noele & Mike Anglin, Anita Bomberger, the Drinkwater Family, Kathy Shepherd, Lucy Walker, Suzanne Whelan, Jim Rundle, Rundle-Kehl family, Doris & Arthur Green, Rachel, Brian & Marcus Pittman, Robbie Beasley, Sandra Bush & Children, Tom Smith, Karen Smith, Mary Gray, Denis Popp, PJ Schwedler, John Calvin Barnard, Sal Messina Jr., Colleen O'Rollins, Michael Reamy, Linda Borostovik, Sarah Kobezak, Natash Walsh, Ellen DeMaurez, Michele MacFarland, Shirley Schultz, LC Warren, Paul Krop, Dolores Powers, Joseph Gascoigne, John Vajda, Sandy Alter, Andy & Iris Hetzer.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Auggie Bain, Maria Franzoni, Pumpkin Brownley, Rita Blommel, Brenda Knupp, Ashely Scott & family, Steve Smith, Susie Loustaunau, Elizabeth Panzer, Linda Cryer, Tyra Freed, Valerie McCarthy, Joan & John Rychtarik.

Please email or call the office if you would like someone added to our prayer list.

"Prayer must accompany us through every stage of our actions..."
- Bishop Knestout, "From Tragedy to Hope"
Sept. 14, 2018

You are invited to join us as we

PRAY THE ROSARY FOR HEALING & PROTECTION

April 3, following noon Mass with Bishop Knestout
Pastoral Center Chapel, 7800 Carousell Lane, Richmond

Diocese of Richmond



Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that you are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to possess You within my soul. Since I am unable at this moment to receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.