

TO VIEW OUR MASS @ 9AM-SUNDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

Go to our website:

<http://www.church-of-the-visitation.org/>

Under “Bulletin” or “Links” there is a Facebook icon-just click and you will go directly to the Facebook page and be able to view the livestream.



*Remember you **do not** have to have a Facebook account to view the live stream.

*If you need help or support in anyway with the livestream, please call the office or send and email. We will respond as soon as possible.

**During Mass you can respond in the comment section to interact with others who are also viewing the Mass. “We’re all in this together!”*

BICENTENNIAL PRAYER

Father of lights, the radiance of your Son has guided the advance of the Gospel across the Diocese of Richmond for two centuries, strengthening our Church from the Eastern Shore to the Cumberland Gap. Grant that the nearness of your Son may dispel the darkness of our sins, so that as our love increases more and more, we may dare more than ever to fearlessly proclaim the word. Holding fast to the word of life, may we shine like stars in the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.



The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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*15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 12, 2020
Year A*



Today we celebrate the Second Diocesan Mass to mark the Bicentennial Anniversary of the Diocese of Richmond.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 12, 2020

Today's readings are about the transforming power of the word of God when read, preached, and lived. They also warn us not to be disappointed at the absence of immediate results. We must take a positive and optimistic view of our efforts, as we keep on bearing witness to Christ's Gospel. The parable of the sower in today's Gospel challenges us to listen intently to God's Word, to be open to it, and to allow our lives to be shaped by its power. The parable reminds us that our reception of God's Word is determined by the condition of our hearts, our lives and what we surround ourselves with.

In the first reading, Isaiah consoles the Jewish people, assuring them that, like rain and snow which water the earth so that seeds may sprout and grow, God's word will accomplish its purpose, in their case, it was saving them from oppression, bringing back the exiles to their homes in peace as God promised. In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that just as seeds must fall into the earth and die to produce abundant crop, the pain and sufferings God permits in our lives help our redemption. Paul wants us to wait for our eternal reward while we continue sowing the word of God diligently and suffering for the Lord, as he did.

Today's Gospel teaches us that the word of God is the seed, and our hearts and minds are the soil. The seed's good spiritual yield in one's life depends on how fully one willingly accepts and responds to the word of the God. The fruits arising from the positive response will be abundant beyond all imagining. The parable tells us to do our part by preparing fertile soil in our hearts in which the word of God can germinate, grow, and yield 30-, 60, or 100-fold.

We need to assess our use of the word of God. We need to read the word of God, understand it and put it in practice. That is, having the ability and willingness to apply the message we receive to our daily living. We also need to ask God's special grace to remove all types of blocks, like laziness, anxiety, worries, and any other burdens which can prevent the word of God from influencing and transforming our lives. When we read and reflect on the word of God we have to let it (word of God) transform our lives so that we may see Jesus in all people and share with each of them Jesus' unconditional love, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. We need to keep our lives to be that fertile soil which accepts the word of God and acts on it. We must keep our hearts open to the word of God instead of closing it with pride, prejudice, fear, or indifference. We have to remove from our lives the weeds of evil like bad habits, tendencies of hatred towards others, jealousy, fear, and greed. We should not allow the opinions and voices of this world suffocate and kill the voice of God in us. Our ambitions, or our desires should all be guided by our faith, nourished by the word of God.

In his parable of the sower in today's Gospel, Jesus uses four different soil-types to represent four separate responses people can give to God's saving word. In fact, each one of us may display all four different types of soil at various time in our personal lives. While we desire to be good soil, we know there are times when we are pretty shallow like the depth of soil along the path. There are areas of rock in our lives where God's word has not taken root, and there are areas where God's word finds difficulty in taking root.

But Unlike the situation in nature, we can change the kind of soil that we are with God's grace. Because, God who allows the seed to land on the hard paths, on the rocky ground, and in the thickets of our lives has hope in us and works with and in us so that the seed of his word finds a place to mature and bear the desired fruit.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Isaiah 55:10-11

Responsorial Psalm:

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Second Reading:

Romans 8:18-23

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

Father suggests you say the Prayer for Spiritual Communion during communion time.



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.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mary Heeke, Barbara Vajda, Tommy Garbedian, & Lavonne Pearce



PARISHIONERS

Tommy & Donna Lange, Jack Petralia, Tom Wash, Paul Pearce, Lynn & Jim Vajda, 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, 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

Michele Meanelly, Phil Melancon, Ray Kostaskey, Doris Melancon, Dominick Perry, Kimberly Lavinder, Frank & Gerri Lohrs daughter, Doug Meuse, Michele Brune, Noele & Mike Anglin, Anita Bomberger, 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 & 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

Remy Maine Miller, Jessie Debusk, Ryan & Jeanne Norris, Donna Newcomb, Vickie Hogge, 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.

BIRTHDAY'S FOR JULY



Kathy Kauffman-2nd, Susan Lynch, Lisa Forte & Eileen Wagner-4th,
Leisa DeCollibus-5th, Colin Walsh-6th, Jaxon Wong & Stephanie Selmer-7th,
John Charbeneau-9th, Brendan O'Brien-11th, Mason Andzejczak-12th,
Tessa Stowell-13th, John Weidner-15th, Sal Messina-17th, Bettie Hodge & Andrew
Bury-20th, Kathy Swinehart-21st, Karl Bayer-22nd, Laurie Mears & Fernando Atienza-24th,
Ingrid Borden-27th, Christine Tutak-29th, Bill Harris-30th

ANNIVERSARYS FOR JULY

Bill & Georgia Campbell-7th, Tom & Bea Foley-16th

BICENTENNIAL WEEKEND JULY 11-12TH

Today we are celebrating Bicentennial weekend throughout the Diocese. Our Diocese is the sixth oldest in the United States, and on Saturday at 10:30AM, Bishop Knestout via livestream will celebrate our 200th Anniversary and the ordination of three seminarians. You can view the Mass at www.richmonddiocese.org.

On Sunday, our Mass will have a special setting, a Bicentennial petition during the prayers of the Faithful, and the recitation of the Bicentennial Prayer. Attended to the Bulletin is a letter from the Bishop, and as a courtesy to our parishioners we will again provide in three installments a brief Diocesan History.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

By Father Anthony E. Marques

Although Catholics have always been a minority in Virginia, their roots in the commonwealth extend back four hundred years. A group of Spanish Jesuits planted the seeds of Christian faith near present-day Williamsburg but were soon killed by local inhabitants (1570-1571). Their martyrdom foreshadowed the struggles of the Catholic Church in this territory. In the following centuries, the Church grew slowly amid religious and secular hostility, geographic isolation, economic deprivation, and a chronic lack of priests.

The first organized Catholic communities in Virginia took shape around 1794. At St. Patrick's in Norfolk, a schism or formal division among believers arose over the question of whether lay persons could own Church property and appoint their own pastors (ca. 1794-1812). In an effort to heal the rift, Pope Pius VII established the Diocese of Richmond on July 11, 1820. Formed from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Richmond became the sixth diocese in the United States.

To be continued...



Diocese of Richmond

Office of the Bishop

July 11, 2020

Dear Faithful of the Diocese of Richmond,

Today we commemorate the founding of our local Church two hundred years ago, and we recognize the Catholic presence in the Central Vicariate of our diocese.

The Catholic Church in Virginia experienced a period of turmoil that led Pope Pius VII to establish the Diocese of Richmond on July 11, 1820. Our founding document states that this diocese was created in order to resolve a formal division of believers that had arisen in Norfolk over the ownership of Church property and the appointment of pastors.

According to the text of our charter, "Since it seems to be very expedient for the extinction of the schisms which have arisen in it... We...have established and decreed that... a new... Church... be erected at Richmond... and that it should embrace the whole State of Virginia."

Over the course of the next two centuries, Catholics in the Diocese of Richmond achieved some triumphs and successes, but they also experienced adversity and failure. Throughout this time, the Church persevered. Our bicentennial jubilee is a shrine to that witness of Catholic faith.

The fact that the diocesan bicentennial is taking place at a daunting time reminds us that we are part of this tradition of faith. In the past several months, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has gripped the world. More recently, calls for racial justice have resounded in our country amid social upheaval. In both cases, the Church continues to proclaim the Gospel of Christ's death and resurrection, which impels us to alleviate suffering and hopelessness, and to uphold the dignity of all persons.

This weekend's ordination of two priests and a transitional deacon is a hopeful sign that the work of the Church is ongoing. With gratitude for the establishment of our diocese, and for two hundred years of Catholic witness, I have asked that a special Mass formulary from the *Roman Missal* (For Giving Thanks to God) be used throughout the diocese this weekend.

Like those who have gone before us in faith, may we carry out the work God has entrusted to us, bringing to fulfillment the words of our bicentennial motto: "Shine like stars in the world, as you hold fast to the word of life" (Phil. 2:15-16).

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond

MAIL IN OFFERTORY, AND ON LINE DONATIONS: JULY 5, 2020

Collection: \$ 1,194
Second Collection:
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 1,194
Total Budget Projection: \$ 2,897



We signed the following principal check this week:
\$1,296 Pastor and Rectory Expenses for June.

Our second collection today is for *Parish Beautification*.

As an alternative to mailing us a weekly donation, you can do it online at offertory.richmonddiocese.org. Open the site, select a donation amount and scroll down and select our church. It is a very simple process.



*Today's flowers are donated by Ed and Debby Harriman.
In memory of Debby's sisters;
Cynthia, Phyllis, Patricia-sister in law & Laurie Cowles.*

THANK YOU

Dear Andrea & Visitation fellow parishioners,

I would like to thank, so very much, all of our friends at Visitation for the so nice cards and phone calls after Tom's passing. It has meant so much to me and our children- something we will not forget! We've been with you all as what we call "permanent part-time parish members" for almost 33 years now- it's hard to imagine! While Tom was sick with his cancer for eleven years, it seemed like he only was very sick for about 1 1/2 weeks, so his death seemed sudden to me and our children. But we are so very glad that he didn't have to suffer much at the end of his life and we all were able to be with him.

The children (now ages 50-41) and I have so very many wonderful memories of Deltaville, sailing, the Church of the Visitation with beautiful masses and the Elks Parties, the Breakfast Club and especially all the people there. It would not be fitting if we didn't thank you again and again for being a wonderful part of our lives for so long! We do hope to be back to visit every now and then. Should anyone wish to keep in touch via a more updated phone # my cell is 434-962-3306 or my email shepherdlynn456@gmail.com

Thank you very much and Peace,

Lynn Shepherd

CHURCH INFORMATION

Our hours for prayer when the church is open are Wednesday and Thursday from 9AM-12:00.

Church attendance was 35 this past Sunday with several guests. This coming week the Mass is for parishioners in Group A-K with allowance for visitors, household guests, and special cases such as assigned ministers. The important thing to remember is to notify the office if you or your guest are planning to attend Mass and are not in the proper alphabetical grouping.

We continue to offer daily Mass on Wednesdays for anyone who desires to attend.

Thanks to your generosity we will continue to decorate the Altar with flowers provided by parishioner Evelyn Scott. If you want to donate towards that expense, please send us \$25 and we will recognize our contribution in the bulletin. As you are aware, it's an appropriate way to honor you loved ones.

We have harped incessantly about the safe way to receive communion, and we believe it's working well, so please continue what you are doing.

A safe environment is a necessity, and we strive to establish it. If you have a suggestion to improve it, please mention it to Father or the office we are far from infallible in this regard.

If you are a lector or community leader and want to be active again, notify your team leader.

We want to reemphasize that you are under no obligation to attend Mass. If you choose to, we welcome your participation. Livestreaming will continue indefinitely for those who cannot attend or choose not to. Thank you and may God continue to Bless You.

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY FROM FATHER GERRY

All people were created equal and free by God, but sometimes to gain this freedom especially from our fellow human beings we have to fight for it. That is why Independence Day is one of the important days in the history of any country.

4th of July is therefore an important day in the United States. On this day we celebrate the values on which this Nation is founded. Unity, Liberty, Freedom for all and of course One Nation under God.

Let us pray that the Lord continues to bless our Nation with peace and love. That all of us and especially our leaders, will strive to work for justice for all, and that we take care of one another especially the weakest in our society.

Let us also remember with gratitude the sacrifices of those men and women who fought and those still fighting for the peace and freedom we enjoy today.

