



PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

As we deal with semi-normalcy in the election of three new parish council members for three year terms. This Sunday and next, we are soliciting the Nomination of Prospective members. Attached to the Bulletin is a form which you can use to nominate others or yourself. If you are technically proficient, you can save the form, fill it out and return it to us by e-mail.

You can also send us an e-mail with a simple statement indicating your choice of names. A third method would be to send us a note through the mail system. After two weeks, we will publish a list of these nominated and give you an opportunity, if nominated, to remove your name. Please participate in this request so we can have a formidable slate of nominees to choose from in October when we vote.

MANY THANKS

Vera England recently completed an update to our rich church history covering the last four years. Our history document is a treasured informational piece written by Vera and her creative pen.

We also thank Bob Borden for repairing the door leading to the nave from the administrative wing. It no longer groans and squeaks.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Approximately two weeks are left to participate in the Census.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data.

The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. If you have not participated as yet, you can do so by going on line to (or click icon) www.my2020census.gov or calling 1-844-330-2020.

NEW INITIATIVE IN THE BULLETIN

We are introducing a new initiative in the bulletin this week which allows you to instantly go to a website or email via a hyperlink. A *Hyperlink* is a word, email or picture in a document that allows you to visit a designated webpage or website. We will use the Census icon as an example: Hover your arrow over the Census icon, click, and you are directly taken to the census website.

The other hyperlinks that you can explore are the *Diocese of Richmond*, *Church of the Visitation*, *Hands Across Middlesex*, and *Respect for Life*. Give it a try.



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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 20, 2020
Year A

The parable in today's Gospel might mean different things to different people, and to some even confusing. Try as we may, it is impossible to justify the payment of the workers as the vineyard owner did. It could hardly be said to be fair. Yes, the owner is generous to the last comers, but why is he not generous to the others as well?

But the core message of this parable is to be found and understood from God's word to Isaiah in the first reading: "My thoughts are not your thoughts nor are your ways my ways." The Parable of the vineyard workers is not to be taken as a blueprint for our labor laws, it is about the abundance of God's Graces and Mercy. The generosity of our God is unlimited especially for those in need. This is how we must understand this parable.

The owner of the vineyard looks at the needs of these people. These laborers were poor and depended on this Denarius (which was the accepted daily wage because it covered the day's needs of one's family) to feed their families. Even though they worked different hours but in the end all needed to take care of their families, so the land owner pays them the same, in that way, sustenance is provided to all even to those who worked for one hour.

This parable is also in opposition to the mentality and teaching of that time about Salvation. In Jesus' time Judaism had reached a legalistic state, and the mentality was prevalent that salvation is earned by following only those sets of actions taught in the synagogues. The people were divided into two classes, the righteous who followed the letter of the law, and the unrighteous, outcasts despised because they were not legalistically follow the law as taught by the religious leaders. It was this perception of God that Jesus opposed by his emphasis on love, for in love there is no calculation of duties, rights and obligations; there is only an open-handed giving without counting the cost, and a grateful receiver. We can never say that we have earned our salvation, or anything from God, but can only stand in gratitude before him. The latest workers in the vineyard have not earned what the owner gives them, and the mistake of their envious colleagues is to think that they deserved more from the owner.

We ought not to fall into the same trap as the Pharisees thinking that we somehow deserve the generous love of God more than anybody else. What we are meant to understand from this parable is the tremendous generosity of God who care for all his people and is ready to receive and forgive anyone who seek him. All those who respond to his call, not matter when, he will answer them and come to their aid.

It is not for us to determine who qualifies to enter the Kingdom. God issues the invitations and he is the gate-keeper; he alone has the authority and the knowledge to make such a judgement. The message of this parable is that we are all equal recipients of God's gifts. Jesus' parable highlights the goodness and generosity of God. As the ultimate "landowner," God will use what has always belonged to the Creator for the good of all without discrimination. God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness are God's to give away as He sees fit.

Our task is not to be constantly looking over our shoulder, "trying to see who is getting more than us", but rather to rejoice in the task that we have been given to proclaim his love to the world and to live a life worthy of his name. What he wants is for us to fulfil the task allotted to us and to do so with a joyful heart. Not only should we be rejoicing in our own task but we should be full of gladness that God continues to call ever more people into his vineyard and that he will carry on doing this right up to the fifty-ninth minute of the eleventh hour.



Very Reverend Gerald Kagwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading:

Isaiah 55:6-9

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

Second Reading:

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a

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

Robin



PARISHIONERS

Suzanne Sitterding, Veronica O'Leary, Michele Meanely, Donna Lange, Jack Petralia, Tom Wash, Paul Pearce, Lynn & Jim Vajda, Min Tassone, John McCormack, Grace Anderson, Natalie Smith, Lorie & Sal Messina, 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

Aquela Parker, Khloe Nipper, Bernie Smith, Virginia Talke, 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, Mary Gray, Denis Popp, PJ Schwedler, John Calvin Barnard, Sal Messina Jr., Colleen O'Rollins, Michael Reamy, 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

Cathy Kirkland, Steve Sohles, 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

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List please contact the office by email or phone.

MAIL IN OFFERTORY, AND ON LINE DONATIONS: SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Collection: \$ 3,398
Second Collection: Uganda School \$ 1,175
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 23,408
Total Budget Projection: \$ 24,320



There is no second collection this week.

We signed the following principal check this week:
\$776 Pastor and Rectory Expenses for August; \$260 Lawn Care.

As an alternative to mailing us a weekly donation, you can visit our website www.church-of-the-visitation.org. Click the Red Donation button, select our church, a donation amount and fill in the information. Use the green secure button and done.

WEBSITE PATIENCE

The new website debuted on Sunday, August 30th. The format makes the site compatible with easy viewing on you cellphone. In order to meet a tight deadline, it was decided to transfer most of the data from the old website to the new without doing a complete update at this time. Over the nest few months changes will be made to bring the website up to current events and to correct historical data. There are limitations to how much information can be published on the website before making it overwhelming to maintain and keep updated, so a definite need must be established before an item will be included for publication. Your comments will be appreciated and can be e-mailed to churchofthevisitaion@va.metrocast.net



Thank you Mike Dreelin for all your dedication and hard work to COV.



SCAM ALERT FROM DIOCESE

Two weekends ago, IT was alerted to yet another scam email making the rounds. This one pretends to be from the Bishop (via a bogus gmail account) asking for Steam gift cards. Please note that neither the Bishop nor any other Diocesan official will EVER ask you for gift cards via email. These scams continue to be perpetuated because they continue to work. We ask that you do not reply to such emails, click on links within those emails or download content in them. If you receive help requests that you think are legitimate, verify that the person is legitimate **by calling them directly on another known valid number**. Don't ask the emailer for information or a call. Find an offline method of correspondence that you and that person have used in the past to talk with each other.

BIRTHDAY'S FOR SEPTEMBER



Genji Katsuki & Maddox Derdock-2nd, Minn Tassone-3rd, Larry Miller-4th, Jose Angeles Frias-5th, Mary Sychterz-9th, Eileen O'Brien 10th, Christopher Kirsch-11th, Terry Hess-13th, John Moore 14th, Cherianne Johnson, Cindy Jessee, & Dolores Powers 15th, Shelley Katsuki, Wayne Toney & Pattie Sobieski-20th, Emily Filippi-21st, Joyce Ballato-22nd, Kris Scherrer-23rd, Maria Tyrrell-26th, Richard Siford-29th, John & Kevin Walsh-30th.



ANNIVERSARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER

John & Diane Weidner-8th, Steve & Loraine Kirsch-10th, Bryan & Jennifer Mller-12th, Genji & Shelley Katsuki-17th, Jim & Lynn Vjda-14th.

BICENTENNIAL OCTAVE OF SERVICE

As we continue to celebrate The Bicentennial Anniversary of our Diocese, on the weekend of September 26th & 27th the whole diocese will be celebrating A Third Special Mass in honor of Saint Vincent de Paul the Patron Saint of Diocese. Bishop Barry Knestout will celebrate a special Mass at St. Andrew's Church in Roanoke on Saturday, September 26th at 10:30 AM. This Mass will be livestreamed on the Diocesan website.

And in a special and more concrete way, all parishes and communities in the Diocese are invited to participate in the Octave of Service from September 27th, the feast day of Saint Vincent de Paul, to October 4th. An Octave of Service is a week-long opportunity for each one of us to carry out various forms of outreach in our communities and parish.

For us, The Church of the Visitation, we suggest the following activities: A special collection of food items. You can drop your food donations at the Church on Tuesday September 29th, Wednesday September 30th and Thursday October 1st from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

On Wednesday, September 30th, all parishioners who are able are invited to join us working at the Church, cleaning the yard, children's playground and flower and tree beds. Bring any tools you can use; we will be pruning, mulching and picking weeds. The day will begin with Mass at 9AM, 9:30 to 12:30 work.

Also on Wednesday, September 30th we will need volunteers to work at the Cryer Center in the clothing barn from 12:00 – 2 PM.

It is my hope that you will find time to participate in some of these activities as a sign of our gratitude to the Lord for his goodness to our Diocese in the last 200 years.

May our loving God bless you all and keep you safe.

Fr. Gerry



RESPECT FOR LIFE

We Americans have shared many years of pride for our country and accomplishments. We have also suffered pain in the loss of thousands of our military who died to keep us safe. We have survived the Great Depression and many, many storms such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and earthquakes through the years.

But we still have the biggest hurdle of all. We need to abolish abortion once and for all! It is the killing of tiny innocent babies in the womb of their mothers. Babies are a precious gift from God. And no one has the right to kill them! They used to be safe in their mother's womb. But since 1973 when abortions were made legal it has become the most dangerous place for a baby to be. *All the baby wants is to be loved and cherished.*



BICENTENNIAL OCTAVE OF SERVICE

To commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Diocese, all parishes will participate in an octave of service for one week from Sept. 27th, The Feast Day of Saint Vincent De Paul, to October 4th. Although many of our parishioners are active in the community in various ways, we are planning to devote one day that week to community service for the church and community. Our service day will be Wednesday Sept. 30th. After Mass that day, we are asking parishioners to join us in a myriad of church projects outside like weeding, putting down mulch, and trash pick up in the immediate vicinity of the church. Joe and Mary Sychterz will be in charge of that aspect of our service through the morning. In the afternoon we ask parishioners to join Germaine Hayes from 12-2PM at the Cryer Center Clothing Barn to sort and price clothing. If you can help us on this special day, call Joe and Mary at 804-815-0353 if you want to help at the church and Germaine at 804-815-3182 if you can help at the Cryer Center. Our final effort that week will be a special food collection for the needy. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 9-2PM. You can bring your donation to the church and place it in the container located under the alcove.



FLU VACCINATION - COMMUNITY SERVICE

Hands Across Middlesex (Cryer Center) will be providing this service, free of any charge on the schedule below. Please note this service is available to ALL residents eight years old and above. The Flu shot will be professionally administered by a R.N. in a drive-through venue. No appointment is required, and all participants should wear a mask.

September 22nd and October 13th - 10:00AM to 4:00PM

Side note: busiest time for the center is 10AM-12 Noon



CHURCH INFORMATION

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

Church attendance was 42 this past Sunday with 9 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 and Thursdays @9AM for anyone who desires to attend.

We continue to repeat much of this information weekly as a constant reminder to parishioners of our protocols and expected behaviors. We are heartened by your willingness to adhere to these procedures which have allowed us to successfully celebrate Mass up to now for all in person and at home.

Thank you to everyone and may God continue to Bless Us All!

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS 9/20

Lector: Becky & Spike Nunn

Community Leader: Debby Harriman

SUNDAY MUSIC SELECTIONS

Come to the Water-J. Foley

Prayer of St. Francis-Oracin de San Francisco

Take Christ to the World-Scott Soper

Lift Up Your Hearts-Roc O'Connor

We are grateful to everyone who helped & participated in Mary Heeke's Celebration of Life at her graveside service Saturday, September 12th. She will be dearly missed.

Many Thanks, Lynn & Germaine

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE AND DONATE TO THE PURCHASE OF BIBLES FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

Our own Becky Nunn is Ms. Virginia Senior World and she is asking you to VOTE for her in the People's Choice contest for contestants from the United States. Each vote is \$1 and the money will be used to buy Bibles for Third World Countries. Please Vote for Becky at the website below. Click to vote under her picture. She's currently in first place-let's keep her there. Thanks and multiple votes are deeply appreciated! Just click here www.pageantplanet.com and it will direct you to the pageant website page.

