

### PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

The following persons have been nominated for election to the Parish Council:

Cathy Davenport	Bill Puttmann
Lynne Dreelin	Mary Ellen Sherwood
Kevin Hayes	Barbara Smith
Charlie Hock	Kathy Swinehart
Cindy Jessee	Joe Sychterz
Tom Jessee	Mary Sychterz
Shelley Katsuki	Carol Walsh
Jack King	Chuck Walsh
Marianne Krop	



The list will be active for one more week, during which time the nominees who choose not to run have an opportunity to cross their name off the list. This can be done in three ways, call the office, send an email, or do it in person when coming to Mass.

### MASSES OF THE RESURRECTION

A week ago Tuesday we celebrated a Mass of Resurrection for parishioner Dave Marchant who had passed away two Fridays ago. The Mass was livestreamed and 94 family and friends attended in person. A loyal parishioner, usher, knight, and former member of the Parish Council, Dave was a pillar of service to the community. Our prayers are with Pat and family.

*Rest in  
Peace*

Also this past Wednesday we celebrated a Mass of Resurrection for Carter "Randy" Williams. 39 close family and friends attended and the Mass was livestreamed. Randy was the spouse of our long time parishioner Peggy, father of Christine and grandfather of Brennan Williams. Our prayers are with Peggy, Christine and Brennan as well as the rest of the family.

### WEBSITE FACEBOOK FOR LIVESTREAMING INFORMATION

You may view the Facebook page whether you have a Facebook Account or not by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchoftheVisitation.ToppingVA/>

It may ask you to sign in (don't) it will begin to play when we go live approximately 2 minutes before the 9AM Mass starts.

### 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 Respect for Life icon as an example: Hover your arrow over the Icon, click, and you are directly taken to the Respect for Life website.

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



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October 11, 2020

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

## 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time

October 11, 2020

Today's theme is an invitation into God's Goodness. His Kingdom is like a feast, a banquet. The reading from Isaiah depicts a great banquet. The psalm is the familiar Good Shepherd passage. In the excerpt from Paul's letter he thanks the Philippians for their support and reflects on God meeting one's needs. The Gospel is the parable of a great feast to which those who are originally invited respond with a variety of excuses. Subsequently anyone that can be found is invited. But then we are warned to be ready, to constantly be wearing the *wedding garment, which means*, remaining in a state of grace by following God's will and by doing good.

Prophet Isaiah in the first reading, promises the beleaguered people of Israel that not only will their lives be filled with food and comfort but "the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face." This offered the hope that Israel would someday be able to say to God, "let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" And this joy in the Lord is not for a few but for all his people. Prophet Isaiah says in the reading God was preparing a banquet for all people. At this banquet, prepared for all peoples, Isaiah saw a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy and pure.

Psalm 23 which is our responsorial psalm this Sunday, presents God as our shepherd, carrying us with gentle love, guiding us through green valleys and refreshing waters. It paints a picture of a life with God where "only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life."

In the second reading, St. Paul advises the Philippians to put their trust in the power and goodness of a providing God, Who, in Jesus, has given everything His followers will need, especially he will reward those who do what is good and are kind to others: "My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

In the Gospel we hear the parable of the king who gave a wedding feast for His Son, but his invitations were not honored. When he extended the invitation to the people in the streets, "they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests." But one of the guests did not dress in a wedding garment. The king orders, "Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth." We all like being invited to social occasions. We enjoy the good company, the fellowship and of course the fine food. But there is one feast to which we are all invited, the greatest feast of them all, the banquet of the Lord, in his kingdom. Yes, we are all invited, but we should be prepared, putting on our "wedding garments" all the time, such that whenever that invitation comes and wherever it finds us, we are ready. This takes us back to the day of our baptism. Remember, we were given a white garment and told to keep it clean until the day the Lord will come. Each one of us must strive to keep this garment: our souls, our lives, clean so that when the Lord comes and invites us to his banquet, we are ready. How do we keep our wedding garment clean and ready for the Lord? It is by living good lives that show we are worthy to be invited to that feast. If we are not properly clothed, not living good Christian lives, God in his great mercy has given us the means of washing our clothes, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and many other ways which the Church offers in order to keep us focused in our faith.

We keep our wedding garment clean and wearing it constantly by living in holiness and righteousness, being in the state of grace, all the time, do good for everyone. To constantly be in a wedding garment and being ready for the God's invitation is to live as St. Paul tells in his letter to the Colossians: "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all this put-on love, that is, the bond of perfection". (Col. 3:12-14)



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

## TODAY'S MASS

### 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a

Responsorial Psalm:

*I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

Second Reading:  
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

*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

Carter Williams, Dave Marchant, Jane Eyring & Harry Sikora

### PARISHIONERS

Suzanne Sitterding, Veronica O'Leary, Michele Meanelly, Donna Lange, Jack & Louise 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

Pam Tibbs, Sherry Newton, Aquela Parker, Khloe Nipper, Bernie Smith, Virginia Talke, Phil Melancon, Ray Kostosky, 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, Joseph Gascoigne, John Vajda, Sandy Alter, Andy & Iris Hetzer.

### FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Paula Harcum, 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 Panzer, Linda Cryer, Tyra Freed, Valerie McCarthy, Joan & John Rychtarik.

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: OCTOBER 4, 2020

Collection: \$ 3,061  
Second Collection:  
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 30,458  
Total Budget Projection: \$ 31,417



There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal check this week:  
\$1,760 Pastor and Rectory Expenses for September.



As an alternative to mailing us a weekly donation, you can visit our website [www.church-of-the-visitation.org](http://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.

### BIRTHDAY'S FOR OCTOBER



1st-Anne Baltrusaitis, Kevin Hayes, Charles Walsh & Dot Edwards,  
3rd-Bryan & Cayden Miller, 4th-Jean Kostaskey, 8th-Bill Campbell,  
9th-Peg Meushaw, 12th-Diane Weidner, 13th-Marilynne Cerullo,  
15th-Fr. Gerry Kaggwa, 16th-Mary Malone Johnson,  
17th-Lois Farrell & Alexia Quinn, 18th-Fredrick Johnson &  
Jerome Andrzejczak, 19th-Tom Jessee, 20th-Len Swinehart,  
23rd-Blair Pausic & Becky Nunn, 24th Tony Robusto & Mary Beth Andrzejczak,  
26th-Vincent Recupido, 27th-Tom Dorman, Jan Smith, 29th-Nathalie Smith,  
30th-JoAnn Nolte.

### ANNIVERSARY DATES FOR OCTOBER



5th-Kevin & Germaine Hayes, Michael & Joyce Ballato,  
7th-Lee & Barbara Hollingsworth & John & Pattie Sobieski,  
10th-John & Andrea Moore, 25th-James & Cathy Davenport,  
27th-Steve & Lisa Forte

### HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF

We are in the middle of the hurricane season and already have witnessed the devastations caused in the Gulf of Mexico. The wild-fires on the West Coast have added to the tragic loss of life and heart breaking experiences suffered by many. The Bishop asked that we consider a special collection for on going disaster relief efforts but because of the challenges of COVID-19, gave the option to the parishes of considering a gift from Parish Funds designated for charitable works in lieu of a special collection.

We chose to donate \$250 from our Parish Pence Fund instead of a special collection. The fund is robust at this time, and because of government restrictions against utility shutoffs and household evictions, has not experienced a significant drawdown in recent months.



### October is Pro-Life Month

"Every life is sacred." This is the basis for the Church's stand against abortion and any other form of taking a human life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that: "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being". (Cat. #2258)

It belongs therefore, to every person to defend human life, As Christians, we should be the conscious of the world, affirming that every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity from the day that life is conceived to its natural end.

Every human being, even a child in the mother's womb has a right to life directly from God and not from the parents or from any society or authority. Hence there is no man, no human authority, no science, social, economic or moral 'indication' that can offer or produce a valid juridical title to a direct deliberate disposal of an innocent human life; that is to say, a disposal that aims at its destruction whether as an end or as a means to another end.

Therefore, the direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. Destruction of innocent human life must always be opposed.

All our struggles and outcry for human rights such as: the right to health, to work, to shelter, to family, and many more, will be false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right is not protected and respected.

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

Fr. Gerry





## RESPECT LIFE

All of October is Respect Life Month.

"I believe that life is valuable, even when it is unwanted, even when it is physically imperfect. I believe our society has a responsibility to defend the vulnerable and the weak. And I believe our nation should set a goal that unborn children should be welcomed in life and protected in law."

*President George W. Bush at the signing ceremony for Texas' Parental Notification Law (June 7, 1999)*

I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. ...But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. ...The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."

*Pope Saint John Paul II, Evangelium vitae, no. 99. © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana.  
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## ST NOA NEWS

Father Gerry just sent \$5000 from the Uganda fund to Uganda for the purchase of radios for St Noa's school. Because of the pandemic, the students are unable to attend classes at the school. The radios will be used to provide the students a virtual learning experience similar to what our students are having with computers.

## SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS October 11, 2020

Lector: Mary Ellen Sherwood & Louise Petralia

Community Leader: Gary Richardson



## 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. **October 13<sup>th</sup>-10:00AM to 4:00PM**  
Cryer Center, 7485 General Puller Highway, Locust Hill.



## CHURCH INFORMATION

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

Church attendance was 63 this past Sunday with 8 guests. This coming week the Mass is for **parishioners in Group L-Z** 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 Wednesday and Thursday @9AM for anyone who desires to attend.**

*Our local provider of fresh flowers, parishioner Evelyn Scott, is out of flowers until next Spring. We thoroughly enjoyed her beautiful bouquets which added to the Altar and look forward to the spring for this reason, among many others.*

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

## CHURCH GROUND CLEAN UP

*The grounds once again appear pristine and eye-engaging. Father Gerry is proud of the effort put forth by the parishioners to make our church as beautiful on the outside as it is spiritually within the parishioners' hearts.*

We would like to put out a big **THANK YOU** to all those who worked on the clean up of the church gardens:

*Gerri & Frank Lohr, Lynne & Gary Richardson,  
John Weidner, Lynn Dreelin, John McCormack, Carol Smith, Tom  
Hawsworth, Eileen O'Brien, Mary Ellen Sherwood, Kevin Haves,  
Donna & Bill Brandl, Steve & Chris Kirsch, Joe Brinkley, Andrea  
Moore, Ray Kostas, Debby Harriman Kathy Kauffman, Jerry  
Suyes & Father Gerry.*

*A special hug and thanks goes out to Joe and Mary Sychterz who coordinated this united effort.*