

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

This is the final list of those individuals who consented to run for election to the Council. Each parishioner over the age of 16 is entitled to vote and attached to the bulletin is a ballot for your use. We have three vacancies to fill so you can vote for up to three persons.

We will conduct the election over two weekends, and you can vote in several ways:

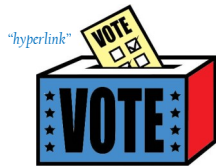
Fill in the ballot and send to us electronically (*vote box is a hyperlink to COV email*)

Fill in the ballot and bring it to church on one of the next two Sundays depositing it in the collection basket

Fill it in and drop it off at the office with face mask on anytime during working hours

Fill it in and mail it to us (P.O. Box 38, Topping 23169)

Call us with your choices



Although we inherently trust all of our parishioners, please sign your ballot so we can avoid an inadvertent stuffing.

Cathy Davenport, Kevin Hayes, Charlie Hock,
Cindy Jesse, Shelley Katsuki, Jack King, Marianne Krop,
Bill Puttmann, Mary Ellen Sherwood, Barbara Smith,
Kathy Swinehart, Mary Sychterz.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



All Souls Day

In commemoration of All Souls Day, we will celebrate a Mass in the cemetery at 11AM. The choir will participate and all parishioners are welcome, irrespective of alphabetical names. If you are planning to attend, please bring a chair to sit on.

YARD SALE RECEIPTS



The Cryer Center gave us a check for \$2,180 a week ago representing our share of parishioners' donations of goods to the Center which are subsequently sold. We thank those parishioners who are remembering to remind the Center that they belong to COV when donating items of value there.

THANK YOU

We are so very grateful to all who participated in anyway for Dave Marchant's & Randy William's Masses of the Resurrection. We have a very special Church of the Visitation family who can lean on each other when unexpected events occur. Blessings...

Lynn & Germaine Sacramental Ministry



The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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Topping, Virginia 23169 Phone: 804-758-5160

E-Mail: churchofthevisitation@va.metrocast.net

Website: www.church-of-the-visitation.org

Pastor: Gerald Kaggwa Rectory: 804-286-9271



October 25, 2020

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

The most important duty of any Christian and indeed of any human being is to respond to God's love for us by loving Him, and then to express that love in action by loving those we come in contact with. Our love for God is tested and put into practice by the way we love our neighbor.

Our Readings this Sunday are reminding us of this greatest responsibility. The first reading, taken from Exodus explains the second greatest commandment, namely, loving one's neighbors, especially the underprivileged. The chosen people of Israel should remember that once they were aliens in the land of Egypt. Just as God protected them and treated them kindly, so they are to protect others and treat them with kindness. To become a humane society, we must love our neighbor as an expression of our love for God.

In the Gospel today, Jesus combines the commandment to love God with the commandment to love one's neighbor and these two become the one Commandment of supreme importance in Christian life. Jesus underlines the principle that we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves because, as God's children, both of us bear God's image, and to honor God's image is to honor Him. Love for our neighbor should not be a matter of feelings, but of deeds by which we share with others the unmerited love that God lavishes on us. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" this is what the Pharisees asked Jesus. The Jewish people had "613 mitzvot" (commandments or laws) to observe, given to them in different times, among these are the Ten Commandments. Jesus summarized everything into two great commandments: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

This response of Jesus is two quotations from different parts of the Jewish law, the Torah. The first quotation came from the Sacred Jewish Prayer called the *Shema Israel*. "Hear this, O Israel, God is One. You shall love your God with your whole heart, your whole soul and your whole mind." This is from the sixth chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy 6:5 and it is recited as a prayer by pious Jews every morning and evening. This is called the heart of Israel's covenant commitment with God. In fact, devout Jews attach what they call a "mezuzah" to their door posts, containing this very text. Some wear it round their necks. The second quotation came from the Book of Leviticus, 19:18, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, in response to His total love for us, means that we should place God's will ahead of ours, seek the Lord's will in all things and make it paramount in our lives. There are several means by which we can express our love for God and our gratitude to Him for His blessings, acknowledging our total dependence on Him. We must keep God's Commandments, and offer daily prayers of thanksgiving and praise for all that he does for us.

The love for our neighbor is rooted in seeing God's image in each of them. Since every human being is the child of God. Because God loved us first, we respond to this love by loving our neighbor. This means we need to help, support, encourage, forgive, and pray for everyone without discrimination based on color, race, religion, gender, age, wealth, or social status. We also express love through encouragement and by helping others to grow. We express our love for our neighbor by using the talents and blessings that God has given us to comfort each other, to teach each other and to share the Gospel with each other, in deeds and in words. For Jesus, love for God and love for others are two aspects of the same call. For loving the Lord my God with all my heart and soul, is inseparable from loving my neighbor as myself.

With these two commandments, Jesus is giving us the real heart and foundation of a Christian life, a life based on love of God and our neighbor. Love is the basis of all that we do, what believe, what we confess. That is why He says: "The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments". Meaning that, whatever we are supposed to do has to be inspired by love.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggywa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

Responsorial Psalm:

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

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

Ruth Gascoigne, Bill Melvin, & Lil Loyd



PARISHIONERS

Sandi Delagrang, Suzanne Sitterding, Veronica O'Leary, Michele Meanely, Donna Lange, Jack & Louise Petralia, Tom Wash, Paul Pearce, Lynn & Jim Vajda, Min Tassone, 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 18, 2020

Collection:	\$ 2,194
Second Collection: World Missions	\$ 122
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 34,616
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 35,928



There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal check this week:
\$1,310 Song Books for 2021.



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.

BIRTHDAY'S FOR NOVEMBER



3rd-Keith Gulick & Bob Chmiel, 11th-Steven Forte, 16th-Skip Kramb & Charlotte Johnson, 19th-Cathy Davenport, 21st-Kelly McMurtrie & Branch Meanley, 22nd-Lorie Messina, 24th-Dave Filippi, 27th-Laurie King & Lynne Dreeclin, 28th-Bill Gray, 29th-Bill Brandl, 30th- Andrea Moore & Mary Foley.



ANNIVERSARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

7th-Keith & Mary Ann Gulick, 29th-Aldo & Leisa DeCollibus

THE GREAT AWAKENING IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY

On Sunday, October 25, at 4:00 PM the Middlesex County Museum and Historical Society will sponsor a Zoom lecture on the Great Awakening.

The Reverend Dr. Robert W. Prichard will speak on
"The Great Awakening and its Effects on Middlesex County."

The Great Awakening was a mid-18th century American religious revival that was a part of a broader revival in Protestant churches in Germany, the Netherlands, the British Isles, the thirteen American colonies, and South Africa. The Awakening had a lasting effect on the shape of American life. Historians have long argued, for example, that it led to religious pluralism, shaped the character of African-American religion, cemented the common identity of the thirteen colonies as distinct from British colonies in Canada and the Caribbean, and contributed to the American Revolution.

Dr. Prichard is the Arthur Lee Kinsolving Professor Emeritus of Christianity in America at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. He is the former president of the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church and is the author or editor of ten books.

A question and answer period will follow the lecture.

To request the Zoom link or telephone dial-in number for this lecture, please email the Middlesex Museum at middlesexmuseum@va.metrocast.net or call 804-758-3663.

TO LOVE OTHERS AS OURSELVES

This Sunday's readings have a message which speaks directly to our current frustrations and perhaps even to our fears and hopelessness. It challenges us to step back and view our world as God sees it and then to respond as he would respond, with love.

The Jewish people we hear of in the reading from Exodus, had been going through incredible hardships in Egypt and the Lord was now providing deliverance for them. As they left Egypt, however, their troubles did not all of a sudden come to an end. There continued to be challenges, each of which resulted in many losing their focus upon God and His many blessings. Their focus turned into themselves, complaining about how unfair their circumstances seemed to be. With COVID and everything else that we are encountering today, it certainly seems that we have much in common with those Israelites.

So how did God choose to respond? He simply, patiently reminded them how they should be living their lives – by FOCUSING on the needs of others. Those others included aliens (perhaps that might translate to those in our lives with differing viewpoints), those facing crises (today that would include both medically and financially), and those with basic food, clothing, and shelter needs. God reminds them (and us) that He hears the cries of those in need and that there are consequences if we fail to show compassion.

Jesus in the Gospel, while He responded to the Pharisees' question that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind, Jesus went on to emphasize the second commandment that "you shall love your neighbor as yourself". He also noted that "the whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." All those in each of our lives represent the "neighbors" that Jesus was talking about. The simple truth is that we have a holy obligation to respond with love and compassion to those God has placed in our lives.

The point for us, however, is that even in difficult times, following Jesus' example of focusing on others will produce positive results. Of course this serves as an effective model for all believers. Allowing our faith in God to keep us focused on others will allow us to make a profound impact for God.

Father Gerry



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

THE HANDS FOOD PANTRY-SERVING MIDDLESEX

If you or someone you know may benefit from our services, PLEASE come, or refer them to our Food Pantry. Each month you can receive about 100 pounds or more of groceries that include:

- * 25 to 50 pounds of canned and dry goods
- * 6 to 15 pounds of meat
- * 20 to 50 pounds of fresh produce
- * 4-8 Bakery & Desert items
- * Specialty items like paper goods



Registration is easy, free, and NO paperwork is needed. Food Pantries are open the following day/times and new clients are always welcomed. Emergency deliveries are available.
804-758-2044

FOOD PANTRY SCHEDULE

- * 1st Tuesday at Union Shiloh Baptist Church, Rt. 17 in upper-Middlesex: 9AM to 11AM.
- * 1st Saturday at Clarksbury Methodist Church, Gen. Puller Hwy-Deltaville 9AM-11AM.
- * 2nd Tuesday at the Cryer Center: 10AM-4PM
- * 3rd Tuesday at Urbanna Baptist Church: 9AM-11AM
- * 4th Tuesday at the Cryer Center: 10AM to 4PM

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Hyperlink



“Cardinal O’Connor preached most powerfully by his example the necessity of seeing in every human being, from the first moment of conception to the last moment of natural death and every moment in between...the image of a God to be loved and served. What a great legacy he has left us in his constant reminder that the Church must be always unambiguously Pro-Life.”

Cardinal Bernard Law, in his homily delivered at the funeral of New York’s Cardinal John O’Connor.

DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2020

As the culmination of our bicentennial celebration, the Diocese of Richmond will host its first Eucharistic Congress, which will begin on Friday, November 6, 2020 and ending on Saturday, November 7, 2020. Instead of gathering at the Greater Richmond

Convention Center as planned, we will organize a Virtual Congress and a series of synchronized events in parishes. The Virtual congress will include keynote addresses, live interviews and commentary, a virtual Holy Hour, and live discussions which you are encouraged to participate in from your home.

A Eucharistic Congress is a gathering of clergy, religious, and laity to bear witness to the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. This event will bring together clergy, religious, and laity from parishes, schools, and campus ministries from across the Diocese of Richmond.

Detailed information about this event and how to participate may be found at the link below: 2020.richmonddiocese.org/ec



7 IMPORTANT REASONS TO HAVE A WILL

Seven out of 10 of us DO NOT have a will!! What are we thinking? No will? Do we not care what happens to those assets we will leave behind?

Did you know:

Without a will, your state’s laws-not you-determine how, when and to whom your property is distributed?

You can reduce (or perhaps even eliminate) estate taxes and save taxes in a survivor’s estate?

You can name your executor to manage and settle your estate?

You can designate beneficiaries for items such as heirlooms, art objects, jewelry or real estate?

You may create trusts to provide for your spouse, children and others?

You can be a blessing to COV through a bequest, which is simple, flexible and tax-deductible?

With a will, you can designate the guardian you wish for those under your care?



Potential, Purpose, Promise

FATHER GERRY’S BIRTHDAY

A week ago Thursday we celebrated Father Gerry’s Birthday with a small gathering after Daily Mass. We thank Lynn Vajda for arranging it. Please share your birthday thoughts with Father when convenient.



CHURCH INFORMATION

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

Church attendance was 40 this past Sunday with guests. This coming week the Mass is for **parishioners in Group L-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 Wednesday and Thursday @9AM for anyone who desires to attend.

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



BREAKING GOOD NEWS

After our many trips to the Diocesan Building and Renovation Commission, and upon its recommendation, the Bishop signed the contract to move ahead with the construction of a new worship area. In commemoration of the event, we will hold an Outdoor Mass on Sunday, November 1st, for ALL PARISHIONERS and once again listen to the melodious tones from our choir.

The Mass will be held in the approximate location of the new worship area and you are asked to bring a chair to sit on. Immediately afterwards, we will have a ground breaking ceremony to mark the beginning of construction. In the event of inclement weather, we will celebrate the event on Sunday, November 8th.



November 1st

CHURCH GROUND CLEAN UP

We forgot to mention in our blurbs that the Knights and Jerry Suyes donated the money to defray the cost of the mulch that now adorns our gardens.

Here’s another look at the final results. Thank you all!

