

## THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

*With Advent coming to a close, we shift our emphasis to the season of Christmas.*

“After the annual celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Nativity of the Lord and of his first manifestations, and this takes place in Christmas Time” (Norms, §32).

The Church begins its celebration of the Nativity of the Lord from First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) through the Baptism of the Lord. (January 10th.)

Christmas vigil masses on December 24th may not begin earlier than 4:00 PM EST, as mandated by Diocesan Policy.

Four Masses are assigned for the Solemnity of Christmas:

- a Vigil Mass
- a Mass during the Night (historically referred to as the “Mass of the Angels”)
- a Mass at Dawn (historically referred to as the “Mass of the Shepherds”)
- a Mass during the Day (historically referred to as the “Mass of the Incarnate Word”).

These titles were given because of the proper Gospels assigned to each of the Masses. While the “ORDO” (*Order of Prayer for Liturgy of the Hours and the Celebration of the Eucharist*) contains a pastoral note stating that the readings of any of the Christmas Masses may be used according to the pastoral needs of each celebration, those preparing the Masses of Christmas should consider the richness of the mystery of the Incarnation as it unfolds in the proper sequence of readings for the four Masses of Christmas.

**Midnight Mass.** Although many traditions observe The Mass during the Night at midnight, it is not a requirement. It may be celebrated at a late evening hour before midnight.

**Proclamation of the Gospel.** The Gospel reading at any Mass is to be proclaimed by either a deacon or a priest. It is not permitted to have the Gospel proclaimed with multiple readers or voices (with the exception of the Passion of the Lord, which is proclaimed during Holy Week).

**Nicene Creed.** At the words “and by the Holy Spirit...became man,” all genuflect at all Masses celebrating the Nativity of the Lord. Those unable to genuflect may bow in the usual fashion.

The color of the Season of Christmas is white, however, gold vesture may also be used in place of white.

## NEW WORSHIP AREA

Site preparation has begun and the asphalt where the church will stand has been removed and replaced with dirt and sand. The portico was removed this week.

Handicapped parking is now available in front of the fountain.

The church entrance and exit is now exclusively through the alcove doors.



## *The Catholic Church Of The Visitation*

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## *4th Sunday of Advent*



*December 20, 2020*

*Year B*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2020

Today's readings focus on the circumstances leading up to the first coming of Jesus, the event which sets in motion his being born, 'The Incarnation'. This is the story of today's Gospel, stressing the key role of Mary in God's plan for our salvation. The story of the incarnation is a proof to us of how God loves us. Because of this love, He is willing to come and dwell among, He is willing to become human like us.

The angel Gabriel surprises Mary with a beautiful message, that she would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit and give birth to the Son of God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, .. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

Like most of us when God's plan presents itself to us, we find it hard to understand. Sometimes we doubt if it is really God calling us. In the same way, Mary found the angel Gabriel's message hard to comprehend. She said, "how can this come about since I have no relations with a man?" The Angel reassured her that nothing is impossible for God. Feeling reassured she was now confident to say: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. My it be done to me according to your word."

Because our faith is weak, sometimes we need reassurance just as Mary did. Many times, we find it difficult to believe that God could have such a great plan for us, to bring Jesus to others and bring others to Jesus. We are aware of our limitations and weaknesses and maybe sometimes we find it hard to believe that we could do much for God. At times, we are surprised to learn that God values us so highly to make us His messengers to others. We need to hear again and again those words of the angel's greetings to Mary: "The Lord is with you" and "Don't be afraid". Doubt and fear can paralyze us and make us blind to the invitation of our God to join him in His plan of bringing Good News to His people. Fear keeps us away from walking toward the future with hope. we need to listen to the words that Mary hears: "Don't be afraid."

Mary did not have to do anything, she just let God, with his power, carry out His plan, through her. It is the same for us. We need only to say a courageous and generous "yes" to God. That is all is necessary for God to come and dwell in us. Every time we say to God, "Yes", God comes and dwells in us, helping us with His grace to be good disciples. It is by saying, like Mary, a wholehearted and totally unconditional yes to God that his Son will be born in each of us

We need to try to learn God's plan for our lives. The Good News in today's Scripture message is not only that God is making provision for the salvation of His people, but also that He has a plan for each individual person. In many cases, our work for God seems rather ordinary, but each ordinary task which we carry out fits into God's plan in ways that we cannot yet understand. God desires not only the skill of our hands and talents but the love of our hearts.

With Mary, we too are given a mission of bringing light in the midst of darkness. We are to light up the faith hidden in so many of our brothers and sisters. We have to help men and women of today to discover Jesus, we are called to sow hope and spread the joy of the Gospel. Mary was the first to be a disciple and follower of Jesus. She is our model. So, let us ask her now to help us be good disciples of her Son, that like her we may be servants of the Lord, so that the Word may become flesh and dwell among us this Christmas and beyond.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

## TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Responsorial Psalm:

*Forever I will sing the goodness  
of the Lord.*

Second Reading:

Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 126-38

*Father suggests you say the Prayer for  
Spiritual Communion during communion* ➔

## 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

*Tony Kurek, Audrey Sidoli, Jodie Riley and Carol Hollingsworth*



### PARISHIONERS

Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Kevin Walsh, Tom Foley, Toni Traynor, Suzanne Sitterding, Veronica O'Leary, Michele Meanelly, 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, Peggy Williams, Karen Dame, Joe Nolte, Mike Lokie, Steve Kirsch, Marilyne 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, Pat & Lee Reamy, Janine Jaboulay, Anne Paparella, Carole McPherson, Jeanne Lessner, Colin Walsh.

### FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Dave Hersh, Mike Shea, Krop Family, Andrea Bordgen, Jennifer Sanders, Patty Bowman, Pam Tibbs, Sherry Newton, Aquela Parker, Khloe Nipper, Bernie Smith, Virginia Talke, Phil Melancon, Ray Kostaskey, Doris Melancon, Dominick Perry, Kimberly Lavinder, 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, Joseph Gascoigne, John Vajda, Sandy Alter, Andy & Iris Hetzer.

### FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Chuck Taylor, 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: DECEMBER 13, 2020

Collection: \$ 2,712  
Second Collection:  
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 53,588  
Total Budget Projection: \$ 49,863



Our Second Collection today is for Catholic Charities.

We signed the following principal checks this week:  
\$434 November Electricity; \$5,250 Water Line Repair.



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 DECEMBER

1st-Tom Shoemaker, 2nd-Mollie McMurtrie, 4th-Karin Wilkins & Mike Ballato;  
5th-Louise Petralia; 8th-Frank Lohr; 10th-Larry Dame; 11th-Vera England; 12th-  
Jerry Suyes; 15th-Dennis Lynch; 16th-Cindy Powers; 18th-Mary Dorman & Lynne  
McMurtrie; 19th-Lois Kramb; 20th-Roger Scott; 22nd-Georgia Beville & Linda Gray,  
23rd-Christine Williams; 25th-Colleen Hoffman; 26th-Tom Hawksworth; Anne Costello,  
Betsy Brown & Patricia Figueroa; 29th-Jack Petralia; 30th-Doug Olson.

ANNIVERSARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

1st-Chuck & Carol Walsh; 10th-Tom & Cherianne Johnson; 14th-Bob & Ingrid Borden; 20th-  
Fritz & Peper Heunemann; 22nd-Edmund & Michele Meanley; 30th-Bill & Donna Brandl.

MANY ITEMS FOR PICKUP

In the corridor by the office are many items for pickup, as you desire. We have 2021  
Calendars, The Little Blue Books for Advent devotion and your 2021 Envelopes. When you drop by  
to pick up an item(s), Please exit through the doors by the office. Inserted in the collection books  
are envelopes designated for donations for the New Worship Area. We presently plan to have these  
monthly during 2021. For those parishioners who do not attend Mass, but desire to receive any of  
these items, Mike & Lynne Dreelein have offered to deliver them as a convenience to you. Another  
way to receive them is to come by the church and pick them up during office hours.

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

One of the simplest ways to leave a gift to our church is to use the  
beneficiary designation on savings and retirement accounts, as well as life  
insurance policies. These can be done with no cost, and typically only require us to  
sign a new beneficiary designation form.

Retirement assets and similar accounts are called Income in Respect of a Decedent  
(IRD) assets. This is taxable income that's earned during life but not received before  
death, so it is never included in an income tax return. This may be assets in Individual  
Retirement Accounts or 403(b) plans, accrued interest on Certificates of Deposit and  
savings bonds, nonqualified stock options, deferred payments of capital gains, or other  
income that is earned but not acquired.

In most cases, naming the church as the beneficiary of these types of assets gives the  
estate and heirs the best tax benefits, since it avoids both income and estate taxes.



ST NOA SCHOOL RAIDO UPDATE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ugandan government, like  
in many countries all over the World, closed all schools at the  
beginning of April, and they remain closed except for those in  
final years of their studies (graduating students) who were  
allowed to reopen in October. The rest stay at home, and  
teachers try to send them some study material to keep them  
engaged; also, the Ministry of Education organized a program  
of learning by using radios or televisions where it is possible.

For our School, St. Noa, the only option was radios. Given the  
number of students we have, we needed about 150 radios at a cost  
of \$ 3500 and another \$ 1500 to facilitate a group of teachers who  
will follow these students on a weekly basis, providing them with  
homework and lesson outlines.

Thanks to your generosity we managed to procure the 150  
radios and distribute them to the students, and they are now in  
good use. These radios have another advantage. They are solar  
powered, so no expense to the parents. They come with a small  
panel which charges the radio battery and also comes with one  
light bulb which gives light so that students can continue  
learning even at night as seen in the pictures.

On behalf of the parents and children of my home  
village, I am most grateful for what you are doing,  
may the Lord reward you abundantly. **Thank you!**



### CHURCH INFORMATION

Our hours for prayer when the church is open are  
Wednesday and Thursday from 9AM-12:00.  
Church attendance was 49. This coming week the Mass is for parishioners in  
Group A-K.

The important thing to remember is to notify the office if you 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. All are welcome!**

### ROSARY MINISTRY



Our thanks to Cindy Jessee for her initiative and community spirit in  
shepherding the Rosary Ministry before Mass each Sunday at 8:30AM. It will  
continue indefinitely and please consider participating.

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATION

For those of you who made a donation for Christmas Flowers, if you wish to  
have someone recognized in the Christmas Bulletin for you donation,  
please e-mail or call the office.



### PARISHIONER INFORMATION

Last week we said goodbye to Peg Meushaw, who is moving to Norfolk to be closer to  
family. Peg joined the parish in 1993 and is known for her many contributions to the  
Parish, notably as the head of Parish Life. Peg's new address and e-mail are:  
1525 Holland Avenue Norfolk, VA 23509  
Cell only: 804-694-6690.

### SADNESS

The son of former parishioners Tom and Mary Virginia Bliley died in early  
October, and a Mass of Resurrection will be held this Monday at St. Bridget's  
Catholic Church in Richmond. If you desire to send condolences to

5100 Monument Avenue Unit 214  
Richmond, VA 23230

### FRONT LINE WORKER

We have been notified that Kevin Walsh, in his second year of residency in Syracuse,  
New York, is on the front line during this COVID-19 crisis and upsurge in cases. He is  
presently working over 70 hours weekly, and we thought his former parishioners might  
want to support him with notes and cards of comfort and thanks. His address is:

*103 Northfield Drive Syracuse, NY 13212*

### 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The fourth Sunday of Advent  
candle is the Angel's Candle,  
signifying the theme of Love.  
Celebrate the day with a family  
group hug.



### Advent Candle Lighting Song

Light the Advent candle, four  
Think of joy forevermore;  
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that  
Christmas morn.

Candle, candle, burning bright, Shining in the  
cold winter night, Candle, candle, burning bright,  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Lord, we come once again to thank you  
for this Advent time together. Continue  
to guide us with your light and love.  
Help us spread your love during Advent,  
and all the days of our lives.



A hearty welcome to our new parishioner families.



James Peddicord &  
Ingebourg O'Bourn  
PO Box 538 Topping,  
VA 2369  
757-200-5414

Zygmunt Krzyzewski  
73 Skipjack Lane  
Saluda, VA 23149  
203-219-1403



### Address update:

Michelle Leitch: 1351 Schooner Loop Solomons, MD 20688

Please remember to keep the office informed of address, family, email, and phone  
number changes. If any of these items has changed in the last few months, please  
inform us, and if you are doubtful about telling us about a change that occurred  
last year, give us a call to verify if we have the right information.

Or if you are not seeing your name in the *Birthdays/Anniversary* list and would like  
to-that would be an update as well.

