

## 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.

## *The Catholic Church Of The Visitation*

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Pastor: Gerald Kaggwa Rectory: 804-286-9271



## 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.



*December 27, 2020*

*Year B*

## Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, 2020

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. In our natural attitude, we are tempted to look at the Holy Family as an ideal we cannot realize in our families. But, Jesus, Mary and Joseph had their share of struggles, like any of our families. The trust, which is fundamental to any married couple, was challenged by the pregnancy of Mary before even she got married to Joseph. Joseph was forced to bring Mary to Bethlehem when she was nine months pregnant. He must have felt terrible when they had no choice but to have the child in a stable. Then they had to get up in the middle of the night and escape Herod by moving to a foreign land, Egypt, away from family and friends. Still, the Holy Family made it through these difficulties for one reason only: they had great faith. Joseph had faith in the message of God revealed to him through the angel his dreams. He had faith that God would help him protect the child, and he moved the family to Egypt. Mary had faith both in the angel and in God's working through Joseph. And Jesus, the Son God, had faith in his parents to care for him. Like all children, they trust their parents to protect and care for them, likewise Jesus' life was in the hand of Mary and Joseph.

The Holy Family conquered their struggles through their faith-life. This must be the primary concern of our families. Sometimes parents when they think of how they can take care of their children, the first thing in mind is financial resources, which is great, but do not forget, what children really need is a Christian home, full of love, care, and respect.

The readings for this Sunday present some aspects of a Christian home. The first reading from Sirach says that children need to respect their parents take care of them when they age. All children learn respect and love of others from their parents, for the respect and love they see their parents giving each other and other people, will be reflected in turn, in the way these children respect and love those around them including their parents. What we experienced in our homes as children, in many cases is what we carry with us when dealing with other people we come into contact on the journey of life. It is a fact, that these aspects, which are Christian Values, of love, care, kindness, patience, forgiveness, and respect which St. Paul talks of in the Second Reading of today, are learned from our homes, from our parents.

Paul presents the roles of each member within the families according to his time. But the most important message he emphasizes is that in a family all members take care of each other with heartfelt compassion, with kindness, in humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. The noble qualities like compassion, kindness, forgiveness, and sharing are acquired in the warmth of a loving family. In a truly holy family all members are respected, cherished, nurtured, and supported, united through the bond of love.

So, today as we look and celebrate the Holy Family lets us also be drawn into an examination of our own families. The Holy Family is A Model for us to imitate. The example of the Holy Family helps families to learn to become families of love and reconciliation, in which tenderness, mutual help, and mutual forgiveness is experienced. Our families should be built on faith in God as Mary and Joseph did.

God sustained the holy family through all of the trials because they trusted, they stayed united to the will of God. And they encouraged each by their mutual love and respect. What will hold our families together even in times of difficulties is God, it is our love for each other, it is being ready to forgive. When we put God before all else, we will always triumph.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

## TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Responsorial Psalm:

*The Lord remembers his covenant forever.*

Second Reading:

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

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

Buck Hawkworth, Helen Tyrrell, Mary Catherine Borden & Bea Coleman



### PARISHIONERS

Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, 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, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawkworth, 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 20, 2020

Collection:	\$ 2,501
Second Collection: Catholic Charities	\$ 122
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 56,090
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 52,089



There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week:

Christmas Flowers \$446; Lawn Care \$260.



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 JANUARY

1st-Joe Nolte & Carol McCormack, 2nd-Evelyn Scott, Barbara Rigney & Michelle Leitch, 3rd-Bob Cerullo, 5th-Mike Borzelleca, Lorraine Kirsch, 7th-Betty Johnson, 13th-Benton Miller, 16th-Christine Hayes, 19th-James Moncure, 20th-Debby Harriman, 21st-Chuck Walsh, 22nd-Clara Suyes, Donna Brandl, Kenneth Gulick & Don Tyrrell, 27th-John McCormack, 29th-Mike Dreelin, 30th-31st-Jack King & Charlie Costello.



ANNIVERSARY DATES FOR JANUARY

5th-Charles & Louise Hartz, 24th-Jack & Laurie King.

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 Dreelin 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?

What better goal for this year than to create your own personal legacy to continue your ministry beyond your own lifetime? We support our congregation and other ministries with our gifts during our lifetimes but creating a legacy through a permanent fund means our ministry will continue for all perpetuity.



*Potential, Purpose, Promise*

To learn more, contact the church office or the Parish office, the general ministry of the church that helps members and congregations with planned gifts and permanent funds, at parish office.

**We are fragile but in good hands, God does not abandon us!**

Dear Friends,

Allow me even in these difficult times to express my most sincere and warm wishes for the coming festivities.

Christmas is upon us! In a few days on everyone's lips, young and old, believers and even nonbelievers, we will hear this wish echo, with a Christian flavor, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! This is a wish for peace and hope because all of us want a better future, and a better World. We certainly live in difficult times, of uncertainty, concern and also of anxiety for a future full of many problems. This does not mean we should fall into the despondent states of suffering and resignation. Re-discovering ourselves as fragile means recognizing ourselves as children, in need of the Father's help, in need of a Savior. Yes, we are fragile but in good hands. God does not abandon us, and we are called to trust him. St. Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians says: "I am delighted in my weaknesses, in the anguish suffered for Christ: in fact, when I am weak, it is then that I am strong" (2 Cor 12,10).

This attitude of profound humility and trust is fundamental in this moment of our history and indeed for all our life. St. Paul clearly understands how to face and live every event, especially the difficulty ones, because in the moment in which one experiences one's own weakness, the power of God is manifested, a power which does not abandon, does not leave us alone, but becomes our support and strength.

The fear of the virus must not make us fall into self-isolation, detached from everything and from everybody, being concerned only exclusively for ourselves. We must raise our gaze and be in solidarity with humanity. If we are invited to follow all the rules that scientists, doctors and authorities instruct us to follow as measures to counter the spread of Covid-19 like wearing a mask and social distancing, let us try to find a Christian dimension in all this, especially when we do it out of love. Let us always remember that we are all united, we are one. We are not separate, but we are one people.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, let this Christmas be a light that lights up in the night: the light of hope in the darkness of pessimism, the light which brings life in the midst of death; the hope God brings through His Son, Jesus of Nazareth, who became man so that the face of every human being would be the face of God; the hope that if God, the Emmanuel, (God-with-us), is among us, nothing will be against us.

With this faith and trust, our wishes for Merry Christmas, then, will not end in a slogan for a different day, from the script already written, but will be an invitation to live this present time with confidence, hoping against all hope, for a better future. The Christ who enters history as an infant is a God Himself who enters our fragile human flesh with all its shortcomings, dangers, and uncertainties. He is the one who points to the way to freedom, to authentic justice, to true hope and joy. The celebration of the birth of Jesus brings peace and hope and invites everyone to trust and entrust ourselves to him.

*To all and to each one of you and your loved ones,  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*Fr. Gerry*



## CHURCH INFORMATION

Our hours for prayer when the church is open are Wednesday and Thursday 9AM-12:00.  
Church attendance was 38 last week. This coming week the Mass is for parishioners in L-Z Group .

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!**

## REMINDERS

New Year's Day Mass will be at 9AM here at COV.

## SADNESS

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

**\*\*Address correction**

St Marys Woods  
1257 Marywood Lane  
Richmond, VA 23229

**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 *Birthday/Anniversary* list and would like to-that would be an update as well.



## DIOCESAN GRANT

The Diocesan Fuel and Hunger Fund Grant Committee informed us this week it was awarding us \$3,000 for the use of our Parish Pence Fund. This is the sixth consecutive year the committee has awarded us a Grant, for which we are eternally grateful. Our Parish Pence fund is robust for the moment, but once the Governmental restrictions are lifted on energy cutoffs and home evictions, we expect to encounter an unusual number of requests for help.



## ALUMINUM CANS

Because of construction, we have relocated our aluminum cans' receptacle bin to the right side of the Yard Sale Building as you face it. Please continue to bring your cans and deposit them there. When we collect a large amount, we deliver them to Middlesex Metals for resale and use the proceeds for parish beautification.



**Aluminum  
Cans  
ONLY**

## E-GIVING CHANGES

The Richmond Diocese has asked all parishes to complete a software transition that will enable COV parishioners to donate directly to their parish in 2021 and beyond. COV has installed and completed the necessary steps for you to donate starting **Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021**. One time gifts allow 1 business day to withdraw from your account. Recurring gift withdrawals occur on the date selected by you.

Transferring your donations to COV software should be very similar to the diocesan software. However, you will need to enter your checking or credit card information again. You can still make one-time gifts each month or recurring donations monthly, bi-weekly, weekly. Special collections are also listed. Currently our system is set up for 3 months Jan/Feb/Mar.

We appreciate your continued support to your church especially during these challenging times. We hope that the convenience of making donations on-line will be appreciated by many of our parishioners.

## E-GIVING INSTRUCTIONS

Go to website: [www.church-of-the-visitation.org](http://www.church-of-the-visitation.org) or use hyperlink in bulletin. Select red button "donate" in upper right corner to go to "Give Now" form. If you are donating a one-time donation you do not need to set up an account. If you want to make a recurring donation each month you must log into your account AFTER your 1<sup>st</sup> donation.

### One Time gift without an account

Give Now Form: Check the funds you wish to donate to from list: example, Sunday by date, New Worship Area, Special Collections.

Enter the amount in each fund

Fill in credit card or checking account information

Total amount of donation will be sub-totaled at bottom of form

Click donate button at bottom of form

An e-mail will be sent to confirm your donation.

Once your donation is completed you may want to register for an account to make your donation to funds recurring.

Needed: e-mail address, password

COV envelope number

### Recurring gift with an account

Give Now Form: Click on "Sign In" top of form

Select funds & enter amount

Mark box for recurring donation

Select banking information you have on file

Click donate button at bottom of form

An email will be sent to confirm your donation.

**Questions: Please call Debby Harriman 776-0078 or office 758-5160.**