



'SHARE THE LOVE' COAT DRIVE

Hands Across Middlesex and Christ Church have asked us to join them in a coat drive during January. The drive looks to collect clean, used coats in good condition for adults, teens, and children. If you have any to donate, we will have a container for your use in the vicinity of the door leading to the kitchen.

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 footers were put in place last week.* Handicapped parking is now available in front of the fountain. The church entrance and exit is now exclusively through the alcove doors.



ALUMINUM CANS

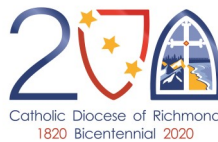


Because of construction, we have relocated our aluminum cans' receptacle bin to the right side of the Yard Sale Building as you face it. Please continue to bring you cans and deposit them there. When we collect a large amount, we deliver them to Middlesex Metals for resale and us the proceeds for parish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



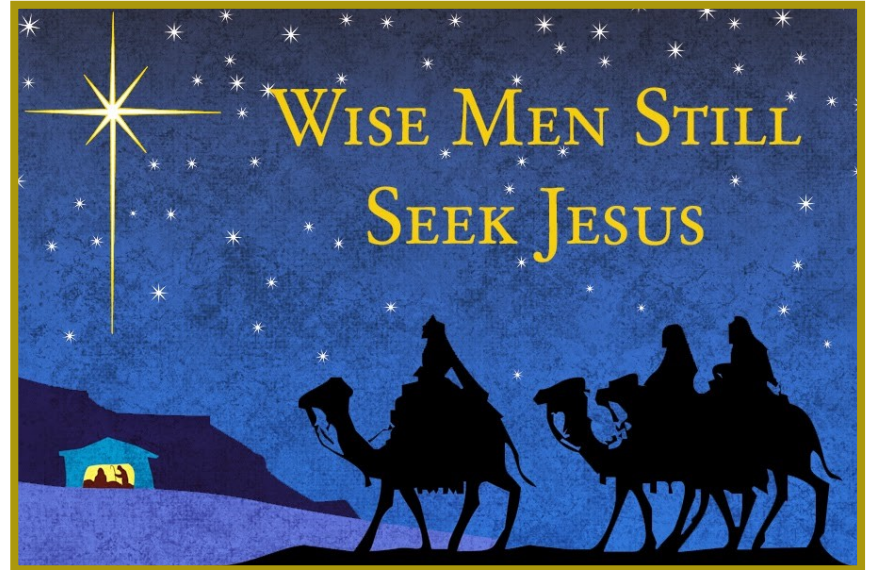
DIOCESAN GRANT

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.



The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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*January 3, 2020
Epiphany of the Lord
Year B*

The Epiphany of the Lord, January 3, 2021

We gather today to celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord! The manifestation or Revealing of the Messiah. The Light of the people. The solemnity of the Epiphany celebrates Jesus showing himself to those whose faith leads them to him, to those who wish to see him.

We read in the First reading: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you". These words of Isaiah are calling us to rise up and experience the new life which Jesus brings us. Isaiah is inviting us to rise and go in search of the Lord who is our light. The wise men we hear of in the Gospel, went searching for him. They found him. It is not enough to know that Jesus is born but we have to go out seeking him. If Christmas is all about God coming to us, to dwell among us, then Epiphany is all about our seeking out the Lord who has come among us.

The Magi (the three wise men) we read of, in the Gospel, after seeing the shining star they set out on journey to look for its meaning. They knew that there is something new, something special which has happened, they had to go and find out. All signs were like what was said by the prophets about the coming of the Messiah! That's why they come to Jerusalem and start enquiring: "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star and we have come to do him homage."

So, these three men when they saw the sign of the star and according to their understanding, it was that promised Messiah! They left their land to go in search of that Messiah. Their determination brings them to the newborn Jesus, and they adore him! They have found what they have been seeking.

These Three men are just example for us, of our Christian Journey. We are called to seek Jesus. To seek his light in our lives. The only different between us and the Magi is that we are not going to walk or travel long distances looking for Jesus as they did. Jesus is here among us, is here in the scriptures (the Gospels) is here in the Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of The Eucharist. He is here whenever we celebrate the Holy Mass. He is here in our brothers and sisters we meet each day. What is needed is our faith in him. And our being ready to receive Him.

This feast of Epiphany leads us to ask ourselves about our own attitudes in life. Are we really searching for God? Do we really want to find him? The wise men let God lead them. And their Journey was merely a travel from one point to another, from one land to another land, but it was a journey of faith. And God revealed himself to them through the infant Jesus.

In one way or another the same thing has happened to each one of us. God leads us on a journey of faith, and he reveals himself to us in the person of Jesus Christ. But this does not just happen once. No, it happens again and again in our lives. There are a whole series of Epiphanies awaiting us if we only co-operate with God and let him lead us. Hidden under the many events of our life, here is always a star glittering out there in the darkness. If we constantly look for that star and follow where God leads us again and again, we will encounter Christ in all sorts of different disguises.

Therefore, Epiphany for us Christian is not a one-time event, but a life-long event. Because in whatever we do, we have to seek the Lord. Before taking any decision, before any action, ask yourself: Where is Jesus, in this decision, in this action? Ask yourself: where is Jesus in my life? In my family? I am a good Catholic?

Jesus is calling all of us to come before his presence. This presence is not just in Bethlehem, but in the many places of our everyday lives. His is present in the members of our family who are hurting depressed or going through difficult times in their lives. He is present in all who are struggling with life. He is present in each of us as we stop to listen to our consciences rather than just go with our emotions.

So, let us seek the Lord Always, and follow him. And our seeking and following the Lord will lead us to a change in our lives, and we will be real disciple of Jesus not by words only but by actions as well.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm:

*Lord, every nation on earth
will adore you.*

Second Reading:

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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

Buddy Moore, Margaret Hurley, Mary Anne Pelczar & Michael Blommel



PARISHIONERS

Lois & Skip Krumb, Marianne Krop, Tom Foley, Toni Traynor, Suzanne Sitterding, Veronica O'Leary, Michele Meanely, 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 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 27, 2020

Christmas Collection: Eve & Day totals	\$ 1,779
Collection:	\$ 2,156
Second Collection: Catholic Charities	\$ 135
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 58,245
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 53,870



Our second collection today is for Parish Pence.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$159 Printer Leasing Fee; \$207 November Telephone.



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 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 & Jeanne Lessner, 29th-Mike Dreelin, 31st-Jack King & Charlie Costello.



ANNIVERSARY DATES FOR JANUARY

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

TAX STATEMENTS



If you wish a statement of your past year's donations for tax purposed, please place your name on the list outside of the office. You may also email or call the office with your request.

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.

New Year's Day, January 2021

Today we celebrate the beginning of a new year, and the Church invites us to celebrate as well. The Feast of Mary Mother of God. First, I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year! I pray that the Lord Jesus and His Mother Mary may enrich your lives during the New Year with an abundance of blessings and may you succeed in all that you plan to do in the new year. Today's Feast of Mary, the Mother of God is a very appropriate way to begin a new year, reminding us to rely on the powerful intercession of our Heavenly Mother. The Church also observes World Day of Peace on this day and invites us to pray especially for lasting peace in the world throughout the New Year.

Today's Gospel describes how the shepherds spread to all their neighbors the Good News surrounding the birth of Jesus which the angel had revealed to them, and how Mary treasured "all these things" in her heart. Like the Shepherds, we are invited to spread the Good News Jesus brings to all our friends and neighbors. Like Mary, let us be good listeners this year, listening to what the Lord is calling to do. Let us use every opportunity God will give us to make this year peaceful and fruitful for all God's people.

Let us make the New Year meaningful by dreaming daily of something noble to do and actually doing it. Let us live every day of the New Year by offering ourselves in service of God and our brothers and sisters. May we always be grateful to God for the gifts and opportunity He gives us each day.

Let me finish by expressing my gratitude to all of you. You have stood firm with us during this past year which has been a trying and difficult one. You have supported your Church financially, and whenever we called upon you to do something in service to your fellow parishioners, many of you responded with a generous heart. Yes, the year has been a challenging one, but your positive response and attitude during these times is a clear sign of better days to come. May the Lord continue to bless and keep you safe through the new year we begin today.

We pray that this year will be different, that the pandemic will be controlled by the vaccines which are now being administered, and that soon a cure will be found. It is my wish and prayer that sooner than later we will be back together filling our Churches and praising God as we used to do.

Let this prayer accompany you throughout the New Year:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let His face shine upon you.
May He be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace.

Happy New year to you all!

Fr. Gerry



CHURCH INFORMATION

Our hours for prayer when the church is open are Wednesday and Thursday 9AM-12:00. Or call the office if you need assistance.

*Our Rosary Ministry is every Sunday starting at 8:30am. All are welcome!

Church attendance over the holiday weekend:
Christmas Eve-45, Christmas Day-34 and this past week The Holy Family-36.

Starting this Sunday, January 3rd, ALL PARISHIONERS are invited to attend church irrespective of the alphabet. All COVID protocol will still apply.

We continue to offer daily Mass on Wednesday and Thursday @9AM for anyone who desires to attend. All are welcome!

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

MASS ATTENDANCE CHANGE

After carefully analyzing our attendance figures, we believe we can safely forego our alphabet restrictions and open all Masses to all Parishioners commencing this Sunday. Our stated capacity following all COVID-19 protocols is 106, and we have rarely reached half of that figure. This is the basic reason for lifting alphabet restrictions. We will continue to monitor attendance and immediately return to the former system, if necessary.

UPDATE YOUR COV INFORMATION

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.

CHRISTMAS SEASON CLEANUP

The Christmas season officially ends January 10th. Please remain after Mass to help us prepare the church for Ordinary Time. Thank You.

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. 3rd 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 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 1st 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.