

NEW WORSHIP AREA UPDATE

Still on schedule to be completed September 2021



The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

8462 General Puller Highway/P.O. Box 38
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

*The
Season
of
Lent*



1st Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

Year B

First Sunday of Lent (B)

February 21, 2021

As the season of Lent begins, we are invited to renew our faith through prayer, acts of penance and charitable works. These include fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and self-control. As Christians, we are called upon to avoid sin and choose what is good.

The primary purpose of Lent is to prepare us for the celebration of Jesus' death and Resurrection. The mystery of our salvation. The Church tries to achieve this goal by leading her children to change and true repentance. A call to reordering our priorities by focusing on real values, and ideals of our Christian faith. Since by Baptism we share the death and Resurrection of Jesus, today's readings refer to Baptism directly or indirectly.

The first reading tells us how human beings irrevocably broke the *original covenant* God had made with Adam and Eve, and how the merciful God selected Noah and his family to renew the covenant. Noah's rescue from the flood symbolizes how we are saved through the water of Baptism which cleanses us of sin and makes us one with Christ.

In the second reading, St. Peter shows us how Noah's episode prefigured Baptism. He reminds us that, as Noah and his family were saved from the waters of the flood, so we are saved through the waters of Baptism. Baptism is an outward sign of the New Covenant that God has made with His people. It makes us adopted children of God, heirs of Heaven, and temples of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel, we are told that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert, where he was tempted by Satan. He remained in the desert for forty days fasting and in prayer. But the Devil, the tempter, never defeated Jesus, because we hear that after this episode in the desert, he came out and begun his Messianic mission by proclaiming: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

In Lent and always we are invited to conquer our temptations as Jesus did, using the methods Jesus employed. Jesus conquered his tempter, the devil by prayer, penance, (fasting). He was always connected with his Father. Hence, during this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies by talking to God, by listening to Him speaking to us though the Holy Bible, and by practicing self-control to subdue our evil tendencies.

Let us convert Lent into a time for spiritual growth and Christian maturity by setting aside some part of our day for personal prayer, reading some Scripture, alone or better still, with others. By works of charity towards those who are less fortunate in our society. By participating and receiving the Sacraments of the Church like the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

This Lent comes amidst the mess of a pandemic that has taken so much from us as a global family. The very thought of making additional sacrifices right now might feel like more than we can bear. Similar to Jesus in today's Gospel, we have found ourselves having our own encounters in a desolate place with darkness in all its forms. In the form of sickness and death, fear, and doubt, abuses of power and the pervasive divisiveness that attempts to fractures our human society. Let us show kindness, and mercy during these days of Lent.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Genesis 9:8-15

Responsorial Psalm:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading:

1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

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

Joan Rychtarik, Lavonne Pearce, Charles Lange, Bryan & Kathy Neff



PARISHIONERS

Peggy Williams, Kathy Placilla, Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Tom Foley, Toni & Nikki 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, 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, Carol Smith, Pat & Lee Reamy, Janine Jaboulay, Anne Paparella, Carole McPherson, Jeanne Lessner, Colin Walsh.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Max Sorenson, Nikki Ryan, Lynn Messina, Erik Meijer, Dave Saunders, 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, John Vajda, Sandy Alter, Andy & Iris Hetzer.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Bristow Family, Peg Meushaw, Dave Gunn, Chuck Taylor, Paula Harcum, Cathy Kirkland, Steve Sohles, Remy Maine Miller, Jessie Debusk, Ryan & Jeanne Norris, Donna Newcomb, Vickie Hogge, Maria Franzoni, Pumpkin Brownley, Rita Blommel, Brenda Knupp, Ashely Scott & family, Steve Smith, Susie Loustanaun, Elizabeth Panzer, Linda Cryer, Tyra Freed, Valerie McCarthy, 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: FEBRUARY 14, 2021

Collection: \$ 1,677
Second Collection:
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 71,690
Total Budget Projection: \$ 65,305



There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week:

\$863 Concrete Inspection; \$902 January Electric Bill.



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 FEBRUARY



1st-Karen Dame, 4th-Veronica O'Leary, 9th-Bea Foley,
13th-Bob Borden & Ingebourg O'Bourn, 17th-Gina Putney & Loretta Borostovik,
19th-Robert Smith, 20th-Joseph Pausic, 24th-Pat Paul, 25th-Brennan Williams,
26th-Barbara Smith, Gretchen Borzelleca & Jimmy Blake

ANNIVERSARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY



6th-Jack & Louise Petralia, 8th-Fernando & Marilyn Atienza, 14th-Joe & Mary Sychterz,
15th-Tommy & Donna Lange, 25th-Mike & Lynne Dreeclin



Mel & Kathy Placilla
281 Sun Beau Circle
PO Box 1207
Urbanna, VA 23175
714-307-1629

TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS

LECTORS ASSIGNMENTS

Becky & Spike Nunn

COMMUNITY LEADER

Kathy Kauffman



ANNUAL APPEAL

As we all struggle to capture a sense of normalcy, the Diocesan Annual Appeal will again occur this year during the next two weeks. The needs are still there, but because of the restrictions on the use of paper, it will be done digitally primarily.

Our Parish Goal is \$6,340, a 10% reduction from last year, and as a Mission Church, we will receive back 50% of all monies donated by our parishioners.

As a matter of interest, for six consecutive years, the Diocesan Fuel and Hunger Fund (supported by the Appeal) has awarded us a grant for the use of our Parish Pence Fund. Several years ago, the Home Mission Fund gave us a grant to build the brick pillars that flank the driveway entrance.

Short video on how to donate to the Annual Bishop's Appeal. Just open the hyperlink and watch the video.

<https://vimeo.com/506140435/700f9137c4>

February 14, 2021

Dear Parishioners

I always love the beginning of a new year... it brings a sense of hope as it is a time for fresh starts and big plans, and particularly for us, the beginning of a new worship area.

Last year, we were all given more time for pause and reflection, and I found myself continuously thinking of the Visitation family. You kept our parish moving forward and for that I thank you

I recognize that there are a million things pressing for your attention, particularly as we ask you to support all of our fund-raising efforts for the new worship area, and there are so many worthy causes you can support. With this letter, I want to focus on the 2021 Annual Appeal.

You may not realize it, but in the past, we have been blessed with assistance from the Appeal. Diocesan grants for guest speakers, liturgy seminars, the Parish Pence Fund, and capital improvement are examples of this assistance.

You have probably received a letter and brochure from Bishop Knestout and in some cases an e-mail regarding the 2021 Appeal. Please take a moment to reflect on all the Ministries the Appeal supports and prayerfully consider a gift if you have never given previously and if you have contributed previously an equal amount. While you are praying on your gift, consider giving it online at <https://richmondccatholicdiocese.org/appeal>. For those preferring to donate by mail, use the envelope provided to you or call the office for assistance.

I know you believe our Parish and the Diocese are important as they fulfill God's mission and plan for us. Thank you for reading my letter and giving the Appeal your consideration. If you have any questions, please call us.

Gratefully in Christ

Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.



WINTER HATS FOR THE HOMELESS



Our Parishioner Gerrie Lohr is knitting winter hats for the homeless. She will take any and all yarn scrapes left over from your projects. She has made about 45 plus from the Shawl Ministry leftovers.

Any and all amounts are okay. You may drop donations in a box outside of the office.

Thank you.

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 last weekend was 39.

ALL PARISHIONERS

are invited to attend church irrespective of the alphabet.

All COVID protocols 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!



SCOOT'S BARBEQUE DINNER

To order your dinner online, open hyperlink on the logo.

DIRECTORY UPDATE 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.

Please Notice This



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

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Members of our church gather each week around the communion table, reciting the words of Christ and participating in the sacred meal “in remembrance” of Jesus. That gift has been handed down generation to generation.



Potential, Purpose, Promise

As we recall the names of those who have died, our minds are filled with precious memories. We are their legacy, and much of what we have—in both material and non-material things—have been handed down to us from them. But what will we hand down to those who follow? How will we be remembered? Will we leave more than an empty spot in a pew?

As you plan for the distribution of your assets at your death, consider a charitable bequest to our church. This is one way your faith can be transferred to the next generation. This, and other types of planned gifts, can undergird our congregation's ministry in perpetuity, providing resources that will allow future generations of Disciples to worship, serve others and continue the vital ministries of the church.



LENT IS UPON US

Lent has begun and we encourage you to participate in the four stations planned to begin this coming Wednesday. As part of that, you can order soup to take home with you after stations. Information about the soup portion has been previously promulgated and like the other Lenten fundraisers, call Mary if you have any questions. The Triduum will be held at FdS this year. If you need a Lenten Calendar, pick one up as you depart Mass as well as a copy of the Little Black Book, the popular six minute reflection series.

Regulations for Fasting and Abstinence:

Fasting is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

Abstinence is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence.

All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE/LENTEN FUNDRAISER

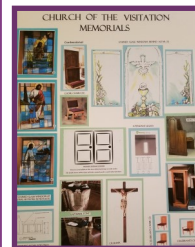
Attached to the bulletin is a flyer outlining the fund raising events planned for Lent announced by Mary Sychterz this past Sunday. Please take time to review them and participate. If you have any questions call the office or Mary Sychterz.



Hyperlink

RESPECT FOR LIFE QUOTE

“I think we have deluded ourselves into believing that people don't know that abortion is killing. So any pretense that abortion is not killing is a signal of our ambivalence, a signal that we cannot say yes, it kills a fetus.”



MEMORIAL DONATIONS

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you *hope* and a *future*.

Jeremiah 29:11

What a future we have. Our new church continues to appear before our eyes. Without you, it would not be possible.

Thank you to all the parishioners for their generous commitments.

Memorials still available are as follows:

Stained glass windows #2 \$16,000 (*Left side behind Altar*)

Stained glass windows #4 - 7 \$12,000 each

Confessional \$7,500

Double Wooden Doors \$10,000

Sound System \$8,500

Sanctuary Tile \$11,500

Pews and Choir chairs minimum donation of \$250

