

## 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](mailto:churchofthevisitation@va.metrocast.net)  
Website: [www.church-of-the-visitation.org](http://www.church-of-the-visitation.org)  
Pastor: Gerald Kaggwa Rectory: 804-286-9271



*6th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*February 14, 2021*



## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 14, 2021

The first reading for today can very much be understood in relation to our situation in this present time of the Covid19 pandemic. During the time of Moses, the people Israel who did not have hospitals, look how practical they were in preventing communicable diseases like leprosy from spreading. Leprosy could be a variety of skin diseases and highly contagious. However, many of them were quite deadly. So, what do you do when a person contracts one of these? It was the priests who determined whether or not a person had the disease. If you had it, you were ordered to be isolated from the community, put on torn clothes, keep the head bare and cover the mouth. This was to help others to see from a distance that someone is sick, and in that way avoid coming into contact. There were also set distances, determining how close a person should get to someone with leprosy, this was four cubits. By the way, four cubits is six feet. Does it sound familiar! And if someone happened to get too close to the sick person, that person had to be quarantined outside the camp. Could a place so ancient, that did not have hospitals have something to teach us about our approach to a communicable disease?

In the Gospel we have this encounter between Jesus and the Leper. These two – Jesus and the leper – do something which no one had dared to do before. Because in those days the people were terrified of leprosy. And therefore, by Jewish law the sufferer was isolated totally from society as we heard from the first reading.

And more, it was understood that Leprosy is a curse from God. That someone to have this disease must have committed something evil, and so because of his sins, God punished him with leprosy. And therefore no one could associate with such people or else they get the curse themselves as well.

But the leper in this Gospel seemed determined to break the rules and come out of his isolation. He approaches Jesus and cries out, pleading with him, 'If you want to, you can make me clean'. And Jesus responds to the leper's cry by doing something no Rabbi could dare do. He reached out his hand and touched the leper. If it was forbidden for a leper to approach the healthy, it was certainly forbidden for a healthy person to touch a leper. It seems that the leper's desire to be freed from his isolation was met by an equally strong desire on the part of Jesus to deliver the leper from his isolation. Jesus healed this man from: the disease, his loneliness, his despair, his belief that he was cursed by God.... So, Jesus frees us from all kinds of imprisonment and isolation because of disease or sin. He wants us to be part of the community, he wants us to feel free.

This is the Good News. That Jesus breaks all the barriers that separate us from one another and from God. And more good news is that we can approach the Lord no matter what our condition is, or circumstances are. Our Faith is more than a system of morality or a set of admonitions.

Jesus came to demonstrate what the Father is like. He could have behaved as a severe moral judge, condemning the sinful; in fact, that was what was expected of a prophet. Instead, he reached out in mercy to failures and outcasts. Jesus reaches out and welcomes sinners while they are still in their sin. He reaches out to the afflicted and heals them. Our prayer can therefore be quite simple: "Lord, if you wish help me!" without fear because if we have faith, He will always come to help us.

We need to trust in the mercy of a forgiving God who assures us that our sins are forgiven and that we are clean. We are forgiven and made spiritually clean from the spiritual leprosy of sins when we repent of our sins, because God is a God of love Who waits patiently for us. The only condition required of us is that we ask for forgiveness with a repentant heart. We need to tear down the walls that separate us from others and build bridges of loving relationship. Jesus calls every one of us to demolish the walls that separate us from each other and to welcome the outcasts and the untouchables of society.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

## TODAY'S MASS

### First Reading:

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

### Responsorial Psalm:

*I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,  
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.*

### Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

### Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

*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

Larry Tewey, Cindy Simmons, Johanna Langer, Dave Wirth & John Baker



### PARISHIONERS

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, Natasha 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, 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: FEBRUARY 7, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,320  
Second Collection: New Worship Area \$ 200  
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 70,013  
Total Budget Projection: \$ 63,677



Our second collection today is for Catholic Virginian.

We signed the following principal checks this week:

\$1371 Diocesan Assessments; \$671 Pastor & Rectory Expenses..



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 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 Dreelin



### NEW PARISHIONERS

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

### TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS

LECTORS ASSIGNMENTS:  
Joe Sychterz & Eileen O'Brien

COMMUNITY LEADER:  
Debby Harriman



### 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.

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.



### 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 60.

**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?

It's true, whether we want to believe it or not: we can't take our possessions with us at death. There's no trailer on the back of a hearse!

That's why It's important, while we are able, to decide and name the recipients of our possessions before our earthly life ends. This allows us to remember the people and causes important to us. It lets us determine guardianship for any minor children. And it's one way to make a gift to our church.

There's many ways to do this. Some provide better tax advantages than others. There are also ways you can receive a stream of income for life with the church getting the remainder at death.



*Potential, Purpose, Promise*

### LENT IS UPON US

Next Wednesday, February 17th is Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent. Mass will be here at 9AM. As in the past, we will have four soup and stations in the evening and a stations of the cross on Good Friday in the cemetery. The triduum will be hosted by FdS this year. To help you recall all the events we have published a Lenten calendar for your use. Limited copies are available. They may be picked up as you depart Mass.

Also available upon departure are the Little Black Books, that popular six-minute daily reflection series.



### PERSONAL CHALLENGE/LENTEN FUNDRAISER

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

The response to the announcement of items available for memorials has been encouraging and praiseworthy with several items favored by more than one family.

Father has or will contact the individuals desiring the same memorial to discuss alternatives with them. Because of the favorable response to the cause, the fund raising committee intends to announce some additional items that are suitable as a memorial. We do not have a firm cost for the entrance doors as yet, and that will be one of the additions.

As a matter of clarification the 44 pews designation on the memorial card refers to rows of pews. Each seat in those rows is valued at \$250. Some parishioners have asked about the payment for memorials. We expect half as a down payment and the other half to be paid within six months. If you have extreme circumstances that preclude you from meeting these expectations, please contact Father to arrange a payment schedule.



*End 123, Body 54 US\$ shown in Mahogany*