

NEW WORSHIP AREA UPDATE

Still on schedule to be completed September 2021



*Thanks to everyone who continues to serve our church in many capacities.
We couldn't do it without you. God Bless you all.*

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*The
Season
of
Lent*



5th Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

Year B

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 2021

The Merciful Love of our God is constantly at work. When we fail to follow his will, he always finds new ways of bringing us back to him. He spares nothing for our salvation, that is why he sent us his only son Jesus, to come and die for us, thus establishing an everlasting Covenant with his people. This is the focus of our reading for this Sunday.

The first reading, taken from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah, explains how God will replace the Old Covenant of Judgment with a New Covenant of Forgiveness of sins. This New Covenant, prophesied by Jeremiah, was fulfilled through Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection. In the second reading, St. Paul tells the Hebrews that it is by Jesus' suffering and death, in obedience to his Father's will, that a New Covenant is established.

Today's Gospel teaches us that, the new life of the New Covenant is possible only by the death of the self through obedience, suffering and service: "unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Jesus himself was the expression of this principle. He is the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies, and in dying yields a harvest of life. He describes that harvest in prophetic words: "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself."

If God worked powerfully through the life of Jesus, He worked even more powerfully through the death of Jesus, a death that reveals the power of God's love, even more fully than his life of healing and ministry, for the amazing love revealed in his death on the cross drew people to God and continues to do so. Over the centuries, millions of people, by looking upon the crucifix, have experienced God's personal love and compassion and found themselves drawn to God in return. It is by accepting freely, the suffering, that Jesus drew people of all nations to himself and to sharing in a new life, lived in and with God.

The Gospel hints at the inner struggle of Jesus in accepting the cup of suffering to inaugurate the New and Eternal Covenant. However, Jesus accepts the cross as his "hour," meaning his passion, death, Resurrection. It is by accepting this "hour", that Jesus glorifies his Heavenly Father, and in return, he is being glorified by his Father. It is by this hour of being lifted up on the cross, that Jesus draws all people into the saving action of God.

The lesson we get from Jesus is that, only a life spent for others will be glorified. Jesus left us an example, he is that grain of wheat which fell on the ground and died, and as a result it produced much fruit. We know that the world owes everything to people who have spent their time and talents for God and for their fellow human beings. Let us pray that we may acquire this self-sacrificing spirit, especially during this time of Lent.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Responsorial Psalm:

*Create a clean heart,
a clean heart in me, O God*

Second Reading:

Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: *John 12:20-33*

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



Vincent Recupido, Jeff Tutak, Jean Goembicik, Pat Morrell & Jeanne Lessner

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

Karen Tatum, Nikki Ryan, Lynn Messina, Erik Meijer, Dave Hersh, Mike Shea, Krop Family, Pam Tibbs, Sherry Newton, Aqela 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, Natash Walsh, Ellen DeMaurez, Michele MacFarland, Shirley Schultz, LC Warren, John Vajda, Sandy Alter, Andy & Iris Hetzer.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

The Butt Family, Greg Chambers, 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 Loustaunau, 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: MARCH 14, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,560
Second Collection: Catholic Relief \$ 282
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 80,612
Total Budget Projection: \$ 73,370
There is no second collection today.



"Hyperlink to website"

We signed the following principle checks this week:
\$970 February Electric.

BIRTHDAY'S FOR MARCH



1st-Daved Bushey, 4th-Anne Paparella, 5th-Earlyne Glenn & Tommy Lange,
8th-Sandi Delagrange & Joe Pearce, 9th-Kathy Placilla & Peper Heunemann,
15th-Victoria Hollingsworth, 16th-Mitch Krom, 20th-Gary Richardson,
21st-Peggy Williams, 22nd-Mike Lokie, 24th-Barbara Hollingsworth & Jay Jay Jaboulay,
25th-Dolores Recupido, 30th-Michele Meanley & Joe Sychterz.

ANNIVERSARY DATES FOR MARCH



13th-Jan & Nathalie Smith, 15th-Frank & Gerrie Lohr, 24th-Bill & Johnna Harris,
28th-Ron & Georgia Beville.

THANK YOU'S ALL AROUND COV

A big shout out to all those who helped with Soup & Stations: Soup Makers were Michele Meanley, Cindy Jesse, Mary Sychterz, Germaine Hayes, Lynne Dreelin, Eileen O'Brien, Lynne Richardson, Debby Harriman, Mary Dorman, Lisa Forte, Georgia Belville, Pat Marchant, & Donna Brandl. Bread Makers were: Debby Harriman, Roseanne Moncure, Germaine Hayes, Carol Smith, Kathy Kauffman, Jean Kostascky, John McCormack, Donna Brandl, Linda Gray & Mary & Tom Dorman.

Thank you to all you wonderful people for providing us with home cooked meals. Also a big thank you to Eileen for setting the stations up & to Carol McCormack for setting the scene with live music.

We also want to send out a special thanks to those that helped with the Scoots BBQ:
John McCormack, Debby Harriman, Ed Harriman & Mary Sychterz.

When the Lenten Challenge is completed, we will publish the total collected for our pews.
Mary Sychterz

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

It looks like we won't have enough parking spaces when the New Worship Area is completed?

Our original plan was to add one new row of spaces toward the road. Because of new Department of Environmental Quality standards, the plan would have required us to cut down trees and construct a concrete water catchment system costing over \$200,000. We counted the parking spaces remaining after construction, informed the Diocese of the count, and they informed us we exceeded it's requirement and standards.

If we discover later that we absolutely must have more parking spaces, we can consider less costly alternatives that won't require DEQ permission.

Dear parishioners,

"Thank you for your continued involvement in bringing Christ into the world through you prayers, simple acts of kindness and supporting those in need.

I'm also grateful for your continued support for our Parish and New Worship Area. Speaking of our New Worship Area, the centerpiece of our Sanctuary will be stained glass windows behind the Altar.

Below is the design of these windows developed by our window provider.



Father Gerry

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Address change:

Min Tassone
11 James Square
Williamsburg, VA
23185

REGRET

We regret to announce the death of Vincent Recupido on Wednesday morning. Vince joined the parish in 2012 after retiring from the New York City Police Department and moving here to be close to other family members. Our prayers are with his spouse, Dolores Ann, Candace, and the Hollingsworth family. A private graveside service will be held this coming Monday.

LAVONNE PEARCE'S INTERNMENT

Lavonne Pearce will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA on March 31st at 2PM. If you plan to attend, please call Paul Peace at (804)758-4193. He and the cemetery need to know who will be attending. Plan to arrive 45 minutes early and meet at the administration building. All participants over the age of 16 must have a valid photo id to enter the cemetery.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Since we began celebrating Mass for all parishioners exclusive of alphabet restrictions, our attendance weekly has been about 70-75 persons.

We can handle that many persons seating-wise, but accounting for attendees has become difficult because so many parishioners are arriving only a few minutes before Mass.

Please consider arriving for Mass as early as 15 minutes before hand to ease the accountability issue.

At the same time that we ask you to arrive earlier, we would also ask that you minimize the socializing (a dichotomy-come early and don't talk) so we can ascertain who is seating where and reduce the risk of transmitting any infections.

TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS

Lectors: Tom Dorman & Tom Shoemaker Community Leader: Kevin Hayes

ANNUAL APPEAL



The weekly Diocesan report was an astonishing success story. We have made our Goal when totaling pledges and cash donation from parishioners to date. To those who contributed to this achievement, I offer my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your generosity are these times of unparalleled crisis and calls for commitment, You are true bearers of the cross. Father Gerry

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Good stewardship requires us to think of the future. Have your estate plan prepared now and express your good stewardship in ways that will bless your family and your church.

“Later” can be too late. Don't delay having your will drawn. Make sure your estate plans are in place so that your wishes will be carried out to benefit your family. Gifts you plan for your will can help your church continue to minister and serve.

Be sure that your estate planning documents are properly prepared. A homemade will “might” work, but unless it is properly written it might cause unnecessary expenses and delays-and worst of all, it might not accomplish what you want to happen. The writing of your will is a job for which you need professional assistance.



Potential, Purpose, Promise

When my arms can't reach people who are close to my heart...

I always hug them with my prayers.



WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE...



CLAPPING AT CHURCH

THERE IS NO BETTER TEACHER THAN THE HOLY SPIRIT & NO BETTER TEXT THAN GOD'S WORD.



ARE YOU SERIOUSLY READING EVERY ANNOUNCEMENT...



ALREADY PRINTED IN THE CHURCH BULLETIN?

LENT IS UPON US



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.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation. During Lent, everyone is urged to take a greater and more fruitful share in the Lenten liturgy, It is very appropriate for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation to be celebrated during Lent in a more solemn form, and we encourage you to receive this sacrament during Lent.

You are reminded that reconciliation will be held here at COV at 7PM on March 24th.

More than half way through Lent, we are approaching **Palm Sunday and Holy Week.** You are reminded that the Palm Sunday celebration will begin 10 minutes early at 8:50am. We will not begin the celebration outside as in the past but start inside with the Blessing of the Palms.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia provides Mental Health Counseling Services for adults, children, couples and families. Telehealth and safe in-person appointments are available on a sliding scale fee. Call 757-467-7707 to schedule an appointment.

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 #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.
Pews and Choir Chairs minimum donation of \$250



“Hyperlink” to Memorials

