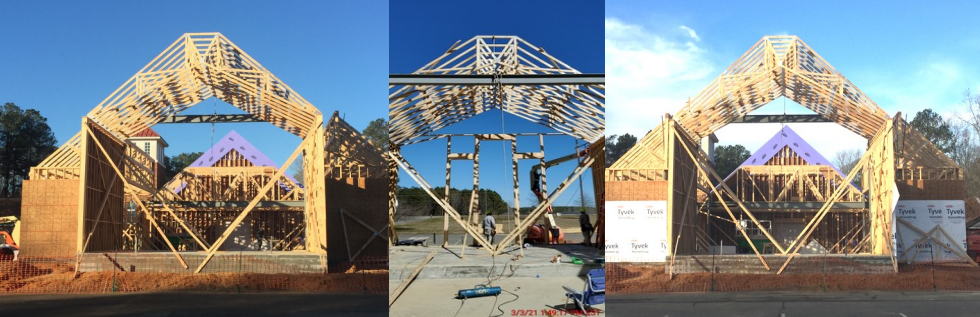


## NEW WORSHIP AREA UPDATE

*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.*

*The Catholic Church Of The Visitation*  
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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*



*3rd Sunday in Lent*

*March 7, 2021*

*Year B*

## Third Sunday of Lent March 7, 2021

During Lent, and especially this Lent, the First Readings from the Old Testament present various covenants between God and his people. We reflect on them during Lent to help us have a greater understanding of the New Covenant in the blood of Jesus which we celebrate at Easter.

The first Sunday of Lent we had the story of Noah whom God saved from the floods. Then, after the floods, God made a covenant by the sign of a rainbow, with his people when he promised he would never give up on his people. He will never destroy humanity. Last Sunday, (the Second Sunday of Lent), we had the covenant with Abraham when he trusted that God would provide after being told to sacrifice his son. The message was that God knows the inner turmoil we may have in our faith lives and gives us the strength to grow in faith even in the most difficult times of our lives. This Sunday we are presented with the covenant made through the Ten Commandments presented to Moses to bring to the people. This covenant was so solemn to the people of Israel that they kept the Tablets containing the Ten commandments in a specially made platform in a tent called the Ark of the Covenant. The Ten Commandments were the basis of Jewish Religion and are still today the basis of our religious and spiritual life. Instead of restricting our freedom, the Commandments really help us to love and respect our God and our neighbors. Like the Jewish people who practiced the Ten Commandments so they could remain the Chosen People, we also, are called to practice the Ten Commandments as our response to God's presence, his choice of us.

Today's Gospel gives us the dramatic account of Jesus' cleansing the Temple of its merchants and moneychangers, followed by a prediction of his death and Resurrection. The key to Jesus' anger is to be found in the first reading. "I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me." This is the first and most important of the Ten Commandments. It forbids belief in false Gods or the worship of idols. Now in those days this was understood in a very external and legalistic manner. You buy a sacrifice offer it to God and that is all. People offered sacrifices in the Temple as a legal practice not based on their faith. And all those who sold animals for sacrifice made money for themselves.

Jesus is not content with this mere outward conformity to the Law of God; what he wants is interior obedience, obedience of the heart. These merchants are clearly serving not God but themselves. Their aim is not true worship of the Living God but the accumulation of money. And worse of all this involves the exploitation of the poor and devout. This is what makes Jesus angry and leads him to clear them from the Temple. But the direct consequence of the Cleansing of the Temple was Christ's arrest and death on the Cross. Indeed, in his remarks about destroying the Temple and it being raised up in three days Jesus makes it quite clear that he is fully aware of the consequences. It was this intervention into what they regarded as their territory that upset the Temple authorities. From that moment they were determined to do away with Him.

Lent is the ideal time to clean out the Temple of our own hearts and to offer to God proper worship by living according to his Commandments, and by always carrying out his will. We need to avoid a faith based on a calculating mentality. Our relationship with God must be based on trust, love, desire to do his will with no thought of personal loss or gain.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

### TODAY'S MASS

First Reading: *Exodus 20:1-17*

Responsorial Psalm:

*Lord, you have the words  
of everlasting life.*

Second Reading:

*1 Corinthians 1:22-25*

Gospel: *John 2:13-25*

*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



*Jeanne Lessner, Richard Powell, Catherine Walsh*

#### 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

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 Kostecky, 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

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: FEBRUARY 28, 2021

Collection: \$ 1,610  
Second Collection:  
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 75,362  
Total Budget Projection: \$ 68,236



"Hyperlink to website"

Our second collection today is for New Worship Area.  
We did not sign any principal checks this week.

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.

TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS

Lectors: *John Weidner & Lynne Dreelin* Community Leader: *Debby Harriman*

SOUP AND STATIONS

Although a soup repast is not part of the events as in the past, the soup fundraiser is occurring simultaneously. For clarification, if you are signed up to prepare soup, you can deliver the soup to the church during working hours(9-2pm) or before the stations begin at 5:30pm.



Please place the contents (soup) in the quart containers in the kitchen and then the refrigerator. If bringing bread there are paper bags which the bread is to be placed. For those who have ordered a quart or two, you may pick up your order at 6:15pm or upon the conclusion of the stations.

The donation amount is \$10 per quart, bread included. As we proceed through Lent, please remember *to sign up on Sunday* to prepare soup and/or bread or to place your order for a quart or two of these delicious culinary specialties.

*If you wish to sign up for either and cannot make it to church, you can always email or leave a message on the church answering machine. When ordering soup, please say what type of soup you desire and how many quarts of each.*

THE CROSS



You may not have noticed it, but we have a new cross by the road. The old one collapsed from wear a week and a half ago and our conscientious cadre of ushers solved the need. Don Delagrange built it on Monday and Tom Shoemaker, Frank Lohr, and Joe Sychterz put it in the ground on Tuesday.

My thanks for the rapid reaction of a dedicated group of parishioners.

February 28, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

As we begin the third month of the year, many things have already taken place. Our New Church is taking shape, we are all excited to see how quickly the construction is moving. Hopefully by October we will be sitting in it worshipping the Lord and all our sacrifices will turn to joy!

We have had, and are still participating in different Fundraising campaigns. The Memorials' campaign for our New Worship which we opened in January, has been a success although some items like windows are still available. But in general, I am grateful for the support and love you have shown for your Church. Please continue responding positively, as you always do, to all the activities organized by our Fundraising Committee during this Lent.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is also taking place. As I have said on many occasions, this is an opportunity to be and feel part of the Mission of the Diocese. The Diocese is us, and together we bring Christ's love to all those who will benefit from this Appeal.

Let me express my sincere gratitude to all of you for supporting all these activities. Also, thank you for your continued financial support of the Church during these trying and difficult times. May this season of Lent be for all of us a time of renewal both spiritually and physically.



*Be assured of my prayers.*

Fr. Gerry

REMEMBER: WE DON'T WORSHIP THE LORD ON SUNDAYS ONLY!



WE WORSHIP HIM EVERYDAY!

SOMETIMES WE JUST MISS THE POINT



WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING?



## 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.*

## ANNUAL APPEAL



Last Sunday, we completed what is termed the "in-pew" portion of the Annual Appeal. We will receive weekly reports from the Diocese detailing our progress towards the \$6,340 goal and keep you informed accordingly. For those who have donated, we thank you, and for those considering it, prayer may give you the answer you seek. If you need a contribution envelope call the office.

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>

## WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Remember, if you have no will or trust, state laws will determine who will inherit your property at your death. State laws do not include your church or any other charity as a beneficiary.

Consider naming your church as a beneficiary in your will or living trust. The gift could be a set dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, the remainder after other gifts are made, or a gift of that part of the estate left if designated heirs are deceased.

Giving to your church through your will is a good way to continue your support of your church beyond your lifetime. When your estate plan is prepared, consider including plans for a gift to your church.



*Putting a face with one of our parishioners. Mel Placilla.*

## REGRETS

We are saddened by the loss of longtime and cherished parishioner Jeanne Lessner who died of natural causes on February 22nd. Jeanne joined the parish in 1985 with friend Charlotte Neuburger. She will be buried in a private service at a later date. Our prayers are with Lori and JayJay.



## LENT IS UPON US

Lent has begun and we encourage you to participate in the four stations which occur on Wednesdays. 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.*

**Lent and the Worship Environment.** During Lent, the altar should not be decorated with flowers. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday), solemnities, and feasts are exceptions to this norm. While the vestment color for the season of Lent is violet, on the 4th Sunday of Lent, rose-colored vestments may be worn.

**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.

## 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

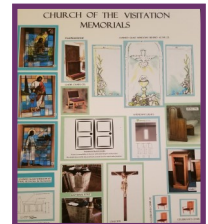
Sound System \$8,500

Sanctuary Tile \$11,500

Pews and Choir chairs minimum donation of \$250



"Hyperlink"



If you are still interested in a Memorial Donation, we now have a hyperlink available.



## SCOOT'S BARBEQUE DINNER



**DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR DINNER BY MARCH 12TH!**