

NEW WORSHIP AREA UPDATE

Still on schedule to be completed September 2021



The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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2nd Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021 Year B



Divine Mercy Sunday

This Sunday is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday due to the message of the Gospel we read on this Sunday. Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the power to continue his work of forgiveness. “... he breathed on them and said, receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sin you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” Again, in the Gospel, Jesus shows his loving forgiveness to the Disciples who abandoned him, and even Thomas who refused to believe when they others told him that he is alive. Jesus forgives all that.

This is a proof of his love for them and all of us. He allowed Thomas to touch them. By this, he is telling us that it is alright to go to God in our woundedness, with our sins and with shortcomings, we are assured of a total welcome. We don't have to pretend that we are otherwise; we can go as we are. Jesus appreciates our honesty, and he will always forgive us.

The end of the gospel passage today states: “*Now Jesus did many signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name*”.

Faith or belief is not just about believing in things we do not see. *Faith is about taking a risk and making commitments, even if what lies ahead is unclear, even if we are not sure.* This is what Jesus was challenging Thomas about. He was inviting Thomas to believe him even though he did not see him. Moreover, he is inviting Thomas to commit his life to him, and this will involve risk. Thomas did not want to believe only on the ground of what he was told, he wanted to experience Jesus for himself rather than taking the word of others.

In following Jesus, we often find ourselves doubting, questioning, hesitating, even challenging Him to prove himself to us that he is the Lord, the Son of God. The Gospel today is an insight about our human nature, doubting and looking for tangible signs. But our faith calls us to go deeper.

Believing in Jesus means a *close following of Him*, a commitment of our lives to him even when the signs are not too clear. Basically, it is about trust. We have to ask ourselves daily: will we trust Jesus, will we be faithful in following him when our conditions are not met but allow him to act as he knows best, not always understanding why he acts this way?

This was basically the problem of Thomas. We read that he set up his own conditions for believing in Jesus. “*Unless I see the marks of the nails in his hands, and put my finger into the nail-marks, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe*”. Then when the compassionate, understanding Risen Jesus Christ appears again, we see his sensitivity to the doubts of Thomas. There is no condemnation on the part of Jesus, simply kindness and gentleness.

This is our God, he knows that in life, difficulties will come our way, sometimes causing us to doubt God's love and care for us. But today's gospel is a litany of God's incredible understanding and sensitivity to who we are. First, he appears to the disciples locked in a room for fear of the Jews. His first words are not those of condemnation but of consolation. He offers them Peace, and this fills them with joy. Because not only are they locked in a room but also they are locked into their fears. They are in a sense paralyzed by fear. Jesus becomes a life-giver to them. The Joy of seeing him and knowing that he is alive, and present among them replaces fear.

Let us not allow our fears to dominate our lives. Jesus came to free each of us. He may not always come directly but if we ask him in faith and trust, he will use others to help us have the same freedom and peace his frightened disciples had when he appeared to them in the Upper Room.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

Responsorial Psalm:

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.*

Second Reading:

1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: *John 20:19-31*

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



William Richardson, Loretta Schueckler, Paul Sherwood & Morgan Wells

PARISHIONERS

Peggy Williams, 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 Hawkworth, 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, Colin Walsh.

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FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Joe McInerney, 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: April 4, 2021

Collection: \$ 3,140

Second Collection:

Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 87,301

Total Budget Projection: \$ 80,679

Our second collection today is for the New Worship Area.

We did not sign any principle checks this week:



"Hyperlink to website"

BIRTHDAY'S FOR APRIL



1st-Carole McPherson & Suzanne Sitterding, 3rd-Bob O'Leary, 4th-Blaise Katsuki, Sally Johnson, Marianne Krop & Fritz Heunemann, 5th-Jim Vajda, 6th-Ray Kostas, 8th-Pat Reamy, 10th-Anne Dunn, 12th-Nancy Wirth & Tracy Pausic, 13th-Carol Smith, 17th-Margaret Hock, 23rd-Kaylee Kirsch & Tom Johnson, 28th-Louise Hartz.

ANNIVERSARY DATES FOR APRIL



3rd-Brendan & Eileen O'Brien, 9th-Tom & Sharon Hawksworth,
10th-Bill & Linda Gray, 17th-Mike & Noelle Harvey.

GOODBYE CHURCH OF THE VISITATION

The time has come to bid you all goodbye. In worshipping together we've had many uplifting moments, and developed treasured friendships over these many years. We

always looked forward to Ray Kostas's annual fiscal report, not so much for his analyses and projections but for his concluding jokes and puns; such a helpful, friendly, all-propose office manager Andrea was; the Knights who kept order and proper distancing during this pandemic, and who regaled us with lively conversation before Mass in the back of the old church. Bob Borden, the church's Mr. fixit; Mike Dreelin, our videographer who tirelessly live streamed the Mass to parishioners at home; Frank and Gerri Lohr, our "Hawaiian" connection; Joe and Mary Sychterz, who've never forgotten to send us a card on our wedding anniversary; and so many others who affected our lives. And yes, our Sundays will never be the same without a dose of canned and often irreverent jokes (just before the opening hymn), from Don Tyrrell.

We had sad times together, and those were worth remembering too. Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow readers, our lector taskmasters and good friends, Jack and Louise Petralia, and the Very Reverend Gerry Kaggwa for this opportunity to be in the lector ministry. Most of all I thank the Lord for his guidance.

We pray that the "new" church continues to prosper and grow.

In God's Love Fernando & Marilyn Atienza

TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS

Lectors: Lynne Dreelin & Joe Sychterz

Community Leader: Gary Richardson

INVITATION

Join the Office of Evangelization for its April Foster the Good series talk on Tuesday, April 27 at 12:30pm!

To register use the link below.

The Zoom link: <http://bit.ly/FosterTheGoodApril2021>



Dear Friends,

I wish each one of you a blessed, joyful, and happy Easter. And may you continue to live this Easter time with gratitude and trust in God our father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Let the resurrection of Jesus bring hope to these rather dark, hard, and challenging times.

Easter is a time of thanksgiving and rejoicing. It is a time which reminds us of the many blessings that we have; mostly our families and Friends, and above all, our faith in God. We should all remember the true meaning of Easter and the sacrifice that has been made out of love for us: Jesus gave himself as ransom for many by his passion, and who by his resurrection brings us to a new life. A life full of hope.

God has shared his great love with, and for us, by giving his only Son to save us. Likewise, we are called upon to do our part as well by spreading God's love to all our friends and neighbors during this Easter time and always as a sign of our testimony that we are Christians.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ which we celebrate with joy in this Easter time, shows us that the end of each hardship, each struggle and each difficulty is a victory and success.

Therefore, let us pray during this time for a better tomorrow. Let us think of those who are suffering, those who seem to lose hope, those who need love. The World, our communities, our parish, our families, will be a better place if each one of us plays his/her part. Jesus played his part in transforming our lives, now it is your turn and mine to do the same.

The Covid-19 pandemic has shattered our lives and has left scars of pain to those who lost their loved ones. To heal and get out of this dark valley the pandemic has put us all into, we need each one's cooperation. We are grateful for the vaccines which have been developed and these give us hope, but they only work if we receive them. Therefore, I encourage you when your turn comes go get the shot. Jesus defeated death; we too can overcome this virus, but we have to work together by using all the tools available to combat it.

Take courage, be hopeful, and pray that the Lord continues to keep us safe.

Happy Easter!



Father Gerry

PERSONAL CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS

For those who participated in "The Lenten Personal Challenge", now is the time to turn in your envelopes or coins. You may pick up an envelope marked "Personal Challenge" on the table in the entry way, or mark a plain envelope as "Personal Challenge". Please place the envelope in the collection basket by the door or place it in the box on the wall outside the office door. You may also mail it in, just make sure that it is marked "Personal Challenge". For coins, drop them in the glass container that is placed by the collection basket before Mass.

If you would like to share your experiences, drop a note in the envelope. We would love to hear from you and how you were challenged by your Challenge.

If you have any questions contact Mary Sychterz at 804-815-0353.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Since we began celebrating Mass for all parishioners exclusive of alphabet restrictions, our attendance weekly has been about 70-75 persons. Easter Sunday attendance was 92. We can handle that many persons seating-wise, but accounting for attendees has become difficult because so many parishioners are arriving 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.

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.

Create a list of the ministries you love and support new. Consider your own dreams for those ministries for the future. Next consider all the goals you have (support your family provide for your own retirement, provide an education for grandchildren, etc.)

Meet with your professional advisor to learn how informed estate planning can increase the overall value of your estate with a gift of tax-burdened assets (like IRAs, 401(k)), or savings bonds) to the church.



Potential, Purpose, Promise

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Where will the Sacristy and Reconciliation and Vesting room be located in the New Worship Area?

The Sacristy will remain where it is now. As you enter the new worship area, to your right will be a vesting room. In front of that, separated by a wall will be a confessional, accessible by a penitent from the nave (seating area). Father will enter his side of the confessional through a door from the vesting room.

HELPING WITH EASTER

Many thanks to Georgia Beville for making our beautiful Easter banner and altar apron. Another thank you goes out to Germaine Hayes and Mary Ellen Sherwood for helping decorate for Easter! Eileen O'Brien

ANNUAL APPEAL



We continue to further surpass our goal when counting cash donated to date and amounts pledged. *In an unmistakable achievement, we are at 166% of goal.* Twenty-eight parish families, two former families, and one unknown have contributed to this appeal. To those who contributed to this achievement, I offer my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your generosity in these times of unparalleled crisis and countless calls for commitment. You are true bearers of the cross. Father Gerry



ANNUAL COV GOLF TOURNAMENT

Golfers, donors, and parishioners are asked to mark their calendars for the annual Fr. John Boddie Memorial Golf Classic to be held on Friday, June 4 at the Piankatank River Golf Club in Hartfield.

This event, hosted by COV is a four-player captain's choice competition open to all. Team prizes will be awarded in each of three flights.

Golfers will also compete for individual prizes.

The \$85 per person entry fee covers use of the practice range, golf cart rental, green fee, on-course beverages, and dinner in the Steamboat Restaurant. Registration begins at 11:00AM with a shotgun start at 12:00. Proceeds are shared equally between local charities and the church's capital fund. To register or for more information, please call Gary at (571) 215-2407. Right now we need golfers and donors.

More information will follow.

THE EASTER SEASON

Commencing with Easter, we began the Easter Season, 50 days of joyful exultation until Pentecost Sunday. Some of the differences you may notice are;

On Easter Sunday, the tradition in the United States has been to replace the Creed with the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, followed by a sprinkling with blessed water. A Rite of Sprinkling may appropriately replace the Penitential Act at the beginning of Mass on all Sundays during the Easter Season.

Instead of the Nicene Creed, especially during Lent & Easter Time. The Baptismal Symbol of the Romans Church known as the Apostles' Creed may be used.

Paschal Candle remains in the sanctuary, most preferably near the ambo, and is lighted for every celebration during the Easter Season. The Paschal Candle remains in position until after the last Mass on Pentecost Sunday.

In the Province of Baltimore, which includes the Diocese of Richmond, the Ascension of the Lord is transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, thus replacing the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

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.

Stained Glass Windows 2 left \$12,000 each



Memorials still available are as follows:

Confessional \$7,500
Wooden Entrance Doors \$10,000
Sanctuary Tile \$11,500
Pews and Choir Chairs \$250
Sound System \$8,500