

NEW WORSHIP AREA UPDATE

Still on schedule to be completed September 2021



They are working on miscellaneous wood framing and blocking, exterior doors, windows, HVAC & return ducting systems and getting the building dried in. Electrical is starting as well.

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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4th Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021 Year B

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On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, called *Good Shepherd Sunday*, we continue to reflect on the meaning of the Resurrection. This is also the *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. Today, we celebrate the risen Lord as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.

In the gospel today, Jesus compares himself to the Good Shepherd, the one who really knows his sheep. He cares for them with great gentleness. He has a great love and familiarity with them. This Gospel text offers us both comfort — Good Shepherd, knows us, provides for us, and loves us — and a challenge: to become *good shepherds* to those entrusted to our care; in our families, communities and in our Parish. We have to take care of those who belong to the sheepfold of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

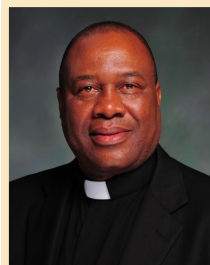
By saying: “I am the good shepherd”, Jesus is telling us simply what kind of relationship he wants with us. He wants an easy and familiar relationship with us. A relationship based on deep understanding of us and our needs. It is a relationship of love. Twice in today’s gospel Jesus says that he lays down his life for his sheep. It is a self-sacrificing love. He is inviting each one of us to be that shepherd to our brothers and sisters.

We have all experienced good shepherds ourselves in our daily lives. Dedicated, loving, loyal, caring people. Maybe parents who spend time caring for their families often at great cost, teachers who bring the best out of their pupils, nurses, and doctors who do a little bit extra for their patients, especially these days in the midst of a pandemic, when they risk their lives to take care of us and all those who are vulnerable in the society. These people are so good they would not do it any other way. They genuinely care for others, far beyond the call of duty. We all know people like these. People who keep alive the work and example of Jesus the Good Shepherd today, often in very difficult circumstances and who are not always appreciated.

In the gospel today we see some qualities of the Good Shepherd as revealed by Jesus. a) He knows his own sheep by name, that is, he knows them intimately. b) He lays down his life for his sheep. c) He wants to invite others to be part of his flock, his friends. d) He has a great interest in the unity of all his sheep, we, his followers. e) The Good Shepherd, Jesus, is above all a servant. Just as the Shepherd serves his flock and looks after their interests Jesus is both our Savior and Lord, but above all, he ready to serve the sheep entrusted to his care. Ultimately Jesus is revealing to us who God our Father is in his love and concern for our good. He invites us to be witnesses to this as shepherds in our communities and parishes.

Today is also Vocation Sunday. Let us pray especially for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life but also for the vocation of the laity, that whatever our particular calling is, we would show that the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd is the one guiding us. Each of us lay or clerical has a vocation. None is more important than the other. The best vocation for each one of us is the one God has called us to. Jesus gives us the example. Jesus is for everyone and finds no differences in serving, living, or working with, and loving those different from ourselves regardless of race, and gender.

All are one. That is what we are called to be: shepherds to all God’s children.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Responsorial Psalm:

The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone

Second Reading:

1 John 3:1-2

Gospel: *1 John 10:11-18*

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



John Liquari, Mary Ruark, Dorothy Gatlin & Margo Couzens

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 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, Colin Walsh.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Jillian Messina, Joseph J. Los, Karen Tatum, Lynn Messina, Dave Hersh, Mike Shea, Krop Family, 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, Colleen O'Rollins, Michael Reamy, Natash Walsh, Ellen DeMaurez, Michele MacFarland, LC Warren, John Vajda, Sandy Alter, Andy & Iris Hetzer.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

David Taylor, Gene Tunney Walker, Joe McInerney, The Butt Family, Greg Chambers, Bristow Family, Peg Meushaw, Dave Gunn, Chuck Taylor, Paula Harcum, Cathy Kirkland, Remy Maine Miller, Jessie Debusk, Ryan & Jeanne Norris, Donna Newcomb, Vickie Hogge, Maria Franzoni, Pumpkin Brownley, Rita Blommel, Brenda Knupp, Ashely Scott & family, 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 18, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,607
Second Collection: St Noa Uganda \$ 469
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 92,073
Total Budget Projection: \$ 85,861
There is no second collection today.



We signed the following principal check this week: \$908 Pastor and Rectory Expenses for March; \$285 Lawn Care.

BIRTHDAY'S FOR MAY



1st-Pat DeGroot, 2nd-Cynthia Taylor, 3rd-Scott Kauffman, 5th-Lynn Vajda, 6th-Camdyn Putney, Matt Sherwood & Marilyn Atienza, 8th-Donna Lange, 9th-Denise Miller, 13th-Marilyn Cox & Mike Harvey, 17th-Lee Hollingsworth, 18th-Don Delagrang, 21st-Richard Cox, 22nd-Spike Nunn, 24th-Jennifer Miller, 27th-Lynne Richardson, 29th-Charlie Hock.

ADDRESS CHANGES



Lynne & Jim Vajda
108 Jagged Landing
Williamsburg, VA
23188

TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS

Lectors: Eileen O'Brien
& Tom Shoemaker
Community Leader: Kathy Kauffman



REVISED SAFE ENVIROMENT REGULATION

The Diocese has promulgated revised safe environment regulations which are effective April 30th. All volunteers who presently interact with Virtus need to be alert for a prompt which will inform them of the revision and allow them to download the regulations and acknowledge receipt of them. The acknowledgements must be completed by April 30th. Thank you for your corporation.

LENTEN AND EASTER SEASON FUNDRAISERS

Many thanks to the parishioners and friends who participated in the Lenten and Easter Season fundraisers (Soup & Stations, BBQ, Personal Challenge, and Coin Jar) In total they raised about \$2,475 for the Building Fund. A special thanks goes to Mary for her endearing commitment to the projects as a member of the fundraising team.

PEWS

Pews with kneelers will adorn the nave of our new worship area.

The wood is red oak of color burnt sugar.

Pictured here are photos of the pews' sample.

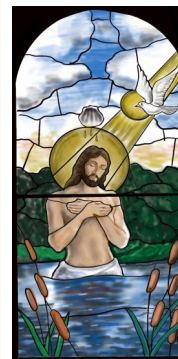
After Mass, it will be under the alcove for you to view and try out.



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



Memorials still available:

Sanctuary Tile \$11,500
Pews and Choir Chairs \$250
Sound System \$8,500
Stained Glass Window \$12,000

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.

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 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?

How long has it been since you updated your will? Does it still express your wishes? Does it leave a gift to your church to carry on its ministry after your death?

You can share your faith beyond your lifetime by careful estate planning which includes your church in your will. During your lifetime you will have the joy of knowing that whatever you do not use in this life will continue in ministry through your church after your death.

When your estate planning documents are prepared by your attorney, you can include your church as the final beneficiary to receive any benefits that remain after other beneficiaries are remembered.



Potential, Purpose, Promise

Faith & Fellowship

KICKOFF SUMMER GATHERING

It's time we gathered and celebrated again in a social manner. Ascension Sunday, May 16th, marks the one year anniversary of our celebrating Mass with parishioners in attendance.

It is also a day we have chosen for a picnic gathering after Mass,

A Mass that will be held at 12:30.

Yes, the Mass that day will be at 12:30pm with the picnic following, until 3pm.

We will supply fried chicken, cole slaw, lemonade, and sweet tea.

We ask that parishioners provide a side dish or dessert to share.

A sign up sheet for that purpose is located in the rear of the church.

For those so inclined, we will have a 50/50 raffle as well.



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.



CONSTRUCTION SITE ACCESS

Many of us are curious about construction progress and what the inside of the new worship area looks like. It is a construction zone and governed by safety regulations which require everyone seeking entry to check in with the construction superintendent, Joe Hendricks. He controls

access, so if you have a reason to visit the area, please check in with Joe beforehand at the Norman & Co. trailer.

