

## 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*

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



*5th Sunday of Easter*

May 2, 2021 Year B

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

This Sunday's Scripture readings emphasize the need for Christians to abide in Christ as a condition for producing fruits of kindness, mercy, charity, and holiness. This is clearly the message of the Gospel passage of today.

Today's gospel is the story of the vine and the vine grower. Jesus describes His Father as the vine grower. He (the Father) very carefully works in the vineyard caring for the individual branches daily. Those branches that are not bearing fruit are removed; the fruit bearing branches are pruned so as to produce more fruit.

The vine grower wants nothing more than to have a fruitful crop and spends great time and care in achieving that. He will do whatever is needed to that end. Indeed, God spends great time watching and taking care of each one of us. He prunes us so that we bear the right fruits.

That is what Jesus suggests in this Gospel, that in various ways God prunes our lives to make them even more fruitful than they presently are. There are some things we may need to shed if we are to become all that God is calling us to be. Some kind of letting go, which can be very painful at the time, can help us to grow in our relationship with God and with others. Through any experience of pruning in our lives, the Lord is near to us. In the words of the gospel, he makes his home in us, he remains in us. We do not have to endure being pruned on our own. The Lord who makes his home in us sustains us in those times, leading us into a new and more fruitful life. But for this to happen we need to remain in him as he remains in us. "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit because without me you can do nothing". This is a special relationship that you could say it is beyond relationship; it is identification. "I am the vine...you are the branches."

To be that vine which produces the right fruits, we have to live as John told us in the second reading. To love one another and to keep his commandments. We are given some advice, "...Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and in truth". Sounds simple, but in reality, it is not. Sometimes we find it hard to love. And many times, it is out of our control. You can easily think of a couple of people who present huge challenges to you personally when you try to practice the "love one another" idea. No matter what you do, or how hard you pray for patience in dealing with them, things are difficult! However, The Lord says that we must persevere and love them.

But why spend much time thinking of the shortcomings of those I am trying to love than my own faults. Because many times it is not others who are the problem, it is us, it is me. Maybe the way I present myself to them or the way I speak, my actions, and maybe other see in me something which is not genuine. So, is it better to stop and think of how difficult I might be to deal with, and how it may be difficult to love me—this can be painful, but that is how the pruning starts! We need pruning in our Christian life. Cutting out of our lives everything that is contrary to the spirit of Jesus and renewing our commitment to Christian ideals in our lives every day is the first type of self-imposed pruning expected of us.

I have to remove from my life all that which does not bear fruits, all that which goes contrary to Jesus' teachings especially the command 'to love one another' because as John tells us in the second reading that: "Those who keep his commandments remain in him and he in them ...". And Jesus wants us to remain in him in order to bear fruits.

We need to abide in Christ and let Christ abide in us: The four Gospels teach us how to become true disciples of Jesus and how to abide in him as branches abide in the main trunk of the vine, drawing their life from it. Personal and liturgical prayers, frequenting of the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, daily, meditative reading of Scripture, and our loving, mutual forgiveness exchanged with everyone enable us to abide in Jesus, the true Vine, as fruit-bearing branches.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

## TODAY'S MASS

### First Reading:

*Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.*

### Second Reading:

*1 John 3:18-24*

### Gospel: *John 15:1-8*

*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



*Joseph J. Los, Charlie Koenig, Jeanne Lessner & David Kushner*

### 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

Ramon Placiente, 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 Kotesky, 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

Matt & Marianna Parowski, Penny Hoar, 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 Loustau, 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 25, 2021

Collection: \$ 1,523  
Second Collection:  
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 93,596  
Total Budget Projection: \$ 87,933



Our second collection today is for Catholic Virginian.

We signed the following principal check this week: \$212 March Telephone.

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,



A Hearty Welcome to our new parishioners

Stuart, Serena and baby Diana Beckett  
1134 Syringa Road  
Topping, VA 23169  
571-326-4260



REVISED SAFE ENVIRONMENT 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 \$2,515 for the Building Fund. A special thanks goes to Mary for her endearing commitment to the projects as a member of the fundraising team.

MINISTRY NEWS

The recently departed Lynn Vajda held a variety of voluntary positions in our parish and performed them in an extraordinary manner. Fortunately, several parishioners have stepped forward to assume her roles. See below to discover our new ministry heads who have already, or are prepared to step in as soon as we return to near normal.

PARISH LIFE

We are pleased to announce that Johnna Harris has agreed to head the Parish Life Ministry. A long time parishioner, Johnna raised two children in the parish and as a retired postal worker now has time to enjoy her five grandchildren.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are pleased to announce that Cindy Jessee has agreed to head our Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Ministry. Cindy presently leads our Rosary group before Mass and recently became a full time resident with husband Tom of Middlesex County after attending Mass with us for years as a summer visitor.

FUNERAL ASSISTANTS

Head of Liturgy, Germaine Hayes, began helping Lynn with funerals this past year and a half. She and newcomer Pat DeGroot will assist Father in the future. Pat and husband Jim joined the parish during the Pandemic from Green Bay, Wisconsin, and is a highly educated grief counselor.

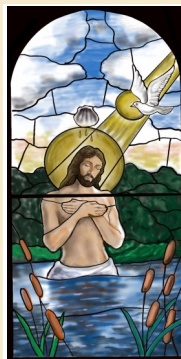
MEMORIAL DONATIONS

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. This past Sunday we had 84 people.

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?

There are so many legacies from which we draw. Parents oftentimes leave us with a powerful set of values and a strong legacy of service and acceptance of others. Even our faith creates in us a legacy of strong biblical knowledge and curiosity and humility.

As we focus on all the blessings left us by other, by our church and by our life experiences, we must ask ourselves: What legacy will I leave?

Hopefully this legacy will include the hope of a strong faith, the enduring power of nonjudgmental love, and perhaps even the desire to make a difference in the world.



Potential, Purpose, Promise



### 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.

**Faith & Fellowship**



### 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.

### CELEBRATION TIME

The COVID-19 Pandemic has changed our life, and made us forego many of the things we were used to. As a community we haven't met for any social gatherings since February 2020. That's a long time for a Church Family like ours which is founded on fellowship and celebrating together. We are almost losing our identity as a warm, welcoming Parish.

But things are starting to ease up, we are not yet out of this pandemic, but there is hope that each day takes a step towards returning to some kind of normalcy.

It is in this spirit of hope and a yearning to regain our family spirit that we are planning to have a Picnic on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, starting with Mass at 12:30.

This will be a moment for us to celebrate the many blessings the Lord has given us despite these trying times. One thing to celebrate is the gift of new members who have joined our Parish since last year. We did not have a time to welcome them. This will be that occasion to know them better and welcome them

officially as part of our Parish family.

So please, mark your calendars, let us come together after a long time and celebrate the beginning of a new life, and thank the Lord who has kept us all safe from this virus.



### 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.

