

NEW WORSHIP AREA UPDATE

Still on schedule to be completed September 2021

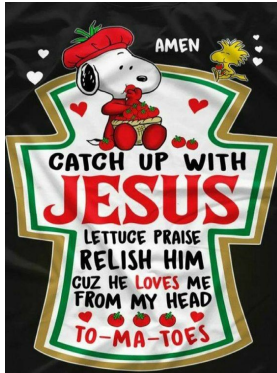


Our new worship area is finally “dried in”

HVAC, electrical, and inside framing work are being done and the outside masonry should begin this coming week.

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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Pentecost Sunday

May 23, 2021 Year B

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 23, 2021

We celebrate Pentecost Sunday, meaning fifty days after Easter Sunday (the 50th day after the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus). Historically, and before Christians, the Jewish people celebrated Pentecost as a post-harvest thanksgiving feast. Later, they included in it the remembrance of God's Covenants with Noah after the floods and with Moses at Mt. Sinai.

For us Christians today, we celebrate Pentecost as remembrance of the event when The Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles who were with Mary in prayer. That event changed the lives of the Apostles and all those who were with them. It also changed those who were listening as the Apostles spoke to them about Jesus. All this change was due to the Holy Spirit who descended on them, fulfilling the promise Jesus made to them that he will send them an advocate who will make known and explain to them all that Jesus taught them. It is this out-pouring of the Holy Spirit that strengthens the Apostles to have the courage to come out of hiding and stand in public, preaching about Jesus Christ. Today, we celebrate the 'Birthday of the Christian Church.'

In the gospel today we hear Jesus appearing to his fearful disciples after his resurrection. These fearful men are locked in a room. Their faith and trust in Jesus seem to have disappeared. Now he comes into their midst and offers them peace and joy. The opposite of faith is not lack of faith but rather fear. We try to rely on ourselves only and as a result may feel incapable of responding to what God is asking of us. So, when Jesus appears to them in today's Gospel, he breathes on them and says, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'. This is a new creation. This is a new transformation. If we offer our lives to the Holy Spirit for transformation, we will find that we will gradually be changed, not just spiritually but on other levels too, emotionally, psychologically, in our relationships with others, and we will be people of hope and not fear.

Jesus tells the disciples today that as the Father sent him, he is sending them to be his witnesses. A true witness is the one who is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Christian witness comes from an inner conviction. This is only achieved by spending time with Jesus, praying to be filled by the gift of the Holy Spirit. People will know a real witness because he or she speaks from personal conviction. And Christian witness has to end in outward testimony; a person who is prepared to say and live by what he believes to be true. It is impossible to achieve our call to witness to Jesus without the powerful Holy Spirit who makes us strong, and gives us the courage to stand for the values we believe in.

Jesus then tells the disciples after breathing on them the Holy Spirit: 'Those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven, those whose sins you retain, they are retained'. After love, the gift that Jesus spoke most about is forgiveness. In fact, it is the only condition attached to our being forgiven. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us, we pray always in the Our Father.

The World needs forgiveness today. Look at what is going on around us: all the bitterness and hatred between nations, ethnic groups, family members, individuals, leaders, etc... Jesus knows that the refusal to forgive will continue the spiral of violence. He knows too that forgiveness is the sheer gift and work of the Spirit. Human power is just not enough. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to give us light to see each other as brothers and sisters, who can talk to each other and who can listen to what the other (he/she) is saying.

In the first reading today when the disciples had received the Spirit, they began to speak in such a way that everyone understood them. This is not the gift of being multilingual as such but rather that they were able to communicate to all their listeners the Good News. In the second reading then we are told that there is a variety of gifts given by the same Spirit. But all have the same goal, to bring about unity and harmony.

Today's feast is telling us clearly that the Spirit works powerfully still in many different ways and in many different peoples. We are sent as witnesses, proclaiming, and living the good news of love, care, forgiveness. Difficult as this is, it has to be a central part of our witness.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

Responsorial Psalm:

*Lord, send out your Spirit,
and renew the face of the earth.*

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

*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



Dottie Hines, Joe Edward and Charles Alter

PARISHIONERS

Peggy Williams, Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Tom Foley, Toni & Nikki Traynor, 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, Mike Lokie, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawksworth, Mary Ann & Kenneth Gulick, Nancy Wirth, Bettie Hodge, Bob & Ingrid Borden, Laurie King, Becky Nunn, Bill & Linda Gray, Carol Smith, Pat & Lee Reamy, Janine Jaboulay, Carole McPherson, Colin Walsh.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

John Matthews, Ramon Placiente, Jillian Messina, Karen Tatum, Lynn Messina, 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, Colleen O'Rollins, Michael Reamy, Natash Walsh, Ellen DeMaurez, Michele MacFarland, LC Warren, 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 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: May 16, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,327
Second Collection: New worship area \$ 310
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 100,404
Total Budget Projection: \$ 93,799



Our second collection today is for the Diocesan Home Missions.

We signed the following principle checks this week: \$363 Electricity for April \$1,340 Pastor & Rectory Expenses for April.

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.

MAY IS MARY'S MONTH

The month of May is dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. The first 23 days fall within the liturgical season of Easter, which is represented by the liturgical color white-the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remainder of the month (beginning the Monday after Pentecost) is in Ordinary Time which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.



NEW PARISHIONER

A hearty welcome to our new parishioner

Terry Skovera
1198 Queenstown Road
Lancaster, VA 22503
703-919-2189



Assignments for this week:

Community Leader:
Kathy Kauffman

Lectors:
Eileen O'Brien &
Tom Shoemaker



KICKOFF SUMMER GATHERING

Blessed with a beautiful day, our parish community came together in a wonderful expression of unity last Sunday. Slightly over 100 parishioners and guests enjoyed the camaraderie and spirit of a growing parish, intent on serving God to the highest and meeting the needs of the community around us.

Many individuals contributed time and talent to the picnic; the persons who set up the tents on Saturday, the servers and ticket sellers on Sunday, the parishioners who brought food, and the cleanup crew on Monday. To these persons, too numerous to mention because we fear we would leave a name out.

WE THANK YOU DEEPLY AND BLESS YOU.

A special thanks goes out to Debby Harriman, who organized the picnic in her role as co-chairperson for fund raising, Johnna Harris, our new Parish Life chairperson, who performed admirably in her baptism to the role, and Kevin Hayes, who power-washed the picnic tables and spruced up the pavilion area.

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

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 106 people.

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

*We strongly encourage mask wearing when attending Mass, even if you have been vaccinated.
Social distancing still remains.*

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

As Catholics we rejoice with faith in the resurrection. Yet we also know the passage from life to death can be stressful on those who survive us.

You can ease some of that stress by acting now to put your estate plan in order. Who will be executor of your estate? Who will decide how your personal treasures are distributed? In addition to their own grief, can you imagine your loved ones struggling to find life insurance papers, bank accounts and other critical documents?

By creating a legal will or living trust, you can provide your next-of-kin with a peace of mind, knowing that you have already determined how your estate will be distributed and who will care for minor children. They will still grieve, but they won't face the daunting task of making decisions that you could have made.



Potential, Purpose, Promise

PENECOST

The Christian holy feast day of Pentecost, which is celebrated 50 days after Easter commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-31). In Christian tradition, this event represents the birth of the early Church.

This fullness of the Spirit was not to remain uniquely the Messiah's, but was to be communicated to all the people. On several occasions Christ promised this outpouring of the Spirit, a promise which he fulfilled first on Easter Sunday and then more strikingly at Pentecost.

This Solemnity makes us remember and relive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and the other disciples gathered in prayer with the Virgin Mary in the Upper Room (Acts 2:1-11). Jesus, risen and ascended into Heaven, sent his Spirit to the Church so that every Christian might participate in his own divine life and become his valid witness in the world. The Holy Spirit breaking into history, defeats aridity, opens hearts to hope, stimulates and foster in us an interior maturity in our relationship with God and with our neighbor.

The color red is synonymous with the celebration of Pentecost Sunday. We thank Gerrie Lohr for making the Pentecost banner that is part of the church environment today.



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.

The following persons have graciously given donations:

The Bliley's (Kathryn & Norbert), the Foley's, the Dorman's, Johnny Fleet, the Forte's, the Bury's-Title Associates, Hurd's Hardware, the Harriman's, Fr. John Boddie Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, and of The Lady of Bay Knights Council.

Because of space limitation, we have rescheduled the silent auction until the new Worship Areas is completed.

Several parishioners have already provided items for it, and they are:

Peggy Williams, Eileen O'Brien and Georgia Beville. Gift certificates from Chesapeake Donuts, Something Different, Mi Jalisco and Bubba' Shrimp Shack (purchased by Peggy Williams) are now available as raffle prizes. As we receive more donation, we will continue to publish them.

ALUMINUM CANS

Because of construction, we have relocated our aluminum cans' receptacle bin to the right side of the Yard Sale Building

as you face it. Please continue to bring your cans and deposit them there.

When we collect a large amount, we will take them to the Middlesex Metals for recycling and cash.

All proceeds will be used for parish beautification.

