

## 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.

## Mothers' Day

Today we thank our mothers, pray for them, and honor them by celebrating them on this Mother's Day.

This is a day to admit gratefully the fact that none of us is able to return, in the same measure, all the love that our mothers have given us. Their influence on their children is so great that it affects the children throughout their lives. Our mothers not only gave us birth but nursed us, nurtured us, trained us in their religious beliefs and practices, taught us good manners and ideal behavior, disciplined us as best as they could, and made us good citizens of our country, our Church, and our society. Hence, it is highly proper for us to express our love and gratitude to our mothers in any way we can, and offer prayers to God for them.

The word “Mom” is synonymous with sacrificial love in its purest form, the love Jesus speaks about in today's Gospel. Hence, let us lavish our love on our mothers and express our gratitude for all the sacrifices they went and are still going through to make us what we are. May God bless all mothers!

Fr. Gerry



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*6th Sunday of Easter*  
*“Mothers Day”*

May 2, 2021 Year B

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

May 9, 2021

Today, through the Scripture Readings, we are reminded that our faith in Christ is expressed in our obeying his commandment of love – “*Love one another as I have loved you.*”

Jesus teaches the disciples and us today, that we have to obey his commandment of love just as He Himself has obeyed his Heavenly Father's will by fulfilling His commandments and remaining inseparably bonded with his Father. Jesus' unconditional, forgiving, selfless, sacrificial love for us must be the criterion of our love for others. The highest expression of this love is our willingness to lay down our lives as Jesus did, for people who do not deserve it. The goal and result of our abiding in love, in God, will be perfect joy. Jesus no longer calls us “slaves” but now calls us “friends.” He tells us that he has chosen us, and that, if we use Jesus' name, we can ask the Father for anything.

In the Gospel Jesus continues to say: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love”. This is the love Jesus means: not our love for God, but God's love for us, when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes away our sins. The deepest truth about God is not that he loves us or that he is a lovable being, but rather that, HE HIMSELF, He is love itself. By his nature God gives and shares His very inner self. It also means that whoever receives the gift of God's love must mirror God's own sharing of self. That is what Remain in my love means, to selfishly love as God loved us.

This should and is the motive of all that we do. God's love for us and our friendship with Jesus. We are chosen by the Lord. So, whatever we do, be it coming to Church, saying our prayers, being good people, good Christians, it is because God loved us, and we are reciprocating this love. Jesus chose us as his friends, so we respond to his friendship by our way of life. By living according to his teachings.

The experience of being chosen by someone can be a welcome one. At the heart of every true friendship there is always a choice. Two people choose to be friends with each other; they value their friendship. Jesus uses this same language of choice and friendship. He tells the disciples (and us), “I chose you,” “I call you friends.” We can each hear those words as addressed to us. The disciples in today's Gospel story represent us all. When Jesus says that love leads him to lay down his life for his friends, we are all included. He has handed over his life for us all. By giving his life for us on the cross, Jesus chose us, personally; he calls each one of us his friend.

Our Lord continues to make that same proclamation, “You are my friends,” “I chose you.” But like in our own friendships, when we choose someone as a friend, we expect that person to make a similar choice. In a similar way, the Lord's choice of us seeks and desires our choice of him. He has chosen us first. As he said to his disciples in the gospel reading, “You did not choose me, no, I chose you.” But having chosen us, he waits for us to reciprocate that choice. We need to cultivate an abiding and loving friendship with Jesus and to express it in our relationships with others by loving them and showing them trust, faithfulness, equality, forgiveness, joy, and sacrifice.

We need to be persons for others. Jesus demonstrated the love of God, his Father, for us by living for us and dying for us. Hence, as Jesus' disciples, we are to be persons for others, sacrificing our time, talents, and lives for others. The most effective way of communicating God's love to others is by treating everyone as a friend, giving everyone the respect he or she deserves.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

## TODAY'S MASS

### First Reading:

*Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*The Lord has revealed to the nations  
his saving power.*

### Second Reading:

*1 John 4:7-10*

### Gospel: *John 15:9-17*

*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



*Frank Kochler, Wingfield Klink & Richard 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, 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 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

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: Mat 2, 2021

Collection: \$ 1,569  
Second Collection: Catholic Virginian \$ 224  
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 95,165  
Total Budget Projection: \$ 90,189



There is no second collection today.

We did not sign any principle checks this week.

### 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.



### A Hearty Welcome to our new parishioners

Stuart, Serena & baby Diana Beckett

1134 Syringa Road  
Topping, VA 23169  
571-326-4260



### ADDRESS CHANGE

Janine Jaboulay  
Saunders Assisted Living  
7407 Walker Ave Apt 212A  
Gloucester, VA 23061  
804-647-2334

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

We have published an update to our directory which includes our new parishioner families. We finally get an opportunity to recognize them without a face mask on. Please pick up a copy when you depart Mass.

### 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.



### 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

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 70 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.*

***\*\*We will need some help in setting up tents for our gathering. We will do that at 9:30am Saturday morning, May 15th. If you can help, please meet in the pavilion at that time. \*\****

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

All COVID-19 protocols will be followed.



### 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.

**At this time we need Golfers, Donors, and Volunteers to work on tournament day.**

### 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.

