

PRESENT NORMS AND GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATION OF THE MASS

For two weeks now we have begun the process of returning to a pre-pandemic celebration of the Liturgy. We will continue to follow the established guidelines we have been using, which are enumerated below. The remainder will be introduced gradually.

1. Masks: **Fully Vaccinated.** Effective May 15, 2021, fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask in any setting.
Unvaccinated. From ages 5 and older must cover their mouth and nose with a mask when present for any Mass or liturgical celebration.
2. Hand sanitizer: All entering the Church are asked to use hand sanitizer placed at the entrance.
3. Music Ministry: Choir may resume.
4. Lord's Prayer and Sign of Peace: We are to continue the practice of refraining from holding hands during the Lord's Prayer and shaking hands during the Sign of Peace (bow or verbal gesture is appropriate).
5. Distribution of the cup: The distribution of the cup remains suppressed for deacons and the lay faithful until further notice.
6. Dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass: For those members of the faithful who may not feel comfortable to attend liturgical celebrations yet, Bishop Knestout continues to dispense all of the faithful of the Diocese of Richmond from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days until further notice.
7. Live streaming Masses: We will continue live streaming our Masses for the faithful unable to attend in person.
8. Ushers: resume their normal procedures/functions as it was pre-Covid-19 except for collections. We will continue to use the baskets placed in the entrance.
9. Bulletins: We will continue to distribute them electronically until further notice.

God's blessings upon you all.

Father Gerry

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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Sheet rock



Brick

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 13, 2021

Year B

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 13, 2021

Today's readings focus on the growth of the reign of God's Kingdom, in our human lives and in the Church at large. It all starts from very humble beginnings. Sometimes slow and mysterious but guided by the power of the Holy Spirit it grows always and reaches the ends of the Earth. Touching many people on the way who eventually became part of the Kingdom.

In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the growth of the Kingdom of God to the germination of a wheat seed and that of a tiny mustard seed. Both have exceedingly small beginnings. The wheat seeds, by gradual but steady growth, help the farmer to get a bumper crop. In the same way, the life principle in a tiny mustard seed enables it to grow into a large bush. The seed of faith in human hearts and the growth of the Church in the world also have small beginnings. But the Holy Spirit, who dwells in each one of us and in the entire Church, gives to both a steady, persistent, and gigantic growth, provided we, the members of the Church, cooperate with God's grace.

We need to cooperate in the growth of God's Kingdom: The Kingdom of God begins with each one's strong faith in God, allowing ourselves to be guided by His will. The seed of Faith lies within each of us. When we permit the Holy Spirit to nurture it, it grows miraculously to gigantic proportions. The growth is slow and microscopic in the beginning. But the seed grows by using the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us through the Word of God, celebration of Sacraments and prayer. As we learn God's will from His words and try to put these words into practice, we participate in the growth of God's Kingdom on earth, a growth which will be completed in our everyday life, lived in and with God.

The parable of the growing seed and the parable of the mustard seed both call to mind God's grace in our lives and in the building of the kingdom of God; God's grace that moves mysteriously in ways that we cannot comprehend or grasp. We plant seeds through our words and actions, but we need to remember that God is in control and not us. We are collaborators but it is God who is the builder. Thus, the kingdom of God grows mysteriously, and we are called to trust in God's presence even when times are dark and difficult. We are called to go beyond calculations, forecasts, tangible results, and to surrender to God's plans and not be so caught up with our own. We are called to place ourselves in God's loving hands and to allow him to use us as he sees fit in the building of his Kingdom of peace, justice, and love. We might be frustrated and even discouraged by what we experience in our daily lives like: hatred, violence, intolerance and so on, but we cannot and should not give up. If we are truly committed to living out the gospel values in our lives, then even though we might not see the results now, it is possible that by God's grace, the seeds of our words and actions are germinating and helping the kingdom of God to grow.

We need to avoid getting discouraged. Since the journey of faith, may seem to us human beings as a slow process, there is the danger of discouragement and hopelessness because we do not see instant results. What we need is the conviction that the journey of Faith and its growth is the work of the Holy Spirit and needs our humble cooperation. We have to be optimistic and continue our work of witnessing. We should continue sowing tiny seeds in the form of words of love, acts of encouragement, deeds of charity, mercy, and forgiveness.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Exodus 24:3-8

Responsorial Psalm:

*I will take the cup of salvation,
and call on the name of the Lord.*

Second Reading:

Hebrews 9:11-15

Gospel: *Mark 14:12-16, 22-26*

Father suggests that you say the Prayer for Spiritual Communion during communion time.



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



Fern Dundon, Thomas Dreelein, Roland Cowles, Marilyn Snow & Bernie Bernhardt

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.

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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: June 6, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,810
Second Collection:
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 106,839
Total Budget Projection: \$ 99,669



Our second collection today is for the New Worship Area.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$275 Lawn Care; \$383 Golf Expenses.

BIRTHDAY'S FOR JUNE



1st-Fritz Sitterding, 7th-Michele Puttmann, 13th-Charles Hartz,
14th-Marge Dembeck & Johnna Harris, 16th-Tom Foley, 17th-Arleen Warren,
21st-Marla Bury, 24th-Gerrie Lohr, 25th-Barbara Zimmerman,
27th-Sharon Hawksworth, 28th-Baylen Miller & Diana Beckett.

ANNIVERSARY'S FOR JUNE

1st-Fritz & Suzanne Sitterding, 13th-Gary & Lynne Richardson,
21st-Dave & Emily Filippi & Scott & Kathy Kauffman, 25th-Ray & Jean
Kostesky, 27th-Don & Sandi Delagrang, 28th-Bob & Barbara Smith.



**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
IN COV CEMETERY**



On Memorial Day the Knights of Columbus held a Memorial Day ceremony in the cemetery. There are Forty One U.S. military veterans buried in the Church of the Visitation Cemetery.



MEMORIAL DONATIONS



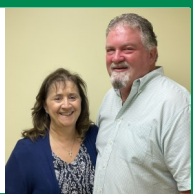
Remaining Memorials for now:
Pews and Choir Chairs \$250

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



Gary & Jo Brown
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MUSIC

Entrance: All the Ends of the Earth #551
Responsorial: page 180
Offertory: Seed, Scattered and Sown #352
Communion: Gift of Finest Wheat #320
Meditation: Parable #678
Recessional: Let All Things Now Living #596

TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS

Community Leader: Kevin Hayes
Altar Server: Ray Kostesky
Lectors: Eileen O'Brien & Tom Shoemaker
Cantor: Cindy Powers

ORDINARY TIME

We have now re-entered the period of the Liturgical year entitled Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time refers to all of those parts of the Catholic Church's liturgical year that aren't included in the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Ordinary Time thus encompasses two different periods in the Church's calendar, since the Christmas season immediately follows Advent, and the Easter season immediately follows Lent.

Because of the term ordinary in English most often means something that's not special or distinctive, many people think that Ordinary Time refers to parts of the calendar of the Catholic Church that are unimportant. Even though the season of Ordinary Time makes up most of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church, the fact that Ordinary Time refers to those periods that fall outside of the major liturgical seasons reinforces this impression. Yet Ordinary Time is far from unimportant or uninteresting.

The normal liturgical color for Ordinary Time for those days when there is no special feast is green. Green vestments and altar cloths have traditionally been associated with the time after Pentecost, the period in which the Church founded by the risen Christ and enlivened by the Holy Spirit began to grow and to spread the Gospel to all nations.



Lifting of General Dispensation from the Obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings. Following the lifting of almost all measures put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, all churches are now allowed to have full capacity liturgical gatherings as it was pre-pandemic. Therefore, the Bishop, beginning the week-end of June 26th has rescinded the DISPENSATION OF THE SUNDAY AND HOLY DAY MASS OBLIGATION.

Our Bishop writes: "As Catholics, we have a significant appreciation for the importance of the physical presence of the community. From earliest days, the Church gathered and devoted themselves to the teaching of the Apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread' (Acts 2: 42) As the body of Christ, the Church, we encounter the living God most fully in the Sacraments which appeal to our whole being, through outward signs. Therefore, it is important that we continue to encourage the physical presence of the Catholic faithful at Mass and at other sacraments".

This obligation does not apply to those who are ill; those who have reason to believe that they were recently exposed to the coronavirus, another serious or contagious illness; those who are confined to their home, a hospital, or nursing facility; or those with serious underlying health conditions. One should consult me, your pastor, if questions arise about the obligation to attend Mass.

The Lifting of dispensation from Sunday and Holy day Mass obligation is a hope filled sign that we can gradually return to a normal and full experience of Mass celebration. In view of this, and in order to encourage your physical presence at Mass, we will not be livestreaming our liturgical celebrations (Sunday and Daily Mass) beginning on Sunday, June 27th.

As we transition to our normal way of worship, in a special way, I am thankful for the hard work and sacrifices of each one of you during the past almost year and half of the Pandemic. I am most grateful to those who volunteered to take up tasks making sure that we are all safe and that Mass can reach each one of you in your homes: the Ushers, the IT Team for Livestreaming, Sacristans, Lectors, Community Leaders, our Administrative Staff, and all those who took part in planning and actively participated in our liturgical celebrations. Thanks to the Pastoral Care team for the great work of calling parishioners to determine how each one was handling the Pandemic, this kept our parish family together despite the hard times we were experiencing.

*On another note, I need to express my heartfelt Thanks and Love to those of you who continually supported the church financially during these trying times.
May the Lord reward each one of you with His abundant blessings.*

Fr. Gerry

ANNUAL COV GOLF TOURNAMENT 2021

Barely escaping the thunderstorms, 80 golfers enjoyed a challenging 18 holes in the heat a week ago Friday. As usual, it was a fun-filled occasion in the spirit of competition and camaraderie. We again want to thank our sponsors, donors, and volunteers, particularly the most important volunteer, Gary Richardson, who provided the glue for event.



The following persons graciously gave 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, The Lady of Bay Knights Council, Arlene Warren, Dave Filippi, the Borden's, the Swinehart's John McCormack, the Moncure's Lynne McMurtrie, Tom Bliley, Middlesex Metals, The Dougherty's, Glen Brazelton, and Cynthia Lewis.

For the raffle, we received gift certificates from Mi Jalisco, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dano's, Southside Sentinel, Bubba's Shrimp Shack, Lowes, and Home Depot (latter three donated by Peggy Williams) as prizes.

The generosity of our donors and sponsors is heartening and lovable. We ask all parishioners to thank persons and businesses alike for their assistance.



WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Scriptures tell us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). Every day Disciples are praying to discern God's will for their lives. What does the Lord require of us?

One idea to consider is to create a legacy with your family finances that will continue ministry documents that provide for additions at the time of death.

What ministries do you love? You decide what ministries will receive an annual distribution from your permanent fund each year in perpetuity.

