

### PRESENT NORMS AND GUIDELINES FOR CELEBRATION OF THE MASS

*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. 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.
7. Bulletins: We will continue to distribute them electronically until further notice.

*God's blessings upon you all.*

*Father Gerry*

### OUR FLAG

She waves for my attention,  
So free upon the breeze.  
The sun reflects her stars and stripes,  
As proud as she can be.

She tells a tale of people lost,  
Who came to find their way  
And carried on through every loss,  
To bring us here today.

She reminds me of the brave who fought  
To keep our country strong  
And shouts at me of victories  
To right egregious wrongs.

She whispers to our children  
Of all this country has to give  
And begs that they stand up for her  
And give thanks for how they live.

She demands that I acknowledge her  
And what she means to me  
And dares me to imagine life  
If she should cease to be.

And still in Glory she unfurls  
And gives me hope again  
For a people reunited,  
And a country on the mend.

So each time I see her wave at me,  
I'll stop and gaze above  
And take a moment to respect  
This country that I love.



### *The Catholic Church Of The Visitation*

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*14th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*July 4, 2021 Year B*

It is hurtful to be rejected by anyone. But it is particularly hurtful to be rejected by one's own people. Jesus in Today's Gospel is rejected by his own people, in his own town. This gospel passage says he came to his native place, and when the sabbath came he begun to teach in the synagogue, and all there were astonished when they heard him. One would imagine then that it would have been the most obvious thing in the world for them to accept him as someone special sent by God. But the opposite happened. They refused to accept him just as they refused to listen to the prophet Ezekiel as we read in the first reading.

Jesus was amazed at their lack of faith. He greatly desired to help his people, but he was unable to do so. You cannot help people against their will. He was saddened but not angered. Rejection can easily turn into anger and even bitterness.

Probably all of us have experienced a little of this. We have wanted to help someone, but our help was refused. We feel frustrated and helpless. When we meet with rejection we may be tempted to say: 'that's it. I'm finished'. 'I do not want to have anything to do with that person'. We may decide not to help or care anymore. It is too painful.

Jesus did not react like this. He did not become embittered. He did what little he could in Nazareth – he cured some sick people. Then we are told that he was amazed at their lack of faith. So, he decided to take his light and his gifts elsewhere.

Why would they have been so prejudiced against Jesus? One reason was that he was too human. They knew his mother Mary and relatives. The people of Nazareth thought they knew Jesus. The image they had of him, which they held on to, became an obstacle to their accepting Jesus, and his teaching. For the Jews of his own town their main question was 'how?' How could he be from God? Jesus would have been too human, too weak for them. They were expecting a Messiah who would destroy the Roman colonial power. They hoped for someone more powerful or political.

Another reason could well have been that they did not believe that one of their own could reveal such a loving God to them. Their image of God, like ours for sometimes, was of a God who punished bad people and rewarded good. But Jesus revealed a totally loving, compassionate, a forgiving God. Quite different from the God they were used to, or they were taught to believe by their religious leaders.

Jesus, like Ezekiel, runs into the resistance of those who refuse to hear the word of God which invites them to leave their old security and change their ways. They felt secure in their image of God and the religious beliefs they were used to. This can be equally true for us. If any of us wants to take Jesus seriously then we will be challenged to let go of all that is not life-giving in our lives, of our false securities. He will invite us to repent of any unforgiving attitude in our hearts, any unjust business dealings, any relationships, or behavior which are contrary to the calling we have from God.

All Christians are called to be prophets and disciples, to bear witness to Christ and his teaching through our entire lives. It is a high calling for all of us and not at all easy. Sadly, we will face rejection. But like Ezekiel, Paul, and Jesus, will we have the courage to keep on witnessing to Jesus when people may even display contempt or outright rejection of us as Christians? Let us allow the grace and power of God to use us even when we are weak or when we face obstacles from those who want to stop us from spreading the Good News of God's kingdom.

The power of God is upon us. His presence is among us. His truth is in our hearts and on our lips. We pray today that we do not let our own humanity or that of anyone else keep us from hearing, proclaiming and living in the Truth of the Gospel teachings of our Lord.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

## TODAY'S MASS

### First Reading:

*Ezekiel 2:2-5*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.*

### Second Reading:

*2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

### Gospel:

*Mark 6:1-6a*

## MUSIC

**Entrance:** Sing, All Are Welcome #415

**Responsorial:** page 186

**Offertory:** Taste and See #331

**Communion:** Here I Am Lord #383

**Meditation:** Open My Eyes #393

**Recessional:** America the Beautiful #735

## TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS

**Community Leader:** Debby Harriman

**Altar Server:** Joe Sychterz

**Cantor:** Cindy Powers

**Eucharist Minister:** Barbara Smith

**Lectors:** Becky Nunn/Tom Shoemaker

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Bobby Warren, Vincent Recupido, Jr. Tommy Garbedian,  
Clayton Webb & Bobby Gail McGough*



## PARISHIONERS

Jim Moncure, 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

Arnold Fahrman, John Matthews, Ramon Placiente, Jillian Messina, 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, Sandy Alter, Andy & Iris Hetzer.

## FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

David Smith, Sandy Bruce, Matt & Marianna Parowski, Penny Hoar, 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, 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: June 27, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,449  
Second Collection:  
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 113,833 (End of year)  
Total Budget Projection: \$ 106,000 (End of year)



Our second collection today is for the New Worship Area.

We signed the following principal checks this week:  
\$1134 Church Artifacts.



### BIRTHDAY'S FOR JULY



2nd, Kathy Kauffman, 4th-Lisa Forte & Eileen Wagner, 5th-Leisa DeCollibus,  
6th-Colinm Walsh, 9th-John Charbeneau, 11th-Brendan O'Brien, 13th-Tessa Stowell,  
15th-John Weidner & Serena Beckett, 16th-Jim Brown, 17th-Sal Messina,  
20th-Bettie Hodge & Andrew Bury, 21st-Kathy Swinehart, 24th-Laurie Mears,  
27th-Ingrid Borden & Jo Brown, 29th-Christine Tutak, 30th-Bill Harris.

### ANNIVERSARY'S FOR JULY

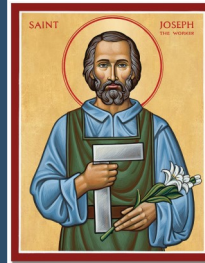
7th-Bill & Georgia Campbell, 16th-Tom & Bea Foley



### 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



### YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

As a reminder, in his Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis proclaimed this year as Joseph. The year serves as an opportunity to increase knowledge and understanding of St. Joseph, and also, "to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal (*Patris Corde*).

On March 19 nearly eight years ago, the church celebrated Pope Francis' papal inauguration. It was the solemnity of St. Joseph, and in a homily reflecting on Joseph as "protector," the pope foreshadowed many of the works and teachings that now mark his ministry. At the heart of it, Pope Francis highlighted what it means to follow Joseph The pope encouraged, "In him, dear friends, we learn how to respond to God's call, readily and willingly, but we also see the core of the Christian vocation, which is Christ! Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect other, so that we can protect creation!"

In some ways, then, the announcement of a Year of St. Joseph is less surprising. From the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis has invited us to foster our love of Joseph, ask for his intercession and follow his example. This year, the church provides many ways to respond to that invitation.

The Year of St. Joseph drew our attention in a special way to the feast of the Holy Family. This day, we recall that God, out of love, has given us the shining example of the Holy Family. We pray through Christ that, following their example and aided by the intercession of Mary and Joseph, our own families may be held in God's grace and peace. We are nourished at this feast by ruminating on the Scriptures. This year, Luke 2:22-40 will be proclaimed at Mass. Here, Simeon holds Our Lord in his arms, and he offers the praise that we, holding Christ in our hearts, can make our own at the end of each day in Night Prayer: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace..."



### *Fourth of July 2021*

This year's Fourth of July will be very memorable, yes, we are still dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, but unlike last year, when all our public celebrations were much different – no big gatherings, parades cancelled, fireworks muted-we will probably celebrate in a more relaxed manner. With families and friends coming together after a long time, it will be a 'real independence'.

Independence is the most precious present one can enjoy, so I ask each of you to reflect on what exactly independence means. The Freedom, the Liberty, the Rights we all enjoy cannot be bought by money; they are God given, and it is our responsibility to defend them. So, before we celebrate Independence Day, we should be grateful to our loving God and to those who gave their lives to defend our freedoms and liberties and those who continue to do so in service to our nation.

The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution states that our citizenry came together to try to form a more perfect union. We know we are far from being Perfect, Divisions still exist, mistrust of each other grows, and some instances of injustice may still exist. But that does not mean we should give up trying to be more perfect as individuals, as Christians, as citizens and as a nation. Encouraged by the goodness we witness every day in the lives of so many, we should express our hope that any failures of our past do not define us as individuals, as a community or as a nation, and that we can strive to achieve greater equality and justice.

So, this Fourth of July, let us thank God for the blessings we have received, and ask for the courage we need as followers of Christ and as faithful citizens to ensure that all God's children are treated with the dignity that is their due and are given their equal opportunity to seek out life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. Let each one of us make a promise to ourselves that as long as we live, by our actions we will help America grow into a better and stronger Nation with each passing day.

*Happy and Blessed Fourth of July*

Fr. Gerry

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**\*Will more artifacts be made available for Memorialization?**

*The memorials team has identified some additional items which will be offered shortly.*

**\*When can we expect to return to full normalcy in all aspects of church life and celebration?**

*Probably not till after Summer.*

### THANKS

With livestreaming ending, for the time being, it's appropriate to thank Mike Dreelin and the fifteen month commitment he made to this essential function of our Liturgy during the pandemic.

Week after week he provided the necessary technical expertise, upgraded the system and chose the melodious music that so beautifully enhanced the Liturgy. Likewise, during this period, Andrea manned the office computer monitoring the system output, adding comments when necessary, and assisting the viewers. They proved to be a competent team for which we are eternally grateful. For you information our New Worship Area will have a built-in capability for live streaming if we need to do so again. Fr. Gerry

### WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Consider God's call on your life as you plan to distribute your estate.

Creating an estate plan is good stewardship.

Does your Last Will & Testament reflect YOUR faith?

We owe our children and grandchildren the example of lives lived with integrity and willingness to learn and grow and remain faithful to the Christian values we proclaim. What better example could we offer than including our church in our estate plans?

Someone told me once they had never seen a hearse with a hitch trailer behind it. Guess if we can't take it with us, we might as well decide how and where it is left behind. Remember your church's mission in your estate planning.



*Potential, Purpose, Promise*