

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



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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 29, 2021 Year B

Today's readings explain what true religion is. It is not simply a scrupulous, external observance of rules, laws, traditions, and rituals. It is a loving, obedient relationship with God expressed in obeying His Commandments, worshipping Him, recognizing His presence in other human beings, and rendering them loving and humble service. Prayers, rituals, Sacraments, and religious practices only help us to practice this true religion in our daily lives.

The first reading explains that religion is a Covenant relationship with a caring, providing and protecting God, fostered by keeping His Commandments given through Moses. God gave Israel the Law so that the Israelites might keep their Covenant with 'Yahweh' and thank Him for His love and fidelity to His Chosen People. The Law was also intended to keep them a united, holy, and intelligent nation, proud of their powerful, and protective God.

The Law of Moses was very important for the people of Israel. They were rightly proud of the legal system they had developed in their desire to be God's people. "What great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? What other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?", Moses asks the Israelites. Through the Law they were expected to lead lives which were different, better than their 'pagan' neighbors. There was, great emphasis on the observance of the Law, as a sign of commitment and obedience to God.

The problem in Jesus' time, was that the law was no longer a guideline helping people on their way to loving and serving God. Observing the law had become an end in itself. The emphasis was not on building a relationship with God and one's fellow human beings but what impression people have about you.

This is the situation Jesus, and His disciples are facing in today's Gospel. The Pharisees and some of the Scribes were accusing Jesus' disciples of not washing their hands before eating. And as the Gospel continues, they had many other practices and tradition they observed like washing cups, cleansing themselves when coming from a market. According to them, the Pharisees and the Scribes, these practices belonged to the very essence of their religion.

Jesus is challenging this religious hypocrisy of some of the religious leaders of his time who robbed religion of its meaning by focusing on laws and appearances. Jesus is disappointed with them because their idea of religion is false. The answer of Jesus to these Pharisees is a reminder to us all that our religion has to be better than mere externals. It's really about an inner conversion, we are called to a change of heart where necessary. All washings and purifications are useless unless they lead to an inner purification, a conversion of our hearts.

Jesus speaks of where real uncleanness comes from. The source of uncleanness is not any food or drink that comes from outside. Real uncleanness is in the heart. A person does not become "unclean" by what he/she eats or by not washing hands before eating but by "evil intentions" that arise in the depths of the heart: lust, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, jealousy, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, folly, arrogance. All these are in direct conflict with a genuinely loving relationship with God and other people.

As St. James tells us in the second reading that, true religion is keeping the word of God and doing His will by helping the needy, the poor and the weak in the community. What is important is to love God with all one's heart and to love one's neighbor as oneself. Anything not leading to these is not true religion which leads to God.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Responsorial Psalm:

*The one who does justice
will live in the presence of
the Lord.*

Second Reading:

James 1:17-18, 21b-22-27

Gospel:

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

MUSIC

Entrance: Lift Up Your Hearts #562

Responsorial: 204

Offertory: Here I Am Lord #383

Communion: Amazing Grace #433

Meditation: Spirit and Grace #343

Recessional: Tell The Good News #374

TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS

Community Leader: Debby Harriman

Altar Server: Steve Forte

Cantor: Cindy Powers

Eucharist Minister:

Lectors: Ray Kostaskey & Eileen O'Brien

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Victor Schueckler, Katherine Nunn & Robin Murphy



PARISHIONERS

Kathryn Bliley, Cherianne Johnson, Spike & Becky Nunn, John King, Jim Moncure, Peggy Williams, Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Tom Foley, Michele Meanely, Jack & Louise Petralia, Paul Pearce, Grace Anderson, Natalie Smith, Lorie & Sal Messina, Pat Paul, Margaret Hock, Anne Dunn, Lynn & Jim Vajda, Tom & Cindy Jessee, Mike Lokie, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawksworth, Mary Ann & Kenneth Gulick, Nancy Wirth, Bettie Hodge, Bob & Ingrid Borden, Laurie King, Bill & Linda Gray, Carol Smith, Pat & Lee Reamy, 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: August 22, 2021

Collection: \$ 1,619
Second Collection:
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 18,923
Total Budget Projection: \$ 18,538



"Hyperlink"

Our second collection today is for the Catholic Virginian.

We did not sign any principal checks this week.



BIRTHDAY'S FOR SEPTEMBER

4th-Larry Miller, 9th-Mary Sychterz, 10th-Eileen O'Brien, 11th-Christopher Kirsch,
15th-Cindy Jessee, Dolores Powers & Cherianne Johnson, 21st-Alan Richardson,
20th Shelley Katsuki, 21st-Emily Filippi, 22nd-Joyce Ballato.



ANNIVERSARY'S SEPTEMBER

8th-John & Diane Weidner, 10th-Steve & Lorraine Kirsch,
12th-Bryan & Jennifer Miller, 17th-Genji & Shelley Katsuki.



*The Church of the Visitation is celebrating
the completion of our New Worship Area*

Saturday, October 2, 2021 5-9PM
(Rain date October 3rd)

Join us for dinner and live music featuring the *"The Flat Tones"*
beer tasting, prizes and a 50/50 raffle.

Purchase of a \$40 ticket includes...

Dinner: Brats & Sauerkraut, BBQ, Coleslaw, Potato Salad.
Beverage: Four tickets for 5oz. beer samples. Water and soda available.

Tickets go on sale this Sunday, August 29th...after Mass.

Tickets are available on line starting
Thursday, September 2nd @

www.church-of-the-visitation.org

or you can call 804-758-5160.



HONORING THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On the first Saturday of the month, in honor of the Blessed
Virgin Mary, Francis de Sales (our sister church) is saying the
Rosary-starting at 9am followed by Mass at 10am.



MEMORIAL UPDATE

As promised, we have entered Stage 2
in our Memorial Campaign for the
New Worship Area.

Listed below are the new memorial items:

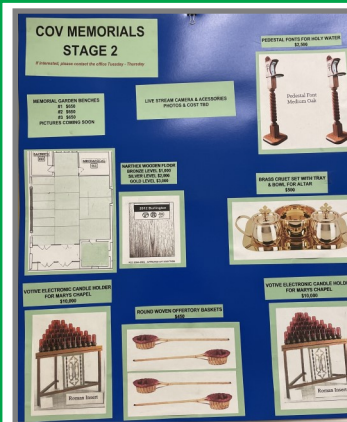
- *Memorial Garden Bench
- *Live stream camera & Accessor
- *Narthex Wooden Floor
- *Pedestal Fonts for Holy Water
- *Round Woven Offertory Baskets
- *Pews and Choir Chairs
- *Votive Electronic Candle Holder-
Mary's Chapel

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

To view some of these artifacts, please view
the poster located in the alcove.

Any questions please come by the office
or give us a call.





KITCHEN/FELLOWSHIP HALL

A committee is looking at potential uses and configurations of the space made available when we begin celebrating Mass in the new church. The team is focusing on the current worship area and an expanded kitchen. We're looking for any ideas or suggestions you may have for using and setting up this new Fellowship Hall. Please pass them on to Gary Richardson at lynnegary@gmail.com.

BUILDING HICCUPS

Although the construction of our new worship area has proceeded smoothly and on schedule, it was inevitable that in the present equipment shortages' environment, a hiccup would occur. The delivery of the entrance doors and sound equipment has been delayed, and the doors' delay could affect our ability to obtain an occupancy permit. We are looking at alternatives, to include temporary doors, but such action will require county approval. As always, we will keep you informed.



HAITI RELIEF EFFORT

This week we received a Diocesan request for assistance to those in need in Haiti suffering from the devastating earthquake. It asked for a special collection or a donation from parish funds designated for assistance to those in need. We chose to make a donation from our Parish Pence Fund which is robust at the moment. Thank you for supporting the fund.

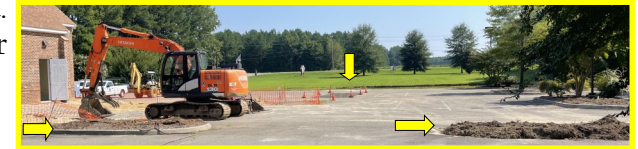
MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Our deadline is fast approaching for the Memorial Plaques. Before the plaques can be ordered we need you to check and sign off on your wording, and names. If you have any questions please contact the office.



SITE WORK

As you can observe, the site work has begun and in accordance with the site plan, some of our islands are gone to make way for additional parking spaces. The lighting in the parking lot will remain the same and one new island will be constructed. As always, we ask for your patience in dealing with these inconveniences.



WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

As you plan for the distribution of your assets at your death, consider a charitable bequest to our church. This is one way your faith can be transferred to the next generation. This, and other types of planned gifts, can undergird our congregation's ministry in perpetuity, providing resources that will allow future generations of Disciples to worship, serve others and continue the vital ministries of the church.

Catholics also can use their estates to demonstrate one final act of stewardship. Our possessions are gifts from God, and God has intended for us to use them wisely throughout our lifetimes. Through our estate plans, we can provide for our loved ones while also making a faithful distribution back to God to further God's work. We will be remembered by our giving.

Please remember the church in your Will.



Potential, Purpose, Promise