

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



Right side of the church



The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 26, 2021 Year B



Photos were taken on a rainy day

In today's readings especially the first reading and the Gospel, we see people trying to stop others from doing good works, from performing healing miracles, from praising God, or from helping others. That seems wrong to Moses and to Jesus.

God's grace and God's gifts don't always come in ways we always expect. It is the most basic fact of Christian life that the Holy Spirit has been given to us at Baptism, and more fully, at Confirmation. This Spirit gives us the strength so that we might love and serve God and our neighbor, just as Jesus did. But sometimes, because God's grace is a free gift, God's spirit can work in people whom we do not recognize as part of us. Part of the Church. This might cause a jealous reaction in us that resents that someone isn't a follower of Jesus in the strict sense but acts in the right way.

Today's Scripture readings give us a strong warning against this type of jealousy, intolerance, and misleading others especially the weak. We hear in the Gospel, Jesus's warning against giving scandal, especially to innocent children, to vulnerable members of the community, and to beginners in the Faith. Jesus instructs the Apostles, and us, that, just as a doctor might remove by surgery a limb or some part of the body to preserve the life of the whole body, so we must be ready to part with anything that causes us or others to sin and which leads to spiritual death.

We can too often easily condemn others - whether they are bad sinners or just people who don't seem to be "following the rules." Jesus offers us a remedy from the things that take us in such divisive, dangerous, destructive, and sinful directions. Jesus sees the presence of the Spirit, where we might not. So, we can be encouraged to look more deeply for the effects of the Spirit's working, rather than the externals. Each of us can discover God and change.

Moses in the first reading, and Jesus in the Gospel, both try to warn us of thinking that there is some kind of religious exclusivity. This exclusivity is what drives Jesus' disciple in today's Gospel to go to Jesus and say: "We saw someone driving our demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us". But on the contrary, Jesus says that they should not prevent him. "There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me." And he gives a very important principle. 'For whoever is not against us is for us'.

The disciple, like many of us, take it for granted that, in order to act in Jesus' name and harness his healing power, you have to be a member of his group. No one can use the name Jesus without being an accredited member of the Church we might say.

In today's society there are many who work for a more just and human world without belonging to the Church. Some aren't believers, but they are opening up pathways to God's reign and God's justice. They're on our side. We need to rejoice instead of looking at them with resentment. We need to support them, not discredit them. It is through this act of acceptance that will lead them eventually to fully embrace Jesus.

The message in today's Gospel and also in the first reading frees us from the feeling that we are the only ones representing Jesus and his message in this world. God is just not interested in exclusivity but in the way we conduct our lives. We have to live loving God and our neighbor. This is the basic principle of our faith.

The real challenge of the gospel is whether we accept that the Spirit of God today works wherever he wishes and through whomsoever he wishes. It is necessary to remember that the truth is always bigger than anyone's understanding of it. No one can possibly grasp all truth. We simply must be open to the Spirit's working in our world. The call is for each one of us to be faithful to the call God gives us. Jesus warns us to beware of leading others astray, especially the little ones: the weak in the faith, people struggling to respond to God's will spiritually or morally.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Numbers 11:25-29

Responsorial Psalm:

*The precepts of the Lord
give joy to the heart.*

Second Reading:

James 5:1-6

Gospel:

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

TODAY'S

Community Leader: Gary Richardson
Altar Server: Barbara Smith
Cantor: TBA
Eucharist Minister: Lynne Dreelin
Lectors: Eileen O'Brien & John Weidner
Collection Counters: Harris /Davenport

ASSIGNMENTS FOR OCTOBER 3RD

Community Leader: Kevin Hayes
Altar Server: Kaylee Kirsch
Cantor: TBA
Eucharist Minister: TBA
Lectors: Tom Shoemaker/Becky Nunn
Collection Counters: O'Brien/Smith

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Bud Rutkowski, David Brinkley, Jim Dreelin, Dave Marchant & John Ferrara



PARISHIONERS

James Peddicord, Eileen O'Brien, Laurie King, Cherianne Johnson, Spike & Becky Nunn, 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, Bill & Linda Gray, Carol Smith, Pat & Lee Reamy, Carole McPherson, Colin Walsh.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Sarah Whelar, Arnold Fahrman, John Matthews, Ramon Placiente, Jillian Messina, Karen Tatum, Lynn Messina, Dave Hersh, Mike Shea, Pam Tibbs, Sherry Newton, Aquela Parker, Bernie Smith, Virginia Talke, Phil Melancon, 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, Natasha Walsh, Ellen DeMaurez, Michele MacFarland, LC Warren, JoAnn Dwyer, Sandy Alter, Andy & Iris Hetzer.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Charles Carter, Patti Sarosy, Ed Ruark, Ryan Burnette, Robert Cummins, Kathy Goyné, Michael Johnson, Doc Jones, Hunt Addison, William Scott Smith, Eddie Hall, David Smith, Sandy Bruce, Matt & Marianna Parowski, Penny Hoar, Gene Tunney Walker, Joe McNemey, 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: September 12, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,035
Second Collection:
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 26,959
Total Budget Projection: \$ 28,128
Second Collection today is for Retired Religious.



"Hyperlink"

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$1,049 Electric-August; \$23,000 Stained Glass Windows; \$12,000 flooring.

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,
28th-Alexis & Vanessa Reyes.



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

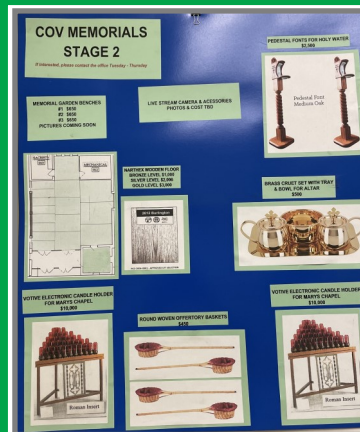
Saturday, October 2, 2021 5-9PM
(Rain date October 3rd)

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 are available on line at www.church-of-the-visitation.org
or you can call 804-758-5160.



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

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

Listed below are the new memorial items:

MEMORIAL UPDATE

- *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

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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Take time for your marriage and learn how to be the best spouse you can be by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter on Sept 24-26th in Warrenton, VA and Nov 5-7th in Atlantic Beach, NC. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at : <https://renewmarriage-vasouth.org/>



PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

This Sunday and next Sunday you will have the opportunity to nominate yourself or others for election to the Parish Council.

We have three vacancies to fill, and two of the departing members, Steve Forte and Roseanne Moncure are eligible for re-election. The nomination form is located in the back of church, or you can see an usher. Another option to nominate yourself/ someone is to email the office.

After we receive the nominations, we will publish the list of nominees to give those nominated an opportunity to accept or decline to run.

TEMPORARY DOORS

The barricade in the rear of the church has been removed and replaced with temporary doors until the arrival of the permanent ones which has been delayed. The temporary doors must remain locked until we receive a temporary occupancy permit, county willing. Also delayed are the sound system console and speakers, which may pose a challenge to lectors and Father alike if we receive a temporary occupancy permit without the system in place.

SILENT AUCTION

Due to space constraints, the *Silent Auction Fund Raiser* usually held in conjunction with our Golf Tournament is being planned for later this year. Once we are using the new worship area, we will have lots of space in our "Social Hall" to display auction items.

Talented and generous parishioners, and friends of parishioners, have already donated items including jewelry, quilts, hand-crafted pens and pillows, original wall hangings, and more!

Please consider all your **talents** (Painting? Woodwork? Pottery?) and **treasures** and decide if you can donate to the effort.

Past auctions have raised \$1500-2200!

Call or email Lynne Richardson for more information.

571-239-0980 lynnegary@gmail.com.

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Paul indicates it is not enough to intend to be a good steward. You must plan, and it is by carefully making provisions for a planned gift and implementation of that plan that you will be able to enjoy the fruits of Christian stewardship!

Planning to include our church in your will involves more than just contacting an attorney and drafting a will. Making a bequest to our church involves thoughtful discussion with your family: spouse, children, perhaps siblings, and others with whom you have an important relationship and those who have a relationship to your estate.

Ultimately, making the right decision will allow you, the giver, to find greater joy and fulfillment in the process and completion of the gift.



Potential, Purpose, Promise

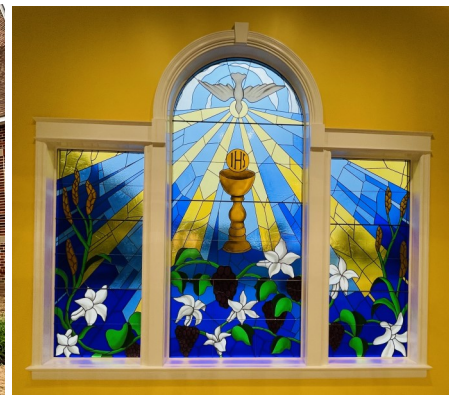
EXCITEMENT AHEAD

The end of September and the beginning of October will add excitement galore to our parish as we reach construction completion and celebration. There are still many wickets to cross such as walk-throughs and inspections, but on the 21st the stained-glass windows arrived. On October 7th pew installation will commence. October 1st is the final walk-through with the contractor, and October 2nd is Oktoberfest. Assuming the walk-through goes well, we begin the process of moving in which will require much backbone and manpower. If we stay on schedule, in the middle of October we begin laying down new flooring in the Narthex (rear of our present nave).

Helter skelter appears in the offing, but we shall prevail with a lot of your help and prayers.



Left side of the church



Rainy day photos

