

## 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*

## *The Catholic Church Of The Visitation*

8462 General Puller Highway/P.O. Box 38  
Topping, Virginia 23169 Phone: 804-758-5160  
E-Mail: churchofthevisitation@va.metrocast.net  
Website: [www.church-of-the-visitation.org](http://www.church-of-the-visitation.org)  
Pastor: Gerald Kaggwa Rectory: 804-286-9271



*23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*September 5, 2021 Year B*



## Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary time

September 5, 2021

In the gospel today Jesus meets a man who is deaf and also has an impediment in his speech. It is his friends who bring him to Jesus. We note the sensitivity of Jesus. He takes the man apart in order to cure him. He is gentle to him and doesn't want to embarrass him. He treats and cares for him as human being in need.

This Gospel text and miracle has special relevance to our Christian style of life in many ways.

The friends of this deaf man can be an inspiration to us. They *brought their friend to Jesus* to see if he could be cured. Their speaking to Jesus on this man's behalf led to his being able to speak again, now he has a voice of his own. Their care for him led them to speak on his behalf. If they had no love for him, they would not have taken the initiative to speak up for him. In order to do our own share in the Lord's lifegiving work, we need to begin by being attentive and concerned about other peoples' need. And then help them find a solution to their problems.

Jesus opens the deaf man's ear and enables him to hear and loosens his tongue to enable him to speak clearly. We, Christians today, sometimes are suffering from a condition of blurred vision and impeded speech on matters of our faith. We need the same kind treatment from Jesus, so that we can open up and be bold when talking about our faith. We are often silent, mute or tongue-tied when it comes to sharing our values or defending our faith. We need Jesus to touch our eyes, our ears, and our tongue that we may see him more clearly, hear him speak to us, and speak more clearly of our faith in Jesus, we need to feel proud of being Christians.

Jesus took the deaf man away from the crowd, from the noise, so that he can be with him and hear Him (Jesus). We need to be with Jesus, out of the noise in order to hear clearly what Jesus is telling us, and what He wants from us. God speaks to us daily through many ways. Do we hear what he is saying, and are our lips/tongues free from impediments so as to use them to praise and thank Him continuously and to encourage others who are down to find hope in Jesus?

We are surrounded by so much noise that we can become deaf to the voice of God, deaf to the cries of God's people, to the cries of those who need our help. There is much noise from the political sphere, from our communities, even in our families that we can easily become deaf to the voice of the Lord and to the needs of the poor, the immigrant, the sick, the children born and unborn. And as the result of this noise surrounding us, we are sometimes confused. We confuse right from wrong, we confuse evil and good, justice and injustice, truth and falsehood.

Jesus cured the deaf man as we heard in the Gospel today, many of us may say that we do not have that problem of being physically deaf or having a speech impediment. But our main problem is that we are too busy to hear Jesus. We are so busy with our daily activities. We are too busy that life is slipping by at a very fast rate, and we need to slow down to find the real purpose of this life. Life is about knowing God, loving God, and serving God and his people, especially those in need.

If we are too busy, we can be deaf to the real meaning and joy of life and deaf also to what the Lord is saying to us. Jesus cannot speak to us if we are not attentive enough to listen. That word of Jesus "Ephphatha" 'Be opened!' is very important and we need to hear it from Jesus again and again.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

## TODAY'S MASS

### First Reading:

*Isaiah 35:4-7a*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*Praise the Lord, my soul!*

### Second Reading:

*James 2:1-5*

### Gospel:

*Mark 7:31-37*

## TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS SEPTEMBER 5th

Community Leader: Kathy Kauffman

Altar Server: Ray Kostaskey

Cantor: Cindy Powers

Eucharist Minister: Carol Smith

Lectors: Lynne Dreelin & Becky Nunn

## ASSIGNMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 12th

Community Leader: John McCormack

Altar Server: Joe Sychterz

Cantor: TBA

Eucharist Minister: Barbara Smith

Lectors: Mary Ellen Sherwood & Ray Kostaskey

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Min Tassone, Kathy Placilla, Dave Marchant & Lavonne Pearce*



### PARISHIONERS

Kathryn Biley, Cherianne Johnson, Spike & Becky Nunn, John King, Jim Moncure, Peggy Williams, Lois & Skip Krumb, 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, Marilynn Gerullo, 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.

### 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, Natash Walsh, Ellen DeMaurez, Michele MacFarland, LC Warren, JoAnn Dwyer, Sandy Alter, Andy & Iris Hetzer.

### FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Ryan Burnette, Robert Cummins, Kathy Goyne, Michael Johnson, Doc Jones, Hunt Addison, William Scott Smith, Eddie Hall, 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: August 29, 2021**

Collection: \$ 1,574  
Second Collection: Catholic Virginian \$ 119  
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 20,497  
Total Budget Projection: \$ 19,966



“Hyperlink”

Our second collection today is for the New Worship Area.

We signed the following principal checks this week:  
\$964 Credit Card; \$214 June Phone

**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](http://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:

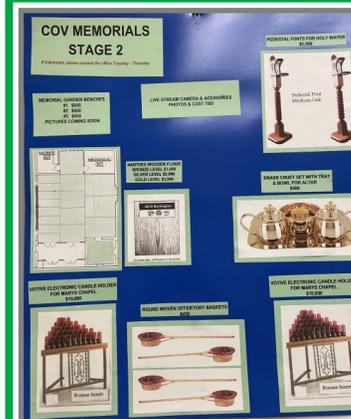
- \*Memorial Garden Bench
- \*Live stream camera & Accessor
- \*Narthex Wooden Floor
- \*Pedestal Fonts for Holy Water
- \*Round Woven Offertory Baskets
- \*Pews and Choir Chairs
- \*Votive Electronic Candle Holder-  
Mary's Chapel

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.



**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.

A hearty welcome to our  
new parishioners!



Alexis Jimenez & Vanessa Reyes  
Aden, Andrew and Annabella  
273 N. Oaks Circle  
Saluda, VA 23149



Ashley Sked  
452 East Church Street  
Kilmarnock, VA 22482



## 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](mailto:lynnegary@gmail.com).



## 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 roust at the moment. Thank you for supporting the fund.

## 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.



## RECOGNITION AND THANKS

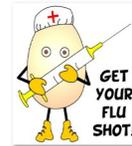
We are pleased to announce we are planning to have an on-site Faith Formation program commencing this fall. Eileen O'Brien has graciously agreed to come out of retirement and head it up after a well earned sabbatical from her previous tenure. On the same note, we thank parishioner Fred Johnson, owner of Northern Neck Gutters and Fences, for donating the gutters for the new worship area. Fred also donated the gutters we presently have on the church when we expanded 13 years ago.



## MASS OF RESURRECTION

Former long time parishioner Bob O'Keefe died during the pandemic, and his family delayed his Mass of Resurrection until now. Bob's Mass will be held at COV on Saturday, September 11th, at 11am. His burial will occur immediately thereafter in the cemetery with a reception to follow at the church. We do not ask for dishes or desserts to share, but welcome your participation in honor of Bob.

## SENIOR FLU SHOTS



The Cryer Center will be offering senior (65 and over) Flu Shots in September at its location on Tuesdays, September 14th & September 28th from 10am to 4pm. You need not be a client of the center to receive a shot. It is open to all county residents 65 and over.

## WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Good stewardship requires us to think of the future. Have your estate plan prepared now and express your good stewardship in ways that will bless your family and your church.

Be sure that your estate planning documents are properly prepared. A homemade will "might" work, but unless it is properly written it might cause unnecessary expenses and delays — and worst of all, it might not accomplish what you want to happen. The writing of your will is a job for which you need your attorney's assistance.



*Potential, Purpose, Promise*