

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*

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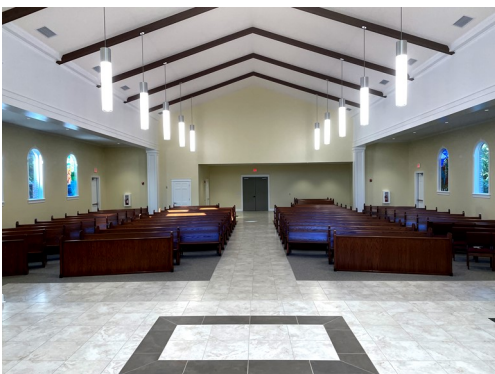
PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS



We thank those parishioners who ran for election and the 60 parishioners who cast ballots last Sunday. The three individuals who received the highest number of votes are:

*Steve Forte, Cindy Jessee, and Cindy Powers.*

They will begin their terms in January.



*30th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*October 24, 2021 Year B*

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 24, 2021

The central theme of today's readings is the overflowing mercy and kindness of a loving, healing and forgiving God for His children. The first reading tells us how a forgiving and compassionate God has been to His Chosen People. He will heal their wounds. He will liberate them, bringing them back to their homeland. In today's Gospel, the healing of the blind Bartimaeus is the fulfillment of Jeremiah's joyful prophecy of a God who gathers the lame and blind and all those burdened by the trials of life and brings the home safely.

As we journey through life, there are ups and downs. And when we are knocked down, we need someone to pick us up. And it is not only sickness that can knock us down. We can be knocked down emotionally and psychologically. We can be knocked down by the hurts of others, by what they say or do to us. Name calling, words, attitudes also hurts and may knock someone down. Jesus is always there to pick us up, no matter what and how you are knocked down He will pick you up.

This is the good news today's gospel offers. A great example of faith and hope and Jesus lifting up those knocked down. In this Gospel, St. Mark records the last miracle Jesus worked before entering into Jerusalem to suffer and die. As He enters Jerusalem to suffer and die, Jesus brings His whole redemptive journey to a halt in order to respond to this blind man's request.

As Jesus and the huge crowds following him began to leave Jericho, Bartimaeus, a blind man, sat by the side of the road begging. In a moment that would change his life, he heard the crowds talking as they walked and realized Jesus would be passing by the roadside. Bartimaeus began calling loudly for Jesus to have pity on him. "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me."

Those around Bartimaeus tried to shut him up and keep him from Jesus, he was a nuisance, a no body in his society. So, they tell him to be silent, he is an embarrassment to them. But he was not embarrassing Jesus. Jesus saw him, he was compassionate for him, called him, and had mercy on him. Sometimes we might convince ourselves that God is too great for us, that we are too insignificant. But no one is insignificant to God. Jesus sees each of us and loves each of us. He is waiting for our call like Bartimaeus, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me". Jesus will reach out and heal us.

The Second point from today's Gospel is this: Bartimaeus accepted his situation that he was blind and went to seek help from Jesus. Do we pause to face our own daily blindness and wonder if we really want to ask Jesus to see? Do I want to be healed? We have families in division and hurting, government policies that hurt the poor, refugees who cry to an unwilling world for help, and people betrayed by their own church. All these need healing, do we see their needs? We fail to see the needs of others due to apathy, indifference, selfishness, pride, and arrogance. We fail to see the hurting, the hungry, the miserably poor, the outcast, the refugees, and the little ones in our society. This blindness needs to be cured. Jesus will make us see and pay attention to those who are marginalized, those whom this world holds in little regard, whom this world bids us to overlook, whom this world condemns to be of no value.

Instead of remaining in our blindness, let us pray for spiritual sight. Each one of us suffers from blindness, especially spiritually. Hence, we need the light of the Holy Spirit to end our darkness and grant us proper spiritual vision. Let us learn to recognize the causes of our blindness: Anger, hatred, jealousy, evil habits, addictions etc. These, prevent us from seeing the goodness and presence of God in our family members and neighbors. Hence, let us learn to think about and see the goodness in others without becoming unkind, critical, or judgmental. Let us pray to have a clear vision of Christian values and priorities in our lives and to acknowledge the presence of God dwelling in ourselves and in our neighbors.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

## TODAY'S MASS

### First Reading:

*Jeremiah 31:7-9*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.*

### Second Reading:

*Hebrews 5:1-6*

### Gospel:

*Mark 10:46-52*

## TODAY'S ASSINMENTS

Community Leader: John McCormack  
Altar Server: Steve Forte  
Cantor: TBA  
Eucharist Minister: Debby Harriman  
Lectors: Tom Shoemaker/Eileen O'Brien  
Collection Counter: Harris/Davenport

## ASSIGNMENTS FOR OCTOBER 31st

Community Leader: Debby Harriman  
Altar Server: Joe Sychterz  
Cantor: TBA  
Eucharist Minister: Eileen O'Brien  
Lectors: Tom Dorman/Louise Petralia  
Collection Counter: Hock/Harriman

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Bill Melvin, Ruth Gascoigne, Lavonne Pearce*



### PARISHIONERS

Donna Thompson, James Peddicord, Eileen O'Brien, Laurie King, Cherianne Johnson, Spike & Becky Nunn, Jim Moncure, Peggy Williams, Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Tom Foley, Michele Meaney, 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 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

Emily Evans, Sarah Whelar, Arnold Fahrman, John Matthews, Ramon Placiete, 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

Christine & Henry Archuleta, Charles Carter, Pam Sands, Patti Sarosy, Ed Ruark, 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, 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: October 17, 2021**

Collection: \$ 2,795  
Second Collection: St. Noa School \$ 1,100  
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 36,064  
Total Budget Projection: \$ 36,391



“Hyperlink”

There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal check this week:  
\$444 September Electricity.

**BIRTHDAY'S FOR OCTOBER**



1st-Charles Walsh (young) & Anne Baltrusaitis, Kevin Hayes, Dottie Edwards, & Mary Ellen Sherwood, 3rd-Bryan Miller & Cayden Miller, 4th-Jean Kostaskey, 8th-Bill Campbell, 12th-Diane Weidner, 13th-Marilynne Cerullo, 15th-Stuart Beckett & Father Gerry Kaggwa, 17th-Lois Farrell, 18th-Fredrick Johnson, 19th-Tom Jessee, 20th-Len Swinehart, 23,-John Donner, Becky Nunn, & Blair Pausic, 24th-Tony Robusto, 25th-Noelle Harvey, 27-thJan Smith, & Tom Dorman, 29th-Natlie Smith, 30th-JoAn Nolte.

**ANNIVERSARY'S OCTOBER**



5th-Kevin & Germaine Hayes, Mike & Joyce Ballato,  
7th-Lee & Barbara Hollingsworth, 10th-John & Andrea Moore,  
19th-Gary & Jo Brown, 25th-James & Cathy Davenport,  
27th-Steve & Lisa Forte



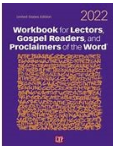
**COV OYSTER FESTIVAL BOOTH**

COV will have a booth along Community Row on Virginia Street in Urbanna for the 64th Annual Oyster Festival. We are planning to sell four items in our booth; Jars with Cookie Mixtures, Baked Breads, Gnomes, and Lighted Bottles. Peggy Williams, the Sychterz's, and Lisa Forte have made three of the four items for sale, and we are asking parishioners to donate home made breads. Peg Williams will decorate the loaves with seasonal decorations to add appeal. Instruction sheets will be available after Mass if you can volunteer to bake. All breads are needed by November 1.



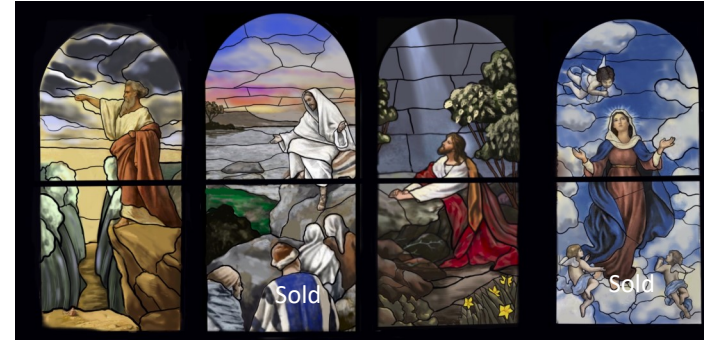
**LECTOR'S WORKBOOKS**

Our lectors' workbooks are in and can be picked up from the table outside of the office.



**NEW MEMORIALS**

As we announced a few weeks ago, we will be installing four additional stained glass windows in the Nave. Preliminary designs have been received from the manufacturer and are depicted below.



The windows will be designed according to these themes:

- Moses parting the Red Sea*
- Jesus preaching on the shore-sold*
- Jesus praying in the Garden*
- Assumption of our Lady-sold*

While we await the art work, if you have an interest in purchasing one of the windows, please contact Lisa Forte @ 804-399-7766. The price of the windows is as before \$12,00.00 each.

**Other remaining memorials from Stage 2**

- Electronic votive candle holder (1 left)-\$10,000
- Pedestal Fonts for Holy Water-\$2,500
- Memorial Narthex Bench-\$650 each
- Round Woven Offertory Baskets-\$450
- Live stream camera & accessories-TBD



**NEW WORSHIP AREA UPDATE**

We still await the sound system and entrance doors, but did finish the installation of flooring in what will become the Narthex (back portion of present worship area). Flooring for the front portion of our present worship area has been temporarily delayed. The creation of handicapped parking spaces with accompanying striping was done in error. The front six remain but the others were restriped to accommodate normal parking. As things stand, we will continue to celebrate Mass in our present space and evaluate it weekly.



## RESPECT FOR LIFE MONTH

In a culture and world that is hungry for the Truth, we are often challenged to put our faith into action. For example, many of our politicians profess their Catholic faith particularly as this related to LIFE issues.

However, as Christ's followers and as Catholics, we are called to integrate our faith into all aspects of our lives. In fact, we are called to make our faith evident in all our actions and decisions. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us not to hide our light under a bushel basket, but let our light shine before others (Mt 5:15-16).

Defense of the unborn-the most vulnerable and defenseless human beings in our society, is undoubtedly the most important gift that God gives us!

## WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

A retirement account, such as an IRA, 401 (k), or 403 (b), often comprises a large portion of a person's wealth. Yet did you know they are the most heavily taxed-and a perfect instrument for making a charitable gift at death?



*Potential, Purpose, Promise*

The way in which you distribute the assets in your retirement accounts can reflect your faith and values. By naming our church as beneficiary of your retirement account, you can pass on assets you no longer can use, and spare your estate the tax burden affiliated with these plans.

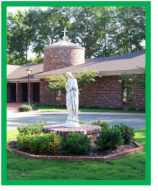
## DEAN AND DEANERY

In case you missed the announcement in the Catholic Virginian two issues ago, we are pleased and honored to announce that the Bishop has reappointed Father Gerry as the Dean for Deanery 6. The term is for three years and once again reflects the respect the deanery priests have for Father Gerry because by their voting, they recommended to the Bishop who they desired to be their Dean.

Father's Deanery encompasses Yorktown, Williamsburg, West Point, Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex.

## 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.



## The Synod on Synodality

The Holy Father, Pope Francis has convoked a **Synod on Synodality**, running from **October 2021 to October 2023**. The theme is,

*For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.*

This two-year global consultation process will be in phases.

The Synod on Synodality will open with a diocesan phase lasting from October 2021 to April 2022. This phase will include specific efforts around prayer, consultation, and the preparation of a diocesan report for the USCCB. A second, continental phase will take place from September 2022 to March 2023. The third, universal phase will begin with the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, dedicated to the theme "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission," at the Vatican in October 2023.

The Pope, launching the Synod on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, said that participating in this Synod is "not so much by organizing events or theorizing about problems, as in taking time to encounter the Lord and one another, time to devote to prayer and adoration -- this prayer that we neglect so much: to adore, to make room for adoration -- listening to what the Spirit wants to say to the Church, time to look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say, to build rapport, to be sensitive to the questions of our sisters and brothers, to let ourselves be enriched by the variety of charisms, vocations, and ministries."

In the weeks to come, more detailed information concerning the Diocesan Pre-Synodal Phase will be shared with you through our bulletin.

The word "synod," derived from the Greek "to walk with," expresses the idea of journeying together. According to Canon 342 of the Code of Canon Law, a synod is an assembly of bishops chosen from the different regions and episcopal conferences from around the world, who meet on specific occasions to foster close union between the Pope and the bishops.

The pope described the synod as "a journey of spiritual discernment" guided by God's word. "That word summons us to discernment and it brings light to that process. It guides the synod, preventing it from becoming a Church 'convention,' a study group or a political congress, because it is not a parliament, but rather a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Holy Spirit,"