

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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Oyster festival –November 5th & 6th.

All Saints Mass is at 9am-November 1st. FdS at 6:30pm.

All Souls Day Mass 11:30am in COV Cemetery-November 2nd.

Parish Council meeting 7pm-November 11th.

Thanksgiving Day Mass-9am COV.



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 31, 2021 Year B

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The most fundamental principle of all religions, especially Christianity is to love God and others because they are made in the image of God, he dwells in them. Our Scripture readings for this Sunday remind us that we are created to love God by loving others and to love others as an expression of our love for God. Our religious practices like prayers, Bible reading, Sacraments, acts of penance, and self-control are meant to help us to acknowledge and appreciate the presence of God in our neighbors and to express our love for God by serving our neighbors with love, sharing our blessings with them.

The first reading presents Moses explaining the Law to the Israelites after his return from Mount Sinai. He tries to make the people have reverence and obey the Law given by God as something that will bring them dignity, purpose, stature, distinction, and a unique place in history. He reminds them that keeping God's commandments is an expression of their love for God, and by doing so He will bless them with long life, prosperity, and fruitful, peaceful lives.

In today's Gospel, a Scribe asks Jesus to summarize the most important of the Mosaic Laws in one sentence. Jesus cites the first sentence of the Jewish Shema prayer: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength". Then He adds its complementary law: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself". Thus, Jesus says that true religion is loving God and loving our fellow human beings at the same time. It is by showing genuine, active love for our neighbors that we can demonstrate that we really love God. Jesus puts love of God and love of neighbor together. Meaning: to love God is to love our neighbor like we love ourselves. This is what is needed. "...And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." This goes to the root of Jesus' message. That loving God is not about offerings and sacrifices to God but about loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.

To love God is keeping his commandments, and offer daily prayers of thanksgiving, praise, contrition for our failings, and asking forgiveness and strength. Because if I am going to love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, then I have to place His will ahead of mine, and to ask Him for help when I have to say no to some things that I might want to do. I also, have to seek the Lord's will and make it paramount in my life.

To love our neighbor is by helping, supporting, encouraging, forgiving, and praying for everyone, without discrimination based on color, race, gender, age, wealth, or social status. If I love my neighbor as I love myself, or as Jesus has loved me, it will need making sacrifices. I have to seek forgiveness when I think I have done something wrong. I have to sacrifice something I think I need, to meet my brother's and sister's need. I have to spend time in prayer for other people and reach out to them, helping, encouraging, and supporting them in any way I can, and always lead them to know the Lord.

So, brothers and sisters, we know what we should do. Then just go do it as best you can every day of your life. Be a better person, play your part in making God's kingdom a reality, here, today and every day in your community and in your family by loving God and your neighbor.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Responsorial Psalm:

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading:

Hebrews 7:23-28

Gospel:

Mark 12:28b-34

TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS

Community Leader: Debby Harriman

Altar Server: Joe Sychterz

Cantor: TBA

Eucharist Minister: Eileen O'Brien

Lectors: Tom Dorman/Louise Petralia

Collection Counter: Hock/Harriman

ASSIGNMENTS FOR OCTOBER 31st

Community Leader: Kevin Hayes

Altar Server: Ray Kostaskey

Cantor: TBA

Eucharist Minister: TBA

Lectors: Lynne Dreelin/Ray Kostaskey

Collection Counter: O'Brien/Smith's

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Lil Loyd, Arthur Heunemann, Alvin Woods, & William MacLean



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 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

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 24, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,140
Second Collection:
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 38,204
Total Budget Projection: \$ 38,295



"Hyperlink"

We signed the following principal check this week:
\$212 September telephone; \$186 Interest on construction loan payment #1.

BIRTHDAY'S FOR NOVEMBER



2nd-Mel Placilla, 3rd-Keith Gulick, 9th-Gary Brown, 11th Steve Forte, 16th-Skip Kramb, 18th-Robert Wilson, 19th-Cathy Davenport, 21st-Edmund Meanley, 22nd-James Peddicord & Lorie Messina, 24th-Dave Filippi, 27th-Laurie Kind, 28th-Bill Gray, 29th-Bill Brandl, 30th-Andrea Moore & Mary Foley.



ANNIVERSARY'S NOVEMBER

7th-Kenneth & Mary Ann Gulick, 29th-Aldo & Leisa DeCollibus.

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 1st.



PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

We thank those parishioners who ran for election and the 60 parishioners who cast ballots two Sundays ago. The three individuals who received the highest number of votes are: *Steve Forte, Cindy Jessee, and Cindy Powers.* They begin their terms in January.

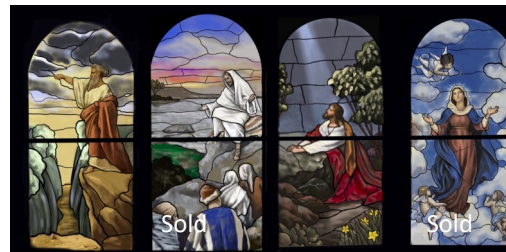
LECTOR'S WORKBOOKS

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.



- #1 *Moses parting the Red Sea*
- #2 *Jesus preaching on the shore*-sold
- #3 *Jesus praying in the Garden*
- #4 *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



Upon reflection about the sale of Memorials, they have had the most significant impact in reducing the size of the loan which we will eventually have when the final bills are received. Initially, we faced a \$300k loan, but thanks to our parishioners' generosity and interest in honoring their loved ones, that final number will be reduced dramatically. To pay the most recent contractor's bill, we took our first construction draw for \$125k. One more construction bill awaits us, and we will be able to fix the final loan amount. At that time we will be more specific about monthly loan payments, etc.

NOVEMBER MEMORIALS

November 1st is All Saints Day, and we will celebrate Mass here at COV at 9am & 6:30pm at FdS.

November 2nd is All Souls Day, and we will celebrate it with a Mass in the cemetery at 1:30am, weather permitting.

As in the past, we will honor our relatives who have passed away with a Memorial Remembrance table displaying the photos of loved ones. Please bring in your pictures next week and place them in the container in the entrance and we will display them on the table during November.

Also in the entrance are purple slips for you to fill out and list your loved ones. Please fill one out and return it to the basket which will be placed on the altar for all Masses in November.



RESPECT FOR LIFE MONTH

Since Roe v. Wade in 1973, more than 62 million innocent children have lost their lives to abortion. Clearly, abortion is the human right's issue of our time. So on our judgement day, Christ might well ask us, "what did you do to prevent the holocaust in your society?" The Catholic Church remains the most vocal voice on behalf of the 4,000 innocents, made in God's image and likeness, who every day lose their lives in our great nation. However, the Church certainly has not lived up to its possibilities, in intimidated into silence, inactivity and even apathy. Sadly, only a very small percentage of Catholics do anything to prevent the slaughter. Even some of our clergy deem the subject "too political" or controversial or find some other reason to excuse themselves from taking any action.

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Did you know that the laws of the state where you are living at the time of your death will determine how your estate is settled if you have no will of your own? These laws might not leave your property to the people you want to receive it And, these laws definitely don't leave any gift to your church or any other charity. Would you not rather make these decisions yourself? When you need a will, it's too late to have one drawn. Don't wait, and don't forget your church.



Potential, Purpose, Promise

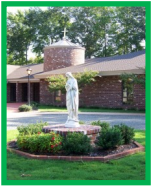
NEW WORSHIP AREA UPDATE

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.

As we await doors and sound system, we will gradually move Liturgical items into the space. The locations for the Stations of the Cross have been selected and their frames will shortly go in place.

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 17th, 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,"