

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



DATES FOR SILENT AUCTION

December 5 and 12, 2021

Since we will not be able to use our new worship area until the new year, Father Gerry has okayed holding our silent auction in that space.

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** (Items around your home you would like to clear out and someone else could enjoy) and decide if you have something to donate to the effort.

Past auctions have raised \$1500-2200!

This year all proceeds will be used for our building fund.

Call or email Lynne Richardson for more information.
571-239-0980 lynnegary@gmail.com

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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1st Sunday of Advent-"Hope"

November 28, 2021 Year B

First Sunday of Advent

11/28/2021

Advent is a time of waiting for the coming of the 'promised Messiah' who is the Christ. It is a time of allowing Jesus to be reborn in our lives. It is also a time for purifying our hearts and for renewing our lives by reflecting on and experiencing the several comings (advents) of Christ into our lives. Besides coming into our world through birth, Jesus comes into our lives as we live them through His Church. He comes to us as we pray, He comes to us through the Sacraments (especially the Eucharist), He comes to us through the Word of God, and He comes to us when we gather as a worshipping community.

Today as we begin this season of Advent the scripture readings present us with two opposing poles of hope and fear. The first reading recounts the very tense and terrifying situation of the exile. Jeremiah tells the people: keep dreaming of a better future, we will be saved, God will not abandon us. Jeremiah refers prophetically to the coming of Jesus, the one who will bring hope to his people. In the second reading in a similar way, Paul encourages the people of Thessalonica, where a small minority of Christians live in uncertainty and tension as they were expecting the Lord to return. 'Do not fear, the Lord will make you strong and increase your love for each other.' Their task was to live in such a way that God would be pleased until Jesus returned. Just as it is for us. But since the actual time of the Lord's coming was unknown Paul advises them not to lose focus but to stay alert, to have hope.

In the Gospel, Jesus encourages us to be expectant, optimistic, vigilant, and well-prepared: "When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand". Jesus wants us to face the future with confidence and hope in God's providence.

So, as we journey through Advent, we need to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming by allowing Jesus to be reborn daily in our lives. Advent gives us time to make this preparation — repenting of and confessing our sins, renewing our lives through prayer, and reflecting on his words in the Scriptures, and sharing our blessings with others. In Advent, we also need to check for what needs to be put right in our lives, to see how we have failed, and to assess the ways in which we can do better.

Today we are invited to assess our lives every day during Advent and to make the necessary alterations in the light of the approaching Christ. Amid the tragedies that sometimes occur in our daily lives and the setbacks in spiritual life, we must raise our heads in hope and anticipation, knowing that the Lord is coming he will not delay.

St. Paul in the First Letter to the Thessalonians, today's second reading, tells us what to do as we wait for the Coming of the Lord. May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Responsorial Psalm:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel:

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

ASSIGNMENTS FOR November 28th

Community Leader: Kathy Kauffman
Altar Server: Barbara Smith
Cantor: TBA
Eucharist Minister: Cindy Jessee
Lectors: Eileen O'Brien/Tom Dorman
Collection Counter: Harris/Davenport

ASSIGNMENTS FOR December 5th

Community Leader: Kevin Hayes
Altar Server: Kaylee Kirsch
Cantor: TBA
Eucharist Minister: TBA
Lectors: Ray Kostosky/Lynne Dreelein
Collection Counter: O'Brien/Smith

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Bob Hartman, Mike Melancon, Sharon Vajda & Dennis Quim



PARISHIONERS

Steve Forte, Gary Richardson, Donna Thompson, James Peddicord, Paul Pearce, 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, Grace Anderson, Natalie Smith, Lorie & Sal Messina, Pat Paul, Margaret Hock, Anne Dunn, 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

Jackie Moore, Emily Evans, 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 & Mirke 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

George Adams, Dave Cryer, Lynn & Jim Vajda, 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: November 21, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,410
Second Collection: Catholic Virginian \$ 72
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 47,217
Total Budget Projection: \$ 45,918



There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal check this week:
\$159 Copier leasing monthly fee.

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 King,
28th-Bill Gray, 29th-Bill Brandl, 30th-Andrea Moore & Mary Foley.

ANNIVERSARY'S NOVEMBER



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

ANGEL TREE COMING SOON



Today is the presentation of the Angel Tree with gift tags. The gifts are due December 12th. Again this year we have committed to support 25-30 children. For those who are not able to pick up a star on the 21st, we will accept donations towards Food Lion Gift Certificates. Mary Sychterz is heading this project and can be reached at 804-815-0353. Grab your star today!

KNIGHTS NEWS

Members of the KOC Kevin Hayes and Tom Dorman were inducted into the third degree this past Sunday.

Congratulations!



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.



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 #1 Moses parting the Red Sea
Memorial Narthex Bench-\$650 each #3 Jesus praying in the Garden
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 in the interim, please continue to support our monthly special collections for the New worship Area.



WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Members of our church gather each week around the communion table, reciting the words of Christ and participating in the sacred meal “in remembrance: of Jesus. That gift has been handed down generation to generation.

As we recall the names of those who have died, our minds are filled with precious memories. We are their legacy, and much of what we have in both material and non-material things-have been handed down to us from them. But what will we hand down to those who follow? How will we be remembered? Will we leave more than an empty spot in a pew?



Potential, Purpose, Promise

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 undergrid 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.



ADVENT

Today begins advent and liturgical year “C”. Per our usual celebration, we will light the advent wreath and sing the advent song. In preparation for the season, we have the blue books (six minute daily reflections) for you to take home and reflect upon. For your convenience, we have also prepared an advent calendar. These items are available for pickup at the church entrance.

RESPECT LIFE



It is wonderful to receive such enthusiasm for our Baby Bottle campaign for “Mary’s Choice”, a new Maternity home in Richmond! For those who picked up a baby bottle in support of “Mary’s Choice”, you may return its contents at anytime to the office. As announced last week, a representative from the maternity home will visit and discuss their needs and provide us with more information at a later date.

Carol Smith

COV IN BOOK

Daniel Markham, the author of the upcoming book, 52 MASSES, will visit Church of the Visitation for Mass on Sunday, Dec. 5th. Daniel is profiling the parish’s successful efforts to construct the school building in Uganda as part of the book project that will take him to Mass in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico over the course of the year. He welcomes the opportunity to meet with any and all parishioners who are interested, whether for him to learn more about our parishes or to share his experiences and hopes for his book with the Church of the Visitation community. We are honored that

Daniel chose COV to profile in his book, the only church so honored in the Commonwealth of Virginia. To celebrate his visit, we will have a social hour after Mass (our first since the pandemic) in order for him to converse more easily with parishioners. We will also take the opportunity to display our new worship area for his viewing.



NEW WORSHIP AREA UPDATE

As we indicated last week, the sound system was installed and tested. This Tuesday, Matt Sherwood brought in the ambo and altar which he had constructed for us. Tom Shoemaker completed the installation of the Baptismal Font less one of the bowls. The Holy water fonts arrived and can be viewed in the office. Though coming from various sources, it’s amazing how close the wood finishes of these items match that of the pews.

SOCIAL CALL

Please note that we will begin to conduct social events under parish life auspices. When Daniel Markim visits on December 5th, we will celebrate Social Sunday after Mass for the first time since the pandemic. On the succeeding Sunday, December 12th, we will have our belated Christmas Social.

The church provides the meat wine and cheese. We ask parishioners to bring a dish to share with others. Our party will begin at 3PM with a social half hour, followed by dinner. This early start will allow everyone to eat, be merry, and return home before dark.

