

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

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SILENT AUCTION EXTENDED

We are pleased to announce that we have extended the dates for the Silent Auction another week until Sunday December 19th.

We received some new items this week and want to allow more time for parishioners to view the items and purchase that last minute Christmas Gift.



A peak of some of the auction items!

3rd Sunday of Advent-"Joy"

December 12, 2021 Year C

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT “Gaudete Sunday”

The central Message of today’s Liturgy is the command “Rejoice!” We are to do so mainly by realizing the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, our renewal of life, and by doing God’s will. Today is called “Gaudete” Sunday; that word Gaudete means joy and joy is the principal theme of the scripture readings of this Sunday. The first reading from Prophet Zephaniah, speaks about the coming of the Messiah and it tells us that, that day will be a day of rejoicing not just for the whole people but for the Lord himself. He even pictures the Messiah dancing with joy on that great day.

Then in the reading from the letter to the Philippians St Paul tells his readers that since the Lord is very near their attitude should be one of happiness and joy. He says: “Brothers and sisters: rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

We rejoice and are invited to rejoice today because, “The Lord is near, he is coming to live among us. Zephaniah in the first reading is reminding us all, that God always brings Joy, and happiness to his people. This is exactly what makes Christmas so special, God through his son Jesus comes to save us, he brings us the joy of forgiveness of our sins. So, Zephaniah is telling us to Shout with joy because through Jesus, God has brought us salvation. He has shown us his love.

It is through our Christian faith, that we believe that God is among us through his son Jesus. And because of this faith, we go through this season of Advent not with sadness, but with Joy, joy because The Lord is coming to be with us, to live with us. This is real meaning and why we celebrate Christmas. God came to dwell with us and lead through His Son Jesus to a new way of life. A life of hope, love, joy, and peace.

Yes, we should rejoice! Because we are the fruits of God’s Divine plan. And through this Plan of God, each and every one of us has become a new creation, a creation of people chosen by God. And therefore, what a joy it is to know that God has counted us among those that He has chosen as His own.

But our joy should not be only external, it has to be spiritual as well. For as we have heard from the Gospel of today, when the people, the crowds, heard John the Baptist, telling them the Good News of the imminent coming of the messiah, they went to him and asked, “What should we do?” These people wanted to change their lives, to start a new way of life.

The new life John the Baptist proposes in the Gospel is a life of sharing, a life lived in truth, a life of Justice, doing what is right because it is the right thing to do. He tells them to turn to God and open their heart to his Son Jesus whom He sent to bring us a new life, a renewed life in God.

Jesus comes as a healer and teacher. He comes not as a judge, he comes to seek out sinners and to reconcile them with God and their fellow man. Jesus comes not so much to judge as to save. He comes with a gentle and healing touch. He shows himself to be especially fond of the poor and lowly, he shows compassion for others especially to those who suffer, who need help.

So, let us open our hearts and be Joyful for the Lord is near and He is always near us, He is here to comfort us, to be with us in all that we go through in life, let us rejoice and be grateful for the gift of God’s coming to be among us.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY’S MASS

First Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Responsorial Psalm:

*Cry out with joy and gladness;
for among you is the great and
Holy One of Israel.*

Second Reading:

Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel:

Luke 3:10-18

ASSIGNMENTS FOR December 12th

Community Leader: Debby Harriman
Altar Server: Ray Kostaskey/Baylen Miller
Cantor: TBA
Eucharist Minister: TBA
Lectors: Tom Shoemaker/Pat DeGroot
Collection Counters: King/Kirsch/Angell

ASSIGNMENTS FOR December 19th

Community Leader: John McCormack
Altar Server: Barbara Smith
Cantor: TBA
Eucharist Minister: Noelle Harvey
Lectors: John Weidner/Mary Ellen Sherwood
Collection Counters: Tutak/Harvey

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Scott Vajda, Carol Hollingsworth, Nennie Lennon, Mary Elbourn,
Mary Lou Miller & Jean Cameron*



PARISHIONERS

Frank Lohr, Dolores Powers, 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 Meanley, 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 & 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 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: December 5, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,135
Second Collection: Christmas Flowers 472
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 50,515
Total Budget Projection: \$ 49,817



There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal check this week:
\$1175 Pastor & Rectory Expense for November.



BIRTHDAY'S FOR DECEMBER

1st-Tom Shoemaker, 2nd-Mollie McMurtrie, 4th-Mike Ballato & Karin Wilkins,
5th-Louise Petralia, 8th-Frank Lohr & Ziggy Krzyzewski, 11th-Vera England &
Annabella Reyes, 12th-Jerry Suyes, 16th-Cindy Powers, 18th-Lynne McMurtrie & Mary
Dorman, 19th-Lois Kramb, 20th-Roger Scott, 22nd-Linda Gray, 23rd-Christine Williams &
Alexis Reyes, 25th-Colleen Hoffman, 26th-Tom Hawksworth, 27th-Anne Costello & Betsy Brown
& Patricia Figueroa, 29th-Jack Petralia, 31st-Doug Olson.

ANNIVERSARY'S DECEMBER



1st -Chuck & Carol Walsh, 8th-Robert & Paula Wilson, 10th-Tom & Cherianne
Johnson, 14th-Bob & Ingrid Borden, 20th-Fritz & Peper Heunemann,
22nd-Branch & Michele Meanley, 30th-Bill & Donna Brandl

THANK YOU THANK YOU

Special thanks to Tom Dorman, Tom Shoemaker, Joe Sychterz and Bill Brandl for helping move furniture, rearrange rooms and various other things that needed to be completed here at church. There are more projects to be done, if you are interested in helping please contact the office.



CONGRADULATIONS

Congratulations to John and Diane Weidner, who welcomed two new granddaughters to their family in November. Josephine Louisa Forbes of Williamsburg was born on November 7th and Abigail Marie Kropf of Alexandria was born on November 18th. Their grandparents are thrilled and blessed!

NEW MEMORIALS

As we announced a few weeks ago, we will be installing four additional stained glass windows in the Nave.

Other remaining memorials from Stage 2

Electronic votive candle holder (1 left)-\$10,000
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. In the interim, please continue to support our monthly special collections for the New Worship Area.*

LIGHTED BOTTLES/ANGEL TREE

We still have a variety of lighted bottles left over from the Oyster Festival. If you're interested in purchasing one for yourself or as a Christmas gift, please see Debby Harriman after church.

All presents and donations for the Angel Tree are due today. If you haven't completed your shopping, please see Mary Sychterz after Mass or call today: 804-815-0353.



WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Have you received an inheritance? If so, consider gifting part of the inheritance to your church in memory of the loved one who remembered you. You can make this gift now or in your estate plan.



Potential, Purpose, Promise

At the death of a special friend or relative you might like to remember that person through a memorial gift to your church. This will show your appreciation for this treasured relationship and help others through the church. An acknowledgement card will be sent to the surviving family, letting them know of your gift, without disclosing the amount.

NEW WORSHIP AREA UPDATE

As you enter Mass this Sunday, look straight ahead towards the alcove and view the Visitation stained glass window and its beauty. Also, although the sound system is in place, we have asked that the black speakers be replaced with white ones.



THANK YOU

My family and I would like to thank everyone who sent sympathy cards and caring notes. It is comforting knowing that people care.

Patti Sarosy and Family.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

What is special about the Third Sunday of the Church's history; this Sunday has a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. On this day the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.



Journey Together: Synod on Synodality 2021-2023

How will the Diocese of Richmond participate in a worldwide synod?

Over the next several months, our ad hoc Diocesan Evangelization Commission will be working to facilitate responses from diocesan advisory groups as well as from parish councils on these synodal questions:

1. How is journeying together happening today in our parishes and diocese?
2. What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together?
3. What experiences of our local Church does this question call to mind? What joys did they bring? What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What wounds did they reveal? What insights have they revealed? Where in these experiences does the voice of the Holy Spirit resound?
4. What is the Spirit asking of us?
5. What are the points to be confirmed, the prospects for change, the steps to be taken? Where do we register a consensus? What paths are opening up for our local Church?

The answers to these questions will be analyzed and sent to the USCCB, who will submit a synthesis of all the U.S. dioceses' responses to the Vatican's General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops.

SOCIAL CALL

Today, 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.

ORGANIZATION DONATIONS

As you are aware, several of our fundraisers (Yard Sale and Golf Tournament) pledge a portion (50%) of their net to charitable organizations in the area. We just completed our final round of donations to these organizations and are pleased to announce that this year sizeable donations (\$300-\$500) were given to

*Healthy Harvest Food Bank,
Northern Neck Free Health Clinic, Christmas Friends, Hands Across Middlesex, Habitat for Humanity, Middlesex County Rescue Squad, Love4Kids, New County Skateboard Park, Mary's Choice, and our own Parish Pence.*

We are proud of our community outreach, and these donations are part of it.