

## 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*

## ENVELOPES, CALENDARS, AND TAX STATEMENTS

Envelopes for next year and a 2022 calendar generously donated by Faulkner Funeral Home are available for pickup in the hall outside of the Administration Office. For those of you desiring a donation statement for this year, please place your name on the writing tablet located in the same place.



## *The Catholic Church Of The Visitation*

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Please remember to keep the office informed of address, family, email, and phone number changes.

If any of these items has changed in the last few months, please inform us, and if you are doubtful about telling us about a change that occurred last year, give us a call to verify if we have the right information.

Or if you are not seeing your name in the *Birthdays/Anniversaries* list and would like to, that would be an update as well.

*4th Sunday of Advent- "Peace"*

*December 19, 2021 Year C*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

There is nothing so joyful like celebrating Christmas. The birth of Jesus changed so many things, simple things became important. The first reading talks about the little town of Bethlehem that seemed too small and insignificant to make any difference for anything but is remembered and revered to this day as the birthplace of the savior whose "greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth.

Is there anything more exciting in our world than waiting for someone you love, or something important? Sure, there is: a pregnant woman waiting for her first baby to be born. Today's Gospel presents two such women. Mary and Elizabeth are bursting with anticipation, with expectation. Mary is a young girl, newly married, with a baby announced by an angel and Elizabeth an older woman, one who thought her chance to have a child had passed.

The women knew that not just their lives would be changed, but the world would be changed. They greeted each other, and the baby within Elizabeth, the future John the Baptist, recognized the presence of the Messiah within Mary. Elizabeth was overwhelmed with excitement as she realized that her child would have a vital role in God's plan for His people. Both women proclaimed their gratitude to God for working His wonders within them.

Like Mary and Elizabeth, perhaps, as a final preparation for Christmas, we can spend a few moments reflecting on the great Gift God has given us and focus on the gratitude we owe Him. The great gift of Christmas, of course, is the gift of His Son. Mary and Elizabeth are grateful to God because He chose them to be part of this great gift to humanity.

Christmas is an expression of God's love. We are the object of His love. Only God would love so much that He would become one of us to win our love. This is the mystery that excites us on Christmas. It is the same mystery that excited Mary and Elizabeth. They realized that they had each in their own way been chosen to be vehicles of God's plan of love. Elizabeth's son, John the Baptist, would point to this Love become flesh. Jesus, Mary's son, would be this love. We also have been chosen to be part of this plan by the One who loves us and who calls us to make His Love a reality for others. Like Mary and Elizabeth in today's Gospel, feeling the joy of being part of God's plan, we too have to be joyful because we are called to participate in this mystery.

We have to bring this Good News of Joy, of God's love to others. We have to be like Mary that wherever we go we bring Joy, and to whomever we meet we bring happiness and God's Love.

The things and values which symbolizes the presence of the Lord are: Joy, love, goodness, truth, justice, hope, fidelity, service, and holiness. These are the qualities that ought to characterize our Christian life and we ought to bring them to all those we meet during this season and always.

Today on fourth and last Sunday in Advent, we are reminded that God keeps his promises, he is faithful to us, and we are called to do the same, being faithful to the God who has loved us so much. In the first reading, prophet Micah gives assurance to the Jews that God is faithful to His promises and that He will send them the long-expected ruler, the Messiah. We are also reminded today that, when God's word finds it home in us, we are called to action. Therefore, Christmas for us is an inspiration to carry out God's word as Mary did, in perfect, loving obedience to His will, with cheerful kindness and unselfish generosity.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

## TODAY'S MASS

### First Reading:

*Micah 5:1-4a*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we  
shall be saved.*

### Second Reading:

*Hebrews 10:5-10*

### Gospel:

*Luke 1:39-45*

## 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

## ASSIGNMENTS FOR December 26th

Community Leader: Kevin Hayes  
Altar Server: Steve Forte  
Cantor: TBA  
Eucharist Minister: Cindy Jessee  
Lectors: Ray Kostaskey/Tom Dorman  
Collection Counters: Tutak/Harvey

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Tony Kurek, Audrey Sidoli, Jodie Riley & 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

Joseph J. Los, 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 12, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,282  
Second Collection:  
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 52,797  
Total Budget Projection: \$ 52,168



Our second collection today is for Catholic Charities.

We signed the following principal check this week:  
\$1,470 Diocesan Assessments; \$6,108 Narthex flooring.



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.

ANGEL TREE

A big thanks to everyone who participated in the Angel Tree this year. We were able to brighten 28 children's Christmas. And thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide all 12 families a Food Lion gift card that will provide a complete Christmas dinner.

COV has a very big heart, thank you.



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 when received 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.*

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.



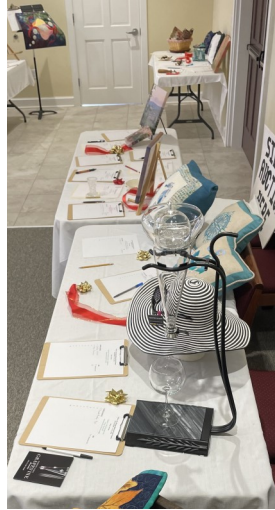
## WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school.

Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your generosity after death. Make that gift through a bequest in your will.



Potential, Purpose, Promise



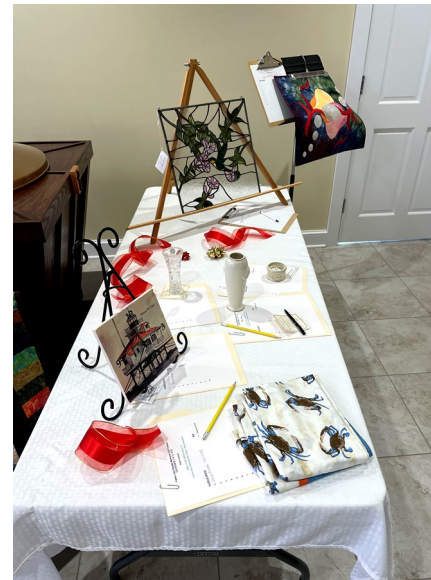
## Journey Together: Synod on Synodality 2021-2023

### 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?

As mentioned above, our Parish Council and others through the Diocese will tackle these questions and prepare a response. If you believe you can help the council respond to these questions, please contact John Weidner



This Sunday is the last call for Auction bids.

