

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

8462 General Puller Highway/P.O. Box 38
Topping, Virginia 23169 Phone: 804-758-5160
E-Mail: churchofthevisitation@va.metrocast.net
Website: www.church-of-the-visitation.org

Pastor: Gerald Kaggwa Rectory: 804-286-9271



*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
December 26, 2021 Year C*

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

12/26/2021

Yesterday, we celebrated the Birth of the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Today, the Church invites us to celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, to honor the three people who make up this Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Today's Gospel reading presents the Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple. Jesus' parents are panic struck, and rightly so. They were relieved when they found him after three days. On this feast day we are offering our own families and all their members on the altar to ask God's blessing on them and to obtain for them the guidance of the Holy Family.

Most important for today's feast, the Feast of the Holy Family is the conclusion of the reading: Jesus went back to Nazareth with his parents and was obedient to them, growing in wisdom, and age, and favor with the Father. Jesus was subject to his parents and obedient to them. He allowed them to fulfill their responsibility to care for him in all ways. Jesus was the center of this family.

So, let's look at the family, the Catholic family. For the Catholic family to function as God meant it to function, there must be certain fundamentals. The family must be centered on the real presence of God's love. What is needed, what is necessary for a real Christian family, a Catholic family, is the presence of Jesus. With Christ present in the in the family, the beginning of a Little Church is created because a family based of Jesus is the foundation of a strong Church.

St. Paul in the second reading reminds us that we are children of God, and that should live as children of God. We do this by doing what pleases Him, which is: "We should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us to do." Any family centered on Jesus will be a family of love, radiating this love to all. And this is how we are distinguished from any other family.

So, today as we look and celebrate the Holy Family lets us also be drawn into an examination of our own families. The Holy Family is A Model for us to imitate. The example of the Holy Family helps families to learn to become families of love and reconciliation, in which tenderness, mutual help, and mutual forgiveness is experienced. Our families should be built on faith in God as Mary and Joseph did.

God sustained the holy family through all of the trials because they trusted, they stayed united to the will of God. And they encouraged each by their mutual love and respect. What will hold our families together even in times of difficulties is God, it is our love for each other, it is being ready to forgive. When we put God before all else, we will always triumph. We need to learn lessons from the Holy Family: The Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph for inspiration, example, and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood, and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Responsorial Psalm:

*Blessed are they who dwell in
you house, O Lord.*

Second Reading:

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel:

Luke 2:41-52

ASSIGNMENTS FOR December 26th

Community Leader: Kevin Hayes
Altar Server: Steve Forte
Cantor: TBA
Eucharist Minister: Cindy Jessee
Lectors: Ray Kostosky/Tom Dorman
Collection Counters: Harris/Davenport

ASSIGNMENTS FOR January 2, 2022

Community Leader: Kathy Kauffman
Altar Server: Kaylee
Cantor: TBA
Eucharist Minister: Eileen O'Brien
Lectors: Ray Kostosky/Tom Dorman
Collection Counters: O'Brien/Smith's

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Eric Henkel, Palagi Twins and Buck Hawksworth



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

Ron & Georgia Beville, 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 McLnerney, 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 19, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,410
Second Collection:
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 55,207
Total Budget Projection: \$ 54,049



Our second collection today is for the New Worship Area.
We signed the following principal check this week:
\$159 Printer Leasing fee.



BIRTHDAY'S FOR JANUARY



1st-Carol McCormack, 2nd-Evelyn Scott, 3rd-Bob Cerullo, 5th-Lorraine Kirsch & Mike Borzelleca, 7th-Betty Johnson, 13th-Benton Miller, 16th-Christine Hayes, 19th-James Moncure, 20th-Deborah Harriman, 21st-Churk Walsh, 22nd-Don Tyrrell, Clara Suyes, Donna Brandl & Kenneth Gulick, 27th-John McCormack, 29th-Mike Dreelein, 30th-Liberty Bushey, 31st-John King & Charlie Costello.

ANNIVERSARY'S JANUARY



5th-Charles & Louise Hartz, 24th-John & Laurie King



What a wonderful gift we are sending Mary's Choice! All the money crammed into the baby bottles the past month totaled over \$1,000! To be added to that is a \$500 contribution from the Fr. John Boddie Memorial Golf Tournament!

Thank you everyone for this overwhelming response!

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) pledged 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

SILENT AUCTION

Our silent auction ended last Sunday, and many happy parishioners departed with their newly acquired gifts representing parish love and talent. Lynne Richardson's unofficial tally of sales is about \$3,000. She reports that all winners have been notified, and for those who have not picked up your item, they are in Father's office and can be gotten during normal office hours. Our thanks again to Lynne, the penultimate organizer, and her able assistants, Donna Lange and Roseanne Moncure.

MASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

There **will not** be any Daily Masses next week between Christmas and New Years. We will celebrate Mass on Saturday, January 1st at 9 am at COV and 11 am at FdS. The Solemnity of Mary The Holy Mother of God, January 1st, is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.



The Altar top has arrived and there are 5 gold crosses engraved on the top of the Altar.



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

HOLY FAMILY

The Holy Family consist of the Child Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and Saint Joseph.

Veneration to the Holy Family was formally begun in the 17th century by Saint Francois de Laval, the first bishop of New France, who founded a Confraternity.

The Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church and some Anglican Churches in honor of Jesus, his mother, and his legal father, Saint Joseph, as a family.

The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families.

The Feast is held on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day; if both are on Sunday, the feast is celebrated on December 30th.