

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.



*****If you signed up for a statement it is now available for pick up!**

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. *A list of updated information will be coming out soon. Thank you*
Or if you are not seeing your name in the *Birthdays/Anniversary* list and would like to, that would be an update as well.

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 23, 2022
Year C

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 23, 2022

Today's Gospel, presents Jesus' "inaugural address" in the synagogue of Nazareth and outlining his Mission of total liberation. This marks a great moment in Jesus' ministry. The Scripture readings for today focus our attention on the importance and liberating power of the Word of God. It makes God present in our midst. The readings challenge us to listen to the voice of God, accept it into our hearts, then put it into practice as we live out our lives, thus liberating ourselves and others from all types of bondages.

The first reading, taken from Nehemiah, and Luke's Gospel both describe a public reading of Sacred Scripture which challenges the hearers to make a "fresh beginning" with a new outlook. In the first reading, after rebuilding the Temple and restoring the city, Ezra leads the people in a Covenant renewal ceremony by reading and interpreting the Law. The Second Reading, taken from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, reminds us that "together we are Christ's Body, but each of us is a different part of it." This suggests that, as different parts of Christ's Body, each of us has a share, as instruments in God's hands, in bringing the freeing and saving mission of Christ to our world in our times.

The Gospel of this Sunday describes how, on a Sabbath, Jesus stood before the people in the synagogue of his hometown, Nazareth, reading and interpreting what Isaiah had prophesied about the Messiah and his mission. Jesus claims that he is the One sent 'to bring glad tidings to the poor, liberation to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and freedom for the oppressed'. Jesus declares that Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled at that very moment "in your hearing," because the prophecy foretells and describes Jesus' own mission and ministry. Jesus' mission is to give liberation to everyone who will listen to his Good News, accept it, and put it into practice. The good news Jesus brings and wants us to put into practice is of being liberated from every form of slavery. And most important: God's preferential option for the poor and the marginalized, those who have little status in society.

Jesus states quite clearly what his objectives are. He will commit himself to a program of liberation on all levels. He wishes to bring good news to the poor by telling them that they don't have to accept that poverty is their God given way of life and that they are condemned to it for life. He was going work to empower the poor, by raising their dignity and give them a sense of self-worth.

Jesus also wants captives to be freed, not just people in prison but people imprisoned by sin, by fear, enslaved by drink, drugs, money, status, prejudices, self-destructive attitudes, a wrong image of God and religion. He makes the blind see, the deaf hear. Jesus came to heal our wounds, to make humanity whole again, restored to its original dignity.

Jesus is not going to accomplish his mission alone. He needs us. The Good News is that Jesus is inviting you and me to participate in his vision for life. We all have been anointed with the Holy Spirit in baptism and confirmation. We are the anointed ones of God. We are commissioned to participate in the program of Jesus. The secret of life according to Jesus is that the more you focus on the good of others including the needy, poor, marginalized, the happier you will be. We can be those who are blind, blind when we choose possessions instead of sharing and helping our brothers and sisters in need. When we do not see the image of God in each person we meet. But the Spirit of God works through so many wonderful people, hopefully even through us and all those who try to follow the program of Jesus as outlined in today's Gospel.

When he ended up his statement he said, 'this text is being fulfilled today in your hearing, meaning, even as you listen'. And it is true in many places. Even here in our community, in our church, when we help the needy, welcome the stranger, feed the hungry and many other activities we carry out in the community. Surely there is the Spirit at work through the generosity of many people. And many people who are touched by us can surely say, "this text is being fulfilled", because we have put into practice what Jesus invites us to do, living a life of the Gospels. Living as Christians. Let us be ready therefore, to become Spirit-filled instruments of Christ's saving mission.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

First Reading:

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

Responsorial Psalm:

*Your words, Lord, are
Spirit and life.*

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Gospel:

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

ASSIGNMENTS FOR January 23, 2022

Community Leader: Joh McCormack
Altar Server: Joe Sychterz
Cantor: John McCormack
Eucharist Minister: Mary Sychterz
Lectors: Dorman/Weidner
Collection Counters: Harris/Davenport

MUSIC FOR JANUARY 23, 2022

BELL SONG: Lift Up Your Hearts #563
ENTRANCE: Holy, Holy, Holy #202
OFFERTORY: Unless a Grain of Wheat #498
COMMUNION: Taste and See #332
MEDITATION: Bread for the World #342
RECESSIONAL: Now Thank We All Our God #195

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carole McPherson, Mary Jane Paul, Dolores Powers, Lewis Forte & Art Smith



PARISHIONERS

Marylin Cox, Scott Kauffman, Steve Forte, Gary Richardson, Donna Thompson, James Peddicord, Paul Pearce, Eileen O'Brien, Laurie King, Cherianne Johnson, Spike & Becky Nunn, Jim Moncure, Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Tom Foley, Michele Meanley, Jack & Louise Petralia, Grace Anderson, Natalie Smith, 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.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Shirley Schultz, Judy Kramb, Joseph J. Los, Emily Evans, Arnold Fahrman, John Matthews, Ramon Placiente, Jillian Messina, Karen Tatum, Dave Hersh, Mike Shea, Pam Tibbs, Sherry Newton, Aqela Parker, Bernie Smith, Virginia Talke, Phil Melancon, Doris Melancon, Dominick Perry, Doug Meuse, Michele Brune, Noele & Mike Anglin, Anita Bomberger, Drinkwater Family, Kathy Shepherd, 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, Michael Reamy, Natash Walsh, Ellen DeMaurez, Michele MacFarland, LC Warren, Andy Hetzer.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Dave Gunn, Louise & Jim Shockey, Mindy Miller & Ahmet Anclay, Ron & Georgia Beville, George Adams, Lynn & Jim Vajda, Christine & Henry Archuleta, Charles Carter, Pam Sands, Patti Sarosy, Ed Ruark, Kathy Goynne, William Scott Smith, Eddie Hall, David Smith, Sandy Bruce, Matt & Marianna Parowski, Penny Hoar, Gene Tunney Walker, Joe McInerney,

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: January 16, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,247
Second Collection:
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 64,877
Total Budget Projection: \$ 62,275



Link to our website

Our Second Collection today is for Respect for Life.

We signed the following principal checks this week:

\$275 Lawn Care; \$193 Faith Formation Supplies; \$2,407 Diocesan Assessments;
\$1,135 Electricity Bill.

BIRTHDAYS 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-Chuck Walsh, 22nd-Don Tyrrell, Clara Suyes, Donna Brandl & Kenneth Gulick, 27th-John McCormack, 29th-Mike Dreelein, 30th-Liberty Bushey, 31st-John King & Charlie Costello.

ANNIVERSARIES JANUARY

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



ORDINARY TIME

We have now re-entered the period of the Liturgical year entitled Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time refers to all of those parts of the Catholic Church's liturgical year that aren't included in the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Ordinary Time thus encompasses two different periods in the Church's calendar, since the Christmas season immediately follows Advent, and the Easter season immediately follows Lent.

Because of the term ordinary in English most often means something that's not special or distinctive, many people think that Ordinary Time refers to parts of the calendar of the Catholic Church that are unimportant. Even though the season of Ordinary Time makes up most of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church, the fact that Ordinary Time refers to those periods that fall outside of the major liturgical seasons reinforces this impression. Yet Ordinary Time is far from unimportant or uninteresting.

The normal liturgical color for Ordinary Time for those days when there is no special feast is green, including green vestments of the priest.

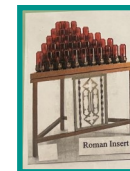
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Our Adult Bible Study small group will undertake a five lesson study entitled "The Eucharist in Scripture" on Tuesday afternoons during Lent. Anyone interested in joining the group should complete the sign up sheet after Mass or contact John Weidner at jaweidner1@verizon.net or 240.780.1872.

NEW MEMORIALS

Remaining memorials from Stage 2

Electronic votive candle holder (1 left) - \$10,000
Memorial Narthex Bench - \$650 each
Live stream camera & accessories - \$5,000



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 has been reduced dramatically.

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?



Potential / Purpose, Promise

Have circumstances changed since you last updated your estate plan? Do your current estate planning documents carry out your commitments to your church?

If not, amend your documents now.

Did you know that over 50% of all people at the time of their death do not have a will or living trust?

Do you know who your heirs will be? Is your church included in your will? Without a will, state laws will determine who receives your estate and no charity will receive a gift from your estate. Be sure your estate planning is up-to-date and expresses your wishes.

KITCHEN EXPANSION

With all the construction associated with the New Worship Area, we have neglected to keep you informed about the kitchen expansion, long a goal of our building project; we have begun its expansion. Initially, we thought we should expand into the present nave as part of the fellowship hall plan, but discarded the idea in favor of expanding across the hall. If you haven't noticed, the room across the hall from the kitchen has been completely renovated and new kitchen equipment installed. We will begin renovating the present kitchen next week and our goal is to have everything completed by the dedication, to include a wall in what will become the Narthex (part of the church that acts as a welcoming and greeting area).

After Mass please take time to view the expansion.

REGRETS

In addition to the death of Carole McPherson which we announced last week, we regret to announce that two other parishioners, Mary Jane Paul and Dolores Powers, died over the weekend. We have no additional news related to Carole. Mary Jane will be buried in a graveside service at 11am, January 29th, with a reception at the Pilot House to follow. She joined our parish in 2002 and lived both here and Va. Beach. Dolores, mother of Cindy Powers, joined her daughter here in Middlesex from California in August a year ago. She will be buried later in Massachusetts.



Journey Together: Synod on Synodality 2021-2023

How will the Church of the Visitation develop a response for the Diocese of Richmond?

“Synod” is a Greek word that literally means “on the same path” so Pope Francis has asked the whole Church to “journey together” on the same path in communion with one another.

All parishioners are asked to listen to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and prayerfully discern God’s will for us. In doing so, we are asked to consider several key questions contained in the Synod Participants Guide, which is being provided electronically along with the bulletin and which will be available in paper form after Mass.

During February and March, our Parish Council and others will be conducting a number of consultations designed to give all parishioners an opportunity to provide input to the Synod process. These consultations will be in small group settings, usually after a daily or Sunday Mass, and should last no more than an hour.

Sign up sheets for consultations will be available after Mass next Sunday, January 30. Additional consultations will be arranged for evening hours or as needed to accommodate any parishioner who wants to participate in the Synod process.

One outcome of the consultations will be input for Bishop Knestout as he prepares for the World Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome in October 2023. Even more important, we hope that the discussions that occur during the synod consultations will improve the path we are on together as a parish.

Please direct any questions about the Synod or offers to assist with consultations to John Weidner, Parish Council Chair, at jaweidner1@verizon.net, 240-780-1872.

DEDICATION

Our dedication is now planned for Saturday, February 26th, at 11:00am. We are busy planning the event with Kathy Kauffman heading a committee consisting of her, Tom and Mary Dorman, Tom Hawksworth, and Noelle Harvey. A reception will follow the dedication. Waiting until February 26th does not mean we will not celebrate Mass in the New Worship Area before then. Our plans are to begin to methodically move Liturgical elements into the area and celebrate Mass several times beforehand to ensure the facility is ready for an eventful dedication ceremony.

A WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has [a history of over 100 years](#), in which Christians around the world have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity. By annually observing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. *John 17:21*) This Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January, preceding the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul.

The week of Christian Unity, is dedicated specifically to ask God for the gift of unity to overcome the scandal of division among believers in Jesus. After the Last Supper, he prayed for his own, “that they may all be one” (*Jn 17:21*). This was his prayer before the Passion; we could call it his spiritual testament. Let us note, however, that the Lord did not command that his disciples be united. No, *he prayed* to the Father for us, so that we might be one. This means that we are unable to achieve unity by our own strength. Unity is above all a gift, it is a grace to be requested through prayer.

Each one of us needs unity, but we know that we are incapable of preserving unity even within ourselves without God’s help. This is also true for Christians. Unity can be achieved only as a fruit of prayer. Diplomatic efforts and academic dialogue are not enough. Jesus knew this and opened the way for us by praying. Our prayer for unity is thus a humble but trusting *participation in the prayer of the Lord*, who promised that any prayer said in his name would be heard by the Father (cf. *Jn 15:7*). At this point, we can ask ourselves: “Do I pray for unity?”. It is Jesus’ will but, if we inspect the intentions for which we pray, we will probably realize that we have prayed little, perhaps never, for Christian unity. And yet, the world’s faith depends on it; in fact, the Lord asked for unity among us “so that the world might believe” (*Jn 17:21*). The world will not believe if we attempt to convince it with good arguments, but rather when we bear witness to the love that unites us and draws all of us near.

To pray means to fight for unity. Yes, fight, because our enemy, the devil, is the one who divides. He magnifies others’ mistakes and defects, sows discord, provokes criticism and creates factions. God has another way: He takes us as we are, he loves us as we are, and he takes those of us who always see difference, towards unity.