

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. Bulletins: We will continue to distribute them electronically until further notice.

*God's blessings upon you all.*

*Father Gerry*



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL  
ST PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Knights of Columbus St Patrick's Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Piankatank River Golf Club Steamboat Restaurant in Hartfield, VA.



A Cash Bar open at 5:30 PM

Dinner Buffet, which starts at 6:30, consist of either Corned Beef or Grilled Chicken-with Roasted Red Potatoes, Cabbage and Green Beans. All meals come with Rolls, Coffee or Tea  
There will be a large selection of home made desserts.

Following dinner, there will be dancing to music by  
**Disk Jockey** from 7 - 10:00 PM.

*All are welcome!*

Tickets are \$40.00 per person; reservations only.  
For Reservations please call: (804) 776-0078



*The Catholic Church Of The Visitation*

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*8th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 27, 2022  
Year C*

## The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 27, 2022

Jesus in today's Gospel, draws our attention to practical points of Christian living and challenges us to use our words and actions as he used his in his preaching and healing ministry. We are invited to heal, to restore, and to bring back life, joy, and hope. Today's readings also instruct us to share our Christian life, love, and spiritual health by our words, and to avoid gossiping about others, or passing rash, thoughtless, pain-inflicting judgments on them. We all have faults, thus, we are invited to first correct our faults before we point out other's wrongdoings. In other words, we have no right to judge the faults of others when we ourselves are still in the wrong.

What Jesus is proposing here, is for us to pause, not rash, reflect for a few moments before any action, and before we judge or try to correct others. Because when we pause for a moment, we may realize that we need God's grace to address our faults before we can help others.

### Four things to remember always:

To realize my own faults before I complain of those of others, because I may have the same fault myself. Jesus says it is better to correct our own faults than complain about the faults of others.

If we want to help other people, we need to have our feet on the ground, fully aware of our own gifts and limitations. Otherwise, we will be impractical, like the blind leading the blind.

The appealing tendency of finding faults in others, takes the focus off our own deficiencies and helps us to feel ever so self-righteous. It's good to criticize others than we being criticized; there is no obligation on our part. But in the end, it hurts us. Instead of criticizing others, why not caring for them? If we care for them, we will listen not only to what they are saying but also to what they are trying to say with or without words. If we care for them, we won't impose our views, our plans, ideas, discipline, advice, correction, guidance, and our judgment. If we care for them, we won't jump at every opportunity to point out their blunders to make them feel foolish... If we care for them, we will show them how talented, capable, industrious, genuine, original, creative, skilled, friendly, trustworthy, resourceful, good and lovable persons they are.

When Jesus says: "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit." In this parable, He invites us to examine our motives. If our basic motivation is love, our lives will bear good fruit. If we lack love, the fruits will be conflict, disharmony, and abuse of people for our own selfish ends.

We are about to begin the season of Lent. A season for reflection on all our Christian life and how we have lived it. Have we produced any fruits, good fruits?

During this time simply open yourself to God's love and allow yourself to be guided by it. Spending moments of meditation with the Lord, allow yourself to develop a deeper understanding of your interior life guided by the Lord. You will become certainly more aware of your situation spiritually and see where you need to remove those splinters in your life so that you can see better and help others who need your help.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

## TODAY'S MASS

### First Reading:

*Sirach 27:4-7*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.*

### Second Reading:

*1 Corinthians 15:54-58*

### Gospel:

*Luke 6:39-45*

## ASSIGNMENTS FOR February 27, 2022

Community Leader: John McCormack  
Altar Server: Barbara Smith  
Lectors: Shoemaker/Sychterz  
Eucharist Minister: Sychterz/Sychterz  
Cantor: Stuart Beckett  
Collection Counters: Harris/Davenport

## MUSIC

BELL SONG: Alleluia Sing to Jesus #732 1b  
ENTRANCE: Come Christians Join to Sing #554  
OFFERTORY: O Lord I Am Not Worthy #509  
COMMUNION: In Every Age #470  
MEDITATION: All Is Well With My Soul #469  
RECESSIONAL: Blest Be the Lord #444

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Edna Duel, Art Smith & Dick Zimmerman*



### PARISHIONERS

Mary Dorman, Marilyn 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 Krumb, 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

Jenifer Anderson, Karen Smith, Larry Hersh, Beth Edward Bailey, Shirley Schultz, Judy Krumb, Joseph J. Los, Emily Evans, Arnold Fahrman, John Matthews, Ramon Placiente, Jillian Messina, Karen Tatum, Dave Hersh, Mike Shea, Pam Tibbs, Sherry Newton, Aquela Parker, Bernie Smith, Virginia Talke, Phil & 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

Mike McLemore, Dave Gunn, Louise & Jim Shockey, Mindy Miller & Ahmet Anday, Ron & Georgia Beville, George Adams, Lynn & Jim Vajda, Christine & Henry Archuleta, Charles Carter, Pam Sands, Kathy Goynes, William Scott Smith, Eddie Hall, David Smith, Sandy Bruce, Matt & Marianna Parowski, Gene Tunney Walker, Joe McInerney, The Butt Family, Peg Meushaw, Dave Gunn, Chuck Taylor, Paula Harcum, Cathy Kirkland, Rita Blommel, Linda Cryer, Tyra Freed.

*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: February 20, 2022

Collection: \$ 2,076  
Second Collection: Catholic Virginian \$ 62  
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 75,852  
Total Budget Projection: \$ 70,808



Link to our website

There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week:  
\$6,480 Final Floor payment; \$17,350 Final Kitchen Payment.

## WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Catholics can use their estates to demonstrate one final act of stewardship. Our possessions are gifts from God, and God has intended for us to use them wisely throughout our lifetimes. Through our estate plans, we can provide for our loved ones while also making a faithful distribution back to God to further God's work. We will be remembered by our giving.

Don't let talk about a "will" get you down; instead consider the light and life a gift through your will can provide for future Catholics.



*Potential, Purpose, Promise*

Love this church? Let your estate plan be a testament of that love.

## BIRTHDAYS-MARCH



1st-David Bushey, 5th-Earlyne Glenn & Tommy Lange, 8th-Joe Pearce & Sandi Delagrange, 9th-Peper Heunemann, 15th-Victoria Hollingsworth, 19th-Alex Bushey, 20th-Gary Richardson, 21th-Peggy Williams, 24th-Barbara Hollingsworth, 25th-Dolores Recupido, 30th-Joe Sychterz & Michele Meanly.

## ANNIVERSARIES-MARCH



13th-Jan & Nathalie Smith, 15th-Frank & Gerrie Lohr, 24th-Bill & Johnna Harris

## LENTEN REPAST-SOUP AND STATIONS

As per our past practices, we will celebrate four soup and stations during Lent, beginning on Wednesday March 9th. We ask two parishioners to make soup and two to make bread for each of these sessions.

A sign up sheet is located in the Narthex for your use. This is your opportunity to display your culinary skills.

A Lent/Easter Schedule is available in the Narthex, as well as attached to the bulletin email for your printing.

## 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](mailto:jaweidner1@verizon.net) or 240.780.1872.

## LENT IS UPON US

Lent will begin this coming Wednesday, and we encourage you to participate in the four stations planned to begin the second Wednesday in Lent.

Triduum will be held at COV this year. If you need a Lenten Calendar, pick one up as you depart Mass as well as a copy of the Little Black Book, the popular six minute reflection series.

### *Regulations for Fasting and Abstinence:*

**Fasting** is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

**Abstinence** is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted.



Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence.  
All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

## Journey Together: Synod on Synodality 2021-2023

*Here we are, Holy Spirit!*



Over forty parishioners participated in seven small group consultations during the month of February to discuss the synod's three themes of Communion, Participation and Mission. Many voices have been heard but we would like to hear from many more! If you have not yet participated, please prayerfully consider spending an hour with fellow parishioners, listening to the Holy Spirit and to each other.

Consultations have been scheduled for March as follows:

After Mass on Ash Wednesday, March 3, 10:00 AM

After Mass on Sunday, March 6, 10:00 AM

After Mass on Sunday, March 13, 10:00 AM

Parishioners are asked to sign up to attend one of these consultations, using sign up sheets available after Mass.

Additional consultations will be arranged as needed to accommodate any parishioner who wants to participate in the Synod process.

We also welcome any written responses to the questions in the Participant's Guide, which can be sent by email or dropped off at the church office.

Please direct any questions about the Synod to John Weidner, Parish Council Chair, at [jaweidner1@verizon.net](mailto:jaweidner1@verizon.net), 240-780-1872.

### THE NARTHEX

Because we now have a Narthex (formally the rear of our seating area) it needs some explanation.

A narthex, simply stated, is a place for congregation members to enter in preparation for worship. Depending on tradition or denomination, other terms may be used, such as "foyer," "vestibule," "gathering space," "lobby." Whatever the term, the need for a place where people can arrive, interact, and transition from the outside world into a spiritual place is common to nearly all buildings that serve a religious community.

The word "narthex," is generally associated with traditional Christian liturgical churches, through the use of the term for a modern gathering and preparation space is relatively new. For early Christians, the narthex was a porch or ante-chamber near the entry of a church where those who aspired to join the church would wait until they became fully initiated members. Today, the term suggests not a place of exclusion, but rather one of welcome and hospitality.

In the publication, Built of Living Stones, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops note the importance of a space for spiritual gathering. "The narthex is a place of welcome-a threshold...between the congregations' space and the outside environment...(it) helps believers to make the transition from everyday life to the celebration of the liturgy, and after the liturgy. It helps them return to daily life to live out the mystery that has been celebrated."

It is also suggested that the narthex be approximately 1/4 of the size of the worship area, and ours is. We will discuss the narthex further in succeeding bulletins.

## BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



In another part of the Bulletin is a letter from Father concerning the appeal. The in-pew process is next Sunday, the first of two Sundays, and we will have Appeal cards available for those who need to use them. Our goal was increased by 14% this year and is \$7230. In past years, we have always met our goal.

### Annual Diocesan Appeal 2022

Dear Parishioners,

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is upon us, and I find this year's theme to be such a great reminder of what the Lord calls us to do. The theme is

*"Together, We Bestow His First Fruits".*

*Our goal this year is \$ 7,230*

We are reminded to bring what we have first to the Lord, which means our best offerings, not what is left over. The Appeal also unites our Church together in supporting our ministries that one parish cannot support alone, and that moves our Church forward. We are so blessed and grateful for the assistance we get from the Appeal. We get back 50% of all donations you make to this appeal. And from last year's Appeal, our Parish received back \$ 5,491, in addition to what we get in grants like The Fuel and Hunger Grant which helps to feed the needy in our community, as well as meeting their other concerns.

I am so grateful for our COV Parish family. Together we have overcome unimaginable hurdles as we continue to make our way through the pandemic. Because of you, we were able to cover all the running costs of our parish and support the various ministries we have.

As this year's Appeal begins, I encourage each of you to support not only our parish offering, which directly supports our parish, but also ask you to prayerfully consider giving to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Your gift to the Appeal makes a real difference because, together, we can enable our Diocese to deliver ministries and services such as heating and grocery assistance to families, health insurance for our retired priests, and tuition for our future priests to attend the Seminary.

During this Appeal season, many of you received a letter from Bishop Knestout, and I ask you to read through it closely and reflect on how we can help him fulfill his mission and, together, share our first fruits.

Over the last two years the use of technology and online tools have accelerated. The Annual Appeal has been a beneficiary of this as people can now make their contributions more securely and efficiently than ever before. To this point, I would encourage you to scan the QR code attached or visit <https://richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal/>

If you have any questions at all about the Appeal, or how to adjust your online giving, there is a phone number below the QR code so please reach out, they are an easy call away if you have questions. For those who need hard copy pledge cards or have any questions, the Parish office is also available to help as needed.

Thank you for your generosity, we look forward to all of you helping us make this year's Appeal a success. Peace, and may God bless you always.

Fr. Gerry Kaggwa