

### ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Because the church has expanded incrementally through the years, we have a myriad of lighting, heating, and cooling systems. All are programmed for efficiency when properly adjusted. Recently, we have encountered several instances of misuse of these utilities, notably lights left on and the heat left on high. If your group, entity, or you as an individual are using our facilities, please be vigilant about these things and ensure we have a building that's not lighted, heated, or cooled unnecessarily.



*We all share a responsibly to shepherd our resources.*



## *The Catholic Church Of The Visitation*

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Pastor: Gerald Kaggwa Rectory: 804-286-9271

### ANNUAL COV GOLF TOURNAMENT



Golfers, donors, and parishioners are asked to mark their calendars for the annual Fr. John Boddie Memorial Golf Classic to be held on Friday, May 6th at the Piankatank River Golf Club in Hartfield.



This event, hosted by COV is a four-player captain's choice competition open to all. Team prizes will be awarded in each of three flights. Golfers will also compete for individual prizes.

The \$90 per person entry fee covers use of the *practice range, golf cart rental, green fee, on-course beverages, and dinner in the Steamboat Restaurant.*

Registration begins at 11:00AM with a shotgun start at 12:00.

Proceeds will go to local charities .

To register or for more information, please call Gary at (571) 215-2407.



### *Directory Change:*

Sal Messina: 804-824-3061

Lorie Messina: 804-824-3770

Email address: [lmessina8048@gmail.com](mailto:lmessina8048@gmail.com)

There will be no daily Mass Wednesday, March 30th.

# LAETARE Sunday

*-to rejoice  
a day of hope - Easter is near*



*4th Sunday of Lent  
March 27, 2022  
Year C*

## 4th Sunday of Lent: Laetare Sunday

3/27/2022

Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday (Rejoice Sunday). Anticipating Easter joy, today's readings invite us to rejoice by being reconciled with God and by celebrating our coming home to be with our loving and forgiving God.

In the first reading, the Chosen People of God are portrayed as celebrating, for the first time in their own land, the feast of their freedom, by using wheat that had grown in the Promised Land.

Today's Gospel celebrates the joy of the prodigal son on his "homecoming" where he discovers his father's forgiving and overflowing love. It is also the story of the rejoicing of a loving and forgiving father who celebrates the return of his prodigal son by throwing a big party in his honor, a banquet celebrating the reconciliation of the son with his father, his family, his community, and his God. At the same time, by presenting a self-righteous elder brother, the parable invites us to avoid self-righteousness and self-justification by imitating the repentant younger brother.

In this story the father has two sons. The younger son is given his share of the inheritance but quickly squanders it on a life of sinful pleasure. Having spent all his money, he suddenly found himself without friends. His own pain made him realize the pain he had caused to his father. We are told that he came to his senses, which could be described as the moment of grace. It was a brave decision and took courage to carry it out.

For it is out of greed and sense of entitlement that drove the first son to demand that the father should give him his share of inheritance and ended up in a distant land. But in the midst of his lavish, extravagant lifestyle, he experiences famine and hunger. In his distance from home, he comes to recognize, painfully, how empty his life has become. He decides to return home.

The journey back was a sad, lonely, and fearful one. It is easy to come back home when you are a hero laden with trophies and glory. But the prodigal son had no trophies to show to his father in order to earn his praise, welcome and love. He was coming home empty-handed. Worse, he was coming home laden with shame and disgrace. Everything was out of his hands. Supposing his father didn't accept him back. What would he do then? He knew he deserved to be punished. Yet, it was the last thing he needed. He didn't have a good time in real sense. Maybe he had a lot of pleasure but certainly no joy. He is now suffering a lot – hunger, remorse, degradation of soul, and the sense of betrayal. He was suffering due to his sinful behavior. To sin is to suffer. He didn't need more punishment. Events of life had already punished him, and I guess taught him something.

The biggest discovery the son made was that he was loved in his sins. The father never stopped loving him. It is a good feeling to be loved especially when we do good things. But it is an extraordinary experience to be loved in one's sinfulness. This is what grace is all about. Those who have experienced this type of love, know something about the heart of God.

We could never have known God's incredible love and forgiveness for each of us if Jesus hadn't come to reveal it to us. God's forgiveness is not a cold, half-hearted forgiveness but a warm and heartfelt one. God just doesn't only forgive us; he loves us and lets us know it. The story doesn't give us a license to sin. But that when we sin and sometimes, we sin badly and repeatedly, this story is a very great consolation. Our past can be overcome. We can make a fresh start. **This is the great lesson of GRACE.**



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

## TODAY'S MASS

### First Reading:

*Exodus Joshua 5:9a, 10-12*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

### Second Reading:

*2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

### Gospel: *Luke 15:11-32*

## ASSIGNMENTS FOR March 27, 2022

Community Leader: Debbie Harriman  
Altar Server: Barbara Smith  
Lectors: DeGroot/Sychterz  
Eucharist Minister: Brandl/Harvey  
Cantor: Michele Meanley  
Collection Counters: Harris/Davenport

## MUSIC

BELL SONG: *Forty Days and Forty Nights* #123  
ENTRANCE: *Table of Plenty* #310  
OFFERTORY: *Loving and Forgiving* #664  
COMMUNION: *Taste and See* #332  
MEDITATION: *Amazing Grace* #446  
RECESSIONAL: *Led By The Spirit* #121

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*Pat Tyrrell, Carole McPherson, Dolores Powers & Mary Jane Paul*



Shelley Katsuki, Mary Dorman, Marilyn Cox, Scott Kauffman, Steve Forte, 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

Coach Paul Webb, Debra & Brittney Sanders, Tristan Blake, Sue & Lisa Ferari, Jennen Palm, Jenifer Anderson, Larry Hersh, Beth Edward Bailey, 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, 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: March 20, 2022

Collection:	\$ 2,330
Second Collection: Catholic Relief	\$
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 85,574
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 80,078



Link to our website

There is no Second Collection today.

We signed the following principle checks this week: \$159.00 Printer leasing; \$275 Lawn Care.

### BIRTHDAYS-APRIL

1st Suzanne Sitterding, 4th-Blaise Katsuki, Fritz Heunemann & Marianne Krop, 6th-Ray Kostaskey, 8th-Pat Reamy, 10th-Ann Dunn, 12th-Nancy Wirth & Tracy Pausic, 13th-Carol Smith, 17th-Margaret Hock, 23rd-Kaylee Kirsch & Tom Johnson, 28th-Louise Hartz



### ANNIVERSARIES-APRIL

3rd-Brendan & Eileen O'Brien, 9th-Tom & Sharon Hawksworth,  
10th-Bill & Linda Gray, 17th-Mike & Noelle Harvey.

### SACRISTY

Continuing our discussion of areas in the church, we move on to the sacristy. It is a room that did not change with the construction of the new worship area.

1. A sacristy is a chamber in a Catholic church that houses sacred artifacts used during ceremonies such as Holy Communion. The sacristy houses items such as a chalice, altar linens, and holy oils. It is usually located within easy reach of the priest. It is where the attendants vest and prepare for the service.
2. In addition to these uses, the sacristy may also contain a wardrobe for the clergy to change into ceremonial dress, a table for on-site reception of guests, etc. The size of the sacristy will vary depending on the needs of the parish but it should be large enough to accommodate all of the above items comfortably.
3. The sacristy is an important part of any church because it contains the vessels used by priest during services. The altar cloth is usually kept here along with other items needed for Mass.
4. Sacristies usually contain a special wash basin, called a piscina, the drain of which is properly called a "sacrarium" in which the drain flows directly into the ground to prevent sacred items such as used baptismal water from being washed into the sewers or septic tanks. The piscina is used to wash linens used during the celebration of the Mass and purificators used during Holy Communion. The cruets, chalice, ciborium, paten, altar linens and sometimes the Holy Oils are kept inside the sacristy. Sacristies are usually off limits to the general public. The word "sacristy" derives from the Latin sacristia, sometimes spelled sacrastia, which is in turn derived from sacrista ("sexton, sacristan"), from sacra ("holy").[3][4]
5. A person in charge of the sacristy and its contents is called a sacrist or a sacristan. The latter name was formerly given to the sexton of a parish church, where he would have cared for these things, the fabric of the building and the grounds.

## WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Under current laws, appreciated securities and real estate may be deductible for income tax purposes at their current fair market value. In most cases, the appreciation is not taxed to you at all. Consider using these gifts to fulfill your pledge, to make a special gift, or toward establishing an endowment.

If you plan to leave your home to the church following your death, you can transfer the property now and still maintain use of it as long as you live. A current income tax deduction is available for the value of such gifts to the church.

Stocks and bonds make excellent gifts to your church. You may be entitled to special tax considerations if you give these securities to the church during your lifetime.

If you are a stockholder in a closely-held corporation, consider having the corporation make a gift to your church. Like individuals, corporations qualify for tax deductions for charitable gifts.



Potential, Purpose, Promise

## LENT IS UPON US



Lent has begun, and we encourage you to participate in the last soup & stations next Wednesday evening 5:30pm. The Triduum will be held at COV this year. If you need a Lenten Calendar, pick one up as you depart Mass from the administration table.

### Lent and the Worship Environment

During Lent, the altar should not to be decorated with flowers. The 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday), solemnities, and feasts are exceptions to this norm.

### Holy Water and Baptismal Fonts

*In the past, some parishes have emptied the baptismal font and other receptacles for holy water during the entire Lenten Season. As stated in past guidelines issued by the Diocese of Richmond, the use of holy water as a sacramental is a primary symbol of our baptism and has long been encouraged by the Church for the devotion of the faithful. Liturgical norms indicate that holy water should be removed from all fonts before the beginning of the Triduum.*



## MARY'S CHOICE RVA

We recently received a thank you letter from Mary's Choice for our donation of over \$1,400 last January, gathered in special collections. Repeated here are the following:

Your outpouring of kindness and support are encouraging and heartwarming. I am so grateful. I am looking forward to visiting Church of the Visitation & further collaborations.

As we continue to move forward and to grow, we ask for your prayers for Mary's Choice RVA and for the families who will live there. As we go forward, we do everything in humility, obedience, and service, under the mantle of Our Blessed Lady, Mother Mary.

### MID-LENT

This coming Sunday (March 27, 2022) marks the almost-center of Lent, a day of gentle celebration. The exact middle of Lent falls on a Thursday, but the Sunday following that center point, the fourth Sunday of Lent, is known as Laetare (lay-TAH-ray) Sunday. Traditions surrounding this special day stem back hundreds of years with a variety of influences shaping its meaning.

One of the main purposes of giving this day special notice is to offer those who have been diligently making sacrifices up to this point in Lent a sort of intermission, to let a touch of celebration seep into the day, to realize with joy that the halfway point has been crossed and that Easter is well on its way (*similar to Gaudete Sunday during Advent*).

#### Ways to Celebrate Laetare Sunday

- \*There are no strict rules on how to commemorate Laetare Sunday; below are just a few ideas to add a special touch to the day....
- \*Pause and evaluate your Lenten journey so far. Ponder any adjustments you feel a need to make.
- \*If you normally practice Lenten fasting on Sundays, consider taking a break on Laetare Sunday (*Lent with Sundays is 46 days long; Lent excluding Sundays is 40 days long*).
- \*Plant a rose bush.
- \*Light a rose-colored votive candle & pray for spiritual guidance for the second half of Lent.
- \*Work something rose-colored into your outfit.
- \*Give a rose to someone who has spiritually influenced you ...a parent, a good friend, Bible Study teacher, your children's CCD teacher, etc.
- \*Give a rose to a "spiritual mother," maybe someone who had never had children, but has given generously to others.
- \*Make a Laetare Sunday cake, You can find many recipes for a traditional English Simnel cake online, but any cake or special treat will do.
- \*If it's not too far away, visit your Mother Church (Cathedral). Spend a bit of time in prayer and try to learn about one piece of artwork in the church.
- \*Discuss with your family the Gospel reading of the day and how it represents joy.

#### LENTEN WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT

*It is the fourth Sunday of Lent currently called **Laetare Sunday**,*

*A term meant "To Rejoice" Priests are given the option of wearing rose colored vestments in place of the violet ones normally worn during Lent. The Sunday is considered a day of relaxation from normal Lenten rigors, a day of hope with Easter at last within sight, only 21 days away.*

### ROSARY



Please join us as we pray the rosary every Sunday before Mass. We begin at 8:30 am in the new sanctuary and we welcome all to join in this beautiful devotional prayer.

*No experience necessary! We have books and rosary beads available for use.*

*If you have any questions please see Cindy Jessee.*

### FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

As we previously reported, our loan to complete construction of the new worship area was \$185,000, far less than the amount we projected some two years ago. The success of our Memorial Donations Campaign was instrumental in reducing the amount from a projected \$300,000 to what it is today.

The Diocese recently provided us several loan options to consider, and the Finance Council met and with my concurrence chose a 15-year loan at 4.61% interest with no pre-payment penalty. The monthly payment will be \$1426, which realistically amounts to \$20 per month per family that regularly supports the church.

This is our challenge, and one we are asking you to meet. Beginning today, we ask you to support our monthly debt reduction special collections with at least \$20. If you are presently giving more than that amount for debt reduction, please continue to do so. Any excess funds we accumulate will go immediately towards reducing the loan principal and length.

There will always be mountains to climb as a Catholic. We built a church during a Pandemic and now must pay off a loan in times of high inflation. My hope is that this challenge will be the last significant financial burden we face as a parish. Please look into your hearts, review your financial situation, and sincerely determine the degree to which you can help pay for the new worship area beyond your present donation level.

My prayers are for you continued strength and devotion to our Catholic mission here in Middlesex.

*Bless you always. Father Gerry*



### FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation is planning a family movie night on Friday, April 8th at 6pm here at COV. Movie showing:  
*The Prince of Egypt. All are welcome!*

Easter egg hunt on Easter after Mass....more information forthcoming.

### HOMELESS IN PORTSMOUTH

We have the following request from Eileen O'Brien for help for the homeless in Portsmouth. My son, Tim, has a brewery in VA. Beach. He told me yesterday that one of his customers who is a policeman in Portsmouth has encountered many homeless people. Tim would like to give him supplies to distribute to them since there is a big need. So if any of you have any of the following items, I will see that Tim gets them: toothpaste/brushes, combs, shaving cream, razors, soap, deodorant, shampoo, body lotion, can openers, ponchos, wash cloths, towels, blankets, sleeping bags or tents, disposable wipes and hand sanitizers. Thanks so much! There is a green tub located by the Legacy Tree for any donated supplies.