

Church of Francis de Sales

176 Lovers Lane – Mathews, Virginia 23109

**March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)**



PASTOR

**Very Reverend Gerry Kaggwa
Rectory: 804-286-9271**

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation is celebrated communally during Lent and Advent and privately on request.

Marriage: call the priest at least six months in advance.

Baptism: call the priest at least one month in advance.

Anointing of the Sick is celebrated during Mass in August and February and at any time upon request.

Parish Mission Statement

We the members of the Church of Francis de Sales, dedicate ourselves to maintaining a living parish, reaching all people to reflect the work of our Catholic Community and to invite others to share with us the fundamentals of our Catholic Faith. We are the recipients of God's reconciling and empowering love and, as His people, we are committed to proclaim the Good News of God's Love, to witness, to heal, to teach and to demonstrate by our faith and actions the glory of God through Jesus Christ, His Son.

**Parish Administrator
Paul Flaherty**

**Parish Secretary
Mary Marshall**

Parish Office: 804-725-2776

Office Hours:

Monday 8am-4pm

Tuesday 8 am-4pm

Friday 8am-Noon

E-mail: office@fdschurch.org

Mass Schedule

Sunday 11:00am

Tuesday 9:00am

Friday 9:00am

Holy Days 6:30pm

Special Message From Fr. Gerry and the Finance Council:

Our Sunday Offertory and Debt Reduction Income has been steadily declining over the past year. As a result, paying Parish operating expenses is becoming more difficult each month. This trend will now force us to reach beyond our operating budget and into our savings, which will be needed when critical building maintenance issues arise. Details of our current financial status can be found in the "Financial Report" section of this bulletin. To help turn the declining income around, we respectfully request each individual parishioner prayerfully consider increasing their regular giving by a minimum of 10%. Your financial support is critical to keeping our Parish and mission operational.

Thank you for your continued support of our Parish and May God Bless each of you.

LENT/EASTER SCHEDULE 2023

Sunday, March 19th	Fourth Sunday of Lent	11:00 A.M. @ CFDS
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Wednesday, March 22nd	Lenten Reconciliation	7:00 P.M. @ COV
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Sunday, March 26th	Fifth Sunday of Lent	11:00 A.M. @ CFDS
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Tuesday, March 28th	Lenten Reconciliation	7:00 P.M @ CFDS
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Sunday, April 2nd	Palm Sunday (The Passion of the Lord)	10:45 A.M. @ CFDS
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Holy Week (The Triduum is at CFDS this year)

Thursday, April 6th	Holy Thursday	6:00 P.M. @ CFDS
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Friday, April 7th	Stations of the Cross Good Friday Service	12 Noon @ COV Cemetery 5:30 P.M. @ CFDS
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Saturday, April 8th	Easter Vigil	8:00 P.M. @ CFDS
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Sunday, April 9th	Easter Sunday	11:00 A.M. @ CFDS
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Tuesday-Friday, April 11th/14th NO DAILY MASS

Announcements

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal Update: FDS Goal: \$9,210; Raised to date: \$1,235; Numbers of donors to date: 10; Percentage to Goal: 13%.

The Folk Group will play at Mass this Sunday, March 19th, April 2nd, Palm Sunday, and April 9th, Easter Sunday.

Come join Father Gregory Kandt, Pastor of the Church of Saint Therese in Gloucester, on a fabulous Pilgrimage to Greece on October 16-27, 2023! Check out the special website for his pilgrimage where you can get all pertinent information, especially itinerary and cost, at www.travelillum.com/trc/kna. Deposit to go on the pilgrimage is due March 25, 2023, so check it out today!

Our Lenten Reconciliation Liturgy is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28th. The final Stations of the Cross have been cancelled for that evening; however, the Soup and Bread will still be served after the Liturgy. The Sacrament of Confession will be offered after the liturgy that evening and there will be an additional priest.

CRS RICE BOWL: What is CRS Rice Bowl? Each Lent, Catholic Relief services encourage catholic families across the country to unite and put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and alms giving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn how our brothers and sisters across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. What does your donation provide? \$40.00 can purchase an infant scale to measure an infant's growth, \$80.00 can help raise chickens for eggs for protein and income, and \$120.00 contributes toward a household garden for family nutrition. Only a portion of your contribution is used abroad. 75% of your donation supports the work of CSR. 25% stays in the diocese for local hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Faith and action produce results, by your alms giving you are proving your faith through your action and your results will be helping the underserved. Logon to the web site <https://www.csricebowl.org> for more information, videos and recipes for meatless Lenten meals. Rice Bowls are in the Commons, please pick one up and begin your alms giving on Ash Wednesday. They should be returned on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023. Yours in Christ, Helen Yacobucci, Social Outreach Committee

Tickets are now available for the 3rd ANNUAL LADIES' TEA. The Tea will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 1-3 pm. The price of each ticket is \$25.00 and there are a limited number of tickets available, get yours early. There will be a presentation of TEA THROUGH TIME given by the Ladies Victorian. The previous teas were a lot of fun and this one is going to be even better. Come join us and bring your friends. For information, questions, or tickets please contact: Patti Sarosy at email: psarosy@aol.com or phone: (804) 832-3642 or Helen Yacobucci email: yacobucci.helen@gmail.com or phone: (804) 815-7606.

Harry & Autumn Taylor were blessed with the birth of a baby boy on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. Their son's Baptism has been scheduled for April 23rd the Third Sunday of Easter.

If you would like a copy of your church donations/contributions statement for your 2022 Taxes, please contact Mary Marshall in the church office. Please be sure to pick up your 2023 Donation/Contribution Envelopes, which are on a table in the Commons area.

Parish Website: The website for our parish can be found at: <https://www.FdSChurch.org>. In addition to our parish bulletin, you will find updated announcements, Mass and prayer times, and links to other reliably Catholic sites.

Parents—Please ensure that your children are under the supervision of an adult anytime they are within the parish property. Our primary concern is for their safety, but we also ask this to prevent disturbance, misplacement, or damage to valuable items in classrooms, kitchen, and sacristy.

We are still looking for additional **Altar Servers** to serve our Lord and our parish. If you wish to be an Altar Server and have received your First Communion, please contact: Jon Oliver at: (804) 725-6702, email: jonoliver0120@gmail.com or Paul Flaherty at: (718) 772-8327, email: pjflaherty15@gail.com we will train you for this endeavor.

IF YOU ARE THE LAST PERSON TO LEAVE THE BUILDING, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE ALL LIGHTS ARE TURNED OFF AND ALL DOORS ARE LOCKED BEHIND YOU.

If you would like to have Father hear your confession, please call the office during normal hours and an individual appointment will be set. Please know that our Church and office are open on Monday and Tuesday from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and on Friday from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon and you are welcome to come for individual adoration. If you wish pastoral care, please call the office, (804) 725-2776, during the normal hours and we will do our best to meet your needs. Outside office hours please call Father Gerry at (804) 286-9271. Should any of the above change, we will notify you by e-mail.

March 19, 2023, Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Readings:

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a:	Samuel anointed David to be king.
Psalms 23:	"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Ephesians 5:8-14:	Rise from the dead, children of light.
John 9:1-41:	I know this much: I was blind, but now I see.

March 19, 2023, Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Father Gerry's Homily:

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as "*Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday," expressing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of our Lord. Today's readings remind us that it is God Who both gives us proper vision in body as well as in soul and instructs us that we should be constantly on our guard against spiritual blindness.

By describing the anointing of David as the second king of Israel, the first reading, taken from the First Book of Samuel, it reminds us that those whom God involves in His saving plans are not necessarily those whom the world perceives as great. Our sight or vision, the way we see people is limited to the outside, but God sees the inside, the heart of a person.

The miracle of Jesus giving sight to a man born blind, in today's Gospel, teaches us the necessity of being willing to have our eyes opened by faith and warns us that those who assume they see the truth are often blind, while those who acknowledge their blindness are given clear vision. In this Gospel, the most unlikely person, namely the beggar born blind, receives the light of Faith in Jesus, while the religious and law educated Pharisees remain spiritually blind. The blind man grew in his understanding of who Jesus is, but at that same time the Pharisees were becoming more blind about who Jesus is. The opening of the man's eyes also symbolizes the opening of the eyes of faith.

We can as well apply this Gospel of today to our own experience. We have seen people who behave in the same way as the Pharisees, the blind man, and his parents. There are those like the Pharisees who are blind to Jesus and His teaching and living in darkness, they ridicule those who believe and trust Jesus. There are those like the Man's parents who are afraid to witness to Jesus because they do not want to disturb the comfort of their lives, they want Jesus but not the sacrifice which comes with being His disciple.

To live as a Christian is to see and to grow continually, gaining clearer vision about God, about Jesus, about ourselves, and about others. We all have blind spots. Be it in our life, the way we behave or in our personalities. We are often blind to the presence of God dwelling within us and fail to appreciate His presence in others. It is easy to be blind about the needs of those around us. Many times, we think of ourselves and our needs only. Jesus comes to heal our blindness. We need to ask Him to remove from us the root causes of this blindness: self-centeredness, greed, anger, hatred, prejudice, jealousy, and addiction to evil habits.

Let our Lenten prayers and sacrifices help us to heal our spiritual blindness so that we can look at others, see them as children of God, and love them as our own brothers and sisters, saved by the death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus.

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

Parishioners: Joe King, Ginny Grof, Rita Engle, Jean and Bob Tanner, Anna Deagle, Randy Dobson, Sharon Simmons, Peggy Kinsey, Patti Sarosy, Bonnie Goolsby, Alice Mercer, Gloria Bosley, Matthew DeForge, Paul Reardon, Sally Howland, Michelle Oliver, Neil D'Amato, Joe Hudgins, Elaine Lynch, Andrew Farr, Jim Pavik, Grace Hall, Cathy Walker, Bill Walker and Mike Goings.

Family: Cathy Moody, Vicki Krieger, Michael Einfeldt, Mary Catherine Ort, Stephen Harrold, Ellie Kennedy, Dale Wilson, Mallory Hurst, Peg Leonard, Jordan Hurst, Brian Carroll, Karen Beal, Larry Hargrove, Melissa Smith, Francis Smith, Brett Smith, Tony Cantrell, Susan Boone, Grahame Walker, Joe Schertle, Dottie Long, Rita Guarino, Fred Moody, Jean Raines, Kathleen Cala, Shirley Schmoldt, Timothy Farrell, Jim McAndrew, Bunny McLaughlin, Ruth Brown, Maria Hurst, Andrew Sarosy, Rose Bowes, Scott Oliver, Sylvia Oliver, Catherine Bennett, Justin Bennett, Debbie Marceau and David Colligan.

Friends: Kresia McCoy, Zachary Reynolds, Lee Osenton, Mike Bergman, Donald Henry, Jim Renner, Charles Altar, Don & Sandy Mikulecky, Florence Foster, Bobby Tinder, Bill Smith, Nancy Taylor, John Kelly, Shirley Primovic, Jean Steel, Lourdes Parker, Laurel & Allen Robins, Mary Roberti, Robin Dale, Lori Roscher, infant Ezra Freeman, Zoe Hassim, Tom Neiger, Nancy O'Donnell, Joanne Jones, Lisa Coolahan, Marie Coolahan, Jeannie Morgan, Jennie Horner, Joy Long, John Machen, Sr., Kevin Hershey, Curt Faulkner, Joe Dunaway, Mike Bergman, William Scott Smith, Ben Leigh, Gene Alimas, Nan Seals, Daniel Hudgins, Sheila Smith, Cheryl White, Helen Shackleford, Jonathan Lewis, Madelyn & Johnny Horner, Sue Garrett, Mike Beavers, Barbara Churray, Brenda Smith, Norm Connolly, Johnny Brown, Jonnie Adams and family, Nicole Carzo Hill and Dan Schwartz.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES:

Captain Andrew Bohn, son of Jeff Bohn & Suanne Dittmeier, **U.S. Army, Army Logistics Officer Training with Industry: FEDEX Headquarters, Memphis, TN**

MSGT Kristin Buludis, daughter of Randy & Terry Dobson, **Langley AFB, VA**

Captain Ryan Carey, son of Jack & Ginny Carey, **US Navy, Naples, Italy**

SSGT, EOD, USAF Cameron Farrell, great-nephew of Elaine Lynch, **Seymour Johnson AFB, Goldsboro, NC**

E6, U.S. Navy, John Robert Pizzicar, son-in-law of Jim & Deona Pavik, **Ft. Meade, MD**

Lt. Patrick Sopko, son of Suzanne Sopko and Ronald Sopko, **Flight Instructor for the C-2 COD, Naval Station Norfolk, VA**

2nd Lt. Spencer Walsh, grandson of Pat & Jimmy Walsh, **U.S. Army, Ft. Hood, TX**

Austin Tice, freelance journalist & former Marine Captain, **captured in Syria on August 14, 2012**

Updated March 15, 2023
FdS Parish Financial Report
(Through the end of February 2023)
Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Total Income:	\$113,751	Total Offertory & Debt Reduction Budget:	\$118,667
Total Expenses:	\$128,950	Total Offertory & Debt Reduction Income:	\$105,966
Income - Expenses:	-\$15,199	Difference:	-\$12,701

As we reach the end of February, our Total Offertory & Debt Reduction Income was **\$12,701 Less Than** our planned budget. Subsequently, when you look at total income versus total expenses, we are in the **Negative by \$15,199**. This continued deficit in income is very concerning since it forces us to continue to reach into our savings account to pay our bills so we can keep the Parish operational. We are respectfully requesting an increase in Parishioner offertory support. Thank you for your continued support of our Parish!

Please continue to contribute to our parish on a weekly or monthly basis. The following are ways to continue your financial support to Church of Francis de Sales:

1. When attending Sunday Mass, you can leave your Sunday Offertory in the tall basket on the table by the Baptismal Font.
2. You can bring your Sunday Offering [i.e., envelopes, check, cash] to the Parish Office [Monday & Tuesday 08:00am to 04:00pm and Friday 08:00am to 12:00 noon].
3. You can send cash or checks to the Parish Office for each week.
4. If you pay bills online, please consider making your weekly/monthly Offertory an online payment or set up automatic bill pay.


There are many opportunities available to support worthwhile causes, but please consider supporting our Parish first. Thank you for your continued financial stewardship.


Parish Finance Council questions may be directed to Leon Iveson at AIRLFTR@gmail.com or cell: (501) 749-2276.

Church of Francis de Sales Contact Information (updated 11/23/2022)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Cell Phone</u>
Fr. Gerry Kaggwa	Pastor, Liturgy	gerry.kaggwa@consolata.net	804-286-9271	
Paul Flaherty	Parish Administrator, Columbarium, Chair & Memorial Bricks, Chair	pjflaherty15@gmail.com		718-772-8327
Mary Marshall	Parish Secretary	fdschurch@gmail.com	804-725-2776	
Jeffrey Bohn	Funeral Coordinator	jbohn1130@yahoo.com		804-854-1077
Joan Dawson	Sacristan, Chair	joanbd61@gmail.com	804-725-2993	
Suanne Dittmeier	Prayer Chain, Music, Chair	primadonna4sure@yahoo.com		804-854-9620
Allen Downs	Grounds Manager	kdd1951@gmail.com	804-725-5807	804-725-6067
Rita Engle	Parish Life, Chair	rengle@hotmail.com	804-725-1462	804-824-1599
Christine Dehnert-Fernald	Counters, Chair	cdehnert@dccocpa.com	804-725-4943	
Mary Flaherty	Hospitality, Chair	maryjosephineflaherty@gmail.com		718-309-2459
Rachel Foss	Youth Ministry, Co-Chair	raerae20@live.com		804-384-4248
Michelle Haas	K-8 Religious Ed., Chair	michelhaas@cox.net		804-854-1784
Cheryl Henig	RCIA, Chair	cbhenig@yahoo.com	804-725-7750	804-356-2475
Leon Iveson	Finance Council, Chair	airlfr@gmail.com		501-749-2276
Christine Johnson	Evangelization Program, Chair	chris21784@gmail.com		410-967-8863
Pat Lipinski	New Members, Chair	offtothebeach@aol.com	804-725-1537	703-969-2430
Elaine Lynch	Bulletin, Environment, Chair; & Receptions Clean Up, Chair	rmann@vims.edu	804-725-4617	
Ed McNamee	Webmaster, Lectors, Chair	33moose63@gmail.com		571-265-6192
Jon Oliver	Acolytes, Chair; & Youth Ministry, Co-Chair	jonoliver0120@gmail.com	804-725-6702	
Michele Oliver	Liturgy, Co-Chair	mdoliver4@aol.com		804-695-4959
Paul Reardon	Ads, Chair; Greeters, Chair; & LEMS Coordinator, Chair	reardon948@gmail.com		804-384-3339
Susan Sanderson	Parish Council, Chair	ssanderson@mathews.k12.va.us	804-725-9026	804-384-8918
Patti Sarosy	Pastoral Care	psarosy@aol.com		804-832-3642
Mark Sopko	Ushers, Chair	mgsopko@gmail.com		804-815-2897
Helen Yacobucci	Parish Outreach, Chair; & Funeral Receptions, Chair	yacobuccihelen@gmail.com		804-815-7606

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN
(Updated 2/08/23)





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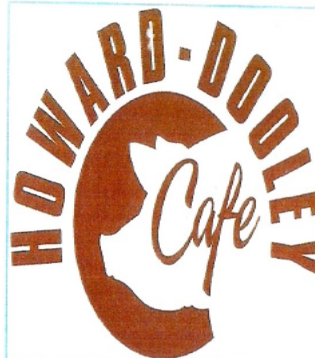
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