

Church of Francis de Sales

176 Lovers Lane – Mathews, Virginia 23109

April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday (Year A)



PASTOR

Very Reverend Gerry Kaggwa
Rectory: 804-286-9271

Parish Administrator
Paul Flaherty

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 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

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.

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.

Announcements

Tuesday-Friday, April 11th/14th NO DAILY MASS

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal: FDS Goal: \$9,210; Raised to date: \$4,585; Numbers of donors to date: 16; Percentage to Goal: 50%.

There will be a ***Red Cross Blood Drive*** sponsored by Oriental Lodge #20 A.F. & A.M. on ***Tuesday, April 18th*** from 12:30-6:30PM at the Piankatank Ruritan Building. Please reserve your time by going to redcrossblood.org or by calling: (804) 725-2485. Blood of all types is in constant demand.

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: yacobuccihelen@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.

April 16, 2023, Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday (Year A)

Readings:

Acts 2:42-47:	Those who believed shared all things in common.
Psalms 118:	"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love is everlasting."
1 Peter 1:3-9:	God has given us new birth.
John 20:19-31:	"My Lord and my God!"

April 16, 2023, Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday (Year A)

Father Gerry's Homily:

This Sunday is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday due to the message of the Gospel we read on this Sunday. Jesus appears to His disciples and gives them the power to continue His work of forgiveness. " ... He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sin you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Again, in the Gospel, Jesus shows His loving forgiveness to the Disciples who abandoned Him, and even Thomas who refused to believe when the others told him that He is alive. Jesus forgives all that.

Jesus appeared to the disciples and showed them the wounds in His hands and His side. He does this to help the apostles recognize Him. It is the same Jesus now as He was before His death. They are also proof of His love for them and all of us. He also showed them to Thomas and allowed Him to touch them. He is telling us that it is alright to go to God in our woundedness, with our sins and shortcomings. He will always welcome us. We don't have to pretend to be what we are not, Jesus appreciates our honesty.

The end of the gospel passage today states: *'There were many other signs that Jesus worked, and the disciples saw but they are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in His name.'*

Faith or belief is not just about believing in things we do not see. Faith is about taking a risk and making commitments, even if what lies ahead is unclear, even if we are not sure. This is what Jesus was challenging Thomas about. He was inviting Thomas to believe Him even though he did not see Him. Moreover, He is inviting Thomas to commit his life to Him, and this will involve risk. Thomas did not want to believe only on the ground of what he was told, he wanted to experience Jesus for himself rather than taking the word of others.

In following Jesus, we often find ourselves doubting, questioning, hesitating, even challenging Him. The Gospel today is an insight about our human nature, doubting and looking for tangible signs. But our faith calls us to go deeper. Believing in Jesus means a close following of *Him*, a commitment of our lives to Him even when the signs are not too clear. Basically, it is about trust. We have to ask ourselves daily: will we trust Jesus, will we be faithful in following Him when our conditions are not met but allow Him to act as He knows best, not always understanding why He acts this way?

This was basically the problem for Thomas. We read that he set up his own conditions for believing in Jesus. "Unless I see the marks of the nails in His hands, and put my finger into the nail marks, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." Then when the compassionate, understanding Risen Jesus Christ appears again, we see His sensitivity to the doubts of Thomas. There is no condemnation on the part of Jesus, simply kindness and gentleness.

This is our God, He knows our human nature and that doubt will sometimes come our way, causing us to doubt God's love and care for us. But today's gospel is a litany of God's incredible understanding and sensitivity to who we are. First, He appears to the disciples locked in a room for fear of the Jews. His first words are not those of condemnation but of consolation - He offers them Peace, and this fills them with joy. Because not only are they locked in a room but also, they are locked into their fears. They are in a sense paralyzed by fear. Jesus becomes a life-giver to them. Joy replaces fear. Let us not allow our fears to dominate our lives. Jesus came to free each of us offering us freedom and peace.

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 Shackelford, Jonathan Lewis, Madelyn & Johnny Horner, Sue Garrett, Mike Beavers, Barbara Churray, Brenda Smith, Norm Connolly, Johnny Brown, Jonnie Adams and family, Nicole Carzo Hill, Dan Schwartz and Gloria Petrauskas.

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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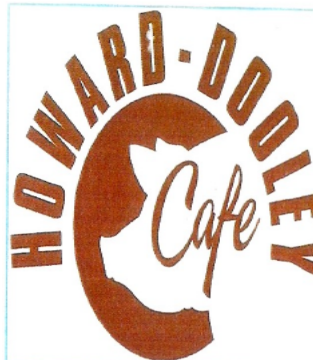
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