

Church of Francis de Sales

176 Lovers Lane – Mathews, Virginia 23109

May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter (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

*Wishing all of our amazing Mothers a very Happy and Blessed Mother's Day today!
The beautiful flowers on the Altar today are donated by Sabina Newton and Michael Owens
in loving memory of their mother, Sabina Owens.*

2023 Annual Diocesan Appeal Update: FDS Goal: \$9,210; Raised to date: \$5,175; Numbers of donors to date: 21; Percentage to Goal: 56%.

Reminder: the next Parish Council Meeting will be held tonight, Wednesday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. It will be very helpful if Ministry Leaders send Cheryl Henig their report once it is prepared.

Mary Marshall will be off on Friday, May 12, Monday, May 15, Friday, May 19, Monday, May 22, and Friday, May 26. The office will be closed on Monday, May 29, for Memorial Day.

The Folk Group will sing on Sunday, May 28, Memorial Day weekend for First Communion.

For the next few Sundays, May 14th, 21st and 28th, there will be First Communion bags on a table in the church commons for Ally Wilson, granddaughter of Patti Sarosy, and Keegan Wells, son of Marie Wells. These bags are to collect cards and well wishes for Ally and Keegan from parishioners to share in the joy and celebration of their First Communion.

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.

Volunteer Counters Needed: *We are still in need of at least 'one' additional volunteer counter to be added to the Sunday Counting Schedule.* The volunteer time would be two Sundays in a row for approximately two hours, every other month.

If you are interested in volunteering for this committee, please contact Christine Dehnert-Fernald at: (804) 815-8650 or email her at: cdehnert@dccocpa.com

Thank you for your time in considering joining this committee and important church mission.

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.

May 14, 2023, Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Readings:

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17: Peter and John laid hands upon them.
Psalms 66: "Let all the earth cry out to God with joy."
1 Peter 3:15-18: Christ suffered for sins to lead us to God.
John 14:15-21: I will give you another Advocate, the Spirit of truth.

May 14, 2023, Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Father Gerry's Homily:

Since Easter Sunday, our readings, especially the first reading which is always from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, have been focusing on the early apostolic preaching of the Good News, and how the first communities of believers were formed. Now as we approach the celebration of Ascension and Pentecost the focus is on the promises of Jesus to His disciples, especially His promise of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Today's readings explain who the Holy Spirit is, what His roles are and how we can experience Him in our daily lives.

The first reading describes how the Holy Spirit helped Philip to preach powerfully and convert the Samaritans in large numbers. It also explains how the baptized Samaritans received a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit through the imposition of hands by the apostles Peter and John.

The Samaritans were also looking for the Messiah, but they knew that the Messiah would come through the Jews. This meant that they had no chance of being considered as part of those people the Messiah came for. Because as difficult as it was for the Jews to accept the idea that salvation would be available for the gentiles, the thought that salvation would be offered to the Samaritans was not even considered a remote possibility.

But then Philip arrived in Samaria. He spoke about the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. The Samaritans were open to faith in the Gospel. Through Philip they witnessed the signs of the Messiah being worked right there among them. Cripples walked. Demons came out of people. Everything that the prophets wrote about was taking place not just among the Jewish Christians, but right there among the Samaritans. They accepted Jesus with joy. They were no longer rejects, but one with the people of the New Life of the Risen Jesus Christ.

Today's Gospel Has two major points: the condition of those who love Jesus: they keep His Commandments, and the gift Jesus will ask the Father to send, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will live in those who obey His commandments, especially the commandment of love. Thus, Jesus will continue to live in His believers with the indwelling Father and Holy Spirit, so that we will not be left as orphans. "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." The risen Jesus' continued presence in us and in the Church through the Holy Spirit gives meaning and purpose to all we are and all we do in His Name. As our Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will instruct us in all that Jesus taught us and illumine our minds to receive deeper knowledge of our Faith. In addition, the Holy Spirit will enable us to defend our Faith powerfully as Peter tells us in the second reading and will guide us properly in our practice of true Christian love. Thus, we will be able to recognize Jesus in the poor, in the sick, in the homeless, in the marginalized, in the outcast, and so to become agents of healing and reconciliation in our broken and divided world.

But to achieve all these we need to be open to the Holy Spirit and let Him help us see the truth about ourselves by allowing Him to point out the obstacles, which hinder us from growing in our faith, our love of the Lord and our neighbor. The Holy Spirit also comes to our aid and gives us the strength to make difficult and painful decisions. But because He is our Advocate, He will guide us to the true meaning of faith and how to practice it.

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 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 MAY 9, 2023
FdS Parish Financial Report
(Through the end of April 2023)
Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Total Income:	\$152,362	Total Offertory & Debt Reduction Budget:	\$148,333
Total Expenses:	\$159,281	Total Offertory & Debt Reduction Income:	\$142,323
Income - Expenses:	-\$6,919	Difference:	-\$6,010

As we reached the end of April, our combined Total Offertory & Debt Reduction Income was **\$6,010 Less Than** our planned budget. While there was a slight increase in regular offertory to date, our Mortgage Reduction Income was **\$6,685 Less Than** our required budget. Subsequently, when you look at total income versus total expenses, we are in the **Negative by \$6,919**. 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 4/18/2023)

<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
Eric Chadwell	Parish Council, Chair	chadwelljames6@gmail.com		804-725-1191
Suane 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	Pastoral Care, Hospitality, Chair	maryjosephineflaherty@gmail.com		718-309-2459
?	Youth Ministry, Co-Chair			
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	airlftr@gmail.com		501-749-2276
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
?	Ushers, Chair			
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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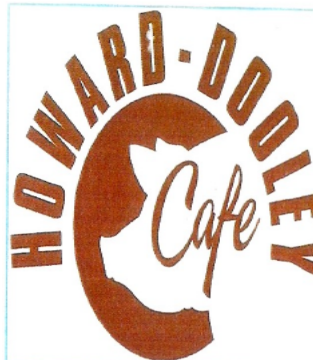
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