

Our Parish Ministry and Mission Leads (updated 11/15/24)	
Pastor, Liturgy	Fr. Johnny Mintah Mensah
Parish Administrator	Paul Flaherty
Parish Secretary	Mary Marshall
Altar Servers	Jon Oliver
Bulletin	Elaine Lynch
Bulletin Advertisements	Paul Reardon
Columbarium	Paul Flaherty
Commemorative Pavers	Paul Flaherty
Counters Chair	Christine Dehnert-Fernald
Environment	Pat Lipinski
Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Flaherty
Faith Formation – Adult	Ed McNamee
Faith Formation – Elementary	Michelle Haas
Faith Formation – High School	Courtney Hudson
Faith Formation – Parish Catechetical Lead	Ed McNamee
Finance Council Chair	Michael Henig
Funeral Coordinator	
Greeters	Jessica Miller
Grounds Manager	Alan Downs
Hospitality/Funeral Receptions	Norah Iverson / Pam McNamee
Lectors Ministry	Ed McNamee
Liturgy	Christine Varone / Mary Flaherty
Music Ministry	Cathy Schirmer
New Members	Pat Lipinski
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults	Cheryl Henig
Parish Life	Rita Engle
Parish Outreach	Helen Yacobucci
Pastoral Care	Kathy DeForge
Pastoral Council Chair	Eric Chadwell
Sacramental Preparation – Baptism	Ed McNamee
Sacramental Preparation – Confirmation	Jessie Miller
Sacramental Preparation – 1 st Sacraments	Michelle Haas
Ushers	Ed Lipinski
Webmaster	Ed McNamee
To get in touch with any of our ministry or mission leaders, or to offer your time and talents, please contact the Parish Office.	



CHURCH OF
**Francis
de Sales**

A ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

176 Lovers Lane – Mathews, Virginia 23109

March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C

Pastor: Reverend Fr. Johnny Mintah Mensah
Rectory: 804-286-9271
Parish Administrator: Paul Flaherty
Parish Secretary: Mary Marshall
Parish Office: 804-725-2776
E-mail: office@fdschurch.org
Web page: <https://www.FdSChurch.org>

Office Hours: Monday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Tuesday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m.-Noon
Our Liturgy Schedule: Sunday Mass: 11:00 a.m.
Daily Masses: Tuesday and Fridays 9:00 a.m.
Holy Days: 6:30 p.m.

Every 1st Friday: Devotions to the Sacred Heart. Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration.
Every 1st Saturday: Fatima Devotions Rosary at 9:30 a.m. followed by Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Sacraments:

Baptism:

Call the priest at least one month in advance.

Marriage:

Call the priest at least six months in advance.

Reconciliation on request.

Anointing of the Sick at any time upon request.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12: The people celebrate the first Passover in the promised land.

Psalm 34: “Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.”

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21: Jesus reconciles us to His Father.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32: Forgiveness and reconciliation are reasons for celebration.

On the plains of Jericho, the Chosen People finally reach a fertile land that can produce food for them to eat. Paul extols God’s goodness, for God reconciled the world through Christ. In the Gospel story of the prodigal son, the father is so overjoyed at his wayward son’s return that he throws a huge feast, serving the choicest food and insisting his son wear the household’s finest clothes. From beginning to end, we can, as we sing in the responsorial psalm, “Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.”

This Week in the Liturgy of the Church

Tuesday, April 1, 9:00 a.m. Weekday Mass of the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

Friday, April 4, 9:00 a.m. Weekday Mass of the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

Serving This Week March 30, 2025:

Greeter: K. Taylor

Ushers: C. Hall / L. Haas

Lectors: M. Flaherty / J. Dwyer

Eucharistic Ministers: K. DeForge/J. Dawson/M. Flaherty

Counters: H. Keitz / R. Engle

Serving Next Week April 6, 2025:

Greeter: H. Keitz

Ushers: J. Oliver / J. Emerson

Lectors: P. Sanderson / S. Sanderson

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Henig / M. McDonough / S. Haas

Counters: H. Keitz / R. Engle

FdS Parish Offertory

Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Parish Offertory Income Collection will be provided in the Sunday Bulletin on the 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH.

PRAY FOR AN END TO ABORTION

The promotion of the culture of life should be the highest priority in our societies. If the right to life is not defended decisively as a condition for all other rights of the person, all other references to human rights remain deceitful and illusory.
Pope John Paul II

Lord Hear Our Prayer

Parishioners: Jean Tanner, Sharon Simmons, Alice Mercer, Gloria Bosley, Matthew DeForge, Grace Hall, Cathy Walker, Rita Engle, Paul Reardon, Bitsy Riffe, Jack Carey, Connie Lodge, Chuck Reale, Dick & Lois Morley

Family: Dottie Long, Rita Guarino, Patsy Lynch, Fred Moody, James McLaughlin, Margaret McLaughlin, Ruth Brown, Timothy Farrell, Maria Hurst, Catherine & Justin Bennett, David Colligan, Melissa Wilson, Vicki Krieger, Marie Pribble, Paul Oliver, Cindy Lockemy, Riley Hunt, Kathryn Turner, Elizabeth Scott , Margaret Mann, Philip Varone, Lil Chambers, Martha Guerrette

Friends: Joy Long, William Scott Smith, Nan Seals, Lourdes Parker, Tom Justis, Maureen Connolly, Norm Connolly, Francis McLoughlin, Joan Haury, Don Parker, Larry Whitfield, Janet Letizia, Callie Penic, Carl Roane, Nikki Traynor, Christopher Leavy, Page Respass, Kim Owens, Tavey Callow, Debbie Traynor, Paul Bing, Tom & Michele Teubert, Ashley McBurney, Bill Campbell, Tommy Atkinson, Sr., Vicki Pruitt, Walt McLaughlin

Please Pray For Our Military Men and Women and their Families.

CAPT Andrew Bohn, son of Jeff Bohn & Suanne Dittmeier, **US Army, Fort Gregg-Adams, VA**

CAPT Ryan Carey, son of Jack & Ginny Carey, **US Navy, Norfolk, VA**

MSGT, EOD, Cameron Farrell, great-nephew of Elaine Lynch, **US Air Force, Tyndall AFB, FL**

LT Patrick Sopko, son of Suzanne Sopko & Ron Sopko, **US Navy, Norfolk, VA**

1st LT Spencer Walsh, grandson of Pat & Jimmy Walsh, **US Army, Fort Hood, TX**

1st LT Grace Walsh, granddaughter-in-law of Pat & Jimmy Walsh, **US Army, Fort Hood, TX**

Pray for the safe return of **Austin Tice**, freelance journalist and former Marine Captain, **captured in Syria on August 13, 2012.**

Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform in our country’s time of need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Locations of overseas deployments are not listed for the security of all military members.

PRAY FOR AN END TO POVERTY

Our Announcements

Easter Flower Envelopes will be put out on a table in the Commons area to collect donations to help decorate the altar in memory of loved ones.

The 5th Annual Ladies Tea is scheduled for **Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.**

Tickets are \$25.00 and will be on sale starting Sunday, May 30, 2025. For tickets see Helen Yacobucci after Mass or contact her at 804-815-7606 or at email: yacobuccihelen@gmail.com

Hands Across Mathews continues to need our help with canned goods and boxed meals. Extra bins have been placed at the back of the church for your donations. Thank you!

2024 Tax contribution letters have been prepared, please contact the office if you would like to receive a copy of your contributions.

Father Koo has decided to bring back to our Sunday Mass the **Presentation of Gifts by Parishioners.** If you or your family are interested in carrying the gifts to the Altar, please see Jon Oliver.

Please submit any announcements for the bulletin to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.

Special Intentions for Mass: If you would like to have a Mass offered for the intention of a loved one, friend, or another special request, please stop by the parish office and we will be happy to assist you!

We welcome our visitors today.

We hope you have been fed in body & spirit. If you are Catholic & plan to make Francis de Sales your home, please see an usher or greeter for registration information. If you are not Catholic & would like to learn more, call the office at (804) 725-2776 to discuss our OCIA program.

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A Message from Pope Francis

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land, where they are now less than 2% of the population. Your support is essential to help the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of Christianity, including in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, to name only a few.

The pandemic had hit Christians in the Holy Land particularly hard. Most of them depend on pilgrimages for work. The war made their situation even more dire. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this land and to maintain a Christian presence where the Church was born.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit: www.myfranciscan.org or www.custodia.org

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? Forty dollars 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. Seventy five percent of your donation supports the work of CSR in the United States. Twenty five percent 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 crsricebowl.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 today. **Bowls should be returned on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025.**

Yours in Christ,
Helen Yacobucci
Parish Outreach Committee

Journey Through the Bible: Israel’s Tribal Life under the Judges (Judges 1-21)

This commentary is adapted from Little Rock Scripture Study’s “Panorama of the Old Testament.”

The book of Judges covers a period of Israel’s history between the death of Joshua and the beginnings of Israel’s monarchy. It is a rugged, violent, frontier period for the Israelites. What is described in the book of Joshua as a quick sweep of the land is described in the book of Judges as a gradual occupation of the land which is limited and not at all conclusive.

The book describes Israel’s transformation from a semi-nomadic people of the desert to a settled people dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. As the Israelites adopt many Canaanite agricultural methods, they are tempted to adopt the related Canaanite fertility rituals that promise fertility for the land and thus economic success. So, time and time again, during this period, Israel falls into idolatry.

The book of Judges is named for the stories of twelve judges that fill its pages. These judges are not primarily people who make legal decisions but rather military leaders raised up by God in time of need to save the Israelites from destruction.

The story of each judge follows a cyclical pattern. First, Israel falls into sin; then, Israel is punished for sin; then Israel repents, and God delivers Israel. But Israel is a slow learner and falls back into sin and the pattern repeats again and again. Israel’s downward spiral can be seen in the descending character of the judges. The earliest judges, like Deborah, are faithful and just, but the later judges become increasingly morally compromised. The last judges seem to be more villains than heroes.

The account of Samson, the final narrative of Judges, serves as a mirror for Israel’s behavior. Although consecrated to God, Samson pursues Philistine women, eventually marrying Delilah, who cuts his hair, which is the source of Samson’s strength. His eyes are gouged out and he is thrown into prison. Samson will eventually recover his strength, killing himself while pulling down the Philistine temple.

Samson means “sun” and Delilah means “night.” The storyteller is showing how the Israelite sun is darkened by the Philistine night. Israel, strengthened by the covenant, is weakened by yielding to idolatry. After losing its strength, Israel becomes blind by doing what is evil in the eyes of God. Like Samson, Israel has been consecrated to God yet continually falls into the seduction of pagan gods.

The book of Judges ends with these words: “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in their own sight” (21:25). Blindness to the covenant destroys Israel’s character and leads to doom. The frustration and defeats of God’s people during this period prove the inadequacy of the temporary institution of the judges and prepared the way for more centralized rule in Israel.

Journey Through the Bible Readings and Daily Prayer Points for March 30 through April 5, 2025	
Sun, Mar 30	Bible Readings (Day 89): Judges 1-3; Ruth 1; Psalm 133 Prayer Point: For reconciliation of all who have been separated from God
Mon, Mar 31	Bible Readings (Day 90): Judges 4-5; Ruth 2; Psalm 134 Prayer Point: For an increase in religious vocations
Tue, Apr 1	Bible Readings (Day 91): Judges 6-8; Ruth 3; Psalm 135 Prayer Point: For an increase in marriage vocations
Wed, Apr 2	Bible Readings (Day 92): Judges 9-11; Ruth 4; Psalm 137 Prayer Point: With thanks for the abundant grace of the Holy Spirit
Thu, Apr 3	Bible Readings (Day 93): Judges 12-15; Psalm 146 Prayer Point: With thanks for those who care for the terminally ill
Fri, Apr 4	Bible Readings (Day 94): Judges 16-18; Psalm 147 Prayer Point: That wisdom will guide our county government officials
Sat, Apr 5	Bible Readings (Day 95): Judges 19-21; Psalm 148 Prayer Point: For schools, teachers and youth

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BULLETIN (Updated 2/19/25)

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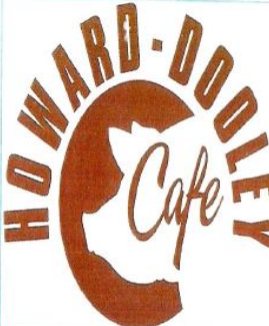
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