

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 <sup>st</sup> 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

April 13, 2025  
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday: Devotions to the Sacred Heart. Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration.  
Every 1<sup>st</sup> 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: Isaiah 50:4-7:** The Suffering Servant speaks to the weary.

**Psalms 22:** “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

**Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11:** Jesus emptied Himself and God filled this emptiness with exaltation.

**Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56:** The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We sing some of the saddest words in all of scripture in the psalm today: “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” Isaiah resisted this despair as he was struck and spat at, professing his confidence in God. Paul testifies that Jesus was willing to empty Himself, to humble Himself, accepting even death on a cross. In the Passion, we hear Jesus pray to the Father, “not my will but yours.” May today’s readings reassure us that even in our worst despair God will never truly abandon us.

**This Week in the Liturgy of the Church**

Tuesday, April 15, 9:00 a.m. Weekday Mass.

Holy Thursday Mass, April 17, 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18, Stations of the Cross 2:00 p.m.,  
Good Friday Service at 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 19, Easter Vigil begins at 8:00 p.m.  
Easter Sunday Mass, April 20, 11:00 a.m.

**Serving This Week, Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025**

Greeter: J. Miller

Ushers: R. Dobson / A. Downs

Lectors: E. McNamee / P. Sanderson / S. Zheng

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Flaherty/M. Henig /S. Henig

Counter: Paul Hyer

**Serving Next Week, Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025**

Greeter: P. Pastiva

Ushers: J. Noonan / J. Walsh

Lectors: P. Sanderson / S. Sanderson

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Dawson / K. DeForge / C. Varone

Counters: P. Noonan / Joe Noonan

**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, Cathy & Fred Moody, James & 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, Laura McLaughlin

**Friends:** Joy Long, William Scott Smith, Nan Seals, Lourdes Parker, Tom Justis, Maureen Connolly, Norm Connolly, Francis McLoughlin, Joan Hauray, 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**

**We welcome our visitors today.**

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

**Our Announcements**

**The Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held next **Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** at the Piankatank Ruritan Building from 12:30-6:00 p.m. Masonic Lodge Oriental #30 is sponsoring this drive. An appointment can be made by going to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or by calling (804) 725-2485. Blood is constantly needed!

**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.

We are considering having a **Yard Sale** this Spring. Please contact Cathy Schirmer at (203) 417-4704 or email at: [Cathyschirm@gmail.com](mailto:Cathyschirm@gmail.com) if you have any items you would like to donate.

**The 5th Annual Ladies Tea** is scheduled for **Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$25.00 and are on sale now through Sunday, May 4, 2025. For tickets see Helen Yacobucci after Mass or contact her at (804) 815-7606 or email: [yacobuccihelen@gmail.com](mailto:yacobuccihelen@gmail.com)

**SAVE THE DATE: Church Picnic, Sunday, June 8, 2025**

**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!

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 **PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION**

**POPE FRANCIS** has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection offers all Catholics an opportunity to express their solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land. A donation to the Holy Father's annual appeal is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those caught up in war, violence and instability in this region.

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!**

**DONATE NOW**



For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit: [www.myfranciscan.org](https://www.myfranciscan.org) or [www.custodia.org](https://www.custodia.org)

 **CRS RICE BOWL**

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith communities in every diocese throughout the United States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Rice Bowls will be available in the Commons, please pick one up and begin your alms giving today. \* Bowls should be returned by Palm Sunday, April 13th, 2025.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.crsricebowl.org](https://www.crsricebowl.org)



Journey Through the Bible: In The Beginning (The Gospel According to Saint John)	
This commentary is adapted from Little Rock Scripture Study’s “The Gospel According to John”	
The Gospel of John begins with a magnificent prologue which proclaims Jesus as the preexistent and incarnate Word of God who has revealed the Father to us. The phrase “In the beginning” in verse one of the prologue echoes Genesis 1:1 and alerts the reader to the new creation theme present in the Gospel. The “Word” ( <i>Logos</i> ) is present in the Old Testament as the creative energy of God, as in Genesis 1 and Isaiah 55. The Greek term <i>logos</i> , a widely used philosophical term meaning “order,” “reason,” or “harmony,” was chosen to express this aspect of God. The <i>Logos</i> in John is the one through whom all things have been created and who was with God and turned toward God even before Creation, a statement that what God was, the <i>Logos</i> also was.	
In the first few verses of Genesis, we hear of a mighty wind sweeping over the abyss, and then God brings light into creation. A strong wind is also mentioned in The Walking on the Water narrative in the Gospel of John. The Apostles have rowed about three or four miles in a stirred up sea when they saw Jesus walking on the sea. As Jesus came near the boat, they began to be afraid. But he said to them, “It is I. Do not be afraid.”(John 6:20)	
Jesus’ words, “It is I,” represent the Greek phrase <i>ego eimi</i> , which in other contexts can be translated “I am.” These words echo God’s self-identification as “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14) and indicate Jesus’ divinity. Immediately after this episode of calming a stormy sea, Jesus institutes The Eucharist with the Bread of Life Discourse, saying, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst” (John 6:35) and “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.” (John 6:54)	
The Gospel of John records several other occasions when Jesus describes who he is, among them: “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12), “I am the gate for the sheep” (John 10:7), “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11), “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25), “I am the way and the life and the truth” (John 14:6 ) and “I am the vine, you are the branches.” (John 15:5)	
On Holy Thursday, Father Koo will wash the feet of twelve parishioners, as Jesus did for the Apostles in John’s account of the Last Supper. As teacher and lord, Jesus was willing to wash the feet of his disciples; they should be willing to do the same for one another. Here is a model of not only humble and loving service, but self-sacrificing love. We, too, ought to follow the model.	

Journey Through the Bible Readings and Daily Prayer Points for April 13 through April 19, 2025	
Sun, Apr 13	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Bible Readings (Day 103): John 13-15; Proverbs 6:12-19 Prayer Point: For humility and obedience
Mon, Apr 14	Bible Readings (Day 104): John 16-18; Proverbs 6:20-24 Prayer Point: That hope is restored to all people everywhere
Tue, Apr 15	Bible Readings (Day 105): John 19-21; Proverbs 6:25-35 Prayer Point: Deliver us from sin and selfishness
Wed, Apr 16	Bible Readings (Day 106): 1 Samuel 9-10; Psalm 50 Prayer Point: For strong and long lasting marriages
Thu, Apr 17	<b>Holy Thursday</b> Bible Readings (Day 107): 1 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 55 Prayer Point: Cleanse and heal those who desire to return to God
Fri, Apr 18	<b>Good Friday</b> Bible Readings (Day 108): 1 Samuel 13-14; Psalm 58 Prayer Point: For the courage to endure a sacrificial life
Sat, Apr 19	<b>Holy Saturday</b> Bible Readings (Day 109): 1 Samuel 15-16; Psalm 61 Prayer Point: For those who have died, may they know eternal joy



OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORTING OUR  
BULLETIN (Updated 2/19/25)

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