

Church OF THE Holy Family

A Catholic Church

1279 North Great Neck Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454

757-481-5702 • Fax 757-481-3989
www.holyfamilyvb.org

Welcome – If you are new to our church or just visiting, we are pleased to have you share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If you would like to join our parish, registration is held in the Welcome Office after all Masses.

Wedding Policy – **Six months** before the wedding, the couple should meet with the pastor, **before** the wedding dates are selected. At least one member of the family should be a member of our parish.

Baptism Policy – Parents must be registered parishioners and attend a Baptism Class before their child may be baptized. Expectant mothers are encouraged to attend. The class is for parents only – baby-sitting is not provided.

Funeral Policy – Funerals are scheduled Tuesday-Saturday. We discourage funerals Sundays and Mondays. Participation by other priests and deacons must have prior approval of current pastor.

Church of the Holy Family Pastoral Vision

The Church of the Holy Family is dedicated to manifesting the joy of the Gospel and enriching every individual's Spiritual relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church of the Holy Family Ministries dedicate themselves in service to our Parish Community, building a just society, and outreach to those in need.

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Morning Prayer & Daily Mass

Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.
Reconciliation Saturday
4:00-5:00 p.m.
The Room Inside the Chapel

Summer Masses

First weekend in July through
Labor Day Weekend
Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Holy Family Day School

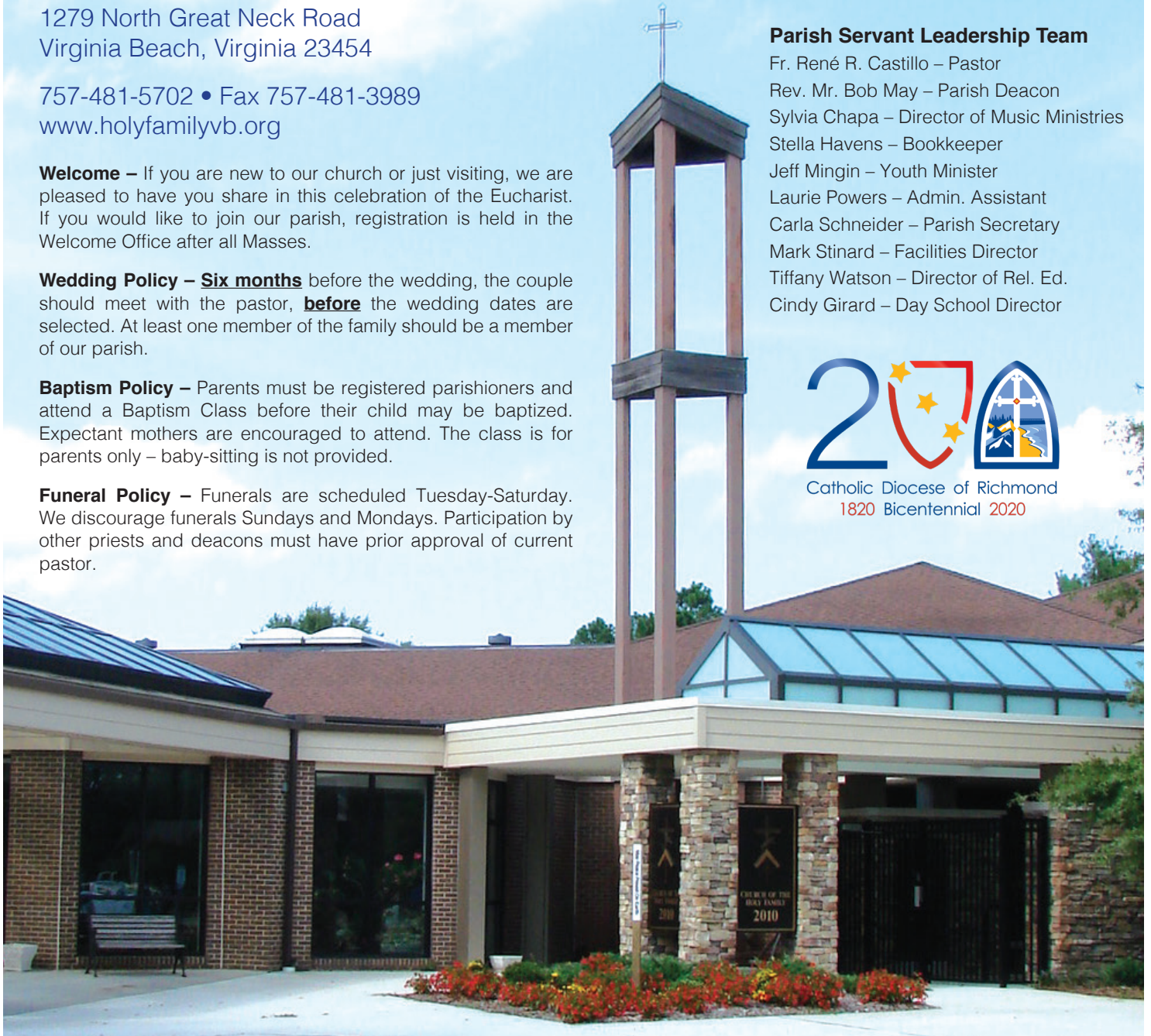
757-481-1180

Parish Servant Leadership Team

Fr. René R. Castillo – Pastor
Rev. Mr. Bob May – Parish Deacon
Sylvia Chapa – Director of Music Ministries
Stella Havens – Bookkeeper
Jeff Mingin – Youth Minister
Laurie Powers – Admin. Assistant
Carla Schneider – Parish Secretary
Mark Stinard – Facilities Director
Tiffany Watson – Director of Rel. Ed.
Cindy Girard – Day School Director



Catholic Diocese of Richmond
1820 Bicentennial 2020



A Parish of The Catholic Diocese of Richmond
Please remember in your prayers our sister parish, St. Jude in Baptiste, Haiti

February 15/16, 2020
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Breviary Week II – p. 111

REMEMBER THE DEAD: Mary Sweeney

PRAY FOR: Theresa Andrew, Michael Anthony, Susana Asercion, Eddie Bano, Lennie Bano, Kathie Bujan, Jennifer Wright Case, Margrit Corcoran, Tucker Davis, JoAnn DeJaeger, John Dunn, Michael Eaton, Brendan Feeley, Robert Garrison, The Ginley Family, Gail Grabowski, Kenneth Gregory, Roger Hall, George Heath, Kathleen Horey, Phyllis Hosier, Theresa Hughes, Gary Jani, David Johnson, Susan Kayota, Margi Keating, Brenda LeFevre, Shannon LePage, Connie Loschi, Lou Lucente, Thomas Lyver, Cheryl McLeskey, Doris Maviglia, Debbie Merritt, L. Patton Mickle, Pat Naughton, Sandy Nuzum, Maria Oakes, Sean Palmer, Patricia Petrix, Carrie Pfeiffer, Ryan Piotti, Dan Ryan, Jr., Eugene Schilling, Michael T. Smith, Patricia Spencer, Lorraine Stagg, Mark Staff, Tonya Trimble, Milo Verner, Ken Watson, Jim Welter, Paul Wesolowski, LaRue Wright

Some of the names to “pray for” have been in the bulletin for three months and are being removed this weekend. If you need prayers for you or your family members, please contact the Parish Office at 481-5702. These names will be in the bulletin for three months before being removed.

“Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will.”

Mark 11: 24

PRAYERLINE REQUESTS:

Please call the Parish Office at 481-5702.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday, February 16: *Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time:*

Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 or Mt 5:20-22a, 27-28. 33-34a, 37

Monday, February 17: *The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order:*

Jas 1: 1-11; Ps 119: 67-68,71-72,75-76; Mk 8: 11-13

Tuesday, February 18: Jas 1: 12-18; Ps 94: 12-15,18-19;

Mk 8: 14-21

Wednesday, February 19: Jas 1: 19-27; Ps 15: 2-5;

Mk 8: 22-26

Thursday, February 20: Jas 2: 1-9; Ps 34: 2-7; Mk 8: 27-33

Friday, February 21: *Saint Peter Damian, bishop, doctor of the church:*

Jas 2: 14-24,26; Ps 112: 1-6; Mk 8: 34 – 9: 1

Saturday, February 22: *The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle:*

1 Pt 5: 1-4; Ps 23: 1-6; Mt 16: 13-19

Sunday, February 23: *Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time:*

Lv 19: 1-2,17-18; Ps 103: 1-4,8,10,12-13; 1Cor 3: 16-23;

Mt 5: 38-48

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS: If you have an emergency and call the Church Office (757-481-5702), please follow the directions on the phone as to what number to call for what emergency. Do not call the number listed for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick if you need Financial Assistance. There is separate number for Financial Assistance.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Winter Watch	
RCIA	9:30 a.m.
“Follow Me”	9:30 a.m.
LifeTeen	7:00 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 – President’s Day

Winter Watch	
Office Closed/Day School Closed	
Day School Registration Open to All	
Boy Scouts	6:30 p.m.
“Follow Me”	7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Winter Watch	
Childbirth Lamaze Class	5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Prison Ministry Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Young Adults	7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Winter Watch Ends after Breakfast	
J.O.Y. Club	11:00 a.m.
Rosary	6:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts	7:00 p.m.
Adult Faith Formation Team Meeting	7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

L & L Meeting	10:00 a.m.
Alzheimer’s Meeting	10:00 a.m.
Red Cross Blood Drive	2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Women’s Book Circle	7:00 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration	7:00 p.m.
KofC Dessert Social	7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Patriotic Rosary	9:40 a.m.
Chaplet of Divine Mercy	9:45 a.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Reconciliation	4:00 p.m.
Mardi Gras (after Mass) (Sponsored by KofC)	

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)	
K-5 / Edge	9:30 a.m.
Edge “Fuse Family Series” (Atrium)	9:30 a.m.
RCIA	9:30 a.m.
RCIC	9:30 a.m.
“Follow Me”	9:30 a.m.
RCIA Rite of Sending at 11:00 Mass	
Confirmation Session	12:30 p.m.
Lent Décor Up	12:30 p.m.



Mass Intentions For the Week

Monday, February 17: Morning Prayer

Tuesday, February 18: 9:00 a.m.: L. Paul Stine by

The Family; 6:15 p.m.: Mass

Wednesday, February 19: Robert Piotti by

The Benedetto Family

Thursday, February 20: Mass

Friday, February 21: Mass

Saturday, February 22: Alvin Kleinberg by

The Ventura Family

Sunday, February 23: 8:15: Louise Brody by

The Benedetto Family; 11:00: Intention for Holy Family Parishioners

SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM EMAILS:

Fr. René R. Castillo, Pastor – pastor2019@hollyfamilyvb.org

Rev. Mr. Bob May, Deacon – deacon@hollyfamilyvb.org

Sylvia Chapa, Music Director – music@hollyfamilyvb.org

Stella Havens, Bookkeeper – bookkeeper@hollyfamilyvb.org

Jeff Mingin, Youth Minister – youthminister@hollyfamilyvb.org

Laurie Powers, Receptionist – reception@hollyfamilyvb.org

Mark Stinard, Facilities Director –

facilitiesdirector@hollyfamilyvb.org

Carla Schneider, Parish Secretary – secretary@hollyfamilyvb.org

Tiffany Watson, DRE – DRE@hollyfamilyvb.org

Cindy Girard, Day School Director –

dayschoolprincipal@hollyfamilyvb.org

Rev. Mr. Bob Durel, Retired Deacon, Pastoral Care Coordinator –

robertdurel@gmail.com

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Fr. René Castillo, Pastor; Joe Stefonowich, Chairperson; Kay Flohre, Vice-Chairperson; Audrey Douglas-Cooke, Secretary; Linda Baker; Kim Howell; “Mike” Jakubec; Mike O’Brien; Leah Rowland; Tom Rumely; Amy Schleicher (Youth Representative).
ppc@hollyfamilyvb.org.

FINANCE COUNCIL: Fr. René Castillo, Pastor; Paul Battaglia, Chairperson – pbattaglia1@gmail.com; Jill Broome; Buzz Crown; Stella Havens; Olive Lincoln; Dan Ryan; Rick Paradiso.

NEW EVANGELIZATION TEAM (NET):

Tom Rumely, Chairperson; Mike DeJaeger, Elizabeth Panchik, Cate Sleigh, Todd Solomon, Steve Winter, Fr. René Castillo. NET email: hfevangelization@gmail.com

LEGACY GIVING PROGRAM:

By making a Planned Gift to our Legacy Giving Endowment, you will be providing Church of the Holy Family perpetual financial support and pass on our Catholic Faith to future generations.

For more information on the Church of the Holy Family Legacy Giving Program, contact Steven Winter (Legacy Giving Chairperson) at edgewaterw@aol.com or swinter@edgewaterasset.com.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Budget 2019/2020 is \$1,136,000.00. This includes Diocesan Schools Parish Sharing Assessment of \$106,460.00.

Week ending February 8/9, 2020

Weekly Total Collection	\$16,285.00
Weekly Budget	\$21,846.15
Week under Budget	(\$5,561.15)
Month-to-Date Collection	\$34,318.60
Budget for 2 weeks	\$43,690.30
Month under Budget	(\$9,371.70)
Year-to-Date Collection	\$601,333.76
Budget for 32 Weeks	\$699,076.80
Year under Budget	(\$97,743.04)

Social Ministry: \$310.00

Haiti Fund: \$250.00

Capital Reserve: \$567.98

Make your stewardship easy with e-giving. Have your contribution taken from your bank account or charged to your credit card. See “Online Donation” on the Parish website: <https://hollyfamilyvb.org/>. Contact Stella Havens in the Parish Office if you have questions.

HOLY FAMILY MEN: HOW’S YOUR FAITH LIFE?

- We **Men of Faith** are ordinary Catholic men who seek a closer relationship with God.
- We meet on the second Tuesday and the fourth Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. to support and encourage one another on our spiritual journey.
- We preview the Mass readings for the following Sunday and discuss how to apply their lessons to our daily lives.
- We also read and discuss spiritual books to help us focus on our daily interactions with others in our families and communities at large.
- We join the universal Church in praying and reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need.
- If you’d like to meet with other men who are seeking to improve their spiritual journey, come join us, or call or contact for more information:

Ron Batdorf at ronald.batdorf@gmail.com, or

Bob Breault at bobbro1938@gmail.com or (610) 360- 6070.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER: Saturday, February 29, is the date, after 5:30 p.m. Mass, when you will receive your traveling instructions to off-parish-site host houses. Think about hosting/attending heavy hors d’oeuvres or desserts. Dust off your cookbooks for a favorite recipe for a shared dish for 8-10 people to bring for either hors d’oeuvres or dessert, or to host. Favorite beverages are welcome as well! Sign-ups this weekend, February 15/16. Get ready for a fun evening of gathering with friends old and new! Call Karen Dunn at 460-3572 or 277-4747.

Weekly Wisdom**Session One**

This week is the first session of our study of the Gospel of John. We learn about 3 keys to unlocking John's Gospel. The main theme is that God is in pursuit of us. He is so in love with us that He dwelt among us in flesh and died for our sins in order to draw us back into relationship with Him.

***Are we willing to let go of
our worldly thoughts and possessions and
make Him the center of our lives?***

Soup Suppers begin on Tuesday, February 25, (Pancake Supper) and continue each Tuesday of Lent. We will be showing the series, "**No Greater Love, A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion.**" Soup is served at 6:45 p.m. and the video will follow at 7:15 p.m.

All Are Welcome!

It is Not Too Late to Join Us!

The Women's Book Circle meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing the book Audacious by Beth Moore. All are welcome!

The Women's Scripture Circle meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. We have begun a new study from the "Walking With Purpose" Program called "Beholding His Glory." Synopsis: As we look at Old Testament people and events, we'll encounter problems that only Christ will solve, needs that only He will satisfy, and promises that only He can deliver. This nine-lesson study, "Beholding His Glory," shows us how all Scripture points us to our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. We'll learn to recognize and appreciate God's plan for our own lives.

For more information on the faith sharing circles, contact Marie Sexton at 718-4147.

Have a blessed week,
Your AFF Team

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

Council 10804



KNIGHT OF THE MONTH ~ Herman Dennis
FAMILY OF THE MONTH ~ Joe and Sandi Murray

Thanks for all you do!

MARDI GRAS

See the information on this Knights of Columbus sponsored event in another section of the Bulletin.

COUNCIL MEETING

Knights of Columbus Council 10804 monthly business meeting is held on the first Thursday of each month. The Rosary will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel and **all parishioners are invited.**

The members-only business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Family Room.

We invite all of the men in our Parish to join our Council and help us make a difference!

Grand Knight ~ Herbert Hughes

Membership ~ Joe Stefanowich

Chaplain ~ Fr. René Castillo

WINTER WEAR CLOTHING DRIVE:

The Winter Wear Clothing Drive is underway. Please donate clothing for men, women, and children (such as coats, hats, gloves, scarves, sweaters, shirts, pants, shoes, boots, socks) as well as blankets, towels, and toiletries to the Church of the Holy Family, and your Knights of Columbus will distribute them to those who need our help. There is a particular need for men's sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts, men's socks, work boots, handkerchiefs, and men's durable heavy winter coats.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, contact Joe Murray at 757-412-0583.

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION: Next Saturday, February 22, after the 5:30 p.m. Mass, the Knights of Columbus are hosting a Mardi Gras Celebration. The menu will be: Mardi Gras salad (green leaf lettuce, golden peppers and red cabbage); an appetizer of Shrimp, Sausage, and Okra Gumbo; a main course of Bourbon Chicken Breasts and Creole Jambalaya (with French Bread); and a New Orleans style dessert. We will have games, prizes, and entertainment, along with a cash bar. Tickets are \$15.00 (payable by cash, check, debit, or credit card) and are available after Mass. Tickets are also available in the Parish Office during the week. Come out and celebrate with us!

HELP NEEDED WITH AN

IMPORTANT MINISTRY: May we have 30 minutes of your time?? Can you provide help with this ministry any Monday between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m., for one-half hour?? We want to provide parishioners with a tidy, welcoming Worship Space and need hands to make this happen. There is NO heavy cleaning involved. For example, just straightening out hymn books and wiping hand prints off the entry doors. You would be so welcomed and we would be honored to work with you, sharing our love for Holy Family. Just show up!

Holy Family Altar Guild



**Knights of Columbus
Assembly #1505 Presents**

**FRIDAY NIGHT
FUNDRAISER**

Fish Fry



Homemade

FRIDAYS: Feb 28th THRU April 3rd
1236 Prosperity Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

**Come
Join US!**

5-7:00 PM



**CARRYOUT
AVAILABLE!**

Donation of:

Adults: \$9.00 (13 and Over)

Youth: \$5.00 (7 to 12 Years)

Kids 6 and Under Free

**Fried Fish Fillet, French Fries,
Homemade Coleslaw,
and Hushpuppies**

or

**Baked Fillet of Fish, Rice Pilaf,
Homemade Coleslaw,
and Hushpuppies**

or

**Chicken Nuggets and Fries
and**

Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea

also

Other Beverages & Desserts Avail

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Church of the Holy Family

Family Room
1279 North Great Neck Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

Thursday, February 20, 2020
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

To Sign up go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: CHF
Or contact Georgia @ 408-2326

**Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15
minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to
complete your pre-donation reading and health history
questions on the day of your appointment.**

Holy Family Day School



What is New?

Holy Family Day School is changing the hours for our morning programs! Classes for 3,4, and 5 year olds will be from 8:30 a.m. until **12:30 p.m.!** The children will have an extra hour at school. They will have more time to play and learn and have lunch with their friends!

Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is open now. If you would like to schedule a tour, please call the office at 757-481-1180. You can also visit our website for more information at www.holyfamilydaschool.org.

What our Families are saying about Holy Family Day School (from our survey about future planning):

"Holy Family Day School has a great staff and education program. My kids have loved their time at HFDS and they look forward to school every day!"

"It is such a caring and nurturing environment where my children are encouraged to learn and grow and treat others with respect and kindness."

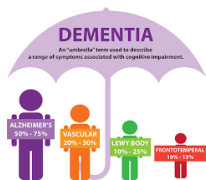
"That my son has a wonderful time while being safe and learning about God."

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Friday from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Holy Family
Learning & Leisure meets every
third Thursday at 10:00 a.m.



Coming General Meetings:

alzheimer's association®

Thursday, February 20, 10:00 a.m.

Alzheimer's Association – The 10 warning signs ~ Douglas Panto



Tour: March 12, 10:30 a.m.,
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Byzantine Catholic Church,
216 South Parliament Drive,
Virginia Beach – Deacon Joe
Bernard

L & L Hardboiled Egg Ministry

- March 5 • March 19
- April 2 • April 16

Please bring eggs by noon on
Thursday
(for Brother Charles to pick up)



COLUMBARIUM:

Your visits to the Columbarium are welcome at any time. Because the Columbarium area is shared with others, please leave only small live flowers in a plastic or metal container, and remove them in a timely manner. No articles (other than flowers) should be left or attached to any part of the Columbarium. Thank you!

DIOCESAN COMMEMORATIVE BOOK: The Diocese of Richmond, in celebrating its Bicentennial Year, has created a beautiful commemorative book, *"Shine Like Stars,"* which highlights our two-hundred-year history with text, pictures, and profiles of our nearly 150 parishes. You can purchase this commemorative book for \$40.00, after Mass in the Family Room or in the Parish Office during the week.

Music Notes 🎵

Happy to say, "I'm ba-ack!" Stay in touch here for news from Holy Family Music Ministry, like:

Lenten Music Evening, Friday, March 20, 7:00 p.m., with composer/pianist Thomas Keesecker, Holy Family Parish Choir & Ringers.

Check your emails for rehearsal dates, and you can join Music Ministry by contacting me: *Sylvia Chapa, Director of Music Ministries,* Email music@holymfamilyvb.org
Phone: 757-481-5702, ext. 124

Christmas Day 2019



2020 BAPTISM CLASSES AND DATES

Baptism Class: Thursday, April 30, 6:30 p.m.

Baptism Date: Saturday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m. Mass and Sunday, May 10 at the 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Masses

Baptism Class: Thursday, August 27, 6:30 p.m.

Baptism Date: Saturday, September 5 at 5:30 p.m. Mass and Sunday, September 6 at the 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Masses

Baptism Class: Thursday, October 8, 6:30 p.m.

Baptism Date: Saturday, October 17 at 5:30 p.m. Mass and Sunday, October 18 at the 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Masses

If you are interested in attending a Baptism Class, please register with Tiffany at DRE@holymfamilyvb.org or 757-937-8144. We ask that you include your selected Mass time from the listed Baptism weekends with your registration.

HAITI UPDATE

February

What's new with our sister parish in
Baptiste Haiti?



In order to meet the food scarcity in our twinning parish in Baptiste Haiti due to rise in protests, Holy Family parishioners provided emergency food for over one hundred families last month.



Fr. Ronel over-seeing distribution of emergency food.

Holy Family parishioners provided \$600 dollars to purchase a Canon image runner 1740 copier. It has

the capability of making 42 pages per minutes. This is a game changer. The schools can now produce activities and lessons for the classroom.



For the first time in over three years, repairs have been made to the four-mile water pipeline that Holy Family constructed over 12 years ago. \$1,000 dollars was used to purchase 20 new taps, 5 valve covers, 4 valves, 2 truckloads of sand, and 5 bags of cement along with labor costs needed to make repairs.

Mark your calendar for the 12th Annual Run for Haiti at Holy Family Church on Friday, May 1. New this year is a separate 1 mile Fun Run for children 5th grade and younger. The Fun Run is on the church property before the 5K Run/Walk. Go to **5kgreatneck.com** for more information and to register.

The Church of Holy Family Haiti Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are at Holy Family Church. We would love to see you there!
God Bless!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULE: Holy Family has Eucharistic Adoration on the third Thursday of the month. The next Adoration at Holy Family will be on **February 20, from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**

“CREATION CARE CORNER:”
TIME Magazine’s “Person of the Year”

TIME Magazine’s “Person of the Year” for 2019 is Greta Thunberg. She is a Swedish girl who lives in Stockholm, Sweden. She was 16-year-old when she began demonstrating in front of the Swedish Parliament Building every day instead of being in school. She was demonstrating to bring the matter of Climate Change to the attention of the Parliament and to get the government to do something about it. She was very concerned about global warming and the danger it presented to the world’s population and particularly to young people. She was determined to get people to deal with the problem immediately, because Climate Change is an immediate and great danger to the Earth’s environment.

She demonstrated in front of the Parliament with a sign that read in Swedish “School Strike for Climate” (Skolstrejk for Klimatet). Her actions and that of others she inspired have brought meaningful movement to efforts to get a number of countries to address the issue of Climate Change. She has inspired the younger generations to get involved in efforts to save the Earth for future generations. On August 20, 2018, on her first day of striking, she was by herself in front of the Parliament Building. The second day another person joined her, and as days went by, more and more people joined her efforts until there were thousands. She then said she would continue to strike every Friday until Sweden joined with the Paris Agreement. In a short time, people in other countries joined in the effort under a new name “Fridays for Future.” By September 2019, about one year after she began her striking, 250,000 demonstrators or “climate strikers” marched in New York City, 1.4 million in 600 little towns in Germany, and in other countries around the Earth, about 4 million demonstrated to try to get their countries to act on Climate Change.

Now, young people in the Church of the Holy Family can ask – what can I do to help the environment? You can start by contacting Jeff Mingin, Youth Minister, to help create a ministry of young people in the church who can work together in various ways to address the care for creation and other environmental issues.

This information on Greta Thunberg was gathered from TIME Magazine’s “Person of the Year” issue for the year 2019, pp. 46-67.

Bob Lincoln – Holy Family Environmental Ministry



The Second Bishop of Richmond

In 1840 Archbishop Eccleston of Baltimore no longer wanted to serve as Administrator for the Diocese of Richmond and requested that a bishop be appointed. In November of that year, Pope Gregory XVI appointed Richard Vincent Whelan as the second Bishop of Richmond. At that time Whelan was pastor of the parish in Martinsburg and was viewed as being effective in serving the mission Catholic population of the Western part of the Commonwealth. He was consecrated Bishop on March 21, 1841 in Baltimore and during his tenure as Bishop he made it a priority to recruit priests, especially from Ireland, increase vocations to the priesthood, and invite religious orders to minister to the growing and ethnically diverse immigrant Catholic population in his missionary diocese, especially in the west. He invited religious orders of nuns to establish schools and orphanages in the diocese. He chose St. Peter’s in Richmond, located near the Capitol, to be the Cathedral for the Diocese.

However, as bishop, Whelan never felt at home in Richmond and spent most of his time in the western part of the Commonwealth. In 1846, he moved his residence from Richmond to Wheeling and identified himself as a “missionary” bishop. He was bishop of Richmond for 10 years and spent the last four years in Wheeling. He did succeed to recruiting more priests to the diocese and established several new parishes, not only in Richmond but in Lynchburg, Staunton and Wheeling. In 1849, due in part to the large geographical size of the diocese, he proposed to Rome a division of the Diocese of Richmond, creating a new diocese in Wheeling. Pope Pius IX approved the division of the Diocese and then appointed Whelan as the first Bishop of Wheeling and John McGill as the Third Bishop of Richmond. Richmond finally would have a bishop who would take up permanent residence in his “see” city. (Source: Fogarty, *Commonwealth Catholicism*, 2001)

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