



JUNE 18, 2023 | 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## HOLY FAMILY PARISH

312 Tazewell Avenue, Tazewell, VA 24651

(276) 988-4626 | [parishoffice@holyfamilyswva.org](mailto:parishoffice@holyfamilyswva.org) | facebook: search Holy Family SWVA

### ST. THERESA'S

312 Tazewell Ave.  
Tazewell, VA 24651

### ST. ELIZABETH'S

160 Merrick Lane  
Pocahontas, VA 24635

### ST. MARY'S

1122 Farmer Street  
Richlands, VA 24641

### ST. JOSEPH'S

1007 Independence Rd.  
Grundy, VA 24614

## Called to Transform

THE MAIN theme of today's readings is that we are commissioned, or sent, to transform others with the "Good News" of God's love, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation through Jesus His Son. The first reading (Ex 19:2-6a) gives Israel the good news that the God of Mount Sinai loves and cares for His people. God showed His continuing care for Israel by liberating the people from slavery in Egypt and by offering them a relationship in which they would be God's "special possession," "a kingdom of priests, a holy nation." All ancient religions assumed that the gods were distant from and indifferent to humans. The best people could hope for was that a few members, their priestly class, could deal with the gods on their behalf. In today's first reading God overturns that class distinction. In the instruction given to Moses, God wants all the members of His chosen people to be a kingdom of holy priests. God expects a whole holy nation

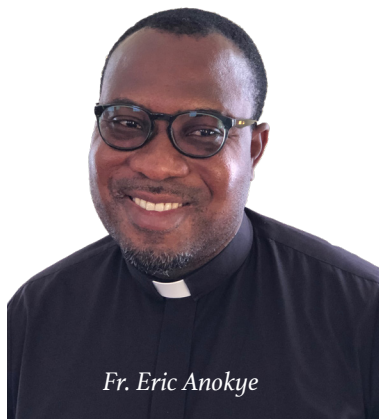
to join in worship, not just a few holy members to perform sacred duties for the rest. God says that all His people are special, set apart, and holy, and that they should pay attention to their exalted position.

Paul, in today's second reading (Rom 5:6-11), reflects on how Jesus in his life, death, and resurrection made manifest God's love and care for mankind. According to Paul, the greatest proof of God's love and care for us was Jesus' willingness to die on behalf of sinful mankind and so make possible a new and better relationship with God. Paul eloquently reminds the gathered community of Romans that God has gone beyond all limits in loving them. Paul's point is that we were quite unworthy of the gift God gave us in Christ. Notice all the expressions of this unworthiness: "helpless, ungodly, still sinners, enemies." It's the contrast between our unworthiness and God's gracious generosity that is so remarkable. Paul argues that Jesus served and taught and healed and died for those who were sinners because they were essentially God's people, God's special ones, the holy nation, the ones set apart. As Jesus walked the streets and taught the crowds, he saw in each of them a sacred and holy child of God.

Matthew in the gospel of today (Mt 9:36-10:8) has just told us of ten miracles Jesus performed; he has cured people both physically and spiritually. Jesus has "compassion" (9:36) on the "crowds" in their leaderless state, "like

sheep without a shepherd;" he has announced that the completion of God's plan, his "harvest" (9:37), to return all to godliness, is about to begin. Now he instructs and commissions his disciples. The message of today's Scriptures is rather simple and to the point. God has moved toward us—and has loved us. God has reached out to nurture us, free us, and heal us through Jesus. We are lovable and good because God loves us and has chosen us as Jesus chose his apostles. Since Jesus loves the leaderless people, he chooses and sends the twelve apostles to awaken the people. He reminds the apostles that the harvest is abundant but the laborers are few. He instructs them to pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest.

Jesus was moved with compassion at the world's pain and suffering, sorrow and grief, physical and spiritual hunger, isolation and loneliness, bewilderment and confusion. The Greek word used, *esplanchnithe*, expresses a compassion that springs from the deepest part of one's being, heartfelt compassion. Jesus' compassion for the crowds was based on his perception that they were "harassed and helpless." Jesus uses two images to describe the common people of those days, namely, sheep without a shepherd and an abundant harvest in need of workers. The Pharisees saw the common people as chaff to be destroyed and burned up. But Jesus saw them as a harvest to be reaped and saved. He realized that volunteers were



Fr. Eric Anokye

needed to teach and heal the people because “The harvest is great, but the workers are few” and the people were “bewildered and dejected, like sheep who have no shepherd.” (I Kgs 22:17; Jer 23:1-6; Ez 34:1-10; Mi 5:2-4). Jesus calls us to pray for common laborers in his Church. While God can use talented people, most kingdom-work is done by ordinary, nearly anonymous, behind-the-scenes disciples. The “sheep without a shepherd” are called the “the lost sheep of Israel,” a phrase used by Moses when he transferred his authority to Joshua. This was a common image for Israel in the Old Testament (eg. Nm 27:17, 2 Chr 18:6). Priority was given to Jewish evangelization because Jesus realized that the most effective evangelistic strategy was first to try to reach those with whom the evangelizer already had something in common.

**The selection of the messengers and special instructions:** Jesus prayed before he chose the twelve apostles from among his disciples, asking his heavenly Father, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” (Is 6:8). Then Jesus chose them, called them apostles, appointed them to be with him and sent them to villages and towns before he visited them as heralds to prepare them to receive his “good news.” They were given his authority to love which included involvement in liberating people from the powers which oppressed them, whether physical or spiritual. The first instruction was: “Do not go out on the road to the Gentiles, and do not enter into any city of the Samaritans.” This meant that they could not go north into Syria, east into the largely gentile Decapolis, or to south into Samaria. God wanted His chosen people to hear the Gospel first. Besides, the apostles were not well-trained for preaching to the Gentiles. Thirdly, as a wise commander Jesus limited his objectives and refused to diffuse and dissipate his forces.

### **The message to be preached.**

**The preaching mission:** “As you go, make this proclamation: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” The Kingdom of God is intended to be a society on earth, where God’s will is as perfectly done as it is in heaven. Since Jesus was, and is, the only person who ever perfectly did, and obeyed, and fulfilled God’s will as it is done in heaven, the apostles were to invite people to see how their long expected “kingdom of God” was made visible and tangible in Jesus of Nazareth.

**The healing mission:** “Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and drive out demons.” The Apostles have to convince the people that Christ came to give physical healing of bodies from diseases and spiritual healing of souls from sins. The spiritually dead are resurrected and revitalized by the Good News preached to them. Cleansing the lepers includes the actual healing of leprosy, as well as the cleansing the pollut-

*(Continued next page.)*

### **PASTOR**

Fr. Eric Anokye  
eanokye@richmonddiocese.org  
(276) 385-7312

### **OFFICE MANAGER/ BOOKKEEPER**

Lydia St. Peter

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Mon–Fri 9:30AM – 2:30PM

Please call the parish office to make arrangements for the **Sacraments of Baptism, Anointing of the Sick or Holy Matrimony** as well as funerals. **Reconciliation** is available from 30 minutes before a scheduled Mass.

### **MASS TIMES**

#### **SATURDAY**

4PM – St. Joseph’s

6PM – St. Mary’s

#### **SUNDAY**

9AM – St. Elizabeth’s

11:30AM – St. Theresa’s

#### **TUESDAY & FRIDAY**

10AM – St. Theresa’s

Cover image:

Nicolas Poussin, *Saints Peter and John Healing the Lame Man*, 1655



*(Pastor's notes, continued)*

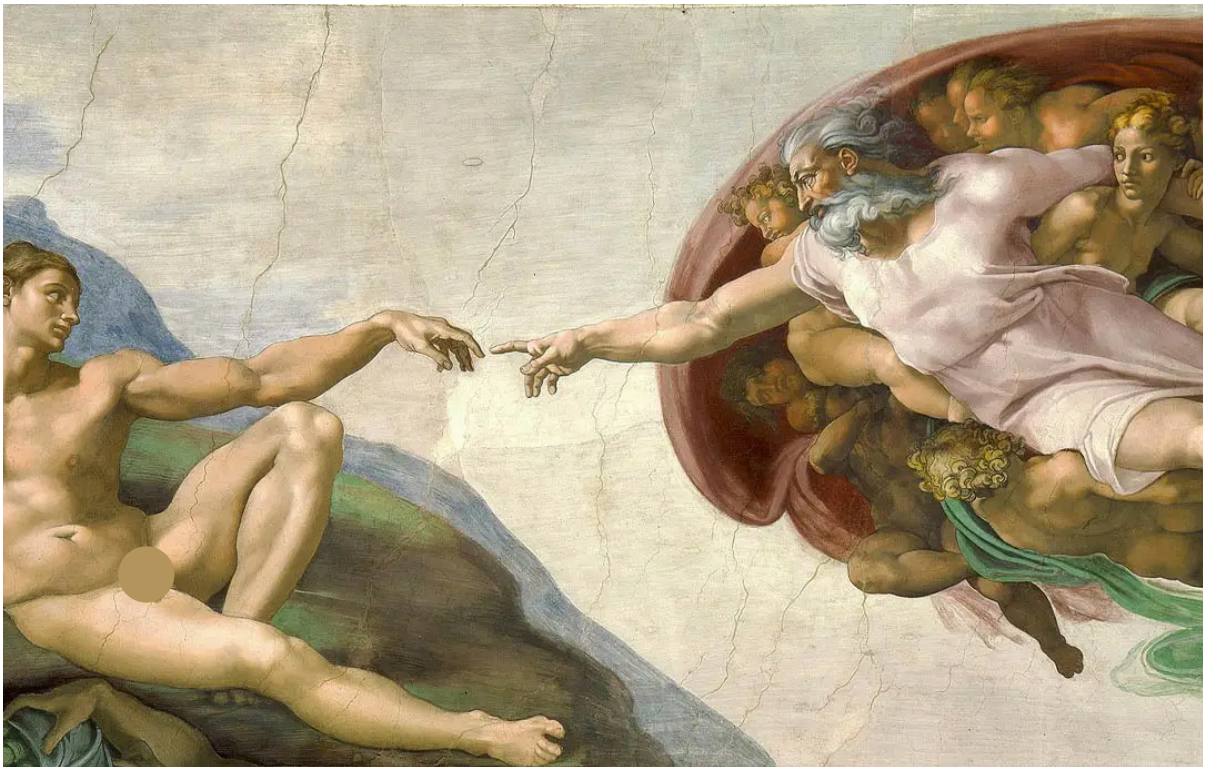
ing influence of sins from minds and heart. Casting out demons also included liberating people from their evil habits and addictions which led them to sin.

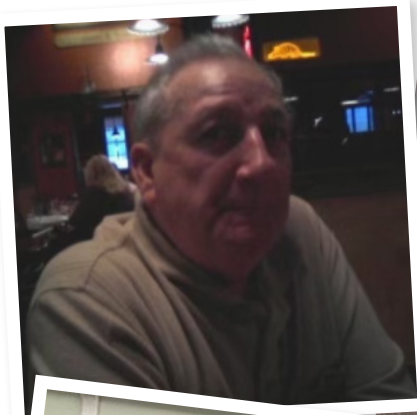
**Free use of the God-given talents:** “Freely you have received;” says Jesus, “freely give.” What Jesus really means is that a man of God must never be overly concerned with material things. At the same time the people of God must never fail in their duty to see that the man of God receives a reasonable support. Missionaries are to depend on the local hospitality of “worthy” (10:11) people, i.e., those in favor with God, and to “greet” (10:12) them with the peace of God.

**Be Jesus-Presenters:** We are invited to become one with God and Jesus, and to let the Holy Spirit work through us. We are asked to perform the works of Jesus, and through these works to reveal the power and character of God to the world. If we accept this invitation and act on it, with God's grace people will look at us and say, “Jesus.”

**Pray for priests who carry God's people on “eagle's wings.”** Priests are with us at all the most important moments in our lives—baptism, marriage, forgiveness of sins, celebration of the Eucharist, sickness, death. Every priest could tell you personal stories of times when he prayed with the sick and they improved, or the times when he anointed the sick and they received new strength. Every priest could tell you many personal stories about the many people he helped when they were going through a difficult time. Every priest has helped to heal broken lives and has given encouragement. Every priest has been surprised to see the power of Jesus work mysteriously through him. Hence bishops, priests, and deacons are in need of our prayer because they, too, have the same human limitations and weaknesses and temptations as everyone. When was the last time we prayed for bishops, priests, or deacons?

Have a blessed week







mass intentions

Date	Intention
<b>6/17 SATURDAY</b>	
4PM	Jim Coffey ☩, all fathers
6PM	Gerri Cuthbertson ☩
<b>6/18 SUNDAY</b>	
9AM	Pete Danko ☩ by his children
11:30AM	Don Shawver ☩

stewardship of treasure

Donations Received as of June 11 (Week 50)		
CHURCH	ATTENDANCE	OFFERINGS
St. Joseph's	8	\$372
St. Elizabeth's	22	\$525
St. Mary's	13	\$510
St. Theresa's	48	\$2,136
Total	91	\$3,543
Outside Donations		\$1,383
Year to Date Received		\$149,814
Goal		\$134,615
Ahead/Behind Goal		+ \$15,199

OUTSIDE DONATIONS—THANK YOU!

St. Michael's, Glen Allen, VA: \$1,383

BUILDING FUND

St. Joseph's: \$110  
St. Mary's: 330  
St. Theresa's: \$234

please pray for

Louise Serreno*	Chris Lambert
Gerry Hankins	Virginia Dy
Clarence Moore	Mary Muncy
Lexi Cox	Cindy Lambert
Sarah Wall	Jean St. Clair
Tammy Bennett	Helen Petro
Margaret Wasilewski	Clinard Coleman
Nic Ulate	Joan Harrison
Frannie & Rayburn Minton	Joe & Yvonne Blevins
Sue Bailey	Kyle Brown
Christian Lambert	Bobby Cole
Shane Neal	Jeffrey Parkhurst
Pete Belcher	Sarah Walters
Lucas Boyd	Everly Duns
Ralph Heldreth	Amelia Proffit
Chris Jessie	Maurice Law
Leo Brown	Zac Carter
Carolina Ferrare	Dennis & Frances Savage
Junior Aiken	Nancy Jo Testerman
Jeanne Hash	Donnie Neal
Lara Marshall	Josh Cornwell
Carol & Jim Shumate	John Shumate
Andrew Satmary	Seth Waddell
Glenn Harrison	Doug Vance
Donna Petro	Russ Hatfield
Christian Marshall	Connie Pace
Tina Rocchetti	Lynn Jones
Alice Godin	Jody Hamilton
Randy Snyder	Jeanne Ameli
Bryan Gunter	Bella Tester
Michael Beavers	Annette Pike
Natalie Dodge	Everett Neese
Roger Empson	Pam White
Dreama Ritter	Sharon Mullady
Marco Warner	

council members

PARISH COUNCIL:

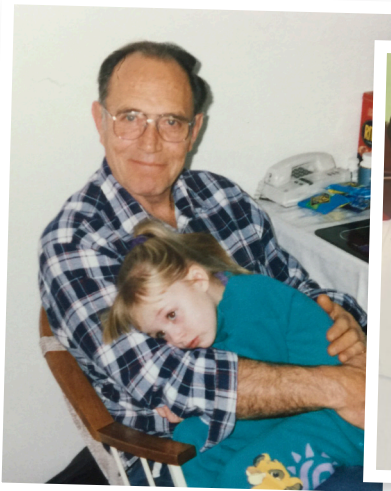
Tonya Hylton, Frannie Minton, Ralph Shawver, Barbara Jones, Donna Lambert, Maria Farris, Debbie Parkhurst

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Kathy & Bob Buchanan, Randy Bolling, Doug Vance, Anne Danko, Jim Talbert, Jackie Shawver, Lydia St. Peter

**Reception of the Precious Blood during Communion:** We realize some might be uneasy about returning to a shared cup. Please remember that there is no obligation to receive the Precious Blood—the entire Christ is present in each Eucharistic species. If you only receive the Body, you still receive the whole Christ. As well, please refrain from receiving the Blood if you have symptoms of illness or suspect you might have been exposed to Covid, flu, or any other contagious illness.

# Happy Fathers' Day!



---

## birthdays & anniversaries:

---

**JUNE 18:** Brenda Cataline | **19:** Rocco Ronallo | **21:** Randy & Cathy Bolling (anniversary),  
Gene & Debbie Parkhurst (anniversary) **22:** Andrew Richardson | **24:** Linda Whited

---

“The kingdom of *God* is at hand.  
Repent and believe in the *Gospel*.”  
– Mk 1:15

---



## Appalachian Family Care LLC



18765 Riverside Dr.  
Vansant, VA 24656  
Tel. (276) 935-2880  
Fax (276) 935-2889

Located in Food City  
Owner: Frannie Minton

## DOMINION DRIVEWAY & PARKING LOT PAVING, INC.

- Paving
- Concrete
- Grading
- Landscaping
- Demolition
- Gravel
- Topsoil
- Patio Paver
- Retaining Walls



2927 Adria Road  
North Tazewell, VA 24630  
**Phone: 276-979-8504**  
Email: [pave4u@roadrunner.com](mailto:pave4u@roadrunner.com)

Amanda Hankins-Shrader – **276-701-5840**

Scott Shrader – **276-970-3004**

[www.DominionDriveway.com](http://www.DominionDriveway.com)



3224 CUMBERLAND ROAD  
BLUEFIELD, WV 24701



PRO SHOP - SNACK BAR - BILLIARDS

CARL MARIOTTI, JR.  
LORETTA HAMMOND

304-325-7037