



JULY 2, 2023 | 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

312 Tazewell Avenue, Tazewell, VA 24651

(276) 988-4626 | 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

The power of good works

ONE FATEFUL DAY, a homeless man approached a lady on a busy street in Manhattan and asked for a quarter of a dollar. She was willing to give him something more, but she could not find her wallet. The lady instantly realized that she has been robbed by some street urchins as her handbag remained unzipped. The homeless man saw her frustration and, tapping her on the shoulder, asked her how much it would cost her to go home. The lady tried to dismiss the question with a “don’t worry attitude” but the man insisted, and she said, “Just \$20.”

Surprisingly, the beggar brought out all the money in his pocket, and after counting, it came up to \$25. He gave \$20 to the lady and offered to help her with one of her bags to the subway where she would board a train. The beggar’s overwhelming kindness baffled the woman, and before she boarded the train she requested a hug from the man, and she got a good one.

While on the train, the lady started to feel guilty for accepting the money from the old man. She kept wondering where the man would sleep that night as she headed home to the comfort of her home—thanks to a homeless beggar. She got home and through the whole evening, she pondered on the kindness of the homeless man.

A few days after the event, after sorting out her cards and other documents, she went to search for the man but could not find him. The extraordinary kindness of the homeless beggar prodced her to seek for volunteer work with an organization that assists the homeless in New York City.

After some months, the organization appointed the lady to head a team that would search for a genuine homeless person among the lot in New York City who would receive a special housing facility and provision from the organization. Her mind went to the homeless beggar that helped her, and she prayed that she would find him.

The lady was on her way to the train station that same day when someone approached her for a quarter of a dollar. Guess who? Well, you can imagine what happened afterwards. The homeless man who helped the lady to get home became a home owner; his good work made way for him.

There is something about good works the liturgy of today wants us to learn. St. James reminds us about the importance

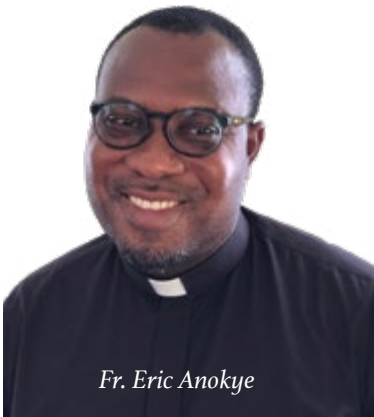
of good works when he says that faith without good works is dead (James 2:14-26).

The First Reading today (2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a) tells us about a couple who finds favor with God through their selfless provision for Elisha, the prophet of God. From the narrative, we can see that their charity towards Elisha was not in anticipation of an immediate reward; they were simply compassionate and hospitable to the man of God.

The unassuming couple did not bug the prophet about the lack in their family. They were more interested in the comfort and needs of the prophet. By divine direction, Elisha discovered during his interaction with his servant Gehazi that the couple had a need for a son and he gave this divine oracle to the woman: “This time next year you will be fondling a baby son.”

In the Gospel Reading today (Matt. 10:37-42), our Lord Jesus Christ takes the time to dwell on some characteristics of genuine discipleship. He begins by saying that anyone who loves father, mother, son or daughter more than him is not worthy of him.

Our Lord’s first instruction here does not tell us to hate our family as it may appear. The instruction says that we should love Christ in people around us starting with our family. Our love for Christ begins with our love for one another. St. John tells us that we cannot say we love God and hate our neighbor (1 John 4:20).



Fr. Eric Anokye

Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us that our entrance into heaven depends on our love and benevolence to people around us (Matt. 25:40).

In the later part of the Gospel, our Lord deepens the instruction on good works. He makes it clear that every good work will be rewarded. When we open our arms to people, we are at the same time opening our arms to God. When we receive people, we are receiving God. When we provide for those who work in God's vineyard, we are "providing for God."

Our good works could open great doors for us. Abraham's tithe to Melchizedek the priest gained blessings for him (Gen. 14:20; Heb.7:1-2). Furthermore, his hospitality to "three men" who were passing through his neighborhood became the key that opened the womb of his wife Sarah to give birth to Isaac. (Genesis 18:1ff). Rahab and her household were spared during the destruction of Jericho for her good deed of hiding the spies who came to survey the land of Jericho (Joshua 2).

Peter and his companions received a great catch of fish and became disciples after donating their boat to serve as a platform for our Lord Jesus Christ to preach (Luke 5:1-11). Five thousand men (excluding women and children) were fed through a little boy's donation of five loaves of bread and two fish. I imagine he received part of the remaining twelve baskets (John 6:8-9).

The word of God says that silver and gold belong to God (Haggai 2:8). Hence, whenever we engage in doing any good work, we invariably give back to God. As our good works speak for us, our evil works will, in turn, speak against us. Life is all about sowing and reaping whatever we sow.

When we give, we receive even a full measure pressed down and running over (Luke 6:38). As we march into the new week and month, may we focus on good works. Those good works of ours will eventually plead for us before God's throne of mercy; do not get tired of doing good; you will receive your reward.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16).

I wish you glorious days ahead.

PASTOR

Fr. Renier Supranas
rsupranas@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:

Sebastiano del Piombo, *Jesus Carrying the Cross*, 1535

A farewell letter to Holy Family Parish



Dear Parishioners,

Before moving on to my new parish, St. John Neumann in Powhatan, I wanted to say goodbye to all of you. Please know that it has been a real blessing for me to have been your pastor. I have had such joy as a priest to have participated in the Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations and Marriages of your families. It has also been a privilege to accompany you at times of crisis, sadness and the death of your loved ones. The life of a priest is a call to share the joy of the gospel in preaching God's Word, celebrating Christ's life in the Mass and sacraments and serving God's people in the happy times as well as the sad. God has blessed me with this opportunity as your parish priest for these four years.

A priest does not work on his own. I would like to thank the talented and hardworking staff of our parish collaborative, the many dedicated volunteers who serve in our various spiritual and liturgical programs and the outreach programs. Thanks also to those who have shared their wisdom and advise with me on the parish and financial councils over these years.

These programs, along with the continual upkeep of the church buildings, call to mind the blessings from another group of parishioners: those who are the benefactors of the four stations that make up the parish. I thank you also for your generosity and for the commitment of your time, talent and treasure in the various donations we have undertaken to make our four churches welcoming places of worship.

You have given me a final blessing with so many prayers, cards, notes and gifts. You truly are a Circle of Friends. I sincerely thank you.

– Fr. Eric

THE TABLE

**AUGUST 5, 9 AM-2 PM
MAIN STREET UMC**

What does it mean for us in the 21st century to sit with our brothers and sisters of various Christian traditions at the Table? At this conference, we will address this and related questions. Topics covered include:

Ministry: Inviting Others to the Table
The Domestic Church: The Table in Our Families
The Table: Can it unite us in 2023?
Panel on the Lord's Supper

Tickets are \$15 at the door and include admission, a locally catered lunch, childcare on site, and access to a display area highlighting ministries in area churches.

Main St UMC (118 Main St, Tazewell, VA 24651). For questions, contact Bond Strong at 276-202-5567 or sarahbondstrong@gmail.com

mass intentions

Date	Intention
7/1 SATURDAY	
4PM	St. Joseph parishioners
6PM	St. Elizabeth parishioners
7/2 SUNDAY	
9AM	St. Mary parishioners
11:30AM	St. Theresa parishioners

stewardship of treasure

Donations Received as of June 25 (Week 52)		
CHURCH	ATTENDANCE	OFFERINGS
St. Joseph's	16	\$315
St. Elizabeth's	25	\$877
St. Mary's	14	\$240
St. Theresa's	68	\$897
Total	123	\$2,329
Outside Donations		
Year to Date Received		\$155,489
Goal		\$140,000
Ahead/Behind Goal		+ \$15,489

please pray for

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

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



Welcome Fr. Renier Supranes!

Fr. Renier was born in Igang, Philippines on January 2, 1983 and has seven brothers and sisters (two now deceased)! He was ordained to the priesthood on March 26, 2012.

Father holds a Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the University of St. Thomas, Philippines.

He is currently still assigned to the positions of Diocesan Director (Liturgical Ministry) and Master of Liturgical Ceremonies, Diocese of Kalibo, Philippines and Coordinator/Head of the Aklan Catholic College Christian Formation and Development Department.

Please be patient with administration and schedules as Fr. Renier settles in. There will be no daily Mass next week and no usual first Friday Adoration. We'll publish a new schedule for daily Mass, Adoration, and other events once Fr. Renier gets his feet on the ground!

Welcome receptions:

The weekend of July 8/9 each church will hold a reception after Mass to welcome Fr. Renier. That weekend, St. Joseph's Mass time will be at 3:30PM instead of 4PM. All other churches will remain on normal schedule.

The parish office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 for Independence Day.

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

– 1Pt 2:9

birthdays & anniversaries:

JULY 3: Lynn Jones | **4:** Margaret Wasilewski, Michael & Josary Beavers (anniversary)

7: Quinto Falgiani | **8:** Johnny Borish



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