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Church of the Holy Apostles
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Catholic Diocese of Richmond
www.richmonddiocese.org
Episcopal Diocese of So. Virginia
www.diosiva.org

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Sunday Worship

10:30 am

Official Monthly Publication of
Church of the Holy Apostles

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Deadline for submission is the
3rd Tuesday of the month.



A Message from Deacon Gary

Happy New Year!!!!

I am still trying to wrap my head around the fact that 2021 is over! Honestly, last year just sped by. As a whole, it was an eventful year, and the last month was no exception.

December started out with the LARCUM Conference on the 3rd and 4th (virtual only). As with any virtual event, there are “pros” and “cons”. Some of the “pros” include that you don’t have to travel to the hosting site, pay for hotel rooms or seek out restaurants. You are in the comfort of your own home, so if you want to have pj bottoms and slippers on, it’s fine because people can only see you from the chest up. The “cons” include that you are not a captive audience. One “attending” can shut the video off and mute the sound and then may or may not even be in the same room as their computer. You miss the intentional and unintentional interactions that take place when you are in the same physical place, interacting with others attending. For whatever reason, the attendance at this year’s LARCUM was less than 50, about half of what it was when it last met in-person in 2019 (which Holy Apostles hosted). A positive aspect for me was that Bishop Knestout attended the entire conference (his Catholic counterpart from Arlington did not attend) and I was in the same breakout sessions with him. On the Episcopal side, Bishop Susan was there. Holy Apostles was well represented with at least a half dozen people logged on (and likely the community with the highest number of attendees).

Dr. Michael Root, a Catholic theologian who had also served as a Lutheran representative on some of the Catholic-Lutheran Ecumenical Commissions in the 1990s, was the guest speaker. There were three presentations, one Friday evening and two Saturday morning. All were interesting. The ones on Saturday morning addressed where various religious traditions were today, and Dr. Root described the current status as “friendly division with porous borders”, meaning that a large number of people are changing their religious affiliations during their lifetimes – which is a shift from the past where people tended to stay in the faith tradition, they were brought up in. The third presentation was “what is the church going to look like post-pandemic?” The presentation that I want to focus briefly on is the first, where Dr. Root addressed the “ecumenical slow down.” He pointed out that many religious movements have periods of rapid change, but then long periods of slow growth, or even stagnation, as part of their normal lifecycle.

Continued on page 3

We choose love over division, unity over separation and Christ above all things.



Liturgy Volunteers

January	2	9	16	23	30
WORSHIP COORD.	M Meehan	M Meehan	M Meehan	M Meehan	M Meehan
LECTOR	J Blessing	C Mills	A Delaney	J Tucker	M Meehan
READER	B Kimpan	P Salisbury	A Cherwa	P Russo	B Startt
EPISCOPAL EUCHARISTIC	C Mills	N Felton	D Dickerson	N Ragland	J Tucker
ACOLYTES	N Nichter	T Frey	B McDaniel	B Hormuth	T Frey
ALTAR GUILD	Nichter	Startt	S Delaney	Frey	Lowe
COUNTERS	L Pace & K Nichter	S Stanley & M Meehan	G Leighton & P Russo	K Nichter & M Mills	L Startt & M Cherwa

February	6	13	20	27
WORSHIP COORD.	J Flowers	J Flowers	J Flowers	J Flowers
LECTOR	D Dickerson	K Ashby	B Startt	J Mancuso
READER	G Leighton	C Mills	L Startt	N Ragland
EPISCOPAL EUCHARISTIC MIN.	J Tucker	N Felton	A Cherwa	B Startt
ACOLYTES	N Nichter	T Frey	W & B McDaniel	B Hormuth
ALTAR GUILD	Nichter & Lowe	Startt	S Delaney	Frey
COUNTERS	L Pace & K Meeks	K Nichter & S Stanley	L Startt & P Russo	M Cherwa & M Meehan

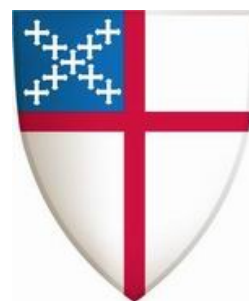


One Worship Service; Two Liturgies

BEGINS AT 10:30 a.m.

**Attend in person
or watch on Facebook Live**

We were established 43 years ago to be a symbol of ecumenism honoring both the Roman Catholic and Episcopal traditions. We have One Worship Service with Two Liturgies. Our worship is designed for you to experience both traditions. As a sign of our commitment to Christian unity, we ask everyone to remain for both liturgies.



Use this link to get to our You Tube Account : [Church of the Holy Apostles in Virginia Beach - YouTube](#)



A Message from Deacon Gary continued.....

He said where we are in the ecumenical movement is in a slow period and have been for almost 20 years. Few large steps have occurred between religious denominations since the 1990s. He pointed out there has been almost no meetings between groups since the pandemic. I bring this up, because I see and feel this at Holy Apostles. Dr. Root did not have a "fix" for this situation, but said you cannot rush the process.

Perhaps if the LARCUM Conference started the month out on a somber note, then it ended on an upbeat note with our annual Lessons and Carols and Nativity play. Watching our youth reenact the birth of Jesus with angels and wise men was heartwarming and uplifting. A BIG thank you to all participants, but especially the Kimpans for preparing the kids for the play (despite the limited rehearsal time). Nothing says Christmas more than carols and nativity scenes.

2022 will offer its own set of challenges and rewards, but by remaining faithful we persevere because Jesus will always see us through.

In Christ,

Deacon Gary



A Message from Fr. Mario

My siblings in Christ,

I'm sharing the following with you now because who knows what next week will "bring," if you know what I mean, haha.

I adapted the following from another priest on what to say/do when we get visitors at Holy Apostles:

"three-pew ministry"

When you are at Mass, you are sitting in a pew, and you have a pew behind and a pew in front of you. This is your mission field. If you are seated by someone you don't know and get a chance, introduce yourself to them. Use something like, "I'm Parochianus, and I don't think we've met." That way, you don't have to worry about whether the person has been a member since forever, you're just saying you haven't met. Do your best to remember his or her name.

If you discover that he or she is a visitor, you are commissioned by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit to:

1. Introduce them to the clergy at the door. "Father, this is Hospes, who is visiting with us today."
2. Personally lead them to the reception after Mass. "Hospes, I'm going to the fellowship for a cup of coffee, won't you be my guest?" If they don't want to do so, they'll say they have plans; or some other time perhaps.
3. Introduce them to at least three other people at coffee hour (name tags are helpful here!), and particularly to those with whom they might have something in common. For instance, if they have young children, you might introduce them to those with similar circumstances.

To these I would now add a fourth:

4. When you take your leave of a visitor, ask them to come back. I simply say, "It was great meeting you, I hope you will come back!"

What do you think? Have a blessed day, week, month year.

Fr. (Padre) Mario P. Melendez



Vestry Council 2021-2022 Annual Goals:

Christian Unity Goal:

To investigate and develop a cohesive and ecumenically-focused submission to the Synod of Bishops; to increase understanding of why ecumenism holds special significance for our community; and to become a more visible ecumenical partner in the community.

Objective 1: Create an ad-hoc committee composed of Holy Apostles parishioners that will provide an official submission to the Synod of Bishops call for input.

Responsible Party: All committees, clergy, parishioners

Objective 2: Increase visibility of Church of the Holy Apostles as an ecumenical/interfaith community through active representation and participation at ecumenical and community activities as sponsors/co-sponsors/active participants.

Membership and Outreach Goal:

Continue to communicate Holy Apostles' mission and vision by increasing external exposure of our church to the community through varied media sources and in-person events.

Objective 1: Mail advertising flyers to different local communities to increase awareness of Holy Apostles at least once per quarter.

Responsible parties: Administration - Communications; Christian Unity

Objective 2: Submit a news article to the Catholic Virginian, Episcopal Diocesan Newsletter, and the Virginia Media family of newspapers at least once per quarter. Identify at least one ecumenical outreach event to be offered for coverage by local TV news outlets.

Stewardship/Social Ministry Goal:

Increase parishioner participation in Stewardship activities at Holy Apostles and optimize the Social Ministry funds to maximize output in supporting community assistance opportunities.

Objective 1: Increase level of parishioner participation in at least one Stewardship activity to 75% of active parishioners.

Objective 2: Apply for and submit applications to all eligible/available grant opportunities on time. Optimize the utilization of focused discretionary funds and received grant funding to best support and serve the local community to the maximum extent possible throughout the year.



2022 Pledges

Thank you to everyone who completed their pledges of Time, Talent, and Treasure. Please submit your pledges this week so that we can complete our 2022 budget.

**Whoever you are and wherever you are in your spiritual and personal life,
we welcome you to the Ecumenical Community of Holy Apostles.**



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Amy Stanley	1	Colin Hamilton	15
Charlie Dawson	7	Brittney McDaniel	17
M Hatcher	10	Bonnie Startt	26
Colette Lo	10	Steven Hale	28
Anne Martin	10	Ann Delaney	31
D Perez	10		

Prayer for a Birthday: O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Our Mission

Remembering that we, as a unique community of Episcopalians and Roman Catholics, are entrusted with a vision of God's action in His people, we declare that we have been called to a new venture in the history of the Church.

As the Church of the Holy Apostles, we are called to be a living sign of the Church's efforts toward organic unity, and to promote ecumenical ventures among Christian bodies. We are called to share the gifts of ministry with one another, and to be channels of God's love in the world by involving ourselves with all others.

As apostles, we commit ourselves to build community by discovering our wants and needs and those of others through calling members to share their gifts freely and to grow; by nurturing in faith and tradition; by celebrating renewed life together in worship and fellowship.

We commit ourselves to spread the Good News of our life in Jesus Christ, who calls us into oneness.

Stay Connected

For pastoral care, please call or email your clergy

Fr. Mario: 706-631-6299 - mpmelend@bu.edu
Deacon Gary: 757-735-2227 - garyharmeyer@gmail.com

COMMUNION IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

IF YOU CAN'T COME TO US, WE WILL COME TO YOU.



Mark Your Calendars



Join us each Tuesday from 10 AM to 11 AM
January 4, 11, 18, 25

Tuesday Zumba Gold at 1 PM

Zumba Gold was created for seniors. It's fun, but less intense! Zumba Gold is a modified Zumba class for active older adults. Join instructor Nancy Rojas each Tuesday for one hour of fun and fitness.

Only \$5 per class. Participants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Thursday PLARN Group Works Together

Join the fun from 9 AM -11 AM on Thursday. Plarn is the process of turning plastic grocery bags into yarn. We give the plastic yarn (Plarn) to volunteers at Essential Church who use it to crochet sleeping mats for homeless kids. Please join us for conversation and laughter while making a difference.



Mangia Qui - Great food and fellowship

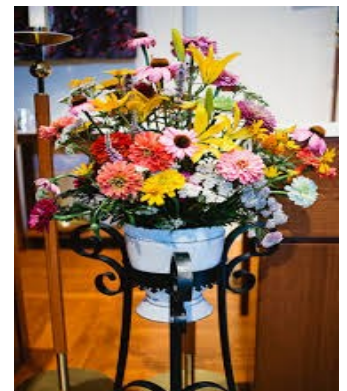
Please join us for great food and fellowship at Mangia Qui on the last Sunday of each month. Our September date for fun, conversation, and pasta is **Sunday**, January 30th The staff will begin taking orders at 1 pm. Please sign up in the hallway.

Mangia Qui, 5550 Independence Blvd, Virginia Beach

Altar Flower Donations

Fresh flowers add immensely to our worship service. Celebrate a special birthday, wedding anniversary, or dedicate flowers in honor or memory of a loved one.

To donate flowers, complete a flower form or call the office and donate \$45.



Hats Sales Support the Discretionary Fund

Holy Apostles ball caps are on sale for only \$25.



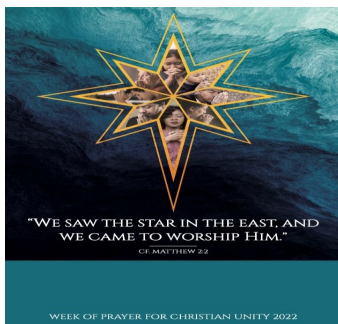
Ecumenism

LARCUM COVENANT

The unity of the church is the gift of the Spirit and a task of the church. We hereby call into covenant our respective Synods, Dioceses, and Conferences and commit ourselves to the following actions. In behalf of the unity of the church, we will:

1. Pray for each other, particularly at the principal Sunday celebration;
2. Sponsor seasonal prayer services, especially during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity;
3. Encourage shared lectionary studies;

(Read the full text of 20 actions in the LARCUM Covenant. Copies are available in the office.)



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18-25

"We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship Him." (cf. Matthew 2:2)

The power of prayer and solidarity with those who suffer is a demonstration of Christian unity and a sign of communion.

Visit The Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute for more information on how we can prayer together.

About Inter Church Families

'Where better than in a marriage between persons of different traditions of the faith to begin to work at the hard but vital task of making love between the traditions? By demonstrating the real possibility of conversation between and about the traditions in the context of a marriage we can begin to incarnate, to realize, to make a reality of the love we have for one another in the love we show to our respective Christian traditions. Kenneth Wilson in "Making Love: the first rule of marriage"

Source: interchurchfamilies.org

Christian Ecumenical Network (CEN)

Follow CEN on Facebook and join the 122 followers who are helping to promote Christian Unity.

<https://www.facebook.com/CENChristianTidewater/>

CEN's mission is to promote Christian unity, while sharing and strengthening individual traditions and beliefs. We serve as a network, through fellowship, prayer and communication, for education, dialogue, celebrations and ministry. We offer a feel good message with an emphasis on Ecumenism.



If you want to help or learn more about Christian Unity/Ecumenism, please contact Charlie Mills, Jo-Anne Blessing, or any member of Vestry Council.



Membership / Outreach

Update on Mayom Family by Anne Martin

William and Mary Kay Mayom send their Best Wishes and Hope for the New Year. All six (yes that is 6 now) children (Deng, Mayom, Yar, Ayen, Ajok, and Agok) are staying well. Agok (girl born January 2021) is thriving and she is beautiful--all the children are beautiful/handsome. Mary Kay says that Yar is certainly the boss of the girls. The school age children are attending in-person school; all are very smart. They are members of St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Norfolk. William continues to work at Naval Shipbuilding in Newport News as an Electrician. They are very thankful for their healthy family and are so appreciative of our continued support. They keep in touch by phone and they always ask about Holy Apostles. Their relatives in Kenya (Refugee Camp) and in South Sudan are trying to stay healthy during this Pandemic. As we all know Africa is suffering on many levels. Please continue to keep this special family and their homeland (South Sudan) in your thoughts.

Utility and Rent Assistance

We provide \$50 once a year for residents of Virginia Beach who need assistance with their water, gas or electric bills and now, \$100 once a year for rent assistance. These funds are provided by the **Discretionary Fund**, grants from Catholic and Episcopal Dioceses and generous donations from members of Holy Apostles. **Your donations to The Discretionary Fund are greatly appreciated.** And many thanks to Nick Nichter for his ministry. **Utility and Rent Assistance is provided the 2nd & 4th Wednesday from 1-3 pm.**



Manna Pantry January 10-14

Thank you to everyone who supports the Manna Food Pantry. Your time, talent, and treasure are truly appreciated.

We currently need the food items listed to the right, \$10 Food Lion Gift Cards, or general financial donations for the purchase of meat and cheese. Donate to "Manna" through online giving or by check.

Thank you for supporting the Manna Program and helping our neighbors in need.

MANNA SHOPPING LIST

- ⇒ Canned vegetables
- ⇒ Canned fruit
- ⇒ Canned meat
- ⇒ Canned beans
- ⇒ Canned soup
- ⇒ Pasta sauce (no pasta needed)
- ⇒ Cereal
- ⇒ Pancake mix
- ⇒ Syrup
- ⇒ Snacks bars
- ⇒ Grape jelly
- ⇒ Mustard
- ⇒ Ketchup
- ⇒ Ramen noodles
- ⇒ Coffee
- ⇒ Tea