The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

8462 General Puller Highway P.O. Box 38 Topping, Virginia 23169 Phone:(804) 758-5160 Fax: (804)758-0676 E-Mail: churchofthevisitation@va.metrocast.net Website: www.church-of-the-visitation.org



1st Sunday of Advent November 27, 2022

Year A

PARISH MINISTRIES

Worship/Liturgy: Germaine Hayes Justice & Peace: Eileen Wagner Religious Education: Eileen O'Brien Parish Life: Johnna Harris Adult Formation: John Weidner RCIA: Louise Petralia Pastoral Care: Lynne Richardson Administration, Ray Kostesky

FINANCE COUNCIL

John Charbeneau Lisa Forte Debby Harriman Ray Kostesky-Chairman Fritz Sitterding

<u>Church Hours</u>

Sunday Mass 9AM Wednesday Daily Mass 9AM Thursday Daily Mass 9AM

Parish Office Hours 9AM-2PM Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

> Pastor, Gerald Kaggwa 119 Club Drive Hartfield, VA 23071 Phone: 804-286-9271

PARISH COUNCIL

Steve Forte Kevin Hayes Cindy Jessee Kathy Kauffman-Vice Chair Roseanne Moncure-Secretary Spike Nunn Cindy Powers Kathy Swinehart Mary Sychterz John Weidner-Chair

Church Secretary, Andrea Moore Webmaster/IT, Mike Dreelin

MASS/MUSIC

Advent Candle Song is inside the bulletin-top left.

Entrance: O Come O Come Emmanuel #39

Lord Have Mercy #913 Glory To God #914

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord **Second Reading:** Romans 13:11-14

Gospel Acclamation: Show us, Lord your love; and grant us your salvation.

 Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44
 Homily: Father Gerry Kaggwa

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful: Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Advent Of Our King #59

Holy: #917

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this bread, and drink this cup we proclaim your death O Lord until we meet again.

Lord's Prayer: page 26

Lamb of God: #922

Communion: Waiting In Silence #51

Mediation: Beyond The Moon And Stars #48

Recessional: In The Day Of The Lord #580



December Birthdays

 1st-Tom Shoemaker, 4th-Mike Ballato, 5th-Louise Petralia, 8th-Frank Lohr, 11th-Vera England, 12th-Jerry Suyes, 16th-Cindy Powers, 18th-Lynne McMurtrie & Mary Dorman,
 19th-Lois Kramb, 22th-Linda Gray, 23rd-Christine Williams, 25th-Colleen Hoffman, 26th-Tom Hawksworth, 27th-Betsy Brown, Anne Costello & Patricia Figueroa, 31st-Doug Olson.

If you would like to add your name to the Birthday/Anniversary list please contact the office.

DECEMBER 2022

Ist-Chuck & Carol Walsh, 8th-Robert & Paula Wilson, 14th-Bob & Ingrid Borden, 20th-Fritz & Peper Heunemann, 22nd-Branch & Michele Meanley, 30th-Bill & Donna Brandl.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Today-First Sunday of Advent (year A begins) December 4th-Second Sunday of Advent

"Christmas Party" Brunch following Mass December 8th-Immaculate Conception (Holy Day) 9:00am December 11th-Third Sunday of Advent "Gaudette Sunday" December 18th-4th Sunday of Advent December 24th-Christmas Eve Mass 7pm/6:30-Sing a long December 25th-Christmas Day January 1st-Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God January 8th-Epiphany of the Lord <u>Community Leader</u> Kevin Hayes

<u>Altar Server</u> Steve Forte

November 27, 2022

<u>Lectors</u> Mary Ellen Sherwood/Tom Dorman

Sacristan: Sandi Delagrange

Extraordinary Minister for Holy Communion Mary Dorman/Eileen O'Brien <u>Music Cantor</u> Marianne Krop <u>Collection Counters</u> Harris/Davenport

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from November 20, 2022

Collection:	\$ 2,719
Second Collection: Archdiocese of Military Services	\$ 371
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 50,139
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 49,457

There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week: \$1,861 Pastor and Rectory expenses for October.

LEGACY GIFTS

It will be December 31st Before You Know It!: You still have time to make a gift to our parish! If you have an IRA and you're 72 years old or older, your can make a gift to our parish through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your December 2010 Potential



IRS. Consider this: federal tax law *now* allows you to make a distribution of up to \$1000,000 each year from your IRA to a qualifying charity and it may not be subject to federal income tax.

Giving through your IRA is EASY! To learn how you can make an impact through your IRA right now, contact your financial advisor or Maggie Keenan at the Catholic Community Foundation 804-622-5221 or <u>mkeenan@richmonddiocese.org</u>.

IMPORTANT: Please make your gift as soon as possible so you can ensure it is received by December 31st!

Lector workbooks are ready for pick up on the admin table in the Narthex.

INVITATION FROM FdS

The St. Francis de Sales community of Mathews has initiated the first Friday Sacred Heart Devotion and the first Saturday Fatima Devotion on a monthly basis. On Friday December 2nd Mass will be held at 9am followed by an hour of Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. On Saturday, December 3rd, we will honor the Fatima Devotion starting with the Rosary at 9:30am followed by Mass at 10am. All are welcome. Please join us. For more information call

Joan Dawson (804)725-8400 or Mary Flaherty (718) 309-2459

<u>ROSARY</u>

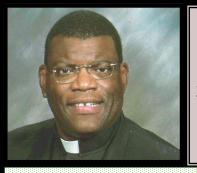
Please join us as we pray the rosary every Sunday before Mass. We begin at 8:30 am in the new worship area & we welcome all to join in this beautiful devotional prayer.

No experience necessary!

We have books and rosary beads available for use.



If you have any questions please see Cindy Jessee.



FATHER JOHN BODDIE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of our pastor and friend, Fr. John Boddie, from whom flowed love and kindness to all who knew him. May his soul rest in peace. Money from these ads are used as scholarships given to the youth of our church. Please make your checks payable to <u>THE FR. JOHN BODDIE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.</u> Checks and ads can be deposited in the church office. The charge per space is \$100. Thank you for your continued support. *The Scholarship Committee*

Website for scholarship application: <u>tcfrichmond.org</u> Application deadline: Early March 2023

<u>SUPPORTER OF OUR FATHER</u> JOHN BODDIE SCHOLARSHIP Vera & John England Christine & Peggy Williams Kathy Kauffman Tommy & Donna Lange John & Diane Weidner	In Loving Memory of Bob and Catherine Borden Fred and Betty Meister	Ad space available
Mike & Gretchen Borzelleca Dave & Emily Filippi Frank & Terry Sisto Cynthia & Chuck Taylor Charles & Louise Hartz Jim Angell Lynne McMurtrie Terry Skovera	In memory of <i>Mollie McMurtrie</i> my long time friend. I will miss you. <i>JoAnn Nolte</i>	Ad space available
Don Tyrrell Joe Sychterz Don & Barbara Ross Norbert & Kathryn Bliley Richard & Mary Sue Dougherty	In loving memory of Joseph H. Nolte Jr. Forever, JoAnn	WE SALUTE THE YOUTH OF OUR CHURCH AND THEIR IMPORTANT JOURNEY <i>Carmen & Joe Brinkley</i>

CHURCH ACTIVITIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND SACRAMENTAL EVENTS

Below is a condensed list of such items. For more details, consult our Ministry Catalogue or call the office.

BAPTISM/MARRIAGE: Please contact the parish office to arrange an appointment for celebrating the sacrament of Baptism/Marriage

CATECHUMENS: RCIA invites people of all ages interested in becoming Catholics through Baptism/Eucharist and Confirmation.

<u>SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING</u>: Celebrated 2x a year-Spring & Fall or by appointment. Please call the parish office.

<u>SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION</u>: Held during Lent and Advent as well as by appointment. Please call the parish office.

<u>SICK CALLS</u>: Please call the Office at any time. We will also bring Holy Communion to anyone who is unable to attend Mass.

HOLY DAYS: Please call the office for times or check our website.

<u>PRISON MINISTRY</u>: Please call the office if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

<u>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS</u>: Knights of Columbus meet the third Wednesday of each month beginning with the Rosary at 5:45PM and the meeting starting 6:00PM, followed by a social with wives and guests at 7:00PM. All are welcome. The KOC are willing to provide transportation to any church activities. Call Grand Knight Bill Brandl.

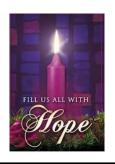
<u>RECYCLABLE CANS</u>: Church of the Visitation recycles cans, with profits going to Church ministries. Bring your aluminum cans to the bin outside, by the yard sale building.

<u>ROSARY MINISTRY</u>: Sunday morning before Mass, 8:30am New Worship Area. No experience necessary. Books & Rosary available.

Advent Candle Song

Light the Advent Candle one. Now the waiting has begun. We have started on our way. Time to think of Christmas Day.

Candle, candle, burning bright, Shining in the cold winter night. Candle, candle, burning bright, Fill our hearts with Advent light.



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL (BRUNCH)

In a departure from past years' practices, our Christmas Social will be held next Sunday, December 4th, with a brunch after Mass. We are planning to serve ham rolls and egg dishes. Please bring your favorite Christmas recipe to share with fellow parishioners. Please contact Johnna Harris or Lynne Dreelin if you have any questions.

CHOIR INVITATION

The choir is preparing for the annual Christmas Eve Sing-a-Long, the Christmas Eve Mass and Christmas Day Mass. We welcome any singers and/or instrumentalists. We practice Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8 o'clock. This is a great time to be part of the choir. For more information call

MARY'S CHOICE RVA BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Mary's Choice RVA is a new maternity home in Richmond that offers housing and support for women in crisis pregnancies. This ministry desperately needs funds to aid the mothers who choose life. Please pick up an empty baby bottle in the narthex and fill it with loose coins, cash or checks to directly benefit these mothers and their babies. Return your filled baby bottles to the basket in the narthex by December 18.

Donations may be made directly to Mary's Choice RVA through its website at <u>maryschoicerva.org</u>. Thank you.

NOVEMBER MEMORIALS

As the month comes to a close, we thank those who placed a photo of a loved one(s) on our memorial table and/or deposited a purple slip in the prayer basket as a means of remembrance. For those who chose to place a photo there, please remember to pick it up after Mass.

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, it is with humility and a grateful heart that I write you this note of Thanks. Thanking you for your generosity towards St. Noa School Water Project. I am without words, your response to this crisis was beyond my imagination.

Because of your generous hearts, the Well is now functioning and pumps approximately 5000 liters in the morning and in the evening, enough to for the children and teachers. The Lord is Great!

Thanks to all who have generously donated and those who continue to donate towards this project.

I am proud to be part of this loving community and pray that you continue to be witnesses to the message of Christ, which is love with no boundaries.

Thank you and may God bless you all during this festive season.

ADVENT-Year A

Today we begin the season of Advent. As our tradition, we will begin Mass with the singing of the Advent Candle Song. Available on the administration table are the Word Among Us and an Advent calendar for your use. Please take one of each home to help you prepare for His coming.

General Background on the Season

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Chris' Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

Advent Wreath

The use of the Advent wreath has become a popular practice in the Church. The Advent Wreath should be large enough to be visible to the members of the assembly in a given church building. In some churches, it is suspended from the celling. Others use a stand or a table for the wreath and candles. If the Advent Wreath is placed in or near the presbyterium (Sanctuary), it should not be placed in such a way as to interfere with the ritual actions of the liturgy or obscure the visibility of the altar, ambo, or presider's chair.

Vestments

The color of the Season of Advent is violet. In order to distinguish between Advent and lent, the bluer hues of violet may be used. Rose colored vesture will be worn on the Third Sunday of Advent, which is termed *Gaudete Sunday*.

ANGEL TREE UPDATE

Thank you to all those who picked up a tag & became an Angel last Sunday. If you didn't get a tag, but want to help, there maybe Angels who would love to share, please contact Mary Sychterz at 804-815-0353, or <u>mlsychterz@yahoo.com</u>.

For those that picked up tags, please remember:

- 1. The ideas listed on the tags are suggestions. Purchase one, purchase all, or purchase something you feel that child would like.
- 2. All items must be new.
- 3. All items must be wrapped.
- 4. Securely attached the tag to the package/s or gift bag.
- 5. Return all items together no later than Sunday, Dec 11th.

Fr. Gerry Kaggwa



First Sunday of Advent "A" 11/27/2022

Today the Church begins a New Liturgical Year with the season of Advent. The term Advent is 2 words put together. AD means towards. VENT from the Latin verb venire: to come. So, Advent means towards the coming or Arrival.

Advent reminds us of the 3 comings of Jesus, the First was his being born in Bethlehem, which is what Christmas celebrates. The Second Coming is right now as each day he comes to us. He knocks on our doors through the sacraments of the Church, through others, through the events of our lives, etc. He comes to us in ways that are so ordinary that often we miss these. Like a visit we receive from someone when we feel a bit low or a compliment from another when I do something good. Or again, a challenge from someone when I may be behaving in a way that is not life-giving for myself or others. Have I made room for him or my life is so filled up that I have no place for him. The Third coming will be his coming at the end of time.

Advent is also a time of learning. The first reading today is from the prophet Isaiah. He invites us to go to God in order that 'he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths'. Isaiah spells this out for us as we wait for Jesus to come. He invites us to hammer our swords into ploughshares and our spears into sickles, the tools for harvesting. What swords do we have and use towards others in our daily lives? Maybe the swords of unforgiveness, the swords of anger, of selfishness, threats, discrimination, or our influence on others, etc. etc. St. Paul in the second reading invites us to throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light which is: courage, truth, integrity, compassion, and love.

So, Jesus comes and surprises us at the least unexpected hour especially in our daily encounters with those he gives us as brothers and sisters. Waiting for the Lord does not take us out of history, but it involves us more in it, since God has come and is in our midst.

Advent invites us to ask ourselves "In what direction are we going as we make our way towards the coming of Son of God?" Hopefully the answer will be "Towards Jesus, towards peace and solidarity with everyone, a desire we all share".

Jesus says to his listeners: "Stay awake because you do not know the hour when your Lord will be coming". And he uses two little examples from their history to remind us about the unexpected coming of Christ.

We must beware of seeing today's readings of this First Sunday of Advent as a kind invitation from the Lord to us. In fact, Jesus, who loves us passionately and unconditionally, is concerned only for our well-being, for our good. This is the Good News. He came into our world to reveal to us God's total love for us and showed us, through his teachings and his life, what leads to true peace and joy begin-

ning right now. Today's readings are not to cause fear in our hearts, but to allow hope to take over more and more in the place of fear. Jesus is encouraging us to do this by staying alert. The coming of the Christ was and is the best of good news, a gift beyond imagining! It calls for joy and gratitude. Our response should not be fear, but hope, readiness, and gratitude that Our Lord is coming to dwell among us.



Very Reverend Gerry Kaggwa V.F

Please Remember in your Prayers

Bob Hartman, Mike Melancon, John Banks, Bill Marks, Sharon Vajda & Elsie Zent

PARISHIONERS

Tom Shoemaker, Tom & Bea Foley, Jack King, Shelley Katsuki, Steve Forte, Donna Thompson, Paul Pearce, Eileen O'Brien, Laurie King, Cherianne Johnson, Spike & Becky Nunn, Jim Moncure, Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Michele Meanley, Jack & Louise Petralia, Grace Anderson, Natalie Smith, Pat Paul, Margaret Hock, Anne Dunn, Tom & Cindy Jessee, Mike Lokie, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawksworth, Nancy Wirth, Bettie Hodge, Bob & Ingrid Borden, Bill & Linda Gray & Pat Reamy.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Barbara Guerrein, Bridgie Graham-Smith, Patton family, Tony & Sandy Alter, Vicky Hogge, Ruth Heunemann, Billy Geier, Sarah Gutierrez, Coach Paul Webb, Debra & Brittney Sanders, Tristan Blake, Sue & Lisa Ferari, Jennen Palm, Jenifer Anderson, Larry Hersh, Beth Edward Bailey, Shirley Schultz, Judy Kramb, Joseph J. Los, Arnold Fahrman, Ramon Placiente, Jillian Messina, Karen Tatum, Dave Hersh, Mike Shea, Pam Tibbs, Sherry Newton, Aquela Parker, Bernie Smith, Virginia Talke, Doris Melancon, Dominick Perry, Doug Meuse, Michele Brune, Noele & Mike Anglin, Anita Bomberger, Drinkwater Family, Kathy Shepherd, Suzanne Whelan, Jim Rundle, Rundle -Kehl family, Doris & Arthur Green, Rachel, Brian & Marcus Pittman, Robbie Beasley, Mary Gray, Denis Popp, PJ Schwedler, John Calvin Barnard, Michael Reamy, Natash Walsh, Michele MacFarland, LC Warren, Andy Hetzer.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Jim & Inga Peddicord, Hunter Jacobs, Chuck Wolfe, Audrey Grimes, Reece Kain, Budzinski family, Margaret Williams, Tabby Mullings, Joseph Parisi, Julie & Harvey Caldwell, Mike Felts, Lynn Gillikin, Cody Braegelmann, Emily Haikin, Verna Masey, Mike McLemore, Dave Gunn, Louise & Jim Shockey, Mindy Miller & Ahmet Anday, Ron & Georgia Beville, George Adams, Lynn & Jim Vajda, Christine & Henry Archuleta, Charles Carter, Pam Sands, Kathy Goyne, William Scott Smith, Eddie Hall, David Smith, Sandy Bruce, Matt & Marianna Parowski, Gene Tunney Walker, Joe McInerney, The Butt Family, Peg Meushaw, Dave Gunn, Chuck Taylor, Paula Harcum, Cathy Kirkland, Rita Blommel, Linda Cryer, Tyra Freed.

If you need to add to the prayer list please call the office, email, or leave a note in the box outside the office. Remember to put family or friend by their name.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

Recently, we have encountered several instances of the misuse of utilities or a failure to safeguard the premises, after a parish entity, group, or even an individual has used our building.

Notably, lights are left on, the heat is left on high or air conditioning set low, or an outside door left open. If you are using the building after normal office hours, please be vigilant about these things and ensure we have a secure building that's not lighted, heated, or cooled unnecessarily.

We all share a responsibility to shepherd our resources. Thank you





Supporting Our Youth

Celebrate Every Life

Loving Memory Alma and Fritz Sitterding





When someone you love becomes a memory the memory becomes a treasure.

Jerry McMurtrie

Faulkner Funeral Homes & Cremation Services PO Box 228 Saluda, VA 23149 bhogge@faulknerfuneralhcs.com 804-758-2315

In support of our Youth Scholarship Fund

Richard and Marilyn Cox

"ANYWAY PRAYER" People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; forgive them anyway. f you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway f you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies; succeed anyway f you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; build it anyway. f you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; give the world the best you've got anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway Breathe in Love,

We Support The Youth Scholarship John & Carol McCormack







Loving Memory of Bobby Warren

Your Family Arlene, L.C., Faye, Caitlyn & Courtlyr

"Gone but not to be forgotten"



SAINT THERESA OF CALCUTTA'S

Exhale Peace.





In Loving Memory of "Vinnie Recupido" Barbara Hollingsworth

TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH. THEIR DREAMS, & OUR FUTURE.

Lynne & Gary Richardson

For the love and blessings of Christ given through vocations.

> Thank You Lord Art & Carol Smith

In Loving Memory Of

David E. Brinkley

In Loving Memory of "Vincent Recupido" Dolores

> Thanks for always supporting us in everything we do! Emily & Anna

