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



2nd Sunday of Advent December 4, 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

Church Hours

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

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Entrance: O Come O Come Emmanuel #39

Glory To God #914 Lord Have Mercy #913

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Responsorial Psalm: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel Acclamation: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his

paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12` Homily: Father Gerry Kaggwa

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful: Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Christ Be Our Light #601

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: Like A Shepherd #616 Mediation: Christ Before Us #412 Recessional: Ready The Way #63







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



1st-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-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

January 15th-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gary Richardson

Community Leader

Joe Sychterz

Holy Communion Altar Server Lynne Dreelin/Tom Dorman December 4, 2022

Music Cantor Jan Smith

Collection Counters O'Brien/Smith

Extraordinary Minister for

Sacristan: Sandi Delagrange

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from November 27, 2022

\$ 2.171

Second Collection:

Becky Nunn/Mike Ballato

Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 52,310 Total Budget Projection: \$ 51,255

Our Second Collection today is for Christmas Flowers.

We signed the following principal checks this week: \$295 Christmas Decorations; \$264 Parish Life and Office supplies.

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 maryschoicerva.org. Mary's Choice RVA Any questions see Cindy Jessee.



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 Carol McCormack.

CHOIR INVITATION

ANGEL TREE UPDATE

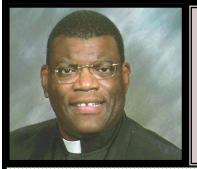
ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE NEXT SUNDAY - December 11th.

- The ideas listed on the tags are suggestions. Purchase one, purchase all, or purchase something you feel that child would like.
- All items must be new.
- All items must be wrapped.
- Securely attached the tag to the package/s or gift bag.
- Contact Mary Sychterz for questions/concerns: 804-815-0353, or mlsychterz@yahoo.com

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL (BRUNCH)

Our Christmas Social will be held today, December 4th, with a runch 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.





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 THE FR. JOHN BODDIE SCHOLARSHIP FUND. 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: www.church-of-the-visitation.org Application deadline: Early March 2023

SUPPORTER OF OUR FATHER JOHN BODDIE SCHOLARSHIP

Vera & John England Christine & Peggy Williams Kathy Kauffman Tommy & Donna Lange John & Diane Weidner Mike & Gretchen Borzelleca Dave & Emily Filippi Frank & Terry Sisto Cynthia & Chuck Taylor Charles & Louise Hartz Iim Angell Lynne McMurtrie Terry Skovera Don Tyrrell Joe Sychterz Don & Barbara Ross Norbert & Kathryn Bliley Richard & Mary Sue Dougherty

In Loving Memory of Bob and Catherine Borden Fred and Betty Meister

Ad space available

In memory of Mollie McMurtrie my long time friend. I will miss you. JoAnn Nolte

Ad space available

In loving memory of Joseph H. Nolte Jr.



Forever. JoAnn

WE SALUTE THE YOUTH OF OUR CHURCH AND THEIR IMPORTANT JOURNEY

Carmen & Joe Brinkley

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.

<u>BAPTISM/MARRIAGE</u>: 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.

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

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

SICK CALLS: 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.

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: 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.

RECYCLABLE CANS: 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.

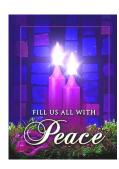
ROSARY MINISTRY: Sunday morning before Mass, 8:30am New Worship Area. No experience necessary. Books & Rosary available.

Advent Candle Song

2nd Sunday, Dec 4th

Light the Advent Candle two. Think of humble shepherds who Filled with wonder at the sight Of the Child on Christmas night.

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



CONGRADULATIONS



Today we welcome Josiah Reffo into the full communion of Catholic Church. It is the first time he has joined us at the Eucharistic Table of the Lord. Please take a moment after Mass to let him know how happy we are to have him as a member of the COV family. Congratulations Josiah!

ADVENT-Year A

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.

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 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.

Father Gerry

OPERATION CHRISTMAS AT COV

A few weeks ago we packed over 60 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. All the children from our faith formation packed multiple boxes, and other members of the congregation joined in as well. This would not have been possible without all the generous donations and the enthusiasm of the children. Thank you everyone who helped make this possible! Shelley Katsuki













The Second Sunday of Advent 'A', 12/4/2022

It is true that salvation is God's doing, and we cannot earn it. We are saved by His grace. But it is also true that one has to cooperate with God's grace because God cannot force Himself upon us. That is why John the Baptist in today's Gospel summons us to play our essential part by leading lives of repentance, conversion, and renewal, thus preparing the way for the Lord's coming into our lives by repentance and good works. John the Baptist warns us of thinking that we are entitled to God's salvation. No, we are not entitled to it, but we are supposed to be active participants in God's plan of saving us.

The message for the Second Sunday of Advent is "prepare" or, more precisely, "Don't presume; instead prepare." We have been brought into the Christian faith through the merciful gift of God that is our baptism. When we refuse to live our faith, we are treating our baptism as a mere ritual act, which is insufficient if we do not live according to what we believe. We are entitled to nothing other than the fruit of our Active Christian life.

The first reading describes how God will reform the lives of His Chosen People by sending the Messiah. Because of the bad example of the unfaithful successors of King David, the Chosen People were wavering in their loyalty to Yahweh. Hence, in the first reading, the Lord God, through His prophet, Isaiah, tries to dispel their fears and to stir up *hope* among His people with His promise of a new King (a son of Jesse), who will establish peace and a glorious Kingdom of justice on earth. Things would be different when he comes. People would live in peace and the earth would truly be a glorious place in which to be.

In the second reading, Paul is praying for the reform of the Christian people, giving them encouragement to endure in following the laws of God. They are to live in harmony with Gentile Christians, accepting them as equal, brothers and sisters, while they wait together for the second coming of Jesus.

The same message in the Gospel, John the Baptist urges the Pharisees and Sadducees to give evidence that they mean to reform their lives so as to recognize and be ready to meet and accept the promised Messiah. He challenges them to repentance, conversion, and renewal. He tells the common people, who expect the Messiah to come soon, to act with justice and charity, letting their lives reflect the transformation that will occur when the Messiah enters their lives.

John's invitation is: "prepare the way of the Lord." He called them and us to repent today by acknowledging our sins and by changing our ways. The word 'repent' is best understood as a new way of looking at life. Ultimately it means looking at life and people through the eyes of Jesus. John also reminds us that deeds not mere words are what are required. He says that if we are repentant, we must produce appropriate fruit. That the axe will be laid to the roots of the trees so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. These are challenging words indeed because for John our conversion has to be seen in action, expressed in our lives.

Advent then is the season of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ

into our hearts in a new way. But Jesus cannot come into our hearts if we don't welcome him. We won't be able to do this if our hearts are full up of all that does not lead to true happiness. That is why John's call, in today's gospel to repent is so important. It implies a change of attitude since without conversion it is impossible to welcome Christ. John reminds us that the change he is asking of us is not something superficial; something done by complying with external rituals. John demanded that we show the fruits of our repentance. Fruits of our active faith.



Very Reverend Gerry Kaggwa V.F

Please Remember in your Prayers

Eleanor Smith, Mary Lou Miller, Joe Tyler & Jean Cameron

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, 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

Sharon Armstrong, 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

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



In Loving Memory Of

Alma and Fritz Sitterding

Supporting Our Youth



In Loving Memory of Bobby Warren

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

"Gone but not to be forgotten"

In Loving Memory of "Vinnie Recupido"

Barbara Hollingsworth



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

Jerry McMurtrie

Bill MacLean



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

Lynne & Gary Richardson



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For the love and blessings of Christ given through vocations.

Thank You Lord *Art & Carol Smith*

In support of our Youth Scholarship Fund

Richard and Marilyn Cox

SAINT THERESA OF CALCUTTA'S "ANYWAY PRAYER"

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies; succeed anyway.

If 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.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; be happy anyway.

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

> LOOVE. PEACE

Breathe in Love, Exhale Peace. 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



DEBBY AND ED HARRIMAN

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God will make a way for me"

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In Memory of Thomas R. Shepherd, Jr. and Thomas R. Shepherd III

In Memory of Lavonne Pearce 1st Secretary of COV Volunteer

In Memory of Вов Hartman My Love of My Life Jenny

In loving memory of Marty Hawksworth

Tom & Sharon

Thank you for supporting our education

Michael, Colin, Kathryn, John & Kevin Walsh

Frank & Gerrie Lohr Supporting **Higher Education**

C. Ben Lennon, D.D.S.

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BE A KNIGHT

Bill Brandl 434-466-2455

OUR LADY OF THE BAY **COUNCIL** 11210

Contact: Grand Knight

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

Tom & Cindy Jessee

-Benjamin Franklin

Best wishes to all the youth at Church of the Visitation

Mary Virginia & Tom Bliley

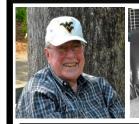
Ad space available





In memory of Church Dog, "CHRISTIAN"





In loving memory of our Father Bob Nash

Essex Law Offices, PLLC Attorney and Counselor at Law

> P.O. Box 1543 77 S. Main Street Kilmarnock, VA 22482

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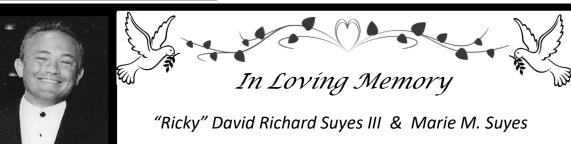


Kenneth Anderson

"Say not in grief 'he is no more' but in thankfulness that he was"



Lewis Forte







Ballato In memory of

Douglas Arthur Nelson Nunn

"Our Beloved Sons"

Michael Tebbs Nunn

Spike and Becky Nunn

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