# 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



The Ascension Of The Lord May 21, 2023 Year A

#### **Church Hours**

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

PARISH MINISTRIES

Parish Life: Johnna Harris

FINANCE COUNCIL

Ray Kostesky-Chairman

John Charbeneau

Debby Harriman

Fritz Sitterding

Lisa Forte

Justice & Peace

Worship/Liturgy: Germaine Hayes

Religious Education: Eileen O'Brien

Pastoral Care: Lynne Richardson

Administration, Ray Kostesky

RCIA/Adult Formation: John Weidner

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

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

Please call the office about arranging Baptisms, Marriages, the RCIA Program, Sacraments of Anointing, Reconciliation, Sick Calls, the schedule for Holy Days, and our Rosary Ministry.

#### PARISH COUNCIL

Steve Forte Kevin Hayes Cindy Jessee-Vice Chair Helen Linden Roseanne Moncure-Secretary Steve Kirsch Cindy Powers Kathy Swinehart Mary Sychterz John Weidner-Chair

Church Secretary, Andrea Moore Webmaster/IT, Mike Dreelin

# MASS/MUSIC

Entrance: Glory and Praise to Our God #555

Lord Have Mercy #913

Glory To God #914

# Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17

Responsorial Psalm: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel Acclamation: Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

Gospel: John 14:15-21 Homily: Father Gerry Kaggwa

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful: Response: Lord hear our prayer

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Where My Father Lives #692

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:** In the Braking of the Bread #321

Mediation: I The Lord #687

Recessional: Tell The Good News #378

#### May Birthdays

1st-Pat DeGroot, 2nd-Cynthia Taylor, 3rd-Scott Kauffman, 6th-Camdyn Putney & Matt Sherwood, 8th-Donna Lange, 9th-Denise Miller, 10th-Terry Skovera, 13th-Mike Harvey, 14th-Nick Wohleking, 15th-Niki Ambrose, 18th-Grace Puleo & Don Delagrange, 22nd-Spike Nunn, 24th Jennifer Miller 27th-Lynne Richardson, 28th-Tim Wohleking, 29th-Charlie Hock.

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



May Anniversaries 11th-Bob & Maura Puleo, 12th-Tom and Mary Foley-(50th) 16th-Tony & Annamarie Bonanno

#### UPCOMING EVENTS



Today-The Ascension of the Lord May 24th-Bible Study 9:30am May 28th-Penecost Sunday/Pancake Breakfast May 31st-Bible Study 9:30am Iune 1st-Eucharistic Adoration 9:30am June 1st-COV was named a Parish in 1983 June 4th-The Most Holy Trinity June 7th-Bible Study 9:30am June 11th-The Most Holy Body and Blood Of Christ (Corpus Christi) June 14th-Bible Study 9:30am

Community Leader John Clair Altar Server May 21, 2023 Tom Dorman Lectors John Weidner/Pat DeGroot Sacristan Noelle Harvey

Extraordinary Minister for Holy Communion Kari Donovan/Noelle Harvey Music Cantor Marianne Krop Collection Counters Tutak/Harvey

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from May 14, 2023		
Collection:	\$	2,933
Second Collection: Diocesan Home Missions	\$	281
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$	112,244
Total Budget Projection:	\$	106,509
Loan Amount	\$	164,894

There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week: \$1,616 Diocesan Assessments; \$770 Pastor and Rectory Expenses for April; \$269 Electricity.

## LEGACY

Have you ever heard that "wills are for rich people?" That's right! But they are also "for poor people" and for everyone in between. Your will relates to everything God has entrusted with you, and it can be a powerful statement of your Christian stewardship. Promise & Purpos

Who needs a will? Every adult who owns anything and who cares about what happens to it, everyone who cares about their family, and everyone who wants to include their church's future in their estate planning needs a will. When was the last time your will had a check-up? Does it express your desires? Does it include your church which means so much to you?

ROSARY

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.



# PANCAKE BREAKFAST

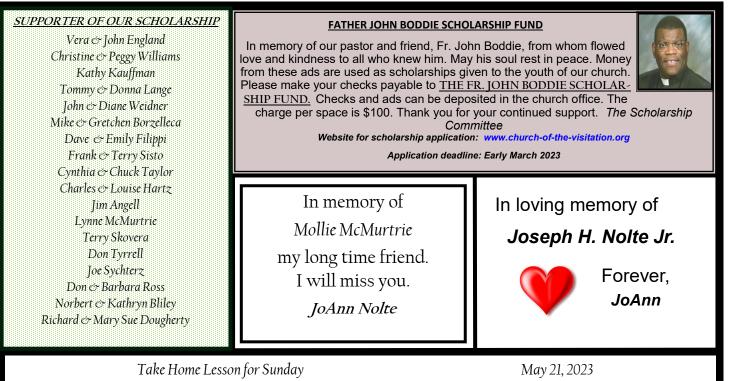
The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast after Mass on next week, May 28th.

The menu will be pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee.

Please stay after and enjoy breakfast and camaraderie with fellow parishioners.



Donations accepted.



I am with you always

Today we heard the conclusion of the Gospel according to Matthew. (Mat 28:16-20)

Scripture scholar Stephen Wilbricht provides commentary on today's Gospel reading in the Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers and Proclaimers of the Word that we use in our parish.

In Matthew's account, the resurrected Lord appears only to the women at the tomb before he meets the eleven on the mountain in Galilee. Since this is their first encounter with the risen Jesus, it should not surprise us that they doubt. But they override their doubt with worship.

Jesus gives these disciples the Commission to "make disciples of all nations."

They are commanded to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. No longer is baptism about immersion into the kingdom and repentance, but now it is to unite the recipient with God.

The apostles are also commanded to teach all that Jesus has handed on to them. Thus, baptism is inseparable from the preaching of the Gospel. In word and sacrament, Jesus remains with the church "until the end of the age."

Matthew began his Gospel by tying Jesus' birth to fulfillment of a prophecy:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." (Mt 1:23)

Matthew ends his Gospel with the same hopeful thought:

"And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt 28:20)

The Catechism teaches that Christ is always present in the Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. He is present in the Sacrifice of the Mass not only in the person of his minister, but especially in the Eucharistic species. He is present in the sacraments so that when anybody baptizes, it is really Christ who baptizes. He is present in his word since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church. Lastly, he is present when the Church prays and sings, for he has promised "where two or three are gathered together in my name there I am in the midst of them." (CCC 1088, Mt 18:20)

Jesus promises to be with us always. How do you experience his presence most?

The Church of the Visitation is proud to announce the Baptism of Carl Louis Ambrose



which occurred last Sunday.

The Godfather is Gary Ambrose.

Patrick Leonard Ambrose

Mother is Nicole Ambrose-History teacher at MHS.

# ASCENSION DAY

The Ascension is the event, where Jesus arose into heaven, at the end of his time on Earth.

(Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11) It is said that by His death and Resurrection, Jesus opened the gates of heaven for all humanity. This is true, and His Ascension demonstrates this to us. It is His proof that those of us who believe in Him in faith and follow Him will also be raised on the last day, and enter into heaven.

Form heaven, Jesus hears our prayers and intercedes for us with His Father.

We celebrate this on Ascension Sunday, which is celebrated forty days after Easter. Traditionally it is celebrated on a Thursday as a Holy Day of Obligation. The Church presently observes it on a Sunday to allow more of the faithful to attend Mass. It remains a Holy Day of Obligation, and the faithful are reminded that all Sundays are obligatory by default.

The Ascension should not be confused with Pentecost, which is celebrated 50 days after Easter. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Christ, after His Ascension.

## THE MONTH OF MAY

May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) and we start thinking about planting gardens, family picnics and making vacation plans.

### IT'S ALSO THE MONTH OF MARY

The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her.

It's common for parishes have a daily recitation of the Rosary during May, and many erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary's month. Additionally, it's a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge celebration and is usually done outside of Mass, although Mass may be celebrated before or after the actual crowning.

#### PARISH SHARING ANNOUNCEMENT

We received the following letter this week concerning support for the Diocesan Catholic Schools.

Dear Father Kaggwa,

Thank you so much for your support of our Catholic schools through the Parish Sharing Assessment. As a result of this program during fiscal year 2023 we are able to provide our Catholic schools with over \$2 million in subsidy support and have provided families attending Catholic schools with approximately \$2.2 million in tuition assistance support. This year 3,830 students applied for tuition assistance and the aggregate need was \$18.2 million. Additionally, the Capital Needs Matching Grant Fund, which is funded by the Parish Sharing Assessment, has awarded over \$5.4 million to Catholic Schools as matching grants to fund a portion of projects approved by the Facility Committee of the Diocesan School Board and the Building and Renovation Commission. Each location's assessment is calculated using average taxable receipts adjusted to exclude legacy income and uses rates

assigned to each parish based on access to and geographical location from Catholic elementary and high schools. Your assessment amounts for the next two upcoming fiscal years are listed below.

#### Annual Assessment Monthly Assessment

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Assessment: \$2,300 \$192 monthly Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Assessment: \$3,274 \$273 monthly



#### CEMETERY ANNOUNCEMENT

We recently expanded the cemetery by 32 2'x4' plots: they can only be used for Cremains. The fee for assignment of burial rights in these plots is \$400. These burial plots are in the open space directly opposite the stone plaza on both sides.

The 4'x10' plots are the burial plots throughout the cemetery. The fee for assignment of burial rights in these plots is \$700.

Only one caskets may be interred in a single burial plot; two sets of Cremains from one family may be interred in a single plot. "A child's Cremains may be included with parents." *Ed Harriman* 

#### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The Father John Boddie Scholarship Fund Committee announced the award of a scholarship for next school year to Nicholas Wohleking, son of Tim & Zaida Wohleking. Nicholas is a successful student attending Chowan University in North Carolina. He is also a star left-handed baseball pitcher who



has received interest from two major league teams.



Eucharistic Adoration will take place the first Thursday of every month. June 1, 2023 from 9:30am-10:30am.

#### The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord May 21, 2023

Today we celebrate The Ascension of the Lord. In other words, Jesus after completing his mission on earth returns to his Father. But we are not celebrating the end of Jesus' mission because before he ascended, he entrusted his mission to the Church. In the Gospel which we have just heard, Jesus commanded the Apostles:

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

So, the Church, you, and me, continue what Jesus begun. And most important, it is Jesus himself who continues to work in and through his Church. At Ascension we are not celebrating the departure of Jesus from us, He does not abandon us. The Gospel reminded us of the ever presence of Jesus in his Church and in all the activities the Church carries out. "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

As Christians therefore, we are called to do two very important tasks: first to make Jesus present and known and, second, to continue the mission Christ left us, a mission of proclaiming and spreading the Good News of the Gospel. We have a teaching mission: Jesus taught us lessons of Faith, Hope, Love, forgiveness, mercy, and salvation both by living and by preaching them. Our mission is to bring them to others in the same way.

It is by our way of life and by our actions that we continue and accomplish the mission Jesus left us. It is by worshiping and prayer, by celebrating the Sacraments. It is by fighting for justice and peace; by driving out in our society and communities the demons of oppression, discrimination, and hatred. It is by proclaiming the messages of hope to all. By Feeding the hungry, console those in need of consolation, looking out for the sick, those who have lost their faith in God and the church. In other words, it is by extending healing and loving hands to those who are in need of any kind.

Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, gives different gifts to each member of the Church in order to continue his work. What is the gift Jesus gave you to use for the Church and through which you make him present? He surely has given you a gift to be used for the benefit of others and all of us here.

It is our mission therefore, to lead all those who are looking for Jesus to find him among us his followers. Jesus is present

in each one of us despite all our imperfections and weaknesses. The ascended Jesus is our source of strength and encouragement: We will be able to overcome doubts about our Faith and baseless fears, anxieties, and worries. He will make us strong and guide us to be his true disciples.



Verv Reverend Gerry Kaggwa V

# Please Remember in your Prayers

Elizabeth Gallagher, Donna Stull, Patricia O'Shaughnessy & Father John Boddie

## PARISHIONERS

The Hollingsworth family, Sal Messina, Ralph Linden, Don Tyrrell, David Rector, Lorraine Kirsch, Tom Shoemaker, Tom & Bea Foley, Jack & Laurie King, Shelley Katsuki, Steve Forte, Donna Thompson, Brendan O'Brien, Spike & Becky Nunn, Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Michele Meanley, Louise Petralia, Grace Anderson, Natalie Smith, Pat Paul, Margaret Hock, Anne Dunn, Mike Lokie, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawksworth, Nancy Wirth, Bettie Hodge, Bill & Linda Gray & Pat Reamy, Lynn Vajda.

# FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Polly Beall, Dick Patton, Ann Dreelin Shephard, Sue and Lisa Ferari, Barbara and Ron Burkhart, John Calvin Barnard, Penfield, Joseph Borzelleca, Andy Hetzer, Sandy Alter, Ryan Jessee, Larry Hersh, Lynn Messina, Shirley Schultz, Michele MacFarland, Jillian Messina, Dominick Perry.

# FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Kathleen Sober, Ann Chatos, Genie Kauffman, Page Wittkamp, Pattie Sobieski, Cliff Dean, Bill Penfield, Christopher Hutton, Mason Goodrich, Olga Hall, Elizabeth Panzer, Tom Sennott, Gary Campbell, Jim & Inga Peddicord, David Gunn, Hunter Jacobs, Kathy Goyne, Peg Meushaw, Rita Blommel, Linda Cryer, Allen Hines, 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.

# ANNUAL APPEAL

Our participation in the Appeal to date is encouraging, 43 families have donated \$13,688 which represents 191% of our goal. We continue to hope and pray that our participation will exceed 50 families and reach 200% of goal, last year's achievement.

# FROM THE HOLLINGSWORTH

Words cannot express the gratitude and appreciation for each one of you who has prayed, called, sent cards and food to my family as we deal with our loss. I am thankful to be part of this church community. God bless, Barbara, Tori and family.



A Hearty Welcome to our new Parishioners





Supporting Our Youth





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

SAINT THERESA OF CALCUTTA'S "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 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 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 anvwav Breathe in Love,





Loving Memory of Bobby Warren

Your Family Arlene, L.C., Faye, aitlyn & Courtlyn

"Gone but not to be forgotten"



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.

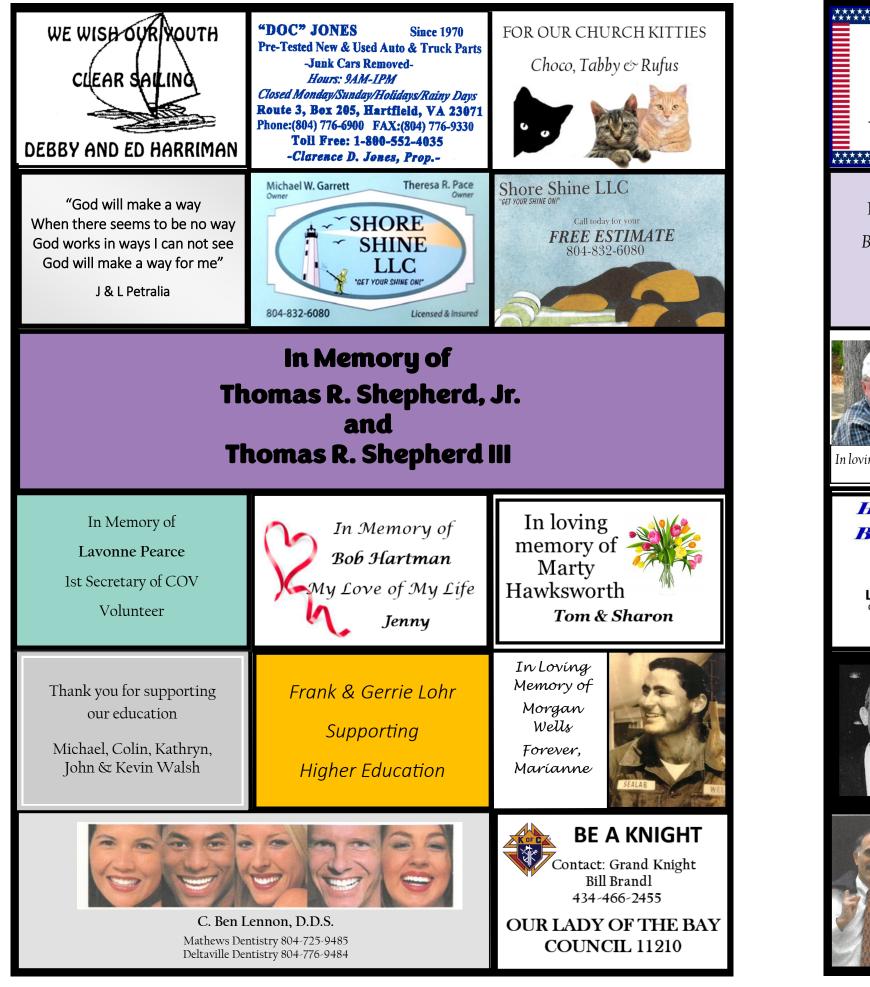
> Thank You Lord Art & Carol Smith

# 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





www.Ballatol.aw.com