

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: office@COVTopping.org

Website: www.church-of-the-visitation.org



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 5, 2023
Year A

Church Hours

Sunday Mass 9AM

Wednesday Daily Mass 9AM

Thursday Daily Mass 9AM

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

Pastor, Johnny Mintah-Mensah "Koo"
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 MINISTRIES

Worship/Liturgy: Germaine Hayes
Justice & Peace
Religious Education: Zaida Wohleking
Parish Life: Johnna Harris
RCIA/Adult Formation: John Weidner
Pastoral Care: Lynne Richardson
Administration, Ray Kostaskey

FINANCE COUNCIL

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

PARISH COUNCIL

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

Church Secretary, Andrea Moore
Webmaster/IT, Mike Dreelin

MASS/MUSIC

Entrance: Come, Christians, Join to Sing #560

"Loving and Forgiving" #664

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #913

Glory To God #914

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10

Responsorial Psalm: In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Second Reading: Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13

Gospel Acclamation: You have but one Father in heaven and one master, the Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful: Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Servant Song #383

Holy: #917

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.

Lord's Prayer: page 26

Lamb of God: #922

Communion: Spirit and Grace #348

Meditation: In Every Age #472

Recessional: City of God #390



November Birthdays

1st-Frederic Cabocel, 2nd-Mel Placilla, 6th-David Morrison, 9th-Gary Brown, 10th-Colleen Quinn, 11th-Steve Forte, 16th-Skip Kramb, 18th-Robert Wilson, 19th-Cathy Davenport, 21st-Branch Meanley, 22nd-Lorie Messina, 24th-Dave Filippi, 25th-Quinn Kennedy & Ty Balch, 27th-Lynne Dreelin, Mary Foley & Laurie King, 29th-Bill Brandl, 30th-Andrea Moore

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



November Anniversaries

5th-Ralph and Helen Linden, 29th-Aldo & Leisa DeCollibus

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today: November 5th-31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 9th-Parish Council 3pm
November 12th-32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time/Social Sunday
November 13th-Visitation Singers
November 19th-33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 23rd -Thanksgiving Day Mass
November 26th-Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
December 3rd-1st Sunday of Advent
December 7th-Adoration-9:30-10:30am
December 8th-Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 9am
December 10th-2nd Sunday of Advent
December 11th-Visitation Singers
December 17th-3rd Sunday in Advent

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

THIS WEEKS ASSIGNMENTS: November 5, 2023

Sacristy Duty: S. Delagrang Community Leader: J. McCormack

Altar Server: B. Miller Lectors: M. Ballato/P. DeGroot

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: TBA

Chalice: TBA

Music: M. Meanley

Counters: O'Brien/Smith

NEXT WEEKS ASSIGNMENTS: November 12, 2023

Sacristy Duty: S. Delagrang Community Leader: B. Puttmann

Altar Server: K. Kirsch /B. Smith Lectors: J. Sychterz/E. O'Brien

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: TBA

Chalice: TBA

Music: J. McCormack

Counters: King/Kirsch/Angell

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from October 29, 2023

Collection: \$ 1,575
Second Collection: N/A \$
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 45,488
Total Budget Projection: \$ 43,973
Loan Balance \$ 155,859



Today the second collection is for Debt Reduction.

We signed the following principal checks this week:

\$211 telephone; \$215 Credit Card \$3,742 Security Cameras.

LEGACY

The Apostle Paul, in his second letter to the church at Corinth, writes: "So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion." (2 Corinthians 9:5)



Paul indicates it is not enough to intend to be a good steward. You must plan, and it is by carefully making provisions for a planned gift and implementation of that plan that you will be able to enjoy the fruits of Christian stewardship!

Planning to include our church in your will involves more than just contacting an attorney and drafting a will. Making a bequest to our church involves thoughtful discussion with your family: spouse, children, perhaps siblings, and others with whom you have an important relationship and those who have a relationship to your estate.

Ultimately, making the right decision will allow you, the giver, to find greater joy and fulfillment in the process and completion of the gift.

RECURRING EVENTS



Weekly-Sunday 8:30am-New Worship Area Rosary (Cindy Jessee)

Weekly-Thursday 9:30am-Women's Group (Louise Petralia)

1st-Thursday of the month-Adoration 9:30am-10:30am (Cindy Jessee)

2nd-Monday of the month-Visitation Singers 9:30am (Carol McCormack)

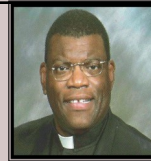
3rd-Wednesday of the month-K of C meeting starts 5:15pm (Al Langer)

**SUPPORTER OF
OUR SCHOLARSHIP**

Vera & John England
Christine & Peggy Williams
Kathy Kauffman
Tommy & Donna Lange
John & Diane Weidner
Mike & Gretchen Borzelleca
Charles & Louise Hartz
Jim Angell
Terry Skovera
Don Tyrrell
Norbert & Kathryn Bliley
Dan & Linda Peterson
Frank & Terry Sisto
Gene & Anne Wolski

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

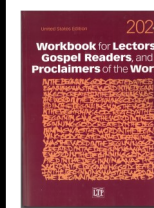
Application deadline: Early March 2023

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

In loving memory of
Joseph H. Nolte Jr.



Forever,
JoAnn



LECTOR WORKBOOKS

Lector workbooks are labeled and ready for pickup located on the Admin table in the Narthex. If you have any question please see Louise Petralia.

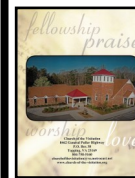
THANKS AND GRATITUDE

After a decade and a half of faithful and endearing custodial service to our church, Pat Reamy is resigning from her weekly chores. Pat was a devoted, dependable individual who preformed her tasks with meticulous perfection and concern. She remain as a parishioner devoted to serving with reverence and piety.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

As announced recently, we have a new email address. Our address is now: office@COVTopping.org

Mail sent to the former address for Church of the Visitation will continue to be forwarded to our new address for an undetermined length of time.



DIRECTORY

Our directory pictures are completed and the bulk of the administrative work lies ahead of us. Individual pictures are due within 4-6 weeks and the directory itself, 4-6 months. We regret that all of our parishioners did not participate in the picture taking.

Those who were unable to have their picture taken by the photographer, but who want to have your family picture included in the final product can do so by submitting your desired photo to the office.

There is a small fee for inclusion (not our rule). If you have any questions, please contact a member of the directory committee (Pat Marchant, Helen Linden, Lynne Richardson, or Andrea Moore).

NOVEMBER MEMORIALS



During the entire month of November, we honor our beloved friends and families that are departed. Please stop by the table in the Narthex and fill out a purple slip with your loved one's names and place it in the small

basket. The basket with the names will be placed on the altar during all Masses said during the month of November.

You may also provide photos of your loved ones for display in the designated basket.



REQUEST FOR HELP

The following was received this week:

My name is Norm Knight and I serve as the lead volunteer at the Gloucester County Jail for the Southeastern Correctional Ministry or SCM. Due to some changes in our volunteer team, I am reaching out to the local area churches to see whether someone has been called to join us in this local mission field to inmates and correctional staff at the Gloucester jail.

The basic information is on the SCM's website (www.secorrmin.com) under the "How to Volunteer" tab where individuals will find the basic requirements and the application. Training is also provided by SCM prior to being approved by SCM to serve within the jail. Separate approval by the Gloucester County Jail is required after SCM approval. Consistent, faithful service once a week would be the commitment.

BEHIND THE SCENES



The volunteer services of our parishioners are extraordinary and provide the framework for a healthy and strong religious community.

Many of you know the ministry heads and observe the persons who each Sunday provide a visible presence of their church and parish commitment. But what about those who do the "behind the scenes" tasks that help enrich our community? Frequently we will highlight these invisible ones for your information.

Today we honor Helen Linden. We all know her from her work with the Parish Life Crew and the directory, but for several months she has been folding the bulletin and more importantly, doing the preliminary bulletin work on Thursdays and manning the office as a pinch-hitter for Andrea.

We thank you sincerely, Helen!

BREAD BAKERS



At press time, the response to Peggy's call for bread has been heart-warming and gracious. When the results of our Oyster Festival sale are available, we will inform you, but many thanks to the dozens of parishioners who donated bread (s).

Take Home Lesson

Practice What You Preach - Serving in Humble Love

November 5, 2023

Scripture scholar Catherine Cory explains today's Gospel is an introduction to Matthew's version of the woes that Jesus issues against these crimes and Pharisees. A woe is an expression of grief followed by charges against the persons to whom a woe is directed. Like Malachi's charges against the temple priests in the first reading, Jesus' charges against the scribes and Pharisees highlight the human condition and the potential for people in positions of power to abuse their authority. Thus, in today's Gospel reading, Jesus advises his disciples and the crowd that they should heed the teachings of the experts in the Law, but they should not follow their example.

"Therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach." (Matthew 23:3)

Jesus names specific practices that these people employ to bring attention to themselves and impose heavy religious burdens on those who have less power. Phylacteries, the small leather boxes worn on the forehead or the left arm, and tassels are both intended to be reminders to follow covenant law but making them bigger and longer is aviation of the spirit of the law. No matter a person's station on earth, even if they are in positions of honor or power or instruction, there is only one who deserves the full weight of those titles: God.

Jesus' message is one of humble service: "The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12)

Do we not realize at times that we fail to "practice what we preach?" That we struggle to live up to the ideals we profess as Christians? Rather than be discouraged by such self-knowledge, we take heart that the Lord has given us sacraments of healing. In the sacrament of confession, for example, we know that our fallenness, our sin, does not have the last word. Cleansed through God's mercy, we can renew our commitment to love God with all of our heart, all of our soul, and all of our mind. Then, as our Lord humbled himself to share in our humanity, we can humble ourselves in service to others.

Reflecting on those times we fell short of living our lives according to what we believe, this week we ask:

What service could you perform this week for someone in need?

Operation Christmas Child

ONLY A FEW WEEKS LEFT UNTIL NATIONAL SHOEBOX COLLECTION WEEK. WE NEED YOUR HELP COLLECTING ITEMS TO FILL THE SHOEBOXES



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Eucharist: Sacred Meal, Sacrifice, Real Presence

During October and November, some parishioners are meeting in small groups to study our most holy and perfect sacrament. Please continue to watch this space for reflections and commentary about the Eucharist.

A key message from last Sunday's Gospel, emphasized by Father Koo throughout the Mass, was Jesus' instruction that we should love God "with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Recall when Jesus said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking as God does, but as human beings do." (Matthew 16:23)

It seems that Jesus is giving us an idea of how we should be loving as God does. After all, God is nothing but love. Let's take a look at how God as a family of love connects to this week's Eucharist study topic.

The theme of this past week's study was Sacred Meal. Several of the Biblical images of the sacred banquet were discussed. From the beginning, in the Book of Genesis, Adam and Eve enjoy easy friendship with God in a sort of banquet setting, eating whatever they choose, until they separate themselves from God by grasping at divinity. God establishes the Passover meal for his chosen people so that they can remember their deliverance from slavery. Ultimately, as seen by Isaiah's vision, God sets for us a heavenly banquet on his mountain where he gathers all nations in peace.

These Old Testament meals provide the backdrop for the Incarnate Word, placed in a manger in Bethlehem, signifying Jesus' destiny to become food for our souls. At the Last Supper, gathered in fellowship with his friends, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples, said, "Take and eat; this is my body."

Bishop Barron concludes his exploration of the theme of Sacred Meal with his description of God as a family of love, a sharing of life, breathing in and breathing out, a looking toward another. He observes that the whole history of salvation can be read as the Trinitarian God's attempt to draw the human family into a relationship that mimics the love that God is. When we love God with our whole heart and mind, we necessarily love all those whom God has loved into existence.

This family love is expressed in the great biblical image of the sacred banquet. The Eucharist sums it up and brings it perfect expression, and hence the Eucharist is the richest participation in the very being of God who is nothing but love.



Please pray for the following:

Corinne Richardson, Arthur Heunemann,
William MacLean, Gordon Tyrrell & Rose Lohr



PARISHIONERS

John & Carol McCormack, Lynne McMurtrie, Barbara Smith, The Hollingsworth family, Don Tyrrell, David Rector, Lorraine Kirsch, Tom Shoemaker, Tom & Bea Foley, Jack & Laurie King, Shelley Katsuki, 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, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawksworth, Nancy Wirth, Bettie Hodge, Linda Gray, Pat Reamy, Andrea Moore, Lynn Vajda

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Mia Angelis, the Angelis family, John & Debbie Stockhorst, Martha Buesinger, Jane Butcher, Becky Pattarozzi, Bridgie Graham-Smith, Joanne Ferari, Jill Shores, John Gahagan, Todd Bowmam, Diane Petralia, Anthony Pace, Mildred Bair, Mary Levine, Susie Maddrich, Carolyn Harvey, Eric Currie, Mike & Katy Shea, Rhonda Wells, Polly Beall, Dick Patton, Sue and Lisa Ferari, Barbara & Ron Burkhardt, John Calvin Barnard, Joseph Borzelleca, Andy Hetzer, Sandy Alter, Ryan Jessee, Larry Hersh, Shirley Schultz, Dominick Perry.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Cynthia Freeburger, Mike Gorin, Carroll Brown, Robin Brown, Boyd Newhouse, Bill Benson, Mike McCullean, Delores Barry, Jim Durburo, Richard & Sharon Fitts, Karen Armstrong, Kenny Marshall, Ann Chatos, Genie Kauffman, Page Wittkamp, Pattie Sobieski, Cliff Dean, 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 or would like a Mass intention please call the office, email, or leave a note in the box outside the office. Remember to put family or friend by their name. You may offer Mass intentions for the living as well.

CHURCH FOOTBALL HUMOR



Quarterback Sneak

Church members quietly leaving during the altar call.

Halftime

The period between Sunday School and morning worship when many choose to leave.

Backfield-in-Motion

Making a trip to the back (restroom or water fountain) during the service.

Two-Minute Warning

The point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.

Instant Replay

The preacher loses his notes and falls back on last week's illustrations.

Trap

You're called on to pray and are asleep.

End Run

Getting out of church quick, without speaking to any guest or fellow member.

Halfback Options

The decision of 50% of the congregation not to return for the evening service.

Blitz

The rush for the restaurants following the closing prayer.



OUR LADY OF THE BAY COUNCIL 11210 OF MATHEWS AND MIDDLESEX COUNTIES

K of C is a not-for-profit organization whose principles are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

Donations support:

Gloucester, Mathews, Northern Neck & Middlesex Free Health Clinics (KOVAR) Virginians with intellectual disabilities, the VA Veterans Services- Golf Tournament, Families in need, Hands Across Middlesex & Mathews, and The Father John Boddie Scholarship Fund.

Activities that provide funding:

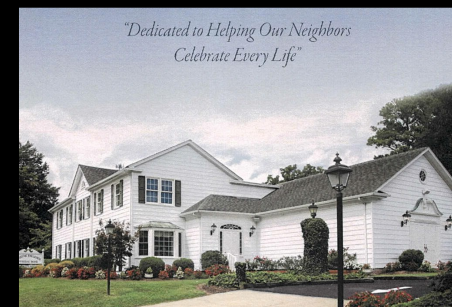
Pancake Breakfast, Italian Feast, St. Pat's Dinner, KOVAR Collection, Dave Marchant Golf Tournament.

We are active participants in many ministries to include Alter servers, Choir members, Collection counter, Community Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers, Parish Council Members and Ushers.

The KOC meet at 5:15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Church of the Visitation. We start with the Rosary.

All are welcome!

Any questions call Our Grand Knight-Al Langer at 804-815-1328.



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In Loving Memory of Bobby Warren

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

"Gone but not to be forgotten"

In memory of

Lillian M. Reiffel,

Teacher



PRAYERS

MEMORIES

LOVE

Jerry
McMurtrie

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. 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, Exhale Peace.



In Loving Memory Of David E. Brinkley

In Loving Memory of Vincent "Poppy" & Vinnie Recupido

The Recupido & Hollingsworth Families

"The Retirement Plan Of Christ Was His Passion. Is Yours The Same?"

Josiah Reffo



In Loving Memory Of


Alma and Fritz Sitterding

Supporting Our Youth


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

Lynne & Gary Richardson

Thanks for always supporting us in everything we do!

Emily & Anna 

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WE WISH OUR YOUTH
CLEAR SAILING

DEBBY AND ED HARRIMAN


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-Benjamin Franklin
Tom & Cindy Jessee

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Future Leaders
"Our Youth"
The Kirsch Family

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In Loving Memory of
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Michael W. Garrett Theresa R. Pace
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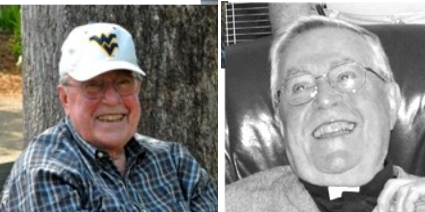
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In Loving Memory of
Bob and Catherine Borden
Fred and Betty Meister

We Support The Youth Scholarship

John & Carol McCormack

In Memory of
Thomas R. Shepherd, Jr. 8/28/1943 to 3/18/2020
Thomas R. Shepherd III 11/05/1970 to 3/31/2022

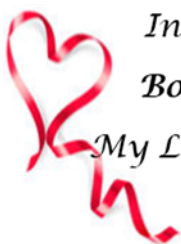

In loving memory of our Father Bob Nash


In Loving Memory of
"Lee Hollingsworth"
We love and miss you!
Barb & Tori 

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In Memory of
Bob Hartman
My Love of My Life
Jenny 

In loving memory of
Marty Hawksworth
Tom & Sharon 

Helping Our Youth Build Their Future

Limerick II Enterprises
Construction Management Services
Tom Shoemaker
In Memory of JoAn



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



Lewis Forte


Thank you for supporting our education
Michael, Colin, Kathryn, John & Kevin Walsh


Frank & Gerrie Lohr
Supporting Higher Education

In Loving Memory of
Morgan Wells
Forever, Marianne


In Loving Memory
"Ricky" David Richard Suyes III & Marie M. Suyes




C. Ben Lennon, D.D.S.
Mathews Dentistry 804-725-9485
Deltaville Dentistry 804-776-9484

Best wishes to all the youth at Church of the Visitation
Mary Virginia & Tom Bliley

BE A KNIGHT
Contact: Grand Knight Al Langer
804-815-3515

OUR LADY OF THE BAY COUNCIL 11210


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Michael Tebbs Nunn & Douglas Arthur Nelson Nunn
"Our Beloved Sons"
Spike and Becky Nunn

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