

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



Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023
Year B

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 Kostecky

FINANCE COUNCIL

John Charbeneau
Lisa Forte
Debby Harriman
Ray Kostecky-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: O Come O Come Emanuel #39 (advent wreath song inside bulletin)

"Loving and Forgiving" #664

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914

Glory To God #914

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 40-1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: Peter 3:8-14

Gospel Acclamation: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: A Voice Cries Out #46

Holy: #918

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: #923

Communion: Like a Shepherd #614

Meditation: Ubi Carnitas #544

Recessional: People Look East #43



December Birthdays

1st-Tom Shoemaker, 4th-Mike Ballato, 5th-Louise Petralia,
8th-Frank Lohr, 12th-Jerry Suyes, 16th-Cindy Powers,
17th-Ivony Kennedy, 18th-Mary Dorman & Lynne McMurtrie,
19th-Lois Kramb, 22nd-Linda Gray, 23rd-Christine Williams,
24th-Elena Wunder, 25th-Colleen Hoffman, 26th-Tom Hawksworth
& Debbie McNeil, 27th-Patricia Figueroa & Betsy Brown, 31st-Doug Olsen.

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



December Anniversaries

1st-Chuck & Carol Walsh, 8th-Robert & Paula Wilson,
14th-Bob & Ingrid Borden, 22nd-Branch & Michele Meanley,
30th-Bill & Donna Brandl

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today-December 10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent
December 11th-Visitation Singers
December 13th- Reconciliation 7PM
December 17th-3rd Sunday in Advent
December 24th-4th Sunday of Advent 9am
Sing-a-long 6:30pm/Christmas Eve Mass 7pm
December 25th-Christmas Day Mass 9am
December 31st-Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
January 1st-Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother Of God
January 7th-Epiphany of the Lord

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

THIS WEEKS ASSIGNMENTS: December 10, 2023

Sacristy Duty: N. Harvey Community Leader: J. Clair

Altar Server: K. Kirsch/B. Smith Lectors: P. DeGroot/M. Ballato

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Sychterz

Chalice: TBA/D. Marcil/Plunkert/S. Seay

Music: C. Powers

Counters: King/Kirsch/Angell

NEXT WEEKS ASSIGNMENTS: December 17, 2023

Sacristy Duty: C. Jessee Community Leader: D. Harriman

Altar Server: B. Smith Lectors: R. Kostecky/L. Dreelin

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: A. Wolski

Chalice: Marcil/G. Richardson/K. Donovan/N. Harvey

Music: M. Meanley

Counters: Tutak/Harvey

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from December 3, 2023

Collection:	\$ 2,750
Second Collection: Debt Reduction	\$ 1,370
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 57,382
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 55,349
Loan Balance	\$ 146,187



There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week:

\$265 Faith Formation; \$485 Credit Card; \$1,095 Xmas trees.

LEGACY

One of the simplest ways to leave a gift to our church is to use the beneficiary designation on savings and retirement accounts, as well as life insurance policies. These can be done with on cost, and typically only require us to sign a new beneficiary designation form.



Retirement assets and similar accounts are called Income in Respect of a Decedent (IRD) assets. This is taxable income that's earned during life but not received before death, so it is never included in an income tax return. This may be assets in Individual Retirement Accounts or 403 (b) plans, accrued interest on Certificates of Deposit and savings bond, nonqualified stock options, deferred payments of capital gains, or other income that is earned but not acquired.

RECURRING EVENTS



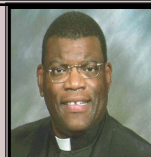
Weekly-Sunday 8:30am-New Worship Area Rosary (Cindy Jessee)
Weekly-Thursday 9:30am-Women's Group (Louise Petralia)
1st-Thursday of the month-Adoration 9:30am-10:30am (Cindy Jessee)
2nd-Monday of the month-Visitation Singers 9:30am (Carol McCormack)
3rd-Wednesday of the month-K of C meeting starts 5:15pm (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

Advent Candle Lighting Song

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.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL THANKS

A big thanks to all who made this event a huge success. Many members contributed to its success and for fear of leaving someone out who did, we will refrain from listing all the wonderful helpers. We do however desire to recognize the Knights who contributed rosaries made by their wives and books explaining the Rosary to our children and Roseanne who did the centerpieces. Even Santa showed up and was awesome.



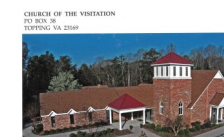
ADMIN NOTE



As we continue to improve our new email address, we have issued the following address for those parishioners desiring to contact Ray: admin@covtopping.org

2024 ENEVELOPES

Our 2024 envelopes are available for pickup in the Narthex. For parishioners who are exclusive e-givers, we have not published envelopes for you. For these parishioners who use e-giving intermittently, we have published envelopes for you to use as appropriate.



ADVENT REMINIDERS

For those who desire to engage in a 6 minute reflection on the infancy narrative of Luke, please take home a blue book for your pleasure. They are located in the Narthex.



NOVEMBER MEMORIALS

For those who placed pictures on the memorial table, please pick up your family photos, and thank you for remembering your loved ones in this manner.

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 Kevin Hayes and Bob Borden. These tireless individuals have spent months at the rectory engaging in minor repairs which have saved the parish and FdS countless repair costs. They also handle our facility issues, both routine and non-routine. Thank you both for your commitment and resolve.

ANGEL TREE



If you have selected a star for a 13 year old or older, do not seal the Christmas Card. We will take your donation and purchase a gift card for that amount.

Please attach the star to the envelope & try to give the card directly to me or Pat Marchant at church.

Please remember all packages & donations must be brought to the church no later than Thursday Dec 14th.

If you still want to help but were unable to select a star, please consider donating for the food gift cards that help the families provide a Christmas dinner.

Thank you again for all of your help with this project, it means so much to these children. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mary Sychterz at 804-815-0353 or mlychterz@yahoo.com

SAMARTAN PURSE

"Thank you everyone for your tremendous support to the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project. I appreciate all the donations of items, time, boxes and money. We would not be able to have a successful event without each and every one of you. This year, we packed a total of 75 boxes in less than an hour! The boxes have all been shipped out to processing centers and some are already making their way to their final destinations. Two are on their way to Peru and Three to Columbia. Stay tuned to hear where the rest end up"

Shelley Katsuki

Take Home Lesson

December 10, 2023

Preparing for the Day of the Lord

Last Sunday, we hear in the Gospel reading that Jesus' second coming will "come like a thief" when least expected. When he does come, it will be sudden and decisive. Scripture scholar Maria Barga comments that today's reading from Peter's second letter provides a template for how to be prepared for that long awaited moment. We are to conduct ourselves "in holiness and devotion" so that we may "be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace."

When we live each day engaged in repentance and following the way of the Lord, we will experience the peace and comfort that only comes with being in right relationship with God and the community. This peace is rooted in the knowledge that no matter when Jesus comes again, we will be found ready to stand before him.

During Advent, we prepare for the coming of the Lord. While many people emphasize the preparation for our celebration of Jesus' birth, awaiting Jesus' second coming is also an integral part of the Church theology of the season of Advent. We are called during this season to make sure we that we are in right relationship with God so that on Christmas Day we are at peace knowing that we have oriented our lives toward God and are ready to stand before him.

At the beginning of Peter's letter, we are reminded that time is not an issue for God. "One day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day." God's plan unfolds according to his will and in the fullness of his timing.

What we might perceive as delay is God patiently waiting (not delaying), giving time so that as many people as possible can repent and receive salvation. God's time for the second coming is therefore an act of divine mercy and a comfort to God's people.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief." Since we do not and cannot know the time of Jesus' second coming, it would be best if we made ready without delay. This week we ask:

What is the most urgent thing you need to do this week to be in "right relationship" with God?

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED FOR OUR PARISH VISION

As the end of the calendar year approaches, many of us will be thinking about the year ahead, some of us resolving to make changes in our lives, some of us even writing out those New Year's Resolutions.

Over the next several weeks, Father Koo and the Parish Council will be working to form a future oriented vision for our parish. A parish Vision should give a sense of purpose and meaning, and point the way into the future that God envisions for all of us.

Our vision is informed by our parish Mission Statement, which is also under review by Father Koo and the parish council. Our most recent revision reads:

Our mission is to prayerfully study, proclaim and live the Word of God; celebrate the Eucharist; and serve the local community.

Visionary people grow through knowledge of the Scripture, and reflection on the Word helps them to discern what God calls them to be and to do.

This parish worked toward a vision of a beautiful worship space for many years, and now it is a reality. Father Gerry presented a vision of a school in Uganda. This parish embraced that vision and now Saint Noa's serves Kitangira Village.

So, what shall we build next? Or, what shall we become over the next five years? Where should we be twenty years from now?

These are the sort of questions that will help us form a vision for the future.

Attached to this week's bulletin email and available after Mass in the Narthex is a short Vision Survey form. Please prayerfully consider your response to the few questions we are asking. You may have difficulty writing down what you envision for our parish, but please give it a try. You can bring the completed form to Mass on Sunday, or even Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, or drop it off at the office.

If writing is not your strength, you may contact a member of the parish council and talk through where you think the parish should be heading or what you would want us to become. We will be listening.

**"Where there is no vision, the people perish."
(Proverbs 29:18)**



Please pray for the following:

Jim Stellwagen, Marty Hawksworth,
Carol Hollingsworth, Eileen McSweeney & Eileen Wagner



PARISHIONERS

Lynne Dreelin, Paula Wilson, 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

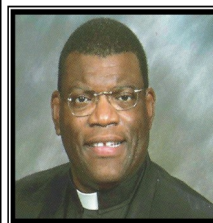
FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Lynn Messina, Gene Sullivan, Dr. Nicole Touchet, Gloria Powell, Chloe Pearson, Barbara Daly, Mia Angelis, the Angelis family, Debbie Stockhorst, Martha Buesinger, Jane Butcher, 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

Allison Miksenas, 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 Goynes, 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.*



FR. JOHN BODDIE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE

The applications for scholarships/grants from the Father John Boddie Scholarship Fund on the church website, have been updated.

They are in a PDF format that can be downloaded, saved and filled out by typing on the form. All new request, for scholarships/grants must be on the forms dated August 15, 2023.

Our thanks go out to Mike Dreelin for all his work on this project.

If you have any questions, please see Andrea or Tom Hawksworth. Thank you for your continued support of our scholarship program.



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:

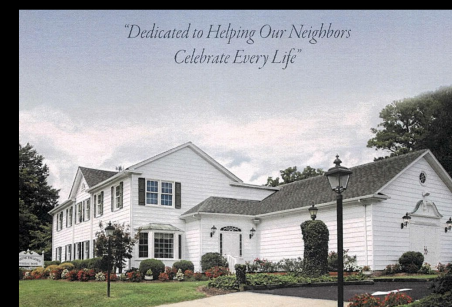
Pancake Breakfast, Italian Feast, St. Pat's Dinner, KOVAR Collection, Dave Marchant Golf Tournament.

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



In Loving Memory of
Jack Petralia

Michael W. Garrett Theresa R. Pace
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*"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."
-Benjamin Franklin*
Tom & Cindy Jessee



In support of our
Future Leaders
"Our Youth"
The Kirsch Family

FOR OUR CHURCH KITTIES
Choco, Tabby & Rufus


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
Bob and Catherine Borden
Fred and Betty Meister

We Support The Youth Scholarship
John & Carol McCormack



 
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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SAT: 10AM-6PM
SUN: CLOSED

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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