

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

8462 General Puller Highway
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 Topping, Virginia 23169
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E-Mail: office@COVTopping.org

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



4th Sunday of Advent
 December 24, 2023 Year B

Our Mass Intention today is for Charles Alter

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: O Come, O Come Emanuel #39 (advent wreath song inside bulletin)

"Loving and Forgiving" #662

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914

Glory To God #915

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12,14,16

Responsorial Psalm: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16: 25-27

Gospel Acclamation: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
 May it be done to me according to your word.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Hail Mary, Gentle Mother #707

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: Servant Song #393

Meditation: The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came #52

Recessional: The Advent Of Our King #59



January Birthdays

1st-Carol McCormack, 2nd-Evelyn Scott, 3rd-Robert Cerullo,
 5th-Lorraine Kirsch & Mike Borzelleca, 7th-Betty Johnson & Tom
 Foley, 13th Daniel Peterson, 16th-Christine Hayes, 17th-Anne Wolski,
 19th-James Moncure, 20th-Deborah Harriman, 21st-Charles Walsh,
 22nd-Clara Suyes, Donna Brandl, Josiah Reffo, & Don Tyrell,
 27th-John McCormack, 28th-Jacob Lovejoy, 29th-Michael Dreelin & Robert Seay,
 30th-Liberty Bushey, 31st-John King .

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



January Anniversaries

5th-Charles and Louise Hartz, 6th-Thomas and Ivony Kennedy,
 24th-John and Laurie King.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today-December 24th-4th Sunday of Advent 9am
 *Sing-a-long/Pageant 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
 January 14th-2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 January 21st-3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 January 28th-4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MARK YOUR
 CALENDAR!

THIS WEEKS ASSIGNMENTS: December 24, 2023

Sacristy Duty: Harvey Community Leader: Hayes
 Altar Server: Smith Lectors: Sherwood/Sychterz
 Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski
 Chalice: Harvey/ Seay/TBD
 Music: J. McCormack Counters: Harris/Hollingsworth

NEXT WEEKS ASSIGNMENTS: December 31, 2023

Sacristy Duty: C. Jessee Community Leader: D. Harriman
 Altar Server: R. Kostaskey Lectors: TBD
 Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Smith
 Chalice: D. Tyrell/K. Donovan/TBD
 Music: S. Messina Counters: D. Harriman/D. McNeil

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from December 17, 2023

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Collection: | \$ 1,749 |
| Second Collection: Catholic Charities | \$ 314 |
| Total Offertory Collection Year to Date | \$ 62,261 |
| Total Budget Projection: | \$ 59,211 |
| Loan Balance | \$146,187 |

There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
 \$945 Pastor and Rectory expenses for November,
 \$186 for Sentinel advertisements.



LEGACY

By including the church in your estate plan,
 you are securing the future of our parish.
 Making a legacy gift to our congregation
 doesn't have to be difficult.



It is as easy as making the church the
 beneficiary of all or part of one of your
 retirement accounts (traditional IRA, 401(k), 403(b), etc.).
 You can do the same thing with a life insurance policy.

The process is simple and costs you nothing: Just contact
 your plan administrator or insurance representative and re-
 quest a new beneficiary designation form. In many cases the
 form will be completed and mailed to you for your signature.
 No lawyer fees, no complicated processes. It's something you
 could do this week!

RECURRING EVENTS

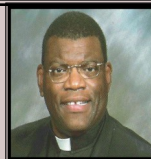
Weekly-Sunday 8:30am-New Worship Area Rosary (Cindy Jessee)
 Weekly-Thursday 9:30am-Women's Group (Louise Petralia)
 1st-Thursday of the month-Adoration 9:30am-10:30am (Cindy Jessee)
 2nd-Monday of the month-Visitation Singers 9:30am (Carol McCormack)
 3rd-Wednesday of the month-K of C meeting starts 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 2024**

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 four.
Think of joy forever more.
Christ child in the stable born.
Gift of love that Christmas morn.



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

SING-A-LONG

One of the features of our Christmas Eve sing-a-long (starting at 6:30pm) is the Children's pageant, which will occur concurrently. This is a change from the past when the pageant took place during the Mass.

2024 ENVELOPES

The 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.

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, (or the last one to leave), 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

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 31, 2023

In a letter from Bishop Knestout last week, he pointed out the heavy toll on innocent people that the war in Israel and the Gaza Strip has caused. He noted that the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Pontifical Mission is on the ground in Jerusalem and Gaza supporting high priority emergency needs. He also asked that we take up a special collection for the organization next Sunday, December 31. Please support this worthy effort next Sunday.

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 highlight these invisible ones for your information.

Today we honor Sandi and Don Delagrang and Kevin Hayes. In a feverish two days of activity last week during which security cameras were installed, these persons worked with the equipment installers, polished brass, repaired the baptismal font and soundproofed the confessional, among other things.



For your commitment and resolve, we thank you fervently.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURE

The office will be closed Tuesday, December 26 and will reopen on Wednesday, December 27.

PRAYER SHAWLS NEEDED

The painting below of our church was done by a recipient of one of our prayer shawls and sent to us, along with a message expressing her thanks. The shawl ministry is looking for new participants who can knit or crochet or WOULD LIKE TO LEARN, to make Shawls for comfort for parishioners (and families and friends). There will be an organizational meeting on Monday, January 8th at 1:00 pm at the church. Please join us. If you have any questions, contact Lynne Richardson at 571-239-0980 or lynnegary@gmail.com



Take Home Lesson

December 24, 2023

ACCEPTANCE OF GOD'S WILL

Last week's take home lesson incorrectly stated that Luke's Gospel begins by listing Jesus' human ancestors and the narrative of his birth. In fact, Luke does not address the genealogy of Jesus until the end of Chapter 3 of his account of the Gospel. And, oh by the way, Luke traces Jesus' ancestors back to Adam, the son of God. What we have in the first two chapters of Luke is not only the most extensive narrative of the birth of Jesus, but also the beautiful and inspiring stories of the announcements of the births of John and Jesus and a favorite of our parish, our namesake story of Mary's visit with Elizabeth.

Today's Gospel reading from the first chapter of Luke tells of Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel and her ready assent to her role in God's plan that is not only for her but for all of humanity. Gabriel's first word of greeting also begins our Blessed Mother's prayer. "Hail Mary" translates in Latin to "Ave Maria".

Bishop Robert Barron comments that the Church Fathers consistently referred to Mary as the New Eve. The "Ave" of the angel was seen as the reversal of "Eva." Mary reverses the disobedience of Eve with her unquestioning obedience to the will of God. While Eve grasped at divinity, Mary said, "May it be done unto me."

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to you word." (Luke 1:38)

Scripture scholar Maria Enid Barga provides this commentary:

"Mary's yes to God points to her 'obedience of faith' to which we are called. Mary is the first human to await the proximate birth of Christ and the ushering in of salvation. For a short while, she is the only one who knows the full extent of God's faithfulness in fulfilling his promises to David and his people. As such, her response to the angel serves as a model for our own response to the birth of Christ. Like Mary, we should assent to God's salvific activity in our own lives, entrusting our entire being to God's plan and providential care. In so doing, our entire life can become a doxology (a hymn of praise to God) that continually recognizes and praises the glory of God and his power manifested in our lives."

Reflecting on Mary's unquestioning obedience and her profound statement of trust, this week we ask:

How do you open you heart to what God wants for you?

MASS INTENTIONS

A Mass Intention is a specific offering in honor of, or in memory of someone by name at a specific mass time on a specific date that is traditionally offered as a gift to someone who is grieving a recent loss or celebrating a milestone.

What is a Mass Intention? Whenever a priest celebrates Mass, he has at least two specific intentions. The first intention is to celebrate the Mass according to the rubrics the Church provided for how to say the Mass. The second is to apply the grace of that Mass toward a specific need or intention.

Any individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for various reasons, i.e., in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul.

When a priest offers Holy Mass, he has three aims in mind: First, to offer the Mass reverently and validly in accord with the norms of the Church. Second, to offer the Mass in union with the whole Church and for the good of the whole Church. Third, to offer the Mass for a particular intention, such as the repose of the soul of someone who has died. Therefore, the effects of the Mass bring certain benefits or fruits. The general fruits of the Mass are the effects upon the whole Church-to the living faithful as well as the poor souls in purgatory. For this reason, in the Canon of the Mass (the Eucharistic Prayer), a special mention is made for both the living and the dead. The special ministerial fruits of the Mass are applied to the particular intention of the Mass, i.e. "for whom this Mass is offered." The intention of the Mass is also determined by various factors: The Church may stipulate the particular intention, for example, all pastors are required to offer one Mass on Sunday for the intentions of the living and deceased parishioners of a parish.

A priest may also have his own particular intention in offering a Mass, such as the repose of the soul of his parents. Finally, a person may ask a priest to offer a Mass for a particular intention, in which case it is customary to give an offering of \$10 to the priest who is celebrating the Mass. In doing so, the faithful have the privilege of joining their own sacrifice to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, thereby obtaining an even greater abundance of spiritual fruit.

Contact the parish office to have a Mass offered for your chosen intention.



Please pray for the following:



Dick Zimmerman, Robert McMurtrie,
John & Julia Dunn, & JoAn Shoemaker

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, 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, Susie Reber, Joanne Ferrari, 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 Ferrari, 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 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.

ANGEL TREE UPDATE

To all who participated, a BIG THANK YOU for your support and generosity. Not only did you brighten the lives of 20 children, but all the families received a Food Lion gift card for \$70.



Thank you again and a very Merry Christmas to all.

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS



Jacob & Kimberly Lovejoy
182 Barricks Mill Road
Topping, VA 23169
Jake: 315-391-3502
jacoblovejoy40@yahoo.com
Kim: 315-246-2040
kimgilday13@icloud.com



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.



In memory of
Lillian M. Reiffel,
Teacher



PRAYERS
MEMORIES
LOVE
Jerry
McMurtrie

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In Loving Memory
of Bobby Warren

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

"Gone but not to be forgotten"

**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


"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 Loving Memory of
Jack Petralia

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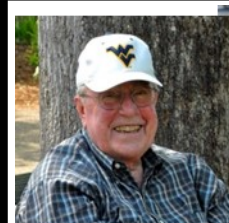
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In Loving Memory of
Bob and Catherine Borden
Fred and Betty Meister

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

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