

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



First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 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 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 Emmanuel #39

"Loving and Forgiving" #664

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914

Glory To God #914

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Acclamation: Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Waiting in Silence #51

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: Bread of Life #109

Meditation: Abba Father #544

Recessional: Let Heaven Rejoice #571



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 3rd-1st Sunday of Advent "Year B"
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 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

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

THIS WEEKS ASSIGNMENTS: December 3, 2023

Sacristy Duty: S. Delagrange Community Leader: G. Richardson

Altar Server: J. Sychterz Lectors: E. O'Brien/J. Weidner

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Pat DeGroot

Chalice: Dreelin/Donovan/J. Ballato/TBA

Music: F. Lohr

Counters: O'Brien/Smith

NEXT 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: A. Wolski/Marcil/Plunkert/S. Seay

Music: C. Powers

Counters: King/Kirsch/Angell

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from November 26, 2023

Collection:	\$ 2,307
Second Collection: Christmas Flowers	\$ 266
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 54,632
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 52,936
Loan Balance	\$

Our second collection today is for Debt Reduction.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
& 222 Phone Bill; \$800 Custodial Services.



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



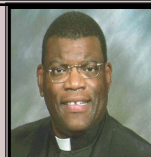
Weekly-Sunday 8:30am-New Worship Area Rosary (Cindy Jessee)
Weekly-Thursday 9:30am-Women's Group (Louise Petralia)
1st-Thursday of the month-Adoration 9:30am-10:30am (Cindy Jessee)
2nd-Monday of the month-Visitation Singers 9:30am (Carol McCormack)
3rd-Wednesday of the month-K of C meeting starts 5:15pm (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, one;
Now the waiting has begun.
We have started on our way,
time to think of Christmas Day.



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

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

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 Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reason, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight (Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year). With the beginning of Advent is, too the beginning of the new liturgical year (2024, Year B)

Music and Environment

During Advent, the playing of the organ and other musical instruments, as well as the floral decoration of the altar, should be marked with a moderation that reflects the character of this season, but does not anticipate the full joy of Christmas itself. The secular world focuses on decorating, shipping, and rushing towards the celebration of Christmas. However, the Church gives us the Season of Advent as a way to practice discipline and patience in preparation for the great mystery of the Birth of Christ. Projecting the celebration of Christmas onto a season that is to be marked by waiting and spiritual preparation seems to miss the point of Advent. Therefore, church environments should not reflect this kind of thinking and the integrity of Advent is to be kept without the additions of environmental elements indicative of the Christmas Season, i.e. Christmas trees or a manger.

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.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

For an evening of enjoyable entertainment at the start of the Christmas Season, consider attending a performance of the Chesapeake Chorale. The information is on the administration table 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



In order to complete our necessary documentation, please help us identify the parishioners who selected the following stars: **2C, 7A, 7B, 8B, & 8E.**

Please have all packages wrapped & star securely attached to the package. If there is more than one gift for the child, please put all packages in one bag & securely attached the star to the bag.

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

If you still want to help but we're 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 mlsychterz@yahoo.com

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL



Today we are hosting our Christmas Social after Mass. Like last year, the church will provide the main dish and appetizers. Please bring a side dish and/or desert to share with others on this festive occasion.

SAMARTIAN 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 3, 2023

Staying Alert

Last week, we reflected upon whether we would be ready for the judging when the King comes in his glory. Will we be like the sheep who have followed the voice of their shepherd, or will we be like the immature, self-centered goats? At the final judgment, you are either ready to enter God's kingdom or you are not.

In today's Gospel, the Lord exhorts us to vigilance as we await the day of his Second Coming: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." We have come to the end of the liturgical year and are coming to the end of the calendar year. And soon the daily scripture readings will take on a brooding, foreboding quality as the end of all things is brought before our hearts and minds.

Early Christians were especially convinced that the world as they knew it was ending, especially since they had so recently experienced the Resurrection of Jesus from the Dead. In fact, Christ's Death and Resurrection changed everything. Christ has died, He has risen, and He will come again.

The setting for today's Gospel reading is on the Mount of Olives, just two days before the Agony in the Garden at Gethsemane. Jesus is speaking privately with Peter, James, John, and Andrew. He urges them to vigilance: "May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'" Yet even these men who were his closest disciples will struggle and fail to remain awake and alert. His warning is not just to these four but to all disciples for all time: Watch!

Scripture scholar Maria Barga comments that while the context of the Gospel reading refers to the second coming of Jesus, this reading is appropriate as we prepare to commemorate Jesus' coming into this world on Christmas Day. Like the "lord of the house" in today's Gospel, Jesus' incarnation came at the least expected time and manner possible, as a baby boy resting in a lowly manger.

Reflecting on how the King arrives at the Second Coming and how he arrives at his Nativity, here is our question for this week:

When Christmas day arrives, will you be "sleeping" or will you be "watchful" and ready for our Lord?

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.

Looking a bit further into the future, the Parish Council and a few other parishioners have been discussing and developing a Vision for our Church of the Visitation community. Our beautiful worship space would not be what it is today without the whole parish working toward a vision. Now that that space is built, what is our vision? What shall we accomplish or what shall we become over the next five or ten years?

The Diocese of Richmond provides some guidance on developing a vision for a parish:

- * Vision is the prerequisite for leading into the future.
- * Vision gives a sense of purpose and meaning, providing focus, energy, and willingness to risk.
- * It points the way into the future that God envisions for all of us.
- * 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.

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 and proclaim the Word of God, celebrate the Eucharist, and serve the local community.

Our vision may also be informed by the listening that has been done during the Synod on Synodality. We are reviewing what was heard last year during our parish mall group consultations. We also have a "halftime report" from the work in Rome this past October, and we are beginning to hear directly from bishops who attended those discussions. While reflecting upon his experience in Rome, Bishop Robert Barron recently wrote: "The Church is meant to announce the Gospel to everyone and to gather them into the Body of Christ. We must welcome everyone, but...at the same time must summon those we include to conversion, to live according to the truth."

When you receive a Vision Survey form at Mass or by email, 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. Or, if writing is not your strength, 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, Anthony Falco, Eleanor Smith,
Mary Lou Miller, Joe Tyler, Jean Cameron,
William Dowson & Robert Borden



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

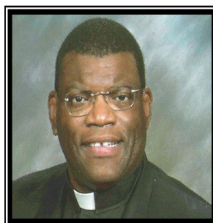
FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Dr. Nicole Touchet, Gloria Powell, Chloe Pearson, Barbara Daly, Mia Angelis, the Angelis family, John & Debbie Stockhorst, Martha Buesinger, Jane Butcher, Bridgie Graham-Smith, 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 Ferari, Barbara & Ron Burkhart, 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.*



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:

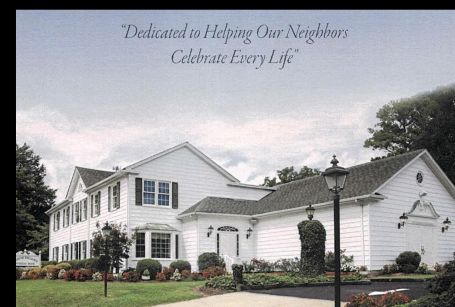
Pancake Breakfast, Italian Feast, St. Pat's Dinner, KOVAR Collection, Dave Marchant Golf Tournament.

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
Owner Owner

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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

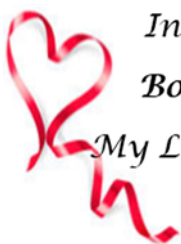
We Support The Youth Scholarship
John & Carol McCormack



 
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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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

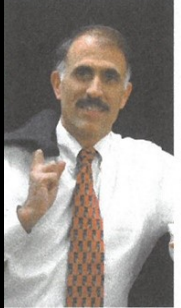



C. Ben Lennon, D.D.S.
Mathews Dentistry 804-725-9485
Deltaville Dentistry 804-776-9484

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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