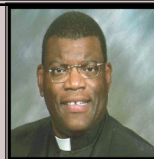


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FATHER JOHN BODDIE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

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.

THE HOLY FAMILY

What is the Holy Family prayer?

HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass.



What is an example of a Holy Family?

The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, united in love for God and in obedience to God, supplies us with the perfect example of how to live and of the ideal family, united in God's love. No family formed in the likeness of the Holy Family will be in peril.

In that home at Nazareth we meet a couple who shows an openness to allowing God to lead their life together. Mary surely had other plans for her life; as many believe, she took a vow of virginity at an early age, so becoming a physical mother was something she did not anticipate. Yet, she heard God's invitation, and knew that His plans were better for her life; therefore, she gives her fiat — that is, her “yes” to God.

St. Joseph opens his heart to the messenger sent by God and takes Mary into his home. This would not be the first or last time that St. Joseph followed God's lead in his life as he protected the Holy Family. After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, they follow the prompting of an angel to flee into Egypt for safety and wait there until another angelic message leads them back home. The Holy Family is a great example for families everywhere to always be open to whatever God's will might be and to always be listening for God to speak. He might speak his will in prayer or through another person. By our own prayer and discernment, we too can follow God's lead for our life.

The gospel of the family

To live the gospel of the family is not easy today. Those who want to defend life from the moment of conception are criticized or attacked. Yet in the Gospel we find the way to live a beautiful life on the personal and familial level, a way that is certainly challenging, but attractive and all-embracing. It is a way that still deserves to be trusted and undertaken after the example and through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth itself. There are happy and sad, serene and difficult moments in every family. This is life. To live the “gospel of the family” does not exempt us from experiencing difficulties and tensions, of encountering moments of pleasant fortitude and painful weakness. Families who are wounded and marked by weakness, failure, difficulty...can rise again if they learn how to draw from the font of the Gospel. There, they can rediscover new possibilities of starting over.

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 Delagrance and Kevin Hayes. In a feverish two days of activity two weeks ago 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.

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS

Mark & Nicole Fatigato
Hayley & Jax
139 Forest Drive
Hartfield Va 23071



Mark.fatigato15@gmail.com
703-881-1189
Nicole.germain16@yahoo.com
804-832-3846

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!



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

De ember 31 2023

ACTIVELY WAITING IN FAITHFULNESS

Today's Gospel tells of the interaction of the Holy Family with two elderly people they encounter in the Temple in Jerusalem shortly after Jesus' birth.

Mary and Joseph present their newborn Child in the Temple, in obedience to the law, forty days after his birth, even though Jesus, the Son of God, is already “consecrated to the Lord,” and Mary has no need of purification. Yet their humble and obedient fulfillment of the law enables us to see our salvation, and, like Simeon, to encounter our long-awaited consolation and redemption.

Saint Luke tells us that Simeon is directed to the Temple by the Spirit. Earlier, we are told, it had been revealed to Simeon that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord, and Simeon has been waiting for a very long time for Christ's arrival. When he takes the infant Jesus in his arms, he blesses God, and sings that the Lord's word has been fulfilled and that his own “eyes have seen your salvation which you prepared in sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for your people Israel.” (Luke 2:31-32)

While the story of the Presentation of The Lord has sometimes been called “Simeon's Encounter with Jesus,” there is another prophet in the temple on that day with The Holy Family. Anna is over 80 years old and she is a widow. We know her father's name and her tribal lineage. We have none of her words. But we have her example of faithfulness, anticipating with prayer and fasting. When Anna comes into the Temple, she gives thanks to God and begins to evangelize about the beginning of the promised redemption of Jerusalem.

The Little Rock Scripture Study of the Gospel According to Luke includes this commentary:

If you have ever been promised something for which you had to wait a very long time, you might be able to appreciate the faithfulness of Simeon and Anna. It is not just their waiting that leads them to recognize that the child Jesus is the beginning of promises fulfilled. Simeon is a man of prayer who experiences the Spirit and finds in the Temple the sign he is told to expect. Anna is a prophetess, who reads the signs of the times and speaks for God. She spends her time in the Temple in prayer and fasting.

Both Simeon and Anna illustrate that waiting involves action and contemplative listening. They go to the place where their faith finds its home and they are people of prayer. They were not simply in the right place at the right time; they were in the right space spiritually and recognized the time of God's action.

Reflecting upon the examples of Simeon and Anna, this week we ask:

What specific actions can you take to improve your active waiting for the glory and goodness of God in your life?

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:

Buck Hawksworth, Helen Tyrrell, Mary Catherine Borden, Buddy Moore & Bob O'Keefe



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

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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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 7, 2024 Mass for Elaine Graham
 Sunday, February 18, 2024 Mass for Elaine Graham

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR TODAY

In a letter from Bishop Knestout a week ago, 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 today. Please support this worthy effort.



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:

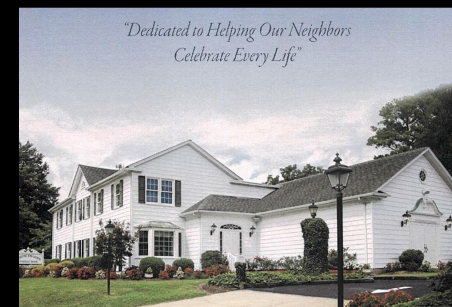
Pancake Breakfast, Italian Feast, St. Pat's Dinner, KOVAR Collection, Dave Marchant Golf Tournament.

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

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Lynne & Gary Richardson

Thanks for always supporting us in everything we do!

Emily & Anna



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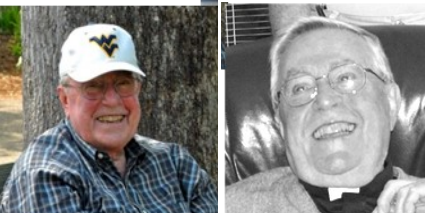
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Bob and Catherine Borden
Fred and Betty Meister

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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


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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


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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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