

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



First Sunday of Lent
February 18, 2024 Year B
Today's Mass Intention is for Elaine Graham

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: open
Religious Education: Zaida Wohleking
Parish Life: Johnna Harris
RCIA/Adult Formation: John Weidner
Pastoral Care: Lynne Richardson
Administration: Ray Kostaskey

FINANCE COUNCIL

John Charbeneau
Anne Wolski
Debby Harriman
Ray Kostaskey-Chairman
Fritz Sitterding

PARISH COUNCIL

Kevin Hayes
Cindy Jessee-Vice Chair
Steve Kirsch
Helen Linden
Roseanne Moncure-Secretary
Cindy Powers
Tom Jessee
Shelley Katsuki
John Weidner-Chair

Church Secretary, Andrea Moore
Webmaster/IT, Mike Dreelin

MASS/MUSIC

Entrance: Enter The Journey #647

"Loving and Forgiving" #662

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914

Glory To God #915

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Responsorial Psalm: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading: Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Acclamation: One does not live on bread alone, but on every work that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Be Still and Know That I Am God #465

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: Hosea #663

Meditation: Turn to Me #658

Recessional: Change Our Hearts #660



February Birthdays

2nd-Monique Donner; 4th-Dimitri Angell; 5th-Marisa Bonanno;
7th-Jen Clair; 9th-Bea Foley; 12th-Kari Lee Donavon;
13th-Robert Borden; 17th-Loretta Borostovik, Felicity-Hartlove and
Gina Putney; 19th-Robert Smith; 25th-Brennan Williams;
26th-Barbara Smith, Gretchen Borzelleca and Annabel Clair.

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



February Anniversaries

4th-Gene & Anne Wolski; 14th-Joseph and Mary Sychterz;
15th-Donna and Thomas Lange; 25th-Michael and Lynn Dreelin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 18th-1st Sunday of Lent
February 19th-Presidents Day
February 21st-#1 Stations and Soup
February 25th-2nd Sunday of Lent/KOC Pancake Breakfast
February 28th-#2 Stations and Soup
March 3rd-3rd Sunday of Lent
March 5th-Confirmation (St. Bede) (Kaylee & Brennan)
March 6th-#3 Stations and Soup
March 7th-Adoration 9:30-10:30am
March 10th-4th Sunday of Lent; Social Sunday (Confirmation celebration)

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!



February 18, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange

Community Leader: G. Richardson

Altar Server: Miller/Smith

Lectors: P. DeGroot/M. Ballato

Eucharistic Ministers:

Hosts: Harvey

Chalice: Donovan/Marcil/

Music: L. Mears

Counters: Tutak/Harvey

February 25, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange

Community Leader: B. Puttmann

Altar Server: K. Kirsch

Lectors: T. Shoemaker/J. Sychterz

Eucharistic Ministers:

Hosts: A. Wolski

Chalice: Harriman/Shoemaker/Plunkert

Music: J. McCormack

Counters: Harris/Hollingsworth

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from February 11, 2024

Collection:	\$ 2,780
Second Collection:	
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 81,583
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 76,572
Loan Balance:	\$ 136,463



Our second collection today is for St Noa School.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$1358 January Electricity; \$5048 Diocesan Assessment for 3 months.

LEGACY

A Gift Anyone Can Make

Want to support your parish but think you can't afford to give? There are ways to give today while still preserving your retirement assets. If you are 72 or over, a gift of Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA to the parish helps the parish and may provide you with tax benefits. Giving through your IRA is EASY! To learn how you can make an impact through your IRA right now, contact your financial advisor.



RECURRING EVENTS

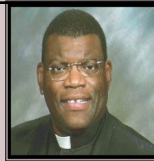
Weekly-Sunday 8:30am-New Worship Area Rosary (Cindy Jessee)
1st-Thursday of the month-Adoration 9:30am-10:30am (Cindy Jessee)
2nd-Monday of the month-Visitation Singers 9:30am (Carol McCormack)
3rd-Wednesday of the month-K of C meeting starts 5:15pm (Al Langer)
2nd & 4th-Monday each month at 1:00 pm Shawl Ministry (Sandi Delagrange)
1st-Friday each month at 9:00; other weeks on Thursdays at 9:45- COV Gals. (Louise Petralia/Eileen O'Brien)

**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 Biley
Dan & Linda Peterson
Frank & Terry Sisto
Gene & Anne Wolski
Mr. & Mrs. Donald S. Ross

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

Take Home Lesson

February 18, 2024

Sons and Daughters of God

This lesson is adapted from the National Eucharistic Revival Preaching Series Guide.

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus enters the desert, driven there by the Holy Spirit, where he is tempted by the devil. (Mark 1:12-13) Luke's Gospel (4:13) gives more details of this encounter. The first thing that Satan says to Jesus is "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread" (Lk 4:3).

Satan's tempting is meant to strike at the heart of Jesus' identity and relationship with the Father. This is the same strategy the serpent used with Eve in Genesis, when he asks, "Did God really say, 'You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden?'" (Gen 3:1) Satan's question is meant to attack Eve's trust and relationship with her heavenly Father. That question ultimately led to the Fall of Man and humanity's separation from God.

Not willing to abandon us to death—the consequence of abusing our free will—the Father set a plan of salvation in motion that reached its fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who would make satisfaction for our sins through his life and Death, and in his Resurrection and Ascension would make it possible for us to receive his divine life and experience intimacy and union with God in the reality of His Kingdom.

To prepare the world for the coming of his Son, Jesus, the Father drew near his people through the use of covenants, which are far more than simply legal agreements but rather are an intimate exchange of persons—similar in depth and scope to marriage, for example. The covenant that God made with Noah and his descendants isn't primarily about obedience to a set of rules but rather fidelity to a relationship and a path to righteousness. This way of life and path to righteousness is brought to fulfillment in Jesus, who reveals it as his Father's Kingdom which "is at hand." However, Jesus doesn't simply announce the Kingdom; he is the kingdom "personified." What does it look like to live divine life fruitfully? It looks like Jesus!

Jesus makes his life available to us as Catholics in many ways (through Scripture, prayer, fellowship, etc.), but most especially through the Church and her sacraments, and in particular through the sacrament of the Eucharist. The Father looks upon each of us and calls us by our names through his Son Jesus, who waits for us in the Eucharist, where he has made himself so small—coming to us under the appearance of bread and wine—that we can take him, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, into our very being and live fruitfully as sons and daughters.

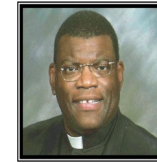
Fidelity to living out the covenant brings forgiveness and transformation. This is brought to fulfillment in the eternal covenant Jesus makes with us through his life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. If we surrender our lives to Jesus, we will truly be conformed to him and live in harmony as sons and daughters of God.

Satan tries to disrupt Jesus' relationship with the Father through his temptations, yet Jesus' fidelity confirms both his identity and his messianic mission. Jesus truly is the Son of God. We share Jesus' life through baptism, and this life of grace is preserved, increased, and renewed through fruitful reception of the Eucharist, fortifying us as sons and daughters of God.

What does it mean to you to be a son or daughter of God?

**APPROACHING DEADLINE FOR
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS**

The deadline for anyone interested in applying for a Father John Boddie Scholarship for post high school education is early March, 2024.



The Website for the scholarship application can be found at www.church-of-the-visitation.org.



TAX STATEMENTS FOR 2023

If you desire a tax statement for this year, please place your name on the writing tablet located on the table in the Narthex. For those parishioners who requested statements, your statements are located on the admin table in the Narthex.



'ANGEL TREE THANK YOU'S'

This week we received the thank you notes from the Middle Peninsula Regional Security center and from some of the clients children hat received Christmas gifts. You can find the thank you notes from the children on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The thank you note from the Security Center is attached to the email of the bulletin.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Many thanks to all who sent prayers & kind messages of condolences following my brother's passing December 28th. Father Gerry graciously agreed to officiate @ his service @ the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Suffolk.

With Gratitude, Lynn Vajda

SURVEY

Attached to the bulletin email was a summarization of the survey responses. We thank chair person Debbie McNeil, Paul Dubicki, Terry Skovera and Bill Puttmann for their efforts in compiling the results. Please give us your comments and reactions to the survey report. You may email your comments to the office, or pick up a form after Mass from the podium at the entrance to the Narthex and give us your response.

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS

Gil & Nina Stephan
256 Shore Drive
Kilmarnock, VA 22482
Email: gilstephan@gmail.com



CONGRATULATIONS



Molly Weston, granddaughter of Mary Ellen Sherwood, and former Faith Formation participant recently graduated for the RCC Nursing Program. She received the Catherine Courtney Award.

Congratulations Molly!

THANK YOU FROM THE WAGNER FAMILY

Thank you so much for making everything work seamlessly with the Memorial Service on Saturday.

Andy Wagner



2024 APPEAL

As mentioned in the announcement of the Lenten Season, the Annual Appeal's in-pew process will take place on today and next Sunday during Mass. Your support of the Appeal will provide for 22 distinct ministries of our Catholic Church such as food and shelter for families, support young men as they study as they study to become future priests, faith formation for youth and young adults, and so much more.



We will have pledge cards and envelopes for your use during Mass, or you can enroll using the QR code included below. Last year we benefitted from the Appeal in several ways. The Diocese returned to us 50% of the monies we donated because we are a mission church.

Additionally, we received grants from the Fuel and Hunger Fund for our Parish Pence program and the Home Mission Fund for the purchase of security cameras.

The appeal comes at a critical opportunity for us to empower the next generation, provide for those in need, and strengthen Catholic Communities.


Our Parish goal has increased by 13% this year and is \$8,120. We will provide you with updates as the campaign progresses.

Catholic Community Foundation
of the Diocese of Richmond
2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal

"Gifts to the Annual Diocesan Appeal help to build up the Church and answer the call to *Share His Love with Others.*"

— Most Reverend
Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond

SOUP AND STATIONS




Lenten Soup and Stations begin on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Sign up sheets for soup makers and bread bakers can be found in the Narthex.

LENT IS HERE

As you are aware, we have announced that it's our practice to observe four soup and station nights on the four Wednesday after Ash Wednesday beginning at 5:30pm. We still need many volunteers to prepare soup and/or bread for the participants.

On Good Friday, we will observe the stations in the cemetery and have an afternoon retreat. To assist you in your devotions, located on the admin table in the Narthex is the Lenten "Black Books". Please take one for your use during Lent.

The Lenten schedule is also there as a reminder of the events. As a final note, the triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil Masses) will be at COV this year.




FASTING AND ABSTINENCE DURING LENT

Fasting is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

Abstinence is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted.

All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting.

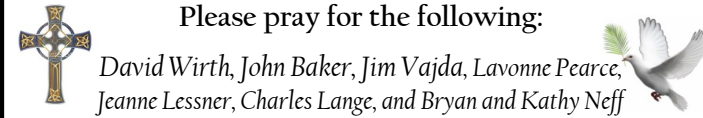


Forwarding
All
Issues
To
Heaven

Accept what is, let go
of what was, and have
faith in what will be.

IF YOU EVER GET
CAUGHT SLEEPING
AT WORK, JUST
SLOWLY RAISE
YOUR HEAD AND SAY
"IN JESUS' NAME I PRAY"

Please pray for the following:



David Wirth, John Baker, Jim Vajda, Lavonne Pearce, Jeanne Lessner, Charles Lange, and Bryan and Kathy Neff

PARISHIONERS
Walt & Kari Lee Donovan, Peggy Williams, Paula Wilson, John & Carol McCormack, Lynne McMurtrie, Barbara Smith, The Hollingsworth family, Don Tyrrell, David Rector, Lorraine Kirsch, Tom Shoemaker, Bea Foley, Jack King, 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
Christopher Seay, Brian Patrick Dubicki, Scott Delagrange, Lynn Messina, Shirley Schultz, Gene Sullivan, Dr. Nicole Touchet, Gloria Powell, Chloe Pearson, Barbara Daly, Mia Angelis, the Angelis family, Debbie Stockhorst, Susie Reber, 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 Burkhart, John Calvin Barnard, Joseph Borzelleca, Andy Hetzer, Sandy Alter, Ryan Jessee, Larry Hersh, Dominick Perry.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS
Karen Tatum, Lucille Redmond, Harry Flannery, Sharon Horrobin, Ralph Burroughs Kate Taylor, Allison Miksenas, Cynthia Freeburger, Mike Gorin, Carroll Brown, Robin Brown, Boyd Newhouse, Bill Benson, Mike McCullean, Deloys Barry, Jim Durburo, Richard & Sharon Fitts, Karen Armstrong, Kenny & Mary Marshall, Ann Chatos, Genie Kauffman, Pattie Sobieski, Cliff Dean, Christopher Hutton, Olga Hall, Elizabeth Panzer, Tom Sennott, Jim & Inga Peddicord, David Gunn, Kathy Goyno, 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.


PANCAKE BREAKFAST




The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast next Sunday. The menu will be pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee. Please stay after and enjoy breakfast and camaraderie with fellow parishioners.

Donations accepted.

SAVE THE DATE



Family Movie Night coming to COV on Saturday, March 16th @ 5:30pm. More information will follow.

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.

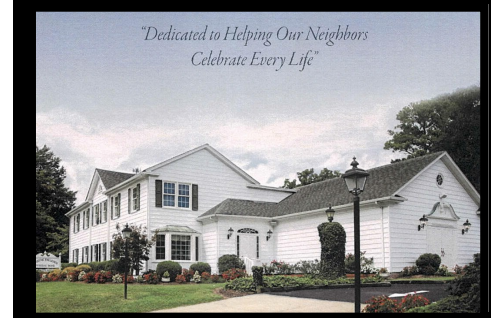
Activities that provide funding:
Pancake Breakfast, Italian Feast, St. Pat's Dinner, KOVAR Collection, Dave Marchant Golf Tournament.

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.



*Faulkner Funeral Homes
& Cremation Services*

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bhogge@faulknerfuneralhcs.com
804-758-2315



*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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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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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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STAINED GLASS
Al Langer 804-815-1328


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SUN: CLOSED



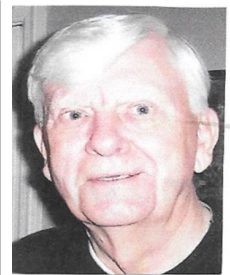
In Memory of
Bob Hartman
My Love of My Life
Jenny





In loving memory of
Marty Hawksworth
Tom & Sharon



Helping Our Youth Build Their Future
Limerick II
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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