

# 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 Lent  
February 25, 2024 Year B

Mass Intention today is for Carmen Brinkley

### 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: O Bless the Lord My Soul #561

"Loving and Forgiving" #662

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914

Glory To God #915

### Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18

Responsorial Psalm: I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34

Gospel Acclamation: From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Turn to Me #658

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: How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place #683

Meditation: Here I Am Lord #395

Recessional: Change Our Hearts #660



### March Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup>-David Bushey and Melissa Cabocel; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Scarlett Balch; 5<sup>th</sup>-Earlyne Glenn and Thomas Lange; 6<sup>th</sup>-Sinclair Cabocel; 8<sup>th</sup>-Sandi Delagrang and Kathryn Balch; 10<sup>th</sup>-Sarah Wohleking; 14<sup>th</sup>-Lisenka Wunder; 15<sup>th</sup>-Gloria Matthews and Tori Hollingsworth; 20<sup>th</sup>-Alexander Bushey and Gary Richardson; 21<sup>st</sup>-Peggy Williams; 23<sup>rd</sup>-Barbara Morrison; 24<sup>th</sup>-Barbara Hollingsworth; 25<sup>th</sup>-Michael Pycha; 28<sup>th</sup>-Camillo Bonanno; 29<sup>th</sup>-Eugene Wolski; 30<sup>th</sup>-Joe Sychterz and Michele Meanley.

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



### March Anniversaries

13<sup>th</sup>-Jan and Natalie Smith; 15<sup>th</sup>-Frank and Gerry Lohr;  
24<sup>th</sup>-Bill and Johnna Harris.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Today-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)  
March 11th-Visitation Singers

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrang Community Leader: Puttmann  
Altar Server: Kaylee Kirsch Lectors: Shoemaker/Sychterz  
Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski  
Chalice: Harriman/Shoemaker/Plunkert  
Music: McCormack Counters: Harris/Hollingsworth

### MARCH 3, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrang Community Leader: McCormack  
Altar Server: Sychterz Lectors: Weidner/Sherwood  
Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: DeGroot  
Chalice: Donovan/G. Richardson/  
Music: M. Krop Counters: O'Brien/Smiths

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION from February 18, 2024

Collection:	\$ 1,944
Second Collection: St Noa	\$ 996
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 83,527
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 78,637
Loan Balance:	\$ 136,463



There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week: \$8,880 three months of Diocesan Assessments.

### LEGACY

Permanent funds, such as those held in trust by the parish office, support the ministries of the donor's choosing. We hope you will consider a legacy gift that would support our church's ongoing witness.



Potential Promise & Purpose

There will always be the oppressed, the sick and the disenfranchised in our world. We will always need to help provide for ministerial education. Long after our lifetimes there will be people teaching other people about Jesus Christ. Create your legacy now to support these ministries now and beyond your lifetime.

### RECURRING EVENTS

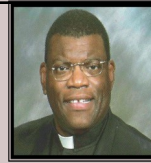
Weekly-Sunday 8:30am-New Worship Area Rosary (Cindy Jessee)  
1st-Thursday of the month-Adoration 9:30am-10:30am (Cindy Jessee)  
2nd-Monday of the month-Visitation Singers 9:30am (Carol McCormack)  
3rd-Wednesday of the month-K of C meeting starts 5:15pm (Al Langer)  
2nd & 4th-Monday each month at 1:00 pm Shawl Ministry (Sandi Delagrang)  
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](http://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**

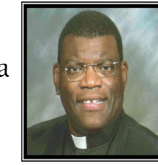
In loving memory of  
**Joseph H. Nolte Jr.**



Forever,  
**JoAnn**

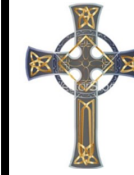
**APPROACHING DEADLINE FOR  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS**

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](http://www.church-of-the-visitation.org).

**MASS INTENTIONS**



February 25th-Carmen Brinkley  
March 3rd-Donald Oscar Crotteau  
TBA-Fritz Campbell

**2024 APPEAL**



This Sunday is the second Sunday dedicated to the in-pew process of the Annual Appeal. As previously noted, our goal is \$8,120, slightly more than last year, and formidable.



All parishioners who donated to the appeal in past years should have received a letter from the Bishop requesting a donation. We also have a brochure and pledge cards available for new parishioners and others wishing to participate for the first time. You can also donate by scanning a QR code located above.

If you took a pledge card last Sunday and filled it out, you can drop it in the collection basket or give it to an usher.

When you support the Annual Diocesan Appeal, you help our parish get the word out that God is here! He lives in our little tabernacle! It's a secret that shouldn't be kept. God doesn't want to overpower us with his transfigured divinity every day. God's care is manifest in the Eucharist: its humble appearance enables the fragile human heart to "fill that gap" with faith.

As Saint Thomas Aquinas says, where "our feeble senses fail," faith rises (the Tantum Ergo). Please help our parish facilitate these privileged encounters by supporting the Appeal. Through your generosity, you'll help us provide the Eucharist to all who seek it in the quiet, human way our Lord seems to prefer.

**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

**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.

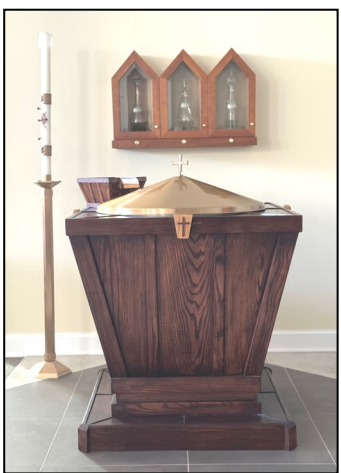
All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting.



**LENTEN ENVIRONMENT**

As we enter the journey of Lent, we are entering the desert as Jesus did to clear our thoughts and concentrate on our faith in Him.

We should keep in mind that, just as our Father gave us water, the gift of life that makes life possible for us, so too, the waters of baptism make our life in Christ possible.



Why do all the songs at church end in "Amen"?  
Because they are all hymns

What is the last word at the end of the Bible?  
Amen



Take Home Lesson

**A Sign of God's Presence**

February 25, 2024

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

In today's First Reading, we are to see in Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac the loving heart of the Father, who offers even the life of his own son for the sake of his people.

In the Second Reading, Paul emphasizes the compassion of the Father's heart and exhorts Christians to trust in the Lord's goodness and protection. If the Father loved us enough to send his Son Jesus to the Cross, how much more does he want to fill us with the fullness of mercy, truth, and freedom found in his Kingdom? Just as the Lord provided the sacrifice so that Isaac's life would be spared, the Father offers his own Son, Jesus, to suffer and die so that we might truly live.

It is precisely the sonship of Jesus that we hear highlighted in this week's Gospel account of the Transfiguration, as the Lord declares, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." (Mk 9:7). Occurring as it does later in Jesus' ministry, on the threshold of Christ's Passion, the Father's affirmation of Jesus was confirmation of not only his identity but also his mission. Jesus is the Anointed One, sent into the world to suffer and die so that the life of the Kingdom may be made available to all.

The Father's admonition to "listen to him" reveals that Jesus is not simply teaching good life principles. Remember, both Moses (representing the Law) and Elijah (representing the Prophets) are present on the mountain with Jesus, signifying that he is the fulfillment of God's revelation to his people. Jesus, in his very life and teaching, invites people into a new identity and relationship with the Father that leads to transformation and new life.

What does it mean to listen to Jesus? This week's Scriptures offer us a clear model in Abraham's willingness to hold nothing back from the Lord. His fidelity didn't stop at following the "letter" of God's commands. Abraham made his relationship with God the bedrock of his life, placing its importance before everything else. Because of this, the Lord renewed and strengthened the promises he had made to Abraham in the initial covenant (Gen 12:1-3). Now these promises are given as a reward for Abraham's faithfulness (Gen 22:17-18).

When we surrender ourselves to Jesus, making our relationship with him the centerpiece of our lives, we are experiencing the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham. Baptism makes us members of "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation," the Church (1 Pet 2:9): she has been given the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, which will one day be gathered in the Father when death and evil are no more. When we live intentionally as disciples of Jesus, we become a sign of God's presence in the world. The greatest expression of this is our participation in the Eucharist, which simultaneously draws us closer to Christ and each other and sends us out to fulfill God's will in our daily lives.

*In what ways do you think the Eucharist empowers us to be a sign of God's presence in our families, in our community, and in our world?*



### SOUP AND STATIONS #2

Lenten Soup and Stations will be held on Wednesday, February 28th. Sign up sheets for soup makers and bread bakers can be found in the Narthex.

### SEASON OF LENT

Some facts and practices:

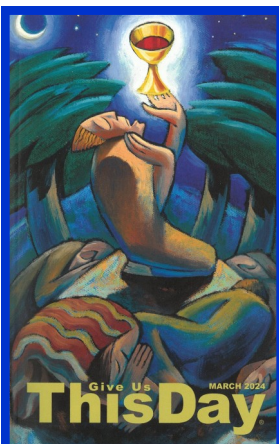
- \* Lasts from Ash Wednesday through Holy Thursday.
- \* No flowers on the Altar and Musical instruments should be used only to "give necessary support to the singing."
- \* The exception is the 4th Sunday of Lent and on solemnities and feasts.
- \* No Gloria is sung.
- \* Marriages and Baptisms may take place.
- \* Holy water remains available to the faithful.
- \* On Holy Thursday and Good Friday, The Eucharist is only distributed during the Liturgy, but may be brought to the sick at any convenient hour.
- \* Funeral Masses are not permitted on Holy Thursday and during the Paschal Triduum.



### GIVE US THIS DAY

Give us this day is published monthly by the Benedictines of St. John's, Colledgeville, MN. They have offered us free copies of the March issue to acquaint us with their publication. It includes the Mass readings of the day with a reflection on them. There is also a brief daily biography of a blessed person that is interesting and offers inspiration.

A good Lenten practice could be to start the day with 10 minutes reading Give Us This Day. Thank you to Pat DeGroot who made these booklets available to us.



### 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.



Please pray for the following:

Edna Duel, Art Smith, Dick Zimmerman, Dick Hersh and Chuck Walsh Sr.



### 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 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, 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, Delores 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 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.

### SAVE THE DATE



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



### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

Donations accepted.



### 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:

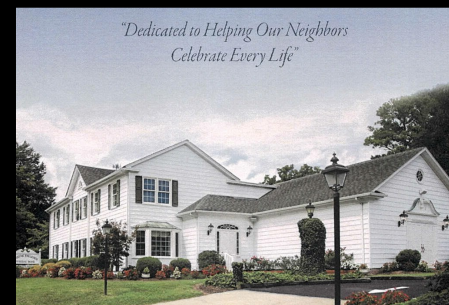
Pancake Breakfast, Italian Feast, St. Pat's Dinner, KOVAR Collection, Dave Marchant Golf Tournament.

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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-Clarence D. Jones, Prop.-

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 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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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  
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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