

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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E-Mail: office@COVTopping.org

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



Third Sunday of Lent
March 3, 2024 Year B

Mass Intention today is for Donald Oscar Crotteau

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 Dreelein

MASS/MUSIC

Entrance: We Belong To You #642

"Loving and Forgiving" #662

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914

Glory To God #915

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Second Reading: Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel Acclamation: God so love the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

Gospel: John 2:13-25

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: O God You Search Me #514

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: In the Breaking of the Bread #321

Meditation: Open My Eyes #405

Recessional: I Hear the Voice of Jesus #464



March Birthdays

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

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



March Anniversaries

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
March 13th-#4 Stations and Soup
March 14th-Liturgy Meeting 10am/Parish Council Meeting 3pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

MARCH 10, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrang

Community Leader: Harriman

Altar Server: Miller/Dorman

Lectors: Sychterz/DeGroot

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: A. Wolski

Chalice: Shoemaker/Sychterz/Plunkert/Seay

Music: J. Smith

Counters: King/Kirsch/Angell

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from February 25, 2024

Collection: \$ 2,150
Second Collection: \$
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 85,677
Total Budget Projection: \$ 80,366
Loan Balance: \$ 136,463

Today's second collection is for debt reduction.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$211 January Telephone; \$514 Credit Card Charges.



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

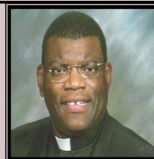
Weekly-Sunday 8:30am-New Worship Area Rosary (Cindy Jessee)
1st-Thursday of the month-Adoration 9:30am-10:30am (Cindy Jessee)
2nd-Monday of the month-Visitation Singers 9:30am (Carol McCormack)
3rd-Wednesday of the month-K of C meeting starts 5:15pm (Al Langer)
2nd & 4th-Monday each month at 1:00 pm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

Intimate and Personal Relationship

March 3, 2024

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

In this week's First Reading from Exodus, we hear how the Lord gave the Israelites Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were more than simply a set of rules to follow; rather, they emerged out of the Jewish people's covenantal relationship with the Lord. A covenant was far more than an alliance or legal agreement. Entering a covenant means formalizing a deep and intimate relationship which becomes an exchange of persons.

In his covenants with the Jewish people, the Lord binds himself to Israel, and the Israelites bind themselves to the Lord. This is the essential meaning of the word religion, which we get from the Latin word ligere, which means "to bind." In this covenant, the Israelites are literally "bound again" to the Lord in relationship. Thus, the first commandment is rooted in relationship with the Lord: "I, the LORD am your God, who brought you out of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me" (Ex 20:2-3).

Following the Ten Commandments, then, is a loving response to the God who led the Israelites out of an experience of slavery into life and freedom. Why is this important for us, who encounter this reading thousands of years after it was written? The Gospel reading helps us answer that question.

All of the covenants which we see in the Old Testament prepare the world for the definitive and eternal covenant in Jesus Christ. The Gospel reading depicts Jesus cleansing the temple. As he turns over the moneychanger's tables, Jesus is reprioritizing relationship with God over exclusively external obedience to rules that has become merely transactional.

The Temple sat at the center of Jewish culture, religion, and society. In many ways, it was one of the foundations of their identity as a people. Jesus' cleansing of the Temple disrupts that essential worship happening within the temple, and he makes a startling declaration. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body" (Jn 2:19-21).

Here Jesus identifies himself as the center of authentic worship and relationship with God. Fidelity to the Mosaic law and animal sacrifices are no longer the criteria for understanding ourselves in a valid, intimate relationship with God. Jesus is the way to the Father!

In his actions in today's Gospel, Jesus is demonstrating that, in the new and eternal covenant, authentic worship of the Father will not occur in the context of a place but from within his Person, from within an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus in the midst of his Mystical Body, the Church. And it is in the Holy Eucharist, where we receive Jesus, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, that our union with Jesus grows deeper and more profound.

The very first and foundational commandment is about relationship. We are to remove all of the idols in our lives so that God is central. With that in mind, this week we ask:

What are some of the idols that you see in your life that get in the way of making your relationship with God the primary relationship in your life?

MID-LENT

This coming Sunday (March 29, 2024) marks the almost-center of Lent, a day of gentle celebration. The exact middle of Lent falls on a Thursday, but the Sunday following that center point, the fourth Sunday of Lent, is known as Laetare (lay-TAH-ray) Sunday. Traditions surrounding this special day stem back hundreds of years with a variety of influences shaping its meaning.

One of the main purposes of giving this day special notice is to offer those who have been diligently making sacrifices up to this point in Lent a sort of intermission, to let a touch of celebration seep into the day, to realize with joy that the halfway point has been crossed and that Easter is well on its way (similar to Gaudete Sunday during Advent).

Ways to celebrate Laetare Sunday

- *There are no strict rules on how to commemorate Laetare Sunday; below are just a few ideas to add a special touch to the day....
- *Pause and evaluate your Lenten journey so far. Ponder any adjustments you feel a need to make.
- *If you normally practice Lenten fasting on Sundays, consider taking a break on Laetare Sunday (Lent with Sundays is 46 days long; Lent excluding Sundays is 40 days long).
- *Plant a rose bush.
- *Light a rose-colored votive candle & pray for spiritual guidance for the second half of Lent.
- *Work something rose-colored into your outfit.
- *Give a rose to someone who has spiritually influenced you ...a parent, a good friend, Bible Study teacher, your children's CCD teacher, etc.
- *Give a rose to a "spiritual mother," maybe someone who had never had children, but has given generously to others.
- *Make a Laetare Sunday cake, You can find many recipes for a traditional English Simnel cake online, but any cake or special treat will do.
- *If it's not too far away, visit your Mother Church (Cathedral). Spend a bit of time in prayer and try to learn about one piece of artwork in the church.
- *Discuss with your family the Gospel reading of the day and how it represents joy.



2024 APPEAL

A Message from Fr. Koo,

During the last two weeks, I spoke about the Annual Diocesan Appeal. In this time of Lent, I hope you have taken time to consider how you can support this year's effort which provides essential ministries throughout our Diocese aimed at empowering the next generation of Catholics, helping those in need, and strengthening our parishes and Catholic communities.

It is my hope that every household in our parish contributes to this year's effort. Please visit richmondcatholicfoundation.org/appeal to make a secure online donation or visit our parish office for a hard copy pledge card.

Every gift, no matter the amount, makes a difference. Thank you very much for your prayerful consideration of support. God bless.

If you have a pledge card and wish to send it in, you can drop it in the collection basket or give it to an usher.



GIVE US THIS DAY

Give us this day is published monthly by the Benedictines of St. John's, Collegeville, 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.

REGRETS

We are saddened to announce the death last weekend of parishioner Betty Hodge. Homebound the last few years, Betty joined the church in 2000 and immediately became an active parishioner. Noted for her work at Daily Mass, watering plants, and feeding the cats. At press time, we did not have information about burial and Mass of Resurrection plans.



MASS INTENTIONS

March 3rd-Donald Oscar Crotteau

TBA-Fritz Campbell



SOUP AND STATIONS #3

Lenten Soup and Stations will be held on Wednesday, March 6th. Sign up sheets for soup makers and bread bakers can be found in the Narthex.

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.

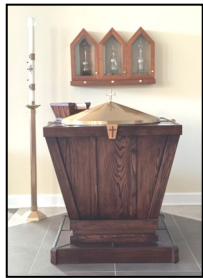
All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting.



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.



CHURCH OF THE VISITATION
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
FREE!

SATURDAY MARCH 16TH, 5-8PM
DOUBLE FEATURE

5 PM - "VEGGIETALES: TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE EASTER"
5:45 PM - PIZZA, POPCORN AND DRINKS
6 PM - "HEAVEN IS FOR REAL"

COME FOR ONE OR STAY FOR BOTH!

MORE INFO / RSVP



Please pray for the following:

Betty Hodge, Kitty Nielson, Lucy Hock, and Catherine Walsh.



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 Krumb, Marianne Krop, Michele Meanley, Louise Petralia, 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, Grace Anderson, 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

Angel Carlson, Risa Estes, Deloris Cooper, 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 Goynes, 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.



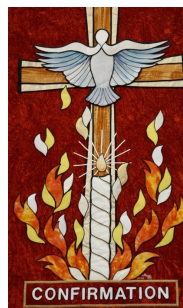
TODAY IS SOCIAL SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Social Sunday after Mass. Please stay and enjoy the opportunity for camaraderie, story-telling, and good food! Please bring a dish to share if you can.

CONGRADULATIONS

Congratulations to Kaylee Kirsch and Brennan Williams who will be confirmed this coming Tuesday evening at St. Bede's church in Williamsburg by Bishop Knestout.

We are proud of our two new confirmedness.



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

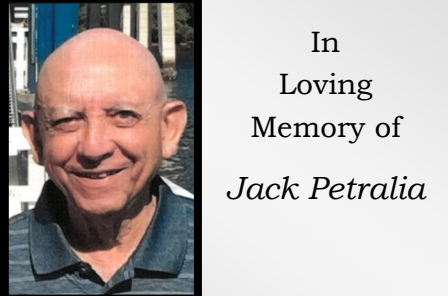


"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."
-Benjamin Franklin
Tom & Cindy Jessee



In support of our
Future Leaders
"Our Youth"
The Kirsch Family

FOR OUR CHURCH KITTIES
Choco, Tabby & Rufus

In Loving Memory of
Jack Petralia

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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

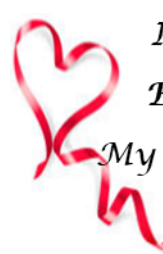
In Loving Memory of
"Lee Hollingsworth"
We love and miss you!
Barb & Tori

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In Memory of
Bob Hartman
My Love of My Life
Jenny




In loving memory of
Marty Hawksworth
Tom & Sharon




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Build Their Future
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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




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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