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



5th Sunday of Lent March 17, 2024 Year B St. Patrick's Day

Church Hours

Sunday Mass 9AM Wednesday Daily Mass 9AM Thursday Daily Mass 9AM

PARISH MINISTRIES

Justice & Peace: open

Parish Life: Johnna Harris

FINANCE COUNCIL

Ray Kostesky-Chairman

John Charbeneau

Debby Harriman

Fritz Sitterding

Anne Wolski

Worship/Liturgy: Germaine Hayes

Religious Education: Zaida Wohleking

RCIA/Adult Formation: John Weidner

Pastoral Care: Lynne Richardson

Administration: Ray Kostesky

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 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: Lift High the Cross #717

"Loving and Forgiving" #662

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914 Glory To God #915

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Responsorial Psalm: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel Acclamation: Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be.

Gospel: John 12:20-33 Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Unless a Grain of Wheat #504

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: Eye Has Not Seen #475

Meditation: Holy Patron Thee Saluting #134/ Irish Blessing #379

Recessional: Though the Mountains May Fall #436

March Birthdays

1st-David Bushey and Melissa Cabocel; 2nd-Scarlett Balch; 5th-Earlyne Glenn and Thomas Lange; 6th-Sinclair Cabocel; 8th-Sandi Delagrange 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.

MARK YOUR

CALENDAR!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today-5th Sunday of Lent

March 20th-COV Reconciliation 6pm

March 21st-FdS Reconciliation

March 24th-Palm Sunday (Mass starts at 8:45am)

March 25th-Chrism Mass (DOR 6pm)

March 27th-Daily Mass

March 28-No Daily Mass Holy Thursday 6:30pm

March 29th-Stations of the Cross/COV Cemetery 11:00am Retreat 12:30pm/Good Friday Service-6:30pm

MARCH 17, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange Community Leader: K. Hayes

Altar Server: Smith Lectors: Dorman/Ballato

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: K. Donovan

Chalice: Seay/Marcil/Harriman

Counters: Tutak/Harvey

MARCH 24, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange Community Leader: Richardson Altar Server: Kostesky Lectors: Kostesky/Shoemaker

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: A. Wolski

Music: Lohr

Chalice: Shoemaker/Marcil/Sychterz/TBD

Music: J. Smith Counters: Harris/Hollingsworth

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from March 10, 2024

Collection: \$ 1.568 Second Collection: Catholic Relief \$ 134 Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 91,331 Total Budget Projection: \$ 85,354 Loan Balance: \$ 135,546

There is no second collection today.

We did not sign any principal checks this week.

LEGACY

Members of our church gather each week around the communion table, reciting the words of Christ and participating in the sacred meal "in remembrance" of Jesus. That gift has been handed down generation to generation.



As we recall the names of those who have died, our minds are filled with precious memories. We are their legacy, and much of what we have - in both material and non-material things have been handed down to us from them. But what will we hand down to those who follow? How will we be remembered? Will we leave more than an empty spot in a pew?

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

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 Iim 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 March 17, 2024

The Reward of Faith

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

In today's First Reading from Jeremiah, the Lord God reveals the promise of a new and perfect covenant, prepared for and prefigured by the old covenants. The New Law given by Christ fulfills, refines, and surpasses the laws of the Old Covenant, bringing them to perfection. This New Law is directed at reforming the human heart.

The most solemn covenants of the Old Testament were sealed with a blood sacrifice. In fact, the Hebrew word for covenant, beriyth, means "to cut." Covenants aren't simply "entered into," they are cut. If Jesus is the fulfillment of the Father's promises and the covenant by which he will perfect his previous covenants, then a sacrifice must be made to seal the covenant. That sacrifice is the suffering and Death of Christ on the Cross.

Jesus makes this clear in John's Gospel reading this week when he speaks of the necessity of wheat falling to the earth to die so that it might multiply into many stalks of wheat. The implications are clear—Jesus must go to the Cross, die, and be raised again so that we might receive the life of the Kingdom. He is the paschal sacrifice that seals the new and eternal covenant. Jesus' divine nature and human nature exist together in union.

Jesus invites us to become through grace (adopted sons and daughters of God) what he is by nature (the Son of the Father). This is why Jesus makes this fundamental call through his Church: "repent and be baptized." (Acts 2:38) If we surrender our lives to Jesus (repent) and enter into his covenant through Baptism, then the life of his Kingdom takes root in us and conforms us to him. Jesus makes that clear in his image of wheat. Immediately after that image is an admonition for his followers to embrace the mystery of dying to self:

"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me." (In 12:25-26) Jesus reveals here one of the founding principles of the life of grace: it is in dying to self and embracing surrender that we receive the riches and abundance of divine life within us.

We have an opportunity to enter into that dynamic of surrender, of dying and rising, every time we encounter Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass. Let our "Amen" before receiving Jesus in the Eucharist become an intentional act of holy submission—the surrender of our hearts, minds, and entire lives to the one who died so that we might live.

Can you think of any ways that you have sacrificed your life for the sake of others? How are your sacrifices and Jesus' sacrifice connected?

WHAT PALM SUNDAY MEANS (next week)

(excerpts from a treatise by D. D. Emmons)

There is both great joy and terrible sorrow associated with this day, the Sunday that begins Holy Week, the Sunday that portends the crucifixion of Our Lord.

It is a time of despair, perplexity and contradiction. The very people who applaud Christ's entrance into Jerusalem that morning, shouting out "Hosanna" and words of adoration will, within a week, be crying, "Crucify Him." They will go from acclaiming Him as the new King of Israel to urging His life be traded in favor of a convicted criminal; they will first praise Him and then mock Him. Even friends entering Jerusalem at His side will desert Jesus. All this discord will take place during one week beginning on what we call Palm Sunday.

Exuberant Crowds

As we read in the Gospels, Jesus went to Jerusalem to join with throngs of Jews to celebrate the Passover feast as had been prescribed in the Old Testament books of Exodus and Deuteronomy. According the Gospel of St. John, Jesus and many of his followers journeyed the less than two miles from Bethany on that Sunday, arriving outside. Jerusalem. As was the custom, pilgrims that had already arrived in the city went out to greet newly arriving groups; some had never seen Jesus but had heard about the miracles attributed to Him and were caught up in the excitement.

Previously, Our Lord had deliberately avoided popular acclaim, even fled, but this, upon entering Jerusalem, He accepts. Yet His actions are different than the people expected. He doesn't present himself as a rival to Caesar; He is not the political messiah or the warrior king the multitude had clamored for. Instead of entering Jerusalem on a war horse or chariot, he enters on a donkey, a sign of peace; and not just any donkey, but one on which no one had ever sat, the prerogative of a king. Seeing Him on the donkey, the Jews surging around Him recalled the words of the Prophet Zecharia 500 years earlier.

Riding on the borrowed donkey, Jesus made His humble entrance into the city while the crowds were scattering their garments before Him and waving their palm branches. This joyful scene belies the traitorous acts, sorrow and agony that will soon follow belies that this triumphant hero will be crucified like a criminal.

Palms were symbols of life among the nomadic tribes, who, when crossing the desert, rejoiced at seeing the palm tree as it indicated an oasis with life-giving water was near. Palms have long been a sign of victory, success and glory.

On Palm Sunday, we go out to meet Jesus, carry the blessed palms, joyfully sing out our hosanna and join in His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. But soon our joy turns to somberness as, clutching our palm, we hear the narrative of Christ's passion. We realize, once again, that His triumph His true victory, will come through the cross. We know, as Jesus did, how Holy Week will end. We know that joy will return to sorrow and back to joy. We know that through the horror of His suffering, followed by the glory of His resurrection, good will trump evil and life will Continued **]** trump death.

The palms we take home and put in a special place serve to remind us that Palm Sunday is not lost to the ages but that by Christ's victory we, too can achieve everlasting life. "For us too, the (palms) must be symbols of triumph, indicative of the victory to be won in our battle against the evil in ourselves and against the evil which roams about us. As we receive the blessed palm, let us renew our pledge to conquer with Jesus, but let us not forget that it was on the cross that He conquered"

("Divine intimacy," Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D., Tan Books, 1997, pp. 392-393)

2024 APPEAL

A Message from Fr. Koo,

During the first weeks of Lent, 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.



SPRING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Holy Spirit in the Bible!

A Spring Adult Bible Study of The Holy Spirit in the Bible is scheduled to start on Wednesday.

April 10. The study is six lessons, and we are planning to meet every Wednesday morning from 10:00-11:00, so the study will run through May 15. A second session will be offered each week on either Monday or Thursday evening for those who cannot make the morning sessions. Contact John Weidner at jaweidnerl@verizon.net or 240-780-1872 if you would like to join our study group or if you would like additional information.





Lenten Soup and Stations will be held on Wednesday, March 13th. 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

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

A BIG THANK YOU

Congratulations to Kaylee and Brennan. Thank you for everyone's help with Social Sunday especially Mary Ellen Sherwood and Debbie McNeil They worked both the funeral and Social Sunday. Big thank you to everyone who brought food. Iohnna

A HUGE THANKS

We fervently thank parishioner Mark Fatigato, owner of Fatigato contracting services, for his offer to provide, free lawn care services for the church and cemetery. It's an extremely gracious donation of services, heretofore never done. Thank you sincerely Mark.



Please pray for the following:

🧳 Harold Simmons, Vince Recupido, Tom Shepherd, 🦅 Jeff Tutak, Kathy Placilla

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, Natalie Smith, Pat Paul, Margaret Hock, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawksworth, Nancy Wirth, Linda Gray, Pat Reamy, Andrea Moore, Lynn Vajda.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

John Wohleking, 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 Férari, 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 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.

EASTER FLOWERS SPECIAL COLLECTION

Next Sunday, our second collection will be for Easter Flowers. If you desire to recognize a loved one (s) with your contribution, please place the name of the individual (s) on your collection envelope. The names will be published in the Easter Bulletin.

LEARN TO LEAD

As you recall, we had a special collection last fall in support of the subject campaign. In a recent letter, the Diocese heralded the success of the collection (Totaled \$341,927) and the overall campaign effort which raised over \$32 million for the Diocesan Catholic Schools.



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 PO Box 228 Saluda, VA 23149 bhogge@faulknerfuneralhcs.com 804-758-2315

SAINT THERESA OF CALCUTTA'S

"ANYWAY PRAYER"

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and

self-centered; forgive them anyway.



In Loving Memory of Bobby Warren Your Family

Arlene, L.C., Faye, aitlyn & Courtlyr

In memory of Lillian M. Reiffel, Teacher



PRAYERS MEMORIES LOVE Jerry McMurtrie

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway. f 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 anvwav

Breathe in Love, Exhale Peace.

"Gone but not to be forgotten" 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



Loving Memory

Alma and Fritz Sitterding

Supporting Our Youth

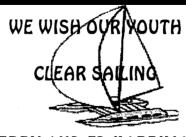
TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH. THEIR DREAMS, & OUR FUTURE.

Lynne & Gary Richardson

Thanks for always supporting us in everything we do! Emily & Anna

"DOC" JONES **Since 1970** Pre-Tested New & Used Auto & Truck Parts -Junk Cars Removed-Hours: 9AM-IPM

Closed Monday/Sunday/Holidays/Rainy Days Route 3, Box 205, Hartfield, VA 23071 Phone: (804) 776-6900 FAX: (804) 776-9330 Toll Free: 1-800-552-4035 -Clarence D. Jones, Prop.-



DEBBY AND ED HARRIMAN



In Loving Memory of Jack Petralia



FREE ESTIMATES

- Soft Washing House Washing
- Gutter Cleaning Gutter Brightenin
- Roof Washing
- Surface Cleaning

Commercial & Residential shoreshinellc@gmail.com

Like us on: facebook

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 Memory of **Bob Hartman** My Love of My Life Jenny

In loving memory of Marty Hawksworth



Tom & Sharon

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





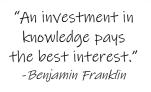
C. Ben Lennon, D.D.S. Mathews Dentistry 804-725-9485 Deltaville Dentistry 804-776-9484

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



Tom & Cindy Jessee

In support of our **Future Leaders** "Our Youth" The Kirsch Family FOR OUR CHURCH KITTIES Choco, Tabby & Rufus



We Support The Youth Scholarship

John & Carol McGormack



In Loving Memory of Bob and Catherine Borden

Fred and Betty Meister



In loving memory of our Father Bob Nash

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

Barb & Tori

. 804-815-1328



Al Langer

Helping Our Youth **Build Their Future**



Limerick II Enterprises

Tom Shoemaker In Memory of JoAn



Kenneth Anderson



"Say not in grief 'he is no more' but in thankfulness that he was".



Lewis Forte





"Ricky" David Richard Suyes III & Marie M. Suyes

In memory of





Ballato

Business Law and Collections Landlord Tenant Law Simple Wills & Powers of Attorney Traffic Violations Michael B. Ballato, Attorney 3721 Westerre Parkway Henrico, VA 23233 (804) 433-1060

www.BallatoLaw.com

Michael Tebbs Nunn Douglas Arthur Nelson Nunn

Spike and Becky Nunn

"Our Beloved Sons"

True Value

HURD'S, INC.

Where Shopping Is Fun

Deltaville, VA 23043

(804) 776-9241