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



4th Sunday of Lent "Laetare Sunday" March 10, 2024 Year B

Mass Intention today is for Fritz Campbell

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 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: Lord of All Hopefulness #412

"Loving and Forgiving" #662

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914

Glory To God #915 Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

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

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

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 3:14-21 Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Be Thou my Vision #407

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: I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light #597

Meditation: Amazing Grace #450

Recessional: The Church's One Foundation #424

March Birthdays

1st-David Bushey and Melissa Cabocel; 2nd-Scarlett Balch; 5th-Earlyne Glenn and Thomas Lange; 6th-Sinclair Cabocel; 8th-Sandi Delagrange c Kathryn Balch; 10th-Sarah Wohleking; 14th-Lisenka Wunder; 15th-Glor

Matthews and Tori Hollingsworth; 20th-Alexander Bushey and Gary Richardso 21st-Peggy Williams; 23rd-Barbara Morrison; 24th-Barbara Hollingsworth; 25^t Michael Pycha; 28th-Camillo Bonanno; 29th- Eugene Wolski; 30th- Joe Sychterz Michele Meanley.

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

March Anniversaries



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today-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 3p March 16th-Family Movie Night 5:30-8:00 pm March 17th-5th Sunday of Lent MARK YOUR March 20th-COV Reconciliation 6pm CALENDAR March 21st-FdS Reconciliation

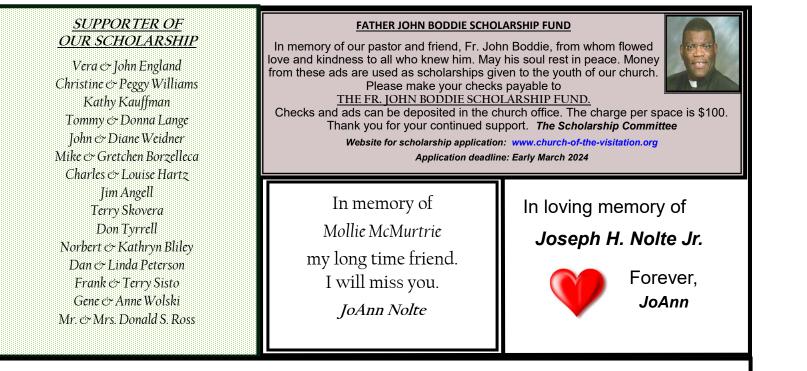
PARISH MINISTRIES

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 Kostesky

FINANCE COUNCIL

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

	<u>MARCH 10, 2024</u>
	Sacristy Duty: Delagrange 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
	<u>MARCH 17, 2024</u>
u!	Sacristy Duty: Delagrange Community Leader: K. Hayes
	Altar Server: Smith Lectors: Dorman/Ballato
	Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: K. Donovan Chalice: Seay/Marcil/Harriman
	Music: J. Smith Counters: Tutak/Harvey
L	OFFERTORY COLLECTION from March 3, 2024 Collection: \$ 2,155 Second Collection: Debt Reduction \$ 575 Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 87,832 Total Budget Projection: \$ 83,137 Loan Balance: \$ 135,546 Today's second collection is for Catholic Relief Services. We did not sign any principal checks this week.
ind ia on; i	LEGACYMembers 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 remem- bered? Will we leave more than an empty spot in a pew?
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Take home lesson

Intimate and Personal Relationship

March 10, 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?

LAETARE SUNDAY

Today is Laetare Sunday. Laetare is the first word meaning "rejoice" — in the Latin text. On Laetare Sunday (as similarly with the Third Sunday of Advent's Gaudete Sunday) the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. Call it pink — or, more fittingly, rose — this change in color indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the somber days of Passiontide.

Laetare Sunday is the Church's way of giving us a "shot in the arm" as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It's an opportunity to savor and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday — the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that our hearts will always be filled with joy!

Being aware of traditions and customs assists us in celebrating the beauty of our faith. As you can see, there is much associated with even a nondescript day like the Fourth Sunday of Lent — not to mention the rest of the season, or the 50 days of Easter and beyond. Take advantage of the richness of our Catholic traditions.

Ways to celebrate Laetare Sunday

*There are no strict rules on how to commemorate Laetare Sunday; below are just a few ideas toad 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 you outfit.

*Give a rose to someone who has spiritual 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 you Mother Church (Cathedral). Spend a bit of time in prayer and try to learn about one piece of artwork in the church.

*Discuss with you family the Gospel reading of the day and how it represents joy.





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.



MASS INTENTIONS

March 10th Fritz Campbell





SOUP AND STATIONS #4

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 vet 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.





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.

SUCCESS OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' LEARN TO LEAD CAMPAIGN

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.

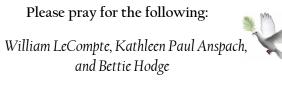


REGRETS

We are saddened to announce the death two weeks ago of parishioner Bettie Hodge. Homebound the last few years, Bettie joined the church in 2000 and immediately became an active parishioner. Noted for her work at Daily Mass, watering plants, and feeding the cats.

Her burial and Mass of Resurrection were held Saturday.





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 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 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.

SOCIAL SUNDAY

Today is Social Sunday after Mass. Please stay and enjoy the opportunity for camaraderie, story-telling, and good food!

CONGRADULATIONS

Congratulations to our two confirmedness, Brennan Williams and Kaylee Kirsch, who were confirmed last Tuesday at St. Bede's Church in Williamsburg by Bishop Knestout. Join us after Mass at Social Sunday in honor of our two new Catholic Adults.



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!



In memory of Lillian M. Reiffel,

Teacher



PRAYERS MEMORIES LOVE Jerry McMurtrie

"The Retirement Plan Of Christ Was His Passion. Is Yours The Same?"

Josiah Reffo



anvwav



CONFIRMATION

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. 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

Breathe in Love, Exhale Peace.



In Loving Memory Of Alma and Fritz Sitterding

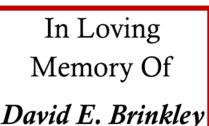
Supporting Our Youth



In Loving Memory of Bobby Warren

Your Family Arlene, L.C., Faye, aitlyn & Courtly

"Gone but not to be forgotten"



In Loving Memory of

Vincent "Poppy" & Vinnie Recupido

The Recupido & Hollingsworth Families

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

Lynne & Gary Richardson

