

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

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Topping, Virginia 23169
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Fax: (804)758-0676

E-Mail: office@COVTopping.org
Website: www.church-of-the-visitation.org



6th Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024 Year B

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: Noelle Harvey
Justice & Peace: open
Religious Education: Zaida Wohleking
Parish Life: Johnna Harris
RCIA/Adult Formation: John Weidner
Pastoral Care: Lynne Richardson
Administration: Ray Kstesky

FINANCE COUNCIL

John Charbeneau
Anne Wolski
Debby Harriman
Ray Kstesky-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: All Are Welcome #422

"Loving and Forgiving" #662

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914

Glory To God #915

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

Responsorial Psalm: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

Gospel Acclamation: I am the good shepherd, says

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Christians Let Us Love One Another #487

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: Bread For the World #325

Meditation: If I Can Help Somebody

Recessional: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling #497



May Birthdays

1st-Pat DeGroot, 2nd-Cynthia Taylor, 3rd-Scott Kauffman,
5th-Lynn Vajda, 6th-Camdyn Putney, 8th-Donna Lange,
9th-Denise Miller, 10th-Terry Skovera, 13th-James Harvey,
14th-Nicholas Wohleking, 15th-Nikki Ambrose, 18th-Don Delagrance
& Grace Puleo, 24th-Jennifer Miller, 27th-Lynne Richardson,
28th-Tim Wohleking, 29th-Charlie Hock.

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



May Anniversaries

11th-Bob and Maura Puleo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today-6th Sunday of Easter
May 12th-The Ascension of the Lord/"Social Sunday"
May 13th-Visitation Singers
May 19th-Penecost Sunday/"First Communion" Celebration
May 26th-The Most Holy Trinity/"KOC Pancake Breakfast"
May 27th-Memorial Day
May 31st- Retreat/light lunch/Mass "Feast of the Visitation"
June 2nd-The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ /"Church picnic"
June 6th-Adoration
June 7th-The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass
June 9th-10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

May 5, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrance

Community Leader: Harriman

Altar Server: Dorman

Lectors: Shoemaker/O'Brien

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: DeGroot

Chalice: Dreelin/Harvey/TBA

Music: Meanley

Counters: O'Brien/Smith

May 12, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrance

Community Leader: Richardson

Altar Server: Kstesky

Lectors: Sychterz/DeGroot

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: TBA

Chalice: TBA

Music: McCormack

Counters: King/Kirsch/Angell

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from April 28, 2024

Collection: \$ 2,241
Second Collection:
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 108,418
Total Budget Projection: \$ 103,763
Loan Balance: \$ 130,650



Today the second collection is for Debt Reduction.

We signed the following principal checks this week:

\$209 April Telephone; \$492 Credit Card charges April

LEGACY

As Catholics we rejoice with faith in the resurrection. Yet we also know the passage from life to death can be stressful on those who survive us.



You can ease some of that stress by acting now to put your estate plan in order. Who will be executor of your estate? Who will decide how your personal treasures are distributed? In addition to their own grief, can you imagine your loved ones struggling to find life insurance papers, bank accounts and other vital documents?

RECURRING EVENTS

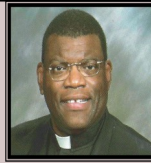
Weekly-Sunday 8:30am-New Worship Area Rosary (Cindy Jessee)
1st-Thursday of the month-Adoration 9:30am-10:30am (Cindy Jessee)
2nd-Monday of the month-Visitation Singers 9:30am (Carol McCormack)
3rd-Wednesday of the month-K of C meeting starts 5:15pm (Al Langer)
2nd & 4th-Monday each month at 1:00 pm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

Love one another

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Last week we heard Jesus tell us that the Father is the vine grower, Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. In those verses Jesus said, "Remain in me, and I in you. Just as the branch can't bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me" (John 15:4). Now he continues in today's Gospel, "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love" (John 15:9).

What does it mean to "remain" in Jesus' love? The Greek word meno means dwelling in a particular place, remaining there, abiding there. It suggests a kind of peace and stability that we associate with being at home, or at the home of a hospitable friend. To remain in Jesus' love suggests being surrounded by Jesus' love, comforted by Jesus' love, empowered by Jesus' love.

Love begins with the Father and flows through the Son to the disciples, but it requires obedience: "If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love" (John 15:10). Jesus provides us with a model of obedience. He has come to do the will of the one who sent him. He does the Father's will so that the world might know that he loves the Father (John 14:31). Jesus promises to love the disciples if they obey his commandments. Then, Jesus narrows "commandments" to one commandment: loving one another as Jesus has loved us.

The love that Jesus commands is more a "doing" than a "feeling". It doesn't require that we approve of the actions of the person whom we love, or even that we enjoy their company. It does require that we demonstrate our love in some practical fashion: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the person in prison (Matthew 25:31-46). We have little or nothing to gain by helping these hungry, thirsty, strange, naked, imprisoned people. The love Jesus commands is about giving, not getting.

The Father loves the Son, and the Son loves us and invites us to abide in his love. As we keep his commandments, we abide in his love, and we experience a complete kind of joy. This joy fills our hearts, driving out poisonous feelings that would otherwise make it difficult to love our neighbor. Knowing that this neighbor is a child of our Father and is therefore our brother or sister also helps us to love. Thus God's love, Jesus' love, our love, our abiding in Christ, and our keeping of the commandments change us in ways that enable us to love those imperfect souls with whom we rub elbows every day.

Someone you don't know very well needs the love of Jesus. How can you show them his love?

WHY IS MAY THE MONTH OF MARY?

The month of May is dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. The first 23 days fall within the liturgical season of Easter, which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remainder of the month (beginning the Monday after Pentecost) is in Ordinary Time which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.



The month of May (Overview - Calendar) is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the Month of May, no. 1).

This Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin arose at the end of the 13th century. In this way, the Church was able to Christianize the secular feasts which were wont to take place at that time. In the 16th century, books appeared and fostered this devotion.

For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue.

Then, crown Mary. You can give her an actual or spiritual crown and you can make it a subtle gesture or ornate ceremony of your own device. The meaning is far more important than the action. You can do it in the beginning, at the end of May or anywhere in between. Just do it.

Why? Not because it's a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is. Not because there are any special graces connected to it, although there is.

No, do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. For that, she deserves an entire month in her honor.

KNEELING

For Roman Catholics, kneeling is one of the most distinctive physical gestures of prayer during the celebration of Mass. In fact, for many centuries the lay faithful of the Roman Rite would kneel for almost the entire duration of Mass.

Catholics kneel because Jesus kneeled during prayer.

For these reasons the Roman rite instructs the faithful to kneel during Mass specifically when Jesus is made present on the altar. According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. "In the Dioceses of the United States of America, (the faithful) should kneel beginning after the singing or recitation of the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) until after the Amen of the Eucharistic Prayer."

This physical posture is meant to express a spiritual attitude of adoration before the triune God, truly and substantially present in the Holy Eucharist. It is an act of humility, recognizing our own littleness before the Creator of the world. The act of kneeling prepares our hearts to receive God within our souls, striking down our pride with a physical reminder of what our soul should be like spiritually.

While not officially part of the Rite, it is a common custom in some churches to maintain a kneeling posture until the consecrated hosts are placed back within the tabernacle.

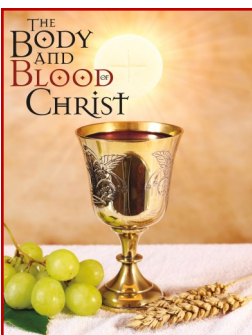


FEAST OF THE VISITATION AND
CORPUS CHRISTI WEEKEND

The Feast of the Visitation falls this year on Friday, May 31st and Corpus Christi Sunday follows two days later on June 2nd. We are planning to begin our weekend of celebration with a daytime retreat on Friday which will include morning prayer and reflection, Mass at noon, followed by lunch and time for reflection and sharing after lunch. Please contact the office or John Weidner if you are planning to attend the retreat or would like additional information.



Our weekend of celebration will continue on Sunday, June 2, The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). We are planning a short Eucharistic procession at the end of Mass and then all are encouraged to remain for a Spring picnic hosted by our Parish Life ministry.



NEXT SUNDAY IS THE ASCESION OF THE LORD

The Ascension is the event, where Jesus arose into heaven, at the end of his time on earth. Jesus' time on earth began with his birth. It was interrupted for three days by His death on the Cross. During that time, He descended into the realm of the dead and preached the Gospel to the good people who died before Him. This allowed those good and holy souls--the righteous dead, as we call them--who accepted Christ as their Savior to proceed to heaven. On the third day after his death and burial, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, an event we call the Resurrection. He spent the next 40 days preaching and preparing His disciples to perform the work of preaching and baptizing all people.

(Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11) It is said that by His death and Resurrection, Jesus opened the gates of heaven for all humanity. This is true, and His Ascension demonstrates this to us. It is His proof that those of us who believe in Him in faith and follow Him will also be raised on the last day, and enter into heaven.

From heaven, Jesus hears our prayers and intercedes for us with His Father.

We celebrate this on Ascension Sunday, which is celebrated forty days after Easter. Traditionally it is celebrated on a Thursday as a Holy Day of Obligation. The Church presently observes it on a Sunday to allow more of the faithful to attend Mass. It remains a Holy Day of Obligation, and the faithful are reminded that all Sundays are obligatory by default.

The Ascension should not be confused with Pentecost, which is celebrated 50 days after Easter. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Christ, after His Ascension.

MAY'S BUSY SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL SCHEDULE

May promises to be an extremely busy spiritual and social time for the parish. On Mother's Day, we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension and Social Sunday. The next Sunday is Pentecost and the First Communion Celebration for five lovely recipients. On May 26th is the Most Holy Trinity and Pancake Breakfast time.

Finally, to close out the month, will be Corpus Christi weekend commencing with the Feast of the Visitation on May 31st. (See accompanying article).

Our Liturgy Committee and other ministries have planned the spiritual events, and our Parish Life Ministry will continue to need parishioners to deliver their culinary specialties to our Social Events to share with others.



Please pray for the following:

Frank Koehler, Karen Smith, and Mary Philips

PARISHIONERS

Betty Johnson, Helen Linden, Dot Edwards, Walt & Kari Lee Donovan, Peggy Williams, Paula Wilson, John & Carol McCormack, Lynne McMurtrie, Barbara Smith, Germain Hayes, The Hollingsworth Family, Don Tyrrell, David Rector, Lorraine Kirsch, Tom Shoemaker, Jack King, Donna Thompson, Brendan O'Brien, Becky Nunn, Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Michele Meanley, Louise Petralia, Natalie Smith, Pat Paul, Margaret Hock, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Nancy Wirth, Tom Hawksworth, Linda Gray, Pat Reamy, Andrea Moore, Lynn Vajda.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Bill Sassok, 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, Becky Pattarozzi, 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

David Bromley, Lewis Hurley, Michele Brown, Debbie Scott, Janis Kott, 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.

APPEAL UPDATE

We did it again--achieved our goal for the Bishop's Appeal. To date, \$13,725 has been received and pledged by our community. The amounts to 169% of goal. 54 families contributed to that amount, and we sincerely thank you. Remembering that as a Mission Church, 50% of monies collected flows back to us for our many projects, we continue to ask those who have not been part of this endeavor to consider joining with the generous "54." Any gift, small or not, will be graciously 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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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

Do not fear, for I am with you,
Do not be afraid, for I am your God
Isaiah 41:10

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

BY THE BAY
STAINED GLASS
Al Langer 804-815-1328

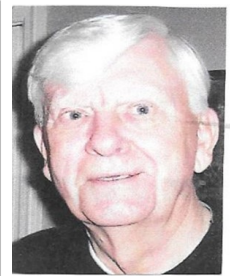

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In Memory of
Bob Hartman
My Love of My Life
Jenny

In loving memory of
Marty Hawksworth
Tom & Sharon


Helping Our Youth
Build Their Future

Limerick II Enterprises
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Tom Shoemaker
In Memory of JoAn

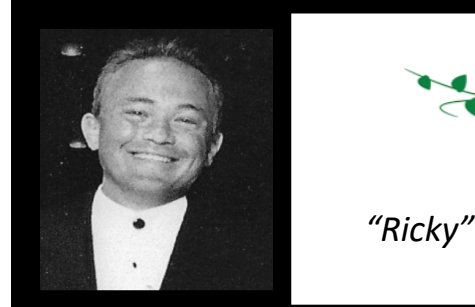

Kenneth Anderson
"Say not in grief 'he is no more' but in thankfulness that he was".



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


In memory of
Michael Tebbs Nunn
&
Douglas Arthur Nelson Nunn
"Our Beloved Sons"
Spike and Becky Nunn

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