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



3rd Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday-"Joy" December 15, 2024 Year C

PARISH MINISTRIES

Worship/Liturgy: Noelle Harvey Iustice & Peace: open Religious Education: Wohleking /Peterson Parish Life: Johnna Harris OCIA/Adult Formation: John Weidner Pastoral Care: Lynne Richardson Administration: Ray Kostesky

FINANCE COUNCIL

Debby Harriman Tom Hawksworth Tom Iessee Debbie McNeil Gary Richardson Fritz Sitterding-Chairman Anne Wolski

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

PARISH COUNCIL

Kevin Hayes Cindy Jessee-Vice Chair Steve Kirsch Helen Linden Cindy Powers Shelley Katsuki-Secretary John Weidner-Chair

Church Secretary, Andrea Moore Webmaster/IT, Mike Dreelin

Please call the office about arranging Baptisms, Marriages, the OCIA Program, Sacraments of Anointing, Reconciliation, Sick Calls, the schedule for Holy Days, and our Rosary Ministry.

MASS/MUSIC

Entrance: O Come O Come Emmanuel #39

Advent Candle Song #3: inside the bulletin

"Loving and Forgiving" #662

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914

Glory To God #915

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Responsorial Psalm: Cry out with joy and gladness:

for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Acclamation: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Homily: Father Koo Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: People Look East #43

Holy: #918

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.

Lamb of God: #923 Lord's Prayer: page 26

Communion: See How the Virgin Waits #55

Meditation: Dona Nobis Pacem

Recessional: The Advent of Our King #73

December Birthdays

1st-Tom Shoemaker, 4th-Michael Ballato, 5th-Louise Petralia, 8th-Frank Lohr,10th-Lynn Gillikin, 12th-Jerry Suyes, 16th-Cindy Powers, 17th-Ivony Kennedy, 18th-Mary Dorman & Lynne McMurtrie, 19th-Lois Kramb, 22nd-Lindo Gray, 23rd-Christine Williams, 25th-Colleen Hoffman, 26th-Tom Hawksworth, & Debbie McNeil, 27th-Patty Figueroa & Betsy Brown, 31st-Doug Olson.

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

December Anniversaries



1st-Charles & Carol Walsh, 2nd-Dave & Annette Marcil, 8th-Robert & Paula Wilson, 14th-Bob & Ingrid Borden, 22nd-Branch & Michelle Meanley, 30th-Bill & Donna Brandl.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Today-3rd Sunday of Advent- "Gaudete Sunday"

December 22nd-4th Sunday of Advent

December 24th-Christmas Eve "Nativity of the Lord" December 25th-Christmas Day "Nativity of the Lord"

December 29th-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

December 31st-New Year's Eve

January 1st-New Year's Day Mass-9am "Journey through the Bible starts."

January 5th-Epiphany of the Lord January 9th-Adoration 9:30am

December 15, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange Community Leader: Clair

Altar Server: Dorman/Ambrose Lectors: Ballato/DeGroot

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: DeGroot

Chalice: Sychterz/Richardson/Harvey/Major

Music: McCormack Counters: Tutak/Harvey/Wohleking

December 22, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange Community Leader: Puttmann

Lectors: Dubicki/Sherwood Altar Server: Kostesky

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Smith

Chalice: Wolski/Marci/Gray

Counters: Harris/Hollingsworth Music: Krop

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from December 8, 2024

Collection: \$ 2,961

Second Collection: Christmas Flowers \$ 511

Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 57,725

Total Budget Projection: \$ 58,664

Loan Balance: \$ 108.164

There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week: \$717 November electric.

Third Sunday of Advent The joy of kindness



Reading I: Zephaniah 3:14-18a (promise of a Savior)

Reading II: Philippians 4:4–7 (joy and peace)

Gospel: Luke 3:10–18 (John calls the people to justice)

Key Passage: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. (Philippians 4:4–5)

Adult: To whom have your past acts of kindness brought joy? What act of kindness could you do this week?

Child: What kind thing have you done for someone lately? Whom could you make happy by your kindness this

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-KOC meeting starts 5:15pm (Al Langer) 2nd & 4th-Monday each month at 1:00pm Shawl Ministry (Sandi Delagrange) 1st-Friday each month at 9:00; other weeks on Thursdays at 9:45am-COV Gals.

(Louise Petralia/Eileen O'Brien)

2nd-Thursday of the month Liturgy Meeting (Noelle Harvey)







SUPPORTER OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP

Vera & John England
Christine & Peggy Williams
Kathy Kauffman
Gene & Anne Wolski
Jack & Laurie King
Terry Skovera
Bill & Donna Plunkert
Norbert & Kathryn Bliley
Dan & Linda Peterson
Tommy & Donna Lange
Charles & Louise Hartz
Dave & Emily Filippi



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 <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/john.2007/j

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 2025

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

Journey Through The Bible - Setting the Stage

Father Koo invites everyone in the parish to join him on a year long "Journey through the Bible" in 2025. Starting January 1, we will follow a daily reading plan that covers the entire Catholic Bible in 365 days. Here are some questions with answers about the Journey:

If we are using the same reading plan that Father Mike Schmitz uses for his "The Bible in a Year" podcast, why couldn't we just listen to Father Mike's podcast and follow along in our Bibles? Father Koo encourages us to find a quite space each day for a few minutes, invoke the Holy Spirit and engage the Word with our eyes, hearts and minds. We are accustomed to hearing the Word proclaimed at Mass. While listening to an audio book of the Bible or to Father Mike's podcast has merit, Father Koo suggests our individual study may be enhanced if we hold the Bible in our hands and become more familiar with Scripture as it appears in writing on the pages of the Bible.

Which Bible translation should we use? For our Journey, Father Koo encourages us to read from the New American Bible, revised edition (NABRE). The New American Bible (NAB), first published in 1970, has become the standard American Catholic edition of the Bible. It was commissioned by the American Catholic bishops and translated under the auspices of the Catholic Bible Association. Both the Old and New Testaments have been revised in recent years (NABRE). This is the translation that we year proclaimed at Sunday and daily Mass in the United States.

Are other translations acceptable? Yes, the Catholic editions of the Revised Standard Version (RSV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) during our Journey. The RSV is the translation used in The Great Adventure Bible and read by Father Mike Schmitz for his podcast. The RSV is a revision of the King James Bible that sought to preserve the literary style of the earlier translation while taking into account changes in the English language and advances in scholarship. The NRSV is considered a faithful and accurate translation in contemporary English.

What is meant by a "Catholic edition" of the Bible? In Catholic Editions of the Bible, there are 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. Catholic editions include seven books of the Old Testament sometimes referred to as the Deuterocanonicals/Apocrypha (Tobit, Judith, I Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Wisdom of Ben Sira, and Baruch). These books are oftentimes not included in popular, modern translations, such as the New International Version (NIV).

There are many copies of the New American Bible (red cover, paperback editions) amongst the book-shelves throughout the Church of the Visitation. You are encouraged to borrow one for reading in your home throughout 2025 or until you are able to acquire your own copy.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING SONG #3

Light the Advent Candle three.
Think of happy harmony.
Angels singing "Peace on earth"
At the Savior's blessed birth.
Candle, candle, burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle, burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Advent light

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you donated to the special collection for Christmas flowers and wish to honor a loved one, please email the office with the names of your loved ones or drop off a note with the names. They will be published in the Christmas bulletin.

2025 ENVELOPES

The 2025 envelopes are now available for pickup on the admin table in the Narthex. For the convenience of parishioners who normally use e-giving for offertory donation, we have printed envelopes for you to utilize if appropriate for second collections.

ADVENT REMINDERS

Copies of the advent schedule are available on the admin table in the narthex. Also there are copies of the Little Blue Books, the popular series of 6 minute reflections during the Christmas Season.

GAUDETE SUNDAY "JOY"

The color of the Season of Advent is violet. In order to distinguish between Advent and Lent, the bluer hues of violet may be used.

Rose colored vesture will be worn on the Third Sunday of Advent, which is termed Gaudete Sunday.

What is special about the Third Sunday of the Church's history? This Sunday has a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday.

On this day the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday in Lent. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.

Why is the third Sunday of Advent known as Gaudete Sunday?

Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

MOVIE NIGHT

This is a quotation from Philippians 4:4-5, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is Gaudete (Latin, "rejoice" it's also pronounced with three syllables: gau-de-te).

FATIH FORMATION NEWS

Celebrate the joy of the season with our Children's Christmas Pageant and Sing-Along, beginning at 6:30 PM on December 24th in the church. Watch as our children bring the story of Christ's birth to life through their heartfelt performance, followed by a festive sing-along to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Mass. For safety and to avoid disruptions, we kindly ask anyone not seated by 6:30 PM to remain in the narthex until the pageant ends, as the lights will be dimmed during the performance. The doors will reopen afterward, allowing time to be seated for the sing-along before Mass.

After the pageant practice on Saturday, December 21st, join us for a family-friendly Christmas movie and pizza dinner! Open to all parishioners—come enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship as we celebrate the season together. Pageant practice is at 4 pm with dinner and movie to follow around 5 pm.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who helped pack 75 boxes for Operation Christmas Child! Special thanks to our Knitting Ministry for crafting hats, scarves, and washcloths for each box, and to Anne Wolski, who lovingly made reusable menstrual pads for the teenage girls. We are so grateful to the countless others who donated their time, money, items, and love to make this effort a success. Your generosity will bring joy and hope to children in need this Christmas season. Stay tuned to find out where our boxes end up!

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

General Background on the Season

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by the First coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reason, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight (Universal Norms of the Liturgical Year.)

With the beginning of Advent is, too the beginning of the new liturgical year (2025), and *year C* of the three Liturgical years.

The use of the advent wreath has become popular practice in the church. The concept of the Advent wreath originated among German Lutherans in the l6th Century. However, it was not until three centuries later that the modern Advent wreath took shape. The modern Advent wreath, with its candles representing the Sundays of Advent, originated from an 1839 initiative by Johann Hinrich Wichern, a Protestant pastor in Germany and a pioneer in urban mission work among the poor.

THE FOUR ADVENT CANDLES

As a Christian tradition, the wreath hold the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Sometimes a white candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day to symbolize that Jesus is with us. This can be referred to as the "Christ candle."

Week three

Candle Name: Shepherd's candle 3rd Week of Advent Represents: Joy & Kindness Candle Color: Pink

This third candle is pink and symbolizes rejoicing. During the third week of Advent we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called "Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherds felt at the birth of Jesus.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

From the record attendance of approximately 110 persons, a hearty cheer and thanks for a joyous event that embodied the community spirit of our wondrous parish. The parish life committee worked tirelessly over the weekend to prepare the fare and our choir sang. Thanks to all the committee members, especially their leader, Johnna. A special thanks to Roseanne Moncure, who decorated the tree and fellowship hall, Peggy Williams for the shrimp, and Santa (Al Langer.) Our youth said "Best spread ever!" Thank you to all.



Please pray for the following
In Memoriam:



Carol Hollingsworth, Eileen McSweeney, Nennie Lennon and Mary Elbourn

PARISHIONERS

Donna Lange, Bill Campbell, Gene Wolski, Maggie Gerdts, Betty Johnson, Dot Edwards, Walt & Kari Lee Donovan, Peggy Williams, Lynne McMurtrie, Barbara Smith, Germaine Hayes, 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, Lynn Vajda.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Pamela McCracken, Peggy Smith, Michele MacFarland, Justin Harvey, The Daly Family, Becky & Andy Pattarozzi, Bill Sassok, John Wohleking, Christopher Seay, Brian Patrick Dubicki, Lynn Messina, Shirley Schultz, Gene Sullivan, Dr. Nicole Touchet, Gloria Powell, Chloe Pearson, Mia Angelis, the Angelis family, Debbie Stockhorst, Jill Shores, John Gahagan, Todd Bowman, Diane Petralia, Anthony Pace, Mildred Bair, Mary Levine, Susie Maddrich, Carolyn Harvey, Eric Currie, Mike & Katy Shea, Rhonda Wells, Polly Beall, Dick Patton, Joanne & Lisa Ferari, Barbara & Ron Burkhart, John Calvin Barnard, Joseph Borzelleca, Andy Hetzer, Sandy Alter, Ryan Jessee, Larry Hersh, Dominick Perry.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Family of Don Moore, Grace Anderson, Gay Ruff, Jody Anglin, Gabe Burger, Pam Brazelton, Jim Bruso Jr. Valerie McCarthey, Pat Garratt, Mable Kato, 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, Roin Brown, BoydNewhouse, 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, 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.



RECONCILIATION REMINDER

Next week, December 18th at 6:00pm we will be having our reconciliation service here at COV. FdS will be the following night at 6:30pm. Note the 30 minute difference in the times.



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.



In memory of my beloved Spike. Where he was, there was Eden Love Forever, Becky



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In Loving Memory o Bobby Warren

Your Family Arlene, L.C., Faye, Caitlyn & Courtlyn

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Tom Shoemaker
In Memory of JoAn



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

Carmen and David

Brinkley

In Loving Memory of Vincent "Poppy" & Vinnie Recupido

The Recupido & Hollingsworth Families



In loving memory of our Father Bob Nash



In Loving Memory Of

LOOVE PEACE

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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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

Pray that the youth of today will help make the world a better place for tomorrow.

Frank & Terry Sisto

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love and miss you.



Jim

Thank you for supporting our education

Michael, Colin, Kathryn, John & Kevin Walsh

In Memory of Вов Hartman My Love of My Life Jenny

In loving memory of Marty Hawksworth

Tom & Sharon

We Salute the Youth of Our Church and Their Important Journey.

Carmen & Joe Brinkley

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

BE A KNIGHT Contact: Grand Knight Al Langer 804-815-3515

> **OUR LADY OF THE BAY COUNCIL 11210**

"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

"I am the good shepherd... and I will lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10:14)

John and Diane Weidner

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

Barb & Tori

Al Langer 804-815-1328

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Kenneth Anderson



We Support The Youth Scholarship

John & Carol McGormack

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



Lewis Forte





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





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In memory of Michael Tebbs Nunn Douglas Arthur Nelson Nunn "Our Beloved Sons"

Spike and Becky Nunn

In Loving Memory of Reinald Carter Mary Borzelleca

Mike and Gretchen Borzelleca