

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 Advent "Peace"

December 22, 2024 Year C

PARISH MINISTRIES

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

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

FINANCE COUNCIL

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

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.

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

MASS/MUSIC

Entrance: O Come O Come Emmanuel #39

Advent Candle Song #4: *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: Micah 5:1-4a

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel Acclamation: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came #52

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: Mary's Song #696

Meditation: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Recessional: Christ Be Our Light #518

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-Linda 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 please 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

Today-4th Sunday of Advent
December 24th-Sing-a-long and Pageant start at 6:30pm "promptly"
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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December 22, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange

Community Leader: Puttmann

Altar Server: Kstesky

Lectors: Dubicki/Sherwood

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Smith

Chalice: Wolski/Marci/Gray

Music: Powers

Counters: Harris/Hollingsworth

December 29, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange

Community Leader: Harriman

Altar Server: Kstesky

Lectors: Nunn/Dorman

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski

Chalice: Seay/

Music: Smith

Counters: Harriman/McNeil

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from December 15, 2024

Collection: \$ 2,729

Second Collection:

Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 60,454

Total Budget Projection: \$ 60,670

Loan Balance: \$ 108,164



Our Second Collection today is for Catholic Charities.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$1,857 Diocesan Assessments; \$294 Communion Wine;
\$382 Faith Formation; \$230 Parish Life Expense.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Obedience to God's will

Reading I: Micah 5:1-4a

(restoration through the Messiah)

Reading II: Hebrews 10:5-10 (the second covenant)

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 (the visit to Elizabeth)

Key Passage: Elizabeth said, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." (Luke 1:45)

Adult: When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan for you, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?

Child: When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?



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)

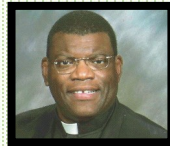
1st-Friday each month at 9:00; other weeks on Thursdays at 9:45am- COV Gals.
(Louise Petralia/Eileen O'Brien)

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 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 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 - HOW IS THE BIBLE ORGANIZED?

December 22, 2024

In addition to reading the entire Bible in 2025, Father Koo and the Adult Faith Formation Team will use this space in the bulletin to provide additional instruction and commentary about Sacred Scripture.

How is the Old Testament organized?

The Old Testament traces the relationship between the Israelites and the one God and Creator who acts in human history, guiding it with plan and purpose. There are 46 books of the Old Testament in Catholic versions of the Bible. The Pentateuch ("five books" in Greek) is the first five books of the Bible and also is known as the Torah ("Law" in Hebrew, specifically the Law of Moses). It tells of the Israelites' journey as God's Chosen People through Abraham's path to Canaan and the exodus from slavery in Egypt.

The Historical Books cover the period from the Israelites' entry into the Promised Land around 1225 BC to the end of the Maccabean wars around 135 BC. Their view of world events sees God's guiding hand in everything.

The Wisdom Books are an artistic yet instructional search into the meaning of life. The authors use poetry, proverbs, sayings, and songs to face problems or questions of our origin and destiny, suffering, good and evil, right and wrong.

The Prophetic Books are the words of those who speak for God about important situations concerning God's Chosen People. Central to the prophets are themes of repentance and expectation of the Messiah.

How is the New Testament organized?

For years after his resurrection, missionaries spread the news about Jesus by word of mouth. Eventually, Christians decided to preserve their heritage in writing. Most of the New Testament books were written by the end of the first century. The writings didn't tell who Jesus was but who he is. Each book reveals a unique aspect of Jesus, guides the Church and Christian living, and has the power to change lives today. There are 27 books of the New Testament in Catholic versions of the Bible.

The Gospels - Gospel means "good news." The four Gospels were written for different communities, but all record the words and deeds of Jesus, tell the story of his passion and death, and explain what they mean in light of his resurrection.

- The Gospel of Matthew focuses on Jesus' teachings.
- The Gospel of Mark tells about the public ministry and humanity of Jesus.
- The Gospel of Luke reveals Jesus' concern for the poor and women.
- The Gospel of John leads us into the mystery of Christ.

The Acts of the Apostles is an account of how the early Church lived and grew.

The Pauline Epistles consist of thirteen letters from St. Paul to local churches and the Letter to the Hebrews.

The Catholic Letters are seven letters by other apostles to the universal Church.

The Book of Revelation is a message of hope for persecuted Christians, promising Christ's ultimate triumph - not a prediction of the future.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING
SONG #4

Light the Advent Candle four.
Think of joy forever more.
Christ child in the stable born.
Gift of love that Christmas morn.

Candle, candle, burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle, burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Advent light.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

As a reminder about our schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the Mass on Christmas Eve begins at 7pm. But keep in mind the information below for the sing-along and children's pageant. Our Mass on Christmas Day will be the normal time, 9am.

FAITH 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.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Our second collection today is for Catholic Charities. It is a vibrant organization with offices throughout the Middle Peninsula. Here is some pertinent facts about the local entity.

History

Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia (CCEVA) was founded in 1932 as the Norfolk Bureau of Catholic Charities to care for widows, orphaned and abandoned children. More than ninety years later, its mission has expanded to include services for ALL people in need (Catholics & Non-Catholics) in five main areas: Youth & Family Services, Financial and Housing, Counseling (including financial assistance), Mental Health Counseling, Health and Community Services and Senior Services. Field offices cover a region spanning the Eastern Shore of Virginia, South Hampton Roads, the Peninsula, Williamsburg, York County and the Northern Neck, with a total population of over 1.6 million. CCEVA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit agency, fully licensed and accredited by the Council on Accreditation, and governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. CCEVA is a member of our parent organization, Catholic Charities USA. CCEVA has consistently maintained one of the lowest combined fundraising and administrative costs of all charities in the Commonwealth of Virginia — 9%. Strong stewardship is both our obligation and our promise to people who give so generously of themselves, their ideals, and their resources.

Our Values

In order to remain faithful to our mission, Catholic Charities is guided by these core values: Service, Compassion, Empowerment, Dignity and Sanctity of Life and Stewardship.

For those who desire to know more about the organization, CCEVA publishes an informative quarterly newsletter entitled the family zone. A copy of the newsletter is located in the Narthex on the admin bulletin board.

ANGEL TREE

A big thank you to all parishioners that participated in the gift giving for the children and Food Lion gift cards for the families' Christmas celebration.



Everyone was very generous; the staff at the jail were in awe of the generosity of the gifts given to the families.

Thank you so very much, Mary Dorman and Mary Sychterz.



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 16th 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 holds 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 four

Candle Name: The Angel's Candle

4th Week of Advent Represents: Peace/Love

Candle Color: Purple

During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel.

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:
Tony Kurek, Audrey Sidoli & Jodi Riley, Dick Zimmerman

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.

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.



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:

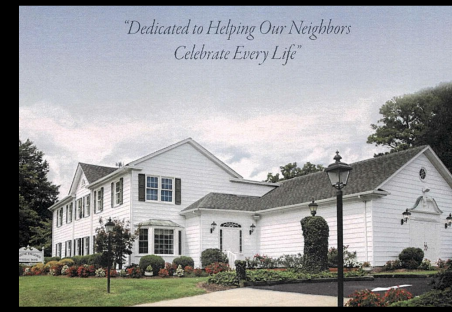
Gloucester, Mathews, Northern Neck & Middlesex Free Health Clinics (KOVAR) Virginians with intellectual disabilities, the VA Veterans Services- Golf Tournament, Families in need, Hands Across Middlesex & Mathews, and The Father John Boddie Scholarship Fund.

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.



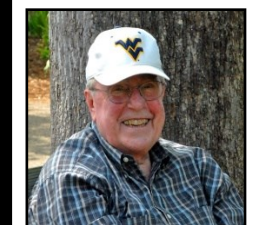
Helping Our Youth Build Their Future



Limerick II Enterprises
Construction Management Services
Tom Shoemaker
In Memory of JoAn



PRAYERS
MEMORIES
LOVE
Jerry
McMurtrie



In loving memory of our Father Bob Nash



In
Loving Memory
Of
Alma and Fritz Sitterding

Supporting Our Youth



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



In Loving Memory of
Bobby Warren
Your Family
Arlene,
L.C., Faye,
Caitlyn & Courtlyn

"Gone but not to be forgotten"

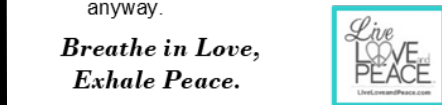
In Loving Memory of
Carmen and David
Brinkley

In Loving Memory of
Vincent "Poppy" &
Vinnie Recupido

The Recupido &
Hollingsworth Families

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



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

Frank & Terry Sisto

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I love and miss you.

♥
Jim

"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

BY THE BAY
STAINED GLASS

Al Langer 804-815-1328

Thank you for supporting our education

Michael, Colin, Kathryn,
John & Kevin Walsh

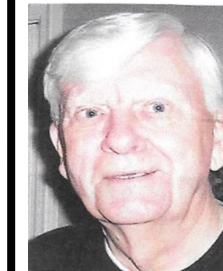
In Memory of
Bob Hartman
My Love of My Life
Jenny

In loving memory of
Marty
Hawksworth



Tom & Sharon

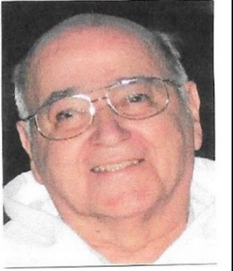
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cffc.com



Kenneth Anderson



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



Lewis Forte

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



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

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



OUR LADY OF THE BAY
COUNCIL 11210

NB NGUYEN | BALLATO

Michael B. Ballato, Esq.
2201 Libbie Avenue
Richmond, VA 23230
804-788-7070

mbb@nblawpic.com
www.nblawplc.com



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