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



Baptism of the Lord January 12, 2025 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 Kostesky

FINANCE COUNCIL

Debby Harriman Tom Hawksworth Tom Jessee 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: Shall We Gather at the River #599

"Loving and Forgiving" #653

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #896

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm: O bless the Lord, my soul.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

Gospel Acclamation: John said: One mightier than I is coming; h will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fir

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Homily: Father Koo

Glory To God #897

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Baptized In Water #633

Holy: #900

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: #905

Communion: Flow River Flow #640

Meditation: Down To The River To Pray #644

Recessional: Tell The Good News #389

<u>January Birthdays</u>

Ist-Carol McCormack, 2nd-Evelyn Scott, 3rd-Bob Cerullo, 5th-Lorraine Kirsch & Mike Borzelleca, 7th-Betty Johnson & Tor Foley, 13th-Benton Miller & Dan Peterson, 17th-Anne Wolski, 19th-Jim Moncure, 20th-Debbie Harriman, 21st-Chuck Walsh, 22nd-Clara Suyes, Donna Brandl, Don Tyrrell, & Josiah Reffo, 27th-John McCormack, 28th-Jacob Lovejoy, 29th-Mike Dreelin & Robert Seay, 30th-Liberty Bushey, 31st-Jack King.

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

January Anniversaries



Today-Baptism of the Lord

5th-Charles & Louise Hartz, 6th-Tom & Ivony Kenned 24th-Jack & Laurie King.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

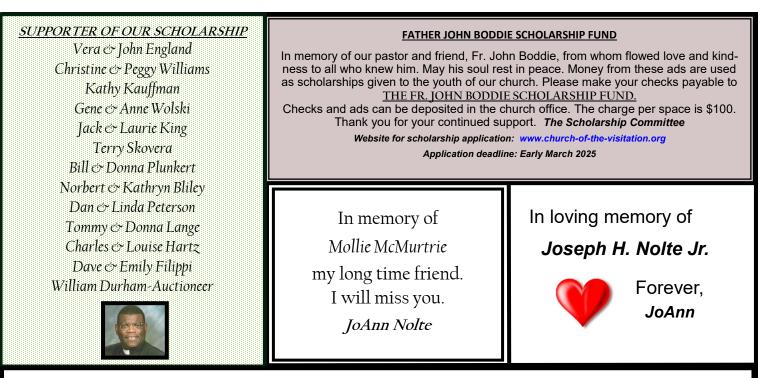
January 19th-2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 22nd-Feast of St Vincent-Day of Prayer for Protection of Unbou Childre

January 26th-3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 2nd-Presentation of the Lord "Blessing of throats"/ Groundhog day.

	<u>January 12, 2025</u>		
	Sacristy Duty: Delagrange Community Leader: Clair		
	Altar Server: Kirsch Lectors: Sychterz/Dreelin		
	Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski Chalice: Seay/Harriman/Marcil/tbd		
	Music: Mears Counters: King/Angell		
	January 19, 2025		
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	Sacristy Duty: Delagrange Community Leader: Richardson		
	Altar Server: Ambrose/Miller/Smith Lectors: Weidner/DeGroot		
ne	Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Harriman Chalice: Seay/Sychterz/Marcil/Smith		
e.	Music: tbd Counters: Tutak/Wohleking		
	OFFERTORY COLLECTION from January 5, 2025		
	Collection: \$ 3,278		
	Second Collection: Debt Reduction \$ 758		
	Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 60,280		
	Total Budget Projection: \$ 69,353		
1.	Loan Balance: \$ 107,165		
	Our Second Collection today is for Debt Reduction.		
	We did not sign any principal sheets this week		
	We did not sign any principal checks this week.		
	BAPTISM OF THE LORD		
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	Pleasing to God		
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Journey Through the Bible: More Commentary on the Book of Genesis

This commentary is adapted from Little Rock Scripture Study's "Panorama of the Old Testament."

The stories of Genesis 3-11 show how the effects of sin multiply and destroy human relationships with God, with other people, and with the created world. After sin, Adam hides from God; he blames Eve, and he is expelled from the harmony of the garden and made to work for food with hard labor. When Eve gives birth to Cain and Abel, rivalry grows between them. Out of jealousy, Cain murders his brother and must wander alone upon the earth. The family that God desires to be a place of support and companionship becomes a breeding ground for envy, resentment, rage, and vengeance.

Accounts of family rivalry lead up to the story of Noah and the catastrophic flood. Violence and corruption have so filled the world that God regrets making human beings on the earth. In God's desire to remake the world, he saves Noah and his family as well as a remnant of every species upon the earth. God remains committed to creation despite the destructive effects of human beings. Following the flood, God establishes a covenant with every living creature with the rainbow as its sign.

The final story of sin's expansion is the huge tower of Babel, which becomes the symbol of humans' arrogance as they attempt to go it alone in defiance of the Creator. God condemns the human pride that inspired it and judges the people by confusing their language and scattering them abroad.

The stories describe tendencies that move deep within every person. Men and women are inclined to act in ways that lead to estrangement and blame each other for it. Siblings tend to fight with one another and grow apart. Human beings tend to think they have the power and wisdom of God, and they suffer in their sinful choices. Men and women are good, yet flawed and fallen. Although God passionately wills life and blessing for his creatures, all of these blessings begin to be destroyed because of sin. The power of death gets increasingly stronger and the world begins to return to the chaos from which it came.

Father Koo summarized all of the above very neatly last Sunday as caused by a sort of "virus" that is carried in every human being: envy.

We can turn to the Catechism for guidance on how to combat envy:

Envy represents a form of sadness and therefor a refusal of charity; the baptized person should struggle against it by exercising good will. Envy often comes from pride; the baptized person should train himself to live in humility: Would you like to see God glorified by you? Then rejoice in your brother's progress and you will immediately give glory to God. Because his servant could conquer envy by rejoicing in the merits of others, God will be praised. (CCC 2540)

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This feast brings to an end the season of Christmas. Ordinary Time lasts from the day after this feast to the Tuesday before Lent.

The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world".

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin. —Excerpted from Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas

ENVELOPES, CALENDARS, AND TAX STATEMENTS

Our 2025 envelopes are available for pickup on the a table in the Narthex. Some e-givers have wondered we printed envelopes for them. It was done to provide request, envelopes for the scheduled second collection Also if you desire a tax statement for this year, pleas place your name on the writing tablet located in the area, and take a free calendar.



KOC PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsori Pancake Breakfast January 26th after Mass. The men

be pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee. Please stay after and enjoy breakfast and camaraderie with fellow parishioners. Donations accepted.



THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to all those who stayed after Mass last Sunday to help take down the Christmas decorati We couldn't have taken down, organized and stored everything in such a timely way if it weren't for you. A special thanks goes out to all those who climbed up in the attic to get the decorations out of the way! Our parishioners can always be counted on to answer the for help and we can't thank you enough! -Art & Environ

BAPTISM OF THE LORD



admin why de, by ons. e	<u>WE'RE IN THE NEWS AGAIN!</u> The recent edition of the Catholic Virginian highlighted the church of the Visitation on its first page. Specifically, it noted our Angel Tree Program for the prisoners children and the shoebox "Operation Christmas" program sponsored by our Faith Formation students. For those of you who
same	missed the article, a copy is in the narthex.
ng a u will cake tkfage s s tons.	FLOWER GUILD COV cordially invites you to join our 2nd Annual FLOWER GUILD Ministry. Last Year many parish- ioners joined in beautifying the front of the altar with flowers/ plants during Ordinary Time, thank you!Image: Consider sponsoring a Sunday to adorn our Sanctuary with fresh flowers/plants. You may wish to commemorate an anniversary, birthday, special intention, memorial for a loved one or simply just because. In lieu of flowers a monetary gift can also be gifted to purchase flowers/plants.
A nto call nment	At this time the FLOWER GUILD is seeking flow- er/plant donations only during Sundays in Ordinary Time as the seasons of Easter and Christmas are handled separately. A signup will be in the Narthex after Mass. Please contact Kari Lee Donovan or Roseanne Moncure for more information/signup.

Journey Through the Bible Readings and Daily Prayer Points January 12 through 18, 2025

Sun, Jan 12-The Baptism of the Lord Bible Readings (Day 12): Genesis 24; Job 13-14; Proverbs 2:16-19 *Prayer Point: With gratitude in our hearts for the gift of Baptism*

Mon, Jan 13-Bible Readings (Day 13): Genesis 25-26; Job 15-16; Proverbs 2:20-22 Prayer Point: In making decisions for the unborn, the aging, and the dying, strengthen us to choose life.

Tue, Jan 14-Bible Readings (Day 14): Genesis 27-28; Job 17-18; Proverbs 3:1-4 Prayer Point: In thanksgiving for the wonders of our brothers and sisters, all created in your image

Wed, Jan 15-Bible Readings (Day 15): Genesis 29-30; Job 19-20: Proverbs 3:5-8 *Prayer Point: Deliver from harm those who are threatened by lies*

Thu, Jan 16-Bible Readings (Day 16): Genesis 31-32; Job 21-22: Proverbs 3:9-12 Prayer Point: For those who have passed through the gates of death, that they may rejoice for all eternity

Fri, Jan 17-Bible Readings (Day 17): Genesis 33-34; Job 23-24; Proverbs 3:13-18 Prayer Point: Grant to us the courage to persevere in Keeping your Word

Sat, Jan 18-Bible Readings (Day 18): Genesis 35-36; Job 25-26: Proverbs 3:19-24 *Prayer Point: With gratitude for giving us the* Blessed Virgin Mary as our mother

2025 NEW YEAR UPDATES

Please remember to keep the office informed of address, family, email, and phone number changes.

If any of these items has changed in the last few months, please inform us, and if you are doubtful about telling us about a change that occurred last year, give us a call to verify if we have the right information.

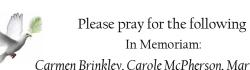
Or if you are not seeing your name in the Birthday/ Anniversary list and would like to, that would be an update as well.

INCLEMENT WEATHER IMPACT

With inclement weather projected for late Friday, early Saturday, which will probably include icing,

please be careful when traversing the parking lot when coming to Mass. We urge you to use extreme caution when getting in and out of your vehicle and walking on the surface.





In Memoriam: Carmen Brinkley, Carole McPherson, Marie Suyes, Matthew Moore. & Dolores Powers

PARISHIONERS

Donna Lange, Bill Campbell, Gene Wolski, Maggie Gerdts, Betty Johnson, Dot Edwards, 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

John & Stockhorst, Lester Stockhorst, KJ Edwards, 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, Ryan Jessee, Larry Hersh, Dominick Perry.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Gary Pierce, 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.

PRAYER LIST REFRESH

It is customary to refresh our prayer lists in January each year. We do not change the "Parishioner" list, but ask that you confirm the names you placed on the "Family of Parishioners" and "Friends of Parishioners" lists by the end of January. Send us an email or drop us a note in the office with the names you desire to remain.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Dog walkers needed at the Middlesex Dog Park. If you can help please call Maggie Gerdts @ 804-758-2963.



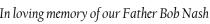
OUR LADY OF THE BAY COUNCIL 11210 OF MATHEWS/MIDDLESEX COUNTIES

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 231649 804-758-2315

bristowfaulkner@faulknerfuneralhcs.com

SAINT THERESA OF CALCUTTA'S "ANYWAY PRAYER"

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; forgive them anyway. f you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies; succeed anyway 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 find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; be happy anyway. he 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 'ou see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them



In Loving Memory 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 o 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	"DOC "JONES Since 1970 Pre-Tested New & Used Auto & Truck Parts -Junk Cars Removed- Hours: 9am-1pm Closed Monday/Sunday/Holidays/Rainy Days Route 3, Box 205, Hartfield, VA 23071 Cell Phone: 804-512-9210 Clarence D. Jones, Prop	WE WISH OUR YOUTH CLEAR SAILING DEBBY AND ED HARRIMAN
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	True Value HURD'S, INC. Where Shopping Is Fun Deltaville, VA 23043 (804) 776-9241	flove and miss you. Jim
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 <i>Tom & Sharon</i>
We Salute the Youth of Our Church and Their Important Journey. <i>Carmen & Joe Brinkley</i>	Frank & Gerrie Lohr Supporting Higher Education	In Loving Memory of Morgan Wells Forever, Marianne
Mathews De	Lennon, D.D.S. entistry 804-725-9485 entistry 804-776-9484	BE A KNIGHT Contact: Grand Knight Al Langer 804-815-3515 OUR LADY OF THE BAY COUNCIL 11210

