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



Third Sunday of Lent March 23, 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 (elected members)

Kevin Hayes Cindy Jessee-Vice Chair Shelley Katsuki-Secretary Steve Kirsch Helen Linden Dave Marcil Mary Ellen Sherwood John Weidner-Chair Peggy Williams

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: I Heard The Voice of Jesus #458

"Loving and Forgiving" #653

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #896 Glory To God #897

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

King of endless glory!

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9 Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Turn To Me #649

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: Loving and Forgiving Are You #653

Meditation: Here I Am, Lord #393 Recessional: Change Our Hearts #651

March Birthdays

👫 1st-David Bushey & Melissa Cabocel, 5th-Tommy Lange, 7th-Mark Levy, 8th-Sandi Delagrange & Patrick O'Donnell, 15th-Tori Hollingsworth & Gloria Matthews, 20th-Gary Richardson, 21st-Peggy Williams, 23rd-Barbara Morrison, 24th-Barbara Hollingsworth, 25th-Michael Pycha, 29th-Eugene Wolski, 30th-Michele Meanley & Joe Sychterz.

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

March Anniversaries



13th-Jan & Nathalie Smith, 15th-Frank & Gerri Lohr, 24th-Bill & Johnna Harris

UPCOMING EVENTS



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ToToday-3rd Sunday of Lent/KOC Pancake Breakfast

March 25th-Confirmation 7pm @St. Beede

March 26th-Stations of the Cross and Soup #3 5:30pm

March 29th-Loving Our Longevity "Seminar" 9:00am-12:30

March 30th-4th-Sunday of Lent/Social Sunday

April 1st-April Fools Day

April 4th-Stations of the Cross and Soup #4 5:30pm

March 23, 2025

Sacristy: Linden Community Leader: Hayes

Altar Server: Dorman/Ambrose/Miller Lectors: Sherwood/Dubicki

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Harvey

Chalice: Sychterz/Marcil/Gray/Ballato

Counters: Harris/Hollingsworth

March 30, 2025

Sacristy Duty: Linden Community Leader: Harriman Altar Server: Smith/Ambrose/Miller Lectors: Kostesky/DeGroot

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski

Music: Mears

Chalice: Donovan/Richardson/Marcil/Seay

211

Music: Filippi Counters: Harriman/McNeil

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from March 16, 2025

Collection: 2,964

Second Collection: Catholic Relief

Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 96,475

Total Budget Projection: \$ 92,760

Loan Balance: \$ 99.102

There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week: \$903 Retreat expense; \$1,203 Rectory and Pastor expenses for February.

LEGACY GIFTS OF STOCK

Gifts of stock avoid capital gains tax! If you own appreciated stock, you may wish to consider giving the stock to the parish rather than cash. You are able to deduct the full value, avoid the

capital gain tax and make a substantial gift to the parish. A good steward uses his or her assets in a way that does the most good.

Giving appreciated stock you have held for more than a year is better than giving cash. If you donate stock that has increased in value since you bought it more than a year ago and if you itemize deductions - you can take a charitable deduction for the stock's fair market value on the day you give it away. To donate a gift of stock, please contact the parish office.

RECURRING EVENTS

Weekly-Sunday 8:30am-New Worship Area Rosary (Cindy Jessee) st-Thursday of the month-Adoration 9:30am-10:30am (Cindy Jessee) nd-Monday of the month-Visitation Singers 9:30am (Carol McCormack) Brd-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
William Durham-Auctioneer

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.

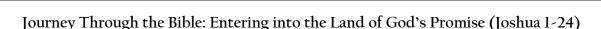
I will miss you.

JoAnn Nolte

In loving memory of Joseph H. Nolte Jr.



Forever, JoAnn



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

The books of Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings are sometimes referred to as the Deuteronomic history. They cover over 600 years of history, beginning with the death of Moses to the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 BC. Together these books demonstrate the results of that fundamental option offered at the end of Deuteronomy - the choice between life and death, the blessing and the curse. When Israel chooses life and follows the covenant, the blessings promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob follow. But when Israel chooses death and turns away from the covenant with God, destruction and doom follow.

The book of Joshua is named after the hero of Israel's period of conquest. Joshua succeeds Moses as leader of the Israelites and leads them in the struggle for possession of the land of Canaan. God says to Joshua, "As I was with Moses, I will be with you: I will not leave you nor forsake you" (Josh 1:5). Although the conquest of the land involves fighting battles, the narratives emphasize Israel's dependence on the LORD for their success. As fulfillment of promises made to their ancestors, the land is God's gift.

The crossing of the Jordan River into the Promised Land is presented as a liturgical procession. Just as Moses led God's people across the sea, Joshua leads the next generation across the river into the next stage of their life. The first conquest, the siege of Jericho, is also recounted as a liturgical event. The priests carry the ark of the covenant and blow ram's horns as they process around the walls of Jericho.

The purpose of this literary style is to demonstrate to every generation that God is faithful to the covenant in providing a homeland for the Israelites. Events that took place perhaps over many decades are condensed into a short period of time. The Deuteronomic author does not offer military details but desires to demonstrate how all the events of seizing land happen according to the covenant.

After Joshua and his army conquer Jericho, they then go on to conquer Ai, Bethel, and Gibeon. A rapid sweep of southern Canaan is followed by the conquest of northern Canaan. After this victorious invasion, the author summarizes the work of Joshua: "Thus Joshua took the whole land, just as the LORD had said to Moses. Joshua gave it to Israel as their heritage, apportioning it among the tribes. And the land had rest from war." (Josh 11:23)

Following Joshua's victories and the division of the land among the tribes of Israel, in his final farewell to the people, Joshua proclaims all the great deeds God has done on behalf of Israel, from the call of Abraham to the conquest of the land. Then he urges the people to commit themselves to the service of the LORD.

GOT CATHOLIC QUESTIONS? OCIA HAS ANSWERS!

OCIA stands for the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. In short, it is the process through which catechumens, who are unbaptized adults or older children, are formed in the teachings of the Catholicism and are initiated into the Catholic Church. This process may also include baptized adult Christians or Catholics who are preparing to receive the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist. Baptized persons moving through OCIA are known as candidates.

Our parish Adult Faith Formation team has begun meeting with two candidates and will be working through a set of Inquiry lessons over the next few months according to the following schedule:

March 30 Q5: The Bible; Q6: Divine Revelation

April 6 Q7: Your Prayer Life, Q8: Catholic Prayers and Practices April 13 Q9: The Mass; C5: The Sacrament of the Eucharist

April 27 Q10: The Church Year; Q11: Places in a Catholic Church

May 4 Q12: Who Shepherds the Church?;

Q13: The Church as Community

May 18 Q14: Mary; Q15: The Saints

May 16 Q14. Mary, Q13. The Saints

June 8 Q16: Eschatology: the "Last Things"

We meet after Mass in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone is welcome to join. While the discussions use structured materials, we try to set a casual mood and welcome all questions, even those that may fall outside the scope of the prepared lesson.

For further information about OCIA and how it could be adapted to the person you would like to see in full communion with the Catholic Church, contact John Weidner, Dave Marcil, or the church office.



CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION

We are Blessed to have three youth receiving confirmation and will celebrate their Christian growth on Social Sunday, March 30th.

Aden Calderin, Baylen Miller, Henry Clair.

They will receive their Confirmation at St Bede's on March 25th.







Congratulations Aden, and thankful for all who supported him in his journey!

A HEARTY WELCOM TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS



Stephen & Sumalee Gallagher stokelynn82@gmail.com Stephen-804-815-7774 Sumalee-804-815-4634



LENT, TRIDUUM, AND EASTER

In a slight departure from previous practice, we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross with soup initially on Wednesdays and later in Lent on Fridays, as is traditional throughout the

The Triduum (Holy Thursday through the Easter Vigil) will be held at FdS this year.

The reconciliation service at COV is scheduled for April 9th @ 6pm, and FdS April 3rd @ 6:30pm.

On the admin table in the Narthex are the "Little Black Books" to assist you in your Lenten devotions. If you desire to participate in the Rice Bowl, the bowls are also on the Admin table.

Some other practices we should be aware of are; The Alleluia is not used until the Easter Vigil; the Altar should not be decorated with flowers except for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday); there are two solemnities during Lent, March 19th-Solemnity of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin and March 25th-Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE DURING LENT

Fasting is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet 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.



MARK YOUR CALANDERS

Saturday, March 29th, 9:00-12:30 at COV.

"Learning to Love Longevity:
Embracing Elder Roles"

Sign up sheet is located in the Narthex.

Please see Mary Flaherty @ FdS or call -Lynne Richardson @ 571-239-0980 to register/questions.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOUP

Stations of the Cross and Soup for Wednesday, March 26th @ 5:30pm Sign up sheet for soup makers and bread bakers can be found in the Narthex.

Thank you

KOC PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast, March 23rd. The menu will be pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee. Please stay after and enjoy breakfast and camaraderie with fellow parishioners.

Donations accepted.



Journey Through the Bible Readings and Daily Prayer Points Mar 23 through Mar 29, 2025

Sun, Mar 23: Bible Readings (Day 82): Joshua 5-7; Psalm 125 *Prayer Point: For an end to all war and persecution

Mon, Mar 24: Bible Readings (Day 83): Joshua 8-9; Psalm 126 *Prayer Point: For the courage to apply our gifts of the Holy Spirit

Tue, Mar 25: The Annunciation of The Lord Bible Readings (Day 84): Joshua 10-11; Psalm 128 *Prayer Point: For the protection of every human life, from conception to natural death

Wed, Mar 26: Bible Readings (Day 85): Joshua 12-14; Psalm 129 *Prayer Point: To know and do the will of the Father

Thu, Mar 27: Bible Readings (Day 86): Joshua 15-18; Psalm 130 *Prayer Point: For those suffering from mental illness

Fri, Mar 28: Bible Readings (Day 87): Joshua 19-21; Psalm 131 *Prayer Point: With thanks for spring weather and the new life it brings

Sat, Mar 29: Bible Readings (Day 88): Joshua 22-24; Psalm 132 *Prayer Point: That the unemployed will find meaningful work



RESPECT LIFE

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord 30th Anniversary of The Gospel of Life

RESPECT FOR LIFE LAUNCHES WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED

This Tuesday, March 25th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Mother Mary says, "Yes!" and the Word of God became flesh and made his dwelling in her who loved and lived that word.

March 25 also marks the 30th anniversary of Pope Saint John Paul the Great's papal letter, Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life). Our parish Respect for Life ministry, led by Helen Linden, selected this Tuesday to begin a project promoted by the US Catholic Bishops: Walking with Moms in Need.

Pregnant and parenting moms are in need in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be "islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference." Everyone in the parish community should know where to refer a pregnant women in need. Inspired by Saint John Paul II's call to assess our efforts in building culture of life, the intention of Walking with Moms in Need is to increase our outreach to pregnant and parenting women facing difficulties.

Through a year long process, our parish will complete a simple inventory of the resources available in our local area, assess the results and identify gaps, and plan and implement a parish response based on our findings.

Working with other churches and community groups in our Middlesex and surrounding counties, we hope to move closer

to the day when every pregnant woman in need knows where to turn for help, and abortion is simply unthinkable.





Please pray for the following

In Memoriam: *Jeff Tutak & Kathy Placilla*

PARISHIONERS

Donna Plunkert, Suzanne Sitterding, Mike Dreelin, Bob Borden, John McCormack, Donna Lange, Bill Campbell, Maggie Gerdts, Betty Johnson, Dot Edwards, Peggy Williams, 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, Tom Hawksworth, Linda Gray, Pat Reamy, Lynn Vajda.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Elycse Hudson, Martha Buesinger, Michele MacFarland, Joseph Borzelleca, Larry Hersh, Patty Pace, Polly Beall, Dick Patton, Peggy Smith, Brian Dubicki, Anthony Pace, John & Debbie Stockhorst, Lester Stockhorst, KJ Edwards, Alex Brown, Chloe Pearson, Tom Delagrange, John Calvin Barnard, Justin Harvey, John Wohleking, Christopher Seay, Lynn Messina, Gene Sullivan, Diane Petralia, Andy Hetzer, Ryan Jessee.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Gay Ruff, Melanie Crittenden, Dave Gunn, Alex Brown, Jim Bruso Ir., Allen Hines, Linda Cryer, Kathy Goyne, Elizabeth Panzer, Valerie McCarthey.



FILL BOTTLES FOR MARY'S CHOICE

We've been asked to provide financial support to Mary's Choice RVA. There are baby bottles in the Narthex that you can take home and fill with cash, change, or a check. Or, if you'd prefer, you can give cash or check to either the office or to

Helen Linden, with a note that says the funds are for Mary's Choice".

All Funds should be returned to the Church by Easter Sunday, April 20th.

Your Change-Changes Lives

Thank you



ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to those parishioners who have participated in the Appeal. For those who have not yet had an opportunity to support it and desire to do so, just ask an usher for a donation envelope. We will update you on our progress towards meeting our \$8880 goal when the first reports are issued. In the interim, the importance of the appeal to the life and ministry of our Catholic Church cannot be overstated.



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.

In memory of our son Christian Strotmeyer John & Pam Strotmeyer



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

"Gone but not to be forgotten"

Helping Our Youth **Build Their Future**



Limerick II Enterprises

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. 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 Live LOVE PEACE

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



Loving Memory

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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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

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you.

Jim

love

and

miss

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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but in thankfulness that he was".

"Say not in grief 'he is no more'

We Support The Youth Scholarship

John & Carol McGormack



Lewis Forte



Bank Bank



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

In memory of



B NGUYEN | BALLATO

Michael B. Ballato. Esa. 2201 Libbie Avenue Richmond, VA 23230 804-788-7070 mbb@nblawpic.com

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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