

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



Eighth Sunday In Ordinary Time March 2, 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 Kostaskey

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: Gather Us In #320

"Loving and Forgiving" #653

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #896

Glory To God #897

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel Acclamation: Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life.

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Dwelling Place #480

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: Taste And See #337

Meditation: Open My Eyes #409

Recessional: We Remember #477

March Birthdays



1st-David Bushey & Melissa Cabocel, 5th-Donna Lange,
7th-Mark Levy, 8th-Sandi Delagrance & 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

Today-8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 5th-Ash Wednesday (9am @COV/6:30pm @FdS)

March 2nd-8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 9th-First Sunday of Lent

March 12th-1st Stations and Soup

March 15th-Lenten Retreat "Anchored In Christ"

March 16th-2nd Sunday of Lent (daylight savings time)

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

March 2, 2025

Sacristy Duty: Delagrance

Community Leader: Clair

Altar Server: Smith/Ambrose/Miller

Lectors: Ballato/Dreelin

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: DeGroot

Chalice: Sychterz/Harriman/Donovan/Gray

Music: Powers

Counters: O'Brien/Smith

March 9, 2025

Sacristy Duty: Delagrance

Community Leader: Puttmann

Altar Server: Kirsch

Lectors: Weidner/Nunn

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski

Chalice: Marcil/Richardson/Gray/Smith

Music: Smith

Counters: King/Angell

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from February 23, 2025

Collection: \$ 2,660

Second Collection:

Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 87,435

Total Budget Projection: \$ 85,282

Loan Balance: \$ 100,162

Our second collection today is for Debt Reduction.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$214 February telephone.



LEGACY

Members of our church gather each week around the communion table, reciting the words of Christ and participating in the sacred meal "in remembrance" of Jesus. That gift has been handed down generation to generation.

As we recall the names of those who have died, our minds are filled with precious memories. We are their legacy, and much of what we have – in both material and non-material things – have been handed down to us from them. But what will we hand down to those who follow? How will we be remembered? Will we leave more than an empty spot in a pew?



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 Delagrance)

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 **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:
From the Mountain to the Promised Land (Numbers 1-36)**

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

The book of Numbers takes its name from the census or numbering of the people that begins the book. The fourth book of the Torah tells the story of Israel's journey from Mount Sinai, through the wilderness, and finally to the plains of Moab, just outside the Promised Land.

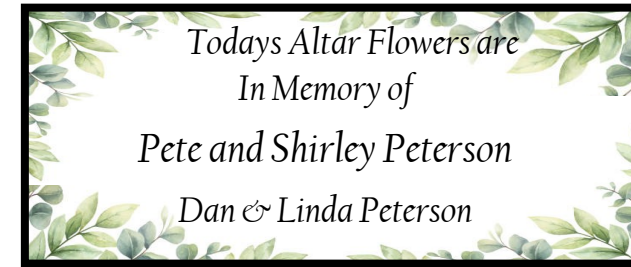
The first ten chapters of Numbers takes place at Mount Sinai, where the people of Israel have been encamped since their encounter with God on the mountain. While Leviticus details the organization of Israel's worship, these pages of Numbers itemize the organization Israel's community. A census is taken of the men of each tribe who are able to serve in the army, as this group of former slaves becomes a well-ordered force ready for military conquest of the Promised Land.

The Israelites are led through the wilderness by the guiding presence of God manifested in a column of cloud by day and a column of fire by night. But despite having God in their midst, soon the Israelites complain about the hardships of desert travel. God's people face two temptations. The first is the lure of stopping and settling in place. The second is the desire of turning back to Egypt. The lessons Israel learns in its wilderness will be heard by later generations, as both warning and encouragement. Getting Israel out of Egypt is much easier than getting Egypt out of the hearts of God's people.

The worst crisis of the journey comes after Moses sends a team of scouts to spy out the land of Canaan. The scouts report that the land is indeed fertile and fruitful. However, they also report that the people in the land are strong and their cities are fortified. The report generates fear among the people, a dread that overcomes the people's trust in God. The Israelites begin to weep and despair of ever reaching their destination. They decide to choose a new leader to lead them back to Egypt, marking rejection of their covenant with God.

God declares that none of this faithless generation will enter the land. As a result, the Israelites are made to wander in the wilderness for forty years. Throughout the Bible, the number forty, whether it be forty days or forty years, is a time of testing and preparation for what God is going to do next. The entire generation that was numbered in the census that began the book of Numbers will perish in the wilderness, while their children, the next generation, will one day enter the land God has promise them.

The desert period is a time of probation for Israel, a time to adjust their attitude of slavery, overcome their fears, and take on a new set of values. God wants them to change their victim mentality and take on the values and life style of a holy nation, God's special possession.



**LENT, TRIDUUM,
AND EASTER**



As Lent comes closer, we will have more details for you, but here is some preliminary information.

Ash Wednesday is March 5th and thanks to Tom Dorman, we created our own ashes from donated palms.

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 church.

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.

As normal, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics.

Additionally, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. More details will follow in ensuing weeks.

MARK YOUR CALANDERS

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

"Learning to Love Longevity:
Embracing Elder Roles"



There was a time when being an "Elder" was a respected role in the community.

Whether you have reached this age yourself, or have family or friends who are there, you will want to hear this talk and participate in the conversation.

Our speaker, Dr. Ayn Welleford, is an Associate Professor at VCU and Director of VCU Gerontology Community and Continuing Education.

Sign up sheet is located in the Narthex.

Please see Mary Flaherty @ FdS or call

Lynne Richardson @ 571-239-0980 to register/questions.

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. The Inquiry lessons broadly cover basic questions in areas such as: what is faith, revelation, prayer, the Bible, and the meaning of Mass and Catholic practices.

We are firming up a schedule for the next several months, which will publish in the bulletin within the next couple of weeks. Until then, anyone is welcome to join the next discussion which is scheduled for this Sunday, March 2, after Mass in the Fellowship Hall. The scheduled lesson is Q2: What is Faith?

We also 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.



ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Many of you have received a Bishop's letter announcing the Annual Diocesan Appeal which is held in the pews on the first two weekends in Lent (March 8/9th and 15/16th). We will distribute brochures, explaining the needs, and envelopes for your use on those dates. The past few years, as a Mission Church, we have been a beneficiary of grants from two of the organizations supported by the Appeal. This year those grants totaled \$12,500. Additionally as a Mission Church, half of our donations will be returned to us.



Last week's procession with the children!

Journey Through the Bible Readings & Daily Prayer Points

Mar 2 through Mar 8, 2025

Sun, Mar 2: Bible Readings (Day 61): Numbers 11; Deuteronomy 10; Psalm 33

*Prayer Point: That God will repair all the broken relationships in our lives

Mon, Mar 3: Bible Readings (Day 62): Numbers 12-13; Deuteronomy 11; Psalm 94

*Prayer Point: Grant that we may do your will

Tue, Mar 4: Bible Readings (Day 63): Numbers 14; Deuteronomy 12; Psalm 95

*Prayer Point: For our family, friends and neighbors

Wed, Mar 5: Ash Wednesday
Bible Readings (Day 64): Numbers 15; Deuteronomy 13-14; Psalm 96

*Prayer Point: That we will be generous in our almsgiving this Lent and attentive to the poor

Thu, Mar 6: Bible Readings (Day 65): Numbers 16; Deuteronomy 15-16; Psalm 97

*Prayer Point: May we die to self and so choose life

Fri, Mar 7: Bible Readings (Day 66): Numbers 17; Deuteronomy 17-18; Psalm 98

*Prayer Point: For those who have gone before us in death

Sat, Mar 8: Bible Readings (Day 67): Numbers 18; Deuteronomy 19-20; Psalm 99

*Prayer Point: Guard us against the temptations that assail us



Please pray for the following



In Memoriam:

Dave Hersh, Chuck Walsh Sr., Kitty Neilsen,
Lucy Hock and Catherine Walsh

PARISHIONERS

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 Krumb, 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

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, Eric Currie.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

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

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.

FUEL AND HUNGER GRANT



The Diocese has informed us that we have been awarded \$4,500 from the Fuel and Hunger Fund for the use of our Parish Pence Fund.

We are extremely grateful for the grant, which is the highest amount we have ever received. It also marks the seventh year in a row we have received a grant from the fund which is supported by the Annual Bishop's Appeal.

Thank you Ray for writing the Grant each year.



Our Parish Pence fund last week, helped a family with their electric bill.

ADDRESS UPDATE

Elena and Lisenka Wunder
11734 Blasting Way
Von Ormy, TX 78073

Lisenkaw@outlook.com



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

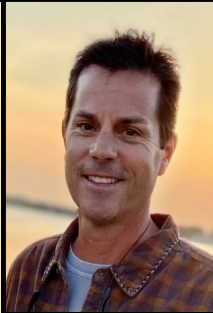
*K of C is a not-for-profit organization whose principles are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

*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

*"Dedicated to Helping Our Neighbors
Celebrate Every Life"*



Faulkner Funeral Homes
& Cremation Services
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In Loving Memory of
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
Construction Management Services
Tom Shoemaker
In Memory of JoAn

**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.**

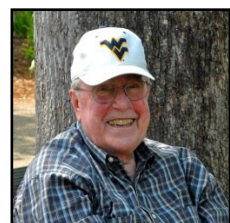



In Loving Memory of
Carmen and David
Brinkley



PRAYERS
MEMORIES
LOVE
Jerry
McMurtrie

In Loving Memory of
Vincent "Poppy" &
Vinnie Recupido
The Recupido &
Hollingsworth Families

In loving memory of our Father Bob Nash

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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Clarence D. Jones, Prop.-

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

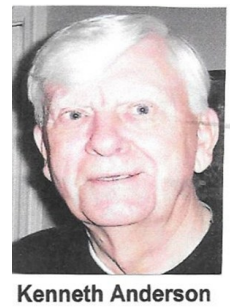
BY THE BAY
STAINED GLASS
Al Langer 804-815-1328


Thank you for supporting our education
Michael, Colin, Kathryn,
John & Kevin Walsh

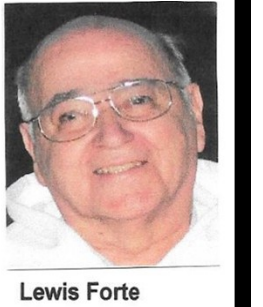
In Memory of
Bob Hartman
My Love of My Life
Jenny

In loving memory of
Marty Hawksworth
Tom & Sharon


Kasey Law
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Branch Manager
klaw@cffc.com
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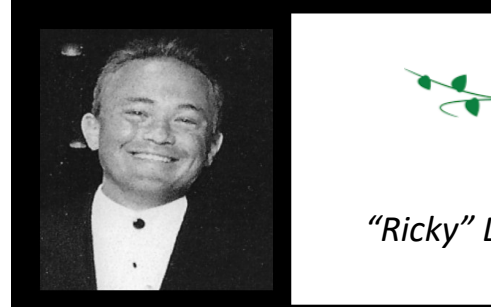

"Say not in grief 'he is no more' but in thankfulness that he was".



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