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



Fifth Sunday of Lent April 6, 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: The Lord is My Hope #466

"Loving and Forgiving" #653

Penitential Act: page 4

Glory To God #897 Lord Have Mercy #896

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with jov.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

King of endless glory!

Gospel: John 8:1-11 Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: What Wondrous Love Is this #422

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: Be Not Afraid #563 Meditation: Be Still My Soul #663 Recessional: Stand By Me #400

April Birthdays

1st-Suzanne Sitterding, 2nd-Emily Puleo, 4th-Blaise Katsuki, Frank Halay & Marianne Krop, 6th-Ray Kostesky & Father Koo, 8th-Pat Reamy & Annette Marcil, 17th-Caroline Puleo & Margaret Hock 22nd-Jimmy Crumley, 23rd-Kaylee Kirsch & Andrew Reyes, 25th-Angela Pycha, 28th-Louise Hartz.

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

April Anniversaries

3rd-Brendan & Eileen O'Brien, 9th-Tom & Sharon Hawksworth 17th-Mike & Noelle Harvey and David & Mary Biederman.

UPCOMING EVENTS



CALENDAR

Today-5th-Sunday of Lent April 9th-Reconciliation 6pm @ COV

April 11th-Stations of the Cross and Soup #5 5:30pm

April 13th-Palm Sunday "Holy week begins"

April 17th-Holy Thursday @ FdS

April 18th-Good Friday @ FdS April 19th-Easter Vigil @ FdS

April 20th-Easter Sunday Resurrection of the Lord

April 23rd & 24th No Daily Mass

April 27th-Divine Mercy Sunday & KOC Pancake Breakfast

April 30th & 31st No Daily Mass

April 6, 2025

Sacristy: Delagrange Community Leader: Hayes Altar Server: Kirsch Lectors: Sychterz/O'Donnell

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Plunkert

Chalice: Dreelin/Harriman/Seay/Donovan

Counters: O'Brien/Smith

April 13, 2025

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange Community Leader: Richardson

Altar Server: Kostesky/Ambrose Lectors: Nunn/Dorman/Dubicki

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski

Chalice: Sychterz/Donovan/Wolski/Seay

Music: Messina Counters: King/Angell

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from March 30, 2025

Collection: \$ 2,054

Second Collection:

Music: Lange

Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 101,359

Total Budget Projection: \$ 96,851

Loan Balance: \$ 99.102

Our second collection today is for Easter Flowers.

We signed the following principal checks this week: \$763 Window repair; \$506 March credit card expenses.

LEGACY GIFTS OF STOCK



Everyone, during their lifetime, accumulates "things." Personal property such as vehicles, jewelry, real estate, and savings or other financial accounts all make up the "stuff" we gather during our lifetimes.

But what happens to those things at our deaths? Who decides where these things go? You can, if you act to create a will or other trust document. This allows you to distribute your assets to the people and causes you select; otherwise the legal system will determine the distribution – at a cost.

Through your will, you can designate a gift to our church that will bless the Christian witness forever. Including the church in your will costs you nothing now yet makes a wonderful faith witness for your family, friends and others. It is a gift anyone can make, and costs nothing during lifetime.

RECURRING EVENTS

Weekly-Sunday 8:30am-New Worship Area Rosary (Cindy Jessee)

st-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
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.2001/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: Clamoring for a King over Israel (1 Samuel 1-12)

This commentary is adapted from Little Rock Scripture Study's "Panorama of the Old Testament" and The Collegeville Bible Commentary.

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel are about the institution of Israel's monarchy and its effects on the community of God's people. The clamor for a king arises during the period of the judges when the last of the judges - Samson, Eli, and Samuel - suffer defeat at the hands of the Philistines. A great urgency ensues when the ark of the covenant is captured in battle and the important city of Shiloh is destroyed by the Philistines. The books take their name from Samuel, who was a priest, prophet, and the final judge of Israel. He is instrumental in Israel's transition from the period of the judges to monarchy. Although Samuel is the last of the judges, even more significantly he is the first of a long line of prophets who will be both advisers and critics of Israel's kings.

In chapter 2 of the first book, Samuel's mother, Hannah, sings a canticle that finds a counterpart in the New Testament in Mary's Magnificat from Saint Luke's narrative of the Visitation (Luke 1:46-55). Both hymns express joy at the birth of a special child; both praise God's power, holiness, and salvation. In both the proud rich are cast down and the humble poor are raised up. Hannah's poem reminds of God's justice; Mary's song reminds of God's mercy.

Two conflicting viewpoints concerning the monarchy are presented in 1 Samuel. One views the monarchy as ordained by God for the survival of the people. The other views the monarchy as a mistake because a human king is an affront to the LORD, who is their true king. After their defeat by the Philistines, many among God's people want Israel to have a king like the other great nations. A king will unify the tribes, establish a powerful army, and lead them to military success. But Samuel argues that Israel is not like the other nations. Israel already has a king, and that king is the LORD. Samuel argues that Israel will have to pay a high price for its monarchy, but the people refuse to listen to Samuel's warnings and continue to insist on a king. So God commands Samuel to give way and provide a king for Israel.

God chooses Saul, and Samuel anoints Saul with oil as a sign of God's spirit upon Israel's first king. Samuel's role as prophet and kingmaker is to provide regulation for the king, so that his royal authority does not rival the sovereignty of God. The new monarchy must remain compatible with Israel's covenant. The struggle between kingship and prophecy, political aims and covenant obligations, characterizes the ensuing history of God's people until the end of the monarchy and their exile.

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

April 27 Q10: The Church Year; Q11: Places in a Catho. May 4 — Q12: Who Shepherds the Church?;

Q13: The Church as Community

May 18 Q14: Mary; Q15: 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.

EASTER FLOWERS SPECIAL COLLECTION

Today our second collection is for Easter Flowers. If you desire to recognize a loved one (s) with your contribution, please place the name of the individual (s) on your collection envelope. The names will be published in the Easter Bulletin.



REGRETS

As we announced at Mass last Sunday, long-time former parishioner Marge Dembeck died last weekend from natural causes. A parishioner since 1989, and at the age of 98, Marge moved to Pennsylvania approximately a year ago to be close to family. Those many years she as with us, she remained active in all aspects of parish life, faithfully washing the Altar linens long into her nineties.

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS



David & Mary Biederman Noah & Sommer

davidbiederman@outlook.com marykbiederman@gmail.com



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 beginning in April, twice. on the 4th & 1lth.



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.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOUP

Stations of the Cross and Soup for <u>Friday</u>, <u>April 4th @ 5:30pm</u>. Sign up sheet for soup makers and bread bakers can be found in the Narthex.

THANKS

A huge thanks to Lynne Richardson and Emily Filippi for their timeless efforts in arranging for a timely longevity or in the words of many attendees, the joys of aging, presentation.

Our presenter Dr. Ayn Welleford, a well known expert on the subject of aging, gave an inciteful and encouraging presentation attended by 66 persons. We also thank the parishioners who donated the tasty snacks that graced the "Goody" table.





Congratulations to Baylen and Henry They were confirmed on March 25th! Very proud of you both. .

Journey Through the Bible Readings and Daily Prayer Points Apr 6 through Apr 12, 2025

Sun, Apr 6: Bible Readings (Day 96): 1 Samuel 1-2; Psalm 149 *Prayer Point: With thanks for the abundance of food and housing in our country

Mon, Apr 7: Bible Readings (Day 97): 1 Samuel 3-5; Psalm 150 *Prayer Point: Comfort those who mourn

Tue, Apr 8: Bible Readings (Day 98): 1 Samuel 6-8; Psalm 86 *Prayer Point: For an end to violence and war

Wed, Apr 9: Bible Readings (Day 99): John 1-3; Proverbs 5:1-6 *Prayer Point: Grant peace to those who are troubled of heart

Thu, Apr 10: Bible Readings (Day 100): John 4-6; Proverbs 5:7-14 *Prayer Point: Restore faith to those who have lost hope

Fri, Apr 11: Bible Readings (Day 101): John 7-9; Proverbs 5:15-23 *Prayer Point: For an increase in charitable donations

Sat, Apr 12: Bible Readings (Day 102): John 10-12; Proverbs 6:1-11 *Prayer Point: For safety to all travelers

PRESENTATION FROM FATHER KOO

Father Koo is planning to give his second "Journey Through the Bible" presentation on Wednesday morning, April 9, at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. In February, Father presented an overview of the Pentateuch and went into detail on the Book of Genesis. He plans to cover additional books of the Pentateuch during the upcoming presentation.

Father supplemented his first presentation with slides, so it was easy to follow and was very well received by parishioners who attended.

For those who could not attend the first presentation or who may miss this one, Father is still planning to offer both of these presentations at evening virtual meetings, to be arranged and announced very soon.

EASTER SUNDAY

Please join us after Mass on Easter Sunday for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Although all chocolate lovers might like to participate, we have to restrict the hunt to all children 12 and under. Please congregate after Mass in the Fellowship Hall for instructions. If you need a container, we will have one for you. When you are finished, please remember to empty the candy from the eggs and leave the eggs in the box provided. We will use them next year.





Please pray for the following

In Memoriam:

Marge Dembeck, Jerry McMurtrie,

Catharine Aumueller & Kenneth Anderson

PARISHIONERS

Donna Plunkert, Suzanne Sitterding, 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

Carol Kelly, 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

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

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.

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. *Thank you*

"Your Change-Changes Lives"



ANNUAL APPEAL

The results continue to demonstrate the generosity of our parish in meeting the Diocesan call for support and help. Our donation total of direct and pledged funds has reached \$13,945 or 157% of goal as of the end of March. Our number of donors is now 43 families, and our hope is that number will grow to last year's total (58).

Please remember that any gift, large or small, is important and welcome.

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

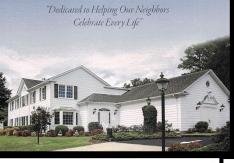
Our Grand Knight -

Al Langer at 804-815-1328.





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



Faulkner Funeral Homes & Cremation Services PO Box 228

Saluda, VA 231649 804-758-2315

bristowfaulkner@faulknerfuneralhcs.com



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
Construction Management Services

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

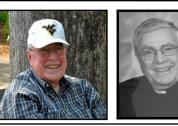
Breathe in Love, Exhale Peace. In Loving Memory of

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

Live LOVE 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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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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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, Maríanne



C. Ben Lennon, D.D.S.

Mathews Dentistry 804-725-9485 Deltaville Dentistry 804-776-9484



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

Kasey Law Assistant Vice President Branch Manager

klaw@cffc.com

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NMLS# 1914115 cffc.com



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



Bank Bank



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





Michael B. Ballato. Esa. 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