

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



Ascension of the Lord June 1, 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 Kstesky

FINANCE COUNCIL

Debby Harriman
Tom Hawkworth
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.

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

MASS/MUSIC

Entrance: Festival Canticle: Worthy Is Christ #583

“Loving and Forgiving” #653

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #896

Glory To God #897

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Responsorial Psalm: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel Acclamation: Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am
with you always,, until the end of the world.

Gospel: Luke 24:46-53

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Where My Father Lives #678

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: Bread Of Angels #376

Meditation: I The Lord #673

Recessional: God Has Chosen Me #392



June Birthdays

1st-Fritz Sitterding, 2nd-Walt Donovan & Kim Lovejoy,
7th-Michele Puttmann, 10th-Jean Box, 11th-Sarah Woods,
13th-Charles Hartz, 14th-Johnna Harris, 17th-Arlene Warren,
20th-David Biederman, 21st-Marla Bury, 24th-Gerri Lohr,
25th-Zaida Wohleking, 26th-Una Kerrigan, 27th-Sharon
Hawkworth, Susan Seay & Carl Ambrose, 28th-Baylen Miller.

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



June Anniversaries

1st-Fritz & Suzanne Sitterding, 13th-Lynne & Gary Richardson,
21st-Scott & Kathy Kauffman, Dave & Emily Filippi,
25th-Ray & Jean Kstesky, 27th-Don & Sandi Delagrange,
28th-Bob & Barbara Smith.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Today-The Ascension of the Lord-Visiting Priest Father Bruno

June 5th-Adoration 10:00am

June 8th-Penecost Sunday

June 9th-Ordinary Time Begins

June 10th-Father John Boddie Scholarship Meeting 11:00am

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

June 1, 2025

Sacristy: Delagrange

Community Leader: Puttmann

Altar Server: Miller, Miller, Kirsch

Lectors: Weidner/O’Brien

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: DeGroot

Chalice: Harriman/Marcil/Plunkert/TBD

Music: Filippi

Counters: Harris/Smith

June 8, 2025

Sacristy Duty: Harvey

Community Leader: Hayes

Altar Server: Ambrose/Kstesky

Lectors: Dorman/O’Brien

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Harvey

Chalice: Gray/Dreelin/Ambrose/Donovan

Music: Lange

Counters: King/Angell

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from May 25, 2025

Collection: \$ 3,506

Second Collection:

Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 126,978

Total Budget Projection: \$ 120,882

Loan Balance: \$ 97,014

Our second collection today is for Debt Reduction.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$215 telephone monthly service.



LEGACY GIFTS OF STOCK

By creating a legal will or living trust, you can provide your next-of-kin with a peace of mind, knowing that you have already determined how your estate will be distributed and who will care for minor children. They will still grieve, but they won’t face the daunting task of making decisions that you could have made.

A will also provides an excellent opportunity to remember our congregation. A gift to the church through your will serves as a testament to your heirs of your faith in God and the resurrection. It provides you with one last opportunity to exemplify what it means to be a good steward, providing for others as God has provided for you during your lifetime. What a blessing you can be to future generations!



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 9:00am; 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 2026

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

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Journey Through the Bible: Solomon Sows the Seeds of Division (1 Kings 8-11)

This commentary is adapted from Little Rock Scripture Study’s “Panorama of the Old Testament”.

At the completion of the temple’s dedication, God appears again to Solomon and states which aspects of the covenant are unconditional and which parts depend on the fidelity of Israel’s kings. The LORD said to him: “But if ever you and your descendants turn from following me, fail to keep my commandments, and proceed to serve other gods and bow down to them, I will cut off Israel from the land I gave them and repudiate the house I have consecrated for my name.” (1 Kings 9:6-7)

Despite the wisdom of Solomon, and in the midst of all the glorious achievements of his reign, the seeds are being sown that will yield a bitter harvest. The statutes of Deuteronomy specify that the man chosen by God to be king over Israel must beware of three things: “He shall not have a great number of horses; nor shall he make his people go back again to Egypt to acquire horses, for the LORD said to you, Do not go back that way again. Neither shall he have a great number of wives, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he accumulate a vast amount of silver and gold” (Deut 17: 16-17)

Weapons, wives and wealth - these will be the downfall of Solomon and so many kings after him. The untamed drive for power, pleasure, and possessions deny the covenant in which God command Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me” (Deut 5:6-7)

In order to pay for all his building projects Solomon imposes excessive taxes on the people and drafts many into forced labor. This causes resentment among the tribes, especially those in the North who grumble that they are bearing an excessive burden of the extravagance of Solomon’s court. In addition, the gulf between the rich and poor widens. The people complain that the poor live in hovels while Solomon’s horses live in stables of ivory.

Solomon’s extravagance extends to his huge harem of seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. His many foreign wives, brought to Israel to create political alliances with other nations, carry with them the religious practices of their own countries and even their own idols. And Solomon does little or nothing to prevent these foreign religious practices and beliefs from influencing the faith of Israel.

The humility, fidelity, and trust required of God’s servant, the king, become engulfed by the forces of power, lust, and wealth that rage within the human spirit. Rather than establishing a holy nation and a kingdom of priests, Solomon ends up building a typical kingdom of this world.

TODAY’S GUEST PRIEST

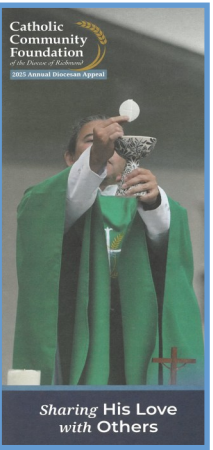
Today we are honored to have
Father Robert Bruno
as our guest celebrant. Earlier in the year, we joined the Mission Cooperative Program which pairs us with a large parish for the purpose of soliciting funds for needy projects. Consequently, Fr. Koo will be celebrating Mass at Saint Matthew Catholic Church in Virginia Beach this weekend.

WORD AMONG US

We recently acquired the publication “The Word Among Us” for the month of June. It contains daily mediations and readings for the month and copies are available for your use on the admin table.

APPEAL UPDATE

Our participation appears to be coming to an end with extremely positive results. This will be our last report, which shows us achieving 202% of goal with monies collected and/or pledged. 57 families participated, one less than last year, but with a higher total of \$17,945. Fr. Koo sends his warmest regards and heartfelt thanks to those parishioner families who supported the appeal.



REGRETS

We regret to announce the death of parishioner Marilynne Cerullo from natural causes last week. Marilynne and husband Bob joined the parish in 2004. A graveside service occurred a week ago Friday in our cemetery. On another sad note, Lynne Richardson’s mother also died a week ago from natural causes. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bob and Lynne and their respective families.

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

In addition to the celebration of First Communion for our four youth, we commissioned our Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion on Sunday. Pictures below is the event, which culminated the ministers’ training in this important ministry.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Ascension is the event, where Jesus arose into heaven, at the end of his time on earth. Jesus' time on earth began with his birth. It was interrupted for three days by His death on the Cross. During that time, He descended into the realm of the dead and preached the Gospel to the good people who died before Him. This allowed those good and holy souls~the righteous dead, as we call them~who accepted Christ as their Savior to proceed to heaven. On the third day after his death and burial, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, an event we call the Resurrection. He spent the next 40 days preaching and preparing His disciples to perform the work of preaching and baptizing all people.

(Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11) It is said that by His death and Resurrection, Jesus opened the gates of heaven for all humanity. This is true, and His Ascension demonstrates this to us. It is His proof that those of us who believe in Him in faith and follow Him will also be raised on the last day, and enter into heaven.

From heaven, Jesus hears our prayers and intercedes for us with His Father.

We celebrate this on Ascension Sunday, which is celebrated forty days after Easter. Traditionally it is celebrated on a Thursday as a Holy Day of Obligation. The Church presently observes it on a Sunday to allow more of the faithful to attend Mass. It remains a Holy Day of Obligation, and the faithful are reminded that all Sundays are obligatory by default.

The Ascension should not be confused with Pentecost, which is celebrated 50 days after Easter. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Christ, after His Ascension.



Andrew Reyes/Cayden Miller/Patrick Ambrose/Annabella Reyes

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Two Sunday's ago we celebrated the First Communion of four of our youth.

Full of boundless joy, we welcome them to a life of spiritual growth and pray for their continuous journey with Christ. Amen



Journey Through the Bible Readings and Daily Prayer Points

June 1 through June 7, 2025

Sun, Jun 1: The Ascension of The Lord
Bible Readings (Day 152): 1 Kings 10; Ecclesiastes 8-9;
Psalm 8

**Prayer Point: For all who have died in the service of our nation*

Mon, Jun 2: Bible Readings (Day 153): 1 Kings 11; Ecclesiastes 10-12;
Psalm 9

**Prayer Point: May the power of the Holy Spirit come to us*

Tue, Jun 3: Bible Readings (Day 154): Mark 1-2; Psalm 11
Prayer Point: That our parish community may grow in faith, hope and love

Wed, Jun 4: Bible Readings (Day 155): Mark 3-4; Psalm 20
**Prayer Point: Consecrate us in the truth*

Thu, Jun 5: Bible Readings (Day 156): Mark 5-6; Psalm 21
**Prayer Point: For the work of evangelization in today's world*

Fri, Jun 6: Bible Readings (Day 157): Mark 7-8; Psalm 23
**Prayer Point: Teach us to hope in you all day long*

Sat, Jun 7: Bible Readings (Day 158): Mark 9-10; Psalm 29
**Prayer Point: May the LORD send forth the Spirit and renew the face of the earth*

COV FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the beautiful floral displays at the front of the altar during Ordinary Time. We warmly invite others within our community to consider joining us in this meaningful effort.

Contributing to the altar flowers is a lovely way to commemorate special occasions such as anniversaries or birthdays, to honor a special intention, to create a memorial for a loved one, or simply to enhance the beauty of our worship space. For those who prefer, Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted and will be used to purchase flowers and plants.

The Flower Guild is currently seeking donations to provide flowers for the following Sundays:

June 15, 22, 29 July 6, 13, 20, 27 August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex after Mass. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please feel free to contact Kari Lee at

732-690-7143 or
email @ kari-lee-donovan@protonmail.com

Thank you for your continued support.



Please pray for the following



In Memoriam:

Marilynne Cerullo, Dottie Hines & Jeanne Meushaw

PARISHIONERS

Helen Lyons, Paul Dubicki, Jean Box, Suzanne Sitterding, 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, Tom Hawksworth, Linda Gray, Pat Reamy, Lynn Vajda.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Mike Graham, Jill Shores, Lisa & Joann Ferari, Andy & Barb Woods, Carol Kelly, Elycse Hudson, 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

Father Bob Brownell, Bobby Brizendine, Gay Ruff, Melanie Crittenden, Dave Gunn, Alex Brown, Jim Brusio Jr., Linda Cryer, Kathy Goynes, 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.

FATHER JOHN BODDIE SCHOLARSHIP



Annually we solicit donations for the scholarship fund, designed to help parishioners with higher education and the parish itself with on-going adult education. The donations purchase an ad in our bulletin for one year.

Today we will hand out donation request letters to parishioners. By mail we will solicit donations from local businesses and former donors unaffiliated with the parish.

Scholarships are available from the fund for high school seniors entering college, higher and post-graduate education, continuing education, and special adult education. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact the office.

Thank you for your continued support to the Father John Boddie Scholarship. It supports many needs within our community.

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONER



Helen Lyons
957 Barricks Mill Road
Topping, VA 23169
804-925-5133



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.

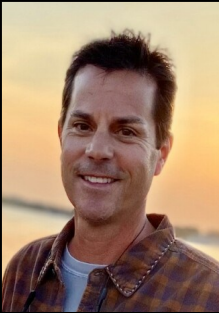
*Donations support: Gloucester, Mathews, Northern Neck & Middlesex Free Health Clinics (KOVAR) Virginians with intellectual disabilities, the VA Veterans Services- Golf Tournament, Families in need, Hands Across Middlesex & Mathews, and The Father John Boddie Scholarship Fund.

*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



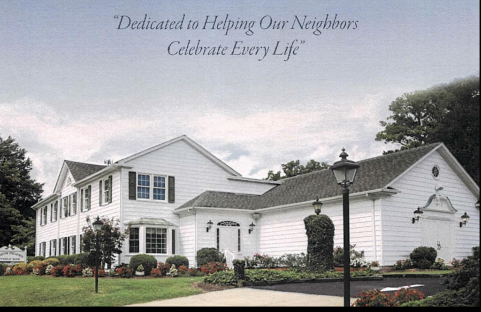
The KOC meet at 5:15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Church of the Visitation.

We start with the Rosary.

All are welcome! Any questions call

Our Grand Knight -

Al Langer at 804-815-1328.



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

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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



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

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



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

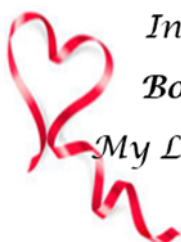
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I
love
and
miss
you.
♥
Jim

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**

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

We Support The Youth Scholarship
John & Carol McCormack

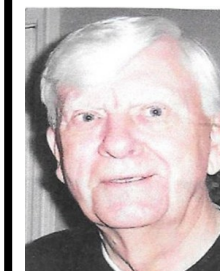


"I am the good shepherd...
and I will lay down my
life for the sheep."
(John 10:14)
John and Diane Weidner

In Loving Memory of
"Lee Hollingsworth"
We love and miss you!
Barb & Tori

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

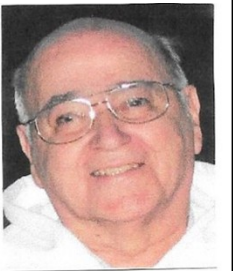
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M: 804.832.2330
F: 804.800.4593
NMLS# 1914115
cffc.com



Kenneth Anderson



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



Lewis Forte


In Loving Memory

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



NB NGUYEN | BALLATO
Michael B. Ballato, Esq.
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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