



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID ZISER

Mother of God Church

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STAFF

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Mary Ann Kelly, Pastoral Assistant
 Email: mkelly@mogcov.org

Parish number: 859.291.2288
 Ellen Habermehl, Secretary
 Victor Canfield, Facilities Manager
 Patricia Steinmetz, Business Office

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday -
 9:30 am-4:30 pm

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Sundays:
 9:30 am - Traditional Music
 11:30 am - Contemporary Ensemble
 Cindy Duesing, Director
 (ASL Interpreted)

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
 Friday, Saturday - 12:05 pm

PARISH SCHOOL

Prince of Peace Catholic Montessori
 625 Pike Street, Covington, KY
 859.431.5153

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE (859.291.2288) TO REGISTER, TO INFORM US OF CHANGES IN YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, TO LET US KNOW HOW OUR PARISH CAN SERVE YOU, OR TO INQUIRE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN THE PARISH.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM OF INFANTS:
 CONTACT
 ELLEN HABERMEHL
 (M, TU, F)

RECONCILIATION:
 TUESDAY AT 11:00 AM
 SATURDAY AT 11:00 AM
 IN CHURCH

MARRIAGES:
 CONTACT ELLEN HABERMEHL
 AT LEAST 9 TO 12 MONTHS PRIOR
 TO THE DESIRED WEDDING DATE.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION:

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:
 COMMUNION AND
 OTHER HOME VISITS:
 CONTACT PARISH OFFICE

FOR ADULTS:
 BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION,
 AND FIRST COMMUNION:
 CONTACT PARISH OFFICE

FOR CHILDREN:
 SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION,
 EUCHARIST, AND CONFIRMATION:
 CONTACT PARISH OFFICE

JANUARY 11, 2026
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

MOTHER OF GOD CHURCH

PURPOSE STATEMENT

We, the people of Mother of God Church, aspire to be instruments of the peace of Jesus Christ by:

- Worshipping God with joy and reverence
- Welcoming the stranger with love and compassion
- Serving those in need with humility and respect.

FROM THE PASTOR

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord serves as a pivotal feast. It is the official end of the Christmas season, and it is the beginning of Ordinary Time.

In all four Gospels, our first encounter with the adult Jesus is at His Baptism. From the Finding of the Child Jesus, at twelve years old, until His Baptism, we have no biblical information. We presume that The Holy Family continued to live in Nazareth, that at some point Joseph passed away, that Jesus continued His father's carpentry business, at least for a while. There is speculation that at some point he left home, perhaps spending some time in the Dead Sea area with the Qumran community, and perhaps travelled around Judea, getting to know the cities and the concerns of the people.

Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, began his active ministry, preaching and baptizing in the Jordan River. This was the point where the Hebrew people actually entered into The Promised Land. Through John's Baptism, the people were becoming New Israelites, starting over with God. Jesus came to John to be baptized. This was a problem, because John's was a Baptism involving repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Whose sins is Jesus repenting of?

John, recognizing the problem, says, "I should be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus tells him to allow it for now to fulfill all righteousness. What John does not understand is that Jesus has come into this world to take our sins upon Himself. We see this most clearly in the Crucifixion, but even now, as He begins His ministry, He is showing that He has come into the world to take the sins of mankind onto Himself.

Baptism is not only the beginning of Jesus' ministry, it is also the beginning of our journey of discipleship, as we learn to follow Christ. In Baptism, we become Children of God, Disciples of Christ, and Temples of the Holy Spirit.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DIANE

After the 11:30 am Mass today, we will honor Diane Donathan for her forty years of service to Mother of God, and to our deaf community in particular, by her signing the Masses. She is a mainstay of Mother of God Church and has spent forty years assisting the hearing-impaired members of our parish to participate actively in the liturgy.

We are very grateful to Diane for being the blessing she has been to Mother of God Church.

THE GOSPEL OF SAINT MATTHEW

We are reading from the Gospel of Matthew throughout 2026. I want to give some general notes to help you read from that Gospel over the coming year.

Matthew and Luke are the only two Gospels that include an Infancy Narrative. Whereas, the Infancy Narrative in Luke is told through the eyes of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Matthew tells those stories through the eyes of Saint Joseph. Matthew begins the story with Joseph, having learned that Mary is pregnant, and planning to divorce her. The angel appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him not to be afraid to take Mary into his home as his wife, for the child is by The Holy Spirit. Joseph does so.

In Matthew's narrative, we learn of the story of The Magi and the slaughter of the innocents, and of the flight into Egypt. We see The Holy Family return to Nazareth, but still concerned about Herod's son.

It is a much darker presentation of the Infancy Narratives, hinting at the persecution this child will face, and His death upon the Cross.

SAINT ANTHONY, ABBOT

Saint Anthony the Great (also known as Saint Anthony, Abbot) lived in the Third century in Egypt. He will travel down to the deserts of Egypt in order to live the life of a hermit. This will last for many years, but eventually it became known that this very holy man was living there, and others came to him. They began living in caves in the region, under Anthony's leadership, forming the first monastery of the Church.

Anthony wrote a rule for his fellow monks to live by, and became known as the Father of Monks, even up to today.

Anthony's Feast Day is Saturday, January 17.





PARISH NEWS

Today, Sunday, Jan. 11, **coffee and donuts** are available after both Masses downstairs in the undercroft.

Reminder – Monday, Jan. 19, the Parish Office will close for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday, Jan 20 at 9:00 am. Mass will begin at 10:00 am on Monday, Jan. 19.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN

Parents, if you have a school-age child who is seeking First Reconciliation and / or First Communion, we would love to hear from you! You must be a registered parishioner for your child to participate. To register your child / children for the classes, please call the Parish Office at 859-291-2288 or email mkelly@mogcov.org. Preparation will begin in January.

If your child / children have not been baptized, we can help with that, too. Please call or send us an email.

CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF DIANE DONATHAN

Today, Sunday, Jan. 11, after the 11:30 am Mass

You are invited to join us today as we gather to honor Diane Donathan for her 40 years of dedicated service as American Sign Language Interpreter. After the 11:30 am Mass, please come downstairs to the undercroft for a light lunch of soup and sandwiches provided by the Deaf Community and Interpreters as we celebrate and honor Diane. *All are welcome!*

Congratulations on their recent Wedding!

Samuel and Natalie (Hughes) Kremer



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – THANK YOU!

Last year, we were able to assist 292 neighbors with rent, utilities, food and other needs. We provided \$23,000.00 in rent, \$11,000.00 in utilities, and \$10,000.00 in food vouchers.

The volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul and our neighbors want to thank the Mother of God Parish for their generous donations. Without your support, helping our neighbors would not be possible.

Our parish is so incredibly blessed. *Thank You!*

AL-ANON has their Wednesday Noon Meetings at Mother of God Church. Enter through the courtyard and go down the steps to the undercroft of the church. Al-Anon has but one purpose: To help families and friends of alcoholics and addicted ones. Please come, for you are welcome.

VIRTUS

A big Thank You to all of the Mother of God Volunteers who stay current on their Virtus training bulletins. If you would like to volunteer and need to become VIRTUS-trained, please email Mary Ann Kelly.

If you have any questions regarding this process, call or email Mary Ann at any time! She can be reached by phone at 859-291-2288, ext. 16, or send an email to her at mkelly@mogcov.org.

Parish Missionary Disciples (PMD)

KNOWING AND SHARING YOUR STORY WORKSHOP

Do you want to put your faith into action, yet need a little encouragement? Do you have a loved one with whom you wish you could share your faith story, yet not sure how? Would you enjoy learning more about how to pray for/with others? Let's learn together how to make our faith more public, normal, and magnetic! The Knowing and Sharing Your Story Workshop, based on With One Heart PMD training from the Catholic Leadership Institute, was developed and offered by the Mother of God Engagement Team last spring.

As it was well received, **the MoG Team will present it at St Mary's Parish in Alexandria on Jan. 22, Feb. 5, and Feb. 19 (Thursdays) from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.** Please join your fellow parishioners and other Catholics from across our diocese in deepening our and other's personal relationships with Christ in this important way!

Registering is easy,

just email Ken at kenglaser24@gmail.com
or call Ken at 859-512-1577.

Since 2024, more than 150 fellow Catholics from 24 parishes in the Diocese of Covington have engaged in Parish Missionary Disciples training.



A heartfelt THANK-YOU to all the volunteers who have made Mother of God a beautiful space for Christmas. It takes planning, a lot of hands and many hours to make all of the cleaning and decorating happen. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by the parish and the multitude of visitors who come through our doors this time of year.

May God bless you and keep you in 2026!

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW PARISH APP

Introducing our New Parish App that will keep you connected to all the great happenings at Mother of God Church. **It's available for free in the Apple and Google Play Stores.** Just search for "Mother of God Parish" and download it to your phone, tablet or desktop.

We will be continually adding to the content in our app to include online event registrations, chat rooms for small groups, Fr. Comer's talks and much more. It's simple to use and gives you practical tools to feel more socially and spiritually connected to our parish community.



Use the QR code to download the app now.

Notice: If you are giving online or through a bank draft to our church and are still receiving budget envelopes, please let us know if you wish to cancel receiving budget envelopes.

Sunday Collection	December 28, 2025
Church Collection	\$ 7,213.55
Mailed In	\$ 8,083.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,116.57
Total Collection	\$ 17,413.12

Christmas \$14,224.00
Holy Day / Jan. 1 \$1,672.00

Sunday Collection	January 4, 2026
Church Collection	\$ 7,854.00
Mailed In	\$ 816.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,230.67
Total Collection	\$ 9,900.67

Mother of God announces its new online giving platform with Subsplash. Subsplash offers a better user experience and lower transaction fees, which saves both you and the parish money. The link to Subsplash giving is on the Mother of God website and in the new parish app, which you can download for free from the Google or Apple Play Store by searching for "Mother of God Parish." It's easy to set up a one-time or recurring gift, linked to a credit card or bank account.

If you are currently giving a recurring gift online through FaithStreet, please log in and cancel it before setting up your Subsplash gift. For more information, go to "Giving" at <https://mother-of-god.org> or send an email to communications@mogcov.org.

MOTHER OF GOD MEMORIAL TRUST FUND

In your kindness, please consider making bequests or financial donations to the Mother of God Memorial Trust Fund. These funds are used only for the preservation of the church.

**KINDERGARTEN COFFEE – Villa Madonna Academy**

You're invited to an **information session** at Villa Madonna Academy on **Thursday, Jan. 15 at 8:30 am.**

More information at villamadonna.org.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. BREAKFAST AND COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Saturday, Jan. 17, 9:30-11:30 am

Our Savior Church, 246 E. 10th Street, Covington, KY

Please join us at Our Savior Parish for a special morning of reflection and dialogue as we honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This event will be held in Melvin Taylor Hall on Saturday, Jan. 17 from 9:30 to 11:30 am. There will be a documentary screening of the film, *Awaking to Justice*. Following the film, you are invited to engage in meaningful discussion.

OPEN HOUSE – Holy Cross High School

Sunday, Jan. 18, 1:00 pm

Join us for an Open House at Holy Cross High School, 3617 Church Street, Covington KY on Sunday, Jan. 18, beginning at 1:00 pm. Meet teachers, explore athletic and extracurricular opportunities and enjoy student-led tours.

For more information, visit our website at www.hchscov.com or call 859-431-1335.

Lenten Women's Retreat:**Come Back to Me with All Your Heart**

On **Saturday, March 7 from 8:30 am-3:00 pm**, join us for a Lenten Women's Retreat, *Come Back to Me with All Your Heart*. The Retreat will be in **The Blessed Sacrament Undercroft at 2409 Dixie Hwy, Ft. Mitchell, KY.**

- Light breakfast and lunch will be served.
- There will be opportunity for Mass and Confession.
- Cost is \$45.00 before Feb. 23 and \$50.00 after Feb. 23.
- **Register** at <https://www.rcohiovalley.org/events/womens-lenten-retreat-2026>
- **If you have questions,** please contact Robin Welch at rmwelch99@gmail.com.

Please invite other women to join us! ***Open to all, sponsored by the Women of Regnum Christi.***

Saint Pope John Paul II's – Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called The Prince of Peace, who are Yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace.

Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.

May all peoples on the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all. *– Saint Pope John Paul II*

To help you prepare for next Sunday's Mass

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

Responsorial Psalm:


Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

1 Corinthians 1:1-3 John 1:29-34




Mass Intentions

Jan. 11	9:30 am	Parishioners and Benefactors
	11:30 am	Devin Lewis
Jan. 12	12:05 pm	Carol Imbus
Jan. 13	12:05 pm	Ebbitt Family
Jan. 14		No Mass
Jan. 15	12:05 pm	Mike Corcoran
Jan. 16	12:05 pm	Jamie Coldiron
Jan. 17	12:05 pm	The Santel Family
Jan. 18	9:30 am	Parishioners and Benefactors
	11:30 am	Peggy Beckman




Message of Condolence

We offer our sincere sympathy to the Family and Friends of Bertha Neltner. You will be held in our prayers. May Bertha rest in peace.



Please join us for **Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays, 11:00-11:45 am.**
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available at this time.



Scan this QR Code to view a video about the Mother of God Church building!

Remember in Prayer

- Hannah Donoghue ♦ Lois Knochelmann ♦ Chris Haddix ♦ Frank Sutthoff ♦ David Verkamp ♦ Kenneth Schuler ♦ Nancy Correll ♦ Debbie Prior ♦ Lauri Boggs ♦ Joe Legner ♦ Faye Gosney ♦ Rita & Ron Hopper ♦ Kathleen Stevens Cox ♦ Freda Legner ♦ Jan Stahlheber ♦ Joan Miley ♦ Rob Feldman ♦ Gerri Losey ♦ Pat Landrum ♦ Bruce Hummel ♦ D.B. ♦ Amy Stiens ♦ Mary Estelle Roesel ♦ Amy Bates ♦ Joan and Kelse Murphy ♦ Eileen Concannon ♦ Greg Scanlon ♦ Keith Bosshart ♦ Frank Hlebak ♦ Joy Rolfsen ♦ Greg ♦ Mary Beth Ryan ♦ Charles Kania ♦ Justin Reeves ♦ Mary Ann Grimm ♦ Jack Hicks ♦ Ben Wolff ♦ Mickey Penman ♦ Marine Sgt. Edward M. Burke ♦ G.S. ♦ Ruthie ♦ Greg Dahlenberg ♦ Jennifer T. ♦ Anna F. ♦ Hannah Harris ♦ Renee Seward ♦ Meg Anne O'Brien ♦ The Barrett Family ♦ Debbie Klein ♦ Plymessa Family ♦ Mary Lou Wilson ♦ Katie Tignor ♦ Oliver Derrick ♦ Meg H. ♦ Steve Oberjohn ♦ NR ♦ John Kalker ♦ Charlotte McDermott ♦ Mary Kohorst ♦ Anne Halpin ♦ Mary Kelley ♦ Jerry Turner ♦ Cliff Wagner ♦ Cindy Losey ♦ John Phillip Pugh ♦ Connie Braedon ♦ Teresa Bowman ♦ Jenny Vellon ♦ Jim Skridulis ♦ Beverly Henn ♦ Susan Byrley ♦ Jean Byrley ♦ Bill Hambley ♦ Kathy Thamann ♦ Ben and Natalie Thamann ♦ Suzy Sneary ♦ David Wise ♦ Nikki ♦ Jamie ♦ Joyce Hamberg ♦ Staci Earls ♦ Peggy Bess Kratz ♦ Linda Wesley ♦ Jessica ♦ Damien Herold ♦ Melissa ♦ Karen Jansen ♦ Dorothy Willett ♦ Zadah Edmonds ♦ Bertha Neltner ♦ Karn Fields ♦ Caroline Olberding ♦ Rick Bronner ♦ Susan ♦ Tom Schneider ♦ Caroline Raymond ♦ Jill Bland ♦ Janet Hatter ♦ Olivia Hollihan ♦ Mary Beth Lynch ♦ Theresa Lynch ♦ Trudy ♦ K. T. ♦ Karen ♦ Fred B. ♦ John K. ♦ Jeanne Bitter ♦ Tabitha Frye Family ♦ Greg Benning ♦ Edward Weeden ♦ Elizabeth King ♦ S. M. ♦ Linda ♦ Julia White ♦ Joan Hunkemoeller Racke ♦ Fred ♦ Jon Hickman

To add or remove a name on this list, please contact the parish office.



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