



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 4, 2026
THE EPIPHANY 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

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

I hope that all of you had a great Christmas and New Year's. As much as we look forward to this season, it is also a stressful and difficult season for many of us. As much as we enjoy it, most of us are glad when the Christmas season is behind us. Well, we have one more week to go. Today, we celebrate The Feast of the Epiphany, and next Sunday, we celebrate The Baptism of the Lord.

If you or I have an epiphany, it refers to a sudden, profound realization of significant meaning. It is a mental breakthrough that transforms our vision of reality.

For The Magi, this was a significant breakthrough in terms of faith. The Star of Bethlehem appeared in the sky, revealing the birth of a new King. The Magi (magicians, astrologers) left their homes in Persia (modern-day Iran) to follow The Star to wherever it led them. They followed the light, which we all want to do.

When they came to Jerusalem, they went to King Herod, who consulted his advisors as to the birthplace of The Messiah. He then sent the Magi to Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David, about seven miles outside of Jerusalem. When they arrived, they came to the house where The Holy Family was staying and entered and worshipped the child.

The Magi were followers of Zoroastrianism, but now acknowledged Christ as their King and Lord. Thus, after the shepherds, these Gentile pagans were the earliest believers in Jesus as The Messiah.

Warned by an angel of the treachery of King Herod, they returned home by a different route than the one they had taken before.

When did you come to believe that Christ was your Lord and Messiah? Most of us grew up learning about Him and believing those who taught us. Later, we probably began questioning what we had learned, and perhaps even rejecting it. But if you are here today, you have made some personal decision to believe, and to follow Christ. How did that happen for you?

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Next Sunday, with The Baptism of the Lord, we begin the yearlong reflection of the Gospel of Matthew. We are in Year-1 of a three-year cycle of readings from the Synoptic Gospels - Matthew, Mark and Luke.

A few years ago, (I am guessing, three years ago) I did a series of talks on the Gospel of Matthew. If you go to our Mother of God website and then scroll down to "Father Mike's Talks," you will find nine talks on the different parts of the **Gospel of Matthew**.

You will also find a series of talks entitled **The Infancy Narratives, The Book of Revelation, an RCIA for Catholics, and Beginning to Pray**. A few others are not set up. Check them out. I think you will really benefit from them.

DEEPEN YOUR PRAYER

As we begin this new year, I want to focus on helping everyone grow in prayer. I will, from time to time, offer suggestions on how to pray that I hope will help you. We live in a time when on-line programs are very helpful.

Today, I want to begin looking at The Liturgy of the Hours. You can use a free app or you can buy a two-hundred-dollar set of books. I suggest the app. The four sets of books is going to be replaced around Easter, so do not invest at this time.

The Liturgy of the Hours - The Church's liturgy certainly includes the Mass and the celebrations of the other Sacraments. But there is a spiritual treasure house that most Catholics are barely aware of. This is called the Liturgy of the Hours.

There are five special "hours" that the Church prays every day. These are Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer, Evening Prayer, Night Prayer, and Office of Readings. These are made up of Psalms and Canticles (Psalm-like prayers not in the Book of Psalms), readings from Scripture, and other prayers. Priests are required to say the entire set of prayers every day.

There is an app that I use called **IBreviary**. You can get it for free in the App Store or Google Apps. Download and explore it. I will explain how to use it next week.

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON

This Sunday, January 4, is The Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first natural-born American to be canonized a saint. Originally from New York, Elizabeth and her family moved to Italy because her husband was ill, and it was determined that the climate in Italy would be better for his health. Unfortunately, he died. Elizabeth and her children were staying with a Catholic family in Italy, and through their example, she became drawn to the Catholic faith. She and her children joined the Catholic Church.

After some time, she returned to America and settled in Baltimore, Maryland. There, she became a teacher and gathered other young women around her to form the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph. (These are the same sisters who founded Mount Saint Joseph in Cincinnati.) Eventually, she would move with the other members of her order to Emmitsburg, Maryland. There, she founded Mount Saint Joseph School for Girls.

We honor Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton as a saint, and as an important figure in the development of the Catholic Schools throughout the United States. Because her feast falls on the Sunday of The Epiphany, its celebration is set aside for this year.



PARISH NEWS

Today, Sunday, Jan. 4, **coffee and donuts** are available after both Masses downstairs in the undercroft.

Today, Sunday Jan 4, 10:30-11:30 am

Fair Trade / Equal Exchange Products – Coffee, tea, and chocolate will be available for sale between Masses downstairs in the undercroft.

Today, we celebrate The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord! Bless your home for the year ahead with one of **The Epiphany House Blessing kits found at each of the church doors today!**

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

Celebration in Honor of Diane Donathan

Please join us next Sunday, Jan. 11, 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, you are invited to 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 Baptisms to the Family of Graham Joseph Epplin and Lily Marie Epplin
Children of Wesley Epplin and Kristen Richter



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!

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 mckelly@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.

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.

What's in the App?

- Links to our parish website and social media pages (Facebook, Instagram and YouTube)
- A link to our new online giving platform that makes donating to Mother of God simple, quick and convenient
- Complete information on all the sacraments and how to access them for yourself or your family
- A prayer request form for your special intentions
- Links to exclusive media, including a demo of original music from the Contemporary Ensemble and a behind-the-scenes look at the interior of the historic Koehnken & Grimm pipe organ
- A list of upcoming parish events
- An online Bible that's always at your fingertips

We will be continually adding to the content of 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.



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.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS DONATIONS

Please consider donating for our Christmas Poinsettias. You may do so in honor of a loved one (living or deceased). Envelopes are available in the pews.



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

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 21, 2025
Church Collection	\$7,742.00
Mailed In	\$1,030.00
Online Giving	\$920.67
Total Collection	\$9,692.67

Sunday Collection	December 28, 2025
Total Collection	TBD

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.

2026 Parish Calendars –

Available for pick up at the church doors.

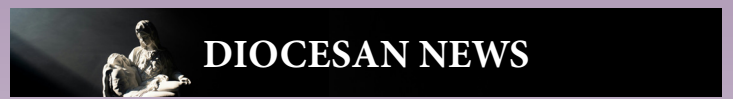
AL-ANON has their Wednesday Noon Meetings at Mother of God Church. Enter through the courtyard and go down the steps to the undercroft of the church. Al-Anon has but one purpose: to help families and friends of alcoholics and addicted ones. Please come, for you are welcome.

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

This week, we will begin a Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group here at Mother of God for family members and friends of persons who have ended their own lives.

Group meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month in the St. Aloysius Conference Room at the parish office.

**The first meeting will be
this Wednesday, Jan. 7, from 6:30-8:00 pm.
For additional information,
please contact Jeff Duell at 859-801-8213.**



DIOCESAN NEWS

**Job Opportunity – Part-time Secretary
St. Augustine Covington Parish Office**

Due to an upcoming retirement, there is an opening for a part-time secretary for the St. Augustine Church Covington Parish Office. They are seeking a faith-filled, organized candidate with good communication skills who has knowledge of MS Word and MS Excel.

An accounting or financial background is preferred, but not required. The position is 20 hours per week.

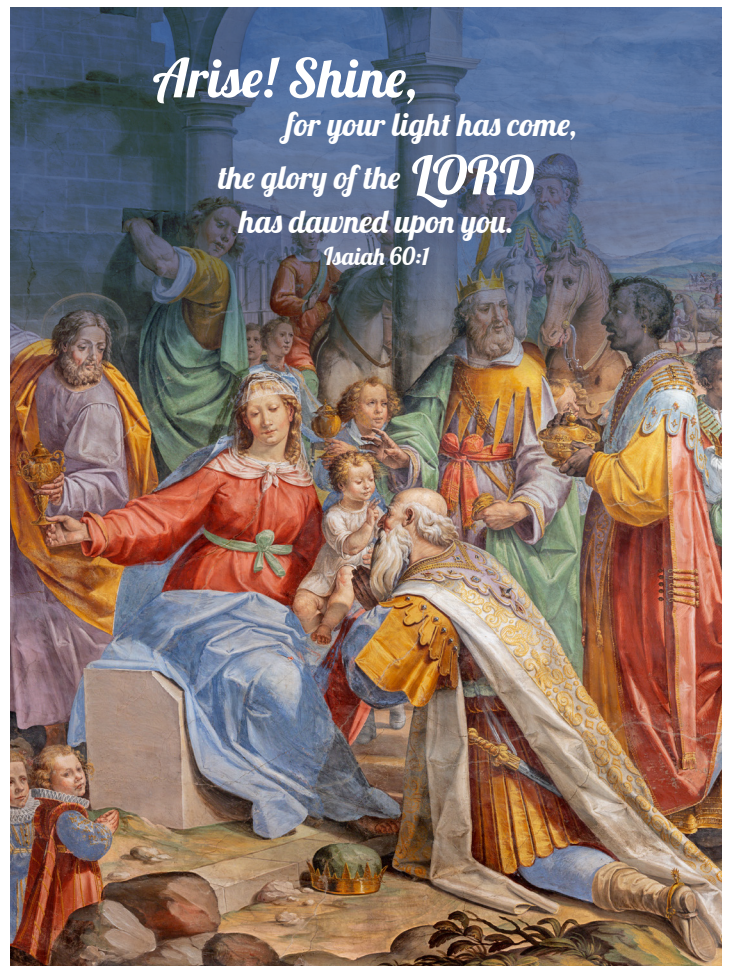
Please call 859-431-3943 for more information or email a resume/references to parish@staugustines.net.

**DCCH Center for Children & Families
Informational Meeting – Monday, Jan. 5, 6:30 pm**

The best gift you can give a child is a family!

DCCH is hosting a free informational meeting tomorrow evening, Monday, Jan. 5. If you have ever considered mentoring, fostering or adopting, or have wondered how you can support a family in need, please attend.

- The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.
- Location: 75 Orphanage Road, Fort Mitchell.
- **For more information**, call 859 331-2040 or visit DCCHCenter.org.



To help you prepare for next Sunday's Mass

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Acts 10:34-38 Matthew 3:13-17



Please join us for **Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays, 11:00-11:45 am.**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available at this time.

Pope Leo's Monthly Intention for January

For prayer with the Word of God.

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Mass Intentions

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan. 4	9:30 am	Parishioners and Benefactors
	11:30 am	Wolfer Family
Jan. 5	12:05 pm	Bev Fischesser
Jan. 6	12:05 pm	Carlos Herrera
Jan. 7		No Mass
Jan. 8	12:05 pm	Bill Kohlhepp
Jan. 9	12:05 pm	Greg Schulte
Jan. 10	12:05 pm	The Santel Family
Jan. 11	9:30 am	Parishioners and Benefactors
	11:30 am	Devin Lewis

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 ♦ Jack Hicks ♦ Mary Ann Grimm ♦ 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 ♦ Plymesser 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 ♦ Anisha Meyer ♦ Elizabeth King ♦ S. M. ♦ Linda ♦ Julia White ♦ Joan Hunkemoeller Racke ♦ Fred

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



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