

Mother of God Church

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www.mother-of-god.org • Email: motherofgod@mogcov.org



STAFF

Very Rev. Michael E. Comer V.F., Pastor

Cell: 859.816.3198 Email: mcomer@mogcov.org

Deacon Brian Cox

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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.

Anointing of the Sick:

Communion
and other home visits:
Contact Parish Office

Sacraments of Initiation:

For Adults:
Baptism, Confirmation,
and First Communion:
Contact Parish Office

For Children:
Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist,
and Confirmation:
Contact Parish Office

DECEMBER 14, 2025
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

GAUDETE SUNDAY

This Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, which translates as Rejoice Sunday. We rejoice because Advent is coming to its close, and Christmas, the celebration is near. This sense of rejoicing was more intense when Advent was forty days in length, and included fasting from meat for the full time, and other penitential practices were common. Advent is far less painful now, so it does not have the impact that it once did.

But spiritually, it is important for us to hear the message of Rejoice Sunday. We rejoice because God has won salvation for us through the birth, life, Passion and Resurrection of His Son, Jesus. We rejoice because we know that He will return again in power and glory and will bring forth the Kingdom in its fullness. We rejoice because God is with us throughout our lives, and that we know ourselves as sons and daughters of God.

The one sign that we might possess that shows that we are Christian is joy. Even in times of struggle, we can rejoice. In his Epistle to the Romans, Saint Paul lists many obstacles and problems and sufferings that may come our way. He then says, "In all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

I think that the greatest tool for evangelizing others is our joy. If you are concerned about your kids, or other family, or friends, or whomever, who do not have a relationship with God or with the Church, it will be your joy that will most attract them to return to a life of faith. If the world sees a joy in Christians, many will say to themselves, "I want what they have."

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I say, rejoice!

INVITE SOMEONE TO CHRISTMAS MASS

Christmas is eleven days away. Please take some time to think about inviting someone who does not regularly attend Mass, or who has no particular church that they belong to, to attend Christmas Mass with you. The primary

reason that non-churchgoers give for not going to church, is that no one ever asked them. That is a tragedy.

Pray about this, and when you have decided who you want to ask to come to Mass with you, spend time praying for them, and asking God to show you when and how to invite them. The Cursillo movement has a saying: Talk to God about your friend before you talk to your friend about God. There is great wisdom in that.

There is not a lot of time left. Let's get to work.

UPDATE ON REPAIRS FROM LIGHTNING STRIKE

As you know, a few weeks ago, Mother of God Church experienced a massive lightning strike. People from all over town heard the explosion. Virtually all of our electronic systems were knocked out. Our Wi-Fi, internet, sound system, live streaming system, etc. were knocked out. Most of that has been slowly but surely restored.

Unfortunately, our sound system is a different matter. The entire system was burnt up by the strike, and will have to be replaced, including those repairs that we just put in this summer. We are renting a temporary system for use in church, and it will get us through the time necessary for installing a new system.

We have received estimates for the work done, and our insurance company has agreed that this work needs to be done. Now, what we need is approval from the Diocese to allow us to sign contracts and to begin the work. When we have that approval, and sign the contract, it will require a few weeks for the company to order and receive all of the materials that will be needed. Then, once they begin work, it should take a couple of weeks to actually install the system.

Keep praying for us that we will accomplish our repairs and installations effectively and quickly. I will try to keep you informed as we move forward.

FINAL SESSION OF TALKS ON PETER

This Thursday, I will complete my four-part series of talks on Saint Peter. I plan to do another series during Lent, but do not yet know what I will be covering.

Please keep me in your prayers as I discern where the Lord wants me to go.

HANUKKAH

The Jewish Feast of Hanukkah begins tonight, December 14, and goes for eight days until Monday, December 22. It is one of the major celebrations for our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Judea was conquered by Alexander the Great. When he died, the many nations that he had conquered were divided up into three and distributed to three of his generals. Judea became part of the Seleucid Kingdom. Generations after Alexander, a particularly cruel emperor came to power, whose name was Antiochus IV. He forbid the practice of the Jewish faith, insisting that parents not circumcise their children, that they eat pork, and other practices that defiled the Jewish religion.

Most people went along with these practices to avoid torture and killing by the Greeks. One family, the Maccabees, refused, and formed a guerilla army to do battle with the Greeks. Eventually, against all odds, the Jewish people were successful at overthrowing the Greeks and driving them out.

The Jewish people restored the Temple, which had been shut down and had been desecrated. Then they prepared an eight-day celebration and reconsecration of the Temple. All went well, but they realized at the beginning of the eight days, that they only had enough oil to burn the menorah for one day. They lit the candle, and miraculously it continued to burn for the full eight days.

Since that time, the Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah with special foods, music, and the lighting of the eight stemmed menorah over the eight days of the festival.



PARISH NEWS

Today, Sunday, Dec. 14, coffee and donuts are available for you after both Masses downstairs in the undercroft.

Today, Sunday, Dec 14, 10:30-11:30 am

Fair Trade Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate will be available for sale between both Masses downstairs in the undercroft.

Today Sunday, Dec. 14 – COLLECTION FOR RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service – praying, teaching, and caring for those in need – usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings.

Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. *Please give generously. Thank you.*

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.



THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Pre-addressed envelopes for financial donations to local service organizations are available on the Giving Tree until Sunday, Dec. 28.

Please take one and mail it directly to the agency.

Reach out with any questions to Bridget Otto at marybridget.otto@gmail.com.

Once again, thank you for your generosity!

Congratulations on their recent Wedding!

Jordan and Jennifer (Allen) Thompson



Mark your calendar!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 pm

Thursday, Dec. 25 at 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Invite a friend to come with you to Christmas Mass!

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas beginning Tuesday, Dec. 23 and will reopen on Monday, Jan. 5, at 9:00 am.

Coffee and donuts will **Not** be available after the Masses on Sunday, Dec. 28.

Mass Times – Holy Day

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Wednesday, December 31, 4:30 pm

Thursday, January 1, 10:00 am



Congratulations on her recent Baptism to the Family of Millie Rose Johnson

She is the daughter of Kendal and Madeline (Hissett) Johnson



2026 Parish Calendars

2026 Parish Calendars are here and available for pickup at the entrances of church.

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.

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 7, 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.

Fr. Comer’s Talk Series about St. Peter Continues!

Thursday, Dec. 18 10:30 am and 6:30 pm

This week’s topics:

The Role of Peter in the Early Church and
The Death of Peter

**SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS
SUPPORT GROUP**

In January, 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 at the parish office in the St. Aloysius Conference Room.

The first meeting will be

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026 from 6:30-8:00 pm.

For additional information,

please contact Jeff Duell at 859-801-8213.



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Third Tuesday Prayer Gathering “Spirit & Grace”

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 7:00-8:45 pm

Blessed Sacrament’s Parish Center

2407 Dixie Highway, Ft. Mitchell, KY.

Praise & worship music, teaching, witnesses, and healing prayers. **For more details**, call Carol at 859-341-5932. Sponsored by the Mustard Seed Catholic Charismatic Community of NKY.

Parish Missionary Disciples Training Program

Parish Missionary Disciples is a training program by which Catholic believers can become missionary disciples. This training deepens one’s relationship with Jesus Christ, transforms one into a disciple, and empowers one to meaningfully, joyfully, and respectfully give witness to how Jesus Christ lives in our hearts, influences our lives, and calls us to holiness. Since 2024, 100+ parishioners representing 24 parishes in the diocese have participated.

St. Mary Parish in Alexandria will host the next three-session training on the following dates:

Thursdays, Jan. 22, Feb. 5, & Feb. 19, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

All are welcome! To register, contact Ken at kenglaser24@gmail.com or call 859-512-1577.

New Beginnings Support Group for

Separated and Divorced begins Jan. 22, 2026

New Beginnings is an 8-week program that provides the opportunity to heal and move forward despite a complicated situation. **Registration is required.**

To register, visit <https://covdio.org/new-beginnings-2/> or Call 859-392-1529.

The next session will be held on **consecutive Thursdays, Jan. 22-Mar. 12, 2026, 7:00 to 8:30 pm** at Catholic Charities, 3629 Church Street, Covington, KY.

ADVENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day, We, who are anxious over many things, look forward to Your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of Your kingdom. We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of Your presence. We are Your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To You we say, “Come Lord Jesus!” Amen.
~ Henri J.M. Nouwen

To help you prepare for next Sunday's Mass –

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Responsorial Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24



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

Message of Condolence

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



Mass Intentions

Dec. 14	9:30 am	Parishioners and Benefactors
	11:30 am	Goodhew Family
Dec. 15	12:05 pm	John and Tracey Difalco Family
Dec. 16	12:05 pm	Sylvia Overmann
Dec. 17		No Mass
Dec. 18	12:05 pm	Mike Corcoran
Dec. 19	12:05 pm	Funeral Mass for Jim Schilling
Dec. 20	12:05 pm	Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary
Dec. 21	9:30 am	Parishioners and Benefactors
	11:30 am	Pamela Trenkamp Finan

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 ♦ Freda Legner ♦ Kathleen Stevens Cox ♦ 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 ♦ 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 Snearly ♦ 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

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



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