



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID ZISER

## *Mother of God Church*

119 West 6th Street, Covington, KY 41011

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[www.mother-of-god.org](http://www.mother-of-god.org)

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### STAFF

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

Cell: 859.816.3198

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**Deacon Brian Cox**

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Email: [bcox@mogcov.org](mailto:bcox@mogcov.org)

**Mary Ann Kelly, Pastoral Assistant**

Email: [mkelly@mogcov.org](mailto: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,

EUCCHARIST, AND CONFIRMATION:

CONTACT PARISH OFFICE



## 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 NATIVITY OF THE LORD

On Thursday, we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. This is the second-most important feast of the Church's year, the first being Easter. The stories that are found in the Infancy Narratives of Matthew and Luke tell us of the great miraculous events through which the Son of God became the Son of Mary, and united Himself to all of us, so that He could save us.

Those stories are told in the first two chapters of both Matthew and Luke. I encourage you to take a few minutes to read those chapters, leading up to Christmas. It will not take much time at all.

The Fall of Adam and Eve separated Heaven and Earth. Now they are reunited as the God Man is born into our midst. The name Jesus, given to the child by the Angel Gabriel and the angel who appeared to Joseph in his dream, means Yahweh Saves, announcing who He will be and what He will accomplish. He will heal the broken relationship between God and man, and between Heaven and Earth.

That healing, and our salvation, will be ultimately won for us through Christ's death and Resurrection, but it begins in the stable in Bethlehem. This child was born to be a warrior, who would do battle with the forces of evil, to suffer and die, and most especially to rise from the dead, defeating sin and death. We don't want to overly sentimentalize Jesus' birth. The birth of Jesus is God's sneak attack on Satan.

### WELCOME

I want to welcome all of our guests and visitors to Mother of God this Christmas Day. We know that many of you are visiting with family for a few days.

But some of you are local and have not been actively practicing your faith for some time. We are especially happy to have you with us for these great days. And we hope that you will continue to join with us, as we come together to celebrate our Lord throughout the year.

If any of you want to talk about returning to the active practice of your faith, please call me at 859-816-3198.

### FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN

December 26, the day after Christmas, is the Feast of Saint Stephen, the first martyr of the Church. It seems somewhat odd that the day after Christmas the Church honors the first person to die for the sake of Christ.

This feast reminds us that this child was born to die, and that His death won the victory for us. Stephen is not only the first to be martyred, but is the first Christian to enter into heaven because of the saving actions of the child whose birthday we celebrated on Christmas.

### FEAST OF SAINT JOHN

Saint John is not only a disciple of Christ, and one of The Twelve, he is also one of the most important contributors to the New Testament. He is the author of the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation and three Epistles.

John's writings are more mystical than those of the other Evangelists or even Saint Paul or Saint Peter. They seem to grow out of the absolutely unique relationship that he had with Jesus. This unique relationship is symbolized by John leaning back against the chest of Jesus, when he asks which of The Twelve will betray Jesus, expressing the intimacy of their friendship.

In the Gospel of John, John never refers to himself as John. Rather he calls himself "The disciple who Jesus loved." How odd. Is John bragging about his special connection to Jesus, and mocking us because we are not the disciples who Jesus loves? Not at all. John wants each of us to come to know ourselves as the disciple who Jesus loves. As that had become his identity, he wants it to become our own.

The Feast of Saint John is on December 27.

## PARISH NEWS

**Today**, Sunday, Dec. 21, **coffee and donuts** are available after both Masses downstairs in the undercroft.

**Next Sunday, Dec. 28**, due to the Christmas holidays, coffee and donuts will **Not** be available after the Masses.

**Thank you** to Cindy Hassan and all the Volunteers who help with this ministry.



**Congratulations on her recent Baptism to the Family of Madeline Grace Holodook**

She is the daughter of  
Jason and Elizabeth (Brannen) Holodook

**Mark your calendar!****Christmas Mass Times**

Wednesday, Dec. 24 4:00 pm

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

**Invite a friend to come with you to Christmas Mass!****To help you prepare for Christmas Mass this week**

Isaiah 9:1-6 Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13

**Responsorial Psalm:****Today is born our Savior, Christ, the Lord.**

Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

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

**Mass Times for the****Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

New Year's Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 4:30 pm

New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1, 10:00 am

**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:marybridget.otto@gmail.com).

**Once again, thank you for your generosity!**

**2026 Parish Calendars**

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

**The Year of Jubilee 2025 Theme  
Pilgrims of Hope**

**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
Church Collection	\$ 9,740.00
Mailed In	\$ 3,476.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,009.47
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$ 14,225.47</b>

**One-Time Donations \$3,800.00**

**Immaculate Conception \$1,460.00**

Sunday Collection	December 14, 2025
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>TBD</b>

**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.

**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.

**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 in the St. Aloysius Conference Room at the parish office. **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.

### 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.

### Volunteer Spirit is Alive and Well at Mother of God!

**Thank you to the many volunteers** who help our parish events, like our Annual Parish Christmas Dinner, come to life. In addition, we have many parish ministries which are active on a daily basis. As we begin a new year, **if you would like to become more engaged in parish ministry**, please email one of the Ministry Coordinators to see how you can get involved! Parish ministry information can be found in the *Parish Services Directory*, which can be found at each of the doors.

Some ministries require VIRTUS training. Email Mary Ann Kelly at [mkelly@mogcov.org](mailto:mkelly@mogcov.org) to learn more about this training.

### Available on FORMED – Christmas Special!



### Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids Christmas

This beautiful retelling of the story of Jesus' birth will help kids understand the true meaning of Christmas. Viewers both young and old will be filled with hope as they recall God's promise fulfilled through our Savior's arrival.

### It's easy to sign up for FORMED.

Go to [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup); Search for your parish by Zip Code/ Postal Code. Click on your parish. Register with your name and email address. Then check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.

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Mother of God Church building!



## DIOCESAN NEWS

### 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.

**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](mailto:kenglaser24@gmail.com) or call 859-512-1577.

### Support Group for Separated and Divorced

**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://covidio.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 St., Covington, KY.

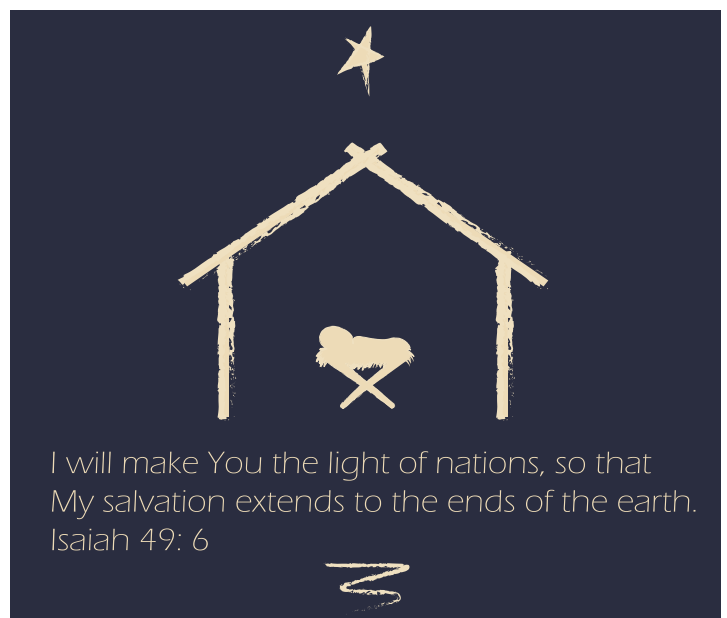
*To help you prepare for next Sunday's Mass –  
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

**Responsorial Psalm: Blessed are those who**

**fear the Lord and walk in His ways.**

Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23





## HOME COMMUNION VISITS

Do you know a parishioner who is confined to home or a nursing home and would like to receive the Eucharist? We can make a visit!

**For more information:** Call or email Mary Ann Kelly at 859-291-2288 / mkelly@mogcov.org

## A Message of Condolence

We offer our deepest sympathy to her religious community, the Sisters of Divine Providence, to her sister, Teresa Bowman and to the Family and to the Friends of Sr. Mary Theresa Bowman, CDP. You will be held in our prayers. May St. Mary Theresa rest in peace.



We extend our sincere condolences to her husband, Tim, and to the Family and Friends of Mary Anne Anderson. You will be held in our prayers. May Mary Anne rest in peace.

## Mass Intentions

Dec. 21	9:30 am	Parishioners and Benefactors
	11:30 am	Pamela Trenkamp Finan
Dec. 22	12:05 pm	Ebbitt Family
Dec. 23	12:05 pm	Dan Mayer

## Christmas Masses

Dec. 24	4:00 pm	Carol Imbus
Dec. 25	9:30 am	Richard Sacksteder
	11:30 am	Recorded Memorials
Dec. 26	12:05 pm	Jerry Dreiling
Dec. 27	12:05 pm	Kevin Gray
Dec. 28	9:30 am	Parishioners and Benefactors
	11:30 am	Brian Steinmetz

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

## 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 ♦ 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

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



  
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 Heaven and Earth! - Psalm 115:15

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