



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**  
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**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,  
 EUCHARIST, AND CONFIRMATION:  
 CONTACT PARISH OFFICE

DECEMBER 28, 2025

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

## 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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY,  
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

The Sunday between Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary (January 1) is always celebrated as the Feast of the Holy Family. The Gospel for the feast, for Year A of our three year cycle of readings, is the story of the flight into Egypt. This is a most dramatic scene, and a most tragic scene, which reminds us once again that this child has been born to be a warrior, and to die for all of us.

Jesus has come into the world as a helpless, defenseless child, just like all of us. He has emptied Himself of power and glory, as He is born in a stable in the tiny village of Bethlehem. King Herod had sent the Magi to locate the child, ostensibly to come and worship Him, but in reality he wished to execute the child. When the Magi returned home by a different route, Herod realized that he had been tricked. Enraged he ordered the killing of all the boys under the age of two, who lived in the area. This recalls Pharaoh's direction that all the boys should be killed, leading to Moses being taken in by Pharaoh's daughter. Jesus will be the new Moses.

The angel appeared to Joseph and told him to take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, until Herod was dead. He did so, and Jesus lived in Egypt for a few years. We do not know how many years for sure. When they returned, Herod's son was ruling, so they went up to Nazareth, which was outside the reign of the Herodian family.

On this day, we pray for all families, especially those who are refugees fleeing persecution, poverty, and warfare. May they find peace.

THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS –  
THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

The Church does not celebrate January 1 as New Year's Day. That is because in some cultures (especially Oriental cultures), the beginning of the year happens at various other times. Instead, we celebrate the Octave of Christmas. The Octave of Christmas is the Eighth Day of Christmas.

And this date is celebrated as the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the greatest title that has been given to Mary.

In the Early Church, there were a number of serious conflicts over Christology. Christology asks the question, "Who exactly was Jesus?" The debates came with trying to understand the relationship between Jesus' humanity and His divinity. One perspective, rejected by the Church, concerned the title of Mary as the Mother of God. Nestorius, a bishop and a theologian, rejected this title because he thought that it indicated that Mary preceded God, and brought God into existence. That is absolutely not what the Church believes or teaches.

The Church says that Jesus is truly human and truly divine. The child in Mary's womb was both human and divine, so to call her the Mother of God is absolutely accurate. It does not imply that God did not exist before Mary gave birth to Jesus, but that from the moment of Jesus' conception in her womb, He was both human and divine.

Thursday, January 1 of this week, is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass times will be different than on other holy days. We will have Mass on Wednesday, December 31, at 4:30 pm and Thursday, at 10:00 am.

## SAINT THOMAS BECKET

Those of you who are around my age (my diplomatic way of saying, those of you who are a little older) will remember a movie entitled *Becket*, starring Richard Burton as Thomas Becket and Peter O'Toole as King Henry II. They began as friends, and Becket was one of King Henry's main advisors. Henry appointed Thomas to be the Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Catholic Church in England. (England was still Catholic and would be till the reign of King Henry VIII.)

Because they were friends, Henry believed that Becket would be willing to do what he wanted, but when he became Archbishop he took his responsibilities to the Church very seriously. He pushed back against Henry quite a bit, which the King did not appreciate. Eventually, their conflict led King Henry to state, "Who will rid me of this troublesome priest?"

(Many people in history have proclaimed that same outcry of frustration. That may include some of you.)

Two soldiers in King Henry's court heard this outcry and took it on themselves to fulfill Henry's wish. They went to the church where Thomas Becket was saying Mass and, in the midst of the Mass, they murdered him.

The site of Thomas' grave and of his murder quickly became the most popular places of pilgrimage. And Henry was denounced by many, even though he had not ordered the deed. In recompense, Henry went to the church, and had some of his soldiers scourge him, seeking forgiveness and restoration of the respect of the people. The Feast of Saint Thomas Becket is Monday, December 29.



**Today, 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.**

**Reminder: 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

**Next Sunday, Jan 4, Fair Trade / Equal Exchange Products** – coffee, tea, and chocolate – will be available for sale from 10:30-11:30 am (between Masses) downstairs in the undercroft.

The parish office is **closed** for the Christmas holidays and will reopen on Monday, Jan. 5, at 9:00 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.

### 2026 Parish Calendars

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

### 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.



### 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 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.



**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](mailto:communications@mogcov.org).

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 14, 2025
Church Collection	\$ 7,517.00
Mailed In	\$ 855.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,494.75
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$ 10,866.75</b>

**One-Time Donations \$3,465.05**

**Retired Religious Collection \$2,228.00**

Sunday Collection	December 21, 2025
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>TBD</b>

**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.



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

**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.

**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

**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 church doors.

Some ministries require VIRTUS training. Email Mary Ann Kelly at mkelly@mogcov.org to learn more about this training.

**Daily Reflections available on FORMED**

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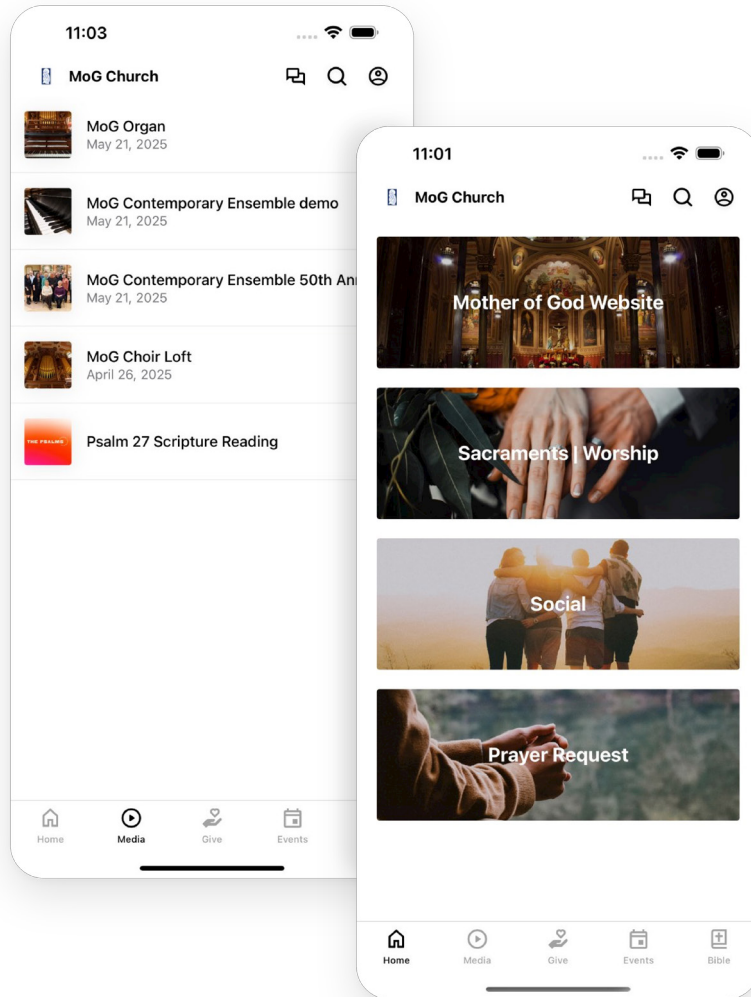
**DCCH Center for Children & Families Informational Meeting Jan. 5, 6:30 pm**

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

DCCH is hosting a free informational meeting on 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](https://DCCHCenter.org).

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To help you prepare for next Sunday's Mass

### The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

#### Responsorial Psalm:

**Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

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

Dec. 28	9:30 am	Parishioners and Benefactors
	11:30 am	Brian Steinmetz
Dec. 29	12:05 pm	Dave Pauly
Dec. 30	12:05 pm	Kevin Donohue

#### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Dec. 31	4:30 pm	Judy, David and Joseph Burks
Jan. 1	10:00 am	Special Intentions of Seminarian Aaron Batson
Jan. 2	12:05 pm	In Honor of Joe Willett's 100th Birthday
Jan. 3	12:05 pm	Ed and Laverne Burk
Jan. 4	9:30 am	Parishioners and Benefactors
	11:30 am	Wolfer Family

## 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 ♦ Jan Stahlheber ♦ Kathleen Stevens Cox ♦ Freda Legner ♦ 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 ♦ Fred

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



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