

Church of Francis de Sales

176 Lovers Lane – Mathews, Virginia 23109

January 12, 2025

Baptism of the Lord

Mass intention for this Sunday is for the Repose of the Soul of David Valenta.



Pastor: Reverend Fr. Johnny Mintah Mensah

Rectory: 804-286-9271

Parish Administrator: Paul Flaherty

Parish Secretary: Mary Marshall

Parish Office: 804-725-2776

Office Hours:

Monday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m.-Noon

E-mail: office@fdschurch.org

Web Page: <https://www.FdSChurch.org>

Our Liturgy Schedule

Sunday Mass: 11:00 a.m.

Daily Masses: Tuesdays and Fridays 9:00 a.m.

Holy Days: 6:30 p.m.

Every 1st Friday: Devotions to the Sacred Heart, Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Every 1st Saturday: Fatima Devotions Rosary at 9:30 a.m. followed by Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Sacraments

Baptism: call the priest at least one month in advance.

Marriage: call the priest at least six months in advance.

Reconciliation on request.

Anointing of the Sick at any time upon request.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word:

Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11:

God's glory shall be revealed.

Psalm 104:

"O bless the Lord, my soul."

Titus 2:11–14; 3:4–7:

We are saved through the bath of rebirth.

Luke 3:15–16, 21–22:

"You are my beloved Son."

Isaiah heralds good news to the Jewish people in today's first reading: God will give them comfort and mercy. The letter to Titus also extols God's mercy and love, for it led to God sending the Savior. In the Gospel we hear the Father's blessing and see the Holy Spirit coming down upon the Lord. Let us bless the Lord, my soul, for such wonderful blessings of mercy and love from age to age.

Serving This Week Sunday, January 12, 2025:

Greeter: J. Miller

Ushers: R. Dobson / A. Downs

Lectors: E. McNamee / C. Henig

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Henig / C. Henig / M. Flaherty

Counters: P. Noonan / J. Noonan

Serving Next Week Sunday, January 19, 2025:

Greeter: Pat Walsh

Ushers: J. Noonan / J. Walsh

Lectors: M. Henig / S. Zheng

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Dawson/K. Deforge/S. Haas

Counters: C. Dehnert-Fernald / J. Dawson

This Week in the Liturgy of the Church

TUES	January 14	9:00 a.m.	Weekday Mass Tuesday of the Baptism of the Lord.
FRI	January 17	9:00 a.m.	Weekday Mass Friday of the Baptism of the Lord.

FdS Parish Offertory Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Parish Offertory Income Collection will be provided in the Sunday Bulletin on the 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH.



The Claude V. Simmons Scholarship Academic Year 2025-2026

The Claude V. Simmons Scholarship Fund supports graduating high school seniors who are obtaining a Bachelor's Degree by attending a 4-year college or university and are qualified active members of the Church of Francis de Sales in Mathews County, Virginia. This is a 4-year renewing scholarship.

Current recipients and new applicants must submit an electronic application or renewal application for the 2025-2026 academic year to the Mathews Community Foundation by **March 05, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Supporting documents are required as outlined in the application form on the Community Foundation website (i.e., Student Financial Information Form as well as a statement of reflection on personal growth and faith as a parishioner of the Church of Francis de Sales).

This link can be used by students who wish to apply:

[CFengage | High school - Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula](#)

On this page, students can access all the scholarship opportunities available to them by typing "Mathews" into the search bar. They will need to scroll until they find the Claude V. Simmons Scholarship, and there is a button that says "Apply Now," which will take them to our online scholarship's portal. They will need to create an account to apply, but if they are applying for multiple scholarships, they can use the same account to apply to them all.

Mr. Lincoln Boykin of the Community Foundation is available to answer any questions regarding the scholarship and to assist in submitting the application. Mr. Boykin can be reached by calling 804-436-1600 (Kilmarnock Office) or 804-725-3454 (Mathews Office). More info about scholarships and a timeline for this year's awards can be found at:

[CFengage | Community Foundation Scholarships](#)

Recipients will be selected based on greatest financial need.

Should you have additional questions, please contact Michael Henig at 804-725-7750 or call the Parish Office at 804-725-2776.

Our Announcements

Hospitality Sunday!!

Please join in the Fellowship and Refreshments, **Sunday, January 19th after the 11:00 Mass.**



Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia's Clinical Counseling program has immediate appointments available on both the southside and in its Newport News office.

Catholic, faith-based counseling available to provide quality, holistic and affordable counseling for individuals, children, couples, and families. Our professional counseling staff can help with:

- Stress management
- Relationship and marriage counseling
- Anger management
- Domestic violence
- Grief and loss
- Parenting concerns
- Family conflict
- Military Personnel
- Communication with teens
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Trauma-Informed Care for children and families
- And more

Please call (757) 467-7707 to schedule your confidential appointment now.

Father Koo has decided to bring back to our Sunday Mass the **Presentation of Gifts by parishioners.** If you or your family are interested in carrying the gifts to the Altar, please see Ed Lipinski or Jon Oliver

Please submit any announcements for the bulletin to the Parish Office no later than Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.

Special Intentions for Mass: If you would like to have a Mass offered for the intention of a loved one, friend, or another special request, please stop by the parish office and we will be happy to assist you!

Journey Through the Bible (1/12/25): More Commentary on the Book of Genesis

This commentary is adapted from Little Rock Scripture Study's "Panorama of the Old Testament."

The stories of Genesis 3-11 show how the effects of sin multiply and destroy human relationships with God, with other people, and with the created world. After sin, Adam hides from God; he blames Eve, and he is expelled from the harmony of the garden and made to work for food with hard labor. When Eve gives birth to Cain and Abel, rivalry grows between them. Out of jealousy, Cain murders his brother and must wander alone upon the earth. The family that God desires to be a place of support and companionship becomes a breeding ground for envy, resentment, rage, and vengeance.

Accounts of family rivalry lead up to the story of Noah and the catastrophic flood. Violence and corruption have so filled the world that God regrets making human beings on the earth. In God's desire to remake the world, he saves Noah and his family as well as a remnant of every species upon the earth. God remains committed to creation despite the destructive effects of human beings. Following the flood, God establishes a covenant with every living creature with the rainbow as its sign.

The final story of sin's expansion is the huge tower of Babel, which becomes the symbol of humans' arrogance as they attempt to go it alone in defiance of the Creator. God condemns the human pride that inspired it and judges the people by confusing their language and scattering them abroad.

The stories describe tendencies that move deep within every person. Men and women are inclined to act in ways that lead to estrangement and blame each other for it. Siblings tend to fight with one another and grow apart. Human beings tend to think they have the power and wisdom of God, and they suffer in their sinful choices. Men and women are good, yet flawed and fallen. Although God passionately wills life and blessing for his creatures, all of these blessings begin to be destroyed because of sin. The power of death gets increasingly stronger and the world begins to return to the chaos from which it came.

Fr. Koo summarized all of the above very neatly last Sunday as caused by a sort of "virus" that is carried in every human being: envy.

We can turn to the Catechism for guidance on how to combat envy:

Envy represents a form of sadness and therefore a refusal of charity; the baptized person should struggle against it by exercising good will. Envy often comes from pride; the baptized person should train himself to live in humility: Would you like to see God glorified by you? Then rejoice in your brother's progress and you will immediately give glory to God. Because his servant could conquer envy by rejoicing in the merits of others, God will be praised. (CCC 2540)

Journey Through the Bible Readings and Daily Prayer Points for January 12 through 18, 2025

Sun, Jan 12	The Baptism of the Lord Bible Readings (Day 12): Genesis 24; Job 13-14; Proverbs 2:16-19 Prayer Point: With gratitude in our hearts for the gift of Baptism.
Mon, Jan 13	Bible Readings (Day 13): Genesis 25-26; Job 15-16; Proverbs 2:20-22 Prayer Point: In making decisions for the unborn, the aging, and the dying, strengthen us to choose life.
Tue, Jan 14	Bible Readings (Day 14): Genesis 27-28; Job 17-18; Proverbs 3:1-4 Prayer Point: In thanksgiving for the wonders of our brothers and sisters, all created in your image.
Wed, Jan 15	Bible Readings (Day 15): Genesis 29-30; Job 19-20; Proverbs 3:5-8 Prayer Point: Deliver from harm those who are threatened by lies.
Thu, Jan 16	Bible Readings (Day 16): Genesis 31-32; Job 21-22; Proverbs 3:9-12 Prayer Point: For those who have passed through the gates of death, that they may rejoice for all eternity.
Fri, Jan 17	Bible Readings (Day 17): Genesis 33-34; Job 23-24; Proverbs 3:13-18 Prayer Point: Grant to us the courage to persevere in keeping your Word.
Sat, Jan 18	Bible Readings (Day 18): Genesis 35-36; Job 25-26; Proverbs 3:19-24 Prayer Point: With gratitude for giving us the Blessed Virgin Mary as our mother.

Take a Bite out of Hunger

Hands Across Mathews needs our help. Since August, local donations and food purchased from the peninsula food bank have not been enough to keep food on our shelves. We have been buying food weekly. In addition, a few local churches and organizations have been hosting food drives. As we go into the Holiday Season let's challenge ourselves to help our neighbors keep food on their table.



Needs:

- Canned Proteins (Tuna, Chicken, Ham etc.).
- Beans, Soups, Stews & Chili.
- Canned Vegetables & Fruit.
- Peanut Butter & Jelly.
- Boxed Meals, Rice, Pasta & Sauce.
- Cereals & Oatmeal

Please join us over the next few weeks and let's help restock the shelves. Extra bins will be placed at the back of the church for your donations. Thank you!

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER		
Parishioners	Family	Friends
Jean Tanner	Dottie Long	Joy Long
Sharon Simmons	Rita Guarino	William Scott Smith
Alice Mercer	Patsy Lynch	Nan & Doug Seals
Gloria Bosley	Fred Moody	Kenneth Marshall
Matthew DeForge	James McLaughlin	Lourdes Parker
Grace Hall	Margaret McLaughlin	Tom Justis
Cathy Walker	Ruth Brown	Maureen Connolly
Rita Engle	Timothy Farrell	Norm Connolly
Paul Reardon	Maria Hurst	Francis McLoughlin
Bitsy Riffe	Catherine Bennett	Joan Haury
Joe Hudgins	Justin Bennett	Don Parker
Jack Carey	David Colligan	Larry Whitfield
Connie Lodge	Melissa Wilson	Janet Letizia
Chuck Reale	Vicki Krieger	Callie Penic
Dick & Lois Morley	Marie Pribble	Carl Roane
	Paul Oliver	Nikki Traynor
	Cindy Lockemy	Christopher Leavy
	Riley Hunt	Page Respass
	Kathryn Turner	Kim Owens
	Elizabeth Scott	Tavey Callow
	Margaret Mann	Debbie Traynor
	Philip Varone	Paul Bing
	Lil Chambers	Tom & Michele Teubert
	Martha Lynch Guerrette	Ashley McBurney
		Bill Campbell
		Tommy Atkinson, Sr.
		Vicki Pruitt
		Walt McLaughlin

Please Pray for Our Military Men, Women, and Their Families.
Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families
for the selfless acts they perform in our country's time of need.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

CAPT Andrew Bohn Operations Officer for Task Force Grant	Son of Jeff Bohn & Suanne Dittmeier	US Army	Washington, DC
CAPT Ryan Carey	Son of Jack & Ginny Carey	US Navy	Norfolk, VA
MSgt Cameron Farrell	Great-nephew of Elaine Lynch	US Air Force	Tyndall AFB, FL
LT Patrick Sopko	Son of Suzanne & Ron Sopko	US Navy	Norfolk, VA
1 st LT Spencer Walsh	Grandson of Pat & Jimmy Walsh	US Army	Fort Hood, TX
1 st LT Grace Walsh	Granddaughter-in-law of Pat & Jimmy Walsh	US Army	Fort Hood, TX

Pray for the safe return of Austin Tice, freelance journalist and former Marine Captain, captured in Syria on August 13, 2012.
Locations of overseas deployments are not listed for the security of all military members.

PRAY FOR AN END TO ABORTION

Our Parish Ministry and Mission Leads (updated 11/15/24)

Pastor, Liturgy	Fr. Johnny Mintah Mensah
Parish Administrator	Paul Flaherty
Parish Secretary	Mary Marshall
Altar Servers	Jon Oliver
Bulletin	Elaine Lynch
Bulletin Advertisements	Paul Reardon
Columbarium	Paul Flaherty
Commemorative Pavers	Paul Flaherty
Counters Chair	Christine Dehnert-Fernald
Environment	Pat Lipinski
Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Flaherty
Faith Formation - Adult	Ed McNamee
Faith Formation - Elementary	Michelle Haas
Faith Formation - High School	Courtney Hudson
Faith Formation - Parish Catechetical Lead	Ed McNamee
Finance Council Chair	Michael Henig
Funeral Coordinator	
Greeters	Jessica Miller
Grounds Manager	Allen Downs
Hospitality / Funeral Receptions	Norah Iverson / Pam McNamee
Lectors Ministry	Ed McNamee
Liturgy	Christine Varone / Mary Flaherty
Music Ministry	Cathy Schirmer
New Members	Pat Lipinski
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults	Cheryl Henig
Parish Life	Rita Engle
Parish Outreach	Helen Yacobucci
Pastoral Care	Kathy DeForge
Pastoral Council Chair	Eric Chadwell
Sacramental Preparation - Baptism	Ed McNamee
Sacramental Preparation - Confirmation	Jessie Miller
Sacramental Preparation – 1st Sacraments	Michelle Haas
Ushers	Ed Lipinski
Webmaster	Ed McNamee

**To get in touch with any of our ministry or mission leaders,
or to offer your time and talents, please contact the Parish Office.**

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN

(Updated 12/30/24)



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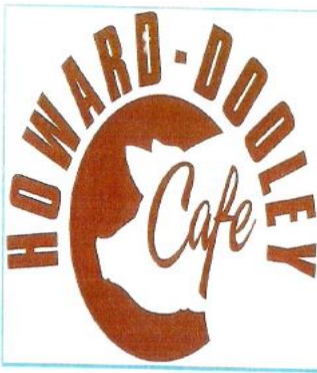
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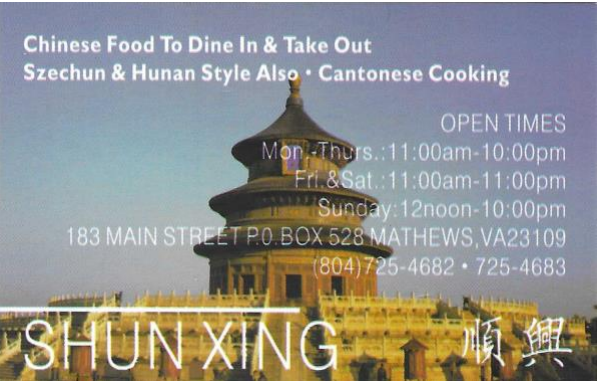
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