

# Church of Francis de Sales

176 Lovers Lane – Mathews, Virginia 23109

January 5, 2025

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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday: Devotions to the Sacred Heart, Mass at 9:00 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Every 1<sup>st</sup> 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 60:1–6:*

*The glory of the Lord shines on all people.*

*Psalm 72:*

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

*Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6:*

*The Gentiles are coheirs of the promise.*

*Matthew 2:1–12:*

*The magi come with gifts of god, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Journeys play a prominent role in the readings for Epiphany. Isaiah describes the day when caravans from near and far will be drawn to a radiant Jerusalem. The psalmist tells of kings from even the most distant nations who will come to pay the Messiah homage. Paul insists that the Gentiles are invited into the same body with the same promise of salvation. Finally, we hear the familiar words of Matthew, telling the story of the magi's long journey to see the newborn king. Let us listen to God's word, aware that we too make our own personal journey to the Lord.

### **Serving This Week Sunday, January 5, 2025:**

Greeter: J. Miller

Ushers: J. Oliver / E. Chadwell

Lectors: S. Sanderson / P. Sanderson

Eucharistic Ministers: K. DeForge / S. Haas / C. Varone

Counters: C. Hudson / C. Hudson

### **Serving Next 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

## This Week in the Liturgy of the Church

FRI	January 3		<u>No</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Mass on this date.
SAT	January 4	9:30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday: Fatima Devotions Rosary at 9:30 AM <u>No</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday Mass on this date.
TUES	January 7	9:00 a.m.	Weekday Mass Tuesday of the Epiphany of the Lord. Mass intention is for the Repose of the Soul of Debbie Royals.
FRI	January 10	9:00 a.m.	Weekday Mass Friday of the Epiphany 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.**

### Our Announcements

Two of the beautiful poinsettias on the Christmas altar were donated by Jean Tanner in memory of her late husband, Anthony Tanner. Thank you Jean, they are beautiful!

**Reminder:** The journey through the Bible started on the 1st of January. Please see the **Official 365 Day Reading Plan for *The Bible in a Year (with Fr. Mike Schmitz)*** attached to the e-mail bulletin sent to you this week.

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

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**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: Some Commentary on the Book of Genesis**

This commentary is adapted from the study guide entitled Panorama of the Old Testament and from The Collegeville Bible Commentary, both published by Little Rock Scripture Study.

The Book of Genesis opens with a highly structured, hymn like account of creation by the Priestly author. Most scripture scholars recognize four authors/sources for the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible: Priestly, Yahwist, Elohist, and Deuteronomic.

The Priestly account of creation is a theological reflection on the world that the author has experienced. God is seen as a powerful Being, able to create by merely speaking a word. The world in which humanity lives has been organized by God, but as God's representative on earth, humanity is to be sovereign over the world.

Some of the essential truths taught by the creation account of Genesis 1 are these:

- There is one supreme God, unlike the multiple gods of other nations.
- God is the primary cause of all that exists.
- The sun and moon are not gods, as other religions believed, but part of God's creation.
- All creation is good, and people are the peak of that good creation.
- Men and women are equally made in the image of a loving God.
- Men and women are co-creators with God and stewards of the earth

The Yahwist account of creation is much more local in scope than the Priestly account; it is concerned with the human relationship to the soil and the relationship between man and woman, not the creation of the universe. Clearly drawn for an agricultural background, the story presents humanity as coming from the ground, and dependent on the ground for life.

Some of the essential truths taught by the account of Adam and Eve in the second creation account are these:

- Human beings are created by God with the ability to choose or reject God's will.
- The root cause of human suffering is sin, the human choice to disobey God.
- Sin disrupts human relationships and brings about shame and blame.
- Suffering is not a punishment inflicted by God, but a consequence of sin.
- Human beings suffer on account of our own sin and the sins of others.
- God doesn't abandon the human race but promises them a future in which to hope.

The very first sentence in the New American Bible Revised Edition of the Book of Genesis reads "with darkness over the abyss and a mighty wind sweeping over the waters" The Hebrew word "ruach", is used to describe a movement of air and it can be translated as wind, breath or spirit. So, that same first sentence in the Revised Standard Version is translated to read "and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters"

Both translations are correct. Do you have a preference?

## Journey Through the Bible Readings and Daily Prayer Points for January 1 through 11, 2025

Wed, Jan 1	<b><i>Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i></b> Bible Readings (Day 1): Genesis 1-2; Psalm 19 Prayer Point: That Mary, Queen of Peace, may intercede to bring Christ's peace to the world
Thu, Jan 2	Bible Readings (Day 2): Genesis 3-4; Psalm 104 Prayer Point: With gratitude for everything created good by God
Fri, Jan 3	Bible Readings (Day 3): Genesis 5-6; Psalm 136 Prayer Point: With gratitude that God's mercy endures forever
Sat, Jan 4	<b><i>Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton</i></b> Bible Readings (Day 4): Genesis 7-9; Psalm 1 Prayer Point: May all wives and mothers be blessed with gifts of wisdom and love
Sun, Jan 5	<b><i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i></b> Bible Readings (Day 5): Genesis 10-11; Psalm 2 Prayer Point: That the Church, like the star of Epiphany, will draw the world to worship Jesus Christ
Mon, Jan 6	Bible Readings (Day 6): Genesis 12-13; Job 1-2; Proverbs 1:1-17 Prayer Point: May those experiencing hardship, especially the homeless, receive compassion and help
Tue, Jan 7	Bible Readings (Day 7): Genesis 14-15; Job 3-4; Proverbs 2:16-19 Prayer Point: That we all keep Jesus as the center of our lives
Wed, Jan 8	Bible Readings (Day 8): Genesis 16-17; Job 5-6; Proverbs 1:20-33 Prayer Point: With gratitude for those who are open to life and parenthood
Thu, Jan 9	Bible Readings (Day 9): Genesis 18-19; Job 7-8; Proverbs 2:1-5 Prayer Point: That we may reveal God's love for the world through our love for one another
Fri, Jan 10	Bible Readings (Day 10): Genesis 20-21; Job 9-10; Proverbs 2:6-8 Prayer Point: May those who suffer mental or emotional illness be granted peace of mind
Sat, Jan 11	Bible Readings (Day 11): Genesis 22-23; Job 11-12; Proverbs 2:9-15 Prayer Point: That we may learn how to love our enemies

## 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	Sherrod Pugh
Chuck Reale	Vicki Krieger	Willis Ward
Dick & Lois Morley	Marie Pribble	Janet Letizia
	Paul Oliver	Callie Penic
	Cindy Lockemy	Carl Roane
	Riley Hunt	Nikki Traynor
	Kathryn Turner	Christopher Leavy
	Elizabeth Scott	Page Respass
	Margaret Mann	Kim Owens
	Philip Varone	Tavey Callow
	Lil Chambers	Debbie Traynor
	Martha Lynch Guerrette	Paul Bing
		Tom & Michele Teubert
		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 <sup>st</sup> LT Spencer Walsh	Grandson of Pat & Jimmy Walsh	US Army	Fort Hood, TX
1 <sup>st</sup> 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)

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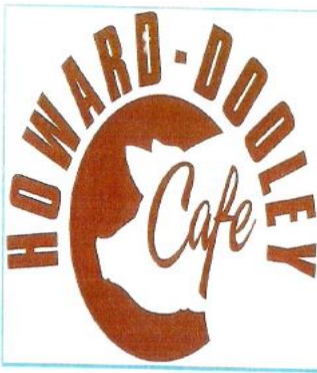
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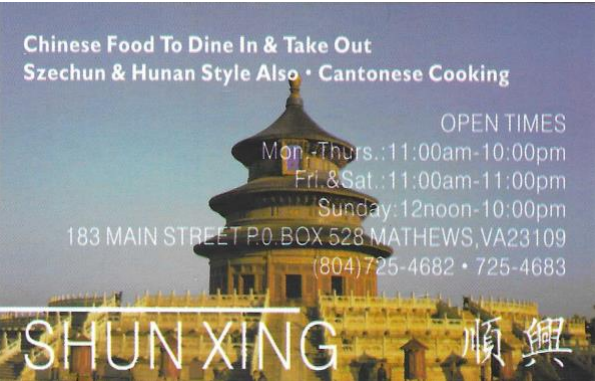
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