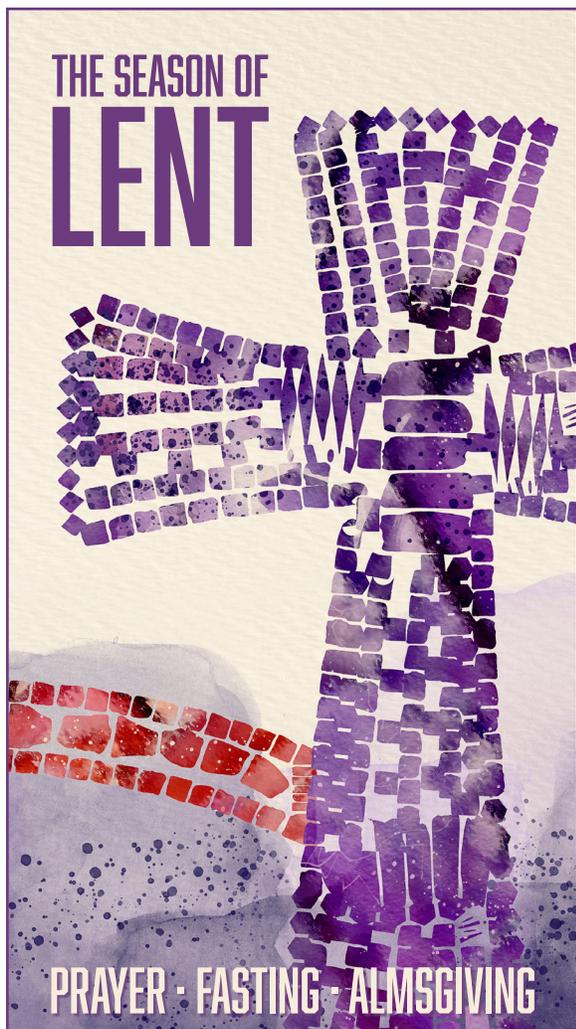


Mother of God Church

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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

Cell: 859.663.1822 Email: bcox@mogcov.org

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.

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

FEBRUARY 22, 2026
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

WELCOME TO THE DESERT

Each year, the First Sunday of Lent is from one of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) and tells the story of the Temptations of Jesus in the desert. This year, we read from the Gospel of Matthew. Obviously, Jesus' forty days in the desert is the model for our forty days of Lent. We, too, go into the desert to pray and fast, and to draw closer to God. We see that Jesus is also tempted by the devil during this time. Jesus rejects these temptations.

The story of the temptations of Christ is paired with our first reading, from the Book of Genesis, telling the story of the Fall. Adam and Eve accept the temptation of the Serpent and eat of the Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. They say "Yes" to Satan, and Jesus says "No." Adam and Eve represent all of us, as we, like them, have all fallen for the lies and false promises of the Evil One. Each one of us, like our first parents, have rejected God's will and plan for us, and followed the Great Liar. We are not victims of the Fall - we are volunteers.

Saint Paul, in our second reading, says that as all have fallen because of the sin of Adam, so all may be saved because of the obedience of Christ. Adam said "No" to God. Jesus said "Yes." We who follow Jesus want to learn how to say "Yes" as He did, and to reject, with Him, the lies of Satan.

The three disciplines of Lent (Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving), which I wrote about last week, are spiritual exercises that we do to strengthen our "Yes." Thinking in terms of physical exercise, as we lift weights or walk or run, we strengthen our muscles and our bodies. The same principle applies when we do these spiritual exercises. Our souls become stronger, more capable of resisting temptation and of choosing the path that God lays out for us.

RITE OF ELECTION

Since early September, a number of men and women have participated in the Order of Christian Initiation of

Adults (OCIA), attending sessions on Tuesday evenings, learning the Catholic faith, learning to pray, and seeking to follow Christ as His disciples. Today, the First Sunday of Lent, is a special day for them, as they will go to the Cathedral to meet with Bishop Iffert and those from other parishes for the Rite of Election. In that ceremony, they will be called forward and officially acknowledged by the Bishop as those who will enter the Catholic Church and receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night.

These fall into two categories - the Catechumens and the Candidates. Catechumens are those who have never been baptized in any Christian denomination, and who will receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Vigil on Holy Saturday night. Candidates are those who have been baptized in some other Christian religion, and who wish to enter now into the fullness of the Catholic faith. They will be Confirmed and make their First Holy Communion at the Vigil Mass. A third group are those known as Baptized but Uncatechized Catholics. These were baptized as Catholics when they were children. They will make their First Holy Communion and will be Confirmed as the Easter Vigil.

At the 11:30 am Mass today, a ceremony known as The Rite of Sending for Election will take place at Mother of God. This will include special prayers that we will say with and for them.

LUTHER SCRUGGS

Luther Scruggs has been a longtime member of Our Savior Parish. Luther died very unexpectedly on February 7. His funeral was held at Walker Funeral Home in Covington on Friday, February 13. A special celebration of Luther's life was held at Our Savior Church on Saturday, February 14.

The music ministry at Our Savior will not be the same without Luther. His beautiful voice inspired and lifted up all who attended the liturgies at Our Savior Church.

We pray for Luther's family, especially his children.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Pope Leo XIV has designated 2026 as the Jubilee Year of Saint Francis of Assisi as the Church celebrates the 800th anniversary of his death. Francis is one of the most significant saints in our Church's history. Not only did he establish the Franciscan Order, but he lived a life of discipleship in which he followed Christ more faithfully than anyone else in the history of the Church.

I am offering a series of talks on Saint Francis during this Lenten season. The talks will be held on Thursdays at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm. Last week, I presented an overview and timeline of the life of Saint Francis. This week, I will be talking about Francis' calls (there were more than one) to follow Jesus. This will allow us to reflect on our own calls to discipleship.



PARISH NEWS

Today, Sunday, Feb. 22, **Coffee and donuts** are available in the undercroft after both Masses.

Next Sunday, March 1, the monthly chocolate, coffee, and tea sale will be an opportunity to obtain **Fair Trade Equal Exchange** goods before Easter. Items will be available for sale between the Sunday Masses downstairs in the undercroft.

Now is the time to tell us what's on your heart!

The *Disciple Maker Index* survey is now live and will be open until March 23. To complete the **survey online**, go to <https://survey.catholicleaders.org/d/ppg3bp>. Or scan this **QR Code**. Select our parish name from the list.



If you prefer a **paper copy instead**, they will be available for you at the New Parishioner Table near the Baptistry; or please contact Mary Ann Kelly at 859-291-2288 at the parish office. For the survey to provide useful information for our parish, we need as many parishioners as possible to participate! Thank you for your help in making this effort a success!

TEEN CONFIRMATION

Do you have a teenager who missed his or her opportunity to be Confirmed? A Confirmation is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00 pm for those teens who desire Confirmation. If you are interested, contact Fr. Comer at 859-816-3198, or call the parish office at 859-291-2288. We will prepare your student here at Mother of God.

Father Comer's new talk series continues this week!

Reflections on St. Francis of Assisi

Thursday, Feb. 26 10:30 am and 6:30 pm.

This week's topic: *The Call of Saint Francis*

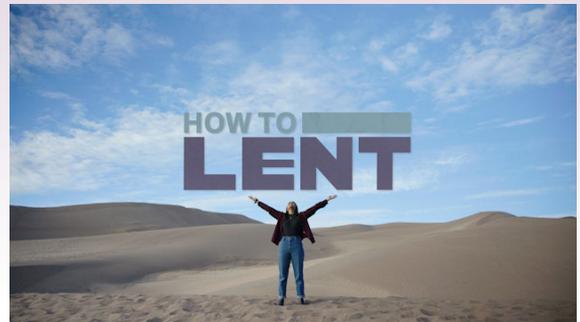
Next week, Thursday, March 5 – due to the DPAA Dinner, there will be no sessions, morning or evening.



Congratulations to Reed Duncan!

Reed recently made his First Holy Communion here at Mother of God Church.

Available on FORMED! *How to Lent* is a new series from the Augustine Institute that aims to equip Catholics with the tools to understand and practice the pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This series will challenge your preconceived notions about Lent, laying out a roadmap for entering the season with a purpose. Heed the call of St. John the Baptist by preparing for the Lord. Let *How to Lent* transform your spiritual life this Lenten season.



It's easy to sign up for FORMED.

Go to 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**.

Let **FORMED** guide you through these 40 days.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS / Fridays of Lent

On the Fridays of Lent, Deacon Brian Cox will lead the Stations of the Cross after the 12:05 pm daily Mass.



Mark your calendar! Friday, March 6, 6:30 pm
The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Glee Club Concert
Here at Mother of God Church

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Glee Club will present a concert here at Mother of God on Friday, March 6. The concert will begin at 6:30 pm.

A freewill offering will be taken. The concert is free to attend, and you do not need to register or RSVP.

Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group

In January, we began 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 next meeting will be:**

Wednesday, March 4, from 6:30-8:00 pm.

For additional information,
please contact Jeff Duell at 859-801-8213.



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

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.

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	February 15, 2026
Total Collection	TBD

Subsplash Online Giving

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.



Download Our New Parish App
Use the QR code to download the app.

VIRTUS

A big Thank You to all of the Mother of God Volunteers who stay current on their Virtus training bulletins. If you would like to volunteer and need to become VIRTUS Trained, please email Mary Ann Kelly.

If you have any questions regarding this process, call or email Mary Ann at any time. She can be reached by phone at 859-291-2288, ext. 16, or send an email to her at mkelly@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.



Wondering if the Priesthood could be for you?

Come to the next **SACRED HEART DINNER** at **St. Joseph Church**, 2470 Lorraine Ct., Crescent Springs, on **Sunday, March 1 at 5:00 pm.**

You will have the chance to ask questions and talk with others discerning, as well as with those involved in Priesthood formation over a casual dinner. **Let us help you find God's plan for your life.**

The Diocese of Covington and the Intercommunity Sisters Peace and Justice Committee invite you to

AN EVENING OF PRAYER,

REFLECTION, AND CONVERSATION

Monday, March 2, 7:00 pm Diocesan Curia

Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium

The evening will begin with an Opening Prayer, followed by a presentation from Hannah Keegan, the Director of Center for Faith, Mission, and Catholic Education at Thomas More University. Registration is not required.

Registration for the 2026 Kentucky March for Life
The 2026 Kentucky March for Life will be held on **Wednesday, March 11.**

- **The link below is to register.** For those interested in attending, please complete the registration form for attending using private transportation or for the buses provided by the Diocesan Pro-Life Office:
<https://forms.gle/9kYM9Nd8MoiXjcBR8>
- There will be **bus transportation** leaving from the Curia building in Covington and from the Florence Mall parking lot (upper level where the Sears entrance used to be). **Departure times** will be 7:15 am from Covington and 7:30 am from Florence.
- Mass will be at Good Shepherd Parish at 9:30 am with Bishop John Iffert and other priests and deacons from various dioceses. Celebration at the Capitol begins at Noon. Prayer Service at the Memorial for the Unborn begins at 2:15 pm.

The itinerary is still evolving. Please check the website for updates: **www.kentuckymarchforlife.org**.

Questions: Please contact the Pro-Life Office.

Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me

Open unto me, light for my darkness
 Open unto me, courage for my fear
 Open unto me, hope for my despair
 Open unto me, peace for my turmoil
 Open unto me, joy for my sorrow
 Open unto me, strength for my weakness
 Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion
 Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins
 Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness
 Open unto me, love for my hates
 Open unto me, Thy Self for myself
 Lord, Lord, open unto me!

To help you prepare for next Sunday's Mass**Second Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22

Responsorial Psalm:

**Lord, let your mercy be on us,
 as we place our trust in you.**

2 Timothy 1:8b-10 Matthew 17:1-9

Mass Intentions

Feb. 22	9:30 am	Parishioners and Benefactors
	11:30 am	Tom Miller
Feb. 23	12:05 pm	Krista Wilmlink
Feb. 24	12:05 pm	Ebbitt Family
Feb. 25	No Mass	
Feb. 26	12:05 pm	Emily Ferrara
Feb. 27	12:05 pm	Schuerman, Baker, and Neltner Families
Feb. 28	12:05 pm	Deacon Brian Cox
Mar. 1	9:30 am	Parishioners and Benefactors
	11:30 am	Brian Steinmetz

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

Remember in Prayer

Hannah Donoghue ♦ Lois Knochelmann ♦ Chris Haddix ♦ Frank Sutthoff ♦ David Verkamp ♦ D.B. ♦ Kenneth Schuler ♦ Nancy Correll ♦ Debbie Prior ♦ Lauri Boggs ♦ Joe Legner ♦ Faye Gosney ♦ Joan Miley ♦ Rita & Ron Hopper ♦ Kathleen Stevens Cox ♦ Freda Legner ♦ Jan Stahlheber ♦ Rob Feldman ♦ Gerri Losey ♦ Pat Landrum ♦ Bruce Hummel ♦ 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 ♦ Anne Halpin ♦ 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 ♦ 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 ♦ Karn Fields ♦ Caroline Olberding ♦ Rick Bronner ♦ Susan ♦ Caroline Raymond ♦ Jill Bland ♦ Olivia Hollihan ♦ Mary Beth Lynch ♦ Theresa Lynch ♦ Trudy ♦ K. T. ♦ Karen ♦ Fred B. ♦ John K. ♦ Jeanne Bitter ♦ Tabitha Frye Family ♦ Greg Benning ♦ Edward Weeden ♦ Elizabeth King ♦ S. M. ♦ Linda ♦ Julia White ♦ Jon Hickman ♦ Joan Hunkemoeller Racke ♦ Fred ♦ Mark Amabile ♦ Jim Kiger ♦ Janice Northcutt

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



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