

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

8462 General Puller Highway
P.O. Box 38
Topping, Virginia 23169
Phone: (804) 758-5160
Fax: (804) 758-0676

E-Mail: office@COVTopping.org
Website: www.church-of-the-visitation.org



1st Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024 Year C

PARISH MINISTRIES

Worship/Liturgy: Noelle Harvey
Justice & Peace: open
Religious Education: Wohleking/Peterson
Parish Life: Johnna Harris
OCIA/Adult Formation: John Weidner
Pastoral Care: Lynne Richardson
Administration: Ray Kostosky

Church Hours

Sunday Mass 9AM
Wednesday Daily Mass 9AM
Thursday Daily Mass 9AM

Parish Office Hours 9AM-2PM
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

PARISH COUNCIL

Kevin Hayes
Cindy Jessee-Vice Chair
Steve Kirsch
Helen Linden
Cindy Powers
Shelley Katsuki-Secretary
John Weidner-Chair

FINANCE COUNCIL

Debby Harriman
Tom Hawksworth
Tom Jessee
Debbie McNeil
Gary Richardson
Fritz Sitterding-Chairman
Anne Wolski

Pastor, Johnny Mintah-Mensah "Koo"
119 Club Drive
Hartfield, VA 23071
Phone: 804-286-9271

Please call the office about arranging Baptisms, Marriages, the OCIA Program, Sacraments of Anointing, Reconciliation, Sick Calls, the schedule for Holy Days, and our Rosary Ministry.

Church Secretary, Andrea Moore
Webmaster/IT, Mike Dreelin

MASS/MUSIC

Entrance: O Come O Come Emmanuel #62

"Loving and Forgiving" #662

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914

Glory To God #915

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Responsorial Psalm: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel Acclamation: Show us, Lord, your love;
and grant us your salvation.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Homily: Father Koo

*Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Waiting in Silence #51

Holy: #918

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this
Cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.

Lord's Prayer: page 26

Lamb of God: #923

Communion: Bread of Life #76

Meditation: Beyond The Moon and Stars #48

Recessional: People Look East #43

December Birthdays



1st-Tom Shoemaker, 4th-Michael Ballato, 5th-Louise Petralia, 8th-Frank Lohr, 10th-Lynn Gillikin, 12th-Jerry Suyes, 16th-Cindy Powers, 17th-Ivony Kennedy, 18th-Mary Dorman & Lynne McMurtrie, 19th-Lois Kramb, 22nd-Linda Gray, 23rd-Christine Williams, 25th-Colleen Hoffman, 26th-Tom Hawksworth, & Debbie McNeil, 27th-Patty Figueroa & Betsy Brown, 31st Doug Olson.

If you would like to add your name to the Birthday/Anniversary list please contact the office.

December Anniversaries



1st-Charles & Carol Walsh, 8th-Robert & Paula Wilson, 14th-Bob & Ingrid Borden, 22nd-Branch & Michelle Meanley, 30th-Bill & Donna Brandl.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today- 1st-1st Sunday of Advent
December 5th-Adoration 9:30-10:30am
December 8th-2nd Sunday of Advent "Christmas Party Brunch"
December 9th-Immaculate Conception @COV 9am/"Visitation Singers"
December 12th-Liturgy Meeting 11:00am
December 15th-3rd Sunday of Advent
December 22nd-4th Sunday of Advent
December 24th-Christmas Eve "Nativity of the Lord"
December 25th-Christmas Day "Nativity of the Lord"
December 29th-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
December 31st-New Year's Eve
January 1st-New Year's Day Mass-9am

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

December 1, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Linden

Community Leader: McCormack

Altar Server: Kostosky

Lectors: Petralia/Weidner

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Smith

Chalice: Sychterz/Richardson/Marci/Gray

Music: Powers

Counters: O'Brien/Smith

December 8, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange

Community Leader: Harriman

Altar Server: Smith/Kirsch

Lectors: Dreelin/O'Brien

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Donovan

Chalice: Harvey/Seay/

Music: Meanly

Counters: King/Angell

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from November 24, 2024

Collection: \$ 2,324

Second Collection:

Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 52,669

Total Budget Projection: \$ 54,231

Loan Balance: \$ 109,170



Our second collection today is for debt reduction.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$214 November Telephone bill.

LEGACY

Consider God's call on your life as you plan to distribute your estate.

Creating an estate plan is good stewardship.

Does your Last Will & Testament reflect YOUR faith?

We owe our children and grandchildren the example of lives lived with integrity and willingness to learn and grow and remain faithful to the Christian values we proclaim. What better example could we offer than including our church in our estate plans?



Potential
Purpose & Purpose

Someone told me once they had never seen a hearse with a hitch trailer behind it. Guess if we can't take it with us, we might as well decide how and where it is left behind. Remember your church's mission in your estate planning.

RECURRING EVENTS

Weekly-Sunday 8:30am-New Worship Area Rosary (Cindy Jessee)

1st-Thursday of the month-Adoration 9:30am-10:30am (Cindy Jessee)

2nd-Monday of the month-Visitation Singers 9:30am (Carol McCormack)

3rd-Wednesday of the month-KOC meeting starts 5:15pm (Al Langer)

2nd & 4th-Monday each month at 1:00pm Shawl Ministry (Sandi Delagrange)

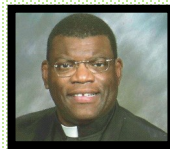
1st-Friday each month at 9:00; other weeks on Thursdays at 9:45am- COV Gals.
(Louise Petralia/Eileen O'Brien)

2nd-Thursday of the month Liturgy Meeting (Noelle Harvey)



SUPPORTER OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP

Vera & John England
Christine & Peggy Williams
Kathy Kauffman
Gene & Anne Wolski
Jack & Laurie King
Terry Skovera
Bill & Donna Plunkert
Norbert & Kathryn Bliley
Dan & Linda Peterson
Tommy & Donna Lange
Charles & Louise Hartz
Dave & Emily Filippi



FATHER JOHN BODDIE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of our pastor and friend, Fr. John Boddie, from whom flowed love and kindness to all who knew him. May his soul rest in peace. Money from these ads are used as scholarships given to the youth of our church. Please make your checks payable to THE FR. JOHN BODDIE SCHOLARSHIP FUND. Checks and ads can be deposited in the church office. The charge per space is \$100. Thank you for your continued support. *The Scholarship Committee*
Website for scholarship application: www.church-of-the-visitation.org
Application deadline: Early March 2025

In memory of
Mollie McMurtrie
my long time friend.
I will miss you.
JoAnn Nolte

In loving memory of
Joseph H. Nolte Jr.



Forever,
JoAnn

Take Home Lesson

Sunday, December 1, 2024

The Habit of Prayer

This week's lesson is based upon commentary from Father Stephen Lampe found in our Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word.

As we begin a new liturgical year on this first Sunday of Advent, our Gospel readings throughout the liturgical year will be drawn mostly from the Gospel according to Luke. One of the Synoptic Gospels, Luke's account relied upon Mark's Gospel as its primary source of material, and it differed from Matthew's strong focus on the Jewish Christians. Luke wrote his Gospel for Gentile Christians and made use of the writing styles of Gentile historians. Appearing some fifty years after Jesus' death and resurrection, Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles (the second volume of Luke's writing) teach that Jesus is not only the Son of God but is also the prophet who fulfills all prophecies.

Today's reading comes from the end of Jesus' Jerusalem ministry, which is dominated by conflict with the religious authorities. In this reading, we hear the third of three prophetic perspectives offered by Jesus. The first, in Luke 21:12-19, is Jesus' prediction that his followers would suffer persecution and even death. In the second, Jesus describes the desolation of Jerusalem (Luke 21:7-11, 20-24). For Luke's community, these two prophetic descriptions have already been fulfilled. They have been persecuted and Jerusalem and the temple have been destroyed.

Today's Gospel forms the third and final prediction, now looking forward in time, even for Luke's community. The vision breaks out of the historical and temporal framework of the other two and is cosmological in focus; it looks at the fate of the entire world and its human inhabitants. In spite of its frightening nature, the vision offers encouragement filled with good news. Jesus directs believers to "not become drowsy," to "be vigilant," and to pray. Far from recommending fear in the face of the coming Son of Man, Jesus' followers are encouraged to "stand erect and raise your heads." While everyone else may be shaking with fear, for Jesus' faithful followers this is not a time of dread or fear, but rather the time when "redemption is at hand."

We are encouraged to begin our new liturgical year with hope and faith in Jesus.

Jesus said: "Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:36)

What habit of prayer could you strengthen during this Advent season and in the coming year?

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL



Next Sunday we are hosting our Christmas Brunch after Mass. Like last year, the church will provide the main dish and appetizers. Please bring a side dish and/or desert to share with others on this festive occasion.

THE ANGEL TREE

Thank you to all the angels who took a star.

Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted for the purchase of gift cards to Food Lion, so that each family can purchase items for a Christmas dinner. Mary Dorman will be available to accept the donations after mass through Dec. 1st.

Make checks payable to Mary Dorman, and add Food Lion to the memo line. Please consider this ministry for the families of the Middlesex Jail inmates.

Gifts are due back by Dec. 8, place them in the alcove by the Sacristy.

Mary Dorman's contact: 607-423-2618.



ADDRESS CHANGE

Nancy Wirth has moved to MA. to be near her daughter. Her new address is 1275 Turnpike St. Apt. 1410 North Andover, MA 01845.



Lisenka & Elena Wunder moved to Texas, and their new address is 5110 Savannah Woods Von Ormy, TX 78073

NOVEMBER MEMORIALS

For those who placed pictures on the memorial table, please pick up your family photos, and thank you for remembering your loved ones in this manner. Thank you for your participation.

ADVENT REMINDERS

Copies of the advent schedule are available on the admin table in the narthex. Also there are copies of the Little Blue Books, the popular series of 6 minute reflections during the Christmas Season. Please only take one book per family.



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING SONG #1



Light the Advent candle, one;
Now the waiting has begun.
We have started on our way,
time to think of Christmas Day.

Candle, candle, burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

THANK YOU TO COV PARISHIONERS

Thank you to all parishioners who donated flowers which adorned our altar during Ordinary Time. Several parishioners chose Sundays that celebrated a birthday or anniversary, some requested a memorial to family members, others gave donations anonymously. The environment and ambiance of the sanctuary was greatly enhanced by your generosity. Many compliments were heard each Sunday. Ordinary Time ends today, the 1st Sun. of Advent Dec. 1st. We will resume this flower ministry in January after the Christmas season.

Thank you All. Debby Harriman



THANK YOU

Thank you to Debby Harriman for creating and leading our new altar flower ministry. She organized the signups and made sure the sanctuary was adorned with fresh flowers every week during Ordinary Time. Our church has greatly benefited from her vision and hard work. Debby is turning over the reins to Kari Lee Donovan in January, who will continue this ministry after the Christmas season.

-Arts & Environment

HELP NEEDED

Please join us on December 15 after Mass when we will decorate the church for Christmas. All are welcome and many are needed!

-Arts & Environment

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

General Background on the Season

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by the First coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reason, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight (Universal Norms of the Liturgical Year.)

With the beginning of Advent is, too the beginning of the new liturgical year (2025), and year C of the three Liturgical years.

The use of the advent wreath has become popular practice in the church. The concept of the Advent wreath originated among German Lutherans in the 16th Century. However, it was not until three centuries later that the modern Advent wreath took shape. The modern Advent wreath, with its candles representing the Sundays of Advent, originated from an 1839 initiative by Johann Hinrich Wichern, a Protestant pastor in Germany and a pioneer in urban mission work among the poor.

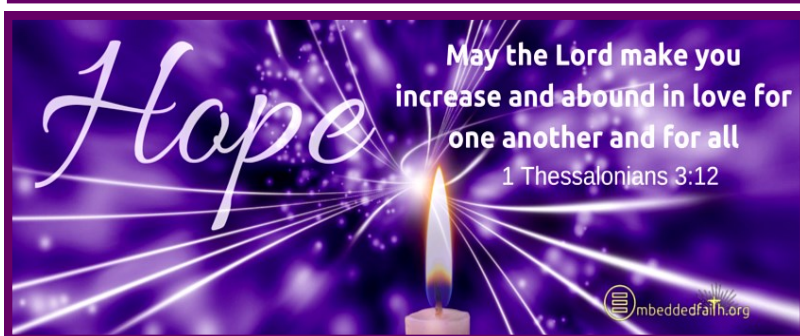
THE FOUR ADVENT CANDLES

As a Christian tradition, the wreath hold the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Sometimes a white candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day to symbolize that Jesus is with us. This can be referred to as the "Christ candle."

Week One

Candle Name: The Prophecy Candle
The First Week of Advent Represents: Hope
Candle Color: Purple

Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent we remember the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus' coming with hope and anticipation.



Please pray for the following
In Memoriam:
Jason Mark Los, Eleanor Smith, Mary Lou Miller, Joe Tyler
Nancy Dixon, and Jean Cameron

PARISHIONERS

Maggie Gerdts, Betty Johnson, Dot Edwards, Walt & Kari Lee Donovan, Peggy Williams, Lynne McMurtrie, Barbara Smith, Germaine Hayes, The Hollingsworth Family, Don Tyrrell, David Rector, Lorraine Kirsch, Tom Shoemaker, Jack King, Donna Thompson, Brendan O'Brien, Becky Nunn, Lois & Skip Krumb, Marianne Krop, Michele Meanley, Louise Petralia, Natalie Smith, Pat Paul, Margaret Hock, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Nancy Wirth, Tom Hawksworth, Linda Gray, Pat Reamy, Lynn Vajda.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Peggy Smith, Michele MacFarland, Justin Harvey, The Daly Family, Becky & Andy Pattarozzi, Bill Sassok, John Wohleking, Christopher Seay, Brian Patrick Dubicki, Lynn Messina, Shirley Schultz, Gene Sullivan, Dr. Nicole Touchet, Grace Anderson, Gloria Powell, Chloe Pearson, Mia Angelis, the Angelis family, Debbie Stockhorst, Jill Shores, John Gahagan, Todd Bowman, Diane Petralia, Anthony Pace, Mildred Bair, Mary Levine, Susie Maddrich, Carolyn Harvey, Eric Currie, Mike & Katy Shea, Rhonda Wells, Polly Beall, Dick Patton, Joanne & Lisa Ferrari, Barbara & Ron Burkhart, John Calvin Barnard, Joseph Borzelleca, Andy Hetzer, Sandy Alter, Ryan Jessee, Larry Hersh, Dominick Perry.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Don Moore, Gay Ruff, Jody Anglin, Gabe Burger, Pam Brazelton, Jim Bruso Jr. Valerie McCarthey, Pat Garratt, Mable Kato, David Bromley, Lewis Hurley, Michele Brown, Debbie Scott, Janis Kott, Angel Carlson, Risa Estes, Deloris Cooper, Karen Tatum, Lucille Redmond, Harry Flannery, Sharon Horrobin, Ralph Burroughs Kate Taylor, Allison Miksenas, Cynthia Freeburger, Mike Gorin, Carroll Brown, Roin Brown, BoydNewhouse, Bill Benson, Mike McCullean, Delores Barry, Jim Durburo, Richard & Sharon Fitts, Karen Armstrong, Kenny & Mary Marshall, Ann Chatos, Genie Kauffman, Pattie Sobieski, Cliff Dean, Christopher Hutton, Elizabeth Panzer, Tom Sennott, Jim & Inga Peddicord, David Gunn, Kathy Goynes, Peg Meushaw, Rita Blommel, Linda Cryer, Allen Hines, Tyra Freed.

If you need to add to the prayer list or would like a Mass intention please call the office, email, or leave a note in the box outside the office.

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS

Christopher, Jennifer & Brendan Beuchelt
252 Yankee Pt. Road
Lancaster, VA 22503
Christopher: 804-238-8330
Jennifer: 757-876-0203
Email: jbeuchelt74@gmail.com



Local Christmas concerts and activities are on the admin. bulletin board in the narthex.



OUR LADY OF THE BAY COUNCIL 11210 OF MATHEWS AND MIDDLESEX COUNTIES

K of C is a not-for-profit organization whose principles are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

Donations support:

Gloucester, Mathews, Northern Neck & Middlesex Free Health Clinics (KOVAR) Virginians with intellectual disabilities, the VA Veterans Services- Golf Tournament, Families in need, Hands Across Middlesex & Mathews, and The Father John Boddie Scholarship Fund.

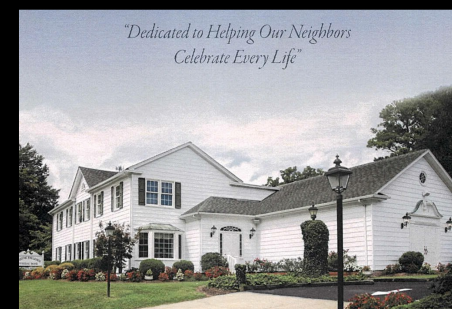
Activities that provide funding: Pancake Breakfast, Italian Feast, St. Pat's Dinner, KOVAR Collection, Dave Marchant Golf Tournament.

We are active participants in many ministries to include Alter servers, Choir members, Collection counter, Community Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers, Parish Council Members and Ushers.

The KOC meet at 5:15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Church of the Visitation.

We start with the Rosary.

All are welcome! Any questions call Our Grand Knight -Al Langer at 804-815-1328.



"Dedicated to Helping Our Neighbors Celebrate Every Life"

Faulkner Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

PO Box 228
Saluda, VA 231649

804-758-2315

bristowfaulkner@faulknerfuneralhcs.com

Helping Our Youth Build Their Future

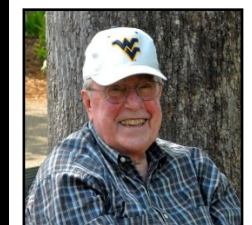


Limerick II Enterprises
Construction Management Services

Tom Shoemaker
In Memory of JoAn



PRAYERS
MEMORIES
LOVE
Jerry
McMurtrie

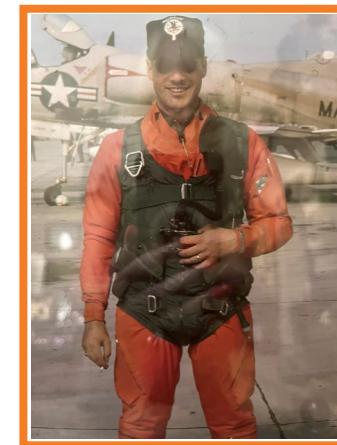


In loving memory of our Father Bob Nash



In
Loving Memory
Of
Alma and Fritz Sitterding

Supporting Our Youth



In memory of my beloved Spike. Where he was, there was Eden Love Forever, Becky



In Loving Memory of
Bobby Warren
Your Family
Arlene,
L.C., Faye,
Caitlyn & Courtlyn

"Gone but not to be forgotten"

In Loving Memory of
Carmen and David
Brinkley

In Loving Memory of
Vincent "Poppy" &
Vinnie Recupido

The Recupido &
Hollingsworth Families

**TO SUPPORT
OUR YOUTH,
THEIR DREAMS,
& OUR FUTURE.**

Lynne & Gary Richardson

SAINT THERESA OF CALCUTTA'S "ANYWAY PRAYER"

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies; succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; build it anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; give the world the best you've got anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.


**Breathe in Love,
Exhale Peace.**



Thanks for always supporting us in everything we do!

♥ Emily & Anna

"DOC" JONES Since 1970
Pre-Tested New & Used Auto & Truck Parts
-Junk Cars Removed-
Hours: 9am-1pm
Closed Monday/Sunday/Holidays/Rainy Days
Route 3, Box 205, Hartfield, VA 23071
Cell Phone: 804-512-9210
Clarence D. Jones, Prop.-

WE WISH OUR YOUTH
CLEAR SAILING

DEBBY AND ED HARRIMAN

*"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."
-Benjamin Franklin*
Tom & Cindy Jessee

In support of our
Future Leaders
"Our Youth"
The Kirsch Family

FOR OUR CHURCH KITTIES
Choco, Tabby & Rufus




In Loving Memory of
Jack Petralia

Do not fear, for I am with you,
Do not be afraid, for I am your God
Isaiah 41:10

In Loving Memory of
Bob and Catherine Borden
Fred and Betty Meister

We Support The Youth Scholarship
John & Carol McCormack


Pray that the youth of today will help make the world a better place for tomorrow.
Frank & Terry Sisto

True Value
HURD'S, INC.
Where Shopping Is Fun
Deltaville, VA 23043 (804) 776-9241



I love and miss you.
♥
Jim


"I am the good shepherd... and I will lay down my life for the sheep."
(John 10:14)
John and Diane Weidner

In Loving Memory of
"Lee Hollingsworth"
We love and miss you!
Barb & Tori

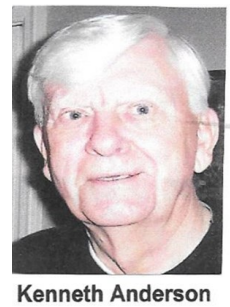
BY THE BAY
STAINED GLASS
Al Langer 804-815-1328


Thank you for supporting our education
Michael, Colin, Kathryn, John & Kevin Walsh

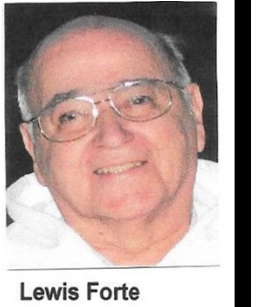
In Memory of
Bob Hartman
My Love of My Life
Jenny

In loving memory of
Marty Hawksworth
Tom & Sharon


Kasey Law
Assistant Vice President
Branch Manager
klaw@cffc.com
O: 804.758.3641 x10801
M: 804.832.2330
F: 804.800.4593
NMLS# 1914115
cffc.com





"Say not in grief 'he is no more' but in thankfulness that he was".



We Salute the Youth of Our Church and Their Important Journey.
Carmen & Joe Brinkley


Frank & Gerrie Lohr
Supporting
Higher Education

In Loving Memory of
Morgan Wells
Forever,
Marianne




In Loving Memory
"Ricky" David Richard Suyes III & Marie M. Suyes




C. Ben Lennon, D.D.S.
Mathews Dentistry 804-725-9485
Deltaville Dentistry 804-776-9484

BE A KNIGHT
Contact: Grand Knight
Al Langer
804-815-3515

OUR LADY OF THE BAY
COUNCIL 11210

NB NGUYEN | BALLATO
Michael B. Ballato, Esq.
2201 Libbie Avenue
Richmond, VA 23230
804-788-7070
mbb@nblawpic.com
www.nblawpic.com


In memory of
Michael Tebbs Nunn &
Douglas Arthur Nelson Nunn
"Our Beloved Sons"
Spike and Becky Nunn

In Loving Memory of
Reinald Carter &
Mary Borzelleca
Mike and Gretchen Borzelleca