

# 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



## 2nd Sunday of Advent "Faith" December 8, 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

Pastor, Johnny Mintah-Mensah "Koo"

119 Club Drive  
Hartfield, VA 23071  
Phone: 804-286-9271

### FINANCE COUNCIL

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

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.

### PARISH COUNCIL

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

Church Secretary, Andrea Moore  
Webmaster/IT, Mike Dreelin

### MASS/MUSIC

Entrance: O Come O Come Emmanuel #39

Advent Candle Song #2: *inside the bulletin*

"Loving and Forgiving" #662

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914

Glory To God #915

### Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel Acclamation: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight  
his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: On Jordan's Bank #41

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: Ready The Way #63

Meditation: Creator of the Stars of Night #67

Recessional: City of God #385

### 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, 2nd-Dave & Annette Marcil, 8th-Robert & Paula Wilson, 14th-Bob & Ingrid Borden, 22nd-Branch & Michelle Meanley, 30th-Bill & Donna Brandl.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Today-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

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

### December 8, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange

Community Leader: Harriman

Altar Server: Smith/Kirsch

Lectors: Dreelin/O'Brien

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Donovan

Chalice: Harvey/Ballato/Plunkert

Music: Meanly

Counters: King/Angell

### December 9, 2024

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange

Community Leader: Richardson

Altar Server: Smith

Lectors: Nunn/Kostosky

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: NA

Chalice: Harriman/Donovan

Music: TBA

Counters: NA

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION from December 1, 2024

Collection:	\$ 2,095
Second Collection: Debt Reduction	\$ 509
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 54,764
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 56,658
Loan Balance:	\$ 109,170



Our second collection today is for Christmas Flowers.

We signed the following principal checks this week:  
\$219 credit card charges for November.

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER OF REPENTANCE -FAITH



Reading I: Baruch 5:1-9 (Jerusalem consoled)

Reading II: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 (gratitude and hope)

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6 (John the Baptist)

Key Passage: John went into all the region around the Jordan,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness  
of sins. (Luke 3:3)

Adult: In what areas of your life do you need God's  
forgiveness right now? What Advent practice would  
assist you in expressing your repentance?

Child: What do you want to ask God to forgive you for?  
What can you do during Advent to show you are sorry?

### 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)

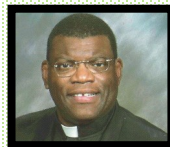
1st-Friday each month at 9:00; other weeks on Thursdays at 9:45am- COV Gals.  
(Louise Petralia/Eileen O'Brien)

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](http://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

Journey Through The Bible

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Two weeks ago, at the end of the Take Home Lesson published in this space, we asked this question: In the new liturgical year, what will you be doing to deepen your understanding and love of Christ the King?

Last week, we asked: What habit of prayer could you strengthen during this Advent season and in the coming year?

These two questions align with plans our pastor has been discussing for several weeks to strengthen our faith formation efforts in the coming year. Specifically, and as announced after Mass last Sunday, Father Koo invites everyone in the parish to join him on a year long "Journey through the Bible" in 2025.

Starting on January 1st, our objective is to read through and present instruction on every book of the Bible over the course of 2025.

We plan to use "The Bible in a Year" daily reading plan that covers the entire Catholic Bible in 365 days. Most days we will be reading two or three chapters from two different books, as well as a Psalm or a few verses from Proverbs.

It takes somewhere between 54 and 72 hours to read the entire Bible, which works out to less than 15 minutes per day.

Our reading plan is the same plan used by Father Mike Schmitz for his "The Bible in a Year" podcast. A PDF file of the reading plan is attached to the email with this week's bulletin.

We are also planning to offer presentations each month and we will be encouraging informal small group discussions as part of our Journey. Father Koo mentioned after Mass last week that we are still working out details and we may be able to host guest speakers for some of these presentations.

Father Koo is strongly encouraging everyone in the parish to join him on the journey. While no one is obligated to participate, the benefits of engaging in daily prayer and reading of scripture as a faith community are beyond measure.

Father quoted Saint Jerome last week, who wrote: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ!" This sharp statement on the necessity for each Christian to have direct, personal knowledge of the inspired books of the Holy Bible comes in a commentary on Isaiah. Saint Jerome's conviction about the need to know Scriptures anticipated the insight of Saint Augustine that in the Old Testament the New is concealed, and in the New the Old is revealed. Our Adult Bible Study group has just completed a twelve lesson study of Isaiah, and our group will testify to the truth of Saint Augustine's insight.

As we embark on our reading of the Bible in the coming year, this space in the bulletin will shift from Take Home Lessons that are typically about the Sunday readings to instruction and commentary about upcoming or just completed readings from our Journey Through the Bible. In next week's bulletin, look for an answer to this question:  
**How many books are included in the Catholic Bible?**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING SONG #2

Light the Advent Candle two.  
Think of humble shepherds who  
Filled with wonder at the sight  
Of the Child on Christmas night.

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



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Today we are hosting our Christmas Brunch after Mass. Like last year, the church will provide the main dish and appetizers. Hopefully you have brought a side dish and/or desert to share with others on this festive occasion.

2025 ENVELOPES

The 2025 envelopes are now available for pickup on the admin table in the Narthex. For the convenience of parishioners who normally use e-giving for offertory donation, we have printed envelopes for you to utilize if appropriate for second collections.

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.

FATIH FORMATION NEWS

Celebrate the joy of the season with our **Children's Christmas Pageant and Sing-Along**, beginning at 6:30 PM on December 24th in the church. Watch as our children bring the story of Christ's birth to life through their heartfelt performance, followed by a festive sing-along to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Mass. For safety and to avoid disruptions, we kindly ask anyone not seated by 6:30 PM to remain in the narthex until the pageant ends, as the lights will be dimmed during the performance. The doors will reopen afterward, allowing time to be seated for the sing-along before Mass.

After the pageant practice on Saturday, December 21st, join us for a family-friendly Christmas movie and pizza dinner! Open to all parishioners—come enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship as we celebrate the season together. Pageant practice is at 4 pm with dinner and movie to follow around 5 pm.

A **heartfelt thank-you** to everyone who helped pack 75 boxes for Operation Christmas Child! Special thanks to our Knitting Ministry for crafting hats, scarves, and washcloths for each box, and to Anne Wolski, who lovingly made reusable menstrual pads for the teenage girls. We are so grateful to the countless others who donated their time, money, items, and love to make this effort a success. Your generosity will bring joy and hope to children in need this Christmas season. Stay tuned to find out where our boxes end up!



THE ANGEL TREE

Gifts are due back today, December 8th. Mary Dorman will be available in the alcove by the Sacristy after mass.

If you have any questions please see Mary or contact her at 607-423-2618. Blessing to all who have participated in this ministry.



MASS

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass will be tomorrow, December 9th at 9am.



THANK YOU

LITURGY NEWS

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 15th 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 two**

Candle Name: The Bethlehem Candle  
2nd Week of Advent Represents: Faith & Preparation  
Candle Color: Purple

During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and work on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming. We remember the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Reading I: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 (the fall)

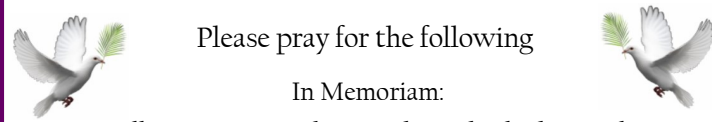
Reading II: Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12 (the Father's plan for salvation)

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 (announcement of the birth of Jesus)

Key Passage: Ephesians 1:4 (chosen by God)

Adult: How has faith in Jesus transformed your life?

Child: Who in your family has helped you have faith in Jesus?



Please pray for the following

In Memoriam:

William Dawson, Robert Borden and Belinda Beverly

**PARISHIONERS**

Bill Campbell, Gene Wolski, 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**

Pamela McCracken, 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**

Family of 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 Goyne, 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.



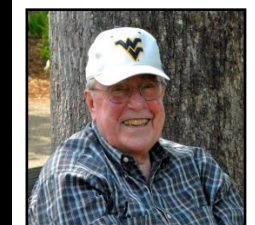
**Helping Our Youth Build Their Future**



**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

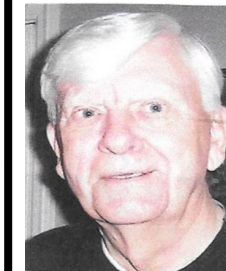
In Memory of  
**Bob Hartman**  
My Love of My Life  
Jenny

In loving memory of  
Marty  
Hawksworth



Tom & Sharon

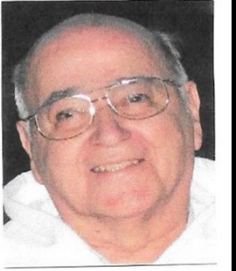
Kasey Law  
Assistant Vice President  
Branch Manager  
klaw@cffc.com  
O: 804.758.3641 x10801  
M: 804.832.2330  
F: 804.800.4593  
NMLS# 1914115  
cffc.com



Kenneth Anderson



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



Lewis Forte

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.nblawplc.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