

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



The Epiphany of the Lord January 5, 2025 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 Kostaske

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: We Three Kings #111

"Loving and Forgiving" #662

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #914

Glory To God #915

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 (20ABC)

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel Acclamation: We saw his star at its rising and
have come to do him homage.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: God's Holy Gifts #348

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: What Star Is This #116

Meditation: Night of Silence/Silent Night #84

Recessional: Good Christian Friends Rejoice #93

January Birthdays



1st-Carol McCormack, 2nd-Evelyn Scott, 3rd-Bob Cerullo,
5th-Lorraine Kirsch & Mike Borzelleca, 7th-Betty Johnson & Tom
Foley, 13th-Benton Miller & Dan Peterson, 17th-Anne Wolski,
19th-Jim Moncure, 20th-Debbie Harriman, 21st-Chuck Walsh,
22nd-Clara Suyes, Donna Brandl, Don Tyrrell, & Josiah Reffo,
27th-John McCormack, 28th-Jacob Lovejoy, 29th-Mike Dreelin &
Robert Seay, 30th-Liberty Bushey, 31st-Jack King.

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

January Anniversaries



5th-Charles & Louise Hartz, 6th-Tom & Ivony Kennedy,
24th-Jack & Laurie King.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

Today-Epiphany of the Lord
January 9th-Adoration 9:30am/Liturgy-11am/Parish Council 3pm
January 12th-Baptism of the Lord
January 19th-2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 22nd-Feast of St Vincent-Day of Prayer for Protection
of Unborn Children.
January 26th-3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 5, 2025

Sacristy Duty: Delagrang

Community Leader: TBD

Altar Server: Ambrose/Miller/Dorman Lectors: Kostaske/O'Brien

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski

Chalice: Seay/Richardson/Gray/Dreelin

Music: Lohr

Counters: O'Brien/Smith

January 12, 2025

Sacristy Duty: Delagrang

Community Leader: Tbd

Altar Server: Kirsch

Lectors: Nunn/Dorman

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski

Chalice: Seay/Harriman/Major/Ballato

Music: Smith

Counters: King/Angell

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from December 29, 2024

Collection: \$ 1,783

Second Collection:

Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 66,011

Total Budget Projection: \$ 66,480

Loan Balance: \$ 108,164

Christmas Collection \$ 1,735

Our Second Collection today is for Debt Reduction.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$1,166 November Credit Card Purchases.



EPIPHANY

Overcoming jealousy



Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6 (glory of the new Zion)

Reading II: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 (commission to preach God's plan)

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 (the visit of the magi)

Key Passage: Then Herod sent the [magi] to Bethlehem,
saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and
when you have found him bring me word so that I
may also go and pay him homage." (Matthew 2:8)

Adult: When have you been jealous or fearful of another
person? When are such feelings harmful?

Child: When have you been jealous because something
good happened to another person instead of you?
What is the problem with feeling that way?

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 Delagrang)

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
William Durham-Auctioneer



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

JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE: SOME COMMENTARY ON THE BOOK OF GENESIS
JANUARY 5, 2025

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 relationship 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?

EPIPHANY

While the hustle and bustle of Christmas ends for many people on Dec. 26th, throughout Christian history Christmas lasts for twelve days – all the way until Jan. 6th. This feast marking the end of Christmas is called "Epiphany."

In the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, Epiphany celebrates the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God. It focuses primarily on this revelation to the Three Wise Men, but also in his baptism in the Jordan and at the wedding at Cana.

In the Eastern rites of the Catholic Church, Theophany – as Epiphany is known in the East – commemorates the manifestation of Jesus' divinity at his Baptism in the River Jordan. While the traditional date for the feast is Jan. 6th, in the United States the celebration of Epiphany is moved to the Sunday between Jan. 2 and Jan. 8th.

Origins of Epiphany

While the Western celebration of Epiphany (which comes from Greek, meaning "revelation from above"), and the Eastern celebration of Theophany (meaning "revelation of God"), have developed their own traditions and liturgical significances, these feasts share more than the same day. "The Feast of Epiphany, or the Feast of Theophany, is a very, very early feast," said Fr. Carnazzo. "It predates the celebration of Christmas on the 25th." While the Western celebration of Epiphany (which comes from Greek, meaning "revelation from above"), and the Eastern celebration of Theophany (meaning "revelation of God"), have developed their own traditions and liturgical significances, these feasts share more than the same day.

Over time, the Western Church separated the remaining feasts into their own celebrations, leaving the celebration of the Epiphany to commemorate primarily the Visitation of the Magi to see the newborn Christ on Jan. 6th.



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

Wed, Jan 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God 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 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton 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 The Epiphany of the Lord 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

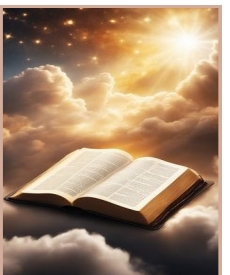
Tue, Jan 7 Bible Readings (Day 7): Genesis 14-15; Job 3-4; Proverbs 2:16-19
Prayer Point: That we all keep Jesus as the center of our lives

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



THANK YOU

A huge thank you goes out to Tom Shoemaker for being the architect and craftsman behind our beautiful new nativity scene. He built the creche to the scale of the 12" Fontinini figures we already have which populate the scene. He painstakingly researched the type of wood that would have been used in Jesus' day and mimicked that in the stain of the wood on the creche. He figured out how to hang the Gloria Angel; he lit the interior of the creche; he designed, built and lit the Star of Bethlehem. Tom also designed and built the custom sized table on which the nativity scene sits, painted it with textured paint and invented a way to stabilize the hand painted backdrop. Church of the Visitation will treasure these pieces for many years to come. Thank you once again for using your talent to beautify our church!



ONE MORE THANK YOU

Having a painted backdrop was Tom Shoemaker's idea but the work was executed by local professional artist, Jody Ball. She lives in Deltaville, credits her talent as a gift from God and painted this backdrop for COV to give glory to God. More information about Jody can be found at jodyballart.com

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.



Please pray for the following



In Memoriam:

*Helen Tyrrell, Mary Jane Paul, Bob O'Keefe
Mary Catherine Borden and Buddy Moore*

PARISHIONERS

Donna Lange, Bill Campbell, Gene Wolski, Maggie Gerdts, Betty Johnson, Dot Edwards, Walt & Kari Lee Donovan, Peggy Williams, Lynne McMurtrie, Barbara Smith, Germaine Hayes, Don Tyrrell, David Rector, Lorraine Kirsch, Tom Shoemaker, Jack King, Donna Thompson, Brendan O'Brien, Becky Nunn, Lois & Skip Kramb, 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

Alex Brown, 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, Gloria Powell, Chloe Pearson, Mia Angelis, the Angelis family, Debbie Stockhorst, Jill Shores, John Gahagan, 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 Ferari, Barbara & Ron Burkhardt, John Calvin Barnard, Joseph Borzelleca, Andy Hetzer, Sandy Alter, Ryan Jessee, Larry Hersh, Dominick Perry.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Family of Don Moore, Grace Anderson, 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.

WE'RE IN THE NEWS AGAIN!

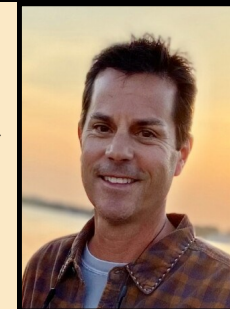
The recent edition of the Catholic Virginian highlighted the Church of the Visitation on its first page. Specifically, it noted our Angel Tree Program for the prisoners children and the shoebox "Operation Christmas" program sponsored by our Faith Formation students. For those of you who missed the article, a copy is in the narthex.

2025
HAPPY NEW YEAR

OUR LADY OF THE BAY COUNCIL II210 OF MATHEWS/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.

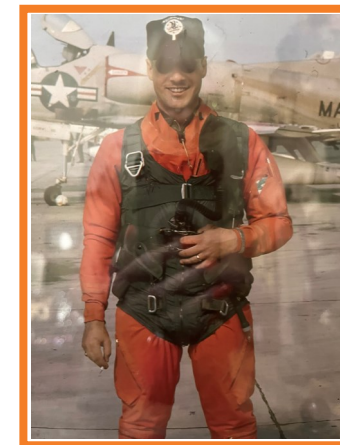
In memory of
our son
Christian Strotmeyer



John & Pam
Strotmeyer

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.



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



"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



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

"Gone but not to be forgotten"

**Helping Our Youth
Build Their Future**



Limerick II Enterprises
Construction Management Services
Tom Shoemaker
In Memory of JoAn



PRAYERS
MEMORIES
LOVE
Jerry
McMurtrie

**SAINT THERESA OF CALCUTTA'S
"ANYWAY PRAYER"**

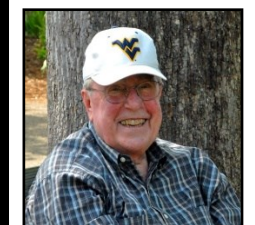
People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies; succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat 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.**



In Loving Memory of
Carmen and David
Brinkley

In Loving Memory of
Vincent "Poppy" &
Vinnie Recupido
The Recupido &
Hollingsworth Families



In loving memory of our Father Bob Nash




In
Loving Memory
Of
Alma and Fritz Sitterding
Supporting Our Youth

**TO SUPPORT
OUR YOUTH,
THEIR DREAMS,
& OUR FUTURE.**
Lynne & Gary Richardson

Thanks for always supporting us in everything we do!

♥ Emily & Anna

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Clarence D. Jones, Prop.-

WE WISH OUR YOUTH
CLEAR SAILING

DEBBY AND ED HARRIMAN



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

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

Frank & Terry Sisto


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I love and miss you.
♥
Jim

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

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



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


"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
Bob and Catherine Borden
Fred and Betty Meister

We Support The Youth Scholarship
John & Carol McCormack


"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

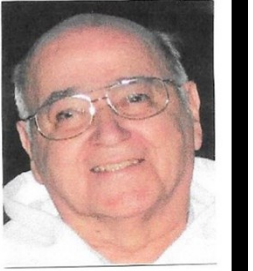
BY THE BAY
STAINED GLASS
Al Langer 804-815-1328

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F: 804.800.4593
NMLS# 1914115
cffc.com



Kenneth Anderson


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



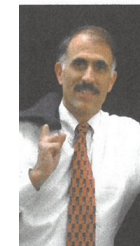
Lewis Forte




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



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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