

# 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



## Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time February 23, 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 Kstesky

### FINANCE COUNCIL

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

### 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

### PARISH COUNCIL (elected members)

Kevin Hayes  
Cindy Jessee-Vice Chair  
Shelley Katsuki-Secretary  
Steve Kirsch  
Helen Linden  
Dave Marcil  
Mary Ellen Sherwood  
John Weidner-Chair  
Peggy Williams

Church Secretary, Andrea Moore  
Webmaster/IT, Mike Dreelin

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.

### MASS/MUSIC

Entrance: Blest Be The Lord #580

"Loving and Forgiving" #653

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #896

Glory To God #897

### Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Gospel Acclamation: I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you.

Gospel: Luke 6:

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

### Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: You Are Near #572

Holy: #900

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: #905

Communion: Be Not Afraid #563

Meditation: Parable

Recessional: City Of God #385

### March Birthdays



1st-David Bushey & Melissa Cabocel, 5th-Donna Lange,  
7th-Mark Levy, 8th-Sandi Delagrance & Patrick O'Donnell,  
15th-Tori Hollingsworth & Gloria Matthews, 20th-Gary  
Richardson, 21st-Peggy Williams, 23rd-Barbara Morrison,  
24th-Barbara Hollingsworth, 25th-Michael Pycha, 29th-Eugene  
Wolski, 30th-Michele Meanley & Joe Sychterz.

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

### March Anniversaries



13th-Jan & Nathalie Smith, 15th-Frank & Gerri Lohr,  
24th-Bill & Johnna Harris

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Today-8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 5th-Ash Wednesday (9am @COV/6:30pm @Fds)

March 2nd-8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 9th-First Sunday of Lent

March 12th-1st Stations and Soup

March 15th-Lenten Retreat "Anchored In Christ"

March 16th-2nd Sunday of Lent (daylight savings time)

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

### February 23, 2025

Sacristy Duty: Delagrance

Community Leader: Harriman

Altar Server: Kstesky

Lectors: DeGroot/Sychterz

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Smith

Chalice: Marcil/Richardson/Wolski

Music: McCormack

Counters: Harris/Hollingsworth

### March 2, 2025

Sacristy Duty: Delagrance

Community Leader: Clair

Altar Server: TBD

Lectors: TBD

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: DeGroot

Chalice: Sychterz/Harriman/Donovan/Gray

Music: Krop

Counters: O'Brien/Smith

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION from February 16, 2025

Collection: \$ 3,024  
Second Collection: Catholic Virginian \$ 131  
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 84,775  
Total Budget Projection: \$ 83,505  
Loan Balance: \$ 101,162



There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week:  
\$1,851 Pastor and Rectory Expenses for January.

### LEGACY

How long has it been since you updated your will? Does it still express your wishes? Does it leave a gift to your church to carry on its ministry after your death?



You can share your faith beyond your lifetime by careful estate planning which includes your church in your will. During your lifetime you will have the joy of knowing that whatever you do not use in this life will continue in ministry through your church after your death.

When your estate planning documents are prepared by your attorney, you can include your church as the final beneficiary to receive any benefits that remain after other beneficiaries are remembered.

### 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 Delagrance)

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](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: Israel's Foundational Covenant (Exodus 25-40)**

This commentary is adapted from Little Rock Scripture Study's "Panorama of the Old Testament."

In Exodus 24, Moses and the elders ratify their covenant with God by partaking in a sacrificial meal. This is a transitory event, for God desires to dwell among his covenanted people in a permanent way. So the final chapters of Exodus describe God's detailed instructions for building the tabernacle, a tent structure that would, two centuries later, develop into the design for the temple in Jerusalem. This tabernacle in the wilderness will be portable sanctuary, God's personal residence among the Israelites, as they continue their journey.

The focal point of God's traveling presence amid the people is the ark of the covenant. This wooden chest, plated inside and outside with gold, is designed to contain the visible reminders of God's covenant with Israel.

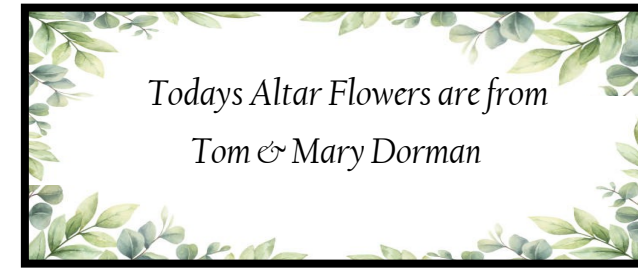
God's people are no longer forced to build for the pharaoh; now they willingly donate their talent and treasure to build God's dwelling in their midst. These last chapters of Exodus, detailing the nature and shape of God's portable residence, emphasize that Israel's journey moves from Egyptian slavery to divine service, the worship of the LORD.

But after Moses receives God's instructions for the tabernacle and its construction, Exodus narrates a great rebellion by the people that threatens the covenant itself. While waiting for Moses to descend the mountain, the Israelites become impatient and make for themselves a golden calf. Comparable to the defiance of Adam and Eve in the garden-temple, the people try to replace what God is already providing them. Rather than depend on the unseen and holy LORD, they quickly construct a visible object to replace the divine present, violating the first of all the commandments.

As Moses begs for God's pardon, God proclaims: "The LORD, the LORD, a God gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love and fidelity, continuing his love for a thousand generations, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin..." (Exodus 34:6-7)

In the face of the people's shameless betrayal, Moses discovers the depth of God's merciful love. The Israelites received forgiveness, yet they are also warned of the inevitable consequences of sin. Now trusting in God, the people of Israel build the tabernacle according to God's instructions. The tabernacle and its liturgy perpetuate God's saving presence in the midst of the people. The once-and-for-all experience of forming the covenant on Sinai is made present again and again as the liturgies of the sanctuary are enacted by the people bound to God in covenant.

The book of Exodus ends as the glory of the LORD fills the tabernacle and God comes to dwell with his people. Freed from Egypt, they are now liberated to desire the LORD. Abounding in love and fidelity for the Israelites, God leads them along their journey.



Today's Altar Flowers are from  
**Tom & Mary Dorman**

**ANGEL TREE THANK YOUS**

- Highlights from the inmates, Thank You Notes, for the COV Parishioners who participated in the Angel Tree ministry.
- \*Thank you for all you have done to help our family with a blessed Christmas.
  - \*Your kindness is appreciated.
  - \*You did a fantastic job picking our gifts and thank you from the bottom of my heart for making my child's Christmas come true.
  - \*Thanking God for putting and allowing you, with love in your hearts, to make very special Christmas for families.
  - \*I look forward to going home and making very good use of all the gifts with my children.
  - \*Hopefully I will be able to give back to you all by giving to the Lords house.
  - \*We hope that you and your families had a blessed Christmas and will enjoy a Happy New Year.
  - \*God Bless you all.

Lesley Hollowell, of the Middle Peninsula Regional Security Center writes: I thank you for your beautiful and generous response to the children of some of the women and men incarcerated in Saluda. They were effusive in expressing to me their gratitude for all of what the COV Parishioners have done. The family members who picked up the gifts were likewise thankful for everything, including the generous Food Lion gift cards. Your participation in the Angel Tree program is a loving demonstration of what God calls for us to be for our fellow human beings.



**MARK YOUR CALANDERS**

Saturday, March 29,  
9:00-12:30 at COV.

"Learning to Love Longevity:  
Embracing Elder Roles"

There was a time when being an "Elder" was a respected role in the community.

Whether you have reached this age yourself, or have family or friends who are there, you will want to hear this talk and participate in the conversation.

Our speaker, Dr. Ayn Welleford, is an Associate Professor at VCU and Director of VCU Gerontology Community and Continuing Education.

**Sign up sheet is located in the Narthex.**

Please see **Mary Flaherty @ FdS** or call

**Lynne Richardson @ 571-239-0980** to register/questions.



**LENT, TRIDUUM,  
AND EASTER**



As Lent comes closer, we will have more details for you, but here is some preliminary information.

Ash Wednesday is March 5th and thanks to Tom Dorman, we created our own ashes from donated palms.

In a slight departure from previous practice, we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross with soup initially on Wednesdays and later in Lent on Fridays, as is traditional throughout the church.

The Triduum (Holy Thursday through the Easter Vigil) will be held at FdS this year.

The reconciliation service at COV is scheduled for April 9th.

As normal, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics.

Additionally, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. More details will follow in ensuing weeks.



Last Sunday Fr. Koo Blessed Our Prayer Shawls.

**SOCIAL SUNDAY**



We have a lot of events happening in March and have moved our Social Sunday to March 30th, following Mass.



**KOC PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast today after Mass. The menu will be pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee. Please stay after and enjoy breakfast and camaraderie with fellow parishioners.

Donations accepted.





Journey Through the Bible Readings and Daily Prayer Points

Feb 23 through Mar 1, 2025

Sun, Feb 23: Bible Readings (Day 54): Numbers 3; Deuteronomy 3; Psalm 88  
 \*Prayer Point: That all who rule the world embrace the Gospel of Life

Mon, Feb 24: Bible Readings (Day 55): Numbers 4; Deuteronomy 4; Psalm 89  
 \*Prayer Point: For true peace on earth

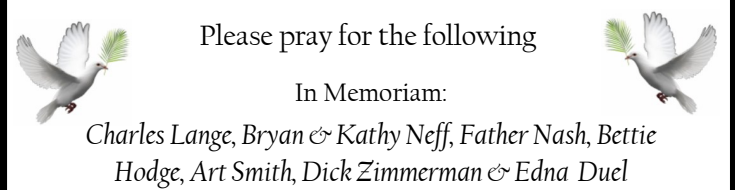
Tue, Feb 25: Bible Readings (Day 56): Numbers 5; Deuteronomy 5; Psalm 90  
 \*Prayer Point: With thanks for the gift of the Eucharist

Wed, Feb 26: Bible Readings (Day 57): Numbers 6; Deuteronomy 6; Psalm 91  
 \*Prayer Point: For those who do not believe in God, grant them the gift of faith

Thu, Feb 27: Bible Readings (Day 58): Numbers 7; Deuteronomy 7; Psalm 92  
 \*Prayer Point: Grant insight and faith to those who work in medical research

Fri, Feb 28: Bible Readings (Day 59): Numbers 8-9; Deuteronomy 8; Psalm 93  
 \*Prayer Point: For stronger, lasting marriages

Sat, Mar 1: Bible Readings (Day 60): Numbers 10; Deuteronomy 9; Psalm 10  
 \*Prayer Point: That broken families may experience

Please pray for the following   
 In Memoriam:  
 Charles Lange, Bryan & Kathy Neff, Father Nash, Bettie Hodge, Art Smith, Dick Zimmerman & Edna Duel

**PARISHIONERS**  
 Suzanne Sitterding, Mike Dreelin, Bob Borden, John McCormack, Donna Lange, Bill Campbell, Maggie Gerdtts, Betty Johnson, Dot Edwards, Peggy Williams, Barbara Smith, Germaine Hayes, 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, Tom Hawksworth, Linda Gray, Pat Reamy, Lynn Vajda.

**FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS**  
 Martha Buesinger, Michele MacFarland, Joseph Borzelleca, Larry Hersh, Patty Pace, Polly Beall, Dick Patton, Peggy Smith, Brian Dubicki, Anthony Pace, John & Debbie Stockhorst, Lester Stockhorst, KJ Edwards, Alex Brown, Chloe Pearson, Tom Delagrange, John Calvin Barnard, Justin Harvey, John Wohleking, Christopher Seay, Lynn Messina, Gene Sullivan, Diane Petralia, Andy Hetzer, Ryan Jessee, Eric Currie.

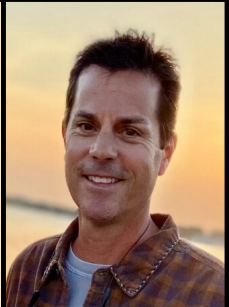
**FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS**  
 Dave Gunn, Alex Brown, Jim Bruso Jr., Allen Hines, Linda Cryer, Kathy Goyne, Elizabeth Panzer, Valerie McCarthey, Karen Armstrong.  
 If you need to add to the prayer list or would like a Mass intention please call the office, email, or leave a note in the box outside the office.

**OUR LADY OF THE BAY COUNCIL 11210 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.

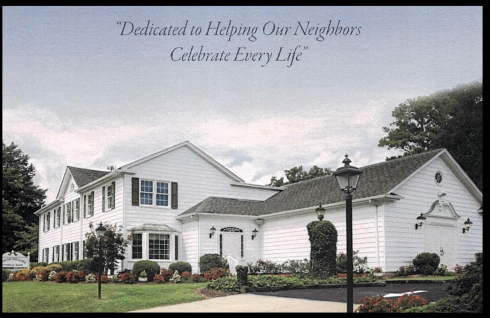


In memory of my beloved Spike. Where he was, there was Eden Love Forever, Becky

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.



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"

JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

Our first "Journey Through the Bible Q&A with Father Koo" is rescheduled for Wednesday morning, February 26th, at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

This is an opportunity to learn more about the first few books of our Journey Through the Bible reading plan in a relaxed setting over coffee and snacks. Father Koo is ready to address some of our questions, and he will likely ask us a few questions in return.

If you cannot make the meeting in the fellowship hall but wish to participate online you will receive a code with a link, prior to the meeting. Google meet is the link and all you should have to do is click the link. If you don't want to download the app, choose join on the web. A sign up sheet is in the narthex for you to sign up.

Please make sure your microphone is muted, until you need to speak. You can still participate in the meeting even if you do not have a camera on your computer.

FUEL AND HUNGER GRANT



The Diocese has informed us that we have been awarded \$4,500 from the Fuel and Hunger Fund for the use of our Parish Pence Fund.

We are extremely grateful for the grant, which is the highest amount we have ever received. It also marks the seventh year in a row we have received a grant from the fund which is supported by the Annual Bishop's Appeal.



Our Parish Pence fund this week, helped a family with their electric bill.

APPROACHING DEADLINES FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS



The deadline for anyone interested in applying for the Father John Boddie Scholarship for post high school education is early March, 2025.

The Website for the scholarship application can be found at [www.church-of-the-visitation.org](http://www.church-of-the-visitation.org)

**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.**



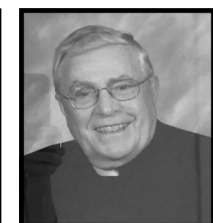
In Loving Memory of  
 Carmen and David  
 Brinkley

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



In Loving Memory Of  
 Alma and Fritz Sitterding

Supporting Our Youth



In loving memory of our Father Bob Nash


**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*

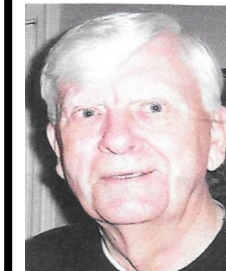


"I am the good shepherd... and I will lay down my life for the sheep."  
(John 10:14)  
John and Diane Weidner

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

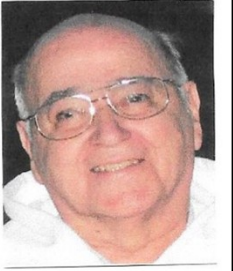
**BY THE BAY**  
**STAINED GLASS**  
Al Langer ..... 804-815-1328

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cffc.com



Kenneth Anderson

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



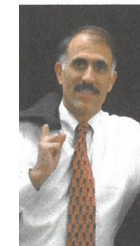
Lewis Forte



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



**NB** NGUYEN | BALLATO  
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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