

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



Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 30, 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 Kostaskey

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

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 (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

MASS/MUSIC

Entrance: I Heard The Voice of Jesus #458

"Loving and Forgiving" #653

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #896

Glory To God #897

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

Responsorial Psalm: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
King of endless glory!

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Hosea #654

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: In Every Age #463

Meditation: I The Lord #673

Recessional: Glory And Praise To Our God #546



April Birthdays

1st-Suzanne Sitterding, 2nd-Emily Puleo,
4th-Blaise Katsuki, Frank Halay & Marianne Krop,
6th-Ray Kostaskey & Father Koo, 8th-Pat Reamy &
Annette Marcil, 17th-Caroline Puleo & Margaret Hock,
22nd-Jimmy Crumley, 23rd-Kaylee Kirsch & Andrew Reyes,
25th-Angela Pycha, 28th-Louise Hartz.

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

April Anniversaries

3rd-Brendan & Eileen O'Brien, 9th-Tom & Sharon Hawksworth,
17th-Mike & Noelle Harvey.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Today-4th-Sunday of Lent/Social Sunday

April 1st-April Fools Day

April 3rd-Adoration COV 10:00AM, FdS Reconciliation 6:30pm

April 4th-Stations of the Cross and Soup #4 5:30pm

April 6th-5th-Sunday of Lent

April 9th-Reconciliation 6pm @ COV

April 11th-Stations of the Cross and Soup #5 5:30pm

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

March 30, 2025

Sacristy Duty: Linden

Community Leader: Harriman

Altar Server: Smith/Miller

Lectors: Kostaskey/DeGroot

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski

Chalice: Donovan/Richardson/Marcil/Seay

Music: Filippi

Counters: Harriman/McNeil

April 6, 2025

Sacristy: Linden

Community Leader: Hayes

Altar Server: Kirsch

Lectors: Sychterz/O'Donnell

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Plunkert

Chalice: Dreelin/Harriman/Say/Donovan

Music: Lange

Counters: O'Brien/Smith

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from March 23, 2025

Collection:	\$ 2,830
Second Collection: Parish Beautification	\$ 398
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date	\$ 99,305
Total Budget Projection:	\$ 95,098
Loan Balance:	\$ 99,102



There is no second collection today.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$214 March telephone.

LEGACY GIFTS OF STOCK



Gifts of stock avoid capital gains tax! If you own appreciated stock, you may wish to consider giving the stock to the parish rather than cash. You are able to deduct the full value, avoid the capital gain tax and make a substantial gift to the parish. A good steward uses his or her assets in a way that does the most good.

Giving appreciated stock you have held for more than a year is better than giving cash. If you donate stock that has increased in value since you bought it more than a year ago - and if you itemize deductions - you can take a charitable deduction for the stock's fair market value on the day you give it away. To donate a gift of stock, please contact the parish office.

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 Delagrangue)

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: Israel's Tribal Life under the Judges (Judges 1-21)

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

The book of Judges covers a period of Israel's history between the death of Joshua and the beginnings of Israel's monarchy. It is a rugged, violent, frontier period for the Israelites. What is described in the book of Joshua as a quick sweep of the land is described in the book of Judges as a gradual occupation of the land which is limited and not at all conclusive.

The book describes Israel's transformation from a semi-nomadic people of the desert to a settled people dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. As the Israelites adopt many Canaanite agricultural methods, they are tempted to adopt the related Canaanite fertility rituals that promise fertility for the land and thus economic success. So, time and time again, during this period, Israel falls into idolatry.

The book of Judges is named for the stories of twelve judges that fill its pages. These judges are not primarily people who make legal decisions but rather military leaders raised up by God in time of need to save the Israelites from destruction.

The story of each judge follows a cyclical pattern. First, Israel falls into sin; then, Israel is punished for sin; then Israel repents, and God delivers Israel. But Israel is a slow learner and falls back into sin and the pattern repeats again and again. Israel's downward spiral can be seen in the descending character of the judges. The earliest judges, like Deborah, are faithful and just, but the later judges become increasingly morally compromised. The last judges seem to be more villains than heroes.

The account of Samson, the final narrative of Judges, serves as a mirror for Israel's behavior. Although consecrated to God, Samson pursues Philistine women, eventually marrying Delilah, who cuts his hair, which is the source of Samson's strength. His eyes are gouged out and he is thrown into prison. Samson will eventually recover his strength, killing himself while pulling down the Philistine temple.

Samson means "sun" and Delilah means "night." The storyteller is showing how the Israelite sun is darkened by the Philistine night. Israel, strengthened by the covenant, is weakened by yielding to idolatry. After losing its strength, Israel becomes blind by doing what is evil in the eyes of God. Like Samson, Israel has been consecrated to God yet continually falls into the seduction of pagan gods.

GOT CATHOLIC QUESTIONS? OCIA HAS ANSWERS!

OCIA stands for the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. In short, it is the process through which catechumens, who are unbaptized adults or older children, are formed in the teachings of the Catholicism and are initiated into the Catholic Church. This process may also include baptized adult Christians or Catholics who are preparing to receive the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist. Baptized persons moving through OCIA are known as candidates.

Our parish Adult Faith Formation team has begun meeting with two candidates and will be working through a set of Inquiry lessons over the next few months according to the following schedule:

- March 30 Q5: The Bible; Q6: Divine Revelation
- April 6 Q7: Your Prayer Life, Q8: Catholic Prayers and Practices
- April 13 Q9: The Mass; C5: The Sacrament of the Eucharist
- April 27 Q10: The Church Year; Q11: Places in a Catholic Church
- May 4 Q12: Who Shepherds the Church?; Q13: The Church as Community
- May 18 Q14: Mary; Q15: The Saints
- June 8 Q16: Eschatology: the "Last Things"



We meet after Mass in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone is welcome to join. While the discussions use structured materials, we try to set a casual mood and welcome all questions, even those that may fall outside the scope of the prepared lesson.

For further information about OCIA and how it could be adapted to the person you would like to see in full communion with the Catholic Church, contact John Weidner, Dave Marcil, or the church office.



CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION

We are Blessed to have two youth receiving confirmation and we will celebrate their Christian growth today,

Baylen Miller & Henry Clair

They received their Confirmation at St Bede's last Thursday.

LENT, TRIDUUM, AND EASTER



In a slight departure from previous practice, we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross with soup initially on Wednesdays and beginning in April, twice, on the 4th & 11th.

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 @ 6pm, and FdS April 3rd @ 6:30pm.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE DURING LENT

Fasting is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed.

Abstinence is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. When in doubt concerning fast and abstinence, the parish priest should be consulted.

All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOUP

Stations of the Cross and Soup for Friday, April 4th @ 5:30pm Sign up sheet for soup makers and bread bakers can be found in the Narthex.



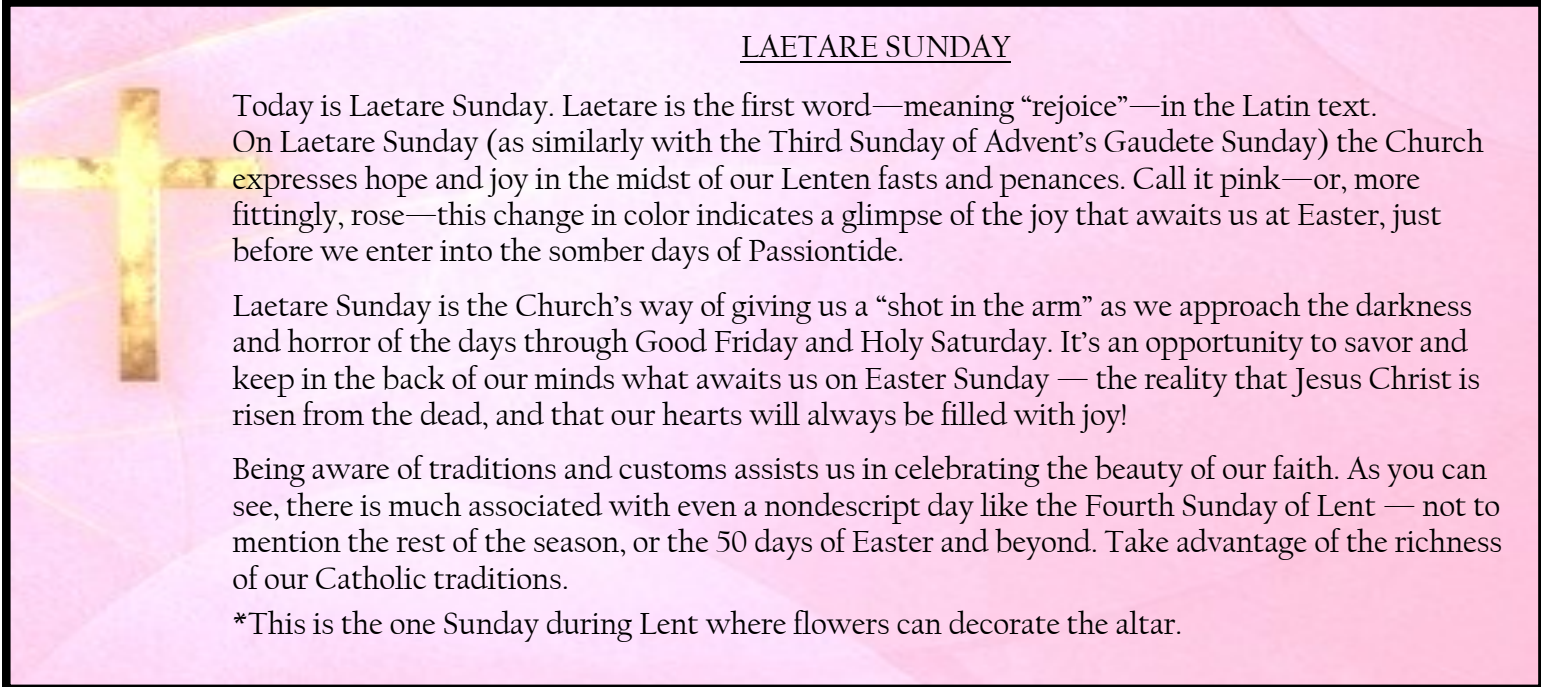
DIRECTORY ADDRESS UPDATE

Brendan & Eileen O'Brien
99 Highgate Drive
Hartfield, VA 23071

OPERATION CHRISMAS

Shoebbox item collection
April: Stuffed Animals
May: Personal Care Items
June: Toys
For more info. See bulletin board in Narthex.

LAETARE SUNDAY



Today is Laetare Sunday. Laetare is the first word—meaning "rejoice"—in the Latin text. On Laetare Sunday (as similarly with the Third Sunday of Advent's Gaudete Sunday) the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances. Call it pink—or, more fittingly, rose—this change in color indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter into the somber days of Passiontide.

Laetare Sunday is the Church's way of giving us a "shot in the arm" as we approach the darkness and horror of the days through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. It's an opportunity to savor and keep in the back of our minds what awaits us on Easter Sunday — the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that our hearts will always be filled with joy!

Being aware of traditions and customs assists us in celebrating the beauty of our faith. As you can see, there is much associated with even a nondescript day like the Fourth Sunday of Lent — not to mention the rest of the season, or the 50 days of Easter and beyond. Take advantage of the richness of our Catholic traditions.

*This is the one Sunday during Lent where flowers can decorate the altar.

Journey Through the Bible Readings and Daily Prayer Points for Mar 30 through Apr 5, 2025

Sun, Mar 30: Bible Readings (Day 89): Judges 1-3; Ruth 1; Psalm 133
 *Prayer Point: For reconciliation of all who have been separated from God

Mon, Mar 31: Bible Readings (Day 90): Judges 4-5; Ruth 2; Psalm 134
 *Prayer Point: For an increase in religious vocations

Tue, Apr 1: Bible Readings (Day 91): Judges 6-8; Ruth 3; Psalm 135
 *Prayer Point: For an increase in marriage vocations

Wed, Apr 2: Bible Readings (Day 92): Judges 9-11; Ruth 4; Psalm 137
 *Prayer Point: With thanks for the abundant grace of the Holy Spirit

Thu, Apr 3: Bible Readings (Day 93): Judges 12-15; Psalm 146
 *Prayer Point: With thanks for those who care for the terminally ill

Fri, Apr 4: Bible Readings (Day 94): Judges 16-18; Psalm 147
 *Prayer Point: That wisdom will guide our county government officials

Sat, Apr 5: Bible Readings (Day 95): Judges 19-21; Psalm 148
 *Prayer Point: For schools, teachers and youth.



RESPECT FOR LIFE LAUNCHES WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED

Last Tuesday, March 25th, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Mother Mary says, "Yes!" and the Word of God became flesh and made his dwelling in her who loved and lived that word.

March 25 also marked the 30th anniversary of Pope Saint John Paul the Great's papal letter, Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life). Our parish Respect for Life ministry, led by Helen Linden, selected last Tuesday to begin a project promoted by the US Catholic Bishops: Walking with Moms in Need.

Pregnant and parenting moms are in need in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be "islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference." Everyone in the parish community should know where to refer a pregnant women in need. Inspired by Saint John Paul II's call to assess our efforts in building culture of life, the intention of Walking with Moms in Need is to increase our outreach to pregnant and parenting women facing difficulties.

Through a year long process, our parish will complete a simple inventory of the resources available in our local area, assess the results and identify gaps, and plan and implement a parish response based on our findings.

Working with other churches and community groups in our Middlesex and surrounding counties, we hope to move closer to the day when every pregnant woman in need knows where to turn for help,



SOCIAL SUNDAY

Please stay after Mass today for great food and camaraderie with fellow parishioners. We will celebrate Baylen and Henry's confirmation. Bring something to share with parishioners.



Please pray for the following
 In Memoriam:
 Pat Tyrrell, Spike Nunn, Robert Stowe & Christopher Morrell

PARISHIONERS

Donna Plunkert, Suzanne Sitterding, Mike Dreelin, Bob Borden, John McCormack, Donna Lange, Bill Campbell, Maggie Gerdts, 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


Carol Kelly, Elycse Hudson, 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.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Bobby Brizendine, Gay Ruff, Melanie Crittenden, Dave Gunn, Alex Brown, Jim Bruso Jr., Allen Hines, Linda Cryer, Kathy Goyno, Elizabeth Panzer, Valerie McCarthy.

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.

Mary's Choice **RVA**
FILL BOTTLES FOR MARY'S CHOICE
 We've been asked to provide financial support to Mary's Choice RVA. There are baby bottles in the Narthex that you can take home and fill with cash, change, or a check. Or, if you'd prefer, you can give cash or check to either the office or to Helen Linden, with a note that says the funds are for Mary's Choice.




All funds should be returned to the church by Easter Sunday, April 20th.

Your Change-Changes Lives *Thank you*

ANNUAL APPEAL

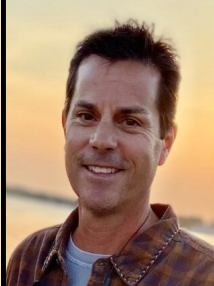
The first results were posted last week, and 32 generous families have donated directly, or pledged recurring payments that have us exceeding our parish goal. We are 124% of goal with \$10,995 donated and/or pledged to date. Our fervent thanks to those families who achieved the parish goal and a fervent hope that more families will participate in the process, helping us reach the amounts raised in previous years.



Sharing His Love with Others

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 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

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.

PRAYERS MEMORIES
 LOVE
 Jerry McMurtrie

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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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

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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

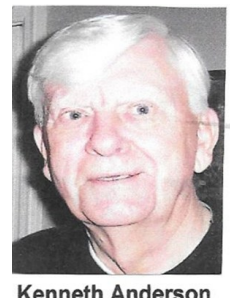
BY THE BAY
STAINED GLASS
Al Langer 804-815-1328


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

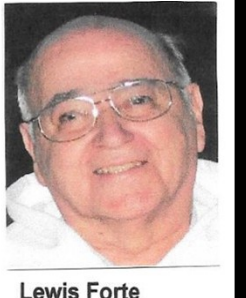
In Memory of
Bob Hartman
My Love of My Life
Jenny

In loving memory of
Marty Hawksworth
Tom & Sharon


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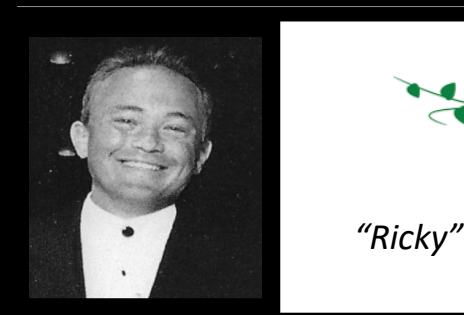

"Say not in grief 'he is no more' but in thankfulness that he was".



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

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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