

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



Our Mass Intention today is for Jennifer VanPetton

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

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: The King of Glory #720

“Loving and Forgiving” #653

Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #896

Glory To God #897

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Responsorial Psalm: My God, my God why have you
abandoned me?

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

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

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

Homily: Father Koo

“Passion of the Lord” Nunn/Dorman pg. 105

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: What Wondrous Love Is This #422

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: Behold the Lamb of God #342

Meditation: Be Still and Know That I Am God #461

Recessional: Were You There #162



April Birthdays

1st-Suzanne Sitterding, 2nd-Emily Puleo,
4th-Blaise Katsuki, Frank Halay & Marianne Krop,
6th-Ray Kstesky & 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 and David & Mary Biederman,
20th-David & Barbara Morrison.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Today-Palm Sunday “Holy week begins”
April 17th-Holy Thursday @ FdS No Daily Mass
April 18th-Good Friday @ FdS
April 19th-Easter Vigil @ FdS
April 20th-Easter Sunday Resurrection of the Lord
April 23rd & 24th No Daily Mass
April 27th-Divine Mercy Sunday & KOC Pancake Breakfast
April 30th & 31st No Daily Mass
May 1st-No Adoration @ COV

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

April 13, 2025

Sacristy Duty: Delagrange

Community Leader: Richardson

Altar Server: Kstesky/Ambrose

Lectors: Nunn/Dorman/Dubicki

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski

Chalice: Sychterz/Donovan/Wolski/Seay

Music: Messina

Counters: King/Angell

April 20, 2025

Sacristy: Delagrange

Community Leader: Puttmann

Altar Server: Smith/Ambrose/Miller

Lectors: Dreelin/Weidner

Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: Wolski

Chalice: Harriman/Sychterz/Seay/DeGroot

Music: Meanley

Counters: Tutak/Wohleking

OFFERTORY COLLECTION from April 6, 2025

Collection: \$ 3,062

Second Collection: Easter Flowers \$ 516

Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 104,621

Total Budget Projection: \$ 100,487

Loan Balance: \$ 98,067

Our Second Collection today is for St. Noa School.

We signed the following principal checks this week:
\$1,856 Diocesan Assessments; \$880 Electric for March.



LEGACY GIFTS OF STOCK



Everyone, during their lifetime, accumulates “things.” Personal property such as vehicles, jewelry, real estate, and savings or other financial accounts all make up the “stuff” we gather during our lifetimes.

But what happens to those things at our deaths? Who decides where these things go? You can, if you act to create a will or other trust document. This allows you to distribute your assets to the people and causes you select; otherwise the legal system will determine the distribution – at a cost.

Through your will, you can designate a gift to our church that will bless the Christian witness forever. Including the church in your will costs you nothing now yet makes a wonderful faith witness for your family, friends and others. It is a gift anyone can make, and costs nothing during lifetime.

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
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: In The Beginning (The Gospel According to Saint John)

This commentary is adapted from Little Rock Scripture Study’s “The Gospel According to John”

The Gospel of John begins with a magnificent prologue which proclaims Jesus as the preexistent and incarnate Word of God who has revealed the Father to us. The phrase “In the beginning” in verse one of the prologue echoes Genesis 1:1 and alerts the reader to the new creation theme present in the Gospel. The “Word” (Logos) is present in the Old Testament as the creative energy of God, as in Genesis 1 and Isaiah 55. The Greek term logos, a widely used philosophical term meaning “order,” “reason,” or “harmony,” was chosen to express this aspect of God. The Logos in John is the one through whom all things have been created and who was with God and turned toward God even before Creation, a statement that what God was, the Logos also was.

In the first few verses of Genesis, we hear of a mighty wind sweeping over the abyss, and then God brings light into creation. A strong wind is also mentioned in The Walking on the Water narrative in the Gospel of John. The Apostles have rowed about three or four miles in a stirred up sea when they saw Jesus walking on the sea. As Jesus came near the boat, they began to be afraid. But he said to them, “It is I. Do not be afraid.”(John 6:20)

Jesus’ words, “It is I,” represent the greek phrase ego eimi, which in other contexts can be translated “I am.” These words echo God’s self identification as “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14) and indicate Jesus’ divinity. Immediately after this episode of calming a stormy sea, Jesus institutes The Eucharist with the Bread of Life Discourse, saying, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst” (John 6:35) and “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life” (John 6:54)

The Gospel of John records several other occasions when Jesus describes who he is, among them: “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12), “I am the gate for the sheep” (John 10:7), “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11), “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25), “I am the way and the life and the truth” (John 14:6) and “I am the vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5)

On Holy Thursday, Father Koo will wash the feet of twelve parishioners, as Jesus did for the Apostles in John’s account of the Last Supper. As teacher and lord, Jesus was willing to wash the feet of his disciples; they should be willing to do the same for one another. Here is a model of not only humble and loving service, but self-sacrificing love. We, too, ought to follow the model.

WHAT PALM SUNDAY MEANS (excerpts from a treatise by D. D. Emmons)

There is both great joy and terrible sorrow associated with this day, the Sunday that begins Holy Week, the Sunday that portends the crucifixion of Our Lord.

It is a time of despair, perplexity and contradiction. The very people who applaud Christ's entrance into Jerusalem that morning, shouting out “Hosanna” and words of adoration will, within a week, be crying, “Crucify Him.” They will go from acclaiming Him as the new King of Israel to urging His life be traded in favor of a convicted criminal; they will first praise Him and then mock Him. Even friends entering Jerusalem at His side will desert Jesus. All this discord will take place during one week beginning on what we call Palm Sunday.

Exuberant Crowds
As we read in the Gospels, Jesus went to Jerusalem to join with throngs of Jews to celebrate the Passover feast as had been prescribed in the Old Testament books of Exodus and Deuteronomy. According the Gospel of St. John, Jesus and many of his followers journeyed the less than two miles from Bethany on that Sunday, arriving outside. Jerusalem. As was the custom, pilgrims that had already arrived in the city went out to greet newly arriving groups; some had never seen Jesus but had heard about the miracles attributed to Him and were caught up in the excitement.

Previously, Our Lord had deliberately avoided popular acclaim, even fled, but this, upon entering Jerusalem, He accepts. Yet His actions are different than the people expected. He doesn't present himself as a rival to Caesar; He is not the political messiah or the warrior king the multitude had clamored for. Instead of entering Jerusalem on a war horse or chariot, he enters on a donkey, a sign of peace; and not just any donkey, but one on which no one had ever sat, the prerogative of a king. Seeing Him on the donkey, the Jews surging around Him recalled the words of the Prophet Zecharia 500 years earlier.

Riding on the borrowed donkey, Jesus made His humble entrance into the city while the crowds were scattering their garments before Him and waving their palm branches. This joyful scene belies the traitorous acts, sorrow and agony that will soon follow belies that this triumphant hero will be crucified like a criminal.

Palms were symbols of life among the nomadic tribes, who, when crossing the desert, rejoiced at seeing the palm tree as it indicated an oasis with life-giving water was near. Palms have long been a sign of victory, success and glory.

On Palm Sunday, we go out to meet Jesus, carry the blessed palms, joyfully sing out our hosanna and join in His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. But soon our joy turns to somberness as, clutching our palm, we hear the narrative of Christ’s passion. We realize, once again, that His triumph, His true victory, will come through the cross. We know, as Jesus did, how Holy Week will end. We know that joy will return to sorrow and back to joy. We know that through the horror of His suffering, followed by the glory of His resurrection, good will trump evil and life will trump death.

The palms we take home and put in a special place serve to remind us that Palm Sunday is not lost to the ages but that by Christ’s victory we, too can achieve everlasting life. “For us too, the (palms) must be symbols of triumph, indicative of the victory to be won in our battle against the evil in ourselves and against the evil which roams about us. As we receive the blessed palm, let us renew our pledge to conquer with Jesus, but let us not forget that it was on the cross that He conquered”
 (“Divine intimacy,” Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D., Tan Books, 1997, pp. 392-393)



VISITS TO SICK
AND HOMEBOUND
ARE AVAILABLE

Father Koo and our Pastoral Care Ministry want to be attentive to the needs of the sick and homebound in our parish. Please notify Lynne Richardson (571-239-0980) or the church office (804-758-5160) if a friend or family member enters a hospital or nursing home or is homebound for any reason.

We will follow up to be certain that the spiritual needs of your family member are addressed.

A HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS



David & Mary Biederman
Noah & Sommer
davidbiederman@outlook.com
marykbiederman@gmail.com



KOC PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast, April 27th. The menu will be pancakes, sausage, juice & coffee. Please stay after and enjoy breakfast and camaraderie with fellow parishioners.
Your generous donation helps support the efforts of the KOC & Our Parish.



Journey Through the Bible Readings and Daily Prayer Points
Apr 13 through Apr 19, 2025

Sun, Apr 13: Palm Sunday
Bible Readings (Day 103): John 13-15; Proverbs 6:12-19
**Prayer Point: For humility and obedience*

Mon, Apr 14: Bible Readings (Day 104): John 16-18; Proverbs 6:20-24
**Prayer Point: That hope is restored to all people everywhere*

Tue, Apr 15: Bible Readings (Day 105): John 19-21; Proverbs 6:25-35
**Prayer Point: Deliver us from sin and selfishness*

Wed, Apr 16: Bible Readings (Day 106): 1 Samuel 9-10; Psalm 50
**Prayer Point: For strong and long lasting marriages*

Thu, Apr 17: Holy Thursday
Bible Readings (Day 107): 1 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 55
**Prayer Point: Cleanse and heal those who desire to return to God*

Fri, Apr 18: Good Friday
Bible Readings (Day 108): 1 Samuel 13-14; Psalm 58
**Prayer Point: For the courage to endure a sacrificial life*

Sat, Apr 19: Holy Saturday
Bible Readings (Day 109): 1 Samuel 15-16; Psalm 61
**Prayer Point: For those who have died, may they know eternal joy*

ST NOA SCHOOL UPDATE

Our second collection today is for St. Noa school, which is now seven years old and a burgeoning project, consisting of classrooms, offices, a kitchen, dining space, meeting space, dormitories, and staff housing, a well, among others. Student enrollment is now 504, which has necessitated a need for more teachers and non-teaching staff and because the school houses the teachers, the immediate need is for more teacher houses (4). The eventual cost for these additions which include a lavatory, kitchen, living room, and social panels will be \$87,000. Please keep this in mind as you consider a donation to the school project.



A display of the St. Noa School Project is located in the Narthex. Please stop by and see how much progress the Church of the Visitation and FDS has made for the lives of Father Gerry's home town.



Please pray for the following



In Memoriam:

William Richardson, Fr. Robert Cummins Jr., Paul Sherwood

PARISHIONERS

Jean Box, Donna Plunkert, Suzanne Sitterding, Bob Borden, John McCormack, Donna Lange, Bill Campbell, Maggie Gerdt, 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 Kramb, 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, 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 Goyne, 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.

EASTER SUNDAY

Please join us after Mass on Easter Sunday for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Although all chocolate lovers might like to participate, we have to restrict the hunt to all children 12 and under. Please congregare after Mass in the Fellowship Hall for instructions. If you need a container, we will have one for you. When you are finished, please remember to empty the candy from the eggs and leave the eggs in the box provided. We will use them next year.

Thank you.



ANNUAL APPEAL



The results continue to demonstrate the generosity of our parish in meeting the Diocesan call for support and help. Our donation total of direct and pledged funds has reached \$13,945 or 157% of goal as of the end of March. Our number of donors is now 43 families, and our hope is that number will grow to last year's total (58).

Please remember that any gift, large or small, is important and welcome.

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.*

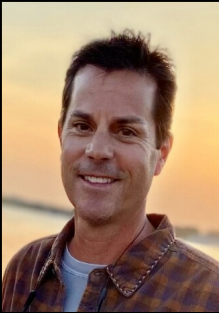
**Donations support: Gloucester, Mathews, Northern Neck & Middlesex Free Health Clinics (KOVAR) Virginians with intellectual disabilities, the VA Veterans Services- Golf Tournament, Families in need, Hands Across Middlesex & Mathews, and The Father John Boddie Scholarship Fund.*

**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



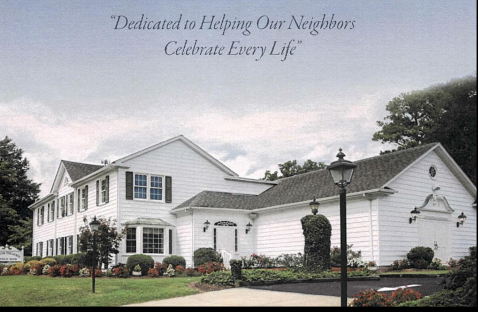
The KOC meet at 5:15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Church of the Visitation.

We start with the Rosary.

All are welcome! Any questions call

Our Grand Knight -

Al Langer at 804-815-1328.



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bristowfaulkner@faulknerfuneralhcs.com

*Helping Our Youth
Build Their Future*



Limerick II Enterprises
Construction Management Services

Tom Shoemaker
In Memory of JoAn



PRAYERS

MEMORIES

LOVE

Jerry
McMurtrie

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

Alma and Fritz Sitterding

Supporting Our Youth



In loving memory of our Father Bob Nash



*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*

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



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

True Value

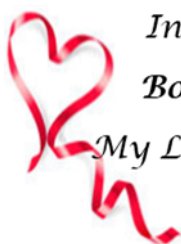
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I
love
and
miss
you.
♥
Jim

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

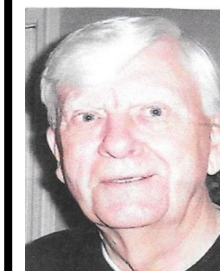


"I am the good shepherd...
and I will lay down my
life for the sheep."
(John 10:14)
John and Diane Weidner

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

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

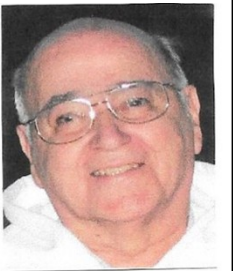
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cffc.com



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
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