

*Mass of Christian Burial
For
Valorie Caldwell*

**In the Beginning:
October 18, 1927**



**World Without End
August 23, 2020**

Friday, September 5, 2020

Viewing: 10:00 AM

Service: 11:00 AM

**CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Mundell Way
8th & N Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20001**

Father Charles Gallagher, Celebrant

A Child of God



On October 18th in the year of our Lord 1927, a beautiful raven haired baby girl was born to Mildred Shoffner and Lincoln Rigsbee. They named their daughter ***“Valorie”***. Over time, Mildred accepted another husband, Charles T. Hunter. Charles loved, nurtured, and helped Mildred raise Valorie into adulthood. From my informant, this was no easy task. The infant grew into a rambunctious child and a spirited young woman who loved life. She loved Charles “Daddy” unconditionally, too.

Her character was strong, and she had a warm and loving personality, she rarely met a stranger. Valorie had a gift and ability to make everyone feel welcomed and accepted in her presence, “Judge not”.

She was introduced to the world of religion and the word of God early in her life. She once sang in the Gospel Choir at Wayman’s AME Church in Graham, North Carolina. When she moved to Washington, District of Columbia, the first church she joined was St. Mary in Northwest. She was a member of the Soladity and served a term as the secretary. She also joined the choir. On occasions, Valorie would assist with arranging trips to Atlantic City, New Jersey. Fr. George always met the bus on its return.

Valorie’s love of adventure and travel introduced her to James W. Cherie. They fell in love and their union produced a daughter, Valesay Pandoria. Through Valesay, she has a granddaughter, Valesay Ever Mosley.

Education was very important to her. She chose nursing which fulfilled her needs to care for others. When nursing did not pay the bills, she was no stranger to hard work. She worked in the hotel industry, chemical plant (she became something of a whistleblower), school system, nanny, even read to a blind student to help prepare him for his college entrance exam. Never one to stay in one place if opportunity presented elsewhere, she would travel locally and abroad. For thirty-three years, Valorie resided at the then “Immaculate Conception Apartments.” She served a few terms on the Tenant’s Board as their secretary. She was affectionately known there as “Grandma”. She loved sitting in the lobby and was overjoyed to greet the children and receive their hugs as they returned from school. COVID-19 truly isolated her from what she loved, being around people.

Valorie loved music, dancing, and singing. Her passion was fishing. To hear her tell it, she caught everything except “Jaws”. She perfected her fishing skills in a place she loved to call home, Savlamar, Jamaica. When she had a captive audience, she would tell her stories of her siblings. The sister who disarmed a student of hers who had a knife, she weighed about 115 lbs., the brother with a sense of humor, the sister who turned her patients 100 lbs larger than her, the brother that could eat his weight at one sitting, the sister who’d kicked and took names, and the one born looking like a baby doll. She had many stories about her beloved dog, “Greshizon.” Valorie enjoyed her Sunday outings with her daughter; driving around the DMV and the treats she’d eat after each trip.

Valorie leaves to celebrate life sisters, Martha Hunter and Jean Compton (nee Hunter); her children, Karen, Billy (Angela), daughters, Ariel and Alicia; Jackie Roberts (nee Hunter), brother-in-law, Dr. LeRoy Roberts, their daughters, Ayanna (Saville) and Ad’ra (BJ), and son, Langston; Helen Fearington (nee Hunter), her son, Marcus, his son, Isaiah; sister-in-law, Sarah Hunter (nee Compton), her son, Ronald, Jr. (Tam), daughter, Alexandria, son, Joshua and Elaine’s daughters, Cerise, Bridgette, Andrey and Detonda; Donald’s daughters, Michele and Angela and Charles, Jr’s daughter, Glenda and other great nieces and nephews and a host of relatives and friends.

Meeting her at the gate of heaven will be her parents; brothers, Donald, Charles, Sr. and Edward; one sister, and a host of relatives and friends.

Remember: “She did it her way”

Order of the Funeral Mass

Immaculate Conception Church

Opening Prayer

Sprinkling of the Body

Opening Hymn..... "Soft and Gently, Jesus is Calling"

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading - "Acceptance"..... Isaiah 43:1-4
Martha Hunter (Sister)

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading - "Wholeness"..... 1 Peter 1:3-5
Rev. Ronald Hunter (Nephew)

Gospel Father Charles Gallagher

Homily Father Charles Gallagher

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn - "Precious Lord"..... Montel Butler

Eucharist Prayer

Holy Communion

Reflection Valesay Cherie (Daughter)
2 people (no more than 3 minutes)

Rite of Commemorative & Farewell

Recessional Hymn - "Going Up Yonder"..... Montel Butler



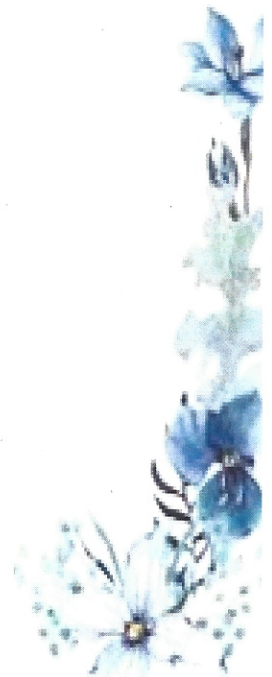
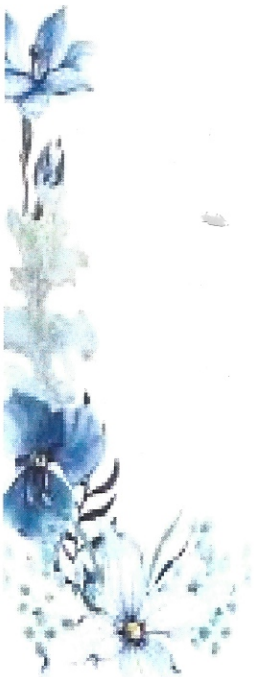
First Things With Mom

First song I remember her singing to me:
"What am I living for, if not for you?"

First song she taught me to sing:
"Jesus Loves Me"

First Commandments taught:
Have no other God before me
Do not steal "Thou shall not steal"
(I was taught all ten)

First prayer she taught me:
"Now I lay me down to sleep.
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I die before I wake, I pray the
Lord my soul shall take"





What Mom Took

Most often when we think of mom,
We think of what she's given;
The softness of a loving touch,
A gentle guide for living,
A nightly tip-toe in a room,
An understanding look.
But sometimes when I think of my mom
I think of what she took.
She took her child and taught her how to
Live this life with pride,
She took those Kindergarten tears,
And kept them all inside.
She took the hands that longed to hold
Her child and not let go,
Used them to push her child along
The way to thrive and grow.
She took an ugly duckling and told
Her she'd grow into a swan,
And when I didn't believe she'd
Wave her magic wand.
Took time to teach manners like:
Please and thank you and excuse me
Along the way, and how to say
A prayer of thanks to remember God
Will walk with you day by day.
Took time to do some other things
Like sew and clean and cook.
And never thought to ask for thanks
For all the things she took.

Thanks Mom
Can't wait to be in your arms again

Love
Lil Val

Grandma ma, God took you away. One day He will reunite us.
Love, Ever

Remember Your Family Traditions



Never wash on New Year's Day.

(You wash a family member out of our lives)

Take your Christmas tree and decorations down before New Year's Day.

(So you don't bring the old year problems into the New Year)

Do not sweep the floor after sundown.

(The brings bad luck into the house)

Do not go to bed with a messy house

(You never know if you'll get sick during the night and the neighbor will think you aren't a good housekeeper)

Do not kill a "cricket".

(Something about causing health issues)

Do not wear new shoes to a funeral.

(You will walk someone good out of your life)

Do not accept a watch from a boyfriend.

(Time will run out on the relationship)

Keep window screens in your windows.

(If a bird flies in, that's a sign of death)









Acknowledgements

The family thanks all of you for your expressions of condolences and sincere prayers, all of you continue in God's grace.

Special Thanks to Human Touch Home Health Agency for the Home Health Aids: Mrs. Aster Mengesha (10 yrs), Senait Habtemical (6 yrs) and Aselefech Cherrit (2 yrs) for your care for my mother over the years made her life, and mine so much easier and you will never know how much both of us appreciated you. May God always watch over you.



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