



Dear Friends,

For many people the word *prayer* brings to mind memorized prayers from catechism or CCD days. Some may think of saying - or not saying - morning or evening prayers. As we enter the Lenten season we might ask ourselves how do we look at prayer?

Oftentimes, we think that by praying we are going to move God - change His mind. Similar to when we were young and pleading with our mother to change her mind about something, that although we thought it was best for us, she knew otherwise. Often as we grow older, do we see the wisdom of our parent's decision when they didn't give us exactly what we wanted. Yet, we erroneously conclude that God didn't answer our prayer.

Prayer is an intimate conversation with our God, with Jesus. It is allowing Him, His love, to touch us. Oftentimes, it is just sitting quietly and enjoying His Company, much like two good friends who can be in one another's company and not have to talk. This is much easier if we have developed a real relationship with the Lord. When I was young and attending catechism class the Sisters, unlike today, never talked about having a "relationship" with Jesus. Prayer was memorization from a book. And although we didn't really know much about faith, hope and love, if we memorized the Act of Faith, Act of Hope and Act of Love perfectly, we got an "A". Occasionally, I find myself just sitting in our chapel, with a cup of tea, sharing or listening to the Lord. Wouldn't we do that with a good friend?

Through prayer, rather than moving God, we move ourselves. We move ourselves to accept God's will, just as we accepted our parent's answers when we were young. I have met people who feel guilty when they miss their morning or evening prayers - probably due to what Sister taught them 50 years ago. Often we are not that awake when we hop out of bed at 6 in the morning and are tired when we go to bed. At those times just simply making the sign of the Cross might be sufficient with a simple "*thank you Lord*" for the blessings of this day. St. Paul says nothing about saying prayers just in the morning and evening. In the Book of the Ephesians Chapter 6 says: "*Pray always.*" Try to see the whole day as prayer; how we love, respect and care for the Lord *in people*. We are all busy people. This Lent try to find some quiet time, alone time, perhaps on the Metro going to work, or in the car with the radio off, walking with the iPod or cell phone in the off position. Seek out a quiet place to eat lunch and just think of your relationship with the Lord. Talk to Him, thank Him for blessings received, and acknowledge your problems with Him. And then just be quiet and listen. Silence *really* is golden. Yes, prayer can be those from a book, but prayer can also be just sitting in quiet somewhere and thinking about or talking with our friend. And above all else - listening with an open heart.

I wish you all a meaningful Lent being in the presence of the Lord. Administering to the third largest parish in the Diocese I, too, find it difficult to do what I am suggesting to all of you. I hope I can listen and act on my words. I didn't do that well last Lent. Here's hoping!

A little girl was about to undergo an operation and the surgeon explained that before he could make her well, he would have to put her to sleep.

"All right" said the little girl, "but first I have to say my prayers." Then she began, "Now I lay me down to sleep....."

All went well, but before that night the surgeon got down on his knees and prayed for the first time in 35 years. (Bits and Pieces)

"Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change. And when we are right, make us easy to live with."
(Rev. Peter Marshall)

J. Martin

PRAYER – During Lent

Prayer should be a most important part of every Catholic's life, especially during Lent. And what exactly is prayer? It is conversation with God, our Creator. Prayer takes many different forms: it can be structured, devotional or meditative, private or public, quiet or sung. During the Lenten Season, it becomes the path which leads us to the inner peace which comes from being closer to Jesus, our Savior, our Redeemer and our Friend. Praying the Stations of the Cross is one of the most familiar prayers said during Lent. This devotion can be traced back to the early days of the Church, prior to the Crusades (1095-1270), when pilgrims began visiting the various sites in Jerusalem that were associated with the suffering and death of Jesus. After the Moslems recaptured the Holy Land, it became much too dangerous for Christians to make that journey. And so during the Middle Ages, it became popular throughout Europe to make an outdoor pilgrimage at stations representing the critical events of Christ's final journey to the cross. These special sites varied in number from five to twenty until the 18th century, when Pope Clement XII with a series of papal announcements, fixed the number at 14. It was during the mid-18th century that the Stations were allowed to be inside churches where they became a familiar feature. Following the Second Vatican Council, modern liturgists have emphasized that devotion to the Passion of Christ is incomplete without reference to His Resurrection, and so now many churches include the Resurrection as the "fifteenth station".



Monday, March 9
 GEORGE MCGOUGH..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, March 10
 SARAH HUANG..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, March 11
 JENEVIEVE & DON VALENTINE..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, March 12
 SPLENDORA MARCONI..... 7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, March 13
 MRS. FRANCES ROSE NARDELLA..... 7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, March 14
 THERESA TODHUNTER..... 9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe
 NORBERT BRINKER..... 5:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Sunday, March 15
 HUGO SARAVIA..... 7:30am - Fr. Wilson
 PARISHIONERS..... 9:00am - Fr. Martin
 IRENE RICHERT..... 11:00am - Fr. O'Keefe
 HENRY BRUNO..... 12:45pm - Fr. Martin



In February we joyfully welcomed into the Church

**Noah Patrick Blakely, Scarlett Elizabeth Olweiler,
 Bailey Jasmine Humady, Bianca Valeria Valdivia,
 Luke Alan Giacomozzi, Anthony Sebastian Yucra
 and Erick Joe Arroyo**

Let us meet at the foot of the cross, where we will find strength and courage.

St. Bernadette



Confirmation students only are to receive the Sacrament of Penance at the **Confirmation Penance Service** on **Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00 pm** in the **Church**.

Student Registration for 2009-2010 is now open. Class placement is on a first-come, first-served basis according to the date the registration form is received in the Religious Education Office. Return a completed Student Registration form with payment as soon as possible to increase the chance of placement in your first choice session. **Important: registrations will not be processed without a copy of a student's baptismal certificate included with the form (including students baptized at Nativity) unless the baptismal certificate is already on file in the Religious Education Office.** Forms are available in the Religious Education Office, on the community board in the church vestibule, or at www.edu.nativityburke.org; on the Nativity CCD tab click on Student Registration.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next daytime meeting will be on Monday, March 16th at 9:30am. The night time meeting will be on March 18th at 7:00 pm. Both meetings are held in the All Purpose Room. Come and bring your project to work on or learn to make a prayer shawl for the seriously ill of our parish. For more info call Toni Rausch 703-455-3260; Flo Grike 703-250-7799 or Joanne Dezzutti 703-455-5702.



The **Women of Nativity** are once again making **Easter Baskets** for local area children in need. We hope you will help us by donating the following items: **school supplies, small stuffed animals, small toys, books and personal care items (hair barrettes, nail items, etc.)** We **DO NOT** need Easter grass. The children range from ages 6 months to 13 years. We will be collecting the Easter Goodies on the weekend of March 28th and 29th before and after all Masses. This is the **ONLY** weekend we will be conducting this drive. The collection will be located in the vestibule as you enter the Church. **Thank you for your kindness and generosity.** If you have any questions, please call Donna Gomez at 703-426-9230.



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Come join the Knights of Columbus where there is something for everyone....

Look around our parish community at Nativity. You will find the Knights of Columbus as ushers and lay ministers at Mass, teaching CCD, leading the Boy Scouts, organizing charity events such as the annual auction last weekend and yard sale or volunteering in support of many parish activities.

There is a way for everyone to participate. Are you the best Catholic man you can be? We want to make you better! We are searching for the next generation of Knights. Interested in having the experience of a lifetime by joining this great fraternal organization that is involved in giving back to our church, our families and our community?

As a Knight you can choose the projects you wish to join within our community. Knights are dedicated to family life and the many benefits it offers. From insurance to scholarships to service and social activities and programs, all are open to the whole family.

Being a Knight is more than camaraderie; it is being involved with our community; it is supporting our Church, while enhancing our own faith; it is about protecting and enhancing our family life.

Next weekend, Brother Knights of Father Vincent S. Sikora Council here at Nativity parish will be available after each Mass to visit with any man over 18 interested in having the experience of a lifetime by joining this great fraternal organization that is involved in giving back to our church, our families and our communities.

If you are over 18, please visit with one of the Brother Knights outside after Mass or call George Getek (703) 978-8874 or Matt Smith (703) 455-3197. If you are unable to stay after Mass, please plan to attend the Knights of Columbus open house being held Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Open to families. Come see just what the Knights of Columbus is all about and take the first simple steps to becoming a Knight.

Come join the Knights of Columbus for the wearing of the green at the 16th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance to be held in the Parish Hall at 7:00 pm, Saturday, March 14th. It is always a great evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. Irish dancers from the O'Neill James School of Dance will perform with music for listening and dancing provided by Black Tie DJs. Bring your friends and reserve a table or meet fellow parishioners through open seating and enjoy the best corned beef dinner in town for \$20 per ticket. Tickets will be sold after all Masses through March 8. For additional information, call Gene McGrath at 703-250-1281.



Southern and Central American, organic and shade-grown Fair Trade coffee provides a safe winter home for all the song birds returning to our yards this spring. Sing in harmony with these birds, as you use your hard-earned dollars to support Fair Trade principles. **Fair Trade coffee and chocolate** will be on sale next weekend, **March 14/15**. For more information, contact Catholic Relief Services at www.crsfairtrade.org or Karen Even at kdeven@verizon.net



PRO-LIFE CORNER

Is abortion a right "choice"? Having the freedom to choose whether or not an unborn person is to be destroyed is not a right that can be justified morally or legally. No one has the right to destroy the life of an innocent human being. **Choose Life Today. Choose Life Tomorrow. Pray Always. We Must Do No Less.**



The **GABRIEL PROJECT** supports women who are facing a crisis pregnancy and need help. **Contact 1-866-444-3553 or gabrielproject@arlingtondiocese.org**. You are not alone! (Gabriel Project is a crisis pregnancy program open to all and sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.)

Pro-Life Rosary-A prayerful, peaceful and public gathering of friends and neighbors who pray the rosary for one hour takes place on Saturdays at 10:00am on Rolling Road across from Kings Park SC Giant Food. Please call Jane Hamilton, 703-646-5051 for more info.

Crisis Pregnancy Centers Phone Numbers

Catholic Charities National: 1-800-CARE-002

Catholic Charities Local: 703-425-0100

A Woman's Choice: 703-538-4305

Gabriel Project: 1-866-444-3553



Stations of the Cross Practice:

Sundays from 4-6pm in the Main church!

High School

Jr. viBE

Next one: **March 15th**
5:00PM - 6:00PM

This Week!

Tonight!	Workcamp Meeting!!	7:30 – 8:30pm Parish Hall
March 9th:	Lenten Soup Supper!	6:30 – 7:30pm Parish Hall
March 11th:	Small Group	7:30 – 8:30pm Teacher's Lounge
March 15th:	Jr. viBE	5:00 – 6:00pm Parish Hall
	viBE	7:30 – 8:30pm Parish Hall

Fundraisers

Soup Suppers!
Every Monday in March
6:30 -7:30 in the Parish Hall
\$5.00 per person, \$20 per family

For more information or if you have any questions please contact: Paul Devine, Youth Coordinator at cyo@nativityschool.org or 703-455-2400 ext 115.

Catholic Charities' Transitional Residence Program for Homeless Families extends a warm **thank you** for the overwhelming generosity exhibited at our recent Furniture Fair and Housewarming Event. There is still a need for the following items: twin beds, bunk beds, relatively new bake ware, cooking utensils and cookware. Thank you for supporting this exciting new program! Questions? Contact Nicolette Davis, Case Manager at 703-910-4845.

IN PRAYERFUL PREPARATION for celebrating the Paschal Mysteries of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Our Lady of LaSalette Lay Community (LCLS) invite you to attend a **LENTEN RECOLLECTION** on **Saturday, March 14, 2009** from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm** at **St. Mary of Sorrows Upper Room**, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA. Fr. Paul Wynants, CICM, our guest speaker, will present a talk on Faith. Mass will start at 9:15 am. **PLEASE BRING A BAG LUNCH.** To **RSVP** and for more information, please call Nancy Rosenkranz at (703) 764-0243.

Thought for the Week

If we resolve to do the best we can with what we have for the glory of God and the betterment of others, we'll participate in miracles large and small.

Loaves and Fishes

2009 BLA UPDATE

WE STILL NEED YOUR PLEDGES!

Nativity's \$320,000 goal for the 2009 Bishop's Lenten Appeal can be met with your participation! To date, Nativity parishioners have generously pledged \$292,000, which represents approximately 91% of our \$320,000 goal. Nativity seeks your support to reach this goal for keeping our Catholic community in the Arlington Diocese strong and vibrant. The BLA campaign funds seminarian programs, teaches our children about the Catholic faith, provides financial resources for the needy and those in crisis and promotes various cultural groups in our Church. Fr. Martin urges all parishioners to participate in this pledge program, regardless of the size of your pledge. Keep in mind the bonus match – every \$1.00 increase over your pledge last year is matched by an anonymous donor, which doubles your increase.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

The Family Fellowship Group will be meeting on March 27, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. More details to follow in future bulletins.



Lent is upon us and the **Little Angel Gift Shop** is ready to help you on your Spiritual Journey. You will find pamphlets on the Stations of the Cross, The Seven Last Words and pamphlets of encouragement about Mother Teresa, St. T r se Lisieux, Thomas Merton and more. **First Communion** is scheduled for **May 2nd**. Natasha has beautiful custom-made veils for the little girls, ties for the boys and gifts for all Communicants. Visit the **Gift Shop** after Sunday Mass to see what we have to offer.

The Institute of Catholic Culture presents Fr. Paul Scalia, Parochial Administrator of St. John the Beloved, McLean, VA, in a series of Lenten talks entitled the Seven Deadly Sins. The series starts on Sunday night, March 8th at 7:00pm and continues weekly through March 29th. The series is held at St. John the Beloved Catholic Church, 6420 Linway Terrace, McLean, VA. For more information, call 703-504-8733 or visit www.sjicc.com.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

The following Nativity students have earned First or Second Honors on the Honor Roll at Bishop Ireton.

First Honors: Grade 12 - Lauren Loffredo, Karen Park, Ronald Sun, Stephanie Valdez.
Grade 11 - Jacqueline Brideau.
Grade 10 - Kathleen Caler

Second Honors: Grade 11- Hilary Adams, Jessica Park, Elizabeth Tauke.
Grade 10 - James Oliva, Samuel Walters.
Grade 9 - Matthew Batson, Gabriella Goddette, Julia Matthews

There are still spaces available in Nativity's Preschool and Pre-K classes for the 2009-2010 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child please contact the Pre-school office at 703-455-2300 ext.136.



For their Bronze Award, **Nativity Girl Scout Troop 1089 Juniors** are collecting **new shoes** during Mass on March 1st and March 8th, to send to families in need in Haiti and other Latin American countries. Please drop off your new shoes in the box marked **"Project Mary Jane"** at the church entrance. For info. Please contact Raphaela Eleuterio (drkeleuterio@yahoo.com) or Cheryl Ostrowski (cheryl05@verizon.net)



**THE WEEK AHEAD
IN OUR PARISH**

Sunday, March 8

2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S,PH,GR,CV)
7:30 - 8:30 pm.....WorkCamp Meeting (PH)

Monday, March 9

4:00 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S,GR,APR,S)
6:30-7:30 pm.....Lenten Soup Supper (PH)
6:45 pm.....JustFaith (TL)
7:00 pm.....RCIA (GR)
7:00 pm.....RCIC (CH)
8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, March 10

9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S, APR)
7:00 pm.....Confirmation Penance Ser. (CH)
7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (Rm. 9)

Wednesday, March 11

10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)
7:30 pm.....WON Meeting (APR)
7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Rm. 9)
7:30-8:30 pm.....viBE (TL)
7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)
7:30 pm.....Traditional Choir Practice (CH)

Thursday, March 12

9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
7:00 pm.....Life in the Spirit Seminar (Rm. 5)
7:15 pm.....Family Choir (CH)
7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Rm. 4)
7:30 pm.....Hispanic RCIA (Rm. 7)
7:30 pm.....Youth Choir (CH)

Friday, March 13

10:00 am.....Legion of Mary (APR)
7:30 pm.....Stations of the Cross (CH)

Saturday, March 14

10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
10:00 am.....ESL Classes (Rm. 4, 5, 6, 7)
5:00 pm.....Hispanic CYO (Rm. 4, SL)
5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)
7:00 pm.....Spanish Mass (CH)
7:00 pm.....KOC St. Patrick's Dinner (PH)

BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER



In this very cold weather we have been having, our gas and electric bills have been up. The total electric bill for January 2009 were \$5,546.15 and the total gas bills were \$3,047.71.

Tack (Thank you in Swedish)