



Dear Friends,

The real meaning of Memorial Day can so often be lost amidst the store sales, picnics and opening of neighborhood pools. So many of us have forgotten what this day was commemorated to celebrate...it's not just another day off of work or school.

Hundreds of our National Cemeteries, their white granite markers with small flags in front of each one, is what this day is all about. Living so close to Arlington National Cemetery should make us even more aware of the profound meaning of "Memorial" Day. Each of those small headstones represents the ultimate sacrifice made by a father, a mother, a son, a daughter, a brother, a sister or a friend...all of those men and women in our military, who have bravely and unselfishly served our Country by giving their lives to preserve the precious freedoms that so many of us take for granted every day. Some of us in this parish have personally experienced such a loss and I'm sure this day is especially difficult for them.

Many of our men and women are still serving in dangerous area in the Middle East, especially Iraq and Afghanistan. They continue to serve our country selflessly (and apart from their loved ones), so that we can enjoy the countless blessings that have been bestowed upon us, especially our freedom.

This Memorial Day, amidst our busy activities, let us offer a "thank you" to God who has truly blessed us here in this great nation. Take time for a moment of prayer and remembrance for those who gave their lives so that we can continue to enjoy ours.

Enjoy the holiday and have a great week.



Whatever Happened to Ascension Thursday?



For years – literally hundreds of them – the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Ascension forty days after Easter. But did you know that for the first 400 years of our existence, the Feast of the Ascension was celebrated on the same day as Pentecost! And in fact, if you read the Gospels of Mark and Luke, (Lk 24:50-51, Mk 16:19-20), you will find that the reference is made to the Ascension taking place on the **same day** as Easter. It is in the Acts of the Apostles, (Acts 1:1-11), that we have mention of a time period of forty days. The important fact to remember in all of this is NOT the particular day of the Feast, but rather the **reason** for the Feast. Just as the Resurrection expressed the reality of Jesus’ triumph over death, revealing Jesus as the Risen Christ, so the Ascension assures believers that Jesus is eternally present with God. With the Ascension, the time of the Church begins, marked by the gift of the Spirit and by Christian response to the Spirit in service of the Reign of God. In 1999 Pope John Paul II gave permission for the celebration of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord to be transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter. This transfer enables all Catholics to observe more fully, more completely and more easily, the celebration of the Lord’s Ascension. Don’t forget – Wear Red next Sunday in honor of the Feast of Pentecost.



Masses For The Week

Monday, May 25

MOTHER’S DAY NOVENA.....9:00am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, May 26

KATHLEEN RYNIKER.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, May 27

Special Intentions for

KARIN FANG.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, May 28

MOTHER’S DAY NOVENA.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, May 29

LOUIS RILEY.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, May 30

MOTHER’S DAY NOVENA.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

LUCILLE DEMBIBSKI.....5:00pm - Fr. Martin

Sunday, May 31

MIKE MORIARTY.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

RUTH MAILEN.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

PARISHIONERS.....11:00am - Fr. Martin

FATHER OF DONNA WRIGHT.....12:45pm - Fr. Wilson



Religious Education

Another Religious Education Program school year has come to a close and the Sisters and staff extend a heartfelt thank you to all of Nativity’s 300 Religious Education Program volunteers: Catechists, Assistants, Substitutes, Babysitters, Office Assistants, and those “on call” for project-based tasks. Because of your dedication, Nativity parish educates over 1,250 students about the love of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Church.

“We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28). The success of the Religious Education Program depends on the participation of our volunteers. Please, consider answering God’s call. The 2009-2010 **Volunteer Application** form is available in the Religious Education Office, at website: www.edu.nativityburke.org; on the Nativity CCD tab click on Volunteer, or call the Religious Education Office at 703-455-0372.

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.

The Altar Flowers this week are donated by

In Loving Memory of

Zaven and Ruth Der Boghossian

From

The Der Boghossian Family

And

In Loving Memory of

Georgette Martin

From

Madeline Dacey

Thought for the Week

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.

Irene Lagan



A Retirement Party for Mrs. Carol Mack, Pastoral Minister, will be held on Sunday, May 31st after the 12:45 pm Mass. After thirteen years of devoted service to our Church Community she will be greatly missed. We wish her well in her retirement.

MARRIAGE HELP—Retrouvaille (retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about Retrouvaille call 703-351-7211 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com



Father Frank Ready, the founding Pastor of Church of the Nativity will celebrate his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on Monday, May 11, 2009. You are invited to join Father in celebrating his Jubilee Anniversary Mass at 12:00pm at St. Agnes Parish in Arlington on May 31st (Pentecost Sunday). A reception will follow in the parish hall. He has shared so much in your lives as priest and pastor, he would be delighted to have you share this celebration with him.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

As we pause this weekend to remember the many men and women of the United States Military who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, let us give thanks for the gifts of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness that we enjoy. But let us also remember the many victims of abortion who never had or never will have the opportunity to enjoy these gifts.



A WOMAN'S CHOICE is a Crisis Pregnancy Center that provides free pregnancy testing, referrals for medical treatment, housing, social service assistance and tangible support for pregnant women, including clothing and equipment (703-538-4305).

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 10:00 am on Rolling Road across from Kings Park SC Giant Food. Please call Jane Hamilton, 703-646-5051 for more information.

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



A BABY SHOWER BY WON... This year's **BABY SHOWER** will be held on June 6th and 7th before and after the Masses.

We are especially in need of the following items: **SIMILAC ADVANCE FORMULA, DIAPERS, NEW AND GENTLY USED CLOTHING UP TO 9MONTHS AND OTHER SUNDRY BABY ITEMS.** Please place your donations in the playpen outside of the church.

This year's recipients include TEPEYAC FAMILY CENTER, CATHOLIC CHARITIES, ECHO CENTER, MARIAH HOUSE, LORTON COMMUNITY CENTER, BIRTHRIGHT and A WOMAN'S CHOICE.

As always, your generosity is deeply felt by those we serve. If you have any questions, please call Donna Gomez at 703-426-9230. This is the only weekend we will be holding the shower.

Evening of Charismatic Prayer and Praise... May 27, 2009 at 7:30-9pm-St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, 5222 Sideburn Rd. Fairfax. All are invited to unite with Catholics across the Diocese to intercede for a special openness to the Holy Spirit in the hearts of His people this Pentecost. Sponsored by the Charismatic Renewal Service Committee, worship music by Dave Bentz. For more information visit www.arlingtonrenewal.org or contact Terry Riggins, tgr56@aol.com, (703-569-5470)

The Mothers' group at St. Mary of Sorrows will be holding their annual Kids' Stuff Sale on Saturday, May 30. The sale supports the Mothers' Group, local charities and individual families in need. They welcome any child-related donations, including infants' and children's' clothing, toys, books, gear and maternity and nursing items. Donations may be dropped off at St. Mary's from May 23-29 (please no donations before 4pm on May 23). Or shop the sale May 30 from 8:30 am to 1 pm (half price after 12). The church is located at 5222 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. If you have any questions, contact Michelle at 703-978-0635 or mflann@gmail.com.

The Nativity Pre-K class, under the direction of Mary Jo Mazzella, recently made a visit to Hidden Oaks Nature Center in Annandale for a program entitled "Growth and Change." They learned about changes that take place in plants, and in the wonderful world of insects and amphibians, through a classroom experience and a walk along the Old Oak Trail. Young students got to see and learn about a live toad and tadpoles along with observing native snakes and turtles in the exhibit area. Helping our children to experience nature first hand in school and at home is a wonderful way to introduce them to the importance of caring for all of God's amazing creation. Make time to enjoy and appreciate nature with your family and friends during this beautiful spring season!

A green thought for the week from the Creation Care Ministry.



cyo@nativityschool.org 703-455-2400 ext 115.

Today!!!
Memorial Day Picnic!!!
 6:00PM - 8:00PM meet in the front of the church

This Week!		
Today May 24th:	Memorial Day Picnic	6:00PM – 8:00PM
Mon. May 25th:	Core Meeting	8:00PM – 9:00PM
Sun. May 31st:	Jr. vIBE	5:00PM – 6:00PM
	Last vIBE	7:30PM – 8:30PM

T-shirts!
 In the gift shop. Help support Workcamp!



On Your Own Schedule
 Most of Nativity's food ministries operate on specific days. However, one called **NO HANDS BUT YOURS** operates every day. A Nativity parishioner serves coffee and food each day to poor and homeless individuals standing in two locations in Virginia. Contributions of sandwiches, hard-boiled eggs and cookies from fellow Nativity parishioners are always welcome. For more information, please contact Manuel Ponciano, by email at manuelmar10@yahoo.com, or by phone at 703-939-0123 or 202-262-6659. The name of the ministry calls to mind the first sentence of a prayer attributed to St. Teresa of Avila: "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours."

Nativity School Scrip Gift Card Program



FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2009 LAST ORDER DATE FOR SCRIP

Nativity School is selling Scrip Gift Cards! Scrip gift cards are similar to gift certificates that you purchase from national retailer stores. By purchasing scrip gift cards through Nativity, you are providing much needed funding support for the school simply by shopping. You will get full face value for the amount purchased and the school receives a percentage of the purchased price! Many popular national retailers such as Safeway, Giant, Macy's, Kohls, Sam's Club, Best buy, Macaroni Grill, etc. participate in our scrip program.

Ordering scrip is easy! Simply obtain an order form from the scrip envelope located on the bulletin board in the vestibule of the church or online at www.nativityburke.org/school/documents/ScripSelections.pdf. Fill out the order form and drop it with a check in the school or church office to the attention of Cara Guzik (school). Orders placed by Friday at 3:00pm will be available for pick-up in the school office by the following Thursday.

Please think of Scrip Gift Cards for birthdays, anniversaries, First Communion, Confirmations etc.

The members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry want to thank the Nativity Parish Community for their wonderful support of Prayer Shawl Sunday two weeks ago. We are pleased that 77 parishioners requested shawls for someone who is seriously ill. This was possible because of the generosity and artistic abilities of the many women who have given of themselves by making shawls and praying for those who receive them. We also want to thank Fr. Mike Hann, Fr. Cedric Wilson and Fr. Kevin O'Keefe who did such a beautiful job of explaining the purpose and meaning of the shawls. Thank you also for your generous donations that will be put to good use for the supplies and other needs of the Ministry. Peace and joy to all of you.

Nativity's Charismatic Love is Given Prayer Group will not meet on Thursday evening, May 28th. All are invited to attend the Diocesan-wide Evening of Charismatic Prayer and Praise in Preparation for Pentecost that will be take place at St. Mary of Sorrows Parish in Fairfax in the Worship Center at 7:30pm on Wednesday evening, May 27th. For more information, please call Anne Rother at 703-644-1278.

Catholic College Students going to Liberty University?
 St. Thomas More Parish is your parish home-away-from-home while you are at Liberty University. Contact us with your address and e-mail, so we can let you know about us. St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 3015 Roundelay Rd., Lynchburg, VA 24502. Phone number: 434-237-5911. E-mail: info@stmva.com Website: www.stmva.com

The Ascension...
 The Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of the God.

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE NEWS

Campus Ministry at George Mason University is having a summertime barbeque for all college students and graduating high school seniors on Thursday, June 4th at 6:30pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Chapel, 4515 Roberts Road, Fairfax. **It's a great way to meet college students from different schools!!!** Our student center will also be open for hanging out every Thursday night in June and July. For Facebook information, search for the group: Summer Catholic Fun@GMU." For more information contact Catherine Horan at 703-425-0022 or choran@gmu.edu; www.gmucm.org.

Bishop Ireton High School announces its 2009 summer camp offerings at its Alexandria campus. The variety of camps include theater, basketball, soccer, football and wrestling. For a brochure and registration form please email hamerp@bishopireton.org or call 703-212-5190.

A Knight Day Camp for Middle School Students Summer Programs at Bishop O'Connell High School Academic Antics! Amazing Adventures! Museum Madness! Superheroes and Spies! Interested? The teachers of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School are offering these courses and more at a summer camp/workshop for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. An opportunity to make new friends and a chance to try new things, **A Knight Day Camp** welcomes you! Please visit our website

www.bishopoconnell.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?page=329707 or call our Director, Mrs. Cheryl O'Reilly (703-237-1400 ext. 569) and learn more about the exciting ways 6th, 7th and 8th graders will be spending time at our school this summer.

The Bishop O'Connell Academic Summer School will be offering the following courses: Computer Applications (1/2 credit), Film Study (1/2 credit), Health & PE for rising 9th & 10th graders(1 credit), Behind the Wheel, SAT Prep course, Summer Music Institute and make-up classes for failures. For more information, please call the Guidance Office at 703-237-1460 or email Patricia LaWall at plawall@bishopoconnell.org.

Singers Wanted! Service-Fellowship-Fun! This unbeatable combination will be yours if you join our adult contemporary choir. The **New Spirit Singers** provide music for the Arlington Diocese Healing Ministry (www.healingministry.net). We are seeking singers at every voice part. We rehearse two or three times a month at St. Mary of Sorrows parish in Fairfax. Masses are held at a different church every month. Rehearsals and Masses are on Thursday evenings. Come and be part of a great ministry and a great group! Contact Kathy Getz at 703-764-4859 or kgetz@american.edu

THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, May 24

6:00 pm.....Evening of Gratitude (CH/PH)

Monday, May 25

9:00 am.....Mass (CH)
8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, May 26

9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)

Wednesday, May 27

10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)
7:00 pm.....Legion of Mary (GR)
7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Rm. 9)
7:30 pm.....Traditional Choir Practice (CH)
7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)

Thursday, May 28

9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
7:15 pm.....Family Choir (SC)
7:30 pm.....Youth Choir (CH)
7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Rm. 4)

Friday, May 29

10:00 am.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Saturday, May 30

10:00 am.....Last ESL Classes (Rm. 4,5,6,7)
10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
7:00 pm.....Spanish Mass (CH)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held from June 29th to July 3rd. Forms are in the Parish Office and on the web. All forms must be turned in by **June 1st**. Applications are available in the Parish Office and on the website nativityburke.org

BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER



The Little Angel Gift Shop is doing very well this year. After direct expenses, we have cleared \$18,687.32. Direct expenses are the inventory and sales tax. In-direct expenses would be gas, electricity and cleaning. I have not yet had an opportunity to figure out these costs.