



Dear Friends,

Within a span of five weeks we have gone from poinsettias to 30 plus inches of snow. Now we find ourselves in Lent and purple. As a youngster I never looked forward to Lent. While we read in the Lenten Preface that it is a *happy season*, I never found it all that happy. Back then it was always a time of giving up candy and desserts. Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, I attended Catechism class and the Sisters of Notre Dame only reinforced that notion of giving *something* up. It was only in later years that I would look at this forty day period as a *happy season*. Now, for me, it is a time to look inward, to reflect on the life of Jesus and see how close I really do measure up.

I remember going to restaurants on Friday and substituting the meat entrée for fish. That was until I began to think - is it really a "*sacrifice*" to make a "tradeoff" of steak for crab cakes or lobster? I was keeping a church rule but what sacrifice was I making? I remember a saying from Pope Leo the Great: "*Let your fasting become the banquet of the poor.*" Lobster, crab cakes or even stuffed shrimp is hardly the "*banquet of the poor.*" However, ordering a simpler entrée and putting the difference in the poor box or Starfish basket at the entrance to the church might be a more appropriate sacrifice. Skipping the appetizer or dessert and putting the difference into the poor box is another way.

I have even heard the comment from people who are a bit overweight that Lent is coming and I'm going to "*trim down*". Our "*sacrifice*" will be to give up the candy, soda, sweets, so that we'll look better in time for the opening of pool season. I recall the saying: "*IT IS BETTER TO GIVE UP HATE THAN TO GIVE UP WEIGHT.*"

On Ash Wednesday, in the Book of Joel, we read, "*Return to me with your whole heart. Rend your hearts, not your garments.*" Rending your heart this Lent might just be giving up that hate instead of the weight. Or, trying to better understand the people we might be prejudiced against. Or talking to someone we have avoided at the office. It could be as simple as tearing down a wall between you and a friend or worse a relative. But, we conclude, it is easier to give up the candy and desserts. And yet, that is *NOT* the fast that the Lord is pleased with. "*Rend your hearts, not your garments.*"

Yes, I have matured in my outlook of Lent. Today it is a happy time of the year. It is a time for me to look inward and see just how I really do (or do not) live the Gospel message. Lent now reminds me of the sign that my Episcopalian priest friend put at the exit to his church: "*THE SERVICE IS ENDED; NOW SERVICE BEGINS.*" While I encourage you to attend daily Mass, I ask that you remember those words as you leave to begin your day in the outside world. Lent is a time to become more holy, keeping in mind the definition that Carmelite Father William McNamara shares: "*TO BE A HOLY PERSON, JUST INSERT THE LETTER "W" BEFORE HOLY. A HOLY PERSON IS A WHOLE PERSON OPEN TO THE NEEDS OF ALL.*"

Yes, I have grown in my outlook about Lent and I encourage you to do the same. You who are parents, teach your children that there really is something more to Lent than giving up candy and cookies. The call to be holy - open to others - is not just a call to the adults.

Happy Lent!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Martin".

SYMPATHY

Our parish extends its prayers and sympathy to Bishop Paul Loverde on the death of his secretary and friend, Brother David Eddy C.F.X. who went home to the Lord last Monday, February 15th. Brother David was not only a religious Brother, but a close friend of our Bishop for some 25 years. In many respects Brother David was like the brother that Bishop Loverde never had. Please keep our Bishop and Brother David's family in your prayers. Despite what some might think, Bishops and Priests are not immune from grieving. I know that all too well. The Gospel tells us that even Jesus grieved at the death of His good friend Lazarus. Brother David now lives with the Lord he so believed in and professed.

The Parishioners of Nativity



Monday, February 22

Vern Bellendir..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, February 23

Olcay Ayse Nawrocki..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, February 24

James McLellan, Sr..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, February 25

Michael Knechtges..... 7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, February 26

Mrs. Loretta Torpey..... 7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, February 27

Jessica Avilas..... 9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

Hans H. Mumm..... 5:00pm - Fr. Martin

Spanish Mass 7:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Sunday, February 28

Parishioners..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

Daniel Palermo..... 9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

Rita Martin & Daniel McCarthy..... 11:00am - Fr. Wilson

Stephen Kozich..... 12:45pm - Fr. Wilson

Please remember to pray for our parishioners serving in Afghanistan and Iraq and their families.

Thoughts for the Week

A friend's eye is the best mirror.

When we are old all our pleasures are behind us, but when we are young all our troubles are before us.

Taken from Bits and Pieces

The Church Office will follow Fairfax County Government Offices' schedule in the event of inclement weather. If the **schools are closed**, there will be **NO MORNING MASS**.

If a 2 hour delay has been announced, then the morning Mass will be celebrated at its regular time. Parishioners are cautioned that there is no obligation to risk aggravating physical conditions or compromising safety when attempting to come to Church. To check the schedule go to

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/weatherupdate.htm>

or Channel 16. For inclement weather Mass schedules and activities notices go to www.nativityburke.org



LENTEN CONFESSIONS



During Lent confessions will be heard on **Wednesday February 24th, March 3rd and March 17th from 6:30 to 8:00pm. A Lenten Penance Service will be held on March 24th at 7:30pm.**

Knights of Columbus Father Vincent S. Sikora, Council 7992, invites you to our annual **LIVE ART AUCTION** on **Saturday, February 27, 2010** in Nativity Hall. Preview starts at 7:00pm and the auction begins at 8:00pm. "A Bit More" Catered Refreshments, Hors d'oeuvres and Wine. Tickets, available after Mass and at the door, are just \$10.00 per person. For more information contact Dave Johnson @ 703-455-3337 evenings.



Promote Virginia Choose Life License Plates



Priests for Life encourage all parishioners to promote the "Choose Life" license plates available in Virginia. Use of these plates supports Virginia Pregnancy Center locations that have officially committed to "Our Commitment of Care" standards. They will receive \$15 of the \$25 annual specialty plate fees for new plates and renewal fees going forward. Only 1624 Choose Life plates grace Virginia roads through Dec. 2009. Take five minutes today to switch to Choose Life plates online (credit card and vehicle registration needed). And let's get our parishioners to do the same!

Go to www.vachoose-life.org for more information and for the link to DMV to switch or just go to your local DMV office.

Pro-Life Corner:

Those who favor euthanasia ("mercy killing"), speak of the "right to die". No one needs a right to die because dying is a fact of life. What is being sought is the "right" to destroy a human being who may have become a burden or inconvenience to those living around this child of God. The question remains: WWJD? **Choose Life Today. Choose Life Tomorrow. Pray Always. We Must Do No Less.**



Please support the **TEPEYAC FAMILY CENTER**, 11135 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-273-9440 x 107, with your prayers and financial resources. Info on this pregnancy resource center can be found at www.tepeyacfamilycenter.com

Through Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010 - 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil at NOVA Women's Medical Center, 10400 Eaton Place, Suite 515, Fairfax, VA 22030. Daily 7 AM - 10 PM. Can you pray for 1-2 hours and witness for Life? Details at <http://www.40daysforlife.com/fairfax/>

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 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



St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance

Come join the Knights of Columbus for the wearing of the green at the 18th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance to be held in the Parish Hall at 7:00 PM, Saturday, March 13th. 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, with 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 (until sold out) from February 20th through March 7th. This event has "sold out" for the last several years, so be sure to get your tickets early. For additional information, call Gene McGrath at 703-250-1281/genemcgrath@verizon.net.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Bishop Paul Loverde and the other Catholic Bishops of the U.S.A. have called for comprehensive reform of our country's immigration system. If you would like to learn more about their Justice for Immigrants Campaign, you should plan to attend a program in the Nativity School cafeteria at 7:30 pm on Friday, March 5, to learn more about the Bishops' recommendations and to share stories of the hurdles you or your ancestors faced in immigrating to America. Ways you can influence the reform will also be discussed.

Food for ECHO and the POOR CLARE SISTERS

The monthly food collection will take place next Sunday, February 21st. Please bring non-perishable foods to the foyer of the church. In this time of need, food pantries are being rapidly depleted. Canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats, dry products (cereal, pasta, pancake mix, etc.), pancake syrup, vegetable oil, tuna helper, powdered milk, crackers, concentrated juices, quick oats are much need items.



ECHO also accepts small appliances such as toasters, blenders, table lamps, pots and pans, microwaves, new and used clothing. For more information pick up a brochure in the bookrack by the sacristy or call 703-569-9160. ECHO Center is located at 7205 Old Keene Mill

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart." Jesus the Eternal Word continues to call many to lives of holiness as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life. Could you be one of them? Call Father Brian Bashista 703-841-2514, or write: b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org

Catechists and assistants for First Holy Communion students are to attend an important information meeting Sunday, February 21, at 7:30pm in Room 9.



Parents of First Holy Communion students are to attend an important information meeting on Wednesday, March 3, at 7:00pm in the church.

The **Inclement Weather Policy** can be viewed at www.edu.nativityburke.org; click on Weather Policy.

A giving Church is a living Church.

Author Unknown

“Potholes”

As this winter of 2010 continues, we certainly have had more than our share of snow and ice. In fact as this is being written, another snowstorm is on the horizon. When all this record snow melts and disappears, it is almost certain that we will experience an overabundance of the dreaded “pothole”. They will suddenly appear with the sole purpose of bouncing our vehicles around, slowing us down, causing us to swerve unexpectedly, and worse yet, possibly doing serious damage to our cars and SUVs. As we go on our daily journeys, we will have to be extra alert to avoid these pavement pitfalls, for while they might vary in intensity and number, for sure we will certainly encounter them. We have now begun our Lenten journey. This provides us with the opportunity to take a look at the “potholes” that suddenly appear in our every day lives, you know, the potholes of frustration, impatience, anger, etc.? How can we deal with them? Now is the time for **DISCERNMENT**. This is the time to slow down, look at each of these pitfalls, and discern what methods and materials will be most useful in helping us to have a smooth journey in the future. For just as potholes in the road can be repaired, so can the potholes in our personal lives. But it takes an effort on our part and sometimes it takes using the spiritual hotline to deal with them. The materials are available, be they the Stations of the Cross, daily Mass, spiritual reading, Reconciliation, etc. DISCERN what will work best for you, the cost is minimal, but the benefits can be overwhelming. All it takes on your part is a little thought, time, effort and commitment.



NATIVITY SCHOOL & PTO SPRING BENEFIT & AUCTION



Our biggest fundraiser of the year will be on **March 6, 2010** at 6:30pm in the parish hall. All adult parishioners are invited to come and enjoy a night of delicious appetizers from Pane e Vino Ristorante, open bar with wine and beer, silent and live auctions, music and dancing. There will be a raffle drawing with wonderful items to win. You do not need to be present to win. Prizes include a One night stay & breakfast at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort in Bedford, PA, a Nativity Catholic Church Pew Reservation with parking space for the 4:00pm Christmas Mass on December 24, 2010, and a "Spring Gift Card Tree" holding over \$200 worth of gift cards. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 3 tickets for \$12. Tickets for the event are \$35 each or \$30 each for 2 or more tickets. All tickets are on sale now. Contact Trina Meyer at meyertrina@yahoo.com or call Trina at 703-717-1272 for more information. We thank the entire Nativity Church community for your support and generosity. **"Come with your friends and enjoy an evening of food, wine and music."**

BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL Nativity's Goal is \$360,000



Due to the recent snow and holiday weekend, the in-pew process for the 2010 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA), was required to be rescheduled for this weekend of February 20th and 21st. To date Nativity parishioners have pledged approximately \$75,000 towards the Nativity goal of \$360,000. Please help support Fr. Martin for another successful BLA program.

During Mass you will receive information and a pledge card for you to fill out. **Please prayerfully consider the size of your gift amount for the BLA.** The BLA helps to support diocesan offices and ministries that serve tens of thousands of people each year. From support of seminarians, to the training of our catechists, to helping our youth grow in their faith, to teaching respect for the sanctity of life, your support to the BLA impacts the lives of many people that reach beyond the scope of any individual parish.

As you reflect on your blessings this year, we ask you to consider making a sacrificial pledge to help sustain the ministries and programs that are funded by the BLA. By making a pledge, your gift becomes intentional, representing a promise to give not from your leftovers, but from your first fruits. From all that we have received, let us make a proper return to God, Our Heavenly Father, the source of our life and all blessings.

The Arlington Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima will sponsor a Eucharist Holy Hour on Sunday, February 28th from 3:00 to 4:00pm at St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, 1421 Wiehle Avenue, Reston. We invite you to join us in prayer.

YOUTH NEWS

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The next vibe meeting will be on Sunday, Feb.21st from 7pm-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. Hope to see you there!

If you are interested in participating in the Living Stations of the Cross this year, there is an initial meeting and casting session on February 21st in the Church from 4:00-6:00pm. If you have any questions you can contact Mike Giardina at 703-922-2789 or by email at Mike.Giardina@mwa.com

Our Lenten Soup Suppers are about to begin!! They will be on Mondays at 6:30pm from Feb.22nd-March 22nd. There will be 8 different soups to choose from and desserts will be available. Salad, carrots, bread, and drinks will also be offered. The cost is \$5.00 per person and \$20.00 per family. Please join the teens of Nativity and spread the word.

There will be a mandatory workcamp meeting on Feb. 23rd in the Parish Hall from 7pm-8pm.

Summer Intern Position Available

The Office of Youth Ministry for the Catholic Diocese of Arlington is looking for 4 summer interns to work on a full-time basis, from the last week in May to the second week of August, assisting with the preparations and operations of two, week-long WorkCamps. Work in a community based environment and gain a better understanding of your diocesan church. Send Resume and cover letter to hr@arlingtondiocese.org with "Youth Ministry Internship" in the subject line.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to work at Christ House as receptionists for the Emergency Assistance Hotline. Come and volunteer one 4 hour shift mornings or afternoons to help answer calls for assistance. Training is provided. A desire to serve those in need required. Volunteers are also needed to help with running and organizing the evening meal at Christ House. Greet diners, help with set-up, clean-up and make sure ministry runs smoothly. Sign up to work one 4-7 p.m. shift per week.

Young Adult Volunteer Opportunities - First Saturdays If you are a young adult seeking to serve others, please join us for a Saturday morning of community outreach! Visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/yam/young_volunteer.php for details. Contact yam@arlingtondiocese.org or 703-841-2250 with questions.



Sunday, February 21

CRS FAIR TRADE COFFEE

- 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
- 2:00 pm.....Baptisms (CH)

Monday, February 22

- 9:30 am.....Prayer Shawl Ministry (APR)
- 4:00 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
- 7:00 pm.....RCIA Classes (PH)
- 7:00 pm.....RCIC Classes (Room 9)
- 8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, February 23

- 9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
- 4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
- 7:00 pm.....CYO Workcamp Meeting (PH)
- 7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Wednesday, February 24

- 10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
- 6:30to 8:00 pm.....Lenten Confessions
- 7:00 pm..... Hispanic Prayer Group (Room 6)
- 7:00 pm..... ESL (Room 5)
- 7:00 pm.....Prayer Shawl Ministry (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Room 9)
- 7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)

Thursday, February 25

- 9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
- 7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
- 7:00 pm.....Spanish Class (Room 2)
- 7:00 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 Board of Review (Rm. 5)
- 7:15 pm.....P.G. Life in the Spirit Seminar (Rm.7/8)
- 7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Room 4)

Friday, February 26

- 4:00 pm.....Daisy Troop 6116 (APR)
- 7:00 pm.....Family Fellowship Group (PH)
- 7:30 pm.....Stations of the Cross (CH)

Saturday, February 27

- 10:00 am.....ESL (Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8)
- 10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
- 5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)
- 7:00 pm.....Knights of Columbus Art Auction (PH)

The Catholic Healing Ministry of the Diocese of Arlington will celebrate a Mass and healing Service on Thursday, February 25 at 7:30 pm at Sacred Heart , Manassas, VA. Father Tuck Grinnell is the celebrant. For further information call 540-347-0809 or visit www.healingministry.net