



Dear Friends,

The optional gospel reading for the third week of Lent has always been one of my favorites, for it points clearly to the understanding and compassion of Jesus. In the fourth chapter of John's Gospel we recount the story of the woman who has been married and divorced five times. She was a woman who was ostracized by her community because of her lifestyle. She was probably the talk of the village and even she undoubtedly felt shame and guilt for the life that she was living. She found in Jesus a man of understanding and poured her heart out to Him. While never agreeing with her tangled domestic affairs, He never put her down or condemned her for her behavior. She was probably hard enough on herself as she searched her own soul. Jesus sees us in two ways: as we are and what we can become. Jesus, who always taught the highest ideals on marriage, could see goodness beneath the surface of her shattered life. What is extraordinary *is* this woman, whom so many had shunned, was precisely the one to whom Jesus revealed, for the first time, that He was the Messiah (v. 25). And why? Because He didn't look back, but looked ahead at what the woman could become.

Many of us are like that woman. We may have gone off the right path, have strayed, have fallen, have failed or have sinned, but that same Jesus can see beneath our surface and what we, too, can become. God is not shocked by our weaknesses and failures. He is more concerned with the sincerity of our efforts and the intensity of our struggling to be a better person. He is concerned with the goodness in our hearts as we turn ourselves around and go forward. No matter how much we may have failed, we will never make progress if we continually look back. If we are driving to a particular destination and all we do is look into the rear view mirror, we will *never* get to where we intended to go.

During Lent, let us look within ourselves and see where we may have to change directions. For many of us this change in direction is what we need to bring us that inner peace that we yearn for. Another lesson to be learned from this Gospel is not to be so quick in putting people down whom we deem less than honorable. Some people find it so easy to be judge and jury toward others. Do we really know what the inside of the other person is really like? Have we walked in their shoes? Do you know the internal struggles of that person that caused them to act as they did? Some are so quick to judge. If only we would be as generous with our empathy, love and understanding as we are with our judgment, the world would be a better place. I have even heard of people not feeling welcome at their Church because of demeaning sermons. Rather than putting a person down we might try to reach out, or at least pray that our attitudes towards them may change.

I encourage you to read chapter 4 of John's Gospel this week. Notice this woman's encounter with Jesus, she turned herself around and felt a new sense of self-esteem. We see a rejected woman return to a woman of self worth. Jesus had touched her life. She was willing to look within herself and found herself to be a good person who had fallen, but was not a failure. Today, we will receive that same Jesus in Holy Communion. That same Jesus can reach out to each of us. All that is required of us is an open heart and a willingness to change direction. Let us not spend this week looking in the rear view mirror of our life; let us look at Jesus and see what we can become.

This week, I'm suggesting an easy exercise for your Lenten reflection. Point your finger at someone. Now notice your hand. Three fingers are pointed right back at you. It is a reminder to look into ourselves before we point a condemning finger at someone else. Another way of putting it, do some housecleaning yourself before commenting on the other persons life.

Have a nice week!

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



This weekend our parish celebrates the life of Mary Dogle who has lived 100 glorious years.

Her birthday on March 9th is truly a celebration of God’s love.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARY

Nativity Parishioners



Monday, March 8

Robert Camacho.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, March 9

Francis & Dominic Butera.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, March 10

Joseph & Richard Talarico.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, March 11

Valerie & Roy Saunders.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, March 12

Dorothy Jessup.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, March 13

Edward Sudler II.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

Joseph Guzzo.....5:00pm - Fr. O’Keefe

Hispanic Mass.....7:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Sunday, March 14

Charles Syms.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Donald McCabe.....9:00am - Fr. Wilson

Irene Richert.....11:00am - Fr. Martin

Doris Duddy.....12:45pm.- Fr. Wilson

“Fasting and Abstinence”



We have now begun the third week of our Lenten Journey. As we continue to move forward, coming ever closer to the suffering of Good Friday and the exaltation of Easter Sunday, we are constantly reminded of our need to change our ways, our need for **REPENTENCE**. And so we look this week at the disciplines of fasting and abstinence. Why does the Church ask this of us during Lent? And just when did all of this begin? We often speak of fasting and abstinence as though they go together, but in actuality they are two different disciplines, one involving **how much** you consume, and the other concerning **what** you consume. They began in the very early days of the Church as voluntary practices which varied from a few days to a week, in preparation for the great feast of Easter. The Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, mentioned a time length of forty days for fasting. The rules then became **very** strict, allowing for only one meal a day, usually in the evening. The early Christians were called to abstain from meat, fish, and alcohol. In some places even eggs and milk products were forbidden. In the Middle Ages, the overall rules were relaxed enough to allow the eating of fish and dairy products during Lent, but the fasting continued to be very strict. This continued up until the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), when the emphasis shifted from the physical suffering during Lent to the spiritual preparation for the Paschal Mystery of Easter. While we continue to fast and abstain on certain days during Lent, we now focus on other forms of penance and increased prayer and works of charity. All of these are not ends in themselves, but rather the means by which we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. Lent helps to remind us of our sinfulness, our need to change and repent, and our need to return to our baptismal innocence.



We joyfully welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Emilia Faustina Doyle, Leyla Chavez, Natalie Elizabeth Griffin, Kayla Fiore Curfiss, Dominic Joseph Fintel, Noella Marie Barmonde, Emily Grace Pelletier

Thought for the Week

If you fill your heart with regrets of yesterday and the worries of tomorrow, you have no today to be thankful for.

Anonymous

Confirmation students are to receive the sacrament of Penance at the **Confirmation Penance Service** on Wednesday, March 10, at 7:00pm in the church.



Confirmation students and sponsors must attend practice on Saturday, March 13, in the church: **Group I** from 10:00am-11:30am; **Group II** from 12:00pm-1:30pm.

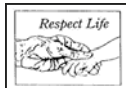
Confirmation students will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, March 14: **Group I** at 3:00pm; **Group II** at 7:30pm.

Religious Education classes cancelled on Sunday, March 14, only, due to Nativity's Confirmation Celebration. Classes on Monday, March 15, and Tuesday, March 16, will be held as usual.

Student Registration for 2010-2011 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, and at website: www.edu.nativityburke.org; on the Nativity CCD tab click on Student Registration.

Pro-Life Corner:

"If it be necessary to go against the current of what is sometimes being thought and said on all sides, then let us never grow weary of repeating it - All human life must be absolutely respected; in fact, abortion and euthanasia are murder." Pope Paul VI



A WOMAN'S CHOICE is a pregnancy resource 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).

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/>

Pregnancy Resource 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

viBE The next two Vibe meetings will be on March 7th from 7-8:30pm in the Parish Hall and March 14th, same time and place. We will have pizza, good discussion and plenty of opportunities for games and getting to know each other. Hope to see you there!

Stations of the Cross schedule is as follows: Practices will be from 4pm-6pm in the Church on March 7th, 14th, and 21st. The performance will be on March 26th. If you are interested in participating please contact Mike Giardina by email or phone. Email: Mike.Giardina@mwaa.com Phone: 703-922-2789

Soups on!!! Our Lenten Soup Suppers are every Monday during Lent in the Parish Hall from 6:30pm-7:30pm. The Last Soup Supper will take place on March 22nd. The cost is \$5 per person and \$20 per family. Please help support the teens of Nativity and spread the word!

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: small stuffed animals, Easter candies and items (no basket grass needed please), small toys, small books and personal care items (hair barrettes, nail items, cute tooth brushes). **WE DO NOT NEED** Easter baskets, Easter grass or plastic Easter eggs. The children range from ages 9 months to 15 years. We will be collecting the Easter goodies on the weekend of **March 20 and 21** before and after all masses. Please note that this is the **ONLY** weekend we will be conducting this drive. The collection will be in the vestibule as you enter the church. There will be large marked boxes to put your donations into. **Thank you for your kindness and generosity.** If you have any questions, please call Pam Darwin at 703-764-8873.



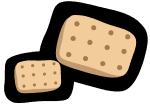
There are still spaces available in the Pre-School and Pre-K classes at Nativity School for the 2010-2011 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child please contact the Pre-School Office at 703-455-2300 ext. 136.



PLEASE DO NOT PARK AT BURKE LAKE GARDENS. KIDDIE COUNTRY ALLOWS US TO USE THEIR PARKING LOT ON THE WEEKEND.



The Light is On for You. This Lenten season, each Catholic parish in the Diocese of Arlington and the Archdiocese of Washington will have Confessions available every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8:00pm. If you have been reluctant to come to the Sacrament or have been away for some time, this is a wonderful opportunity to re-connect with Christ and His Church. Learn more at www.the-light-is-on.org.



The Nativity Girl Scout troops will be selling Girl Scout cookies after all Masses on March 6th and 7th. You can purchase cookies to take home with you or donate boxes to send to our troops serving overseas. We have the traditional favorites, Samoas, Thin Mints, and Tagalongs, and we also have a new cookie this year, Thank You Berry Munch with white chocolate chips and cranberries! Boxes are only \$3.50 each – please stop by and help support our scouts!

Five Senior Activities to Start in April

The Burke/Springfield Senior Center Without Walls is sponsoring classes in line dancing, tai chi and yoga. Each hour-long class will be held for eight weeks and will cost \$10. Two other activities -- “coffee companions” and running/walking -- are free, but registration is required. To register or get more information, go online to: <http://fairfaxstories.community.officelive.com/BurkeSpringfieldSeniorCenterWithoutWalls.aspx>

For more information, call (703) 324-5544.

GLORY DAYS GRILL FUNDRAISER

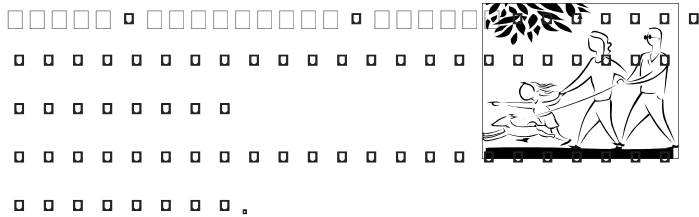
From now until June, please save all of your receipts from Glory Days Grill. These must be actual food receipts **not credit card** receipts. Glory Days will kindly donate 10% of receipts and you will be assisting Nativity Workcampers raise funds for their Catholic Heart Workcamp week to Greensboro, NC this summer. Remember, all receipts, including take-out are welcome. Please place receipts in the envelope in the back of the church on the CYO bulletin board. Glory Days is now accepting receipts for all food purchases, seven days a week. Thank you for your assisting us in our journey to help those less fortunate than we are.

BISHOP’S LENTEN APPEAL UPDATE 68% of \$360,000 Goal Before Commitment Weekend Pledges



To date Nativity parishioners have pledged approximately \$244,000 towards the BLA goal of \$360,000, before incorporating the pledges from Commitment Weekend which are being tallied by the Diocese.

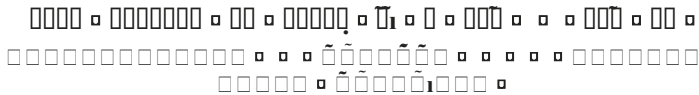
Please help support Fr. Martin for another successful BLA program. Please prayerfully consider the size of your gift amount for the BLA. The BLA helps to support diocesan offices and ministries that serve tens of thousands of people each year. From support of seminarians, to the training of our catechists, 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.



Family Legacies Seminar Series With Beverly Tauke, LCSW Nativity Parishioner

Examination of multi-generation emotional, behavioral and role habits, their consequences, and recalibration strategies;

- Family emotional intelligence
- Retrofitting loveless lives
- Relationship healing
- Forgiveness and reconciliation



WANT TO DEEPEN YOUR LENTEN OBSERVANCE-TAKE A CCDI MINI-COURSE ON JESUS AND HIS CHURCH....Starting Thursday, March 18th, the Continuing Christian Development Institute (CCDI) will conduct a 3 week, Lenten, mini-course “JESUS-GOD AND MAN, AND HIS CHURCH.” It will be held at Nativity School from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Cost to Nativity Parishioners is \$150. For more info contact Dr. Tobin CCDIofVA@aol.com or call 703-941-4329.

Bilingual Pregnancy Help Volunteers Needed

Gabriel Project Arlington (GPA), the diocesan parish-based pregnancy assistance ministry, needs faithful Catholic women who are fluent in both English and Spanish to assist with translating for pregnant women at their prenatal appointments at Tepeyac Family Center in Fairfax. More ministry information is online at:

www.arlingtondiocese.org/gpavolunteer. Free training is provided on Saturday, March 13 at 9 a.m. – 12 Noon at St. Theresa School in Ashburn. If you have questions, please contact our offices at (703) 841-2755

SECCIÓN en ESPAÑOL

*Celebraciones de Cuaresma, Semana Santa y Pascua
Iglesia de la Natividad, 2010*

Via Crucis:

Todos los viernes durante cuaresma a las 8:45 pm
(en español)

Servicio Parroquial Penitencial:

Miércoles 24 de Marzo a las 7:00 pm (español y Inglés)
***Por favor tome su tiempo en esta oportunidad de
cuaresma para celebrar el sacramento de la reconciliación
en comunidad, puesto que normalmente vienen mas
sacerdotes a ayudar en este servicio, no lo dejes para el
último momento

Confesiones Adicionales:

Miércoles a la 6:30 pm a 8:00 pm:

*Febrero 24 (Inglés)

*Marzo 3 (Inglés y español)

*Marzo 17 (Inglés)

*Sábados de 6:15 pm a 6:55 pm (con excepción de sábado
santo)

Bilingue Embarazo Ayuda Se necesitan voluntarios

Proyecto Gabriel Arlington (ACP), la parroquia diocesana
ministerio basado en la asistencia del embarazo, las necesi-
dades de las mujeres fieles católicos que se habla Inglés y
Español para ayudar en la traducción de las mujeres em-
barazadas a sus citas prenatales en el Tepeyac Family Cen-
ter en Fairfax. Más información del ministerio es en línea
en: www.arlingtondiocese.org/gpavolunteer La formación
es gratuita, el sábado 13 de marzo a 9 am - 12 mediodía en
la Escuela Santa Teresa en Ashburn. Si usted tiene pregun-
tas, por favor, póngase en contacto con nuestras oficinas al
(703) 841-2755 ogabrielproject@arlingtondiocese.org.

**Social Action Linking Together (SALT) is asking all
parishioners to contact their state delegates and sena-
tors to urge them to restore funding for homeless pro-
grams. In these times of extreme need, homeless shelter
programs are being cut 21% in 2011 and 41% in
2012. The Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) that
prevents homelessness before it begins by keep-
ing families in their own homes and out of shelters is
being eliminated. HIP provides housing at about half
the cost of emergency shelter, and frees up shelter
space for some of the 51,315 Virginians turned away
last year. Urge your delegate & Senator to sup-
port restoration of funding for the Continuation of
Homeless Services and the Homeless Intervention
(HIP) Programs. For information on how to contact
your legislators, visit www.S-A-L-T.org and click on &
"Contact Your Legislator." Questions--contact john
Horejsi at jhorejsi@cox.net.**



Sunday, March 7

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

Monday, March 8

4:00 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
6:00 pm.....Lenten Soup Supper (PH)
7:00 pm.....RCIA Classes (PH)
7:00 pm.....RCIC Classes (Room 9)
8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, March 9

9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
7:00 pm.....Knights of Columbus (PH)
7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Wednesday, March 10

10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
3:45 pm.....GS Daisy Troop 1449 (APR)
7:00 pm.....Confirmandi Penance Service (CH)
7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (Room 6)
7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
7:30 pm.....WON Meeting (APR)
7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Room 9)
7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)

Thursday, March 11

9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
6:00 pm.....Troop 2949 (GR)
7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
7:00 pm.....Spanish Class (Room 2)
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, March 12

7:30 pm.....Stations of the Cross (CH)
7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 Board of Review (RM.8)
8:45 pm.....Hispanic Stations of the Cross (CH)

Saturday, March 13

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.....St. Patrick's Day Dinner (PH)

Take a trip this summer to see the Oberammergau Passion
Play, a "once-in-a-lifetime experience!" August 5-14, from
Baltimore-Washington airport. Includes first class hotels,
plus sight-seeing in Budapest, Prague, Vienna and Salz-
burg. Daily Mass celebrated by Capuchin Franciscan Fa-
ther Francis X. Russo. For a free brochure, call 202-529-
2188, ext. 1354. Email: francisxrusso@gmail.com