



Dear Friends,

The Gospel for today carries a message that we can all learn from – young and old alike. Yes, it is about a woman who committed adultery, a crime whose lawful punishment was stoning to death. We see her accusers pointing fingers at her, publicly acknowledging her transgression, and ready and eager to throw their stones. And then the words of Jesus, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her”. Fictional stories often have said that when Jesus bent over and wrote on the ground, he was writing the types of sin that these very same men, her accusers, had themselves committed.

How easy it is to point a finger at another person; acknowledging *their* sin, *their* failing, *their* weakness, while at the same time forgetting that we all have our stumbling blocks. Why is it, that for most of us, it is much easier and more convenient to focus on sins which we have not personally committed? Some clergy in their preaching (as well as the laity in their practice) have been guilty of this from time to time.

I read recently how an Episcopal priest in Alabama summed up this passage in this simple phrase, “The Gospel levels us all and receives all, no matter how good or bad our lives appear on the surface, for every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future”. So let those “*self-proclaimed saints*” put down their rocks, and every adulterous woman put away her scarlet letter. Every sinner has a future. Remember, we cannot grow by living in the past. There is nothing to be gained in living in the past. The past should propel us to be better in the future by learning from the past. In this Gospel story, Jesus accepted this woman as one who obviously had fallen and failed, but had a future. He saw self worth in her, as He does in each of us. “... [N]or do I condemn you. Go, and from now on sin no more” (John 8:11).

As I shared last week, whenever we point a finger at another three fingers point back at us. A good reminder that before we try to cast a stone at someone else, we might look within our own self. We very well may have some housecleaning to do!

“Human nature seems to endow people with the ability to size up everybody but themselves”. Bits And Pieces.

Have a nice week!

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

“Are We There Yet?”



Every parent has heard this question in one form or another when traveling with young family members. In fact, it probably ranks quite high on the list of “The Ten Most Annoying Questions – Heard or Asked”. And with all that said, please allow me to ask you, “Are you there yet?” On our Lenten journey, have you arrived at your destination? As any good traveler knows, when on a long trip, it is most important to stop along the way, take a break from the monotony of the road, refill the gas tank and also refresh our bodies. This good planning is also most important as we travel our Lenten journey. Two weeks from today we will celebrate the joyous event of Easter, so our destination is now well within sight. So now is the time to look within ourselves, check our spiritual roadmap, and gear up for the homestretch run. We need to fine tune our directions, repack our baggage, discard all that weighs us down, take a deep breath, and than make that final push towards Easter. This week on Wednesday evening, we will have our Parish Penance Service. Come and use this as your Rest Stop. Than spirit-filled and energized, enter into the final days before Easter.



Monday, March 22

Ben Stevens.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, March 23

Ray & Carmela Derbish.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, March 24

Jon Berg.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, March 25

John & Anthony Talarico.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, March 26

Martha Borneo.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, March 27

Natalia Vinokourova.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

Judy Campos.....5:00pm - Fr. Martin

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

Sunday, March 28

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

Frank Matricciano.....9:00am - Fr. Wilson

William Barron.....11:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

Vonnie Gossin.....12:45pm.- Fr. O’Keefe

(Mother of Steve Gossin)

Confessions will be heard on Wednesday, March 17th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. A **Lenten Penance Service** will be held on **Wednesday, March 24th at 7:30pm.**

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.



Year For Priests Spiritual Bouquet Cards Now Available:

Mark the Year for Priests, declared by Pope Benedict, by making spiritual sacrifices for our priests! Simply fill out the Spiritual Bouquet prayer cards available at the entrance to the parish or online at www.arlingtondiocese.org. Please indicate on the card, the number of Masses, Rosaries, Acts of Kindness, etc., that you will offer for our priests, and return the bottom half of the card to the parish office, drop in the collection basket or return by mail. There is also a space on the back to write a personal note, if you choose. As we offer continued support for our priests during this jubilee year, please consider taking part in this prayerful effort.



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.



Thoughts for the Week

Anger is a condition in which: The tongue works faster than the mind.

You can’t change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying over the future.

Anonymous

Congratulations to Nativity's 212 Confirmandi on the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation! Welcome to the discipleship of Jesus as you walk with Him to share the Good News.



All Religious Education classes are cancelled during Holy Week and Easter Week, March 28 through April 6. Classes resume regular schedules the week of April 11.

First Communicants are to attend the JESUS DAY RETREAT on Saturday, April 17, 8:30am-12:30pm.

Seventh Grade Students and Parents are to attend an important information meeting on Wednesday, April 21, at 7:00pm in the church regarding Confirmation requirements.

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

"All human life—from the moment of conception and through all subsequent stages—is created in the image and likeness of God. Nothing surpasses the greatness or dignity of a human person. Human life is not just an idea or an abstraction; human life is the concrete reality of a being that lives, that acts, that grows and develops; human life is the concrete reality of a being that is capable of love and of service to humanity." Pope John Paul II



Are you suffering from an abortion experience? **PROJECT RACHEL** offers spiritual and psychological healing. Call 703-276-0373 (projectrachel@arlingtondiocese.org) for a referral for private, sensitive and confidential counseling and/or reconciliation. (Project Rachel is a post-abortion healing program open to all and sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington).

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 Vibe meeting will be on March 21st from 7-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. 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 Update: Unfortunately the Stations of the Cross Performance will have to be canceled this year. Thank you to all of those who came out to help, we hope to have it again next year!

Our next Workcamp Meeting will be on March 23rd from 7:00-8:00pm in the Parish Hall.



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.

The Poor Clares Of Bethlehem Monastery will be conducting a Come and See Vocation Day

Bethlehem Monastery of the Poor Clares
5500 Holly Fork Road
Barhamsville, Virginia 23011
Date: Saturday, April 24, 2010
Time: 10:00am - 5:00pm

This is a vocational discernment event for girls and young women who are interested in the Poor Clare way of life. It will begin with Holy Mass at 10 AM. Talks will be conducted by the Sisters accompanied by a question and answer period. There will be opportunity for prayer, individual counseling by a priest and/or by the Sisters, and fellowship with each other. Vespers is at 4 PM, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. If you would like to spend the night, please bring a sleeping bag and you may "camp out" in the guest room. Please feel free to bring a parent or friend. For further information contact: Mother Mary Clare @ Phone: 757-566-1684 or e-mail address:

Penance Service and Confessions at St. Matthews

All are welcome to experience the love of Christ through the Sacrament of Penance at the Lenten Communal Penance Service, *Come Home for Easter*, Tuesday, March 30, 12:10 p.m., at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, 1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW (near the Farragut North or Dupont Circle Metro Red Line stops). Twenty priests, including confessors in American Sign, Spanish and other languages, will be available for individual confessions after the brief Penance service. Confessions also will be available in the Cathedral in English and Spanish from 11:00 a.m. until Noon on Monday and Wednesday of Holy Week, and on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, as well as from 6:15 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday of Holy Week, before our 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae service.

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a pancake breakfast for the parish after the 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Masses **today** in the parish hall. Please join us for a great breakfast and fellowship. There is no charge for the breakfast, but we accept donations which will be used to support food for the needy programs.



Join EWTN in remembering Christ's love for us through His Passion, Death and Resurrection. During Holy Week and Easter, EWTN brings you special programming and Live Easter Masses from Rome and the Basilica of the National shrine in Washington, D.C. EWTN can be seen on Channel #161 or your servers channel.



HELP FOR CHILE AND HAITI AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES

A Queen Size Quilt and beautiful jewelry sets, made and donated by parishioners, will be raffled for \$1.00 a chance. The proceeds will go for the reconstruction of the devastated cities in Chile and Haiti. Tickets are available in the Gift Shop. They will be on sale the weekend of April 10th and 11th. The drawing is scheduled for April 25th.

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

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 Salzburg. Daily Mass celebrated by Capuchin Franciscan Father Francis X. Russo. For a free brochure, call 202-529-2188, ext. 1354. Email: francisxrusso@gmail.com

BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL UPDATE

***** 93% of \$360,000 Goal *****



To date Nativity parishioners have pledged approximately \$334,000 towards the BLA goal of \$360,000. We need your help to meet this goal by Easter !!

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.

Food collection for ECHO and the POOR

CLARE SISTERS.....The monthly food collection will take place **Easter Sunday, April 4th.**



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

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.

SECCIÓN en ESPAÑOL

Actividades de la Comunidad Hispana
Iglesia de la Natividad 6400 Nativity Lane-Burke, VA 22015
Telephone 703-455-2400 Rev. Cedric Wilson

SANTA MISA EN ESPAÑOL: Todos los sábados a las 7:00pm

CONFESIONES: Los sábados antes de la Santa Misa de.
6:15pm a 6:55pm

Via Crucis:

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

Catequesis Para niños y Jóvenes: Sábados de 5:00pm a 6:45pm
Informes: 703-455-2400, ext 116 or Sr. Ponciano 202-262-6659

Catequesis para adultos: Bautismo, Comunión, y Confirmación
Sábados de 5:15pm a 6:15pm Contacto: Tito Pinto 703-912-9220

Charla de convalidación: Para recibir el sacramento del matrimonio: Domingo: Mar 07 a las 9:00am Contactar: Sra. Varillas 703-887-9924

Charla para el Bautismo: Primer Miércoles del mes 7:30pm

Sacramento del Bautismo: Tercer Sábado del mes. 1:30pm

Grupo de Oración: Miércoles 7:00pm a 9:00pm
Están todos invitados

Grupo de Liderazgo Juvenil reuniones: Domingo 11:00am-1:00pm aula 5 Contacto: Nelson Pineda 571-234-3664

Reunión del Grupo de los Jóvenes Sábados: a partir de las 5:00pm aula 4. contacto: Juan Carlos Chavez 703-473-6941

Solidaridad Cristiana: Mayor información Llamar a Mirian Ponciano 703-913-5494.

Para mas información: Maria Guevara 703-444-5716

Results of Knights of Columbus Blood Drive, Saturday, March 6th: Congratulations to Nativity and St. Raymond Parishes for 77 units of blood that were successfully donated! Thank you for donating this "gift of life."



The Women of St. Raymond of Peñafort and Fr. Gould invite the women of your parish to join them on a pilgrimage to Philadelphia Sat. Apr.17. The bus leaves St. Raymonds at 7:30 am and returns at 9:00 pm. We will visit St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Independence Hall and more. Space is limited. To sign up send a check for \$35 made out to St. Raymonds with Phila. trip in the memo line and mail to St. Raymonds, 8750 Pohick Rd., Springfield, VA 22153. For more information [email margaret-norton@verizon.net](mailto:margaret-norton@verizon.net).



Sunday, March 21

CRS Fair Trade Coffee, BSA Donut Sale
K of C Pancake Breakfast after 7:30 & 9:00 am Masses
2:00, 4:00 & 6:00pm.....CCD Classes (S)
2:00 pm..... Baptism (CH)
7:00 pm.....Vibe Meeting (PH)

Monday, March 22

4:00 & 7:00 pm..... CCD Classes (S)
6:30 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 23

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

Wednesday, March 24

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

Thursday, March 25

9:30 am..... Craft Group (APR)
7:00 pm..... ESL (Room 5)
7:00 pm..... BSA Troop 1100 Board of Rev. (Room 6)
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 26

4:00 pm..... Girl Scout Troop 2134 (APR)
7:00 pm..... Family Fellowship Group (PH)
7:30 pm..... Stations of the Cross (CH)
8:45 pm..... Hispanic Stations of the Cross (CH)

Saturday, March 27

10:00 am..... ESL (Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8)
10:00 am..... Dog Obedience Class (PL)
5:00 pm..... Hispanic CCD (S)

Boy Scout Troop 1100 will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts after all of the Masses today. The boys are raising money to help fund their Philmont High Adventure hiking trip this July. Donuts sell for \$5 a box, and the Boy Scouts greatly appreciate your support!

