



Dear Friends,

Palm Sunday begins the most solemn week in the church year. This final week of Jesus' life and the varying attitudes of the people are vividly portrayed. It is easy to view this week as a walk through history some 2000 years ago. For many years, that is how I looked at the coming week.

Jesus knew His fate as he rode upon a donkey to the shouts and acclamations of the people. Their thoughts as they strew their palm branches, having heard or seen the miracles that He had performed, was the liberator had truly come. Their celebration would, however, be short lived and many of the same people shouting their acclamations would soon be shouting for His death, as their spiritual leaders denounced Him. We can all learn a practical message from Palm Sunday. Do we stand up for Christian principles (eg. against abortion, capital punishment, rights for the poor or the immigrant) when it is "safe" from opposition. Are we silent when it is "politically correct?" How easy is it for many of us to do that today. The crowds of people were *for* Jesus on Sunday and *against* Him hours later.

Holy Thursday- The Institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood. As a youngster, I recall a common practice of visiting seven churches with my mom, dad, sister and grandmother. At that time the side altars, where the Blessed Sacrament was placed after the liturgy, were ornately decorated with dozens of lilies, palms, candelabra – and it seemed that each church tried to outdo the other. Remember, Rhode Island is 67% Catholic and churches were oftentimes just blocks from each other. I still do not know why the practice was to visit 7 churches, but I do recall a priest, on one occasion saying, that he would prefer people staying in one church for an extended period of prayer, rather than running (or driving) from one to another spending just minutes in each one. For me as a priest the words "Do this in memory of Me" hold special meaning. I am reminded that for me it is not enough just to offer Mass or to sit before the Eucharist in Benediction. As priest and shepherd to my people, I must *BE* the benediction or blessing to my people especially in their moments of hurt and sorrow. For me, I get the "fuel" inside the church through the Eucharist and must *live* that Eucharist outside the building. And isn't that where Jesus spent most of his time - out there with the people and their problems. But to be honest, it is oftentimes easier said than done with phones ringing, e-mails, the unexpected knock at my door and administrative duties. "Can I see you for a minute, Father?" is almost never just a minute. A *practical meditation for each of us this Holy Thursday:* How do I respect and love people outside the church doors? It is so easy to sit and receive the Sacrament of Love inside the church and then go outside and not practice it.

When I was younger, on Good Friday, I would find myself in church between noon and three reflecting on the road to the cross and the crucifixion. I would reflect on the instruments of torture, nails being pounded into Jesus' hands and feet. But I never seemed to go further than that. Wasn't it terrible what they did to Jesus, an innocent man? However, as I grew in my spiritual journey I recognize his suffering every time I read Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 25, and the different ways we can be blinded to our brothers and sisters who are suffering today especially in third world countries. I recall the words of Carmelite Father William McNamara in his book, *The Art of Being Human*: "We commit a thousand murders: the spiritual murders of the vicious word, the cold glance, the smug attitude, gossip, carelessness, callousness, and hatred towards others." I am reminded of the many innocent men and women who have been executed through capital punishment while most of us remain silent on the issue. And I am reminded of the words Jesus spoke from His cross on that first Good Friday "Father forgive them, they know not what they are doing." And as a practical reflection some who listen to His words, still keep walls of hatred between themselves and others. Forgiveness is for the other person, not me - for after all she (he) started it.

Yes, this week let your hearts wander back to those biblical days and see the sufferings that Jesus endured for each of us. But don't stay there. To get the full meaning of this week let us not just look back some two thousand years, but look at today and examine our attitudes. How do we stand on Christian values? Are we silent when we ought to speak out? Do we live the sacrament of Love that we will celebrate this Thursday outside the church building - where the real challenge is? As we look at the sufferings of Jesus we might also recall how we oftentimes bring suffering to others by what we do - or do not do? Do we forgive? For it is sin looking within ourselves that we can truly become a resurrected person ourselves on Easter.

My hope and prayer is that we all will experience the true meaning of this week we call *Holy*. Don't ignore today as we all look back this week. A blessed and meaningful Holy Week to all.



FAST AND ABSTINENCE: Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence. **Fast** means one main **meatless** meal per day and two smaller, **meatless** meals for all between the ages of 18 and 60 (inclusive). **Abstinence** means no meat or meat products are to be eaten and is applicable to all who are 14 years or

Immaculate Mary, through your pierced heart may all those being called to serve Jesus and His Church as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers become generously open to the light and truth of His choice of them.

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

On March 31, 2010, "Terri's Day" will be observed to commemorate the 2005 death of Terri Schiavo who was cruelly and needlessly dehydrated to death while her family and millions of supporters stood by, unable to stop her court-ordered sanctioned death. Visit www.terrisfight.org and please support The Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation.



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.

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

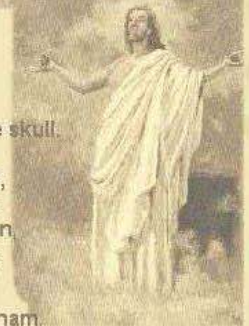
Gabriel Project 1-866-444-3553

Jerusalem OBITUARIES 33 AD



Calvary

Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood.



Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham, was a member of the house of David. He was the Son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, His devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by His mother Mary, His faithful Apostles, numerous disciples, and many other followers.

Jesus was self educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a Medical Doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of His death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the Good News, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry, and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father's Kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, He held a Last Supper celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death.

The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the tomb. Roman soldiers were put on guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.



Monday, March 29

Mary Jane Frere.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, March 30

Andre R. Forest.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, March 31

Frances & Dom Butera.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Holy Thursday, April 1

Mass of the Last Supper.....7:30pm - Frs. Martin,
O'Keefe, Wilson, Deacon Pardo
(Bilingual Mass Last Supper)

Good Friday, April 2

Good Friday Service.....7:30pm - Fr. O'Keefe

Holy Saturday, April 3

Easter Vigil Mass.....8:30pm - Frs. Martin,
O'Keefe, Wilson, Deacon Pardo

Easter Sunday, April 4

Ann (Mother of Anita).....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe
Parishioners.....9:00am - Fr. Martin
John Anthony Pennett.....11:00am - Fr. Wilson
Mafak Sarafa.....12:45pm - Fr. Wilson
Spanish Mass.....2:00pm - Fr. Wilson

THE TRIDUUM –

The Three Greatest Days in our Church!

Yes, that is true! These three days, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil ARE at the very top of the Church's list of Days that are holy! In the General Norms for the Liturgical year, which Pope Paul VI solemnly promulgated in 1969, the Triduum is described this way:



“Christ redeemed humankind and gave perfect glory to God principally through His Paschal Mystery. By dying He destroyed our death and by rising He restored our life. The Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is thus the culmination of the entire liturgical year (no. 18). The Easter Vigil, in the night when Christ rose from the dead, is considered the mother of all vigils. During it the church keeps watch, awaiting the resurrection of Christ and celebrating it in the sacraments (no. 21).” So come and join us for these three great days. Come with all that troubles you, be with the whole church as we together struggle to make sense of our world and find light in the darkness. Yes, the Easter Vigil is long (about two and one half hours), but take the time, come, listen, pray, take in the symbols, or sit quietly. This is the end of our Lenten journey. Hopefully for each of us weary travelers, we have reached the destination we've been seeking – inner peace, and Easter joy!

BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL UPDATE

*** 97% of \$360,000 Goal ***



To date Nativity parishioners have pledged approximately \$348,000 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.

Calling all Men of Nativity

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join us on **Thursday, April 8 2010** for a evening of relaxation and finger lickin' good eating. Yes that's right - ALL YOU CAN EAT, Buffalo Hot Wings, Chicken Strips, and Fries for \$14.99 or you can order off the menu.

Where:

Buffalo Wing Factory <http://www.buffalowingfactory.com/>
2260 Hunters Woods Plaza, Reston, VA 20191 (703) 390-9015

When:

Thursday, April 8th, 7:00 PM
Depart Church Parking Lot promptly at 6:30 PM for carpooling. If you'd like to drive yourself, meet us at the restaurant at 7:00 PM
Come learn about the Knights of Columbus. Hope to see you there!
Contact Gary Mausolf at gary_mausolf@hotmail.com with any questions.

Thoughts for the Week

Harsh words break no bones; but they do break hearts.

Anonymous

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)

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.

Domingo de Ramos: sábado Margo 27: 7:00pm

Procesión Solemnia Margo 28: 3:00pm. Bendición de las palmas que serán distribuidas en las misas.

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

Derecho Canonico (1252)

La ley de la abstinencia obliga a los que han cumplido catorce años; la del ayuno, a todos los mayores de edad, hasta que hayan cumplido cincuenta y nueve años. Cuideada sin embargo los pastores de almas y los padres de que también se formen en un auténtico espíritu de penitencia quienes, por no haber alcanzado la edad, no están obligados al ayuno o a la abstinencia.



Sunday, March 28 PALM SUNDAY

11:00 am Youth School of Leadership (Room 4)
7:00 pm..... Troop 1100 Committee Meeting (Room 6)

Monday, March 29

10:00 am..... School Stations of the Cross (CH)
7:00 pm..... RCIA Classes (PH)
7:00 pm..... RCIC Classes (Room 9)
8:00 pm..... AA Meeting (APR)

Wednesday, March 31

7:00 pm..... RCIA/RCIC Practice for the Vigil (CH)

Holy Thursday, April 1

7:30 pm..... Mass of the Last Supper (CH)

Good Friday, April 2

3:00 pm..... Stations of the Cross (CH)
7:30 pm..... Good Friday Service (CH)
9:00 pm..... Liturgia de la Palabra Pasión del Señor y Veneración de la Santa Cruz (CH)

Holy Saturday, April 3

10:00 am..... Blessing of Food (CH)
8:30 pm..... Easter Vigil Mass (CH)

Social Action Linking Together (SALT)--thanks to all parishioners for contacting their state delegates and senators to urge them to restore funding for homeless programs. You made a difference! In these times of extreme need, homeless shelter programs were being cut 41% and the Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) that prevents homelessness before it begins by keeping families in their own homes and out of shelters was being eliminated. 51,315 Virginians were turned away last year. You urged your delegate & Senator to support restoration of funding and those funds have been restored. Join SALT in thanking them. 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.

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. **THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF OUR SAVIOR ON THE CROSS...** Filmed on location in Spain, this unique musical program presents the Seven Last Words that Jesus Christ spoke from the Cross on Mount Calvary. March 30th and April 2nd.