



Dear Friends,

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer.

One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming saved.

'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. 'You saved my son's life.'

'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,' the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked.

'Yes,' the farmer replied proudly.

'I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of.' And that he did.

Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin...

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill.

His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Someone once said: What goes around comes around.

When I read the last line, I thought of my dad. One of his favorite sayings was "When you give out to others it comes back double." I have found that so true in my life and I'm sure that my brother, sister and their children have also found it true, for Dad, so often, shared and lived those words. It certainly has been true for our parish. Once again during Lent, our *Project Starfish* basket will be at the entrance of the church. This Lenten endeavor that began eleven years ago with some \$69,000 filling the basket in 1998, has grown to \$200,000 last year. During these years we have received 2.2 million dollars and have built over 600 houses, drilled water wells, built a two story school, fed thousands, cared for lepers, built tilapia fish farms, and purchased five large fishing boats. In doing this, we have done something far more important, we have changed hearts! And therein lies the blessing. The poor have changed us! Our outlook and attitudes have so changed our parish that our hearts, as a caring community, have gone out around the world (Haiti, Cameroon, The Philippines (Sister Jean Mary's House of Love), and Mexico -

(The House of the Poor in Tijuana) as well as across the street - helping those needing temporary financial assistance because of serious illness and not able to meet everyday bills, to providing prayer shawls for the seriously ill that always are accompanied by the prayers of all in our community. By helping those around the world and across the street we are the ones who have been blessed many times over. We are known in the Diocese as the “caring parish.” Yes, how true the words above - what goes around comes around.

As we journey through Lent, the above is a practical reflection on going out of our way to help another. We might also recall the words of the writer Peter De Vries:

*“We are not primarily put on this earth to see
Through one another, but to see one another through.”*

Have a nice week.




Monday, March 1

William Clift.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, March 2

Edward Jehamy.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, March 3

Nash O. Thompson III.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, March 4

Paul Gould.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, March 5

Kathy Davis.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, March 6

Mary McHugh.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

Mary Wilhelm.....5:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Spanish Mass7:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Sunday, March 7

Erika Cadran.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

Gerald Hay.....9:00am - Fr. Martin

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

Jim Sale.....12:45pm - Fr. O’Keefe

Thought for the Week

The older you get, the more you realize that kindness is synonymous with happiness.

L. Barrymore

SHARING HOPE, a support group for men and women going through separation and divorce, will meet this Friday, March 5th, at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church Hall, off Rte. 123. The topic will be “**Forgive & Forgiveness**”. Newcomers are warmly welcomed and there is no fee. For further information, directions or encouragement, please call **Barbara at 703-425-5467 or Maureen (work) 240-497-4279.**

“Need Directions?”

A few years ago, a survey showed that men are much more reluctant to stop and ask for directions than are women. And women have a harder time reading a map than men. So what’s the point, you ask? The point is that none of us like to admit there are times in our lives when our planned route is not going exactly as WE had planned. These are the times when we **MUST** seek guidance either from another person or a map, if we are ever going to reach our destination. **WE MUST BE WILLING TO CHANGE!** Just as this takes place on our everyday journeys, so too does it happen on our spiritual journey. There are times when the fog and mist of uncertainty and doubt reduce visibility, storm clouds and high winds make it difficult to stay on track. We become disoriented and confused. These are the times when help is needed. Lent is the perfect season when we can stop, re-evaluate our goals, **CHANGE** directions if necessary, and then proceed on our journey with confidence. Our navigational guidance system is available 24/7. In fact it is just a thought away 1-800-PRAYERS. Our maps, composed of liturgy, meditation and devotions, are concise and clear and guaranteed to bring you to the best destination of all - The Place of Inner Healing and Peace – wrapped in Easter Joy!



LENTEN CONFESSIONS



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



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Friday, March 5th after the 7:30 am Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Closing will take place at 1:30 pm. Make a small sacrifice and come spend some time with Our Lord in thanksgiving for His many blessings.

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.

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



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

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

Pro-Life Corner:

The unborn child is totally entrusted to the protection and care of the woman carrying him or her in the womb. Yet sometimes it is precisely the mother herself who makes the decision and asks for the child to be eliminated. Pray for all who have had abortions that they will find peace through God's love and forgiveness.



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/> (Note Well: Nativity Parish Pro-Life has committed to supporting this event on Friday, March 5, 2010. Please sign up at the website and Stand Up For Life!)

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 – Special Election in Virginia's 41st State Delegate District. In Virginia, polls are open from 6:00 AM until 7:00 PM. Please Support and Vote Pro-Life! (Fairfax County Office of Elections 703-222-0776, recorded message at 703-324-4700 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/EB) The fourteen voting precincts that are in the 41st Delegate District are: Burke, Burke Centre, Cherry Run, Fairview, Lake Braddock, Laurel, Orange, Parkway, Pohick, Sangster, Signal Hill, Terra Centre, White Oaks, Woodyard

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

There was an insert in last week's Bulletin about the *Justice for Immigrants Postcard Campaign* of the **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**. Bishop Paul Loverde encourages us to support this campaign and to give it our "prayerful consideration." Information on the campaign and specially-designed postcards are in a box on the lower shelf of the table between the doors nearest to the Gift Shop as you exit church. Please pick up a packet and return completed postcards to the box marked "completed postcards" on the same table the next time you come to church. Bishop Loverde will personally deliver them to your U.S. Senators and Congressmen.

Also, plan to attend a program on comprehensive immigration reform in the Nativity School cafeteria at 7:30 pm on Friday, March 5. Among the questions to be discussed will be what kind of journey did you or your ancestors make to the United States, what does it mean for you to be in solidarity with people across the globe, and what are the elements of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' comprehensive immigration reform recommendations. For further information, contact Joe Pettit, 703-455-4937 or by email at pettit@georgetown.edu.



Make Your Voice Heard in Richmond:

On Tuesday, March 2, V.O.I.C.E. (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) will hold a Public Action in Richmond at a church near the Capitol. At the public gathering we'll be asking our elected officials to endorse an exciting effort to secure \$5 million in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) emergency (stimulus) funding for Virginia residents who need urgent dental care. We estimate that as many as 7,000 Virginians could be served in the near term. We also remain hopeful that some funding can be secured in budget negotiations for pilot programs to attract local jurisdiction and private funds to continue to serve this population, increasing their health and employment prospects. V.O.I.C.E. is a broad-based citizens' organization with 47 religious institution members, including Nativity, representing 150,000 NOVA residents in Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William counties as well as Alexandria City, where it has organized hundreds of low-income adults many of whom live in the woods and stay in church-sponsored homeless shelters and are in desperate need of dental care to allow them to work and rebuild their lives. Car pools will leave Nativity's parking lot shortly after noon on March 2 to meet buses that will drive us to and from the action. We should be back at Nativity by 9:00 pm. For further information, contact Joe Pettit, 703-455-4937, pettit@georgetown.edu.

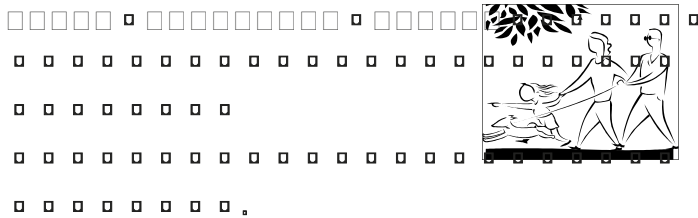
"This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" If in your listening to the Lord you are sensing the invitation to follow Christ as a priest, deacon, sister or brother, call Father Brian Bashista 703-841-2514, or write: b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org

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.



NATIVITY SCHOOL & PTO SPRING BENEFIT & AUCTION

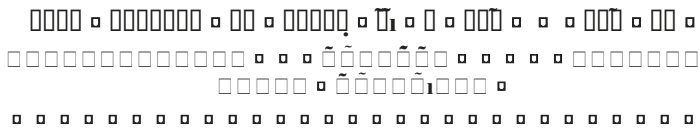
Our biggest fundraiser of the year will be on **March 6, 2010** at 6:30pm in the parish hall. All adult parishioners are invited to come and enjoy a night of delicious appetizers from Pane e Vino Ristorante, open bar with wine and beer, silent and live auctions, music and dancing. There will be a raffle 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."**



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 4th, 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.

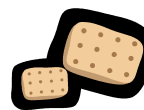
BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL UPDATE
Pre-Commitment Weekend Results
28% of \$360,000 Goal



To date Nativity parishioners have pledged approximately \$101,000 towards the BLA goal of \$360,000, before incorporating the Commitment Weekend results. 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.



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!

viBE Don't forget the Lenten Soup Suppers on Monday evenings during Lent from 6:00 to 8:00pm. The last supper is March 22nd. Cost is \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 for a family.

SECCIÓN en ESPAÑOL

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

Miércoles de Ceniza:

Febrero 17 9:00 pm

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)

Derecho Canónico (1252)

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

Carbon Fast is catching on!

More than just giving up wasteful energy practices, a Carbon Fast is an intentional reduction in our use of energy that is linked to the spiritual renewal of Lent.

Pope John Paul II said: "When the ecological crisis is set within the broader context of the search for peace within society, we can understand better the importance of giving attention to what the earth and its atmosphere are telling us: namely, that there is an order in the universe which must be respected, and that the human person, endowed with the capability of choosing freely, has a grave responsibility to preserve this order for the well-being of future generations. I wish to repeat that the ecological crisis is a moral issue." Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 1990.

Try a Carbon Fast idea with your family this week. Go to www.tearfund.org/Carbonfast

A green thought for Lent from the Creation Care Ministry.

Join EWTN in remembering Christ's love for us in special programming during the Lenten season. Check the [EWTN website](http://www.ewtn.com) for more details and last-minute updates.



Sunday, February 28

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

7:00 pm.....Troop 1100 Committee Mtg. (Rm. 6)

Monday, March 1

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 2

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 3

10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)

6:30 to 8:00 pm.....Lenten Confessions

7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (Room 6)

7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)

7:30 pm.....Hispanic Baptism Class (Room 8)

7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Room 9)

7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)

Thursday, March 4

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.....Grief Support Group (S)

7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Room 4)

Friday, March 5

8:00 am.....Blessed Sacrament Exposition (CH)

1:30 pm.....Blessed Sacrament Closing (CH)

4:00 pm.....G.S. Troop 2134 (APR)

7:00 pm.....Troop 1635 (APR)

7:30 pm.....Stations of the Cross (CH)

7:30 pm.....Hispanic Lenten Mission (APR)

8:45 pm.....Hispanic Stations of the Cross (CH)

Saturday, March 6

9:30 am.....First Saturday Devotion (CH)

10:00 am.....ESL (Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8)

10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)

5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)

6:30 pm.....NS Spring Benefit & Auction (PH)

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