



Dear Friends,

Our Easter congregation, as well as our Christmas congregation, is so diverse. Our children are home from college, relatives are in from out of town, non-Catholics join us with their Catholic spouses and there are those who join us once or twice a year for one reason or another. I welcome all of you as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, Easter. Easter morning I will be flying to Rhode Island to be with my sister and brother and their families. This Easter will be different from others - the first one without both of my parents. As recently as last Easter Mom filled an Easter basket for me with those all too sugary yellow chicks and chocolate Easter eggs. Memories return of Mom filling Easter baskets and Dad hiding plastic multi colored Easter eggs around the house for the great grandchildren to find.

This Easter Carol Mack and her daughter, Michelle, have again filled some 70 dozen plastic eggs with candy for our youngest children. I began this practice many years ago while Pastor at Saint Philip's Church. The Easter egg is an ancient symbol of Resurrection. Many Eastern European cultures still hand paint the Easter egg with symbols of life.

The egg, for me, always carried a contemporary message. The tiny bird never truly experiences life until it breaks forth from its shell. At times we might find ourselves encased within our own "shells" of pride, prejudice, selfishness, greed, lack of forgiveness, intolerance. Our shells might be walls that separate us from another relative or friend. If we're honest with ourselves the walls probably went up for a rather insignificant reason in the first place. Until we break out of our shells we do not experience the fullness of life - Easter. The only thing needed to break these "shells" is understanding, compassion, forgiveness and the realization that we are *all* fallible - capable of making mistakes.

As I welcome all of you, parishioners and visitors, on this beautiful Easter Day, I hope and pray that Jesus will truly take hold of your life. Just as we see nature's landscape coming to life again this spring may the real message of Resurrection capture our hearts. Life is too short no matter what our age might be. Tear down the walls - the shells - that may be separating you from another. No one can make a *better past*. But all of us can make a better today and tomorrow. Take a good look at your child's Easter egg. Reflect on it.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL.

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

**HE IS RISEN! LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN!
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!**



Christ has triumphed over death and we all have reason to celebrate. From this Sunday until the Feast of Pentecost, the Church will celebrate the 50 Days of Easter. The glorious colors and decorations remain in the church, the scripture readings tell the story of the days following the Resurrection, and “Alleluia” is heard throughout the liturgy. This is the time when we, the People of God, can celebrate the overwhelming gift of salvation won for us by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. If we look back into history, we find that it was during the second century that the early Church began to celebrate a Christian Passover as a *triduum* (a three day observance). Celebrating in memory and hope, a unitive feast of both the Cross and Resurrection, the Church identified Jesus as the Paschal Lamb of the New Covenant. Early testimonies about the Easter feast seem to show that it was celebrated for fifty days ending with the feast of Pentecost. As a result of the Second Vatican Council, we now walk the path of the early Church. Let us do so with spirit-filled lives and great rejoicing! Happy Easter!!



Masses For The Week

Monday, April 13

LAWRENCE & DOROTHY KAMEEN.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, April 14

TINA COLOMBO.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, April 15

THEDA STAUFFER.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, April 16

CHARLOTTE HYER.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, April 16

THOMAS CARR.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, April 17

JOHN HOFFMAN.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

MENA MACALUSO.....5:00pm - Fr. Martin

Sunday, April 18

Special Intentions for

JIM HAY.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

GRACE MARTELLO.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

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

MARIAN ROTELLA.....12:45pm - Fr. Wilson

Pastor:	Rev. Richard B. Martin
Parochial Vicar:	Rev. J. Kevin O’Keefe
Visiting Priest:	Rev. Cedric Wilson
Spanish Ministry:	Rev. Armando Marsal
Spanish Ministry:	Deacon Jose Pardo
Parish Office:	(703) 455-2400
Nativity School:	(703) 455-2300
CCD Office:	(703) 455-0372

Nativity’s Grief Support Group, for all who suffered the death of a loved one, and are in need of the comfort that sharing can bring, meets at 7:30pm in the school library on the First and Third Thursday of each month and is open to all adults at no charge. Prior registration is not required. Contact Carol Mack 703-455-2400 x 117 for more info.



Religious Education

Easter Holiday — all Religious Education classes cancelled from **Sunday, April 5, through Tuesday, April 14**. Classes resume on Sunday, April 19; Monday, April 20; and Tuesday, April 21.



The **Ladies of WON** extend a heartfelt **thank you** to all parishioners who gave so generously to our collection for Easter baskets. You have made Easter a more joyous one for the children. This year we were able to share the joy of Easter with 150 children through Carpenters’ Shelter, Hispanic Outreach and the Resource Center of Springfield (a Lorton Action Center Affiliate). May all the blessings of the Easter Season be with you and yours.

Thanks goes out to all who supported the **Nativity Catholic School PTO Spring Auction**. With your faithful support we were able to surpass our goals which will allow us to begin planning for another successful school year.

The Family Fellowship Group will have a gathering on April 24th. A Spring cook-out will be held in May at the Ronald McDonald House. For more information contact Courtney or Dzul Scherber at nativityfamilyfellowship@yahoo.com
Have a Blessed Easter!

Thought for the Week

Our actions can speak volumes. What are you communicating to the people around you by what you don’t say?

Bits and Pieces (April 2009)

Knights of Columbus Frenchy Cyr Memorial Scholarships

Last year, Nativity's Knights of Columbus Council 7992 awarded five Cyr Memorial scholarships for Catholic secondary school tuition (grades 9-12), totaling \$5000. Scholarships were awarded to Hilary Adams and Kathleen Caler (Ireton HS), Richard Golinowski (Paul VI HS), Julia Matthews (Nativity School going to Ireton) and Audrey Roper (Nativity School going to John Paul the Great HS). This year again at least five scholarships, each for \$1000, will be awarded. One scholarship will be awarded to the eight-grade student scoring the highest; all entrants, including eight-grade students, will compete for the remaining scholarships. Entrants must be registered parishioners at Nativity, or a son or daughter of an active member of Council 7992. Submissions must be post marked no later than midnight, Friday, May 8, 2009. Application forms are available in the Church office, at Nativity School, from guidance counselors at Bishop Ireton, Bishop O'Connell, John Paul the Great and Paul VI high schools, or from Tony Rozga. Questions, call Tony Rozga, 440-8390.

He is Risen!

May the joy of Easter be with you. Let Marriage Encounter help you resurrect the romance in your marriage. The next local **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is May 15-17**. Early registration is highly recommended, as dates fill up quickly. For more information call John and Lorie Scali (703) 631-5289 or visit wwme-nova.org

PRO-LIFE CORNER

Easter is the ultimate celebration of Life as no other. Greet your fellow Christians with the true meaning of Easter, "Rejoice, Christ is Risen!", as they reply "Truly, He is risen!" Chose Life Today. Choose Life tomorrow. Pray Always. We Must Do No Less. A Happy and Blessed Easter to all!



Please support the **TEPEYAC FAMILY CENTER**, 11135 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-273-9440 x107, with your prayers and financial resources. Info on this crisis pregnancy center can be found at www.tepeyacfamilycenter.com

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 information.

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

The **Legion of Mary** is a world-wide organization of the lay apostolate, in which Catholic men and women sanctify themselves through prayer and spiritual work in union with Mary, the Mother of God, under the guidance of a priest. The Legion was founded in 1921 and the members are giving service to the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country. The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, nursing homes and teaching CCD. The evening adult group meets in the All Purpose Room on Tuesdays at 7:30pm. The day adult group meets in the All Purpose Room on Fridays at 10:00am. For more information call Sandy Giglio (day group) 703-440-0215 or Jane Hamilton (evening group) 703-646-5051.

Nativity School Scrip Gift Card Program

Nativity School is selling Scrip Gift Cards! Scrip gift cards are similar to gift certificates that you purchase from national retailer stores. By purchasing scrip gift cards through Nativity, you are providing much needed funding support for the school simply by shopping. You will get full face value for the amount purchased and the school receives a percentage of the purchased price! Many popular national retailers such as Safeway, Giant, Macy's, Kohls. Sam's Club, Best buy, Macaroni Grill, etc. participate in our scrip program.

Ordering scrip is easy! Simply obtain an order form from the scrip envelope located on the bulletin board in the vestibule of the church or online at www.nativityburke.org/school/documents/ScripSelections.pdf. Fill out the order form and drop it with a check in the school or church office to the attention of Cara Guzik (school). Orders places by Friday at 3:00pm will be available for pick-up in the school office by the following Thursday.

Please think of Scrip Gift Cards for birthdays, anniversaries, First Communions, Confirmations, etc.

Sharing Hope, a support group for men and women going through separation and divorce, will meet this Friday, April 17th at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church Hall, off Rte. 123. The topic will be "Men and Divorce". 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) 703-610-5805

Thank You to all who helped decorate our Church for Easter. The parishioners for the beautiful flowers, the women who decorated the sanctuary and the maintenance personnel who keep our Church clean. May Our Risen Lord bless you. **HAPPY EASTER!**



Happy Easter from Creation Care Ministry. How was your Carbon Fast this Lent? We would love to hear your ideas and successes. With spring arriving, this is a wonderful time to green your landscape care practices. Two great places to search for environmentally friendly landscape care info are the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District website and the National Wildlife Federation website.

The Creation Care Ministry meets monthly on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9:00pm. Please join us in the Green Room on Wednesday, April 15th.

For further info, please contact Kim Young, 703-493-9035 or KYoungDT@msn.com

A green thought for the week from the Creation Care Ministry.

The Jeweler's Shop

On April 25, 2009 at 7:30pm in St. Leo's School Gym, St. Leo the Great Parish will be hosting a production of "The Jeweler's Shop," a lovely play written by Karol Wojtyla-who would become Pope John Paul II. This is a moving love story of the trials and triumphs in the interrelationships of three couples who visit a jeweler to buy their wedding bands as they struggle with the love that binds them. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$12 for seniors (55 and over) and students. Tickets may be purchased by calling Mary Adams at St. Leo's (703-273-5369.) Proceeds will benefit St. Leo's St. Vincent de Paul Society.

COOKIES FOR CHRIST



"I came for the cookies, but I found love and Jesus." The KAIROS Prison retreat begins on April 23, 2009 and lasts for 5 days. It is an immersion in the message of the Gospel. Many who come for cookies find a way to turn their lives around. Please make, and pray over, a few dozen soft chocolate chip cookies packed a dozen per zip-loc bag. They have to be soft to survive the handling and x-ray activities. Please place your cookies in box at the back of church (and office). Cookies will be taken to the KAIROS retreat on Wed. April 22 at 11AM. For more information about this ministry and other recipes: www.allsoulsva.com/html/kairos.html Your Nativity KAIROS team leader is Rick Gammache, 703-727-3782

Paul VI Catholic High School will host a **PREVIEW TO HIGH SCHOOL** on Thursday, April 30th at 7:00pm for 7th grade students and their families. Get a jump start on next year! See for yourself what makes PVI a special place. Please RSVP to Mrs. Eileen Hanley ehanley@paulvi.net

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Please think of Scrip Gift Cards for birthdays, anniversaries, First Communions, Confirmations etc.

Miss Nellie Gray, Founder and President of the March for Life, will receive **The Brent Society's Distinguished Service Award** for her constant and courageous commitment to the defense of innocent life from conception to natural death at an Awards Dinner Thursday, May 28th. Reception/open bar at 6:30pm; dinner at 7pm at the Arlington Hilton Hotel, 950 N. Stafford St., Arlington atop the Ballston Metro Station. Reservations \$55/person or \$500 table of ten required by May 24th. Send checks and names of attendees to: The Brent Society, P.O. Box 2901, Merrifield, VA 22116. Info: 703-830-3103. **All are welcome.**

Outside Our Parish

St. Joseph's in Alexandria is sponsoring a Gold Tournament April 22, 2009 to benefit the Josephites **Share in Mission Program**. For more info contact Phillippa Ferguson Johnston 240-274-2403 or philiferg@verizon.net.

Camp St. Charles Open House, April 19 and May 17 from 11am to 4pm. This is a Boys and Girls Catholic Over-night Summer Camp. For more information and directions, visit our website: www.campstcharles.com or call us at 301-934-8799.

Spring Dance, featuring The Fairfax Swing Band, Epiphany Parish Center, 3410 Woodburn Rd., Annandale, Saturday, May 2 from 7:30 to 10:30pm. \$15 per person; students and senior citizens \$10. Refreshments included in ticket price. For more info call Daria Parrell 703-255-2221 or email darric@aol.com

Concert by Choir from Chimbote, Peru Jupusa (Young People United by a Single Friendship), an award-winning choir from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Chimbote, Peru will perform at St. Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032, at 7:30pm on April 28. The concert is free, but donations for the choir's parish will be appreciated. For more information contact Pat Seiler 703-978-0242 or pbseiler@verizon.net



cyo@nativityschool.org 703-455-2400 ext 115.

First Aid Kit Sale!
Sunday April 25th - 26th
After Mass
 Either take one for yourself or donate it to a workcamper! Be Safe!

This Week!
Tonight: Easter
April 13th: Core Meeting Youth Office
April 18th: Lasertag!
April 19th: No viBE!!!!

Get the forms on the bulletin board.


LASERTAG:
April 18th 6:30 – 9:00pm
 turn in forms and \$10 to Church office by Friday April 17th.

WEEKEND RETREAT FOR PEOPLE FACING SERIOUS ILLNESS: A retreat specially planned for men and women facing serious physical illness will be held at the Dominican Retreat House in McLean, VA on May 22-24, 2009. A team of doctors, nurses, priests, sisters and helpers will be present around the clock. Scheduling allows plenty of time for rest and reflection. This retreat is offered **free of charge**. This is a non-smoking weekend. **Registration closes May 12, 2009.** Please call as soon as possible. Dominican Retreat: 703-356-4243 or Doug Sebek, 703-860-4929.

THE 5-K STAR RUN FOR LYME DISEASE

Come join National Capital Lyme Disease Association for their 1st annual 5k for Lyme Disease. All proceeds will directly help people suffering from Lyme Disease in our area. Come together and run for a good cause. Where? South Run Park, Springfield, VA...When? Saturday, May 16th...5k starts at 8:30 am...Kids 1k Fun Run at 8:45 am. Register online at Active.com (Lyme Disease 5K) or on race-day from 7-8:15 am. Sports science dry-fit shirts, great prizes, refreshments. A Family event for all ages.

Bookkeeper's Corner

 We have been reviewing the cost of lawn care items, aeration, seeding, weekly mowing, leaf clean-up, etc. We have hired a new company for the three houses (reducing costs about \$500.00 per house). We are in the process of taking bids on the Church grounds.
 Takk (Thank you in Icelandic)

THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, April 12 EASTER SUNDAY

“Rejoice, Christ is Risen” “Truly, He is Risen”
HAPPY EASTER

2:30 pm.....Hispanic Easter Sunday Mass (CH)

Monday, April 13

8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Thursday, April 16

7:30 pm.....Grief Support Group (S)

Friday, April 17

10:00 am.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Saturday, April 18

8:00 am to Noon.....Jesus Day Retreat (PH)
 9:30 am.....Pro-Life Rosary (CH)
 10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
 10:00 am.....ESL Classes (RM.4,5,6,7)
 1:00 pm.....Hispanic Baptisms (SC)
 5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)
 7:00 pm.....Spanish Mass (CH)

Human language falls silent before the mystery of resurrection. Only one word remains to us: ALLELUIA!