



Jesus took Peter,
James, and John
and led them up
a high mountain
apart by
themselves. And
he was
transfigured
before them,
and his clothes
became dazzling
white.

Mark 9:2,3

2ND SUNDAY OF *Lent*



**6400 Nativity Lane,
Burke, Virginia 22015**
nativityburke.org

REV. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR
REV. EDWARD BRESNAHAN, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. JONATHAN BENNETT, PAROCHIAL VICAR
**REV. CEDRIC P. WILSON, ASSISTING PRIEST/
SPANISH MINISTRY**
DEC. RICHARD F. KELLY

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary
Ann Benson, Business Manager
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager
Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister
Maureen Andersen, Liturgical Minister
Johana Brown, Parish Receptionist
Anna Marty, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Ayse Kenner, Mass Intentions
Allison Fram, Director of Young Adult & Family
Ministries/Social Action Ministries
Rebecca Judge, Director of Youth Ministry
Mary Castellano, Director of Social Media
Anna Lisa Licud, Coordinator Marriage Enrichment
Carole Fischl, Co-director of Music
Debbie Doyle, Co-director of Music
Mai Tran, Traditional Choir Director
Sara Prince, Youth Choir Director/Cornerstone Choir
Natacha Hines, Gift Shop

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

Maria Kelly, Principal
Richard Godwin, Assistant Principal
Jen Behan, Preschool Director/Extended Care Director
Shannon Murphy, Administrative Assistant/Registrar
Kim Vu, Business Manager
Mary Helen Chapman, School Secretary

MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro, A.R., M.R.E.
Maria Ammirati, Religious Education Coordinator
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR



PARISH OFFICE: (703) 455-2400
PARISH FAX: (703) 455-6832
NATIVITY SCHOOL: (703) 455-2300
NATIVITY FAX: (703) 569-8109
PRE-SCHOOL: (703) 455-2300 ext. 136
CCD OFFICE: (703) 455-0372
CCD OFFICE FAX: (703) 455-6832

SUNDAY MASSES: 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass in Spanish
7:00 a.m./9:00 a.m./11:00 a.m./
1:00 p.m./5:30 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: 7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday
12:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. on Saturday

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

RECONCILIATION: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. on Saturday
or, if necessary, by appointment

BAPTISM: For more information and how to schedule a
baptism, please visit our website:
<https://nativityburke.org/baptism/>

MARRIAGE POLICY: Please contact the Church as soon
as you are engaged, and at least six months prior to
your wedding date.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Announcements for the bulletin
must be submitted **in writing** by 9:00 AM on
Tuesday (5 days prior to publication). Please note: this
deadline can change due to holiday office closings.
You may email submissions to
bulletin@nativityburke.org.

WEBMASTER:
Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:
Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

**Assisted hearing devices are available
from the Sacristy staff at all services**

A Message from our Pastor Fr. Bob Cilinski



"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" - Philippians 3:20

My dear parishioners,

Today the church gives us a view of things from the mountain-top with Jesus, Peter, James and John. We are given a glimpse of the glory of the risen Christ as He is transfigured with a face shining brightly and clothing dazzling white. The glory of God affirms the divinity of Jesus, *"This is my chosen Son, listen to Him."* After this transforming encounter, Jesus continues with His disciples to the cross, to opposition and betrayal which concludes with his death and the glory of resurrection.

We all are on a journey back to God and we also experience the cross in our lives. There are many in the parish who are very sick and dealing with serious problems in life. Mountain top experiences of God and transforming experiences of prayer can be our joy. Lent reminds us every year that our lives are journeys through death to new life, when *"He will change our lowly body to be like His in glory"* (Phil. 3:31).

With prayer and a sense of God's presence among us, let us continue on our journey with a voice ringing in our ears *"This is my chosen Son, listen to Him."*

Love and Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for a Night of Reflection with

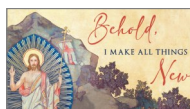
Irish Tenor Mark Forrest

On March 20th, 2024 from 7:00-8:00PM
at Nativity Catholic Church,
all ages are welcome!



Your Chance to Help Refugee Families through Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services seeks your help to secure desperately needed household goods for our new arrivals. Donations directly benefit refugees settling inside our Diocese by outfitting their apartments with basic household necessities. Using our Amazon Gift Registry (<https://a.co/3CwyIQ9>), linens, kitchen, bedding, or other household items can easily be purchased. For more information, please contact Lourdes Iglesias at 703.719.8971 or lourdes.iglesias@ccda.net.



2024 Bishop's Lenten Appeal ***"Behold, I make all things new"***

Please support the 2024 Bishop's Lenten Appeal! This appeal provides an opportunity to unite as a Catholic family to support programs, ministries and services helping tens of thousands of people.



SCAN ME

After reflecting upon God's blessings to you, please consider a pledge to the BLA. Each donation is vital to the success of the appeal and the important work that it funds. You may complete a pledge card, mail in your pledge, go online to www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or scan the QR code to make a gift.

FASTING AND ABSTINANCE

***All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence,
Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence***

Catholics 14 years of age and older are obliged to abstain from meat and those 18-59 are obliged to fast (1 full meal and 2 smaller ones to maintain strength) unless medical/serious reasons exist.

Healing Mass and Prayer Service at Nativity Tuesday, February 27th at 7:30pm

"Cast all your cares upon Him for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7)



*All are invited to attend a wonderful Mass
and Healing Prayer Service on
Tuesday, February 27th at 730pm*

This Mass and Healing Service is organized by the Arlington Diocese Catholic Healing Ministry. The Mass will be celebrated by Father John Melmer and assisted by Father Tuck Grinnell and Deacon Leo Flynn. The New Spirit Singers will provide beautiful music at Mass and during the healing service following the Mass.

For more information, please contact Grace Sims at 703-981-4620.

Did you know?

Our Nativity Rosary Ministry distributes an average of 8,000 mission rosaries a year to foreign missions and to our parish and local community groups. We also collect Old and Broken rosaries. If you have rosaries to donate there is a grey box at the back of the church where you can place your rosaries, or medals.

(no large crucifixes or written materials, please)

These rosaries are sorted, cleaned, and repaired and then sent to the foreign missions. If a rosary cannot be completed, we use the parts for chaplets and any parts not used are buried in the ground.

What you may not know is that our rosary ministry receives packages and boxes with Old and Broken rosaries, thanks to our website, from all over the United States. In the last few years, we have recycled hundreds of repaired beautiful rosaries.

If we are to continue, we will need your help to learn to repair old rosaries. You will be taught what you need to know. The day and time for 2 meetings will be decided by the group in the month of March. Once you learn our system you can work from home. If you are interested send your contact information to Diane or Lesleyanne at rosaryministry@nativityburke.org.

Catholic Charities Education and Workforce Development Health Care Career Launchpad - 18-week class in Manassas

Explore clinical and non-clinical healthcare. Gain insight on different career pathways, learn basic computer skills, learn medical terminology, and obtain assistance with job skills such as resume writing and job searching. To learn more: (571) 208-1572 or ewd@ccda.net.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria



Stop by for
Confessions in
the Church from
6:30-8:00pm!

FEBRUARY 21
FEBRUARY 28
MARCH 6
MARCH 13

DONATIONS BENEFIT YOUTH MINISTRY

Teens in grades 8-12 can volunteer by signing up on the website



SIGN UP TO DONATE SOUP OR BREAD



Share a favorite family
recipe or experiment
with something new!

*Enjoy a simple soup dinner donated by
parishioners and served by our teens!*



LENTEN SCHEDULE

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday of Lent,
in English at 7:00pm and Spanish at 8:00pm

Knights of Columbus - Lenten Fish Fry

Friday Evening: March 22nd,
from 5:30pm - 8:00pm, see ad in bulletin

Extra Confession, The Light is ON for You

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation,
Each Wednesday Evening during Lent,
from 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesday Evenings during Lent from
5:30pm - 7:00pm:
February 28th, March 6th & 13th

"Come Walk with Me" Holy Hour and Meditations with Tenor Mark Forrest

Wednesday Evening, March 20th,
from 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Lenten Penance Service

Thursday Evening, March 21st at 6:30pm,
many priests will be available to hear confessions
in English and in Spanish

Annual Multi-Car Raffle

Thanks to all of you have sold your tickets so far. We still have a way to go to beat last year's sales. Every ticket sold helps and the proceeds benefit the youth ministry, the parish building fund, and Knights of Columbus charities. Each \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all four 2024 vehicles plus \$40,000 in cash prizes. Please mail your sold ticket stubs/payment directly to All Saints in the envelope provided. We have additional tickets if you sell all of yours. Please contact PGK Sam Morthland @ 703-455-2186 if you have any questions or need

PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC)

We are a social group, mostly age 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate-membership group.) Meet us for: concert at St. Thomas More Cathedral (March 3); dinner in Alexandria (March 10); Thursday lunches (March 14 & 28); St. Patrick celebration at St. Raymond Church (March 16); walk at Rutherford Park (March 21); feeding the hungry at Christ House (March 23); USMC concert (March 24); Easter dinner (March 31). For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.

*"Entrepreneurship is an invitation to participate in God's creative act.
The human person is the only investment with the potential of infinite returns."*
– Andreas Widmer

Entrepreneurship at the Service of the Human Person

Celebrating the Dignity of Work

with
Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington
and

Andreas Widmer

*Former Swiss Guard, mentor, author and business entrepreneur
speaking on how embracing creativity and the spirit of entrepreneurship
celebrates the dignity of work and can help us – and our neighbors – thrive*

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Nativity Catholic Church, Burke VA



Andreas Widmer

Founder and Director

*Art & Carlyse Ciocca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship,
The Catholic University of America Busch School of Business*

5:00 PM	Mass with Bishop Burbidge
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM	Keynote Address
8:00 PM	Q&A



For registration,
scan or click the QR code



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARLINGTON

Sponsored by the Diocese of Arlington Peace & Justice Commission

Nativity Stars
GALA
and Auction

Dancing Through the Decades (50s-80s) | April 27, 2024

EARLY BIRD TICKETS - MARCH 1st

Food • Open Bar • Music & Dancing • Costume
 Contest • Photo Booth • Live & Silent Auction •
 Class Basket Raffle • 50/50 Raffle • Heads or Tails

SIP, SAVOR, AND SECURE YOUR SPOT!

Gala will include cocktail-style reception, with high-top tables to provide the perfect setting for mingling. Elevate your experience with reserved seating, exclusively available through our Patron of Nativity Sponsorship!

Limited quantity, so gather your friends to secure your spot!

<https://www.nativityschool.org/gala>



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flower Book for 2024 is open. This is a thoughtful way to honor a loved one, living or deceased. If you are interested, please stop by the parish office to sign up. You can now also go online and reserve flowers on our website at: <https://nativityburke.org/altar-flowers/>.



National Eucharistic Congress Indianapolis, Indiana from July 17-21, 2024

God wants MORE for you! He wants you to be whole. To bind your wounds. To remind you of your true identity. When we restore the Eucharist as the center of our lives, his presence will restore us.

Jesus is about to transform the Church in this nation and launch us into a new missionary chapter. But first, we have to allow him to transform us both individually and as a church family. From July 17th to the 21st, Catholics from every corner of America will gather at the feet of Jesus in Indianapolis for a historic National Eucharistic Congress. This is the first time the Church has held an event like this in 83 years! Together, we will be converted, healed, unified, and set ablaze with his Eucharistic love.

The world needs Jesus right now more than ever. Make plans to attend the National Eucharistic Congress. Your life—and our world—will never be the same.

Register online at EucharisticCongress.org, or contact our parish office for more information about registering with your fellow parishioners.



MASS INTENTIONS *"We are God's People"* 1 Peter 2:10

Monday, February 26th

7:30 am † Catherine Cilinski

Tuesday, February 27th

7:30 am † Aninyou Aatef Morkos

12:00 pm † Frank Klimkos

Wednesday, February 28th

7:30 am † Gigi Hanna

10:00 am † Francisco Ochoa (*Heatherwood*)

Thursday, February 29th

7:30 am † William Killion

12:00 pm † Kin-Pang Yu & Chen-Bin Chu

Friday, March 1st

7:30 am † John Ciro

9:00 am † Lillo Glorioso

Saturday, March 2nd

9:00 am Special Int. for Cana Teter

5:00 pm † Diane Marshall

7:00 pm Parishioners

Sunday, March 3rd

7:00 am † Brady Robert Appleton

9:00 am Special Int. for Murray &

Adriana Rupert

11:00 am † Gregory Huson

1:00 pm † Rosemary McLaughlin

5:30 pm Special Int. for Paul & Debrah Gorham

**In prayer, let us remember
 the sick and deceased of the parish
 visit nativityburke.org for the Priest Mass Schedule**

Interested in advertising in the bulletin? Call Mike Jurosky at 717-648-5996 or email: mjurosky@diocesan.com



A Message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Fast from Meat: Consider eating less meat and fewer dairy products. Perhaps a meatless Monday in addition to Fridays? And maybe this new habit will become permanent. Meat and dairy products are a major driver of climate change due to carbon and methane emissions through their production and distribution chains, according to data from United Nations agencies. A great place to start looking at recipes is <https://www.csricebowl.org/recipe>. Commit to buying local, in-season produce. Locally produced food grown during natural seasons is fresher and requires less energy to produce and transport. For additional resources about how your food choices matter, email us at nativitycreationcare@gmail.com.

Creation Care is sponsoring the Lenten Soup Supper on Wednesday, Feb 28. We welcome your favorite plant-based soup contribution to showcase how delicious and healthy these choices can be. Sign-up on the Lenten Soup Supper sign-up genius on the church webpage.

ECHO Food Room Most Needed Items Collection next weekend!

- Choose sizes appropriate for our average family size of four.
- Include an assortment of food to ensure a variety of items
- ECHO continues to see a deficit of several thousand pounds a month between food donated and food given to clients. Any donation, large or small, is most gratefully welcomed.

ECHO's policy is to not give expired, open or repackaged food to clients. PLEASE do not bring these items!!

Tin Fish (tuna, sardines, salmon etc.), Spaghetti Pasta and Sauce, INSTANT Coffee (many clients do not have coffee makers), Can Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Can Fruit, Bag Rice (Clients prefer white, jasmine or basmati), Instant (Box) Potatoes, Crackers, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, Ramen, Hot Chocolate, can milk, shelf stable milk Can Meat (chicken, Spam, chili, small hams, beef stew etc.), Juice (Bottles or box), Tea (green, herbal or black), Spices (garlic, onion, cinnamon, salt, pepper), Healthy Snacks, Masa (Corn) Flour, Lentils, Bag Beans (black, red or garbanzo preferred), Lemon or Lime Juice, Jelly and Honey, Tortillas, Cooking Oil, Brown Paper Bags, Reusable Grocery Bags, Children's Toothbrushes, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Bath Soap, Facial Tissues, Dish Soap, Paper Towels, Band Aids, Baby Wipes, Diapers - Sizes 3, 4, 5, Sanitary Napkins, Shaving Cream/Razors.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FR. SIKORA COUNCIL 7992

Fish Fry

Friday, March 22 | 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Limited Space available. Reserve your time slot.

Tickets on sale after Masses
on 3/9, 3/10, 3/16 & 3/17.

Dine in the Parish Hall or Take To-Go.





Lent Podcast

Roundtable
discussions on the
Gospel each Sunday of
Lent!





Listen on YouTube, Spotify, or online:
nativityburke.org/the-nativity-podcast

TRIVIA NIGHT

TOP 3 TEAM PRIZES!

BYO FOOD & DRINKS



Saturday, March 2 | 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Fr. Martin Center (Gym) - Doors open at 6:30 PM
Form Teams up to 8 Players. Free Agents Welcome
BE CREATIVE: THEME Your Team or Table

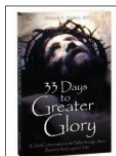
Tickets are \$10 a person
Limited Time Offer: Buy a round with a Father \$25

Purchase online at:
<https://NativityTrivia1.givesmart.com>
 Sponsored by Nativity School PTO/ 21+ Please

CompTIA Online Classes - Registration Open

Are you interested in a career in IT? Take CompTIA online classes A+ or ITF. Registration is open until February 26. Classes are 18 weeks long and held via Zoom, 7:00-9:00 pm. Scholarships available. To learn more: (571) 208-1572 or ewd@ccda.net.

33 Days to Greater Glory



Save the Date – February 27th! Come and see! Join us on a spiritual journey to more deeply experience God the Father's Love, as Jesus experienced it. 33 Days to Greater Glory is a Fr. Gaitley, MIC, retreat focused on St. John's Gospel that prepares us for consecration to God the Father.

The program features six Zoom meetings on Tuesday evenings 7:45 to 9:00 PM beginning February 27th. The program concludes with a total consecration to God the Father on April 7. For more information and to register, visit the Nativity website: <https://nativityburke.org/33-day-retreat/> or contact: Marcelo Michel at 33DayConsecration@nativityburke.org.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ECHO

ECHO is most grateful for the support that Nativity parish provides. Parish donations in their various forms – food, clothing, monetary – find their way to help our neighbors in need. Another way to help ECHO help our neighbors in need is to volunteer for the wide range of services necessary for ECHO to accomplish its mission. ECHO volunteers identify neighbors in need and donors who help meet those needs. They also help our neighbors meet those needs, which may include clothing, food, and/or financial assistance. There are currently many openings for adult volunteers at ECHO. For further information about current volunteer opportunities, please visit <https://www.echo-inc.org/volunteer/>.

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH



Multi Car Raffle

plus \$40,000 in Cash Drawings

***Only 4 weeks remaining to
sell your tickets!***

Tickets Only \$5

**Chance to win 4 cars and
\$40,000 in cash prizes**

Ford Escape



Ford
Bronco Sport

Ford Mustang



OURISMAN

FORD OF MANASSAS



Ford
Ranger Truck



Images are representative of the models and types of cars to be awarded.

All tickets, stubs & monies are **due by Tuesday, 23 April to All Saints Catholic Church**. The drawings will be held during the All-Saints Catholic Church Fair on Saturday, 27 April. If you need more tickets or have questions, please contact PGK Sam Morthland @ 703-455-2186 or at kofc7992caraffle@gmail.com



March 1st - Nativity's All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life 7:00 am - 7:00 pm

Please join us for one hour to peacefully pray the Pro-Life Rosary at 900 S. Washington St (Lee Hwy), Falls Church. This is part of 40 Days for Life's Spring Campaign to end the scourge of abortion locally, saving pre-born and newly born children and moms in crisis pregnancies. Join this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion. Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers! With God's help, here are the proven results in just 30 coordinated campaigns: over 20,000 babies saved from abortion; over 200 abortion workers converted; and over 100 abortion centers closed! Contact RickLoffredo@outlook.com if you have questions. Sign up at bit.ly/42FrC2j or use the QR Code.

Every Friday, Pray the Pro-Life Rosary 8:45 am - 9:45 am

When you are available, you're welcome to meet in the Narthex after any Friday 7:30am Mass and join us on the sidewalk in front of the abortion facility at 900 S. Washington Street, Falls Church. Contact RickLoffredo@outlook.com for information.



Jesus and the EUCHARIST

A SMALL GROUP SERIES FOR EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL




Details:

- Every Thursday through March 14 | 1:00 - 2:30 pm in the Fr. Ready Room
- Or Every 3rd Friday of the Month, Next Meeting March 15 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Teachers' Lounge

OPEN TO ALL ADULTS IN THE PARISH
For more information, please contact our coordinator Anna Lisa at marriage@nativityburke.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION

Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm

HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS

GIRLS: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, weekly

GUYS: Mondays, 7:00-8:30pm, 2x/month



EDGE: GRADES 6-8

Alternating Sundays | 3:30-5:00pm
& Fridays | 7:00-8:30 pm

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

LOOKING FOR TEENS AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Enter into the season of Lent by participating in the powerful devotion of the Stations of the Cross. No previous theater experience is required, and there are no lines to memorize. Reach out to cym@nativityburke.org to express your interest. Rehearsals begin March 10.

[See website for full schedule](#)

Before attending, please register for the 2023-2024 year of ministry using our free, online forms.

✉ cym@nativityburke.org 📱 [@nativitycym](https://www.instagram.com/nativitycym)

Pray for those who are discerning a call to proclaim the hope of the Resurrection as religious brothers, sisters, priests or deacons. If you feel God is offering you the grace of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at (703) 841-2514 or

The Knights of Columbus - Ladies Auxiliary

Formed to assist and support the Knights, our Church and the four virtues of Charity, Unity, Sorority and Patriotism. We are spouses, daughters, mothers, or sisters of Knights of Columbus who are in good standing or deceased.

Our fellowship and informational meetings are the First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Fr. Ready Room. Contact kdelatte65@gmail.com for information or to be added to our email distribution list.


NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org


PTO's Multicultural Celebration: Our Passport Around The World



One of our favorite PTO events is Nativity's Multicultural Celebration, where we carry 'passports' granting us a peek into several countries around the world for one special evening. We sing, we dance, we learn about other regions of the

world, speak other languages, enjoy tasty food, play games, create art.

One of the biggest highlights of the night was the traditional Chinese Dragon Dance. We were mesmerized by a team of performers coordinating their steps to maneuver a long flexible figure of bamboo and fabric across the room, much like a dragon might move itself across the sky. It was spectacular (see photo)



Our festive evening ended with a bang as several pinatas were broken, treats and surprises fell, and everyone went home happy!

We've Got Just The Spot – In Our Classroom!



Email Jen Behan to schedule a tour of our classrooms, playground, and lunchroom – and to meet our teachers at jbehan@nativityschool.org. Please bring your child, too – we can't wait to meet you!

Upcoming Dates At-A-Glance!

February 26 - Band Concert, 2:00 pm
 February 28 - Soup Supper, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
 February 29 - Leap Day!
 March 2 - Trivia Night, 6:00 - 9:30 pm
 March 4 - Read-a-thon Begins
 March 5 - Steam Museum Assembly
 March 7 - End of Second Trimester
 March 8 - No School/Teacher Work Day
 March 12 - Wendy's School Fundraiser
 March 15 - Summer Uniform Begins
 March 15 - Half Day, 12 NOON Dismissal
 March 17 - Read-a-thon Ends
 March 25 - Student Living Stations, 1:45 - 2:45 pm
 March 26 - 8th Grade Field Trip
 March 27 - 3rd Grade Field Trip
 March 28 - Seder
 March 28 - Easter Break Begins, 11:30 am Dismissal



Council Meetings - 1st and 3rd Tuesday. First meeting is a business meeting, the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation. Rosary 7:15 PM; meeting at 7:30 PM.

Fellowship follows. Meet in the Nativity school cafeteria.

Linktree Universal Sign-up Link - Volunteer for an event! Scroll down to view all events.

https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992.

Nativity Ushers assist at collections - Volunteer for your Mass! Volunteer on Link Tree!

27 February, Healing Mass - Volunteer Usher show time is 7 PM to meet with Grace in the Narthex, and there is a healing mass at 7:30. From 8:30 to 10 PM people will be lining up to see healers throughout the church and the catchers will be there to support the healers. Volunteer on Link Tree.

1 March, Nativity's All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life - Request one knight for each hour from 7am – 7pm to lead the Pro-Life Rosary and take a group picture. Request the knight that signed up for the first hour, 7am – 8am to pick up the Nativity Pro-Life box of supplies (prayer booklets, Rosaries, etc.) from the church office the day before the event. 900 S. Washington St (Lee Hwy), Falls Church. Sign up at bit.ly/42FrC2j. Contact Rick-Loffredo@outlook.com w/questions. Volunteer on Link Tree.

15 & 16 March, St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance - (several different positions need our support) Volunteer on Link Tree.

22 March (ticket sales 9, 10, 16 & 17 March) Fish Fry - Volunteer on Link Tree. **The signup to work the next Fish Fry:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945AAAB2AA64-47373674-fish#/>

The signup to RSVP to eat at the next Fish Fry: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945AAAB2AA64-47904271-lenten>

6 April Adopt-A-Highway - Be a part of the Elite Eight. Volunteer on Link Tree.

Food for Others - Volunteer drivers & vehicle support for food distribution to the poor. Occasionally deliver Thursday or Friday evenings. For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net. For Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com.

Name Tags - Email Vince Augelli at VaKC23@gmail.com.

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies - We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses.

Handy Knights Ministry - If you are unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small repairs in your home due to health or other factors, call the "Handy Knights." Email handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com.

The Fraternal Committee: Brothers helping brothers in need of assistance - Brothers and the families of living and deceased brothers in need of a helping hand, contact Br. John Landy at [navyy8@yahoo.com](mailto:navy8@yahoo.com).

3rd Degree Knights, Grow with 4th Degree - participate in patriotic activities that promote Catholic citizenship. 4th Degree Assembly meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Nativity school cafeteria: 7:30 pm rosary, 7:45 pm business meeting followed by fellowship. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Vince Augelli at fn2996@vakofc.org.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church is pleased to announce a new ministry that will bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. The 12-week Surviving Divorce program begins on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:30 pm. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing. For additional information or to enroll in the program, please contact divorcedministry@holyspiritchurch.us.



ORDER OF MALTA®

Federal Association U.S.A.

Northern Virginia Region

Cordially invites Individuals (and Companions) with illness or physical / mental challenges to attend

MASS AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Principal Celebrant

The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge

Bishop of Arlington

SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

3901 Woodburn Road * Annandale, Virginia 22003

Saturday, March 16, 2024

11:00 AM

*Please arrive **NLT 10:30 am** to allow adequate time for parking and seating*

Please RSVP to Brian Newsome, KM

nova.malta.mass@gmail.com

[Telephone: 323-505-8846]

PLEASE PROVIDE:

NAME(s) of those attending the Mass

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS for the Luncheon following the Mass

CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS or TELEPHONE NUMBER

Immediately following the Mass, the Order will host a Light Luncheon in Saint Ambrose Parish Hall

Candidates, Dames, and Knights of the Order of Malta

will provide and collect prayer petitions to be taken to Lourdes in May

David and Ginger Hildebrand in Concert

The St. Andrew the Apostle Concert Series welcomes renowned early American musical performers and educators David and Ginger Hildebrand in a free interactive concert on Sunday, March 10 at 4:00 pm, at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Clifton, Virginia. During their performance, the Hildebrands will perform early American music on period instruments and don period attire. They will also explain and demonstrate their instruments, including the harpsichord, hammered dulcimer, violin, and Spanish and English guitars interpreting various musical traditions. A meet-the-artists reception will follow the performance. For more information visit www.st-andrew.org/concerts or call 703-817-1770.

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AN ORIGINAL NATIVITY MINISTRY DOING GOD'S WORK

BY SERVING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF HIS FLOCK.

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TO THE POOR AND HOMELESS IN D.C. AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING, RAIN OR SHINE.

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OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN DAILY/SUNDAY

RUNS, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN RUBINO AT:

JOHN.ALBERT.RUBINO@GMAIL.COM.

Love working with children? Want flexibility? Consider subbing at Nativity School... Please Join Us!

We are in need of substitute teachers with the following minimum qualifications:

- 2-plus years of college
 - Ability to follow a lesson plan and give effective instructions in the absence of the teacher
 - Proficiency in maintaining effective classroom management skills
 - Diocesan-compliant and Successful background check
- Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, for more information, at (703)455-2300 and/or smurph@nativityschool.org.



Join us to celebrate our 50th anniversary!

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON JUBILEE FEST

FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES!

**JUNE
8**

MASS | MUSIC | FOOD
WARREN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA

**3:45-
9:30
PM**

Registration is required to
receive complimentary food.

Visit arlingtondiocese.org/jubilee-fest
for a full schedule and more details!





ZOOM BOOK CLUB



Office of Marriage, Family, and Respect Life
Catholic Diocese of Arlington



This online book club is for anyone in Northern Virginia whose parents have been divorced. No matter the circumstances, parental divorce can affect us in all sorts of ways. Join our supportive community for this seven-week book club as we read *“Life-Giving Wounds: A Catholic Guide to Healing for Adult Children of Divorce or Separation”* by Daniel and Bethany Meola. This book club is free to join; the only fee is the cost of the book. Our book club will meet on Tuesday evenings from March 19 through April 30, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. As we near the end of the book, we will plan an opportunity to get together in person. The book can be purchased at <https://www.lifegivingwounds.org>, <https://ignatius.com/>, or <https://www.amazon.com>. The Zoom link will be sent to you via email. Registration and the schedule of readings can be found here: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/acodbookclub>.

On Saturday, April 6, Bishop Burbidge will ordain 12 seminarians to the Transitional Diaconate: Timothy Banach, Emmanuel Carreño-García, Joseph Connor, Jordan Evans, John Fimmuchime, Raymond Goins, Andrew Lewandowski, Richard Malebranche, John Meyerhofer, Christian Njodzela, Michael Sampson and Alfredo Tuesta. The Mass will be held at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Ashburn at 11:00am and will also be livestreamed. Visit www.ArlingtonDiocese.org/Ordinations to learn more about these men, what led them to seminary, and about the ordination events. Pray for our future priests!

Young Adult Ministry

- WHO ARE WE? WE ARE AN ALL-INCLUSIVE GROUP OF YOUNG ADULTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 19-39 WHO ARE IN THE "MIDDLE" WHETHER THEY ARE SINGLE, NEWLY MARRIED, WITH OR WITHOUT CHILDREN, OR PERHAPS A RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATE!
- WHAT DO WE OFFER? SMALL GROUPS, FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES, BASKETBALL, ETC.



CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS



The next women's Cursillo weekend will be held at Missionhurst in Arlington from Thursday, March 14 – Sunday, March 17.

Cursillo (pronounced Cur-see-yo) is a movement of the Catholic Church that provides an opportunity to experience God's love within a community of joyful fun and supportive prayer. The weekend is designed to promote Catholic ideals, fellowship, and spiritual growth in daily living. We'd love to have you join us!! For more information, please contact Laura Laverdiere at lauralaverdiere@msn.com. There are also Cursillo information cards in the information rack in the narthex.

Applications, and more information are available online at: <https://www.arlingtoncursillo.org/>.



2nd Sunday of Lent

Sunday, February 25
Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18
Ps 116:10,15-19
Rom 8:31b-34
Mk 9:2-10

Monday, February 26
Dn 9:4b-10
Ps 79:8,9,11,13
Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday, February 27
Is 1:10,16-20
Ps 50:8-9,16b-17,21,23
Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday, February 28
Jer 18:18-20
Ps 31:5-6,14-16
Mt 20:17-28

Thursday, February 29
Jer 17:5-10
Ps 1:1-4,6
Lk 16:19-31

Friday, March 1
Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a
Ps 105:16-21
Mt 21:33-43,45-46

Saturday, March 2
Mi 7:14-15,18-20
Ps 103:1-4,9-12
Lk 15:1-3,11-32

Think of a "mountaintop experience" you've had. What generated it? Did it change your life forever or was it just a momentary high?

In Biblical symbolism, a mountain represents getting close to God. Did your mountaintop experience bring you closer to God?

It was at the top of Mount Tabor where Jesus revealed the glory of his Godliness to his closest friends. Called a "high mountain" in scripture, Mount Tabor is, in reality, not huge. What was huge is the event that took place there – and why.

The three disciples who witnessed Christ's transfiguration greatly benefited from seeing his glory revealed, because someday they would be commissioned to take over his earthly ministry.

The Father told them, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." As we listen to Jesus, it is we who are now transfigured.

Lent is meant to be a mountaintop experience for each of us. If we follow Jesus up the mountain, his light will consume any darkness within us. The more we listen to his teachings and apply them to our daily lives and ministries, the more we become like him. And the more we become like Jesus, the more our lives are transfigured by his light, and the more our lives then transfigure the world around us.

As the first reading tells us, Abraham did not withhold his



son from the Lord; God the Father did not withhold his Son from us.

Likewise, we must not withhold the Son from the people we encounter. Whether it's by an evangelizing word or a helping hand, or a compassionate and

attentive ear, or the generous giving of mercy and forgiveness or money or time, we are Christ's hands and feet and voice in the world today. We are his earthly body. We are the answers to people's prayers.

We have been empowered through our baptisms to shine with the glory of Christ's love. We have all been commissioned to continue his earthly ministry. May the experience of Lent take us to new heights of union with Christ and his mission!

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Identify one area of your life that you would like Jesus to transfigure. What do you need to do to repent of it? How do you need to change (with God's help) so that others see more of Jesus?
- † Share the story of a time when you let Jesus change you. How difficult was it to be transfigured? Why did you want to make the change? How did it impact others?



BEHOLD I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

REVELATION 21:5
QUO VADIS & FIAT CAMPS 2024

For high school students to have fun,
deepen their faith and explore their vocation.

Lottery open March 1-29

Quo Vadis Camp:
July 7-11, 2024

*Staffed by Arlington
seminarians, priests
and religious*

FIAT Camp:
July 14-18, 2024

*Staffed by religious sisters
and Catholic lay women*

Where: Mount St. Mary's Seminary,
Emmitsburg, Maryland

Cost: \$280, includes private room, shared bath,
and all meals. Financial aid available.

How do I get in on this? Camp registration is
done by lottery and will be open March 1-25.

For more information and to register:
ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis
ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT





ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE
MUSIC MINISTRY

The St. Andrew the Apostle Concert Series Presents:



*David & Ginger
Hildebrand
In Concert
Sunday,
the 10th of March
at four o'clock*

*An interactive concert of Early American Music
Performed on Colonial-Era Instruments*

ADMISSION IS FREE. DONATIONS WELCOME.

A meet-the-artists reception with light refreshments
will follow the concert in the Parish Hall.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, Virginia



For more information, call (703) 817-1770 or visit www.st-andrew.org/concerts

discover you



Teacher Job Fair

Saturday, March 9, 2024

9-11 AM

St. Bernadette Catholic School

7602 Old Keene Mill Road
Springfield, VA

Explore

website

[https://arlingtondiocese.org/
catholicschools](https://arlingtondiocese.org/catholicschools)

job openings

[https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/catholic-
schools/careers/](https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/catholic-schools/careers/)

application process

[https://arlingtondiocese.org/catholic-schools/
careers/application/](https://arlingtondiocese.org/catholic-schools/careers/application/)

Register

2024 Office of Catholic Schools
Job Fair Registration



Can't make it in person? Representatives from the
Office of Catholic Schools will be available to
answer your questions

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84701499805?
pwd=b3RDanpQRmFkQ0tnd2FDVFhRSERH7z09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84701499805?pwd=b3RDanpQRmFkQ0tnd2FDVFhRSERH7z09)



Lunch N' Life

Thursday, March 21, 2024 12 noon — 2 PM

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

5114 Twinbrook Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032

Ms. Andrea Loewenwarter

Historic Resources Specialist will speak on

Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center



If you are a registered SCFB transportation client and you require transportation to the luncheon, please contact SCFB a week before the event and we will try to find a ride for you. If you are not a registered client you can call and register ASAP and we can then try to find you a ride for the event. SCFB's office phone number is 703-323-4788.

If Fairfax County public schools are closed or have a delayed opening on Mar 21 due to inclement weather, this event will be cancelled.

RSVP DEADLINE
3-15-24

**Cost: Lunch and
Program - \$15.00 per
person
Please contact Bea
Stephenson for
reservations at 703-273-
5730**



**SPOTLIGHT
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**ARTS
&
CRAFTS
FUN**

**ART
EXPLORER**

La Escritura nos habla por un lado de un corazón que se resiste a Dios y por otro lado de un corazón que se adhiere a Dios. Mi corazón se resiste a Dios cuando no quiero ver su gracia, cuando no quiero ver su obra en mi vida, cuando no quiero ver su camino sobre mi existencia. Mi corazón se adhiere a Dios, cuando en medio de mil inquietudes, vicisitudes, en medio de mil circunstancias yo voy siendo capaz de descubrir, de encontrar, de amar, de ponerme de delante de Él y decirle: "aquí estoy, cuenta conmigo".

Jesús en el Evangelio nos presenta esta elección, entre resistencia del corazón y la adhesión del corazón como una adhesión por Él o contra Él: "El que quiera seguirme que se niegue a sí mismo, cargue su cruz cada día y se venga conmigo." Una conversión que no es solamente el cambiar el comportamiento; una conversión que no es simplemente el tener una doctrina diferente; una conversión que no es buscarse a sí mismo, sino seguir a Jesucristo. Esta es la auténtica conversión del corazón.

Jesús pone como polo opuesto, como manifestación de la resistencia del corazón el querer ganar todo el mundo. ¿Qué prefieres tú? ¿Cuál es la opción de tu vida, cuál es el camino por el cual tu vida se orienta, ganar todo el mundo si no te ganas a ti mismo?, pero si has perdido a base de la resistencia de tu corazón lo más importante que eres tú mismo, ¿cómo te puedes encontrar?. Solamente te vas a encontrar adhiriéndote a Dios.

Deberíamos entrar en nuestra alma y ver que estamos ganando o qué estamos perdiendo, a qué nos estamos resistiendo y a quién nos estamos adhiriendo. Este es el doble juego que tenemos que hacer y no lo podemos evitar. Nuestra alma, de una forma u otra, se va a orientar hacia adherirse a Dios, automáticamente está construyendo en su interior la resistencia a Dios. El alma que no busca ganarse a sí misma dándose a Dios, está automáticamente perdiéndose a sí misma.

Son dos caminos. A nosotros nos toca elegir: "Dichoso el hombre que confía en el Señor, éste será dichoso; en cambio los malvados serán como paja barrida por el viento. El Señor protege el camino del justo y al malo sus caminos acaban por perderlo": ¿Qué camino llevo en este inicio de Cuaresma? ¿Es un camino de seguimiento? Me dice Nuestro Señor: ¿Eres de los que quieren estar conmigo, de los que quieren adherirse a Mí? ¿O eres de los que se resisten?

Dejar que Cristo entre en el corazón

Meditaciones para toda la Cuaresma

Viernes después de Ceniza. La conversión no es simplemente obras de penitencia. La conversión es el cambio del corazón.

Por: P. Cipriano Sánchez LC | Fuente: Catholic.net

El tema del corazón contrito, de la conversión del corazón es el tema que debería de recorrer nuestra Cuaresma. Es el tema que debería recorrer toda nuestra preparación para la Pascua. La liturgia nos insiste que son importantes las formas externas, pero más importantes son los contenidos del corazón. La Iglesia nos pide en este tiempo de Cuaresma, que tengamos una serie de formas externas que manifiesten al mundo lo que hay en nuestro corazón, y nos pide que el Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo hagamos ayuno, y que todos los viernes de Cuaresma sacrifiquemos el comer carne. Pero esta forma externa no puede ir sola, necesita para tener valor, ir acompañada con un corazón también pleno.

El profeta Isaías veía con mucha claridad: "¿es lo que Yo busco: que inclines tu cabeza como un junco, que te acuestes en fango y ceniza?" Dios Nuestro Señor lo que busca en cada uno de nosotros es la conversión interna, que cuando se realiza, se manifiesta en obras, que cuando se lleva a cabo, tiene que brillar hacia fuera; pero no es solamente lo externo. De qué poco serviría haber manchado nuestras cabezas de ceniza, si nuestro corazón no está también volviéndose ante Dios Nuestro Señor. De qué poco nos serviría que no tomásemos carne en todos los viernes de Cuaresma, si nuestro corazón está cerrado a Dios Nuestro Señor.

La dimensión interior, que el profeta reclama, Nuestro Señor la toma y la pone en una dimensión sumamente hermosa, cuando le preguntan: ¿Por qué ustedes no ayunan y sin embargo los discípulos de Juan y nosotros si ayunamos? Y Jesús responde usando una parábola: "¿Pueden los amigos del esposo ayunar mientras está el esposo con ellos?" Jesús lo que hace es ponerse a sí mismo como el esposo. En el fondo retoma el tema bíblico tan importante de Dios como esposo de Israel, el que espera el don total de Israel hacia Él.

Esta condición interior, el esfuerzo por que el pueblo de Israel penetre desde las formalidades externas a la dimensión interna, es lo que Nuestro Señor busca. El ayuno que Él busca es el del corazón, la conversión que Él busca es la del corazón y siempre que nos enfrentemos a esta dimensión de la conversión del corazón nos estamos enfrentando a algo muchas veces no se ve tan fácilmente; a algo que muchas veces no se puede medir, pero a algo que no podemos prescindir en nuestra vida. ¿Quién puede palpar el amor de un esposo a su esposa? ¿Quién puede medir el amor de un esposo a su esposa? ¿Cómo se palpa, cómo se mide? ¿Solamente por las formas externas? No. Hay una dimensión interior en el amor sponsal del cual Jesucristo se pone a sí mismo como el modelo. Hay una dimensión que no se puede tocar, pero que es también imprescindible en nuestra conversión del corazón. Tenemos que ser capaces de encontrar esa dimensión interior, una dimensión que nos lleva profundamente a descubrir si nuestra voluntad está o no entregada, ofrecida, dada como la esposa al esposo, como el esposo a la esposa, a Dios, Nuestro Señor.

La conversión no es simplemente obras de penitencia. La conversión es el cambio del corazón, es hacer que mi corazón, que hasta el momento pensaba, amaba, optaba, se decidía por unos valores, unos principios, unos criterios, empiece a optar y decidirse como primer principio, como primer criterio, por el esposo del alma que es Jesucristo.

Sólo cuando llega el corazón a tocar la dimensión interior se realiza, como dice el profeta, que "Tu luz surgirá como la aurora y cicatrizarán de prisa tus heridas, se abrirá camino la justicia y la gloria del Señor cerrará tu mancha". Entonces, casi como quien ve el sol, casi como quien no es capaz de distinguir la fuente de luz que la origina, así será en nosotros la caridad, la humildad, la entrega, la conversión, la fidelidad y tantas y tantas cosas, porque van a brotar de un corazón que auténticamente se ha vuelto, se ha dirigido y mira al Señor.

Este es el corazón contrito, esto es lo que busca el Señor que cada uno de nosotros en esta Cuaresma, que seamos capaces en nuestro interior, en lo más profundo, de llegar a abrirnos a Dios, a ofrecernos a Dios, de no permitir que haya todavía cuartos cerrados, cuartos sellados a los cuales el Señor no puede entrar, porque es visita y no esposo, porque es huésped y no esposo. El esposo entra a todas partes. La esposa en la casa entra a todas partes. Solamente al huésped, a la visita se le impide entrar en ciertas recámaras, en ciertos lugares.

Esta es la conversión del corazón: dejar que realmente Él llegue a entrar en todos los lugares de nuestro corazón. Convertirse a Dios es volverse a Dios y descubrirlo como Él es. Convertirse a Dios es descubrir a Dios como esposo de la vida, como Aquél que se me da totalmente en infinito amor y como Aquél al cual yo tengo que darme totalmente también en amor total.

¿Es esto lo que hay en nuestro corazón al inicio de esta Cuaresma? ¿O quizá nuestra Cuaresma está todavía encerrada en formulismos, en estructuras que son necesarias, pero que por sí solas no valen nada? ¿O quizá nuestra Cuaresma está todavía encerrada en criterios que acaban entreteniéndolo al alma? Al huésped se le puede tener contento simplemente con traerle un café y unas galletas, pero al esposo o a la esposa no se le puede contentar simplemente con una formalidad. Al esposo o la esposa hay que darle el corazón.

Que la Eucaristía en nuestra alma sea la luz que examina, que escruta, que ve todos y cada uno de los rincones de nuestra alma, para que, junto con el esposo sea capaz de descubrir dónde todavía mi entrega es de huésped y no de esposo.

Pidamos esta gracia a Jesucristo para que nuestra Cuaresma sea una Cuaresma de encuentro, de cercanía de profundidad en la conversión de nuestro corazón.

NO TODO ES BONITO

2º cuaresma (B) Javier Leoz



Hemos comenzado con el rito de la ceniza nuestro camino hacia la Pascua y, al hacerlo, como Santiago, Pedro y Juan, necesitamos apartarnos por lo menos del ruido, superficialidad y “más de lo mismo” para prepararnos a la muerte y resurrección de Cristo. Sólo así, si lo hacemos así (eucaristía, oración, vigilia, caridad, contemplación) llegaremos a la Semana Santa con una actitud distinta: no es vacación sino devoción.

1. Mirar a nuestro alrededor es caer en la cuenta de muchos rostros desfigurados o deprimidos porque tal vez, hace tiempo, dejaron de sentir y de escuchar aquello de “tú eres mi hijo amado”.

De nuevo, en este segundo domingo de cuaresma, Jesús nos invita a reemprender el camino junto con Él. No será una senda fácil ni de respuestas a la carta. Pero, como siempre, nos lanzará a la cruda realidad ayudados de su mano y sobrecogidos si, de verdad, hemos intentado tener una experiencia profunda de Él y con Él.

A nadie nos gusta la cruz pesada; a ninguno nos seduce el final de un camino dibujado con el horizonte de las espinas o del dolor. Preferimos, y hasta echamos en falta, una vida más merengada y con éxitos, sin llantos ni pruebas, sin lamentos ni zancadillas, tranquila y sin sobresaltos. Todos sabemos... que no siempre es así.

El anuncio de su pasión y muerte, por parte de Jesús, nos trae a la memoria la inquebrantable fe de los recientemente asesinados 20 cristianos coptos o el testimonio de tres ancianas cristianas de Irak: “¿Por qué nos matáis si sólo damos amor?”. Y, aquí, se ponen las cartas sobre la mesa: nosotros acostumbrados a una fe costumbrista y, aquellos, a una fe radical llevada hasta el martirio. ¡Casi nada!

2. El domingo pasado, Jesús en el desierto, nos recordaba que –la tentación– avanzará en paralelo con nosotros, pero que nunca nos faltará la fuerza de Dios para darle batalla y progresar hacia la victoria. Hoy, con su Transfiguración, da un paso más: nos toma de su mano y nos lleva a un lugar tranquilo (por ejemplo la Eucaristía o la misma Palabra de Dios) para que nos vayamos configurando con Él, meditemos sus enseñanzas o reconstruyamos de nuevo ese edificio espiritual y hasta corporal que las prisas, el agobio, el egoísmo, el individualismo y la superficialidad han demolido.

También nosotros somos testigos de la Resurrección de Cristo. No estamos en el monte Tabor como meros espectadores o marionetas. Nuestra presencia, aquí y ahora, en la oración o en los sacramentos, nos debe de empujar a ser algo más que simple adorno, en la misión o en el apostolado que llevamos entre manos. ¡Qué más quisiéramos, como Pedro, construir tiendas lejos del ruido y de los dramas de la humanidad! Pero, el Señor, si nos lleva a un lugar apartado, es para que comprendamos y entendamos que vivir en su presencia en esta vida, es un adelanto de lo que nos espera el día de mañana: la Gloria de Dios y el compromiso activo en el día a día.

Hoy, con el evangelio en la mano, podríamos preguntarnos si en algún momento (ante los amigos, enemigos, cercanos o lejanos) hemos dado firme testimonio de nuestra fe. O si, tal vez, por miedo al rechazo hemos preferido esconder la fe en el bolsillo como se hace con una tarjeta de crédito.

La fe no es algo bonito (aunque tenga sus expresiones estéticas, artísticas y musicales). La fe es algo que, cuando uno lo lleva hasta sus últimas consecuencias no deja indiferente a nadie: ni al que la profesa ni al que la observa.



APRENDE TU FE

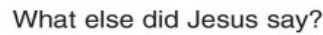
La conversión del corazón

Meditaciones para toda la Cuaresma

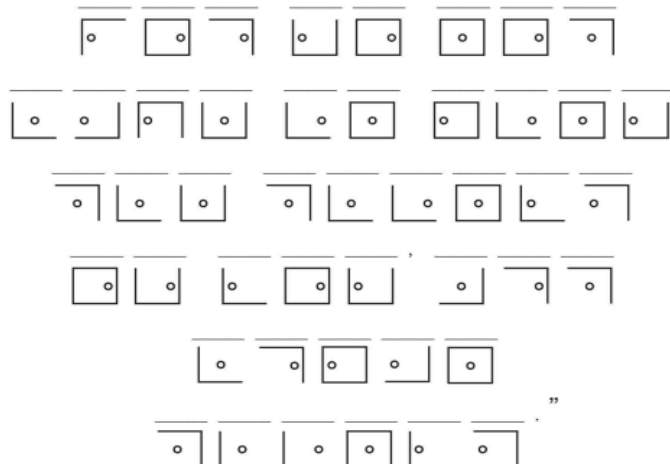
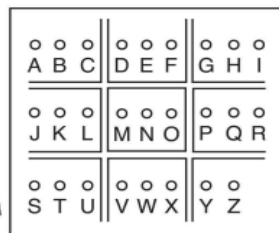
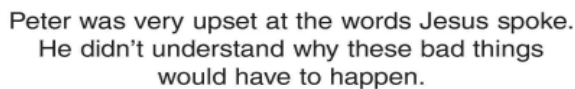
Jueves después de Ceniza. ¿A quién dirigimos el corazón? ¿Hacia quién me estoy dirigiendo yo?

Por: P. Cipriano Sánchez LC | Fuente: Catholic.net

Reflexionar es una conversión que no debe ser solamente una conversión exterior, sino que debe ir sobre todo hacia la conversión del corazón. La conversión del corazón que viene a ser el núcleo de toda la Cuaresma, es vista por la Escritura, como un momento de elección por parte del hombre que debe dirigir a Alguien. La pregunta es: ¿A quién dirigimos el corazón? ¿Hacia quién me estoy dirigiendo yo? En este período en el cual la Iglesia nos invita a reflexionar más profundamente tenemos que preguntarnos: ¿Hacia dónde voy yo? En la primera lectura Dios pone delante del pueblo de Israel el bien y el mal, diciéndole que puede elegir, decir a quién quiere servir, qué quiere hacer de su vida. Tú también vas a decidir si quieres vivir tu vida amando al Señor tu Dios, escuchando su voz, adhiriéndote a Él, o vas a tener un corazón que se resiste. Es en lo profundo de nuestra intimidad donde acabamos descubriendo hacia quién estamos orientando nuestra vida.



evas ot stnaw reveohw roF”
 ,ti esol lliw efil rieht
 efil rieht sesol reveohw tub
 eht rof dna eM rof
 “.ti evas lliw lepsog



February 25, 2024 • Mark 8:31-38

Jesus Tells What Is to Come

Find the underlined words in the puzzle.

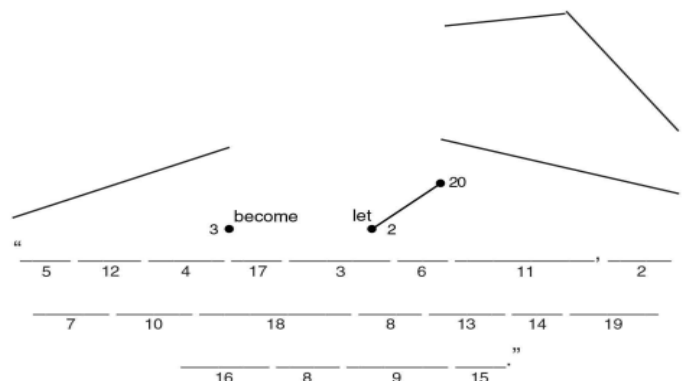
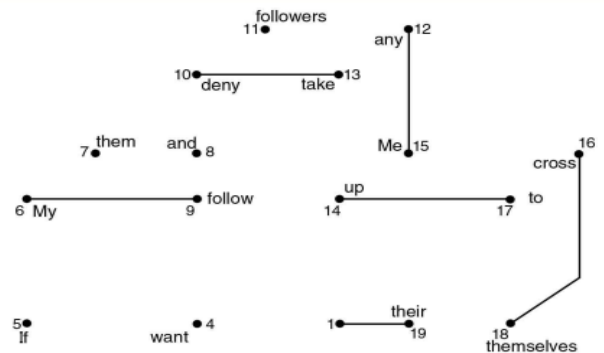
Circle them.

↑ ↓ → ← ↘

Jesus began to teach His disciples about what was going to happen to Him. He said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and He must be killed and after three days rise again.”



Connect the dots to find some words of Jesus.



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