

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

The Lord, your God,
shall you worship and him
alone shall you serve.

Matthew 4:10



6400 Nativity Lane,
Burke, Virginia 22015
nativityburke.org

REV. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR
REV. CHRISTOPHER H. HAYES, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. EDWARD BRESNAHAN, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. CEDRIC P. WILSON, ASSISTING PRIEST/
SPANISH MINISTRY
DEACON 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/College Ministry
Rebecca Judge, Director of Youth Ministry
Mary Castellano, Director of Social Media
Jennifer Sturgeon, Director of Marriage Enrichment/
Ecumenical Ministry
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.
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Sturgeon, Confirmation Coordinator

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454 2415



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./
1:00p.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.



@Nativity Parish Burke



@nativityparishburke_

**A Message from our Pastor
Fr. Bob Cilinski**



*“Jesus..... was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days”
- Luke 4:1*

My dear parishioners,

We have just begun our Lent, forty days in which we remember how Jesus went into the desert to pray and fast. In this season of prayer, penance, and worship, we have a chance to get below the surface of our lives to rediscover that which is most important. What is God calling me to do? How does he want me to relate to the people in my world? Is there something that doesn't belong? Is there something missing? Maybe I just need to be reminded how close God is, that God is always at my side, offering comfort and strength in hard times. In these special days of grace, we have a chance to go deeper in our relationship with God and to live our Christian faith in a new way. God gives us the strength to resist the temptations of the evil one and to share more fully in the victory of Jesus.

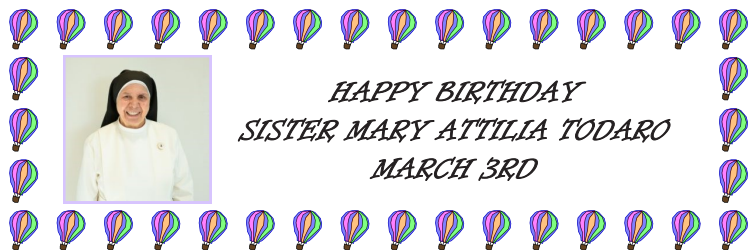
We rejoice with our “*elect*” who are now entering their final intense preparation for their reception into the church at Easter through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Let us join with them and be prepared to renew our baptism once again.

Happy Lent!

Love and Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor



LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINANCE

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 or serious reasons exist. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence, Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence



**Preserving the Dignity of Life:
Combatting Human Trafficking**

Saturday, March 11, 2023

Nativity Catholic Church, Burke

Presented by the Diocese of Arlington Peace and Justice Conference with Most

Rev. Michael F. Burbidge

Bishop of Arlington and William Woolf

Founder, Anti-Trafficking International and the Just Ask Prevention Project

- ◆ 5:00 p.m. - *Mass and Consecration of the new Altar Bishop Burbidge celebrant*
- ◆ 6:30 p.m. - *Dinner*
- ◆ 7:15 p.m. - *Talk*
- ◆ 8:15 p.m. - *Q&A*

Human trafficking is the second largest criminal enterprise in the world - and it is increasing at an exponential rate. More than half of the victims of human trafficking are minors. Northern Virginia and the Washington Metropolitan area have among the largest number of cases of human trafficking in the U.S.

Find out how you can recognize signs of human trafficking happening in our communities and help stop this assault on human dignity.

“People think of human trafficking as kids being kidnapped, kids disappearing. Ninety percent of the kids being trafficked live at home, sleep in their own beds and go to school every day.” - Bill Woolf

For details and to register:

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/events/2023/peace-and-justice-conference/>

The 2023 Bishop's Lenten Appeal



Thank you Nativity parishioners for the great support of the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. As of February 16, our pledges and donations amount to \$276,200. That's 40% of our \$690,000 dollar goal! We're off to a strong start, but still need more participation. If you haven't yet pledged, please consider a sacrificial offering for Lent. Your support helps the many charities, ministries, and programs throughout the Diocese and here at Nativity. May God bless you for your generosity!



My dear parishioners,

Twenty-five years ago, Fr. Richard Martin, then Nativity's Pastor, had the inspiration to make our Lenten sacrifice more meaningful by focusing on the poor. A basket was placed in the church vestibule and parishioners contributed what they saved during Lent to build homes for needy people in Haiti. We called this beautiful gesture "Operation Starfish," after the story that teaches us that we can make a difference, one person at a time.

Today, as we commemorate the 25th anniversary of Operation Starfish, we can be very proud of what has been accomplished:

12 completed Nativity Villages in Haiti, with more than 1,500 homes
A 13th Nativity Village being developed in Haiti, with another 75 homes
3 fresh water fish farms
3 ocean fishing co-op's in Haiti and 1 in Honduras
4 medical student scholarships in Jamaica and 1 in Haiti
20,000 birthing and newborn kits shipped by Stella Marina
150 midwives being trained every 2 months
3 sewing centers where women learn to design and make clothing
3 clinics serving thousands of people
3 greenhouse complexes in the Dominican Republic
1 million pair of new underwear from Hanes Brands, Inc.
And much more...

While we have accomplished much, there is always more to do. Pope Francis says "Poverty calls us to sow hope..." Here at Nativity we plant seeds of hope across the street and around the world. We do it with your help, during Lent, and especially during our annual Operation Starfish Weekend, which will take place May 6 – 7, 2023.

In 2023 we will continue our commitment to the people of Haiti with construction of homes, water system and 2 schools in Nativity Village at Bas Fossé. We will also provide for the operation of St. Anthony Clinic in Nativity Village at Prolongé and support school scholarships, sewing centers and a reforestation project, all in Haiti. In addition, we will build a new clinic in the village of El Celirio, Honduras, where one nurse, working out of her pickup truck, is trying to provide healthcare to 3,500 people. Nativity will fund the construction, while Food For The Poor and their partners will be responsible for staffing and operation. And we will continue to support our medical student scholarship program in Jamaica.

During Lent we will continue our long-standing tradition of placing a basket in the vestibule of the church. Any gifts placed in the basket will be shared with Operation Starfish and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). If you specifically designate either Operation Starfish or CRS, your designation will be honored.

Our major Operation Starfish collection will take place this year on the Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 7, 2023. There will be a second collection on that Sunday at all the masses. May 7 this year is the closest Sunday to the 9th anniversary of our late Pastor, Fr. Richard Martin's return to God. Fr. Martin loved the poor and founded Operation Starfish here at Nativity in 1998. We have a parish tradition of taking the annual Starfish collection during the Easter season on the Sunday closest to Fr. Martin's anniversary.

Let's keep making a difference, one family at a time.

Love and Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor



Nativity Catholic Church



ENTER INTO LENT

Participate in any of the following events & opportunities to help make your Lent fruitful

Confessions | Wednesdays in March | 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Stations of the Cross | Fridays | 7:00 pm English | 8:00 pm Spanish

Soup Suppers | March 1, 8, 15, 22 | 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Peace and Justice Conference | March 11 | 6:00 pm

Mark Forrest Evening of Prayer | March 29 | 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Lenten Penance Service | March 30 | 6:30 pm

Lenten Fish Fry | March 31 | 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Youth Ministry Living Stations | March 31 | 7:00 pm

For more information about each of these opportunities, please visit the Nativity website: www.nativityburke.org

SAVE THE DATE!

The next Mariam Homes shredding event will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2023. More information to follow!

ECHO Food Room Most Needed Items

February Collection will be next weekend, March 4/5

Choose sizes appropriate for an average family size of four. Include an assortment of food to ensure a variety of items for clients. We collected 1,100 lbs on the February 4/5 weekend. Because of the wonderful generosity of the community, ECHO is blessed to already have a more than ample supply of canned pumpkin, cranberry sauce and stuffing. However, we are short on many other items such as personal care products and the items listed below.

ECHO cannot give clients food whose expiration date is long past or any open food or repackaged food (no zip-loc bags).


Condiments	Garlic Powder	Laundry Detergent
Masa Flour	Onion Powder	Shaving Cream/Razors
Lemon Juice	Hot Chocolate	Deodorant
Sugar	Tin Fish	Shampoo
Canned Fruit	Canned/Shelf Stable Milk	Toothbrushes (spec. kids)
Honey	Juice - Large Box/Bottles	Facial Tissues
Basmati Rice	Crackers	Feminine Hygiene Products
Pancake Syrup	Canned Meat (Spam is a favorite)	Paper Towels
Cinnamon	Laundry Detergent	Brown Paper Grocery Bags
Instant Coffee	Band Aids	
Toilet paper		

On This Date in Nativity History


March 1991

In this month, Nativity celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony to begin construction of the parish's Spiritual Formation Center. In the beginning, the building housed the religious education program, which had formerly been held in the church, with movable chairs, tables, and partitions. Under these conditions, the entire arrangement had to be taken down each week after the final CCD class of the week, and the chairs placed again as they would be for the next day's Mass. The new building gave the religious education program a permanent home. Of great importance, this new building made it possible to remodel the church and install permanent pews and sanctuary. Eventually, the Nativity School was housed in this building as well, beginning in 1996.

In this photo, Pastor Father Sal Ciullo and the building committee gather to conduct the groundbreaking. To the left is Sister Donatella Merulla, who had just arrived as director of religious education the preceding September.



This historical note is the 38th of a weekly Bulletin feature leading up to Nativity's fiftieth anniversary, 11 June 2023.



17700 Dominican Drive
Potomac Shores, VA 22026
• Main: 703.445.0300
• Fax: 703.445.0301
• www.jpthegreat.org

Preview Open House

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Join us for Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School's Preview Open House on Thursday, March 9 from 4:00-5:30pm! Learn what JP has to offer your child - robust academic programs including STEM, DE courses and Bioethics, vibrant student life and House System, competitive athletics, faith community steeped in the Dominican tradition, and more! Preview Open House is a great event for all ages, but especially students in grades 4-7. To learn more and RSVP in advance, please visit: https://jpthegreat.schooladminonline.com/portal/new_inquiry.

Knights of Columbus Frenchy Cyr Memorial Scholarships

Once again, Nativity's Knights of Columbus Council 7992 will be awarding Cyr Memorial scholarships for Catholic secondary school tuition (grades 9-12) for the 2023-2024 school year. Scholarship application forms will be available in the later part of March. As a reminder entrants must be registered parishioners at Nativity, or a son, daughter, or grandchild of an active member of Council 7992. Questions, please contact Dave Zivich at davezivich@gmail.com.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance



Come join the Knights of Columbus for the traditional celebration of the Patron Saint of Ireland at our Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance to be held in

the Father Martin Center at 6:30 PM on Saturday, March 18, 2023

It is always a great evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. There will be a bag piper playing original Irish tunes, music for listening and dancing provided by a D.J. Bring your friends and reserve a table for 8 or 10 or meet fellow parishioners through designated seating.

You will enjoy the best corned beef dinner in town for \$35 per ticket. Children 12 and under tickets for \$15. Tickets will be sold on line via Eventbrite. Scan the code for tickets. This event usually sells out so please get your tickets early!



Teacher Job Fair



The Office of Catholic Schools is holding a Teacher Job Fair on Saturday, March 18, from 9:00-11:00am at Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School, 1700 Dominican Drive, Potomac Shores. We are seeking highly qualified, faith-filled and dynamic professionals to join our preschools, elementary schools and high schools. Please bring copies of your resume that you can share with our school representatives from over 40 diocesan schools. If you cannot attend in person, use the QR code to register to attend virtually.

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. Are you open to being led by the Holy Spirit into the state in life God has prepared for you? If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at (703) 841-2514.

Lenten Soup Supper

MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22

NATIVITY CAFETERIA | 5:30-7:00 PM

DONATE SOUP AND BREAK BREAD WITH YOUR NATIVITY FAMILY TO SUPPORT PARISH MINISTRIES.



DONATE A SOUP!



The Seven Sisters Apostolate

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call for women to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of our parish priests. It is a "holy wasting" or "lavishing of prayer" for their deeper conformity to Christ.

This apostolate is relatively new, having started in 2010 in Minnesota by Janette Howe. During a walk one day, it occurred to Janette that the very least she might do in gratitude for her priests' ever-generous pastoral care would be to offer a Holy Hour once a week for him. The rest is history! Learn more at sevensistersapostolate.org.

Last year, this Apostolate came to Nativity, and now we have Seven Sisters Apostolate prayer teams praying for Father Bob, Father Hayes, Father Bresnahan, and Father Wilson every day of the week! We also have a list of substitutes who are willing to offer a Holy Hour when called upon.

We will renew our commitment this summer, near the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We need a few more women to fill openings and be on the substitute list. It is simply just one hour a week, anytime during your day, an hour to spend with our Lord for your priest. The most ideal place to pray your Holy Hour is before the Blessed Sacrament exposed during Eucharistic Adoration, or before the Tabernacle at any Catholic Church is also fine. Contact Linda Loffredo at lindaloffredo@gmail.com for more information.

Young Adult Opportunity

Young Adults, join the Common Home Corps and be a part of our diocese's commitment to preserve the integrity of God's Creation! The Corps is a year-long leadership and formation program sponsored by the Catholic Climate Covenant. Participating young adults ages 18-39 will learn about Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, and learn how to work within our diocese to engage other young adults to pray, learn and participate in helping the Church to live its environmental teaching concretely.

Learn more here:

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/YYA>. Apply by February 28. Participants will receive:

- A week-long all-expenses-paid training at Loyola University Chicago, Thursday, June 15 through Monday, June 19, 2023.
- Ongoing support from the Catholic Climate Covenant. -A \$3000 stipend for the year. -A unique opportunity to help lead the effort to make the vision of Laudato Si' a reality in our diocese. Make a difference with the Common Home Corps!

FEATURED AUCTION ITEM OF THE WEEK

Metta is a word often translated as "loving-kindness" or "good-will" that describes a compassionate state of mind for ourselves and others. As a quality, Metta is the state in which we see everyone as noble beings and deeply care for their growth and healing. At the Metta Center, they strive to nurture Metta within ourselves, within their team, and within their community of clients. *Enjoy a 30 minute customized therapeutic massage with any of their five massage therapists at the Metta Center.*



This item, as well as other health & wellness experiences, will be available at the Auction!



Dear parishioners,

In January we began the sanctuary renovation of our church as part of our parish 50th Anniversary celebration. A large screen was erected to cover the sanctuary area during the renovation. A temporary altar and tabernacle has been placed in front of the screen for our prayer and worship. Daily and Sunday Mass will continue to be celebrated in the church. The renovation is scheduled to be completed by March 11, 2023.

WHAT ARE WE RENOVATING ?

THE SANCTUARY FLOOR: The current sanctuary floor is chipped and stained and cannot be restored. There is also an electrical outlet coming out of the steps with red tape as a caution to all. The new sanctuary floor will be a cream color marble floor with border inlets that will enhance the beauty and safety of the altar area.

THE ALTAR: The altar, on which is effected the Sacrifice of the Cross made present under sacramental signs, is also the table of the Lord to which the People of God gather to participate in the Mass, and it also is the center of the thanksgiving that is accomplished through the Eucharist. In every church there should be a fixed altar. The current altar of wood and stone does not line up with the center aisle and has electrical outlets coming out of it in the back. Since we are now going to have a marble floor, the new altar will be built with a dignified cherry stain wood and marble inlets to coordinate with the new marble floor. It will contain relics of various saints.

THE AMBO: The current ambo (pulpit) will be replaced by a cherry wood stain and marble ambo. The design of the new ambo will match the altar as a way of expressing the unity of the Word of God in the Scripture and the Word of God in the Eucharist. There is also a practical motivation for the design of the new pulpit. The current ambo provides little room for the lectionary and homily notes. We also must carry a step stool to the ambo when our children are reading. The renovated ambo will have a shelf for liturgical books and a step installed that can be pulled out when needed by a lector.

THE TABERNACLE: A principal feature of the renovation is the moving of the tabernacle to the center of the sanctuary underneath the Crucifix. This design placement calls attention to the centrality of the Eucharist in our faith. As Pope John Paul II said, *"We are the Church of the Eucharist."* Visually when you walk into the church, your eyes will be drawn to the Altar, Tabernacle and Crucifix in unity on the same axis in the center. These liturgical sacred items will be architecturally what they are spiritually, the axis of our lives.

PRESIDERS CHAIR: Another liturgical change after the Second Vatican Council was the use of the Presiders Chair for the principal prayers of the Mass. As such, we have designed a chair that fits the overall design of the sanctuary. It will be placed on the side wall where the current tabernacle is located. New chairs for the deacon and altar servers are being made. The current chairs are over 30 years old, have served us well, but are in need of an upgrade.

MOSAIC PANELS: We are adding seven mosaic panels on the right side of the church behind the choir section to echo the seven stained glass windows on the left. These mosaic panels will depict the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy, beautifully displaying Christ's command to care for those in need, a charism of Nativity parish. This will highlight the scripture from Matthew 25 when Jesus describes how we will be judged. It will be a teaching reminder to any who say: *"If its not on the final exam, I don't want to study it."* Pope Francis has called us *"to be a church for the poor."* These seven mosaics will also provide a balance visually in the church.... and in our lives.

Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor

NEED TO TALK?

Catholic Charities provides quality mental health services & counselors grounded in a Catholic understanding of the human person. "Nativity's Counselor" Ms. Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC is back at Nativity counseling clients in-person and is available on Thursdays from 10:00am-6:00pm to talk with any parishioners who may be struggling.

To set up an appointment, please contact Marguerite at 703-454-2415 or mmturner@ccda.net.

Gifts for Seminarian Education Endowment Fund (SEEF)

Please support our seminarians and SEEF, a permanent endowment fund established in 2011. SEEF's income provides funding for annual seminarian expenses such as room, board, tuition, health insurance and books, which total almost \$45,000 per seminarian. Please give generously! To donate, make checks payable to: **"Foundation for the CDA - SEEF."** Mail to: The Foundation, 200 N. Glebe Road, Suite 811, Arlington, VA 22203. Contact John French at john.french@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-3819 with any questions. Thank you!



You can designate Nativity Church or Nativity School as the beneficiaries of your Amazon Smile! You can choose Nativity by going to: **YOUR ACCOUNT, YOUR AMAZON SMILE and designating Nativity.** Amazon then contributes a small percentage of each purchase to Nativity. For questions, please contact Ann Benson at: 703 455 2400.

**Nativity is a tithing community
Giving back a portion of God's blessings in gratitude**

Nativity Job Opening - Church Office Receptionist
Evenings: Monday thru Friday from 4:00pm-9:00pm
Saturdays: from 9:00am-2:00pm

We are in need of an evening and Saturday receptionist (perfect for college student - work/study job).
Job summary: To meet and greet, by phone or in person, all parishioners, guests, and persons, assist them, and/or direct them to the appropriate location. Bilingual a plus. To apply, send your resume to abenson@nativityburke.org.

Young Adult Bible Study

Partnering people with a small group is a great way to grow both friendships and learning about our faith.



Our annual Lent Bible Study starts **the week of February 27**

Interested?

Email Alison afram@nativityburke.org

OPERATION STARFISH

This year is the 25th anniversary of Operation Starfish, our parish ministry to the poor of Haiti. To commemorate this milestone, we will continue development of Nativity Village at Bas Fossé in Haiti. We will also build a clinic in Honduras to serve 3,500 people in El Celerio, a rural community about 3 hours south of the capital. We will continue to provide elementary school scholarships and support our sewing centers and clinics in Haiti. And we will continue our medical scholarship program in Jamaica. During Lent, we have placed a wicker basket in the vestibule. Any gifts placed in the basket will be shared with Operation Starfish and Catholic Relief Services.

If you specifically designate either Operation Starfish or Catholic Relief Services, your designation will be honored.

Our major Operation Starfish collection will take place this year on the Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 7, 2023. There will be a second collection on that Sunday at all the Masses. This is the 9th anniversary of our late Pastor, Fr. Richard Martin's return to God. Fr. Martin loved the poor and founded Operation Starfish here at Nativity in 1998. We have a parish tradition of taking the annual Starfish collection during the Easter season on the Sunday closest to Fr. Martin's anniversary.

40 Days for Life: Fall Campaign runs through April 2

We will be peacefully praying the pro-life Rosary in front of the Falls Church abortion facility at 900 S. Washington Street, Falls Church. Join us for Nativity's all-day vigil from 7:00am -7:00pm, Friday, March 31. Please contact Rick Loffredo at rickloffredo@outlook.com for more details.

Nativity Parish provides evening meals and serves the homeless at Christ House several times per year, when there is a 5th Sunday in the month. Volunteers are needed (age 13 +) to donate food (currently bagged lunches) and help prepare and serve the meal (when kitchen is open) at Christ House in Alexandria. The remaining dates in 2023 are: April 30, July 30, October 29 and December 31. For more information and to volunteer, contact Mike Hurwitz at mhurwitz1956@gmail.com.



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, February 27th

7:30 am † Paul Ostrowski

Tuesday, February 28th

7:30 am Special Int. for Sebastian Haworth
12:00 pm † Kyrent Pachon

Wednesday, March 1st

7:30 am † Bernie Crum
(Sunrise) 3:00 pm Special Int. for Javier Haworth

Thursday, March 2nd

7:30 am † Michael Brensy
12:00 pm † Manuel Garduno

Friday, March 3rd

7:30 am † Maribel Knappen
9:00 am † Nancy O'Donnell Re

Saturday, March 4th

9:00 am † Elias Koons
5:00 pm † Donna McCraith
7:00 pm Parishioners

Sunday, March 5th

7:00 am † John Hayes
9:00 am † Ernie Weeks
11:00 am Special Int. for Ruth Myers
1:00 pm † Larry Brindza
5:30 pm † Lyda

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

Please note that the current Mass Intentions Calendar has been filled through June 2023. We will open up the second part of 2023 (July-December) in June. Please see the Bulletin for the announcement.



Women's Cursillo! The next women's Cursillo weekend will be held at Missionhurst in Arlington from Thursday, April 20 – Sunday, April 23

Cursillo (pronounced Cur-see-yo) is a movement of the 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://arlingtoncursillo.org/weekend-archives/> (The next men's weekend will also be held at Missionhurst from Thursday, September 21 through Sunday September 24).



Join us for a

St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance

Saturday, March 18
from 6:30pm until 10:00pm



Fr Martin Center
Nativity Catholic Church
6400 Nativity Ln, Burke, VA 22015



Enjoy a Fantastic Corned Beef Dinner,
Entertainment, Cash Bar, and a DJ to
dance the night away.

Only \$35 per Adult, \$15 Kids 12 & Under

Everyone asked to bring a special
dessert to share

Purchase your tickets on-line here





JOIN US FOR A *fiesta!*


NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL SPRING AUCTION

**WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
6:30 - 10:00PM**

**WHERE: NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
FATHER MARTIN CENTER**


\$50 EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE!

We invite the ENTIRE Nativity Parish Community to join us for our school's BIGGEST FUNDRAISER of the year! Join us for an evening of delicious tapas and cervezas, live music & dancing, fun and friendship with an overflowing silent and live auction! Help ensure our students have the resources they need to thrive. Funds raised during the event will provide financial assistance for STEM and other student enrichment activities. Attire - Dress UP or DOWN in your brightest, most fiesta attire! Questions? Contact auction@nativityschool.org.
<https://nativityauction.givesmart.com>.



SCAN ME

**For Families with Young Children
Connecting families with children
Newborn to Elementary**



Have you been looking for a way to connect with Catholic families for community, encouragement, and growth? There are MANY families with young children at Nativity and you are invited to our next Young Family Ministry meeting on March 4th!

To RSVP, please email
yafamilyministry@nativityburke.org

**Catholic Investments for Catholic Families
Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors' advisory services**



Learn more about our faith-based investments at our upcoming Catholic Financial Planning Seminar and Social.

February 28, at 7:30 PM

Quinn Room, Holy Spirit School
8800 Braddock Rd.,
Annandale, VA 22003



**Knights of
Columbus
Asset Advisors®**

abbatekofc.com/events
1-866-868-1492
The Abbate Agency



KoCAA is an SEC registered investment adviser that maintains a principal place of business in the State of Connecticut. For information about KoCAA's business operations, please consult the Firm's Form ADV disclosure documents, the most recent versions of which are available on the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, LLC, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Knights of Columbus, the world's largest Catholic Lay Organization. Knights of Columbus does not offer investment products outside of the affiliated products offered through KoCAA. © Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

Calling Adult Volunteers!
WorkCamp: June 17-23, 2023



This week-long diocesan service program relies on parishes making a community effort. There are many ways you can join us on this experience.

Scan QR Code to learn more and register!

Email questions to Brigid Williams at
wc@nativityburke.org

Be Renewed: Developing a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit - Enhance your Lenten journey

You are invited into a more profound, life-giving relationship with the Holy Spirit. This workshop will help lead you to know more of God's presence and power, enabling you to fully live the abundant life for which you were created.

Program includes videos featuring: Fr. Dave Pivonka, President, Franciscan University of Steubenville, personal testimonies, small group discussions and time for personal reflection. Come and "Be Renewed." The workshop is free and will be held Friday, March 24 from 6:30-9:00pm and Saturday, March 25 from 9:30am-4:00pm at St. Mary of Sorrows Parish Center, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. It is hosted by St. Mary's, Logs of Fire and Nativity's Love is Given prayer groups.

To register or for more information on making this workshop part of your Lenten journey, email your name, email address and phone number to logsoffireprayergroup@gmail.com. Come Holy Spirit!

Trivia Night

**JOIN US FOR TRIVIA NIGHT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH
NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM - TRIVIA BEGINS AT 7:00PM**

IN THE FR. MARTIN CENTER
ALL 21 AND ABOVE ARE INVITED, BYO FOOD AND DRINKS

For more details and registration visit:
NativityTrivia.givesmart.com. Register by March 1
Single tickets - \$10 or tables of 8 - \$80



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



**Multicultural Night:
We've Got The Whole World ... At Our School**

It was the perfect way to end Catholic Schools Week festivities, an evening of food, fun, family, and faith celebrating the many different cultures that make up our school community – and our world! This inaugural event, celebrating the cultural richness of our school community, was co-hosted by the PTO and the Student Council.

We delighted in food from Peru, Eastern Europe, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Colombia, South Korea, Philippines, Egypt, and Argentina. We played Mexican Bingo, created Pinatas, folded Origami, and watched Bolivian and Thai dancers. We traveled around the world in one enchanting evening with our family and friends – all without ever leaving the Cafeteria.



Join Us ~WE HAVE A SEAT FOR YOUR CHILD

Thank you for coming to our recent OPEN HOUSE. We really enjoyed meeting and talking with all of you. We look forward to further discussions with you about your child/ren's academic future here at Nativity. For further information, please contact Shannon Murphy at smurph@nativityschool.org. Join us at Nativity to see how your child would spend his/her days here -- learning, praying, sharing, loving, and laughing.

Upcoming Dates At-A-Glance!

- Feb. 27: 4th Grade Leads Rosary
- March 6-17: Read-a-Thon INFO to come!
- March 19-24: Book Fair Sign-Up Genius soon!

Join us at Nativity to see how your child would spend his/her days here -- learning, praying, sharing, loving, and laughing.

Yes, Catholic education is worth the investment!

Nativity Catholic School is committed to making Catholic education accessible to those who desire it, and offers financial assistance to make their dream come true.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact: *Rebecca Judge*
cym@nativityburke.org

Get connected to our Youth Ministry community by filling out the free 2022-2023 registration form. See the website to register or scan the QR codes below.

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm



Dinner

Fellowship

Prayer & Formation

EDGE: GRADES 6-8

Alternating Sundays 3:30-5pm
& Fridays 7-8:30pm
See website for schedule



Meet new friends

Play games

Explore your faith

SEEKING TEEN PARTICIPANTS FOR LIVING STATIONS

We are looking for actors and students to help with costumes, music, and assistant directing to present the freeze frame Living Stations on March 31 at 7 pm.



Struggling with addiction in the family?

Both the afflicted and affected don't need to be alone. There are many resources available including AA, NA, Alanon, Calix and a diocesan chaplain. Call the HELPLINE (970) 989-2670 for support. This is NOT LIMITED to addicts, anybody that would like to speak with a priest or a friend in Christ May call!

The Associates of St. John Bosco undergraduate scholarship opportunity

The Associates of St. John Bosco is pleased to offer three \$4,000 scholarships and one \$6,000 scholarship (the Vincent T. Vaccaro Education Scholarship) to undergraduate students who demonstrate an intense desire to live out their faith on their college campus and who seek to serve the Church in some capacity after graduation. Freshman scholarship funding may continue into the next three years if certain criteria are met and, if funding is available, for potentially \$14,000 to \$20,000 in total scholarship funding! Please apply by **May 22 at asjb.org/scholarship-program**



Linktree Universal Sign-up Link: Want to volunteer for an event? https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992.

Lenten Fish Fry: The next fish fry of the season will be in the Nativity Cafeteria on 31 March. Sign up to help with ticket sales and the event on the linktree. There is limited seating, so reserve your seating time on the linktree.

Catholic Financial Planning Seminar: All parishioners are invited to attend this event by the Abbate Agency on February 28, 7:30 p.m. in the Quinn Room at Holy Spirit School, 8800 Braddock Road. Register for this or one of the many other financial seminars on the linktree to learn about what tools are available for you and your family.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance: Parish-wide event back after 3 year hiatus on 18 March! The next planning meeting is Feb 27 at 7:00 pm in the Church Conference Room. Contact Br. Pat Bradshaw at pbradshaw2@verizon.net to help.

Blood Drive: 18 March is our next blood drive from 7:00am-noon. Lookout for the linktree sign up in the next few weeks.

Marian Homes Shred Event: Mar 25 10AM-12 in the parking lot. Help unload cars to benefit this important charity. See the Linktree to volunteer.

40 Days for Life: Fall Campaign is Feb 22-Apr 2. We will be peacefully praying the pro-life Rosary in front of the Falls Church abortion facility at 900 S. Washington St, Falls Church. Join us for Nativity's all-day vigil from 7am -7pm, Friday, March 31. Please contact Br. Rick at rickloffredo@outlook.com for more details.

Food for Others: We need volunteers drivers for food distributions to the poor. If you have a truck or van and can occasionally help deliver to Springfield on Friday evenings contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com.

Yard Sale: This is the council's second biggest charity fundraiser! We need area leads and assistant leads to commit to supporting the collection period as well as the date of the sale June 15-24th. You don't have to be a Knight to help! Sign up on the linktree. Contact Br. Dave Zivich with any questions at davezivich@gmail.com.

Name Tags: Email Warden Michael Bender at michaelbambender@hotmail.com to order.

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. Volunteer on the linktree.

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." You can reach us at 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 navy8@yahoo.com or 703-250-1492.

Join the Knights! The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others and defend values in a busy changing world. Join today! Simply go to <https://info.kofc.org/us.html> and enter our council #7992 for local information and to register. E-membership for the first year is free using the new code "blessedmcgivney". Please email our Deputy Grand Knight at PMDELATTE@gmail.com or the Grand Knight at tjsgk7992@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Rosary at 7:15 PM; meeting follows at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows every meeting.

33 DAYS CONCECRATION



Join us for a small group retreat. 33 Days to Merciful Love begins 8 March 2023. This promises to be an enriching 6-week Lenten program with consecration on Divine Mercy Sunday. We follow the book -33 Days to Merciful Love: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat in Preparation for Consecration to Divine Mercy by Fr. Michael Gaitley. Each person purchases their own book (Amazon, Thriftbooks or Shop Mercy.com).

Journey into the heart of St Therese of Lisieux's Little Way with your fellow parishioners. Learn through the example of St Therese's life and her desire to be a saint, as you gain a greater understanding of God's Merciful love. Fr. Gaitley hones in on St Therese's spirituality and connects it with Divine Mercy. Whether you want to deepen your love of Divine Mercy or to deepen your devotion to St Therese you are encouraged to join us. All meetings are via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7:45 PM to 9:00 PM. Registration is now open on the Nativity website: <https://nativityburke.org/33-days/#register> or contact Steve at 33dayconsecration@nativityburke.org.

PARISH RETREAT AT LOYOLA Men's Retreat, March 17th-19th Women's Retreat, March 10th- 12th

Renew your spirit during Lent with a retreat at the Loyola Retreat House in southern Maryland. This year's retreat theme is: "If Today You Hear God's Voice." To reserve your room, call Loyola at 301-392-0800. The suggested offering for the weekend is \$245. (\$195 for first timers or young adults under age 35). You can review the retreat schedule and also reserve a room online at www.loyolaonthepotomac.com. Take some time to "Come Away and Rest Awhile" and spend a some prime time during Lent with God.

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



A message from Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Posted on our website at <https://nativityburke.org/service/creation-care/> under Resources, is the annual Lenten Creation Care calendar, created by Virginia Interfaith Power & Light (VAIPL). VAIPL collaborates among people of faith and conscience to grow healthy communities by advancing climate and environmental justice. The calendar provides weekly themes and daily actions for the seven weeks of Lent. The theme for Week two is Being Mindful of Waste. Do we think about the waste we generate and how to reduce it? What types of waste could we reduce? Food waste, plastic waste, water waste? Do we take care to recycle correctly rather than wishcycling? Do we take our glass to the purple bins for repurposing in our local area? Choose one area of waste to reduce during Lent—perhaps see how much plastic you can eliminate in your life by, for example, using a reusable water bottle only, packaging leftovers in glass or beeswax and shopping with reusable produce bags.

We pray, "Sustainer of all, keep us ever mindful of our place on earth...and let us treat it with reverence as we are called to care for your creation."



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INVITES YOU TO



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Live & Silent Auction • Class Basket Raffle
50/50 Raffle • Heads or Tails

**Early
Bird Tix
\$50**

April 29, 2023

FR. MARTIN CENTER

6:30-10:00PM



[HTTPS://NATIVITYAUCTION.GIVESMART.COM](https://nativityauction.givesmart.com)



SCAN ME

Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation

Give a child the gift of a Catholic education and receive most of your donation back in federal and state tax savings!

The Virginia Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credit Program will award a 65% state tax credit for donations made to the Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation, which will, in turn, provide scholarships for new students wishing to attend our diocesan Catholic Schools. You do not have to itemize in order to receive the 65% tax credit! Donations must be preauthorized in advance. Please call Jeanne Combos at 703-841-2764 (or email at DASF@arlingtondiocese.org) or go online for more details and to download the preauthorization request form at:

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Scholarship-Foundation/>

Give a Gift for Life

Please give a Gift for Life this season to help Project Rachel provide counseling and healing retreats to those who suffer the effects of abortion. One after-abortion care retreatant wrote: *"I would have NEVER had the courage to show my face at this [abortion healing] retreat... God works in mysterious ways and by His grace, I found the courage to step forward in my faith. I am so grateful that this ministry exists and was there for me... without judgement when I was ready to tackle the deep-rooted pain in my heart. I am forever grateful!"* For more information and/or to donate: www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flower Book for 2023 is open with many dates available. 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/>.

REAL LIFE CHALLENGES,
REAL GOD SOLUTIONS

Thursdays 7:30-9:00pm in the Well
Mar 9 & 23 | Apr 13

A new high school small group series for guys to grow in friendship and tackle life's toughest questions together.

Must be registered for Youth Ministry before attending

NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY

No Hands But Yours is an original Nativity Ministry doing God's work by serving those less fortunate members of His flock. We work distributing food, clothing, and personal items to the poor and homeless in DC (McPherson Square and tent encampments) and northern VA every Sunday morning, rain or shine. We also have weekly trips into designated areas bringing Panera bread donations along with help from local food banks. Through the blessings of God, we have grown through our Nativity community and continue to do so. For more details you can visit the Nativity Parish website and under the Ministry tab, select No Hands But Yours. We also have a Signup Genius where you can access specifics along with our schedule where you can volunteer to assist. (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4AAAFAC22A1FA7-nohands1>). Families are also welcomed! If you have interest in learning more and would like to participate in daily/Sunday runs, please contact John Rubino at (john.albert.rubino@gmail.com).

Thank you all for helping the needy. And remember always, that *"Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours..."*
— St Theresa of Avila



Finding Jesus as
MEN after Christ's own Heart

SILENT RETREAT
MARCH 17-19
FRIDAY - SUNDAY
2023

As a Band of Brothers we will gather at Christ's feet; Single Men, Husbands, Fathers, and Priest... listening and seeking Jesus in deep quiet prayer.

Retreat Cost: \$285 (financial aid may be available)

Contact Fr. Riley: Retreat@SacredHeartWinchester.org

GATHER AT SAN DAMIANO RETREAT CENTER IN WHITE POST, VA



Sick / Homebound Visits

Are you or someone you know sick and/or homebound for any reason? We can arrange home visits from the parish and provide prayer and the sacraments. We would love to bring God's Grace and Peace to anyone in difficult times. Please contact Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister, at csands@nativityburke.org to schedule a visit.



**Knights of
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The Abbate Agency
www.abbatekofc.com

*You're invited
to join us
on February 28th!*



Catholic Financial Planning Seminar and Council Social

Join us for an informative live presentation from the Abbate Agency - Knights of Columbus about how to combine your faith and financial security. It will be preceded by a social sponsored by Holy Spirit Council 11922. All are invited to better their understanding of benefits available to Catholics through the Knights of Columbus. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn and to enjoy good company during the social! It is open to the entire community.

The Knights of Columbus has once again earned AM Best A+ (Superior) Rating for Financial Strength. This reaffirmation by A.M. Best, along with our recent designations by Forbes as one of "America's Best Insurance Companies," and the S&P ranking¹ us as one of the most financially strong life insurers in North America, all clearly demonstrate our position as a top insurance company and a strong competitive leader in our industry.

The Abbate Agency, a consistent high performer for the Knights of Columbus and its members, offers the knowledge and experience to help you best leverage the Knights of Columbus financial strength, insurance products² and fraternal benefits to meet your needs.

You will also learn about how Catholics now have an opportunity to work with Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors (KocAA) through one of our Investment Advisor Representatives. KoCAA is the intersection of Catholic and Capable. We offer clients a way to invest with integrity, assured that their funds are invested with companies committed to sound ethical, environmental, social, and corporate governance practices. That's how we provide "value with values"-- by helping clients grow their future with faith-based investing.³

Date: February 28, 2023 Time: 7:30 PM
Location: Quinn Room, Holy Spirit School
8800 Braddock Road, Annandale, VA 22003
RSVP: <https://feb28annandale.abbatekofc.com>



¹Ranking North American Life Insurance Companies from Strongest to Weakest by S&P Global Ratings, April 6, 2020.

²Insurance products are offered through Knights of Columbus, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510.

³Investments are offered through Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, information found on www.kofcassetadvisors.org.

BIBLE STUDIES AT NATIVITY PARISH (1/23)



Tuesday morning Bible Study: We meet from 10am to 11:30 am in Fr Ready room. This year we are looking at the Gospel and readings for Sunday, seeking to find within something which touches our lives and /or the world around us. **Contact Miya Johnson** miyajohnson@verizon.net

Tuesday evening Young Adult Bible Studies: 6 weeks in small groups. At different times throughout the year, we offer 6-week long Bible studies where we'll encounter Jesus through the Gospels. We read three chapters of Scripture each week and come together to talk about it. You can

register to do this either over Zoom or at a local coffee shop or restaurant, each group meeting at different dates and times. Register for the next Lent session beginning the week of February 26 at <https://nativityburke.org/ya-bible-study/> **Contact Alison Fram** afam@nativityburke.org

Wednesday morning and evening. Walking With Purpose: Meeting in person. Walking with Purpose is a study program that aims to help bring women closer to Christ through Scripture. **Meets** weekly in person on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Register at <https://nativityburke.org/wwp/> OR **Contact Erin Barrett** wwpnativity@gmail.com

Thursday evening Bible Study: Meeting in person/virtually. We just finished our study of the Catholic Epistles, James, 1 & 2 Peter, Jude, 1, 2 & 3 John, very short epistles sent out to the universal Church. We will next look at how the books in the bible were selected. **Meets** each Thursday from 7:30 – 9:00pm in person in the school's Art Room and virtually. **Contact Deacon Dick Kelly** Deaconrfd@aol.com

Friday morning Women's Bible Study. Meetings are Friday Mornings from 9:30-11:30 AM. We are currently studying Hebrews through February 10th. Our last two studies will be on Christ's Passion (Feb 24-Mar 31) and the Sermon on the Mount (Apr 14-May 5). We are operating with a hybrid format of in-person and Zoom meetings. Register for the next session at <https://nativityburke.org/womens-bible-study-registration/> **Contact Camille Pryor** at wbs@nativityburke.org

Viernes por la noche Estudio Bíblico: El estudio bíblico en español "Little Rock" es un programa que ayudara a aumentar tu fe. Este ministerio está en nuestra parroquia de Natividad desde 2014, alentando a los fieles a tener una mejor visión de la Iglesia Católica y crear en ellos un interés mas profundo en las sagradas Escrituras. **Horario:** Viernes de 7:00-9:00 pm. Desde Septiembre 24, 2021 a Junio 3, 2022. Lugar: Salón Fr. Ready. Este ciclo estaremos estudiando: El evangelio según San Juan y las Cartas. **Contactarse Elba Pfeifer** elbitabonita@aol.com

Saturday morning That Man Is You: Meeting in person. A men's program that combines Scripture with the best research from science in an engaging interactive program that addresses the pressures and temptations facing Catholic men in our modern culture. **Meets** each Saturday 6:50 - 8:00 am in the Fr Ready room. **Contact Tim Yeager** yeagertd@verizon.net or **Bob Sands** bob@sandmark.net.

Saturday morning Men's Prayer and Reflection Group: Meeting virtually/in person. Men of all ages – Join us in reading and reflecting on Sunday scriptures and discussing how it relates to our lives and helps us become better Catholic husbands, dads, family members and friends. We **meet** Saturdays from 8:00 – 9:00 am virtually and in-person in the Training/Cry Room at the back of church. Drop-ins are always welcome! **Contact Rick Loffredo** rickloffredo@outlook.com.

2022 ORDINATIONS



Congratulations to Rev. Peter St. George, Rev. Peter Clem, Rev. Daniel Reuwer, Rev. Mauricio Portillo, Rev. Daniel Rice, Rev. John O'Farrell, Rev. Philip Briggs, Rev. Robert Renner

THEY HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL. WILL YOU?



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CONTACT: John French, Office of Development • john.french@arlingtondiocese.org • (703) 841-3819

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

1st Sunday of Lent

Sunday February 26

Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7
Ps 51:3-6,12-13,17
Romans 5:12-19 or
5:12,17-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Monday February 27

Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18
Ps 19:8-10,15
Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday February 28

Isaiah 55:10-11
Ps 34:4-7,16-19
Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday March 1

Jonah 3:1-10
Ps 51:3-4,12-13,18-19
Luke 11:29-32

Thursday March 2

Esther C:12,14-16,23-25
Ps 138:1-3,7c-8
Matthew 7:7-12

Friday March 3

Ezra 18:21-28
Ps 130:1-8
Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday March 4

Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Ps 119:1-2,4-5,7-8
Matthew 5:43-48

How do you deal with temptation? That's the personal challenge given to us by the Word of God on the first Sunday of Lent. And so we begin our journey with Jesus, traveling to the holiest place we can reach at this point in our lives.

This Lent is like no other. Last year, you had different needs, different areas of growth, different levels of insight and understanding. Much has happened since then, and all of it is a preparation for what the Lord is going to do in your life right now.

What victory do you need? What needs to be resurrected? To get there, Jesus will lead you through the cross of penance and self-denial, into his tomb, and out into God's light where his love provides healing and new life.

During Lent – and every time we make sacrifices and connect our sufferings to the Passion of Christ –

we follow Jesus to the cross and to resurrection. This involves seeing our own crosses in a new light, for the Calvary Road is the only way to reach the victories that we yearn to experience.

If we want Easter to be more than just a holiday of colored eggs, chocolate bunnies and big dinners, we have to make Lent more than just 40 days of enduring an annoying, obligatory sacrifice, eating meatless pizza on Fridays, and going to an occasional extra event at church.

If we want to experience the power of resurrection, we have



to experience the power of mourning and repenting from our sinfulness. In other words, we have to experience the powerlessness of death – the death of our selfishness, the death of our worldliness, the death of our behaviors that are

not like Christ's.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † In the story from Genesis, what did Adam and Eve need to die to (let go of, put aside, or reject) in order to resist the Original Sin? Why didn't they?
- † In the reading from Romans, we hear about the abundant grace and the gift of justification that Jesus provided to each of us when he died on the cross. How does this grace and justification give us life? In other words, how does God help us to resist sin?
- † Looking at the Gospel passage, what did Jesus have to die to in the desert so that he could say no to temptation?

Lenten Activity:

What can you do this week to die to self? For example, think of a good deed you can do that's the opposite of what your selfishness wants you to do.

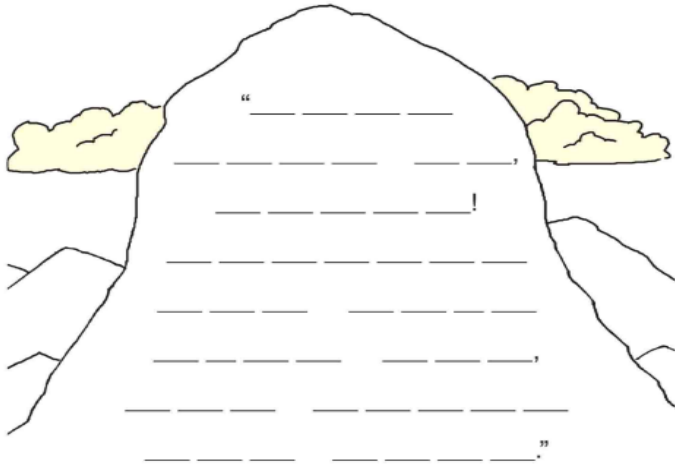


Then the devil took Him to a high mountain. He showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. He said, "All this I will give You if You bow down and worship me."

What did Jesus say to this?

First write all of the 1's, then the 2's, etc. ...

1	A	2	R	3	O	1	W	2	S	3	D	1	A	2	H	3	A	1	Y	2	I	3	N	1	F
2	P	3	D	1	R	2	T	3	S	1	O	2	H	3	E	1	M	2	E	3	R	1	M	2	L
3	V	1	E	2	O	3	E	1	S	2	R	3	H	1	A	2	D	3	I	1	2	3	Y	3	M
1	A	2	O	3	O	1	N	2	U	3	N	1	W	2	R	3	L	1	O	2	G	3	Y		



Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. He was hungry. The devil said, "If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." What did Jesus say?



Use the code to fill in the words below.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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“ _____ ”

8,9 3 8 8,9 6,7 3

2,3 8

7,8 8 10,11 6,7 5 11,12 3

8 7,8 1,2 9,10 3 1 2,3

1 6,7 8 7,8 3 1,2 11 10,11 8 7,8

3 11,12 3 9,10 13 12 8 9,10 2,3 10,11 4,5 1 10,11

2 8 7 3 10 3,4 9,10 8 7 10,11 4,5 3

“ _____ ”

7 8 11 10,11 4,5 8 3,4 4 8 2,3



Children's Worship Bulletin™

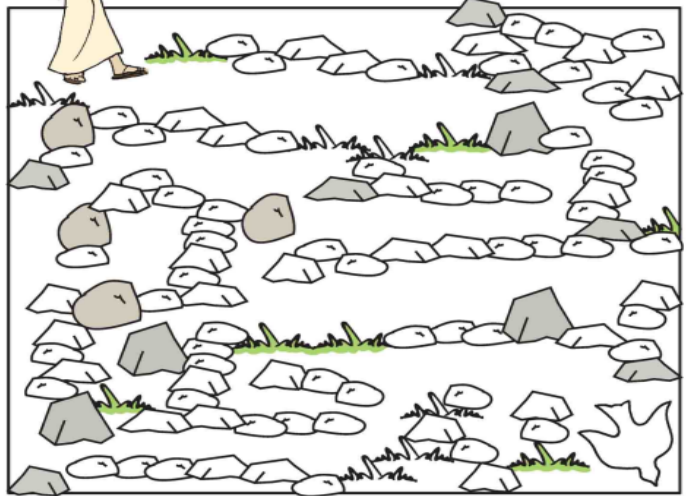
Ages 7+

February 26, 2023 • Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus Is Tempted

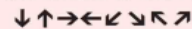
Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

Find the way the Spirit led Jesus in the desert.



The devil took Jesus to the holy city and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. He said, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. The angels will lift You up." What did Jesus say?

Follow the arrows to find His words.



You will end when you hit the circled letter the second time.

START →	D	H	N	O	D	O	T	H	L	R
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	T	E	S	O	P	U	R	U	O	Y

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March 2023

Church of the Nativity

Rev. Robert C. Cilinski, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Fasting to detach

"Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their 'shame.'

Their minds are occupied with earthly things"

(Philippians 3:19). We tend to eat and drink so freely that we forget God, who gives us that which we eat and drink.

Fasting, especially during Lent, helps us to detach from the things of this world and remember Him. Catholics are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and to abstain from meat on Fridays.

Believe in God

Believing in God means more than just saying He exists. Believers serve God, give time to Him, and put Him first. Spend more time in prayer this Lent, shed some possessions, perform works of charity and you will act on your baptismal promises.

"Yet even now," says the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments"

(Joel 2:12).



Preparing hearts for Easter joy

Lent is the Church's gift to us to help prepare our hearts for Easter by purifying our hearts, opening up to love, and putting love into action.

Purifying our hearts: Every heart yearns for love, yet only God's love can truly satisfy that yearning. The goal of Lenten penance is to purify ourselves of whatever blocks us from God's love or closes our heart to others. This can include excessive social media, materialism, gossip, or sinful habits like lust or deceit. From what does your heart need to detach so there's room for God and others?

Opening up to love: Mother Teresa

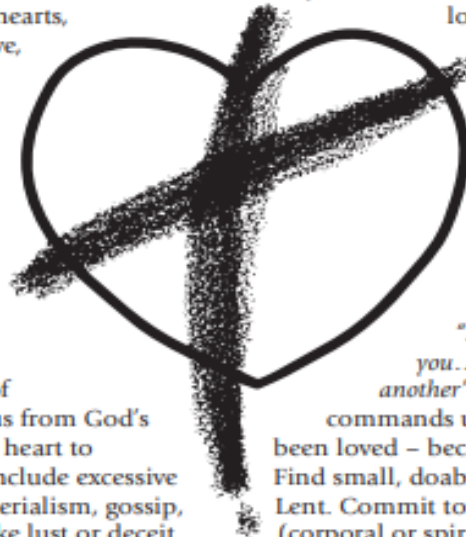
wrote, "Have you seen...how [Jesus] looks at you with love?... Have you heard the

loving words He speaks to you?" Strive to know God's heart. Seek Him, not just His gifts. Only by receiving God's love first, beginning with prayer, can we share it with others.

Put love in action:

"Even as I have loved you...you also love one another" (John 13:34). God

commands us to love as we've been loved – because we are loved. Find small, doable ways to serve during Lent. Commit to a Work of Mercy (corporal or spiritual). Practice patience. Give the gift of listening. True joy at Easter comes from loving Christ and imitating Him. Strive to do this throughout Lent and beyond.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics cover statues during Lent?

Many churches cover statues and crucifixes in red or purple cloth for the final weeks in Lent, traditionally known as "Passiontide." The veils are visual cues that we're entering into a solemn time and remind us that sin separates us from God.



This helps to build anticipation for Easter when the statues are unveiled and we are restored to Him. Lastly, the veils symbolize that heavenly glories are hidden in this life, but will be revealed when we enter eternity.

Cultivating a "holy hospitality"

Jesus asked us to make others feel welcome, seen and loved while they're with us. "Holy hospitality" is vital to building community around Christ. Try these tips:

Sit and listen: When Jesus visited with his dear friends, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, He observed that Martha was so distracted and focused on her own concerns that she merely served Jesus instead of connecting with Him personally (Luke 10:41-42). Prepare for guests like Martha did, but enjoy them like Mary – with complete attention.



Fill your conversations with faith: A "holy hospitality" is a faith-informed one. The Samaritan woman's life changed when she encountered Christ (John 4:14-15) because He told her the Good News of salvation. Ensure your conversations are uplifting and reflect your hope and optimism for eternity.

Open your circle: Jesus ate with tax collectors and public sinners – those considered unpleasant. "Holy hospitality" means your social circle is open to the socially awkward, the frustrating coworker, the elderly neighbor who lives alone, because Christ is in all we serve (Matthew 25:40).

from Scripture

John 11:1-45, Generous trust, generous faith

In this Gospel passage, a beloved friend of Jesus' was fatally ill and his sisters sent urgent word to Jesus to come immediately. Jesus delayed, and Lazarus died, but this would not be His ultimate fate. Jesus had something else in mind for Lazarus and his family.

When He finally arrived, Martha didn't demand Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, although she acknowledged His power to do so. Even though her brother's body had been in the tomb for days and the decay had begun in earnest, her trust in Jesus was complete. She knew that God's love

is more powerful than death and left the outcome in His hands.



God never leaves us in our troubles but uses them to draw us closer to Him.

Martha's generous trust in God's will rested on her close friendship with Christ. Whatever He thought would be best

was best. God's timing is not ours, yet everything He does – even when He does it – is for our good. Martha's trust in Jesus was rewarded in the most magnificent way. Ours will be, too.

Q & A How can I overcome the temptations in my life?

Jesus knows that the battle for holiness is challenging in a fallen world, so He gave St. Faustina Kowalska twenty-five strategies to help (*Divine Mercy in My Soul*, #1760). Here is a sample:

"Do not bargain with any temptation; lock yourself immediately in My Heart."



Don't assume you are strong enough for a "little" temptation. Run immediately to the refuge of Jesus' sacred heart for protection.

"Bear with yourself with great patience." Saints aren't made overnight. See yourself as God does – beloved. Be patient and keep trying.

"Do not neglect interior mortifications." Withhold a biting remark, give up a luxury for the day, cut down on screen time. Sacrifices for love are powerful.

"Shun murmurs like a plague." Gossip is never in God's service. False accusations and rumors that hurt reputations are Satan's favorite tools. Don't indulge.

"Always fight with the deep conviction that I am with you." Our courage comes from being rooted in God (John 15:5). Recall God's loving presence throughout the day: "Jesus, I trust in you!"

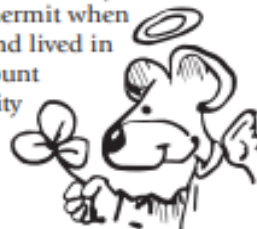
Feasts & Celebrations

March 9 – St. Frances of Rome (1440). Although she preferred a life of service, St. Frances' wealthy parents required that she marry. With her sister-in-law, Vannoza, St. Frances formed a group of women dedicated to serving the poor, all while caring for her family.

March 22 - St. Deogratias of Carthage (456): As Bishop of Carthage, St. Deogratias is best known for aiding slaves captured by the Vandal king, Geiseric. He ransomed hundreds of captives and sheltered them in two large cathedrals.

March 25 – The Annunciation of the Lord (1st century). The angel Gabriel visited the Blessed Virgin Mary with the extraordinary news of her role as the mother of God. Even at her young age, she had confidence in God's grace and trusted in His wisdom.

March 30 - St. John Climacus (606): Born in 525 near Syria, St. John became a hermit when he was sixteen and lived in the region of Mount Sinai. A community of monks formed around him and elected him abbot.



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TIEMPO DE TRANSFORMACION

RETIROS DE CUARESMA

TRANSFORMADO POR ARREPENTIMIENTO
TRANSFORMADO POR ENTREGARSE A DIOS
TRANSFORMADO POR AMOR

Feb 25 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm | Fr. Ready Room

Marzo 4 | 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm | Fr. Ready Room

Marzo 11 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm | Art Room

Marzo 18 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm | Fr. Ready Room

Marzo 25 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm | Fr. Ready Room

Abril 1 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm | Art Room



¡TENTADOS A TODO!

1° de Cuaresma
Javier Leoz

Hemos iniciado esta marcha, lenta y reflexiva, hacia la Semana Santa. Ojala sea en verdad un tiempo de tonificar y rehacer aún más nuestra amistad con el Señor.

Estamos en un momento decisivo para la fe. Al igual que a Jesús, también a nosotros constantemente, desde muchos aleros del mundo, se nos invita a desertar. Al abandono. A la duda. Se nos enseña todo un mar de libertades, cuando en realidad, luego todo aquello se convierte en un fango de esclavitud.

Este primer domingo de la Santa Cuaresma nos hace caer en la cuenta de lo importantes que son los “espacios” de Dios en medio del mundo. No hace falta alejarse hasta el desierto más remoto para encontrarse cara a cara con Dios. Hoy, aquí, ahora, en este momento...dos grandes fuerzas, dentro de nosotros, están conviviendo. Están luchando. Es la fuerza del bien, que viene toda ella de Dios, y es la inclinación a lo fácil, que todos sabemos (cada uno en particular conoce) desde donde se nos insta a reverenciarlo aunque sea a costa de vender o nuestra conciencia o incluso nuestra dignidad de hijos de Dios.

Esta Iglesia, queridos amigos, es un inmenso desierto cuaresmal en cual nos podemos perder para estar a solas con Dios. Para poner a punto lo que somos, lo que tenemos y lo que soñamos ser. La cuaresma, y ese es su secreto, no es sino el grito de Dios en medio del mundo a través de Jesús. ¿Cómo perder de vista este aspecto? ¿Cómo puede ser posible que existan cristianos que han dejado desertizar su existencia por no haber acudido al oasis de la fe y del amor de Dios?

2. No hay día, y todos somos testigos de ello, en que no asome una tentación por algo, de alguien y con algo. ¿Por qué será, que en cambio, no somos tentados a permanecer firmes en nuestro amor a Dios? ¿Dónde está nuestro amor primero? ¿Dónde hemos dejado a Dios?

¡Tentados a todo, menos a lo más importante! Y es así. Dios, siendo el centro de todo; del universo, de la tierra, del mar y del mismo hombre, es sometido una y otra vez al intento sistemático de alejarlo del mundo. Muchos, si pudieran, lo llevarían precisamente..... a un desierto. A un paraje donde, por falta del alimento de sus adoradores, cayese en el olvido o en las garras de la misma muerte. ¡Pero no! Dios ha elegido la respuesta a tanta ingratitud. Y el Dios, que desde nuestros primeros padres nos regaló el don de la vida, vuelve a pensar en una de las suyas: mi Hijo vencerá al odio, a la muerte, a la incredulidad, a la mentira y a todo lo que se interponga entre el hombre y yo.

Y para ello ha nacido Jesús. Por cumplir esa voluntad magnánima de Dios, Jesús, subirá al madero. Para que aprendamos que, si situamos a Dios en el centro, nunca nos faltará nada. Pero que si, por el contrario, lo colocamos como “jugador defensa” perderemos, no solamente el primer partido de nuestra existencia sino que, además, pondremos en peligro aquel otro segundo de la eternidad.

Hermanos. Iniciemos con seriedad, oración, eucaristía, compromiso y con convencimiento, con valentía y con austeridad, con orgullo y con temperamento este tiempo cuaresmal.

Integrémonos con Cristo en estos 40 días y, ya veréis como al final, todo esfuerzo merece la pena y todo trabajo dará su fruto: una Pascua santa y buena.

¡APARTAM! ¡APARTAME, SEÑOR!

Quiero jugar en terreno limpio y sin piedra
Recorrer aquellos caminos que no conducen a peligro alguno
Disfrutar de aquellos valles que no sean excesivamente
profundos

Más, Tú, Señor, con o sin mi permiso, te lo digo:

¡APARTAME, SEÑOR!

No me dejes en la tentación de lo fácil
No dejes que, mi vida, sea un trayecto de mínimos
No permitas que, ante las dificultades,
me repliegue por cobardía, el qué dirán o vergüenza.

¡APARTAME, SEÑOR!

Porque Tú lo sabes, aspiro a tener
aunque mil veces te diga que lo importante es “ser”
Porque disfruto recibiendo más que ofreciendo
Porque, el ser perdonado, siempre me resulta
más gratificante y hasta menos duro ante los ojos de los demás
que, ir por ahí, yo perdonando.

¡APARTAME, SEÑOR!

Llévame a un lugar donde pueda estar conmigo mismo
Donde Tú puedas habitar conmigo
En el que, cara a cara, puedas colocar a Dios
con la misma fuerza, que Tú lo tienes clavado en tu corazón.

¡APARTAME, SEÑOR!

Porque tengo miedo a dejarme llevar
por la corriente del “todo vale”
Porque tengo miedo a perder de vista
el horizonte la bandera de la Pascua ondea
Porque, simplemente Señor,
pocos me hablan de Ti... y muchos dicen no conocerte

¡APARTAME, Y LLEVAME A TI, SEÑOR!

Nativity Catholic Church



Entre en la Cuaresma

Participe en cualquiera de los siguientes eventos y oportunidades para ayudar a que su Cuaresma sea fructífera

Pescado Frito de Cuaresma | feb 24, marzo 31 | 5:30pm – 8:00pm

Confesiones | los miércoles en marzo | 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Vía Crucis | viernes | 7:00pm ingles | 8:00pm español

Cenas de Sopa de Cuaresma | marzo 1, 8, 15, 22 | 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Noche de Oración con Mark Forrest | marzo 29 | 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Servicio de Penitencia | marzo 30 | 6:30pm

Retiros de Cuaresma | feb 25, marzo 4, 11, 18, 25, abril 1

El Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo son días obligatorios de ayuno y abstinencia para los católicos. Además, los viernes durante la Cuaresma son días obligatorios de abstinencia.

Miércoles de Ceniza: ¿Otra vez la Cuaresma?

Fernando Prado, cmf

Suena la trompeta y, cual pregonero, la Iglesia hace su llamada un año más: “El Reino de Dios está cerca. Convertíos y creed en la Buena Noticia”. El tono de la invitación es fuerte, profético. Mas el grito, quizás no consiga despertar un interés proporcional a la gravedad de su mensaje. La llamada anual a la conversión, por conocida, quizá pase inadvertida.

Parfraseando la curiosa y provocadora campaña publicitaria de la revista cristiana Reinado Social 21, podríamos lanzar este slogan: “Todo cristiano celebra la Cuaresma. Puedes negar la realidad o mirarla de frente”.

En muchas de nuestras sociedades, las referencias religiosas, desde hace tiempo, son cosa de minorías. Si no de minorías, lo religioso hace tiempo que ha pasado a la esfera privada e íntima de muchas personas que, de una forma u otra, hacíamos más visible la fe. Hoy todo sucede muy a prisa. Nuestros calendarios son medidos y rigurosos. La actividad es tan frenética como rutinaria. Estamos sometidos a una especie de rodillo que hace que muchos no acertemos a distinguir unos tiempos de otros. Pareciera que no hay más que tiempo de trabajo y tiempo de descanso, días laborables y festivos.

Hablar de la Cuaresma en una sociedad sin apenas referencias religiosas, tan secular, pareciera no tener casi sentido. Incluso a nosotros los creyentes, hombres y mujeres de este tiempo, la Cuaresma nos puede resultar incómoda, como si se nos hubiera introducido una piedra en el zapato.

Un tiempo fuerte

Sin embargo, ahí está, persistente, año tras año, la dichosa Cuaresma. Persistente como la herida de la nostalgia de Dios que anida en muchos de nuestros corazones. Celebrar la Cuaresma constituye un signo de identidad de nuestra fe. Vivir y celebrar la cuaresma es reconocer -además de nuestra pertenencia a una tradición-, que en nuestra valoración del tiempo hay un espacio para Dios; que para nosotros es Alguien importante, muy importante. Es, sencillamente, reconocer que no todos los días ni todos los tiempos del año son iguales. Cuando uno quiere hay tiempo para todo. Hay tiempo para la fiesta y para el duelo; tiempo de carnaval y de penitencia; tiempo para recogerse y para explotar de alegría; tiempo para la serenidad y para la acción. ¿Acaso no va a haber tiempo, también, para Dios?

No tener en nuestra vida tiempo para Dios es un síntoma. O Dios pinta algo en nuestras vidas, o el no dedicarle tiempo alguno anuncia que más bien pinta poco. Quizá nos hemos alejado algo de él y sentimos su nostalgia. Quizá ni nos lo hemos planteado.

Sin embargo, una vez más somos invitados a vivir un tiempo fuerte. ¿Lo aprovecharemos? La Cuaresma llama a la puerta y nos ofrece una oportunidad: que nos preparemos para acoger el misterio de la muerte y resurrección del Señor que celebraremos, dentro de cuarenta días, en el Triduo Santo. Es la invitación a vivir un tiempo para cambiar el corazón y su perspectiva; un tiempo para cambiar nuestra mentalidad autosuficiente y dejarse reconciliar con Dios (2Co 5,20-6,2). Es tiempo para hacerse más “oyentes de la palabra” y dejar que la gracia fluya y actúe en nosotros. Al culminar la Cuaresma podremos celebrar la Pascua con toda verdad y dejar que ésta ilumine toda nuestra vida con su luz. No se trata de recordar algo del pasado. Se trata de hacer actual y presente a Alguien que configura nuestra vida, a Aquél que es capaz de arrastrarnos con la fuerza de su resurrección y hacer vida en nosotros lo que muchos creían muerto. Es el tiempo propicio y maravilloso para encontrarse con este Dios compasivo y misericordioso (Joel 2, 12-18).

Se trata de la conversión

Es una cuestión de fondo, no de superficie. No es maquillaje. No valen los retoques que dejen la vida casi intacta. Tampoco se trata de un reajuste ni de una reforma de comportamientos puntuales. Se trata del centro de la persona, de su corazón. “Rasgaos el corazón, no las vestiduras...” (Joel 2, 12-18). No se trata de algo que hayan de hacer los demás. Se trata de mí, de ti, de nosotros. Se trata de nuestra Iglesia y de cada uno de sus miembros. No se trata de crear otra persona u otra Iglesia. Se trata de que esas personas o esa Iglesia sean “otras”, más afines al Dios del Reino, que tiene su rostro en Jesús. Se trata, en definitiva, de volver a Dios sin olvidarse de los hombres. No se trata de cuestiones morales principalmente. Antes que nada, nos convertimos a Alguien. Después vienen las consecuencias de haber descubierto su rostro. Ese Alguien está con nosotros realizando el gran milagro del encuentro. Por eso no es una cuestión de simple esfuerzo. La gracia de Dios nos acompaña y colabora con nuestra pequeñez.

Nos conocemos. Sabemos de qué barro estamos hechos. Por experiencia sabemos que sin Él, por nosotros mismos, no podemos. Sin Él, sin su gracia, en vano se cansan los albañiles. Él es el más interesado en nuestra propia vida y conversión. Él es el más interesado en llevar su plan adelante en nosotros.

Por ello hay que confiar. No dar nunca nada por perdido. Ni en nosotros ni en los demás. Ni en nuestra vida ni en la vida de la Iglesia. Él nos acompaña y, si nos dejamos, obrará el milagro en nosotros. No es algo hecho y conseguido de una vez para siempre. Es como la vida misma, que nos sorprende y nos pone delante nuevos retos y situaciones a las que hemos de adaptarnos. La vida de fe es igual. A nuevos retos, nuevas respuestas. Eso sí, con la mirada puesta siempre fija en Él. Con Él, acertamos. Sin Él, quizá andamos más perdidos que acertados.

La ceniza es el signo de que queremos hacer este camino cuaresmal. Al recibirla, nos abrimos a la gracia de Dios. Quizá al culminar la cuaresma experimentemos el gozo de la conversión. Si nuestra vida se ha modelado un poquito más por los valores del Evangelio, si nos hemos visto tocados por la debilidad hacia los pobres y hemos experimentado lo bien que estamos cuando estamos a solas con Dios, habrá merecido la pena. La Iglesia nos propone unas prácticas cuaresmales. Estas han sido, tradicionalmente, muy válidas por tantos y tantos creyentes de todos los tiempos. Cada uno habrá de actualizarlas en su vida y aplicarlas a su situación. El ayuno, la limosna y la oración nos ayudarán a acercarnos a Dios y a los demás. Junto con ello, quizá también sea un tiempo propicio para acercarse más a su Palabra y dejarse transformar por ella. La Eucaristía los domingos nos irá acompañando y alimentando en este itinerario. ¡Quién sabe! Quizás hasta nos veamos sorprendidos por lo que es capaz de obrar la gracia de Dios en nosotros. No descartes acercarte al sacramento del Perdón. Dios, bien lo sabes, te espera con sus brazos abiertos. Pero, sobre todo, sé honesto contigo y con Dios. Escucha tu interior y abre tu corazón. ¿Dispuesto a comenzar



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