

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

I came into this world
for judgment, so that those who do
not see might see, and those who
do see might become blind.

John 9:39



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



"I came into this world for judgement, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."
- John 9:39

My dear parishioners,

REFLECTION

The prophet Samuel was sent to anoint the one chosen to be king of Israel, but God saw something no one else did. Although Samuel scrutinized the seven sons of Jesse of Bethlehem, none were accepted as the one to anoint. When the youngest son, David the shepherd boy, was presented to Samuel, everyone assumed that he too would prove unworthy. Yet God did not look at external qualifications; God looked into the heart. God is the true shepherd of our souls. As a shepherd guides and corrects the erring sheep, so God cares for us. When we stumble in the darkness and cannot find the way, God shows us the path to life.

Sometimes we think we have insight into the ways of God, but our spiritual blindness is worse than having no sight. The blind man's sightlessness was an accident of birth. Our blindness is the consequence of sin. With the elect, our blindness is uncovered and healed and we can live as children of light. Washed in the pool of baptism, anointed with the Chrism of Salvation, and fed at the table of the Lord, we too can say, *"Once I was blind. Now I can see."*

For Reflection: Am I able to recognize areas of spiritual blindness in my life? Who helped open my eyes to see Jesus?

"Lent is a good time for sacrificing. Let us deny ourselves something each day to help others." - Pope Francis

Love and Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski
Fr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU
Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation
EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING DURING LENT
6:30pm - 8:00pm Confessions

Please join us for a wonderful evening of
Music, Meditation and Prayer with Irish Tenor

Mark Forrest

On Wednesday, March 29th
at 7:00 pm at Nativity Catholic Church

For more information please visit:
nativityburke.org or MarkForrest.com



ANNUAL EASTER GIFT BAG PROJECT
The Women of Nativity (WON) are busily preparing for our annual Easter Gift Bag Project.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS: WEEKEND OF APRIL 1 & 2
Please be sure to check the bulletin in the weeks ahead for more information.



BEFORE



AFTER

Thank you Nativity Parishioners for your Patience, Prayers and Support of our Sanctuary Renovations. A Very Special Thanks to the following:

- * His Excellency Bishop Burbidge for giving his blessing to this project and celebrating Mass on Saturday evening to consecrate our new altar.
- * Our Parish Council, Finance Council, and parish leadership for their consultation and approval of this project.
- * Carlos Gutierrez, our Facilities Director, and Melinda Engelbrektsso who served on the Renovation Committee.
- * The Parishioners of Nativity Parish for their generous donations and sacrificial gifts that provided funding and support for the sanctuary renovation.
- * Dixon Studios, Staunton, VA, and Ron Neil Dixon and Annie Dixon, liturgical designers and artisans, for our new altar, pulpit, tabernacle, liturgical furnishings, and mosaic pillar designs of the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy.
- * Rugo Stone LLC, Masterful Stonework, Lorton, VA; and Brett Rugo, Founder and President; David Jonke, Supervisor; and Matteo Randi, Mosaic Artisan; who installed the new marble floor, marble inlets for the altar and pulpit, and the new mosaic pillars.
- * Andrew Schulman, Director of the Office of Planning, Construction, and Facilities, and Nativity parishioner, who was instrumental in guidance of the project; Robert Nashed, Construction Manager; Eric Sokolowski, Facilities Manager.
- * The Liturgical Ministers, Altar Servers, Musicians, and Choir who prepared our worship that gives praise and thanks to God.



The New Mosaic Panels of the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy, below find a description of each panel from left to right:

- Feed the Hungry** - Wheat and grapes, simple foods but also the physical signs of the Eucharist.
- Give Drink to the Thirsty** - A drink of flowing water and the waters of Baptism.
- Shelter the Homeless** - A door Jesus said, *"I AM the door, I stand at the door and knock."*
- Clothe the Naked** - A robe, a ring, and sandals are physical clothing, but also the symbolic items the father gave the prodigal son.
- Visit the Sick** - A red cross and oil representing physical visiting, keeping vigil, and spiritual anointing.
- Visit the Imprisoned** - Chains and bars are physical restraints that can also represent the prison of sin.
- Bury the Dead** - A funeral pall draped over coffin, the Easter Candle, and prayers for the dead.



During the last few months, through the Sacrament of Baptism, we joyfully welcomed the following into our Parish Community:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tristan Matthew Davey | Angelina Rose Anzalone |
| Eleanor Frances Sprague | Bella Elizabeth Anzalone |
| Gia Nicole Quiroga | Rebecca Zelie Fisher |
| Abigail Jeanne Martin | Ashley Margot Lander |
| Samuel Edward Clonch III | Alex Andres Diani |
| Kai Efrain Le | Eloise Naomi MacMichael |
| Joss Angel Tapia | Oliver James Taylor |
| Gianna Estrada Meola | Asher Patrick Doherty |
| Hanna Fisher | Cameron Ray Diienzo |
| Alexander Gabriel Meek | Gianluca Ernesto Isaias |
| Kayla Amari Luteran | Teresa Valentina Vasquez |
| Stella Fleur Jacobsen | Laila Autumn Cookson |
| George Joseph Nutter III | Zachary Philip Arthur Cookson |
| Samantha Elizabeth Nutter | Nicolas Bryson |
| Ariel Mina Nutter | Maeve Julia Hagerman |
| Gabriel John McKernan | Shaelee M. Hagerman |
| Zachary Blakewell Chisholm | Siona Kim Hagerman |
| Kaiya Elizabeth Chisholm | Mark Edward Hagerman, Jr. |
| Reyna Michelle Chisholm | Carter Anthony Cristafulli |
| Ryan B. Chisholm | Isabella Carces |
| Eileen P. Pinesio Siteo | Jesus Alberto Araoz Chavez |
| Ilana Preslie Siteo | Mattheus Garces Jaldin |

CONGRATULATIONS!

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

Please join THE NATIVITY ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY ON

Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 7:00pm in the Nativity School Cafeteria to celebrate St. Joseph's Day

St. Joseph's Day is commemorated in many parts of the U.S. with specialty breads and festive foods. Chef Benny Genuardi, a native of Italy, will give us a cooking demonstration. He's the Director of Operations at Pazzo Pomodoro with locations in Vienna and Ashburn, VA. Chef Benny will make us some substantial, traditional foods to sample. Bring cash or your check book as there is a \$20 fee for this evening.



**On This Date in Nativity History
22 March 2020**

On this date, Nativity celebrated its first live stream Sunday Mass. The celebrant was Father Bob Cilinski, and the other priests concelebrated. The Mass was celebrated at 11:00 am in the school chapel in order to restrict the number of people present. The Mass was streamed via the work phone of Nativity's Social Media Coordinator, Mary Castellano, who propped the phone on some books she found in the Nativity School teachers lounge. Before this Sunday Mass, the participants did a trial run from the chapel the preceding Friday. The following is an account of how those first Masses were accomplished, written by Mary Castellano.



"On March 16, 2020, the Diocese of Arlington shut down all public worship to prevent the spread of the novel Coronavirus. I remember Nativity's Monday Morning Communications Meeting just before the shutdown.

When Fr. Bob presented the sad news of the situation, uncertainty hung in the air like a dense fog, and everyone felt it. He looked at everyone in the room and asked, "What are we going to do now...?" At that point I had conducted one successful live stream on Facebook, so naturally I felt confident enough to say, "We'll live stream it on Facebook!" Trust me when I say that I had no idea what I had just signed myself up for... "In March and April of 2020, only 10 people were allowed in one room at a time to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.



We decided to host the Facebook Live Masses in the School Chapel to limit the number of people who could attend. I set up the live stream using my work phone which was propped up on a tiny 4 inch phone stand on top of a stack of giant textbooks on top of a mobile standing desk (very professional). I pointed the phone at the altar and gently rotated the top-most book to simulate a smooth transition between the altar and the lectern for the Liturgy of the Word (again, very professional). The nice thing about my work phone, a Google Pixel 2 XL, was that it picked up sound very well, but sometimes too well. Just before I hit "GO LIVE" on Facebook, we did an out loud countdown so the others in the room knew when they needed to stop their personal conversations. Imagine Sister Donatella standing in the chapel, socially distanced from everyone else, counting down on her fingers, "3-2-1! Shhh..." And that's how our Facebook Live Masses began."

This historical note is the 41st of a weekly Bulletin feature leading up to Nativity's fiftieth anniversary, 11 June 2023.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

Thursday, March 30th at 6:30pm
17 Priests will be available for Confessions



THE NATIVITY GIFT SHOP HAS LOTS OF NEW ITEMS IN STOCK:

First Communion Veils and Ties, Confirmation Gifts, Cards for every occasion etc. etc. Please stop by, all proceeds benefit Nativity Catholic Church charities!



**SPONSORED BY
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FR. SIKORA COUNCIL 7992**

NATIVITY LENTEN FISH FRY

**THE FIRST LENTEN FISH FRY WILL TAKE PLACE ON
FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2023
SERVING FROM 5:30PM – 8:00PM
DINE IN THE PARISH HALL OR TAKE A BOX TO GO**

Advance tickets:
Reserve your time slot after Mass on 3/18, 3/19, 3/25 or 3/26
Adults \$11.00 and Children under 12 \$5.00 (Kids Menu)

Tickets at the door:
Limited Space will be available (best to reserve a slot!)
Adults \$12.00 and Children under 12 \$5.00 (Kids Menu)

Adult menu: fried or baked fish, french fries, hush puppies, coleslaw and dessert
Kid's menu: fish sticks, french fries, hush puppies, coleslaw and dessert

**For more information
Contact Barry Basselgia—bbasselgia@gmail.com**



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!




CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Contributions to The Catholic Relief Services Collection are distributed to these six organizations:

- ◇ Catholic Relief Services for international relief and development.
- ◇ Migration and Refugee Services for refugee resettlement.
- ◇ Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC) for immigration legal services.
- ◇ Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development for advocacy
- ◇ Holy Father's Relief Fund for emergency relief.
- ◇ Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church for evangelization and ministry





By supporting The Catholic Relief Services Collection, you help these organizations build richer lives for faithful around the world. Thank you for your generous contributions!



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl meeting for this month will be held on Monday morning, March 20th at 9:30am in the Fr. Ready room. All are welcome!

The 2023 Bishop's Lenten Appeal

Thank you, Nativity parishioners, for the great support of the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. As of March 2, our pledges and donations amount to \$555,487. That's nearly 80% of our \$690,000 dollar goal! We're off to an excellent start, but still need more households to participate. If you haven't yet pledged, please consider a sacrificial offering for Lent at whatever amount is right for you and your family. Your contribution helps the many charities, ministries, and programs throughout the Diocese and here at Nativity. May God bless you for your generosity!



donut worry!
NEXT WEEKEND IS DONUT SUNDAY



girl scouts

Girl Scout Leaders Needed!

Join Girl Scouts!

PLEASE CONTACT
NATIVITYTROOP@GMAIL.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

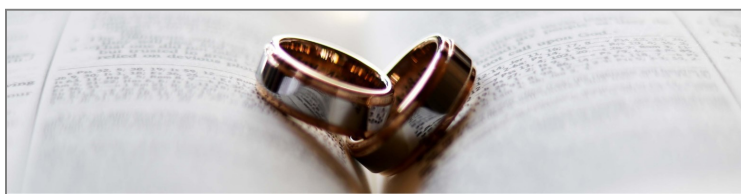
Troop volunteers help Girl Scouts become stronger, kinder, and braver than they ever thought possible. Troop leaders—and volunteers in other roles, like troop money manager or cookie chair—engage regularly with their Girl Scouts and guide them through activities, like earning badges, exploring the outdoors, or running their own business through the Girl Scout Cookie Program. Please sign up to volunteer!

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!



Marriage & Intimacy

MARCH DATE NIGHT

On Saturday, March 25th at 7:00 PM in the Fr. Ready room
Speaker: Deacon Marques Silva

Dessert will be served. Please RSVP to Jennifer Sturgeon or call 703-455-2400 ext. 116 (Childcare will not be provided)



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, March 20th

7:30 am † Lou Magnotti

Tuesday, March 21st

7:30 am † Ann Kenny

12:00 pm Special Int. for The Torres Family

Wednesday, March 22nd

7:30 am † Matthew Milazzo

(HW) 10:00 am Special Int. for Father Wilson

Thursday, March 23rd

7:30 am † Adriana Ladino

12:00 pm Special Int. for John Flynn and Family

Friday, March 24th

7:30 am † Nick Bonnacorsy

9:00 am † Mary Murphy

Saturday, March 25th

9:00 am † Philip McHugh

5:00 pm † Edward C.Mace

7:00 pm † Rafael Alprie

Sunday, March 26th

7:00 am † Laura Barchard

9:00 am Spec. Int. for Murray & Adriana Rupert

11:00 am Parishioners

1:00 pm † Ademar Peña

5:30 pm † Bert Avis

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

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.

Annual Multi-Car Raffle

HAPPY BELATED ST PATRICK'S DAY – May the luck of the Irish be with you when you sell your tickets! Thank you to those who have already returned all the tickets you have sold. As a reminder, when mailing your sold ticket stubs, green card, and check directly back to All Saints in the envelope provided, please disregard the note on the green return card, and make your checks out to All Saints.

We have additional tickets if you sell all of yours. Please contact PGK Sam Morthland @ 703-455-2186 if you have any questions.



ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH



Multi Car Raffle

plus \$40,000 in Cash Drawings

*Only 5 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



Ford
Ranger Truck



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

All tickets, stubs & monies are **due by Friday, 21 April to All Saints Catholic Church**. The drawings will be held during the All-Saints Catholic Church Fair on Saturday, 29 April. If you need more tickets or have questions, please contact PGK Sam Morthland @ 703-455-2186 or at kofc7992carraffle@gmail.com




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





LIVE AUCTION ITEM: PRIVATE TOUR OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOUNT VERNON

Here's your unique opportunity to make the most of your visit to Mount Vernon. Donated by the Women of Nativity (WON), a Senior History Interpreter will provide you and up to five (5) guests a two-hour private tour of the mansion and grounds, INCLUDING a private wreath-laying ceremony at general Washington's tomb. This amazing experience is only available in-person during the LIVE Auction!! Tickets to attend the Spring Auction are still available! Be a part of this wonderful fundraising event!
<https://nativityauction.givesmart.com>

MARIAN HOMES, INC. for the intellectually disabled


DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT



SATURDAY - MARCH 25TH

SPONSORED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Nativity Catholic Church
6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA 22015
Parking Lot - Drive thru - from 10:00 am-12:00 noon

DONATIONS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED
Proceeds will be for the benefit of the intellectually disabled
Bring your old documents, cancelled checks, paper, manila folders, windowed envelopes, etc.
NO newspapers, magazines, card board
NO heavy metal objects, especially 3-ring binders
NO hard-drives, discs, tapes, etc.



SHEPERD'S GATE GRANTS

Shepherd's Gate is a small annual grant program at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Alexandria that supports nonprofit organizations that reflect our parish mission to serve people in need, to do justice where inequity exists, to stand for human dignity, and to promote peace.

Local community-based organizations are invited to apply for grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. For more information and to apply visit <https://www.gs-cc.org/grant/>. The deadline to apply is March 31.



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.

FEATURED AUCTION ITEM OF THE WEEK



For nearly 20 years, Spotlight on the Arts Summer Camps have been offering high quality summer camps. This July, Nativity will be hosting the following camps: Broadway Spotlight, Arts & Crafts Fun, Drama Bootcamp, and Art Explorer. Various offers are open to grades K-12. Winning bidder will receive 1 Week of Camp at SPOTLIGHT OF THE ARTS (July 2023 Camp Dates).

This item, as well as Nativity Parish related items, will be available at the Auction!

YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER CAMPS

TUESDAY, JUNE 27 - FRIDAY, JUNE 30

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

OPEN TO CURRENT K - 4 GRADERS
8:45am - 12pm | \$40 per camper

CAMP ON THE EDGE

OPEN TO CURRENT 5 - 8 GRADERS
1:30pm - 4:30pm | \$40 per camper

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VBC: 8TH GRADERS - ADULTS
COTE: 10TH GRADERS - ADULTS
\$10 per volunteer to cover t-shirt fee

REGISTRATION

OPENS END OF MARCH



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.



Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. The first meeting is a business meeting, and the the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation including video/discussion series and guest speakers. Rosary at 7:15 PM; meeting follows at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows every meeting. Meetings are in the Nativity school cafeteria.

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 March 31st. Volunteer to help sell tickets after Mass, volunteer the night of the fish fry, and reserve your seating time on the linktree.

Catholic Financial Planning Seminars: See available sessions and register on the linktree.

Donut Sunday & Spring Delta Drive: 25-26 March volunteer to give out donuts and recruit new members to our order. Invite your friends to stop by the Narthex or Fr. Martin Center after Mass.

Marian Homes Shred Event: Mar 25th 10:00AM-12:00 in the parking lot. Help unload cars to benefit this important charity. See the Linktree to volunteer.

40 Days for Life: Bring a friend and pray any time during the Spring Campaign which is underway until April 2. Also, join us for Nativity's all-day vigil from 7:00am -7:00pm, Friday, March 31. We will be peacefully praying the pro-life Rosary in front of the Falls Church abortion facility at 900 S. Washington St. Falls Church, VA. Sign up on the linktree. Please contact Br. Rick at rickloffredo@outlook.com.

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.



CONGRATULATIONS to the 5th and 7th grade boys for winning their CYO championship and the 6th grade girls for making the championship game and taking it to double overtime!



*5th Grade Boys Players: Mateo Balmaceda, Joshua Berona, Arjun Conklin, Colin Donahoe, Nolan Erwin, Ryan Gallagher, Nathan Hulén, Clark Lanter, Azrael Paz, Mateo Perez-Stucchi, Blake Pleva, Nicholas Peters
Coaches: Michael Gallagher, Mark Erwin*

*7th Grade Boys Players: Ian Bruno Aliaga, Alejandro Burneo, Aidan Clements, Daniel Foley, Joseph Kretzer, Nolan Mazzola, Mitchell Mrskos, Dominic Nowak, Aiden Parsons, Christopher Saint-Cyr, Matthew Samadder
Coaches: Ryan Remias, Dan Kretzer, Noel Mazzola*



Fr. Bob cheered on the 6th grade girl's team at their championship game!



A Message from the 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 5 is "Cultivating Peace from Nature."

Several of this week's daily entries focus on Tuesday's International Day of Forests. "Livestock, and the farming needed to feed them, are the most significant drivers of global deforestation. (When) we bypass the beef (both meat and dairy), we are doing our small part to protect our ecosystems. Palm oil is in just about every product in the supermarket, and the growing demand is a main driver of rainforest destruction in Indonesia. Find three items you use with palm oil, and pick a palm oil-free alternative for next time."

Lastly, this week, "take a contemplative walk around your neighborhood, park or nearby wooded area. Listen and look for signs of the Creator's touch on your journey."

JOIN THE NATIVITY SCHOOL STAFF!

Consider joining our School Staff as part of our Extended Care Team to help us provide After-School Care by contacting our Extended Care Director, Mrs. Jen Behan at (703) 455-2300, or jbehan@nativityschool.org. To assist us as a Lunch/Recess Monitor, or Substitute Teacher, please contact Rich Godwin at (703) 455-2300, or rgodwin@nativityschool.org.



NATIVITY PARISH & CATHOLIC SCHOOL
INVITES YOU TO



Join Us for a **Fiesta!**



FEATURING



Heavy Appetizers • Open Bar
Live & Silent Auction

Photo Booth • Live Music & Dancing
Class Basket Raffle • 50/50 Raffle • Heads or Tails

April 29, 2023

FR. MARTIN CENTER

6:30-10:00PM

Early Bird
thru Mar 15!
\$50



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



SCAN ME



Every human life is sacred
 every woman, every man, every child
born and unborn



We walk with mothers in need, women in crisis pregnancies, their children, and families

Consider our resources for free or low-cost prenatal and other medical care, financial assistance, baby items, mental health counseling, spiritual, and other confidential support



We offer healing to women who have experienced abortion

Learn about Project Rachel After Abortion Care Ministry or visit a Catholic parish near you



We pray, fast, and advocate for laws that protect every human life, from conception until natural death

Join the Virginia Catholic Conference advocacy network at vacatholic.org to protect all life

Find it all here.



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!

Sorrowful Mysteries Silent Retreat for Women

As we prepare for Holy Week, join Fr. Noah Morey for a walk through of the Sorrowful Mysteries with a glimpse of the joy and glory on Sunday as we celebrate the Annunciation -- for Our Lady of Sorrows is also the cause of our joy. Retreat dates are Friday-Sunday, March 24-26. For further information visit our web page (www.arlingtondiocese.org/retreat-events).

To register, please contact Deacon Mark Maines at mark.maines@arlingtondiocese.org.

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 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 visit the Nativity Parish website at <https://nativityburke.org/service/no-hands-but-yours/>. 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.

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



ECHO Semi-Annual Yard Sale
Saturday April 15th, 2023
8:00 am to 12:00 pm
St. Bernadette's School Gym
7600 Old Keene Mill Road
Springfield, VA 22152

All proceeds go to the ECHO Operating Fund which benefits our clients. Items needed for our Yard Sale include vintage items, jewelry, pottery, glass, camera's, linens, quilts, pictures, artwork, figurines. Also, toys, CD's, books, and much more. Items donated for the Yard Sale must be dropped off at ECHO at least one week prior to the sale. For more Information contact Debbie Moreau at debbiemoreau@mac.com or Rachel Hoover at hooverrach@gmail.com. ECHO is located at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA 22150.

For Young Adults (21-39)

You are part of a larger community that...

Serves with Christ House cooking breakfast every 3rd Saturday



Grows together in 6-week Bible studies



Plays Basketball every Thursday at 8:30pm in the Father Martin Center



Serves at Mass as a greeters, ushers, musicians and more!

New? Contact our Director Alison Fram to join our newsletter

afam@nativityburke.org
(703) 577-5329



Witness the Ordination to the Diaconate of our Seminarians

The ordination of men to the diaconate is a beautiful and inspiring event for our entire diocese, and all are welcome to witness them. The Mass of Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate for seminarians James Joseph and Sean Nypaver is Saturday, April 15 at 11:00am at St. Mary of Sorrows Church in Fairfax. Come and pray for our future priests! The ceremony will also be livestreamed. Learn more at www.ArlingtonDiocese.org/Ordinations.

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.

<https://nativityburke.org/work-camp/>

Email questions to Brigid Williams at wc@nativityburke.org

Marian Symposium



Please join as a diocesan family as we honor the Blessed Virgin in Year Two of our Golden Jubilee, "My Soul Rejoices in the Lord." The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services USA, and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), will be the guest speaker at a Marian Symposium on Saturday, April 29, at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Springfield. The day will start with Mass at 9 a.m., followed by a coffee break, a talk and Q and A session at 10:30 a.m. and conclude with the recitation of the Rosary. We look forward to seeing you there!



Pack 'n Play's Needed

'Making A Difference One Baby At A Time'

The Stella Marina, Operation Starfish project is collecting new and gently used Pack 'n Plays for moms in Haiti to use for their babies and young children. The collection runs year round. (Amazon wish list link below)

Feel free to contact Susan at swelchparis@stellamarina.org to coordinate pick up or leave in the parish office marked Stella Marina. Please see the Stella Marina website for more information. Thank you in advance on behalf of Stella Marina!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/QY29UGH8OSQO/?ref=nav_wishlist_lists_3?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist

For more information visit:
<https://nativityburke.org/packnplay-needed/>



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).

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE "AT THE FEET OF JESUS"



Wednesday, April 19th 7:30 PM

Holy Spirit Catholic Church 5121 Woodland Way, Annandale

A one-woman drama that shines a holy light on the great saint who remained at the cross and announced the Resurrection.

This compelling story brings familiar Bible stories to life and transports us to the time of Jesus and the Blessed Mother.

No tickets needed. Suggested ages 10 through adult. Program runs 65 minutes.

Sponsored by Holy Spirit Parish Women's Council cpoumade@prodigy.net

Nancy Scimone as Mary Magdalene. MaryMagdaleneDrama.com

"You took me back to that time—what it must have been like to be with Jesus." (Review)



THE SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE
CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:

EMMANUEL DUPERREY IN CONCERT

FEATURING WORKS BY:
BACH
VIVALDI
WALCHA
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
HANS-ANDRÉ STAMM

AND FEATURING HIS OWN ARRANGEMENT OF
THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE (BY PAUL DUKAS)

SUNDAY, APRIL 30 4:00 PM

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

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



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



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



Today Sunday, March 19 ~ BOOK FAIR OPENS
8:30 am to 2:00 pm

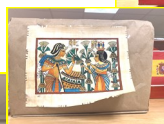
And Monday - Thursday, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
Closes, Friday at NOON

GREAT BIG SELECTION LOW, LOW PRICES
QUALITY READING

GIFTS. RELIGIOUS, PERSONAL
WHERE? In the School Lobby

Second Graders' Suitcases of Culture

Our Second Graders traveled around the world when each chose one of the world's countries, then created a suitcase packed with items specific to the chosen country. Suitcases contained examples of the country's language, flag, food, animals, sports, etc., and they were very creative! Please take a look ~



Upcoming Dates At-A-Glance!

- March 19-24: Book Fair – School Lobby Now!
- March 24: Nativity Fundraiser, Panera, 4 p.m.
- March 28: 8th Grade Vocations Day
- March 31: 8th Grade to Finance Park
- April 3: Summer Uniform Begins
- April 3: Living Stations, 1:45 p.m.
- April 6: Seder, 9 a.m.
- April 6: 11:30 a.m., Easter Break Begins

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.

Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, for more information, at (703) 455-2300 and/or smurph@nativityschool.org.

At Nativity, faith fills us. Love lives here.
Nativity Stars are filled with the Holy Spirit!

YOUTH MINISTRY

cym@nativityburke.org

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm



Dinner

Fellowship

Prayer & Formation

2023 HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS

Girls: Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm | Weekly

Guys: Thursdays, 7:30-9:00pm | 2x / month

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

BASH! SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Who: middle schoolers in grades 6-8

What: music, games, inspirational speakers, confessions, Mass, & more!

Where: Bishop O'Connell High School, transportation provided

Estimated Cost: \$25 - registration opening soon



SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS
~ SUMMER CAMPS ~
SpotlightSummerCamps.com

BROADWAY SPOTLIGHT
DRAMA BOOTCAMP
ARTS & CRAFTS FUN
ART EXPLORER

JULY 10-21, 2023

Manassas, VA | Burke, VA



GROW IN FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP. BUILD VIRTUE. HAVE SOME FUN!

Quo Vadis and FIAT Camp lotteries open March 1-31.

Quo Vadis and FIAT Camps are great opportunities for Catholic high school students (current 9-12 graders) to have fun while deepening their faith and exploring their vocations.



Quo Vadis (for boys) ❖ July 9-13
Staffed by Arlington seminarians,
priests and religious



FIAT (for girls) ❖ July 16-20
Staffed by religious sisters and
Catholic lay women

Both are held at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD.
Cost is \$280, includes private room and all meals. Financial aid is available.



How do I get in on this?

The registration lottery will be open the month of March. See the videos and photos from past years, get more information and register for the lottery at ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis or ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT.

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

4th Sunday of Lent

Sunday March 19

1 Samuel 16:1b,6-7,10-13a
Ps 23:1-6
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Monday March 20

**JOSEPH,
HUSBAND OF MARY**
2 Samuel 7:4-5a,12-14a,16
Ps 89:2-5,27,29
Romans 4:13,16-18,22
Matthew 1:16,18-21,24a or
Luke 2:41-51a

Tuesday March 21

Ezra 47:1-9,12
Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9
John 5:1-16

Wednesday March 22

Isaiah 49:8-15
Ps 145:8-9,13cd-14,17-18
John 5:17-30

Thursday March 23

Ex 32:7-14
Ps 106:19-23
John 5:31-47

Friday March 24

Wisdom 2:1a,12-22
Ps 34:17-21,23
John 7:1-2,10,25-30

Saturday March 25 ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10
Ps 40:7-11
Hebrews 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

Conversion is a process. The blind man in the Gospel reading exemplifies this journey into faith. Notice that at first he did not go to Jesus. Jesus came to him. The man responded by waiting to see what would happen and then by obeying Jesus.

Conversion begins when Jesus seeks us out and we make ourselves available to his touch. He then opens our eyes to the truth, but we don't immediately understand.

When the man's neighbors asked about his cure, he did not yet understand who Jesus was; he thought of him as just a man.

Then, the pressure of listening to the Pharisees argue about who Jesus was caused him to give it more thought. He concluded that Jesus must be a prophet.

As the Pharisees treated him more roughly and raised the possibility of expelling him from the synagogue if he claimed that Jesus was the Christ, he began to wonder whether it might be true. Their reasons for hating Jesus became the eye-openers that cured his spiritual blindness.

Finally, Jesus sought him out again, this time to minister to him in response to the mistreatment he had suffered from the Pharisees. In this act of caring, the man could see who Jesus really was. Conversion – the purification of our spiritual vision – takes place in the fire of our sufferings as we recognize the concern that God has for us.



Reflect & Discuss:

- † In the first reading, God makes it clear that he sees what we cannot see when we're focused on external evidence. Think of a time when you looked deeper or beyond the obvious. How did that change you?
- † In Ephesians 5, we read that we have become light in the Lord. Name some of the good fruits that come from the ability to see what Jesus is doing in your life.
- † The Gospel reading illustrates that those who think they can see the truth are very often blind, and those who acknowledge their blindness become able to see clearly. Why does this happen? How has it happened to you?

Lenten Activity:

Name areas of your life where there is confusion from a lack of understanding. Perhaps you're having a hard time seeing the good in someone. Maybe you're worried about the future. What will you do this week that will help you see it from God's perspective?



¿SERÁ QUE NOSOTROS NO VEMOS?

IV Cuaresma

Javier Leoz

El cuarto domingo de la Cuaresma incita a la alegría. Cuando Jesús es, además de agua viva, luz en el sendero, todo está abocado al optimismo, al entusiasmo. En definitiva, la proximidad de la Pascua, nos lleva a contemplar la luz que espera detrás del fracaso aparente de la cruz.

Todos los días, y no hay día que transcurra sin uno de ellos, ocurren pequeños milagros a nuestro alrededor. Alguien, con cierta razón, llegó a decir: *“no hay motivos para no creer, todo lo que acontece por insignificante que sea, es inspiración divina”*.

¿Que cuesta percibir la intervención de Dios, y su presencia, en todo aquello que hacemos, tocamos o somos? Puede ser. ¿Pero, no será que estamos más ciegos de lo que creemos y, que precisamente por eso, porque no vemos con nitidez, nos cuesta agradecer los dones, los regalos, los grandes o pequeños prodigios que Dios obra en nuestra vida, salud, trabajo, etc?

Estamos tan metidos en oscuridades y en problemas que, sin quererlo, todo ello se convierte en gigantescas cataratas que nos impiden ver, juzgar y actuar con claridad, a la luz de la fe, en los acontecimientos de nuestra existencia.

*El ciego de nacimiento, cuando vio, confesó públicamente lo que sus padres no se atrevían: el poder y la acción de Jesús. ¡Cómo vamos a confesar nosotros, la luz del Señor, si preferimos marchar por túneles que conducen al desencanto, al desenfreno fruto de nuestra ceguera espiritual!

*El ciego de nacimiento fue valiente. No le tembló el pulso a la hora de indicar la fuente de su luz; el causante de la recuperación de su visión: Jesús de Nazaret. Pero claro, el ciego, recuperó la vista. ¿No será que, nosotros, permanecemos en una constante ceguera o miopía espiritual que nos impide confesar la presencia de Jesús, su fuerza, su mano, su Palabra o su importancia en nuestras vidas?

*El ciego de nacimiento fue agradecido. No sabemos si era pobre o rico, alto o bajo, prudente o primario, abierto o cerrado....lo que si sabemos es que, Jesús, le proporcionó aquello que más necesitaba: la luz. Nosotros, por el contrario, ¿qué pedimos a Dios? ¿Luz para conocer, o fuegos de artificio para disfrutar? ¿Comprender las cosas tal como son o maquillaje para observarlas según nuestro propio interés? ¿Encontrar a Dios en el día a día de nuestra vida o buscar explicaciones en la ciencia para dejarlo en la orilla?

Demos gracias a Dios, por supuesto, porque nuestros ojos contemplan las grandes o pobres maravillas del mundo. Pero, al hilo del evangelio de hoy, recordemos también que *“no hay mayor ciego que aquel que no quiere ver”*. Y aquí podemos estar nosotros: Cuando nos empeñamos en no sentir a Dios. Cuando vemos una cruz y no reflexionamos sobre la historia tan humana y tan divina que esconden sus dos maderos. Cuando escuchamos la Palabra de Dios y nos deja indiferentes y ciegos en lo nuestro. Cuando nos preguntan sobre nuestra fe y respondemos “eso es cosa de los curas, de la Iglesia, de los catequistas..”

El mundo cuanto más se aleje de Dios, más se acercará a su autodestrucción. Entre otras cosas porque la visión de Dios aporta las fuerzas y energías necesarias para trabajar a favor de la dignidad integral (no interesada) del ser humano. Y, entre otras cosas, porque un mundo autocomplaciente, egocéntrico y con cataratas espirituales lo único que hace es elegir el camino equivocado que le llevará a constantes y graves tropiezos.

Ser ciegos en el conocimiento de Jesús, de Dios, de su Palabra es una afección mucho más grave que ser ciegos para reconocer los colores.

¿Crees en mí? Nos pregunta Jesús en este domingo de la alegría. ¿Qué le contestamos? Empecemos por decirle: ¡Señor que te vea! ¡Y, luego, daré gracias por conocerte, por verte y por curarme de tantas dolencias que afectan a mi pensamiento, corazón, alma o espíritu!

¡Señor, que te vea! ¡Y, luego, dame la fuerza necesaria para defender tu señorío frente aquellos que dicen que, las cosas en la vida, ocurren por casualidad o por simple azar.

¿SOY CIEGO, SEÑOR?

Digo creer en Ti, y vivo como si no existieras
Pretendo caminar por tus sendas y no palpo tu presencia
Presumo de conocerte y apenas escucho tu Palabra
Digo que ¡nadie hay como Tú!

y tiemblo cuando las dificultades asoman

¿SERÉ ACASO CIEGO, SEÑOR?

Abro los ojos ante el mundo

y me cuesta decir que Tú lo mueves

Confieso que Tú eres la luz del mundo

y me escondo en oscuridades peligrosas

Rezo mirando al cielo

y a la vez me fío demasiado

de las decisiones del mundo

¿TENDRÉ CEGUERA ESPIRITUAL, SEÑOR?

Soy humano y, muchos días,

me considero exclusivamente divino

Soy pecador y, queriendo o sin querer,

me las doy de justo y honrado

Afirmo conocer todos los secretos

y, a mis ojos, se escapa lo esencial

Conozco la ciencia y la matemática

y no sé cómo encontrarte en mi vida

¿SERÉ CIEGO, SEÑOR?

Porque leo tu Palabra

y, pienso que es para los demás

Escucho tu Palabra

y creo que no va conmigo

Camino, subo y bajo, corro y avanzo

y me tropiezo a cada instante

dándome de bruces

contra mis propias ideas y pensamientos

¡CAMBIÁME, SEÑOR!

Mi naturaleza humana, para reconocerte

La forma de mirar para no perderte de vista

El ritmo en mi caminar para ir a tu lado

El ruido de mi existencia para escuchar tus pisadas

Los nubarrones de mis pensamientos

para que Tú seas la luz de todo mi ser

¿ESTARÉ CIEGO, SEÑOR?

J.Leoz



Jesús está conmigo, Dios está conmigo**Meditaciones para toda la Cuaresma****Cuarto domingo de Cuaresma. Reflexionar si nuestro corazón está realmente puesto en Dios o en nuestros criterios humanos.**

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

Cuando Jesús habla de los contrastes tan profundos que hay entre el modo de entender la fe por parte de sus contemporáneos, y la fe que Él les está proponiendo, no lo hace simplemente para que nosotros digamos: ¿Cómo es posible que esta gente teniendo tan claro no entendiesen nada? Jesús viene a fomentar en todos nosotros un dinamismo interior que nos permita cambiar de comportamiento y hacer que nuestro corazón se dirija hacia Dios nuestro Señor con plenitud, con vitalidad, sin juegos intermedios, sin andar mercadeando con Él.



La mentalidad de los fariseos, que también puede ser la nuestra, se expresa así: “Yo soy el pueblo elegido, por lo tanto yo tengo unos privilegios que recibir y que respetar”. Sin embargo, Jesús dice: “No; el único dinamismo que va a permitir encontrarse con la salvación no es el de un privilegio, sino el de nuestro corazón totalmente abierto a Dios”. Éste es el dinamismo interior de transformarme: orientándome hacia Dios nuestro Señor, según sus planes, según sus designios.

Esto tiene que hacer surgir en mi interior, no el dinamismo del privilegio, sino el dinamismo de humildad; no el dinamismo de engreimiento personal, sino el dinamismo de ser capaz de aceptar a Dios como Él quiere.

Una conversión que acepte el camino por el cual Dios nuestro Señor va llevando mi vida. No es un camino a través del cual yo manipule a Dios, sino un camino a través del cual Dios es el que me marca a mí el ritmo.

Lo que Jesús nos viene a decir es que revisemos a ver si nuestro corazón está realmente puesto en Dios o está puesto en nuestros criterios humanos, a ver si nosotros hemos sido capaces de ir cambiando el corazón o todavía tenemos muchas estructuras en las cuales nosotros encajonamos el actuar de Dios nuestro Señor.

Más aún, podría ser que cuando Dios no actúa según lo que nuestra inteligencia piensa que debe ser el modo de actuar, igual que los contemporáneos de Jesús, que “se llenan de ira, y levantándose lo sacan de la ciudad”, o cuando nuestro corazón no convertido encuentra que el Señor le mueve la jugada, podríamos enojarnos, porque tenemos un nombramiento, porque nosotros tenemos ante el Señor una serie de puntos que el Él tiene que respetar. Si pretendemos que se hagan las cosas sólo como yo digo, como yo quiero, ¿acaso no estamos haciendo que el Señor se aleje de nosotros?

Cuando nosotros queremos manejar, encajonar o mover a Dios, cuando no convertimos nuestro corazón hacia Él, poniendo por nuestra parte una gran docilidad hacia sus enseñanzas para que sea Él el que nos va llevando como Maestro interior, ¿por qué nos extraña que el Señor se quiera marchar? Él no va a aceptar que lo encajonen. Puede ser que nos quede una especie de cáscara religiosa, unos ritos, unas formas de ser, pero por dentro quizá esto nos deje vacíos, por dentro quizá no tenemos la sustancia que realmente nos hace decir: “Jesús está conmigo, Dios está conmigo.”

¿Realmente estoy sediento de este Dios que es capaz de llenar mi corazón? O quizá, tristemente, yo ando jugando con Dios; quizá, tristemente, yo me he fabricado un dios superficial que, por lo tanto, es simplemente un dios de corteza, un dios vacío y no es un dios que llena. Es un dios que cuando lo quiero yo tener en mis manos, me doy cuenta de que no me deja nada.

Debemos convertir nuestro corazón a Dios, amoldando plenamente nuestro interior al modo en el cual Él nos quiere llevar en nuestra vida. Y también tenemos que darnos cuenta de que las circunstancias a través de las cuales Dios nuestro Señor va moviendo las fichas de nuestra vida, no son negociables. Nuestra tarea es entender cómo llega Dios a nuestra existencia, no cómo me hubiera gustado a mí que llegase.

Si nuestra vida no es capaz de leer, en todo lo que es el cotidiano existir, lo que Señor nos va enseñando; si nuestra vida se empeña en encajonar a Dios, y si no es capaz de romper en su interior con esa corteza de un dios hecho a mi imagen y semejanza, «un dios de juguete», Dios va a seguir escapándose, Dios va a continuar yéndose de mi existencia.

Muchas veces nos preguntamos: ¿Por qué no tengo progreso espiritual? Sin embargo, ¡qué progreso puede venir, qué alimento puede tener un alma que en su interior tiene un dios de corteza!

Insistamos en que nuestro corazón se convierta a Dios. Pero para esto es necesario tener que ser un corazón que se deja llevar plenamente por el Señor, un corazón que es capaz de abrirse al modo en el cual Dios le va enseñando, un corazón que es capaz de leer las circunstancias de su vida para poder ver por dónde le quiere llevar el Señor.

Dios no nos garantiza triunfos, no nos garantiza quitar las dificultades de la vida; los problemas de la existencia van a seguir uno detrás de otro. Lo que Dios me garantiza es que en los problemas yo tenga un sentido trascendente.

Que el Señor se convierta en mi guía, que Él sea quien me marque el camino. Es Dios quien manda, es Dios quien señala, es Dios quien ilumina. Recordemos que cuando nosotros nos empeñamos una y otra vez en nuestros criterios, Él se va a alejar de mí, porque habré perdido la dimensión de quién es Él, y de quién soy yo.

Que esta Cuaresma nos ayude a recuperar esta dimensión, por la cual es Dios el que marca, y yo el que leo su luz; es Dios quien guía en lo concreto de mi existencia, y soy yo quien crece espiritualmente dejándome llevar por Él.



Cada vida humana es sagrada
la vida de cada mujer, cada hombre, cada niño
nacido y por nacer



Caminamos con las madres en necesidad, las mujeres con embarazos en crisis, sus hijos y sus familias

Piensen en los recursos que tenemos para ofrecer atención prenatal y otro cuidado médico gratis o de bajo costo, asistencia financiera, artículos para bebé, consejería sobre salud mental, apoyo espiritual y otra clase de apoyo confidencial



Ofrecemos sanación a las mujeres que han tenido un aborto

Entérense del Proyecto Raquel, un ministerio de atención después del aborto, o visiten una parroquia católica cercana



Rezamos, ayunamos y abogamos por leyes que protejan cada vida humana, desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural

Únanse a la red de defensa de la Conferencia Católica de Virginia en vacatholic.org para proteger toda la vida humana

Encuéntrelo todo aquí:





Then Jesus came to him and asked him if he believed in the Son of God. What did the man say?

Put the words in alphabetical order. Then place the boxed letters in order below.

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| queen | label | alive |
| bored | disco | pinch |
| | river | |



“ _____ ”

What happened next?

Use the braille code to find out.

⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠

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Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

Jesus met a man who had been blind from birth. What did Jesus say?

Add and subtract letters to find out.

- pencil = _____
- cera = _____
- oad + - ors = _____
- zard + - oat + - a = _____
- wl + - rog = _____
- imbl = _____
- hale + - ange + - amb + - og = _____



The man's neighbors wondered how he was healed. When he told them, they did not believe. Find out what they said.

Find the missing half of the words in the box and write them on the lines below

th_____	w_____
_____ther	th_____
n_____	_____ow
_____ve	_____n't
glo_____	_____ne
sin_____	_____ee
_____nd	



“Gi_____ry to God ... We kn_____
 _____is Man is a _____ner.”
 Then the man who was healed by
 Jesus said, “Whe_____ He is a sinner
 or not, I do_____ know. O_____
 _____ing I do know. I _____as
 bli_____ but _____ow I s_____!”

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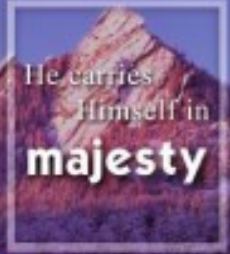
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