

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

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

REV. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR
REV. CHRISTOPHER H. HAYES, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. STEPHEN VACCARO, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. CEDRIC P. WILSON, O.S.A., VISITING PRIEST
DEACON RICHARD F. KELLY
DEACON JOSE PARDO, SPANISH MINISTRY

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary
Ann Benson, Business Manager
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager
Carol Mack, M.T.S., Pastoral Minister (part-time)
Maureen Andersen, Liturgical Minister
Kathleen Ferraris, Parish Receptionist
Ingrid Sanchez-Seymour, Director of Youth Ministry
Alison Fram, Director of Young Adult/College Ministry
Caroline Chase, Bulletin Editor
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
MaryJo Mazzella, Pre-School 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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 772-4751

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
7:30/9:00/11:00/12:45/5:30 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: 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Parental Instruction required. Parents must be registered members of the parish.

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 Friday (10 days prior to publication). Please note: this deadline can change due to holiday office closings. You may email submissions to bulletin@nativityburke.org.

WEBMASTER: Stacey Smith, webmaster@nativityburke.org
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR: Mary Castellano
socialmedia@nativityburke.org

7th
Sunday
in
Ordinary
Time

"Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you."

Matthew 5:44



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

Reflection

The Lord commanded the people to be holy, “for I the LORD your God am holy” (Lv 19:2). The essential ingredients of holiness are love, mercy, kindness, and compassion. For example, we can admonish people if we are offended by their actions, but we cannot take any sort of revenge. God doesn’t deal with us this way, and neither should we deal with each other this way.

Paul reminds us that the spirit of God dwells in us in the same way that God dwells in the most sacred place of the temple. If the temple of God is holy, how much more holy are we? This should give us no cause to boast but make us all the more humble.

Jesus shows us that the way of love is non-retaliation and nonviolence. In a world trapped in an endless cycle of “an eye for an eye” (Mt 5:38), Jesus asks us to forgo vengeance. Instead, he tells us, we should place no limits on love. We should not make a pretense of holiness but be transformed by the holiness of God.

For Reflection - Do I bear God’s love even to my enemies?
Do I pray for those who harass or maltreat me?

Love and blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

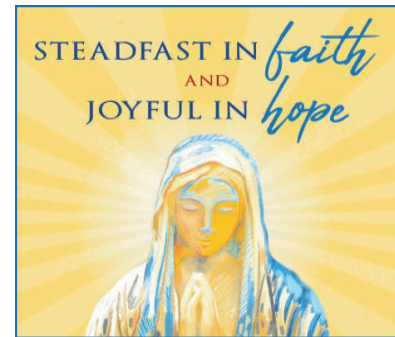
The Importance of Sunday Mass

As the body will die without food, the soul will expire without nourishment. As Catholics, that spiritual nourishment comes at the Sunday Eucharist. The Lord’s Day is essential for our faith. Make Sunday Mass the heart of your week.

Rules for Lenten Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday is a day of penance observed by both fasting and abstinence from meat. Everyone over 14 years of age is bound to observe the law of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on all Fridays within the season of Lent and on Ash Wednesday.

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday everyone over 18 and up to the beginning of their 60th year is also bound to observe the law of fast. On these two days, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one’s needs; but together they should not equal another full meal. Like other penitential days, Ash Wednesday begins and ends at midnight. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, therefore, are the only days of **both** fast and abstinence.



**2020 Bishop’s Lenten Appeal
Steadfast in Faith and Joyful in Hope**

This weekend every household in our parish will be asked to complete a Bishop’s Lenten Appeal (BLA) pledge form at Mass. The BLA provides an opportunity to unite as a Catholic family and support programs, ministries and services that no single individual or parish could offer by itself. After reflecting upon the many blessings that God has given you, please prayerfully consider making a pledge of support to this important appeal that furthers the Mission of Jesus Christ in our diocese. Your gift is very important! Every donation, regardless of the amount, is vital to the success of the BLA.

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for a Night of Reflection with

Irish Tenor Mark Forrest

On March 11th, 2020 at 7:00PM
At the Nativity Catholic Church,
all ages are welcome!



**For more information visit: markforrest.com or
<https://nativityburke.org/night-of-prayer/>**

Mass Schedule for Ash Wednesday, February 26th

6:00am, 7:30am, 9:00am, 12:00pm, 4:00pm,
6:00pm, and 8:00pm (Spanish)

Catholicism 101

This Lenten educational series explores key tenants of the Catholic faith and fulfills the Catechetical requirements for baptized Catholics seeking confirmation. Classes will cover salvation history, divine revelation, the Trinity, Sacraments and the Liturgy, Salvation, Christian prayer, and Christian living.

Classes will be held on Monday evenings at 7:00pm in the Fr. Ready room. This Lent draw closer to the Lord by learning more about the richness and beauty of our Catholic faith. For more information see the Parish website at <https://nativityburke.org/catholicism-101/> or contact Dan Blair at blairband@verizon.net.



St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance
<https://nativityburke.org/st-pats-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 6:30PM, on Saturday, March 21.*

It is always a great evening of dining, dancing, and entertainment. Irish dancers from the O'Neill-James School of Dance will perform, with music for listening and dancing provided by Black Tie DJs. 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 \$30 per ticket. Tickets will be sold after all Masses from February 29 through March 15. This event usually sells out so please get your tickets early! Coat and tie, please. For additional information, contact Gene McGrath at 703-250-1281 or email genemcgrath@verizon.net.



Annual 5-Car Raffle



HAPPY MARDI GRAS! Celebrate by selling your tickets today. Where else can you get a chance to win all five 2020 vehicles from Koons of Manassas (Honda Civic, Buick Encore, GMC Canyon Truck, Honda CRV Sport Utility, and Honda Odyssey Van) plus up to \$20,000 in cash for only \$5.

We have additional tickets if you sell all of yours. Proceeds will benefit the youth ministry, the parish building fund, and Knights of Columbus charities. Please mail your sold ticket stubs directly to All Saints in the envelope provided. Please contact PGK Sam Morthland @ 703-455-2186 if you have any questions or need additional tickets.



Nativity Catholic Church, Catholic Charities and Britepaths invite you to attend a FREE: Budgeting & Money Management Workshop Wednesday, March 4 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Are you tired of trying to make ends meet? Don't have a monthly budget? Want to plan for a better future for you and your children? Not sure how to include longer-range planning for donations, retirement, vacations, college expenses, home renovations, and so on?

This FREE workshop is for all who are interested in better managing their finances. Great for single parent families, couples, seniors on fixed incomes and young adults out in the workplace for the first time. Separate sessions for English and Hispanic audiences. All are welcome, regardless of religious affiliation. Bring a friend! Online registration link:

nativityburke.org/budgeting-workshop/

Join Stella Marina on Sunday, March 22nd for our third annual Parish Lenten Kit Build



After all Sunday morning Masses in the school cafeteria! Stop down to build a clean birthing kit for the midwives in Haiti. Meet Dr. Eugène Maklin of New Hope Hospital, Plane du Nord, and staff from Food For The Poor, as we celebrate "making a difference one baby at a time."

There will be refreshments and highlights of some of those in our own church family who are helping make a difference in Haiti. For more info visit:

<https://nativityburke.org/build-birthing-kits/>

Knights of Columbus Frenchy Cyr Memorial Scholarships

We will once again award six Knights of Columbus, Clarence "Frenchy" Cyr Memorial Scholarships in memory of our Council's Charter Grand Knight. These six scholarships of \$1000 each, for Catholic secondary school education tuition, will be awarded to the son or daughter of registered parish members or the son, daughter or grandchild of Council 7992 members who best exemplify the traits of perseverance, effort, and contribution to his or her community.

Please mail completed applications to: Knights of Columbus, Council No. 7992, Attention: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 10907, Burke, VA 22009. All applications must be received with a postmark **no later than midnight, Friday, April 24, 2020**. Additional applications may be obtained at the parish office of the Church of the Nativity, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke Virginia, from the Knights of Columbus web site: <http://fathersikoracouncil.org> or contact Dave Zivich at (703) 440-8437 or davezivich@gmail.com.



NATIVITY PARISH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

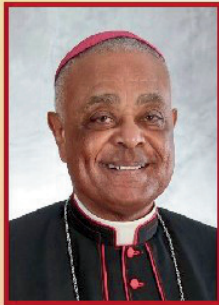
2020 Leap Year Art Auction

Professionally Curated Art, Catered Food/Wines \$15.00 pp, \$60.00 Patrons Package for 6 ppl

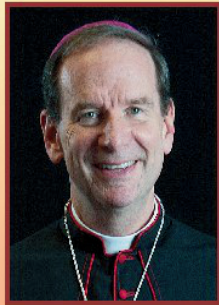
FEBRUARY 29, 2020 | 6:00PM -10:00 PM FATHER MARTIN CENTER CC ACCEPTED

QUESTIONS? WANT TO REQUEST ART? CALL TOM SAVAGE, CHAIR, 512-983-5641 or tomkc7992@gmail.com

The Diocese of Arlington Peace & Justice Commission Presents:



Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory,
Archbishop of Washington



Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge,
Bishop of Arlington

open wide our hearts: the enduring call to love

Confronting the sin of racism: a diocesan response
through understanding, conversion, and action

Saturday, March 14, 2020

Nativity Catholic Church, Burke VA

Schedule:

- 6:00 pm Mass
Celebrant and Homilist: Archbishop Gregory, Concelebrant: Bishop Burbidge
- 6:15 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Keynote by Archbishop Gregory
- 7:45 pm Panel and Q&A with Archbishop Gregory and Bishop Burbidge, and diocesan parishioners responding

RSVP: peace@arlingtondiocese.org

Registration on a first come, first served basis. RSVP by March 9, 2020



The Sisters from the Daughters of St. Paul will be having a display of Bibles, books on prayer, lives of the Saints, youth and children's books, available for purchase after **all the Masses on February 22/23**

in English and Spanish

The Sister's Mission in the Church is to spread the Gospel message through all forms of media. Their hope is that their presence and display at Nativity Parish will be a great source of spiritual and vocational enrichment to help you deepen and live your faith!



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Diocese of Arlington

St. Lucy Winter Food Drive

<https://nativityburke.org/st-lucy-winter/>

THIS weekend we will collect for the St. Lucy Winter Food Drive, the single biggest food drive at Nativity.

St. Lucy directly supports Catholic Charities in helping to provide food to the nearly a quarter million people (including nearly 88,000 children) in the Diocese who do not know where their next meal will come from.

Please use the blue bags that were handed out last weekend or any other sturdy bag to bring in the donations. The Diocese will also accept monetary donations; any donation is welcome! And if you would like to help loading the collections, please follow this link to volunteer: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0D49ADAE29A6FE3-stlucy.

Thank you and may God bless you!

The Nativity Gift Shop needs your help!



The Gift Shop is looking for a few dedicated volunteers to help in the gift shop during the following Mass times: **Tuesdays at 12:00pm, Thursdays at 12:00pm, and Sunday evenings at 5:30pm.**

If you are interested, you can leave your name and phone number at the gift shop or at the Parish Office and Natasha Hines will contact you.

LUNCH N' LIFE – March 19, 2020 - 12:00-2:00pm

Are You 50 or Better? Please join us for the next Lunch N' Life, sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday, March 19 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road in Fairfax. Jim Radigan, (U.S. Navy Retired) will discuss his experiences as the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Navy Antarctica Squadron.

For reservations, call Bea Stephenson at 703-273-5730, by March 13. The cost is \$10.00; checks payable to SCFB.

If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office at (703) 323-4788. See www.scfbva.org for more information.

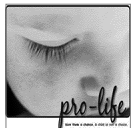


ASH
WEDNESDAY

02/26/20

Support our Nativity Parish Girl Scouts!

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES ARE HERE.
February 8-9 & 22-23
For sale after all masses



"Those who die in God's grace and friendship live forever with Christ. Heaven is not an abstract idea, but a true and lasting relationship with God that is beyond all earthly description and understanding. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead and everlasting life by preparing now, in hope, for our passage from this life into eternal life." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing"

The Falls Church 40 Days for Life campaign starts Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020 and continues through Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020. 40 Days for Life is a focused Pro-Life effort that consists of 40 days of prayer and fasting, 40 days of peaceful vigil, 40 days of community outreach. See full details at <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/falls-church/>. Sign Up For Vigil Hours, become a "Prayer Warrior" and Stand Up For Life! For more info, please contact Soledad Olivera, 703-863-0710, solivera.10@gmail.com

A WOMAN'S CHOICE is a pregnancy resource center that provides free pregnancy testing, referrals for medical treatment, housing, social service assistance and tangible support for pregnant women, including clothing and equipment.
www.womanschoicecenter.com

Nativity is a tithing community
Giving back a portion of God's blessings in gratitude.
"Each day with one heart—we are the hands of Jesus"



February is **DELIZIOSA** with the Nativity Italian Heritage and Cultural Society



Join us for a delectable evening of "Wine and Chocolate." Roberto D'Onofrio of Impero Wine Distributors, Lorton, and Omar Nazarei of Nazbro Chocolates in Occoquan will be explaining how their products are made and suggesting wine and chocolate pairings for us to sample. Roberto will bring an invigorating assortment of wines to accompany Omar's handmade fine chocolates and fudge.

Attendees will be invited to different serving stations to sample the pairings. Please bring cash because if you like what you taste, you may purchase both wine and chocolates to take home!

When: Thursday, February 27 at 7:00pm
Place: Nativity School Cafeteria

Become a member at any meeting or by contacting nihcsmembership@gmail.com. Guests are welcome for \$5. Visit our website at:

nativityburke.org/nihcs

The 2020 Altar Flower Book is open.

This is a thoughtful way to honor a loved one, living or deceased. If you are interested, please call the parish office at 703-455-2400 or stop by to sign up.

**Donut Sunday THIS weekend after all
Masses in the Fr. Martin Center**



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

Monday, February 24

7:30am † Don Becker

Tuesday, February 25

7:30am Special Int for Caroline High
12:00pm † Jerome Carr

Ash Wednesday, February 26

6:00am † Catherine and Paul Cilinski
7:30am † Richie Betz
9:00am † Don Becker
12:00pm † Doris Jennings
4:00pm † George DePaoli
6:00pm † Evelyne Miller
8:00pm † Christina Oberholtzer

Thursday, February 27

7:30am † Don Becker
12:00pm † Tim White

Friday, February 28

7:30am † Cathleen Conway Del Polito
(School) 9:00am † Don Becker

Saturday, February 29

9:00am † Gabriel Bedard
5:00pm † Thomas D'Elia
7:00pm Parishioners

Sunday, March 1

7:30am Parishioners
9:00am † Victor Calder
11:00am † Ruben Remphrey
12:45pm † Louise Hammer
5:30pm † Adriana Ladino

The priest schedule for Masses is found on our webpage:

nativityburke.org

In prayer, let us remember
the sick and deceased of the parish.

Diabetes Support Group

Nativity's Diabetes Support Group will be meeting on Thursday, February 27th at 7:30pm in classroom 203. All who are having challenges with diabetes are welcome as well as their family. Come join us as we share the bright spots and landmines. For more information contact RoseAnne Zivich, at email: brzivich@aim.com.

Office of Catholic Schools' Teacher Job Fair SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020

The Office of Catholic Schools invites prospective teachers to a Teacher Job Fair on March 7, 2020. The Fair will be held at St. Paul VI High School, 10675 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22030, from 9:00am-11:00am. For more information visit <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Catholic-Schools/Careers/> or call (703) 841-2519. We believe in our teachers! Join our excellent schools for a faith-filled experience.

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com



Council Meeting: The next council meeting is Tuesday, March 3rd, Rosary starts at 7:15pm and the meeting will start at 7:30pm.

Name Tag Assistance: If you have not received a name tag, please provide your name so the Worthy Warden David Zivich can place the order. davezivich@gmail.com.

Prison Ministry: Fr. Vacarro is asking brother knights help in writing letters to those incarcerated. He has a list of names whose lives might be impacted for the better with your correspondence. Please contact him if interested.

Join Nativity's Usher Ministry: Several weekend Masses at Nativity need additional ushers. The greatest need is at the 9:00am, 12:45pm, and 5:30pm Masses on Sundays. Nativity offers an usher training program sponsored jointly by the Diocese and Nativity. If you are interested in joining the Usher Ministry, please contact Br. Tom Wilder at wilderkofc@earthlink.net

Upcoming Degree Opportunities: The following degree advancement opportunities are scheduled for the Knights of Columbus. Please contact DGK Barry Basselgia at bbdgk7992@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

- March 3rd, St. Mary's 8:00pm
 - March 24th, Nativity, 7:30pm
 - March 26th, Nativity, 7:30pm
 - April 21st, St. Mary's, 8:00pm
 - May 7th, Nativity, 7:30 pm
 - May 11th, St. Raymonds, 8:00pm
 - June 16th, St. Mary's, 8:00pm
- 4th Degree:
Saturday, 18 April, Virginia Beach

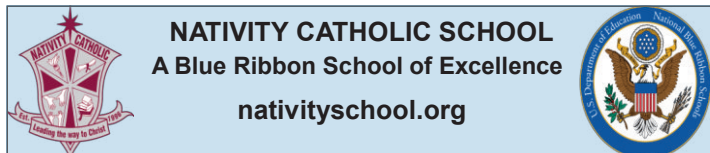
Fraternal Committee: this committee is seeking brothers to help with its outreach activities, which include: occasionally making phone calls to segments of our membership about upcoming presentations of interest; phoning homebound brothers to assess their needs and well-being and to keep them informed of council activities; and visiting homebound and/or hospitalized brothers as an outward reflection of compassionate support for them and their families. Does not require a heavy time commitment.

A good way for busy brothers to become involved. If interested or willing to help, please contact Fraternal Committee Chair, Br. Rich Miserendino, PGK, at KOC7992Fraternal@gmail.com or 703-440-0991.

Call for Volunteers/Council Degree Team: with the new Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity being instantiated, we would like to solicit volunteers for our Degree team. If you enjoy public speaking and presenting, this would be a good use of your talent and interest. Contact Br. BJ Dysart at BDYS-ART@cox.net if you are interested. If you are a current member of our First Degree team, contact BJ if you would like to continue as a member of the new team.

Save the dates, upcoming events:

- Art Auction (29 Feb)
- Young man and woman of the year / Family of the year nomination submissions.



Third Graders 'Spreading Courage' By Collecting Skeins

Our third grade is helping us take a deeper dive into the virtue of courage this month by collecting yarn to donate to Nativity's Prayer Shawl Ministry, whose members make shawls for the ill and elderly -- those who are in need of prayers of comfort and a bit of warmth. As each shawl is created, prayers are said for the person who will receive it.



Yarn: Simply Soft CARON or a soft yarn by Lion Brand
Shop: Walmart, Michaels, or JOANN Fabrics
Goal: 100 skeins

Please send your skeins in to the school office by February 28. Thank you for your generosity.

Coming Up ~ Seats Available Preschool, Kindergarten - 8th

For details, contact Shannon Murphy at smurph@nativityschool.org.

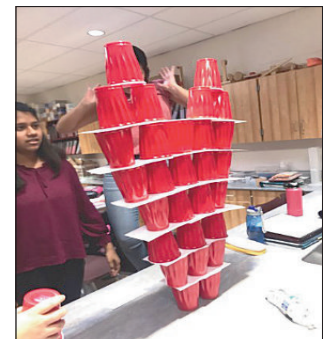
Open House for New Families

March 18 * 9:00-10:30 am

We look forward to meeting you!

Valentine's Challenge Accepted!

This Valentine's Day, our middle schoolers accepted a special makerspace challenge: As a team, build a heart shape using ONLY red Solo cups and index cards. It was a great deal of fun! Here are our results ~





Just download the App, register with 'Nativity of our Lord.' Thank you!

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE IN THE GIFT SHOP

Fair Trade Divine Chocolate is available in the Gift Shop!!

In Ghana, West Africa, women sit on the board of directors of the Kuapa Kokoo cooperative where they earn a fair price for their cocoa and also own a third of the Divine Chocolate brand and share in the profits of the company. Plus it is Delicious!!!



The Creation Care Ministry at Nativity was developed to put into practice the principles of Pope Francis 2015 encyclical, Laudato Si, On Care of our Common Home. In this encyclical, the Pope laments environmental degradation that disproportionately affects the poor and he exhorts all peoples to “take swift and unified global action.”

George Getek, a Nativity parishioner for 45 years, having an appreciation of the beauty of nature as God’s handiwork, lives the message of Laudato Si in both his personal practices and his work with Nativity. Such practices as turning down the thermostat to save energy, using reusable bags at the grocery store, recycling as many items as possible and donating used but wearable clothing to charities that serve the needy are a few of the ways he lives Laudato Si.

His environmental commitment is most evident in his running of the annual Knights of Columbus sponsored yard sale. By its very nature, the sale allows parishioners to donate unused household items for re-use by others, giving them a second lifespan. In addition, George admonishes sale volunteers to place non-usable glass, metal and plastic products in the parish recycle bins and to separate all plastic bags for return to the collection bins at grocery stores. After the sale, items that are distributed for reuse include clothes hangers, glass vases and men’s clothing that is taken to a local shelter.

For the past several years Nativity has partnered with Gracing Spaces, a ministry of a local Lutheran church that furnishes apartments that the county provides to formerly homeless individuals. Volunteers from Gracing Spaces come shortly after the sale, to take leftover items (furniture, linens, kitchen and other household goods) that will fulfill their mission. Whatever items still remain, are taken to thrift stores that give Nativity a small reimbursement.

So, in view of his deep commitment to environmental responsibility, the Creation Care Ministry of Nativity Parish has selected George Getek for its first Laudato Si Champion Award. Congratulations George on your ongoing commitment and service to Nativity parish and to the less fortunate in our community. George was recognized by Father Bob for this award on Saturday February 8 at the 5:00pm Mass. For more information and a photo, see <https://nativityburke.org/service/creation-care/>

This year’s Yard Sale will be on Saturday June 20 with donations accepted from June 11-18.

**Interested in advertising in the bulletin?
Call Rick Cortez at 412-292-0132 or
e-mail: rickcortez@aol.com**

ECHO Food Collection

The monthly food collection for ECHO will take place NEXT Weekend. Please bring non-perishable foods to the entrance of the church. Needed are: Instant Potatoes, Sugar, Canned Meat, Pancake Mix, Boxed Rice, Canned Meat, Juice and Coffee, Shampoo, Deodorant, Shaving Cream, Facial tissues, Large brown paper grocery bags and Detergent. All canned food items are welcomed. ECHO also accepts small appliances, but they must be in working order. For more information, call 703-569-9160. The ECHO Center is located at: 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield.



Are you registered in the Parish?

If you are not receiving mail from the parish, chances are you are not registered. Please stop by the Parish Office to become a registered member of Nativity Parish. Registration is required to be a Baptismal Godparent

Discernment 101 with the Daughters of St. Paul

Single young women are invited to join the Daughters of St. Paul for a monthly discernment gathering that includes: Mass, coffee with the Sisters, a talk on discernment, and an Hour of Adoration.

When: Saturday, February 29, March 28, April 25, and May 16 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the Daughters of St. Paul Convent in Old Town Alexandria.

Come to one, or to all...and bring a friend! For more information, contact Sr. Emily Beata at vocations@paulinemediamedia.com or 703-549-3806.

Separated? Divorced? Widowed???

The Rebuilding Program, sponsored by the Diocese of Arlington Office of Marriage, Family, and Respect Life, helps people of all faiths who are separated, divorced, or widowed and want to move on with their lives. The nine week program starts Sunday, February 23rd and meets Sunday evenings 5:30 - 8:00pm at the St. Martin De Porres Senior Center in Alexandria. Topics include adaptation, grief, anger, self-worth, openness, love, and relatedness. For more information email facilitator@copingrebuilding.com, or visit us on the web at <http://www.copingrebuilding.com>.

COLLEGE MINISTRY and YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Contact Director: Alison Fram
afram@nativityburke.org, cell: 703-577-5329
Find us on the parish website: nativityburke.org

Young Adult Ministry Serving people ages 21-39

Facebook Group - "Catholic Life
Young Adult Ministry"
Instagram - @nativityyam



Small Group - Tuesdays 7:30-9:00pm
CSC Basketball - Thursdays, 8:30-10:30pm,
Fr. Martin Center

Fairfax Theology On Tap - Monday, March 16,
7:30pm at The Auld Shebeen. The speaker this month
is Fr. Vaccaro!

Lent is coming! See the website for dates/times of
extra opportunities for confession and prayer

See our full list of upcoming gatherings:
nativityburke.org/youngadult

• MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION •
For married couples, that they continue to grow
in holiness with their spouse everyday.

COLLEGE MINISTRY Serving people ages 18 - 21

Follow us on social media!



Facebook Group - Nativity



Instagram - @nativitycollege

If you're 21, join us for...

CSC Basketball - Thursdays, 8:30-10:30pm,
Fr. Martin Center

Fairfax Theology On Tap - Monday, Feb. 17, 7:30pm
at The Auld Shebeen



If you're local and interested in getting more involved,
contact Alison. Text 703-577-5329 or email
afram@nativityburke.org

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Miércoles de Ceniza: el inicio de la Cuaresma 2020

Por: Tere Valles / Luis Gutiérrez | Fuente: Catholic.net

La imposición de las cenizas nos recuerda que nuestra vida en la tierra es pasajera y que nuestra vida definitiva se encuentra en el Cielo.

La Cuaresma comienza con el Miércoles de Ceniza este 26 de febrero de 2020 y es un tiempo de oración, penitencia y ayuno. Cuarenta días que la Iglesia marca para la conversión del corazón.

Las palabras que se usan para la imposición de cenizas, son:

"Concedenos, Señor, el perdón y haznos pasar del pecado a la gracia y de la muerte a la vida"

"Recuerda que polvo eres y en polvo te convertirás"

"Arrepiéntete y cree en el Evangelio".

Origen de la costumbre: Antiguamente los judíos acostumbraban cubrirse de ceniza cuando hacían algún sacrificio y los ninivitas también usaban la ceniza como signo de su deseo de conversión de su mala vida a una vida con Dios.

En los primeros siglos de la Iglesia, las personas que querían recibir el Sacramento de la Reconciliación el Jueves Santo, se ponían ceniza en la cabeza y se presentaban ante la comunidad vestidos con un "hábito penitencial". Esto representaba su voluntad de convertirse.

En el año 384 d.C., la Cuaresma adquirió un sentido penitencial para todos los cristianos y desde el siglo XI, la Iglesia de Roma acostumbra poner las cenizas al iniciar los 40 días de penitencia y conversión.

Las cenizas que se utilizan se obtienen quemando las palmas usadas el Domingo de Ramos de año anterior. Esto nos recuerda que lo que fue signo de gloria pronto se reduce a nada.

También, fue usado el período de Cuaresma para preparar a los que iban a recibir el Bautismo la noche de Pascua, imitando a Cristo con sus 40 días de ayuno. La imposición de ceniza es una costumbre que nos recuerda que algún día vamos a morir y que nuestro cuerpo se va a convertir en polvo. Nos enseña que todo lo material que tengamos aquí se acaba. En cambio, todo el bien que tengamos en nuestra alma nos lo vamos a llevar a la eternidad. Al final de nuestra vida, sólo nos llevaremos aquello que hayamos hecho por Dios y por nuestros hermanos los hombres.

Cuando el sacerdote nos pone la ceniza, debemos tener una actitud de querer mejorar, de querer tener amistad con Dios. La ceniza se le impone a los niños y a los adultos.

Significado del carnaval al inicio de la Cuaresma: La palabra carnaval significa adios a la carne y su origen se remonta a los tiempos antiguos en los que por falta de métodos de refrigeración adecuados, los cristianos tenían la necesidad de acabar, antes de que empezara la Cuaresma, con todos los productos que no se podían consumir durante ese período (no sólo carne, sino también leche, huevo, etc.)

Con este pretexto, en muchas localidades se organizaban el martes anterior al miércoles de ceniza, fiestas populares llamadas carnavales en los que se consumían todos los productos que se podrían echar a perder durante la cuaresma.

Muy pronto empezó a degenerar el sentido del carnaval, convirtiéndose en un pretexto para organizar grandes comilonas y para realizar también todos los actos de los cuales se "arrepentirían" durante la cuaresma, enmarcados por una serie de festejos y desfiles en los que se exaltan los placeres de la carne de forma exagerada, tal como sigue sucediendo en la actualidad en los carnavales de algunas ciudades, como en Río de Janeiro o Nuevo Orleans.

El ayuno y la abstinencia: El miércoles de ceniza y el viernes santo son días de ayuno y abstinencia. La abstinencia obliga a partir de los 14 años y el ayuno de los 18 hasta los 59 años. El ayuno consiste hacer una sola comida fuerte al día y la abstinencia es no comer carne. Este es un modo de pedirle perdón a Dios por haberlo ofendido y decirle que queremos cambiar de vida para agradarlo siempre.

La oración: La oración en este tiempo es importante, ya que nos ayuda a estar más cerca de Dios para poder cambiar lo que necesitemos cambiar de nuestro interior. Necesitamos convertirnos, abandonando el pecado que nos aleja de Dios. Cambiar nuestra forma de vivir para que sea Dios el centro de nuestra vida. Sólo en la oración encontraremos el amor de Dios y la dulce y amorosa exigencia de su voluntad.

Para que nuestra oración tenga frutos, debemos evitar lo siguiente: La hipocresía: Jesús no quiere que oremos para que los demás nos vean llamando la atención con nuestra actitud exterior. Lo que importa es nuestra actitud interior. La disipación: Esto quiere decir que hay que evitar las distracciones lo más posible. Preparar nuestra oración, el tiempo y el lugar donde se va a llevar a cabo para podernos poner en presencia de Dios.

La multitud de palabras: Esto quiere decir que no se trata de hablar mucho o repetir oraciones de memoria sino de escuchar a Dios. La oración es conformarnos con Él; nuestros deseos, nuestras intenciones y nuestras necesidades. Por eso no necesitamos decirle muchas cosas. La sinceridad que usemos debe salir de lo profundo de nuestro corazón porque a Dios no se le puede engañar.

El sacrificio: Al hacer sacrificios (cuyo significado es "hacer sagradas las cosas"), debemos hacerlos con alegría, ya que es por amor a Dios. Si no lo hacemos así, causaremos lástima y compasión y perderemos la recompensa de la felicidad eterna. Dios es el que ve nuestro sacrificio desde el cielo y es el que nos va a recompensar. *"Cuando ayunéis no aparezcáis tristes, como los hipócritas que desfiguran su rostro para que los hombres vean que ayunan; en verdad os digo, ya recibieron su recompensa. Tú cuando ayunes, úngete la cabeza y lava tu cara para que no vean los hombres que ayunas, sino Tu Padre, que está en lo secreto: y tu padre que ve en lo secreto, te recompensará."* (Mt 6,6)

Conclusión: Como vemos, la ceniza no es un rito mágico, no nos quita nuestros pecados, para ello tenemos el Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Es un signo de arrepentimiento, de penitencia, pero sobre todo de conversión. Es el inicio del camino de la Cuaresma, para acompañar a Jesús desde su desierto hasta el día de su triunfo que es el Domingo de Resurrección.

Debe ser un tiempo de reflexión de nuestra vida, de entender a donde vamos, de analizar como es nuestro comportamiento con nuestra familia y en general con todos los seres que nos rodean.

En estos momentos al reflexionar sobre nuestra vida, debemos convertirla de ahora en adelante en un seguimiento a Jesús, profundizando en su mensaje de amor y acercándonos en esta Cuaresma al Sacramento de la Reconciliación (también llamado confesión), que como su nombre mismo nos dice, representa reconciliarnos con Dios y sin reconciliarnos con Dios y convertirnos internamente, no podremos seguirle adecuadamente.

Esta Reconciliación con Dios está integrada por el Arrepentimiento, la Confesión de nuestros pecados, la Penitencia y finalmente la Conversión.

El arrepentimiento debe ser sincero, reconocer que las faltas que hemos cometido (como decimos en el Yo Pecedor: en pensamiento, palabra, obra y omisión), no las debimos realizar y que tenemos el firme propósito de no volverlas a cometer.

La confesión de nuestros pecados.- el arrepentimiento de nuestras faltas, por sí mismo no las borra, sino que necesitamos para ello la gracia de Dios, la cual llega a nosotros por la absolución de nuestros pecados expresada por el sacerdote en la confesión.

La penitencia que debemos cumplir empieza desde luego por la que nos imponga el sacerdote en el Sacramento de la Reconciliación, pero debemos continuar con la oración, que es la comunicación íntima con Dios, con el ayuno, que además del que manda la Iglesia en determinados días, es la renuncia voluntaria a diferentes satisfactores con la intención de agradar a Dios y con la caridad hacia el prójimo.

Y finalmente la Conversión que como hemos dicho es ir hacia delante, es el seguimiento a Jesús.

Es un tiempo de pedir perdón a Dios y a nuestro prójimo, pero es también un tiempo de perdonar a todos los que de alguna forma nos han ofendido o nos han hecho algún daño. Pero debemos perdonar antes y sin necesidad de que nadie nos pida perdón, recordemos como decimos en el Padre Nuestro, muchas veces repitiéndolo sin meditar en su significado, que debemos pedir perdón a nuestro Padre, pero antes tenemos que haber perdonado sinceramente a los demás.

Y terminemos recorriendo al revés nuestra frase inicial, diciendo que debemos escuchar y leer el Evangelio, meditarlo y Creer en él y con ello Convertir nuestra vida, siguiendo las palabras del Evangelio y evangelizando, es decir transmitiendo su mensaje con nuestras acciones y nuestras palabras.

¡UN IMPOSIBLE SIN DIOS!

VII Domingo (Ciclo A)
Javier Leoz



No resulta fácil, por propia voluntad, el amor a los enemigos por parte del ser humano. ¿Responder al odio con amor? ¿A la violencia con la mansedumbre? ¿A la afrenta con la humildad? ¿Cómo llegar a ese grado de exquisitez cristiana? ¿Cómo regalar bien ante el mal? Ni más ni menos que, colocando en el centro de nuestra existencia, a Dios mismo. El es la fuente de la bondad y, cuando Dios configura totalmente el vivir cotidiano de una persona, esa misma persona, es capaz de llegar al grado de perfección o a esa utopía que nos puede parecer el evangelio de este día.

1. La característica esencial de Dios es la bondad misma, el amor mismo. Y, Dios, no puede hacer otra cosa que eso: amar. Podrán muchos de sus hijos olvidarle, ultrajar su nombre y dudar de su existencia. Dios, por el contrario, responderá una y otra vez con lo que tiene y ofrece espontáneamente: amor

Dios siempre está dispuesto a perdonar. Esa es la diferencia entre EL y nosotros; por inercia y sin esfuerzo alguno, perdona, olvida y entrega amor. Nosotros, desde nuestra humanidad, dosificamos el perdón, nos cuesta olvidar y el amor lo damos también con cuentagotas. Por ello mismo, el final del evangelio de este evangelio, nos retrata: vivir con Dios significa aspirar a su perfección; ver las cosas como Dios mismo las ve y reaccionar, incluso en situaciones ilógicas y contradictorias, desde el testimonio de la fe. ¿Imposible? No con Dios;

2. Se suele decir que, las imitaciones, son siempre malas. Pero, la vida de un cristiano, debe ser un imitar las actitudes, pensamientos, obras y deseos de Cristo. Por lo tanto, abrimos sin desmayo y sin miedo, mirar hacia el cielo cuando se nos hace sufrir en la tierra, meditar la gran lección que Jesús nos da en la cruz (su amor universal) pueden ser perfectamente unos claros síntomas de que queremos vivir según El y que, entre otras cosas, deseamos ansiar (llevándola a la práctica) la perfección cristiana: en el encuentro con numerosos prójimos, manifestarles (y hasta asombrarles e impresionarles) por la viveza y sinceridad de nuestro amor.

3. Cinco enemigos se levantan en contra de esta aventura del amor a los enemigos y del deseo de agradar a Dios siendo, allá donde estamos, imagen de su amor: el egocentrismo (mirarnos a nosotros mismos); el egoísmo (querernos demasiado); individualismo (vivir como si todo dependiese de nosotros); el racionalismo (pensar en lo que perdemos o ganamos, cuando prima el pensamiento antes que la fe o la religión) y la ausencia de Dios (cuando en el centro instalamos exclusivamente nuestro propio bienestar y dejamos a un lado al Señor). Frente a estos enemigos tendremos muchas armas para hacerles frente: la oración, la solidaridad, la fe, la comunidad y las promesas de Jesús que, por la fuerza del Espíritu, nos asiste hasta el día en el que vuelva definitivamente. ¿Cómo nos encontrará? ¿Luchando contra los enemigos de la vida cristiana o sometidos a ellos? ¿Amando a “los nuestros” o brindando nuestra amistad a los que piensan de distinta manera a nosotros? ¿Con las puertas abiertas a la fraternidad o con los balcones cerrados a lo que ya tenemos conquistado?

Ojala que, el Señor, nos ayude a hacer de nuestra vida una ofrenda y un amor que no sea excluyente. Lo tenemos difícil pero, con El en medio, puede ser posible.

¿CÓMO ME PIDES TANTO, SEÑOR?

¿Sonreír al que deteriora e invade mi vida,
perdonar a quien me afrenta
ayudar a quien me arruina

y asistir a quien me olvidó un mal día?
¿CÓMO ME PIDES TANTO, SEÑOR?

¿Amar al que tal vez nunca me amó,
abrazar al que, ayer, me rechazó,
llorar con el que, tal vez,
nunca yo encontré consuelo en la aflicción?
¿Cómo, Señor! ¡Dime cómo!

Cuando ya es difícil amar al que nos ama
Caminar con el que queremos
entregarnos al que conocemos
o alegrarnos con el que nos aplaude
¿Cómo, Señor! ¡Dinos cómo hacerlo!

Cuando nos cuesta rezar por los nuestros
o prestar nuestra mejilla
a quien ya nos da un beso
Cuando es duro el ser felices
con aquellos que con nosotros conviven
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