

My dear parishioners,

Pope Francis, in his new book, *Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future*, tells us:

"You can't know poverty from a distance; you have to touch it. To recognize and come close - that's the first step. The second step consists in responding practically and immediately, because a concrete act of mercy is always an act of justice." Here at Nativity Catholic Church, we put these words into action every day.

At home, our parishioners minister to those in need through a wide variety of outreach efforts. Around the world, we support Catholic Relief Services and our own Operation Starfish® ministry to the people of Haiti. This year we continue work on developing Nativity Village at Balan, with small business co-ops and a primary school. Over the last 2 years we have completed 70 homes and a community center in Balan.

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

The major Operation Starfish collection will take place this year on the Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2, 2021. There will be a second collection on that Sunday at all the Masses. May 3, 2021 will be the 7th anniversary of our late Pastor, Fr. Richard Martin's return to God. Fr. Martin loved the poor and founded Operation Starfish here at Nativity Catholic Church in 1998. We have a parish tradition of taking the annual Starfish collection during the Easter season on the Sunday closest to Fr. Martin's anniversary.

Through Operation Starfish, we have moved 1,477 needy families into new homes in 12 Nativity Villages in Haiti. Let's continue this beautiful tradition, begun by our beloved Fr. Martin 23 years ago. Let's keep making a difference, one family at a time.

Love and Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor



A Message from our Pastor Fr. Bob Cilinski



"Be Merciful O Lord for we have Sinned" - Psalm 51:3

My dear parishioners,

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

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

Happy Lent!
Love and Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor



LENTEN SCHEDULE

Extra Confession, The Light is ON for You

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation,
Each Wednesday Evening during Lent, starting February 24th
From 6:30pm - 8:00pm

A Parish Mission Led by Dominican Friar

Fr. Bill Garrott, O.P.

Will be held at Nativity on Monday - March 15th, Tuesday - March 16th
and Wednesday - March 17th at 7:00pm each evening,
more information to follow

“Come Walk with Me” Holy Hour and Meditations with Tenor Mark Forrest

Wednesday Evening, March 24th, 7:00-8:00pm

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday of Lent beginning February 19th,
in English at 7:00pm and Spanish at 8:00pm

There will be NO Penance Service this year

APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING UPDATE

As a result of the tremendous outpouring of support from the Nativity family, we are now at \$76,773 of the \$80,000 goal. Please help if you are able. We encourage mail-in and direct deposit (select Appalachia on the menu of organizations to receive donations) to the maximum extent possible. Please mail to the Church Office at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA, 22015. Checks should be made payable to Nativity Parish, but please annotate that it is for the Appalachia Home Building Project and include your envelope number for ease of posting.

Please refer any questions to Bob Corsi, 703-239-2890, bobcorsi@cox.net.

Thanks for all of your help!

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. We are adapting our program to the pandemic, and we're hoping to offer an eight week program starting Sunday, April 11, meeting Sunday afternoons from 2:00-5:00PM.

The location of our meetings is not yet determined, and is likely to be a combination of Zoom, some outdoor locations, and if situations allow, some indoor meetings. 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>.

If you are or may be interested, please register at our website so we can judge the interest level as we try to plan for the alternative format this year.

Nativity Girl Scout Troops 52007 and 1945 are pleased to offer Girl Scout Cookies to the Nativity community!
<https://nativityburke.org/girl-scout-cookies/>



We have a website to accept pre-orders for curb-side pickup in front of the Fr. Martin Center on February 20th, and 21st. Our pickup hours on Saturdays are 3:30pm to 5:00pm and 12:00pm-2:00pm on Sundays. To assist with traffic flow, please consider coming before 4:00pm on Saturday or after 1:00pm on Sunday if you are not attending Mass in person that day.

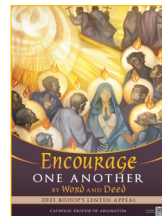
On the same 2 weekends, we will also offer walk-up booths outside the Church before and after the Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 11:00am, and 5:30pm Masses.

If you can't eat the cookies, kindly consider purchasing cookies for donation to the Metropolitan Washington USO, or our gift of caring for a local homeless shelter.

Thank you for your support! Link to pre-order:
<https://girl-scouts-troop-52007.square.site>

LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINANCE

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.
 Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence.
 Catholics 14 years of age and older are obliged to abstain from meat and those 18-59 are obliged to fast (1 full meal and 2 smaller ones to maintain strength) unless medical or serious reasons exist.

2020 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL**Encourage one another by Word and Deed**

Thank you Nativity parishioners for the great support of the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. As of February 11, our pledges and donations amount to \$380,722 with about one in ten families pledging. That's well more than half of our \$635,000 dollar goal! We're off to a strong start, but still need more participation.

If you haven't yet pledged, please consider a sacrificial offering for Lent. Your support helps the many charities, ministries, and programs throughout the Diocese and here at Nativity. May God bless you for your generosity.

**Take English, CompTIA, Citizenship or GED Online!**

Register for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Citizenship, GED, ESOL for Childcare, or CompTIA ITF+ classes which are held twice a week with morning and evening schedules available. Different class levels are available.

12-week semester and spaces are limited. Call to schedule an appointment for registration and for pricing details. Please call (571) 208-1572 or email ewd1@ccda.net for more information.

Nativity parish stands in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable both locally and globally. During the Covid-19 global pandemic, Nativity continues to look for ways to serve our brothers and sisters. Visit:
<https://nativityburke.org/service-during-covid19/>

Annual 5-Car Raffle

Please stop by out in front of Church today and take a look at the New Koon's Honda CRV to be raffled. Have you sold your tickets yet? Proceeds will benefit the youth ministry, the parish building fund, and Knights of Columbus charities. Each \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all five 2021 vehicles plus \$20,000 in cash prizes.

Please mail your sold ticket stubs/payment directly to All Saints in the blue envelope provided. We have additional tickets if you sell all of yours.

Please contact PGK Sam Morthland at 703-455-2186 if you have any questions or need additional tickets.





Day of Prayer and Healing

On Saturday, March 20, 2021. The abortion recovery retreats are confidential group healing events open to any woman who has experienced abortion trauma and grief.

Lead by a specially trained team, they are held on a Saturday in a private and peaceful setting. During the day, there is an opportunity to hear from a past participant, and additional testimonials from those attending the retreat. In addition, there is time after lunch for more sharing, prayer, quiet reflection and Mass. To learn more, please call our helpline at 703-841-2504 or email info@helpafterabortion.org.

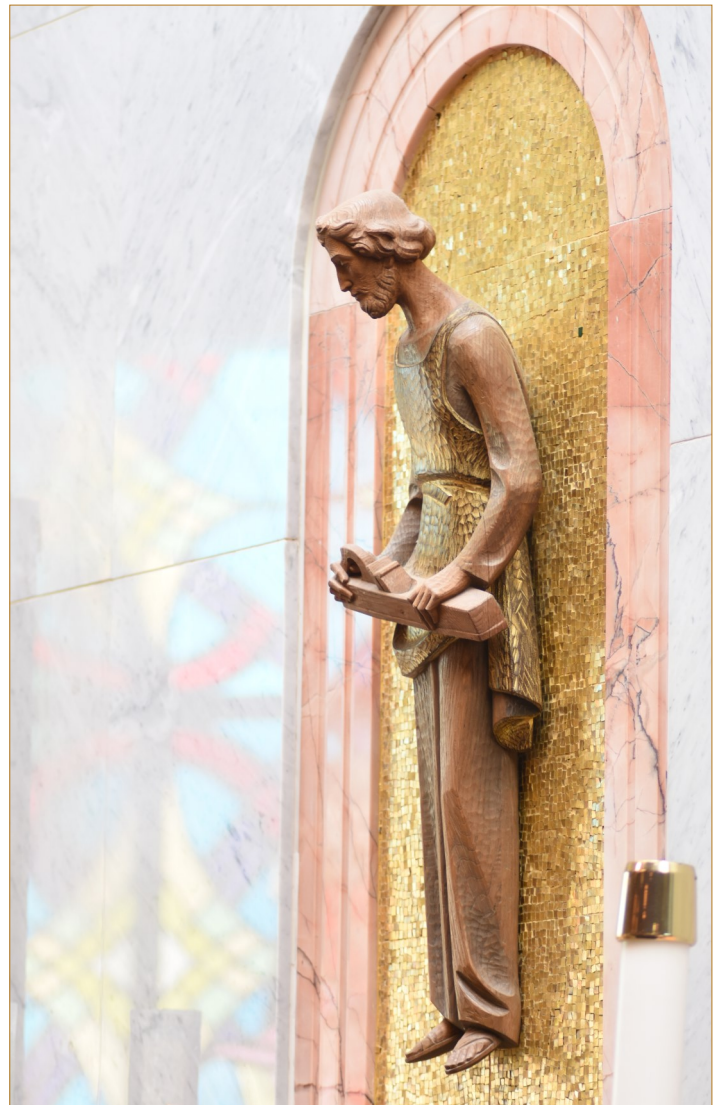


A Lenten Challenge from The Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Fast from Meat: Greenhouse gasses from meat production account for about 15% of global warming. Consider reducing red meat consumption. Add plant-based meals to your diet. It's good for the environment and your health. Learn more from Catholic Relief Services and find recipes at <https://www.crsricebowl.org/recipe>.

In addition to abstaining from meat on Fridays, you may choose to add Mondays in the spirit of "Meatless Mondays". Weekly ideas and more delicious recipes can be found from the Sisters of Mercy at: <https://www.sistersofmercy.org/files/documents/resources/Justice/Mercy-Meatless-Mondays.pdf>.

Our next Zoom meeting is Thursday, February 25 at 7:30pm. For more info, nativitycreationcare@gmail.com.



43rd Annual Gaelic Mass

Please join us on Monday, March 15, 2021, at 7:30pm at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More for the 43rd Annual Gaelic Mass in honor of St. Patrick. Organized by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Col. John Fitzgerald Division. Cathedral of Saint Thomas More, 3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington. Contact Alex Wilson, 703-969-7703 or ajwilzn@gmail.com for more information. Capacity limitations.



We invite all engaged and married couples to attend our Date Night at Nativity with the theme of St. Joseph.

When: Postponed to March 6 | Join us for Mass at 5:00 pm. The event will then start at 6:15 pm.

Where: Fr. Martin Center following Mass

Light refreshments and drinks will be served. There is no cost to attend. There will be door prizes, must be present to win.

All COVID precautions will be observed.

We will sit socially distance and masks are required.

Upcoming Catholicism 101 Series

Is one of your Lenten practices to grow in your faith? Consider joining Fr. Vaccaro, Fr. Hayes and others in the Catholicism 101 class. This eight-part educational series will focus on key tenants of the Catholic faith and fulfills the 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 virtually on Zoom on Friday evenings from 7:00 – 8:45pm, starting February 19. For more information see the Parish website or contact Dan Blair at blairband@verizon.net.

2021 VIRTUAL ART AUCTION KOF C NATIVITY COUNCIL 7992

WHEN:
Feb. 27, 2021 8pm - 11 pm EST

PREVIEW/REGISTRATION:
FEB 24, 2021 10:00 AM EST

WHERE
**Your favorite Chair At Home on
computer/app Search Marlin Art on
your App store!**

WHY
**Supporting the Council's Charity
Works during the Pandemic.
Fundraising is down, demand is UP!**

WHO
**You and everyone you know that
has an email!**

HOW
**Register for free, place your bids
during preview, Watch live and
BID AGAIN! AND AGAIN!**

REGISTER [HERE](https://bid.marlinart.com) BID.MARLINART.COM

**ART SHIPPED
DIRECTLY TO YOU!**

SPONSORS
Wine Attic Clifton
Cohen Wine Imports
Ralph Heinze
KofC Insurance

BENEFITS
Nativity School
Nativity Parish
Scouting
Scholarships
Arlington
Catholic Charities
Family Programs
Community Programs
Youth Programs

**YOUR SUPPORT
IS NEEDED!**

Questions?
tomkc7992@gmail.com





Fr Bill Garrott, OP

Fr. Bill entered the Order of Preachers in 1988 and was ordained a priest in 1994. He has a master's degree in spiritual theology from the Angelicum in Rome. He has served as a parochial vicar, campus minister and director of vocations. Fr. Bill has preached nearly 200 parish missions throughout the United States and Canada using his musical abilities on piano and guitar. He has released two CDs. Fr. Bill preached our parish mission 5 years ago. His home base is St. Dominic Priory in Washington, DC.

"CHRIST-LOCK: IDENTITY THEFT NO LONGER!"

NATIVITY PARISH LENTEN MISSION

March 15 - 17, 2021

7:00 - 8:00 pm

**In Person & Live Streamed
Confession Afterwards**

MONDAY

Living Life on the Widescreen

TUESDAY

Good Anger/Bad Anger?

WEDNESDAY

Equipped to Rescue



Stella Marina needs help in filling our Spring shipping container with birthing and newborn kits, pack n plays, summer infant and maternity clothes.

Are you a Girl Scout looking for an award project?

Looking for a neighborhood activity? You could start a drive for needed items.

WHAT WE NEED

- Pack n plays (new and gently used)....drop off at church or email swelchparis@stellamarina.org for pick up or check out Stella Marina's Newborn Amazon Wish List on Amazon to order a new one and it will be sent to us.
- Summer maternity clothes (new and gently used)
- Infant summer clothes (new and gently used) size 0-24 months
- Cloth diapers (new and gently used)

Stella Marina



An Operation Starfish Project

What is Stella Marina?

Stella Marina is a project that operates under Operation Starfish®. Stella Marina - which means sea star in Latin - was created to help the midwives of the Shada slum in Cap-Haitien, Haiti. These women and their work came into our hearts after seeing their picture on the Fish4Hope Facebook page.



stellamarina.org



Young Adult Ministry

Serving people ages 21-39
nativityburke.org/youngadult

 "Young Adult Ministry with Nativity"

@nativityyam 

Our young adult community is still staying connected, even now! We're grateful to the young adults who've shared their gifts these past few months by assisting with live-streaming Masses and providing music, and to those who have made videos of how they're staying connected to God this year.

To find out more about our ministry and how you can participate in the community, visit our social media accounts or page on the website.

College Ministry

Serving people ages 18-21
nativityburke.org/college

College students- we're thinking about you and praying for you. As more colleges send students home for the remainder of the semester, we want to check in on you while you're here. **If you're local and interested in getting more involved**, contact Alison. Text 703-577-5329 or email afaram@nativityburke.org.

Young Family Ministry

Serving families with children newborn- elementary
nativityburke.org/young-family-ministry/

In our ministry, "family" encompasses families in all shapes and sizes- married couples, single parents, adopted children, one child, multiple children, etc. It's a chance to talk to others about the joys and challenges of raising a family, and also to learn from someone just a step ahead of you. If you have a young child, we welcome you in our community!



KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS
 IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

<https://nativityburke.org/knightscouncil7992/>
 Facebook: *Knights of Columbus Father Sikora 7992*
 Twitter: @kofc7992

Join the Knights! Make a difference as a Catholic Gentleman! Contact DGK Br. Adrian Santillan-Lecaside or GK Barry Basselgia with any questions or if you need a Form 100. Better yet, join the Knights ONLINE for FREE through June 30, 2021! Go to kofc.org and click on "JOIN" in upper right. Complete form and indicate Council 7992 as council you wish to join as an Online Member. Use the Promo Code **MCGIVNEY2020** to waive first year membership fee. It's quick, easy and free. You will be contacted after successful enrollment You have waited long enough! Grow in Faith and Join Our Brotherhood.

Council Meeting: Our regular business meetings are the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Meetings are conducted virtually via GoToMeeting.

Name Tag Assistance: If you have not received a name tag, please provide your name so the Worthy Warden Tom Siepmann can place the order at: siepmann1@hotmail.com.

Handy Knights Ministry: Need a hand with minor home repairs or know someone who needs help? If you are unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small repairs in your home due to health or other factors, there is a ministry within the Knights of Columbus that may be able to assist, the "Handy Knights." You can reach us at the following email: handyknightsfnativity@gmail.com.

Food For Others Food Recovery Ministry: Consider joining our ministry to recover food on Tuesdays between 11:00AM and 1:00PM from the Giant location on Burke Center Parkway and delivering it to Food For Others in Fairfax. We average 300-400 lbs of food picked up per week, but have seen loads over 900lbs. If you are interested contact me at rkascolella@verizon.net.

Join Nativity's Usher Ministry: Several weekend Masses at Nativity are in need of 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 tomwilder@earthlink.net.

Prison Ministry: Fr. Vaccaro 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.

Stephen Ministry: Brothers, Father Bob has enlisted the parish council to assess the possibility of establishing a Stephen Ministry in Nativity. This will be a parish program, and they are looking for volunteers from across the parish to join in this ministry. As Knights, our reputation for service precedes us, so Jim has asked that we canvass the council to see who can support as individual volunteers to serve as leaders and/or ministers. Contact parishioner Jim Crawford at jwcrawfordiii@gmail.com or to volunteer.



"Abortion affects countless marriages more than many people recognize. But there is no doubt that God will bring great healing to those who trust in his infinite mercy. If a past abortion can be acknowledged and addressed, a married couple can make great strides in experiencing even more fully God's design that 'the two shall become one' (Mt 19:5)." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Healing within Marriage from an Abortion" respectlife.org/healing-in-marriage.

**Choose Life Today. Choose Life Tomorrow. Pray Always.
We Must Do No Less.**

The Falls Church 40 Days For Life campaign continues through Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021. **Nativity Parishioners of Faith and Conscience are encouraged to unite in Prayer and Witness for the Sanctity of Human Life.** Website: 40daysforlife.com/fallschurch Become a "Prayer Warrior" and Stand Up For Life! Contact Rick Loffredo, 703-249-9492, rickloffredo@outlook.com

Nativity Rosary Hour onsite Thursdays, 9:00-10:00am.

Come join us!

Are you suffering from an abortion experience? **PROJECT RACHEL** offers spiritual and psychological healing. Call 703-276-0373 (projectrachel@arlingtondiocese.org) for a referral for private, sensitive and confidential counseling and/or reconciliation. Project Rachel is a post-abortion healing program open to all and sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.

Nativity Italian Heritage and Cultural Society An In-depth Look at Italian Language

Thanks to all of you who participated in our January Zoom wine tasting. An unusual event, to be sure, but then, hasn't everything been unusual the past 11 months?

This month, we have another interesting Zoom program on Thursday, February 25 at 7:00pm. Members and Non-members are welcome.

The Italian language is melodious and romantic. Maybe you speak it, or your parents do, or your grandparents did. Guest speaker, Costanza Davis, does. She's a native speaker, Assistant Director of Fusion Academy, a middle school and high school in Raleigh, who's taught Italian. She'll give us (in English) a history of the Italian language spoken by our forefathers, from its roots in Latin and the Roman Empire up to today. We'll sneak a peek at some of the dialects, as well as other languages spoken on the Italian peninsula. No prior knowledge of Italian is required.

Looking forward to you joining us on the 25th. Members will be sent a Zoom link. Non-members are welcome to participate and can request the link from togolf@aol.com.



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, February 22

7:30am † Esther Alvarado

Tuesday, February 23

7:30am † Arleen Kilpatrick
12:00pm † Nilthon Alvarado

Wednesday, February 24

7:30am † Keith Jordan
(HW) 10:00am † Anna Hennesey

Thursday, February 25

7:30am † Margaret Leonard
12:00pm † Elham Ayoub

Friday, February 26

7:30am † Cathy Cilinski
(School) 9:00am † Mike Kelliher

Saturday, February 27

9:00am † Jenevieve and Donald
Valentine
5:00pm † Teresa Cormaci
7:30pm Parishioners

Sunday, February 28

7:00am Parishioners
† Ilham Ayoub
11:00am † Marlene Schiermeister
† Wilbur C. Klemm
5:30pm Sisters - Special Intentions

***Please note: All Masses are subject to change (i.e. due to weather conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances) In case of a Mass time change, we will do our best to notify the requestor. If there is a Mass cancellation, the Intention will always still be said by a Priest at a private Mass. External and Private Masses cannot be attended.**

The priest schedule for Masses is found on our webpage:
<https://nativityburke.org/calendar/>

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

NEW Women's Bible Study:

The better we know Mary, the better we will know her Son. *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* is an extraordinary pilgrimage that reveals Mary's unique roll in God's kingdom and in our lives.

This is an 8-week program presented by Dr. Edward Sri. Filmed in the Holy Land, this study will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of her earthly life, taking you through her joys and her sorrows. A workbook and access to the DVD for each participant for up to a year is included.

This program will begin on March 19. Registration on the Nativity Web site [go to Ministries, then Women's Bible Study]. Meetings are held each Friday from 9:30 – 11:30am via Zoom. Contact: Diane Fields, dfields456@msn.com.



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
nativityschool.org



To join our Community, contact Shannon Murphy at 703-455-2300 or smurph@nativityschool.org for more information or a virtual tour.

Congratulations, Joanne Lewenhaupt!

West Springfield Rotary Club Outstanding Educator. For more than a decade, the West Springfield Rotary Club has recognized outstanding educators from high schools, middle schools and elementary schools in our area. This year, our dedicated third grade teacher featured among them.



Our heartfelt congratulations to the incomparable Joanne Lewenhaupt -- dedicated Catholic, wife, mother, volunteer, world traveler -- and one of our favorite teachers! Mrs. Lewenhaupt, part of the Nativity teaching staff for five years, has taught third grade for the last three. Joanne Lewenhaupt's dedication, experience, love, and expertise is a big part of what makes our Nativity Community feel like extended family. And we just LOVE her!

Counting All the Way to 100 ~

In Kindergarten and First Grade, we recently celebrated our 100th Day of School! Every day we count. Coins. Pencils. Pretzels. On this day -- this special day -- each of us counted 100 items in our own collection. Please take a peek ~



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to our families for helping to make our transition back into the classroom -- and to keep us there -- truly a working partnership.

YOUTH MINISTRY 2021

Continuing to minister to students in Grades 5 thru 12 in a variety of teen groupings. Keeping it safe!

For Complete Information please visit Nativity Web Site - Youth & Family

EDGE is middle school ministry Grades 5-6-7-8

LifeTEEN is high school ministry Grades 9-10-11-12



All gatherings take place bi-weekly | See YM calendar

- EDGE/LifeTEEN Groups meet from 6:00pm - 7:30pm
- Boys and Girls Small Group times - consult calendar
- Masks required. Bring a Camp Chair
- All participants sign a COVID Waiver
- Sign-Up required. No Drop ins
- Visit Web Page to get on the YM FlockNote

Monday EDGE Grades 5 & 6 Girls Small Group

Tuesday EDGE Grades 7 & 8 Boys Small Group

Wednesday Service Wednesday

Thursday LifeTEEN Grades 9-10-11-12

Visit the Youth Ministry web page To Contact Ms. Ingrid: ingridss@nativityburke.org or via FlockNote Sign UP

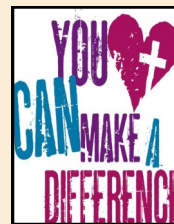
Follow Us



ADULTS

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A YOUNG PERSON

YOU can make a difference in the life of a young person, leading them closer to Christ. Young Adults, Parents, Grandparents, Retirees, Empty nesters...all are welcome to share the Catholic faith!



Contact Ms. Ingrid to inquire how YOU can make a difference at ingridss@nativityburke.org

Get the Weekly CYM Update!

High School: nativityburke.org/cym/lifeteen/
Middle School Grades 5-8: nativityburke.org/cym/edge/



Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-15
Ps 25:4-9
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

Monday February 22
Chair of St. Peter
1 Peter 5:1-4
Ps 23:1-6
Matthew 16:13-19

Tuesday February 23
Isaiah 55:10-11
Ps 34:4-7, 16-19
Matthew 8:7-15

Wednesday February 24
Jonah 3:1-10
Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19
Luke 11:29-32

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

Friday February 26
Ezekiel 18:21-28
Ps 130:1-8
Matthew 5:20-28

Saturday February 27
Deuteronomy 28:16-19
Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8
Matthew 5:43-48

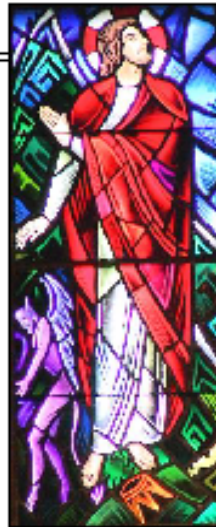
Today's Gospel reading shows us the first thing that Jesus did after his baptismal anointing in the Jordan River: He wrestled with temptation.

His baptism had marked the moment of his complete surrender to the Father's will. As he arose from the water, he began a new life of ministry.

The Father responded by telling him that he was very pleased, and the Holy Spirit filled his humanness. Jesus as God already had the Holy Spirit (he and the Spirit were the same God), but Jesus the fully human Son now came fully alive in the Spirit. We can imagine how this experience in the Jordan River gave him the feeling of an elated spiritual high. And the next thing that happens is an attack of the devil.

The same pattern repeats itself in our lives. As soon as we experience new growth in our faith, or a new calling to do the Father's will, we run smack into a situation that tests the strength and sincerity of our faith. However, if this didn't happen, how would we find out that we've spiritually matured? How would we know that we are ready to make a significant difference for the kingdom of God?

Sometimes without consciously thinking it, we decide that if we're going to be tested and we might lose, wouldn't it be better not to start something new? Well, that's another temptation!



Lent is the perfect time to examine the temptations that we face every day and turn them into new growth that will strengthen our faith.

Every time we face a sin and seek God's forgiveness, we become stronger. And if we take it a step farther by walking into the confessional with it, we also receive powerful graces directly from Jesus, through the priest, that will render temptations much more powerless.

And this makes us more useful to God in the mission of conquering evil in the world and helping his kingdom spread into the lives of the people around us.

Think of temptations as blessings in disguise: Use them as opportunities to become more like Jesus and grow powerful in the faith.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. How well do you recognize temptation?
2. How quickly do you rely on the faith that God has given you to say no to the devil's tricks?
3. Describe a time when you experienced a spiritual high and then faced a strong temptation.
4. How did you handle it?
5. What role did (or will) Jesus play in overcoming this temptation?



PRAISE & WORSHIP

for healing and conversion in families

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month

7:30 to 8:30 pm

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

3700 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22030

Watch the livestream at:

ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/HEALINGANDCONVERSION



OFFICE OF MARRIAGE,
FAMILY AND RESPECT LIFE

Catholic Diocese of Arlington

info@helpafterabortion.org

(703) 841-2550

JANUARY 12

Fr. Jeb Donelan

Music by Valerie and Rocco Repetski



FEBRUARY 9

Fr. Stephen Vaccaro

Music by Marie Miller



MARCH 9

Fr. Joseph Bergida

Music by Michelle Jacobeen



APRIL 13

Fr. Richard Dyer

Music by Mike Tenney





LA FEDE CINCO HOMBRES - 7º T.O. (B)

Javier Leoz

Sí, porque, ¿quién le contó al paralítico que Jesús se encontraba en una de aquellas casas de planta baja?
¿Quién le hizo llegar la noticia que su vida clavada a una camilla, como la del leproso o la suegra de Pedro, podría cambiar de la noche a la mañana?

¿A quién se le ocurrió la brillante idea, en un intento desesperado por llegarse hasta Jesús, de abrir en círculo un tejado y desprender a través de él la camilla con el paralítico?

Ni más ni menos que aquellos cuatro hombres que, haciendo de buenos samaritanos, o de jinetes del mal ajeno, transportaron con sus manos, desde la distancia de la parálisis hasta el encuentro con la vida, al paralítico.

-No era pues uno el que creía; eran cinco

-No era uno el que se fiaba; eran cinco

-No era uno el que buscaba a Jesús; eran cinco

-No era uno el que estaba paralizado; uno quería andar algo, y los otros cuatro, tal vez, un poco mejor. Porque sin la ayuda de los cuatro ¿Qué hubiera pasado?

2. La fe se vive mejor en comunidad. Y, con fe viva, los cinco fueron al encuentro de Jesús. Y, a los cinco, reconoció el Señor la grandeza y la profundidad de su fe. Una vez más, la comunidad empuja, alienta, reza y ayuda a llevar la cruz. ¿Somos nosotros alentadores, rezadores, y camilleros de las debilidades de los demás? ¿Hacemos palanca y abrimos agujeros en los tejados de aquellas personas que necesitan un poco de aire para respirar o una ventana por la que poder descubrir un horizonte para sus vidas?

Como cristianos, como confidentes y amigos de Jesús, no podemos dejar que el personal se las apañe solo. Siempre, en una cruz, hay lugar y espacio para una mano. Y cuántas cruces que no pueden salir de sus vías dolorosas porque no encuentran personas bien dispuestas y decididas a empujar. Cuántas, de esas cruces, tan sólo escuchan lamentos o....eso no es cosa mía.

3. Que el evangelio de este día, incluso gráficamente, nos ayude y nos estimule a abrir nuestras iglesias, y por supuesto a visitarlas. Nuestra conciencia, al ver una iglesia abierta, nos tendría que hacer sentir que, el Señor, está dentro, esperándonos, aguardándonos para curarnos de tantas cosas.

¿Qué pena los templos cerrados por mil excusas no del todo ciertas! ¿No será ya el momento de abrir los boquetes de las puertas para posibilitar encuentros con la fe, conversaciones con el silencio, posibilidades al perdón, encuentros con la oración, diálogos con el crucificado? Si; ya sé que alguno me dirá que para hablar con Dios no hace falta recurrir al templo. Pero ¿no os parece que estamos escasos de

tranquilidad y sosiego en el entorno que nos movemos?
¿No os parece que es casi un milagro –por no decir un privilegio- el encontrar un espacio que nos facilite la reflexión y la contemplación? Ojala que, como esos cuatro camilleros, también nosotros –los padres de familia, los catequistas, los sacerdotes, tantos y tantos grupos comprometidos en la vida de la Iglesia- seamos capaces de tener la valentía suficiente y el desparpajo necesario para empujar a todo paralítico que salga a nuestro encuentro (tibios o fríos en la fe) y llevarles al encuentro de la palabra de vida eterna. Merece la pena intentarlo.

ME LLEVAN A TI, MI SEÑOR

La Iglesia, que guarda, pregona y proclama tu Palabra

La Eucaristía, que me llena de Ti

en la que creo, ofrezco, te recibo

y me nutre con tu presencia real y misteriosa

ME LLEVAN A TI, MI SEÑOR

La oración que me funde a Ti

y me hace sentir tu compañía y tu protección

La Gracia, que desde el cielo,

me socorre cuando estoy perdido

me orienta cuando me encuentro despistado

me inspira, cuando pido la palabra oportuna

ME LLEVAN A TI, MI SEÑOR

La súplica de toda la Iglesia

La esperanza de los que creen en Ti

La alegría de los que esperan en Ti

ME LLEVAN A TI, MI SEÑOR

El esfuerzo y el sacrificio

de tantos hombres y mujeres

consagrados a tu Santo Nombre

La mortificación y el testimonio

de tantas personas que, dejándolo todo,

tiran de la gran camilla, que es el mundo,

para que, ese mundo, se encuentre con Cristo

ME LLEVAN A TI, MI SEÑOR

La comunidad creyente, la parroquia,

el grupo, el rosario meditado,

la contemplación de tu Cuerpo y de tu Sangre,

la caridad y la fe, la Palabra y el amor.

ME LLEVAN A TI, MI SEÑOR

El sacramento de la reconciliación,

los sacerdotes, la vida matrimonial,

la catequesis, el silencio, la paz,

la entrega, la generosidad y tu Espíritu.

¡CUANTAS COSAS, ME LLEVAN A TI!

Haz que nunca me olvide de pedir

la ayuda necesaria

para que, nada ni nadie,

me aparte de Ti, Jesús.

Javier Leoz



Las clases medias de la santidad
Además de los santos de primera hay por el mundo algunos
santos de segunda y bastantes de tercera
Por: José Luis Martín Descalzo | Fuente: Razones para el amor

Joseph Malegoue -ese gran novelista cristiano que en España no ha sido ni siquiera traducido- dejó a medio escribir una novela cuyo título era el mismo que yo he puesto a este artículo. Y en ella -por los pocos fragmentos que se conocen- desarrollaba una idea ya varias veces apuntada en sus obras anteriores: que para profundizar en los fenómenos religiosos no hay que explorar sólo en el alma de los grandes santos, de los santos de primera, de los aristócratas de la santidad, sino que «las almas modestas contaban también; contaban además las clases medias de la santidad».

Nada más cierto. Porque tal vez estamos demasiado acostumbrados a trazar una distinción excesivamente neta entre la santidad y la mediocridad. A un lado estarían esas diez docenas de titanes del espíritu que tomaron el evangelio por donde más quemaba y realizaron una vida incandescente. Al otro estaríamos nosotros, los que vegetamos en el cristianismo.

Y ésta es una distinción, además de falsa, terriblemente desalentadora. Pensamos: como yo no tendré jamás el coraje de ser un Francisco de Asís, vamos a limitarnos a cumplir y a esperar que Dios nos meta al final en el cielo por la puerta de servicio. La santidad se nos presenta así como una zarza incombustible, imposible no sólo para nosotros, sino incluso para cualquiera que viva en nuestras circunstancias. Además, pensamos para agravar las cosas, los santos hacen milagros y nosotros ya tenemos bastante con no hacer pecados. La solución es la siesta.

Pero, si abrimos con más atención los ojos, vemos que además de los santos de primera hay por el mundo algunos santos de segunda y bastantes de tercera. Esa buena gente que ama a Dios, esas personas que, cuando estamos con ellas, nos dan el sentimiento casi físico de la presencia viva de Dios; almas sencillas, pero entregadas; normales, pero fidelísimas. Auténticas clases medias de la santidad.

Quien más, quien menos, todos hemos encontrado en el mundo dos o tres docenas de almas así. Y hemos sido felices de estar a su lado. Y hemos pensado que, con un poco más de esfuerzo, hasta nosotros podríamos parecer un poco a ellas. Y sentimos que este tipo de personas sostienen nuestra fe y que, en definitiva, en su sencillez, son una de las grandes señales de la presencia de Dios en la Iglesia.

Yo he conocido a muchos de estos santos de tercera o segunda -empezando por mis padres- a quienes no canonizaría. Incluso me daría un poco de risa imaginármelos con un arito en torno a la cabeza y ellos se pondrían muy colorados si alguien se lo colocara. Pero, sin embargo, me han parecido almas tan verdaderas, que en ellas he visto siempre reflejado lo que más me gusta de Dios: su humildad.

Creo que de esto se habla poco. Y, no obstante, yo creo que tiene razón Moeller cuando escribe que «el centro del cristianismo es el misterio de esta humildad de Dios». Es cierto: en el catecismo nos hablaron mucho del Dios todopoderoso y a veces llegamos a imaginarnos a un Dios soberbio, cuajado de pedrerías, actuando siempre a través de milagros y hablando con voz tonante. Pero la realidad es que, cuando Dios se hizo visible, todo fue humilde y sencillo. Se hizo simplemente un hombre a quien sus enemigos pudieron abofetear sin que sacara terribles relámpagos del cielo. Un Dios que es humilde en su revelación, hecha a través de textos también humildes, difíciles de interpretar, expuestos a tergiversaciones, mucho menos claros de los que escribiría un matemático perfeccionista. Un Dios humilde en su Iglesia, que no construyó como una elite de perfectos, sino como una esposa indefensa y mil veces equivocada, tartamudeante y armada con una modesta honda y unos pocos guijarros frente al Goliat del mundo. Humilde también en la tierra en que quiso nacer, en esa Palestina que ni es un prodigio de belleza física ni un paraíso de orden, una especie de Suiza del espíritu.

«El Señor de la gloria -escribe también Moeller- no ha querido ni el poder ni la nada, ni el trueno ni el silencio del abismo, pues el poder tiránico a la sombra nada son lo contrario del amor. El amor quiere la dulzura humilde y gratuita, no se defiende, ofrece de antemano su cuello a los verdugos y, sin embargo, es más poderoso que la muerte y mil torrentes de agua no podrán extinguir el fuego de la caridad. El amor quiere también la vida, la dulce vida; el amor da la vida y no la nada.»

Por eso a este Dios humilde le van muy bien los santos humildes y pequeños, los santos del aprobadoillo. Y es una suerte que nos permite no desanimarnos a quienes tenemos un amor de hoguera (¡o de cerilla!) y jamás llegaremos a su amor de volcán.

Incluso el camino hacia Dios está muy bien hecho. Es como un monte al que hay que subir. Y tiene dos caminos: uno de cabras, que va en derechura desde la falda a la cima, escarpado, durísimo, empinado, y un camino carretero, que sube también, pero en zigzag, dando vueltas y vueltas en espiral hacia la cumbre.

Los santos, los verdaderos santos, suben por el de cabras, dejándose la piel en las esquinas de las rocas. Ellos lo dan todo de una vez, viven hora a hora en la tensión del amor perfecto.


Pero los demás temblamos ante ese camino. No porque no tengamos pulmones para ello -porque los santos no tienen mejor «madera» que nosotros, sino porque somos cobardes y le damos a Dios trozos de amor, guardándonos en el zurrón buenos pedazos de amor propio.

Naturalmente, a quien Dios le dé el coraje del camino de cabras, que San Pedro se lo bendiga y multiplique. Pero, en definitiva, lo que importa es subir, lo necesario es amar, aunque sea con un amor tartamudo. Y, entonces, bendito sea el camino carretero.

Con la ventaja, además, de que, en cada vuelta del camino, el camino carretero se cruza un momento con el de cabras: son esos instantes de verdadera santidad que todos, por fortuna, tenemos. Hay incluso veces en las que -sobre todo en la juventud- nos atrevemos a hacer algún trecho por la senda de cabras, aunque luego regrese la flojera y volvamos a tomar el camino en espiral. Bien, lo importante es seguir subiendo, seguir amando, aunque se haga mal.

Lo que no hay que olvidar es que, al final de la escalada, cuando ya se está cerca de la cima, los dos caminos, el carretero y el de cabras, desaparecen. Y entonces ya sólo queda la roca viva. Por la que sólo se puede subir con guía. O llevados en brazos. Como Dios nos llevará a todos en el último repechón que conduce al abrazo en la muerte.

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What did Jesus say?

Find words that don't make sense or seem out of place. Replace them with words from the list that have only 1 letter different.

TIME	NEAR	THE	SAID
HAS	COME	BELIEVE	GOOD



What happened to Jesus after He was baptized?

Use this code to fill in the blanks.

F		— = O	pp = M	I = W	7 = Y	7 = J
D		— = I	H = S	• = C	f = U	• = V
B		f = E	b = R	Δ = D	f = F	
G		ff = N	z = A	Δ = L	J = B	
E		x = T	h = H	β = P	° = G	

Handwriting practice lines with musical notes and symbols corresponding to the code above.

Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

February 21, 2021 • Mark 1:9-15

Jesus: Temptation and Good News

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, He saw heaven being torn open and He heard a voice. What did the voice from heaven say?

Shade in all the shapes with a # symbol to find the answers.



"You are My _____, Whom I _____; with You I am well _____."

What happened next?

Follow the directions to find the answer. Start with: J E S U S.

- Change the S's to C's.
J E C U C
- Change the second C to a P.

- Change the J to Ml.

- Add an O before the U.

- Change the U to an R.

- Change the E to AL.

- Add GNI before Ml.

- Write all the letters in reverse order.

After John was put into prison, Jesus went into Galilee,

the good news of God.

