

## **NOVA'S WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FROM APRIL 27:**

**Calendar:**

**Friday, May 2:** A NOVA movie afternoon at 2 p.m.

**Sunday, May 4:** Discussion of Emma Violand-Sanchez's memoir, following liturgy at Kenmore.

**Sunday, May 4:** Another First Sunday Agape.

**Tuesday, May 6:** Our adopted family's court date at 10 a.m.

**Thursday, May 22:** NOVA visits Congress regarding Jobs Guarantee.

**Sunday, June 8:** NOVA book group meets to discuss "What if we Get it Right?: Visions of Climate Futures" by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson.

**Announcements:**

**The NOVA book group** has selected for future reading a recent offering by marine biologist and climate policy expert Ayana Elizabeth Johnson. We encourage everyone to read this book about envisioning the possibilities if somehow, as quickly as possible, we "get it right"

**NOVA Calling Forth process** — Meg Tuccillo said she and Jeanne Clarkson are working to finalize this year's Calling Forth process, where the community will select a co-chair to work with Jeanne in the coming year. Commitment forms were available today. Meg said details will come later with a schedule of dates for the Calling Forth process. In connection with the Calling Forth Process (ironically timed with the soon to be Conclave!), here is the prayer everyone is asked to pray: Calling Forth Prayer

Sophia, Holy Wisdom, be with us during this time of reflection and discernment.

May we listen carefully for the call emerging within us. Just as the seed sprouts on a warm day because its time has come, guide us in knowing whose time it is to lead our community. Send us wisdom and openness of spirit to all your callings as we gather this Spring and always in your Loving Presence. Amen

**Scott Spaine** has been transferred to another rehab facility. His address is: Regency Care of Arlington, 1785 South Hayes Street, Room 509b, Arlington, VA 22202. He can receive cards and visitors there. As you may have read in Dianne's update, dialysis is not necessary yet. Next week there will be a prayer wheel for Scott available to sign after liturgy. If you are not planning to be there, please let Cathy Goldschmidt know which day you would be able to pray for Scott so that she can put your name on the wheel.

**Author Talk by Emma.** On May 4, plan to stay at Kenmore after liturgy for a discussion of Emma Violand-Sanchez's book, "Dreams and Shadows."

**Also on May 4 is an agape.** From Sally Keyes: "Since we just had a wonderful agape, we have decided we will seriously downscale our announcement for next Sunday. We will have coffee and water. If you have a boxed/bagged snack, extra fruit, or spare cookies around, and can bring something, great. Save your wonderful contributions for June's agape; our last one until October. (First Sunday in September we will be on retreat.)"

**Garden Work for Ronaldo:** Get your garden ready for Spring! Ronaldo Vail (father of our refugee family from Guatemala) is available for garden work. He is usually available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and sometimes Sundays, however, his schedule at Target varies. Please call Ronaldo directly @ 731-618-1459 to set up a time. He welcomes extra work around the garden and home. Please click [here](#) for [directions to his home](#).

**The 2nd asylum hearing** for our family from Guatemala will take place on Tuesday, May 6 at 10:30 a.m. The hearing will take place at 7619 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, in the courtroom of Judge Sherease R. Pratt on the 5th floor. If you're coming on I-495, take the Little River Turnpike exit toward Annandale. As you drive east on Little River Turnpike, turn right into the courthouse parking lot immediately after the 1<sup>st</sup> stoplight at (Hummer Rd/Heritage Dr.) Try to arrive at the building by 10 a.m. to give yourself time to park, clear security and find the courtroom. You'll have to pass through the metal detectors and put metallic objects through the x-ray machine. You do not have to show any identification, and you get all your metallic items back. You may bring cell phones into the courtroom, but you may not take pictures, and you have to silence your phones. Please send Tom Clarkson an email reply by noon on Saturday, May 3 if you plan to attend the hearing. He'll send out a list to all attendees on Saturday afternoon so that you may arrange carpools among yourselves, a good idea since parking is tight at the federal courthouse. Prayers and other forms of good vibrations are welcome on the day of the hearing from all who can't attend in person.

**Help distributing Job Guarantee flyers** on May 22. Please let Tom Clarkson know if you can help distribute flyers to Democrats' offices on Capitol Hill on May 22 around 11 a.m. With 25 volunteers delivering the flyers it should take about an hour. We'll organize carpools as we get closer to the event. We also need 25 people to call the offices and tell them we're coming. So far, we have about five callers and six distributors. Please email Tom directly if you can help [toclarkson@gmail.com](mailto:toclarkson@gmail.com). Click on [this link](#) to see the flyer.

**Food for AFAC.** Nutrition assistance is under threat and the work of food banks like AFAC, which Nova has supported for decades, is ever more crucial. Over 4,000 families rely every week on their help. Please bring boxes of cereal, peanut butter, pop-top cans of tuna, soup, vegetables, and beans every Sunday.

**Next Sunday** is the Third Sunday of Easter. The planners will be Francis Gargani, CSsR and Linda Rosenberg. The Scribe will be Judy Christofferson who needs announcements in writing.

#### **FROM APRIL 20:**

##### **Calendar:**

**Sunday, April 27** – Offering of letters for Bread for the World.

**Saturday, May 3** – author talk on psychic health, 10 am, Holy Redeemer Provincial residence, Washington.

**Sunday, May 4** -- discussion of Emma Violand-Sanchez's memoir, following liturgy at Kenmore.

**Sunday, June 8**, Nova book group meets to discuss "What if we Get it Right?: Visions of Climate Futures" by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson.

## **Announcements:**

**Bread for the World letters** – Joe Keyes and Steve Ruth are inviting the community to write letters to their US senators and representatives, as well as key committee chairs, at liturgy on April 27. They will provide fact sheets, tips on writing the letter, sample letters and the names and addresses for members of Congress. The letters will be delivered in person to the offices of our elected representatives. Put your faith into action with Bread for the World's Offering of Letters!

**Nova Calling Forth process** — Meg Tuccillo said she and Jeanne Clarkson are working to finalize this year's Calling Forth process, where the community will select a co-chair to work with Jeanne in the coming year. Meg said we should think about what role we would like to take on in the community for the next year and be on the lookout for commitment forms. Meg said details will come later with a schedule of dates for the Calling Forth process.

**Author Talk by Emma.** On May 4, plan to stay at Kenmore after liturgy for a discussion of Emma Violand-Sanchez's book, "Dreams and Shadows."

**The Nova book group** will discuss "What If We Get it Right?: Visions of Climate Futures" by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson after liturgy on June 8.

**Garden Work for Ronaldo:** Get your garden ready for spring! Ronaldo Vail (father of our refugee family from Guatemala) is available for garden work. He is usually available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and sometimes Sundays, however, his schedule at Target varies. Please call Ronaldo directly @ 731-618-1459 to set up a time. He welcomes extra work around the garden and home. Please click [here](#) for [directions to his home](#).

**Food for AFAC.** Nutrition assistance is under threat and the work of food banks like AFAC, which Nova has supported for decades, is ever more crucial. Over 4,000 families rely every week on their help. Please bring boxes of cereal, peanut butter, pop-top cans of tuna, soup, vegetables, and beans every Sunday.

**Next Sunday** is the Second Sunday of Easter. The planners will be Charley Miller OFM and Judy and Clyde Christofferson. The scribe is Linda Christie who needs announcements in writing.

## **FROM APRIL 13:**

### **Upcoming events/Dates to remember**

**Thursday** — Holy Thursday liturgy, 6 pm, in Falls Church

**Friday** — Good Friday service, 8 pm, Kenmore Middle School

**Sunday** — Easter Sunday liturgy, 10:15 am, at Kenmore

**Saturday, May 3** — author talk on psychic health, 10 am, Holy Redeemer Provincial residence, Washington DC

**Sunday, May 4** -- discussion of Emma Violand-Sanchez's memoir, following liturgy at Kenmore

## **Announcements**

**1) Nova's Holy Week events** — The community will hold its traditional Holy Thursday liturgy in Falls Church, at the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment (222 N. Washington St), beginning at 6 pm. Holy Thursday's liturgy involves the washing of feet and a shared meal, so it's necessary to have a reservation — the deadline for making reservations was yesterday (April 12). If you

forgot to do so but wanted to check for any possible open space, contact Cathy Goldschmidt. The Good Friday service will be held at Kenmore, beginning at 8 pm, in the same area where we hold regular liturgy. Easter Sunday's liturgy will be at Kenmore, as well, beginning at 10:15 am, in the cafeteria (instead of the small room just off the cafeteria). Nova usually is a little more dressy on Easter (don't wear jeans and a t-shirt like Phil) and Easter hats or other finery are welcome! There will be an agape after liturgy, so please bring finger food to share.

**2) Bread for the World letters April 27** — Joe Keyes said he and Steve Ruth are organizing an effort to have Nova members write letters to members of Congress to avert proposed massive cuts to SNAP and WIC in the federal budget. Bread for the World, which Nova has supported as a social justice project for many years, is planning a national letter-writing effort. Joe and Steve are inviting the community to write a letter to your US senator and representative, as well as key committee chairs, at liturgy on April 27. They will provide fact sheets, tips on writing the letter, sample letters and the names and addresses for local members of Congress. The letters will be delivered in person to the offices of our elected representatives. Put your faith into action with Bread for the World's Offering of Letters!

**3) Nova Calling Forth process** — Meg Tuccillo said she and Jeanne Clarkson are working to finalize this year's Calling Forth process, where the community will select a co-chair to work with Jeanne in the coming year. Meg said we should think about what role we would like to take on in the community for the next year and be on the lookout for commitment forms. Meg said details will come later with a schedule of dates for the Calling Forth process.

**4) Garden work for Ronaldo** — Tom Clarkson is away this week, but wanted us to remember that Ronaldo Vail, the father of a Guatemalan refugee family Nova has worked with, continues to look for garden work or other household chores you might need help with. He is usually available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and sometimes Sundays; however, his schedule at Target (his regular job) varies. Please call Ronaldo directly at 731-618-1459 to set up a time. He welcomes extra work around the garden and home. Please click [here](#) for [directions to his home](#).

**5) Author talk on psychic health, May 3** — Fr. Francis Gargani invited us to a talk by author Tom Rosshirt on The Impact of Fear on our Physical and Psychic Health. Rosshirt is the author of Chasing Peace. The event will take place Saturday May 3, at 10 am at the Holy Redeemer Provincial residence, 3112 7th St NE, in Washington DC. If you plan to go, rsvp with Fr. Francis by calling 718-644-5127 or email francescogcssr@yahoo.com.

**6) Cereal boxes, canned food for AFAC** – Don't forget to bring your donations of cold cereal, peanut butter, pop-top cans of low-sodium vegetables, beans, tuna and other shelf-stable food items for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Nova has supported AFAC for more than 30 years. The group currently serves more than 4,000 families every week and, with rising food costs, it has been harder to get adequate supplies of canned food.

The presider and planners for next Sunday's liturgy (Easter) will be Fr. Quinn Conners, O. Carm., and Gloria Mog, Victoria Robinson and Tim White. The scribe for announcements will be Cathy Goldschmidt, who needs written copies of announcements made. — submitted by Phil and Alicia Cackley

**FROM APRIL 6:**

**Calendar:**

**Monday, April 7** — Women's Journey Group meeting, 4:00-5:30 p.m. on Zoom.

**Tuesday, April 8** – Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.– ongoing study group with John Veldhuis on Zoom.

**Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday** – gather in open area outside the room in which liturgy is held.

**Thursday, April 17** – Holy Thursday celebration, 6 p.m. at Center for Spiritual Enlightenment.

**Friday, April 18** – Good Friday observance at 8 p.m., Kenmore Middle School.

**Sunday, April 20** – Easter Sunday liturgy at 10:15 a.m. in the cafeteria area of Kenmore.

**Sunday, May 4** – Discussion of Emma Violand-Sanchez's book "Dreams and Shadows" following liturgy.

Heartfelt congratulations from the community to Daniel and his fiancée, whose engagement was announced at liturgy today!

Here is the "go fund me" link for the family of Christina's student, that she announced during today's liturgy:

[Donate to Support a family separated by Trump's cruelty, organized by Amy Fischer](#)

The Nova Women's Journey Group will meet tomorrow from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. Gloria Mog will send out a link. This group will continue to meet on the first Monday of the month.

NOVA's Holy Thursday celebration will be held on Thursday, April 17, at the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, 222 North Washington Street, Falls Church, where we held the Christmas Eve liturgy. If you are new to NOVA, this is a full liturgy that includes washing of feet and a shared meal. Because of the seated meal, reservations are necessary. You can make your reservation [here](#) before April 12. Please plan to arrive by 5:45 so that we can begin on time. Parking nearby can be tricky and the easiest might be the second and third levels of the Kaiser Permanente garage on Park Avenue, just 1/2 block across Washington Street from the venue.

Easter Sunday's liturgy will be followed by an agape. Please plan to bring finger food such as fruit, cheese, canapes or desserts to share.

Food donations for AFAC – Each Sunday, please continue to bring your donations of boxes of cold cereal, peanut butter and pop-top cans of low-sodium soup, vegetables, beans, tuna, etc. All of your donations will be delivered to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), which Nova has supported for more than 30 years. AFAC is serving more than 4,000 families every week. The group has noted that with rising food costs, it has been harder to get adequate supplies of canned food.

**FROM MARCH 30:****Calendar**

**Tuesdays** — Bible study with John Veldhuis at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.

**Wednesday, April 2** – Procession and vigil for Gaza begins at 5:15 p.m. at the White House.

**Saturday, April 5** — Hands Off rally at noon at Washington Monument.

**Monday, April 7** — Women’s Journey Group at 4 p.m. on Zoom.

**Thursday, April 17** – Holy Thursday celebration at 6 p.m. at the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment.

**Friday, April 18** – Good Friday observance at 8 p.m. at Kenmore.

**Sunday, May 4** – Discussion of Emma Violand-Sanchez’s book “Dreams and Shadows” following liturgy.

**Through May 18** – Coaching available through International Coaching Federation.

### **Announcements:**

**NOVA’s joint liturgy with PAX** on Sunday was welcomed by all. Our liturgy space at Kenmore was filled with resounding prayer of the congregations and music of the joined choirs. At least 38 people were on Zoom, about double the usual number. Leaders from both communities say they will answer the call for more joint liturgies. One already is scheduled Aug. 31.

**Join a procession and vigil for Gaza** at 5:15 p.m. this Wednesday, April 2, from the White House to New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, where Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac will launch his new book, “Christ in the Rubble.” More info and RSVP [here](#). Rev. Isaac will also be at Busboys and Poets in Anacostia from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1.

**Hands Off rally:** Shane MacCarthy is organizing NOVA and PAX communities to gather together to participate in this rally next Saturday, April 5, at the Sylvan Theater on the grounds of the Washington Monument. Shane says: “The name of the Rally is derived from the fact the current Administration is taking everything they can get their hands on – our health care, our data, our jobs, our services – and daring the world to stop them. We are accepting that dare!” Meet between noon and 12:30 pm at the main entrance – the south side, facing Madison Drive and the Washington Monument - of the African American Museum. We will then, together, join Rally participants at the Sylvan Theater beside the Washington Monument. The nearest Metro Stop is Federal Triangle. Please be aware, there is no proper seating in the Sylvan Theater. So, bring proper seating or a ground cover. Contact [Shane](#) for more information.

**The new Nova Women’s Journey Group** next meets from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday April 7. Gloria Mog will send out a Zoom link on Sunday afternoon. After that, the group will meet the first Monday of each month.

**NOVA’s Holy Thursday celebration** will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, at the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, 222 North Washington Street, Falls Church, where we held the Christmas Eve liturgy. If you are new to NOVA, this is a full liturgy with washing of feet and a shared meal. **Because of the seated meal, reservations are necessary.** You can make your reservation [here](#) before April 12. Please plan to arrive by 5:45 so that we can begin on time. Parking nearby can be tricky and the easiest might be the second and third levels of the Kaiser Permanente garage on Park Avenue, just 1/2 block across Washington Street from the venue.

NOVA’s co-chairs are sending a **letter to the Arlington County Board** regarding ICE in Arlington. You can read it below.

**Coaches around the U.S.** and the world offer pro bono coaching between April 1 and May 18. If you or someone you know would like to have a partner in thinking through decisions, possibilities, next steps or how to take care of yourself in these chaotic times, reach out to Kate Doherty at [kate3doherty@gmail.com](mailto:kate3doherty@gmail.com). If I can't provide the coaching myself, I'll connect you with someone else in my International Coaching Federation network who can. The offer is for up to 3 free hours of coaching over the next few weeks.

**Food donations for AFAC** — Finally, please keep those boxes and cans coming: boxes of cold cereal and cans of tuna, vegetables, beans, or other items. All of them get taken to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), which Nova has supported for more than 30 years. AFAC is serving more than 4,000 families every week. The group has noted that with rising food costs, it's been harder to get adequate supplies of canned food. Bringing a can or two of pop-top, low-sodium vegetables along with your box (or two or three) of cold cereal will help.

**Next Sunday** is the Fifth Sunday in Lent. Archer Heinzen is planner for the community-led liturgy. The scribe is Judy Christofferson who needs all announcements in written form. Thank you for doing that!

**Letter to Arlington County Board:**

Dear Mr Chairman and Members of the Arlington County Board,

We write on behalf of the NOVA Catholic Community to express our alarm over the detention and transfer of Georgetown fellow and Arlington resident, Dr. Badar Khan Suri, by US Immigration And Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Dr. Suri appears to have been taken from his home and deprived of his freedom and his visa in retaliation for his advocacy for Palestinian rights in contravention of his free speech and due process rights under the U. S. Constitution. We call upon the Arlington County Board to review our local government's policies to assure that they are protective of the legal and constitutional rights, as well as human dignity of all who are present in the county.

We have two issues that we ask you to address.

First, we note that the Arlington "Trust" policy, while intended to limit the cooperation of the Arlington police department with ICE, nevertheless includes, in Section 7, circumstances in which the ACPD may contact immigration authorities:

- o An undocumented immigrant has been identified as a gang member and is wanted, or arrested for, a violent felony or a criminal street gang offense.
- o An undocumented immigrant "gang member is arrested for a felony offense or is a confirmed gang member, where circumstances indicate notification to federal immigration authorities is prudent to maintain community safety."
- o An undocumented immigrant is arrested on suspicion of terrorism or human trafficking.

Dr. Suri was legally in the United States, not undocumented nor a gang member, but his case illustrates the danger of the Trump Administration's determination to act swiftly to remove targeted persons in utter disregard for their constitutional rights. Rather, those very rights are regarded as an impediment to actions they regard as urgent. Recall that a reported 137 persons identified as "Venezuelan gang members" were spirited out of the country, during the pendency of a court hearing of the matter, and probably in defiance of a court order. Also, reportedly, Immigration enforcement detained 214 people in Northern Virginia between March 1 and 13. Some local news outlets and organizations reported that some of these arrests took place in Arlington, but ICE hasn't released any localized numbers.

Consequently, it is imperative that the county revise the Trust policy to eliminate the Section 7 provisions that place persons who are "wanted", "arrested" or "suspected") in jeopardy of precipitous action and denial of their legal, constitutional and human rights, and even transported to a detention facility in a far away state or foreign country.

We are cognizant of the sheriff's status as a constitutional official independent of the County Board, but we also suggest that the board make its views known and offer its support in the event the sheriff elects to protect the rights of detainees.

Second, Arlington is rightly renowned for its openness to input from its citizens in the development of governmental policy. We note, however, that at this time of heightened anxiety for immigrants, there exists no designated forum for our immigrant and refugee neighbors to air concerns about their lives in Arlington or to provide targeted input to the county manager or county board. We note that the current climate and recent incidents highlight the need for the establishment of an Advisory Council for Refugee and Immigrant Concerns.

We continue to be grateful for your leadership and guidance of our community. Thank you for your attention to these serious issues.

Sincerely,

Meg Tuccillo, Co-Chair  
Jeanne Clarkson, Co-Chair  
NOVA Catholic Community  
Arlington, Virginia

#### **FROM MARCH 23:**

##### **Calendar**

**Tuesdays** — Bible study with John Veldhuis, 7:30 pm on Zoom

**Monday, March 24** - NOVA Women's Journey Group

**Sunday, March 30** — Joint liturgy for Nova and Pax communities at Kenmore followed by an Agape

**Sunday, April 6** – Nova Book Group after liturgy

##### **Announcements:**



**Joint Liturgy with Pax** on Sunday, March 30 at Kenmore with Agape to follow. If you wish to contribute to the Agape, please contact Sally and let her know what you are bringing. Thank you!

**Nova Book Group** will meet at Goldschmidts after liturgy on Sunday, April 6 to discuss James by Percival Everett. If you plan to attend, please notify Cathy by Sunday, March 30.

**From Gloria Mog:** The new Nova Women's Journey Group will be meeting on Zoom this Monday, March 24 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Gloria will send out a Zoom link on Sunday afternoon. This meeting will be a reflection on where we are at in our Lenten journey this year as well as discussion of how to best use our monthly time together. The following meeting will be two weeks later on April 7 and after that, on the first Monday of each month.

**From Kate Doherty:** Coaches around the US and the world offer pro bono coaching between April 1 and May 18. If you or someone you know would like to have a partner in thinking through decisions, possibilities, next steps or how to take care of yourself in these chaotic times, reach out to me - [kate3doherty@gmail.com](mailto:kate3doherty@gmail.com). If I can't provide the coaching myself, I'll connect you with someone else in my International Coaching Federation network who can. The offer is for up to 3 free hours of coaching over the next few weeks.

**Food donations for AFAC** — Finally, please keep those boxes and cans coming: boxes of cold cereal and cans of tuna, vegetables, beans, or other items. All of them get taken to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), which Nova has supported for more than 30 years. AFAC is serving more than 4,000 families every week. The group has noted that with rising food costs, it's been harder to get adequate supplies of canned food. Bringing a can or two of pop-top, low-sodium vegetables along with your box (or two or three) of cold cereal will help.

**Next Sunday** is the Fourth Sunday in Lent, also known as Laetare Sunday (wear PINK or ROSE if you'd like!). The planners will be Charley Miller, OFM and Michael Kane. The scribe will be Markie Harwood who needs all announcements in written form. Thank you for doing that!

## **FROM MARCH 16:**

### **Calendar**

**Tuesday** — Bible study with John Veldhuis, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.

**Saturday, March 22** – Zoom meeting on synodality at 2 p.m. Contact Clyde if attending.

**Sunday, March 23** — discussion of Pope Francis' letter to US bishops, after liturgy at Kenmore.

**Sunday, March 30** — Joint liturgy for Nova and Pax communities, at Kenmore.

**Sunday, April 6** – Nova Book Group after liturgy.

### **Announcements:**

**Discussion of pope's letter** on March 23 — Nova will be discussing Pope Francis's letter sent last month to the US Catholic bishops about the need to support refugees and migrants. The discussion will take place at Kenmore following liturgy. If you want to read the text of the pope's letter, go to [this link](#).

**Joint Liturgy with Pax** on Sunday, March 30 at Kenmore with Agape to follow. If you wish to contribute to the agape, please contact Sally.

**Nova Book Group** will meet at Goldschmidts after liturgy on Sunday, April 6 to discuss James by Percival Everett. If you plan to attend, please notify Cathy by Sunday, March 30.

**Dr. Seuss Fans:** watch for an email from Helen Michie about an upcoming Dr. Seuss dialogue.  
**Food donations for AFAC** — Finally, please keep those boxes and cans coming: boxes of cold cereal and cans of tuna, vegetables, beans, or other items. All of them get taken to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), which Nova has supported for more than 30 years. AFAC is serving more than 4,000 families every week. The group has noted that with rising food costs, it's been harder to get adequate supplies of canned food. Bringing a can or two of pop-top, low-sodium vegetables along with your box (or two ... three) of cold cereal will help. If you shop at Giant, go to their website to redeem only 10 reward points for a free canned vegetables, soup, or beans, or 25 points for a bag of dried beans or lentils. They make it easy and free to add AFAC donations to your cart every week.

**Next Sunday** is the Third Sunday in Lent. The planners will be Quinn Connors O.Carm, and Ted and Carolyn Miller. The scribe will be Linda Christie who needs all announcements in written form.

### **FROM MARCH 9:**

#### **Upcoming events/Dates to remember**

**Tuesday** — Bible study with John Veldhuis, 7:30 pm on Zoom

**Wednesday** — Digital Dialogue on immigration, from Media Justice, 7 pm on Zoom

**Saturday** — VOICE action at Alexandria City Hall, 9:30 am

**Sunday, March 23** — discussion of Pope Francis' letter to US bishops, after liturgy at Kenmore

**Sunday, March 30** — Joint liturgy for Nova and Pax communities, at Kenmore

#### **Announcements**

1) Visit Scott Spaine in hospital — Jeanne Clarkson suggested that we consider making a weekday visit to Scott Spaine, who is sick and in the hospital. Because he has a respiratory infection, it's necessary to wear a mask and gloves. He is at Virginia Hospital Center, in Room 801. Jeanne said it would be good to check with Yaneth (Scott's wife) before dropping by at the hospital.

2) Bible study continues Tuesday — John Veldhuis said he will continue with Bible study on Zoom, focusing on the book of Genesis. The sessions are on Tuesday nights, starting at 7:30. For more info or for the Zoom link, contact John.

3) Media Justice "dialogue" on immigration Wednesday — Dianne Carroll wanted us to know about a "Digital Dialogue" that the group Media Justice will hold Wednesday night at 7 pm on Zoom. The title of the session is How State and Corporate Collusion Fuels ICE's Deportation Machine. To register for the Zoom link, go to this URL: [bit.ly/DigiDialogue312](https://bit.ly/DigiDialogue312) For a complete description of the session, see the end of this email.

4) VOICE action in Alexandria for affordable housing — Nancy Veldhuis asked that we consider coming to Alexandria City Hall on Saturday at 9:30 am to support VOICE as the group lobbies the Alexandria City Council for a reliable stream of funding for affordable housing in the city. The city hall is at 301 King Street, in the middle of Old Town Alexandria.

5) Books for Women's Prison Book Project — Pat Sodo said she will continue taking donations of used books (or CDs or DVDs) next Sunday at liturgy at Kenmore. She noted that only paperbacks get sent to the women's prison book group; but it's fine to bring hardbacks or old CDs and DVDs. She takes those to a used bookstore for credits to get suitable paperbacks.

6) Discussion of pope's letter on March 23 — Jeanne also let us know that on Sunday March 23 Nova will be discussing Pope Francis's letter sent last month to the US Catholic bishops about the need to support refugees and migrants. The discussion will take place at Kenmore following liturgy. If you want to read the text of the pope's letter, go to this link.

7) Garden work for Ronaldo — Tom Clarkson reminds us that Ronaldo Vail (father of our refugee family from Guatemala) is available for garden work. His schedule at Target varies, so it's best to call him directly at 731-618-1459 to set up a time and day. He welcomes extra work around the garden and home. Please click here for directions to his home.

8) Food donations for AFAC — Finally, please keep those boxes and cans coming: boxes of cold cereal and cans of tuna, vegetables, beans, or other items. All of them get taken to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), which Nova has supported for more than 30 years. AFAC is serving more than 4,000 families every week. The group has noted that with rising food costs, it's been harder to get adequate supplies of canned food. Bringing a can or two of pop-top, low-sodium vegetables along with your box (or two ... three) of cold cereal will help.

The presider and planner for next Sunday's liturgy will be Francis Gargani, CSsR, and Pat Sodo. The scribe for announcements will be Cathy Goldschmidt, who (as always) needs written copies of announcements made. — submitted by Phil and Alicia Cackley

(Dianne's full announcement)

Media Justice "Digital Dialogue"

How State and Corporate Collusion Fuels ICE's Deportation Machine

Wednesday, 3/12 at 7PM

RSVP - [bit.ly/DigiDialogue312](https://bit.ly/DigiDialogue312)

Over the past week, the Trump regime has increased attacks against migrant communities, targeting northern Virginia with raids by ICE and other federal agencies, working with Big Tech corporations and Big Media propaganda to promote the violent rightwing agenda. This is just the latest example of what's been made possible by decades of public officials colluding with the private prison industry and tech corporations to expand the incarceration and deportation system, along with a media propaganda machine, that's now at the disposal of Trump.

Join us for, How State and Corporate Collusion Fuels ICE's Deportation Machine, a Digital Dialogue with organizers and movement lawyers who will be breaking down how communities are resisting the latest attacks from the Trump regime, the role that public officials have played in expanding the weapons he's using, and how propaganda fuels the cycle of violence against migrant communities. We'll also hear about ways organizations are taking action and how you can support them. Join us!

## **FROM MARCH 2:**

### **Calendar:**

**Wednesday, March 5** -- Ash Wednesday service at the Clarksons, 2635 Wooster Ct, Vienna, 22180, at 2:00 PM. Please RSVP to: Clarkson.Jeanne@gmail.com..

**Monday, March 24** - Nova Women's Journey Group will meet from 4-5:30 p.m. on Zoom.

**Sunday, March 30** - Liturgy with the Pax Community at Kenmore.

**Sunday, May 4** - Discussion of Emma Violand-Sanchez's book following liturgy.

Following Communion at today's liturgy, Dan Altman of Northern Virginia RAFT (Resettling Afghan Families Together), briefly discussed the accomplishments as well as the challenges faced by this local nonprofit that, since 2021, has helped approximately 300 Afghan families get settled into their local residences by finding and delivering furniture and providing other household needs. Volunteers have also assisted these families in registering their children for school, in obtaining health care and driver's licenses, and in many other ways. Currently, several members of our own community are helping Afghan newcomers improve their English language skills. Locating housing and helping with rental costs is an ongoing challenge RAFT. To learn more about RAFT and how you may be able to help, visit [www.novaraft.org](http://www.novaraft.org).

From Tom Clarkson:

1. NOVA DIRECTORY: Last Thursday, Feb. 27, Tom sent out a draft copy of the March 2025 NOVA Directory. If you didn't receive that email, please tell Tom by email and he'll send it again: toclarkson@gmail.com. Please review the entries for your family if you haven't already and tell Tom if any corrections are needed. No need to reply if your entries are ok.
2. POSTPONING DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS GUARANTEE FLYERS ON MARCH 6: Given that the Dems in Congress are in a super crisis mode, Tom is postponing this for a couple of months. He'll be in touch with all those who volunteered when he's rescheduled it.
3. GARDEN WORK FOR RONALDO: Ronaldo Vail (father of our refugee family from Guatemala) is available for garden work, however, his schedule at Target varies. Please call Ronaldo directly @ 731-618-1459 to set up a time. He welcomes extra work around the garden and home.

Nova Women's Journey Group: Thirteen Nova women participated in the four-session Women's Winter Retreat facilitated by Gloria Mog using the materials from Jan Richardson's "Women's Christmas Retreat 2025." The group met from January 13-February 3 using a combination of meditation, poetry, art, journaling, sharing and readings to explore themes of the woman's journey, blessings, deep rest, courage, etc. All found the experience nourishing and inspirational and a decision was made to continue meeting once/month on Zoom and to open up the experience to all the women of Nova. Gloria volunteered to provide the Zoom platform but facilitation will be shared. The first meeting will be held Monday, March 24th, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. After that, the group will meet on the first Monday of every month at the same time. The Zoom link will be sent out via the Nova listserv, no need to sign up.

Emma's Book: Emma's memoir *Dreams and Shadows An Immigrant's Journey* will be published in mid-March. Emma is taking orders. For NOVA members, the price is \$20.

Check out Emma's website ([www.emmaviolandsanchez.com](http://www.emmaviolandsanchez.com)) regarding dates where she will also be selling her book at specific locations. Currently it is not being sold on Amazon.

Food for AFAC: As always, don't forget to bring boxes of cold cereal and other food donations to the liturgy at Kenmore on Sundays. NOVA has been connected with the Arlington Food Assistance Center for all of the nonprofit's 35-year existence. AFAC is now serving more than 3,700 families every week. Please remember to bring a box or two of cold cereal, or peanut butter, canned tuna, canned soup (in pop-top cans), plain pasta or canned beans.

The March 9th liturgy will be the First Sunday of Lent. The planners are Gino Correa, OFM and Helen Michie. The scribes will be Alicia and Phil Cackley, who will need any announcement in writing.