

Remain in His love



1973

2023

Celebrating 50 Years!

"We are God's people" - 1 Peter 2:10

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

REV. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR
REV. EDWARD BRESNAHAN, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. JONATHAN BENNETT, PAROCHIAL VICAR
**REV. CEDRIC P. WILSON, ASSISTING PRIEST/
SPANISH MINISTRY**
DEC. RICHARD F. KELLY

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary
Ann Benson, Business Manager
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager
Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister
Maureen Andersen, Liturgical Minister
Johana Brown, Parish Receptionist
Anna Marty, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Ayse Kenner, Mass Intentions
Alison Fram, Director of Young Adult & Family
Ministries/Social Action Ministries
Rebecca Judge, Director of Youth Ministry
Mary Castellano, Director of Social Media
Anna Lisa Licud, Coordinator Marriage Enrichment
Carole Fischl, Co-director of Music
Debbie Doyle, Co-director of Music
Mai Tran, Traditional Choir Director
Sara Prince, Youth Choir Director/Cornerstone Choir
Natacha Hines, Gift Shop

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

Maria Kelly, Principal
Richard Godwin, Assistant Principal
Jen Behan, Preschool Director/Extended Care Director
Shannon Murphy, Administrative Assistant/Registrar
Kim Vu, Business Manager
Mary Helen Chapman, School Secretary

MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS

EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro, A.R., M.R.E.
Maria Ammirati, Religious Education Coordinator
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454-2415



PARISH OFFICE: (703) 455-2400
PARISH FAX: (703) 455-6832
NATIVITY SCHOOL: (703) 455-2300
NATIVITY FAX: (703) 569-8109
PRE-SCHOOL: (703) 455-2300 ext. 136
CCD OFFICE: (703) 455-0372
CCD OFFICE FAX: (703) 455-6832

SUNDAY MASSES: 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass in Spanish
7:00 a.m./9:00 a.m./11:00 a.m./
1:00 p.m./5:30 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: 7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday
12:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. on Saturday

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

RECONCILIATION: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. on Saturday
or, if necessary, by appointment

BAPTISM: For more information and how to schedule a
baptism, please visit our website:
<https://nativityburke.org/baptism/>

MARRIAGE POLICY: Please contact the Church as soon
as you are engaged, and at least six months prior to
your wedding date.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Announcements for the bulletin
must be submitted **in writing** by 9:00 AM on
Tuesday (5 days prior to publication). Please note: this
deadline can change due to holiday office closings.
You may email submissions to
bulletin@nativityburke.org.

WEBMASTER:

Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

A Message from our Pastor Fr. Bob Cilinski



My dear parishioners,

Despite the violence and disruption in Haiti, we are looking forward to breaking ground on the 14th Nativity Village development this year. Nativity Village at Bois-Louroux. Situated between Cap Haitien and the Dominican Republic border, on the north coast of Haiti, the Bois-Louroux project can go forward because conditions in northern Haiti are much calmer than they are near the capital of Port-au-Prince, where gang violence has wreaked havoc on daily life.

When Fr. Richard Martin, Nativity's former pastor, began Operation Starfish in 1998, he could not have thought that his simple idea of saving 50 cents a day during the 40 days of Lent could make such a difference. He wanted to make the Lenten sacrifice more meaningful and help us turn toward the poor. Today, more than 1,500 families in Haiti are living in decent homes, with clean water, sanitation, health care, schools, and small businesses. Operation Starfish has also changed lives in Jamaica, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic.

Fr. Martin's spirit has guided this beautiful ministry for 26 years and continues to inspire us as we make a difference, one family at a time. It has been a blessing for me to have been able to travel to Haiti and see first-hand the good that our parishioners are doing. It has also been a privilege to be able to bring Operation Starfish to Jamaica and Honduras.

I am deeply grateful to Fr. Martin and parishioners for paving the way and so generously supporting this ministry. Our commitment to each other and to the poor brings the Easter spirit of hope to all we encounter. Our Nativity star shines brightly wherever we go.

On this, the 10th anniversary of Fr. Martin's return to God, let us recommit ourselves to making a difference. Let us bring our belief, our practice, our being Christ to others, and our prayer to bear on the needs of the world around us. Let us be thankful for the opportunity to serve God's children, across the street and around the world.

Love and Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

OPERATION STARFISH 1998 – 2024 MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR 26 YEARS



"When we encounter a poor person, we cannot look away, for that would prevent us from encountering the face of the Lord Jesus"
- Pope Francis

For 26 years, the Nativity Catholic Church community has looked toward the poor, across the street and around the world. Here at home, several parish organizations reach out to those in need, following the Gospel call of Matthew 25 to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned. Operation Starfish, our international ministry to the poor, began in 1998, with Fr. Richard Martin's vision to make the Lenten sacrifice more meaningful. By the time Fr. Martin died in 2014, our parish, working with Food For The Poor, had developed 9 Nativity Villages in Haiti and 3 greenhouse projects in the Dominican Republic.

When Fr. Bob Cilinski became Nativity's Pastor, he led an Operation Starfish mission trip to Haiti in 2015 to dedicate Good Shepherd Village in memory of Fr. Martin. He also broke ground on a new medical facility – the "Operation Starfish Clinic," in Good Shepherd Village. Fr. Cilinski returned to Haiti in 2017 to bless the new homes in Nativity Village at Despuzeau and to break ground for a new school there. Fr. Cilinski also initiated Operation Starfish mission trips to Jamaica for Nativity's College and Young Adult Ministry.

Today, there are 13 Nativity Villages in Haiti with a 14th planned for 2024. 1,552 families live in new homes, with clean water, sanitation, education, healthcare, and small businesses. Fish4Hope and Stella Marina have grown out of Operation Starfish to provide specialized aid in fish farming and midwife support. Operation Starfish has provided health centers, hurricane and earthquake relief, large scale reforestation, agricultural projects, deep sea fishing co-ops, cholera relief, hospital equipment, food security, medical student scholarships in Jamaica and Haiti, sewing co-ops, primary school scholarships, and vocational training. We are keeping our gaze firmly fixed on the poor, as Pope Francis calls us to do.

Presently, the people of Haiti are bearing unbelievable violence and turmoil. They are struggling in their day-to-day lives with a lack of food, fuel, and basic needs. Most of this violence is centered around the capital, Port-au-Prince, in the southern part of the country. Our Nativity Villages, for the most part, are intact; gangs have not attacked or infiltrated. Northern Haiti is calmer, so much of our work has shifted to this part of the country.

In 2024, we plan to begin development of Nativity Village at Bois-Louroux, our 14th Nativity Village. We will also continue to fund the operation of St. Anthony Clinic, support our school scholarship program, fund midwife training and ship birthing and newborn kits. We will also continue our medical scholarship programs in Jamaica and Haiti.

Thank you for your continuing strong support for this year's Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA). As of April 25, our pledges and donations amount to \$794,874, but with only about 17 percent of registered families pledging. If you have not yet participated, the Easter Season is still a great time to make a sacrificial offering at any amount that works for you and your family. See www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or just scan the QR code for easy access.



Your support for our BLA helps so many charities, ministries, and programs throughout the Diocese and right here at Nativity. May God bless you for your generosity.

A Message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry



An Easter Prayer
 Good and gracious God,
 Our most glorious Creator,
 As we greet the signs in nature around us:
 Of Spring once again regaling us in bloom,
 In the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted,
 We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of your Son,
 Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time.
 The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality.
 For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason, Light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death.
 As we celebrate, we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the promise given to us,
 By imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, the marginalized, the least among us,
 As we strive to be neighbor to all those we meet.
 We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope.
 We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever. Amen.
(Fr. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, offered at the fourth annual White House Easter Prayer Breakfast on April 8, 2013)

**National Eucharistic Revival 2024
 OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDULGENCES**

We just got exciting news from the Vatican: several key moments in the National Eucharistic Revival are now opportunities to gain a plenary indulgence!
 Anyone who participates in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage (at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on June 8th and 9th) or who attends the 10th National Eucharistic Congress (in Indianapolis from July 17 to 21) will be granted this special remittance of temporal punishment associated with confessed sins (under the usual conditions of an indulgence). That means every stop along the nationwide Pilgrimage route and the Congress event itself are now even greater opportunities for grace than they were before!
 Read the full press release at the USCCB website to find out more about these special indulgences, the Apostolic Blessing that will be imparted at the Congress, and how these graces will flow into the Year of Mission.
 If you have not yet registered for either of these incredible milestones in the Revival, now is the time. Go to <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>

Marriage Enrichment Ministry
Celebrating Marriage
 Couples' Mini-Retreat

with Deacon Richard Kelly

Saturday, May 11th

9 AM- 1:30 PM

Nativity Catholic Church

Mass & Prayer / Brunch / Speaker / Break Out Sessions



REGISTRATION LINK

<https://nativityburke.org/mem-mini-retreat/>

JOIN THE NATIVITY EXTENDED CARE TEAM
*Love working with Children? Creative with fingerpaint?
 Like to sift sand? The following qualifications are necessary:*

- A LOVE of children and a 'Can-Do' Attitude
- Afternoon availability, 2:30pm-6:00pm
- Diocesan compliance to work with kids

To apply, please contact: **Jen Behan, Director at jbehan@nativityschool.org**

**ECHO Food Room Most Needed Items
 Collection this weekend!**

- Choose sizes appropriate for our average family size of four.
- **PLEASE NO GLASS JARS**
- ECHO continues to see a deficit of several thousand pounds a month between food donated and food given to clients. Any donation, large or small, is most gratefully welcomed. Last month we collected 902 lbs!

ECHO 's policy is to not give expired, open or repackaged food to clients. PLEASE do not bring these items!!

Tin Fish (tuna, sardines, salmon etc.), Spaghetti Pasta and Sauce, INSTANT Coffee (many clients do not have coffee makers), Can Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Can Fruit, Bag Rice (Clients prefer white, jasmine or basmati), Instant (Box) Potatoes, Crackers, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, Ramen, Hot Chocolate, can milk, shelf stable milk Can Meat (chicken, Spam, chili, small hams, beef stew etc.), Juice (Bottles or box), Tea (green, herbal or black), Spices (garlic, onion, cinnamon, salt, pepper), Healthy Snacks, Masa (Corn) Flour, Lentils, Bag Beans (black, red or garbanzo preferred), Lemon or Lime Juice, Jelly and Honey, Tortillas, Cooking Oil, Brown Paper Bags, Reusable Grocery Bags, Children's Toothbrushes, Detergent, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Bath Soap, Facial Tissues, Dish Soap, Paper Towels, Band Aids, Baby Wipes, Diapers.

Attention Please!

MASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

MAY 18 & 19

DUE TO OUR CONFIRMATION
SCHEDULE, THE 9:00am MASS
ON SATURDAY, MAY 18th
HAS BEEN MOVED TO 7:30am

THE 1:00pm MASS ON
SUNDAY, MAY 19th
HAS BEEN CANCELLED

YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER CAMPS

Tuesday, June 18 - Friday, June 21



VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Current K-4 graders 8:45am - 12pm | \$40 per camper

CAMP ON THE EDGE

Current 5-8 graders 1:30pm - 4:30pm | \$40 per camper

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Monday June 17 - Friday, June 21

VBC: 8TH GRADERS - ADULTS
COTE: 10TH GRADERS - ADULTS
 \$10 t-shirt fee for teen volunteers*

**Childcare
 provided for
 volunteers!**



Registration is now open on the website
 contact: vbc@nativityburke.org

BLESSED CARLOS ACUTIS EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES EXHIBIT

At Saint Raymond of Penafort Church June 14-16, 2024

This exhibit, along with a first-class relic of Blessed Carlo, will be on display in the Parish Hall (8750 Pohick Road, Springfield, VA) Friday 2:00-7:00pm, Saturday 9:00am-7:00pm and Sunday 9:00am-4:00pm. You can browse through the exhibit at your own pace, take time to venerate the relic, as well as enjoy a 35-minute video on the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis. During these years of Eucharistic Revival, let us take advantage of this opportunity, to not only learn more about this Saint of our times, but to also draw closer to the Real Presence of our Eucharistic Lord.

MOTHER'S DAY CARDS AND MASSES

A Novena of nine Masses will be said during the month of May for Mothers, living and deceased. Spiritual Bouquet cards may be found at the back of the Church and Parish office. Mother's names will be placed on the Altar during the month of May.

NOVENA MASSES

Sunday, May 12	7:00AM
Sunday, May 12	9:00AM
Sunday, May 12	11:00AM
Monday, May 13	7:30AM
Tuesday, May 14	7:30AM
Thursday, May 16	7:30AM
Friday, May 17	7:30AM
Saturday, May 18	9:00AM
Saturday, May 18	7:00PM



The Associates of St. John Bosco - College Nights

Attention Class of 2024! The Associates of St. John Bosco (ASJB), a Catholic non-profit in Northern Virginia founded by Fr. Christopher Vaccaro, will be hosting 5 free College Nights for graduated high school seniors heading to college this summer. 2024 College Night Dates & Locations:

- July 2nd - St. Mark (Vienna)*
- July 11th - St. Theresa (Ashburn)*
- July 16th - Holy Trinity (Gainesville)*
- July 23rd - Basilica of St. Mary (Alexandria)*
- July 30th - St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception (Fredericksburg)*

These events help rising college freshmen network with other Catholics heading to college, and give students the tools to navigate the often difficult transition of faith life in college. Students hear from upperclassmen who give their personal tips and testimonies about how they transitioned to college and maintained a strong faith life. There are small groups divided by students' universities and students walk away with a free bundle of Catholic books called the "Bosco Bundle" to bring to college that will help them deepen their faith while away at school. The events come with a free pizza dinner, too. Registration is FREE! To register, please visit: <https://www.asjb.org/student-registration>.



NATIVITY PLAYERS THEATER MINISTRY LEAP OF FAITH - AUDITIONS MAY 8TH & 9TH

"If you wanna believe, and I believe you do... then start spreadin' the news!" Nativity Players is producing Alan Menken's Leap of Faith July 18-27!

Come join our community as we tell the story of a modern-day Harold Hill (Music Man). Jonas has upped the ante on Harold's mere lobbying for a boys' band; he's a preacher who ostensibly wants to clean out everyone's souls, although he's far more intent in cleaning out their wallets. Can the faith of a child change his hardened heart?

In person auditions are May 8 & 9, virtual auditions are open now! Check out the audition form links on our website at: <https://nativityburke.org/summer-musical/> for all the details! Email Kimberly Siepmann, Director, Nativity Players Theater Ministry at theater@nativityburke.org with any questions.

Please join Father Bob for 18 holes of golf, including driving range, beverages, lunch following play, and awards in our tournament to benefit the youth of Nativity Parish.
The Seventh Annual Nativity tournament is Monday, May 20, 2024 at Westfields Golf Club, Clifton, VA.
 Can't join us that day? Please consider sponsoring a hole or one of our many other sponsorship opportunities.

THE 9TH ANNUAL NATIVITY PARISH GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday May 20, 2024 Westfields Golf Club, Clifton, VA
 TO BENEFIT YOUTH PROGRAMS AT Nativity

Format: Scramble, Captain's Choice
Check-in: 6:45-7:30am
Shotgun Start: 8am
Fee: \$185 per player; \$740 per foursome
Includes: Breakfast, 18-holes of golf, cart, range balls, beverage cart tickets, lunch following play, awards ceremony

Awards: Winning Teams, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Hole in one contest and more!
Available: Mulligans, Raffle Prizes
Website: <https://nativityburke.org/golf/>
Contact: m Sinclair@nativityburke.org
Deadline: May 15, 2024

Marian Bible Study Lunch and Learn!

Bring your own lunch and let's come together in fellowship to deepen our relationship with God through the Blessed Virgin Mary



"Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother" by Dr. Edward Sri is an extraordinary pilgrimage that reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. Filmed on location 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. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her divine Son. Seeing Mary in this way will change you forever. Mary will become a part of your daily life, and in your daily life, you will become more like Christ.

Thursdays from May 2 - May 30 at 1:00 pm after the 12:00 noon Mass and prayers in the Fr. Ready Room

For info or to register, email marriage@nativityburke.org or call/text your name to 571-208-2821

Sick / Homebound Visits

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



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

Monday, May 6th

7:30 am † Anthony Miles Jr.

Tuesday, May 7th

7:30 am † Lech Jasinski
 12:00 pm † Rico G. Robles

Wednesday, May 8th

7:30 am † John Heavy

Thursday, May 9th

7:30 am † Melakou Yoseph
 12:00 pm † David J Lynch

Friday, May 10th

7:30 am † Aida Guardia
 9:00 am † Eric Oetjen

Saturday, May 11th

9:00 am † Denise Oskvarek
 5:00 pm Special Int. for Thinh Tran
 7:00 pm † Debora Rodriguez de Ortiz

Sunday, May 12th

7:00 am Mother's Day Novena
 9:00 am Mother's Day Novena
 11:00 am Mother's Day Novena
 1:00 pm Parishioners
 5:30 pm † Linda Visbeck

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

Couple to Couple League
Postpartum Class
 Sunday, May 5th from 1-3 pm
 St. Raymond of Penafort

Information and Registration:
<https://ccli.powerappsportals.com/en-US/>
 Select "Postpartum|English| Onsite," then enter your zip code.

Annual Multi-Car Raffle

Nativity parishioners continued our winning streak! We sold more tickets than last year and had three winners: one \$5,000 cash prize and two cars, the Ford Bronco and Mustang! Congratulations to our winners. The complete winner's list can be found at <https://allsaintsvachurch.org/giving/car-raffle/>. Thank you again for your generous support of this year's raffle which will benefit the youth ministry and Knights of Columbus charities.

**IN MARY'S FOOTSTEPS
A Group for Widows**

We are a group of women who share the experience of the loss of our beloved husbands and join together in faith and fellowship. Our meetings are on the second Monday of the month at 11:00am in the church "training room". We have gathered for lunches or dinners out, retreats at the Benedictine Monastery, museum tours, etc. Please feel free to join us at our next meeting on May 13th at 11:00am. For further information, please contact Cat Sands at csands@nativityburke.org. May God bless you!

NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

Join the Diocese of Arlington for an adventure to remember!
July 17-21, 2024

FAMILY PACKAGES FOR AS LITTLE AS \$1500!

The Office of Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministries is coordinating a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress. If you have a family and have been looking for a low-cost option to participate in this experience, this is a great solution for you! We have rented a beautiful camp for youth, young adults and families to partake in summer activities during the day and the Eucharistic Congress in the afternoon/evening. Families may choose to join us on the motor coach (at cost) or drive themselves and meet us there!

**Love working with children? Want flexibility?
Consider subbing at Nativity School... Please Join Us!**



We are in need of substitute teachers with the following minimum qualifications: 2-plus years of college - Ability to follow a lesson plan and give effective instructions in the absence of the teacher - Proficiency in maintaining effective classroom management skills - Diocesan-compliant and Successful background check. Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy at (703) 455-2300 and/or smurph@nativityschool.org.

NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY

**AN ORIGINAL NATIVITY MINISTRY DOING GOD'S WORK
BY SERVING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF HIS FLOCK.
WE WORK DISTRIBUTING FOOD, CLOTHING, AND PERSONAL ITEMS
TO THE POOR AND HOMELESS IN D.C. AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA
EVERY SUNDAY MORNING, RAIN OR SHINE.
FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT THE NATIVITY PARISH WEBSITE
OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN DAILY/SUNDAY
RUNS, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN RUBINO AT:
JOHN.ALBERT.RUBINO@GMAIL.COM.**

ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES
Marriage Enrichment Ministry

JOIN US

The Good Shepherd Players present: INTO THE WOODS

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim - Book by James Lapine
(Starring members of the Nativity Players!)
Performances May 10, 11, 17, and 18 at 7:30 PM;
May 12 and 19 at 2:00 PM

Church of the Good Shepherd
9350 Braddock Road, Burke

Tickets: \$22/adult, \$15/student (18 or younger)
Available at the door or at gsmusic.ticketleap.com
VIP wine and cheese pre-show reception on opening night!



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

Please join The Serra Club of Arlington
Holy Hour for Vocations

Friday, May 31, 2024 at 11:00 AM
With Pastor Very Reverend Andrew J. Fisher, V.F.
St. Ambrose Catholic Church
3901 Woodburn Road Annandale, VA 22003
Offered for the Priesthood, Consecrated Life,
And the Perseverance of All Vocations
Please park near the church, not in front of the school.

Attention Please!

MASS INTENTIONS

CALENDAR OPENING

July 1 thru December 31, 2024

The Jul-Dec 2024 Mass Intentions
Calendar will open on

Tuesday, May 14 at 9:00am.

We are limiting the requests to
5 intentions per family/household per
calendar year. Visit the parish office
or email akenner@nativityburke.org to
schedule intentions. Please be patient &
courteous as we try to honor all requests.

<https://nativityburke.org/mass-intentions/>

CATECHISTS NEEDED FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR!

Are you looking for a way to deepen your faith while making a meaningful impact in your community? We invite you to join our vibrant parish family as a volunteer catechist, where you can share the gift of your faith and inspire others on their spiritual journeys.

Why Become a Catechist?

Share the richness of your faith with eager minds and open hearts. Guide and support learners of all ages in their spiritual understanding and growth. Connect with a community of faith that values compassion, learning, and spiritual nourishment.

Experience the joy and fulfillment that comes from serving and teaching others.

Your Role a Catechist:

You will facilitate faith-based lessons and discussions using provided guidelines and materials. Engage students from Grade K-HS through stories, activities and thoughtful dialog. Create a warm, inclusive, and supportive learning environment for all.

Build and strengthen our community through faith, hope and love.

NOTE: ALL VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN MUST COMPLETE DIOCESAN PAPERWORK AND GO THROUGH A BACKGROUND CHECK PROCESS.

PLEASE VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE: NATIVITYBURKE.ORG TO SIGN-UP, OR SCAN THE QR-CODE:



THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO TOUCH HEARTS AND CHANGE LIVES, INCLUDING YOUR OWN. JOIN US IN THIS BEAUTIFUL MISSION TO SPREAD FAITH AND LOVE.

nativityburke.org

-Religious Education

Archdiocese for the Military Services 30th Annual Memorial Mass - May 18th, 2024

At the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception 4th Street & Michigan Avenue, NE Washington, D.C. 20017 on 1566 Saturday, 18 May 2024, Mass Time: 4:30 pm.

Honoring the men and women of the Armed Forces Principal Celebrant and Homilist The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D., Archbishop Parking is limited. Car pooling advised.

Military personnel are encouraged to be in uniform Dress: Civilian - Business Attire Military - Service Dress To request seating or to obtain additional information, please visit: <https://www.milarch.org/memorial-mass/laity-registration>

TWO WORDS: "THE NATIVITY YARD SALE IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!"

During your annual spring clean-up and before tossing out your former "treasures", please consider storing them in a corner of your garage or basement for donation to the Annual Yard Sale. The Nativity Annual Yard Sale for Charity sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Father Vincent S. Sikora Council 7992, is Saturday, June 29, 2024. Collections will begin Saturday, June 22, 2024 and continue through Wednesday June 26, 2024. Donations are tax-deductible and sincerely appreciated.



The Knights of Columbus Council #7992 congratulates all the participants in this year's Basketball Free Throw Championship Contest

We proudly announce that four Nativity parishioners finished in the top three of their age groups at the recently completed Virginia state finals held at Benedictine College in Richmond, VA on March 23. Congratulations to the following winners at the state finals:

- Alivia Pace Girls 13-Year-Old 3rd Place*
- Tyler Batrla Boys 13-Year-Old 2nd Place*
- Audrey Busch Girls 14-Year-Old 2nd Place*
- Jackson Lord Boys 14-Year-Old 1st Place*

The Knights of Columbus thank all the participants in this year's contest and encourage others to join the fun next year. The Free Throw Championship event is held every January with the first round taking place at the Nativity gym.

The Car Ministry accepts vehicles, reconditions them and then provides them as a gift to low-income families referred by pastors and social agencies. Click on the "Donate your Car" link on the Car Ministry's website, www.carministry.org, or contact the charity's Director, Larry Gordon at 703.237.8479 for more info.

Marian Homes needs your support!

Marian Homes Inc., a Catholic, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing safe, supportive living environments for intellectually disabled adults, announces the purchase of its ninth home in Virginia. The latest purchase is in Winchester, VA, representing an expansion out of the Northern Virginia area. This significant expansion is part of a broader Capital Campaign to raise \$250,000 for the purchase and refurbishment of the home, which will accommodate four to five intellectually disabled adults seeking independent living solutions.

Founded in 1996 by the St. Mary of Sorrows Council 8600 of the Knights of Columbus, Marian Homes, Inc., has been a cornerstone in the community, working closely with donors, partners, and local government agencies to create living spaces that currently serve 40 individuals. The organization's commitment to enhancing the lives of intellectually disabled adults by providing them a place to live independently as their parents age is more critical than ever.

Can you help?

We need hearts and hands. If you would like to volunteer with this organization, please contact Lisa Anthony-Price (marketing@marianhomes.org). To donate to our Capital Campaign, navigate to <https://www.marianhomes.org>. Thank you for your prayers and care!

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

WORKCAMP 2024
CONTRACTORS NEEDED

WorkCamp is a week-long service opportunity for youth of our Parish to serve those in need throughout the Diocese. We are seeking people with home repair and maintenance skills who are willing to commit some of their time and talents to teaching young people and improving the lives of fellow Virginians in need.



DECKS, RAMPS, WINDOWS, FLOORING, ROOFS, & MORE
NO PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

JUNE 24-27 IN WINCHESTER, VA

To volunteer, contact our WorkCamp team (wc@nativityburke.org)
Visit arlingtondiocese.org/workcamp for more info

YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION

Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm

HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS

GIRLS: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, weekly

GUYS: Mondays, 7:00-8:30pm,
2x/month



EDGE: GRADES 6-8

Alternating Sundays | 3:30-5:00pm
& Fridays | 7:00-8:30 pm

EDGE: END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, MAY 10 FROM 7:00-8:30PM

All middle schoolers (grades 6-8) are welcome to join us for our final celebration of the school year. Come for a night of flag football on the field, a water balloon fight, and some sweet treats to end the night! Please register for our Edge program in advance (these forms only need to be filled out once per year).

[See website for full schedule](#)

Before attending, please register for the 2023-2024 year of ministry using our free, online forms.

✉ cym@nativityburke.org 📷 [@nativitycym](https://www.instagram.com/nativitycym)

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

~ SUMMER CAMPS ~

JULY 8-19, 2024

Manassas, VA | Burke, VA

SpotlightSummerCamps.com

BROADWAY SPOTLIGHT

DRAMA BOOTCAMP

ARTS & CRAFTS FUN

ART EXPLORER

Nativity Catholic Church

“Dream to Rise”

Inspirational Book Talk by Author & Nativity Parishioner



Cynthia Encinas-Concordia

Transformational Life Coach, Published Author, & International Speaker

Cynthia is excited to share her story and book “Dream to Rise” with our Nativity community. Come and hear Cynthia’s inspirational talk!

Monday, May 20 | 7:00 - 9:00 pm | Fr Ready Room

Immobilized by trauma, Cynthia found a way to break free and move forward. She shares her notes on her transformational journey into manifesting her life dream. Cynthia has become a force of influence in her career as a life coach and intends to expand the horizon of her positive impact in her books.

Learn more about Cynthia: www.dreamtorise.info



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



Nativity Auction: Dancing Through the Decades The Time of Our Lives

We danced through the decades – the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s – as part of a fantastic evening of faith, fun, and fellowship! We are so grateful to Auction Chairs Samye Scaman and Lissett Lineberry, and their brilliant team of parents and staff for their tireless work curating lists of donations and donors, arranging the catering, flowers, live and silent auction items, including sponsorships, technology, food, events, experiences, raffles, class baskets, decorations, and more! Catching up with old friends, making new ones, spreading joy, ensuring our children’s future – it was a night to be remembered. And photographed. Take a peek!



Check out our Facebook post at – /nativityschoolburke, where we have additional photos posted.

Upcoming Dates At-A-Glance!

- May 6 - Teacher Appreciation Week Begins
- May 7 - 8th Grade Field Trip
- May 9 - Kindergarten Field Trip
- May 9 - Spanish Exam, 8th Grade
- May 10 - May Crowning (after Mass)
- May 13 - Band Concert, 2 p.m.
- May 18 - Confirmation
- May 20 - Shakespeare Week
- May 20 - Parish Golf Tournament

Join us at Nativity to see how your child would spend his/her days here - learning, praying, sharing, loving, and laughing. We may be just the school for which you’ve been searching!

Yes, Catholic education is worth the investment!

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

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



Council Meetings - 1st and 3rd Tuesday. First meeting is a business meeting, the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation. Rosary 7:15 PM; meeting at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows. Meet in the Nativity school cafeteria.

Linktree Universal Sign-up Link - Volunteer for an event! Scroll down to view all events.
https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992.

11 May Blood Drive: Donate Blood: INOVA will be hosting the spring blood drive at St. Raymond on May 11th. If you can donate blood, volunteer on Link Tree.

11 May Blood Drive: K of C volunteers to assist. Volunteer on Link Tree.

13 May, 7 PM in the main church Exemplification Ceremony: Fellow Knights, your presence is requested. Please take this opportunity to welcome & support our newest KofC, Council 7992 members as they complete their 3rd degree (no SUG).

18 May, Confirmation Celebration Day: Nativity Knights assisting with prep, assist, of cookies and drink for childrens memorable event. Volunteer on Link Tree.

19 May, Knights Wives Appreciation Dinner: *Seating is Limited - By signing up you agree to the financial commitment. Volunteer on Link Tree.

30 May (Thursday), Field Day BBQ: Grill Masters wanted. Volunteer on Link Tree.

1 & 2 June. St. Lucy Food Drive: Blue Bags Out. Volunteer on Link Tree.

7 June, School End of Year BBQ: Volunteer on Link Tree.

8 June. St. Lucy Food Drive Food drop off: You assist unloading/loading food donations. Volunteer on Link Tree.

13 May, 7:00pm in the main church Exemplification Ceremony: Fellow Knights, your presence is requested. Please take this opportunity to welcome & support our newest KofC, Council 7992 members as they complete their 3rd degree (no SUG).

19 May, Knights Wives Appreciation Dinner: *Seating is Limited - By signing up you agree to the financial commitment. Volunteer on Link Tree.

27 & 28 April, KOVAR After Mass Collection: Volunteer on Link Tree.

19 May, Wives Appreciation Dinner: Link Tree link coming soon.

7 June, School End of Year BBQ: SUG is coming soon.

Nativity Yard Sale is on Sat, 29 June. We will have several volunteer opportunities on separate, yet equally important SUGs. Please consider volunteering.

Yard Sale Area Leads: Dedicated coordinators, area leads, and assistant area leads. To make the yard sale run as efficiently as possible, we are asking area leads or assistant leads to commit to supporting the collection period as well as the date of the sale. Volunteer on Link Tree.

Yard Sale Collections: The collection period will run from June 22th through June 26st. SUG is coming soon.

Yard Sale Tent raising: Needs brawns and brains & maybe a spectator or two for encouragement. SUG is coming soon.

Yard Sale date of sale: Too many needs to list. SUG is coming soon.

Parents Prepared

What's Around the Corner for your Child Going to College?



Presented by:



Associates of
SAINT JOHN BOSCO

Join Us!

Who: For the Parents of Junior and Senior Highschoolers

When: May 14, 2024 @ 7PM

Where: Basilica of St. Mary Lyceum (313 Duke Street)

To attend for free, please register at www.asjb.org/parents-prepared.

The college campus is vying for the souls of our Catholic young people. Come learn about the current situation on college campuses all across the country, and how you as a parent can prepare now to help your child faithfully live out their next four years of college.

MASS AND HEALING PRAYER SERVICE

Tuesday, May 28, Mass and Healing Prayer Service is scheduled for 7:30pm at St. Mark Catholic Church, 9970 Vale Road, Vienna, Virginia. Fr. John Melmer of St. John the Beloved Church of McLean will celebrate. Confessions will be available. This liturgy comes through the diocesan Catholic Healing Ministry. For more information, contact Grace Sims, 703-981-4620.

HAVEN OF NORTHERN VA WORKSHOP

Haven is a nonprofit, nonsectarian community organization of trained volunteers that offers emotional support to the bereaved, the seriously ill, the dying and to their families and friends.

Haven also provides education to the community about the needs of those who are grieving.

Haven will be holding the following workshop:

SIBLING LOSS WORKSHOP

New workshop

Saturday, May 18, 2024

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Space is limited

For information: Call 703-941-7000

Email: havenofnova@verizon.net

Don McGrath, Director of Public Relations

Haven of Northern Virginia

4606 Ravensworth Road

Annandale, VA 22003

571-612-0728

havenofnova@verizon.net



BIBLE STUDIES AT NATIVITY PARISH

Tuesday morning Bible Study: We meet from 10:00am-11:30am in the Fr. Ready room. This year we are looking at the Gospel and readings for Sunday, seeking to find within something which touches our lives and/or the world around us. Contact Miya Johnson miyajohnson@verizon.net.

Tuesday evening Young Adult Bible Studies: 6 weeks in small groups. At different times throughout the year, we offer 6-week long Bible studies where we encounter Jesus through the Gospels. We read three chapters of Scripture each week and come together to talk about it. We put you into a group and each group chooses where to meet, usually at a local restaurant or coffee shop. Register at <https://nativityburke.org/ya-bible-study/> Contact Alison Fram: afam@nativityburke.org.

Wednesday morning and evening, Walking With Purpose: Meeting in person. Walking with Purpose is a study program that aims to help bring women closer to Christ through Scripture. Meets weekly in person on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Registration for Fall 2024 will be available in July 2024. Visit <https://nativityburke.org/www/> for details about the ministry or contact wvwnativity@gmail.com with questions.

Thursday evening Bible Study: Meeting in person virtually. Currently studying the Old Testament Book of Tobit, featuring the Angel Raphael, written a few hundred years before the birth of Jesus. Meets each Thursday from 7:30 – 9:00pm in person in the school's Art Room and virtually. Contact Deacon Dick Kelly at Deaconrfk@aol.com.

Friday morning Women's Bible Study: Meetings are Friday Mornings from 10:00am -12:00 noon in the Father Ready room. We are studying Galatians (Jan/Feb 2024) and the Gospel of Mark (Mar/Apr 2024). Spring sessions will be in person. Winter session will be on Zoom. Join us for prayer, study, and fellowship! Register for the next session at <https://nativityburke.org/womens-bible-study-registration/>. Contact Camille Pryor at wbs@nativityburke.org.

Viernes por la noche Estudio Bíblico: El estudio bíblico en español "Little Rock" es un programa conducido por el Hno. Pedro Del Aguila y tres asistentes. Este ministerio está en nuestra parroquia de Natividad desde 2014, alentando a los fieles a tener una mejor visión de la Iglesia Católica y crear en ellos un interés mas profundo en las sagradas Escrituras. Horario: Viernes de 7:00–9:00 pm | De Septiembre 8, 2023 a Junio 7, 2024. Lugar: Salón Fr. Ready Este ciclo estaremos estudiando: El evangelio según San Juan y las Cartas. Contactarse: [Elba Pfeifer, elbitabonita@aol.com](mailto:elbitabonita@aol.com).

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

Saturday morning Men's Prayer and Reflection Group: Meeting in-person/virtually. Men of all ages! We hear the scriptures every Sunday, but to what extent do we understand what God is telling us and how He is enriching our very lives today? Join us in reading, researching, and reflecting on Sunday scriptures and discussing how it relates to our lives and helps us become better Catholic men, husbands, dads, family members, friends, parishioners, citizens, and above all, intentional disciples of Christ. Enjoy the fellowship! Meet Saturdays from 8:00am - 9:00am in the Training/Cry Room or Virtually. Drop-ins are always welcome! Contact Rick Loffredo [rickloffredo@outlook.com](mailto:rlickloffredo@outlook.com).

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ!" St. Jerome

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

6th Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 | Ps 98:1-4 | 1 Jn 4:7-10 | Jn 15:9-17

Pray: My Lord and my God, abide in me, dwell in me, work with me, and love others through me so my joy will be complete. Amen.

Know Christ, Love Christ, and Love Christ in Others.

"Love one another as I have loved you," says Jesus. At the heart of all Christian faith are the words of the apostle John, who says that God's very being is love. "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him." In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "You are to love one another....it is I who chose you."

Has God chosen us to love everyone? Some people are easy to love, especially those who act and think like us. At times, though, it can be difficult to show love towards family and friends we generally like, let alone those outside our circle of friendship. Why is this? The main reason we have trouble loving others is sin, both ours and the sin of those we are trying to love. Without the power and grace of God, we can be very selfish. Without God's grace, it's easier for us to love ourselves and prioritize our own time, wants, needs, and narrow-minded wills than to love others through the eyes of God, whose holy will is always in our best interest.

Jesus never promised that love would be easy. He showed love and compassion to everyone, even those who mocked and hated Him. He embodied love in all His words and deeds, showing love back to those who hurt Him and those nobody else seemed to care about. He especially loved the poor, vulnerable, marginalized, and excluded. Jesus was unafraid to show love by setting



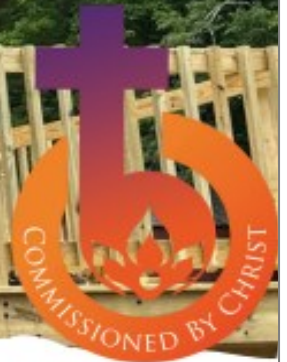
healthy boundaries, sharing hard truths with the lost, and giving correction and forgiveness to those who repented to direct them on the right path.

God's love is divine, and we are mere humans with too much reliance on our feelings and selfish

attitudes, so how can we possibly love everyone as God commands? God demonstrated His love for us through the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, His only Son, who suffered, died, and rose again to save us. He showed us that love is a sacrifice of ourselves for others. The more we know Jesus, the more we love Him, and we will want to love Christ as reflected in the faces of others. Every time we receive Christ's Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist and we trust in the Holy Spirit to guide us, Jesus strengthens us to love as He loves.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † How have you experienced God's love for you? How have you seen God's love revealed in the lives of others?
- † How can you give the love of Christ to someone this week? How can we love others by sharing Christ's truth and hope?
- † How does loving others fulfill our joy in the Lord?
- † How does receiving the Eucharist help us to love others better?



SHORT TERM MISSIONS
LIFELONG FAITH

AUTHENTIC CATHOLIC MISSION TRIP FOR ADULTS IN FREDERICK COUNTY, VA

JUNE 29 - JULY 2, 2024

Deadline to register June 1

What?

Serve the poor in our local communities! CBC is partnering with the Diocese of Arlington Office of Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministries for a post-WorkCamp mission trip to help diocesan contractors with remaining construction projects and clean-up at sites.

Who?

This domestic mission trip is open to all adults ages 18 and up.

How?

Fr. Stephen Vaccaro will serve as chaplain and veteran CBC leader Chuck O'Hern will be the mission team leader. Registration includes lodging and meals at San Damiano Retreat Center.



More info & to register go to www.cbc-missions.org
Questions? Email info@commissionedbychrist.org

Blessed Carlo Acutis
First Class Relic &
**EUCCHARISTIC
MIRACLES OF
THE WORLD**

**Saint Raymond of Peñafort
8750 Pohick Road
Springfield, VA 22153
Parish Hall**

June 14-16, 2024

View the exhibit:

Friday, June 14	2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 15	9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 16	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Carlo Acutis started cataloging Eucharistic Miracles around the world when he was just 11 years old and wrote at the time, "The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of Heaven." He then asked his parents to start taking him to all the places of the Eucharistic miracles, and two and half years later the project was completed.

He researched over 136 Eucharistic miracles that occurred over the centuries in different countries around the world, and have been acknowledged by the Church and collected them into a virtual museum. Besides creating a website to house this virtual museum, he helped create panel presentations that have traveled around the world. Carlo is the youngest contemporary person to be beatified. He used his gifts to share these Eucharistic Miracles with us all!



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

DIOCESE OF
ARLINGTON
JUBILEE
FEST



● FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES! ●

REMEMBER
REJOICE
RENEW

JUNE 8
3:45 - 9:30 PM

MASS
MUSIC
FOOD

WARREN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA



Registration required to receive complimentary food.
arlingtondiocese.org/jubilee-fest



MASS TO PRAY FOR HEALING OF VICTIMS/ SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

CELEBRATED BY BISHOP BURBIDGE

JUNE 20, 2024 AT 6:30PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
830 23rd St S
Arlington, VA 22202

Reception to follow in Parish Hall

ALL OF THE FAITHFUL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

The Diocese of Arlington's Office of Victim Assistance seeks to extend the loving compassion of Christ to victims/survivors of sexual abuse throughout their healing. If you are, or someone you know is, a victim/survivor of child sexual abuse by clergy, an employee, or a volunteer of the Diocese of Arlington, please contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator to report an allegation and receive assistance.

The Office of Victim Assistance offers outreach, support, and assistance to victims/survivors to address individual needs for healing. Please contact the office for more information.



Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington



Frank Moncher, PhD
Victim Assistance Coordinator



Alejandra Shapero, MA
Program Assistant

(703) 841-2530

victimassistance@arlingtondiocese.org



**ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE
MUSIC MINISTRY**

THE ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:

CHRISTUS VINCIT

THE MAJESTY OF THE ORGAN

MASTERPIECES OF THE 18TH, 19TH, AND 20TH CENTURIES

SUNDAY, MAY 19 | 4:00 PM



MICHAEL MURPHY ORGANIST

Performing concert favorites by Bach, Mendelssohn, Widor, Langlais and more. The program will also include a series of organ chorale preludes from Advent through Easter.

Accompanied by the
Saint Andrew the Apostle
Traditional Choir



ADMISSION IS FREE. DONATIONS WELCOME.

A MEET-THE-ARTISTS RECEPTION WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL FOLLOW THE CONCERT IN THE PARISH HALL.

**ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
6720 UNION MILL ROAD, CLIFTON, VIRGINIA**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (703) 817-1770 OR VISIT
WWW.ST-ANDREW.ORG/CONCERTS**





17th Annual Pops Camp

For rising 5th-9th graders

Monday - Friday, August 5-9, 2024

Friday - 11 a.m. concert/potluck

For rising 5th - 9th strings and band students
with at least one year of instruction.

- **Pops \$125: 9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Daily itinerary includes full group and sectional rehearsals plus snack.**
- **Jazz Studies \$50: 8:30–9:30 a.m. Quite popular secondary offering that introduces improvisational techniques while preparing music for concert.**

Register using the QR code.

Questions? Contact Mrs. Jan Siegfried at
jsiegfried@paulvi.net



St. Paul VI Catholic High School

42341 Braddock Rd, Chantilly, VA 20152



Cristo está vivo! No lo dejes en el sepulcro... Reflexiones Pascua

Para muchos Cristo ha perdido su actualidad, no tiene nada que enseñar a los hombres tan avanzados de hoy.

Por: P. José Luis Richard | Fuente: Catholic.net

La memoria del hombre no es infalible. Existe la famosa curva del olvido: después de aprender algo, poco a poco el tiempo lo oscurece y confunde y quizá hasta lo borra.

Algo así parece que ha pasado con la imagen de Cristo. Ha sufrido esa misma curva del olvido. Muchos hombres aún distinguen una imagen más o menos clara de Cristo aunque algo desfigurada. Otros la ven ya un poco borrosa. Algunos la han perdido. Hoy Cristo nos pregunta la opinión que de Él tiene el mundo como aquel día preguntó a sus discípulos en Cesarea de Filipo: ¿Quién dice la muchedumbre que soy yo?



También nosotros tendríamos que responderle: "los hombres dicen que eres Elías o uno de los antiguos profetas". Hablan de Cristo como si se tratara de un monumento histórico o de un personaje legendario. Para muchos hombres Cristo ha perdido su actualidad. No ejerce atractivo en el mundo. Su doctrina ha pasado de moda. No tiene nada que enseñar a los hombres tan avanzados de hoy.

Otros comparan a Cristo con Juan el Bautista. Lo creen demasiado sobrio y difícil, demasiado austero. Les parece demasiado exigente y su doctrina muy pesada para los hombres de hoy. O quizá ellos son demasiado cómodos y buscan llegar a la cima sin moverse ni sudar. Ciertamente reconocen la validez de su doctrina pero no se animan a hacerla propia.

Preferirían alcanzar a Cristo más fácilmente. Ser virtuosos, pero sin esfuerzo. Desearían que Cristo no hubiera hablado de cruz, que se hubiera limitado a contarles esas cosas tan bonitas del cielo, del banquete, de los lirios del campo...

En cambio, Pedro exclama, jubiloso, su experiencia de Cristo: Tú eres el Cristo, el Hijo de Dios vivo.

No sabe bien todavía cómo ha llegado a esa conclusión pero su corazón asiente a lo que acaba de decir. Al inicio él había seguido a Cristo atraído por su liderazgo, su personalidad. El rostro de Cristo irradiaba alegría y atractivo. Nadie como Él de íntegro: buscaban prenderlo pero no encontraban falta alguna en él. Ninguno tan recio y varonil y, al mismo tiempo, tan cariñoso con los niños y bondadoso con los enfermos y pecadores. Sabía apreciar mejor que nadie la belleza de una flor, del lago, del cielo...

Después Jesús había confirmado su fe incipiente con imponentes milagros, le había enseñado, orientado... incluso le había corregido varias veces. También le había puesto a prueba alguna vez, pero su amistad se había mantenido firme: "Señor, ¿a quién iremos? Sólo Tú tienes palabras de vida eterna" (Jn 6, 68).

Y ahora que Jesús se enfrenta con la hostilidad y el rechazo y ha tenido que abandonar Jerusalén, él le vuelve a reiterar su fe y su adhesión. Pero en esta ocasión, sus palabras denotan ya mayor profundidad y emoción: Tú eres el Cristo, el Hijo de Dios vivo.

Tres experiencias de Cristo. Tres fotos. Pero válida sólo la que sacó Pedro. Los otros se la sacaron a un fantasma, no al Cristo auténtico.

Cristo está vivo. No luchamos por una figura histórica solamente. Como hace veinte siglos, Él es motivo de amor y de odio. Contra Él chocan las olas de la humanidad y en Él se dividen las vidas de los hombres.

Las bendiciones de su amor

10 de mayo • Sexto Domingo de Pascua

Miren cómo se manifestó el amor de Dios entre nosotros...1 Juan 4:9

UNA DE LAS PRIMERAS canciones que aprendí decía: "Sé que Jesús me ama, porque la Biblia me lo dice...". Es una melodía sencilla con un mensaje sencillo, pero allí está la verdad que da sentido y propósito a nuestra vida. El amor de Dios se nos revela por Jesucristo y la Sagrada Escritura.

Esa lección de los niños puede haber sido el comienzo de mi vida como cristiano, pero desde entonces he continuado recibiendo la bendición de una serie inagotable de revelaciones que me muestran una y otra vez lo infinito del amor de Dios: desde la relación con mi esposa y nuestro matrimonio de 28 años hasta nuestros dos hermosos hijos llenos de fe y las bendiciones de amigos que nunca dejan de desafiarme y afirmar mi fe mientras compartimos una buena conversación y comidas alrededor de la mesa. De todas estas maneras, y de muchas más, Dios sigue revelándose y me siento bendecido.

Dios, gracias por todas las maneras en que te revelas.

Steve Givens

Hechos de los Apóstoles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 • Salmo 98:1-4 • 1 Juan 4:7-10 • Juan 15:9-17

¡VAYA AMOR EL TUYO, SEÑOR!

Un amor de ayer, pero que se manifiesta hoy:
en cada persona y en cada acontecimiento,
en el rico y en el pobre,
en el que te busca y en el que te rechaza.

Un amor, el tuyo Señor,
que se ofrece sin imponerse
que se deja notar sin arrogancia alguna.

¡VAYA AMOR EL TUYO, SEÑOR!
Del cielo baja y en beneficio de la tierra.

No es un amor cualquiera
No es amor que se deja vencer
No es amor que pretender convencer
Es amor que sacia y hace revivir
Es amor que levanta y da seguridad
Es amor que nos injerta en el mismo cielo
Sí; Señor.

No es amor que caduca,
Tu amor es imperecedero
No conoce límites ni razas
No se fija en la riqueza ni en la pobreza
Simplemente cae...en donde se necesita

¡VAYA AMOR EL TUYO, SEÑOR!

A nadie deja indiferente
Todo lo ocupa y todo lo llena
A todos responde con palabras oportunas
Es un amor que, previamente, ha sido amado
Con amor que desciende del cielo
Con amor que se prolonga en la tierra
Con amor que, a través de los hombres,
está llamado a ser amor y más amor.

¡Gracias, Señor!

Tú amor nos hace bien
Tu amor es imperativo para ofrecer el nuestro
Tu amor es camino para encontrar el nuestro
Tu amor es lección para enseñar el nuestro
Ámame, Señor, y sólo así
podré seguir ofreciendo lo que a Ti más te gusta:
amor y más amor.

Amén.

Javier Leoz



APRENDE TU FE

Abiertos a Dios

Reflexiones para el cristiano de hoy
Este día puede ser totalmente diferente. Basta con
acercarme al Evangelio y escuchar...

Por: P. Fernando Pascual LC | Fuente: Catholic.net

La vida humana está llena de
paradojas. Hay señales de
bondad, pero también signos
de odio y violencia. Hay
médicos eficaces, pero también
enfermedades incurables. Hay
personas generosas y justas,
pero también quienes
destruyen familias y calumnian
sin piedad.



Ante una vida tan confusa, donde tras momentos de luz
encontramos túneles de angustia, necesitamos abrirnos
a algo, a Alguien, que dé esperanza.

Sólo cuando reconocemos que hay un Dios bueno, que
la Justicia triunfará sobre el mal, que la misericordia
puede perdonar los pecados, empezamos a respirar un
aire nuevo.

Necesitamos vivir abiertos a Dios: a su ternura, a su
paciencia, a su paternidad, a su hermosura, a su interés
continuo y discreto por todos y cada uno de sus hijos.
Sólo si permitimos que Dios entre en nuestras almas
seremos capaces de dejar a un lado preocupaciones que
asfixian, trabajos que esclavizan, miedos que paralizan,
angustias que deprimen.

Vivir abiertos a Dios significa, sobre todo, descubrir su
acción en la historia humana, su humilde venida entre
nosotros con la Encarnación del Hijo. "Y el Verbo se
hizo carne, y habitó entre nosotros, y hemos
contemplado su gloria, gloria que recibe del Padre
como Hijo único, lleno de gracia y de verdad" (Jn
1,14).

Desde entonces no sólo hay milagros (ciegos, cojos,
paralíticos curados), sino una certeza: el amor es más
fuerte que el pecado, la vida ha vencido a la muerte.
Este día puede ser completamente diferente. Basta con
acercarme al Evangelio y escuchar. Entonces dejaré
entrar a Dios, me abriré a su Amor, daré pasos nuevos
que me unan a la gran familia de los que se dejan
purificar por la Sangre del Cordero que murió y
resucitó por mí.

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May 2024

Church of the Nativity

Rev. Robert C. Cilinski, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Athanasius of Alexandria

Born a Christian in Egypt,

St. Athanasius became a priest and a great

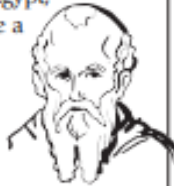
defender of the Catholic faith.

Recognized for his intelligence and holiness, he was chosen

to be secretary to Bishop Alexander of Alexandria, and later succeeded him as bishop. Because of the terrible persecutions and political climate, he was

exiled several times during his office. For the rest of his life, St. Athanasius worked to defend the divinity of Christ.

He died in 373.



Stress and surrender

Stress can result from feeling powerless in difficulties, yet change isn't always up to us. Knowing when to step back and surrender can actually bring peace. Turning to God with trust gives us the power to navigate life's challenges with faith and serenity.

"St. Joseph the Worker stands as a symbol of quiet strength and faithfulness, teaching us that in the ordinariness of our work, we honor God in profound ways." Pope Francis



Spread the Gospel like Our Lady

On the feast of the Visitation (May 31), we celebrate when Mary carried the Good News of our salvation to Saints Elizabeth and Zechariah – that God took on our humanity to fulfill His promise of salvation. Today, we're also called to bring the same Good News as Mary did:

Be filled with Christ's presence: Jesus indwells in us (John 15:5) to empower us for mission. This is accomplished through the Sacraments – Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation. We need to offer God our open, receptive, and attentive hearts.

Become a quiet witness: Mary "kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). Emulate her quiet witness by living with deep faith and

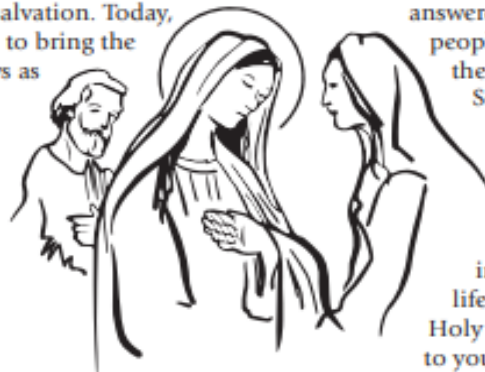
trust in God's plan, letting your actions demonstrate the strength of your beliefs.

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord: Mary's *Magnificat* recalls the ways God answered the needs of His people, culminating in the coming of His Son. Can you articulate your own

Magnificat – recounting God's loving intervention in your life? If not, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal it to you so you can share

it with others.

Serve with humble love: After receiving the news that she was to become the mother of the eternal King, Mary rushed to St. Elizabeth's side to serve her. Look for ways to imitate our humble Queen. Serve with love.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why is Pentecost the "birthday of the Church?"

Pentecost is referred to as the "birthday of the Church" because it marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, empowering them to preach the Gospel across nations, effectively initiating the spread of

Christianity. This event, occurring fifty days after Easter, symbolizes the Church's emergence as a global community united under the teachings of Christ. It celebrates the moment when the Apostles began to baptize thousands, leading to the rapid growth of the Christian faith.



Four steps to inner peace

In the Catholic tradition, developing inner peace is deeply intertwined with spiritual practices and faith in God's plan. This journey involves key elements that help us find serenity and resilience amidst life's challenges.

Prayer is fundamental. Through regular prayer, we communicate with God, seeking guidance and strength. Heartfelt prayer fosters a deep sense of connection with God, helping us to alleviate anxiety and promote tranquility.

Sacraments are vital. Participation in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, are direct encounters with God's grace, which cleanse,



heal, and fortify the soul against the struggles of daily life.

Listen for God's voice. Reading and meditating on the Scriptures provides insights and divine wisdom, helping us to align our thoughts and actions with God's will, thereby fostering a peace that transcends understanding.

Love is key. Jesus asked us to practice forgiveness and charity, which heal and build relationships, creating communities of support and love. Living out these values daily contributes to personal and communal peace, reflecting the Catholic approach to nurturing a peaceful heart.

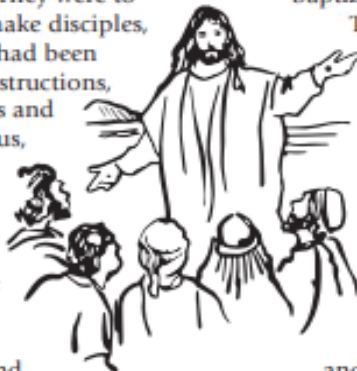
from Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20, The Holy Trinity

Jesus appeared to the Apostles on the mountain in Galilee to give them their final instructions. They were to go forth, baptize, and make disciples, and to teach what they had been taught. These are our instructions, too. Once we meet Jesus and experience His love for us, we can't keep Him to ourselves. We must proclaim Him.

Jesus also revealed to the Apostles, and to the crowd gathered with them, that God is a Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — three Divine Persons united in love. The belief that God is three, yet one, is distinct to

Christianity. When we became members of the Church, we were baptized in the name of the Trinity.



The Trinity is a mystery we may not fully understand, but we can still live in its love and power. We proclaim our faith in it whenever we make the Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Our ultimate goal is to follow Christ into the eternal life of the Trinity.

Q & A Do we have to pray the Rosary every day?

Praying a daily Rosary is not required but it is recommended. It is a meditative prayer that facilitates a deeper engagement with the mysteries of Christ's life, alongside the intercessory role of the Virgin Mary.

St. Dominic, who founded the Dominican Order, promoted the Rosary and credited praying the Rosary with ridding the Church of the Albigensian heresy. Pope St. Pius V attributed the



miraculous victory of Christian forces at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571 to the Rosary. Since then, many popes have urged us to pray this prayer.

The repetitive nature of the Rosary's prayers, such as the Hail Mary, fosters a meditative state that can lead to a sense of peace. This repetition is not just a mnemonic device but a way to quiet the mind and open the heart to God's guiding voice. Moreover, praying the Rosary is also a way to seek Mary's intercession. As the Mother of Christ, her proximity to Jesus is seen as a powerful aid in bringing our prayers before God.

Feasts & Celebrations

May 9 - The Ascension of the Lord. This solemnity marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and His triumphant entry into Heaven. *Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.*

May 10 - St. Damien of Molokai (1889). Born in Belgium in 1840, Joseph de Veuster became Father Damien at the age of 19. He ministered to lepers on the Hawaiian island of Molokai. He died of the disease after serving there for sixteen years. He is the

patron of lepers and outcasts.

May 20 - Mary, Mother of the Church (2018). On the Cross, Jesus gave us His mother to be our mother (John 19:27). Even in Heaven, she prays and cares for us as our spiritual mother.

May 21 - St. Cristóbal Magallanes and Companions (1937). Fr. Christopher Magallanes was part of the Catholic Action Movement in Mexico, resisting the anti-Catholic Mexican government. Despite great persecution, he established a seminary at Totatiche. He and his companions were martyred.



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