



# The EPIPHANY of the Lord



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

**REV. MSGR. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR**  
**REV. JONATHAN BENNETT, PAROCHIAL VICAR**  
**REV. JORDAN EVANS, 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  
Diane Dellen, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator  
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor  
Ana Gonzalez, Offertory/Mass Intentions  
Charlie Gutierrez, Evening Receptionist  
Patricia Pagoada, Coordinator Family Ministry/Social Action  
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  
Mina Lee, Cornerstone Contemporary Choir Director  
Natacha Hines, Gift Shop

**MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:**

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

**MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.  
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro, A.R., M.R.E.  
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant  
Joyce Kelly, SPRED Coordinator

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR**

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454-2415 or  
mmtturner@ccda.net



**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  
**R.E. OFFICE:** (703) 455-0372  
**R.E. 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./11:00a.m./  
1:00 p.m./5:30 p.m.  
Monthly Sensory Mass on the  
second Sunday of every month at  
the 1:00pm Mass

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

**ADORATION:** 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday

**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/](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 11:00 AM on  
Tuesday (5 days prior to publication).** Please  
note: this deadline can change due to holiday office  
closings. Email submissions to  
[bulletin@nativityburke.org](mailto:bulletin@nativityburke.org).

**WEBMASTER:**  
Emilia Hartline, [webmaster@nativityburke.org](mailto:webmaster@nativityburke.org)

**SOCIAL MEDIA:**  
Mary Castellano, [socialmedia@nativityburke.org](mailto:socialmedia@nativityburke.org)

**Assisted hearing devices are available  
from the Sacristy staff at all services**

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



*“Then they opened their coffers and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”  
~ Mt. 2:11*

My dear parishioners,

Happy Epiphany Feast! Just as the Magi recognized the self-revelation of God in the Christ child and offered him their gifts, so this Sunday’s feast allows each of us to respond to the mystery of the Incarnation and make it our own. Despite the fears and troubles of our world, *“upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory”* (Isaiah).

The good news of salvation is now revealed to extend beyond Bethlehem to every nation. Perhaps this reminds us to look all around us for other divine Epiphanies. God continues to come to each of us, to all of us. In what ways is Nativity parish giving birth to the Savior every day? How is the Lord revealed in the various ministries of our parish? Name the surprising places you have found the Lord. Who in your life is like a star that leads you to the manger? What gifts do you produce from your coffers when you kneel in adoration before your King? How diligently are you searching for the Lord?

Those three Kings were wise. When they saw the new star indicating a new life, a new King, a new ruler, a new child, they followed faithfully despite the many risks.

Let us follow too, until we arrive.

Love and Christmas blessings,

*Bob Cilinski*

Msgr. Bob Cilinski,  
Pastor



The magi were overjoyed at seeing the star,  
and on entering the house they saw the child  
with Mary his mother.  
Matthew 2:10-11



**Christmas Thanks**



Thank you to all who made our Christmas Masses so beautiful! The church was decorated so beautifully, the choirs sang in joyous praise, the Liturgical Ministers, including our altar servers, lectors, ushers, greeters and Eucharistic Ministers who served with love.

Many thanks to our Musicians, Sacristans, Parish and Maintenance Staff, Mass Coordinators, our Priests and Deacons who made our Advent and Christmas liturgies so beautiful. Special thanks to our Art and Environmental Committee chaired by Vickie Sands, our Sacristan Maureen Andersen, and our choir directors Carole Fischl, Debbie Doyle, Mai Tran, Mina Lee and Sara Prince. Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus who provided parking lot ministry of Welcome and Safety!

Thank you to all who supported Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington’s Parish Christmas Collection. Your donation brings healing and hope to those who need it most. If you have not made a gift yet, you may still contribute by donating online at [ccda.net/Christmas](http://ccda.net/Christmas).



## APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING SPECIAL COLLECTION — JANUARY 17/18

On the weekend of January 17/18, the Knights will be speaking at all the Masses asking for your help to continue their home building effort in one of the poorest counties in our country. For the last 25 years, the Nativity Knights and Nativity Parish have partnered with the Appalachian Construction Crew operating out of Bellevue, Nebraska, to build one home in McCreary County, Kentucky, which is rated as one of the top counties in this country for income below the poverty level. Throughout the year both crews raise money to offset the cost of approximately \$110,000 to build the home.

Last year, the three-bedroom home cost \$103,000 (including the costs of new beds). Nativity is the main funding source for the annual home building effort. Without Nativity's support, the home building effort would have ceased in 2005. Last year, the combined crew built a home for the Tucker family, a grandmother raising her two grandchildren. Last year we increased our goal to expand our outreach efforts in the county to help more families in addition to the family receiving their new home. We raised over \$125,000, with approximately \$25,000 providing hygiene kits for over 200 children, help with home repairs, and vouchers to help with medical and utility bills. Our goal this year is to reach \$125,000 again.

This year Good Shepherd Chapel in Whitley City selected the Mitchell family of three to receive Nativity's 28th home. The grandmother is raising two small grandchildren. The current dilapidated trailer will be demolished and the new home built on the current site. Over a very compressed two weeks in June, the combined crews will build a 1,100SF, three-bedroom home, complete with porches, heating/AC, and appliances--the family assists if they are able. A handyman prepares the foundation and because of county requirements, we must hire local electricians, HVAC specialists, and plumbers who work side-by-side with our crews to complete the home which has significantly added to our costs. Nativity will again provide new complete beds for all the family members.

Please help as you can, but above all pray that we may be able to continue this important mission! The Knights will be collecting at all the church exits after all the Masses—checks may be made payable to Nativity Catholic Church but annotate Appalachia Home Building on the check and your church envelope number to facilitate posting to your account. Please consider electronic giving if possible; Appalachia Home Building is one of the designated charities. If you would like to mail your contribution, please send it to Nativity Catholic Church, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA 22015. Please call Bob Corsi at 703-239-2890 if you have any questions or email him at bobcorsi@cox.net. **PLEASE HELP US!!**



## Volunteer Recruitment: Nativity Catholic Church Security Team/Ministry

The safety and well-being of our parish family are of utmost importance at Nativity Catholic Church. To further ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all, we are forming a dedicated Security Team and inviting parishioners and community members to volunteer for this vital ministry.

### Team Structure and Coverage

The Security Team will consist of at least 14 volunteers, organized into two-person sub teams; each sub team will be responsible for providing security coverage for one of the seven Masses held on Saturdays and Sundays; this arrangement ensures that every Mass benefits from a vigilant and supportive presence.

### Preferred Qualifications

Ideal candidates are mature Catholics who remain calm under pressure, are physically able, and preferably have backgrounds in military, law enforcement, or protective services. They must exemplify humility, teamwork, and a ministry mindset of serving through protection. We welcome all individuals who have a heart for service and a commitment to the safety of our community.

### Requirements

- Participate in regular security training sessions
- Attend quarterly Security Team meetings
- Commit to serving on a rotating schedule to ensure coverage for all Masses

### Key Responsibilities

- Patrol the church premises during assigned Masses
- Remain alert to identify and anticipate potential safety concerns
- Work collaboratively with fellow team members to maintain a safe environment for worship

### How to Apply

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about the Security Team, please email Joe Tiago at jonotionline@hotmail.com. You may also speak with Monsignor Bob Cilinski after Mass for additional information. We plan to have the first meeting of the security team in late January 2026. Your willingness to serve helps ensure that Nativity Catholic Church remains a safe and welcoming place for worship, fellowship, and community. We look forward to welcoming new volunteers to this important ministry.

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

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSING:**  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026**  
**FROM 12:00PM - 3:00PM FOR A MANDATORY**  
**STAFF SAFETY TRAINING SESSION**

### National March For Life Friday, January 23, 2026

Sign up to join us on the Nativity-provided free bus, snag a warm yellow Nativity for Life beanie on the bus and connect with people of goodwill from across our country in peacefully and joyfully rallying around the basic truth that every human life – including the unborn and their mothers – is beautiful, has unique dignity, and worthy of protection in what has become the world’s largest annual human rights demonstration.



We will depart after the Nativity’s March for Life 10am Mass, board the bus, attend the noon Rally with a host of inspiring speakers, start marching at 1:00pm, stop at St. Peter’s Church for hot chocolate/coffee/ restroom break & then return at 4:00pm.



*If you can’t make it in person, please pray!*

## WORKCAMP 2026 Registration Open

Teens currently in grades 9-12 are invited to a week-long overnight camp providing them with an opportunity to encounter Christ through service, faith, & fellowship.

Applications for teens and adult volunteers are open now through **January 20.**

Missed the interest meeting? See the handout on our website for details about registration, costs, formation, and volunteer needs.

WorkCamp 2026: June 20-26  
Contact: [wc@nativityburke.org](mailto:wc@nativityburke.org)



### ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flower Book for 2026 is now open. This is a thoughtful way to honor a loved one, living or deceased. If you are interested, please stop by the parish office to sign up. You can also go online and reserve flowers on our website at: <https://nativityburke.org/altar-flowers/>.



**FOR E-GIVING, PLEASE USE THE QR CODE OR VISIT:**  
<https://osvhub.com/nativityburke/giving/funds>




# LIGHTS! CAMERA! FAITH!

Hey 8-12th graders!  
Step out of the audience and become part of an amazing adventure in:

**THE ARLINGTON DIOCESE**

## ONE ACT & SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Performances: January 25, St. Leo the Great Catholic Church  
February 6 & 7, Nativity Catholic Church

Directed by  
Barbara E. Schwartz

### Peace in the Storm

Chronic Pain and Illness Support Group



Thursday, January 8 | 12:45 -2:15 pm | Fr. Ready Room

Do you have diabetes, high blood pressure, or high cholesterol? Do you have to take medications every day? Nativity Catholic Church is aware of the many challenges that chronic illness and chronic pain pose in the lives of our parishioners. All adult parishioners who have chronic pain or illness are invited to participate in a parish-based, small, faith fellowship group developed by the national ministry called The Peace in the Storm Project. We meet to reflect, pray, and deepen our understanding of God’s love, presence, and purpose with and through health challenges within the context of our Catholic faith and parish community. Group participants will receive The Peace in the Storm Project **Discussion Guide** at no cost.



If you are interested in joining the group or for more information, please email Anna Lisa Licud at [alicud@nativityburke.org](mailto:alicud@nativityburke.org) or visit our parish website [www.nativityburke.org/peace-in-the-storm/](http://www.nativityburke.org/peace-in-the-storm/)

### Honduras Mission Trip 2026



Operation Starfish®

July 12-18, 2026

This mission trip is designed for College-age and Young Adult parishioners to visit our newest partnership in Honduras through Operation Starfish.





**A Message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry**

The Magi in the Epiphany story were all Gentiles but committed to their task. They are symbolic of all the peoples of earth “members of the one Body of Christ, partners in the promise of God’s creation”, trusted stewards of creation. That means us! We all sit in the darkness covering much of the earth now, trapping many, especially the poor, in places where they can’t see the stars through the pollution, much less their way to safety and health. Like the Magi, we, disciples of Jesus are called to side with the Creator and help bring light to all the nations by doing what we can to offset the damage that is being done to our “common home”. Adjusting our lifestyle so we eat less meat, use less gas, and use less plastic is an example of making a gift to the Savior and God’s people--a good way to start this year of 2026 and to keep pursuing it. *(Excerpted from Catholic Climate Covenant)*

*Save the Date!*

NATIVITY STARS  
**GALA & AUCTION**

*A night at the races!*

Saturday, May 16, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Nativity Catholic School

Fr. Martin Center



**MASS INTENTIONS & MASS SCHEDULE**  
*“We are God’s People”*  
**1 Peter 2:10**

**Monday, January 5**

7:30 am † Lutgarda Salas  
12:00 pm † Holy Souls in Purgatory

**Tuesday, January 6**

7:30 am † Mary Ellen Goyer  
12:00 pm Special Intention for Mark Faustino

**Wednesday, January 7**

7:30 am † Eduardo Chinsio Paraan  
3:00 pm Special Intention for Diane Fields (*Sunrise*)

**Thursday, January 8**

7:30 am † Stephen Mitton  
12:00 pm Special Intention for the Karvois Family

**Friday, January 9**

7:30 am † Robert Geissler

**Saturday, January 10**

9:00 am † Manny Saniel  
5:00 pm † Maria Teresa Garcia Martinez  
7:00 pm † Deceased Members of the Soto Family

**Sunday, January 11**

7:00 am Special Intention for Carmen Cordova  
9:00 am † Lila Gettings  
11:00 am Special Intention for Stephanie Riely  
1:00 pm † Genevieve Denicola (*Sensory Mass*)  
5:30 pm Nativity Parishioners

**In prayer, let us remember  
the sick and deceased of the parish  
visit [nativityburke.org](http://nativityburke.org) for the Priest Mass Schedule**

Come join the Nativity Dames! We are the wives, widows, sisters, daughters, nieces of the men in the Knights of Columbus.

Our purpose is to support and assist our Fr. Vincent Sikora Council. Our fellowship and information meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Fr. Ready room.

**For more information, please contact  
RoseAnne Zivich at [brzivich@aim.com](mailto:brzivich@aim.com).**

**Where is Your Calling to Serve?**



Join the Nativity Knights of Columbus, Viridiane’s Hope, and Commissioned by Christ on a mission trip to Cameroon, West Africa in 2026. Two trips are planned: February 17–27 for 4–6 participants and October 22—November 1 for 12-15 participants.

Missionaries will serve rural communities by drilling wells, renovating chapels, planting gardens, and supporting youth education. For more information, contact Joe Tiago at [vhhecorp@gmail.com](mailto:vhhecorp@gmail.com) or Michelle Haworth at [michelle.haworth@commissionedbychrist.org](mailto:michelle.haworth@commissionedbychrist.org). Learn more at [vhche.org](http://vhche.org) or [cbc-missions.org](http://cbc-missions.org).



**Walk Humbly**

Bishop Burbidge





# Are you separated or divorced?

*Journey of Hope is a welcoming parish community for separated and divorced Catholics to share hope, healing, and fellowship that is rooted in Faith, God's Grace and immensurable Divine Mercy. Where ever you are on the journey, join us!*

## Next Meeting

When: Jan. 8, 2026

Where: Nativity School,  
Room 203

Website [nativityburke.org/separated-divorced](http://nativityburke.org/separated-divorced)

Contact [separated.divorced@nativityburke.org](mailto:separated.divorced@nativityburke.org)





## Date Night for Couples

*Welcoming Conflight as an Opportunity for Learning: Navigating Your Approach to Conflict*

*Speaker: Jeanine Turner*

**Saturday, January 24**

**6:30-8:30 PM**

**Nativity Cafeteria**

**Register Online:**

[nativityburke.org/mem-date-night/](http://nativityburke.org/mem-date-night/)

**Contact: Anna Lisa Licud**

[marriage@nativityburke.org](mailto:marriage@nativityburke.org)

*Childcare & dinner provided!*



### ROSARY MINISTRY MEETING

These frosty days are perfect for making rosaries! The Rosary Ministry is meeting on Tuesday, January 20 from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Fr. Ready Room. We have all the supplies you need to make Mission Rosaries that are put in the hands of people all around the world. We recite the rosary for the first 15 minutes, praying for intentions and then we set out to teach anyone with a desire to learn. For more information contact us at [rosaryministry@nativityburke.org](mailto:rosaryministry@nativityburke.org).

### Knights of Columbus Council 7992 Basketball Free Throw Challenge

This fun event will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM in the Father Martin Center and is open to all boys and girls ages 9-14.

Each contestant will be scored on 15 free throws taken from an age-designated foul line. Boy and girl winners for each age group will be determined by highest score. In case of a tie, five additional tie-breaker free throws will be used to determine the winners. Participants can arrive any time between 6:00-9:00 PM and do not have to remain for the entire event. Winners will be notified by email. Participation time for each contestant is approximately 15 mins. No early registration or notification is required. Contestants register at the event before participating.

This is a community event so all are welcome regardless of parish affiliation. Bring friends and compete with each other! Group winners will be eligible to compete at the Knights of Columbus District Challenge on February 15, 2026, 7:30pm at Holy Spirit in Annandale. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Batrla at [jbat747@gmail.com](mailto:jbat747@gmail.com).

### ECHO Collection this weekend, 3/4 January Food Room Most Needed Items

Thank you for including ECHO Food Room needs on your shopping list. The USDA calculates that a meal for one persons is considered to be 1.2 pounds of food. Thus far this fiscal year ECHO has distributed 288,560 pounds of food which converts to 240,466 meals given to our neighbors in Burke and Springfield. Thank you donors for your generosity in helping our neighbors. Your help is greatly appreciated. We collected 1,192 lbs of food on the weekend of December 6/7.

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

*Bag Beans (black, red or garbanzo beans preferred), Lentils Bag rice, Protein Items (can chicken, Spam, sardines, salmon, tuna, chili) Canned Fruit (100% juice), Peanut Butter, Cereal/Oatmeal (Low sugar), Instant (Box) Potatoes, Box Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Can Tomatoes, Tomato paste & sauce, Can Milk, Shelf Stable Milk and Hot Chocolate, Snacks (Crackers, raisins, granola bars, dry fruit, nuts), Baked Beans, Instant Coffee, Tea (green, herbal, black), Pancake Mix & Syrup, Cooking Oil, Non-Salt Spices (cinnamon, cumin, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder), Masa (Corn) Flour, Sugar, Lemon or Lime Juice Honey and Jelly, Tortillas (corn and flour), Condiments (Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard), Macaroni & Cheese. Muffin Mix, Toilet Paper, Facial Tissues, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Soap, and Dish Soap, Adult's Toothbrushes, Body/Hand Lotion, Band Aids Diapers - Sizes 2, 4, 5, 6, Baby Wipes, Sanitary Napkins.*

### Employment Opportunities in the Diocese

Find the perfect Opportunity at:  
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/human-resources/employment-opportunities/>

### Virginia Pro-Life Day in Richmond - January 15, 2026

Carpool with us and to snag a warm yellow Nativity for Life beanie as we support life issues along with Bishop Burbidge and enjoy the camaraderie of other pro-life people from across the state during the 5th annual VA Pro-Life Day! Your personal presence is vital.

Talking points, legislative updates and tips for effective advocacy will be provided by the organizers to make meetings easy and successful.

You can just listen and learn, or volunteer to highlight the provided pro-life talking points of one of the bills. We will gather in constituent groups at Greater Richmond Convention Center at 8:30am to listen to inspiring speeches and review provided talking points package, then meet with our respective state senator/delegate, and then optionally visit galleries or attend Mass before lunch and heading back to Nativity. Tentative Schedule for Pro-Life Advocacy Day to follow.



Contact [rickloffredo@outlook.com](mailto:rickloffredo@outlook.com) if interested in carpooling. For more official event details and to register, <https://vaprolifeday.org/>.



Father Vincent S. Sikora Knights of Columbus Council No. 7992 will be awarding up to eight George Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarships in the amount of \$750 each to eligible 8th-grade, high school and college/university/trade school students



## ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS

These scholarships are in memory of the Council's Passionate Pro-Life Leader George Getek. One scholarship, designated the Mike Litzelman Memorial Pro-Life Scholarship in honor of this dedicated right-to-life advocate, will be awarded to the top scoring eligible 8th-grade applicant. All entrants, including the remaining 8th graders, are eligible for the remaining scholarships.

Every student that applies for a scholarship—or even reads the application—will be better equipped to address some of the most critical issues. This can lead to conversion of hearts, the saving of lives, and much reduced heartache and distress in the future!

The purpose of this initiative is to further build up the Culture of Life at Nativity from the “ground-up”, energizing eight-grade, high school and college/university/trade school students to:

- Become better educated on pro-life issues consistent with Catholic Church teaching.
- Better understand Catholic pro-life thinking to help students be more confident, more at ease, and better equipped to address current life topics with their friends and others they interact with in the secular world.

## CRITERIA

1. The applicant or the applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s) must be registered member(s) of Nativity Catholic Church, Burke, Virginia.
2. A student does not have to have any pro-life experience to win a scholarship.



# DUE DATE

# 4

# JAN 2026

APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN  
MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2025.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO APPLY, GO TO  
[HTTPS://NATIVITYBURKE.ORG/GETEK-MEMORIAL-  
SCHOLARSHIP/](https://nativityburke.org/getek-memorial-scholarship/)

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

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**LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12**  
 DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION  
 Sundays | 6:30-8:30 p.m.




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**EDGE: GRADES 6-8**  
 Fridays twice a month  
 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
 See website for full schedule




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**EPIPHANY PARTY: JANUARY 4**  
 Join us for our first Youth Ministry gathering of the new year as we celebrate our annual Epiphany Party! Bring a wrapped gift under \$15 if you want to participate in the White Elephant gift exchange. Edge 3:30-5:00 p.m. | Life Teen 6:30 p.m.

**LIFE IS VERY GOOD - JANUARY 22**  
 Join us for a night of praise the evening before the annual March for Life! The night will feature dynamic speakers & musicians, Adoration, relics, & more! The cost is \$10 and is open to teens in grades 6-12.

See website for full schedule  
 Before attending, please register for the 2025-2026 year of ministry using our free, online forms.

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

**Pro-Life Corner**

**Gabriel Project:** Pregnancy Outreach for Expectant Mothers: Offers emotional, spiritual, material, and financial support through a pregnancy helpline and parish-based volunteer "Angel" support. [helpforpregnantwomen.org](http://helpforpregnantwomen.org). 866.444.3553.

**KOVAR Enduring Love Campaign – Homes for Intellectually Disabled:** Stand with parents who seek to find a home for their children that outlive their ability to provide direct care on their own. Contact Mark Sawyer, [sawyer koc7992@verizon.net](mailto:sawyer koc7992@verizon.net).

**End of Life Medical Directives:** The Advance Medical Directive is a legal instrument authorized by, and meeting the requirements of the laws of Virginia which can be completed for use by all Catholics-whether young or old, healthy or dying. Go to: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/family-life/respect-life/end-of-life-medical-directives/>.

**Project Rachel:** Help after Abortion: A safe, confidential place to share your emotions and work toward healing. [helpafterabortion.org](http://helpafterabortion.org), 703.841.2504.

**The National Catholic Bioethics Center:** Provides education, guidance, and resources to the Church and society to uphold the dignity of the human person in health care and biomedical research, thereby sharing in the ministry of Jesus Christ and his Church. <https://www.ncbcenter.org>.

**The Lamb Center:** provides laundry, showers, hot meals, counseling, and financial assistance for poor and homeless. <https://nativityburke.org/service/the-lamb-center/>

**Tepeyac Pro-Life OB/GYN:** Faith-based Pro-life OB/GYN restoring integrity of human person with modern medicine and healing of Christ. [tepeyacobgyn.com](http://tepeyacobgyn.com), 703.273.9440.

**A Woman's Choice Center:** Providing Compassionate Support. Free pregnancy, medical, educational, and support services for women and families. [awomanschoicecenter.com](http://awomanschoicecenter.com), 703.538.4305.

**Mary's Comfort of VA:** Ensuring Expectant Mothers Shelter, Support and New Beginnings. Provides full support, including training in parenting and life skills, career coaching and educational advancement. [maryscomfortva.org](http://maryscomfortva.org), 703.455.4500.

**Catholic Charities Pregnancy and Adoption Services:** Provides transformative services to those whose lives are impacted by unplanned pregnancy. <https://www.ccca.net/need-help/pregnancy-and-adoption-services/>, 703.841.3830.

**Rachel's Vineyard:** A safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem broken hearts. Weekend retreats offer supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment. [www.rachelsvineyard.org/](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/), 877.467.3463.

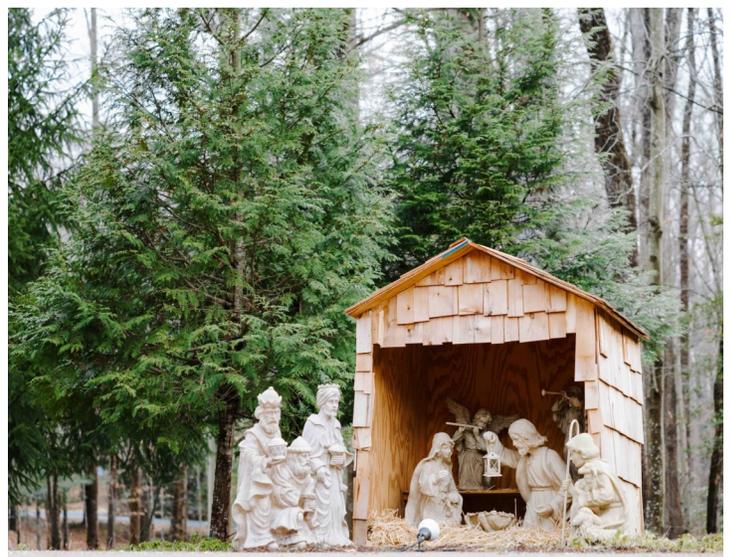
**Love working with children? Want flexibility? Consider subbing at Nativity School! Please Join Us!**

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
- ⇒ Successful background check



For more information, email Rich Godwin at [rgodwin@nativityschool.org](mailto:rgodwin@nativityschool.org), or call him at (703) 455-2300, ext.146; or you can contact Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, at (703) 455-2300, or [smurph@nativityschool.org](mailto:smurph@nativityschool.org).



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### Nativity Celebrating the King of Kings

\*\*\*\*\*



At a school named Nativity, we take the birth of our savior to heart – especially at Christmas!



Whether it's telling the story of Jesus' birth, showcasing the singing and acting talents of our students in the Christmas pageant – particularly the acting talents of our 5th graders – or, in

highlighting our 2nd graders' own STEM-designed visions of the Nativity scene (see next issue!), we come together as a community to celebrate God's love for the world through the birth of His Son. During this special time, we give thanks for the love, hope, and joy found in Jesus.



Each class played a part, singing Christmas favorites for us throughout the evening, as the Fifth Graders engaged the audience with stellar performances from King Herod and his entourage; the Shepherds; the Three Wise Men; Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and more. The pageant is always scheduled during the last few school days before Christmas Break begins – it's the perfect way for all of us to begin our Christmas vacation.



We are so grateful to Delaney Fetzer, our very talented Pageant Director, and to both Michele Sidebottom and Debbie Peters, who have gifted their talents to Nativity's theatrical productions for several years.

### Important Upcoming Dates ~

\*\*\*\*\*

**January 5 - Students Back to School!**

**January 12 - 4th Grade Student Fellowship**

**January 13-15 - NWEA Testing**

**January 16 - No School**

**January 19 - No School MLK Birthday**

\*\*\*\*\*

At Nativity, faith fills us. Love lives here. Nativity Stars are filled with the Holy Spirit! Join us to see how your child would spend his or her days here -- learning, praying, sharing, and laughing.

We may be just the school for which you've been searching!  
 Contact us at [www.nativityschool.org](http://www.nativityschool.org), (703) 455-2300, or [smurph@nativityschool.org](mailto:smurph@nativityschool.org).

### Are you registered in the Parish?

If you are not receiving mail or emails from the parish, chances are you are not registered. You are free to stop by the Parish Office to fill out a registration form to become a registered member of Nativity Parish or go online to: [nativityburke.org](http://nativityburke.org) and download one. Registration is required to be a Baptismal Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor.

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

**Fr. Sikora Council 7992 Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. 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.**

Join the Knights! The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy changing world. Join today at <https://www.kofc.org/joinus>. Your dues will be **free for one year**: Be sure to enter our council #7992 and the code **RCANTER** when you register.

Please email our Deputy Grand Knight, Vince Augelli, at [dgk7992@nativityburke.org](mailto:dgk7992@nativityburke.org) or the Grand Knight, Michael Bender at [gk7992@nativityburke.org](mailto:gk7992@nativityburke.org) with any questions.

**Volunteer for an event!** Scroll down to view all events, [https://linktr.ee/fr\\_sikora\\_council\\_7992](https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992).

**Knights, are you receiving the Grand Knight Newsletter?** If not, go to: <https://NativityBurke.flocknote.com/NativityKnights> to sign up.

**Judy Jagielski:** Thursday Nights Ride to Nativity Support Group. **SUG is live!**

**Widow Support:** Thursday Nights Ride to Nativity Support Group.

**Prayer Requests:** Prayer requests will stay active for one month. Prayer update (health, location, contact, etc.) status is deeply appreciated. Send an updated request for continued support. <https://forms.gle/LiPCRmzfyRnYEU8s5>

**Food for Others:** Volunteer for food distribution to the poor, delivered on designated Thursday or Friday evenings. For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at [sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net](mailto:sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net). For Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at [mstock\\_w@yahoo.com](mailto:mstock_w@yahoo.com). Deliver food from Giant to the FFO warehouse Tuesday mornings; contact Br. Bob Colella [robert.colella.86@gmail.com](mailto:robert.colella.86@gmail.com).

**24 January:** The annual K of C Free Throw Challenge will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026 from 6-9 PM. Six volunteers are needed to help. Please see **SUG** for details of work and time commitment.

**Widow Support:** Thursday Nights Ride to Nativity Support Group. **SUG is live!**

**Prayer Requests:** Prayer requests will stay active for one month. Prayer update (health, location, contact, etc.) status is deeply appreciated. Send an updated request for continued support. <https://forms.gle/LiPCRmzfyRnYEU8s5>

**Name Tags:** If you have not received your name tag, email our Warden, Dan Thomas, at [warden7992@nativityburke.org](mailto:warden7992@nativityburke.org).

**Nativity Ushers assist at collections:** Volunteer for your Mass! Volunteer on LinkTree to maintain a database of potential helpers!

**Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies:** We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. See info on LinkTree.

**Handy Knights Ministry:** Parishioners unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small home repairs due to health or other factors, contact the "Handy Knights." Email [handyknights@nativity.org](mailto:handyknights@nativity.org).

**The Fraternal Committee:** Brothers helping brothers in need of assistance. Brothers and their families (living and deceased) in need of a helping hand, contact Br. John Landy at [navy8@yahoo.com](mailto:navy8@yahoo.com).

**3rd Degree Knights - Grow with 4th Degree:** Participate in patriotic activities that promote Catholic citizenship. 4th Degree Assembly meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Nativity school cafeteria. 7:30 pm rosary, 7:45 pm business meeting followed by fellowship. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Murray Rupert at [fn2996@vakofc.org](mailto:fn2996@vakofc.org).

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

Do you need a ride to a medical appointment or to go grocery shopping and are unable to drive? The Shepherd's Center-Fairfax Burke provides these services. Feel free to contact the Shepherd's Center Fairfax Burke at 703-323-4788 for information.

## Deacon Harold at St. Veronica Jan. 9 and 10

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**“The Pursuit of  
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and proclaiming the Catholic  
faith challenges and inspires  
those who hear him.*

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## Fiesta de la Epifanía o Día de Reyes

**Los pastores y reyes del Oriente visitan a Jesús el Mesías, le llevan regalos y lo adoran con oro, incienso y mirra.**

**Por: Tere Vallés | Fuente: Catholic.net**



### Origen de la fiesta:

El 6 de enero se celebraba desde tiempos inmemoriales en Oriente, pero con un sentido pagano: En Egipto y Arabia, durante la noche del 5 al 6 de enero se recordaba el nacimiento del dios Aion. Creían que él se manifestaba especialmente al renacer el sol, en el solsticio de invierno que coincidía hacia el 6 de Enero. En esta misma fecha, se celebraban los prodigios del dios Dionisio en favor de sus devotos.

La fiesta de la Epifanía sustituyó a los cultos paganos de Oriente relacionados con el solsticio de invierno, celebrando ese día la manifestación de Jesús como Hijo de Dios a los sabios que vinieron de Oriente a adorarlo. La tradición pasó a Occidente a mediados del siglo IV, a través de lo que hoy es Francia.

La historia de los Reyes Magos se puede encontrar en **Mateo 2, 1-12**

“Después de haber nacido Jesús en Belén de Judea, en el tiempo del Rey Herodes, unos magos de Oriente se presentaron en Jerusalén diciendo: ¿dónde está el que ha nacido, el Rey de los Judíos? Porque hemos visto su estrella en el Oriente y venimos a adorarlo. Al oír esto, el Rey Herodes se puso muy preocupado; entonces llamó a unos señores que se llamaban Pontífices y Escritas (que eran los que conocían las escrituras) y les preguntó el lugar del nacimiento del Mesías, del Salvador que el pueblo judío esperaba hacia mucho tiempo.

Ellos contestaron: En Belén de Judá, pues así está escrito por el Profeta:

Y tú, Belén tierra de Judá  
de ningún modo eres la menor  
entre las principales ciudades de Judá  
porque de ti saldrá un jefe  
que será el pastor de mi pueblo Israel

Entonces Herodes, llamando aparte a los magos, los envió a la ciudad de Belén y les dijo: Vayan e infórmense muy bien sobre ese niño; y cuando lo encuentren, avísenme para que yo también vaya a adorarlo.

Los Reyes Magos se marcharon y la estrella que habían visto en el Oriente, iba delante de ellos hasta que fue a pararse sobre el lugar donde estaba el Niño. Al ver la estrella, sintieron una gran alegría.

Entraron en la casa y vieron al niño con María su madre. Se hincaron y lo adoraron. Abrieron sus tesoros y le ofrecieron regalos: oro, incienso y mirra. Luego, habiendo sido avisados en sueños que no volvieran a Herodes, (pues él quería buscar al Niño para matarlo), regresaron a su país por otro camino.”

### Podemos aprovechar esta fiesta de la Iglesia para reflexionar en las enseñanzas que nos da este pasaje evangélico:

\* Los magos representan a todos aquellos que buscan, sin cansarse, la luz de Dios, siguen sus señales y, cuando encuentran a Jesucristo, luz de los hombres, le ofrecen con alegría todo lo que tienen.

\* La estrella anunció la venida de Jesús a todos los pueblos. Hoy en día, el Evangelio es lo que anuncia a todos los pueblos el mensaje de Jesús.

\* Los Reyes Magos no eran judíos como José y María. Venían de otras tierras lejanas (de Oriente: Persia y Babilonia), siguiendo a la estrella que les llevaría a encontrar al Salvador del Mundo. Representan a todos los pueblos de la tierra que desde el paganismo han llegado al conocimiento del Evangelio.

\* Los Reyes Magos dejaron su patria, casa, comodidades, familia, para adorar al Niño Dios. Perseveraron a pesar de las dificultades que se les presentaron. Era un camino largo, difícil, incómodo, cansado. El seguir a Dios implica sacrificio, pero cuando se trata de Dios cualquier esfuerzo y trabajo vale la pena.

\* Los Reyes Magos tuvieron fe en Dios. Creyeron aunque no veían, aunque no entendían. Quizá ellos pensaban encontrar a Dios en un palacio, lleno de riquezas y no fue así, sino que lo encontraron en un pesebre y así lo adoraron y le entregaron sus regalos. Nos enseñan la importancia de estar siempre pendientes de los signos de Dios para reconocerlos.

Los Reyes Magos fueron generosos al ir a ver a Jesús, no llegaron con las manos vacías. Le llevaron: oro: que se les da a los reyes, ya que Jesús ha venido de parte de Dios, como rey del mundo, para traer la justicia y la paz a todos los pueblos;



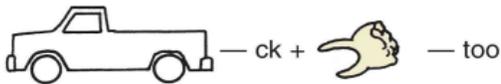
The law was given through Moses; what came through Jesus Christ?

Add and subtract words and letters.



= \_\_\_\_\_

and



= \_\_\_\_\_

The Word was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made, and in Him was life. What else is revealed to us about "the Word"?

Use the code to fill the words on the lines.

Father	Only	One	grace
full	flesh	among	who
seen	came	truth	Word
became	dwelling	glory	made

The Word \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 and \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 us. We have \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Son,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 from the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

# Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

January 4, 2026 • John 1:1-9, 10-18

## Jesus Is Sent by God

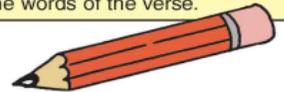
All who receive Jesus and believe in His name are given the right to become ... what?

There are 13 letters hidden below. Circle them. Unscramble them to fill in the blanks.



What else do we receive from Jesus?

Write the words that fit the definitions to learn the code. Use the code to discover the words of the verse.



companion, pal	<u>f</u>
	1 2 3 4 5 6
strong affection	<u>l</u>
	7 8 9 10
young boys and girls	<u>c</u>
	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
to make clean	<u>w</u>
	19 20 21 22
to embrace	<u>h</u>
	23 24 25
the lowest part or place	<u>b</u>
	26 27 28 29 30 31

" \_\_\_\_\_  
 1 2 8 31 28 12 4 1 24 7 14 5 4 21 21  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 8 1 12 3 21 25 2 20 11 4  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 19 4 12 20 9 4 20 7 14  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 16 17 11 4 13 9 4 6 8 5 4  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 26 7 17 21 21 3 5 25 20 1 29 4 16  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 20 5 8 28 12 17 16  
 \_\_\_\_\_"

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