

The Epiphany of the Lord



Come,
let us
adore
Him.



6400 Nativity Lane,
Burke, Virginia 22015
nativityburke.org



VERY REV. MSGR. 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 or
mturner@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./11:00 a.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. 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

**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. Happy New Year!

Love and blessings,

Bob Cilinski
Msgr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis inaugurated the opening of the Holy Year 2025, a jubilee year for the universal church with the theme *“Pilgrims of Hope.”* The Holy Year is an invitation to us to grow spiritually, becoming pilgrims of hope for others.

Remembering the encouragement of Saint Paul that “hope does not disappoint” (Roman 5:5), our diocesan family will celebrate this Holy Year with activities, events, and liturgies throughout the year to come. In a special way, we will be encouraging visits to eight designated churches across our diocesan community as a way to prayerfully grow in abiding hope. These churches are: The Cathedral of Saint Thomas More, The Basilica of Saint Mary, Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Hope, Saint John Bosco, Saint John the Evangelist, Saint Patrick, and Saint Paul Mission.

As followers of the Lord, we know the importance of asking for God’s grace to turn away from sin if we wish to grow in virtue. This Holy Year is a powerful reminder that God calls us not only to turn away from sin, but in a deeper way encourages us to place all our hope for lasting happiness in him.

May our Lord bless you and fill you with his peace at Christmas and always, and may the hope he inspires be shared with all those you encounter in the new year to come.

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington

**APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING
SPECIAL COLLECTION - JANUARY 25/26**

On the weekend of January 25/26, 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 24 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. With the generosity of Nativity Parish, Nativity has raised over \$100,000 in past collections and 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 crews built a home for the Perry family. The family had a total income of approximately \$21,000 and the family of two lived with the father’s parents.

We are trying to exceed our past collection efforts to reach \$120,000. We have added approximately \$20,000 to our goal to expand our outreach efforts in the county to help more families in addition to the family receiving their new home. Our outreach efforts will include hygiene kits for ~270 children; help with home repairs; and vouchers to help with utility and medical bills.

This year Good Shepherd Chapel in Whitley City selected the Tucker family of three to receive Nativity’s 27th home. The grandmother is raising two teenage grandchildren. The new home will be built on a lot next to the trailer they are renting. The family’s total income is \$30,500. 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. This will be our first home that connects directly to the city sewer system and will not require a septic system. 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 provide new complete beds for all the family members.

Please help if 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 at all 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.





Nativity Catholic School Awarded International STEM distinction

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington is proud to announce Nativity Catholic School, which serves preschool through eighth grade in Burke, Virginia, has been recognized as a 2024-25 STEM School of Excellence by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA).

Nativity is the only new school in Virginia to receive this honor, and one of only two in the state to have been awarded the distinction this year.

"Thanks to the dedicated leadership of Principal Maria Kelly and the strong support of pastor Msgr. Bob Cilinski in partnership with parents, Nativity Catholic School offers students a faith-filled education focused on academic excellence. We in the diocese are proud of Nativity's recognition as a School of Excellence and look forward to their continued success," said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge.

Mark Harrell, director of ITEEA's STEM Center for Teaching and Learning, praised Nativity's academic strength. *"We at ITEEA are incredibly proud of and grateful to Nativity Catholic School for its dedication to fostering STEM literacy for all students. Your hard work and commitment to excellence is truly inspiring. We celebrate your achievements and look forward to seeing the amazing things you will continue to accomplish,"* said Harrell.

In total only 34 schools, elementary through college both in the United States and abroad, received the award. Maria Kelly, principal of Nativity Catholic School, was excited to share the news with her pastor, parents and students. *"This recognition is for the school's outstanding commitment to providing a robust integrative STEM education experience,"* Ms. Kelly said in an email to the school community.

The application process consisted of detailed questions about school offerings, activities, expectations and opportunities. The 18-page application included photos, videos and detailed descriptions of how Nativity incorporates STEM into their daily curriculum. A school qualified for the distinction of "Excellence" if they earned 200 points or more on a rubric of questions. Nativity earned 260 points.

"We are thrilled that Nativity Catholic School is being recognized in this way. Their thoughtful and intentional approach to integrating STEM education into their rigorous curriculum took great teamwork under Ms. Kelly's leadership. We are grateful for the efforts of all who made this well-deserved recognition possible," said Dr. Joseph E. Vorbach III, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Arlington.

Marriage Enrichment Ministry

PUB GAMES: DARTS, PING PONG, BILLIARD

&

MALEK'S PIZZA

Date Night

January 31, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Edmonds' Home

To Register Email Anna Lisa
marriage@nativityburke.org



It's that time of the year once again, when we take a look at our lives and make some resolutions. It's also a perfect time to take a look at what is necessary to keep our parish viable and growing. For just as the parish has certain obligations concerning the parishioners, we the parishioners, have responsibilities concerning the parish.

For example, did you know that when your children turn 18 years old, they are considered adults and should register as such with the parish? Also, are you aware that as your families grow with the birth of children, your parish registration cards need to be updated? It also is very important to update the parish registration cards as your children grow in their faith. And how about changes in address and phone numbers?

These items might seem insignificant when compared to other events going on in our lives, and can be easily overlooked, but when it is necessary for the office staff to get in touch with families, current information becomes very important.

So as we begin a new year, with its many resolutions and good intentions, let's make updating our parish information one of them!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

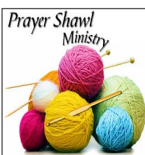
The Marriage Enrichment Ministry is looking for a few individuals to help with **Child Care** and/or **Clean Up** during our **January 11** date night. Come make a positive impact to support marriages and families. Email marriage@nativityburke.org or call/text 571-208-2821.



Bishop Burbidge's Respect Life Office and all the Vulnerable Unborn Children in Virginia need YOU in Richmond!

- Pro-Abortion Legislators want to pass the Extreme Abortion Virginia Constitutional Amendment
 - ⇒ Senate has pledged to take up the extreme abortion amendment on Day 1 of the 2025 General Assembly Session with the House of Delegates to follow
 - ⇒ Will result in more abortions than Roe ever allowed
 - ⇒ Allows for more brutal killing of the innocent, weak and helpless unborn children - stand with us against this!
 - ⇒ Crushes parental rights; Forces taxpayers to fund abortion; Shields malfeasant providers; Places women and children at unprecedented risk!
- Take Action - Pray for an end to this evil! **Be Present in Richmond at least one of these days: January 8, 9, 10**
 - ⇒ Sign-up at <https://vshl.org/we-need-you-in-richmond/>
 - ⇒ Simply be in Richmond in-person at the Virginia General Assembly between 10 am and 1pm to help line the hallways of the capital and fill the galleries of the House of Delegates & State Senate to make sure our elected representatives know we are watching them and oppose this extreme Amendment.
 - ⇒ Email rickloffredo@outlook.com if you want to join us Wednesday, January 8th, or want to go another day!

God bless you for standing up for the most innocent, most vulnerable and weakest among us!



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:

The next Prayer Shawl meeting will be held on Monday morning, January 13, 2025 (one week early because of the 1/20 holiday) at 9:30 am in the Fr. Ready room. This ministry is open to all members of our community!

2Minutes2Virtue

2Minutes2Virtue is for Catholics who want to get the most out of Sunday readings. Every week, a featured priest from the Catholic Diocese of **Arlington** will give his take on the Sunday Gospel reading, and use it as inspiration behind the week's challenge. Look out for your own parish priest, and experience the wisdom of so many priests in our own diocese.

You can sign up by texting "2m2v" to 84576, and receive the weekly challenge straight to your mobile phone!

Marriage Enrichment Ministry

Communications in Marriage

ART OF BEING PRESENT

Date Night!

Saturday, January 11
6:30- 8:30 PM
Nativity Cafeteria

Childcare & Dinner Provided



Register at:
<https://nativityburke.org/date-night/>
Contact: **Anna Lisa Licud**
marriage@nativityburke.org



Jeanine Turner
Professor & Author
Georgetown University

Did you receive a Christmas gift that you will never use? I would love to take it off your hands! I am collecting new items to use as prizes for Nativity's senior bingo on January 30th. Donations can be dropped off at the school office beginning January 6, 2024. For more information contact Mrs. McGuire at 703-455-2300 ext. 145.



OPERATION STARFISH HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

JULY 7-11, 2025

If you're college-age or in your 20s or 30s, contact Alison Fram to express your interest in coming with us!

Our mission is to visit **Honduras** and see our newest partnership with **Operation Starfish**.



afram@nativityburke.org

Thank you Nativity’s Art & Environment & Plant Watering Ministries

Nativity’s Art & Environment Ministry Coordinator Vickie Sands and the Nativity staff express their heartfelt appreciation to those members/parishioners who have helped to make the decoration changes in the church sanctuary and nearby spaces to match the liturgical calendar over the past three months: Johana Grayson and Margaret Lynch (November memorial scrolls); Kathy & Maureen Sawyer, Stephanie Lattanzio, Judy Toy (Advent set up; dismantling Thanksgiving display); Bill and Connie Meskill, Tom Powers, Tami Phillips, Kris Kochler, Judy Toy, Vickie Sands (creche assembly and set up); Judy Toy, Tami Phillips and Kris Kochler (set up and decorating of altar Christmas trees); Michele Didier, Tami Phillips, Mary Haller Sullivan, and Vickie Sands (wreath and bow fluffing), and Tami Phillips, Judy Toy and Vickie Sands (final decorating the spaces for Christmas).

We thank the Flower Gallery of Manassas for providing the beautiful Advent wreath, potted poinsettias and indoor greens, and Burke Nursery for the live outdoor greens.

We thank the Plant Watering Ministry team of Bonnie Goodwin, Margeret Lynch, Rite Anderson and Vickie Sands and the Flower Watering team of Bonnie Carpenter and Jessica Nguyen for keeping the plants and flowers watered twice weekly.

Of course, the Ministry would not be able to function without the invaluable manpower, input, cooperation, and additional final touches of our Facility Manager Carlos Gutierrez and his support Antonio Perez Infantes, and we are grateful for the cooperation of sacristans Maureen Anderson and Mary Schmidtman.

To all, we appreciate your contribution to enhance the church’s ambiance and environment to make more special our sacred space of our praise, worship and prayer.

**ECHO Collection THIS weekend
Food Room Most Needed Items**

ECHO’s Food Room continues to break records. We collected 926 lbs in December.

- Choose sizes appropriate for our average family size of four.
- Include an assortment of food to ensure a variety of items.
- We are short on many other items such as personal care products and the items listed below.

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

Protein Items, e.g., can chicken, Spam, chili, Tin Fish (tuna, sardines, salmon, etc.), Canned Fruit, Bagged Beans (black, red, or garbanzo preferred), Lentils, Spaghetti (pasta and sauce) Instant and Ground Coffee, Canned Tomatoes, Tomato (paste and Tomato Sauce), Baked Beans, Bagged Rice (white, jasmine or basmati), Instant (Box) Potatoes, Crackers, Ramen, Can milk, shelf stable milk, Boxed Pasta, Juice (Bottles or box), Tea (Green, Herbal or Black), Healthy Snacks, Spices (garlic, onion, cinnamon, salt, pepper), Masa (Corn) Flour, Boxed cereal, Lemon or Lime Juice, Jelly and Honey, Tortillas, Cooking Oil, Brown Paper Bags, Reusable Grocery Bags.

Children’s Toothbrushes, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Facial Tissues, Dish Soap, Paper Towels Body/Hand Lotion, Band Aids, Shaving Cream/Razors, Diapers - Sizes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Baby Wipes, Sanitary Napkins.



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

Monday, January 6th

7:30 am † Milagros Hernandez Gabriel

Tuesday, January 7th

7:30 am † Gigi Hanna
12:00 pm † Thomas Dolinger

Wednesday, January 8th

7:30 am † Thomas Waldbillig

Thursday, January 9th

7:30 am † Sr. Mary Grace Krieger, M.M.
12:00 pm † Darius De Leon

Friday, January 10th

7:30 am † Oscar Greak Jr.
9:00 am † Francisco Fredrickson

Saturday, January 11th

9:00 am † Allan Summer
5:00 pm † John, Genevieve & Marianne Sweet
7:00 pm † Norma Luz Peraldo Mayari

Sunday, January 12th

7:00 am Parishioners
9:00 am † Bob McHugh
11:00 am † Richard J. Ferraro
1:00 pm † John Steven Varholak
5:30 pm † Nick Sfara

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

The Holy Year 2025 — Pilgrims of Hope



On May 9, 2024, the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, Pope Francis officially announced the Ordinary Jubilee Year of 2025 with the Bull of Indiction *Spes non confundit* (“*Hope does not disappoint*”).

To learn more about the Jubilee Year and for various resources including a calendar of events, plenary indulgence information, the official Jubilee Hymn and Prayer, and more, visit: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/holy-year-2025/>
There you can also find a link to download the official Jubilee App “Iubilaeum25.”

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flower Book for 2025 is 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 now also go online and reserve flowers on our website at: <https://nativityburke.org/altar-flowers/>.

WORKCAMP 2025 *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, and fellowship.

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

Contact:
wc@nativityburke.org



Pray the Pro-Life Rosary with Us!



When: Usually Fridays after Nativity's 7:30am Mass. Where: 900 S. Washington Street, Falls Church. Join Nativity in peacefully praying the Pro-Life Rosary on the sidewalk in front of the Falls Church abortion facility for mothers in need and for the protection of human life.

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. We have gathered for lunches or dinners out, retreats at the Benedictine Monastery, museum tours, etc. Our next meeting will take place on Monday, January 13th at 11:00am in the Father Ready room. For further information, please contact Cat Sands at csands@nativityburke.org. May God bless you!

Knights of Columbus Council 7992 Basketball Free Throw Challenge

This fun event will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, 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 6-9 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 in February at Holy Spirit in Annandale. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Batrla at jbat747@gmail.com.



SENIOR BINGO

IN HONOR OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK,
NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS HOSTING
A SENIOR BINGO.

ALL SENIOR CITIZENS ARE INVITED TO
JOIN US ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 30TH
IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA. 10:00 AM
STARTS MINGLE TIME WITH BINGO TIME
TO FOLLOW FROM 10:30 TO 11:30 AM.

LITE SNACKS AND DRINKS WILL BE
SERVED. PLEASE RSVP TO
MRS. CHAPMAN AT 703-455-2300.

Merry Christmas from the Rosary Ministry!!

Please join us for our January Rosary meeting on
Tuesday, January 21st from 1:00-3:00pm
in the Father Ready Room

We will be teaching how to make mission Rosaries. It is a great ministry to help pass some time on these long winter days. Plus it gets Rosaries into praying hand all over the world. Please contact us with any questions at Rosaryministry@nativityburke.org.



**MARCH FOR LIFE
JOIN US ON JANUARY 24, 2025
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

The right to life is a human right. Our defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person. The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country.

Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It’s the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest... **TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE.** We celebrate each and every life, from the moment of conception. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected! Nativity will again offer a bus. We will depart after the Nativity’s March for Life 10am Mass, attend the rally and march, stop at St. Peter’s Church for hot chocolate/ coffee/restroom break and then return ~ 4pm. Secure your free Nativity Deluxe Motor Coach bus seat at: bit.ly/3TLtMEN

Pray for those who are discerning a call to proclaim the hope of the Resurrection as religious brothers, sisters, priests or deacons. If you feel God is offering you the grace of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at (703) 841-2514 or email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY



No Hands But Yours is 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 DC and northern VA every Sunday morning, rain or shine.

We also have weekly trips into designated areas bringing Panera bread donations along with help from local food banks. Through the blessings of God, we have grown through our Nativity community and continue to do so. For more details visit the Nativity Parish website at <https://nativityburke.org/service/no-hands-but-yours/>. Families are also welcomed! If you have interest in learning more and would like to participate in daily/ Sunday runs, please contact John Rubino at: john.albert.rubino@gmail.com.

Gifts for Seminarian Education Endowment Fund (SEEF)

Please support our seminarians and SEEF, a permanent endowment fund established in 2011. SEEF’s income provides funding for annual seminarian expenses such as room, board, tuition, health insurance and books, which total almost \$45,000 per seminarian. Please give generously!

To donate, make checks payable to: “Foundation for the CDA - SEEF.” Mail to: The Foundation, 200 N. Glebe Road, Suite 811, Arlington, VA 22203. Questions: contact John French at john.french@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-3819.

Fairfax, VA
Retreat with
Immaculée



**JANUARY 18, 2025
ST. LEO THE GREAT**

3700 Blenheim Blvd.
Fairfax, VA 22030

Saturday - January 18, 2025

7:00-7:45 a.m. - Doors Open Registration
7:45 a.m. Mass followed by a short break
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Retreat Begins / Session 1
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Break/Book Signing
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Session 2 - 7 Sorrows Rosary/Prayer
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch/Book Signing
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Session 3 - (Bring Flower for Our Lady)
3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Break/Book Signing
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Session 4
4:30 p.m. - Retreat Ends



Info: Angelle angelle@immaculee.com
Jeanne 571-213-0318

[REGISTER NOW](#) >




LIFE FEST

Because love is the answer.

JANUARY 23-24, 2025 | **AT EAGLEBANK ARENA**
Fairfax, VA

Night of Praise + Morning Rally & Mass

Featuring dynamic speakers & musicians,
Adoration, relics, and more!

Details / To Register
lifefesttrally.com



 **Knights of Columbus** **SISTERS OF LIFE** 

YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION
Sundays | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

EDGE: GRADES 6-8

Twice a month: Sunday 3:30-5:00 p.m.
& Friday 7:00-8:30 p.m.

See website for full schedule

EPIPHANY PARTY: JANUARY 5

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: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

LIFE FEST: JANUARY 23, 2025

Details coming soon! Will be open to grades 8-12

See website for full schedule

Before attending, please register for the 2024-2025 year of ministry using our free, online forms.

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

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

NEED TO TALK?
Catholic Charities provides quality mental health services & counselors grounded in a Catholic understanding of the human person. "Nativity's Counselor" Ms. Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC visits Nativity to counsel clients in-person on Thursdays from 10:00am-6:00pm. She is available to talk with any parishioners who may be struggling. To set up an appointment, please contact Marguerite at 703-454-2415 or mmturner@ccda.net.

Pro-Life Corner

National March For Life (MFL) - Friday, January 24, 2025: Join 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. Secure your free Nativity bus seat! We will depart after the Nativity's March for Life 10:00am Mass, attend the rally and march, stop at St. Peter's Church for hot chocolate/coffee/restroom break and then return ~ 4:00pm. Secure your free Nativity Deluxe Motor Coach bus seat at: bit.ly/3TLtmEN

Virginia Pro-Life Day in Richmond - January 29, 2025: Support Life issues and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow parishioners across the state. Your personal presence is vital in supporting pro-life members of the General Assembly or encouraging those who have voted against pro-life bills in the past to reconsider their views. Contact rickloffredo@outlook.com if interested in attending.

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, 703.273.9440.

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, 866.444.3553.

A Woman's Choice Center - Providing Compassionate Support: Free pregnancy, medical, educational, and support services for women and families. 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, 703.455.4500.

St. Margaret of Cortona - Transitional and Maternity Housing: Helping single mothers in exceptionally difficult circumstances: Assisting mothers with children who may be transitioning from homeless and domestic violence shelters to independent living; and Assisting women pregnant with their first child or pregnant moms who already have other children and find themselves at significant risk in their current living situations. [https://www.ccda.net/need-help/housing/family-housing-\(st-margaret\)/](https://www.ccda.net/need-help/housing/family-housing-(st-margaret)/), or call 703.910.4845.

Mary's Shelter: Sheltering Women and Their Children: Provides an expectant mother, and any additional children she may have, with housing for up to three years in order to further her education and/or secure employment. <https://marysshelterra.org/>, 540.374.3407.



Catholic Charities Pregnancy and Adoption Services: Provides transformative services to individuals, couples and families whose lives are impacted by unplanned pregnancy, parenting in a crisis situation and/or whose lives have been touched by adoption. <https://www.ccda.net/need-help/pregnancy-and-adoption-services/>, 703.841.3830

Project Rachel: Help after Abortion: A safe place to share your emotions and work toward healing. For confidential inquiries and to learn more. helpafterabortion.org, 703.841.2504.

Rachel's Vineyard - A safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem broken hearts: Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment. www.rachelsvineyard.org/, 877.467.3463.

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.

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Whether it's telling the story of Jesus' birth, showcasing the many 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.

We are so grateful to Amanda Klaric, 5th Grade teacher and Director of the pageant. Special thanks to Cole Holland, our Music Teacher, and to Christopher Smith, our Technical Advisor, for their expertise.

Important Upcoming Dates ~

- Monday, Jan 6 – School Resumes
- Monday, Jan 20 – No School/MLK Day
- Sunday, Jan 26 – Catholic Schools Week Begins
- Monday, Jan 27 – Spelling Bee, 2:15 PM
- Thursday, Jan 30 – Military/Emer Personnel Event
- Friday, Jan 31 – Free Lunch for All Students
- Saturday, Feb 1 – PTO Multicultural Event, 6-9 PM

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:

- Ability to follow a lesson plan and give effective instructions in the absence of the teacher
- Proficiency in maintaining effective classroom
- 2-Plus years of college
- Management skills
- Diocesan-compliant and Successful background check

Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy at (703) 455-2300 and/or smurph@nativityschool.org.



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

Council 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.

Linktree Universal Sign-up Link: Volunteer for an event! Scroll down to view all events. https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992
Free Throw Challenge: The annual Free Throw Challenge will be held on Saturday, January 11 from 6-9 PM in the Fr. Martin Center. Volunteers are needed, most especially during the first half of the event. See SUG on Linktree.

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. Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com. Deliver food from Giant to the FFO warehouse Tuesday mornings; contact Br. Bob Colella robert.colella.86@gmail.com.

Name Tags: If you have not received your name tag, email Warden Steve Resch at warden7992@nativityburke.org.
Nativity Ushers assist at collections: Volunteer for your Mass! Volunteer on Link Tree for a database of potential helpers!

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. 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 handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com.

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 navyy8@yahoo.com.

3rd Degree Knights - Grow with 4th Degree: participate in patriotic activities that promote Catholic citizenship. Next assembly meeting is January 14. A GREAT OPPORTUNITY – The next exemplification will be a special event for the 4th Degree 125th anniversary - February 22, 2025 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Several Sir Knights from our assembly will attend and transportation is available. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Mark Corzine at fn2996@vakofc.org.

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. Please email our Deputy Grand Knight, Michael Bender, at dgk7992@nativityburke.org. or the Grand Knight, Chris Odell with any questions.

Event pre and post management tools are available on Linktree. Program Chairs & Event leads, review and complete all event tasks.

EMAIL & TEXTING SCAM ALERT

Nativity parishioners, please be aware of email scammers posing as Nativity priests. If you receive an email or text from any Nativity clergy urgently asking you for favors or money, this is a scam. Please ignore and block the sender. If you have any questions, please call the Nativity Parish office: (703) 455-2400



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Hearty Soups
Cereal & Oatmeal
Canned Veggies
Canned Fruit

Please no glass containers

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The Knights of Columbus has once again earned AM Best's A+ (Superior) Rating for Financial Strength*. In addition, Knights of Columbus was designated by Forbes as one of "America's Best Insurance Companies"² and Standard & Poor's ranked us among the strongest life insurers financially in North America³.

*As of December 2022

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¹Insurance products are offered through Knights of Columbus, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510.
²Knights of Columbus ranked #22 in the permanent life insurance category on Forbes' 2024 America's Best Insurance Companies list. Forbes partnered with Statista to independently survey more than 16,000 customers who owned at least one insurance policy across 7 insurance product categories.
³Standard & Poor's AA+. Ranking North American Life Insurance Companies from Strongest to Weakest by S&P Global Ratings. As of January 25, 2023.
⁴Investments are offered through Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, information found on www.kofcassetadvisors.org.

EPIFANIA DEL SEÑOR - C*Evangelio de la Misa: Mc 2,1-12***Apóstoles**

Fiesta importante en el pueblo cristiano, no tanto por el mensaje central, cuanto por el detalle, cariñoso y entrañable, de ver a aquellos personajes, "unos magos venidos de Oriente", postrados ante el Niño Dios, recientemente venido al mundo como uno más, pero en el que intuyen algo más que un niño encantador. Allí se encuentran con la grandeza infinita de Dios, y la omnipotencia del rey de cielos y tierras. Ellos le ofrecen el obsequio de su fe y de su amor, simbolizados en el "oro, el incienso y la mirra". Ofrecimiento que motiva los regalos propios de este día, que alegra a los niños y encanta a los mayores.

Yo también quiero, Señor, obsequiarte como los Magos con el regalo de mi fe, humilde y confiada, y de mi caridad profunda y generosa, universal y sacrificada si fuere necesario. Acoge, Señor, estas ofrendas, en las que me va la vida, pues solo Tú puedes devolvérmelas llenas de fuerza y vitalidad, de gracia y santidad.

En los Magos, venidos de lejanas tierras, y según la tradición de variadas razas y culturas, siempre han visto los cristianos a todos los pueblos del planeta, postrados ante Ti, y reunidos en tu Pueblo, la Iglesia, Una, Santa, Católica y Apostólica.

Que no olvide esta imagen y este mensaje:

todos los hombres son destinatarios de tu Palabra y para todos traes la Salvación; y en consecuencia con todos los hombres hemos de vivir y compartir, participar y disfrutar, en este Nuevo Pueblo de Dios, que es la Iglesia. También me dices que yo he de tener ese corazón abierto y universal, que representan los Magos, y que a todos debe llegar mi apostolado y mi buen ejemplo profesional, familiar y social.

Gracias, Señor, por esta estrella, mi fe y mi vocación cristiana, que, como a los Magos, ilumina y guía mi vida.

Que me sienta responsable y agradecido por ello, para que sea un verdadero apóstol en esta sociedad, que en ocasiones no quiere verse iluminada por tu estrella y prefiere sus oscuras verdades, sus placeres egoístas y pasajeros.

Que sea siempre un buen cristiano y apóstol, humilde y valiente, sincero y comprometido, comprensivo y acogedor,

optimista y exigente con la fe y la caridad cristiana.

Y si en algún momento la estrella de la fe desaparece en mi vida, o se debilita, que acuda al atajo que facilita llegar de nuevo a Ti, tu Madre, María, en cuyos brazos te encontraron también los Magos.

Padre Segismundo Fernandez Rodríguez**APRENDE TU FE****La noche de los Reyes Magos**

Noche mágica y misteriosa... ¡Qué bonito sería pensar que esta noche todos duermen con esta espera maravillosa!

Por: Ma Esther De Ariño | Fuente: Catholic.net

Noche de Reyes...

Noche mágica y misteriosa...

Noche que hace palpar aceleradamente los corazones infantiles y que al cerrar sus ojos para dormir, los hará soñar con la tierna ilusión de una muñeca o de un tren de bonitos colores.

Porque a pesar de que ahora los juguetes han alcanzado perfecciones insospechadas y técnicas admirables, nada podrá igualar al maravilloso encanto y tierna sencillez de una muñeca "vestida de azul" o de un tren de alegres y vivos colores.

Sueñan los niños y porque sus almas son inocentes y tienen fe, encontrarán sobre sus zapatitos, que esta noche brillan de tan limpios que están, los juguetes anhelados...

"porque se portaron bien" y escribieron una carta que siempre empezó así: *Queridos Reyes Magos...* y los mágicos personajes, Melchor, Gaspar y Baltasar, vendrán al conjuro de esos deseos ingenuos, con sus hermosas capas, con dos coronas y un turbante, para dejar sus regalos.

De tanto pensar en ellos, sienten los niños que en el silencio de esta noche han oído como un rumor de pasos, roce de sedas, terciopelos y brocados... Son los tres Reyes Magos que han pasado. Y ojalá que esos niños guarden para siempre la ilusión y magia de esta noche tan singularmente bella para que, cuando adultos, en sus nuevos hogares, siempre haya una "noche de Reyes". ¡Qué bonito sería pensar que esta noche todos los niños duermen con esta espera maravillosa!

Pero el cuadro tiene su claro-oscuro. Las sombras que nos estrujan el corazón de miles y miles de niños que esta noche no pondrán sus zapatitos porque no los tienen, porque sus pies caminan descalzos sobre la tierra de este Planeta. Que no pedirán ni un tren ni una muñeca sino un mendrugo de pan para tener algo que comer en esta noche de Reyes. Estos niños nos están gritando con el grito silencioso de su presencia, que de nada sirven los tecnicismos de esta era si a los hombres se nos ha endurecido el corazón. Pobre humanidad, envanecida y orgullosa... ¡de qué podemos estarlo! si los hombres se matan y los niños tienen hambre.

Hacer a los niños felices sería el mejor regalo y más aún para nuestras conciencias. Que la mejor meta al llegar el año 2015 sería que no existiera un solo niño sobre la faz de la tierra, en la calle, con hambre y descalzo.

Será sin duda el más severo juicio al que seremos sometidos ante el Creador, porque estuvieron a nuestro lado y no los quisimos ver, tuvieron hambre y no les dimos de comer, tuvieron sed y no les dimos de beber...

Esta noche, noche de Reyes, la humanidad entera y cada uno de nosotros, tendríamos que convertirnos en un Rey Mago, abrazar contra nuestro pecho a un chiquitín, besar sus mejillas sucias, sus ojos tristes y caer de rodillas y pedirles perdón.



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