

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit & Fire LUKE 3:16



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
Kathleen O'Leary, 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**



"Here is my Servant whom I uphold" - Is. 42:1

My dear parishioners,

The Christmas season closes today with the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. This is not the end but rather the beginning. We have once again been renewed in the celebration of God's love for us in the birth of Jesus our Savior during these holy days of Christmas. Our baptism initiates us into the mission of service, just as Jesus became the "servant" of all.

Let us continue to witness to Christ in all our parish ministries. May our baptism be lived out in our dying and rising for others each day. In this Jubilee Year, we honor all who have been baptized at Nativity parish which began in 1973..... thousands and thousands of members of Christ's Body. Let us give thanks for the gift of our own baptism when we were claimed by Christ as His very own and were truly "christened". May the light of Christ continue to shine in all who have been baptized into Jesus Christ.

Love and Christmas Blessings throughout the year,

Bob Cilinski
Msgr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

THE CORNERSTONE CHOIR IS LOOKING FOR SINGERS

No audition or prior experience necessary - All are welcome!
We sing at the 5:30pm Mass every Sunday.
Please contact Mina Lee at Mina.wonn@gmail.com for more information.



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

Secure your free Nativity Deluxe Motor Coach bus seat at: bit.ly/3TLtmEN

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 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.

**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.



**St. Joseph Consecration:
Save the Date, February 11th! Come and see!**



Join us on a spiritual journey to consecrate yourself to St Joseph. Consecration to St. Joseph is a Fr. Calloway, MIC, retreat focused on the wonders of our Spiritual Father. In a world plagued with gender ideology and confusion about marriage and the family, reflections of Mary and Joseph are very much needed. Consecration to St. Joseph and imitations of his virtues will make this happen. St. Joseph wants to be the pillar of your family.

He will teach your family the importance of prayers, mutual respect, purity, honesty, forgiveness, love, and, most importantly, placing God ahead of all things. Informational Tri-folds and prayer cards will be handed out after each Mass this weekend. Take this opportunity to sign-up in the Narthex. The program features daily reflections and an opportunity for group discussion via Zoom on Tuesday evenings 7:45 to 9:00 PM for 6 sessions.

For more information and to register, visit the Nativity Web site: <https://nativityburke.org/33-day-retreat/> or contact Mark Pizzo at 33DayConsecration@nativityburke.or.

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/>.

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



**Happy New Year Nativity from the
Creation Care Ministry!**

We would like to extend an invitation to you to join our ministry for one or many activities this year! To learn more, please contact nativitycreationcare@gmail.com. Here are some of Creation Care Ministry’s planned activities for 2025:

- * Diocesan Care for Creation Network meeting sponsorship on January 21
- * Lenten Soup supper sponsorship on March 19
- * St. Kateri gardens expansion and maintenance on the Nativity campus
- * St. Fiacre vegetable gardens with donations to needy individuals and organizations
- * WorkCamp collaboration-WorkCamp service day organization and sponsorship
- * Nativity Yard Sale - collaborate with recycling/removal of leftover items to useful homes
- * Camp on the Edge assistance
- * Marriage Ministry collaboration-Heroes Hike
- * Parish Festival waste/recycling management, Celebration of Trees, Raptor show
- * Eagle Scout project sponsorship for environmentally related projects
- * Medicine Bottle donation project to Matthew's Ministries
- * Annual Fair Trade Market over Thanksgiving weekend

Your interest, ideas, and assistance are welcome! Please be in touch for more details, to join our email list or to attend a meeting or activity. Kim and George Young at nativitycreationcare@gmail.com

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



**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



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.

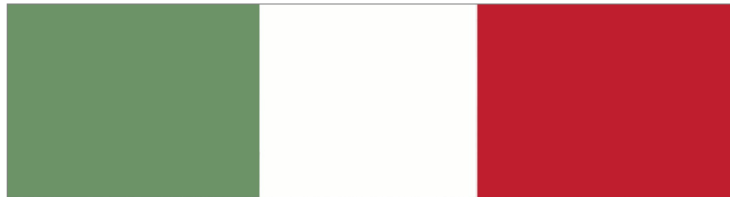
In total only 34 schools, elementary through college both in the United States and abroad, received the award. Maria Kelly, principal of Nativity Catholic School, was excited to share the news with her pastor, parents and students. *"This recognition is for the school's outstanding commitment to providing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

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

THE NATIVITY ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY WELCOMES ALL PARISHIONERS TO OUR FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR!

DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025
 TIME: 7:00 PM
 PLACE: NATIVITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

SOCIAL HOUR WITH WINE AND SNACKS FOLLOWS. IF YOU CAN, PLEASE BRING AN APPETIZER OR DESSERT TO SHARE.

JOIN AS A MEMBER AT ANY MEETING. GUESTS CAN JOIN IN THE FESTIVITIES FOR \$5. MEMBERS CAN RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIPS FOR \$25/FAMILY OR \$20/SINGLE.

Marriage Enrichment Ministry

PUB GAMES: DARTS, PING PONG, BILLIARD & PIZZA

Pottuck Social

January 31, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Edmonds' Home

To Register Email Anna Lisa marriage@nativityburke.org



ST. LUCY FOOD DRIVE
Feeding the Hungry; Nourishing the Soul



PLEASE
DONATE

---- **SATURDAY, FEB 8th | 9AM-1PM** ----

Nativity Parish Parking Lot

A "Drive-By/Drop-Off" food drive
Please place your donations in your trunk

FOOD ITEMS MOST NEEDED

- Canned Meat (tuna and chicken)
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- Canned Pasta (ravioli)
- Hearty Soups
- Cereal & Oatmeal
- Canned Veggies
- Canned Fruit

Please no glass containers

DRIVE UP AND DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS! THE ST. LUCY TEAM WILL ASSIST YOU!

GIFT CARDS AND MONETARY GIFTS ALSO ACCEPTED

Checks can be made out to "CCDA" with "The St. Lucy Project" in the memo

**Love working with children? Want flexibility?
Consider becoming a Recess Monitor at Nativity School
Part-Time Recess Help Needed**

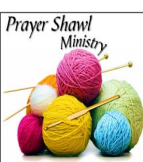


Monday - Friday from Approx. 11:30 am - 1:15 pm

We are in need of responsible adults with the following minimum qualifications to monitor children while eating lunch and at recess:

- Ability to follow directions and communicate effectively.
- Proficiency in maintaining control in a group environment.
- Compliant within the Diocese.
- Successful background check.

To apply, email Rich Godwin at rgodwin@nativityschool.org, or call him at (703) 455-2300, ext.146.



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!

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’” - Luke 3:16

The Catholic Catechism states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

The Holy Year 2025 — Pilgrims of Hope



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.”

Sign Up For the Diocesan E-Newsletter!

Receive special video messages from our bishop, learn about unique opportunities to get involved, and be the first to know

The news about our Diocese - straight to your inbox.

Sign up here: arlingtondiocese.org/email

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.



**MASS INTENTIONS &
MASS SCHEDULE**

*“We are God’s People”
1 Peter 2:10*

Monday, January 13th

7:30 am † Ofelia Vallejo de Nieto

Tuesday, January 14th

7:30 am † Felicisima Buendia

12:00 pm † Lu Rowley

Wednesday, January 15th

7:30 am † Kathleen McHugh

3:00 pm † Pat Ellison

Thursday, January 16th

7:30 am † Kamal Hanna

12:00 pm † Michael Carey

Friday, January 17th

7:30 am † Edward Cilinski

9:00 am Special Intention for John Irizarry

Saturday, January 18th

9:00 am † Rodolfo Ortiz Prada

5:00 pm † Joseph Tran & Maria Nguyen

7:00 pm † Maria Alanya Inga

Sunday, January 19th

7:00 am † James Lynch

9:00 am Parishioners

11:00 am † Lester Lobo

1:00 pm † Gustavo Padres

5:30 pm † Kenneth Marty

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

**Monthly Sensory Mass | Sunday - January 12
At 1:00 pm - Nativity Catholic Church**

In an effort to embrace and welcome the neurodiverse members of our community, Nativity Catholic Church is hosting a monthly Sensory Mass on the second Sunday of every month at the 1:00 pm Mass. All are welcome to attend! A special invitation is extended to any person in need of sensory accommodations.

A Sensory Mass requires a welcoming stigma-free environment and accommodations to help reduce over-stimulation and sensory overload. The Mass will include softer music, dimmer lighting, pictorial resources, and self-regulation tools for those with special needs. Families are encouraged to bring any regulation tool (noise reduction items, quiet fidgets, flexible seating items, weighted objects, etc.) that can support focused attention and provide comfort to a person so they can feel safe in their environment and they can better participate in the Holy Mass.



A final call for Love, Hope and Compassion

Dear Nativity Family,

As we approach the close of our fundraiser, our hearts are filled with gratitude for your support and prayers. Yet, there is still more to be done to meet our goal, and we are calling on your generosity one last time to help make our mission possible. Your contributions directly support:

1. Building a School and Convent – A future of education and faith for young lives in the Congo.
2. Sustaining a Clinic in Nassian, Ivory Coast – Delivering hope and healing to those in dire need of medical care.
3. Expanding Food Pantries – Nourishing families in rural areas, one meal at a time.
4. Providing for Our Retired Sisters – Ensuring their well-being after a lifetime of devoted service.
5. Equipping Our Sisters with Supplies and Education – Empowering their unwavering mission to spread faith and love.

Each gift—big or small—brings us closer to a brighter future for countless lives. If you've already donated, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. If not, we humbly ask for your help during these final hours to reach our goal.

Donate online at handmaidsofpreparation.org or scan the QR code. Your kindness is more than a donation—it's a testament to your faith, compassion, and belief in the power of love to transform lives.

With deep gratitude,

Sister Donatella Merulla and Sister Mary Attilia

P.S. Please share this message with your family and friends.

Together, we can make a lasting impact!



Scan QR-Code
to Donate:



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!



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.

LIFE FEST!

NIGHT OF PRAISE

7:00 - 9:45 P.M.

THURSDAY,
JANUARY 23

\$10

FEATURING DYNAMIC
SPEAKERS & MUSICIANS,
ADORATION, RELICS, &
MORE!

REGISTER ON THE PARISH WEBSITE
Contact: cym@nativityburke.org

GRADES 8 - 12

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

LIFE FEST! JANUARY 23

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 8-12.

ONE ACT PLAY PERFORMANCES

February 7 & 8 at 7:30 p.m.
Diocesan Festival at Nativity: Saturday, February 8

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)

WHEN ALL THE HUSTLE-BUSTLE OF THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER.....

Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? If you agree then you'll want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.

For more information or to register, go to WWME.org, click "Apply" and search for your desired location. Feel free to contact Donald and Helen Dudley at donald.helen.dudley@wwme.org with any questions. Here are a few upcoming experiences:

January 31 - February 2: Myrtle Beach, SC
March 7 - 9: Rehoboth Beach, DE
March 14 -16: Jessup, MD and Ocean City, NJ
March 21-23: Emerald Isle, NC

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 parish-ioners 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.ccca.net/need-help/housing/family-housing-\(st-margaret\)/](https://www.ccca.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://marysshelterva.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.ccca.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.

NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
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 nativityschool.org

Nativity's Nativities!



All Nativity Stars LOVE to engage in hands-on projects. It's really one of the many reasons we've recently been appointed an International STEM School of Excellence. One such project, finished just in time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, is Mrs. Basselgia's Second Grade Nativity Project, where each student brings his/her own vision to The Nativity. It's one of our very favorites!

Pictured above are just a few of their treasures. All of the Nativity scenes will be posted on our school Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/nativityschoolburke/>

Important Upcoming Dates ~

- 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, 6:00-9:00 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 7:15PM; meeting at 7:30PM. 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

Exemplification Ceremony: Wednesday, January 15 at 7:00PM in the church we will welcome new members to our council. Sign up to be a new member of the Knights below. All Knights, families and friends are welcome to attend. If you are a current 1st or 2nd Degree Knight reach out to dgk7992@nativityburke.org to make your 3rd Degree.

March For Life: Friday, January 24. We are requesting volunteers to take turns carrying the "Nativity Is For Life" banner during the March. Contact rickloffredo@outlook.com and also sign up at <https://bit.ly/3TLtmEN> where you can see more details before signing up.

Adopt-A-Highway: Saturday, January 25 from 10:00AM to 12:00 noon in parking lot. Clean up Old Keene Mill Road! See SUG on LinkTree.

St. Lucy Food Drive: Bag distribution after Mass February 1-2, collection on Saturday February 8. See SUG on LinkTree.

Donut Sunday: February 16 - We need recruiters and servers. See SUGs on LinkTree.

Financial Readiness Seminar: February 18 at 7:00 PM in cafeteria. All are invited to better understand the benefits available to Catholics through the Knights of Columbus. This event is open to the entire community. 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! See info on Linktree.

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. See 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. 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 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. 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 BLESSEDMCGIVNEY when you register. Please email our Deputy Grand Knight, Michael Bender, at dgk7992@nativityburke.org or the Grand Knight, Chris Odell at gk7992@nativityburke.org with any questions.



Financial Seminar & Social

Join us for an informative live presentation from The Knights of Columbus. Learn about insurance and other financial products from an organization that is aligned with your faith.

*All are invited
to better understand the benefits available to
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to learn and to enjoy good company during the social! It is open to the entire community.*

Our agency has been a consistent high performer for the Knights of Columbus and its members, offers the knowledge and experience to help you best leverage our insurance products¹ and fraternal benefits.

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

Tues, Feb 18, 2025. 7PM
Nativity Church, Cafeteria

Scan the QR Code to register →

*An excellent opportunity for young & old to learn & discuss financial planning!



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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+ Rating 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.

A Virginia celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

All are welcome!

We welcome you to join with bishops, ecumenical officers and representatives of judicatories across Virginia to pray for unity hosted by the Virginia LARCUM Committee.

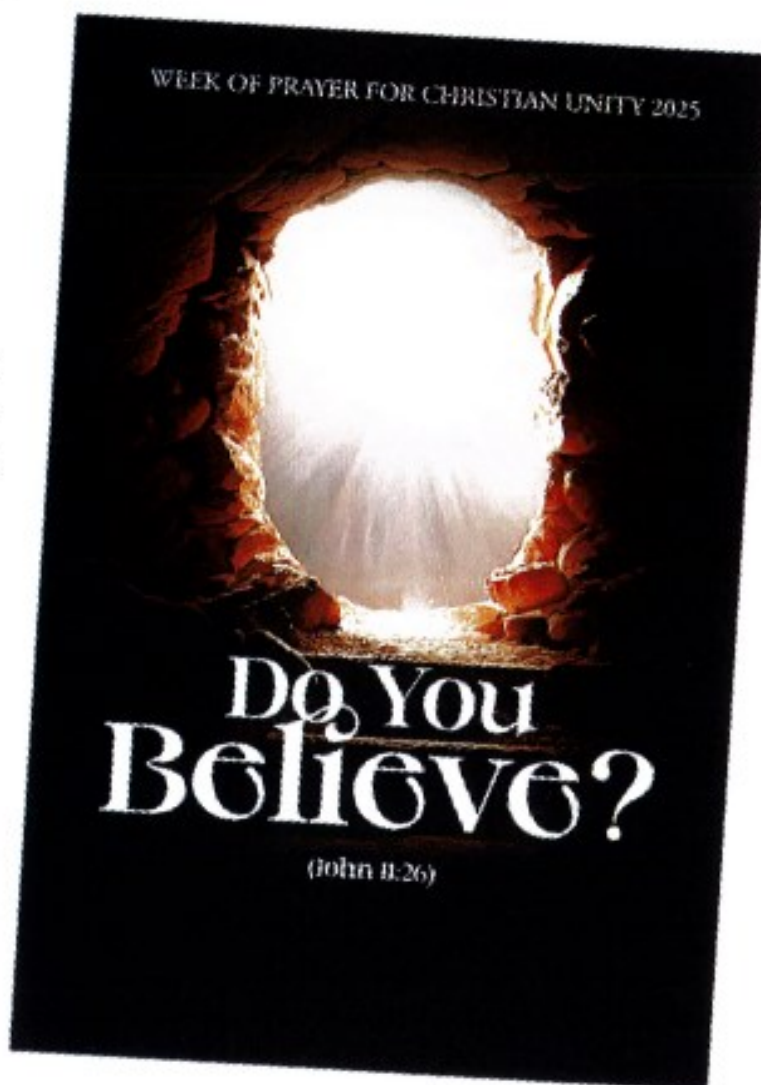
Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 7:30pm

Saint Bernadette Catholic Church
7600 Old Keene Mill Road
Springfield, VA 22152

703-451-8576

The theme for the 2025 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was approved by the Catholic Church's Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, in collaboration with the ecumenical monastic community of Bose in Italy.

The entire passage chosen for reflection is John 11:17-27, where Jesus arrives in Bethany and raises Lazarus from the dead. A part of that story is the encounter between Jesus and Martha, at the end of which Martha confesses faith in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God. This year's theme was chosen in recognition of the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea (325), at which the words "I believe" were chosen to anchor the Creed as an instrument of universal Christian unity.



Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor, Ciclo C. Autor: Padre Oscar Balcázar Balcázar

Is 42, 1-4. 6-7; Sal 28; Hch 10, 34-38; Lc 3, 15-16. 21-22

Como el pueblo estaba expectante y andaban todos pensando en sus corazones acerca de Juan, si no sería él el Cristo, declaró Juan a todos: "Yo os bautizo con agua; pero está a punto de llegar el que es más fuerte que yo, a quien ni siquiera soy digno de desatarle la correa de sus sandalias. Él os bautizará en Espíritu Santo y fuego. Todo el pueblo se estaba bautizando. Jesús, ya bautizado, se hallaba en oración, se abrió el cielo, bajó sobre él el Espíritu Santo en forma corporal, como una paloma; y vino una voz del cielo:

"Tú eres mi hijo; yo hoy te he engendrado."

Lc 3, 15-16. 21-22

Luego de haber celebrado el nacimiento de Nuestro Salvador, la fiesta de la Sagrada Familia y la celebración de María Madre de Dios con la cual dimos gracias a Dios por el año que terminó y por el año que se iniciaba, con la celebración que hoy día la Iglesia nos concede, que es el bautismo de Cristo; nos presenta a través de este primer domingo ordinario la vida del hombre nuevo, la vida de la nueva humanidad que surge de las aguas del bautismo y que sobre todo se inicia por la persona de Cristo; pues como dirá el evangelio: "...Tú eres mi hijo, mi amado, en quien me complazco..."

De esta manera por eso tanto la segunda lectura como el evangelio se complementan en cuanto nos hablan del sentido del bautismo, pues es a través del bautismo que nos hemos incorporado al pueblo de Dios, a la vida nueva que Cristo con su muerte de cruz y su resurrección de entre los muertos inaugurará para todos los hombres.

En la primera lectura se anuncia a Jerusalén, y a través de ella a toda la humanidad, el consuelo de que el tiempo de la salvación ha comenzado ya: "... Mirad, aquí está vuestro Dios...". El Salvador viene en "gloria" y "con fuerza", pues la obra redentora de Jesús vencerá y dominará toda la historia del mundo; pero por otra parte viene con la solicitud de un pastor que lleva en brazos a sus corderos y cuida de las ovejas madres: esta unidad de poder y cuidado amoroso muestra como el Dios encarnado, hecho hombre; sólo Dios es quien reúne estos dos atributos en una unidad perfecta, La segunda lectura nos sitúa allí donde se ha realizado ya la obra salvífica de Jesús: "...él se entregó por nosotros..."; y donde el bautismo cristiano, el llamado "baño del segundo nacimiento", nos permite participar en el primer bautismo (de agua) y en el último bautismo (de sangre) de Jesús. De nuevo aparece el Cielo abierto sobre los cristianos bautizados, y Dios revela todo su amor al hombre. La gracia del Padre aparece para traernos la salvación a todos los hombres; no en razón de nuestras obras de justicia, sino en virtud de su inmensa misericordia. El propio Jesús es llamado "Salvador", y al mismo tiempo "nuestro gran Dios"; y a través del bautismo se opera la renovación por el Espíritu Santo que es derramado sobre nosotros por medio de Jesucristo, para nuestra justificación y santificación, que nos hará dignos de obtener la vida eterna tan ansiada y esperada. Este milagro de la teofanía en el bautismo de Jesús se continúa en la Iglesia en todos los tiempos.

Es así que el evangelio nos dice que Jesús se deja bautizar con el pueblo que quiere la conversión y la purificación de sus pecados, es un gesto que contiene en sí algo profundamente misterioso; es como si quisiera, ya en su primer acto público, manifestar su solidaridad con todos los pecadores. Más tarde acogerá a los suyos en su Iglesia con el bautismo cristiano, mediante la humillación de una inmersión en agua como elemento de muerte y regeneración; Jesús no quiere imponer a los suyos nada que él mismo no haya hecho. Y si el bautismo ha de ser realmente un ser sepultado con él en su muerte y un resucitar con él a una nueva vida imperecedera, entonces este primer bautismo es ya para él una obligación anticipada de cara a su propia pasión y resurrección: todo lo que acontece entre el bautismo y la cruz está encuadrado por un sentido y un acontecimiento unitario. El bautismo del Jordán es para Jesús un bautismo "con Espíritu Santo", el de la cruz será un bautismo "de fuego"; el primero es solidaridad con los pecadores que han de purificarse, el segundo será la extinción a sangre y fuego de todo el pecado del mundo.

Sobre este acontecimiento del bautismo de Jesús aparece el cielo abierto y Dios se da a conocer como trinitario: el Padre que envía confirma a "...su Hijo, el amado, el predilecto...", que cumple por libre amor la voluntad trinitaria de salvación; el Espíritu Santo aparece en forma de paloma entre el Padre, en el cielo, y el Hijo que ora en la tierra: transmitiendo al Hijo la voluntad del Padre y llevando al padre la oración del Hijo. Todo entre el bautismo y la cruz-resurrección corresponderá a esta forma aquí visible de la decisión salvífica del Dios unitario.

Luego de haber celebrado estas fiestas de Adviento en toda su plenitud y fuerza, y al celebrar hoy el bautismo de Cristo, que significa para nosotros Nuestro nacimiento a la vida recreada por Nuestro Salvador, el Señor nos conceda vivir nuestra vida cristiana en la actitud del Bautista, para que cuando demos testimonio de nuestra vida podamos decir que no somos nosotros sino es Cristo al que debemos acoger cada día. Pues, tantas veces, sin darnos cuenta robamos la gloria de Dios atribuyéndonos sus dones como si fueran actitudes nuestras y por eso el Bautista invita a su audiencia a mirar a Cristo, pues nosotros que por el bautismo hemos sido constituidos como sacerdotes, profetas y reyes de Cristo y al mismo tiempo a ser en nuestra vida luz, sal y fermento, lo seremos en la medida que digamos como san Pablo: "... No soy yo sino es Cristo que habita en mí...". Los invito a rezar de una manera particular por todas aquellas personas que a través de sus vidas nos han llevado al encuentro de Cristo y a través de esta labor que han realizado en beneficio nuestro nos han llevado a las aguas de la regeneración para junto con Cristo participar de esta vida nueva con el Padre y de esta manera las palabras del evangelio resuenen en nuestro corazón: "...Tú eres mi en quien me complazco...", porque con la ayuda y la gracia del Espíritu Santo podremos vivir la voluntad de Dios en nuestra vida en toda su radicalidad. Y de esta manera ser agradecidos y gratos a Dios porque el sentido de nuestra vida consiste en que Dios con nosotros realice su voluntad como la manifestó en Cristo.

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