

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# Behold, the Lamb of God



**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  
Ana Gonzalez, Offertory/Mass Intentions  
Charlie Gutierrez, Evening Receptionist  
Patricia Pagoada, Director Family Ministry/Social Action  
Tracey Hulen, Disability Inclusion Coordinator  
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 and 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/>

**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.

**BULLETIN EDITOR:**  
Caroline Chase, [bulletin@nativityburke.org](mailto:bulletin@nativityburke.org)

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**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



*"Here I am. You called me."*

My dear parishioners,

This Sunday we enter "*Ordinary Time*." Christmas with its glitter and excitement is behind us and Lent followed by the glory of Easter is in the future. In this "*ordinary*" time we reflect on the everyday ministry of Jesus. God enters the ordinary moments of our lives and truly makes them extraordinary.

We are ordinary human beings, but something extraordinary happened when we were baptized. St. Paul describes this when he says that ordinary human beings are members of Christ; their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit!

We do not recognize Christ in the ordinary moments and ordinary people of our lives. John the Baptist almost missed God when He came calling. We do not hear the voice of God calling so we need to attune our ears and adjust our sights. When God calls we should respond, "*Here I am. You called me.*"

John Henry Cardinal Newman gives us this reflection:

*God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.*

*I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good. I shall do his work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it – if I do but keep his commandments.*

*Therefore, I will trust him. Whatever, wherever I am. I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what he is about. He may take away my friends, he may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me – still he knows what he is about.*

Love and Blessings,

Msgr. Bob Cilinski,  
Pastor



### 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](mailto: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.

### 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!***



**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!!**



**Grab a Free Cup of Cameroonian Coffee on Sunday January 18**



Nativity Knights and Viridiane’s Hope (<https://vhche.org/>) missionaries will be serving coffee from Cameroon in the Narthex after Masses on Sunday January 18.

Enjoy a cup of Cameroonian coffee blend of 70% Arabica and 30% Robusta and some fellowship while learning about the upcoming Mission Trips to Cameroon **February 15-28, and October 22 - November 1, 2026.**

Coffee is from plantation cultivated by Cistercian monks at an altitude of 4,000 feet, on the high plateaus of the Noun province of Cameroon, with beans carefully harvested, processed, and inspected, resulting in a coffee rich in flavor and with a perfectly preserved aroma.

**Director of Youth Ministry**

*Nativity Catholic Church, a dynamic parish located in Burke, VA, seeks to hire an experienced Director of Youth Ministry to be responsible for the coordination of all high school and middle school programs.*

The youth minister will develop the curriculum, implement and oversee the program, collaborate with the religious education program, work with parents/adult volunteers, and act as liaison between parish and Diocese.

Work will be performed in and out of office setting with frequent evening and/or weekend work. Full time position with competitive salary and benefits.

Requirements:

- \*Proven experience/knowledge of Catholic Church theology, history, and teachings.
- \*Fully initiated and practicing Catholic
- \*Proficient in English (oral and written)
- \*Bilingual Spanish-English a plus
- \*Strong communication and people skills
- \*Good organizational and multi-tasking abilities
- \*Ability to budget and implement financial controls.

Submit cover letter and resume N.L.T. Jan 30, 2026 to:

Msgr. Bob Cilinski

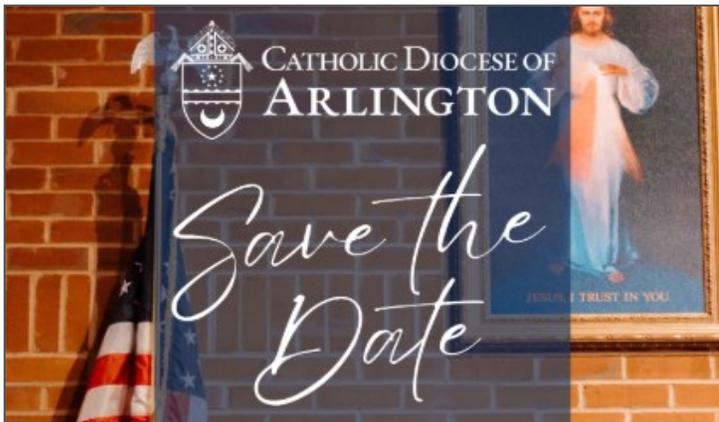
c/o Ann Benson, at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke VA, 22015 or via email to [abenson@nativityburke.org](mailto:abenson@nativityburke.org).



**SCOUT SUNDAY & PANCAKE BREAKFAST FEBRUARY 8th, 2026**

Nativity Scout Sunday will be celebrated on February 8th at the 9:00am Mass. All Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, American Heritage Girls, Trail Life, and Camp Fire Youth from the Parish are invited to participate.

Please have your scout report in full uniform to the Fr. Ready Room (*between the Church and the School*) by 8:40am that morning to line up for the processional. Units are invited to bring their flags with stands. Scouts will be seated with their leaders by program level. All of the Scouts will receive commemorative patches for participating. Following the 9:00am Mass, Troop 1100 and the Knights of Columbus Council 7992 will host a special Pancake Breakfast fundraiser in the cafeteria for just \$5/person or \$20/family. Please contact your scout leaders or Sam Morthland at 703-455-2186 for more information.



**Immigration & the Church's Prophetic Voice**

Save the date for the Catholic Diocese of Arlington's 2026 Peace & Justice Conference, Immigration & the Church's Prophetic Voice. Join Bishop Burbidge for the 5:00 pm Mass at Nativity Catholic Church in Burke, with dinner and program to follow. Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, will deliver the keynote address.

**Saturday, March 7 - 5:00 to 8:30 PM**  
**Church of the Nativity, Burke**

*This event is free & open to the public. Registration will open soon.*

**Where Is Your Calling to Serve or Practice Your Faith? Considering a Mission Trip to Support The Poor in Underserved Communities?**

Members of the Knights of Columbus, guided by the principle of charity, incorporate the corporal works into their daily practices both nationally and internationally. Viridiane's Hope for Children's Health and Education, a Virginia-based nonprofit and Catholic charity affiliated with the Arlington Diocese—founded by a Nativity Knight—embodies this mission through international outreach in rural villages of Cameroon, West Africa. Their initiatives include drilling water wells, constructing schools and sanitation facilities, renovating chapels, offering educational programs, and supporting community projects. Since 2022, missionary teams have traveled to Cameroon with Viridiane's Hope to engage in these activities. In 2025, Nativity Knights partnered with Viridiane's Hope to implement projects such as drilling wells, chapel and altar renovations, providing comfort to the sick, preparing gardens, planting banana trees, and facilitating educational outreach for youth. Looking ahead, Viridiane's Hope is partnering with Nativity Knights and Commissioned by Christ, to organize two mission trips to Cameroon in 2026: February 15-28 (4-6 participants), and October 22 - November 1 (12-15 participants). Individuals interested in serving the poor in underserved communities internationally while practicing the corporal works of mercy are encouraged to consider these opportunities. For additional info please contact Joe Tiago at [vhchecorp@gmail.com](mailto:vhchecorp@gmail.com) or Michelle Haworth, [michelle.haworth@commissionedbychrist.org](mailto:michelle.haworth@commissionedbychrist.org). To learn more about ongoing work in Cameroon, visit <https://vhche.org>, follow and friend Viridiane's Hope on Facebook and Instagram. Commissioned by Christ is a Catholic, non-profit organization bringing adults and families closer to Christ through short-term mission trips to serve the needs of the poor. For upcoming global missions, visit: <https://www.cbc-missions.org/global-missions>.

**Sacristan**

*Church of the Nativity, a dynamic parish located in Burke, VA, seeks to hire a part-time Sacristan - 20-25 hours per week. This position will be responsible for preparing the church and Altar for Mass and other liturgical celebrations.*

Principal duties include caring for the liturgical vessels, altar cloths, and needed supplies. Coordinate with volunteer sacristans and liturgical ministers. Be present to welcome all with a spirit of joy and kindness.

**Requirements:**

- \*Bilingual English -Spanish a plus
- \*Knowledge of MS office – including Excel, Word, and Microsoft Office
- \*Good organizational and multi-tasking abilities
- \*A spirit of service to God's people

Submit cover letter and resume N.L.T. January 30, 2026 to: Msgr. Bob Cilinski c/o Ann Benson at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA 22015, or via email to [abenson@nativityburke.org](mailto:abenson@nativityburke.org).

**Volunteer Recruitment:**

**Nativity Catholic Church Monthly Sensory Mass**

We are looking for volunteers to assist during our Sensory Mass on the second Sunday of every month at the 1:00 pm Mass. Assistance may include setting up before the Mass, cleaning materials after the Mass, or helping with donuts and coffee. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about the Sensory Mass please email Tracey Hulen, Disability Inclusion Coordinator at [thulen@nativityburke.org](mailto:thulen@nativityburke.org).

NATIVITY PLAYERS THEATRE MINISTRY  
 INVITES YOU TO OUR FIRST ANNUAL

# CANDLELIGHT CABARET

An evening of song, dance and story in full glow!

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
 FEBRUARY 6 & 7 - 7:30 PM

THE FATHER MARTIN CENTER | NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH | BURKE, VA



**ALTAR FLOWERS - Donated by**

The Becker Family in Loving Memory of Ernie Watkins and Don & Fran Becker and Shirley Rebello in Loving Memory of Max Fernandes



Nativity Catholic Church



Gathering for **Caregivers** of Family Members with Special Needs



Caregivers of loved ones with special needs (of all ages) are invited to **join us for a time of community**, encouragement, and spiritual support. This gathering will include small group conversations, a presentation from a fellow caregiver, and space to connect with other parish families navigating similar journeys. Caregivers include those caring for family members with special needs such as sensory processing challenges, ADHD, autism, or intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities, etc. We consider caregivers to be any relative who is walking alongside a family member with special needs. **Caregivers must register in advance to attend.**

Sunday, February 1st 7:00–8:30 pm Father Ready Room  
[nativityburke.org/caregivers-gathering/](http://nativityburke.org/caregivers-gathering/)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Want to help make a positive impact to support marriages and families? Please help the Marriage Enrichment Ministry with setup, Childcare and/or cleanup on our next date night, **Saturday, January 24.**



*The Secular Carmelite Community of Thérèse of the Child Jesus offers a Day of Recollection at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Annandale, February 28, 2026 from 8:30am - 1:00pm*

Br. Nathanael of Jesus, OCD will speak on **“Your strength will lie in silence and hope”** - Marian asceticism with St. John of the Cross.

\$20 Per person (cash or check) will be collected at the door. Registration begins at 8:30am, 9:00am Mass followed by light refreshments, 10:00am first talk, 11:00am Holy Hour with Confession, 12:00pm second talk with Q&A.

For more information contact Suzanne at [skoucheravy56@gmail.com](mailto:skoucheravy56@gmail.com) or Veronica at [veronicaroyal@icloud.com](mailto:veronicaroyal@icloud.com).



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

**Monday, January 19**

9:00 am † James Lynch

**Tuesday, January 20**

7:30 am Special Intention for Andrea Morrow  
12:00 pm † Maya Schaubert

**Wednesday, January 21**

7:30 am † Special Intention for Regina & Rick Stone  
3:00 pm Special Intention for Alexandra Rodriguez  
(Burke Healthcare)

**Thursday, January 22**

7:30 am † Darryl Evans  
12:00 pm † Nicholas Gavilan

**Friday, January 23**

7:30 am † Emilio “Junior” DiCola  
10:00 am † Richard Blake **March for Life Mass**

**Saturday, January 24**

9:00 am † Joseph M. Bowers Jr.  
5:00 pm † Jill Shorter  
7:00 pm Nativity Parishioners

**Sunday, January 25**

7:00 am † Cecil Bosworth  
9:00 am † Karen A. Sneer  
11:00 am † Bob Fram  
1:00 pm † Hashilieda Roa and Augusta Rosa  
5:30 pm † Dorothy Klimkiewicz

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

**JOIN CUB SCOUTING!!**

Pack 1101 invites all boys and girls K through 5th graders to join Cub Scouting. Learn new crafts, skills, and participate in fun activities such as the Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold Banquet, nature walks and family camp outs. Den meetings are once or twice per month from September to May at Nativity. For more information, contact Dave Zivich at [davezivich@gmail.com](mailto:davezivich@gmail.com).



**Nativity “Kids Corner” at Donut Sundays**  
*We’re excited to introduce a new Kids Corner at Nativity’s once-a-month Donut Sundays!*

After Mass, families are invited to stop by this welcoming space where children can enjoy books and simple, self-guided crafts while parents relax and enjoy their donuts together. This fun and faith-filled addition is made possible by our volunteers. We are seeking VIRTUS-compliant adults to assist during Donut Sundays. Two volunteers are needed for each Sunday Mass time (9:00 AM and 11:00 AM) to help keep the Kids Corner running smoothly. If you’re able to help support our parish families in this way, please contact: Anna Lisa Licud at [marriage@nativityburke.org](mailto:marriage@nativityburke.org). Thank you for helping make Nativity’s Donut Sundays a joyful experience for our children and families!



## Date Night for Couples

*Welcoming Conflict 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).

## Thank You

Dear Friends,

As we bring our Advent fundraiser to a close, we want to begin with one simple and heartfelt word: THANK YOU! Over the years, your generosity has made a real and lasting difference. Because of your kindness, children have received education, families have found care and support, and our Religious Sisters have been able to continue their mission of service with dignity and hope. We do not take that lightly, and we are deeply grateful for every prayer, every gift, and every sign of encouragement you have shared with us.

At this point in our fundraising journey, there is still work to be done, and while we have not yet reached our goal, we share this update with humility and in a spirit of openness and trust as we continue moving forward.

While Advent has ended, the needs of the children and communities we serve in Congo and the Ivory Coast, as well as the Religious Sisters who depend on donations to sustain their work, continue beyond the season.

We recognize that each season brings its own challenges, and there is no expectation or obligation. We share this message with openness and hope, trusting that if your heart is moved to support us one final time, any gift large or small, will be received with deep gratitude and will help sustain the work that so many rely upon.

Most importantly, please know how thankful we are for you. Your generosity over the years has been a blessing, and we hold you close in prayer as partners in this mission. Thank you for walking with us, for believing in this work, and for being a source of light to others.

With sincere gratitude and prayer,  
Sister Donatella Merulla  
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro  
[handmaidsofthereparation.org](http://handmaidsofthereparation.org)



For those who wish to help us reach our goal, donations can be made through our website or by scanning the QR code. We are truly grateful for your support.

**FREE BINGO**  
**Thursday**  
**January 29, 2026**  
**9:45 am to 11:15 am**

**FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**  
**NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
**BURKE, VA**

• GAMES • FUN • PRIZE

**RSVP to Mrs. Chapman**  
**703 455 2300**

### 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).

### 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/>.

## THE NATIVITY ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY

**PRESENTS: A TASTE OF BOLOGNA!**

**DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026 AT 7:00 PM**

**PLACE: NATIVITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

Discover the rich history, culture and culinary traditions of Bologna, a hidden gem in the heart of the Emilia-Romagna region located in northern Italy presented by one of our members, Diane Welland. Learn why this fascinating city is widely considered the best place to eat in Italy and a place where history, food, and passion blend perfectly together.

Learn the secrets behind Bologna's famous nicknames (The Learned, The Fat, The Red) and explore its medieval streets, ancient university, and vibrant piazzas. Experience Bologna's rich cuisine first hand with samples of some iconic foods of the region. Whether you're a foodie, a history lover, or simply curious about Italy, this presentation will leave you inspired, entertained, and — most importantly — hungry for more.

As always, a social hour with wine and snacks follows the program. If you can please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Join as a member at any meeting. Guests can attend for \$5.00. You don't need to be Italian to join; just have a love for the Culture and Heritage!

### St. Lucy Winter Food Drive:

**Saturday, February 7th from 9:00AM - 1:00PM**

The St. Lucy Winter Food Drive will take place from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, 7 February to support Catholic Charities in its campaign against hunger in the Diocese. The St. Lucy truck will be parked at the rear of the church parking lot nearest Old Keene Mill Road (like in the previous food drives).

During that time, you can drive to the truck and our team will take any donations from your vehicle (please place your donations in your trunk for safe and easy removal).

Catholic Charities also accepts monetary donations, especially grocery gift cards (Giant, Safeway, etc.); any donation is welcome! Please make any checks out to CCDA, with "St. Lucy Project" in the memo line. We can always use help with loading donations; if you'd like to volunteer, please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D49ADAE29A6FE3-stlucy1>.

If you would like to help hand out the blue bags after Mass on January 31st and February 1st, please join us in the narthex after Communion. If you have questions, please email the St. Lucy Team at [nativity.stlucyteam@gmail.com](mailto:nativity.stlucyteam@gmail.com). Thank you and God bless you!

## 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)



### Pray the Pro-Life Rosary and Witness with Us!

When: Friday mornings after the 7:30 am Mass  
Where: 900 S. Washington St, Falls Church, VA.

Join Nativity in praying the Pro-Life Rosary for mothers in need and for the protection of human life. Your peaceful presence outside on the sidewalk in front of the Falls Church abortion facility makes a difference by increasing awareness, and for parents who find themselves in unplanned/crisis pregnancies. Contact [rickloffredo@outlook.com](mailto:rickloffredo@outlook.com).



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



PLEASE  
**DONATE**

--- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup> | 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

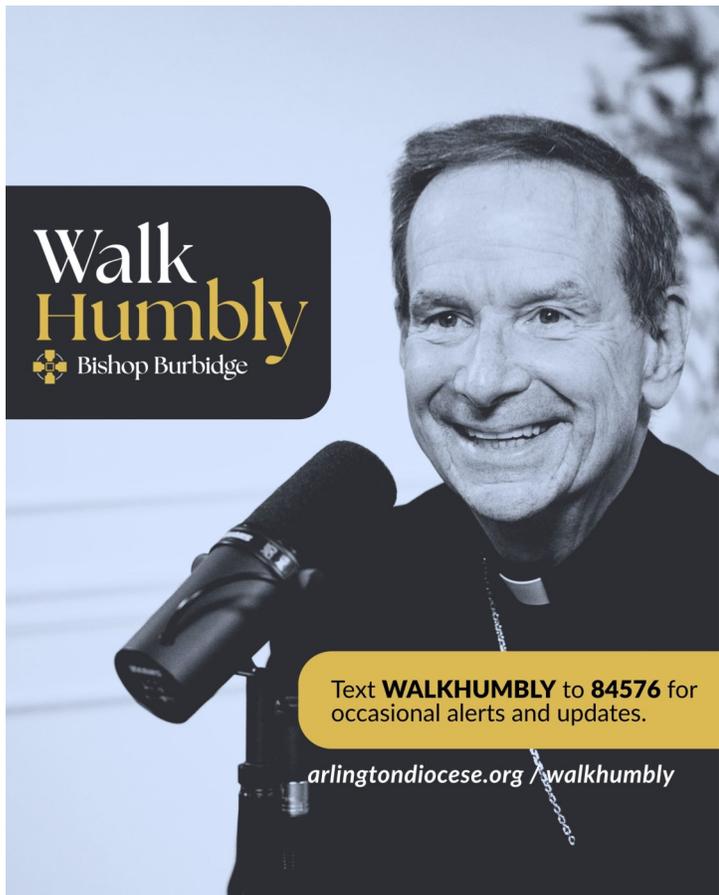


FOR E-GIVING, PLEASE USE  
THE QR CODE OR VISIT:  
<https://osvhub.com/nativityburke/giving/funds>

# Cursillo Dinner & Faith Sharing - All Are Welcome!

Are you looking for community and friendship? To share your faith with friends (new and old)? Join the Arlington Diocese Cursillo community and fellow parishioners on Saturday, January 24 at 6:15pm (after the 5pm Mass) in the Bradican Room. Together we will pray, eat, and share personal stories of God's Grace. Dinner is potluck. As always, and in Cursillo style, please bring food and drinks to share. Hosted by Saint Bernadette Parish with co-hosts from Nativity and St Raymond of Penafort. Questions - contact Trish at [1986sailboat@gmail.com](mailto:1986sailboat@gmail.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.



\*\*\*\*\*

**THANK YOU FROM THE ART AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY**

Nativity Church would like to thank those parishioners who have served as part of the Art and Environment and Plant Watering ministries over the last few months, decorating and caring for the environment of the church sanctuary and nearby spaces within the building.

From installing the November scrolls, to the Thanksgiving display, to decorating for Advent, the switching to Christmas, and then removing decorations and packing them away after each liturgical change: this happens as a result of concerted efforts of many, working together.

Heartfelt appreciation and gratitude go to the following for sacrificing their time and donating their talents and efforts to create and enhance the spiritual environment of our parish church: Kathy and Jim Sawyer, Bonnie Carpenter, Bill Meskill, Tom Powers, Anne Bowden, Mary Ellen Crennan, Jeff and Vickie Sands, Bonnie Goodwin, Kris Kockler, Tami Phillips, Margaret Lynch, Judy Toy, Michelle Didier, Stephanie Bock, and Jessica Nguyen.

We thank The Flower Gallery in Manassas for their weekly flower arrangements and the beautiful, hearty crop of potted poinsettias they delivered us this year! A huge thanks goes to the parishioners who cared for the Christmas poinsettias and water the plants throughout the year: our Plant Watering Ministry team of Bonnie Goodwin, Rite Anderson Anne Bowden, and Diane Keller, and our extra helpers Michelle Didier, Cameron Carney, Vickie Sands and Kathryn Quan, some of whom will join our team this month.

We appreciate the daily tending to cut flower arrangements by Jessica Nguyen and Bonnie Carpenter throughout the year.

We are grateful for the devotion of Jocelyn and Leo Dizon who place fresh live flowers at the base of grotto weekly throughout the year.

More importantly, we couldn't make the church sanctuary and chapel look and feel the way it does without the dedicated, day-in-and-day-out, arduous efforts of Carlos Gutierrez and Antonio Perez Infantes : their muscle power, cooperation and mission to keep the church clean and safe are unmatched and greatly appreciated.

Lastly, we thank the parish office staff for coordinate with us to schedule the space and serve as communicators for us as we coordinate timing and efforts.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Peace in the Storm*  
**Chronic Pain and Illness Support Group**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month,  
 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Church Conference Room

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month,  
 12:15 -2:15 pm, Fr. Ready Room

Nativity Catholic Church is aware of the many challenges that chronic pain and illness pose in the lives of our parishioners. We understand how these conditions can lead to questions of faith, too, and want you to know that you are not alone!

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 see the parish website or email Anna Lisa Licud alicud@nativityburke.org.

**EMAIL SCAM ALERT**

Nativity parishioners, please be aware of email scammers posing as **Nativity priests**. If you receive an email 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

Historically, scammers have posed as Father Bob, now they are posing as our other Nativity priests.

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).*



Support Our Seminarians  
 During Our \$100,000 Challenge Gift  
 Make Your Gift Today!



Mail your check made out to:  
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 200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 811, Arlington, VA 22203  
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 To make a gift online: [arlingtondiocese.org/Donate\\_SEEF](http://arlingtondiocese.org/Donate_SEEF)

**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).

**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”*

**SAFETY ALERTS!!**

**NOTE about GROTTO FLOWERS PLACEMENT**

For safety, landscape erosion, and maintenance reasons, we kindly ask that parishioners refrain from placing flowers, glass vases or plants on the upper ledge of the grotto where the Lady of Fatima statue sits. The Art & Environment Ministry will place artificial arrangements in safe, weighted pots flanking the statue during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

**NOTE about VOTIVE CANDLE PLACEMENT**

For safety and fire hazard reasons, we kindly ask that parishioners refrain from placing candles on the wooden ledge on which the statue of St. Anthony sits. Candles should be contained in the votive candle rack/stands provided at the brick wall to the left of the St. Jude niche.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

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



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



**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.

**MARCH FOR LIFE - JANUARY 23**  
Join us as we march to Capitol Hill for a prayerful, peaceful, and powerful witness of our faith. Sign up on the youth ministry page to fill out the form and reserve your space on the bus. Open to 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**

**End of Life Considerations** - May Healthcare Serve and Protect Human Life Jesus is the Divine Physician who modeled how to care for the sick during his time on earth. Healthcare professionals share in Christ's healing mission and are entrusted with the care and protection of human life in its most vulnerable circumstances. Their goal must always be the service and safeguarding of human life, and never its destruction. Yet in a time of scientific and technological developments, there are many instances in healthcare settings in which God's design for the human person is violated, especially as patients approach the end of their earthly lives...

Despite our best efforts, it can sometimes be difficult to recognize the profound value of human life when we see its full weakness and fragility. Yet, the faithful care of human life until its natural end is entrusted to every person. Death is a decisive moment in our encounter with God, and the time preceding this encounter holds great significance.

To those who care for the sick, the scene of the Cross provides a way of understanding that even when it seems that there is nothing more to do there remains much to do, because "remaining" by the side of the sick is a sign of love and of the hope that it contains. Healed by Jesus, we become men and women called to proclaim his healing power and provide care for our neighbors, until the very end.

Act - Prayerfully reflect on the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:29-37) and what the Lord reveals about caring for the sick through it.

One Step Further - Learn more about the importance of authentic hospice and palliative care from a Catholic perspective: [bit.ly/witness-good-samaritan](https://www.respectlife.org/prayer-guides). [Excerpts taken from <https://www.respectlife.org/prayer-guides>]

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** - One of the best ways to help the dying is to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, as prescribed by Jesus, as he said to St. Faustina, "My daughter, encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given to you. It pleases Me to grant everything they ask of Me by saying the chaplet. ... Write that when they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand before My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the merciful Savior" (Diary, 1541).

**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. Check with the church office or go to: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/family-life/respect-life/end-of-life-medical-directives/>.

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**Thank You from the Nativity Craft Group**

With the generous support of our wonderful Nativity community, the Craft Group was able to donate to charities and support groups in our area. Your contributions and faithful support of our bazaar have made a great difference in the lives of many.

The Craft Group is always open to new members who enjoy learning new things, great fellowship and a great time creating lovely items. All items produced are sold at the annual Nativity Christmas Bazaar to support the needy in our area. We also accept and appreciate any donation of yarn and fabric used to make the various items for the Bazaar. The group meets every Thursday at 9:30am in the Fr. Ready Room. We invite everyone to visit and/or participate!

Thank you for your wonderful support!  
**The Nativity Craft Group**

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.




# Share YOUR Faith



**SECOND COLLECTION  
NEXT WEEKEND**

## Support the Collection for the Church in Latin America

The bishops of the United States established the annual Collection for the Church in Latin America as a practical expression of unity and love for their brothers and sisters in Central and South America and the islands of the Caribbean. For more than 60 years, Catholics in the United States have answered the invitation to “share your faith” by supporting pastoral ministries that strengthen the Church in the present day and help it pass on the Gospel to future generations.

One of the most important ways that Catholics share our faith with future generations is by supporting the formation and seminary education of men who have answered God’s call to the priesthood or

diaconate. In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 149 priestly seminarians and 69 permanent deacons at the São José Archdiocesan Seminary received support through the Collection for the Church in Latin America to help cover education tuition and spiritual retreat expenses, as well as the cost of food.

Your support for this special collection helps prepare these men for lives of serving others through their preaching and celebration of the sacraments.

For more information about how donations help the Church in Latin America, visit [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america).

### 2024 CLA Financials

#### Expenses

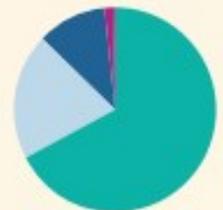
- Grants and Donations: **84.19%**
- Program Costs: **5.34%**
- Allocations—Internal Grants: **5.25%**
- Promotions and Fundraising Expenses: **4.21%**
- Administrative Expenses: **1.01%**

**Total Expenses: \$8,458,445**



Total Number of Grants Approved: 344  
Total Amount Approved: \$8,060,250

- General Pastoral\*: **67.34%**
- Formation of Clergy and Religious, and Vocations: **19.89%**
- Emergency Disaster Funds: **11.17%**
- Other\*\*: **1.45%**
- Inter-American Fund\*\*\*: **0.15%**



\*Includes evangelization, religious education, family, and other pastoral ministries.  
\*\*Special grants include purchase of equipment and administrative costs of dioceses facing severe economic hardship.  
\*\*\*Covers travel expenses for pastoral visits made by Latin American church leaders to US dioceses or elsewhere within Latin America.



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

Collection for the Church in Latin America | Office of National Collections  
3211 Fourth Street NE | Washington, DC 20017-1194 | (202) 541-3365 | [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections)

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Help with an online donation



50200426

**Nativity CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
 A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence  
 nativityschool.org




**Reindeer Games: A Jolly Good Time!**

\*\*\*\*\*

At Christmas, we altered one of our holiday traditions. Rather than present our usual Polar Express movie and hot cocoa event to the whole school, Ms. Kelly and her team turned it into STEM-engineered Reindeer Games!

The idea behind Reindeer Games is to provide ALL students with opportunities to participate – and compete – in a variety of holiday-themed activities, ranging from physical activities, including musical snowflakes and STEM activities, such as determining if the surface area of a marshmallow impacts how quickly it dissolves, to robotics activities, where students gather and move the most snowballs to a designated area, etc.

**Oh. What. Fun – For Everyone!**



**Important Upcoming Dates ~**

\*\*\*\*\*

- January 19 - MLK Birthday/No School**
- January 23 - March For Life**
- January 23 - Father/Father Figures' Breakfast**
- January 25-30 - Catholic Schools Week**

\*\*\*\*\*

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.




**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.
- 23 January:** Marshals for the March for Life. Your help as a Marshal is needed to assist the participants, guide the march, and help have a successful March For Life. The March For Life is the largest grass roots Civil Rights event of the year. See the SUG for details!
- 24 January:** The annual K of C Free Throw Challenge will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026 from 6:00-9:00 pm. Six volunteers are needed to help. Please see SUG for details of work and time commitment.
- 24 January:** Adopt-A-Highway. Come on out and help clean up Old Keene Mill Parkway! We need 8 Knights from 10:00 - 12:00. SUG is live!
- 29 January:** Brews with Brothers, 7:00 pm in the cafeteria. All men of Nativity are invited.
- 31 January:** Knights and INOVA Blood Service conducts blood drive from 7:00 am to Noon at Nativity. Currently less than 38% of the population is eligible to donate blood. If eligible, sign up at: [https://www.inovabloodsaves.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/35228](https://www.inovabloodsaves.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/35228) or after Mass in the Narthex on January 17/18 or 24/25. The blood banks need our help, please consider giving the gift of life. SUG is live!
- 3 February:** Multi-Car Raffle Envelope Stuffing: We need our Brothers, their families and friends to come and help to stuff ticket envelopes on Tuesday, 3 February at 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Pizza, snacks and drinks provided! SUG is live!
- 7 February:** St. Lucy Food Drive. We need help handing out blue bags after each Mass (31 Jan - 1 Feb) and with the collection on 7 Feb. SUG is live!
- 8 February:** Scout Sunday Pancake Breakfast. We need 3-5 Knights to help cook and serve to the Scouts and their families. SUG is live!
- 8 February:** Knights Wings Super Bowl - cooking wings to sell pre-game SUG to follow.
- 17 February:** Financial Seminar, 7:00 pm cafeteria, SUG to follow.
- 20 February:** Fish Fry, SUG to follow.

- 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).
- 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 [handyknightsfnativity@gmail.com](mailto:handyknightsfnativity@gmail.com).

*Mass*  
IN RECOGNITION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

9:30 AM

**MOST REVEREND MICHAEL F. BURBIDGE**

Main Celebrant & Homilist

**OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

2700 South 19th Street Arlington, Virginia, 22204

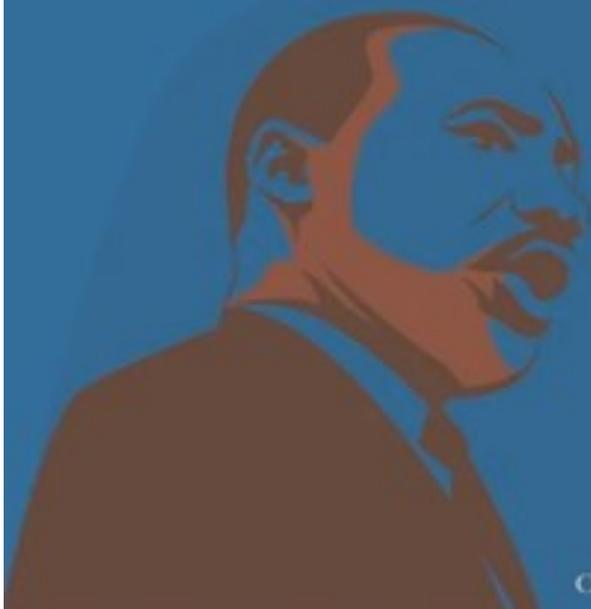
Mass will be followed by a  
reception in the Parish Hall



Scan the QR code to see  
the event page on our  
website!

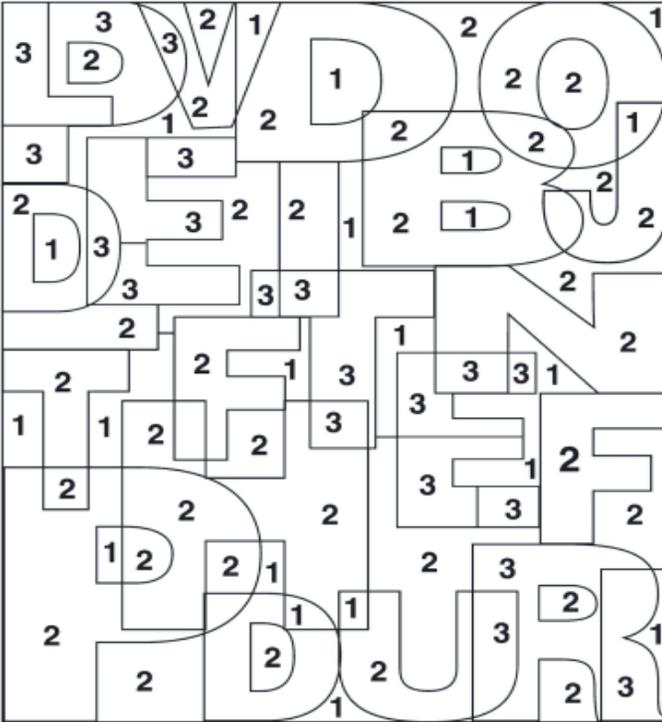


Office of Multicultural Ministries



Jesus changed Simon's name.

Shade in the 3s to see what Simon would be called.



John said Jesus was the ...

Trace the letters below to see what John called Jesus.

Lamb  
of  
God

How many words ?

2 or 3 ?



Jesus the Lamb of God

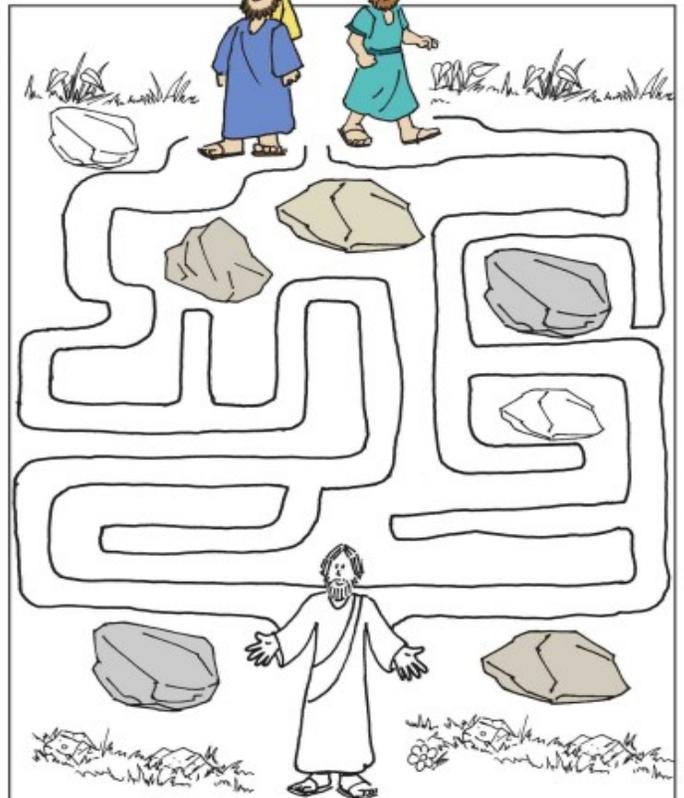
While John was preaching,  
Jesus walked by.

Connect the dots.  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15



Two disciples followed after Jesus.

Help each disciple reach Jesus.





## La misión de Juan Bautista

**Cristo no amenazó a nadie, sino que se convirtió en alguien que simplemente amaba y quería la salvación para todos.**

**Por: P. Alberto Ramírez Mozqueda | Fuente: Catholic.net**

Marcos, el Evangelista que este año nos tomará de la mano para ir conociendo y viviendo el Evangelio, la Buena Nueva de salvación, comienza este día su mensaje, poniéndonos al frente de una manera directa y precisa, a Jesús, el Cristo, el Hijo de Dios como la Buena noticia de liberación. La Buena nueva consiste precisamente en que Jesús de Nazaret, engendrado en el tiempo en un oscuro pueblecito en las inmediaciones de la gran Jerusalén es precisamente el Cristo, el Mesías, el ungido, el que traería consigo la salvación y la paz para todos los hombres: "Aquí llega el Señor, lleno de poder, el que con su brazo lo domina todo, como pastor apacentará su rebaño: llevará en sus brazos a los corderitos recién nacidos y atenderá solícito a sus madres".

Pero si eso fuera todo, eso no sería noticia, pues Cristo murió en la cruz, víctima de un juicio injusto y lleno de maldad. Lo bueno viene cuando se asegura que Cristo es el Hijo de Dios y que por lo tanto y por su entrega, por su amor y su sacrificio por todos los hombres, el Padre lo resucita y lo hace sentar a su derecha. Es el Señor de todos los tiempos, de todos los continentes y de toda la historia. El profeta Isaías instaba entonces a preparar el camino al Señor que llega: "Sube a lo alto del monte, mensajero de buenas nuevas para Sión, alza con fuerza la voz, tú que anuncias noticias alegres a Jerusalén. Alza la voz y no temas; anuncia a los ciudadanos de Judá: "Aquí está su Dios".

Éste es entonces el personaje que anunciaba San Juan el Bautista, aquél ante quien se sentía pequeño pues él era sólo un enviado, un precursor, que tenía que anunciar precisamente la llegada del verdadero Enviado, el Mesías, el Salvador. Él consiguió entonces el primer milagro de la Salvación que el Señor traería a la tierra: alejar a los hombres de su vida rutinaria, en medio de una sociedad que no funcionaba como tal, un mundo de pecado y de maldad, en la capital Jerusalén y sus alrededores.

El Papa Benedicto XVI lo decía la semana pasada al describir el panorama de las ciudades postmodernas: "Las ciudades donde la vida se hace anónima y horizontal, donde Dios parece ausente y el hombre el único amo, como si fuera él el artífice y el director de todo: construcciones, trabajo, economía, transportes, ciencias, técnica, todo parece depender sólo del hombre. Y a veces, en este mundo que parece casi perfecto, suceden cosas chocantes, o en la naturaleza, o en la sociedad, por las que pensamos que Dios pareciera haberse retirado, que nos hubiera, por así decir, abandonado a nosotros mismos".

Pero la verdad es que Dios no abandona a su pueblo, sino que envía precisamente a su Hijo pero no para visitarnos, sino para quedarse con nosotros, haciéndose uno más entre nosotros, formando parte de nuestra vida y de nuestro entorno.

El Bautista hizo el milagro de convertir a los hombres, de bautizarlos con un bautismo de penitencia, de agua, en el Jordán, presagiando el bautismo en fuego, en el Espíritu Santo de Dios. Y pudo hacerlo porque el Bautista encarnaba en su propia vida lo que pedía a gritos a los demás. Les hablaba a los hombres con crudeza, con mucho realismo y cuando no conseguía mover a los hombres, no se detenía en la amenaza de castigos terribles para los morosos ante la salvación. Cristo, aunque se dejó bautizar por el Bautista, teniendo que hacer cola para acercarse a él, cambió la técnica usada por el Bautista para convertir a los hombres a la salvación de Dios. Cristo simplemente amaba y quería la salvación para todos. Y si la salvación ya está aquí, si Cristo ya ha llegado, ¿por qué no salir a su encuentro en cada uno de los que él vino a salvar, a los desprotegidos, los pobres y los que son tratados injustamente?

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**Dr. Rodney Klima**  
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 of Manassas

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[executivehomecare.com/manassas-va](http://executivehomecare.com/manassas-va)




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