

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



6400 Nativity Lane,
Burke, Virginia 22015
nativityburke.org

REV. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR
REV. CHRISTOPHER H. HAYES, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. EDWARD BRESNAHAN, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. CEDRIC P. WILSON, ASSISTING PRIEST/
SPANISH MINISTRY
DEACON RICHARD F. KELLY

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary
Ann Benson, Business Manager
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager
Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister
Maureen Andersen, Liturgical Minister
Johana Brown, Parish Receptionist
Anna Marty, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Ayse Kenner, Mass Intentions
Alison Fram, Director of Young Adult/College Ministry
Rebecca Judge, Director of Youth Ministry
Mary Castellano, Director of Social Media
Jennifer Sturgeon, Director of Marriage Enrichment/
Ecumenical Ministry
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.
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Sturgeon, Confirmation Coordinator

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454 2415



PARISH OFFICE: (703) 455-2400

PARISH FAX: (703) 455-6832

NATIVITY SCHOOL: (703) 455-2300

NATIVITY FAX: (703) 569-8109

PRE-SCHOOL: (703) 455-2300 ext. 136

CCD OFFICE: (703) 455-0372

CCD OFFICE FAX: (703) 455-6832

SUNDAY MASSES:

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

WEEKDAY MASSES:

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

HOLY DAY MASSES:

As Announced

RECONCILIATION:

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

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

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

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

WEBMASTER: Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA: Mary Castellano,
socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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



@Nativity Parish Burke



@nativityparishburke_

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



“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” - Matt 4:20

My dear parishioners,

In our first reading this Sunday from the prophet Isaiah, we hear *“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light ... You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.”* It has a touch of Christmas because this reading is used at Christmas Midnight Mass. But the crib has been gone from the church for two weeks. We have left the manger and we come to know the adult Jesus. We reflect on his ministry now.

Jesus goes to the seashore and calls the first disciples. They are so attracted to Jesus that they leave boats and nets to follow Him. Jesus calls us too, each of us by name. Why does He call us? To build the Kingdom of God! To proclaim the gospel! To bring healing! The call of the disciples is a wonderful moment. It’s a wonderful moment when we are called. Jesus is calling you and me. He desires to share in friendship and companionship with you.

Love and Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski
Fr. Bob Cilinski, Pastor



**Congratulations, Alison Fram:
Winner of the Diocesan Award for
Excellence in Young Adult Ministry!**

Alison Fram, Director of College, Young Adult, and Family Ministries at Nativity, was honored on December 13, 2022 at the Nineteenth Annual Youth, Campus, & Young Adult Ministries Appreciation Mass & Dinner. Our staff rejoiced with Alison as she was welcomed to the stage to receive the Excellence in Young Adult Ministry Award: Traveling Companion of Young Adults for her strong dedication in ministering to the young adult community at Nativity.

Under Alison's leadership, young adults have found shelter, rest, meaning, connection, and Christ. Alison prioritizes one-on-one meetings with young adults so that they may feel seen and known. One young adult said, *“Alison played a pivotal role in my life a year ago. I was lost and looking for a sense of belonging and fellowship. She reached out to me individually, took the time to get to know me, and immediately made me feel at home.”*

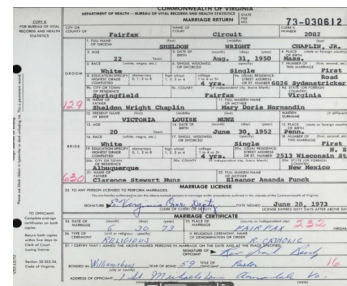
Strengths that have aided Alison in building such a successful ministry are leadership, diplomacy, openness, kindness, generosity, and fidelity. She has witnessed the evolving needs of young adults according to age and stage in life, leading her to develop a Young Family Ministry to serve parents with children ages newborn to elementary.

Fr. Bob said: *“I hired Alison seven years ago because of her joyful spirit, love of our Catholic faith, ability to relate to people of all ages, and love for the poor. I am very proud of Alison. She is a gift to our parish.”*

We celebrate Alison for the impact she has made on our young adult community at Nativity Catholic Church through her many years of dedication to this ministry. Congratulations, Alison!

**On This Date in Nativity History
30 June 1973**

On this date, Nativity celebrated its first wedding; Father Frank Ready was the celebrant. Married that day were Sheldon Wright Chaplin, Jr., 22, of Springfield, Virginia, the son of Sheldon and Mary (Normandin) Chaplin, and Victoria Louise Munz, 20, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, the daughter of Clarence Stewart and Eleanor (Func) Munz. In these early days, wedding Masses were celebrated at St. Mary’s Historic Church. From that date to mid-July 2022, Nativity has celebrated 1,360 weddings. Below is the marriage certificate; Father Ready’s signature appears at the bottom.



This historical note is the 33rd of a weekly Bulletin feature leading up to Nativity’s fiftieth anniversary, 11 June 2023.

SAVE THE DATE: 2023 PARISH MISSION

**This year our Parish Mission will be held from:
February 13-16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. evening
with Rev. Simeon Gallagher, OFM Cap, in the church
The theme and daily topics are:
A Spirituality for Relationships**

- Monday - Sustaining Good Relationships - Faith
- Tuesday - Communication in Relationships - Prayer
- Wednesday - Breaking Relationships - Sin
- Thursday - Building Better Relationships - Grace

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

This fun event will be held on Saturday, February 4 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. Participation time for each contestant is typically 15-20 mins. This is a community event so all are welcome regardless of parish affiliation. Bring friends and compete with each other! Group winners will be eligible to compete at the Knights of Columbus District Challenge in February at Holy Spirit in Annandale. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Jim Batrla at jbat747@gmail.com.



Dear parishioners,

On January 2, 2023 we began the sanctuary renovation of our church as part of our parish 50th Anniversary celebration. A large screen was erected to cover the sanctuary area during the renovation. A temporary altar and tabernacle has been placed in front of the screen for our prayer and worship. Daily and Sunday Mass will continue to be celebrated in the church. The renovation is scheduled to be completed by March 11, 2023.

WHAT ARE WE RENOVATING ?

THE SANCTUARY FLOOR: The current sanctuary floor is chipped and stained and cannot be restored. There is also an electrical outlet coming out of the steps with red tape as a caution to all. The new sanctuary floor will be a cream color marble floor with border inlets that will enhance the beauty and safety of the altar area.

THE ALTAR: The altar, on which is effected the Sacrifice of the Cross made present under sacramental signs, is also the table of the Lord to which the People of God gather to participate in the Mass, and it also is the center of the thanksgiving that is accomplished through the Eucharist. In every church there should be a fixed altar. The current altar of wood and stone does not line up with the center aisle and has electrical outlets coming out of it in the back. Since we are now going to have a marble floor, the new altar will be built with a dignified cherry stain wood and marble inlets to coordinate with the new marble floor. It will contain relics of various saints.

THE AMBO: The current ambo (pulpit) will be replaced by a cherry wood stain and marble ambo. The design of the new ambo will match the altar as a way of expressing the unity of the Word of God in the Scripture and the Word of God in the Eucharist. There is also a practical motivation for the design of the new pulpit. The current ambo provides little room for the lectionary and homily notes. We also must carry a step stool to the ambo when our children are reading. The renovated ambo will have a shelf for liturgical books and a step installed that can be pulled out when needed by a lector.

THE TABERNACLE: A principal feature of the renovation is the moving of the tabernacle to the center of the sanctuary underneath the Crucifix. This design placement calls attention to the centrality of the Eucharist in our faith. As Pope John Paul II said, *"We are the Church of the Eucharist."* Visually when you walk into the church, your eyes will be drawn to the Altar, Tabernacle and Crucifix in unity on the same axis in the center. These liturgical sacred items will be architecturally what they are spiritually, the axis of our lives.

PRESIDERS CHAIR: Another liturgical change after the Second Vatican Council was the use of the Presiders Chair for the principal prayers of the Mass. As such, we have designed a chair that fits the overall design of the sanctuary. It will be placed on the side wall where the current tabernacle is located. New chairs for the deacon and altar servers are being made. The current chairs are over 30 years old, have served us well, but are in need of an upgrade.

MOSAIC PANELS: We are adding seven mosaic panels on the right side of the church behind the choir section to echo the seven stained glass windows on the left. These mosaic panels will depict the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy, beautifully displaying Christ's command to care for those in need, a charism of Nativity parish. This will highlight the scripture from Matthew 25 when Jesus describes how we will be judged. It will be a teaching reminder to any who say: *"If its not on the final exam, I don't want to study it."* Pope Francis has called us *"to be a church for the poor."* These seven mosaics will also provide a balance visually in the church... and in our lives.

The cost of this renovation is \$640,000. To date, through the generosity of parishioners, we have raised over half that amount. More are considering a pledge or using our monthly building envelope. If you would like to help contribute, please go to our parish website or call the parish office.

Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING SPECIAL COLLECTION - JANUARY 21/22

This Weekend, 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 22 years, the Nativity Knights and Nativity Parish have partnered with the Appalachian Construction Crew operating out of Bellevue, Nebraska, to build one or two homes 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 normal cost of approximately \$82,000 to build the home. Last year, because of the COVID impact on the supply chain and the three-bedroom home, our costs exceeded \$102,000. With the generosity of Nativity Parish, Nativity has raised over \$90,000 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 New family. The family had a total income of approximately \$24,000 and the family of four lived in a rundown trailer with significant mold and electrical issues. We are trying to exceed our past collection efforts to reach \$100,000, but we can't do it without your help. This will be the 25th home built by Nativity and the Knights.

This year Good Shepherd Chapel in Whitley City selected the Creekmore family of three to receive the next home. The family has been living in a dilapidated trailer with mold issues that is nearly impossible to heat in the winter. The family's total income is \$17,000. Over a very compressed two weeks in June, the combined crews will build a 1,100SF, three-bedroom home, complete with porches, heating/AC, appliances, and a septic system -- 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 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.



APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING
SPECIAL COLLECTION – NATIVITY'S 25TH HOME
JANUARY 21 & 22

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN!

ALTAR FLOWERS Donated by



Barbara and Stan Zagalak
In Loving Memory of
Agnes Albrecht



SCOUT SUNDAY & PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5th

Nativity Scout Sunday will be celebrated on February 5th 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 procession. 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 will host a special Pancake Breakfast 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.

Nativity Catholic School

Invites you to a special morning with Nativity School
In celebration of Catholic Schools Week



For our Senior Citizens!

Monday, January 30th

10:30am-11:30am (Please arrive by 10:15am)

Check in at the School Main Office.

Light morning snack provided.

Prizes!

RSVP to 703-455-2300 by January 25th

Provide first, last name and how many attending
Space is limited because of school day schedule

Virginia Defending Life Day & Virginia March for Life – Wednesday, Feb 1, 2023

Join Bishop Burbidge and us—your personal presence will powerfully support pro-life members of the Virginia General Assembly and encourages others to reconsider their views. We want our legislators to see that we expect them to pass life-affirming legislation. Bishop Burbidge, as the new Chair of the USCCB Pro-Life Committee, is keenly aware of how important this state-level representation is. Although this may be a bit out of the norm for you, we believe you will enjoy the comradery and find it empowering to stand up for this noble cause!

What's the plan?

6:30am Depart Nativity - 8:30am Gather at the Richmond Convention Center - 10:00am Senate and Delegate Meetings - 12:00pm March for Life Rally - 1:00pm Virginia March for Life - 2:00pm Depart Richmond - 4:00pm Return to Nativity

Don't worry! Should you be interested in talking, tips for effective advocacy, talking points and legislative updates will be provided by the organizers to make your day fun, easy, and successful. Please let us know if you tentatively plan to attend so sufficient travel arrangements can be made!

Simply sign up using Sign-Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4EACAC29A2F58-20231>
More details to follow. Please contact Rick and Linda Loffredo at rickloffredo@outlook.com if you have any questions.

The 2023 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) begins!

The 2023 BLA mailing was recently sent to parishioners.



The theme is *"My soul rejoices in the Lord,"* which is shared with the second preparatory year of the Diocesan Jubilee. The BLA funds programs and ministries that serve thousands of people in our diocese. Through the inspiration of the BLA theme, let us joyfully make a pledge to support God's Kingdom in our diocese! Make a gift at: www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA.



A message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Jesus is challenging us. Today's scriptures apply to each of us in our world today. He continues to be present and calls us to follow him. We are to do now what his apostles did then.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis promotes a vision that helps to address the crises that we all face in today's world. He teaches that consumerism has clouded our vision, closing us in on ourselves, causing us to focus tightly on our own needs and wants. In contrast, he emphasizes that everything is interconnected – all of us, all the peoples of the world, all elements and living things on our planet. He underlines the need for us to promote the common good, to undertake all that is needed to bring all living things together to make things better. A paradigm based solely on economics and self-interest will not provide what is necessary to deal with our current and continuing global plight. Rather, we must employ the resources available from all fields of knowledge, science, agriculture, medicine, and other fields to help create a more integral and integrating vision for us and for all of God's creation. Are we on that track? Are we seeing the light? Are we fearful or hopeful, complacent or courageous? Are we stuck in our little boats with our nets, or are we working with others in our community to serve the common good? Are we polarized, competitive, and divided, looking out mainly for ourselves? Or are we determined to collaborate with others to make the world a better place? *Adapted from Catholic Climate Covenant:*

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/january-2023-cycle>



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, January 23rd

7:30 am Special Int. for Tristan Rowe

Tuesday, January 24th

7:30 am † Richard Blake
12:00 pm † Joseph M. Bowers, Jr

Wednesday, January 25th

7:30 am † Mike Cimini
(HW) 10:00 am † Joey Wheeler

Thursday, January 26th

7:30 am † Juana Hara Hirata
12:00 pm † Basil Fernandes

Friday, January 27th

7:30 am Special Int. for Ethan Fernandes
9:00 am † Armond Lagasse

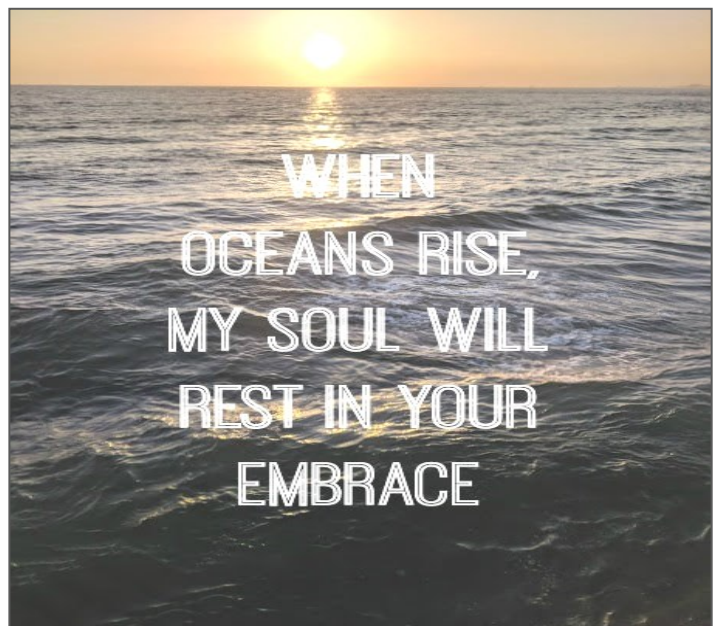
Saturday, January 28th

9:00 am † Nicolas Gavilan
5:00 pm † James Martin Brady
7:00 pm † Lucila Cossio

Sunday, January 29th


7:00 am Special Int. for Jeremy Federman
9:00 am Parishioners
11:00 am † William Birden
1:00 pm † Devona Girolami
5:30 pm † Alicia Figueroa

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



You are Invited to a Charity Art for the Heart Art Auction

on
Saturday, 11 February 2023
at 7:00 pm
Nativity's Fr. Martin Center
6400 Nativity Ln, Burke, VA 22015

Sponsored by the
Nativity Knights of Columbus Council 7992 



Join us for a special evening featuring framed art of the highest quality from Marlin Art of New York, presented by Rick Brandwein, our Auctioneer.

Tickets: \$25 per person
or be a Patron, 6 Tickets for \$100

Admission Includes:

- Heavy Charcuterie Appetizers with Cured meats, Artisanal cheeses, Olives, Fancy Nuts, Fruit, and Light Desserts
- Complementary Wine and Soda

**Purchase
Tickets at**



SCAN ME

For more information, contact Tom Savage at
(512) 983-5641 or tom.savagejr@gmail.com

Unique format – in-person electronic bidding while auctioneer and artwork are simulcast.

****Will require use of smartphone with the free Marlinart app to bid on artwork.****

Registration, Preview, Pre-Bid/ Max Bid:
Tuesday, February 7, 2023 @ 9:00 am EST
Please visit Marlin Art's website at bid.marlinart.com. Registration required to preview artwork and receive your bid number. REGISTER EARLY! Preview ends at Showtime on Saturday.

All artwork will be delivered to Nativity for pick up at a later date.





Handmaids of Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
WE MET OUR ADVENT FUNDRAISING GOAL!

Thank you for your kind generosity



THANKS TO YOUR DONATIONS OUR SISTERS WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST THOSE IN NEED AND OUR CHILDREN IN ORPHANAGES AROUND THE WORLD

MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY, WITH LOVE, AND IN CHRIST,

SISTER DONATELLA, SISTER MARY ATTILIA AND ALL THE SISTERS OF THE HANDMAIDS OF REPARATION OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS



DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



HANDMAIDSOFREPARATION.ORG

Parish App Feature-of-the-Week



Inspiration Daily

- Thoughts on Catholic life
- Informative and inspirational
- Simple insight for living a deeper faith everyday

Learn more or download our parish app at myparishapp.com

*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

Rosary Making

This month consider joining the rosary ministry and learning how to make mission rosaries. You can register today on the Nativity web site (search Rosary Ministry). A rosary maker will contact you and a day and time will be set up convenient for you. Our rosaries go to hundreds of parishioners and to dozens of foreign missions around the world. Our Blessed Mother asked us to pray for peace when she appeared at Fatima. Join us and become a part of that mission. The world needs us!

Contact: rosaryministry@nativityburke.org



donut worry!

NEXT WEEKEND IS DONUT SUNDAY

PILGRIMAGE

St. John Paul II National Shrine

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH
10 AM - 5 PM

FOR ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES

3900 HAREWOOD RD NE,
WASHINGTON, DC 20017

RSVP to
marriage@nativityburke.org

WORKCAMP 2023

Registration Open!

JUNE 17-23, 2023
FREDERICK COUNTY, VA

Teens, parents and adult volunteers are invited to a week-long overnight camp providing the high school teens with an opportunity to encounter Christ through service, faith, and fellowship.

Registration closes on January 22.

Questions?

Contact Brigid Williams | wc@nativityburke.org





JOIN US FOR A *fiesta!*

NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL SPRING AUCTION

**WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
6:30 - 10:00PM**

**WHERE: NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
FATHER MARTIN CENTER**

<https://nativityschool.org/auction>

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Nativity Parish and School cordially invites you to Join Us for a Fiesta! Mark your calendars and join us for an evening of delicious tapas & cervezas, live music, fun and fellowship with an overflowing silent and live auction to help raise funds for Nativity Catholic School.

While this event is the school’s BIGGEST Fundraiser of the year, it is open to the ENTIRE Nativity Parish & School community! We HOPE to see you there!

Funds raised during the event will provide financial assistance for:

- Science lab apparatus
- Mathematics manipulatives
- Student enrichment activities, such as school field trips
- Scholarships
- Other needs which directly impact our children’s continued success Scan for info

Questions: Contact auction@nativityschool.org

NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY

No Hands But Yours is an original Nativity Ministry doing God’s work by serving those less fortunate members of His flock. We work distributing food, clothing, and personal items to the poor and homeless in DC (McPherson Square and tent encampments) and northern VA every Sunday morning, rain or shine. We also have weekly trips into designated areas bringing Panera bread donations along with help from local food banks. Through the blessings of God, we have grown through our Nativity community and continue to do so. For more details you can visit the Nativity Parish website and under the Ministry tab, select No Hands But Yours. We also have a Signup Genius where you can access specifics along with our schedule where you can volunteer to assist. (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4AAAFAC22A1FA7-nohands1>). Families are also welcomed!

If you have interest in learning more and would like to participate in daily/Sunday runs, please contact John Rubino at (john.albert.rubino@gmail.com). Thank you all for helping the needy. And remember always, that

“Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours...”
– St Theresa of Avila



**SAVE THE DATE: St. Lucy Winter Food Drive
Saturday, February 11th from 9:00AM-1:00PM**

The St. Lucy Winter Food Drive will take place from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, 11 February to support Catholic Charities in its continuing fight 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 October drive). 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, including grocery gift cards (Giant, Safeway, etc.); any donation is welcome! Please make 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 follow this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D49ADAE29A6FE3-stlucy1>. If you have questions, please email the St. Lucy Team at nativity.stlucyteam@gmail.com. Thank you and God bless you!

**MASS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
PEACE AND JUSTICE IN HAITI**



For much of the past year the people of Haiti have suffered from political turmoil, gang violence, and lack of food and fuel. Our parish, through Operation Starfish, has developed deep relationships with our brothers and sisters in Haiti. While our project work has continued, the population generally is out of work, food is scarce and people are fearful. We need to pray for them.

So we are bringing our community together for a Mass for Peace and Justice in Haiti on Wednesday evening January 25th at 7:00 p.m. here at Nativity Catholic Church.



Please join us and bring a friend to Mass to pray for the people of Haiti on January 25th. You can also watch this short video from Food For The Poor discussing the situation in Haiti and the work that has still continued in the past year. Visit: <https://youtu.be/54crVBIRLTM>

**For Families with Young Children
Connecting families with children
Newborn to Elementary**



Have you been looking for a way to connect with Catholic families for community, encouragement, and growth? There are MANY families with young children at Nativity and you are invited to our next Young Family Ministry meeting on February 4th!

To RSVP, please email yafamilyministry@nativityburke.org!

YOU ARE
INVITED TO A
FELLOWSHIP

FOR ENGAGED &
NEWLYWED COUPLES



February 4th at 7 PM

Fr. Ready Room

Nativity Catholic Church

RSVP to marriage@nativityburke.org

Linktree Universal Sign-up Link:

Want to volunteer for an event? All event sign-ups can be done through the following link. https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992 Event leads can also fill out a form to announce an event, and file an After Action Report through the link.

Annual Appalachia Collection: On Jan 21- 22, we will need Knights to help with collections after every mass.

Virginia Defending Life Day & Virginia March for Life: Join Bishop Burbidge and us on 1 February for an exciting, full day of advocacy, prayer and witness at the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond! Sign up on the link tree.

St. Lucy Food Drive: Help hand out bags after masses on 4-5 February. Volunteer to help with the collection on 11 Feb.

Youth Basketball Free Throw Competition: Sat., February 4, 6pm – 9pm in the Fr. Martin Center (Gym)

Scout Sunday Pancake Breakfast: Help with this annual event and support the Scouts of Nativity Parish on 5 Feb.

Charity Art Auction: Help sell tickets after mass Jan 28-29 and Feb 4-5. Help set up for and clean up after the 11 February Auction. Sign up on the linktree. Buy Charity Art Auction tickets on the linktree.

Exemplification: If you would like to join the Knights or are a current 1st or 2nd Degree Knight contact Pat Delatte at PMDELATTE@gmail.com. Make your 3rd Degree on 6 Feb. at 7:30 in the Church.

Marian Homes Shred Event: Shred securely on 6 May from 10-12 in the Nativity Parking lot.

Name Tags: Email Warden Michael Bender at michaelbambender@hotmail.com to order.

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Mass. Volunteer on linktree.

Handy Knights Ministry: If you are unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small repairs in your home due to health or other factors, call the “Handy Knights.” You can reach us at handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com.

The Fraternal Committee: Brothers helping brothers in need of assistance: Brothers and the families of living and deceased brothers in need of a helping hand, please contact Br. John Landy at navyy8@yahoo.com or 703-250-1492.

Food for Others: We need volunteers to help with our food distributions. The distribution picks up from the warehouse and delivers to Springfield. It should only take about an hour of your time on Friday evenings once a month based on the current number of volunteers in rotation. If you are interested in helping deliver, contact Br Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com.

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. Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way. Join today! Simply go to <https://info.kofc.org/us.html> and enter our council #7992 for local information and to register. E-membership for the first year is free using the new code “blessedmcgivney”. Please email our Deputy Grand Knight at PMDELATTE@gmail.com or the Grand Knight at tjsgk7992@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Rosary at 7:15 PM; meeting follows at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows every meeting. Meetings are now in person in the Nativity school cafeteria, with the option to attend virtually as well. The second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation including the “Into the Breach” video/discussion series and guest speakers.



TRAVEL TO ITALY. MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN THERE, OR MAYBE YOU DREAM OF GOING.

DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: NATIVITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

AT THIS MONTH'S NATIVITY ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING, WE'LL TALK TRAVEL WITH A PANEL OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE CHOSEN DIFFERENT METHODS FOR THEIR TRIPS. SOME PEOPLE PREFER SIGNING UP WITH A TOUR COMPANY. STILL OTHERS WANT TO MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS. SOME HAVE DONE FAMILY GENEALOGY, THEN VISITED ANCESTRAL ITALIAN TOWNS WITH HOPE OF FINDING COUSINS. ALL ARE INTERESTING METHODS OF TRIPS. WE'LL HEAR ABOUT DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES AND GET TIPS ON PLANNING FUTURE TRAVEL.

AS ALWAYS, A SOCIAL HOUR FOLLOWS. IF YOU CAN, BRING AN APPETIZER OR DESSERT TO SHARE. WINE AND BEVERAGES WILL BE AVAILABLE.

BECOME A MEMBER AT ANY MEETING FOR \$20, FAMILY; \$15, SINGLE. COME AS A GUEST FOR \$5. ALL ARE WELCOMED.



AUCTION ITEM OF THE WEEK

Founded in 1989, Signature Theatre is a nationally known, Tony Award®-winning theater that produces contemporary musicals and plays, reinvents classic musicals, develops new work, and reaches its community through engaging educational and outreach opportunities. Enjoy a night out with two (2) tickets to a show for the 2023 season. This item, as well as other theater tickets will be available at the Auction!

ZOOM DATE NIGHT

*with Gregory and Stephanie Schutte
“Day to Day Marriage with
the End in Mind”*

Saturday, January 28 at 7:00 pm

*Register on the parish website or
contact marriage@nativityburke.org*

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3
Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17
Matthew 4:12-23

Monday January 23

Hebrews 9:15,24-28
Ps 98:1-6
Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday January 24

St. Francis de Sales
Hebrews 10:1-10
Ps 40:2,4ab,7-8a,10,11
Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday January 25

Conversion of St. Paul
Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22
Ps 117:1bc,2
Mark 16:15-18

Thursday January 26

Sts. Timothy and Titus
2 Timothy 1:1-8
or Titus 1:1-5
Ps 96:1-3,7-8a,10
Mark 4:21-25

Friday January 27

Hebrews 10:32-39
Ps 37:3-6,23-24,39-40
Mark 4:26-34

Saturday January 28

St. Thomas Aquinas
Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19
Lk 1:69-75
Mark 4:35-41

Who's troubling you? In this Sunday's Gospel reading, we hear of the fulfillment of the prophecy given by Isaiah in the first reading: Because of Jesus Christ, the people you know who are living in darkness have seen the light that will heal them. Who is making no effort to get out of their sin-induced misery? Who is overshadowed by the demons of spiritual death and destruction? Whose stubbornness is causing you great anguish?

Through your prayers and faithful love, Jesus has been revealed to them. Even as they fight against this truth and hide from him, the great light of Christ cannot be turned off. Soon or eventually this will cause great rejoicing, not only for you, but for those who are being rescued.

Elsewhere (Luke 12:49-50), Jesus expressed his feelings about people who live in darkness: "How great is my anguish until it is accomplished!" Thus, he knows your anguish and *shares* it, but more deeply and fervently. He is doing more than you know, more than you can

imagine, to accomplish the victory for which you've been praying. He is doing everything possible – as well as the impossible – to bring it to fulfillment.

Pray that Divine Providence will use the bad consequences of each person's stubborn rebellion to draw them to himself. Pray that God will use others to bring them into his light. Pray that God will work in his own



way to dissolve their spiritual rebellion. Pray that after their conversion they will spread the light of Christ powerfully. And pray that their conversion will be deep, definite and permanent.

We don't pray to change God's mind; he's already working to bring the light of Christ to people who live in darkness. We pray to place these people into his arms, since they're not doing it for themselves.

Reflect & Discuss:

† Write a list of people who are living in darkness. Will you trust in the power of Christ's great light and the victory he obtained through his death and resurrection?

† Make a commitment to feel Christ's anguish more keenly; use this pain to energize you into daily prayer on behalf of darkened souls.

† Think of those who are living in darkness. Get a large candle and etch their names into it. Light the candle and offer your prayers for these loved ones. If possible, do this with a prayer community for mutual support, and light this candle at all of your community meetings.



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



Join Us NEXT Sunday! Sunday, January 29th ~
*** Catholic Schools Mass at 9:00 am**
*** School OPEN HOUSE from 10:00 am - 12 NOON**
We Have a Seat for Your Child ~
For details, contact Shannon Murphy at (703) 455-2300, or
smurph@nativityschool.org.

Next Sunday, Jan. 29 ~ Let's Celebrate ~
Your Family & Catholic Schools!

We are busy preparing for our annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week, beginning on Sunday, January 29, 2023, with a School Mass at 9:00 am, and a School OPEN HOUSE at 10:00 am. A week packed full of events will follow for folks of all ages, e.g., a Vocations talk for students with our Religious Team on Monday, followed by Senior Bingo from 10:30 am to 11:30 am, and a Middle School Spelling Bee in the afternoon.

On Tuesday, the day begins with a Parent Breakfast and then visits to their children's classrooms afterward. Teacher Lunch is set for Wednesday followed by an assembly featuring local Military and Emergency Services Personnel.

On Thursday, we will celebrate the 100th Day of School together in ways we are still devising, and will show you in photos published here and on our Nativity School Facebook page. On Friday, after Mass, our students are involved in service projects, and/or classroom activities, as well as helping to celebrate the multicultural society that is ours, as our PTO hosts an assembly celebrating our culturally diverse society.

We are ALL looking forward to a great week, filled with faith, friendship, and lots of fun! Hope you can drop by our Open House on Sunday (January 29, 10 am to 12 NOON).

Join us at Nativity to see how your child would spend his or her days here -- learning, praying, sharing, loving, and laughing.

Upcoming Dates At-A-Glance!

Jan. 23: 100th Day of School!

Jan. 24 - 26: NWEA Testing, Grades 3-7

Jan. 29: Catholic Schools Week Begins!

Jan. 29: OPEN HOUSE 10 a.m. - 12 NOON

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

- A LOVE of children and a 'Can-Do' Attitude
- Afternoon availability, 2:30pm-6:00pm
- Diocesan compliance to work with kids
- Adhere to COVID-19 Safety Protocols

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact: Rebecca Judge
cym@nativityburke.org

Get connected to our Youth Ministry community by filling out the free 2022-2023 registration form. See the website to register or scan the QR codes below.

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm



Dinner

Fellowship

Prayer & Formation

EDGE: GRADES 6-8

Alternating Sundays 3:30-5pm
& Fridays 7-8:30pm
See website for schedule



Meet new friends

Play games

Explore your faith

2023 HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS STARTING

Girls: Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm | Weekly
Guys: Thursdays, 7:30-9:00pm | 2x / month

Build meaningful relationships with your peers through small group discussion, communal prayer, and fellowship activities



In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home is hosting a free Grief Counseling session designed specifically for those of you who have lost a child.

Join us on Sunday, the 29th of January, 2023 to share, listen, feel & heal.

Location: Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home (9902 Braddock Rd, Fairfax VA 22032)
Time: 1:00pm

Refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP by Friday, January 20, 2023 by going to fairfaxmemorialfuneralhome.com and click on the "Free Grief Support Group" tab on the homepage or call (703) 425-9702.

Sundays with the Sisters Rejoice Tour 2023

Witness the joy of our religious sisters during the Sundays with the Sisters Rejoice Tour 2023! An initiative for the year of preparation for our diocesan jubilee in 2024, the tour will showcase the religious women of our diocese who, like Mary, rejoice in the Lord by their daily surrender.

The tour features an event at a different convent each month, bringing together sisters and lay women for prayer and community. For single women ages 18-50.

Upcoming: January 22, The Dominicans, Congregation of St. Cecilia; February 5: Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; March 26: Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist.

RSVP by the Monday before each event to vocations@arlingtondiocese.org. More info at ArlingtonDiocese.org/RejoiceTour.

Gifts for Seminarian Education Endowment Fund (SEEF)

Please support our seminarians and SEEF, a permanent endowment fund established in 2011. SEEF's income provides funding for annual seminarian expenses such as room, board, tuition, health insurance and books, which total almost \$45,000 per seminarian. Please give generously! To donate, make checks payable to: **"Foundation for the CDA - SEEF."** Mail to: The Foundation, 200 N. Glebe Road, Suite 811, Arlington, VA 22203. Contact John French at john.french@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-3819 with any questions. Thank you!

Love working with children? Want flexibility? Consider subbing for 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
- ◆ Successful completion of Virtus training
- ◆ Successful background check
- ◆ Adherence to COVID-19 Safety Protocols

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

HOME VISITS

Are you or someone you know sick and/or homebound for any reason? We can arrange home visits from the parish and provide prayer and the sacraments.

We would love to bring God's Grace and Peace to anyone in difficult times. Please contact Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister, at csands@nativityburke.org to schedule a visit.



Keep in touch with Nativity via email



Stay up-to-date with Nativity via our Parish Flocknote Email!

We send a weekly (short!) email with upcoming events, and occasional updates

Scan the QR Code below

Or sign up on our website: nativityburke.org/email-and-text/

Scan the QR Code with your phone camera, a QR Code Reader App, or Google Lens



Questions?

Contact Mary Castellano
Nativity's Social Media Coordinator
socialmedia@nativityburke.org

Struggling with addiction in the family?

Both the afflicted and affected don't need to be alone. There are many resources available including AA, NA, Alanon, Calix and a diocesan chaplain. Call the HELPLINE (970) 989-2670 for support. This is NOT LIMITED to addicts, anybody that would like to speak with a priest or a friend in Christ May call!



You can designate Nativity Church or Nativity School as the beneficiaries of your Amazon Smile! You can choose Nativity by going to: **YOUR ACCOUNT, YOUR AMAZON SMILE and designating Nativity.** Amazon then contributes a small percentage of each purchase to Nativity. For questions, please contact Ann Benson at: 703 455 2400.

**Nativity is a tithing community
Giving back a portion of God's blessings in gratitude**

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 and download one. Registration is required to be a Baptismal Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor.

Donate Your Car to Catholic Charities!

If you are thinking of replacing your car with something new, please consider donating your old car to Catholic Charities. Proceeds from the sale of working and non-working cars provide critical funds for our volunteer programs. It's easy, we handle all the paperwork and you receive an IRS donation receipt. Email Cars@ccda.net or call (703) 841-3898.

Come Listen to Dr. John Bruchalski Talk about His Pro-Life Conversion



TWO PATIENTS

My Conversion from Abortion
to Life-Affirming Medicine

Tuesday, January 31, 2023
Lyceum Auditorium, 313 Duke St.

7-7:30 p.m.: Social time
7:30 p.m.: Talk begins

**Snacks/Refreshments
will be served**

Dr. Bruchalski is the Founder
and President of Divine Mercy Care
and the Founder of Tepeyac
OB/GYN in Fairfax, Virginia.

To RSVP:
<https://drjohnbruchalski.com/events/>

After a terrible misjudgment in the delivery room, Dr. Bruchalski realized that, with every pregnant woman he attends, there are two patients—the mother and her unborn child. In addition to this discovery, two remarkable spiritual experiences deepened his understanding of the kind of man he had become, and the one he was called to be.

His book is the story of how a physician who practiced abortion came to question the medical status quo and to pioneer an approach to reproductive medicine that respects female fertility, honors the dignity of unborn children, and offers care to patients regardless of their financial situation. Such health care, says Dr. Bruchalski, is merciful medicine, and his talk will give a glimpse of just how merciful the relationship between a doctor and his two patients—mother and child—can be.



Every human life is sacred
every woman, every man, every child
born and unborn



We walk with mothers in need, women in crisis pregnancies, their children, and families

Consider our resources for free or low-cost prenatal and other medical care, financial assistance, baby items, mental health counseling, spiritual, and other confidential support



We offer healing to women who have experienced abortion

Learn about Project Rachel After Abortion Care Ministry or visit a Catholic parish near you



We pray, fast, and advocate for laws that protect every human life, from conception until natural death

Join the Virginia Catholic Conference advocacy network at vacatholic.org to protect all life

Find it all here:





¿Hacemos lo que queremos? **Reflexiones para el cristiano de hoy**

No siempre... Parece extraño, pero la voluntad decide una cosa, y al final hacemos otra.

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

Tenemos un día o una semana por delante. Pensamos y deseamos hacer muchas cosas. Pasa el tiempo. Constatamos que no hemos realizado muchos proyectos planeados. ¿Por qué?

El motivo es sencillo: porque no siempre hacemos lo que queremos. Parece extraño, pero la voluntad "decide" una cosa, y al final hacemos otra...

Así, habíamos planeado ir un día al mercado para comprar más barato, pero al final nos quedamos en casa para terminar un crucigrama. O decidimos levantarnos temprano el domingo para visitar a un familiar enfermo, y no lo hicimos porque nos venció el peso de las mantas.

Gracias a Dios, en otras ocasiones sí llevamos a cabo nuestros proyectos, incluso después de superar dificultades serias. Porque no es imposible que vencamos el cansancio para cumplir una promesa buena a un familiar o amigo.

¿Qué ocurre en unos casos y qué ocurre en otros? Cuando la pereza nos arrulla, cuando la ambición nos absorbe, cuando el miedo nos paraliza, cuando las presiones externas nos atan, es fácil que no hagamos lo que queremos.

Al revés, cuando el amor es fuerte y vivo, cuando la voluntad se forja con renunciaciones concretas y con firmezas sanas, cuando el corazón está decidido a hacer el bien cueste lo que cueste, entonces somos capaces de hacer lo que queremos.

Dicen que el infierno está tapizado de buenas intenciones, de deseos irrealizados, de voluntades débiles. Al revés, el cielo es de los esforzados y valientes (cf. Mt 11,12), de los que optan por la verdad, la justicia, el bien y la belleza.

Ante mis ojos y mi corazón empieza un nuevo día. Será un día hermoso si tengo buenos propósitos y si mi voluntad está firme. Será un día santo si me abro a Dios, si escucho su Palabra, y si dejo que ilumine y sostenga cada uno de mis proyectos y decisiones...

COMIENZA LA PETICIÓN CUARESIMAL DEL OBISPO DE 2023

La correspondencia sobre La Petición Cuaresmal Del Obispo de 2023 se envió en fecha reciente a los feligreses. El tema es "Mi alma se regocija en el Señor", empleado también como tema del segundo año preparatorio para el Jubileo diocesano. La Petición Cuaresmal Del Obispo financia programas y ministerios al servicio de miles de personas en nuestra diócesis. Con la inspiración del tema de la PETICIÓN CUARESIMAL DEL OBISPO, hagamos alegremente una promesa de contribución para apoyar el Reino de

Dios en nuestra diócesis. Se puede hacer una ofrenda en www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA o escanear el código QR indicado a continuación:



**Necesitados de cariño
Hay un cariño que nos llega
continuamente y que no
siempre percibimos: el cariño
de Dios**

**Por: Fernando Pascual, L.C.
| Fuente: es.catholic.net**

Una de las necesidades fundamentales del ser humano es el cariño. Necesitamos sabernos amados. Necesitamos ser acogidos, a pesar de nuestros defectos. Necesitamos gestos concretos y sinceros de cariño.

Por no encontrar ese cariño, muchos sufren. No perciben a su alrededor miradas amigas, ni corazones acogedores, ni manos que les apoyen con afecto.

Al revés, descubrir que tenemos familiares y amigos fieles y cariñosos dilata el corazón y permite vivir con más paz, alegría y esperanza. Hay un cariño que nos llega continuamente y que no siempre percibimos: el cariño de Dios. Porque Dios nos creó con un amor eterno. Porque está siempre a nuestro lado y nos apoya suavemente. Porque nos levanta tras las caídas. Porque nos consuela en las penas. Porque nos fortalece en las dificultades.

Muchas veces ese cariño divino pasa desapercibido, en parte porque buscamos y preferimos ojos visibles, manos calientes, palabras que leemos o escuchamos en el móvil. Pero los cariños humanos son volubles, en ocasiones no son sinceros, y duele mucho descubrir que algunos un día nos traicionaron. Dios, en cambio, no nos falla nunca. Su "sí" es continuo y fiel. Tan fiel, que sigue a nuestro lado hasta el final. "Y he aquí que yo estoy con vosotros todos los días hasta el fin del mundo" (Mt 28,20).

Sé que tengo un Amigo fiel. Desde su cariño, mi corazón ha encontrado la paz. Con su fuerza, puedo convertirme, para otros, en instrumento de amor, en consuelo para sus penas, y en mano disponible para ayudarles en tantos momentos de la vida.

Dos detalles destacan en el Evangelio de este Domingo. En primer lugar, que Jesús se comporta como un misionero. Recorre caminos, para lanzar una invitación a cambiar de vida de acuerdo con los valores del Reino. "Dejando Nazaret, se estableció en Cafarnaún.. Pasando junto al lago... Convertíos..." Por otra parte, su mensaje encuentra eco en la respuesta decidida de los que serían sus primeros discípulos. "Venid y seguidme,, Inmediatamente dejaron las redes y lo siguieron".

Dos detalles que, a la postre, resultarán esenciales para la Iglesia (y todos los que la componemos). Porque esta (nosotros) tendrá que ser necesariamente misionera. Es decir, proclamadora del Evangelio a los hombres de todos los tiempos y lugares. Esa es su misión, ya que debe continuar la misión de Jesús. El Papa Pablo VI nos dijo que "la Iglesia existe para evangelizar". Debe, por eso, sentirse enviada por Jesucristo a anunciar la Buena Nueva. Ningún bautizado puede pensar que puede serlo nada más que para él mismo. Sería tanto como ocultar bajo el celémín la luz que ha recibido... para que la conozcan todos los hombres. La vida del cristiano debe ser testimonio y anuncio del mensaje de Jesús de Nazaret, como la verdadera y única explicación para la vida humana y para el mundo todo. Ninguna comunidad podrá contentarse pensando que lo único que le corresponde es dedicarse a aquellos que ya han recibido el mensaje evangélico. Ya dijo el Señor que había que proclamar desde los tejados aquello que se había recibido... y aquello otro de la oveja perdida... Es decir, la Iglesia tendrá que recorrer caminos, a la búsqueda de todos los que puedan recibir el mensaje salvador.

Y, aquí, entra en juego el segundo de los detalles del Evangelio de hoy: nuestro mundo no escucha con el mismo interés (y, por eso, no responde con la misma generosidad) que lo hicieron los primeros discípulos. No es el nuestro un ambiente propicio para el fruto de la proclamación del Evangelio. Contamos incluso con elementos contrarios a los valores que en él se contienen y a las actitudes y comportamientos que de él se derivan. Hay quien habla de "apostasía" para definir la actitud mayoritaria de nuestros contemporáneos ante lo religioso, ante la Iglesia, ¿Qué hacer, entonces? No es fácil decirlo. Pero algo queda claro: no parecen válidos los métodos de otros tiempos, ante unos destinatarios bien diferentes; no parece suficiente recluirse en las sacristías, pues es muy amplio el campo por evangelizar; no es inútil, aunque sí difícil, el testimonio que debemos seguir ofreciendo, sin actitudes vergonzantes o de abandono, sin búsqueda de seguridades y sin repeticiones trilladas, sin apología vacía y sin apología hiriente...

Empecemos por la propia vida. Cada uno tiene su propia originalidad de testimonio: cada uno vive en unas circunstancias, entre unas personas... donde sólo él puede hacer llegar el mensaje del Evangelio. Lo de la identidad común y propia, parece importante. Y adecuemos al momento presente todo lo que debamos acomodar. Que no todo es malo en nuestra cultura. Que hemos de percibir en ella no sólo dificultades, sino retos que nos exigen cambio. Se trata de evangelizar nuestra cultura, en diálogo abierto y sincero con ella.

III DOMINGO ORDINARIO - A

Evangelio: Mt 4,12-23 Llamados a la santidad

Son tres las lecturas bíblicas, que se proclaman cada domingo. Todas ellas son material utilísimo para la oración personal. Solo hace falta leerlas, pensarlas, meditarlas, "saborearlas" y dejarse interpelar por ellas, y con sinceridad responder interiormente a esos interrogantes y propuestas de vida, que inevitablemente suscitan.

En estas oraciones, o contemplaciones de la Palabra de Dios, normalmente nos fijamos en el Evangelio, la tercera, por ser la que principalmente define cada domingo, o fiesta, y orienta la liturgia eucarística. Cada año, o ciclo litúrgico, se va utilizando principalmente un Evangelio sinóptico. En este año, ciclo A, nos corresponde el Evangelio de San Mateo.

Señor, Jesús, qué viviste con pena y estupor el arresto, y posterior muerte, de Juan, el Bautista, a manos del odio, la venganza, en definitiva, el pecado humano.

Ayúdame a compartir contigo ese dolor y a aprender de tu ejemplo a ser valiente para vivir y testimoniar la Verdad, aunque me cueste el dolor del desprecio, el desgarro de la mentira y la calumnia, e incluso la muerte.

Acojo con docilidad tus primeros mensajes, que brillan como luz resplandeciente y fuego abrasador, que "devora" y santifica a todos "los que caminaban en tinieblas y en sombras de muerte": "Convertíos, porque está cerca el Reino de los cielos".

Pero sobre todo, Señor, te contemplo en el Evangelio de hoy "paseando junto al lago de Galilea", y por tanto en los mismos lugares donde la gente trabaja y disfruta, se relaciona y convive. Ahí precisamente, en el trabajo profesional, encontraste a los primeros apóstoles, aquellos que serían tus amigos íntimos, tus representantes, los primeros evangelizadores del mundo.

De entre trabajadores normales y corrientes elegiste a "los primeros obispos y sacerdotes" para acompañarte, intimar contigo y prepararse para la misión apostólica. "Venid conmigo y os haré pescadores de hombres".

También hoy, Señor, buscas trabajadores de tu viña, pescadores de hombres, cristianos auténticos, apóstoles generosos y valientes. A todos nos llamas a seguirte, a ser santos en nuestra vida ordinaria de trabajadores normales y responsables, y a ser apóstoles intrépidos con el testimonio de la vida y el servicio social. Para todos es tu llamada a la santidad y al apostolado en la vida ordinaria, aunque a algunos les pides la santidad en la vida sacerdotal o religiosa.

Ayúdame, Señor a responder generosamente, con sinceridad y valentía, a mi vocación cristiana, y a todas las llamadas que quieras hacerme para realizarla en el estado, o vocación particular que tengas determinado para mí.

Que cada mañana pueda comenzar mi jornada con el corazón noble y joven diciendo:

"Aquí estoy, Señor, porque me has llamado".



Whom did Jesus meet next?

Write the words for the pictures.
Then, place the letters from the boxes in order on the lines below.

_____ and _____

Then Jesus started to preach.
What did He say?

Use the code to find out.

	□	▽	△	*	●	♥
○	O	E	G	A	K	T
☆	P	M	N	V	S	E
♥	D	F	I	H	R	N

“ _____

_____”



Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

January 22, 2023 • Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus Starts His Ministry

When Jesus heard that John was in prison, He left His home.

Find out where Jesus went by labeling the map.

Leaving _____, 1
Jesus went and lived in _____, 2
which _____, 3
5 _____, 4
was by the _____, 5
6 _____,
to fulfill what was said
through the prophet Isaiah.

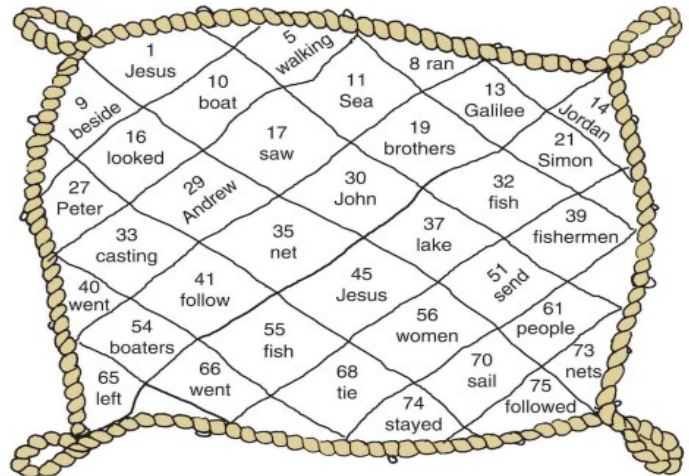
Label these places mentioned in the Bible.

- 1 - Nazareth
- 2 - Jericho
- 3 - Jerusalem
- 4 - Bethlehem
- 5 - Capernaum
- 6 - Sea of Galilee
- 7 - River Jordan
- 8 - Dead Sea



What happened next?

Write all the odd-numbered words in order on the lines below.
Then read the story.



As _____ was _____
_____ the _____ of _____,
He _____ two _____, _____ called
_____ and his brother _____. They were
_____ a _____ into the _____, for they
were _____. “Come, _____
Me,” _____ said, “and I will _____ you out to
_____ for _____.” At once they _____
their _____ and _____ Him.

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