

# BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS



**6400 Nativity Lane,  
Burke, Virginia 22015**  
[nativityburke.org](http://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 Pagoda, 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 Atilia 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  
[mmturner@ccda.net](mailto:mmturner@ccda.net)



**PARISH OFFICE:** (703) 455-2400  
**PARISH FAX:** (703) 455-6832  
**NATIVITY SCHOOL:** (703) 455-2300  
**NATIVITY FAX:** (703) 569-8109  
**PRE-SCHOOL:** (703) 455-2300 ext. 136  
**R.E. OFFICE:** (703) 455-0372  
**R.E. OFFICE FAX:** (703) 455-6832

**SUNDAY MASSES:** 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass  
7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass in Spanish  
7:00 a.m./9:00 a.m./11:00 a.m./  
1:00 p.m./5:30 p.m.  
Monthly Sensory Mass on the  
second Sunday of every month at  
the 1:00pm Mass

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** 7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday  
12:00 p.m. 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)

**WEBMASTER:**  
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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**



*“Rejoice and be glad, your reward will be great in heaven.”  
~ Matt. 5:12*

My dear parishioners,

Music has a central place in the life of Nativity parish. We have Summer Musicals and Winter Cabarets. Our sacred music has an essential place in our liturgies. What a gift to have such beautiful music and singing at our Sunday Masses. I am so grateful to Debbie Doyle and Carole Fischl our Directors of Sacred Music, to the directors of our various choirs both English and Spanish, to the members of the choirs from the children, to our teenagers, and adults who sacrifice their time in the many hours of rehearsals to lead our community in singing and joyful song to the Lord.

The following reflection was written by a Pastoral Musician using the Beatitudes as an inspiration. We can all reflect on these words in our ministries within the parish. Thank you to all our parishioners who live the beatitudes.

I rejoice this past Catholic Schools Week in the gift of our Nativity School where *“every child is loved.”* I am so proud of our students, dedicated teachers, staff, and involved parents. Our students excel in academics, virtues, service, and faith. A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and STEM School of Excellence!!!!

Love and Blessings,

*Bob Cilinski*  
Msgr. Bob Cilinski,  
Pastor



**Nativity Catholic Church Weather Policy**

During inclement weather, the Church and Religious Education offices follow the same schedule as Fairfax County Public Schools. **If schools are closed, the Parish Office and the Religious Education Office are closed and there will be NO Morning Mass.** In addition, all Parish activities for that day will be cancelled unless conditions significantly change for the better.

**Two hour delay:**

**If Fairfax County Public Schools open two hours late, our offices will open at 10:00am, but the morning Mass will be held at its regularly scheduled time, 7:30am.** Any Parish activity scheduled before 10:00am will also be cancelled.

**Weekend Programs and Events:**

If Fairfax County Public Schools cancel events, such as on weekends, Religious Education and all parish events are generally also cancelled. Only **Extreme** weather conditions will cancel Sunday Masses. Use good judgement; **Safety First!**

**For all the latest weather related updates, please visit our website at nativityburke.org or social media pages!**



**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.*

**REFLECTION**

Do you have a job, or do you have a calling? There are times when we get caught in the mundane or difficult aspects of our ministry and can't see the moments of grace. But if Jesus were to sit down with us on a mountain slope and talk to us as pastoral musicians, he might say something like this:

*“Blessed are you who sing psalms, for you have words to call on the LORD.*

*Blessed are you who play instruments, for you will hear God in gentle rubato and great sforzando.*

*Blessed are you who compose, for you are like the prophet, explaining the mysteries of God.*

*Blessed are you who teach, for you are passing on the prayer of music to others.*

*Blessed are you who practice diligently, for you know the peace of being prepared.*

*Blessed are you who give up holidays and weekends for the liturgy, for you shall inherit understanding family and friends.*

*Blessed are you who work for church wages, for you will know other riches.*

*Blessed are you who deal with many and different personalities in the parish and ensembles, for you shall inherit serenity and tact.*

*Blessed are you who help others to mourn through funerals, for you will inherit a great understanding of joy and hope in the resurrection. Blessed are you who work with weddings, for your reward will be great in heaven.”*

**Prayer**

O God, you continue to bless us in many ways. May we always have an open heart and mind to receive your great gifts.  
May we celebrate our calling with joy!

*Jill Maria Murdy, St. Frances Cabrini Parish, West Bend, Wisconsin*



## Date Night for Couples

*Awaken Your Love: Unite in Silence for Deeper Love*

*Speaker: Fr. Bresnahan*

**Sat., Feb. 21**

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

**Nativity Cafeteria**

**Register Online:**

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

**Contact: Anna Lisa Licud**

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

*Childcare & dinner provided!*



### EMAIL & TEXT SCAM ALERT - PLEASE BEWARE

Recently there have been several email messages and texts from scammers pretending to be Nativity clergy. Our priests and deacons **DO NOT** and will **NEVER** email or text anyone with questions / asking for gift cards / favors or any kind of (financial) assistance. Please be careful and delete these kinds of emails and messages immediately. **DO NOT REPLY!** If you have any questions at all, please contact the parish office at 703-400-0737.

Would you like to broaden your knowledge on the presence, power, and beauty of our Blessed Virgin Mary?

Come join us at our Legion of Mary meetings, held on Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Teacher's Lounge. Interested? Contact Kathryn Quan at [jaynekathrynq1@yahoo.com](mailto:jaynekathrynq1@yahoo.com).

### KOFC ANNUAL MULTI-CAR RAFFLE

All Saints Church has invited us to again participate in their Annual Multi-Car raffle. All parishioners who are new to Nativity, or have sold tickets in the past 3 years will receive a packet in the mail containing 20 tickets to sell. Each \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all four 2026 vehicles from Durisman Ford of Manassas (Ford Escape, Mustang, Maverick Truck (Hybrid) and Bronco Sport) plus \$40,000 in cash prizes. Proceeds will benefit the youth ministry and Knights of Columbus charities. Please ensure to read the entire packet and note that all raffle tickets must be processed by All Saints. Thank you for your continued, generous support. If you didn't receive a packet and would like one, please contact PGK Sam Morthland @ 703-455-2186.



### 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!



**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

### KOVAR Enduring Love Capital Campaign

KOVAR, a charity of the Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council which assists people with intellectual disabilities, is undertaking a 5-year capital campaign to increase the funds available for its no-interest loan program for the purchase and renovation of group homes. If you are interested in making a pledge or finding out more information, please contact Mark Sawyer ([sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net](mailto:sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net)).

**APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING & OUTREACH:**

On the weekend of January 17/18, the Knights spoke at all Masses asking for help to build Nativity's 28th home in the heart of Appalachia and to help additional families throughout the county with home repairs, hygiene kits for children, assistance with utility & medical bills, and food for needy school children. Thanks for your tremendous generosity!  
 We currently are at \$67,095 towards our goal of \$125,000. Donations can still be made either through electronic giving, mailing directly to the office at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA, 22015, or by credit card. Please make checks out to Nativity Parish and annotate on your check that it is for the Appalachia Home Building project and include your envelope number for ease of posting to your account. Refer any questions to either Bob Corsi, bobcorsi@cox.net, 703-239-2890, or Bob Colella, robert.colella.86@gmail.com, 571-422-0367.

**Statement by Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Knestout on General Assembly Passage of Extreme Abortion Amendment**

January 16, 2026

For the second straight year, the General Assembly has passed a proposed constitutional amendment that would add an extreme and deadly “fundamental right” to abortion to Virginia’s constitution. The legislature prioritized the passage of this radical amendment in a way that is truly shocking to the conscience – moving it all the way through both chambers during the opening three days of its 60-day session.

The extreme abortion amendment, which will proceed to a referendum for voters to decide later this year, would go far beyond even what Roe v. Wade previously allowed. It would enshrine virtually unlimited abortion at any stage of pregnancy, with no age restriction. Among numerous other problems, it would severely jeopardize Virginia’s parental consent law, health and safety standards for women, conscience protections for healthcare providers, and restrictions on taxpayer-funded abortions. Most tragically of all, the extreme abortion amendment provides no protections whatsoever for preborn children.

Parental rights and the health and well-being of minors must be defended. So too must religious liberty. No one should ever be forced to pay for or participate in an abortion. Health and safety should be enhanced, not diminished. Most importantly, human life is sacred. The lives of vulnerable mothers and their preborn children must always be welcomed, cared for, and protected.

The proposed abortion amendment will appear on a ballot later this year. So too will a measure we oppose that would repeal the one-man/one-woman marriage provision approved by Virginia voters in 2006, as well as an initiative we support to restore voting rights to all who have completed their prison sentences.

We will be deeply engaged in the work of helping to educate voters on these proposed amendments, and will fight the extreme abortion amendment with maximum determination.

**THIS WEEKEND’S SECOND COLLECTION SUPPORTS THE ARLINGTON CATHOLIC HERALD**

The Arlington Catholic Herald is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington and has a weekly circulation of over 61,000. The Arlington Catholic Herald is distributed locally, nationally and internationally. The paper received six awards from the Catholic Press Association in 2005. For more information, visit <http://www.catholicherald.com/>.

**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. 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).

**ST. PATRICK’S DAY DINNER DANCE  
 SAVE THE DATE!**

*Join the Knights of Columbus for a traditional celebration of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, at our annual Saint Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> - Details coming soon!*

*Donation & Sponsorship Request*

**Nativity Stars Gala & Auction**

Help us fund our Nativity Stars Gala & Auction—our biggest fundraiser of the year. Donations and sponsorships support student programs like STEM updates, field trip transportation, teacher training, and community events. Your generosity helps us provide faith-based, engaging, and innovative education.

- Become a Sponsor - Recognition in event materials and school promotions
- Donate Goods or Services - Support our live or silent auction
- Make a Monetary Gift - Support a specific program or area of need.

👉 Learn more or contribute at: [nativityschool.org/gala](http://nativityschool.org/gala)



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/)



**A Message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry**  
**Happy Groundhogs Day on February 2!**

Spring will soon be here, we hope--a time for new beginnings, longer days, singing birds, baby bunnies, and — oh yes — groundhogs. While groundhogs have a reputation for being garden pests, they are intelligent beings that positively impact soil health and the biodiversity of our wildlife—their burrowing behavior benefits the soil by redistributing moisture and minerals. Changes in their hibernation patterns can be an early signal for scientists about shifts in climate. In our actions, we can respect their natural habitat and learn to coexist peacefully with groundhogs. You can: --Sprinkle cayenne pepper or hot spices around the perimeter of your garden. --Consider planting native plants with scent including native mints to deter them. --Avoid use of toxicants to control groundhogs as they are dangerous to other wildlife and pets.

We can all agree that the groundhog is the world’s most famous rodent meteorologist, but who appointed them the official spring forecaster? The Pennsylvania Dutch introduced this superstition into our popular culture. The lore claims that if the groundhog emerges from its burrow on February 2nd and sees its shadow, it will retreat back underground and there will be six more weeks of winter. If the groundhog doesn’t see its shadow, then spring will arrive early. *(Adapted from Humanegardener.com)*

**The Knights are offering Superbowl Hot Wings!!**  
**Pre-order and pick up at the Nativity Cafeteria**  
**pre-game on February 8 from: 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm**

Choose fried, baked or combo wings, includes sauces (BBQ & Ranch), carrots and celery sticks. 10 Wings for \$14 or 20 wings for \$26. Pay options: cash, square, or check at pick up.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4EACAC29A2F58-61940490-knights#/>



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

**Monday, February 2**

7:30 am † Carmela Merulla  
 12:00 pm † Evelio Zuluaga

**Tuesday, February 3**

7:30 am † Manuel Maria Ponciano Palacios  
 12:00 pm † Mary & Joseph Amato

**Wednesday, February 4**

7:30 am † Frederick C. Meixell  
 3:00pm † Souls in Purgatory (*Sunrise*)

**Thursday, February 5**

7:30 am † Ethel Gerencser  
 12:00 pm † Gemma Rulkens

**Friday, February 6**

7:30 am † Msgr. Frederik Pasquinelli

**Saturday, February 7**

9:00 am † Maria Elena Salazar  
 5:00 pm † David J. Kovaronic  
 7:00 pm † Rafael Alpíre Suarez (*Spanish*)

**Sunday, February 8**

7:00 am † Jairo Gustavo Vargas  
 9:00 am Nativity Parishioners  
 11:00 am † Domenico Bonaccorsy  
 1:00 pm † Daniel Hunter (*Sensory Mass*)  
 5:30 pm Special Intention for Mark Faustino

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

**Join us for a Divine Mercy Retreat!!**

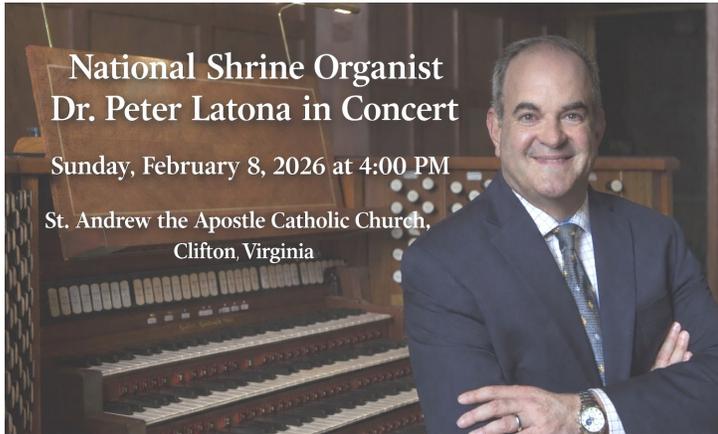
Registration is now open for 33 Days to Merciful Love which begins 3 March 2026. Journey into the heart of St. Thérèse of Lisieux’s Little Way with this small group retreat. Learn through the example of St. Thérèse’s life and her desire to be a saint, as you gain a greater understanding of God’s Merciful Love. Fr. Gaitley focuses on St Thérèse’s spirituality and connects it with Divine Mercy. Whether you want to deepen your love of Divine Mercy or to deepen your devotion to St. Thérèse you are encouraged to join us. The program features 6 Zoom meetings on Tuesday evenings 7:45 to 9:00 pm. The program concludes with a total consecration to Divine Mercy on April 12 (Divine Mercy Sunday). For more information and to register, visit the Nativity Web site: <https://nativityburke.org/33-day-retreat/> or contact the Nativity 33 Day Ministry at [33DayConsecration@nativityburke.org](mailto:33DayConsecration@nativityburke.org).



**ALTAR FLOWERS - Donated by**

Barbara Wright  
 In Loving Memory of  
 Jim Wright





**Nativity Shrine Organist  
Dr. Peter Latona in Concert**

Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 4:00 PM

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church,  
Clifton, Virginia

**Pray the Rosary**  
 The Nativity Rosary ministry teaches new learners how to make rosaries every month. Not only do we make rosaries, we meet to pray the rosary! Come join us at our next meeting on Sunday, February 15 from 2:00-3:30PM. We begin our meeting with the Holy Rosary and then we can teach you how to make one! If you have questions, email [rosaryministry@nativityburke.org](mailto:rosaryministry@nativityburke.org). We also meet on Sunday evenings from 7:30-7:50PM for a virtual Zoom Rosary. It's only 20 minutes and is a wonderful way to start your week with devotion to the Blessed Mother. Contact Brenda Zepf at [zepfmb@gmail.com](mailto:zepfmb@gmail.com) for the zoomlink.

**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 Hulén, Disability Inclusion Coordinator at [thulen@nativityburke.org](mailto:thulen@nativityburke.org).

The 2026 Bishop's Lenten Appeal, *In Christ, We Are One*, has begun and families should be receiving a letter in the mail from Bishop Burbidge. Supporting the BLA with a gift is a unique way for each of us to share our gifts, with increase, to the Lord. Each gift enriches parish life, forms seminarians, teaches children the Catholic faith, helps the needy and inspires others through evangelization efforts. Please read the BLA materials and then prayerfully reflect on making a monthly gift or pledge to this vital appeal. Thank you!



**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.

# CANDLELIGHT CABARET

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

AN EVENING OF SONG, DANCE AND STORY IN FULL GLOW



- Professional dancers and vocalists perform Broadway favorites!
- A hilarious one-act performance by our Youth Ministry!
- The unveiling of our 2026 Summer Musical!

TICKETS: \$20 | [TICKETS@NATIVITYTHEATRE.ORG](mailto:TICKETS@NATIVITYTHEATRE.ORG)

THE FATHER MARTIN CENTER | PRODUCED BY NATIVITY PLAYERS THEATRE MINISTRY

**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



**ONE ACT FESTIVAL - FEBRUARY 7**  
 Join us for one of the longest running Youth Ministry programs in the Diocese! Six local parishes will be traveling to Nativity to perform their One Act Plays and short films. Performances begin at 11:00 am in the FMC.

**WORKCAMP DONATION WEEKEND**  
 Save the date for our annual WorkCamp Donation Weekend - February 21 and 22. Our high schoolers will be at all the Masses to share their experiences with you and to ask for your prayers and financial support.

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)

**Monthly Sensory Mass | Sunday - February 8th**  
**At 1:00 pm - Nativity Catholic Church**

In an effort to embrace and welcome the neurodiverse members of our community, Nativity Catholic Church is hosting a monthly Sensory Mass on the second Sunday of every month at the 1:00 pm Mass.

All are welcome to attend! A special invitation is extended to any person in need of sensory accommodations. A Sensory Mass requires a welcoming stigma-free environment and accommodations to help reduce over-stimulation and sensory overload.

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

**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 between 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/>.

**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.






### BIBLE STUDIES AT NATIVITY PARISH

#### **Wednesday morning and evening. Walking With Purpose:**

Meeting in person. Walking with Purpose is a study program that aims to help bring women closer to Christ through Scripture. Meets

weekly in person on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Registration for Fall 2026 will be available in July 2026.

Visit <https://nativityburke.org/www/> for details about the ministry OR contact [wwpnativity@gmail.com](mailto:wwpnativity@gmail.com) with questions.

**Thursday evening Bible Study:** Meeting in Person and Virtual. We have just begun a study of the Gospel of Mark, likely the first of our four Gospels. Only 16 Chapters long, it rapidly covers Christ's ministry on earth, focused on Jesus as the "suffering servant." Likely written before 70 A.D. by John Mark, a follower of both Paul and Peter. We use Scott Hahn's commentary and video resources. Meets each Thursday from 7:30 – 9:00pm virtually, resuming in person and virtual by March. Contact Deacon Dick Kelly [Deaconrfk@aol.com](mailto:Deaconrfk@aol.com).

**Friday morning Women's Bible Study:** Meetings are Friday Mornings from 10:00am -12:00 noon in the Father Ready room (we meet on Zoom during the winter months). This year we are journeying through the Bible with Ascension's Bible Timeline. Join us for prayer, study, and fellowship! For more information, visit <https://nativityburke.org/womens-bible-study-registration> or contact Camille Pryor at [wbs@nativityburke.org](mailto:wbs@nativityburke.org).

**Viernes por la noche Estudio Bíblico:** El estudio bíblico en español "Little Rock" es un programa conducido por el Hno. Pedro Del Aguila y tres asistentes. Este ministerio está en nuestra parroquia de Natividad desde 2014, alentando a los fieles a tener una mejor visión de la Iglesia Católica y crear en ellos un interés mas profundo en las sagradas Escrituras. Horario: Viernes de 7:00–9:00 pm | Lugar: Salón Fr. Ready Este ciclo estaremos estudiando: El evangelio según San Juan y las Cartas. Contactarse: Elba Pfeifer, [elbitabonita@aol.com](mailto:elbitabonita@aol.com).

**Saturday morning That Man Is You:** Meeting in person. A men's program that combines Scripture with the best research from science in an engaging interactive program that addresses the pressures and temptations facing Catholic men in our modern culture. Meets each Saturday 6:50 - 8:00 am in the Fr Ready room. Contact Tim Yeager [yeagertd@verizon.net](mailto:yeagertd@verizon.net) or Bob Sands [bob@sandmark.net](mailto:bob@sandmark.net).

**Saturday morning Men's Prayer and Reflection Group:** Meeting in-person/virtually. Men of all ages! We take a variety of approaches to know better and grow closer to our Lord: (1) Bible study video series like The Bible and the Mass and The Bible and the Church Fathers by Dr. Scott Hahn; (2) Short videos like 7 Verses Every Catholic Should Know by Dr. John Bergsma, and The Greatest Love Story—On the Road to Emmaus by Fr. Mike Schmitz; (3) Read, research, and reflect on Sunday scriptures; and (4) Guest speaker special topics like Bringing Others to Christ, Spiritual Warfare, and Stump the Theologian. We have great fellowship discussing how these sessions help bring Christ into our everyday lives so we become better Catholic men, family members, friends and above all, intentional disciples of Christ. Meet Saturdays from 8-9am in the Fr. Ready Room. Drop-ins welcome! Contact Rick Loffredo [rickloffredo@outlook.com](mailto:rickloffredo@outlook.com).

### Donating to ECHO

ECHO, 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA 22150, is open to receive donations of household goods, clothing and non-perishable food from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, Monday through Friday, and from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, as well as one Saturday morning a month which varies, but is noted on our website [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org).

ECHO is proud to distribute goods that are clean and in good condition. Sometimes, we are short of certain staple foods, hygiene supplies, or vital clothing such as winter coats, and we purchase them to serve our clients adequately. Donors enable our mission by making financial contributions in addition to donations of food and housewares. Donations by check may be mailed to our address. Donations by credit card may be made through our website. See the "Donate" tab at the top of our homepage.

Currently, we need infant clothes (0-6 months), children's and men's sneakers, new underwear in men's sizes 32/34, men's winter coats in small and medium. Our Housewares Department has an ongoing need for sheets and comforters in King and Queen sizes as well as for pots and pans in medium/large sizes.

#### **Some Donations That Don't Cost Anything**

ECHO's Food Pantry uses paper grocery bags and plastic sleeves that are used for home-delivered newspapers. While these are things one might normally recycle or discard, we ask you to save them for ECHO and donate when you have a stack or when you have other things to bring to our Donation Door.

### Bible Study Programs at Nativity

#### **"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ!" St. Jerome**

Please consider joining one of Nativity's six bible study groups. We have a program on Wednesday morning, and one on Wednesday evenings, another on Thursday nights, one on Friday mornings and another on Friday evenings, with two on Saturday mornings. Two programs are just for women, two are just for men, and two (one in Spanish and one in English) are open to all.

We have traditional studies that cover the Bible, book by book, or topic by topic; we have others that use scripture verses as part of an examination of God's central place in our daily living. Many make use of bible commentaries, videos, and music. All seek to relate scripture to our lives today and show its relevance to how we live. Our programs meet in person and/or virtually. Check out our column and contact those leading our programs; or just email me for help in finding a program that might be right for you.

Peace,

Deacon Dick Kelly, [deaconrfk@aol.com](mailto:deaconrfk@aol.com)

### IN MARY'S FOOTSTEPS

#### **A Group for Widows**

In Mary's Footsteps is a faith and fellowship group that focuses on the continuing journey of widows. Meetings are usually held the second Monday of every month. They include prayers offered for our beloved husbands, time to talk about them and our needs moving forward. Our next meeting is

**February 9th at 11:00 in the Father Ready room.**

Contact Cat Sands at 703-455-2400 or [csands@nativityburke.org](mailto:csands@nativityburke.org) for more information.

**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!

**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).

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” - (Matthew 5:3)*

Fittingly as we read the beatitudes, this weekend the Church celebrates World Day for Consecrated Life. The Beatitudes guide us in living holy and generous lives no matter our vocation.

We are all called to embody these virtues, serving God and His people with humble hearts. Pray for discernment and openness to where God might be inviting you to follow Him.

Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (703) 841-2514 or via email: [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org).

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

**PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC)**

We are a social group, mostly aged 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate group.) Meet us for: Dinner and Trivia Night at St. Bernadette Parish (Feb. 7); Thursday Lunches (Feb.12 & 26); St. Valentine's Day Dance (Feb. 14); Dinner in Shirlington (Feb. 15); Walk on W&OD Trail in Vienna (Feb. 19); Mass at St. Michael Church/lunch (Feb. 22); Serving meal at Christ House (Feb. 28). For details, visit our website: [bit.ly/ptsc](http://bit.ly/ptsc). With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at [ptscnva@gmail.com](mailto:ptscnva@gmail.com).



**As we celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life on February 2, join us as we pray for an increase in vocations:**

*Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call forth vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our diocese and our families. Inspire men to imitate Christ the Eternal High Priest in sacrificial service to Your Church. Move the hearts of men and women to offer themselves wholly to You in poverty, chastity, and obedience. Send them as laborers for Your harvest. Inspire the faithful to support them with prayer and sacrifice. Raise up holy families who foster openness to Your call. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*

**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 CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



# Nativity Students Are Buddy-Buddy

\*\*\*\*\*

Many of our students have the opportunity to serve as buddies to other students at Nativity, throughout their studies here. up with our Fifth Graders and their Pre-K buddies at the start of 2026, was both festive and friendly. Whether reading books together, sharing a smile, or collaborating on crafts, buddies really enjoy one another's company, while benefitting socially, emotionally, and academically. Take a peek –



## Important Upcoming Dates ~

\*\*\*\*\*

**February 9 - No School**

**February 13 - Early Dismissal**

**February 16 - Presidents' Day**

\*\*\*\*\*

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!



**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.

**2 Feb:** Exemplification, 7:00 PM in church narthex. New members can achieve 3rd degree in one evening. For information, please contact DGK Vince Augelli at [dgk7992@nativityburke.org](mailto:dgk7992@nativityburke.org)

**3 Feb:** 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 7:00pm until 8:30pm in the Parish Hall. Pizza, snacks and drinks provided! SUG is live!

**7 Feb:** 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 Feb:** Scout Sunday Pancake Breakfast. We need 3-5 Knights to help cook and serve to the Scouts and their families. SUG is live!

**8 Feb:** Knights Wings Super Bowl - cooking wings to sell pre-game  
**20 Feb:** Knights Fish Fry. Please sign up to help out during this popular event! SUG is coming!

**6 Mar:** Nativity All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life (40 DFL Spring Campaign)

**14 Mar:** St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance, Fr Martin Center, 6:30pm. We need Knights to help with this popular event! (Set up 13 Mar). Come on out and join fellow Knights and parishioners in the traditional celebration of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. SUG is coming!

**15 Mar:** Donut Sunday, Please sign up to help with this popular parish event! SUG is live!

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

**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.

**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,

## ECHO Collection This weekend, 31 January / 1 February - Food Room Most Needed Items

Thank you for including ECHO Food Room needs on your shopping list. The USDA calculates that a meal for one persons is considered to be 1.2 pounds of food. Thus far this fiscal year ECHO has distributed 288,560 pounds of food which converts to 240,466 meals given to our neighbors in Burke and Springfield. Thank you donors for your generosity in helping our neighbors. Your help is greatly appreciated. We collected 907 lbs on January 3/4.

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

*Bag Beans (black, red or garbanzo beans preferred), Lentils, Canned Fruit, Cereal/Oatmeal (low sugar), Can Tomatoes, Tomato paste, Canned Milk, Shelf stable milk, Hot Chocolate, Snacks (Crackers, raisins, granola bars, dry fruit, nuts, etc.) Baked Beans, Coffee (Instant and Ground), Honey, Pancake Syrup, Cooking Oil, Non-salt spices, Masa Corn Flour, Granulated Sugar, Lemon or Lime Juice, Tortillas, Condiments, Mac and Cheese, Canned Meat, Paper bags, Newspaper plastic sleeves, Paper boxes, Toilet Paper, Facial Tissue, Toothpaste, Razors, Shampoo, Laundry Detergent, Paper Towels, Body/Hand lotion, Band Aids, Diapers (sizes 2, 4, 5, 6), Sanitary Nappkins.*

**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).



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



Mail your check made out to:  
**Foundation for CDA-SEEF**  
200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 811, Arlington, VA 22203  
CONTACT: Gretchen Koch • [gretchen.koch@arlingtondiocesc.org](mailto:gretchen.koch@arlingtondiocesc.org)  
To make a gift online: [arlingtondiocesc.org/Donate\\_SEEF](http://arlingtondiocesc.org/Donate_SEEF)

SUPPORT OUR MISSION



*Saturday, February 7, 2026*

Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with a delicious buffet dinner, inspiring entertainment, a Live auction, Silent auction, and 50/50 Raffle.



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BUY TICKETS



*A Legacy of Life*  
JP GALA 2026

# BEN-DAVID WARNER

AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC BENEFITING CONTIGO YOUTH CLUB

SATURDAY  
FEB 21  
2026

DOORS OPEN  
6:30PM  
7-9PM SHOW

EXCITING RAFFLES  
WINE & BEER SALE

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH, HELLER HALL

905 PARK AVENUE, FALLS CHURCH, VA 22046

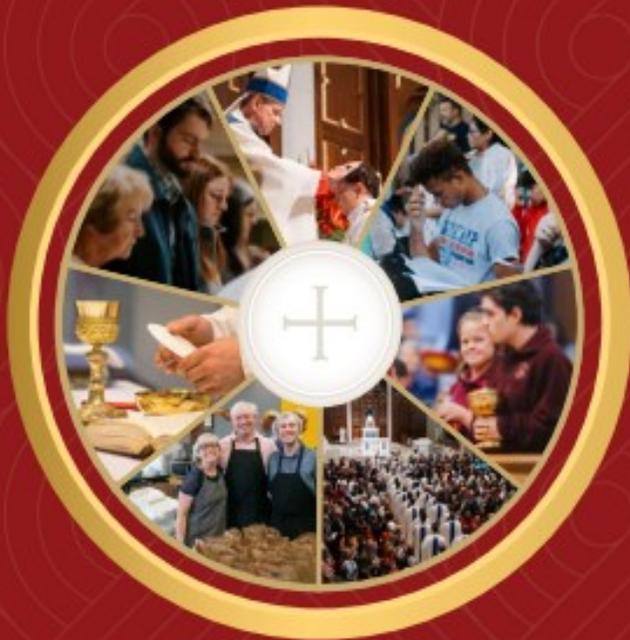
ADULTS \$20 ONLINE  
\$25 AT THE DOOR  
CHILDREN (12 & UNDER) \$10 ONLINE  
\$15 AT THE DOOR  
GET YOUR TICKETS ONLINE TODAY!  
[CONTIGOYOUTH.ORG/BENEFITCONCERT](https://contigoyouth.org/benefitconcert)



PROCEEDS BENEFIT

  
**CONTIGO**  
YOUTH CLUB

# IN *Christ* WE ARE *One*



## A Message from Bishop Burbidge

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year's Bishop's Lenten Appeal, "In Christ We Are One," reminds us that we are never alone on our journey of faith. In Baptism, the Lord gathers us into one Body and calls us to share his love with all we meet.

Each day across our diocese, your generosity makes this unity visible and tangible. Through the BLA, you stand with our seminarians preparing for priestly service, support our parishes and missions, accompany families through Catholic Charities, and help form disciples among children, youth, young adults, and the elderly. You bring Christ's light to those who are suffering, searching, or feel far from the Church.

I invite you to join me in making a sacrificial gift to this year's Bishop's Lenten Appeal. I ask you especially to consider a recurring monthly commitment, which allows your generosity to continue bearing fruit throughout the year and may enable you to make a greater gift in thanksgiving for God's goodness.

Thank you for all the ways you live the truth that, in Christ, we are one. Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones during this holy season of Lent.



## *The Bishop's Lenten Appeal:* Your Gifts at Work in Our Diocese!



Catholic Charities continues to meet the increase of requests for rent/mortgage and utilities assistance, groceries, and mental health counseling. The St. Lucy Food Project fulfilled nearly 70,000 requests for assistance, distributing over 2.1 million pounds of food last year.



Catholic Schools, Religious Education, Faith Formation, and the Office of Divine Worship.



The Office of Hispanic Ministry served nearly 400 families with Quinceañera and Marriage Preparation Retreats and formed approximately 500 students and lay ministers through the Institute of Pastoral Formation and Liturgical Trainings.



There are 40 men currently studying for the priesthood, who – God willing – will one day serve in our parishes.



Office of Youth, Campus and Young Adult Ministries, and Campus Ministry at colleges and universities throughout the diocese, including Mary Washington, George Mason, and Shenandoah University.

**2026 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL**  
**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON**

# IN *Christ* WE ARE *One*

## 15% **Vocations**

Seminarian education and support, Vocation Awareness Ministry, and the Permanent Diaconate.

## 12% **Charitable Works**

Catholic Charities, parish subsidies, and charitable assistance for the vulnerable and needy throughout the diocese.

## 11% **Religious Education**

Catholic Schools, Religious Education, Faith Formation, and the Office of Divine Worship.

## 11% **Assistance to Parishes and Missions**

Ministries, offices, and support services for 70 parishes and 6 missions, including 4,600+ parish, school, and diocesan personnel.

## 10% **Youth and Young Adult Outreach**

Office of Youth, Campus and Young Adult Ministries, and Campus Ministry at colleges and universities throughout the diocese, including Mary Washington, George Mason, and Shenandoah University.

## 10% **Support for Families**

Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life, and the Diocesan Tribunal.

## 10% **Chancery Offices**

Support to the Virginia Catholic Conference and various Chancery offices assisting the Bishop as he leads the parishes and diocese.

## 5% **Evangelization Efforts**

INOVA Hospital Ministry, Peace and Justice Commission, Spiritual Assistance Ministry, Diocesan Pilgrimage, and the Bánica Mission in the Dominican Republic.

## 5% **Diocesan Development and Communication Programs**

The Communications Office utilizes various platforms to promote, educate, and evangelize the faithful and wider community. Development initiatives, including the BLA and other charitable vehicles, provide strategic financial support to the diocese, parishes, and schools.

## 4% **Hispanic Ministry and Multicultural Ministries**

Pastoral services and assistance for more than 20 ethnic communities within our diverse diocese.

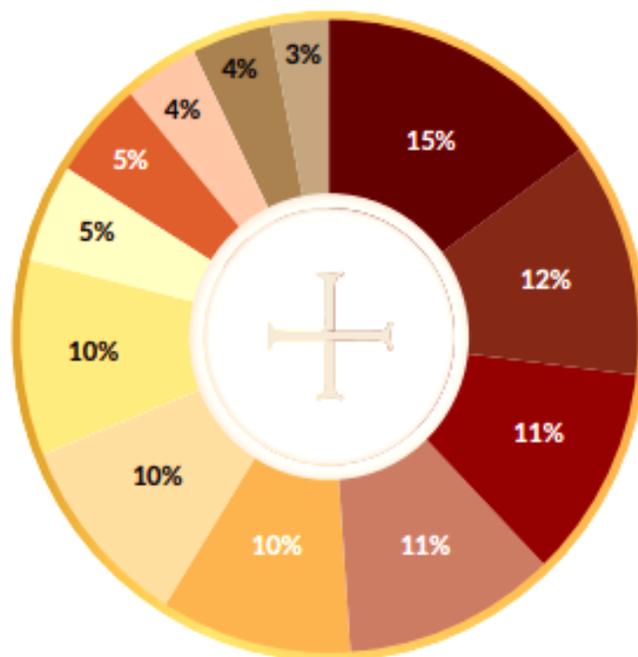
## 4% **San Damiano Spirituality Center**

A peaceful venue offering a wide variety of retreats for laity, religious, and clergy seeking reflection and spiritual renewal in the chapel and grounds of the Shenandoah Valley.

## 3% **Parish/Diocesan Properties and Land Development**

The diocese purchases land granted to newly founded parishes for their parish grounds.

*This allocation reflects a projected \$24 million in 2026 BLA funding dedicated to these critical ministries of the diocese.*



## **MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY**

The Diocese of Arlington has received a \$300,000 challenge gift to match first-time or increased gifts to the 2026 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA).

## **MONTHLY GIVING**

We invite families to consider starting a new monthly recurring gift to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. Monthly giving is an easy and convenient way to support the vital ministries of the diocese throughout the year. Monthly Gifts lower the admin cost of fulfillment, and you can adjust or cancel anytime.

### **Monthly gifts add up and will be matched!**

\$25/month adds up to \$300 over the year

\$50/month adds up to \$600 over the year

\$100/month adds up to \$1,200 over the year

and enters you into the Lumen Christi Guild.

The Lumen Christi (Light of Christ) Guild recognizes those whose generous annual support helps the Bishop's Lenten Appeal illuminate the lives of countless people across the Diocese of Arlington. Membership is based on your total giving to the BLA within a calendar year.

## **HOW TO START YOUR MONTHLY GIFT OR PLEDGE**

Scan the QR code or visit  
[www.arlingtondiocese.org/bla](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/bla)



For more information, please call the Bishop's Lenten Appeal office at 703-778-8600 or visit our website at

[www.arlingtondiocese.org/bla](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/bla)

Bishop's Lenten Appeal | Catholic Diocese of Arlington  
200 North Glebe Road, Suite 811, Arlington VA 22203

*The Catholic Diocese of Arlington is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization (EIN: 54-0967542).*

**IV DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO  
CICLO A 1 de FEBRERO 2026  
BENEDICTO XVI – Ángelus 2011**

Las Bienaventuranzas son un nuevo programa de vida Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

En este cuarto domingo del tiempo ordinario, el Evangelio presenta el primer gran discurso que el Señor dirige a la gente, en lo alto de las suaves colinas que rodean el lago de Galilea. «Al ver Jesús la multitud —escribe san Mateo—, subió al monte: se sentó y se acercaron sus discípulos; y, tomando la palabra, les enseñaba» (Mt 5, 1-2). Jesús, nuevo Moisés, «se sienta en la “cátedra” del monte» (Jesús de Nazaret, Madrid 2007, p. 92) y proclama «bienaventurados» a los pobres de espíritu, a los que lloran, a los misericordiosos, a quienes tienen hambre de justicia, a los limpios de corazón, a los perseguidos (cf. Mt 5, 3-10). No se trata de una nueva ideología, sino de una enseñanza que viene de lo alto y toca la condición humana, precisamente la que el Señor, al encarnarse, quiso asumir, para salvarla. Por eso, «el Sermón de la montaña está dirigido a todo el mundo, en el presente y en el futuro y sólo se puede entender y vivir siguiendo a Jesús, caminando con él» (Jesús de Nazaret, p. 96). Las Bienaventuranzas son un nuevo programa de vida, para liberarse de los falsos valores del mundo y abrirse a los verdaderos bienes, presentes y futuros. En efecto, cuando Dios consueta, sacia el hambre de justicia y enjuga las lágrimas de los que lloran, significa que, además de recompensar a cada uno de modo sensible, abre el reino de los cielos. «Las Bienaventuranzas son la transposición de la cruz y la resurrección a la existencia del discípulo» (ib., p. 101). Reflejan la vida del Hijo de Dios que se deja perseguir, despreciar hasta la condena a muerte, a fin de dar a los hombres la salvación.

Un antiguo eremita afirma: «Las Bienaventuranzas son dones de Dios, y debemos estarle muy agradecidos por ellas y por las recompensas que de ellas derivan, es decir, el reino de los cielos en el siglo futuro, la consolación aquí, la plenitud de todo bien y misericordia de parte de Dios... una vez que seamos imagen de Cristo en la tierra» (Pedro de Damasco, en Filocalia, vol. 3). El Evangelio de las Bienaventuranzas se comenta con la historia misma de la Iglesia, la historia de la santidad cristiana, porque —como escribe san Pablo— «Dios ha escogido lo débil del mundo para humillar lo poderoso; ha escogido lo despreciable, lo que no cuenta, para anular a lo que cuenta» (1 Co 1, 27-28). Por esto la Iglesia no teme la pobreza, el desprecio, la persecución en una sociedad a menudo atraída por el bienestar material y por el poder mundano. San Agustín nos recuerda que «lo que ayuda no es sufrir estos males, sino soportarlos por el nombre de Jesús, no sólo con espíritu sereno, sino incluso con alegría» (De sermone Domini in monte, I, 5, 13). Queridos hermanos y hermanas, invoquemos a la Virgen María, la Bienaventurada por excelencia, pidiendo la fuerza para buscar al Señor (cf. So 2, 3) y seguirlo siempre, con alegría, por el camino de las Bienaventuranzas.

**Bienaventuranzas de la ternura de Dios**  
Les ofrezco algunas bienaventuranzas de la ternura de Dios.  
Por: P. Guillermo Serra, LC | Fuente: [la-oracion.com](http://la-oracion.com)

**Introducción**

La oración es llenarse del gozo de ser poseído por el amor de Dios. De esta vivencia nace la experiencia de ser dichosos, de ser bienaventurados. En las bienaventuranzas Cristo se nos hace presente de distintas maneras y nos dejar sentir su ternura.

Les ofrezco algunas bienaventuranzas de la ternura de Dios. Cada uno, en su oración, podría y debería continuar la lista según haya experimentado esta cercanía amorosa y tierna de Dios. Lléalas a la oración, déjate envolver por la dicha de ser amado por el Amor y no te canses de sentir su ternura.

**Bienaventurado serás...**

Bienaventurado serás si te agachas para entrar en la cueva de Belén y así ver a Jesús, hijo de Dios, en un pesebre, envuelto en pañales (Lucas 2, 1-20). **Ternura de Dios, hecha carne de mi carne, acaricia mi corazón.**

Bienaventurado serás si dejas que te cargue Jesús sobre sus hombros, te rescate de las tinieblas del pecado y te lleve a su rebaño. Él conoce sus ovejas y las tuyas lo conocen. (Lc 15,4-6). **Ternura de Dios, hecho Buen Pastor, carga mi corazón.**

Bienaventurado serás si te dejas perdonar por Jesús, quien nunca te condena. Su mano toma la tuya y te levanta para invitarte a no pecar más y seguirlo de cerca (Jn 8). **Ternura de Dios, hecha perdón y misericordia, acaricia mi corazón.**

Bienaventurado serás si te alimentas del pan y vino hechos carne y sangre de Jesús para la vida del mundo (Jn 6). **Ternura de Dios, hecha alimento de vida eterna, nutre mi corazón.**

Bienaventurado serás si dejas que Jesús fije su mirada en tus ojos y así sentir el amor tan grande que tiene (Mc 10, 17-20). Su mirada de cielo te recordará tu vocación, tu tierra y tu destino. **Ternura de Dios, hecha mirada amorosa de Jesús, fija tus ojos en mi corazón.**

Bienaventurado serás si sacias tu sed de la única agua que puede dar la vida eterna. No volverás a tener sed y de tu corazón saldrán ríos de agua viva (Jn 4, 10-15)

Bienaventurado serás si regresas a la casa del Padre y experimentas el abrazo de amoroso de quien te siempre te espera incondicionalmente (Lc 15, 20). **Ternura de Dios, hecha acogida, abrazos y besos por el hijo perdido y encontrado, sana mi corazón.**

Bienaventurado serás si escuchas y contemplas las lágrimas de Jesús por ti, porque no vives como Él quiere, porque "estás muerto". Él te quiere resucitar como a su amigo Lázaro (Jn 11,35). **Ternura de Dios, hecha lágrimas de amor profundo y sincero, riega con tu amor mi corazón.**

Bienaventurado serás si con humildad dejas que Jesús te lave los pies, te quite el polvo del camino y te enseñe la lección del servicio (Jn 13, 4-10). **Ternura de Dios, hecha esclavo por amor a los hombres, haz mi corazón humilde como el tuyo.**

Bienaventurado serás si avanzas hasta la cruz para contemplar a un Dios humillado, fijado en una cruz, cargando con los pecados del mundo (Jn 19). **Ternura de Dios, hecha pecado por amor y salvación mía y la de todos los hombres, salva mi corazón.**

Bienaventurado serás si permaneces bajo la cruz para recibir de Jesús el regalo más hermoso de un hijo: "He ahí a tu Madre"(Jn 19, 26). Sí, bienaventurado serás por siempre porque quien acoge a la Madre en su casa y en su corazón tiene asegurado el cielo. **Ternura de Dios, hecho don precioso de la Madre, lleva mi corazón siempre a María y por ella a Jesús.**

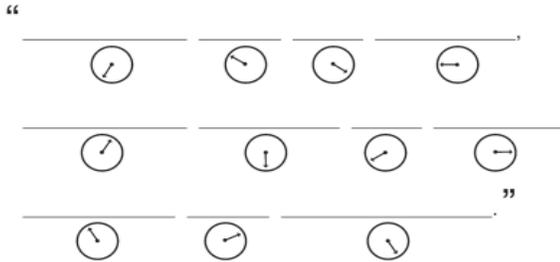
**Para la oración personal**

1. Ponte en presencia de Dios y repasa junto a Él las experiencias de tu vida donde hayas tocado esa ternura.
2. De estas experiencias escribe cuáles son las bienaventuranzas que más te tocan y que dirigen tu vida hacia Él.
3. Expresa tu gratitud por estas señales tiernas de su presencia y guárdalas en tu memoria y corazón. Ellas serán pilares para crecer en amistad y sostenerte en los momentos de cruz y oscuridad. Iluminarán tu vida y te darán calor.



What else did Jesus say?

Use the clock to find out.



What did Jesus say to them?

Unscramble the missing words, then find them in the word search. They are ↑ ↓ → ← ↖ ↗ ↘ ↙.

"B \_\_\_\_\_ are the p \_\_\_\_\_ in s \_\_\_\_\_, sseeBld ropo pirsit, for theirs is the kingdom of h \_\_\_\_\_. Blessed vanehe are those who m \_\_\_\_\_, for they will be comforted. romun Blessed are the m \_\_\_\_\_, for they will inherit the ekem e \_\_\_\_\_. Blessed are those who h \_\_\_\_\_ uhgntre and t \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness, for they will be sihtr f \_\_\_\_\_. Blessed are the m \_\_\_\_\_, cfumreil for they will be shown m \_\_\_\_\_. Blessed are the p \_\_\_\_\_ in h \_\_\_\_\_, for they will see God. rpue rehat Blessed are the p \_\_\_\_\_, for they will rkmeecpaaes be called c \_\_\_\_\_ of God." hlnercid



## The Beatitudes

Jesus went to the mountainside and began to teach His disciples.

Find 12 differences in the second picture.



H	M	C	H	T	R	A	E	M	J	F	I	B	K	N	M	S
D	T	R	A	Q	P	W	O	T	A	W	E	P	O	T	H	K
S	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C	O	L	J	F	U	E	Q	D
R	U	G	S	U	B	S	E	C	T	I	D	T	A	S	E	H
A	N	J	P	T	B	P	F	H	D	J	R	V	I	S	N	L
H	C	F	I	L	L	E	D	L	E	L	E	J	S	B	M	S
N	T	P	N	N	W	I	T	Q	M	N	T	E	I	G	Y	R
P	T	K	G	H	R	M	S	K	U	K	L	J	L	M	N	E
Q	H	O	M	A	K	V	P	G	H	B	P	F	V	R	O	K
M	I	C	G	S	T	O	N	T	N	N	E	R	U	P	H	A
D	R	L	T	J	M	C	L	O	D	L	R	T	R	Y	J	M
R	S	F	D	T	E	O	P	K	T	H	A	G	D	I	N	E
S	T	S	M	J	T	V	Z	V	Q	I	M	O	U	N	I	C
B	R	O	E	T	M	I	O	J	A	E	S	I	R	R	N	A
T	S	Y	T	M	O	U	R	N	U	S	S	E	R	M	E	E
D	M	I	K	S	R	Y	T	U	R	C	G	T	K	M	T	P
S	A	H	I	A	C	O	E	N	E	N	K	P	L	A	L	I
G	S	V	T	B	W	J	C	T	U	V	K	B	N	M	L	C
M	U	E	T	B	L	G	R	H	T	U	L	J	F	S	U	S
B	V	M	R	N	E	Q	F	E	L	D	R	G	I	J	F	M
I	O	S	E	T	I	D	F	A	M	O	H	N	M	Y	I	L
A	N	C	H	R	G	K	P	R	I	S	T	K	V	H	C	K
K	L	K	M	T	C	O	N	T	W	R	K	S	E	W	R	H
U	T	J	L	O	O	Y	I	N	N	J	A	U	K	E	E	S
L	S	P	I	R	I	T	R	C	A	T	L	Q	N	U	M	N
P	I	E	K	P	W	F	B	H	L	I	U	C	S	F	V	C

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