

# 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up.

℟℞ 1:50-31



**6400 Nativity Lane,  
Burke, Virginia 22015**  
[nativityburke.org](http://nativityburke.org)

**REV. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR**  
**REV. EDWARD BRESNAHAN, PAROCHIAL VICAR**  
**REV. JONATHAN BENNETT, PAROCHIAL VICAR**  
**REV. CEDRIC P. WILSON, ASSISTING PRIEST/  
SPANISH MINISTRY**  
**DEC. RICHARD F. KELLY**

#### **SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:**

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary  
Ann Benson, Business Manager  
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager  
Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister  
Maureen Andersen, Liturgical Minister  
Johana Brown, Parish Receptionist  
Anna Marty, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator  
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor  
Ayse Kenner, Mass Intentions  
Alison Fram, Director of Young Adult & Family Ministries/College Ministry  
Rebecca Judge, Director of Youth Ministry  
Mary Castellano, Director of Social Media  
Anna Lisa Licud, Coordinator Marriage Enrichment  
Carole Fischl, Co-director of Music  
Debbie Doyle, Co-director of Music  
Mai Tran, Traditional Choir Director  
Sara Prince, Youth Choir Director/Cornerstone Choir  
Natacha Hines, Gift Shop

#### **MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:**

Maria Kelly, Principal  
Richard Godwin, Assistant Principal  
Jen Behan, Preschool Director/Extended Care Director  
Shannon Murphy, Administrative Assistant/Registrar  
Kim Vu, Business Manager  
Mary Helen Chapman, School Secretary

#### **MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.  
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro, A.R., M.R.E.  
Maria Ammirati, Religious Education Coordinator  
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant

#### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR**

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454-2415



**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./  
1:00 p.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](mailto:bulletin@nativityburke.org).

#### **WEBMASTER:**

Emilia Hartline, [webmaster@nativityburke.org](mailto:webmaster@nativityburke.org)

#### **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 Fr. Bob Cilinski



*"The fever left her and she waited on them."  
- Mark 1:31*

My dear parishioners,

In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, there is a beautiful closing prayer which asks of God, *"May your servant respond to your healing power and be reunited with us at the altar of praise."* Whenever I pray this prayer over someone who is ill or about to undergo surgery, I look forward to the day I will see them again at Mass where we will be *"reunited at the altar of praise."* Sometimes it happens in a week, sometimes it is months.

In the gospel today Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law and when the fever left her she went immediately to the kitchen and began to serve those that were in her home. The point of the story was to emphasize the full restoration of life after the healing miracle. Jesus acts with Divine power. A word or a touch by Christ can heal, and then we resume living lives of loving service.

The miracles in Mark's gospel are the subordinate aspect of Jesus' ministry. His main purpose is to preach the good news of the Kingdom. Miracles are seen as a kind of preview of the ultimate miracle, which is the cross and resurrection. These two events are the greatest acts of healing and restoration to life.

After healing, Jesus goes off to a lonely place to pray. But the disciples find him and urge him to go to the people. Jesus responds and begins again to make his rounds of preaching the good news, he breaks the power of evil by casting out demons, a wounded humanity is healed, and he lives a life in service to others. We, his followers, are called to live out the same service to others.

Good luck 49ers and Chiefs fans. It's a joy when your team is in the Superbowl!

Love and Blessings,

*Fr. Bob Cilinski*

Fr. Bob Cilinski, Pastor

### 2024 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) Begins! *Behold, I make all things new*



SCAN ME

The 2024 BLA Commitment Sunday is next weekend! Once a year we are asked to make a pledge to support the work of our diocesan programs and ministries which provide services that no parish could provide on its own. We are asking every family to participate to help our parish make our goal. By participating in the BLA, we renew our commitment to the Lord with a response to His call to serve our brothers and sisters.

You may go online to make a donation at:  
[www.arlingtondiocese.org/bla](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/bla) or scan the QR code.

### Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024 Mass Schedule

6:00am, 7:30am, 9:00am (School Mass),  
12:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm and  
8:00pm (Bilingual)

### Nativity Art & Environment Committee

The Art & Environment Ministry is looking for more parishioners to be part of a team to decorate the church throughout the year. The Ministry could use many more helping hands for the upcoming Lent, Easter and Pentecost seasons.

If interested in helping to decorate OR care for the plants, please contact the Art & Environment Ministry Chair Vickie Sands at [artandenvironment@nativityburke.org](mailto:artandenvironment@nativityburke.org).

### Lenten Soup Suppers

February 21, February 28, March 6, and March 13  
5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria



Come enjoy a simple soup dinner donated by parishioners and served by our teens! This is a great opportunity to support parish ministries while breaking bread together as a Nativity family.

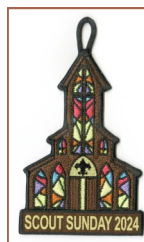
Donations at the door will  
benefit Youth Ministry.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR  
MORE DETAILS ON DONATING  
SOUP & VOLUNTEERING



[nativityburke.org/lenten-soup-suppers](http://nativityburke.org/lenten-soup-suppers)

### SCOUT SUNDAY & PANCAKE BREAKFAST FEBRUARY 4th



Nativity Scout Sunday will be celebrated on February 4th 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. Please contact your scout leaders or Kevin Laden at 703-439-0225 for more information.

In addition, 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. All are encouraged to participate!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.APOSTLEOFTHEIMPOSSIBLE.COM](http://WWW.APOSTLEOFTHEIMPOSSIBLE.COM)

The Arm of  
**ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE**  
 is visiting the United States and is coming to  
 THE DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Known as the *Apostle of the Impossible*,  
 Saint Jude is revered for his unwavering  
 dedication and steadfast faith. Millions  
 have experienced his intercession in times  
 of adversity and need.



**DATE:** Friday, February 9, 2024

**LOCATION:** Nativity Catholic Church

**ADDRESS:** 6400 Nativity Lane Burke, Virginia 22015 (703) 455-2400

**VENERATION OF THE RELIC BEGINS:** 2:00 PM

**SPECIAL MASS IN HONOR OF SAINT JUDE:** 7:00 PM

**VENERATION ENDS:** 10:00 PM

CHECK THE WEBSITE BELOW FOR OTHER LOCATIONS



THE APOSTLE OF THE  
**IMPOSSIBLE**  
 TOUR OF THE RELICS OF  
**ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE**

*Treasures*  
 OF THE CHURCH

VISIT [www.ApostleOfTheImpossible.com](http://www.ApostleOfTheImpossible.com) FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.



### LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINANCE

Ash Wednesday is February 14th. It is a day of fast and abstinence. Catholics 14 years of age and older are obliged to abstain from meat and those 18-59 are obliged to fast (1 full meal and 2 smaller ones to maintain strength) unless medical or serious reasons exist.

**All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.**  
**Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence.**

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

### APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING UPDATE

We want to thank the Nativity Family for the tremendous outpouring of support to build Nativity's 26th home in the heart of Appalachia. After our collection weekend, we are now at \$76,595 towards our goal of \$110,000.

Donations can still be made either through electronic giving or mailing directly to the office at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA, 22015. Please make checks out to Nativity Catholic Church 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.

**Any questions, contact Bob Corsi at [bobcorsi@cox.net](mailto:bobcorsi@cox.net).**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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



# PEACE AND JUSTICE CONFERENCE

## NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Entrepreneurship at the Service of the Human  
Person: Celebrating the Dignity of Work

When: Saturday, March 9

Where: Nativity Catholic Church

### **Schedule**

5:00 pm — Mass with Bishop Michael F. Burbidge

6:00 pm — Dinner

7:00 pm — Keynote address

8:00-8:30pm — Questions and answers



JOIN BISHOP MICHAEL BURBIDGE AND LEARN FROM FORMER SWISS GUARD, MENTOR, AUTHOR, AND BUSINESS ENTREPRENEUR ANDREAS WIDMER, FROM THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA, HOW EMBRACING CREATIVITY AND THE SPIRIT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP CELEBRATES THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND HELPS US — AND OUR NEIGHBORS — THRIVE.

**TO REGISTER VISIT:**

<https://nativityburke.org/peace-justice-conference/>



# LENTEN SCHEDULE

## Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

6:00am, 7:30am, 9:00am (*School Mass*),  
12:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm and  
8:00pm (*Bilingual*)

## Stations of the Cross

Each Friday of Lent starting February 16th,  
in English at 7:00pm and Spanish at 8:00pm

## Knights of Columbus - Lenten Fish Fry

Friday Evening February 16th from 6:00-9:00pm

## Extra Confession, The Light is ON for You

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation,  
Each Wednesday Evening during Lent,  
starting February 21st from 6:30pm - 8:00pm

## Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesday Evenings during Lent from 5:30pm - 7:00pm:  
February 21st & 28th, March 6th & 13th

## “Come Walk with Me” Holy Hour and Meditations with Tenor Mark Forrest

Wednesday Evening, March 20th, from 7:00 pm - 8:00pm

## Lenten Penance Service

Thursday Evening, March 21st at 6:30pm  
Many priests available to hear confessions in English and in Spanish

### ECHO Food Room Most Needed Items Collection THIS weekend!

- Choose sizes appropriate for our average family size of four.
- Include an assortment of food to ensure a variety of items
- ECHO continues to see a deficit of several thousand pounds a month between food donated and food given to clients. Any donation, large or small, is most gratefully welcomed. Last month we collected 1,389 lbs!

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

*Tin Fish (tuna, sardines, salmon etc.), Spaghetti Pasta and Sauce, INSTANT Coffee (many clients do not have coffee makers), Can Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Can Fruit, Bag Rice (Clients prefer white, jasmine or basmati), Instant (Box) Potatoes, Crackers, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, Ramen, Hot Chocolate, can milk, shelf stable milk Can Meat (chicken, Spam, chili, small hams, beef stew etc.), Juice (Bottles or box), Tea (green, herbal or black), Spices (garlic, onion, cinnamon, salt, pepper), Healthy Snacks, Masa (Corn) Flour, Lentils, Bag Beans (black, red or garbanzo preferred), Lemon or Lime Juice, Jelly and Honey, Tortillas, Cooking Oil, Brown Paper Bags, Reusable Grocery Bags, Children's Toothbrushes, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Bath Soap, Facial Tissues, Dish Soap, Paper Towels, Band Aids, Baby Wipes, Diapers - Sizes 3, 4, 5, Sanitary Napkins, Shaving Cream/Razors.*

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



***If you heard that the Church was about to experience a new Pentecost, would you want to be there when it happens?  
Well, it's happening this summer in Indianapolis!***

From July 17th to the 21st, 2024, tens of thousands of passionate Catholics will experience an outpouring of grace on a scale this generation has never seen. This transformative gathering—called the National Eucharistic Congress—will be a turning point for the Church in America, filled with rich prayer experiences, fellowship, and world-class teaching from Bishop Robert Barron, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Sr. Josephine Garret, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, and many more incredible Catholic voices! This is the spiritual family reunion you've been waiting for. As we return to our first love, God has promised to send his Holy Spirit to anoint us for a new season of apostolic mission! Come be refreshed, healed, and filled with so much grace—it'll overflow into our community when you return home. Whether you attend for one day or all five, your presence at the National Eucharistic Congress is a public witness that Jesus is truly present and active in our midst.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to be part of a historic moment in the life of the Church. Register online at [Eucharistic-Congress.org](http://Eucharistic-Congress.org), or contact our parish office for more information about registering with your fellow parishioners.



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

#### Monday, February 5th

7:30 am † William & Anna Celestino

#### Tuesday, February 6th

7:30 am Special Int. for Danilo Dizon  
12:00 pm † Stephen Lisi Jr.

#### Wednesday, February 7th

7:30 am † Margaret & Edward White  
3:00 pm † John & Diane Lenahan (SRL)

#### Thursday, February 8th

7:30 am Special Int. for Ninfa Bennett  
12:00 pm † Daniel F. Hunter

#### Friday, February 9th

7:30 am Special Int. for Linda & Rick Loffredo  
9:00 am † Joseph A. Faudale

#### Saturday, February 10th

9:00 am † Stephen Banks  
5:00 pm † Donald Philip Mayo, Jr.  
7:00 pm † Margot Uribe

#### Sunday, February 11th

7:00 am † Melanie Ann Walling  
9:00 am Living & Deceased Martinelli Family Members  
11:00 am † Sally Mernah  
1:00 pm Parishioners  
5:30 pm † Domenick Ali, Jr.

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

### Rosary Ministry - help wanted: Can you count to 10???

Please join us for our monthly meeting Sunday February 18th from 2:00-3:30pm in the Father Ready room. This will be our "Bead Party." Please bring all your extra beads and we will make colorful rosaries with everyone's extra beads. Hope to see you there! Keep praying the rosary!!

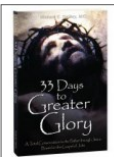


### Women's Cursillo!

The next women's Cursillo weekend will be held at Missionhurst in Arlington from Thursday, March 14 – Sunday, March 17.

Cursillo (pronounced Cur-see-yo) is a movement of the Catholic Church that provides an opportunity to experience God's love within a community of joyful fun and supportive prayer. The weekend is designed to promote Catholic ideals, fellowship, and spiritual growth in daily living. We'd love to have you join us!! For more information, please contact Laura Laverdiere at [lauralaverdiere@msn.com](mailto:lauralaverdiere@msn.com). There are also Cursillo information cards in the information rack in the narthex. Applications, and more information are available online at: <https://www.arlingtoncursillo.org/>.



**33 Days to Greater Glory**

Save the Date – February 27th! Come and see! Join us on a spiritual journey to more deeply experience God the Father's Love, as Jesus experienced it. 33 Days to Greater Glory is a Fr. Gaitley, MIC, retreat focused on St. John's Gospel that prepares us for consecration to God the Father.

The program features six Zoom meetings on Tuesday evenings 7:45 to 9:00 PM beginning February 27th. The program concludes with a total consecration to God the Father on April 7. For more information and to register, visit the Nativity website: <https://nativityburke.org/33-day-retreat/> or contact: Marcelo Michel at [33DayConsecration@nativityburke.org](mailto:33DayConsecration@nativityburke.org).

**Marriage Enrichment Ministry**

# Marriage Enrichment Session

## Theology of the Body

**Saturday****February 10th | Fr. Ready Room****6:30 PM Refreshments &****Fellowship****7:00 PM Speaker**

speaker

**Alex Wolfe****RSVP**

**Anna Lisa Email:**  
[marriage@nativityburke.org](mailto:marriage@nativityburke.org)  
**Or text your names to:**  
**(571) 208-2821**



### A Message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

**Pledge of Commitment To Protect and Heal God's Creation**  
We have come to renew our covenant with God and with one another in Christ Jesus, our Lord. We have come to help protect God's creation. We have come as followers of Jesus to commit ourselves anew to one another and to heal injustice and poverty. We have come to stand together against all threats to life. We have come to discover some new beauty every day in God's creation: the sunrise and sunset, birds, flowers and trees, rainbows in the sky, the stars, the many forms of life in the forest. We have come to listen to the "music of the universe"- water flowing over rocks, the wind, trees bending in the wind, raindrops pattering the roof. We will remember always that God speaks to us through the beauty of his creation, and we will try our best to answer God's call to reverence all that he has created. - *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

**Dancing Through the Decades (50s-80s) | April 27, 2024****SPONSORSHIP & DONATION REQUESTS!**

Sponsorship & advertising are an essential part of our annual event! It is a great way to build exposure for a business throughout our school community. We recognize all sponsors on our event website, gala program, and social media platforms.

Interested in becoming a sponsor? We'd love to showcase an auction item donated by YOU! Please consider making an item donation to the auction. Some ideas include:

- Restaurant gift cards
- Performing arts/Sporting tickets
- Personal services
- Collectibles
- Spa gift cards
- Vacation home rental (week or weekend), etc.


<https://www.nativityschool.org/gala>
**Annual Multi-Car Raffle**

All Saints Church has invited us to again participate in their Annual Multi-Car raffle. All parishioners 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 2024 vehicles from Ourisman Ford of Manassas (Ford Escape, Mustang, Ranger Truck and Bronco Sport) plus \$40,000 in cash prizes. Proceeds will benefit the youth ministry, the parish building fund, 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. Please contact PGK Sam Morthland @ 703-455- 2186 if you have any questions.

# ONE ACT PLAYS

*The Distracted Scholar's Guide  
to Literature and Drama*  
by Peter Bloedel

Fr. Martin  
Center

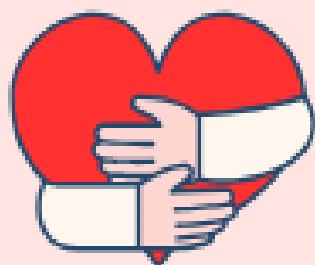
7:30 PM

February  
9 and 10Contact: [theater@nativityburke.org](mailto:theater@nativityburke.org)

The Diocesan One Act Festival will be held at Nativity this year! Come out on Saturday, February 10 to see parishes from across the Diocese perform their One Act plays.  
*Begins with 9am Mass*



## THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS



### Heartfelt Thanks for Your Support!

The Handmaids of Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus extend their sincere gratitude to all our generous supporters for contributing towards the Advent Project. Thank you to our Session 5 - 7th-grade class and teachers for organizing and creating the bake sale fundraiser! Your support, no matter the amount, is making a significant impact on the lives of our children and Sisters worldwide.

Together, we spread love, hope, and compassion to those in need. Your kindness empowers us to continue our mission, and for that, we are truly grateful.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for being a part of our community. Your support inspires us and others to make a positive difference.

With sincere appreciation,

**Sister Donatella Merulla, Sister Mary Attilia  
and all the Sisters of the:**

**Handmaids of Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ORDER AND OUR  
MISSIONS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

**HANDMAIDSOFREPARATION.ORG**







### In Mary's Footsteps - A Group for Widows

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 12th at 11:00am in the training room in back of the church. We join together in fellowship as we strive to follow our Blessed Mother's footsteps of strong faith and peace as she did after St. Joseph passed.

Our meetings are typically held on the second Monday of the month. We have participated in widows' retreats, dinners out and other field trips. For this meeting which is close to Valentine's Day, please feel free to bring a photo of you and your husband taken on your wedding day. For additional information, contact Cat Sands at csands@nativityburke.org. God bless you!

### In search of VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Looking for Volunteer Coordinator  
to staff Lenten Soup Suppers

#### Details

- ✓ Be present at all four Soup Suppers from 4:30pm - 7:30pm
- ✓ Main duty: delegate tasks to teen and adult volunteers during dinner service and clean up (checklist will be provided)
- ✓ Skills: hospitable, able to work with young people, comfort with running events



FEB. 21 | FEB. 28 | MAR. 6 | MAR. 13

Contact Rebecca  
rjudge@nativityburke.org



### St. Lucy Winter Food Drive: Saturday, February 10th from 9:00AM-1:00PM

The next St. Lucy Winter Food Drive will take place from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, 10 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 Oct. 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, especially 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 sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D49ADAE29A6FE3-stlucy1>. If you would like to help hand out the blue bags after Mass on 3-4 February, please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D49ADAE29A6FE3-stlucy#/>. 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 10 | 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





NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**

# Jesus *and the*

# EUCHARIST



A SMALL GROUP SERIES FOR  
**EUCHARISTIC  
REVIVAL**

**Every Thursday  
February 1 - March 14  
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
Fr. Ready Room**

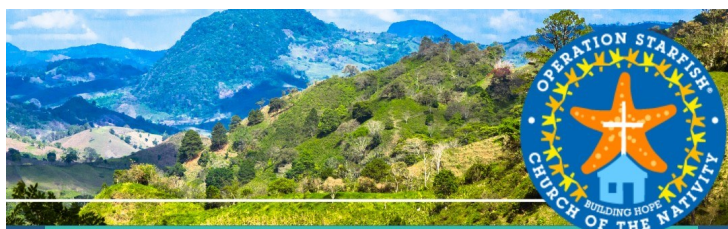
**OR**

**Every 3rd Friday  
of the Month  
February 16 - July 19  
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm  
Teachers' Lounge**

For more information, please see  
[Nativityburke.org](http://Nativityburke.org) or contact Anna Lisa  
via email [marriage@nativityburke.org](mailto:marriage@nativityburke.org)

[eucharisticrevival.org/jesus-and-the-eucharist](http://eucharisticrevival.org/jesus-and-the-eucharist)





## HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

**JULY 8-12, 2024**

In partnership with  
**Operation Starfish**

If you're **college-age or a young adult**, contact Alison Fram to express your interest in coming with us!

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



[afram@nativityburke.org](mailto:afram@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!

### Sign Up For the Diocesan E-Newsletter!

Receive special video messages from our bishop, learn about unique opportunities to get involved, and be the first to know the news about our Diocese - straight to your inbox.  
Sign up here: [arlingtondiocese.org/email](http://arlingtondiocese.org/email)

ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES

*Marriage Enrichment Ministry*

JOIN US

*Is God calling you?*

*Come and see.*

**WEEKEND DISCERNMENT RETREAT**  
for men ages 18-35

**February 16-18, 2024**  
Starts Friday at 6:30 pm, ends Sunday after lunch.  
Cost: \$150, include private room and all meals. Aid is available.

Register with the Office of Vocations by February 5:  
[vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org)  
703-841-2514

### Sick / Homebound 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](mailto:csands@nativityburke.org) to schedule a visit.

*Laugh the night away with friends and family*

**COMEDY NIGHT**  
*with*  
**JEFF ALLEN**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

St. Paul VI Catholic High School  
42341 Braddock Rd., Chantilly, VA 20152  
*Proceeds go to the Fund for Paul VI*



## WORKCAMP 2024

### CONTRACTORS NEEDED

WorkCamp is a week-long service opportunity for youth of our Parish to serve those in need throughout the Diocese. We are seeking people with home repair and maintenance skills who are willing to commit some of their time and talents to teaching young people and improving the lives of fellow Virginians in need.



DECKS, RAMPS, WINDOWS, FLOORING, ROOFS, & MORE  
NO PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

**JUNE 24-27 IN WINCHESTER, VA**

To volunteer, contact our WorkCamp team ([wc@nativityburke.org](mailto:wc@nativityburke.org))  
Visit [arlingtondiocese.org/workcamp](http://arlingtondiocese.org/workcamp) for more info



**VIRGINIA PRO-LIFE DAY**

FEBRUARY 21, 2024 | CAPITOL IN RICHMOND

## STAND UP FOR LIFE IN POST-ROE VIRGINIA!

**MEET LAWMAKERS IN THE MORNING**

**8AM TO 11AM**

Powerfully support pro-life members of the General Assembly or encourage those who have voted against pro-life bills in the past to reconsider their views.

**VIRGINIA MARCH FOR LIFE**  
**11AM**

REGISTER AND FIND MORE INFO AT  
[VAPROLIFEDAY.ORG](http://VAPROLIFEDAY.ORG)



## YOUTH MINISTRY

**LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12**

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION

Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm

**HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS**

GIRLS: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, weekly

GUYS: Mondays, 7:00-8:30pm,  
2x/month



**EDGE: GRADES 6-8**

Alternating Sundays | 3:30-5:00pm  
& Fridays | 7:00-8:30 pm

**ONE ACT FESTIVAL**

Join us for this year's Annual One Act performances! Be part of the magic as groups from across the Diocese gather to present their plays and express their love for God through the art of performance.

Nativity Performances: Friday, February 9th & Saturday, February 10th at 7:30 pm

Festival: Saturday, February 10 at Nativity starting with 9am Mass

[See website for full schedule](#)

Before attending, please register for the 2023-2024 year of ministry using our free, online forms.

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



The next Prayer Shawl meeting will take place on Monday, February 12th at 9:30 am in the Fr. Ready Room. We would also like to invite anyone who might like to help in our ministry by knitting or crocheting shawls.

If you are a new knitter or crocheter, we have ladies who will be happy to help you get started! Please come join us, contact Bonnie Carpenter at [Jim-bonnie@cox.net](mailto:Jim-bonnie@cox.net) with any questions.

### 2024 AOH Gaelic Mass

The 45th Annual Gaelic Mass in Honor of St. Patrick will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:00pm at St. James Catholic Church, 905 Park Avenue, Falls Church. The Mass is organized and hosted by the Col. John Fitzgerald Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH). Sean O'Riada Mass in its original Gaelic will be celebrated with organ, harp, and chorus accompaniment. The celebrant will be Rev. M. Valentine Keveny from County Mayo, Ireland. A reception will follow. Contact Alex Wilson ([ajwilzn@gmail.com](mailto:ajwilzn@gmail.com)) with any questions.





**NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

[nativityschool.org](http://nativityschool.org)



### **Nativity School: Opening the Doors to New Possibilities**

Thank you for attending our Open House last Sunday – it was so good to meet and talk with all of you. Our student government leaders gave interested families tours of the school right after they prepared Mass to kick-off Catholic Schools Week.

*If you didn't have the opportunity to join us, please feel free to contact Shannon Murphy at (703) 455-2300, or [smurph@nativityschool.org](mailto:smurph@nativityschool.org).*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Is Your Child Turning 3 By the End of September? We've Got Just The Spot – In Our Classroom!**



Email Jen Behan to schedule a tour of our classrooms, playground, and lunchroom – and to meet our teachers at [jbehan@nativityschool.org](mailto:jbehan@nativityschool.org). Please bring your child, too – we can't wait to meet you!

\*\*\*\*\*

***At Nativity, faith fills us. Love lives here.***  
**Nativity Stars are filled with the Holy Spirit!**

#### **Upcoming Dates At-A-Glance!**

February 5 - 100th Day of School!  
February 9 - Dress-down Football Team Colors  
February 9 - 12 NOON DISMISSAL  
February 12 - No School  
February 13 - Mardi Gras/Valentine Class Parties  
February 14 - Ash Wednesday  
February 16 - No School  
February 19 - No School - President's Day  
February 20 - Spartan's Fundraiser  
February 21 - Spartan's Fundraiser

\*\*\*\*\*

Join us at Nativity to see how your child would spend his/her days here - learning, praying, sharing, loving, and laughing. We may be just the school for which you've been searching!

Yes, Catholic education is worth the investment!

Nativity Catholic School is committed to making Catholic education accessible to those who desire it, and offers financial assistance to make their dream come true.

Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, for more information, at (703) 455-2300 and/or [smurph@nativityschool.org](mailto:smurph@nativityschool.org).



**Council Meetings** - 1st and 3rd Tuesday. First meeting is a business meeting, the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation. Rosary 7:15 PM; meeting at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows. Meet in the Nativity school cafeteria.

***Linktree Universal Sign-up Link - Volunteer for an event! Scroll down to view all events.***  
***[https://linktr.ee/fr\\_sikora\\_council\\_7992](https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992)***

**Nativity Ushers assist at collections** - Volunteer for your Mass! Volunteer on Link Tree!

**3 & 4 February St. Lucy Blue Bags Hand Out** - Stand in Narthex after Mass and distribute food bags. Volunteer on Link Tree.

**6 February Car Raffle Envelopes Stuff** - Calling ALL Knights & families to volunteer, we need YOU! Stuff envelopes for the annual Car Raffle - Volunteer on Link Tree.

**9 February Relic of St. Jude support team** - Calling ALL Knights - another big lift & one worthy of your bucket list.

**10 February St. Lucy Food Drive, Food Drop Off** - Volunteer on Link Tree.

**16 February (ticket sales 3, 4, 10, & 11 Feb) Annual Fish Fry** - This annual event needs a lot of support to be successful. Volunteer on Link Tree.

**21 February Virginia Pro-Life Day** - Register at <https://vaprolifeday.org/> and contact Rick-Loffredo@outlook.com for further details.

**15/16 March St. Patrick's Dinner Dance** - This is a heavy lift, this annual event needs a lot of support to be successful.

**22 March (ticket sales 9, 10, 16 & 17 March) Fish Fry** - Volunteer on Link Tree.

**Food for Others** - Volunteer drivers for food distribution to the poor. If you have a truck, SUV or van and can occasionally help deliver to 7 Corners on Thursday evenings or to Springfield on Friday evenings please consider helping. For Thursdays, please contact Br. Mark Sawyer at [sawyermark7992@verizon.net](mailto:sawyermark7992@verizon.net). For Fridays, please contact Br. Matt Stockburger at [mstock\\_w@yahoo.com](mailto:mstock_w@yahoo.com).

**Name Tags** - Email Vince Augelli at [VaKC23@gmail.com](mailto:VaKC23@gmail.com).

**Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies** - We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses.

**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." Email [handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com](mailto: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, contact Br. John Landy at [navyy8@yahoo.com](mailto:navyy8@yahoo.com).

**3rd Degree Knights, Grow with 4th Degree** - participate in patriotic activities that promote Catholic citizenship. 4th Degree Assembly meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Nativity school cafeteria: 7:30 pm rosary, 7:45 pm business meeting followed by fellowship. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Vince Augelli at [fn2996@vakofc.org](mailto:fn2996@vakofc.org).

“ASK, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU; SEEK, AND YOU WILL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT WILL BE OPENED TO YOU.” MT 7:7

# MASS



With Praise and Worship  
and Healing Prayers

CELEBRANT:

*Fr. Stefan Starzynski*

Hosted by St. Mary's Logs of Fire Prayer Group

Music by New Spirit Singers

Questions? Contact: [logsoffireprayergoup@gmail.com](mailto:logsoffireprayergoup@gmail.com) or  
Saint Mary of Sorrows 703.978.4141

TUESDAY, MARCH 5  
7 PM

ST MARY OF SORROWS  
(New Church)  
10500 Zion Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22032





## **ORDER OF MALTA®**

**Federal Association U.S.A.**

**Northern Virginia Region**

*Cordially invites Individuals (and Companions) with illness  
or physical / mental challenges to attend*

# *MASS AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK*

*Principal Celebrant*

**The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge**

*Bishop of Arlington*

**SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**3901 Woodburn Road ✱ Annandale, Virginia 22003**

**Saturday, March 16, 2024**

**11:00 AM**

*Please arrive **NLT 10:30 am** to allow adequate time for parking and seating*

**Please RSVP to Brian Newsome, KM**

**[nova.malta.mass@gmail.com](mailto:nova.malta.mass@gmail.com)**

**[Telephone: 323-505-8846]**

***PLEASE PROVIDE:***

*NAME(S) of those attending the Mass*

*DIETARY RESTRICTIONS for the Luncheon following the Mass*

*CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS or TELEPHONE NUMBER*

***Immediately following the Mass, the Order will host a***

***Light Luncheon in Saint Ambrose Parish Hall***

***Candidates, Dames, and Knights of the Order of Malta***

***will provide and collect prayer petitions to be taken to Lourdes in May***

## ¿LA SUEGRA DEL MUNDO?

Javier Leoz



-Sí; la suegra de los enfermos de sida (una cuarta parte del mundo atendidos por la Iglesia Católica)  
 -Sí; la suegra de miles de ancianos dignamente asistidos (un 30% cuidados por instituciones católicas)  
 -Sí; los miles de niños atendidos en cientos de orfanatos y de drogodependencia  
 -Sí; los miles y miles de pobres, en misiones o en países desarrollados que encuentran en la Iglesia esa mano tendida de Jesucristo.  
 -Sí; los miles de hambrientos que, en este día, a través de MANOS UNIDAS extienden su mano para hacernos comprender que hemos de combatir para erradicar el hambre en el mundo.

### 1. Hay muchas formas de encontrarse con “la suegra de Pedro” en los tiempos que vivimos.

La debilidad humana sigue acampando a sus anchas en la tierra de los vivos. Y, precisamente por eso, la Iglesia –siguiendo la indicación de Jesús– sigue saliendo del templo al encuentro de los que, con fiebre alta o baja, horas grandes o pequeñas, necesitan palabras de consuelo, ayuda, estímulo y reconocimiento.

Si Jesús vino a reconocer y enaltecer a los sufridos, no es menos cierto que la Iglesia –siglos después– sigue estando al lado de la cabecera de millones de hombres y mujeres sufrientes.

No nos puede importar demasiado el hecho de que la amplia labor de la Iglesia no se reconozca. Nos tiene que quedar la satisfacción de que estamos en el camino correcto. Que, salir al encuentro de los que sufren, es para nosotros un motivo de gloria y de crecimiento espiritual y humano.

### 2. El Reino de Dios comienza allá donde existe un surtidor de caridad, una semilla de cariño, una mano tendida al abatido.

Qué gran lección la de Jesús en el evangelio de este domingo: sale con sus discípulos de la sinagoga y, en la casa de Pedro, actúa maravillosamente. Una vez más habla con autoridad: hace lo que dice. Habla, camina, entra en casa de Pedro y cura. Las obras le acompañan. Las obras le hacen coro. No necesita más refrendo ni más marketing que su infinita misericordia. Repito: ¡sus obras le acompañan! ¡Sus obras le hacen coro! Sólo una vida profunda es capaz de recomponer las fuerzas gastadas a favor de los demás. Miremos al Señor; se retira a un descampado. No se conforma con hacer el bien. Sabe que, de igual forma, ha de estar en comunión con el Supremo, con Aquel que es su fortaleza. La razón del surtidor de la bondad. Tampoco nosotros nos hemos de contentar con cumplir, más o menos, con unos fines sociales. Entre otras cosas porque, tarde o temprano, la salud, el cansancio, las decepciones u otros aspectos dan al traste con nuestros más altos ideales. Es bueno, por ello mismo, descansar en Aquel que nos da la fuerza necesaria e ilimitada para seguir desviviéndonos por los demás. Cristo no vivió ajeno a esa fuente de energía, de luz, de gracia y de consejo que es la oración.

Hoy está muy de moda las ONG el altruismo, etc. ¿Durarán muchos años? La experiencia de la Iglesia, en cambio, nos dice que, si se ama con amor de Dios, el amor es eterno; si se sirve con las manos de Dios, el servicio es constante; si se transforma el entorno con la sabiduría de Dios, la sociedad se hace más justa y fraterna. Que el Señor con una oración profunda y sentida, nos haga recapacitar también hacia qué compromisos nos hemos de encaminar como Iglesia, como parroquia, como familia.

Entre otras cosas porque hacer hoy el bien aquí, implica coger fuerzas para hacerlo mañana en otra parte.

Hoy, además, Manos Unidas, esta institución eclesial que tanto hace a favor de los países más subdesarrollados nos invita a ser conscientes de que, como cristianos, no hemos de olvidar aquel proyecto en el que Jesús con tanto entusiasmo se incorporó: dar pan al hambriento. Que nuestra generosidad, en este día, sea también una forma práctica y real de rebajar un poco tanta penalidad y pobreza que existe en nuestro mundo.

### **QUE NO ME OLVIDE, JESUS**

Que puedo curar, sin ser médico  
 Que puedo aliviar, sin ser medicina  
 Que puedo hacer sonreír,  
 sin tener el título de payaso.

### **QUE NO ME OLVIDE, JESUS**

Que el cariño que se da,  
 es salud para el que se encuentra enfermo  
 Que la palabra con amor,  
 es inyección para el moribundo

Que una visita, más pronto que tarde,  
 es bálsamo que disipa la soledad

### **QUE NO ME OLVIDE, JESUS**

Que, si avanzo por tus caminos,  
 el sufrimiento humano  
 no ha de ser ajeno a mi sendero  
 Que, si digo ser de los tuyos,  
 he de luchar contra la fiebre  
 de aquel que se encuentra endiosado  
 de aquellos otros que están perdidos  
 de otros tantos que se encuentran  
 postrados en la cama de su aflicción,  
 soledad, abandono, miserias,  
 desprecios, humillaciones o enfermedades

### **QUE NO ME OLVIDE, JESUS**

Que tu mensaje se mantiene vivo  
 no sólo en el árbol de la palabrería  
 sino en el fruto de las buenas obras  
 Que tu mensaje se difunde con fuerza  
 cuando nuestras manos son alivio,  
 esperanza y fuerza moral  
 para los que se sienten desarmados  
 y sin más horizonte que la muerte.

### **QUE NO ME OLVIDE, JESUS**

Que tus preocupaciones,  
 han de ser las mías  
 Que tus desvelos,  
 han de contar con horas de mis horas  
 Amén.



ESCANÉAME

*Javier Leoz*

### **He aquí que yo haré nuevas todas las cosas**

El domingo del compromiso con la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo de 2024 es el próximo fin de semana. Una vez al año se nos pide que hagamos una promesa de contribución para apoyar el trabajo de nuestros programas y ministerios diocesanos, que prestan servicios que ninguna parroquia puede prestar sola. Le pedimos a cada familia que participe para ayudar a la parroquia a alcanzar nuestra meta. Al participar en la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo, renovamos nuestro compromiso con el Señor al responder a su llamado a servir a nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Ustedes pueden hacer una donación en línea en [www.arlingtondiocese.org/bla](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/bla) o escanear el código QR que aparece a continuación:



**APRENDE TU FE****Grandeza de ánimo**

Es magnánimo el hombre de corazón ancho, enraizado en las posibilidades de la naturaleza humana y, para el creyente, en la fuerza de Dios.

Por: Pablo Cabellos Llorente | Fuente: Catholic.net

Los clásicos definen la magnanimidad como tensión del ánimo hacia las grandes cosas. Es magnánimo el hombre de corazón ancho, enraizado en las posibilidades de la naturaleza humana y, para el creyente, en la fuerza de Dios. Indudablemente, esas cosas grandes no son tanto gigantes materiales cuanto actitudes interiores que se traducen, por ejemplo, en comprensión, misericordia, perdón, esperanza, generosidad. En cambio, la disposición contraria -la acedia- es como una humildad pervertida que encoge el corazón; es la renuncia malhumorada del que no se atreve con esas actitudes del buen corazón por las exigencias que comporta.

Inicialmente, pensé en traer aquí tres nombres muy dispares, alguno lejano a mi modo de pensar, aunque actuales por motivos diversos. Luego, sólo he dejado uno, Cristo, para evitar posibles malinterpretaciones y porque es Semana Santa. Cristo es siempre actual para el que lo cree Hijo de Dios hecho hombre, muerto y resucitado por nosotros. La epístola a los Hebreos afirma que es el mismo ayer, hoy y siempre.

Nada que igualar ni comparar en tres hombres -de los cuales uno también es Dios- y que pensé tan diferentes, salvo en ser personas y por su relación pasiva con la virtud de la magnanimidad en el trato recibido, o más bien su contrario: la mezquindad por juicios inmisericordes y rácanos. Los notables omitidos estaban tomados de dos mundos diferentes, pero tristemente unidos por esa realidad de los censurados desde la discrepancia hiriente. El lector puede buscar nombres y comprobará que tal actitud zahiere a muchos.

Cristo fue maltratado en vida, en la muerte ignominiosa que sufrió, y continúa siéndolo en sus seguidores. Cuando Pablo camina hacia Damasco para apresar a los cristianos, y es derribado por una fuerza extraña, escucha esta voz: Saulo, ¿por qué me persigues? Al preguntar por quién habla, Jesús responde identificándose con los suyos: Yo soy Jesús a quien tu persigues. El asunto no ha cesado. Aun para un no creyente, Jesús puede ser un hombre fascinante, pero falta misericordia con quien la ejercita del modo más admirable: haciéndola propia, absorbiendo en su corazón la miseria ajena para limpiarla en una cruz. Puede argüirse que muchos cristianos no se comportan adecuadamente, pero falta corazón con respecto al mismo Cristo.

Existen otros hombres posiblemente amados por millones de personas, pero no faltan los que emplean cualquier oportunidad para juzgarlos desde un corazón enteco. Se confunde la posible discrepancia con la innecesaria pequeñez del corazón, hecha caricatura, burla o desdén. Sobre todo cuando goza del oportunismo de la moda o de lo políticamente correcto. Mi tercer ejemplo era alguien ahora denostado de modo impropio por tirios y troyanos. No entro en posibles y hasta necesarias divergencias pero, en cuestión de horas, han comenzado a cavar su tumba, con graves impropiedades, proferidos por muchos de quienes esculpieron su monumento verbal. Cabe la disconformidad, pero no debería confundirse con el insulto expelido desde la pequeñez de alma. Además, muchas veces se denigra de modo interesado.

Dicen que la envidia es un defecto nacional. Creo poco en los defectos colectivos. Envidia es alegrarse del mal ajeno o entristecerse por su bien, pariente de esa acedia del corazón

pequeño. Leí en una red social que debemos perdonar a todos, excepto a homosexuales y herejes. Cuando menos, sorprendente. Y, sobre todo, triste, muy triste.

**APRENDE TU FE****Levantar el corazón**

Al llegar a una situación de fracaso, el corazón corre el riesgo de hundirse. Duele no conseguir un deseo fuertemente anhelado.

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

No podemos realizar tantas cosas que desearíamos... A veces, por factores que escapan a nuestro control. Otras veces, por culpa nuestra. Fallamos en la organización, o quisimos ir más allá de nuestras posibilidades, o prometimos lo que no podíamos dar, o dejamos de lado el propio deber para encontrarnos, al final, sin recursos y sin tiempo.

Al llegar a una situación de fracaso, el corazón corre el riesgo de hundirse. Duele no conseguir un deseo fuertemente anhelado.

Duele ver fracasar una obra que prometía tantos resultados. Duele descubrir que las manos están vacías y que no se ha conseguido prácticamente nada.

Son momentos en los que quisiéramos llorar. Será, tal vez, con lágrimas de pena, sobre todo si le hemos fallado a otros. Será, puede ocurrirnos, con lágrimas de amargura, que nos atan todavía más a la desesperanza. Será, ojalá, con lágrimas de quien mira al cielo y pide ayuda.

Porque en lo más hondo de la fosa cualquier cristiano puede levantar el corazón y recordar que Dios vino para todos. También para quien fracasa y siente en su alma pena por sí mismo y pena por otros.

Miramos, entonces, hacia el cielo. Descubrimos que allí se encuentra un Sumo Sacerdote que fue en todo, menos en el pecado, semejante a nosotros. Sentimos la seguridad de que podemos encontrar un ancla que nos acerque a la morada eterna y segura, la que nos ha preparado para siempre Cristo (cf. Heb 6,18-20; Jn 14,1-3).

Entonces llega el momento de tomar, nuevamente, el arado. No mirar hacia atrás, pues queda mucho camino por recorrer. No llorar con amargura, porque las lágrimas sólo sirven si nos acercan al consuelo divino y nos permiten volver a empezar. No sentirnos nunca solos, porque tenemos siempre a nuestro lado, también después de un fracaso, a un Amigo bueno, fiel, dispuesto a consolarnos.

**Horario de Cuaresma****Horario de misas del Miércoles de Ceniza**

6:00 am, 7:30 am, 9:00 am (Misa escolar),  
12:00 pm, 4:00 pm y 8:00 pm (Bilingüe)

**Confesión adicional, La Luz está ENCENDIDA para  
TiCelebre el Sacramento de Reconciliación,  
todos los miércoles**

de 6:30 pm a 8:00 pm durante la Cuaresma.

**Hora Santa y Meditaciones**

**"Ven A Caminar Conmigo" con el tenor Mark Forrest**

Miércoles 20 de marzo, de 7 a 8 p.m.

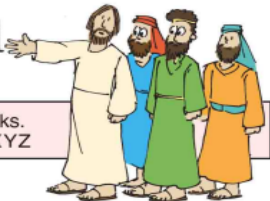
**Vía Crucis Todos los viernes durante la Cuaresma,**  
a partir del 21 de marzo,  
en inglés a las 7:00 pm y en español a las 8:00pm.



Jesus said, "Let us go somewhere else, to the nearby villages, so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."



Add or subtract letters to fill the blanks.  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



Q+2 Q-2 D+4 C+2

W-3 T-2 B-1 S+3 D+1 M-1 B+3 E-1

V-2 J-2 O+3 N+1 S+2 J-3 I-1 L+3 S+2 X-4

E+2 D-3 J+2 L-3 N-2 C+2 G-2

O+1 Q+1 H-3 C-2 F-3 F+2 K-2 M+1 E+2 K-2 O-1

S+1 F+2 B+3 F+3 Q+1

P+3 Z-1 L+2 B-1 I-2 Q-2 C+4 W-2 A+4 W-4

F-5 M+1 B+2 B+2 Q+1 G+2 U+1 J-1 M+1 I-2

M+2 V-1 V-2 E-1 D+1 K+2 P-1 P-2 T-1

That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons.



Find the underlined words from the passage above in the puzzle below. They may be found → ← ↗ ↘ ↙ ↘ ↑ ↓ .



## Children's Worship Bulletin™

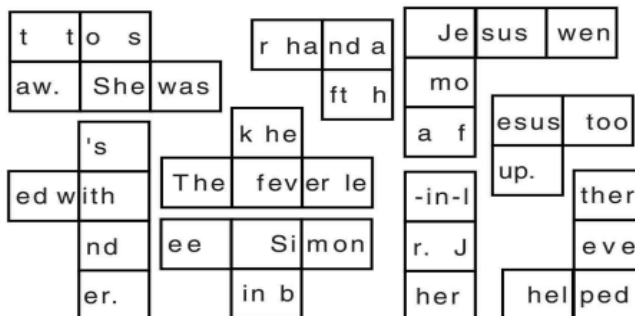
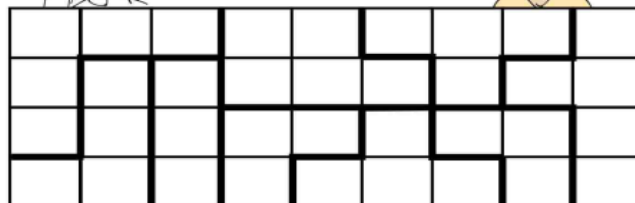
Ages 7+

February 4, 2024 • Mark 1:29-39

### Jesus Heals Many People



Fit the squares into the puzzle.



Very early in the morning, ...

Simon and his companions went to look for Jesus.

Where had He gone?



Write the letter missing from each set based on alphabetical order.

H

FGI

DFG

UVX

CDF

MOP

RSU

SUV

MNP

YZB

JKM

NPQ

MOP

DFG

KMN

WXZ

NOQ

JKM

ZBC

BDE

CDF

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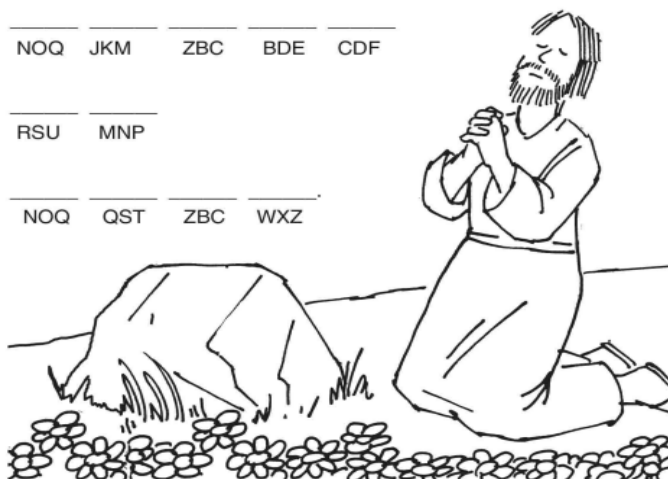
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# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

February 2024

**Church of the Nativity**

Rev. Robert C. Cilinski, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Josephine Bakhita

Born in Darfur, Sudan around 1869, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. Her captors gave her the name Bakhita, meaning "fortunate." After several years of serving under cruel masters, she was bought by Augusto Michieli. The Michielis sent Bakhita with their daughter to Italy, where Bakhita encountered Catholicism. Overjoyed, she was baptized and took the name Josephine. In 1893, instead of returning to Africa with the Michielis, she entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa.



### The moment of truth

Conversion begins when we accept responsibility for our failures. Lent is an opportunity to stop and take a good look at our lives. Identify all the ways that sin keeps you from living the way Jesus taught us to live. Know that it may take courage to face your shortfalls.

"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven." St. Rose of Lima



## Deepen the connection to Christ during Lent

The key to a fruitful Lent is not to perform miserable penances. A good Lent hinges on encountering Christ in a personal way and letting Him change our hearts and minds. In fact, an effective way to deepen our encounter with Him is through the Eucharist. Consider these suggestions:

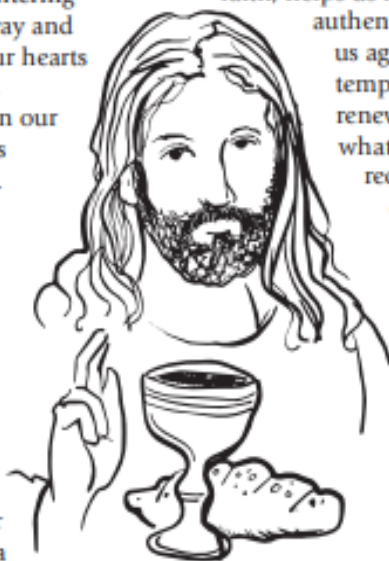
"Here I am, Lord. Love me!" Mother Teresa told her sisters to start their chapel time with this bold prayer, "Here I am, Lord. Love me!" No matter whether you are in His Presence for Mass, a holy hour, or a quick visit in front of the Blessed Sacrament, begin with, "Here I am, Lord. Love me!" It's a prayer of faith God delights to answer.

Live for the next Communion.

Every Communion deepens our union with God, strengthens our faith, helps us love more authentically, and immunizes us against future temptations. Each week, renew your resolve to do whatever is needed to receive Jesus well. For example, avoid activity or entertainment that tempts you away from God, and if you sin seriously, immediately go to Confession and start anew.

Invite others to the feast. Invite a friend, neighbor or colleague to Mass or Adoration

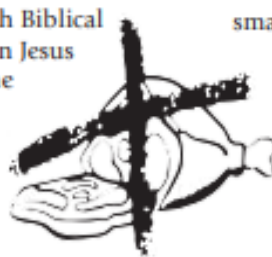
with you. Pray for priests to stay close to the Eucharist. Most importantly, pray that more people come to faithfully encounter Jesus in the tabernacle.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics have to fast on Ash Wednesday?

Fasting is a practice with Biblical roots, most notably, when Jesus fasted for forty days in the desert. Those in good health, aged 18-59, are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. We're permitted one full meal and two



smaller meals that together don't equal the full meal. This includes abstaining from meat. Fasting expresses our recognition that we've sinned and desire to make amends. It purifies our hearts and frees them to love God and others well.

## Pope Francis's three-point approach to Confession

Instead of dreading seeking the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (Confession), Pope Francis suggested we look at it as "the Sacrament of the tenderness of God, His way of embracing us." Follow the pope's three-point approach to the Sacrament:

**What's my intention?** Rather than an obligation, consider the Sacrament a fresh start. Firmly resolve, from this moment forward, to give up the activities or behaviors that separate you from God. The firm resolution to change is key to receiving absolution effectively.

**Are there loose ends?** Unconfessed sin creates



distance between us and God. Make sure you have not withheld mortal sins in prior Confessions, either intentionally or accidentally. If you become aware that you have, confess them and leave the confessional a new man or woman.

**Have I completed the assigned penance?**

The Sacrament is meant to change us.

Purposefully make amends and continue your resolutions to realign your life to the Gospel.

Seeking Reconciliation often and staying in a state of grace helps us become holier people of God.

### from Scripture

#### Mark 9:2-10, Heavenly glory, not worldly power

In Jesus' time, Israel was occupied by the Romans. The Israelites already had a long history of being attacked and conquered by other nations. The Jews dreamed of the day when the Messiah would set them free and make them the victors.

God had set up Moses as liberator and lawgiver, and sent them Elijah, the first of the great prophets who foretold Christ's coming. So when Jesus was transfigured in glory with Moses and Elijah, the Apostles assumed that God was revealing Jesus as the Messiah.

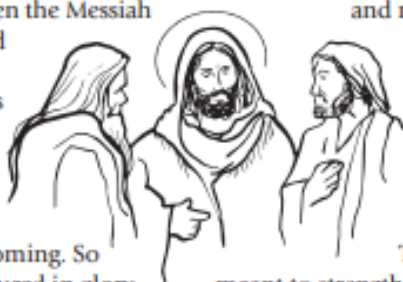
Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about His death and Resurrection.

Jesus warned His disciples that He would suffer and die (Mark 8:31). While many Jews were expecting the Messiah to overthrow the Romans and make Himself king,

God revealed that the Messiah would save His people by His own death and Resurrection.

The Transfiguration was

meant to strengthen the faith of the Apostles and prepare them for the Passion. The Transfiguration reminds us that however difficult this life may be there is unimaginable glory that awaits us in Heaven.



### Q & A Why should we "offer it up"?

When tempted to complain about suffering, we may be encouraged to "offer it up" instead. This act of surrender carries incredible spiritual power.

**A share in Christ's Cross.** Because Jesus is God, His suffering and sacrifice have infinite value. When we unite even our

small sufferings to Jesus' suffering, it takes on an infinite value in helping Him to save souls.

**Spiritual "strength training."** When we offer

our sufferings to God, He is able to work on our hearts. Suffering for others helps us to become less selfish and more compassionate, less hard-hearted and more patient, less self-indulgent and more generous. Our hearts emerge more Christ-like, and better able to love.

**Prudence is needed.** Under most circumstances, encouragement to "offer it up" works as a spiritual discipline for inconveniences or mild suffering. Sometimes, however, remediation or professional help may be needed. God sees the sincerity of our love so we can still offer our suffering to Him and yet take constructive action to remediate whatever is causing the suffering. Be prudent.

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### Feasts & Celebrations

**February 3 – St. Blaise (316).** A bishop in fourth-century Turkey, St. Blaise was arrested for being a Christian. On his way to jail, he healed a young boy choking on a fish bone. Refusing to deny his faith, the bishop was martyred.

**February 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes (1858).** A heavenly lady appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a poor girl from a French village, and a spring with miraculous, healing waters emerged from a nearby cave. The lady revealed herself as the "Immaculate

Conception," the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**February 14 – Ash Wednesday.** The first day of Lent. Ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead as a sign of penance. It's also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two small meals that together don't equal a full meal.

**February 22 – The Chair of St. Peter.** Marking St. Peter's

establishment of the Holy See, on this festival we thank God for His Church and pray for its holy preservation.





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