



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



**6400 Nativity Lane,
Burke, Virginia 22015**
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/Social Action Ministries
Rebecca Judge, Director of Youth Ministry
Mary Castellano, Director of Social Media
Anna Lisa Licud, Coordinator Marriage Enrichment
Carole Fischl, Co-director of Music
Debbie Doyle, Co-director of Music
Mai Tran, Traditional Choir Director
Sara Prince, Youth Choir Director/Cornerstone Choir
Natacha Hines, Gift Shop

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro, A.R., M.R.E.
Maria Annmirati, 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.

WEBMASTER:

Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

"The hour has come
for the Son of Man
to be glorified.
Amen, amen,
I say to you,
unless a grain of
wheat falls to the
ground and dies, it
remains just a grain
of wheat; but if it
dies, it produces
much fruit."

John 12: 23,24

A Message from our Pastor Fr. Bob Cilinski



"The Hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified"
- John 12:22

My dear parishioners,

When you walk into a Catholic Church one of the first things you see is the Crucifix in a very prominent place. It is often a beautiful work of art. It is the scene of Jesus' death. He died... for our sins. He has taken our sins and nailed them to the wood of His cross. Because of that cross we no longer stand accused or condemned. Christ paid the price and debt for our sins and established a new covenant of love with us.

This is the covenant that Jeremiah spoke about, *"that all from the least to the greatest shall know me says the Lord, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sins no more."* Son though He was, Jesus learned obedience from what he suffered. The cross is the hour for the Son of Man to be glorified. *"If I be lifted up I will draw all men and women to myself."* The cross of Christ won forgiveness of our sins. This is the good news of the gospel that we carry in our hearts on this fifth Sunday of Lent.

Love and Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

Join us in praying the Divine Mercy Novena leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7th

The Second Sunday of Easter, April 7th, is the Feast of Divine Mercy, or Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Divine Mercy Novena is prayed nine days prior to Divine Mercy Sunday, so that is beginning on Good Friday, March 29th. The Novena will be prayed daily after the morning Mass or Morning Prayer Service, except on the Easter weekend, when the Novena prayers are said at home (check schedule).

"I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy, that they may draw there from strength and refreshment and whatever grace they have need of in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death" (Diary, 1209).



The Holy Hour and Devotion on Sunday, April 7th is from 2:45 to 3:45 pm. Please join us in Eucharistic Adoration and in praying/singing the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. Prayer cards, rosaries and information pamphlets will be provided. ***"Jesus I trust in You!"***

See the Nativity website for more information.



2024 Bishop's Lenten Appeal ***"Behold, I make all things new"***

Thank you, Nativity parishioners, for your continuing strong support for this year's Bishop's Lenten Appeal. As of March 7, our pledges and donations amount to \$626,246, but with only about 13 percent of families pledging. We're advancing well, but still need more participation and that can be at any dollar amount that's right for you. If you haven't yet pledged, please consider a sacrificial offering for Lent. Your support helps so many charities, ministries, and programs throughout the Diocese and here at Nativity. May God bless you for your generosity.



SCAN ME

Lenten Penance Service

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

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for a Night of Reflection with

Irish Tenor Mark Forrest

On March 20th, 2024 from 7:00-8:00PM
at Nativity Catholic Church,
all ages are welcome!



Nativity Catholic Church Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Holy Thursday | March 28

Morning Prayer | 8:30 am
Bilingual Mass of the Lord's Supper | 7:30 pm
Adoration | 8:30 pm - Midnight | Fr. Ready Room
Night Prayer | 11:45 pm | Fr. Ready Room

Good Friday | March 29

Morning Prayer | 8:30 am
Novena of Divine Mercy | after Morning Prayer (Church)
Stations of the Cross | 12:00 Noon
Passion of Our Lord | 3:00 pm
Via Cruz | 6:00 pm
Pasión de Nuestro Señor | 6:30 pm

Holy Saturday | March 30

Morning Prayer | 8:30 am
The Blessing of Easter Food | 9:00 am
Easter Vigil | 8:30 pm (Livestream)

Easter Sunday Mass Schedule | March 31

5:30 am
7:00 am
9:00 am
11:00 am (Livestream)
1:00 pm Spanish (Livestream)

MASS INTENTIONS

All Mass Intentions are fully booked through the end of June 2024. We will open up the Mass Intentions Calendar for July-December 2024 sometime in May. Please watch the bulletin for the announcement of the exact opening date of our Mass Intention Scheduling Calendar. If you have any questions, please reach out to akenner@nativityburke.org. Thank you!

Knights of Columbus Frenchy Cyr Memorial Scholarships

Once again, Nativity's Knights of Columbus Council 7992 will be awarding Cyr Memorial scholarships for Catholic high school tuition (grades 9-12) for the 2024-2025 school year. Scholarship application forms will be available in the later part of March. As a reminder entrants must be registered parishioners at Nativity, or a son, daughter, or grandchild of an active member of Council 7992. Questions, please contact Dave Zivich at davezivich@gmail.com for more information.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION COURSE

- *Are you a Catholic adult who hasn't received the Sacrament of Confirmation?*
- *Do you know someone who fits this bill?*
- *Have you been asked to be a Godparent or a sponsor but are missing this key Sacrament?*
- *Do you feel like you want to know more about your faith, but aren't really sure where to begin?*

Nativity proudly presents a Confirmation preparation course, for any baptized Catholic adult who would like to complete the sacraments of initiation and prepare for Confirmation (happening right here at Nativity on May 19th).

Additionally, if you're a person beginning or growing in your faith and would like to know more, you are most certainly welcome!

You are invited to a 5-week "crash course" presented by the priests of the parish. The cost is free, the benefits are lifelong.

- *When? Tuesday nights beginning April 9th from 6:30PM to 8:00PM*
- *Where? Fr. Ready room (unless otherwise noted)*
- *Who? Any Catholic Adult 18+ who has not received Confirmation and Any other person would like to know more about their faith.*
- *How? Please RSVP to frbresnahan@nativityburke.org and we will see you on April 9th!*

Annual Multi-Car Raffle

HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY – May the luck of the Irish be with you when you sell your tickets! Where else can you get a chance to win all four 2024 vehicles from Ourisman Ford of Manassas (Ford Escape, Mustang, Ranger Truck and Bronco Sport) plus up to \$40,000 in cash prizes for only \$5.

Please mail your sold ticket stubs/payment directly to All Saints in the envelope provided. We have additional tickets if you sell all of yours. Please contact PGK Sam Morthland @ 703-455-2186 if you have any questions.



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY

CULTIVATING AN ENGAGED FAMILY

Date Night



Guest speaker

DR. MICHAEL HORNE



Nativity School Cafeteria 6:30 - 8:30 PM

MAR | 23rd | 2024

Dinner & Childcare Provided
To register or for more information,
please contact Anna Lisa Licud:
marriage@nativityburke.org



TEACH 20th Anniversary Celebration

Are you connected with TEACH? Are you interested in helping to educate students in Guatemala? If the answer is yes to either or both questions, this Party is for you. Saturday, April 6, 6:30pm, St. Mary of Sorrows, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Contact Joan Brown at jogebrown737@gmail.com before March 31.

ACCOLADE OF THE WEEK

Join me in congratulating the 8th Grade Girls for winning their championship! They battled through injury all season long. Fortunately, they were able to get healthy by playoffs and had an amazing run to winning the championship - looking dominant the entire way!

Coach Greg and Coach Matt did an exceptional job leading the team, and they did an amazing job at representing Nativity so well.

Fr. Bob Cilinski



Nativity Catholic Church

EASTER EGG HUNT

Celebrate the Easter season by joining Nativity's Family Easter Egg Hunt!

Sunday, April 7 | 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Nativity Field behind the Father Martin Center

Please RSVP so we know how many people to expect:
nativityburke.org/easter-egg-hunt/

Families with young children are invited! Whether you have babies, toddlers, or elementary school age kids (older siblings are included!), we'd love for you to join us. One of the Nativity priests will share a message about the meaning of Easter with the kids and then the egg hunt will begin. We'll have three different hiding areas for the youngest, middle, and the older kids.

Hosted for you by: Nativity's Knights of Columbus, Family Ministry, & Marriage Enrichment Ministry



Statement from Bishop Burbidge Chairman of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities regarding IVF Issues

Each person's life is a unique gift and has immeasurable value from the moment of conception and it is for that precise reason that the Catholic Church cannot condone procedures such as in vitro fertilization (IVF) that result in a loss of life at a massive scale. In response to the growing attention to assisted reproductive technologies, Bishop Burbidge, as chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, spoke about the gift of life. Recognizing the desire to have children is good and given the challenges many couples face, Bishop Burbidge called for greater focus on ethical treatments addressing the root causes of infertility. Additionally, other approaches that may be sought by some couples seeking to expand their families, such as foster care and adoption, should be offered more support. The chairman's full statement follows:

"The national conversation in the news about laws related to in vitro fertilization and other technologies creates an opportunity and a necessity to speak about protecting the gift of life itself. Each of our lives has immeasurable value from the moment of conception. In this way, we know that the deeply-rooted desire to bring about new life by having children is good. As priests and bishops, we grieve with and accompany in hope and love the increasing number of families suffering with an experience of infertility. We also encourage restorative, often-overlooked, treatments that can help to address the root causes of infertility.

"It is precisely because each person's life is a unique gift that we cannot condone procedures that violate the right to life or the integrity of the family. Certain practices like IVF do both, and they are often not effective even for their own purposes.

"Children have a right to be born to their married mother and father, through a personal act of self-giving love. IVF, however well-intended, breaches this bond and these rights and, instead, treats human beings like products or property. This is all the more true in situations involving anonymous donors or surrogacy. This of course does not mean that our brothers and sisters who were conceived by IVF are somehow 'less than' anyone else. Every person has immeasurable value regardless of how he or she was conceived – and that applies, absolutely, to all children created through IVF, the majority of whom have not been and may never be born.

"The fact is that, in the IVF industry, many embryos are never transferred to a mother's womb, but are destroyed or indefinitely frozen, and, of those who are transferred, only a fraction survive to be eventually born. All told, there are millions of human beings who have been killed or potentially permanently frozen by this industry. This cannot be the answer to the very real cross of fertility challenges. In efforts to bring about new life, we cannot turn our face from the many more lives that are cut short and extinguished in the process."

Bishop Burbidge was joined by three other bishop chairmen in a letter to the U.S. Senate on February 28, opposing the Access to Family Building Act and similar legislation that would greatly widen the use of various problematic assisted reproductive technologies nationwide. For more on infertility, including ethical restorative reproductive medicine and research, see <https://www.usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/infertility>.

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 and Successful background check. Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy at (703) 455-2300 and/or smurph@nativityschool.org.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to share in decorating our Easter Sanctuary, please fill in the Flower Form available at the Parish Office or visit:
<https://nativityburke.org/easter-flowers/> to print out the form.
The deadline for flowers is March 22.

Nativity Stars
GALA
and Auction

Dancing Through the Decades (50s-80s) | April 27, 2024

EARLY BIRD TICKETS ENDS 3/17



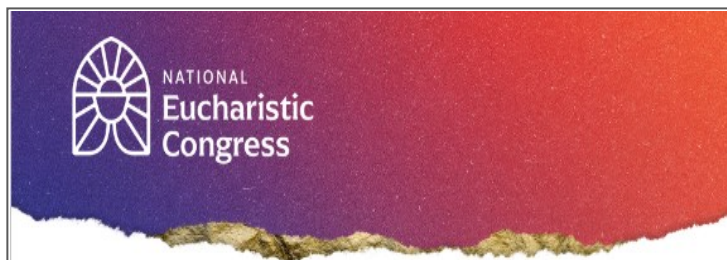
<https://nativityschool.org/gala>

AUCTION ITEM OF THE WEEK



Get the ultimate monthly treat! Receive a booklet of Nothing Bundt Cakes vouchers which can be used each month for a year (12 total) at the Springfield bakery.

Follow us on instagram for all Gala details and updates!
 @nativitystarsgala



**National Eucharistic Congress
Indianapolis, Indiana from July 17-21, 2024**

Christ longs to renew his Church. And he wants to equip you to be a catalyst of this revival in our community. Join thousands of passionate Catholics for a historic gathering in Indianapolis that will transform your relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist. The name of this event is the National Eucharistic Congress, and you don't want to miss it.

This is the first time the Church in America has come together in this way since World War II, and we believe God is about to do something AMAZING in the heart of our nation. From July 17th to the 21st, you will experience powerful preaching from some of the most trusted voices in the Church today, be anointed for renewed personal mission, and be sent home ready to set hearts on fire for Christ.

Register online at EucharisticCongress.org, or contact our parish office for more information about registering with your fellow parishioners.

What: 10th National Eucharistic Congress

When: July 17-21, 2024

Where: Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl meeting for March will be held on Monday morning, March 18th at 9:30am in the Fr. Ready room. All are welcome!



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

Monday, March 18th

7:30 am Special Intention for Danilo Dizon

Tuesday, March 19th

7:30 am † Zonia Echevarria

12:00 pm † Paul Joseph Jennings

Wednesday, March 20th

7:30 am † Carmen Martinez

3:00 pm † Richard Gatti Jr. (BHC)

Thursday, March 21st

7:30 am † Paul Golden Sr.

12:00 pm Special Intention for Mark Admana

Friday, March 22nd

7:30 am † Patricia L. Zidar

Saturday, March 23rd

9:00 am † Peter Leone

5:00 pm † Adriana Ladino

7:00 pm † Jose Ricardo Ortiz

Sunday, March 24th

7:00 am † Paul MacDonald

9:00 am † Paul Cilinski

11:00 am Parishioners

1:00 pm † Marshall Levitan

5:30 pm † Nick Bonaccorsy

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

Nativity Gift Shop - Many Items For Sale!

The gift shop has beautiful Holy Communion veils as well as boy's ties available for sale. Each veil is hand made and one of a kind! Special requests will be considered (in the past we have transformed wedding veils as well). The gift shop also has one-of-a-kind handmade jewelry, cards and various sacramental gift items for sale. For more information or pricing, please stop by the gift shop or the parish office.



Parish Office Holy Week & Easter Hours

The Parish Office will close
at 12:00 noon on
Holy Thursday, March 28th
and will be closed all day
Good Friday, March 29th
Easter Sunday, March 31st
and Monday, April 1st

Holy Saturday, March 30th,
the Parish Office will be Open
from 9:00am - 3:00pm

Have a Blessed Easter!

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flower Book for 2024 is open. This is a thoughtful way to honor a loved one, living or deceased. If you are interested, please stop by the parish office to sign up. You can now also go online and reserve flowers on our website at: <https://nativityburke.org/altar-flowers/>.

Join the Nativity School Extended Care Team

*Love Working With Children? Creative with Fingerprint?
Like to Sift Sand?*

The following qualifications are necessary:

- A LOVE of Children!
- 'Can-Do' Attitude
- Afternoon Availability, 2:30pm to 6:00pm
- Diocesan Compliance to Work With Kids

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





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FR. SIKORA COUNCIL 7992

Fish Fry



Friday, March 22 | 5:00 - 7:30 PM

Tickets on sale after Masses on 3/16 & 3/17.

Serving from 5:30pm to 8:00pm.

Dine in the Parish Hall or Take To-Go.



A Message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Fast from Water Waste and Pollution: March 22 is World Water Day. The UN's key messages for the day are: *"Water can create peace or spark conflict. When water is scarce or polluted, or when people struggle for access, tensions can rise. By cooperating on water, we can balance everyone's water needs and help stabilize the world."*

Prosperity and peace rely on water. As nations manage climate change, mass migration and political unrest, they must put water cooperation at the heart of their plans.

Water can lead us out of crisis. We can foster harmony between communities and countries by uniting around the fair and sustainable use of water – from United Nations conventions at the international level, to actions at the local level."

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns notes that: The word "water" is cited forty-seven times in Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. This demonstrates the great value and concern Pope Francis places on water as a sacred and essential part of life. 'We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7),' the pope says in the second paragraph of *Laudato Si'*, 'our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.' Water is essential to life but most of us take it for granted. Its crucial importance rarely comes to mind when we reach for a glass of water. Most humans will perish after three days without drinking water and it is central to maintaining life on our planet. (<https://maryknollogc.org/article/laudato-si-and-water>)

On this World Water Day, consider the ways in which you and your family can conserve the precious resource of water in your daily life.

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

LIVING STATIONS of the Cross

Friday, March 22
7:00pm in the Church

Presented by Nativity Youth Ministry

Experience the passion and death of our Lord through a living tableau of the Stations of the Cross. This prayerful meditation—presented in English and Spanish—includes powerful reflections and music.

Celebrate St. Joseph's Day with the Nativity Italian Heritage & Cultural Society

On March 21 St. Joseph's Day is commemorated in many parts of the U.S. with specialty breads and festive foods. Our very own Kathleen Powers will lead the discussion about St. Joseph's Day.

Two years ago, we learned about the history of St. Joseph's altars. This month, we learn about how much the Italians love their Saints and the Blessed Mother and how they are celebrated throughout the country and throughout the year - some observances were brought from the "old country" and some started in the United States. As always, a social hour follows. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, if you can. The guest fee is \$5.00.

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 21, AT 7:00PM

PLACE: NATIVITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

HELP WANTED!! Can you count to 10?

Would you like to learn how to make Mission Rosaries? Please join us for our next rosary meeting on Tuesday, 19 March from 1:00-3:00pm in the Father Ready room. We will be making Divine Mercy rosaries. Red and white. Please sign up under rosary ministry on the parish website.

Join Nativity CYO Track & Field!



Have fun and make friends as we run, jump, and throw!

Open to all 3rd to 8th graders!

Practices begin as soon as March 18th and will go through Mid-May!

Registration Period: March 10th to March 31st

Registration Fee: \$25

Registration Information:
<https://nativityburke.org/cyo-track/>



Email cyosports@nativityburke.org for more info!

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

VBC / COTE SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, JUNE 18 - FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Join us for our annual Vacation Bible Camp (current K-4) and Camp on the Edge (current 5-8)! Registration for campers and volunteers will open next month.

[See website for full schedule](#)

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

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

Do you need a ride to a medical appointment or to go grocery shopping and are unable to drive? The Shepherd's Center-Fairfax Burke provides these services. Feel free to contact the Shepherd's Center Fairfax Burke at 703-323-4788 for information.

PVI Players and ITS Present
Rodgers & Hammerstein's

Cinderella

Music by
RICHARD
RODGERS

Book and
Lyrics by
OSCAR
HAMMERSTEIN II

Save the dates!

March 22 and 23 - 7 p.m.

March 24 - 2 p.m.

Teatro Montini

Purchase tickets today!

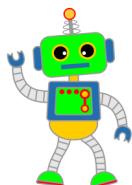


CINDERELLA is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization.


NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
nativityschool.org


Nativity Students: Cultivating Knowledge Through STEM

As a STEM school, we continue to educate our students in Science and Technology, Engineering and Math. We add the Arts to it as well. Recently, the PTO invited the STEAM Museum, a production of mobile ed, to turn our gymnasium into a state-of-the-art, hands-on, children's museum, focused on robots, virtual reality, 3D printing, art, engineering, and more! Our students really enjoyed it!



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. Please bring your child, too – we can't wait to meet you!

Upcoming Dates At-A-Glance!

March 17 - Read-a-thon Ends
 March 18 - St. Patrick's Day Hunt
 March 18 - Dress Down Day – Green!
 March 25 - Student Living Stations, 1:45 - 2:45 pm
 March 26 - 8th Grade Field Trip
 March 27 - 3rd Grade Field Trip
 March 28 - Seder
 March 28 - Easter Break Begins, 11:30 am Dismissal
 March 29 - Good Friday
 April 8 - School Resumes
 April 9 - School Pictures
 April 10 - School Pictures
 April 11 - School Pictures

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!



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.

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

22 March, Fish Fry - buy meal tickets: reserve a time on Link Tree.

22 March (ticket sales 16 & 17 March) Fish Fry -Volunteer on Link Tree. **The signup to work the next Fish Fry:**
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945AAAB2AA64-47373674-fish#/>

The signup to RSVP to eat at the next Fish Fry:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945AAAB2AA64-47904271-lenten>

6 April - Adopt-A-Highway - Be a part of the Elite Eight: Volunteer on Link Tree.

7 April from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Easter Egg Hunt Helpers: We need four energetic volunteers. Volunteer on Link Tree.

20 April - Pilgrimage to Saint John Paul II National Shrine: All Knights & family members are invited to sign up.

21 April, Donut Sunday & Knights Recruiting Event: Volunteer on Link Tree.

Food for Others: Volunteer drivers & vehicle support for food distribution to the poor. Occasionally deliver Thursday or Friday evenings. For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyerkc7992@verizon.net. For Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com.

Name Tags: Email Vince Augelli at 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.

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:navy8@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.

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! <https://www.kofc.org/joinus>. and experience the Knights free for one year: Enter the Agent Code "CPEREZ", click "Add" and complete the form.

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH



Multi Car Raffle

plus \$40,000 in Cash Drawings

***Only 4 weeks remaining to
sell your tickets!***

Tickets Only \$5

**Chance to win 4 cars and
\$40,000 in cash prizes**

Ford Escape



Ford
Bronco Sport



Ford Mustang



Ford
Ranger Truck



Images are representative of the models and types of cars to be awarded.

All tickets, stubs & monies are **due by Tuesday, 23 April to All Saints Catholic Church**. The drawings will be held during the All-Saints Catholic Church Fair on Saturday, 27 April. If you need more tickets or have questions, please contact PGK Sam Morthland @ 703-455-2186 or at kofc7992carraffle@gmail.com

The Knights of Columbus - Ladies Auxiliary

Formed to assist and support the Knights, our Church and the four virtues of Charity, Unity, Sorority and Patriotism. We are spouses, daughters, mothers, or sisters of Knights of Columbus who are in good standing or deceased. Our fellowship and informational meetings are the First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Fr. Ready Room. Contact kdelatte65@gmail.com for information or to be added to our email distribution list.

Marriage Enrichment Ministry

CORE PRINCIPLE:

THE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY STRENGTHENS MARRIAGES IN THE CHURCH AND PROVIDES SUPPORT TO ALL COUPLES CALLED TO THE HOLY VOCATION OF MARRIAGE.



NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

**THE MARIH CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

The Marih Center, a pro-life pregnancy resource center serving families for 50 years, is experiencing an influx of new families (741 new in addition to our existing families in 2023).

We are in need of additional volunteers, especially Spanish translators. Our hours at the Center at 3230B Duke Street in Alexandria are Mon-Thurs 10:00am-3:00pm & Sat. 10:00-11:00am. We welcome your call and heart of service to help so many in need. Please call Beth Gilles-Whitehead at 703-370-4774.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ECHO

ECHO is most grateful for the support that Nativity parish provides. Parish donations in their various forms – food, clothing, monetary – find their way to help our neighbors in need. Another way to help ECHO help our neighbors in need is to volunteer for the wide range of services necessary for ECHO to accomplish its mission. ECHO volunteers identify neighbors in need and donors who help meet those needs. They also help our neighbors meet those needs, which may include clothing, food, and/or financial assistance. There are currently many openings for adult volunteers at ECHO. For further information about current volunteer opportunities, please visit <https://www.echo-inc.org/volunteer/>.

NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY

AN ORIGINAL NATIVITY MINISTRY DOING GOD'S WORK

BY SERVING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF HIS FLOCK.

WE WORK DISTRIBUTING FOOD, CLOTHING, AND PERSONAL ITEMS

TO THE POOR AND HOMELESS IN D.C. AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING, RAIN OR SHINE.

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT THE NATIVITY PARISH WEBSITE

OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN DAILY/SUNDAY

RUNS, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN RUBINO AT:

JOHN.ALBERT.RUBINO@GMAIL.COM.

Save the Date - Kids In Today's Society

Join us April 11 at 6:30 pm in the Father Martin Center for "Kids In Today's Society" presented by MPO Tony Capizzi and PFC Liam May with Fairfax County Police Department. We welcome PARENTS of Nativity School students and parishioners.

MPO Capizzi and PFC May will discuss current trends in social media, narcotics, and mental health concerns in the teen population. The class provides guidance for parents to talk to their children and find resources if their kids are dealing with any of these challenges. They will also bring items that demonstrate what kids use to conceal their contraband and show off what some of the contraband looks like.

It is important to note that this presentation is for PARENTS only!

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!

Every Friday, Come Pray the Pro-Life Rosary

From 8:45am-9:45am, when you are available, you're welcome to meet in the Narthex after any Friday 7:30am Mass and join us on the sidewalk in front of the abortion facility at 900 S. Washington Street, in Falls Church. Contact RickLoffredo@outlook.com for more information

Twelve Seminarians to be Ordained Transitional Deacons

On Saturday, April 6, Bishop Burbidge will ordain 12 seminarians to the Transitional Diaconate: Timothy Banach, Emmanuel Carreño-García, Joseph Connor, Jordan Evans, John Fimmuchime, Raymond Goins, Andrew Lewandowski, Richard Malebranche, John Meyerhofer, Christian Njodzela, Michael Sampson and Alfredo Tuesta. The Mass will be held at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Ashburn at 11:00am and will also be livestreamed. Visit www.ArlingtonDiocese.org/Ordinations to learn more about these men, what led them to seminary, and about the ordination events. Pray for our future priests!



Join us to celebrate our 50th anniversary!

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON JUBILEE FEST

FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES!

JUNE 8 | MASS | MUSIC | FOOD | 3:45-9:30 PM
 WARREN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
 FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA

Registration is required to receive complimentary food.

Visit arlingtondiocese.org/jubilee-fest for a full schedule and more details!



PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC)

We are a social group, mostly age 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate-membership group. Meet us for: Thursday lunche(March 28); St. Patrick celebration at St. Raymond Church (March 16); walk at Rutherford Park (March 21); feeding the hungry at Christ House (March 23); USMC concert (March 24); Easter dinner (March 31).

For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT

FOR ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES

Save the Date: Couples Retreat Day

One of the most important things you can do to strengthen your marriage is pray as a couple. And one of the best places to practice praying together is at a couples retreat! Save the date for our retreat and get ready to grow closer as husband and wife through the power of prayer.

Saturday, May 11th from 9 AM - 4 PM



BROADWAY SPOTLIGHT

DRAMA BOOTCAMP

ARTS & CRAFTS FUN

ART EXPLORER

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

~ SUMMER CAMPS ~

JULY 8-19, 2024

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

THEY HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL.
WILL YOU?

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Help Build the Future of Our Diocese
Make Your Gift Today!

 **Seminarian Education**
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Mail your check made out to:
Foundation for CDA-SEEF
 200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 811
 Arlington, VA 22203

CONTACT: John French • john.french@arlingtondiocese.org

To make a gift online:
https://arlingtondiocese.org/Donate_SEEF



BIBLE STUDIES AT NATIVITY PARISH

Tuesday morning Bible Study: We meet from 10:00am-11:30am in the Fr. Ready room. This year we are looking at the Gospel and readings for Sunday, seeking to find within something which touches our lives and/or the world around us. Contact Miya Johnson miyajohnson@verizon.net.

Tuesday evening Young Adult Bible Studies: 6 weeks in small groups. At different times throughout the year, we offer 6-week long Bible studies where we encounter Jesus through the Gospels. We read three chapters of Scripture each week and come together to talk about it. We put you into a group and each group chooses where to meet, usually at a local restaurant or coffee shop. Register at <https://nativityburke.org/ya-bible-study/> Contact Alison Fram: afam@nativityburke.org.

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 2024 will be available in July 2024. Visit <https://nativityburke.org/www/> for details about the ministry or contact wwpnativity@gmail.com with questions.

Thursday evening Bible Study: Meeting in person virtually. Currently studying the Old Testament Book of Tobit, featuring the Angel Raphael, written a few hundred years before the birth of Jesus. Meets each Thursday from 7:30 – 9:00pm in person in the school's Art Room and virtually. Contact Deacon Dick Kelly at Deaconrnfk@aol.com.

Friday morning Women's Bible Study: Meetings are Friday Mornings from 10:00am -12:00 noon in the Father Ready room. We are studying Galatians (Jan/Feb 2024) and the Gospel of Mark (Mar/Apr 2024). Spring sessions will be in person. Winter session will be on Zoom. Join us for prayer, study, and fellowship! Register for the next session at <https://nativityburke.org/womens-bible-study-registration/>. Contact Camille Pryor at 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 | De Septiembre 8, 2023 a Junio 7, 2024. Lugar: Salón Fr. Ready Este ciclo estaremos estudiando: El evangelio según San Juan y las Cartas. Contactarse: Elba Pfeifer, 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 6:50am - 8:00am in the Fr. Ready room. Contact Tim Yeager at yeagertd@verizon.net or Bob Sands at bob@sandmark.net.

Saturday morning Men's Prayer and Reflection Group: Meeting in-person/virtually. Men of all ages! We hear the scriptures every Sunday, but to what extent do we understand what God is telling us and how He is enriching our very lives today? Join us in reading, researching, and reflecting on Sunday scriptures and discussing how it relates to our lives and helps us become better Catholic men, husbands, dads, family members, friends, parishioners, citizens, and above all, intentional disciples of Christ. Enjoy the fellowship! Meet Saturdays from 8:00am - 9:00am in the Training/Cry Room or Virtually. Drop-ins are always welcome! Contact Rick Loffredo rickloffredo@outlook.com.

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

Jesus and the Eucharist

NATIVITY SCHOOL TEACHERS' LOUNGE

3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

February 16, March 15, April 19, May 17

6:30 PM Postlunch Dinner with MEM, Video Session and Reflection

For more information & to register, contact Anna Lisa please email: marriage@nativityburke.org

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY

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 to schedule a visit.



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

Jesus and the

EUCCHARIST



A SMALL GROUP SERIES FOR
**EUCCHARISTIC
REVIVAL**

Details:

- Every Thursday through March 14 | 1:00 - 2:30 pm in the Fr. Ready Room
- Or Every 3rd Friday of the Month, Next Meeting March 15 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Teachers' Lounge

OPEN TO ALL ADULTS IN THE PARISH

For more information, please contact our coordinator Anna Lisa at marriage@nativityburke.org

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

5th Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 17

Jer 31:31-34
Ps 51:3-4,12-15
Heb 5:7-9
Jn 12:20-33

Monday, March 18

Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62
or 13:41c-62
Ps 23:1-6
Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday, March 19

St. Joseph, Husband of Mary
2 Sm 7:4-5a,12-14a,16
Ps 89:2-5,27,29
Rom 4:13,16-18,22
Mt 1:16,18-21,24a
or Lk 2:41-51a

Wednesday, March 20

Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95
Dn 3:52-56
Jn 8:31-42

Thursday, March 21

Gn 17:3-9
Ps 105:4-9
Jn 8:51-59

Friday, March 22

Jer 20:10-13
Ps 18:2-7
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday, March 23

Ez 37:21-28
Jer 31:10-12d,13
Jn 11:45-56

To be a Christian is to follow Christ, be like Christ, serve as Christ, love as Christ, suffer and die as Christ, and ultimately rise as Christ. During his public ministry, Jesus told his disciples from the start that anyone who wished to be a follower of his must renounce himself and take up his cross every day to follow him.

As "his hour" drew nearer and the Holy Will of his Heavenly Father was just around the corner, Jesus once again told his disciples in no uncertain terms that to follow him would mean to take up their own crosses and be willing to suffer and die for the love of others. Jesus challenged his disciples to live lives of selfless service to others then, and his challenge continues for us now.

What a beautiful image Jesus gave us of the grain of wheat! According to the Catechism, "The grain of wheat points to the Holy Eucharist in which the Sacrifice of Christ becomes really present. As we die to ourselves in union with him, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we

become other christs." (CCC 2731)

As we submit our hearts to the Lord and give our lives as disciples of Christ, every one of us is called in many ways to share in the joys and sorrows of Christ. Just as at different seasons of our lives we are given different crosses to bear, we are also called to different ways to serve others. When we serve others, Christ works in us and through us. We can be Jesus to those he puts in our paths to help.



We can see Jesus in those we serve.

Sometimes it is easier than other times, but we must remember that Jesus is reflected in us when we are serving. Sometimes God uses our acts of faith and charity to break open seeds in other souls as well.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What has had to die in your life for you to draw closer to Christ?
- † Thinking of a cross you have carried in the past, how has your faith grown since it has lifted?
- † What is the heaviest cross you are being asked to bear right now?
- † How have you seen the face of Jesus in those you serve?
- † What are ways that have helped you the most to bear your crosses as Jesus bore his?



SEMANA SANTA

Se Celebra en la Parroquia DE LA NATIVIDAD 2024



JUEVES SANTO, 28 DE MARZO

Oraciones de la Mañana a las 8:30am
Misa de la Cena del Señor: 7:30pm (Bilingüe)

VIERNES SANTO, 29 DE MARZO

Oraciones de la Mañana a las 8:30am
Novena de la Divina Misericordia a las 9:00am (día 1- en la Iglesia)
Vía Crucis: 6:00pm (español)
Celebración de la Pasión del Señor: 6:30pm (español)

SABADO SANTO, 30 DE MARZO

Oraciones de la Mañana a las 8:30am
Bendición de los Alimentos de Pascua: 9:00am

VIGILIA DE PASCUA, 30 DE MARZO A LAS 8:30PM

La Vigilia Pascual en la Noche Santa
Bendición del fuego nuevo, Iluminación de la Vela de Pascua y la
Celebración de los Sacramentos de Iniciación con los Elegidos y
Candidatos de RICA Y RCIC

DOMINGO DE PASCUA DE LA RESURRECCION DEL SEÑOR,

31 DE MARZO

Misas a las: 5:30am, 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am y 1:00pm (español)
NO habrá misa vespertina el Domingo de Pascua

*La oficina parroquial cerrará a las 12pm el jueves, 28 de marzo y estará cerrada
todo el día el viernes, 29 de marzo, el domingo, 31 de marzo y el lunes, 1 de abril.
La oficina estará abierta el sábado 30 de marzo de 9:00 am a 3:00pm.*



APRENDE TU FE



El equilibrio no está de moda
Pareciera que nos han impuesto vivir con
angustias, tensos, siempre como explotando

Por: Padre Oscar Pezzarini | Fuente:

Hace un tiempo me he puesto a pensar, viendo algunas actitudes de muchas personas, en dónde está el equilibrio, es decir, el que uno sea "equilibrado" en el momento de actuar, de pensar, de hablar. Y me di cuenta de todo lo que nos cuesta vivir de esa manera. Pareciera que lo que resalta y debe ser así, son los excesos, los gestos muchas veces extravagantes, las conversaciones hasta violentas si se quiere, y como que eso llama más la atención.

Es más, esos son los modelos que muchas veces se nos presentan. O si no bastaría con preguntarnos y observar: ¿Cómo son los "héroes" que se nos presentan? Miremos en la literatura moderna, en el cine, en las historias televisivas, en la música, donde aparecen supuestos "héroes" que se transforman en ídolos, y en casi todos se da una constante: actúan en forma desaforada, violenta, exaltados, con hasta excesos de vitalidad; y en muy pocos casos el "héroe de turno" se muestra como un ser equilibrado, maduro, sólido psicológicamente.

Basta con ver cuáles son los "ídolos" a quienes siguen los jóvenes, donde generalmente nos damos cuenta que muchos de ellos "actúan" de esa manera, y que sin dudas en su vida serán personas más "tranquilas y equilibradas", y toda esa manera llamativa de actuar no es otra cosa que eso: una "actuación".

Me pregunto por qué razón nos cuesta tanto seguir y admirar a alguien digamos "moderado", equilibrado, que habla y no grita y no gesticula de manera exagerada.

¿Cuál será el motivo para que alguien sea admirado, para que triunfe, necesite ser "extravagante", "raro"? Parece que sólo pueden triunfar los que actúen de esa manera.

Pienso que quizás confundamos la serenidad con la apatía, el aburguesamiento, y en realidad se puede ser feliz de una manera también calma, y el hecho de ser equilibrado no necesariamente tiene que ver con vivir angustiado ni desalentado.

¿Cuál es la verdadera personalidad, la verdadera madurez? Pareciera que nos han impuesto vivir con angustias, tensos, siempre como "explotando", pensando que ser "vital" es sinónimo de excesos, de cierta "neurosis", como si esos fueran los verdaderos "grandes".

Y la verdad, que para mí son Grandes en serio aquellos que aman el silencio, los que trabajan sin desalentarse, quien tiene paciencia y sabe esperar y no vive en el "ruido" permanente.

Grande e ídolo es quien es capaz de tener un corazón abierto y disponible para los demás, quien no necesita vivir "aturdido", el que trabaja constante y silenciosamente esforzándose por construir cada día desde su lugar, un mundo mejor.

En fin, el verdaderamente Grande es lo contrario a lo que muchas veces nos muestran quienes quieren ocupar ese lugar de "modelos" para el hombre de hoy.

no nos va a costar leer los planes de Dios, que no nos va a costar ir entendiendo exactamente qué es lo que Dios me quiere decir? Constantemente, para todos nosotros, la vida se abre como una especie de obscuridad en la que tenemos que ir realizando y caminando.

“No hay más Dios que el de Israel”. ¿Sabemos nosotros que Él es el único Dios y que por lo tanto, Él es el único que nos va llevando a lo largo de nuestra existencia por sus caminos, que no son los nuestros? Estos caminos a veces coinciden, a veces pueden llegarse a entender, pero no siempre es así. Cada uno de nosotros, en su vocación cristiana, tiene un camino distinto. Si pensamos cómo hemos llegado cada uno de nosotros al conocimiento de Cristo, nos daremos cuenta que cada uno tuvo una historia totalmente diferente; cada uno tuvo una historia muy particular. Y aun después de nuestro encuentro con Cristo, incluso después de que hemos llegado a conocerlo, la historia sigue una aventura. Y si nuestra historia no es una aventura, quiere decir que hemos hecho lo que estaba a punto de hacer el general asirio: marcharse. Marcharnos porque no entendimos los planes de Dios y preferimos manejarnos a nuestro antojo, manejarnos según nuestra comodidad. Nos marchamos pensando que a este Señor no hay quien lo entienda y perdemos la oportunidad de experimentar y saber que el único Dios, es el Dios de Israel.

Jesús, en el Evangelio, viene a recalcaros precisamente que es Dios quien elige, quien se fija, quien llama y que es Él quien sabe porqué permite los caminos por los cuales nuestra vida se va desarrollando. Es Dios quien lo hace, no nosotros.

El ejemplo de las muchas viudas que había en Israel y Dios se fijó en una y el ejemplo de los muchos leprosos que había en Israel y Dios escogió precisamente a uno que ni era de Israel, nos deja muy claro que es Cristo el que manda. Nosotros tenemos que atrevernos a ponernos ante Dios con una sola condición: la condición de estar totalmente abiertos a su voluntad. De nada nos serviría conocer grandes hombres, de nada nos serviría conocer grandes personajes si no aprendemos la lección fundamental que estos grandes hombres vienen a dejarnos: la lección de estar siempre dispuestos a leer la letra de Dios, de estar siempre dispuestos a entender el camino por el cual Dios nos va llevando. Recordemos que Él sabe cuál es.

Los que vivían en el mismo pueblo de Jesús rechazan el modo de ser de Cristo y lo que hacen es alejarse de su vida. Solamente se puede tener a Cristo cerca cuando se tiene el alma abierta. Cada vez que nuestra alma se cierra a la generosidad, a la entrega, a la fidelidad, a la disponibilidad, en ese mismo momento, nuestra alma está alejando a Cristo de nosotros.

¡Qué serio es que pudiéramos ser nosotros los responsables de que Cristo no estuviese verdaderamente en nuestra vida! ¡Qué serio es que pudiéramos ser nosotros los causantes de que nuestra vida estuviese vacía de Cristo! Hay que ser muy exigentes con uno mismo. Hay que tener una gran disciplina interior, que a veces nos puede faltar. La disciplina que nos hace, en todo momento, seguir el camino concreto con el cual Dios nuestro Señor va marcando nuestra vida.

¿Estamos dispuestos a entenderlo? Solamente vamos a estar dispuestos a entenderlo si hay en nuestra vida la característica que hay en todos los hombres que quieren verdaderamente encontrarse con Dios: estar sediento de Dios, que da la vida. Estar sedientos de Él es el único modo que va a haber para que nuestra alma encuentre siempre, y en todo momento -a través de las circunstancias, de las personas, de los ambientes, de las dudas, de las caídas, de nuestras debilidades— a Dios; si realmente somos, tal y como lo dice el salmo: “Como un venado que busca el agua de los ríos, así cansada, mi alma te busca a ti, Dios mío”.

El alma que tiene sed de Dios pasará por lo que sea: estará en obscuridades, tendrá dificultades, caídas, miserias, pero encontrará a Dios y Dios no se apartará de él. Podrá encontrarse con el Señor, no importa por qué caminos, pues esos son los caminos del Señor y Él sabe por dónde nos lleva. Lo único que importa es tener sed de Dios. Una sed que es lo que nos autentifica como personas de cara a nuestros hermanos los hombres, de cara a nuestra familia, de cara a nuestro ambiente, de cara a nosotros mismos.

No es cuestión de entender las cosas. No es cuestión de saber que mi vida tiene que estar realizada, manejada y ordenada de determinada manera, sino que es cuestión de tener sed de Dios. El alma que tiene sed de Dios va a permitir que sea Dios quien le realice la vida. Y el alma que va a realizarse apartada de Dios, significa que no tiene, verdaderamente, sed de Dios. Podrá ser muchas cosas —podrá ser un magnífico organizador en la Iglesia, podrá ser un excelente conferencista, podrá ser un hombre de un gran consejo espiritual—, pero si no tiene sed de Dios, no estará realizando la obra de Dios.

Ahora veámonos a nosotros mismos en nuestra organización, en nuestro trabajo, en nuestro esfuerzo, en nuestra vocación cristiana y rasquemos un poco, a ver si en nuestro corazón hay verdaderamente sed de Dios. Si la hay, podemos estar tranquilos de que estamos en el camino en el que hay que estar. Podemos estar tranquilos de que estamos en la ruta en la cual hay que ir. Podemos estar tranquilos porque tenemos en el corazón lo que hay que tener. No tendremos que tener miedo porque esa sed de Dios irá haciendo que la luz y la verdad de Dios se conviertan en nuestra guía hasta el Monte del Señor. Es un camino que requiere estar dispuestos, en todo momento, a querer entender lo que Dios nos pide. Estar dispuestos, en todo momento, a no apartar jamás de nuestro corazón a Jesucristo y mantener siempre viva en nuestro corazón la fe del Dios que da la vida.

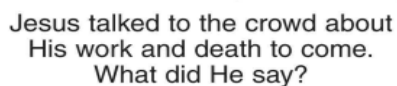
**Apoye a nuestros seminaristas.
Ayude a construir el futuro de nuestra Diócesis.
¡Haga su donación hoy!**



Gire su cheque a nombre de:
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200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 811
Arlington, VA 22203

CONTACTO: John French • john.french@arlingtondiocese.org

Para hacer una donación en línea: https://arlingtondiocese.org/Donate_SEEF



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
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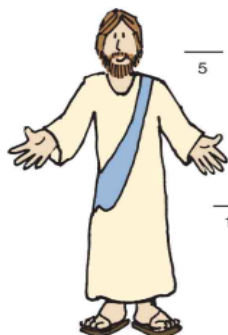
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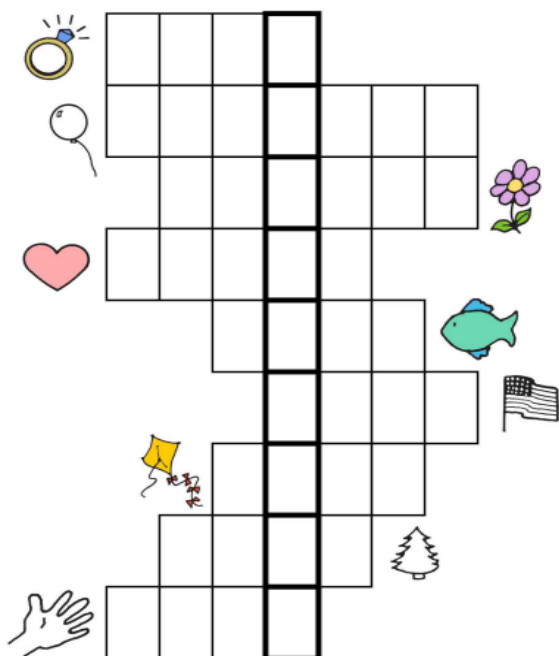
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Jesus said that the hour had come for God's Son to be given great honor – be exalted! What word is used in the verses?

The letters in the darker boxes spell the answer top to bottom.



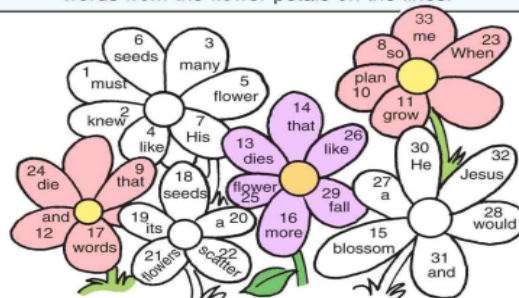
Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

March 17, 2024 • John 12:20-33

Jesus Tells What Will Come

Complete the math problems. Use the answers to write words from the flower petals on the lines.



19+4	21+6	9-4	17-4	11+8
11-5	30-8	20+11	12-9	8+8
13+8	15-4	29+3	7-5	
16-2	10-6	12+8	18+7	15+15
12-11	18+6	17-9	11-2	9-2
13+4	13+13	9+9	32-4	
15+7	17-5	10+5		

What did Jesus tell the people?

Unscramble the circled words to find out.

"But I, hwen _____ I am fdelit _____

up from the treah _____, will

(wrda) _____ all (eppoel) _____

to esfylM _____.

By this, Jesus meant that He wlodu _____ die

on a scsor_____.



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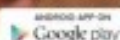
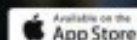
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