



**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 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.

WEBMASTER:
 Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:
 Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

A Message from our Pastor Fr. Bob Cilinski



"The Lord is my help, therefore I am not disgraced"
- Isaiah 50:41

My dear parishioners,

Today we begin the holiest week of the year. We commemorate the final days of Jesus' life on earth, which leads to His crucifixion, only to be followed by the glorious resurrection of Easter. We begin this week with a sense of celebration - we carry palm branches and echo the Hosannas of the people of Jerusalem as Jesus entered their city. Hosannas are replaced with betrayal and denial as Jesus endures suffering and death to save us.

This week allows us the grace-filled opportunity to deepen our faith and to fall in love with Jesus all over again. Our "elect" will lead us to a new life in Christ as they are baptized, confirmed and share in Eucharist for the first time. Let us pray for one another that we might experience, during these holy days, the healing and peace that comes to us from our loving God.

There are six Easter Masses at Nativity this year beginning on Holy Saturday evening with the Great Easter Vigil at 8:30pm. Over 30 elect and candidates will become new Catholics. We will livestream Mass into the Fr. Martin Center and communion will be distributed. Sunday morning Masses include a sunrise 5:30am Mass. The full Easter Mass schedule is in today's bulletin and on our parish website.

May the new light and power of Easter fill you with Jesus' life.

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. *Divine Mercy Adoration & Chaplet will be livestreamed.*



Palm Sunday

They couldn't kill him for blasphemy, a religious crime Rome didn't recognize. But they could put him to death for a political crime like treason. So Jesus died under the accusation, "King of the Jews." He had no throne, no army, no power to threaten governments. But he threatened a lot of people with the power to change hearts.

Monday - Brave Mary of Bethany

Was Mary a prophet? She forecast Jesus' death by preparing him for burial. Was she a minister of a sacramental, anointing his body with soothing oil? Was she a disciple, a friend, a woman in love? Unconcerned with others' judgments, she did what her heart commanded.

Tuesday - Passionate Peter

Peter, too, followed his heart. He spoke and acted impulsively, and often came to regret his behavior. He swears he will die for Jesus, and within hours he denies him. But in fact, Peter will die for Jesus one day. He, likens, just needs to get the bugs out of his witness.

Wednesday - God's Suffering Servant

Isaiah wrote poems about the Lord's servant who suffers innocently for justice. The Gospel writers recognized Jesus in those poems. Innocent suffering may repel us, but it also emboldens our hearts. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." Such love finds its response in our courage.

Holy Thursday - Foot Washers

Mothers of small children, caregivers for the elderly, nurses in sickrooms, take heart: Washing the feet of those who need us is an activity particularly blessed by God. Humble acts of service give glory to the Lord who once washed feet to show us how far our love should go.

Good Friday - Carrying the Cross

The cross is the symbol of human suffering and death. No one wants to carry the cross, but each of us will be forced underneath it someday, like Simon of Cyrene, when we least expect it. How we carry it will depend on how well we've understood the sign of the cross, every time we've used it in blessing.

Easter Vigil - Standing at the Tomb

Many visit the tomb in the early hours of Easter. The holy women. Angels. The disciples. We come to the tomb as well, to stand and peer into the very hollow where our faith lives. Is it empty? What do we see? Is he risen, or is it a trick? If we say Alleluia, we accept the challenge to say it with our whole lives.

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!

Cross Track

By Jim Boucher

Jesus is condemned
Acting as the Heart of God
A crime bound for death
Jesus grips the cross
Shoulders the onerous weight
On to Golgotha
Jesus dips and falls
Cumbersome and unstable
Stumbling to the ground
Jesus meets Mother
She is shaken up with dread
Overcome with grief
Jesus treads unsound
Simon is chosen to help
Provides some relief
Jesus becomes hot
Veronica reaches out
Wipes sweat off His face
Jesus slips and falls
Troublesome and unsteady
Tumbling to the ground
Jesus sights women
Gathered to witness His pain
Mournful attention
Jesus trips and falls
Wearisome and unsparing
Crumbling to the ground
Jesus is undressed
Clothes divided among guards
Gambled for His robe
Jesus is laid down
Hands and feet nailed to the cross
Then hoisted upward
Jesus speaks last words
Cast aside grasp at last gasp
Carried and settled
Jesus is brought down
Then draped in a linen sheet
Set for burial
Jesus is buried
Entombed within solid rock
Closed with a broad stone
!!!
Grave stone is rolled back
Empty burial chamber
Jesus Arisen
!!!

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!

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)

We need Cookies for the next Prison Kairos Weekend April 17-21

Please drop off Cookies in the kitchen at the Nativity Office by Tuesday, April 16 at the latest. The types of cookies that are generally acceptable are: Oatmeal, Peanut Butter, Molasses, Chocolate Chip, Ginger & Sugar. Cookies should be between 2" and 2-1/2" in diameter and not more than 1/2" thick. It is very important not to use icing, sugar or any other type of coating on the outside of the cookie. Do not add any kind of fruit or nuts to the cookies.

The Key Ingredient: Pray individually or as a family. Ask God to use your cookies as a source of His love to shine on the prisoners and staff on the Kairos weekend.

Packing the Cookies: Bag thoroughly cooled cookies in a quart sized Zip Lock bag, a dozen cookies to a bag. Label each bag with the cookie type inside. Visit <https://www.mykairos.org/docs/kpmi/cookies.pdf>.

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

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!*



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 14, our pledges and donations amount to \$650,647, but with only about 14 percent of registered families pledging. If you have not yet participated, upcoming Holy Week is an ideal time to make a sacrificial offering at any amount that works for you and your family. See www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA or just scan the QR code for easy access. Your support helps so many charities, ministries, and programs throughout the Diocese and right here at Nativity. May God bless you for your generosity.



SCAN ME

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.

IN MARY'S FOOTSTEPS - A GROUP FOR WIDOWS

We are a group of women who share the experience of the loss of our beloved husbands and join together in faith and fellowship. Our meetings are on the second Monday of the month at 11:00am in the church "training room". We have gathered for lunches or dinners out, retreats at the Benedictine Monastery, museum tours, etc. Please feel free to join us at our next meeting on April 8th at 11:00am. For further information, please contact Cat Sands at csands@nativityburke.org. God bless you!

Donate your Car

The Car Ministry accepts vehicles, reconditions them and then provides them as a gift to low-income families referred by pastors and social agencies. Click on the "Donate your Car" link on the Car Ministry's website, www.carministry.org, or contact the charity's Director, Larry Gordon at 703.237.8479 for more info.

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

Knights of Columbus Frenchy Cyr Memorial Scholarships

Last year, Nativity's Knights of Columbus Council 7992 awarded six Cyr Memorial scholarships for Catholic secondary school tuition (grades 9-12), totaling \$6000. Scholarships were awarded to: *Hannah Ly (Nativity School)*, and *Liam Ginty attending Saint John Paul the Great High School*, *Jennifer Dee and Sophia Cassidy attending Bishop Ireton High School*, *Mackenzie Boland (Nativity School) attending Bishop O'Connell High School*, and *Teagan Kelly (Nativity School) attending Saint Paul VI High School* for their exemplary academic performance, sustained school and community involvement, and outstanding Church and religious activity participation.

Again, this year six \$1000 scholarships will be awarded with at least one scholarship awarded to a Nativity eighth-grade student. All other entrants, including eighth-grade students, will compete for the remaining five scholarships. Entrants must be registered parishioners at Nativity, or a son, daughter, or grandchild, of an active member of Council 7992.

Application forms are available on the Parish web site and in the Parish office. Application submissions are due no later than midnight, Friday, April 26, 2024. Scholarship awardees will be announced in late May or Early June. Questions, please contact Dave Zivich, at davezivich@gmail.com.

Nativity Stars
GALA
and Auction

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

GALA TICKETS ON SALE!

AUCTION ITEM OF THE WEEK - Discovery Flight!

Want to try flying? Come on a Discovery Flight at Aero Elite Flight. Flight instructor will handle the take off and landing; everything else will be in your control, and your flight instructor will standby to coach you. Good for 30 minutes ground instruction and 30 minutes flight time.

AERO ELITE
 FLIGHT TRAINING

Follow us on instagram for all Gala details and updates!
 @nativitystarsgala
<https://nativityschool.org/gala>



 NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

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

Join Bishop Burbidge and his brother bishops at the 10th Annual National Eucharistic Congress on July 17-21, 2024 in Indianapolis!

This summer, the Eucharist will take center stage in a major U.S. stadium at an event called the National Eucharistic Congress. Catholics from all over the United States will gather at the feet of Jesus Christ to worship him in a way this generation has never seen.

It's time to remind the world Jesus is still with us—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Your presence in Indianapolis as a part of this historic gathering is a public witness that Jesus is powerfully present and active in our midst.

This is the beginning of a new chapter of Eucharistic faith in America—launching the Church into a Year of Mission—and God is about to pour down new grace upon our nation. I hope many of our parishioners will be there when it happens. Even if you can't attend the full event from July 17th to the 21st, I encourage you to come for as much of the Congress as you can with a day pass. Register online at EucharisticCongress.org.

What: 10th National Eucharistic Congress
When: July 17–21, 2024
Where: Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN



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

Monday, March 25th

7:30 am † Philip McHugh

Tuesday, March 26th

7:30 am † Paul Brooke, Jr.

12:00 pm † John Burns

Wednesday, March 27th

7:30 am Special Int. for Perlas Family

10:00 am In Thanksgiving (*Heather Wood*)

Holy Thursday, March 28th

8:30 am Morning Prayer

7:30 pm The Lord's Supper (*Bilingual*)

Good Friday, March 29th

8:30 am Morning Prayer

12:00 pm Stations of the Cross

3:00 pm Passion of our Lord

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross (*Spanish*)

6:30 pm Passion of our Lord (*Bilingual*)

Holy Saturday, March 30th

8:30 am Morning Prayer

9:00 am Blessing of the Food

8:30 pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, March 31st

5:30 am † Nathan Andrew Julich

7:00 am † Nancy Kraft

9:00 am † Michael C. Wadsworth

11:00 am † Coulter "Colt" James Thurber III

1:00 pm Parishioners (*Spanish*)

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

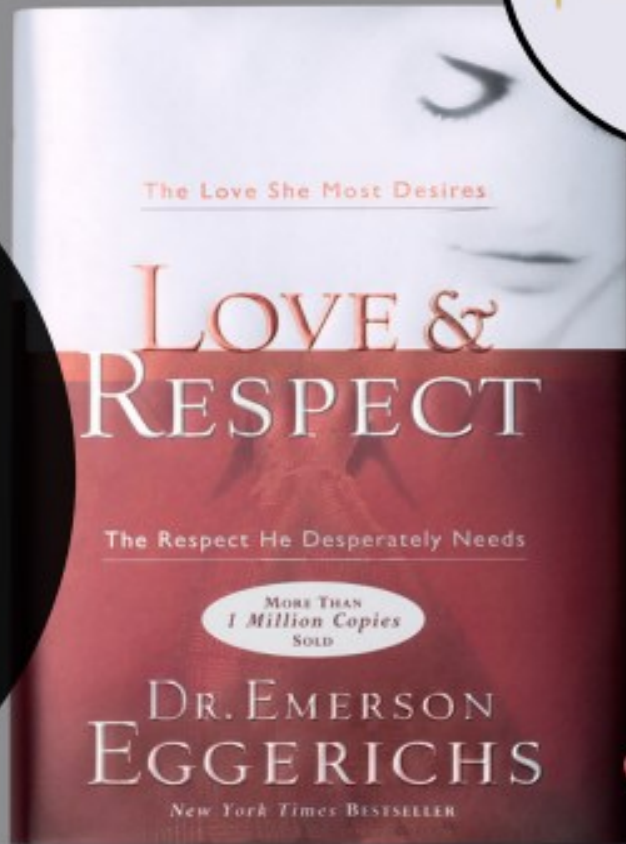
Nativity Gift Shop - Many Items For Sale!

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.



LOVE & RESPECT

Marriage Program



SCHEDULE

- 6:30 pm — Potluck Dinner
- 6:55 pm — Welcome and opening prayer
- 7:00 pm — Video presentation
- 8:00 pm — Small group discussion
- 8:20 pm — Closing prayer & dismissal



**FRIDAYS,
APRIL 5, 16, &
26TH
6:30-8:30 PM**

LOCATION: SCHOOLS TEACHER'S LOUNGE

Registration Link

<https://nativityburke.org/mem-program/>

Anna Lisa

marriage@nativityburke.org



Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic Churches to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them from this worldwide collection.

The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America is part of a world-wide network of Commissariats of the Holy Land which function as bridges between the Holy Land and Christians all over the world. The Franciscan Monastery in Washington, D.C., coordinates this vital support for the work of the Franciscans who work in the Holy Land.

The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility to care for the Holy Places as well for the "Living Stones," the Christians living there. It is vital that we support Christians living in the Holy Land, in order to maintain a Christian presence in the very land made holy by the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. Thank you for your support!



ANNUAL MULTI-CAR RAFFLE

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY RETURNED ALL THE TICKETS YOU HAVE SOLD!
WHERE ELSE CAN YOU GET A CHANCE TO WIN ALL FOUR 2024 VEHICLES FROM OUR ISMAN 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 MORTLAND AT 703-455-2186 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.



To celebrate and affirm the gift and vocation of Christian Marriage - Deepen relationships with God - To provide practical help and tools for couples to grow in their life together.

Upcoming Events:

"Love and Respect" Marriage Program: Fridays, April 5, 12, and 26, at 6:30 pm, potluck dinner and program in the Teachers' Lounge.

Easter Egg Hunt with Knights of Columbus and Family Ministry, Sunday, April 7, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, in the backfield.

Jesus and the Eucharist study, Friday, April 19, 6:30 pm potluck dinner, in the Teachers' Lounge.

April Date Night: "Marriage, Faith, and Life with Adult Children," Saturday, April 20, 6:30 pm, in the cafeteria. Dinner and child care are provided.

Couples Retreat Day "Celebrating Marriage," Saturday, May 11, at Nativity with Mass at 9:00 am followed by the retreat.

Please scan the QR code, see the parish website: nativityburke.org, or email marriage@nativityburke.org for more information.



A Message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Fast from over-consumption: Refrain from shopping one or more days each week. Use the money and time saved to pray, read, pursue a hobby, build relationships, or support your community. OR Fast from technology. Turn off your cell phone, computer, television. Use that time to care for your relationship with God, the earth, yourself, and others. Go for a walk, explore nature, seek out conversation with neighbors, especially those who are lonely.

This Lent, we have invited you to pursue a journey of ecological conversion in a Creation Care Fast. After Lent, could you continue to fast from energy waste, from meat (eat more plant-based meals), from plastics, from food waste, from water waste, and/or from over-consumption?

In Laudato Si, Pope Francis says, "*The ecological crisis is ...a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians...tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an 'ecological conversion', whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience*"

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.

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 cynosports@nativityburke.org for more info!

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH



Multi Car Raffle

plus \$40,000 in Cash Drawings



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 at kofc7992carraffle@gmail.com



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.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS
~ SUMMER CAMPS ~
JULY 8-19, 2024
Manassas, VA | Burke, VA

BROADWAY SPOTLIGHT
DRAMA BOOTCAMP
ARTS & CRAFTS FUN
ART EXPLORER

SpotlightSummerCamps.com

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)

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.

"Pilate again said to them, 'Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?' And they cried out again, 'Crucify him.'" Mark 15:12-13

Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Every day we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.

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.

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

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

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

Are you registered in the Parish?

If you are not receiving mail or emails from the parish, chances are you are not registered. You are free to stop by the Parish Office to fill out a registration form to become a registered member of Nativity Parish or go online to: nativityburke.org and download one. Registration is required to be a Baptismal Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor.

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.

Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation
Give a child the gift of a Catholic education and receive most of your donation back in federal and state tax savings!

The Virginia Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credit Program will award a 65% state tax credit for donations made to the Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation, which will, in turn, provide scholarships for new students wishing to attend our diocesan Catholic Schools. You do not have to itemize in order to receive the 65% tax credit! Donations must be preauthorized in advance. Please call Jeanne Combos at 703-841-2764 (or email at DASF@arlingtondiocese.org) or go online for more details and to download the preauthorization request form at:
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Scholarship-Foundation/>



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

ECHO NEWS

Treasures Galore at ECHO's Spring Yard Sale!

ECHO's popular Spring Yard Sale will be held Saturday, April 6, from 8:00 am to noon, at St. Bernadette's School Gym, 7602 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Proceeds from the sale benefit ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others). The whole gymnasium will be filled with electronics, fashion accessories, holiday decorations, toys, games, home accessories, and more, at bargain prices. Join the fun and help ECHO's mission at the same time.

What ECHO Needs Right Now

ECHO's Donation Door, 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, is open from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on weekdays and from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Receipts are cheerfully provided. ECHO's Clothing Department distributes diapers and wipes to client families who have infants. We also assist women with sanitary supplies. Donations of those items help ECHO very much. Our most-needed apparel right now includes boys' and girls' sneakers, children's spring and summer clothing, sizes 18 months and up; new underwear in boys' or men's sizes; men's spring and summer shirts in Small, Medium, and Large. The Housewares Department needs towels, comforters in all sizes, blenders, mixers, and irons.

Breaking a Sad Record

ECHO's Food Co-Chairs report that in February, ECHO responded to food requests from 154 households within our service area. We were able to serve those families but it took more than 25,000 pounds of food, a greater total amount than we distributed per month during the first terrible months of the Covid lockdown. Food needs persist.

The Stamp Out Hunger Letter Carriers Food Drive is scheduled for Saturday, May 11. Letter Carriers from the Burke, West Springfield, and Central Springfield Post Offices will pick up bags of non-perishable food donations that residents put out at their mailboxes early in the morning on the day of the drive. Letter carriers and volunteers will bring those donations to ECHO to be sorted and shelved. This drive has proved crucial in the past to help ECHO remain stocked with food during the summer months when donations dwindle. Please watch for more information and help if you can. Even one or two items per household will make a difference. Currently, ECHO needs cereal, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, canned meats or fish, peanut butter, crackers, shampoo, and laundry detergent.

Volunteer Opportunities

Among the volunteer jobs that ECHO is hoping to fill soon is one called Counselor Admin Support. ECHO needs one person in this position during each weekly work shift, so, a total of 8 persons are needed. These volunteers will engage directly with people seeking assistance and take basic information that will help determine their eligibility for the type of support they seek. Training for this job will be provided. If you are interested in serving the community in this way for a few hours once a week, please email Volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org.

Upcoming Dates to Note

April 6 - Yard Sale, St. Bernadette's Gym 8:00 am to noon

April 11 - Saturday Opening

May 4 - Saturday Opening

May 8 - Exec. Committee meets

May 11 - Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

May 20 - Board of Directors meeting

May 27 - Closed for Memorial Day

"The Lord is
close to the
broken hearted
and saves those
who are crushed
in spirit."

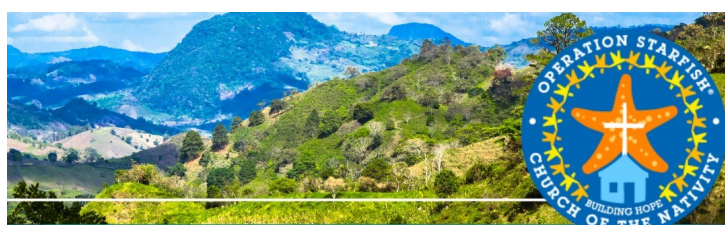
Psalm 34:18

Pontifical Good Friday Collection

March 29, 2024

Serving those in need
in the Holy Land

Commissariat of the Holy Land
1400 Quincy St. NE - Washington, DC 20017
www.MyFranciscan.org



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



DATE NIGHT

Marriage, Faith & Life With Adult Children



**Craig & Anne
Bowden**




**John & Cheryl
Ostrowski**





**Charlie & Ann
Rimkus**

Look forward to:

- 5 PM Mass
- 6 PM Light Dinner
- 6:30- 8:30 Speakers and Fellowship
- Childcare Provided

 Nativity Catholic Church
School Cafeteria

 Saturday, April 20th

 6:00- 8:30 PM



Registration Link

<https://nativityburke.org/april-date-night/>

Anna Lisa 571-208-2821

marriage@nativityburke.org

Marriage Enrichment Ministry



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

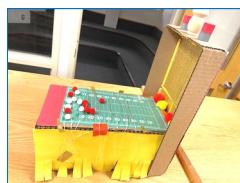
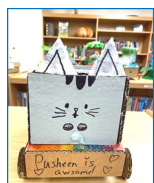
nativityschool.org



Student Krewes Create Festive Floats



Tasked with creating and building themed Mardi Gras floats, our Third and Fourth graders broke into groups of 3 – called krewes – and planned their theme and name, listed all supplies to be used in their work, and sketched the design. The end result were very creative, colorful floats specifically designed for a Nativity Mardi Gras parade.



Nativity Read-a-thon: Check Out What We Have Read!

At the end of our 2-week Read-a-thon, our students have read more than - 135,000 minutes and earned more than \$7,000 in donations – definitely enough for the reading subscription for which we hoped!

Top Readers Per Class (in Minutes!) *Preschool* - Stella - 450, *Pre-K* - Josephine - 3,430, *Kindergarten* - Paolo - 1,274, *First Grade* - Lily - 2,346, *Second Grade* - Lilyana - 1,845, *Third Grade* - Alexis - 2,010, *Fourth Grade* - Sean - 3,650, *Fifth Grade* - Rylan - 1,430, *Sixth Grade* - Lucy - 3,724, *Seventh Grade* - Maura - 10,850, *Eighth Grade* - Rebekah - 8,950.

Top Reader ~ Upstairs - Maura - 10,850, Downstairs - Lily - 2,346. Top Class ~ Upstairs - 8th Grade - 28,390, Downstairs - 3rd Grade - 12,692.

Our Middle School Challenge: To qualify, 80% of the class had to read for four hours over the 2-week period. Of the Middle School classes, only 8th grade qualified, with 100% participation – many of them reading a lot more than four hours. Because the 8th Grade was victorious – the whole class will be treated to a Chick-fil-a lunch.



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 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



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.

30 & 31 March - Easter Ushers: Volunteer on Link Tree.

31 March - Easter Sunday Parking Lot Ushers: Volunteer on Link Tree.

6 April - Adopt-A-Highway: Be a part of the Elite Eight.

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 sawyerkoc7992@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.

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. Be sure to enter our council #7992 for local information when registering. Please email our Deputy Grand Knight at cokofc7992@gmail.com for more info.

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/>.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia Workshops

Haven is a nonprofit, nonsectarian community organization of trained volunteers that offers emotional support to the bereaved, the seriously ill, the dying and to their families and friends. Haven also provides education to the community about the needs of those who are grieving. Since September 1976 Haven volunteers have helped individuals work through their grief, offering comfort and support by sharing insights, resources and techniques that encourage recovery and healing.

Grief Support Groups

Open Suicide Loss Support Group

This group, open to persons who have had a loved one die by suicide, is held twice monthly. Participants will be offered information and suggestions for handling the complexity of grief that often follows a suicide. To participate, call Haven at 703-941-7000. *The group meets on Saturdays.*

Four-Week Widow/Widower Bereavement Support Group (formerly six-weeks). The group is open to persons whose spouse or partner has died. This loss can be numbing and devastating. You may have feelings of sadness, loneliness and abandonment. No one can heal your pain, but this group will help you learn ways to cope with this difficult experience. Pre-registration is required and participants must be able to attend all sessions. Check our home page or call Haven for dates.

Parent Loss Support Workshop

This group is open to anyone who has experienced the death of a parent. Coping with a loss like this is often a traumatic and painful experience. This group will provide participants with coping skills and give them an opportunity to share their experience with others who also are struggling to deal with the myriad facets of death. Check our home page: Haven of Northern Virginia Grief Support (havenofnova.org) or call Haven at for dates and further information. *Pre-registration is required.*

Haven of Northern Virginia is located at 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, Virginia 22003. Phone 703-941-7000 or email havenofnova@verizon.net

Preventing Homelessness in Fairfax County....

Family PASS provides intensive case management to address the underlying challenges that lead to homelessness: wage disparity and lack of affordable housing in Fairfax County. Our clients are working families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads due to low wages and high housing costs. As needed, we provide emergency rental assistance to avoid eviction, and then work with families to develop educational/career goals that would lead to a living wage. We also work with clients on the following: budget counseling and connecting them to community resources, assist with educational expenses, including tuition, books, technology, etc. assist with utilities, childcare, transportation, and some debt reduction, as it relates to families being able to work, achieving their goals, and stabilizing their family.

*To learn more or to donate, visit our website
www.familypassfairfax.org*



Guadalupe Radio Network

Annual WMET

Fishers of Men Dinner

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Reception at 6 p.m.

Dinner at 7 p.m.

Catholic University of America

620 Michigan Ave., NE ▪ Washington, DC 20064

Keynote Speaker

Debbie Georgianni

Catholic Radio Host



LEARN MORE!



Award Honoree
Little Sisters of the Poor



William E. Lori, Archbishop
Holy Mass Celebrant

877-636-1160

Nativity Catholic Church

Family Ministry

Have you been looking for a way to connect with Catholic families for community, encouragement, and growth? There are MANY families with young children at Nativity and in our ministry, "family" encompasses families in all shapes and sizes- married couples, single parents, adopted children, one child, multiple children, etc.



MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
SIGN UP



CALENDAR FOR
UPCOMING
EVENTS



There are various camps this summer, including band, baseball, basketball, cheer, dance, football, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, and more.



SCAN ME

www.paulvi.net/summercamps

42341 Braddock Road, Chantilly, VA



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



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

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

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/>.

Parents Prepared

What's Around the
Corner for your
Child Going to
College?

Presented by:



Associates of
**SAINT
JOHN
BOSCO**



Join Us!

Who: For the Parents of Junior
and Senior Highschoolers

When: May 14, 2024 @ 7PM

Where: Basilica of St. Mary
Lyceum (313 Duke Street)

To attend for free, please register at
www.asjb.org/parents-prepared.

The college campus is vying for the souls of our Catholic young people. Come learn about the current situation on college campuses all across the country, and how you as a parent can prepare now to help your child faithfully live out their next four years of college.



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



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

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



We offer healing to women who have experienced abortion

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



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

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

*Find it
all here:*





17th Annual Pops Camp

For rising 5th-9th graders

Monday - Friday, August 5-9, 2024

Friday - 11 a.m. concert/potluck

For rising 5th - 9th strings and band students
with at least one year of instruction.

- **Pops \$125: 9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Daily itinerary includes full group and sectional rehearsals plus snack.**
- **Jazz Studies \$50: 8:30–9:30 a.m. Quite popular secondary offering that introduces improvisational techniques while preparing music for concert.**

Register using the QR code.

Questions? Contact Mrs. Jan Siegfried at
jsiegfried@paulvi.net



St. Paul VI Catholic High School

42341 Braddock Rd, Chantilly, VA 20152



Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24

Procession:

Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16

Mass:

Is 50:4-7

Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24

Phil 2:6-11

Mk 14:1 – 15:47

Monday, March 25

Is 42:1-7

Ps 27:1-3,13-14

Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 26

Is 49:1-6

Ps 71:1-4a,5-6b,15,17

Jn 13:21-33,36-38

Wednesday, March 27

Is 50:4-9a

Ps 69:8-10,21-22,31,33-34

Mt 26:14-25

Thursday, March 28

Holy Thursday

Ex 12:1-8,11-14

Ps 116:12-13,15-18

1 Cor 11:23-26

Jn 13:1-15

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

Is 52:13 – 53:12

Ps 31:2,6,12-13,15-17,25

Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Jn 18:1 – 19:42

Saturday, March 30

Holy Saturday

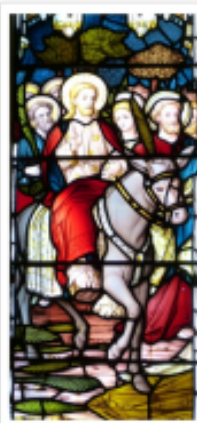
Imagine the mixed emotions and excitement that day when Jesus, the humble King, entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey amidst shouts of "Hosanna" and palm branches being waved in the air and tossed at his feet. To live in that time in Jerusalem was to live in a pressure cooker of political and religious upheaval. Many were indeed looking for a Savior, but Jesus knew that not everyone who was jumping up and down had the same expectations of him.

In the crowd, along with his disciples, were those who were ecstatic about the miracles they had witnessed or heard about, and they were convinced that he was the Messiah, the King of Israel. Some were traveling and just curious about who this man could be. Then there were the Pharisees who hated Jesus and distrusted him because they thought his teachings were too loose and he threatened their security, prestige, and status in the community.

As exciting as this big entrance procession was, Jesus must have carried much trepidation in his heart with the knowledge that he was fulfilling the messianic prophecy from Zechariah 9:9 by triumphantly riding in on a donkey's colt. He knew that many of these same people who were welcoming him so eagerly would soon turn against him and this would set his Father's plan into motion for his suffering, death, and resurrection.

Jesus could have turned back, but he courageously

cooperated with his Father's holy will and moved forward in trust. It was not until later after Jesus was glorified and the Holy Spirit enlightened them that his disciples understood all that had happened.



This Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, as we hold our blessed palms in our hands and sing joyful hosannas at Mass, let us be reminded that Jesus, our beloved Savior, modeled for us the rhythm and hope for our own lives. Because of what Jesus did for us by suffering, dying, and rising from the dead, we too will have joy, followed by sorrow, and then joy once again. Good will conquer evil and life will conquer death.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Have there been times when you did not fully understand why things were happening in your life, but later realized that God seemed to be orchestrating everything for your best interest?
- † In what ways are you being called to trust God right now in your life?
- † How should we respond to modern-day Pharisees who feel threatened by the love we show our neighbors?
- † How has the Holy Spirit enlightened you after the fact in ministry?

La entrada de Cristo a Jerusalén.

Meditaciones para toda la Cuaresma

Domingo de Ramos. ¿Qué tanto soy capaz de seguir a este Cristo, que como rey, va a ser sacrificado por mí?

Por: P. Cipriano Sánchez LC | Fuente: Catholic.net



El día de hoy para acompañar a Cristo en su pasión, su muerte y su resurrección, vamos a centrar nuestra reflexión en la entrada de Cristo a Jerusalén

La entrada Mesianica de Jesús en Jerusalén, tal como la presenta San Juan, se encuentra centrada en un contexto muy particular. No hay que olvidar que los evangelios son una carga espiritual, teológica, de presencia de Cristo. Por así decirlo, son un retrato descrito.

San Juan ubica la entrada de Cristo en Jerusalén, por una parte, en el contexto de la unción de Betania, en la que se ha vuelto a hablar de la resurrección. Junto con este aspecto de la resurrección aparece, como sombra constante, la determinación de los sumos sacerdotes para deshacerse de Cristo. Y como un segundo trasfondo de la entrada de Cristo en Jerusalén está el contexto del discurso de Jesús sobre el grano de trigo que tiene que caer y morir para dar fruto.

Dice el Evangelio: "Ha llegado la hora de que sea glorificado el Hijo del Hombre. En verdad, en verdad os digo: si el grano de trigo no cae en tierra y muere, queda él solo; pero si muere, da mucho fruto". En el texto del grano de trigo se vuelve a repetir el mismo dinamismo que se encierra en la voz de "lo he glorificado", junto con la conciencia clara de la presencia inminente de la pasión.

A nosotros nos llama mucho la atención que todo el misterio de la entrada de Jesús en Jerusalén quiera estar enmarcado en este contraluz de muerte y resurrección (el grano de trigo que muere para poder dar fruto), pero, independientemente de que pueda ser un poco literario, este contexto nos permite ver lo que es exactamente la entrada de Cristo en Jerusalén.

Por una parte vemos que el pueblo realiza lo que estaba escrito que tenía que realizar: "Esto no lo comprendieron sus discípulos de momento; pero cuando Jesús fue glorificado, se dieron cuenta de que esto estaba escrito sobre él, y que era lo que le habían hecho".

Por otra parte, la voz del pueblo es un signo que indica lo que Cristo es verdaderamente: "Bendito el que viene en el nombre del Señor, el Rey de Israel". Sin embargo, como tantas veces sucede con Cristo, los hombres actúan sin saber que están actuando de una forma profética. El pueblo no sabe lo que hace, pero aclama el triunfo y el éxito maravilloso de un taumaturgo que resucitará. Además, las palabras de la gente tienen un total carácter de proclamación mesianica, por la que Cristo se presenta como liberador de Israel. Y así, Cristo cumple un gesto mesianico que Zacarías había profetizado: "No temas, hija de Sión; mira que viene tu Rey montado en un pollino de asna". Cristo se sienta en el asno, aceptando con ello el que se le proclame Rey, realizando así la profecía de Zacarías.

Sin embargo, esto no oscurece su conciencia de que su mesianismo no es de tipo mundano, sino que esta unción como Mesías, esta proclamación, es el camino que lo va a llevar a la cruz. No hay que olvidar que el Mesías es el que resume, en sí mismo, todos los símbolos de Israel: el profeta, el sacerdote, el rey. Y como dijo el mismo Cristo, es el profeta que va a morir en Jerusalén, y es el sacerdote que llega hasta donde está el templo para ofrecer el sacrificio.

Pero, junto con esta visión externa que nos puede ayudar a preguntarnos: ¿qué tanto soy capaz de seguir a este Cristo, que como rey, profeta y sacerdote va a ser sacrificado por mí?, yo les invitaría a contemplar el alma de Cristo, el interior de Cristo en su entrada a Jerusalén.

El alma de Cristo tiene ante sí, con una gran claridad, el plan de Dios sobre Él. Cristo sabe que Dios ha querido unir su glorificación con el misterio de la pasión. Es una gloria que pasa a través de la infamia y del rechazo de los hombres, una gloria que pasa por la paradoja de los planes de Dios, una gloria que quiere pasar por la total donación del Hijo de Dios para la salvación de los hombres.

Cristo tiene claro en su alma este plan de Dios, y con toda libertad y con toda decisión, lo acepta. Él sabe que al ser proclamado Rey, y al entrar en Jerusalén como Mesías, está firmando la sentencia que le lleva al sacrificio, y sin embargo, lo hace. Entonces los fariseos comentaban entre sí: "¿Veis cómo no adelantáis nada?, todo el mundo se ha ido tras él". Él sabe que la exaltación real que a Él se le dará cuando sea levantado, es la de la cruz, la del cuerpo para el sacrificio.

La cruz será su gloria de dominio, será su palabra profética de discernimiento y también será la unción con la que su cuerpo será marcado como sacerdote de la Nueva y Eterna Alianza. La cruz será su trono de dominio desde el que Él va a atraer a todos los hombres hacia sí mismo: "Y cuando yo sea levantado de la tierra, atraeré a todos hacia mí". En su alma aparece el deseo de donarse, porque ha llegado la hora para la que había venido al mundo, la hora del designio de amor sobre la humanidad, la hora por la que Dios entre, de modo definitivo, en la vida de los hombres por la gracia de la redención.

Sin embargo, todos los sentimientos se van mezclando en Cristo. Así como es consciente de que ha llegado la hora de que sea glorificado el Hijo del Hombre, es también consciente de que el grano de trigo tiene que caer en tierra para poder dar fruto: "Pero mi alma se turba, ¿y cómo voy a decir? ¡Padre, librame de esta hora! Pero es para esta hora que yo he venido al mundo."

Podríamos terminar con una reflexión sobre nosotros mismos, sin olvidar que nuestra vocación cristiana también es una perspectiva de la luz que pasa a través de la cruz: Mi vocación es luminosa solamente cuando pasa a través de la cruz. Tiene que pasar por el mismo camino de Cristo: la aceptación generosa de la cruz, la aceptación generosa de los signos que nos llevan a la cruz.

Para Cristo, el signo de la entrada de Jerusalén, es el signo que le lleva a la cruz; para nosotros cristianos, nuestro Bautismo es un signo que nos indica, necesariamente, la presencia de la cruz de Cristo. Se trata de ser seguidor de Cristo, marcado con el signo indeleble de la cruz en el corazón y en la vida. El cristiano ha de ser capaz, como Cristo, de recoger los frutos de vida eterna del árbol fecundo de la cruz, para uno mismo y para sus hermanos.

Para quien juzga según Dios, la abnegación es Sabiduría Divina envuelta en el misterio de Cristo crucificado. No existe otro camino para ser seguidor de Aquél que no ha venido para ser servido sino para servir y dar su vida en rescate por muchos.

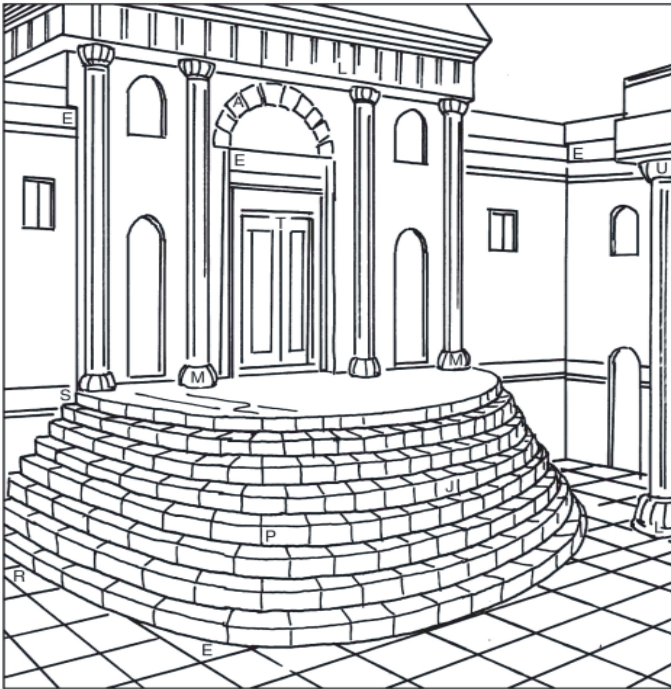
Toda la vida de Cristo, y particularmente su pasión, tiene un profundo significado de servicio para la gloria del Padre y para la salvación de los hombres. El Primogénito de toda criatura -al cual corresponde el primado sobre todas las cosas que son en el cielo y en la tierra-, el que viene en el nombre del Señor, el rey de Israel, se ha hecho siervo de todos los hombres y dado a muerte en rescate de sus pecados.

Cristo entra en Jerusalén; Cristo nos habla del grano de trigo, nos habla de ser exaltados en la cruz, y nos hace una pregunta que tenemos que responder: "¿Puedes beber del cáliz que yo beberé?"



Jesus entered Jerusalem
and went to the temple.

Find the letters hidden in the picture below.
J E R U S A L E M T E M P L E



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What happened next?

Use the code to fill in the blanks.

A = E = I = O = U =



Jesus rode into

J _ r _ s _ l _ m on a c _ lt.

Many people spread their

cl _ _ ks on the r _ _ d,

and others spread

l _ _ fy br _ nch _ s ...



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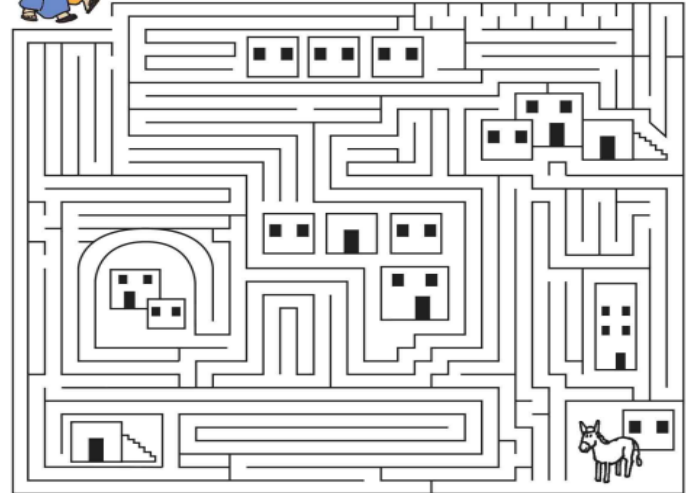
March 24, 2024 • Mark 11:1-11

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

Jesus sent two of His disciples
ahead into the village to find a colt.



Help the disciples get through the maze to the colt.



Those who went ahead and those
who followed shouted ...

Find all the words from the quote below in the word search.

You will find them → ↓ ↘ .

"HOSANNA! BLESSED
IS HE WHO COMES IN
THE NAME
OF THE LORD!"



H	O	S	A	N	N	A	A	B	D
E	I	B	L	E	S	S	E	D	I
W	N	O	F	T	H	E	T	C	S
C	H	C	O	M	E	S	H	C	C
D	E	O	N	A	M	E	E	O	I
I	N	L	O	R	D	D	F	L	P



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