

Go!  
AND SIN  
NO MORE



6400 Nativity Lane,  
Burke, Virginia 22015  
nativityburke.org



**REV. MSGR. 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  
Kathleen O'Leary, 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  
Joyce Kelly, S.P.R.E.D. Coordinator

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR**

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454-2415 or  
mmtturner@ccda.net

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

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

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

**HOLY DAY MASSES:** As Announced

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

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

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

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

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

**SOCIAL MEDIA:**  
Mary Castellano, [socialmedia@nativityburke.org](mailto:socialmedia@nativityburke.org)

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

**A Message from our Pastor  
Rev. Msgr. Bob Cilinski**



*“Jesus was left alone with the woman. He said to her, ‘Has not one condemned you?’ She replied, ‘No one, Sir.’ He said, ‘Neither do I condemn you’” - John 8:11*

My dear parishioners,

She was defenseless standing there with her life on the line because of her sin. The law said she should be stoned and people already had rocks in their hands and hatred in their hearts. Jesus found a way through this terrible situation where there didn’t seem much hope. One minute she is as good as dead. The next minute she is clothed in the compassion of Jesus. How could this be?

So it is with us. One minute all we have is our shame and guilt of our past sins. And then we come before Jesus and his light surrounds us, and suddenly there is a way, there are many ways, and the road ahead is full of new life. This happens at every Mass, in every confession, in every visit to the Blessed Sacrament. Come to Jesus this week! The sacraments, especially confession, can be our encounter with the compassionate Lord. What a difference Jesus makes in our lives!

The following is a reflection you can use each day this week. If you find it difficult to pray, you might simply imagine God speaking to you. His words might sound something like this:

*You don’t have to be clever to please Me; all you have to do is want to love Me. Just speak to Me as you would to anyone of whom you are very fond.*

*Are there people you want to pray for? Tell me their names, and ask as much as you like. Trust Me to do what I know best.*

*Is there anything you want for your soul? Tell Me if you feel guilty about anything. I will forgive you, but you have to accept My forgiveness.*

*Tell Me about your self-centeredness, and your laziness. I love you in spite of your faults. Do not hesitate to ask Me for blessings for mind and body. I can give everything you need for a happier, holier life.*

*Are you afraid of anything? Trust yourself to Me. I am here. I see everything. I will never leave you.*

*Have you any joys to share with me? What has happened recently to cheer and comfort you?*

*Are temptations bearing heavily upon you? Yielding to them always disturbs the peace of your soul. Ask Me, and I will help you to overcome them.*

*Well, go along now. Come back to me soon. Tomorrow I shall have more blessings for you.*

Love and Blessings,  
*Bob Cilinski*  
Msgr. Bob Cilinski,  
Pastor

# Nativity Catholic Church Holy Week & Easter Schedule

**Holy Thursday | April 17**

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 | April 18**

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 | April 19**

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

**Easter Sunday Mass Schedule | April 20**

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

**LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINANCE**

Catholics 14 years of age and older are obliged to abstain from meat and those 18-59 are obliged to fast (1 full meal and 2 smaller ones to maintain strength) unless medical or serious reasons exist. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence, Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence

**PARISH OFFICE - EASTER CLOSING / OPENING**

Office Closes at 12:00 noon - Holy Thursday, April 17th  
Office Closed all day - Good Friday, April 18th  
Office Open 9:00 - 2:00 pm - Saturday, April 19th  
Office Closed all day - Easter Sunday, April 20th  
Office Closed all day - Easter Monday, April 21st

Come Receive the Lord’s

*Forgiveness  
& Mercy*

Sacrament of Confession

**Lenten Penance Service**  
Thursday, April 10 from 6:30 - 9:00pm  
23 Priests will be available for  
Individual Confessions

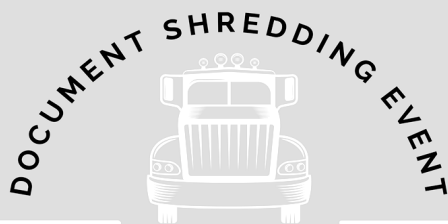


**The Catholic Relief Services Collection Strengthens Bishops' Mission to the Vulnerable at Home and Abroad Second Collection this Weekend**

This weekend the faithful in many dioceses in the United States will have the opportunity to assist people worldwide who suffer from war, natural disasters, violent persecution, and extreme poverty by contributing to The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection benefit six Catholic agencies that offer aid to vulnerable people in the United States and overseas. To learn about projects supported by funds from The Catholic Relief Services Collection in 2024, please visit: <https://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief>.

Now more than ever, your participation in this collection is vital to the Catholic initiatives that reveal Christ's love to those in need. You can give at Mass or through our parish's online/e-giving platform.

**MARIAN HOMES, INC. for the intellectually disabled**



**SATURDAY - APRIL 5**

**SPONSORED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
Nativity Catholic Church**

**6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA 22015**

**Parking Lot - Drive thru - from 10:00 am-12:00 noon**

**DONATIONS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED  
Proceeds will be for the benefit of the intellectually disabled**

Bring your old documents, cancelled checks, paper, manila folders, windowed envelopes, etc.  
NO newspapers, magazines, card board  
NO heavy metal objects, especially 3-ring binders  
NO hard-drives, discs, tapes, etc.



**Adult Confirmation Program**

**Tuesday Nights: April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20  
from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Fr. Ready Room**

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

Nativity proudly presents a 5-week Confirmation preparation course for baptized Catholic adults that have received First Communion, but have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is also open to anyone just wanting to know more about their faith.

The Church welcomes you to take part in this grace-filled Adult Confirmation Class presented by the priests of the parish.

Please bring your sacramental record from your home parish, or a copy of your baptism certificate along with your First Holy Communion certificate.

Additionally, if you're a person beginning or growing in your faith and would like to know more, you are most certainly welcome! Those who complete this class will be confirmed by Bishop Burbidge in June.

**Register on the parish website at:**  
<https://nativityburke.org/adult-confirmation-program/>

**Hello from the Rosary Ministry!!**

**Please join us for our next Rosary meeting on Sunday, April 27th from 2:00pm - 3:30pm in the Father Ready Room**  
A little Rosary History... Did you know that the Catholic Rosary began in the 12th century! Around 1214 the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Dominic and instructed him on how to pray the Rosary. It wasn't officially recognized by the church until 1569 when Pope Saint Pius V established a devotion to the Rosary. That was over 800 years ago!

Please join us and help get Rosaries into praying hands. All supplies are provided. This is a great activity to do as a family. If you have any questions please contact us at [rosaryministry@nativityburke.org](mailto:rosaryministry@nativityburke.org)

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

**SENSORY MASS - APRIL 13, 2025**

Nativity's next Sensory Mass will be on Sunday, April 13.

The Church celebrates Palm Sunday that day, which means palms will be available in the back of the Church and the readings during the Liturgy of the Word will be longer than usual. Aside from those liturgical differences, all of our regular accommodations will remain the same.

You can also still participate in Mass in the Fr. Ready Room while watching the live-stream or access the quiet calming room in the back of Church. Since this Sensory Mass will be longer, families might also consider building in extra breaks in the quiet calming area if needed.



## *Congratulations to our 2025 Newly Confirmed Students*

Davide Abella  
Rosalie Abella  
Tillman Abeyta  
Alessandro Aguilar  
Sofia Araujo  
Everette Arp  
Joshua Averanga Choque  
Bauer Banchek  
Hannah Baran  
Carlos Barravino  
Benjamin Bassler  
Kaylin Baumann  
Daniel Becker  
Charlotte Berret  
Ana Berrios  
Lucy Bodani  
Abigail Bolz  
Danica Borie  
Sarah Bosch  
Ethan Brace  
Rachel Brace  
Sarah Brace  
Alison Brady  
Gwendalyn Brannon  
Samuel Brazie  
John Brooke  
Kellan Burke  
Jimena Bustamante  
Caroline Campana  
Genevieve Carter  
Quinn Chan  
Jayden Charters  
Isabella Chiapusio  
Miel Joshua Chu  
Marin Clark  
Aubrey Clark  
Alexander Coles  
Brayden Collins  
Kieren Collins  
Hannah Cook

Jake Cordova Rojas  
Emily Corner  
Gabriel Crean  
Cooper Crouch  
Ryan Dunham  
Emma Eagle  
Danny Espinoza  
Ian Fairgrieve  
Adam Fedok  
Thomas Feige  
Joseph Field  
Ella Finerfrock  
Patrick Fisher  
Marian Foley  
Lani Fontenot  
Avery Forde  
Giuliana Garces Montague  
Leonardo Gomez  
Makayla Gonzales Sanchez  
Valerie Gonzalez  
Lucas Gotico  
Anisa Harrache  
Jacob Hemmick  
Kellen Hitchcock  
Parker Hochstein  
Quinn Hoenle  
Logan Hollifield  
Ryan Holtmann  
Apollo Hopkins  
John Howell  
Olivia Huff  
Ava Hurtado  
Olivia Hutchens  
Dominic Iaci  
Julianna Renee Johnson  
Camryn Johnson  
Makenzie Johnson  
Jake Kucsan  
Ryan LaCoste  
Sam Laden  
Laine Lemley  
Anthony Licud  
NatalieLineberry  
Owen Linker  
Juliet Lord

William Lundy  
Sophia Maguire  
Samantha Maguire  
Brendan Mahoney  
XanderMain  
Brayden Manikas  
Tessa Marzluff  
Sullivan Massaro  
Elia Mazerolle  
Kasen Mazerolle  
Kelly McAllister  
Ryan McAllister  
Taylor McCoy  
Cora McDonald  
Maura McLane  
Bryce McPherson  
Zoey McPherson  
Wyatt Mersinger  
Haley Metrocavage  
Joseph Mickalonis  
Lia Molina  
Marion Kaiden Monteron  
Justine Morales  
Colin Morris  
Corinne Murphy  
Easton Murphy  
Dylan Nachman  
Dalilah Nativi  
Bryant Navarro Marin  
Liem Nguyen  
Bella Nguyen  
Emma Nguyen  
Laura Nguyen  
Luke Nobles  
Gavin Novitske  
Aubrey Nowak  
Rocco Nuzzo  
Grayson Nye  
Claudia Oddo  
Alivia Elise Pace  
Celeste Pagoada-Guevara  
Isabella Paluzsay  
Liam Perez Clum  
Neil Perry  
Colt Pfrommer  
Kylee Pfrommer

Chase Prentiss  
Byron Purdy  
Zane Ethan Ragasa  
Xavier Raybon  
Elise Rebano  
Sabrina Reilly  
Kimberly Rivera Juarez  
Anna Rizzardi  
John Roache III  
Sofia Rodriguez  
Liam Rottkamp  
Gianna Ryan  
Gianna Sadowski  
Caroline Scaman  
Sawyer Schmeck  
Layna Schuety  
Cole Schumacher  
Lourdes Schvind  
Xavier Searight  
Kendrick Shia  
Tyler Shurer  
Owen Simpson  
Adam Sloan  
Madelyn Speed  
Samuel Stockburger  
Thomas Stokes  
Autumn Stoltzfus  
Matthew Street  
Veronica Supinger  
Ximena Tanner  
Maya Tanner Borjas  
Mia Teresinski  
Kaylee Thomas  
Grace Thomes  
Olivia Thompson  
Colin Torpey  
Jordan Tran  
Ariel Vargas  
Brody Vogel  
Gabriela Vogele  
Max Warbel  
Matthew Workmeister  
Owen Yabes  
Charles Yelnicker  
Grace York  
Mateo Zabalaga

**Nativity Lenten Fish Fry**

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus

Fr Sikora Council 7992



Friday April 11th, 2025

Serving from 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Dine in the Parish Hall or Take To-Go

**Menu**



3/28

Adults	Kids
Fried or Baked Fish	Fish Sticks
French Fries	French Fries
Hush Puppies	Hush Puppies
Cole Slaw	Cole Slaw
Dessert	Dessert



4/11

**Advanced Tickets**

(Sold After Mass, see dates below.)

Adults \$14.00 and Children under 12 \$5.00 (Kids Menu)

Tickets at the door

Adults \$15.00 and Children under 12 \$5.00 (Kids Menu)

Limited Space is available. Reserve your time slot after Mass

**THIS WEEKEND  
SPACE IS LIMITED**

For more information Contact

Barry Basselgia—bbasselgia@gmail.com

**Nativity at Virginia Pro-Life Day**

Virginia Pro-Life Day was an opportunity for Nativity parishioners and other pro-life constituents from across Virginia to join together in Richmond to meet with our respective legislators to advocate for LIFE—from the moment of fertilization to Natural death and all stages in between. Our Nativity contingent included Msgr. Bob, Virginia District Co-Captains Rick and Linda Loffredo, Nativity Social Media Director, Mary Castellano, Christine Birden, Anne Bowden and Darren Randall.

Many legislative topics were addressed by our district group. For example, Msgr. Bob pointed out that the Hyde Amendment (which only funds abortion for danger to the life of the mother, rape and incest) has been in place in federal law for 47 years and Virginia should likewise do so like in most other states. In particular, this would strike out the current Virginia provision that discriminates unjustly the targeting for abortion unborn children who “might” be born with disabilities.

Rick Loffredo voiced our opposition to the Extreme Abortion Amendment to the Virginia Constitution co-sponsored by Sen. Foy (D) that would add abortion on-demand with virtually no limits to Virginia’s constitution; severely jeopardize the ban on partial-birth abortion and the law requiring parental consent; and force taxpayers to pay for abortion under any circumstance under state-funded programs; lack assurances that abortions be performed by physicians; and potentially allow for sterilization and so-called “sex-change” operations for minors. Darren Randall indicated our opposition to the Senator Foy (D)-sponsored Mandated Coverage of Abortion-Inducing Drugs—health plans should not be forced to cover life-ending drugs. In conclusion, Msgr. Bob suggested that the senator at least consider some middle of the road alternative to the extreme abortion amendment and Rick concluded by advocating for the Delegates Freitas (R) and Griffin (R)-sponsored Protection of Babies Born Alive bill that would save these born children from potential cruel deaths by starvation and exposure that is tragically allowed in Virginia. Separately, Christine Birden discussed at the office of Kathy Tran (D) the increased mental health issues for moms associated with abortion and recommended switching resources from abortion-promoting programs to programs supporting moms and babies.



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](http://www.carministry.org), or contact the charity’s Director, Larry Gordon at 703.237.8479 for more info.

**ATTENTION: MASS INTENTIONS CALENDAR FILLED**

All Mass Intentions are fully booked through the end of June 2025. We will open up the Mass Intentions Calendar for July-December 2025 sometime in May. Please watch the bulletin for the announcement of the exact opening date of our Mass Intention Scheduling Calendar.

**LIVING STATIONS**  
*of the Cross*

**Friday, April 11**  
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.

**2025 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL ABOUNDING IN HOPE!**

Many thanks to those who have pledged to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal! As of March 27, Nativity parishioners have donated and pledged \$644,818 but with only 13% of registered families participating. If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully reflect on your blessings and consider making a commitment this Lent. The BLA unites as a diocesan family to support programs, ministries and services which help tens of thousands of people. Every donation, large or small, is essential. You may mail a pledge, go online to [arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) or scan the QR code to make a gift. Thank you for your generosity!



SCAN ME

The Associates of St. John Bosco (ASJB), a Catholic non-profit in the diocese founded by Fr. Christopher Vaccaro, has opened its scholarship application for all current and rising college students. This year, ASJB has more than doubled their scholarship offerings! ASJB will be awarding up to \$40,000 to up to five worthy recipients who seek to serve the Church in some way after they graduate from college. Applicants must be residents of the Diocese of Arlington. Students may apply by May 19, 2025, by visiting: [www.asjb.org/scholarship-program](http://www.asjb.org/scholarship-program).

**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. We have gathered for lunches or dinners out, retreats at the Benedictine Monastery, museum tours, etc. Our next meeting will take place on Monday, April 14th at 11:00am in the Father Ready room. For further information, please contact Cat Sands at [csands@nativityburke.org](mailto:csands@nativityburke.org).  
May God bless you!

**Nativity Gift Shop**

Come visit your Nativity Gift Shop, we have many new items in stock!  
We carry an assortment of First Communion white ties & veils, rosaries, Confirmation Crosses, First Communion gifts, new cards made in Italy, etc.  
Open after most Masses.

**Annual Multi-Car Raffle**

**\*\*TWO WEEKS TO GO\*\*** Please don't wait until the last minute to sell yours. All tickets, stubs and monies should be postmarked by Monday, 15 April. Remember \$5 gets a chance to win all four 2025 vehicles from Ourisman Ford of Manassas (Ford Escape, Mustang, Maverick Truck (Hybrid) and Bronco Sport) plus up to \$40,000 in cash. The drawings will be held on Saturday, 3 May at All Saints in Manassas, VA. Please mail your sold ticket stubs directly to All Saints in the Envelope provided.



If you need more tickets or have questions, please contact PGK Sam Morthland @ 703-455-2186.



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

Monday, April 7th

7:30 am Special Intention for Megan Golinowski

Tuesday, April 8th

7:30 am † All Souls in Purgatory  
12:00 pm † Andrea Olivieri

Wednesday, April 9th

7:30 am † Richard Stanfill

Thursday, April 10th

7:30 am † Fred & Connie Errico  
12:00 pm † Isabelle & Pat Wagner

Friday, April 11th

7:30 am † Samson Paraguya  
9:00 am † Roger Lemieux

Saturday, April 12th

9:00 am † Mary Ellen Paraguya  
5:00 pm Parishioners  
7:00 pm † Mary Padilla Vargas

Sunday, April 13th

7:00 am † Bill Conley  
9:00 am † Alfred Rossi  
11:00 am † Paul Stout  
1:00 pm † Marshall Levitan  
5:30 pm † Dennis & Mary Treanor

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

**Men's 143rd Arlington Cursillo Retreat: April 24-27, 2025  
At Missionhurst Retreat Center, Arlington VA**  
*"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."* (John 20:21)

The Cursillo Weekend is a retreat, but also so much more. It is an opportunity to examine and celebrate yourself, deepen your relationship with Christ, and continue – or begin – your faith journey with the love and support of the Catholic community.

You will: Grow spiritually - Make new friends - Experience Christ's unlimited love

Visit <https://www.arlingtoncursillo.org/> to register, or contact [mglaverdiere@msn.com](mailto:mglaverdiere@msn.com) for more information.

**TWO WORDS: "THE NATIVITY YARD SALE IS  
RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!"**

During your annual spring clean-up and before tossing out your former "treasures", please consider storing them in a corner of your garage or basement for donation to the Annual Yard Sale.

The Nativity Annual Yard Sale for Charity sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Father Vincent S. Sikora Council 7992, is **Saturday, June 28, 2025. Collections will begin Saturday, June 21, 2025 and continue through Wednesday June 25, 2025.** Your donations are tax-deductible and sincerely appreciated.

**ECHO Collection this weekend  
Food Room Most Needed Items**

ECHO's Food Room continues to break records. On March 1 and 2 we collected 716 lbs .

- Choose sizes appropriate for our average family size of four.
- Include an assortment of food to ensure a variety of items.
- We are short on many other items such as personal care products and the items listed below.

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

*Protein Items, e.g., can chicken, Spam, chili, Tin Fish (tuna, sardines, salmon, etc.), Canned Fruit, Bagged Beans (black, red, or garbanzo preferred), Lentils, Spaghetti (pasta and sauce) Instant and Ground Coffee, Canned Tomatoes, Tomato (paste and Tomato Sauce), Baked Beans, Bagged Rice (white, jasmine or basmati), Instant (Box) Potatoes, Crackers, Ramen, Can milk, shelf stable milk, Boxed Pasta, Juice (Bottles or box), Tea (Green, Herbal or Black), Healthy Snacks, Spices (garlic, onion, cinnamon, salt, pepper), Masa (Corn) Flour, Boxed cereal, Lemon or Lime Juice, Jelly and Honey, Tortillas, Cooking Oil, Brown Paper Bags, Reusable Grocery Bags. Children's Toothbrushes, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Facial Tissues, Dish Soap, Paper Towels Body/Hand Lotion, Band Aids, Shaving Cream/Razors, Diapers - Sizes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Baby Wipes, Sanitary Napkins.*

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

**FOR SAFETY REASONS, PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF OR LEAVE USED CLOTHING OR OTHER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS IN OUR NARTHEX OR AT ANY OF OUR EXITS**

If you have items to donate, please call the Parish Office at 703 455 2400 first to find out if there is a need. You can also always contact ECHO at 703 569 9160 or visit them to drop off donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield.

**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 attending Saint John Paul the Great High School, Cayleigh Marzluff, Abigail Hoenle, Jennifer Dee and Sophia Cassidy attending Bishop Ireton High School, and Will Moorhouse attending Gonzaga College 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 website and in the Parish office. Application submissions are due no later than midnight, Friday, April 25, 2025. Scholarship awardees will be announced in late May or Early June. Questions, please contact Dave Zivich, at [davezivich@gmail.com](mailto:davezivich@gmail.com) or 703-598-0698.

Please join Father Bob for 18 holes of golf, including driving range, beverages, lunch following play, and awards in our tournament to benefit the Youth of Nativity Parish.

***The Tenth Annual Nativity tournament takes place  
on Monday, May 19, 2025  
at Westfields Golf Club, Clifton VA***

Can't join us that day? Please consider sponsoring a hole or one of our many other sponsorship opportunities. Registration and sponsorship information can be found on the the Nativity website or pick up a registration form at the Parish Office.



*Thank You!*

**A Heartfelt Thank You to the  
Knights of Columbus**

With grateful hearts, we extend our deepest appreciation to the Knights of Columbus for their unwavering support of our Confirmation program.

Your generosity in providing our Confirmation students with beautiful Bibles and hosting our celebration reception has truly been a blessing. Your kindness and dedication to our students, their families, and our program reflect the spirit of faith and service that strengthens our community.

Thank you for being a guiding light on their journey of faith.

May God bless you abundantly for all that you do!

The Religious Education Program



**You are invited to join Jesus in the  
Garden of Gethsemane**

The 7 Churches Pilgrimage is an ancient tradition within the Church to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at seven different churches on Holy Thursday evening. The Office of Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministries has created 3 different reflection booklets in English and in Spanish (Adult, Teen, and Parents with Children). Booklets will be available at participating parishes and online. For more information or to plan your route, please visit our website: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Young-Adult-Ministry/7-Churches-Pilgrimage/>

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION

Sundays | 6:30-8:30 p.m.



## EDGE: GRADES 6-8



Twice a month: Sunday 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
& Friday 7:00-8:30 p.m.

See website for full schedule

## VBC & COTE - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our summer camps will run June 17-20 this year! We're looking for teens and adults to volunteer. For VBC, you can be a part of the following teams - music, Bible stories, outdoors, science, art, & more! For COTE, volunteers will lead a small group through various service projects. Volunteer registration is now open on the parish website.

See website for full schedule

Before attending, please register for the 2024-2025 year of ministry using our free, online forms.

✉ [cym@nativityburke.org](mailto:cym@nativityburke.org)    📱 @nativitycym

### PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC):

We are a social group, mostly aged 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate-membership group.) Come out with us to: musical Guys and Dolls at Bishop Ireton H.S. (April 6); dinner in Shirlington (April 12); Mass at St. Clare and brunch in Clifton (April 13); Thursday lunches (April 10, 24); square dancing at Greenspring Village (April 15, 22, 29); walk at Algonkian Regional Park (April 16); Easter Sunday dinner in Fairfax (April 20); preparing/serving meal at Christ House (April 26); musical Legally Blonde (April 27). For details, visit our website: [bit.ly/ptsc](http://bit.ly/ptsc). With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at [ptscnva@gmail.com](mailto:ptscnva@gmail.com).

## Join us in praying the Divine Mercy Novena leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday on April 27th The Second Sunday of Easter, April 27th, is the Feast of Divine Mercy, or Divine Mercy Sunday



"Jesus, I trust in You!"

The Divine Mercy Novena is prayed nine days prior to Divine Mercy Sunday, so beginning on Good Friday, April 18th. 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.

*"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 27th is from 2:45 pm - 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. See the Nativity website for more information.



THE NATIVITY DAMES INVITE YOU TO A:

## High Tea Party

BENEFITTING OUR NATIVITY SISTERS

Saturday, May 10th, 2025, 1:00pm-4:00pm  
Father Martin Center & Cafeteria

TICKETS ARE \$40 PER PERSON

The High Tea will be catered by Boyd & Parker Events and will offer you an afternoon of entertainment, a Purse Auction, Photo booth, door prizes as well as, an opportunity to shop various small business vendors.

Ticket sales begin April 5-6, April 26-27 and May 3-4

Limited tickets are available. The Tea will be open to everyone - you do not have to be a Nativity Dame to attend (unless you want to be a Dame for a day!)

For Information about our Sisters order: The Handmaids of Reparation visit: [handmaidsofreparation.org](http://handmaidsofreparation.org)

If you are unable to make the tea and would like to donate to the sisters directly, please use the QR code: to make your donation.




The vendor shopping in the cafeteria from 1:00pm-4:00pm is an open parish event However, you must purchase a ticket to attend the tea. Hats and gloves are encouraged!


Enquires on the event: Kim Delatte: [kdelatte65@gmail.com](mailto:kdelatte65@gmail.com) or 703-587-2749







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



**TODAY, Sunday, April 6 ~ Our Book Fair is in the School Lobby NOW**  
**Join Us 8:30 am - 2:30 pm**



Our Book Fair will feature a wide range of books suitable for all age groups and interests. From the latest children's fiction to timeless classics, there's something for every young reader. This is a fantastic opportunity for you and your child to find new books to read, cherish and enjoy.

**Come By and Say Hello!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Nativity Students:  
 Steering Along the Path to Success**



Congratulations to our Nativity Seaperch teams who did a fantastic job at the recent regional competition, and especially to the team of Julia, Lucy, Nolan, and Yokie (Yokie was absent as she's still recovering from the flu), who advanced to the second round at the United States Naval Academy (USNA).



There were 84 teams competing; only eight teams were selected to go on to the second round. While they didn't get a high enough score to receive an invitation to nationals, they continued the Nativity tradition of earning a spot in the second round at USNA for the third year in a row!  
 Next year – Nationals!

SeaPerch is an integrated STEM-education program that focuses on hands-on learning by building and operating underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs). Students, often in teams, build their own ROVs using a kit of low-cost parts, and then participate in competitions where they navigate their robots through obstacle courses and complete real-world inspired tasks.

The students have lots of fun while putting their STEM knowledge to the test. With activities like this, it's no surprise that Nativity has recently been recognized as an ITEEA STEM School of Excellence.



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**7th Grade Seat Available ~**

**Registration for the 2025-26 School Year Open Now**

Please contact our Registrar, Shannon Murphy, at: smurph@nativityschool.org, or 703-455-2300, to schedule a tour and a day for your rising 7th grader to "shadow" here at school. Join us at Nativity to see how your child would spend his or her days here -- learning, praying, sharing, and laughing. We may be just the school for which you've been searching!

\*\*\*\*\*



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
 IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



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

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

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

**Lenten Fish Fry:** The second Fish Fry is Friday, April 11. Volunteer to serve your fellow parishioners! This is always a big event and we need your help. See SUG on LinkTree.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday, April 26. Come help this great family event! SUG will be posted on LinkTree.

**KOVAR Collection:** Help us collect for KOVAR after Mass on the weekend of April 26-27. See SUG on LinkTree.

**Food for Others:** Volunteer for food distribution to the poor, delivered on designated Thursday or Friday evenings.

For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net. Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock\_w@yahoo.com. Deliver food from Giant to the FFO warehouse Tuesday mornings; contact Br. Bob Colella robert.colella.86@gmail.com.

**Name Tags:** If you have not received your name tag, email Warden Steve Resch at warden7992@nativityburke.org.

**Nativity Ushers assist at collections:** Volunteer for your Mass! Volunteer on Link Tree for a database of potential helpers!

**Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies:** We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. See Linktree.

**Handy Knights Ministry:** Parishioners unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small home repairs due to health or other factors, contact the "Handy Knights."

Email handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com.

**The Fraternal Committee:** Brothers helping brothers in need of assistance. Brothers and their families (living and deceased) 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 Mark Corzine at fn2996@vakofc.org.

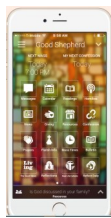
**Join the Knights!** The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy changing world. Join today at <https://www.kofc.org/joinus>. Your dues will be free for one year: Be sure to enter our council #7992 and the code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY when you register. Please email our Deputy Grand Knight, Michael Bender, at dgk7992@nativityburke.org or the Grand Knight, Chris Odell at gk7992@nativityburke.org with any questions.

**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.

**CONNECT WITH NATIVITY BY  
DOWNLOADING THE FREE  
myParish APP**



Nativity Parishioners can keep up to date with church events and notifications but you can also have access to prayers, readings, and reflections on your phone at all times.

This first-of-its-kind app for iOS and Android devices, myParish helps build stronger Catholic communities and better engage the New Evangelization.

You can download it for free and just add Nativity Catholic Church, Burke VA in the search field for our parish. If you have any questions please call the parish office.



**Operation Starfish  
Honduras Mission Trip  
July 7-11, 2025**

Our mission is to visit Honduras and see our newest partnership with Operation Starfish. If you're college-age or in your 20s or 30s, contact Alison Fram to express your interest in coming with us!

✉ [afam@nativityburke.org](mailto:afam@nativityburke.org)  
Learn more: [nativityburke.org/operation-starfish/](http://nativityburke.org/operation-starfish/)



**small group  
for married  
young adult  
women**



**Mondays at 7:30pm, biweekly,**  
hosted in the home of one of the leaders.

If interested, email Alison at [afam@nativityburke.org](mailto:afam@nativityburke.org) for details.

**Pro-Life Corner**

**IVF and the Christian Family** - Fertility and in vitro fertilization (IVF) are incredibly sensitive topics and deserve to be treated with a spirit of accompaniment, compassion, and understanding. Bishop Burbidge encourages considering his pastoral letter: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/2025/01/22/the-christian-family-in-vitro-fertilization-and-heroic-witness-to-true-love/>

**The Planned Parenthood Myth** - "Planned Parenthood supporters insist that if the abortion giant loses its ~\$700 million taxpayer subsidy, women will lose access to basic health care. The reality is that the legitimate services Planned Parenthood claims to provide are overstated--and widely available elsewhere. Former Planned Parenthood manager Ramona Trevino recently joined The 40 Days for Life Podcast to expose how the abortion chain uses the basic health" myth as a cover for killing hundreds of thousands of babies every year." (40daysforlife.com)

**Defund Planned Parenthood** - The ~\$700 Million funded by the federal government to Planned Parenthood directly caused the violent deaths of ~400,000 innocent preborn children last year. Sign 40 Days for Life's petition at [defundplannedparenthood.com](http://defundplannedparenthood.com)

**Tepeyac Pro-Life OB/GYN** - Faith-based Pro-life OB/GYN: restoring integrity of human person with modern medicine and healing of Christ. [tepeyacobgyn.com](http://tepeyacobgyn.com), 703.273.9440.

**Gabriel Project** - Pregnancy Outreach for Expectant Mothers: Offers emotional, spiritual, material, and financial support through a pregnancy helpline and parish-based volunteer "Angel" support. [helpforpregnantwomen.org](http://helpforpregnantwomen.org), 866.444.3553.

**A Woman's Choice Center** - Providing Compassionate Support: Free pregnancy, medical, educational, and support services for women and families. [awomanschoicecenter.com](http://awomanschoicecenter.com), 703.538.4305.

**Mary's Comfort of VA** - Ensuring Expectant Mothers Shelter, Support and New Beginnings: Provides training in parenting and life skills, career coaching and educational advancement, [maryscomfortva.org](http://maryscomfortva.org), 703.455.4500.



**Mary's Shelter** - Sheltering Women and Their Children: Provides an expectant mother, and any additional children she may have, with housing for up to three years to further her education and/or secure employment. <https://marysshelterva.org/>, 540.374.3407.

**Catholic Charities Pregnancy and Adoption Services** - Provides transformative services to those whose lives are impacted by unplanned pregnancy. <https://www.ccca.net/need-help/pregnancy-and-adoption-services/>, 703.841.3830.

**Project Rachel** - Help after Abortion: A safe place to share your emotions and work toward healing, [helpafterabortion.org](http://helpafterabortion.org), 703.841.2504.

**Rachel's Vineyard** - A safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem broken hearts: Weekend retreats offer supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment. [www.rachelsvineyard.org/](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/), 877.467.3463.

**Marian Homes** - Purchases and maintains affordable homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities, [marianhomes.org/](http://marianhomes.org/).



**Employment Opportunities in the Diocese**

Find the perfect Opportunity at:  
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/human-resources/employment-opportunities/>



# 7

## CHURCHES PILGRIMAGE

PARTICIPATE IN AN  
ANCIENT CATHOLIC TRADITION  
TO PRAYERFULLY PREPARE FOR  
EASTER THIS YEAR

On the evening of Holy Thursday, April 17th, travel to seven different churches to spend time in adoration of Jesus and reflect upon his agony in the garden. Scan the QR code for a pilgrimage guide and to download reflections.

*Separate reflections available in  
English and Spanish for adults, teens,  
or for parents with young children.*



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON  
OFFICE OF YOUTH, CAMPUS, &  
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

**PVI PLAYERS AND ITS PRESENT**



**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT**  
 LYRICS BY TIM RICE MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

**Friday, Saturday, April 4, 5 at 7 p.m.**  
**Sunday, April 6 at 1 p.m.**


Teatro Montini  
 St. Paul VI Catholic High School  
 42341 Braddock Road, Chantilly, VA



Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of the Really Useful Group  
 concordtheatricals.com.

**ECHO Can Use Your Old Laptop**  
 ECHO refurbishes donated computers to give to clients with school-aged children or to those who need a computer for work or work skills development. If you are planning to replace a Windows 10 laptop computer before the October 14, 2025 End-Of-Life deadline, please consider donating it to ECHO. ECHO will wipe the hard drive, install new software including Windows, and prepare the laptop for the next client on our waiting list. Any questions, please email [itteam@echo-inc.org](mailto:itteam@echo-inc.org).

**ECHO's Spring Yard Sale is April 26**  
 The ECHO Yard Sale offers a gymnasium full of items organized by category. Doors open at 8:00am on Saturday, April 26, at St. Bernadette's School Gym, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Proceeds support ECHO, Ecumenical Community Helping Others. We could use some helping hands to set up, take down, assist cashiers during the sale and more. Set up is from 9:00am to noon on Friday, April 25, and take down begins at noon on April 26. If you have a few hours to contribute to our good cause, please call ECHO at the "I can give help" number, 703-569-7972. Please note that, if you are looking for assistance from ECHO, always use the "In need of help" number, 703-569-9160.

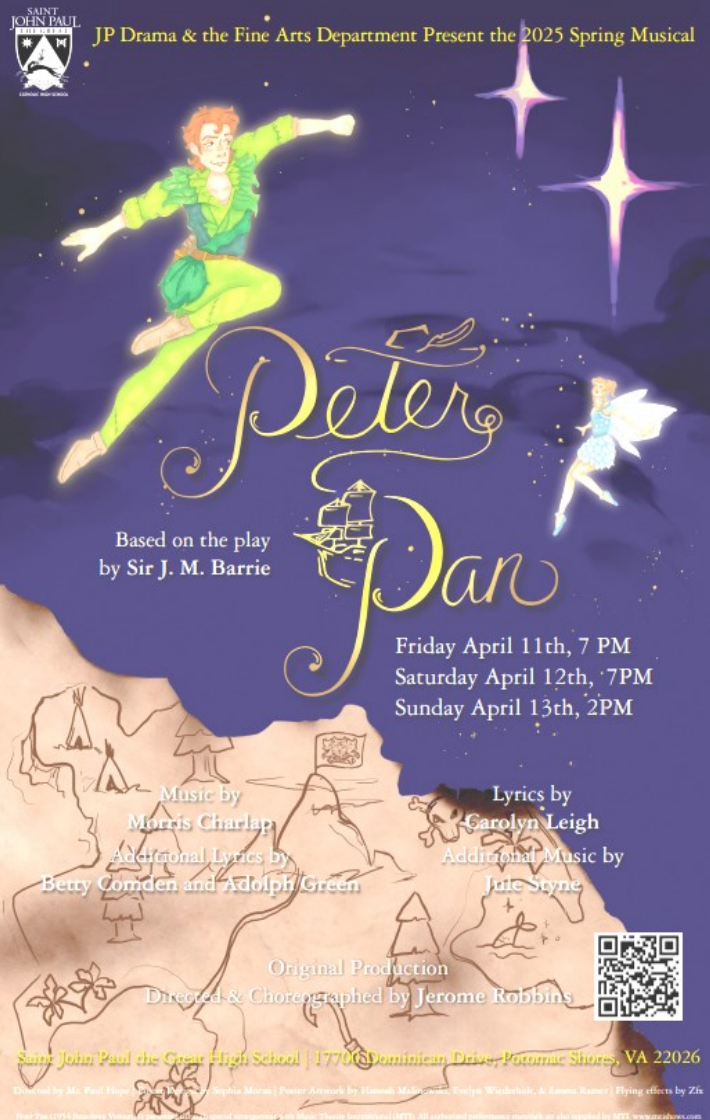


**A message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry**

*"...Grant us the ingenuity to develop clean and efficient energy sources, reduce wasteful consumption, and transition to renewable technologies. May our energy choices reflect our commitment to a healthier planet. In your name, we pray for responsible energy practices and a brighter, greener future. Amen." - strengthinprayer.com*

The theme for this week's Virginia Interfaith Power & Light's Lenten calendar is, "Energy Efficiency." Fairfax County's new Sustain Fairfax webpage notes, "Fairfax County's climate is changing due to greenhouse gases warming our planet—we're experiencing more intense storms, extreme heat, heavy rains, and unpredictable weather. Most greenhouse gas emissions come from everyday activities like powering our homes or driving our cars. By taking action now, you can reduce your energy bill, help cut emissions, protect our neighborhoods, and make Fairfax sustainable for everyone...."

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



SAINT JOHN PAUL HIGH SCHOOL  
 JP Drama & the Fine Arts Department Present the 2025 Spring Musical


**Peter Pan**

Based on the play by Sir J. M. Barrie

Friday April 11th, 7 PM  
 Saturday April 12th, 7PM  
 Sunday April 13th, 2PM

Music by Morris Charlap  
 Additional Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green  
 Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh  
 Additional Music by Jule Styne

Original Production  
 Directed & Choreographed by Jerome Robbins



Saint John Paul the Great High School | 17706 Dominion Drive, Patuxent Shores, VA 22026  
 Directed by Mr. Paul Hayes, Produced by Mrs. Cynthia Moran | Poster Artwork by Hannah Maloney, Design: Woodstock, & Emma Rauer | Flying effects by Zia  
 Photo: ©1994 Broadway World, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. All trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners.



# O Come, Holy Spirit! Living a Spirit-Led Life

Free Workshop  
with videos featuring  
Father Dave Pivonka,  
Testimonies, and Small Group  
Discussion

Friday, April 25 6:30pm–9:00pm  
Saturday, April 26 10:00am–4:00pm  
Saturday, Bring a bag lunch

St. Mary of Sorrows Parish Center  
St. Joseph's Hall  
5222 Sideburn Rd,  
Fairfax, VA 22032

To register or for more information email:  
[logsoffireprayergroup@gmail.com](mailto:logsoffireprayergroup@gmail.com)  
or call 703.425.0086

Hosted by St. Mary of Sorrows Logs of Fire and Nativity's Love is Given prayer groups

# **SEMANA SANTA**

## **Se Celebra en la Parroquia DE LA NATIVIDAD**

### **JUEVES SANTO, 17 DE ABRIL**

Oraciones de la Mañana a las 8:30am  
Misa de la Cena de Señor: 7:30pm (Bilingüe)  
Oración Individual en el Altar de Reposo ~ Oraciones de la Noche 11:45 en  
la Capilla de Reposo (Salon de reunión Padre Ready )

### **VIERNES SANTO, 18 DE ABRIL**

Oraciones de la mañana a las 8:30am  
Estaciones de la Santa Cruz: 6:00pm (Español)  
Celebración de la Pasión de Nuestro Señor: 6:30pm (Español)

### **SABADO SANTO, 19 DE ABRIL**

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

### **VIGILIA DE PASCUA, 19 DE ABRIL A LAS 8:30pm**

La Vigilia de Pascua 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 OICA, RCIC



### **DOMINGO DE PASCUA DE LA RESURRECCION DEL SEÑOR, 20 DE ABRIL**

Misas a las: 5:30am, 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am (Ingles)  
y 1:00pm (Español)

**NO habrá Misa por la tarde el Domingo de Pascua**

**V Domingo de Cuaresma, Ciclo C.****Jesús, la mujer y la familia****Autor: P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap****Sitio Web: P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap****saías 43, 16-21;****Filipenses 3, 8-14;****Juan 8, 1-11.**

El Evangelio del V domingo de Cuaresma es el episodio de la mujer sorprendida en adulterio a la que Jesús salva de la lapidación. Jesús no pretende con ello decir que el adulterio no es pecado o que es cosa de poco. Existe una condena explícita de ello, si bien delicadísima, en las palabras dirigidas al final a la mujer: «No peques más». Jesús no busca por lo tanto aprobar la acción de la mujer; intenta más bien condenar la actitud de quien siempre está dispuesto a descubrir y denunciar el pecado ajeno. Lo vimos la vez pasada, analizando la actitud de Jesús hacia los pecadores en general.

Pero ahora, como de costumbre, partiendo de este episodio, ampliamos nuestros horizontes examinando la actitud de Jesús hacia el matrimonio y la familia en todo el Evangelio. Entre las muchas tesis extrañas apuntadas sobre Jesús en años recientes, también está la de un Jesús que habría repudiado la familia natural y todos los vínculos parentales en nombre de la pertenencia a una comunidad distinta, en la que Dios es el padre y los discípulos son todos hermanos y hermanas, y habría propuesto a los suyos una vida errante, como hacían en aquel tiempo, fuera de Israel, los filósofos cínicos.

Efectivamente hay en los evangelios palabras de Cristo sobre los vínculos familiares que a primera vista suscitan desconcierto. Jesús dice: «Si alguno viene donde mí y no odia a su padre, a su madre, a su mujer, a sus hijos, a sus hermanos, a sus hermanas y hasta su propia vida, no puede ser discípulo mío» (Lc 14, 26). Palabras duras, ciertamente, pero el evangelista Mateo se apresura a explicar el sentido de la palabra «odiar» en este caso: «El que ama a su padre o a su madre... a su hijo o a su hija más que a mí, no es digno de mí» (Mt 10, 37). Jesús no pide por lo tanto odiar a los padres o a los hijos, sino no amarles hasta el punto de renunciar, por ellos, a seguirle.

Otro episodio que suscita desconcierto. Un día Jesús dijo a uno: «Sígueme». Aquél respondió: "Déjame ir primero a enterrar a mi padre". Jesús le respondió: "Deja que los muertos entierren a sus muertos; tú vete a anunciar el Reino de Dios"» (Lc 9, 59 s.). ¡Oh, cielos! Ciertos críticos aquí se desatan. ¡Esta es una petición escandalosa, una desobediencia a Dios, quien ordena atender a los padres; una clara violación de los deberes filiales!

El escándalo de estos críticos constituye para nosotros una prueba preciosa. Ciertas palabras de Cristo no se explican mientras se le considere un simple hombre, por más que sea excepcional. Sólo Dios puede pedir que se le ame más que al padre y que, para seguirle, se renuncie hasta a acudir a su sepultura. Por lo demás, desde una perspectiva de fe como la de Cristo, ¿qué aprovechaba más al padre del difunto: que su hijo estuviera en casa en aquel momento para sepultar su cuerpo o que siguiera al enviado de ese Dios a quien su alma debía ahora presentarse?

Pero tal vez la explicación en este caso es más sencilla aún. Se sabe que la expresión «Déjame ir primero a enterrar a mi padre» se usaba a veces (como se hace también hoy) para decir: «déjame ir a atender a mi padre mientras esté vivo; cuando muera, lo sepultaré y después

te seguiré». Jesús pediría por lo tanto sólo no posponer por tiempo indeterminado la respuesta a su llamada. Muchos de nosotros, religiosos, sacerdotes y religiosas, hemos tenido que hacer la misma elección y a menudo los padres han sido los más felices por esta obediencia nuestra.

El desconcierto ante estas peticiones de Jesús nace en gran parte de no tener en cuenta la diferencia entre lo que Él pedía a todos indistintamente y lo que pedía sólo a algunos llamados a compartir su vida enteramente dedicada al reino, como sucede hoy en la Iglesia.

Hay otros dichos de Jesús que se podrían examinar. Alguno hasta podría acusar a Jesús de ser el responsable de la proverbial dificultad entre suegra y nuera para ponerse de acuerdo, porque dijo: «He venido a enfrentar al hombre con su padre, a la hija con su madre, a la nuera con su suegra» (Mt 10, 35). Pero no es Él quien separará; será la actitud diferente que cada uno adoptará en la familia respecto a Él lo que determinará esta división. Un hecho que se verifica dolorosamente también hoy en muchas familias.

Todas las dudas sobre la actitud de Jesús hacia la familia y el matrimonio caen si tenemos en cuenta todo el Evangelio, y no sólo los pasajes que convienen. Jesús es más riguroso que nadie acerca de la indisolubilidad del matrimonio, subraya con fuerza el mandamiento de honrar al padre y a la madre, hasta condenar la práctica de sustraerse, con pretextos religiosos, al deber de asistirles (Mc 7, 11-13). Cuántos milagros realiza Jesús precisamente para salir al encuentro del dolor de padres (Jairo, el padre del epiléptico), de madres (la cananea, o la viuda de Naím), o de parientes (las hermanas de Lázaro), por lo tanto, para honrar los vínculos de parentesco. Él incluso en más de una ocasión comparte el dolor de parientes hasta llorar con ellos.

En un momento como el actual, en que todo parece conspirar para debilitar los vínculos y los valores de la familia, ¡ya sólo faltaría que pusiéramos contra ella también a Jesús y el Evangelio! Pero ésta es una de las muchas extrañezas sobre Cristo que debemos conocer para no dejarnos impresionar cuando oigamos hablar de nuevos descubrimientos sobre los evangelios. Jesús ha venido a devolver al matrimonio a su belleza originaria (Mt 19, 4-9), para reforzarlo, no para debilitarlo.





Cathedral Concerts

# Hallelujah!

A transcendent Easter concert  
featuring the Cathedral Choir and a chamber orchestra  
performing seasonal selections from Handel's *Messiah*

Sunday, **May 4**  
at **3:30 pm**

Cathedral of Saint Thomas More  
3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, VA





*A Retreat  
for Seniors*

MAY 9-11, 2025

## **FINDING JESUS IN THE WISDOM & SUFFERING OF OLD AGE**



*"Simeon Reverencing the Christ Child" by Greg Olsen © 2025*



*Isn't it a challenge, living in the midst of our "throwaway culture," for those who are "full of years" to understand our place in the world — and in our Church? Join Fr. John Riley, Spiritual Director at San Damiano, as we search the Scriptures, pray with Jesus in the Gospels, and consider the Crosses and the Consolations of Old Age.*

Retreat to "rest and pray" with Christ at our Arlington Diocese's San Damiano Retreat Center in White Post, Virginia. The cost is \$285. Financial assistance may be available.

For more information or to register, please email Fr. John Riley:  
[retreat@sacredheartwinchester.org](mailto:retreat@sacredheartwinchester.org) or visit our website at [ArlingtonDiocese.org/Retreat](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/Retreat)





Jesus was not pleased with Judas. What did He say to him about Mary?

Unscramble the names of foods that might have been served at the feast Martha prepared. The letters in the boxes will tell the answer.

VOLSIE  \_\_\_\_\_

DRABE  \_\_\_\_\_

SACKE  \_\_\_\_\_

LABSETGEVE  \_\_\_\_\_

GRANSOE  \_\_\_\_\_

 SIFH  \_\_\_\_\_

SHECEE  \_\_\_\_\_

PRAGSE  \_\_\_\_\_

DOMSNAL  \_\_\_\_\_ 

NILLSET  e \_\_\_\_\_ i \_\_\_\_\_

 THORB  \_\_\_\_\_

NIWE  \_\_\_\_\_ 

YOHEN  \_\_\_\_\_

During Jesus' visit, Mary showed her extreme devotion to Him.



Think of four-letter words that match the clues. Use the code to find what Mary did.

◻ ◻ ◻ ◻

○     tightly closed hand; rhymes with hissed  
 ♥     a large rabbit; rhymes with air  
 ☆     opposite of up; rhymes with clown  
 ◇     sudden leap; rhymes with stump

Y  
 ◻△ ◻▽ ◻△ ◻Y  
 ◻□ ◻☆ ◻▽ ◻△ ◻□ ◻☆

B  
 ◻▽ ◻☆ ◻▽ ◻□ ◻▽ ◻□ ◻▽ ◻☆ ◻□

X V  
 ◻□ ◻△ ◻□ ◻☆ ◻△ ◻▽ ◻□

◻□ ◻□ ◻△ ◻□ ◻▽ ◻△ ◻□ ◻☆ ◻☆

◻□ ◻□ ◻△ ◻▽ ◻△ ◻□ ◻□ ◻□

◻▽ ◻☆ ◻☆ ◻△ ◻▽ ◻□ ◻□ ◻☆

◻□ ◻□ ◻□ ◻△ ◻☆ ◻▽ ◻□ ◻□

◻□ ◻□ ◻△ ◻□ ◻▽ ◻▽ ◻△

# Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

April 6, 2025 • John 12:1-8


## Mary Anoints Jesus



Jesus went to visit friends in the town of Bethany.



Find the names of Jesus' friends. Cross out the names of 20 animals in the house. Then read the three vertical names that are left.



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

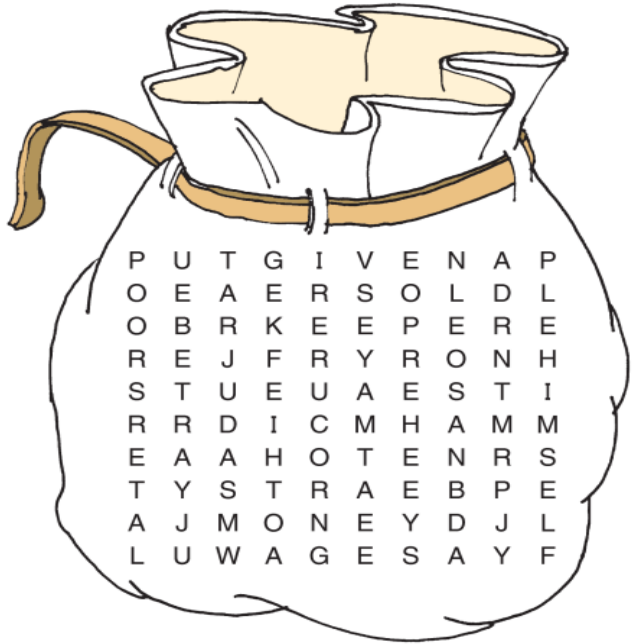
One of Jesus' disciples criticized her actions.

Find and circle the 20 underlined words in the story.

Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray Him, objected. "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."



He did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.



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

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