

3RD SUNDAY of Easter



**6400 Nativity Lane,
Burke, Virginia 22015**
nativityburke.org

REV. MSGR. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR
REV. JONATHAN BENNETT, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. JORDAN EVANS, PAROCHIAL VICAR
**REV. CEDRIC P. WILSON, ASSISTING PRIEST/
SPANISH MINISTRY**
DEC. RICHARD F. KELLY
DEC. SEAN MAZARY

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary
Ann Benson, Business Manager
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager
Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister
Karla Camino, Sacristan
Johana Brown, Parish Receptionist
Diane Dellen, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Ana Gonzalez, Offertory/Mass Intentions
Charlie Gutierrez, Evening Receptionist
Patricia Pagoda, Director Family Ministry/Social Action
Tracey Hulén, Disability Inclusion Coordinator
Mary Castellano, Director of Social Media
Anna Lisa Licud, Coordinator Marriage Enrichment
Carole Fischl, Co-director of Music
Debbie Doyle, Co-director of Music
Mai Tran, Traditional Choir Director
Sara Prince, Youth Choir Director
Mina Lee, Cornerstone Contemporary Choir Director
Natacha Hines, Gift Shop

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

Marie 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.
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant
Joyce Kelly, SPRED Coordinator

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

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



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

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

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

ADORATION: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

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

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

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Announcements for the bulletin
**must be submitted in writing by 11:00 AM on
Tuesday (5 days prior to publication).** Please
note: this deadline can change due to holiday office
closings.

BULLETIN EDITOR:

Caroline Chase, bulletin@nativityburke.org

WEBMASTER:

Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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

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



"Were not our hearts burning within us?" - Luke 24:31

My dear parishioners,

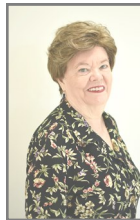
We continue to rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The church is alive because Christ is alive. We welcomed 52 new members into the Catholic Church at Nativity at Easter. They received the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

This weekend we celebrated the Confirmation of our 8th grade teenagers with Arch Bishop Timothy Broglio. During the month of May, our children will be receiving their First Communion. Yes, the Church is alive because Christ is alive and we see first hand the power of the Risen Lord in our midst.

On these Easter Sundays our celebration of Christ's resurrection continues as we reflect on the presence of the Risen Christ among us. The story of the disciples journey on the road to Emmaus is a clear reminder of how we are nourished by the Lord from two tables: the table of the word and the table of the Eucharist. Both actions lead us to the path of life. Recount the times when you experienced your heart burning within you as the Lord "opened up" the scriptures for you. Reflect on how you have been fed by the Lord at the Eucharistic table. Let us use this Easter Season to walk and journey together with Jesus. Happy travels to all.

Love and Easter Blessings,

Msgr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor



**THANK YOU MAUREEN ANDERSEN
AND BEST WISHES IN RETIREMENT!**

After 14 years of serving Nativity parish as Sacristan and Liturgical Coordinator, Maureen Andersen will be retiring from her position. Maureen has served with dedication and has truly enjoyed and been personally enriched by working with staff and parishioners. Her years at Nativity have left it a better place to worship and a place for others to deepen a relationship with God. We are so grateful for Maureen's service and ministry. Maureen's last day was April 15.

We welcome Karla Camino as our new Sacristan. She began working in early March and has shadowed Maureen during the past few weeks. She is a parent in our school and brings a wealth of experience of organizing and management of a business. She brings a joyful spirit and happiness of using her gifts in God's service. Karla is grateful for Maureen's guidance and assistance in her new position saying "Maureen is a great teacher!" Many blessings to Maureen in retirement and welcome to Karla in her new ministry.

Adult Confirmation Classes

Class 1: Tuesday 21 April

Class 2: Tuesday 28 April

Class 3: Tuesday 5 May

Class 4: Tuesday 12 May

Class 5: Tuesday 19 May

From 7:00-8:00 PM in the Fr. Ready Room

For all those who have not received their Confirmation but have been Baptized in the Catholic Church, we invite you to this 5 week preparation course ending with Confirmation with Bishop Burbidge on May 31st.

**Please call the parish office to speak with Fr. Bennett about enrolling for the class or for more details visit:
<https://nativityburke.org/adult-confirmation-program/>.**

Appreciation for the Art & Environment & Plant Watering Volunteers this Spring!

Vickie Sands of Nativity's Art & Environment Ministry would like to thank parishioners Margaret Lynch, Bonnie Goodwin, Michelle Didier, Mary Sullivan-Haller, Toni Rabatin, Stephanie Bock, Judy Toy, Rite Anderson, Tom Powers, and Dave Zivich for helping to prepare for and decorate the church at various times over the past three weeks for Palm Sunday, Triduum services and Easter celebrations at Nativity. Their dedication, and generosity of time and energy is much appreciated to beautify the church and make the special Masses and services have what they need liturgically and to be carried out safely.

The Art & Environment Ministry includes a team that waters and tends to potted plants and flower arrangements from week to week throughout the year: we thank Bonnie Goodwin, Rite Anderson, Anne Bowden, Michelle Didier, Cameron Carney for their continued help maintaining plants, and Bonnie Carpenter and Jessical Nguyen for tending to the flower arrangements weekly.

We appreciate the church office staff, sacristans Maureen Anderson and Karla Camino, OCIA/OCIC Coordinator Linda Loffredo, and facility manager Carlos Gutierrez and his assistant Antonio Infantes Perez for their all help and smooth cooperation.

We thank Marco & Elise Camancho and members of the Spanish community who coordinated and prepared for Holy Thursday service, and Beatrice Tiago who has been learning to prepare for and help with Easter Vigil service. As always, we appreciate Rose Anne Zivich for her detailed knowledge and direction to prep for Triduum and Vigil services and serve as mentor to those who will oversee prep for these Triduum services in the future.

It takes volunteers of many ministries in the parish working together to enhance the spiritual environment and make services meaningful and fulfilling. Any parishioners willing to help with decorating the church at various occasions throughout the year, may contact Vickie Sands at artandenvironment@nativityburke.org.

Virginia March for Life Wednesday, April 22nd - Richmond!

Join us, Bishop Burbidge, and other Virginians of faith and conscience as we march for life at our state capitol! This is always a joyful event full of camaraderie. This year we are planning to carpool so we can participate in the free Engage Training including free lunch! Bishop Burbidge's Respect Life Director, Amy McInerney indicated, "Great news! This [Engage Training] helps us learn to build the 51% "NO" vote coalition we need to defeat the abortion amendment. Our goal is to get 10,000 people to Richmond." The pre-march rally includes many great speakers, including Bishop Burbidge. Contact rickloffredo@outlook.com for carpooling or questions.

Schedule (times are approximate):

- 7:30am – Mass at Nativity (Optional)
- 8:10am – Nativity carpool departure for Richmond
- 10:00am – Rally at the Bell Tower (101 9th St., Richmond)
- 11:00pm – Virginia March for Life!
- 12:30pm – The Engage Training (free lunch provided)!*
- 2:00pm – Carpool departure for Nativity
- 4:00pm – Return to Nativity

Register for the March at <https://marchforlife.org/virginia/>. Within that webpage you can Register for Engage Training. If you prefer join the Holy Spirit Bus and return directly after the March, check here:

<https://marchforlife.org/va-bus-info-find-a-ride/>

*Engage Training - Say NO to the Zero-Safety Abortion Amendment

Sign up to join us for an important and informative training hosted by The Family Foundation and The Leadership Institute "designed to help citizens across the Commonwealth of Virginia better understand the proposed abortion amendment and what it could mean for our state. Lunch included!

- This training will provide clear, factual information about the amendment, explain its potential impact, and equip you with practical tools to confidently and respectfully discuss the issue with others.
- Participants will gain helpful talking points, resources, and strategies for engaging in thoughtful conversations with friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and members of their church communities.
- Whether you are just beginning to learn about the amendment or are already engaged in advocacy, this training will empower you with knowledge and confidence so you can help educate others and be a voice for informed civic engagement in Virginia.
- We encourage anyone who cares about the future of the Commonwealth to attend. Together, we can ensure Virginians are informed, equipped, and ready to have meaningful conversations in their communities."



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 27, 2026. Collections will begin Thursday, June 18, 2026 and continue through Wednesday June 24, 2026. Your donations are tax-deductible and sincerely appreciated.



Kind Leaders Starfish Soap Project Reserve Your Box!

Before Mass on the weekend of April 18th and 19th, parishioners are invited to reserve a special box of handcrafted starfish soaps prepared by our Kind Leaders youth volunteers. To help us prepare enough boxes for everyone, please reserve your box at <https://kindleaders.org/events> or scan the QR code to sign up. You may make your donation in advance or at the time of pickup. Parishioners who make a donation of \$20 or more may reserve a box of 12 individually wrapped mini starfish soaps. As a thank you, all supporters will receive one individually packaged mini starfish soap, and those who give \$20 or more may pick up their reserved box after Mass. All donations support Operation Starfish. Thank you for helping us make waves of hope—one starfish at a time!

Knights of Columbus Frenchy Cyr Memorial Scholarships

Last year, Nativity's Knights of Columbus Council 7992 awarded seven Cyr Memorial scholarships for Catholic secondary school tuition (grades 9-12), totaling \$7000.

Scholarships were awarded to: *Hannah Ly and Anthony Licud (Nativity School) attending Saint John Paul the Great High School, Elizabeth Marzluff, Abigail Hoenle, and Ian Marzluff attending Bishop Ireton High School, Mackenzie Boland attending Bishop O'Connell High School and William Moorhouse attending Gonzaga College High School* for their exemplary academic performance, sustained school and community involvement, and outstanding Church and religious activity participation.

This year six \$1250 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 24, 2026. Scholarship awardees will be announced in late May or Early June. Questions, please contact Dave Zivich, at davezivich@gmail.com or 703-598-0698.

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting for KOVAR after each Mass this weekend, April 18 and 19. KOVAR is a Virginia Knights of Columbus charity which assists people with intellectual disabilities. Knights will be at the back of the Church with baskets and can provide more information on KOVAR.

You can donate as you leave Mass by cash or by check. All checks should be made out to KOVAR. You can also donate electronically through Nativity's

Pope Leo - Vigil for Peace

VATICAN CITY — Warning against an increasingly unpredictable and aggressive “delusion of omnipotence” threatening the globe, Pope Leo XIV called on world leaders and individuals to empty their hearts and minds of hatred and violence, and to start serving life. “Enough of the idolatry of self and money! Enough of the display of power! Enough of war! True strength is shown in serving life,” he said during a special evening prayer vigil for peace in St. Peter’s Basilica April 11.

“Those who pray are aware of their own limitations; they do not kill or threaten with death,” he said. “Instead, death enslaves those who have turned their backs on the living God, turning themselves and their own power into a mute, blind and deaf idol, to which they sacrifice every value, demanding that the whole world bend its knee.” “Let us listen to the voices of children,” who write to him all the time, recounting “all the horror and inhumanity of actions that some adults boast of with pride,” he said.

The vigil, which drew thousands of people inside and outside the basilica, featured the recitation of the glorious mysteries of the rosary. Before each mystery was recited, women wearing traditional dress from countries representing the different continents of the world lit small lamps from a flame from the Lamp of Peace from Assisi that was placed below a statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace. Prayer can move mountains, he said in his remarks in Italian. “War divides; hope unites. Arrogance tramples upon others; love lifts up. Idolatry blinds us; the living God enlightens.”

It just takes a tiny bit of faith “to face this dramatic hour in history together,” he said. For a people of faith in the Risen Lord who conquered death with love, he said, “nothing can confine us to a predetermined fate, not even in this world where there never seem to be enough graves, for people continue to crucify one another and eliminate life, with no regard to justice and mercy.”

While the pope did not mention any one current conflict in his remarks, he did recall St. John Paul II’s fervent efforts and calls for peace during the 2003 invasion of Iraq conducted by the U.S. with the assistance of a multi-national coalition.

“I make his appeal my own this evening, relevant as it is today,” Pope Leo said, referring to his predecessors’ calls for “No more war.”

“The church is a great people at the service of reconciliation and peace,” he said. “She advances without hesitation, even when rejecting the logic of war may lead to misunderstanding and scorn.”

The church “proclaims the Gospel of peace and instills obedience to God rather than any human authority, especially when the inherent dignity of other human beings is threatened by continuous violations of international law,” Pope Leo said. With the help of prayer and God, people can help “break the demonic cycle of evil” and be at the service of the Kingdom of God, where there is “no sword, no drone, no vengeance, no trivialization of evil, no unjust profit, but only dignity, understanding and forgiveness,” Pope Leo said.

“It is here that we find a bulwark against that delusion of omnipotence that surrounds us and is becoming increasingly unpredictable and aggressive,” he added. He criticized the use of God’s name in justifying violence, saying “even the holy name of God, the God of life, is being dragged into discourses of death.”

Those invoking God’s name in such a way erase a world made up of brothers and sisters with one heavenly Father and instead create a “nightmare” where the world is made up of enemies and threats, rather than calls to listen and to come together.

Speaking to the world’s leaders, the pope said, “Stop! It is time for peace! Sit at the table of dialogue and mediation, not at the table where rearmament is planned, and deadly actions are decided!”

However, all the world’s people also have a duty to reject violence in their own hearts and minds and help build a kingdom of peace each and every day in one’s own home, school and community, he said. “Let us believe once again in love, moderation and good politics,” he said, urging people to learn more and “get personally involved” in being part of “the mosaic of peace!”

“Dear brothers and sisters, let us return home having made a commitment to pray without ceasing and without growing weary, a commitment to a profound conversion of heart,” the pope said.

Before entering the basilica, Pope Leo greeted the faithful gathered in St. Peter’s Square, thanking them for their presence. He explained his reason for calling for the prayer vigil, which was also being joined by countless others around the world, either online or in their own parishes.

By praying the rosary together, he said, “we want to tell the whole world that it is possible to build peace, a new peace, that it is possible for all people, of all religions, of all ethnicities, to live together, and that we want to be disciples of Jesus Christ, united as brothers and sisters, all united in a world of peace.”



The 2026 Bishop’s Lenten Appeal: In Christ, We Are One

Thank you, Nativity parishioners, for your continuing support for this year’s Bishop’s Lenten Appeal.



As of April 8, our pledges and donations amount to \$751,849, but with only about 14 percent of registered families pledging. We’re closer to our \$840,000 dollar goal, but need additional participation. If you have not yet donated, our Easter season is still 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!

KOFC ANNUAL MULTI-CAR RAFFLE

Annual Multi-Car Raffle ****LAST WEEKEND TO ENTER**** The final deadline for tickets to be mailed is this Tuesday, April 21st. The drawings begin at 1:30pm Saturday, 25 April 2026, at All Saints Parish in Manassas. Thank you for your generous support of this year’s raffle. Proceeds will benefit our parish and Knights of Columbus charities. If you need more tickets or have questions, please contact PGK Sam Morthland @ 703-455-2186.

Please do not leave raffle tickets in our mailbox or at the parish office! We cannot guarantee they will arrive in time to All Saints church for the raffle on April 25th. please mail them directly to All Saints in Manassas. thank you!



Tea in the Garden
A HIGH TEA PARTY FUNDRAISER BENEFITING
OUR NATIVITY SISTERS

Step into a blooming garden for an elegant afternoon of fine tea and gourmet treats by Boyd & Parker Events. Enjoy a curated purse auction, our festive photo booth, and delightful door prizes.

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH, 2026 | 1:00 - 4:00 PM
FATHER MARTIN CENTER

OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND GUESTS
TICKETS AVAILABLE AFTER ALL MASSES:
APRIL 25-26, AND MAY 2-3

TICKETS: \$45/PERSON.
\$48.00 IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD

SEATING IS LIMITED, RESERVE EARLY TO SIP, SAVOR,
AND CELEBRATE IN BLOOM! PERFECT FOR
A MOTHER'S DAY TREAT!

Special Feature: Shop our vibrant garden marketplace! We are seeking select crafters and vendors to showcase their talents (\$25/table). To donate a purse or reserve a vendor table, please contact: Kim Delatte: 703-587-2749
kdelatte65@gmail.com

JP Summer Camps - Register Today!

Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School's summer camp registration is now open! Check out this year's camp offerings and sign up today! For rising 2nd to 9th graders, JP summer camps are a great way to spend your summer! John Paul offers both Athletic and Enrichment Camps and its premier day camp, Camp Quintessential. Go to jpthegreat.org/summercamp to learn more about what JP is offering!



SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

Strengthening the Church at Home

Second Collection Next Weekend

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops 



MASS INTENTIONS & MASS SCHEDULE

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

Monday, April 20

7:30 am Special Intention for Lesley Admana-Ichikawa
12:00 pm Special Intention for the Schweizerhof Family

Tuesday, March 21

7:30 am † Conner McGowan
12:00 pm † Joe Clavecillas

Wednesday, April 22

7:30 am † Viam Balcazar
10:00 am † Christopher Bednarek (*Heatherwood*)

Thursday, April 23

7:30 am † George Merulla
12:00 pm † Bob Fram

Friday, April 24

7:30 am † Madeline & John Casazza

Saturday, April 25

9:00 am † Sabrina Pereira & Yolanda D'Souza
5:00 pm † Edward Felix & Rosalline Edward
7:00 pm † Maria Concepcion Alvarado

Sunday, April 26

7:00 am Special Intention for the Tapia Family
9:00 am † Mary & Dennis Treanor
11:00 am † Michael Ponti
1:00 pm † Jenny Hatfield
5:30 pm Nativity Parishioners

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

JOIN CUB SCOUTING!!

Pack 1101 invites all boys and girls K through 5th graders to join Cub Scouting. Learn new crafts, skills, and participate in fun activities such as the Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold Banquet, nature walks and family camp outs. Den meetings are once or twice per month from September to May at Nativity. For more information, contact Dave Zivich at davezivich@gmail.com.

MOTHER'S DAY CARDS AND MASSES

A Novena of nine Masses will be said during the month of May for Mothers, living and deceased. Spiritual Bouquet cards may be found in the Church vestibule and Parish office starting Monday, April 20. Mother's names will be placed on the Altar.

Novena Masses

Sunday, May 10	11:00 AM
Monday, May 11	7:30 AM
Tuesday, May 12	12:00 PM
Wednesday, May 13	7:30 AM
Thursday, May 14	7:30 AM
Saturday, May 16	7:00 PM
Sunday, May 17	5:30 PM



TRIVIA NIGHT

Test Your Knowledge • Win Prizes & Bragging Rights (Top 3 Teams!) • Have Fun!

Proceeds benefit Nativity Catholic School
Open to Parish & School Community

Saturday, April 25
7:00 - 9:00 PM (Doors open 6:30 PM)
Fr. Martin Center (Gym)

EVENT DETAILS	PRICING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BYO Food & Drinks (Alcohol Permitted!) • Decorate Your Table • Solo Players Welcome! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table of 8 - \$80 • Individual - \$15

Register at: <https://nativitytrivia.givesmart.com>
Sponsored by Nativity School PTO/ 21+



JESUS OUR HEALER: MASS & HEALING SERVICE AT NATIVITY CHURCH

The Arlington Diocese Catholic Healing Ministry invites you and your family to our monthly Mass and Healing Service at Nativity Church in Burke.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28
7:30 PM

- Celebrant: Fr. John Melmer
- Assisting: Fr. Tuck Grinnell & Deacon Leo Flynn
- Music by the New Spirit Singers begins at 7:20 PM

CONFESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE, WITH HEALING PRAYERS FOLLOWING MASS AT 8:30 PM




Looking for a meaningful way to give back to our parish community? Become a catechist volunteer and help nurture the faith and growth of our children. Your time and guidance can make a lasting difference in their lives.

VOLUNTEER CATECHIST NEEDED

FOR OUR UPCOMING 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR!

- Catechists
- Assistant Catechists
- Office Assistants
- High School Catechist Assistants
- Substitutes (catechists)
- SPRED Volunteers

There is a 50% RE tuition discount for catechists for their year commitment.

It is a Diocesan and Parish requirement that we perform background checks on all our volunteers working with children.

To sign up, please visit our website: <https://nativityburke.org/re/volunteer> or scan the QR-Code



nativityburke.org

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY

Couples' Mini-Retreat with Fr. Daniel Hanley



CONNECTION - COMMUNICATION - FAITH - LOVE

SATURDAY, MAY 30TH | 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass - Brunch
Speaker & Breakout Sessions
Adoration - Childcare Offered

Registration Link:
<https://nativityburke.org/mem-mini-retreat/marriage@nativityburke.org>



YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12
DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION
Sundays | 6:30-8:30 p.m.



EDGE: GRADES 6-8
Fridays twice a month
6:30-8:00 p.m.
See website for full schedule



BASH 2026
Registration is now open for BASH. BASH will take place at Bishop O'Connell High School on Saturday April 25th. This opportunity is open to middle schoolers in grades 6th-8th. Registration is required.

YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER CAMPS
Signups are now available for Vacation Bible Camp and Camp On The Edge. VBC and COTE run Tuesday June 30th-Friday July 3rd. Registration is required. Visit the parish website for more information!

[See website for full schedule](#)
Before attending, please register for the 2025-2026 year of ministry using our free, online forms.

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

Gifts for Seminarian Education Endowment Fund (SEEF)
Please support our seminarians and SEEF, a permanent endowment fund established in 2011. SEEF's income provides funding for annual seminarian expenses such as room, board, tuition, health insurance and books, which total almost \$45,000 per seminarian. Please give generously!
To donate, make checks payable to: "Foundation for the CDA - SEEF." Mail to: The Foundation, 200 N. Glebe Road, Suite 811, Arlington, VA 22203. Questions: contact John French at john.french@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-3819.

You are invited to make rosaries with us on Sunday, April 19th from 2:00-3:30pm in the Fr. Ready Room
We begin our meetings with reciting the rosary Then we will teach you how and provide you with all the supplies you need to make Mission Rosaries. These are sent all over the world. Help us put rosaries into the hands of people who need them! For more information email rosaryministry@nativityburke.org.

Honduras Mission Trip 2026



Operation Starfish®
July 12-18, 2026

Join us for a life-changing Mission Trip to Honduras! Serve alongside local communities, grow in faith, and make a meaningful impact through outreach and connection. This is a unique opportunity to step outside your routine, share your gifts, and be part of something bigger. Come be the hands and feet of service.




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.

THE EIGHT ANNUAL NATIVITY Golf Tournament

Please join Fr. Bob for a great day of golf to support the Youth Programs at Nativity Parish, including Nativity School, Religious Education, Youth Ministry, and CYO Sports.

Can't join us that day? Please consider sponsoring a hole or donation to one of our many other sponsorship opportunities.

Registration and sponsorship information are on the Nativity website at: <https://nativityburke.org/golf/>

MAY 18 | WESTFIELDS GOLF CLUB CLIFTON, VA
DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MAY 15

[HTTPS://NATIVITYBURKE.ORG/GOLF/](https://nativityburke.org/golf/)



Happy Earth day from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Happy Earth Day from Nativity Creation Care Ministry
 Last week we talked about reducing lawn size by planting a tree and adding native shrubs and perennials to support God’s creatures. To continue your transition to a more creation friendly yard, mow your remaining grass higher (3+ inches) and water it only weekly when less than 1” of rain has fallen. Reduce or eliminate your use of herbicides and pesticides—remember we are welcoming beneficial insects now. Consider a small water feature with a bubbler to attract birds—moving water does not attract mosquitos. If mosquitos are a problem, after eliminating standing water sources, recreate just one—partially fill a bucket with water, add straw or hay, let it ferment, attracting female mosquitos to lay their eggs. Then add a mosquito control dunk specific to the mosquito larvae. It works without spray harming your newly established food webs. Don’t forget to remove any invasive plants from your yard—these plants do not support local food webs and invade natural areas—learn more at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/naturalcultural/non-native-invasive-id-control-booklet.pdf>. And, don’t keep all the fun to yourself! Involve the family—your children, grandchildren and neighbors will also enjoy the sights, sounds, textures and creatures of your new habitat.

April
National Child Abuse Prevention Month

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

Let’s stand up for children!

Make a difference

Learn how we can all keep children safe

Commitment Preventing Child Abuse

Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection

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NATIVITY STARS
GALA & AUCTION
 Saturday, May 16, 2026 | 6:30 pm | Fr. Martin Center

Class Basket Raffle Sale!

April 25/26 • May 2/3 • May 9/10

Come check out our GRAND themed baskets, each with a unique and exciting theme! Every class — from Preschool through 8th grade — has created a one-of-a-kind basket filled with fun goodies and treats.

Purchase your raffle tickets for a chance to win one of these amazing baskets while supporting our school as part of the 2026 Nativity Stars Gala & Auction.

◆ 1 for \$10 • 3 for \$25 • 7 for \$50 • 15 for \$100





Drawing will take place at the Gala on Saturday, May 16th.
 You do NOT need to be present to win!

JULY 13-24, 2026

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Discover Cursillo: A Journey in Faith

Looking for a way to deepen your relationship with Christ and live your faith more vibrantly in your daily life? Join fellow parishioners this spring for a series of informal gatherings to learn about the Cursillo (meaning ‘short course’) movement. This movement provides a simple method to help us live what is fundamental to being Christian. Together, we explore the three pillars of Christian life: Piety (recognizing where God is moving in our lives today), Study (growing in our understanding of God and the Church), Action (discovering how to be modern-day apostles in our homes and workplaces). We will meet on the following Saturdays at the Nativity Church Grotto to share fellowship and conversation from 9:00am – 11:00am on May 30, June 6 and June 20. Whether you have heard about Cursillo before or are simply curious about how to strengthen your walk with Christ, ALL are welcome! For more info or to RSVP, please contact: Laura Laverdiere at lauralaverdiere@msn.com, 571-239-4418. <https://nativityburke.org/cursillo/>, <https://www.arlingtoncursillo.org>. Bring a lawn chair!



 **NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
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Kindness is Their Currency



The sound of children’s love and laughter filled the classroom near the end of March as our First Graders gathered to learn how to create hand-made soap. Once made, the soap would be given as a “thank you” to donors who contribute to the First Grade April Service Project: Raising money to build a home for a family in need.

As part of the service project, First Grade students will collect donations for Kind Leaders and Operation Starfish. Kind Leaders is a child-led charity that raises money for Operation Starfish and thanks its donors with homemade soap. Its goal is to raise \$5,000 – enough to build one home for a family in need – and our First Graders have partnered with the group again this school year. Last year’s First Grade class contributed a significant amount toward this goal as part of its service project.



“The First Graders have been learning about countries in need and the mission of both charities,” explained Katy Colella, Nativity’s First Grade Teacher. “We’ve discussed how they might be too young to travel to places, like Haiti or Honduras, to help build the homes themselves,

but they can still make a meaningful difference by raising money to support those who do travel – such as Monsignor Bob and other Nativity parishioners.”

It’s not too late to donate to our effort. If you would like to, please contact Katy Colella, First Grade Teacher, at kcolella@nativitalschool.org.

Important Upcoming Dates ~

May 4 - 8 - Teacher Appreciation Week

May 25 - No School/Memorial Day

At Nativity, faith fills us. Love lives here. Nativity Stars are filled with the Holy Spirit! Join us to see how your child would spend his or her days here - learning, praying, sharing, and laughing.

We may be just the school for which you’ve been searching!
 Contact us at www.nativitalschool.org, (703) 455-2300, or smurph@nativitalschool.org.

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

 **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
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Fr. Sikora Council 7992 Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. The first meeting is a business meeting, the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation. Rosary 7:15 PM; meeting at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows. Meet in the Nativity school cafeteria.

Join the Knights! The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy changing world. Join today at <https://www.kofc.org/joinus>. As we continue to celebrate Blessed Michael J. McGivney's Beatification, please enter the Promo Code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY to join online for free. Please email our Deputy Grand Knight, Vince Augelli, at dgk7992@nativityburke.org or the Grand Knight, Michael Bender at gk7992@nativityburke.org with any questions.

Volunteer for an event! Scroll down to view all events, https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992.

Knights, are you receiving the Grand Knight Newsletter? If not, go to: <https://NativityBurke.flocknote.com/NativityKnights> to sign up.

Widow Support: ****Updated**** We need drivers to support rides to appointments. See SUG for details!

25 April: Adopt-A-Highway - Join your brother Knights as we clean up Old Keene Mill Rd! SUG is live!

28 April: Healing Mass - Catchers.

30 April: Brews w/Brothers! Come on out and meet some new brothers! Details in newsletter.

8 & 9 May: Dames - High Tea Party.

18 May: Golf Tournament.

30 May: Pilgrimage - St Thomas More Cathedral

Prayer Requests: Prayer requests will stay active for one month.

Prayer update (health, location, contact, etc.) status is deeply appreciated. Send an updated request for continued support.

<https://forms.gle/LiPCRmzfyRnYEU8s5>

Name Tags: If you have not received your name tag, email our Warden, Dan Thomas, at warden7992@nativityburke.org.

Nativity Ushers assist at collections: Volunteer for your Mass! Volunteer on LinkTree to maintain a database of potential helpers!

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. See info on 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 handyknightsfnativity@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 Murray Rupert at fn2996@vakofc.org.

Mary's Comfort, a local maternity shelter in Springfield, VA, is a volunteer-driven nonprofit providing an enriching home for women facing a crisis pregnancy, along with supportive help and guidance for mother and baby. Since opening our first home in 2024 we have assisted six pregnant women. With your support, we can grow our services and expand our programs. If you'd like to join our team of dedicated volunteers or make donation, please visit our website <https://www.maryscomfortva.org/> or email us at maryscomfortva@gmail.com. If you know a mother who could use our help, please refer her to us. Thank you and God bless!

Love working with children? Want flexibility? Consider subbing at Nativity School! Please Join Us!

We are in need of substitute teachers with the following minimum qualifications:

- ⇒ 2-plus years of college
- ⇒ Ability to follow a lesson plan and give effective instructions in the absence of the teacher
- ⇒ Proficiency in maintaining effective classroom management skills
- ⇒ Diocesan-compliant
- ⇒ Successful background check



For more information, email Rich Godwin at rgodwin@nativityschool.org, or call him at (703) 455-2300, ext.146; or you can contact Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, at (703) 455-2300, or smurph@nativityschool.org.

Our pregnancy centers, A Woman’s Choice, is looking for a Client Advocate/Co-Associate Director for our Falls Church office. Qualifications include being Pro-Life, with a Medical or Counseling background and bilingual in Spanish & English. The position is full time, 30 hrs a week from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, with benefits or part time, 25 hrs a week from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm or 10:00 am-3:00 pm with a two-hour shift one Saturday per month. A Woman’s Choice provides women seeking an abortion, with the compassionate care they need to feel empowered to choose life. For more information or to request an application, please contact Teresa “Tessy” Trissell at AWCFallsChurch@gmail.com

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The Options program has been supporting students with intellectual disabilities for over 25 years. We remain committed to fostering inclusion and belonging.

St. Paul VI Catholic High School
42341 Braddock Road, Chantilly, VA 20152
703.352.0925 x1314 | pvioptions@paulvi.net



EMAIL & TEXT SCAM ALERT - PLEASE BEWARE

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

If you are unsure or have any questions at all, please contact the parish office at 703-400-0737.

Would you like to broaden your knowledge on the presence, power, and beauty of our Blessed Virgin Mary? Come join us at our Legion of Mary meetings, held on Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the Teacher’s Lounge. Interested? Contact Kathryn Quan at jaynekatrynq1@yahoo.com.

Lc 24, 13-35 *EL TERCER DOMINGO DE PASCUA CICLO A*

El Tiempo Pascual que estamos viviendo nos anuncia de manera particular el paso de la muerte a la vida, que significa que las cadenas internas del hombre que lo tienen como maniatado en una realidad de sufrimiento y tristeza, y muchas veces en la debilidad a la cual se encuentra sometido. El evento de Cristo vencedor de la muerte anuncia a todo hombre que cree en él, que las cadenas son rotas y que el vacío profundo de la vida es colmado por el gozo de saber que en la fidelidad de Dios, en el Cristo Resucitado, nuestra vida es recreada. Estos días, en los cuales la liturgia de la Iglesia, de manera particular, resalta este acontecimiento, nos invitan al mismo tiempo a que podamos ser actores activos en este Tiempo Pascual y no porque dependa de nosotros, sino en el sentido que así como el pueblo de Israel cuando salió del país de Egipto al sonido del cuerno salieron de la esclavitud; de la misma manera nosotros al canto del Gloria, en la santa noche de la Vigilia Pascual, hemos sido llamados a entrar en la Pascua del Señor Resucitado. Porque somos llamados a pasar de las tinieblas a la luz, de la enemistad a la amistad, del desamor al amor, de la ofensa al perdón, del juicio a la misericordia; como Cristo hizo con el buen ladrón: "...te aseguro que hoy estarás conmigo en el Paraíso...". Y así, como en el evangelio de Juan, ante la incredulidad de Tomás, Jesús no lo deja en su estado de confusión, sino que cura su incredulidad; esto es la Pascua, el poder creer y reconocer al Cristo Señor de la muerte y de la vida, por la acción y el don de Dios a través de la Iglesia.

En la primera lectura, Pedro invita a escuchar a la gente el anuncio de la Buena Noticia del Evangelio, paralelamente tenemos otro texto en el libro de Nehemías en el cual se nos narra, que cuando el pueblo retornó del exilio, Dios renueva su alianza con el pueblo. En este sentido, ya la primera lectura nos introduce en una actitud de acción de gracias, porque a través de San Pedro, Dios está diciéndonos y nos está llamando a una vida de reconciliación, y es indudable que no puede haber reconciliación si el hombre no sale y se despoja de su vida pecaminosa, de una vida que no es de acuerdo a la voluntad de Dios. Por eso san Pedro, en otro texto que antecede a esta perícopa dirá: "...hermanos pecasteis por ignorancia...", porque el hombre encerrado en sí mismo no puede ver la luz que viene de Dios y por lo tanto, creyendo que obra y se encamina hacia el bien, tantas veces sólo se destruye a sí mismo. En el libro del Deuteronomio, Dios a través de Moisés invita a su pueblo a escuchar: "...escucha Israel amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo el corazón, con toda tu alma, con todas tus fuerzas..."; esto está significando para nosotros que en el escuchar y aceptar la Buena Nueva del Evangelio, escuchamos a Cristo Resucitado en nuestro corazón y creemos que en este acontecimiento de salvación está la vida que viene de Dios, que nos hace partícipes de una vida plena.

La condescendencia de Dios en este evento Pascual queda de una manera manifiesta, que no ha tenido medida alguna, pues el evangelio de este presente domingo narra que Cristo se acerca a estos dos discípulos que van desesperanzados por el camino, está expresando el sentido de la vida humana, que el hombre por más que se esfuerce en querer y buscar la verdad no la llegará a encontrar plenamente. No estamos negando que el hombre pueda intuir el camino de la verdad, pero abrazarla como una certeza, es un don que Dios concede al hombre. Así lo expresa el evangelio, en versículos más adelante, cuando Cristo sentado a la mesa tomó el pan y al partirlo: "...se les abrieron los ojos y reconocieron al Señor...". No vamos a detenernos en detalles, pero el sentido de los milagros que Cristo realizó durante su vida pública, curando a los ciegos, estaba anticipando proféticamente esta verdad: que sólo a través de Cristo, el Dios que se ha encarnado y ha entrado en la historia de la humanidad, sólo a través de Él podremos entrar en la certeza de la verdad de Dios, que a la vez lleva al hombre a la vida misma.

La reacción de los discípulos (de Emaús), como narra el evangelista san Juan, es de regresar donde sus hermanos a Jerusalén, porque ya no tenían duda en su corazón ni tristeza, porque la certeza del Cristo Resucitado iluminaba los ojos de su corazón; porque Cristo se deja reconocer por ellos. Dios que está presente en la historia de los hombres y de la humanidad, se deja reconocer por nosotros a través de los acontecimientos de nuestra vida, pero tantas veces por nuestra poca fe no lo reconocemos a Dios presente. La vida del creyente, según san Juan, nos está expresando a través de este texto del evangelio, que es llamada a ser de testimonio, o sea el cristiano está llamado a que su vida sea un anuncio de que Dios está presente entre nosotros.

La vida de la Iglesia está centrada en la escucha de la Palabra del Maestro, para caminar con fidelidad, y reconocerlo cada vez en la fracción del pan. Es decir, cada vez que celebramos el misterio de nuestra fe, se realiza el Memorial de nuestra salvación, se hace presente sacramentalmente Cristo en el caminar de nuestra vida, y por eso debemos estar atentos a que los ritos que comprenden la liturgia eucarística y que nos ayudan a entrar en el misterio, no se conviertan en una rutina para nosotros, sino en medio que tenemos para encontrarnos y celebrar a Cristo Resucitado. Esto es lo que nuestro querido y ahora difunto Papa Juan Pablo II nos ha legado en todo el ministerio de su Pontificado, siendo un heraldo y mensajero del Evangelio. Del año 1998 hasta el 2004 nos ha dejado seis documentos con respecto a la celebración Eucarística, porque aquí está el nutrimento de nuestra fe. Y como un testamento último de su vida espiritual, que ha avivado su vida como creyente y sobre todo su vida ministerial, ha estado expresada la Carta que ha dirigido a todos los sacerdotes el Jueves Santo de este año. Entonces, así como los discípulos de Emaús reconocieron al Señor en la fracción del pan, ministros de la Iglesia y fieles laicos estamos llamados a reconocer al Señor en la fracción del pan y a celebrar su fidelidad en nuestra vida; de esta manera transformarnos en testigos del Evangelio para la humanidad como Cristo. San Pablo dice al respecto: "...ya no soy yo, es Cristo quien vive en mí..."

Recemos como Iglesia para que nuestro Padre del Cielo acoja en su seno a nuestro querido y ahora difunto Papa Juan Pablo II. Pbro. Oscar Balcazar Balcazar. Rector Seminario Diocesano "Corazon de Cristo", Diócesis del Callao - Perú

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