

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the
Heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us,
I Trust In You!
DIVINE MERCY



**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
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. Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. on Saturday

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

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

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

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

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

WEBMASTER:
Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:
Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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

A Message from our Pastor Rev. Msgr. Bob Cilinski



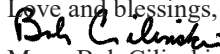
*"The community of believers were of one heart
and one mind"*

My dear parishioners,

Happy Easter! The Easter celebration of 50 days is only one week old. The joy of Christ's resurrection continues to renew the whole world. I hope you are experiencing the new life and healing that Easter faith affords us. Be convinced of how God is working in your life to redeem and save. Good Friday always gives way to Easter... count on it!

We at Nativity are still celebrating the initiation of 39 men and women into the Catholic Church at Easter. Today they share at Sunday Eucharist for the second time and are filled with appreciation for this beautiful gift. They in turn are our Easter gift as they bring to the Church new life and zeal.

During this time of Easter, containing within it is Divine Mercy Sunday, I am reminded of all the gospel parables relating to loving and serving the least, the most despicable, those that our dear Lord sought out and forgave. We are all sinners, and some require more love than others in order to be healed. In thanksgiving for the resurrection of our Savior, let us continue to love and forgive one another, especially those most in need of God's mercy. Below is a poem that I love, especially on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Love and blessings,

Msgr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

All Times Are His Seasons

God made sun and moon to distinguish seasons,
and day and night,
and we cannot have the fruits of the earth
but in their seasons;
but God hath made no decree to distinguish the seasons
of his mercies;
in paradise the fruits were ripe the first minute,
and in heaven it is always autumn,
his mercies are ever in their maturity.
God never says, you should have come yesterday;
he never says, you must come again tomorrow,
but today if you will hear his voice,
today he will hear you.
He brought light out of darkness,
not out of lesser light;
he can bring the summer out of winter,
though thou have no spring.
All occasions invite his mercies,
and all times are his seasons.

- John Donne



Photo Credit:
Msgr. Bob Cilinski
during his trip to Rome in 2024

We mourn the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday after celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus.

Pope Francis taught us to be protectors of life, which begins with life in the womb and then is equally sacred in every moment and stage of life. He called us to be protectors of all creation and to be a Church of the poor.

Taking the name of Saint Francis of Assisi, he asked that we be people of peace and to work for peace in the world. He was a pope of humility and compassion reminding us that the Church is a mother where all her children find a home.

We pray that Pope Francis now rests in peace and shares the fullness of life and joy of heaven.

Msgr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

K OF C KOVAR COLLECTION - THIS WEEKEND

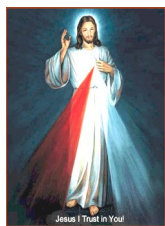
The Knights of Columbus will be collecting for KOVAR after each Mass the weekend of April 26 and 27. Please consider donating. Knights will be at the back of the Church with baskets and can provide more information on KOVAR.

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 on-line giving platform – OSV.

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27, 2025

*The Second Sunday of Easter, April 27th, is the
Feast of Divine Mercy, or Divine Mercy Sunday*



The Holy Hour and Devotion takes place 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.

Easter Thanks

Thank you to all who made our Easter Masses so wonderful!

The Church was decorated beautifully and the choirs sang in joyous praise! The Liturgical Ministers, altar servers, lectors, ushers, greeters, Knights of Columbus, parking attendants, Art and Environment committee members, Eucharistic Ministers, musicians, singers, choir directors, facilities director and parish staff, we could not have done it without all of your help! A special thank you to Vickie Sands for heading up the Arts and Environments Committee and Ann Rimkus who designed and formatted the Holy Week and Easter Mass programs, they were beautiful!



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.

For Information about our Sisters order: The Handmaids of Reparation
visit: 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.



Last weekends to purchase tickets: 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!)

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 or 703-587-2749



Calling all bakers and prayer warriors!!

IT'S KAIROS COOKIE TIME AGAIN

We need cookies filled with prayer for the men making the next Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend at Greenville Correctional Center in Jarrett, VA. Several members of Nativity are on the Kairos team, and each is asked to bring 100 dozen cookies.

Kairos (Cursillo FOR the inmates) offers the opportunity to act on Jesus' words, 'When I was ill you cared for me, and in prison you visited me' (Matthew 25:36). These homemade cookies shine the light of God's love into the darkest corners of prison life. Each cookie is a prayer that can bring an inmate or warden closer to God.

The cookies can be baked ahead and frozen. They will need to be dropped off at the Nativity Office (or the Narthex) by Monday, May 12 at the latest so they can be packed to travel to Greenville on the 14th.

If you cannot bake, please pray for the inmates and team making the weekend from Thursday, May 15 - Sunday, May 18. There are specific guidelines for cookies and recipes, these can be found at: <https://www.mykairos.org/docs/kpmi/cookies.pdf>

Questions: please contact Dave Druiett at Dcdave0@gmail.com.

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.

OUR MISSION

We, the People of Nativity Catholic Church, by our baptism, are joyful disciples of Jesus Christ. We strive to love God, love others, and form new disciples. We celebrate Jesus Christ in Word, Sacrament and Service.



Marriage Enrichment Ministry Spring Program

Renewed: 7 Steps for an Amazing Marriage

Fridays, April 25 & May 2, 9, 16 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Nativity School Teacher's Lounge - Potluck Dinner

Contact Anna Lisa: marriage@nativityburke.org

2025 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL ABOUNDING IN HOPE!

Many thanks to those who have pledged to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal! As of April 10, Nativity parishioners have donated and pledged \$690,393 but with only 15% of registered families participating. If you have not yet made your gift, please prayerfully reflect on your blessings and consider making a commitment to help us reach our \$770,000 dollar goal.

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 or scan the QR code to make a gift.



SCAN ME

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

Knights of Columbus George Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarships for High School and College/Trade School Students

Eight awards will be awarded to students who best exemplify the traits of the pro-life spirit through their respective essay/artistic responses and efforts.

- Two \$500 1st-place scholarships* and two \$150 Runner-up scholarships* to college/trade school students
- Two \$250 1st-place scholarships* and two \$100 Runner-up scholarships* to high school students will be awarded.

*The two scholarships at each award level (e.g., two 1st-place finishers) will be given as follows:

- One to a daughter of a Nativity parishioner (or a registered parishioner herself)
- One to a son of a Nativity parishioner (or a registered parishioner himself).

More details and application forms are available on the Parish website, <https://nativityburke.org/category/upcoming-events/>. Application submissions are due no later than midnight, May 31st, 2025. Awards will be announced in June. Visit: <https://nativityburke.org/getek-memorial-scholarship/>

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.



SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

Help Support More than 70 U.S. Dioceses in "Home Mission Territory" on April 26-27

More than 70 dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home mission dioceses. They are often in rural areas with small Catholic populations or are in communities that struggle economically and cannot sustain their core ministries without outside assistance. That assistance comes through contributions to the annual Catholic Home Missions Appeal. With support received through this special appeal, these home mission dioceses can sustain parishes in remote areas, support priestly and diaconal formation, and train catechists.

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal also supports the eparchies of the Eastern Catholic Churches in the United States, helping them meet the unique pastoral and cultural needs of their members, including those who have come to the United States from lands affected by war and terrorism.

Please Strengthen the Church at Home by giving to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal's second collection.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/national-collections>

The St. Andrew the Apostle Concert Series presents men's a-cappella ensemble Brethren in a free concert on Sunday, May 4, at 4:00pm in Clifton, VA. Founded in 2006, Brethren is a premier men's a-cappella ensemble made up of professional, military, and church musicians from the DC metro area and beyond. From Renaissance polyphony to traditional hymnody to spirituals to patriotic standards to southern gospel - Brethren delivers a choral program that is sure to please all audiences and one that will not soon be forgotten. Stay after the concert and meet the artists during a complimentary reception with light refreshments. For more information, call 703-817-1770 or visit www.st-andrew.org/



MASS INTENTIONS & MASS SCHEDULE

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

Monday, April 28th

7:30 am † Maria Concepcion Alvarado Hernandez

Tuesday, April 29th

7:30 am † Mary Louise Redd

12:00 pm † Art Sheekey

Wednesday, April 30th

7:30 am † Sally Mernah

Thursday, May 1st

7:30 am † Virginia Gavilan

12:00 pm † Maria L. Gallagher

Friday, May 2nd

7:30 am † Pat Bisset

9:00 am † Patricia Landy

Saturday, May 3rd

9:00 am † Father Richard Martin (Holy Communion Mass)

5:00 pm † Diane Stout

7:00 pm † Carlos Augusto Pasco

Sunday, May 4th

7:00 am Parishioners

9:00 am † Martha Palermo

11:00 am † Father Richard Martin

1:00 pm Special Intention for Bianca Franco

5:30 pm † Marc Angelo Sanidad

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

CURSILLO MEETING - FRIDAY, MAY 2nd AT 7:00 PM

Cursillo (pronounced Cur-see-yo) is a movement of the Catholic Church that provides an opportunity to experience God's love within a community of joyful fun, and supportive prayer, while promoting Catholic ideals, fellowship, and spiritual growth in daily living.

We will be hosting a Cursillo Ultreya on Friday, May 2 at 7:00PM in the Nativity Cafeteria. This is a time for old friends to reunite and for new friends to find out more about Cursillo. We'd love to have you join us!!

If you've ever made a Cursillo, come and bring something to eat or drink for sharing. If you've never made a Cursillo, come and see!

For more information, please contact Marc and Laura Laverdiere at lauralaverdiere@msn.com.



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

YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER CAMPS

Tuesday, June 17 - Friday, June 20



VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Current K-4 graders 8:30am - 12:00pm | \$50 per camper

CAMP ON THE EDGE

Current 5-8 graders 1:30pm - 4:30pm | \$50 per camper

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VBC: 8TH GRADERS - ADULTS
COTE: 10TH GRADERS - ADULTS

\$10 t-shirt fee for volunteers*

See website for volunteer schedule

**Childcare
provided for
VBC
volunteers!**

Register on the website today!
contact: vbc@nativityburke.org

BASH 2025

Who: Middle schoolers, grades 6-8

What: music, games, ice cream,
inspirational speakers,
confessions, a Vigil Mass for
Sunday, and more!



Saturday, May 10

3:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



**Bishop O'Connell
High School**



Contact: Rebecca Judge
Director of Youth Ministry
cym@nativityburke.org

**Registration is now
open on the website
- space is limited.**



Pro-Life Corner: "Should abortion be legal?"

This is the question that *Live Action's* Lila Rose recently debated with GWU pro-abortion lawyer, Dr. Mary Anne Franks (Harvard law graduate, Oxford Ph.D.). In Rose's 2/15/2025 email, *A few tools for your pro-life debates*, she indicated: "I want to equip you with clear responses to three key arguments Dr. Franks raised during our debate—arguments you may encounter in your own conversations with friends and family:

Claim 1: "Abortion is self-defense." Dr. Franks argued that abortion is justified on the same grounds as self-defense and private property rights. She used three words to make her case: unlawful, intrusion, and reasonable. Ironically, these terms dismantle her own argument.

- **Unlawful?** A child in the womb is not an aggressor. The pre-born baby has committed no crime, broken no law, and did not choose to be there. In fact, the womb is exactly where a child is supposed to be.

- **Intrusion?** A baby is not a trespasser. Pregnancy is not an "invasion"—it is the natural outcome of human reproduction, and the womb is designed to nurture and sustain life.

- **Reasonable?** Even in complicated pregnancies, the natural risks of pregnancy do not equate to an imminent, direct threat that justifies the deliberate killing of an innocent child. Just as we cannot preemptively run drivers off the road because they might cause us harm, we cannot justify killing a child simply because pregnancy carries risks.

Claim 2: "Bodily autonomy justifies abortion." Yes, we all have bodily autonomy—but that autonomy does not give us the right to harm or kill others who merely exist. This is the core flaw in the pro-abortion argument.

Dr. Franks went so far as to claim that "sometimes, innocent people will have to die" because no one has a right to life that depends on another person's body. This is chilling. It's the same logic that has justified history's greatest atrocities—denying rights to the most vulnerable because of their dependency. The truth is that every human being begins life in total dependence. Infants, the elderly, and disabled people all rely on others to survive. Does this make their lives expendable? Of course not. Parents have a natural responsibility to care for their children—born and preborn. To deny this is to deny the fundamental bonds of human civilization.

Claim 3: "Truth is subjective." Dr. Franks made an astonishing claim during our debate: "There is no persistent, transcendent truth out there that is simply true all the time, at all places, no matter what the context."

This is the heart of the pro-abortion worldview: *moral relativism*. But this idea collapses under its own weight. If there is no truth, then her claim isn't true either. Reality is not subjective. The humanity of the preborn child is not a matter of personal belief—it is an objective, biological fact. And history has shown us that whenever society denies the personhood of an entire class of human beings, it leads to unimaginable cruelty. Just as past injustices—like slavery and the Holocaust—were "justified" by dehumanizing victims, abortion hinges on the same dangerous lie. But truth does not change based on convenience. The preborn child is a human person, entitled to the same rights as you and me. The more people who hear the truth, the more hearts and minds will change—and lives will be saved."



Peace in the Storm Chronic Pain and Illness Support Group

Thursday, May 8, 2025 from 12:45 - 2:15 pm
in the Fr. Ready Room

Where is God when good people suffer? What is God's purpose in the midst of pain? How can I find joy and peace if I am hurting? Nativity Catholic Church is aware of the many challenges that chronic pain and illness pose in the lives of our parishioners. We understand how these conditions can lead to questions of faith, too, and want you to know that you are not alone! All adult parishioners who have chronic pain or illness to participate in a parish-based, small, faith fellowship group developed by the national ministry called 'The Peace in the Storm Project'. We meet every 2nd Thursday afternoon of the month from, about 12:45 pm - 2:15 pm (after the 12:00 pm Mass and rosary/chaplet. Participants are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch) in the Fr. Ready Conference Room, to reflect, pray, and deepen our understanding of God's love, presence, and purpose with and through health challenges within the context of our Catholic faith and parish community. Group participants will receive The Peace in the Storm Project Discussion Guide at no cost.

If you are interested in joining the group, or for more information, please see the parish website or email Anna Lisa Licud at alicud@nativityburke.org.



REJOICE!

JOIN THE CELEBRATION!!

THE 2024-25 SPECIAL RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT (SPRED)

END OF YEAR MASS WITH BISHOP BURBIDGE

COME CELEBRATE THE BEAUTIFUL MINISTRY OF SPRED!!

SUNDAY, MAY 18TH @ THE 9:30 MASS
ALL SAINTS CHURCH
(RESERVED SEATING – FRONT CENTER SECTION)
9300 STONEWALL RD., MANASSAS 20110

***BRUNCH WILL FOLLOW IN THE PARISH ACTIVITY CENTER (PAC)

ALL SPRED FRIENDS, VOLUNTEERS, FAMILIES,
AND EXTENDED FAMILIES ARE INVITED!!

Fiddler on the Roof

COMING TO:
Nativity Players
Theatre Ministry
July 17-19,
25 & 26, 2025

AUDITIONS:
Virtual Deadline May 9
In-Person May 15 & 16
Callbacks May 24

For information and requirements:
www.nativityburke.org/nativity-players
theatreministry@nativityburke.org

Based on Sholem Aleichem stories by special permission of Arnold Perl
Book by Joseph Stein
Music by Jerry Brook
Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

NATIVITY PLAYERS theatre ministry

TRIVIA NIGHT

TOP 3 TEAM PRIZES!

BYO FOOD & DRINKS

Saturday, May 17 | 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Fr. Martin Center (Gym)
Doors open at 6:30 PM

Form Teams up to 8 Players. Free Agents Welcome
BE CREATIVE: THEME Your Team or Table

Tickets are \$10 a person
Limited Time Offer: Buy a round with Fr. Bresnahan \$30

Purchase online at:
<https://nativitytrivia.givesmart.com>

Sponsored by Nativity School PTO/ 21+ Please

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

BASH REGISTRATION OPEN

WORKCAMP CONTRACTORS NEEDED

We are still in need of 3 adult contractors for WorkCamp this June - adults 21+ with basic home repair and maintenance skills. You do not need to be a licensed contractor in the professional sense. Contact wc@nativityburke.org for more info.

See website for full schedule

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

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

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

This Easter season, on May 4 at 3:30 pm, experience the transcendence of Handel's Messiah as the Saint Thomas More Cathedral Choir and a chamber orchestra perform the latter half of this Baroque master piece. Beginning with the majestic "Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates" (and including the Hallelujah chorus, of course!), this less frequently performed section of the oratorio will immerse you in sublime sounds celebrating Christ's triumph over death and heralding the Resurrection of the Dead.

Following the concert, the audience is invited to continue the celebration at a sumptuous Easter reception in Burke Hall.

Location: Cathedral of St. Thomas More,
3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, Virginia.

ECHO Collection NEXT weekend Food Room Most Needed Items

ECHO's Food Room continues to break records. Last month we collected 939 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.



A Message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Is it time to make a change in your lawn and yard equipment this spring? Gas-powered lawn equipment - such as leaf blowers, lawn mowers, and other devices used to clear debris and maintain landscaping - is bad for our environment and for our health. Air Pollution and Climate Change Two-stroke engines, which are used in gas-powered lawn equipment, release greenhouse gases and noxious fumes, warming our climate and harming our air quality.

Noise Pollution The noise from gas-powered lawn equipment can emit noise levels at or above 90 decibels, just shy of the noise level of a jet engine, leading to possible hearing loss and headaches.

Switch to Better Alternatives There's good news! The alternatives to gas-powered equipment are better for you and better for the environment.

Natural Lawn Landscaping Choose different natural lawn approaches, such as leaving the leaves to decompose or gathering and composting your leaves to create rich topsoil. Reduce your lawn by planting more native trees, shrubs and groundcover. Electric Lawn Equipment Electric models, such as battery powered or plug-in lawn equipment, are widely available and generally more cost-effective. Replace your gas powered equipment when you can! (excerpted from the Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination)



Follow Bishop Burbidge on X!

Bishop Burbidge has over 25,000 followers on Twitter! His daily reflections and posts are popular and insightful. Follow him [@BishopBurbidge](https://twitter.com/BishopBurbidge).



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



Honoring Earth Day: Second Graders Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & REPURPOSE!

In observance of Earth Day, Nativity's Second Graders planned, created, and engineered a recycled object for their STEM project. Take a look at their creativity ~



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!

Important Upcoming Dates ~

Monday, April 28 – No School - Bishop's Holiday
Tuesday, April 29 – Back to School
Thursday, May 1 – 7th Grade Field Trip
Thursday, May 1 – 3rd Grade State Fair
Friday, May 2 – Preschool/PreK Planting w/Parents
Monday, May 5 – Teacher Appreciation Week Begins
Tuesday, May 6 – Spartan Restaurant Fundraiser
Wednesday, May 7 – Spartan Restaurant Fundraiser



**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.

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

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 handyknights@nativityburke.org.

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.



**ATTENTION PLEASE**

THE 9:00AM MORNING MASS ON SATURDAY, MAY 3 WILL BE A HOLY COMMUNION MASS. THE CHURCH AND PARKING LOTS WILL BE VERY BUSY. PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY, THANK YOU.

ECHO Scholarships to NVCC

ECHO sponsors some financial aid scholarships for students who attend Northern Virginia Community College and who live in ECHO's service area. The scholarships of \$1,000 each can be used toward tuition, books and supplies. Preference is given to students whose families are clients of ECHO, but the scholarships are not limited only to client families. The process for students to apply can be found at nvcc.edu/admissions/financialaid/index.html. Even if a person is not yet enrolled at NVCC, there is no cost to get a student ID login to find out more about scholarship opportunities.



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!



affram@nativityburke.org

Learn more: nativityburke.org/operation-starfish/

**NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY**

No Hands But Yours is an original Nativity Ministry doing God's work by serving those less fortunate members of His flock. We work distributing food, clothing, and personal items to the poor and homeless in DC and northern VA every Sunday morning, rain or shine.

We also have weekly trips into designated areas bringing Panera bread donations along with help from local food banks. Through the blessings of God, we have grown through our Nativity community and continue to do so. For more details visit the Nativity Parish website at <https://nativityburke.org/service/no-hands-but-yours/>. Families are also welcomed! If you have interest in learning more and would like to participate in daily/Sunday runs, please contact John Rubino at: john.albert.rubino@gmail.com.



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.

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.

2Minutes2Virtue

2Minutes2Virtue is for Catholics who want to get the most out of Sunday readings. Every week, a featured priest from the Catholic Diocese of Arlington will give his take on the Sunday Gospel reading, and use it as inspiration behind the week's challenge. Look out for your own parish priest, and experience the wisdom of so many priests in our own diocese.

You can sign up by texting "2m2v" to 84576, and receive the weekly challenge straight to your mobile phone!

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.

**THE LEGION OF MARY ARLINGTON SENATUS
2025 TEENAGE ENRICHMENT FOR THE APOSTLES OF MARY
T.E.A.M. RETREAT**

IN COLLABORATION WITH HOLY TRINITY JUBILEE PARK INC.

**Blessed Carlo Acutis: A Techie Saint
for Teens (Ages 12-17)**

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

4407 ALDIE ROAD, CATHARPIN, VA. 20143



**Rev. Francis Peffley
Rev. John Heisler**

Join us for a day long outdoor retreat filled with prayers, skits, fun games, and other exciting activities. The fee includes a full day of fun retreat and snacks. Please bring bag lunch, water, rosary and bug spray. Wear rubber shoes, pants, and modest outfit, no flip-flops.

For more information, call:

Dr. Seggy Acosta (703)392-6420, Irving Vargas (571)799-6968

Cost: \$ 35.00 per child \$60.00 per family (2 or more kids)

\$ 45.00 (late registration after Friday, June 20, 2025)

Please make check payable to: **Holy Trinity Jubilee Park Inc.**

Credit cards accepted. Scholarships available based on financial needs. Call Dr. Acosta for both.

Send Payment, Registration Form/ Liability Release form to: Holy Trinity Jubilee Park Inc. c/o Trinidad Tonolet 10260 Greystone Road, Manassas, VA 20111

What to Know About the Annulment Process

Saturday, June 14

9am - 12pm

St. John the Evangelist
271 Winchester St., Warrenton, VA

Presented by:

Rev. Thomas Ferguson, JCL

*Pastor, Good Shepherd Catholic Church
Judge, Tribunal of the Diocese of Arlington*

The event is free, but please register at:
arlingtondiocese.org/annulmenthealing



St. Andrew the Apostle Concert Series Presents:

BRETHREN

"COME TO ME"

A Male A Cappella Ensemble Concert



SUNDAY, MAY 4 AT 4:00 PM

ADMISSION IS FREE. DONATIONS WELCOME.

A meet-the-artist reception with light refreshments will follow the concert in the Parish Hall.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, Virginia
www.st-andrew.org/concerts



ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE
MUSIC MINISTRY



**The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D.,
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA,
cordially invites you and your guests to attend the
31st Annual Memorial Mass Sunday, the 18th of May
in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and
twenty-five at four-thirty in the afternoon in the
Great Upper Church of the Basilica of the National
Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan
Ave, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.**

**The Memorial Mass is offered as a tribute to our
deceased veterans and is widely attended by
active-duty military members, veterans, and
Gold star families. We are reaching out to members
of Congress to join our military Catholic community
in prayer for these honored dead many of whom gave
the last full measure of devotion for God and**

**country. The schedule of events will be as follows:
Sacrament of Penance at 2:30- 3:35 pm, Rosary at
3:35 pm, Solemn Vespers at 4:00pm, Holy Mass at
4:30 pm. Dress: Civilian - Business Attire Military.**

**Equivalent For reserved seating at the Mass,
please register by 12 May 2025:**

<https://www.milarch.org/memorialmass/>

**If you have intentions to be remembered at the
altar, please submit them to
www.milarch.org/intentions**

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME



Close to 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are considered “home mission dioceses,” meaning that local conditions such as small, widely dispersed Catholic populations and economic hardships prevent those dioceses from operating their ministries without outside support. For example, with the smallest Catholic population in the 48 continental United States, spread across 66,800 square miles of mountainous terrain and rugged Oregon desert, the Diocese of Baker is so extensive that many parishes are a minimum of 50 miles from each other, and only one town has more than one parish.

Support provided to the diocese from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal covered the cost of having a priest in residence for two rural parishes.

Without this support, more than 400 parishioners would not be able to receive the sacraments regularly. The work of Catholic Home Missions in the diocese extends beyond such basic support to include its family life enhancement program, which helps parishes overcome the isolation that families experienced during the pandemic, isolation that has become an ongoing challenge in rural communities.

You can make a positive impact in the lives of Catholics in the Diocese of Baker and other home mission dioceses across the United States and its current and former territories by supporting the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. For more information about Catholic Home Missions, visit www.usccb.org/home-missions.

What Is a “Home Mission” Diocese?

Home mission dioceses are those Catholic dioceses in the United States, its territories, and former territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and lay people. Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home mission dioceses.

CHMA FINANCIALS 2023



Totals by Program Area

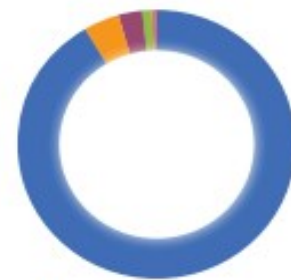
• Diocesan and Parish Assistance	\$2,399,000
• Faith Formation	\$2,030,000
• Priestly and Religious Vocations	\$1,840,000
• Special Grants*	\$995,825
• Cultural Ministries**	\$955,000
• Strengthening Marriage and Family Life	\$125,000
• Life and Dignity of the Human Person***	\$125,000

Total: \$8,469,825

* Special Grants: New Bishop Installation Support: \$90,000; Diocesan Professional Development Opportunities: \$905,825. Total: \$995,825.

** Including Hispanic and other ethnic and cultural ministries.

*** Including prison ministries and ministries for persons with disabilities.



• Grants and Donations	\$8,469,892
• Program Costs	\$479,626
• Promotions and Fundraising Expenses	\$375,914
• Administrative Expenses	\$103,543
• Allocations - Internal Grants	\$31,999

Total Expenses: \$9,487,974



CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1194

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Strengthening the Church at Home



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**PORTO CHARITIES
ADVOCACY AWARDS GALA**

FRIDAY MAY 2, 2025

6:30 pm - Cocktail & Silent Auction

7:30 pm - Dinner, Awards & Dancing

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inquiries: events@portocharities.org



*Building a Culture of Belonging for Individuals with Intellectual
and Developmental Disabilities in the Catholic Diocese of Arlington*

Continuación de la semana pasada

También para cada uno de nosotros hay una «Galilea» en el comienzo del camino con Jesús. «Ir a Galilea» tiene un significado bonito, significa para nosotros redescubrir nuestro bautismo como fuente viva, sacar energías nuevas de la raíz de nuestra fe y de nuestra experiencia cristiana. Volver a Galilea significa sobre todo volver allí, a ese punto incandescente en que la gracia de Dios me tocó al comienzo del camino. Con esta chispa puedo encender el fuego para el hoy, para cada día, y llevar calor y luz a mis hermanos y hermanas. Con esta chispa se enciende una alegría humilde, una alegría que no ofende el dolor y la desesperación, una alegría buena y serena.



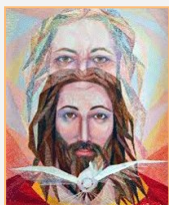
En la vida del cristiano, después del bautismo, hay también una «Galilea» más existencial: la experiencia del encuentro personal con Jesucristo, que me ha llamado a seguirlo y participar en su misión. En este sentido, **volver a Galilea significa custodiar en el corazón la memoria viva de esta llamada, cuando Jesús pasó por mi camino, me miró con misericordia, me pidió de seguirlo; recuperar la memoria de aquel momento en el que sus ojos se cruzaron con los míos, el momento en que me hizo sentir que me amaba.**

Hoy, en esta noche, cada uno de nosotros puede preguntarse: **¿Cuál es mi Galilea? ¿Dónde está mi Galilea? ¿La recuerdo? ¿La he olvidado?**

He andado por caminos y senderos que me la han hecho olvidar. Señor, ayúdame: dime cuál es mi Galilea; sabes, yo quiero volver allí para encontrarte y dejarme abrazar por tu misericordia.

El evangelio de Pascua es claro: es necesario volver allí, para ver a Jesús resucitado, y convertirse en testigos de su resurrección. No es un volver atrás, no es una nostalgia. Es volver al primer amor, para recibir el fuego que Jesús ha encendido en el mundo, y llevarlo a todos, a todos los extremos de la tierra.

«Galilea de los gentiles» (Mt 4,15; Is 8,23): horizonte del Resucitado, horizonte de la Iglesia; deseo intenso de encuentro... ¡Pongámonos en camino!



Jesucristo, muestra de la misericordia del Padre Reflexiones Pascua
No te preguntes ya, oh hombre, por qué tienes que sufrir tú; pregúntate más bien por qué sufrió él.
Por: De los sermones de San Bernardo |
Fuente: www.la-oracion.com

Dios, nuestro Salvador; hizo aparecer su misericordia y su amor por los hombres. Demos gracias a Dios, pues por él abunda nuestro consuelo en esta nuestra peregrinación, en éste nuestro destierro, en ésta vida tan llena aún de miserias. Antes de que apareciera la humanidad de nuestro Salvador, la misericordia de Dios estaba oculta; existía ya, sin duda,

desde el principio, pues la misericordia del Señor es eterna, pero al hombre le era imposible conocer su magnitud. Ya había sido prometida, pero el mundo aún no la había experimentado y por eso eran muchos los que no creían en ella. Dios había hablado, ciertamente, de muchas maneras por ministerio de los profetas. Y había dicho: Sé muy bien lo que pienso hacer con ustedes: designios de paz y no de aflicción. Pero, con todo, ¿qué podía responder el hombre, que únicamente experimentaba la aflicción y no la paz? "¿Hasta cuándo - pensaba- irán anunciando: «Paz, paz», cuando no hay paz?" Por ello los mismos mensajeros de paz lloraban amargamente, diciendo: Señor, ¿quién ha dado fe a nuestra predicación? Pero ahora, en cambio, los hombres pueden creer, por lo menos, lo que ya contemplan sus ojos; ahora los testimonios de Dios se han hecho sobremanera dignos de fe, pues, para que este testimonio fuera visible, incluso a los que tienen la vista enferma, el Señor le ha puesto su tienda al sol.

Ahora, por tanto, nuestra paz no es prometida, sino enviada; no es retrasada, sino concedida; no es profetizada, sino realizada: el Padre ha enviado a la tierra algo así como un saco lleno de misericordia; un saco, diría, que se romperá en la pasión, para que se derrame aquel precio de nuestro rescate, que él contiene; un saco que, si bien es pequeño, está totalmente lleno. En efecto, un niño se nos ha dado, pero en este niño habita toda la plenitud de la divinidad. Esta plenitud de la divinidad se nos dio después que hubo llegado la plenitud de los tiempos. Vino en la carne para mostrarse a los que eran de carne y, de este modo, bajo los velos de la humanidad, fue conocida la misericordia divina; pues, cuando fue conocida la humanidad de Dios, ya no pudo quedar oculta su misericordia. ¿En qué podía manifestar mejor el Señor su amor a los hombres sino asumiendo nuestra propia carne? Pues fue precisamente nuestra carne la que asumió, y no aquella carne de Adán que antes de la culpa era inocente.

¿Qué cosa manifiesta tanto la misericordia de Dios como el hecho de haber asumido nuestra miseria? ¿Qué amor puede ser más grande que el del Verbo de Dios, que por nosotros se ha hecho como la hierba débil del campo? Señor, ¿qué es el hombre para que le des importancia, para que te ocupes de él? Que comprenda, pues, el hombre hasta qué punto Dios cuida de él; que reflexione sobre lo que Dios piensa y siente de él.

No te preguntes ya, oh hombre, por qué tienes que sufrir tú; pregúntate más bien por qué sufrió él. De lo que quiso sufrir por ti puedes concluir lo mucho que te estima; a través de su humanidad se te manifiesta el gran amor que tiene para contigo. Cuanto menor se hizo en su humanidad, tanto mayor se mostró en el amor que te tiene, cuanto más se abajó por nosotros, tanto más digno es de nuestro amor. Dios, nuestro Salvador -dice el Apóstol-, hizo aparecer su misericordia y su amor por los hombres. ¡Qué grande y qué manifiesta es esta misericordia y este amor de Dios a los hombres! Nos ha dado una grande prueba de su amor al querer que el nombre de Dios fuera añadido al título de hombre.



PROROME



REGISTER TODAY

Una peregrinación jubilar a Italia

Únase al Padre Jeb Donelan y al Cursillo de Cristiandad de la Diócesis de Arlington

Este viaje católico incluye dos noches en Asís, dos noches en San Giovanni Rotondo y cuatro noches en Roma, con excursiones de un día a Orvieto y Montecassino también incluidas. La misa diaria, la piedra angular de cada día, se complementará con un rico programa de visitas católicas diseñado para poner a los peregrinos cara a cara con los grandes santos, mártires, milagros eucarísticos y el patrimonio cultural del catolicismo romano. Los aspectos más destacados incluyen la Basílica de San Pedro, las Basílicas Papales, las Catacumbas, el Panteón y muchos santos, iglesias, basílicas y lugares sagrados increíbles en toda Italia.

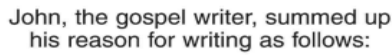
Se han organizado pasajes aéreos de ida y vuelta y hermosos hoteles de cuatro estrellas ubicados en el centro. Un guía turístico de ProRome acompañará al grupo durante todo el peregrinaje, con transporte en autobús privado, guías turísticos católicos, todos los recorridos y entradas, desayuno diario y almuerzo o cena diarios incluidos en el precio.


14 al 23 de octubre de 2025

\$3390 por persona, solo por tierra

\$4664 por persona (incluye pasaje aéreo desde el aeropuerto Washington Dulles)

Para obtener más información o registrarse, visite www.prorometours.com/CursillodeCristiandad o comuníquese directamente con ProRome Tours al (434) 953 1112 o por correo electrónico a office@prorome.com.



Find the underlined words in the puzzle.
They are  .

4,5 1 11,12 3 1,2 3 6,7 5 3 11,12 3 2,3

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