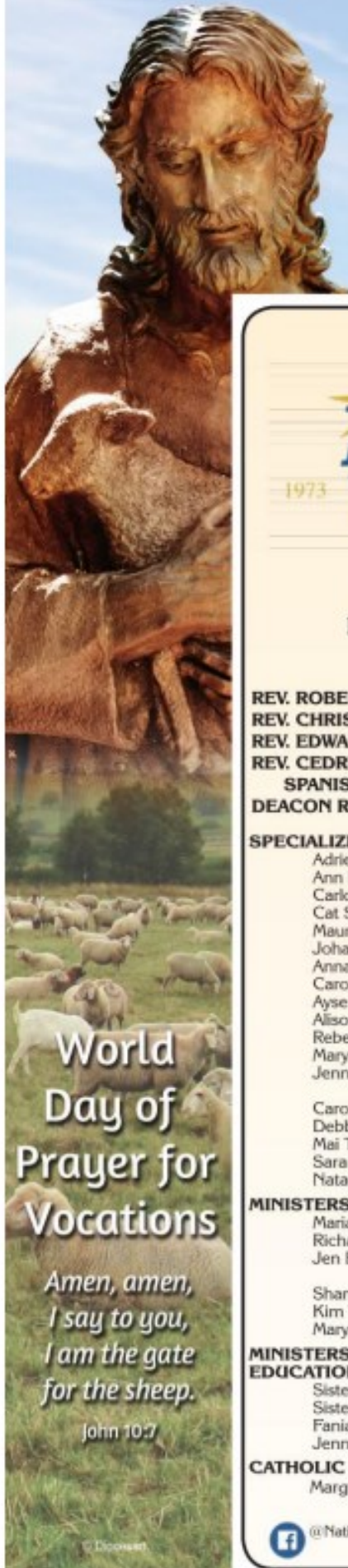


The Good Shepherd



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

*Amen, amen,
I say to you,
I am the gate
for the sheep.*

John 10:7


Nativity
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Burke, Virginia

1973 2023

Celebrating 50 Years!

"We are God's people" - 1 Peter 2:10

6400 Nativity Lane,
Burke, Virginia 22015
nativityburke.org

REV. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR
REV. CHRISTOPHER H. HAYES, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. EDWARD BRESNAHAN, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. CEDRIC P. WILSON, ASSISTING PRIEST/
SPANISH MINISTRY
DEACON RICHARD F. KELLY

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary
Ann Benson, Business Manager
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager
Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister
Maureen Andersen, Liturgical Minister
Johana Brown, Parish Receptionist
Anna Marty, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Ayse Kenner, Mass Intentions
Alison Fram, Director of Young Adult/College Ministry
Rebecca Judge, Director of Youth Ministry
Mary Castellano, Director of Social Media
Jennifer Sturgeon, Director of Marriage Enrichment/
Ecumenical Ministry
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.
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Sturgeon, Confirmation Coordinator

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454 2415



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

SUNDAY MASSES: 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass in Spanish
7:00 a.m./9:00 a.m./11:00 a.m./
1:00p.m./5:30 p.m.

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

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

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

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

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

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

WEBMASTER: Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA: Mary Castellano,
socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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



@Nativity Parish Burke



@nativityparishburke_

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



*“The Lord is my shepherd. He guides me in right paths.”
~ Ps 23:3*

My dear parishioners,

Alleluia! Our celebration of Easter continues. Easter is a season that lasts fifty days and we should take advantage of every day to celebrate.

During the Easter season our scripture readings draw our attention to appearances of Jesus after His resurrection, the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and His promise to send the Holy Spirit as His enduring presence and source of animation in the Church.

During the Easter season we will celebrate the First Communion of so many of our children in May; and we will remember the birthday of the church at Pentecost. Alleluia. Let us rejoice! Our celebration of Easter continues!

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, the words of Pope Francis in His inaugural Mass on March 19th 2013, reminds us to be “protectors” of those entrusted to us, especially in this year of St. Joseph the patron of the universal church.

“The vocation of being a ‘protector’, however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God’s creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families... It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it.”

Next Sunday is Operation Starfish weekend celebrating 25 years of our partnership with Food For the Poor to build homes, schools and clinics in Haiti. We remember Fr. Martin whose vision ignited a community to so generously give to the poorest of the poor. We take up our second collection for Operation Starfish to give back to God in thanksgiving for all that God has given to us. What a special anniversary.

We are all called to be Good Shepherds.
Happy 4th week of Easter!

Love and Blessings,
Fr. Bob Cilinski, Pastor



ATTENTION NATIVITY PARISHIONERS AND VISTORS

Nativity’s Annual Holy Communion Masses will take place next Saturday, May 6th at 9:00am and 11:30am.

Please be aware that these Masses will be primarily for our Holy Communicants and their family and friends. These Masses will be heavily attended and the Church and parking lots will be very busy, please plan accordingly and respect all non-parking areas. Please do not park along the yellow lines. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

**On This Date in Nativity History
May 2016**

Phase 2 of the Building Project was begun in May 2016. (Phase 1 was the Father Martin Center.) Phase 2 included a new Narthex (entry vestibule), pantry to serve people in the Narthex, renovated offices, restrooms, a conference room, and the Father Ready Room (located in what had been the connecting hallway between the church and the school). These photos show the dramatic change in the appearance of Nativity’s entrance between 1992 and 2017, when the Narthex was completed. The entire project, both phases, from the inception of planning to completion of construction took about ten years to complete. The final cost of both phases was eight million dollars.



This historical note is the 47th of a weekly bulletin feature leading up to Nativity’s fiftieth anniversary, 11 June 2023. If you have enjoyed this and other notes on Nativity history during the past ten months, you will want to own a copy of the parish history, entitled Nativity Parish, 1973 – 2023: A Faith Community’s First Half Century. The book will be available for purchase during our fiftieth anniversary celebration this coming June.



**2023 Marks the 60th Anniversary of this
World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" - (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life. Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes. Resources for promoting vocations can be found at:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations>



OPERATION STARFISH

1998 - 2023

Making a Difference for 25 Years



Making a Difference

In 1998, Nativity Catholic Church began a ministry to the poor of Haiti. Fr. Richard Martin called it "Operation Starfish." Until Fr. Martin's death in 2014, Nativity worked with Food For The Poor to develop "Nativity Villages," with housing, clean water, sanitation, schools, clinics and small businesses throughout Haiti. Fr. Bob Cilinski expanded Operation Starfish to Jamaica and Honduras and brought more young adults into this ministry. Today, Operation Starfish has:

- ▶ 1,552 homes in Haiti
- ▶ 13 Nativity Villages in Haiti
- ▶ 4 fishing villages in Haiti
- ▶ 3 fresh water fish farms in Haiti

- ▶ 4 medical scholarships in Jamaica
- ▶ 4 greenhouses in the Dominican Republic
- ▶ Fish 4 Hope to spur small business
- ▶ Stella Marina to make childbirth safer

2023 Projects

- ▶ **construct a medical clinic in Honduras**
- ▶ **complete Nativity Village at Bas Fossé**
- ▶ **operate St. Anthony Clinic at Prolongé**
- ▶ **provide medical scholarships in Jamaica**
- ▶ **provide school scholarships in Haiti**
- ▶ **operate 3 sewing centers in Haiti**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

operation-starfish@nativityburke.org

703-455-2400

**Fr. Sikora Ladies' Auxiliary Group
Interest Meeting May 16**

All wives, adult daughters, and widows of any of our Knights of Columbus members at Council 7992 are cordially invited to attend a special interest meeting on May 16 at 7:00 pm in the Fr. Ready room. Come hear about the possibility of forming a Knights of Columbus Ladies' Auxiliary group and opportunities to participate! Please address any questions to Phyllis Giasson at gfamily1999@gmail.com.

★ 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 22 | WESTFIELDS GOLF CLUB CLIFTON, VA

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MAY 15

The Music Ministry is sending out a call for a Pianist. Candidates should be proficient in piano skills, reading music and be able to accompany choirs or singers. Please reply to cfischl@Nativityburke.org if interested!

Practice High School Placement Test & Parent How to High School: Saturday, May 6, 2023 (8:30-11:45 am)

John Paul the Great High School is hosting the Pre-High School Placement Test (Pre-HSPT) for current 7th graders. The Pre-HSPT is optional, and is a practice test intended to help students become more familiar with the different sections of the HSPT under timed conditions. The practice test is designed to give the student an idea of how the exam will be administered and what to expect on the actual day of testing during the student's 8th grade year. Parents are invited to stay for Parent How to High School - a workshop on preparing your student for high school. To register for any of John Paul's 2023 Pre-HSPT offerings, please use these links: <https://forms.gle/gtLeSru8zebN1AEW9> To pay: <https://saintjohnpaul.mypaysimple.com/s/middle-school-event-registration>. Please reach out by email or phone at admissions@jpthegreat.org and/or (703) 445-0246 with any questions.



What's after Confirmation?

Take your faith to the next level!

You and all 8th graders are invited to join us at our high school Youth Ministry program, Life Teen

Sunday, April 30 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Meet in the Well (near the Cafeteria)

Join us for an incredible night of faith and friendship! We'll kick off the night with breakfast for dinner.

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

**TWO SPEAKERS, ONE SPECIAL AFTERNOON
"Sinners and Saints" – Speakers Event
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

All Nativity parishioners are invited to share an afternoon of meditation, conversation, and inspiration on this date. Two local people will speak at this event: our own Deacon Richard Kelly and Dawn Beutner, author of the book "Saints, Becoming an Image of Christ Every Day of the Year." In his Gospel, St. John describes the miracle in which Jesus cured a man blind from birth. The man gained not only physical sight but also spiritual sight. In contrast, the Pharisees, who had the gift of physical sight, refused to believe in the Christ who was before them. In his presentation, Deacon Kelly will talk to us about our own experience with spiritual blindness. Dawn Beutner will speak about her new book, "The Leaven of the Saints," which has just been released. In this book, Dawn tried to gather holy men and women in bunches, like flowers, to help us better appreciate them. Dawn will have copies of her book available for sale and signing after her presentation. There will be an intermission between the speakers, during which refreshments will be served. This event is open to all Nativity parishioners. This speakers event, sponsored by Prime Time Single Catholics, will be held in the Fr. Ready room on Wednesday, May 3, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Prime Time Single Catholics is an area-wide social group for individuals 40 and over recognized by Bishop Burbidge.

Reservations are required. Please RSVP to ptscnva@gmail.com or call Linda at 703-913-7261 by 9:00p.m. on Sunday, April 30 if you plan to attend.
<https://nativityburke.org/sinners-and-saints/>

Struggling with addiction in the family?

Both the afflicted and affected don't need to be alone. There are many resources available including AA, NA, Alanon, Calix and a diocesan chaplain. Call the HELPLINE (970) 989-2670 for support. This is NOT LIMITED to addicts, anybody that would like to speak with a priest or a friend in Christ May call!



**Catholic Home Missions Appeal
Second Collection THIS weekend**

The Appeal primarily supports home mission dioceses, that is, those dioceses in the United States that are unable to offer their people the basic pastoral ministries of word, worship, and service without outside help. It may also give grants to other dioceses in the U.S. for particular projects, and to organizations and religious communities engaged in missionary work. The Subcommittee funds a range of pastoral services. However, it principally focuses on (1) evangelization activities, (2) religious education, (3) ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and laypeople; (4) support of poor parishes across the country. Thank you for your support!
For more information visit:
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/catholic-home-missions>



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

The Creation Care Ministry wishes to thank Youth Minister Rebecca Judge, WorkCamp stakeholder Brigid Williams, event leader Tom Sverel, this year's 20 teen WorkCampers and their parent volunteers for the opportunity to work together on a service day in preparation for WorkCamp this June! Nine Creation Care Ministry volunteers worked alongside the students in Nativity's St. Kateri Habitats to refurbish the existing spaces with additional plants and leaf mulch and to clear and plant one new space. The St. Kateri Habitat program is a certification process for Catholic lands including homes, that are using sustainable gardening techniques. Their website states, "Anyone can begin to transform their home, school, workplace, or parish church into a healthy habitat for people and wildlife. It can be as simple as planting a tree, cultivating a vegetable garden, or growing wildflowers for bees and butterflies." Our original St. Kateri Habitat space is in the front of the church in the parking lot and 5 parking lot islands in the back of the church are also now designated in this way. Collectively these spaces offer habitat to expand the biodiversity of Nativity's campus in support of Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si. Perhaps the most entertaining moments of the work camp day were when students took on the role of God, St. Francis and Sister Catherine in a conversation about how "Suburbanites" have replaced his intended biodiversity with green triangles of lawn. While the native plants that students planted take time to become established, ultimately they will benefit native pollinators and add beauty to our campus. First they sleep (grow roots), next they creep (present as small plants), and then they leap (see our front garden!) Students also prepared the vegetable gardens for planting, learned about the compost area and rain barrel and gained an understanding of the value of the native trees on campus. The theme for the day was a quote from Bill Patenaude, board member of the St. Kateri Conservation Center and author of the Catholic Ecology blog. He said, "Perhaps, before we can care for our global common home, we must first love and value and nurture our own corners of creation." Our church campus, our homes and the homes that the workcampers will assist with are indeed "our own corners of creation."



**YOUTH MINISTRY
SUMMER CAMPS**

TUESDAY, JUNE 27 - FRIDAY, JUNE 30

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

OPEN TO CURRENT K - 4 GRADERS
8:45am - 12pm | \$40 per camper

CAMP ON THE EDGE

OPEN TO CURRENT 5 - 8 GRADERS
1:30pm - 4:30pm | \$40 per camper

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VBC: 8TH GRADERS - ADULTS
COTE: 10TH GRADERS - ADULTS
\$10 per volunteer to cover t-shirt fee

REGISTRATION

NOW OPEN!
on the parish website



From Abortion to
Life-Affirming Medicine

**DR.
BRUCHALSKI**
Prolife Speaker



May 13th in the Nativity Catholic
Church Cafeteria
6:00-6:30 PM Refreshments
6:30 Speaker with Q&A
Followed by a book signing

For More Information and to Register,
<https://nativityburke.org/dr-bruchalski/>
or email jsturgeson@nativityburke.org



**SPOTLIGHT
ON THE
ARTS**
~ SUMMER CAMPS ~
SpotlightSummerCamps.com
Manassas, VA | Burke, VA

**BROADWAY
SPOTLIGHT**
DRAMA
BOOTCAMP
ARTS
&
CRAFTS
FUN
ART
EXPLORER

JULY 10-21, 2023



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 24, 2023. Collections will begin:

Thursday, June 15, 2023 and continue through Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Your donations are tax-deductible and sincerely appreciated.

Rosary Ministry - May Meeting

All rosary makers are invited to come on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, May 9th at 1:00PM in the Fr Ready Room. May is our month to honor Our Blessed Mother. Come and make rosaries while we learn about some of the Marian devotions and chaplets. Marian Chaplets and devotions may enrich our prayer life and honor Mary by asking for her special graces. Come and familiarize yourself with the Three Hail Mary Devotion, The Ten evangelical Virtues of Mary Chaplet, the Chaplet of Our Lady of Un-doer of Knots and others. If you have a special devotion to Mary, come and share with us as we make blue mission rosaries together.



For more information contact us at rosaryministry@nativityburke.org

MOTHER'S DAY CARDS & 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 this weekend. Mother's names will be placed on the Altar during the month of May.

NOVENA MASSES SCHEDULE:

Sunday, May 14	7:00 AM
Sunday, May 14	1:00 PM
Sunday, May 14	5:30 PM
Monday, May 15	7:30 AM
Tuesday, May 16	7:30 AM
Thursday, May 18	7:30 AM
Friday, May 19	9:00 AM
Saturday, May 20	5:00 PM
Saturday, May 20	7:00 PM

KOVAR COLLECTION

Last week the Knights of Columbus collected donations for KOVAR after each Mass. KOVAR is a Virginia Knights of Columbus Charity established in 1971 to provide financial assistance through grants and home loans to tax exempt organizations providing training and assistance to citizens with intellectual disabilities. KOVAR depends on the Knights Council at each Parish to raise its funds. If you missed donating there is still a chance to do so. New this year, you can donate on-line through Nativity's on-line giving platform – OSV. As it is new "Fund" it is at the bottom of the list of funds.



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, May 1st

7:30 am † Virginia Gavilan

Tuesday, May 2nd

7:30 am † Lester Jasinski
12:00 pm † Raymond Travis

Wednesday, May 3rd

7:30 am † Virginia Beatrice Aboitiz
3:00 pm † Rev. Richard Martin (Sunrise)

Thursday, May 4th

7:30 am † Charles Hutchison
12:00 pm † Gretchen Poston

Friday, May 5th

7:30 am † Ernesto Chandeck
9:00 am † Betty Krambeck

Saturday, May 6th

9:00 am † Sally Mernah (Holy Communion Mass)
5:00 pm † COL Thomas "Tom" Kullman
7:00 pm Special Int. for Nicholas, Benjamin Samuel Turner

Sunday, May 7th

7:00 am † Leonardo Soto
9:00 am † Regimental SGM Jeffrey Todd
11:00 am † Rev. Richard Martin
1:00 pm Parishioners
5:30 pm † Larry Brindza

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

OPENING OF THE MASS INTENTIONS CALENDAR FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2023 SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 AT 9:00AM

- Please note that we can only honor **5 Mass Intention** requests per year, per family/household.
- We are currently opening the calendar for Mass Intentions from July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 only.
- We try our very best to accommodate your requested dates. Please be aware that some dates might be unavailable (i.e. Novena Masses etc.) and the calendar fills us quickly.
- In case of unavailability, we will try our best to schedule on the closest date possible.
- You can schedule Mass intentions by visiting the parish office or going to our website at: <https://nativityburke.org/mass-intentions/> to request an intention online.
- For online requests: they are **NOT** scheduled until you get a confirmation email or call to let you know that the requested date(s) is/are available and Masses have been scheduled.
- We are not able to honor phone requests.

We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we try to accommodate all requests. If you have any other questions, please email Ayse Kenner at akenner@nativityburke.org.



Nativity Religious Education Program

Needs volunteers
for the 2023-2024
RE School year!

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

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

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

TO SIGN-UP VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE

NATIVITYBURKE.ORG

- Select Religious Education Tab
- Select volunteers needed
- or scan the QR-Code that will take you our page.

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

Volunteers like you bring a little hope
and leave a little sunshine
everywhere they go.

For more information :
nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org
or 703-455-0372

THE LIGHTNING THIEF

THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL

BOOK BY
Joe Tracz

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
Rob Rokicki

ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK
THE LIGHTNING THIEF BY
Rick Riordan

AUDITIONS: MAY 10-11

PERFORMANCES:
JULY 14 - 15, 2023
JULY 21 - 22, 2023

**NATIVITY PLAYERS
THEATER MINISTRY
NATIVITYPLAYERSBURKE.ORG**

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT
WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS
(CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM)



“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...’ Acts 2:38

The word “repent” means to turn from sin - to change our thoughts, words and actions. Change that is permanent comes from within - a transformation or conversion of heart. This requires prayer, discipline and perseverance. Change is hard. The first step is recognizing that we are broken and that we need God’s help. The good news - we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.

ECHO May Food Room Collection - May 6 & 7



Choose sizes appropriate for our average family size of four. Because of the wonderful generosity of our community, ECHO already has a more than ample supply of canned vegetables, stuffing mix, canned soup, and canned beans. However, we are short on many other items such as personal care products and the items listed below. ECHO cannot give our clients food whose expiration date is long past, open food, or repackaged food (no zip-loc bags). Any donation, large or small, is most gratefully welcomed, we collected 877 lbs on April 1 & 2!

Items requested: *Lemon or Lime Juice, Instant Potatoes, Tea (green, herbal, black), Tortillas, Juice (pouches or bottles), Cooking Oil, Spaghetti, Crackers, Hot Chocolate, Shelf Stable or Canned Milk, Sugar, Muffin/Cornbread Mix, Bag Rice, Box Rice, Bag Beans (Red or Black especially), Canned Fruit, Peanut Butter, Canned Meat (Spam is a favorite), Dates, nuts, dried fruit, granola bars and other healthy snacks, Laundry Detergent, Shampoo/Conditioner, Band Aids, Deodorant, Facial Tissues, Dish Detergent, Brown Paper Grocery Bags.*

Church Of the Nativity Parish Yard Sale for Charity

Saturday, June 24—8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

6398 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA
No strollers during sale -- All sales final

Donations collected at the Nativity cafeteria/Fr. Martin Center (gym)

*SEE REVERSE FOR ACCEPTABLE/NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS
PLEASE—ALL DONATED ITEMS MUST BE IN GOOD CONDITION!*

Drop-off Hours

Thursday/Friday, June 15-16	6:00 PM-9:00 PM
Saturday, June 17	9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Sunday, June 18	2:00 PM-5:00 PM
Monday, June 19	10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Monday 6/19-Wed. 6/21	6:00 PM-9:00 PM
Thursday/Friday, June 22-23	NO COLLECTIONS!


Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
6/15	6/16	6/17	6/18	6/19	6/20	6/21	6/22	6/23
6-9 PM	6-9 PM	9 AM -2 PM	2 PM-5 PM	6-9 PM	6-9 PM	10 AM-4 PM; 6-9 PM	NO drop-offs!!	NO drop-offs!!

For more information please call: Dave Zivich 703-598-0698
Tax receipts provided
Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Fr. Vincent S. Sikora Council 7992

SHRED EVENT

Bring your documents to the Long & Foster office in Burke for **FREE** secure shredding. Community Event - all are welcome!

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023 9AM TO 12PM



NEW this year! We will also be collecting your donations for **ECHO**.

6045 Burke Centre Parkway Burke, VA 22015 | 703-425-8000

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE



COMEDY & BBQ NIGHT



6.00-8:30 PM



20 MAY

REGISTER TO ATTEND:

<https://nativityburke.org/comedy-bbq-night/>

Special
Invitation by the
**Knights of Columbus
and Marriage
Enrichment
Ministry**



Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. The first meeting is a business meeting, and the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation including video/discussion series and guest speakers. Rosary at 7:15 PM; meeting follows at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows every meeting. Meetings are in the Nativity school cafeteria.

Linktree Universal Sign-up Link: Want to volunteer for an event? https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992.

Culture of Life: Set aside Saturday, May 13 @ 6:00pm and then hold on to your seats as you hear Dr. Bruchalski reveal first-hand his witness of how the scales fell off his eyes as he was transformed from an abortionist to a preeminent pro-life OB/GYN through his encounters with a pregnancy support center, a morally upright neonatologist—and Mary and Jesus. Book signing, Nativity Father Martin Center.

Wives Appreciation Luncheon: Sunday, May 21, 2:00 PM at The Wine House. Wives' meal covered by the council. Knights buy your ticket on the linktree (\$63). Buy early, there are limited spaces available.

Plan for your family's future: Join us for an informative live presentation from the Abbate Agency - Knights of Columbus about how to combine your faith and financial security. It will be preceded by a social sponsored by K of C Council #7992 & The Nativity Marriage Enrichment Ministry. All are invited to better their understanding of benefits available to Catholics. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn and to enjoy good company during the social! It is open to the entire community. 9 May at 7:30PM in the Fr. Ready Room.

KOVAR: Collect funds to support people with intellectual disabilities. On April 29 we will be collecting at Safeway. Many hands needed! Signup on the linktree. This year we have also added the ability to donate through Nativity's on-line giving platform OSV.

Food for Others: We need volunteers drivers for food distributions to the poor. If you have a truck or van and can occasionally help deliver to Springfield on Friday evenings contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com.

Yard Sale: This is the council's second biggest charity fundraiser! We need area leads and assistant leads to commit to supporting the collection period as well as the date of the sale June 15-24th. You don't have to be a Knight to help! Sign up on the linktree. Contact Br. Dave Zivich with any questions at davezivich@gmail.com.

Name Tags: Email Warden Michael Bender at michaelbambender@hotmail.com to order.

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. Volunteer on the linktree.

Handy Knights Ministry: If you are unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small repairs in your home due to health or other factors, call the "Handy Knights." You can reach us at handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com.

The Fraternal Committee: Brothers helping brothers in need of assistance: Brothers and the families of living and deceased brothers in need of a helping hand, contact Br. John Landy at navyy8@yahoo.com.

Calling all 3rd Degree Knights: The 4th Degree is calling you to participate in patriotic activities, color and honor guards and organizing programs that promote Catholic citizenship. Meetings 2nd Tuesday of the month; 7:30 pm rosary: 7:45 pm business meeting followed by fellowship.

Mother's Day in the Park

Join us for a blessing of all Moms
a Celebration with Sundaes from Baskin-Robbins

AND A RAFFLE

**SUNDAY, MAY 14
 AT 1:00PM**

**FAIRFAX MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY
 NEXT TO THE CEMETERY OFFICE**



WORKCAMP 2023

CONTRACTORS NEEDED

WorkCamp is a week-long service opportunity for youth of our Parish to serve those in need throughout the Diocese. We are seeking people with home repair and maintenance skills who are willing to commit some of their time and talents to teaching young people and improving the lives of fellow Virginians in need.



DECKS, RAMPS, WINDOWS, FLOORING, ROOFS & MORE
 NO PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

- **JUNE 19-22 IN WINCHESTER, VA**
- To volunteer, contact your Parish Stakeholder or Director of Youth Ministry!
- Visit arlingtondiocese.org/workcamp for more info.



GO FORTH!
Grow in love for
God so that others
will be attracted by
the divine light in you.
Welcome the new
vocations the Lord
sends to continue
the work
of consecration. - Pope Francis



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



Confirmandi... **CONFIRMED!**

More than 200 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation on a recent Saturday morning in Church amid prayers and praise of friends and family, as Military Bishop Timothy P. Broglio celebrated a renewal of Baptismal promises in a community celebrating 50 years of faith and service.

"Gifts of the Holy Spirit will help you live in today's world," said the Bishop. "To live an authentic Christian life," he explained, "we depend upon each other. We each have different gifts that - together, like a mosaic - create a whole. There are no spare parts in the Body of Christ," he concluded, "we are ALL necessary."



Upcoming Dates At-A-Glance!

- May 3: Band & Strings Concert 6:30 p.m.
- May 4: 1st Communion Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
- May 5: Mothers' High Tea 10 a.m.
- May 5: 11:30 a.m. Dismissal
- May 6: 11:30 a.m. First Holy Communion
- May 8-12: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 8: 1st Communion Breakfast Grades 2&8
- May 9: 8th Grade Spanish Exam
- May 9-11: NWEA Testing Grades 3-7
- May 10: Chipotle Fundraiser 4 p.m.
- May 12: May Crowning at Mass
- May 13: International Seaperch Competition
- May 16: Piano Recital 6:30 p.m.
- May 17: 4th Grade Field Trip
- May 17: Battle of the Books Competition
- May 18: 2nd Grade Field Trip
- May 18: Charlotte's Web Performance 2 p.m.
- May 22: Parish Golf Tournament
- May 23: Shakespeare Performance 2 p.m.
- May 24: 8th Grade at PVI for Shakespeare
- May 24: 4th Grade Colonial Days
- May 26: Preschool/Pre-K Last Day
- May 26: 12 NOON Early Dismissal
- May 26: 7th & 8th Grade Dance 7 p.m.
- May 29: Memorial Day - No School
- May 30: Principal/Teacher of the Day
- May 31: Grades 7th & 8th Field Day

YOUTH MINISTRY

cym@nativityburke.org

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm



- Dinner
- Fellowship
- Prayer & Formation

2023 HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS

Girls: Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm | Weekly
Guys: Thursdays, 7:30-9:00pm | 2x / month

EDGE: GRADES 6-8

Alternating Sundays 3:30-5pm & Fridays 7-8:30pm
See website for schedule



- Meet new friends
- Play games
- Explore your faith

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER CAMPS

We are currently recruiting adult and teen volunteers for our two summer camp programs, Vacation Bible Camp and Camp on the Edge. Consider joining our team! Register to volunteer on the parish website.



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

Associates of St. John Bosco Parent Night

The college campus has become increasingly difficult for young people of faith, especially young Catholics. But just how much are secularism and worldliness vying for the souls of our young people? Come join the Associates of St. John Bosco at "Parents Prepared: What's Around the Corner for Your Child Going to College" in order to learn just what's going on on the college campus and steps you can take as a parent to ensure your child has a faithful college experience for the next four years. This event will take place on May 2, 2023 at 7:00PM at the Lyceum at the Basilica of St. Mary. To register for free, please visit: <https://www.asjb.org/parents-prepared>.



POLICE & FAITH COMMUNITY

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SITE

A WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS OF TEENS

7-8 PM ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH

HOSTED AT
NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
6400 NATIVITY LANE
BURKE, VA 22015
IN THE FR. READY ROOM

Ecumenical Safety Talk at Nativity

This presentation is great for parents, especially those with middle school and high school teens. All adults will find it interesting. For the month of May, School Resource Officer David Curcio and Community Outreach Officer Liam May will be presenting Hidden in Plain Sight (H.I.P.S.). This presentation helps you learn the latest trends in risky behavior and communications skills to help you talk to your children. We include up-to-date statistics and local trends, and law enforcement officers will share the experiences they have had in our community, identifying risky behavior and helping to put kids on the right path to a healthy life.

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.



The Associates of St. John Bosco undergraduate scholarship opportunity

The Associates of St. John Bosco is pleased to offer three \$4,000 scholarships and one \$6,000 scholarship (the Vincent T. Vaccaro Education Scholarship) to undergraduate students who demonstrate an intense desire to live out their faith on their college campus and who seek to serve the Church in some capacity after graduation. Freshman scholarship funding may continue into the next three years if certain criteria are met and, if funding is available, for potentially \$14,000 to \$20,000 in total scholarship funding! **Please apply by May 22 at asjb.org/scholarship-program**

JOIN THE NATIVITY SCHOOL STAFF!

Consider joining our School Staff as part of our Extended Care Team to help us provide After-School Care by contacting our Extended Care Director, Mrs. Jen Behan at (703) 455-2300, or jbehan@nativityschool.org. To assist us as a Lunch/Recess Monitor, or Substitute Teacher, please contact Rich Godwin at (703) 455-2300, or rgodwin@nativityschool.org.

Interpreters Needed for Our Mother of Mercy Free Clinic

MoM's mission is to provide free, quality healthcare to low-income individuals who are uninsured or under-insured in the Diocese. The majority speak Spanish. The Clinics are in need of Virtual Interpreters to help improve communication between the client and medical providers. All interpreting services will be remote via Zoom. Training provided. If you can help one 4-hour shift a month, please register here: <http://bit.ly/VolunteerMotherofMercy>.



You can designate Nativity Church or Nativity School as the beneficiaries of your Amazon Smile! You can choose Nativity by going to: **YOUR ACCOUNT, YOUR AMAZON SMILE and designating Nativity.** Amazon then contributes a small percentage of each purchase to Nativity. For questions, please contact Ann Benson at: 703 455 2400. Thank you!

John Paul the Great Summer Camps June - August 2023

JP Summer Camps registration is now open! Sign your elementary and middle school-age children up for a variety of athletic and enrichment camps during the summer months.

For registration visit:

<https://www.jpthegreat.org/apps/pages/summeractivities>

Padayon Pagsayaw

The Filipino/American Community Ministry, in collaboration with the Leyte Dance Theater, proudly Presents 90 Minutes of fun, culture, friendship, pure energy, and love in song, music and dance at, “*Padayaw Padayon Pagsayaw*” non-stop dancing on Saturday, May 20 at 4 p.m. (doors open at 3:00 p.m) at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, West Springfield, VA 22152! General admission is \$40. Payment may be made in advance or at the door. Online payments are acceptable. Please confirm reservation by mailing checks payable to Filipino/American Community Ministry no later than Monday, May 1 with your name and contact info to: Filipino/American Community Ministry, 1106 Jackson Court, Falls Church, VA 22046. For more information contact the Office of Multicultural Ministries at mcm@arlingtondiocese.org or call 703.841.3881.



The Importance of Sunday Mass

As the body will die without food, the soul will expire without nourishment. As Catholics, that spiritual nourishment comes at the Sunday Eucharist. The Lord’s Day is essential for our faith. Make Sunday Mass the heart of your week.



Associates of
SAINT JOHN BOSCO

COLLEGE NIGHTS

Bridging the Gap of Faith



Student testimonials



Peer connections



Small groups sessions

June 28: St. Mark's
July 5: St. Michael's
July 12: Holy Trinity (NEW location!)
July 19: Basilica of St. Mary
July 26: Holy Cross Academy

All rising college freshmen and transfer students may register for FREE at ASJB.org. All events begin at 7PM.

CELEBRATING 19 YEARS!

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

~ SUMMER CAMPS ~

THIS SUMMER,
YOUR CHILD WILL
ACT OUT LOUD.
CREATE
A MASTERPIECE.
SING & DANCE.
TAKE A BOW.

July 10-21, 2023

**All Saints Catholic Church
in Manassas, VA**

**Nativity Catholic Church
in Burke, VA**

**THEATRE, MUSIC,
AND ART CAMPS
FOR ELEMENTARY,
MIDDLE SCHOOL,
AND HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS**

**FREE
T-SHIRT
AND
DISCOUNTS
AVAILABLE
FOR EARLY BIRD
REGISTRATIONS**

**Register by May 31st
to receive an early
bird discount and get
a free t-shirt**

SpotlightSummerCamps.com



16th Annual "Pops Camp" For rising 7th-9th graders

Monday - Friday, August 7-11, 2023

Friday - 11 a.m. concert/potluck

For rising 7th, 8th or 9th instrumentalists with at least one year of instruction.

- **Jazz Studies \$50:** 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Quite popular secondary offering that introduces improvisational techniques while preparing music for concert.
- **Pops \$100:** 9:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Daily itinerary includes full group and sectional rehearsals plus snack.

Register using the QR code.

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



St. Paul VI Catholic High School
42341 Braddock Rd, Chantilly, VA 20152



PVI Theatre Camp

June 19 – 23, 2023

(Monday – Friday)

9 a.m. – noon

For rising 7th-9th graders

Cost:

\$150 per student, if registered by May 1

\$180 per student, after May 2

Register using QR code.

Contact Mrs. Kathy d’Alelio
kdalelio@paulvi.net or call

703-352-0925 x0622



St. Paul VI Catholic High School
42341 Braddock Rd, Chantilly, VA 20152

Called by Christ!



WEEKEND DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN (AGES 18-40)

Sponsored by the Office of Vocations, with the Trappist-Cistercian Sisters from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Crozet, VA.

June 16-18

Cost: \$100 includes private room and all meals

Register with the Office of Vocations by June 5:

vocations@arlingtondiocese.org
(703) 841-2514



NEED TO TALK?

Catholic Charities provides quality mental health services & counselors grounded in a Catholic understanding of the human person. “Nativity’s Counselor” Ms. Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC is back at Nativity counseling clients in-person and is available on Thursdays from 10:00am-6:00pm to talk with any parishioners who may be struggling.

To set up an appointment, please contact Marguerite at 703-454-2415 or mmturner@ccda.net.

Victim Assistance Program

For Those Sexually Abused as Minors

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington provides comprehensive assistance to anyone who as a minor was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, teacher, employee or representative of the diocese. Parents, guardians, children and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, who will provide support, consultation, and referrals. The Catholic Diocese of Arlington is committed to assisting victims/survivors throughout the healing process. For further information, see www.arlingtondiocese.org/victim-assistance/ or call (703) 841-2530.

Sign Up For the Diocesan E-Newsletter!

Receive special video messages from our bishop, learn about unique opportunities to get involved, and be the first to know the news about our Diocese - straight to your inbox.

Sign up here: arlingtondiocese.org/email

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

4th Sunday of Easter

Sunday April 30

Acts 2:14a,36-41
Ps 23:1-6
1 Peter 2:20b-25
John 10:1-10

Monday May 1
St. Joseph the Worker

Acts 11:1-18
Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4
John 10:11-18
or Matthew 13:54-58

Tuesday May 2
St. Athanasius

Acts 11:19-26
Ps 87:1b-7
John 10:22-30

Wednesday May 3

1 Corinthians 15:1-8
Ps 19:2-5
John 14:6-14

Thursday May 4

Acts 13:13-25
Ps 89:2-3,21-22,25,27
John 13:16-20

Friday May 5

Acts 13:26-33
Ps 2:6-11b
John 14:1-6

Saturday May 6

Acts 13:44-52
Ps 98:1-4
John 14:7-14

Are you at an impasse in your spiritual growth or emotional healing or a difficult relationship? Do you need a breakthrough? Do you feel stuck behind a fence that's keeping you on the outside of peace, joy, satisfaction, or healing?

This Sunday's Gospel reading tells us that Jesus is the gate in that fence. He helps us reach the heavenly side of the gate, outside the realm of earthly restrictions — not only when we die and enter eternal life, but also here and now in our earthly life, so that we might always "have life and have it more abundantly."

When our path seems blocked, we can only make progress by letting Jesus shepherd us around and through and over the obstacles. If people shut a door on something that God wants us to do, Jesus is still our open gate and no one can close him out of our lives. He will lead us into a new opportunity for accomplishing the plans of God. If he's given us a frustrated holy desire or a passion for which there seems to be no outlet, instead of complaining or quitting, we must look at Jesus and see him as a gate that opens into a new direction or location.

Remember, however, that until we get all the way through this gate, we must stick close to him like dumb sheep. There's a journey to take before we can reach the other side of the fence.

The thief that comes to steal and slaughter can only reach us



when we stray away from Jesus and we take our eyes off of him.

Despair and worry are two common thieves, robbing us of peace, joy, satisfaction, and healing. But they're not as powerful as they pretend to be. We defeat them easily by remembering that they do not speak the full truth. The truth is: Jesus is our Good Shepherd safely guiding us into a life of abundant victory!

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What breakthrough are you hoping for? What's frustrating you and seems hopeless? What's causing you to think that a problem you're facing might lead to disaster and destruction?
- † What will you do this week to follow Jesus more closely so that you can get through this with more peace?
- † Share the story of a time when you experienced obstacles and Jesus provided a breakthrough that led to victory.



What else did Jesus say?

Write the word that is opposite the one given. Then move letters to the numbered lines of the story at the bottom.

Light 2 1 6 Frown 18 3 10
 Day 14 5 Down 11
 Hard 5 7 15 Hello 12 4 19
 Take 20 8 Go 13 m 17
 High 16 9



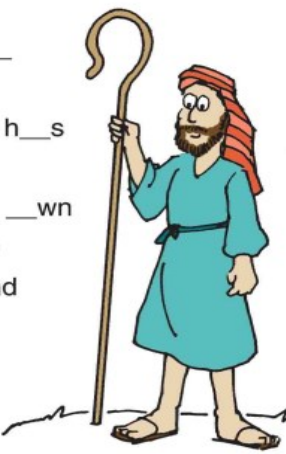
“ 9 5 12 17 8 17 6 17 14 15 17 6 18

15 5 6 12 11 20 5 3 17 9 10 16 16 4 17
 18 1 8 17 2 10 5 1 8 17 13 12 3 17
 15 5 1 15 15 5 17 19 3 1 19 5 1 8 17
 16 10 7 17 1 14 2 5 1 8 17 10 15
 10 14 7 11 16 16”

Jesus continued His story.

Fill in the missing vowels in order. Then read the story.
e a o e e e a e i e e e o i e e e a a o e e e e
o i a e e e i e o i o i e a i o e e a e a e o u

“Th_ m_n wh_ _nt_rs by
 th_ g_t _s th_ sh_ph_rd
 _f h_s sh__p. Th_
 w_tchm_n _p_ns th_ g_t
 f_r h_m, _nd th_
 sh__p l_st_n t_h_s
 v__ce. H_ c_lls h_s _wn
 sh__p by n_m__nd
 l__ds th_m __t.”



Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

April 30, 2023 • John 10:1-10

The Shepherd and His Flock

What did Jesus say to the Pharisees? Match the number with the word given.

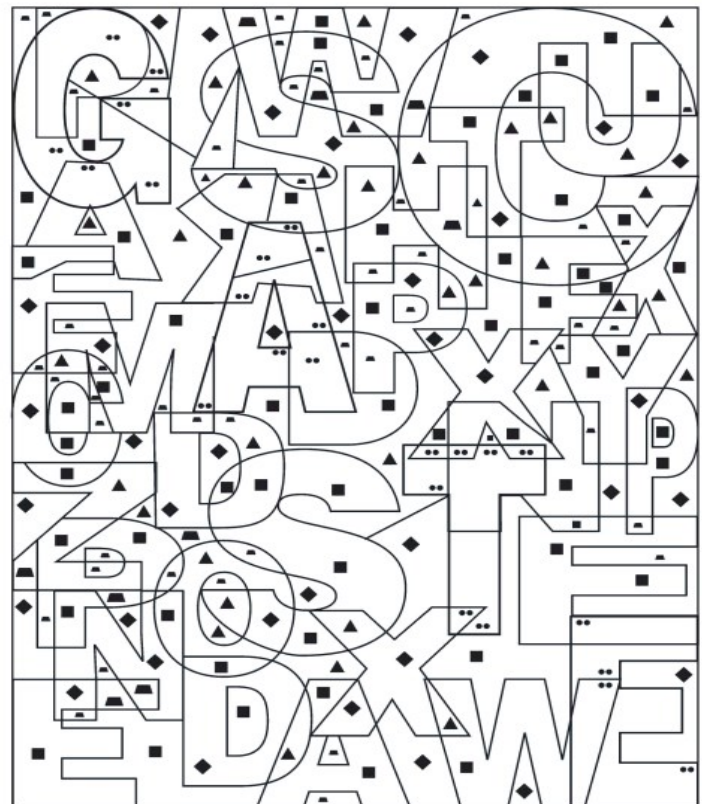
1 thief 4 robber

10 is	15 way	7 and	17 other	24 some	9 the	13 enter
18 man	5 I	29 sheep	21 the	3 but	8 the	19 not
11 you	25 a	23 by	27 climbs	22 a	14 pen	30 truth
12 by	2 the	28 in	6 does	16 tell	26 gate	20 who

“ 5 16 11 2 30 9
 18 20 6 19 13 21
 29 14 12 8 26 3
 27 28 23 24 17
 15 10 22 1 7 25 4”

What did Jesus say next?

Fill in all the shapes with a . . . Then fill in the missing word in the sentence below.



“I tell you the truth, I am the _____ for the sheep.”

*"Os aseguro que yo soy la puerta de las ovejas. Todos los que han venido antes de mí son ladrones y bandidos... Yo soy la puerta: quien entra por mí se salvará y podrá entrar y salir, y encontrará pastos. El ladrón no entra sino para robar y matar y hacer estrago; yo he venido para que tengan vida y la tengan abundante".
(Jn 10,1-10)*

Tomando pie de la experiencia de Israel, el título de pastor suena para muchos, hoy, a dirigismo, a autoridad, a mando... y, como consecuencia, a obediencia y sometimiento. De la experiencia nómada, en que el pastor guía a su rebaño, el pueblo hebreo transporta este contenido a los que reciben cierta responsabilidad sobre el pueblo: reyes, profetas... Y, por la experiencia vivida con estos, lanzan su mirada hacia el futuro atribuyendo al tema del pastor un sabor claramente escatológico: Yahvé intervendrá definitivamente a favor de su pueblo. Aquí enganchan, y desde ahí se explican, las palabras de Jesús en textos evangélicos como el de hoy.

Jesús es el único que puede atribuirse el título de pastor, dada su entrega total a su rebaño. Él se preocupa de procurar buenos pastos a su rebaño, él lo hace entrar en una nueva vida, él conoce personalmente a sus ovejas, él da su vida por ellas... En definitiva, él vive por y para el rebaño, sin aprovecharse para nada de él. Por eso, todos los hombres están llamados a entrar en el único rebaño del único pastor. Sólo desde ahí, podrá el hombre contemporáneo aceptar a Jesús como el centro de su vida. No resulta tarea fácil. Porque ondeamos con tanta fuerza la bandera de la libertad, que no admitimos nada que interpretemos como recorte para la misma. Porque nos vemos tan autosuficientes, que no soportamos la presencia de nadie que consideremos como competidor. Porque estamos convencidos de tener las ideas tan claras, que no estamos dispuestos a someternos a ningún dirigismo... Esta es la gran dificultad del hombre de nuestros días: su excesiva autosuficiencia. Por eso está en crisis la figura del padre, del maestro, del líder político o religioso... Casi todos luchamos por que no nos roben nuestra autonomía, nuestra capacidad de opinión y de decisión. Sin darnos cuenta (o sin querer reconocerlo) de que, y esto es lo grave, no ha habido, quizá, ninguna época en que el hombre haya sido más esclavo y más dependiente que ahora. ¿No habla de esto la moda, la música, los modos de diversión...? Nunca hemos estado tan uniformados como ahora, que alardeamos, más que nunca, de ser libres.

La certeza de los creyentes es que el único que no se busca a sí mismo buscándonos a nosotros es Jesucristo, que el único que nos ofrece verdaderos caminos de libertad y de superación es Jesucristo, que el único que potencia nuestras capacidades sin anularlas lo más mínimo es Jesucristo... Todos los demás, frente a él, son "ladrones y bandidos", que nos roban lo que más estimamos, porque se buscan a ellos y a sus intereses, sin que nosotros les preocupemos nada en absoluto.

Es una buena ocasión para que cada uno examine la experiencia de libertad y de realización personal que ha conquistado siguiendo las voces a las que dado cabida en su vida. Y, por supuesto, una buena ocasión de experimentar a dónde conduce el seguimiento de Jesucristo, el Buen Pastor.

Miguel Esparza Fernández

Meditación del Papa Benedicto XVI

Jesús que dijo de sí mismo que había venido para que nosotros tengamos la vida y la tengamos en plenitud, en abundancia, nos explicó también qué significa "vida": "Ésta es la vida eterna: que te conozcan a ti, único Dios verdadero, y a tu enviado, Jesucristo". La vida en su verdadero sentido no la tiene uno solamente para sí, ni tampoco sólo por sí mismo: es una relación. Y la vida entera es relación con quien es la fuente de la vida. Si estamos en relación con Aquel que no muere, que es la Vida misma y el Amor mismo, entonces estamos en la vida. Entonces "vivimos".

28. Pero ahora surge la pregunta: de este modo, ¿no hemos recaído quizás en el individualismo de la salvación? ¿En la esperanza sólo para mí que además, precisamente por eso, no es una esperanza verdadera porque olvida y descuida a los demás? No. La relación con Dios se establece a través de la comunión con Jesús, pues solos y únicamente con nuestras fuerzas no la podemos alcanzar. En cambio, la relación con Jesús es una relación con Aquel que se entregó a sí mismo en rescate por todos nosotros. Estar en comunión con Jesucristo nos hace participar en su ser "para todos", hace que éste sea nuestro modo de ser. Nos comprometemos en favor de los demás, pero sólo estando en comunión con Él podemos realmente llegar a ser para los demás, para todos. (*Benedicto XVI, Encíclica Spe salvi, nn. 27-28*).

Estoy delante de la Puerta Santa y pido: «Señor, ¡ayúdame a abrir la puerta de mi corazón!». No tendría mucha eficacia el Año Santo si la puerta de nuestro corazón no dejara pasar a Cristo que nos empuja a ir hacia los demás, para llevarlo a Él y su amor. Por lo tanto, igual que la Puerta santa permanece abierta, porque es el signo de la acogida que Dios mismo nos reserva, así también nuestra puerta, la del corazón, ha de estar siempre abierta para no excluir a ninguno. Ni siquiera al que o a la que me molesta: a ninguno. (*Homilía de S.S. Francisco, 16 de diciembre de 2015*).

Reflexión

Él nos lo dice: Yo soy el Cristo. Pero muchas veces no lo escuchamos. Él nos habla siempre con hechos más que con palabras. ¿Cuántos milagros se han realizado a lo largo de los siglos en la Iglesia y cuán poca confianza a veces tenemos? Es Cristo quien nos está hablando a través de todas estas obras.

Nos habla sobre todo en el silencio, en un atardecer en el mar, en la brisa cargada de fragancias de los campos, en el canto de los pajaritos... son las palabras de Dios que utiliza para comunicarnos su amor. Dios no nos habla en la fuerza de la tormenta, ni en el huracán, nos habla en el susurro de la brisa.

Además el Señor es nuestro Pastor, con Él nada temeremos, porque nos protege bajo su mano. Él se olvida de sí mismo para darnos su amor, como un verdadero Pastor sufre frío, calor, cansancio, sed, hambre... por amor.

Nosotros somos las ovejas de Cristo, fuimos entregados a Él por el mismo Padre celestial. Tanto es el amor de Dios que en todo momento se recuerda de nosotros. Nunca seremos arrebatados de la mano del Padre. Él nos protege y nos cuida entre sus manos.

Él y el Padre son uno. Uno que significa unidad, reflejo e imagen de la unidad que tenemos que vivir entre nosotros. Los hijos con los padres, los padres entre sí, los hermanos, los amigos, los que no conozco, los enemigos. Es el ejemplo de Cristo el que debemos imitar.

4º Domingo de Pascua - A

Evangelio de la Misa: Jn 10,1-10 - El Buen Pastor

La parábola del Buen Pastor es una de las más expresivas para conocer a Cristo, y sigue siendo fácilmente comprensible aún en los ambientes poco rurales. Cristo se compara a Buen Pastor, que cuida de sus ovejas, que somos nosotros. Él nos procura cuidado y cariño, alimento y protección. Nos advierte de los peligros de la vida y nos orienta para sortearlos, nos lleva a los mejores pastos, que son su doctrina y su ejemplo y sobre todo el alimento espiritual de la gracia santificante a través de los sacramentos. Ahora son los sacerdotes y obispos, y el Pastor común, el Papa, quienes hacen las veces de Cristo-Pastor entre nosotros. No se les puede ver y juzgar de otra manera.

Oración para cada día de la semana

Señor, que nos aleccionaste con la elocuente parábola del Buen Pastor, para que mejor te conociéramos, y te tratemos, y más fácilmente acudamos a Ti. Gracias, Señor, por los cuidados que nos proporcionas, para que el error, o los enemigos de la fe y de la verdad no nos dañen.

Gracias por el alimento de la Palabra de Dios, que yo debo conocer en profundidad; y por alimento de la Eucaristía que nutre y fortalece mi vida interior.

Deseo participar siempre en la Eucaristía dominical, y también frecuentemente a diario, pues ahí nos ofreces la Mesa de la Palabra y la Mesa de tu Cuerpo y Sangre.

Sin ellos sé que no puedo vivir y perseverar en la fe y el amor cristiano. Dame hambre de tu Palabra y de tu Cuerpo Eucarístico. Hazme obediente y fiel a tus enseñanzas, que ahora siguen predicando los sacerdotes, nuestros pastores en medio del Pueblo de Dios.

Te pido por el Papa actual, Benedicto XVI, el Pastor de toda la Iglesia, para que sea fiel a su misión y nos aliente con su palabra y su ejemplo de santidad y entrega. Te pido por todos los obispos, sucesores de los Apóstoles, para apacentar las parcelas de la Iglesia, o Diócesis, que hay en todo el mundo, para que sean diligentes y valientes defensores de la Palabra de Dios.

También deseo encomendarte a los sacerdotes: primero para que no nos falten y por tanto abunden las vocaciones sacerdotales; y en segundo lugar para que sean ejemplares en su conducta y en su dedicación de servir al Pueblo de Dios.

Padre Segismundo Fernandez Rodríguez

Esta es una gran oportunidad de tocar música para nuestro Señor. El Ministerio de Música está enviando este llamado para un pianista. Esta es una posición de tiempo parcial. El Candidato debe presentar suficientes habilidades técnicas en lectura musical y también en la ejecución del instrumento teniendo la condición de acompañar coros y cantantes y otros instrumentos si la ocasión lo requiere. Por favor remita su curriculum e información a: cfishl@Nativityburke.org

Gracias!



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