



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. EDWARD BRESNAHAN, PAROCHIAL VICAR**  
**REV. JONATHAN BENNETT, PAROCHIAL VICAR**  
**REV. CEDRIC P. WILSON, ASSISTING PRIEST/  
SPANISH MINISTRY**  
**DEC. RICHARD F. KELLY**

**SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:**

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary  
Ann Benson, Business Manager  
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager  
Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister  
Maureen Andersen, Liturgical Minister  
Johana Brown, Parish Receptionist  
Anna Marty, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator  
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor  
Ayse Kenner, Mass Intentions  
Alison Fram, Director of Young Adult & Family Ministries  
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.  
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR**

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454-2415



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

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

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

**HOLY DAY MASSES:** As Announced

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



***“It is good that we are here” - Matt 17: 1-9***

My dear parishioners,

What a grace for Peter, James, and John to see Jesus transfigured on Mount Tabor. They got a preview of the glory we all hope to share in heaven. This was a very special grace for Peter, James and John.

Just before receiving this special grace of seeing Jesus transfigured, Jesus told his disciples that he must suffer greatly, be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and rise after three days. How did they react? Not very well. Peter rebuked Jesus for saying such a thing. The disciples had to learn that Jesus was a different type of Messiah, one who would lay down His life for his flock. They had left everything to follow Jesus and now he told them that he would be killed. They needed reassurance, and Jesus did not let them down. They received grace on a mountaintop as they saw Jesus in his glory.

They did not completely understand the plan of God for Jesus and for their lives. The Father says *“Listen to Him.”* Do not be scandalized by the teaching of my Son about his approaching passion and death. He revealed His glory to the disciples to strengthen them for the cross that we all will share. We meet Jesus every time we celebrate the Eucharist. It is a mountaintop experience.

We meet Jesus in the Scriptures as they touch our hearts, for in them Jesus speaks to us about our lives. We meet Jesus in a very special way in all the sacraments. Reconciliation brings us in touch with the unconditional love of Christ. The Lord’s revelation in His transfiguration was to persuade His followers that they too are to shine with the beauty of God’s love. Look around you and you will see people who have been transformed by love. Notice in their faces, their eyes, their tone of voice the love of God which is infinitely attractive. Jesus shows us what every human can become when open to transforming love.

I will be away on vacation this week with family to enjoy time together and the beauty of the ocean. Let us pray for one another.....

Love and Summer Blessings,

*Fr. Bob Cilinski*

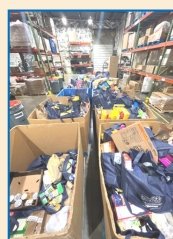
Fr. Bob Cilinski  
Pastor

**NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT**

*“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.”*



**On behalf of the St. Lucy Team of the Fr. Sikora Council Knights of Columbus: Thank You for your wonderful generosity!!!**



In the recent St. Lucy Food Drive, you donated nearly 10,000 lbs of food and nearly \$2,000. These donations will replenish the warehouse and will make a big difference in the lives of many families in the Diocese! The next St. Lucy *“Drive-By/Drop-Off”* Food Drive will take place in October 2023. Please look for us then and consider donating! And again, Thank You!!!

**NATIVITY GIFT SHOP - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The Gift shop desperately needs volunteers to open after all Masses on Sunday. Training will be provided, the work is easy and will require only about 15 minutes of your time (about half an hour on busy days). All proceeds benefit Nativity charities. We should have 2 volunteers at every Mass. Currently the biggest need is for the 7:00am, 9:00am, 1:00pm, and 5:30pm Mass. If interested, please call or stop by the parish office, or leave your name and telephone number at the Gift shop.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**



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

Classes begin September 17th

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

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

**Lead Catechist needed:**

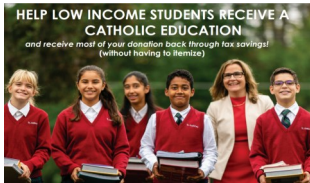
Day	Grade	Time
Sunday (Session 1)	3, 4, 7	3:45-5:00pm
Sunday (Session 2)	K, 1, 4, 5	7:00-8:15pm
Monday (Session 3)	1, 6	4:45-6:00pm
Monday (Session 4)	K, 1, RCIC, 5	7:00-8:15pm
Tuesday (Session 5)	2	4:45-6:00pm
Tuesday (Session 6)	3, 4, 5, 7	7:00-8:15pm

**Assistant Catechist needed:**

Day	Grade	Time
Sunday (Session 1)	5, 6, 7	3:45-5:00pm
Sunday (Session 2)	K, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	7:00-8:15pm
Monday (Session 3)	1, 2, 5, 6	4:45-6:00pm
Monday (Session 4)	2, RCIC, 4, 6, 7, 8	7:00-8:15pm
Tuesday (Session 5)	K, 1, 3, 4, 6, 7	4:45-6:00pm
Tuesday (Session 6)	K, 1, 3, 4, 5, 7	7:00-8:15pm

**To Sign-up visit:**

OUR PARISH WEBSITE:  
NATIVITYBURKE.ORG  
UNDER THE RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION TAB  
OR USE QR CODE  
[nativityburke.org](http://nativityburke.org)



**Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation**

*Help low income students receive a Catholic Education and receive most of your donation back through tax savings! (without having to itemize)*

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

**CALLED: A Conference for Young Adults**

Bishop Burbidge invites all young adults (ages 19 to 35, single and married) from parishes across the Diocese of Arlington to join him at **CALLED: A Conference for Young Adults**. Join him on Saturday, September 23, 2023, for the annual Mass for Young Adults, an inspirational keynote from Mr. Sam Goodwin who was trapped in Syria's notoriously brutal prison system, breakout sessions, dinner, prayer, live music, vendors, ministry booths, and plenty of social time! Make new friends and connect to your local Young Adult Ministries as we contemplate how we've been **CALLED** to holiness. We are excited to offer complimentary childcare for this conference! Invite your friends! The Mass and Conference will run from 2:00pm-9:15pm.



**Register now to take advantage of Early Bird Pricing!**  
To register visit:  
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/young-adult-ministry/called/>

**In search of paid childcare providers for  
The Nativity Childcare Ministry**

*"I became the Childcare Ministry Coordinator because I wanted to help as many families as possible attend parish events. I have people that can help with my son but so many families at Nativity do not have that, so we are here to help!"*



*Please help out our new ministry and become a childcare provider. Just go to the childcare ministry page on the parish website and answer a few questions and we will get back to you!"*

Taylor, Nativity's Childcare Coordinator

<https://nativityburke.org/childcare-ministry/#provider>

**RCIA – Encounter Jesus through Full Communion with the Catholic Church ‘Come and See’**

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about Catholicism? Are you missing the Sacrament of the Eucharist or Confirmation? We invite you to join Nativity’s Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) journey of faith, starting September 18, 2023, with our Monday evening sessions from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Fr. Ready Room.

RCIA forms new disciples, as adults prepare to enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30, 2024, with reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. Our Monday sessions continue until just prior to Pentecost Sunday 2024, preparing for life in the Church as intentional disciples. This faith journey deepens one’s personal relationship with Jesus by encountering him through passionate teaching, personal witness, table discussion time with opportunities for Q&A, prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, spiritual events, and a Lenten outreach project.

RCIA is open to those who have not been baptized, Christians baptized in another faith, and baptized Catholics who have not received catechesis for the other Sacraments of Initiation. For details, contact the Church at (703) 455-2400, or speak to Father Bob Cilinski, or e-mail Linda Loffredo at [lindaloffredo@gmail.com](mailto:lindaloffredo@gmail.com). Visit our website <https://nativityburke.org/rcia/> for more information and registration.

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

**NEW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
LADIES AUXILIARY GROUP**

The K of C Ladies Auxiliary Group was formed to assist and support the Knights, our Church and the four virtues of Charity, Unity, Sorority and Patriotism. We are spouses, daughters, mothers, or sisters of Knights of Columbus who are in good standing or deceased.

Our fellowship and informational meetings are the First Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the Fr. Ready Room. We will not meet in August, but will meet on September 5.

Please contact [kdelatte65@gmail.com](mailto:kdelatte65@gmail.com) for additional information or to be added to our email list for upcoming events and ways to support the knights.



**WOMEN OF NATIVITY  
BACK TO SCHOOL  
SUPPLIES COLLECTION**

THE WOMEN OF NATIVITY WILL ONCE AGAIN BE COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES AFTER ALL MASSES DURING THE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 5-6. THESE SUPPLIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES (MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES) ECHO, HISPANIC OUTREACH AND LORTON COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER.

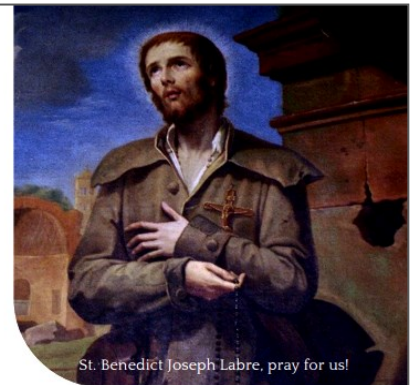
NEEDED ITEMS INCLUDE: BACKPACKS, LOOSE-LEAF PAPER, 3-RING BINDERS, SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS (SINGLE AND MULTIPLE SUBJECT), PENS, #2 PENCILS, PENCIL CASES, FISKAR SCISSORS, LARGE GLUE STICKS, THIN CRAYOLA MARKERS, AND 12" RULERS. SUPPLIES WILL ONLY BE COLLECTED ON THE SCHEDULED DATES DUE TO DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL SHELIA DI FORTI AT 858-204-0080 OR DEBBIE MAYER AT 703-440-8212. THANKS YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS.

**“Beloved of God:  
Overcoming  
Stigma and  
Finding  
Community”**

**A Day of Prayer  
for Mental Health**

Hosted by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Divine Mercy University and the Saint Labre Community



St. Benedict Joseph Labre, pray for us!

AUGUST 26, 2023

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH  
MANASSAS, VA

9:30 A.M.  
Coffee, conversation and confession for those living with a mental health condition

11 A.M.  
Mass - Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, celebrant

12 P.M.  
Lunch and Keynote - Fr. Charles Sikorsky, president, Divine Mercy University

1 P.M.  
Breakout discussions with experts for:  
- those living with a mental health condition with Dr. Karen Cichon, Catholic psychologist  
- family and support persons with Deacon Ed Schoener, Diocese of Scranton

2:30 P.M.  
Adjourn



**Marriage Enrichment Ministry - Upcoming Events**

**Core Planning Team: Would you like to volunteer with the MEM?** Do you want to help share ideas, or assist with date nights or programs? We would love to have you as a part of the team. The next meeting is on Thursday, August 24th at 7:00PM at Craig and Anne's home, please email Anna Lisa at [marriage@nativityburke.org](mailto:marriage@nativityburke.org) and for their address.

**August 23 Gathering with Fr. Bresnahan 7:00pm in Room 242** This is for anyone that wants to learn more about the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). Are you following Fr. Mike's Catechism in a Year? Are you just getting started reading the Catechism? Do you have questions about the Catechism? Then this gathering is for you. If you started reading the CCC in January, keep up the great work, keep showing up one day at a time. Contact Fr. Bresnahan with any questions.

**August 31: Peachwave Fellowship, GMU University Mall.** Peachwave, 10631 Braddock Road, Fairfax at 6:00 PM. Bring your family and friends for "No Weigh" Thursday, grab a white bowl and fill it up with gelato or frozen yogurt and all the toppings that can fit for one flat price of \$4.29 + tax.



**MASS INTENTIONS**

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

Monday, August 7th

7:30 am Special Int. for Stephen Piraino

Tuesday, August 8th

7:30 am † Carol Rehn  
12:00 pm † Kay Stuchlak

Wednesday, August 9th

7:30 am † Joan Opiela

Thursday, August 10th

7:30 am † John Montgomery  
12:00 pm † Richard J. Melanson

Friday, August 11th

7:30 am † John Lynch

Saturday, August 12th

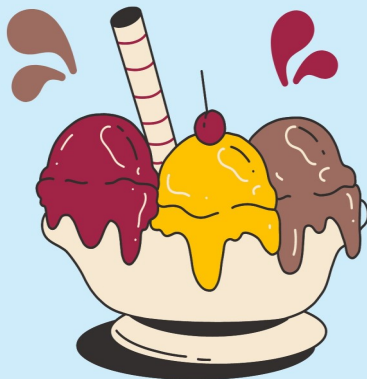
9:00 am † Maria Eugenia Gonzalez Lastra  
5:00 pm † Charlotte and Richard Scales  
7:00 pm Parishioners

Sunday, August 13th

7:00 am Parishioners  
9:00 am † Elizabeth Virginia  
11:00 am Special Int. for Maureen Hayes  
1:00 pm † Concordio Caballero  
5:30 pm † Barbara O'Brien

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

NATIVITY YOUTH MINISTRY  
**Ice Cream**  
AT PETERSON'S



wednesday; august 16  
7:00-8:30pm

**7150 MAIN ST., CLIFTON, VA  
20124**

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED - SEE THE  
WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO  
RSVP**

**ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS ARE WELCOME-  
BRING A FRIEND!**

*The Music Ministry is looking 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](mailto:cfischl@Nativityburke.org) if interested!*



**Baptism Hospitality Team**

Imagine coming to Nativity on a Sunday afternoon to help set up for Baptisms and to greet the parents and children when they arrive for the Baptisms.

It's a special day, the babies or children are in their special Baptismal outfits, and we get to help make them feel comfortable and at ease before the Baptism.

We're looking for a few more people to join this team and would be happy to share more details if you're interested. Email Alison Fram, Director of Young Adult and Family Ministries at [afram@nativityburke.org](mailto:afram@nativityburke.org) if you'd like more information.



## 2023 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO EMMITSBURG, MD

Join Bishop Michael F. Burbidge  
on a pilgrimage to  
the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton  
and the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes  
*Saturday, October 7, 2023*

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

**NATIONAL SHRINE  
OF SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON**

9 a.m.

Presentation on Mother Seton  
and veneration of her relics

9:45 a.m.

Mass with Bishop Michael F. Burbidge

10:30 a.m.

Visit Mother Seton museum and gift shop

12 p.m.

Outdoor picnic lunch at the Seton Shrine or  
Mount Saint Mary's Seminary

(Limited restaurant options available, visitors  
encouraged to pack bag lunch. Note:  
transportation between locations not provided.)

**NATIONAL SHRINE GROTTTO  
OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

1:30 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration  
and recitation of the Holy Rosary

3:30 p.m.

Depart



For more information, please

visit:

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/pilgrimage-emmitsburg/>

or scan the QR code





**Council Meetings:** Meetings are on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. The first meeting is a business meeting, and the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation. 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](https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992)

**Adopt-A-Highway:** August 12, sign up on linktree.

**12 & 13 August, Delta Drive - Recruiting Drive Volunteers:**

If the Knights of Columbus has been impactful in your own life and you'd be willing to talk to the men of Nativity, then please volunteer to help with our main summer recruiting event after mass next week. Sign up on the linktree.

**End Of Year Dinner:** 2022 – 2023 on August 19th. Council Members spouses, sign up on linktree.

**Mowing:** A deceased Knight's your help taking care of the lawn this summer. Sign up on linktree.

**Food for Others:** We need volunteer 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](mailto:mstock_w@yahoo.com).

**Name Tags:** Email Vince Augelli at [VaKC23@gmail.com](mailto:VaKC23@gmail.com).

**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 [handyknightsfnativity@gmail.com](mailto:handyknightsfnativity@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](mailto:navyy8@yahoo.com) or 703-250-1492.

**Calling all 3rd Degree Knights:** The 4th Degree is calling you to participate in patriotic activities, color guards and programs that promote Catholic citizenship. Starting in August, 4th Degree Assembly meetings will be 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 in becoming a 4th Degree Sir Knight, please contact our Faithful Navigator Vince Augelli at [fn2996@yakofc.org](mailto:fn2996@yakofc.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! Simply go to <https://info.kofc.org/us.html> and enter our council #7992 for local information and to register.

E-membership for the first year is free using the new code "blessedmccivney". Please email our Deputy Grand Knight at [cokofc7992@gmail.com](mailto:cokofc7992@gmail.com) or the Grand Knight at [pmdelatte@gmail.com](mailto:pmdelatte@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**The K of C Ladies Auxiliary:** this group was formed to assist and support the Knights, our Church and the four virtues of Charity, Unity, Sorority and Patriotism. We are spouses, daughters, mothers, or sisters of Knights of Columbus who are in good standing or deceased. Our fellowship and informational meetings are the First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Fr. Ready Room. We will not meet in August, but will meet on 5 September. Contact [kdelatte65@gmail.com](mailto:kdelatte65@gmail.com) for additional information or to be added to email distro.



## Have You Heard?

### WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL!

The Church needs healing, and the world needs Jesus. The Holy Spirit is inviting us to return to the source and summit of our faith—the Eucharist.



[eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org)



### Returning Ministry for the Seriously Ill

Catholic Charities is pleased to announce the return of the Retreat for Person's Facing Serious Illness on October 6 - 8, 2023. This retreat offers a unique opportunity for persons who face serious physical illness to participate in a weekend retreat of spiritual renewal and refreshment. You will find details for those who wish to attend the retreat by visiting: <https://www.ccca.net/events/2023/retreat-for-persons-facing-serious-illness/>

### Win a Trip to Ireland

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), the oldest and largest Irish American Catholic fraternal organization, is sponsoring a raffle to win a "Trip for Two to Ireland," 7 Days – 6 Nights, roundtrip airfare, B&B, and rental car included.

**The AOH will be selling \$10 raffle tickets after Mass next weekend, August 12 and 13.**

Also, an "Irish Basket of Cheer" will be given away to one winner at the Nativity sale. Proceeds support local AOH Catholic charities and projects including Pro-Life, Catholic Schools, Religious Vocations, and Veterans Programs.



**ECHO Food Room Most Needed Items - August 2023**  
**Nativity Collection: THIS weekend 5/6 August**

- Choose sizes appropriate for our average family size of four.
  - Because of the generosity of our community, ECHO has an ample supply of canned vegetables and stuffing. 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).
  - ECHO continues to see a deficit of several thousand pounds a month between food donated and food given to clients.
- Any donation, large or small, is most gratefully welcomed. We collected 847 lbs this last time, thank you for your generosity!

**FOOD ITEMS**

Spaghetti noodles  
 Spaghetti Sauce  
 Masa Flour  
 Cereal  
 Soup (Progresso or Chunky type preferred)  
 Cooking Oil  
 Sugar  
 Honey or Jelly  
 Pancake Mix  
 Pancake Syrup  
 Lemon/Lime Juice  
 Tea (green or herbal)  
 Milk products (canned, shelf stable, hot chocolate)  
 Crackers, dates, nuts dried fruit, healthy snacks

Bagged beans (black and red)  
 Bag or Box Rice  
 Box Potatoes  
 Box Pasta (especially spaghetti)  
 Spices (garlic or onion salt, cinnamon, salt, pepper)  
 Canned Fruit  
 Ketchup or Mayonnaise  
 Tortillas  
 Muffin/Cornbread Mix  
 Coffee (Instant or ground)

**NON-FOOD ITEMS**

Shaving Cream/Razors  
 Deodorant, Toothpaste  
 Shampoo, Toilet Paper  
 Dish Soap, Paper Towels  
 Brown Paper Grocery Bags

**Mass and Rosary in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life**

Join Bishop Burbidge for Holy Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life on Saturday, August 19, 2023, at 9:00am, at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Holy Mass will be followed by a rosary at the abortion facility at 2616 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306.  
 Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Hwy, Alexandria, VA. 22309.

**Day of Prayer and Healing After Abortion Care for Women**

After Abortion Retreats: A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023. These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in English and Spanish, based on the Entering Canaan model. There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: (703) 841-2504

**ECHO Needs a Handy Volunteer!**

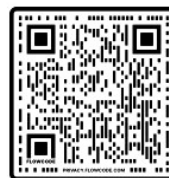
If you are handy at fixing things, you can share your skills at ECHO and be part of our mission! We need a Fix-It Desk volunteer to test non-clothing donations such as small appliances, order supplies for the building, change the HVAC filters, and maintain the fire extinguishers. This is an important position, and if it interests you, please email [volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org) to find out more.



Submit your recipe for

**GATHER AT THE TABLE**

*Multicultural Cooking for Liturgical Living*



Tell your family story through food! We are seeking recipes from across the globe for a special Diocesan Jubilee Anniversary cookbook. To find out more and submit your recipe, scan the QR code or visit [www.arlingtondiocese.org/jubilee-gather-at-the-table](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/jubilee-gather-at-the-table)  
**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023**

**Questions?**

Contact the Office of Multicultural Ministries at [mcm@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:mcm@arlingtondiocese.org) or call 703 (841) -3881



**SAVE THE DATE**

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

**FALL FESTIVAL**

**09.30.2023**

**FOOD**      **FAMILY FUN**      **GAMES**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**  
[FALLFESTIVAL@NATIVITYBURKE.ORG](mailto:FALLFESTIVAL@NATIVITYBURKE.ORG)



# IT'S PIE TIME!

## Our Fall Festival Pie Contest Is Back!

Time to start practicing those prize-winning recipes. There will be both adult and junior divisions this year with cash prizes for first, second, and third place in each. Individuals may submit up to three pies. Sorry, no pies needing refrigeration. Pre-registration not required, but appreciated.

Registration begins September 1st.

We are also looking for judges on festival day.

**FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT LYNN DYSART (LDYSART@COX.NET)**



### Donate Your Car to Catholic Charities!

If you are thinking of replacing your car with something new, please consider donating your old car to Catholic Charities.

Proceeds from the sale of working and non-working cars provide critical funds for our volunteer programs.

It's easy, we handle all the paperwork and you receive an IRS donation receipt. Email [Cars@ccda.net](mailto:Cars@ccda.net) or call (703) 841-3898.

### Young Adults: Cook Breakfast at Christ House on Saturday, August 19 at 8:00am

This is a great opportunity for fellowship and to put our faith into action as we prepare breakfast for the 9 residents who live there in a transitional housing program. They love eggs, bacons, tater tots, and pastries!

When: August 19 at 8:00 am

Where: Christ House | 131 S. West Street, Alexandria, VA

Want to learn more, email Kathleen: [kmerriman001@gmail.com](mailto:kmerriman001@gmail.com).



**NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

[nativityschool.org](http://nativityschool.org)



**Come See All We Have To Offer. We look forward to meeting you! For School Year 2023-2024 We Have Classroom Seats Available for 3rd, 4th, & 7th Graders!**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**JOIN OUR 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](mailto: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](mailto:rgodwin@nativityschool.org).  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Important Upcoming Dates**

- Monday, August 21- 2:00 - K-8 Sneak-A-Peek
- Monday, August 21- 3:00 - PTO Ice Cream Social
- Wednesday, August 23 - Back-To-School
- Wednesday, August 23 - 12 Noon Dismissal
- Friday, August 25 - 9:00 am Mass
- Friday, August 25 - 12:00 Noon Dismissal
- Thursday, Aug 31 - 9:00 am Preschool Sneak-A-Peek
- Thursday, Aug 31 - 10:00 am Pre-K Sneak-A-Peek
- Friday, September 1 - 9:00 am Mass
- Friday, September 1 - 12:00 Noon Dismissal

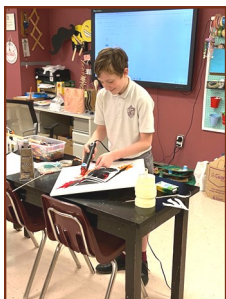
**Students Enjoy 'Kitchen' Chemistry**



Among the several 'Instant Buy' events from the PTO Auction this Spring was a two-part lesson inspired by Mrs. Wade, our Nativity MakerSpace Facilitator. Up first, students created their own melted crayon art masterpiece.



Next, our young scientists learned the science behind Royal icing while making their own, and then how to create sprinkles! Finally, each student decorated a panful of a dozen cookie shapes.



\*\*\*\*\*  
Join us at Nativity to see how your child would spend his/her days here -- learning, praying, sharing, loving, and laughing. Yes, Catholic education is worth the investment! Nativity Catholic School is committed to making Catholic education accessible to those who desire it, and offers financial assistance to make their dream come true.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

[cym@nativityburke.org](mailto:cym@nativityburke.org)

**LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12**  
Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm

*Weekly gatherings resume August 27, 2023*

Dinner

Fellowship

Prayer & Formation



**PETERSON'S ICE CREAM - AUGUST 16**

**EDGE: GRADES 6-8**

Alternating Sundays 3:30-5pm  
& Fridays 7-8:30pm  
*Gatherings resume in September*

Meet new friends

Play games

Explore your faith



**PETERSON'S ICE CREAM AUGUST 16, 7:00-8:30PM**

All rising 9th - recently graduated 12th graders are invited to meet us at Peterson's for ice cream & fellowship. Registration is required - see the website for more details and to RSVP.



**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!

**In Mary's Footsteps -- Group for Widows**

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, August 14th at 11:00am in the training room in the back of the church. Our group of faith and fellowship strives to follow in our Blessed Mother's footsteps of strong faith and peace, as she did after St. Joseph passed. We gather for monthly meetings, a monthly dinner out and some "field trips". Please feel free to join us. For more information, please contact Catherine Sands at [csands@nativityburke.com](mailto:csands@nativityburke.com). God bless you!



# Mass & Rosary in Thanksgiving for Human Life

**Saturday, August 19**

**Mass: 9:00 AM**

**Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
8710 Mt. Vernon Hwy., Alexandria, VA**



**Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge**  
Celebrant and Homilist

**Rosary to follow outside 2616 Sherwood Hall Ln. after Mass**



Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life  
Catholic Diocese of Arlington  
FamilyLife@ArlingtonDiocese.org  
703-841-2550

**Mass Honoring Military and First Responders**

Fr. Diamond Council #6292 and Fr. Malloy Assembly #1894 of the Knights of Columbus will host our 8th annual Mass Honoring Military and First Responders at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church (3700 Blenheim Blvd, Fairfax, 22030) on Sunday, September 10, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Fr. Robert J. Rippey, Chancellor of the Diocese, will be the principal celebrant, with Bishop Emeritus Paul Loverde as a concelebrant. All are welcome to join us; Military, Law Enforcement, and Fire and Rescue personnel are encouraged to wear their dress uniform.

A group photo will be taken after Mass in front of the church; a reception in the school gym will follow. For more details, please contact Dave Todd, Jr., at [djtoddjr@gmail.com](mailto:djtoddjr@gmail.com).

**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](mailto:mmturner@ccda.net).

**Day of Prayer and Healing After Abortion Care for Women**

After Abortion Retreat: A Day of Prayer & Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be on Saturday, September 30, 2023. These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in English and Spanish, based on the Entering Canaan model. There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: (703) 841-2504

**Love working with children? Want flexibility? Consider subbing for us...**

We are in need of substitute teachers for the new school year with the following minimum qualifications:

- ◆ 2-plus years of college
- ◆ Ability to follow a lesson plan and give effective instructions in the absence of the teacher
- ◆ Proficiency in maintaining effective classroom management skills
- ◆ Successful completion of Virtus training
- ◆ Successful background check
- ◆ Adherence to COVID-19 Safety Protocols

To apply, email Rich Godwin at [rgodwin@nativityschool.org](mailto:rgodwin@nativityschool.org), or call him at (703) 455-2300, ext.146. Thank you!

**Sick / Homebound Visits**

Are you or someone you know sick and/or homebound for any reason? We can arrange home visits from the parish and provide prayer and the sacraments. We would love to bring God's Grace and Peace to anyone in difficult times. Please contact Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister, at [csands@nativityburke.org](mailto:csands@nativityburke.org)



Catholic Diocese of Arlington



**Healing Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce**



Are your parents divorced? Join us for the Arlington Life-Giving Wounds retreat this Fall! Come experience the healing love of Christ. September 8-10, 2023



[arlingtondiocese.org/healingretreat](http://arlingtondiocese.org/healingretreat)

**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. Contact John French at [john.french@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:john.french@arlingtondiocese.org) or (703) 841-3819 with any questions. Thank you!

**NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY**

AN ORIGINAL NATIVITY MINISTRY DOING GOD'S WORK BY SERVING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF HIS FLOCK. WE WORK DISTRIBUTING FOOD, CLOTHING, AND PERSONAL ITEMS TO THE POOR AND HOMELESS IN D.C. AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA EVERY SUNDAY MORNING, RAIN OR SHINE. FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT THE NATIVITY PARISH WEBSITE OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN DAILY/SUNDAY RUNS, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN RUBINO AT: [JOHN.ALBERT.RUBINO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JOHN.ALBERT.RUBINO@GMAIL.COM).

<http://nativityburke.org/service/no-hands-but-yours/>

# THEY HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL. WILL YOU?

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



Mail your check made out to:

**Foundation for CDA-SEEF**

200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 811

Arlington, VA 22203

**CONTACT:** John French • [john.french@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:john.french@arlingtondiocese.org)

To make a gift online:

[https://arlingtondiocese.org/Donate\\_SEEF](https://arlingtondiocese.org/Donate_SEEF)

# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

## Transfiguration of the Lord

### Sunday August 6

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14  
Ps 97:1-2,5-6,9  
2 Peter 1:16-19  
Matthew 17:1-9

### Monday August 7

Numbers 11:4b-15  
Ps 81:12-17  
Matthew 14:13-21

### Tuesday August 8

**St. Dominic, Priest**  
Numbers 12:1-13  
Ps 51:3-7,12-13  
Matthew 14:22-36 or  
Matthew 15:1-2,10-14

### Wednesday August 9

Numbers 13:1-2,25 –  
14:1,26a-29a,34-35  
Ps 106:6-7b,13-14,21-23  
Matthew 15:21-28

### Thursday August 10

**St. Lawrence, Dcn, Martyr**  
2 Corinthians 9:6-10  
Ps 112:1-2,5-9  
John 12:24-26

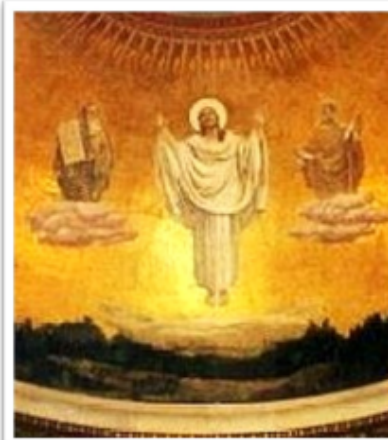
### Friday August 11

**St. Clare, Virgin**  
Deuteronomy 4:32-40  
Ps 77:12-16,21  
Matthew 16:24-28

### Saturday August 12

Deuteronomy 6:4-13  
Ps 18:2-4,47,51  
Matthew 17:14-20

Atop Mount Tabor in Israel is where the pure light of Christ – the uncreated light of his true identity – was first revealed to the world. Not at his birth, not at his baptism, nor as he preached and healed. Although the Light of the World came to us in those momentous events, it was not revealed so clearly, so powerfully, so dramatically as when he let Peter, John, and James witness it on the mountaintop, as seen in today's Gospel passage.



The highest experience of faith was, and still is what happens when the Father says, "This is my beloved Son; *listen to him.*" The transfiguration of Christ occurs again and again every time we listen to him and our faith is enlightened. It happens every time we have a breakthrough from blindness to understanding, from sinfulness to holiness, from doubt to trust. However, now we are transfigured *with Jesus!*

Whenever we let his uncreated light consume the darkness within us, the people around us see Christ's true

identity in us. We shine with him. Therefore, it's vitally important that we give Jesus the areas of darkness that still linger within us and let him expose the truth in his light. By repenting (which means we change), we're transformed into our true identity. What is our true identity? It's our innermost

being that was created in the image of God. It's our sainthood!

Listen. Can you hear God's voice saying about you what he said about Jesus on Mount Tabor? "This is my beloved child; listen to him/her." He is saying this to

others as you do the work to which he's called you. Some folks will hear him, some won't, but our yes to his calling is not based on how many people will heed his voice. We serve God because we have been transfigured. Our holiness impels us to go where we can do the greatest good.

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † What sins do you still try to hide or deny?
- † Why are you afraid to let Jesus shine his light into these areas of darkness? Are you afraid he'll stop loving you?
- † What do you do that reveals your sainthood?
- † Describe a time when you listened to Jesus and the truth you learned from him transformed you. How did it help you become a true child of God more fully? How did it reveal your true identity more accurately?

## La Transfiguración del Señor

**Del Tabor, Cristo bajó con los suyos, ya solo para subir, y precisamente él solo, a otra montaña, la del Gólgota, en Jerusalén, entregando su vida por la salvación de todos los hombres.**

Por: P. Alberto Ramírez Mozqueda |



Las montañas y los jóvenes se entienden. Los jóvenes tienen algo indescriptible que los acerca a las montañas y las montañas tienen algo indescriptible que les hace ser conquistadas. Los jóvenes auténticos gustan de las grandes montañas, de las montañas elevadas, de las montañas cubiertas de nieve, de donde se extiende el panorama hacia abajo, después de haber plantado la banderola de la conquista y del ascenso.

Cristo también amaba las montañas y la naturaleza. Era joven cuando entregó el corazón de su mensaje en un monte, el mensaje de las Bienaventuranzas. Es el núcleo de su mensaje. Es la pulpa de su Evangelio.

Y es en otro monte, donde Cristo tiene que subir al final de su vida, de una manera lastimosa y sangrienta, llevando sobre sí pesada cruz, símbolo de derrota y al mismo tiempo de victoria. Una cruz que siguen llevando hoy muchas gentes, las gentes de rostros macilentos y deplorables de un drogadicto, de un enfermo de sida, de un niño consumido por el hambre, de un hombre destruido por la calumnia y la perversidad de sus semejantes, los muchos rostros de hombres desfigurados por la guerra y los ataques terroristas.

Pero hay una tercera montaña que Cristo escaló poco antes de ser entregado en manos de sus enemigos: es la Montaña de la Transfiguración, el Tabor. Las cosas no iban bien para Cristo. Sus enemigos iban tendiendo inexorablemente el cerco para hacerlo caer. Las gentes solo querían milagros y milagros, pan para sus estómagos vacíos, y los apóstoles que no entendían nada de lo que estaban viendo en su maestro. Menos entendían lo que les decía sobre su muerte y su resurrección. Siempre pensaban en una resurrección para todos al final de los tiempos, pero que Cristo viniera al tercer día después de muerto...

Por eso un buen día Cristo toma a tres de sus Apóstoles, Pedro, Santiago y Juan y los invita a escalar la montaña. No es un lugar muy elevado, quizá les tomarían unas o dos horas de camino desde la falta a la cima. La vegetación es tupida, con pequeños arbustos que contrasta con la desnudez de las comarcas cercanas. En lo alto, el silencio solo es turbado por el canto de los pájaros y el ulular del vientecillo suave.

Ahí suben a la oración, a la contemplación. Cristo se separa un poco de sus invitados. Ellos no son muy dados a la contemplación, y vencidos por el cansancio de la subida, lejos de contemplar siquiera el panorama, se quedan profundamente dormidos. Sin embargo, fue entonces cuando ocurrió algo extraordinario: fueron despertados por una luz embriagadora. No se trataba del sol, sino una luz que irradiaba precisamente de Cristo su maestro. Sus vestiduras y su mismo rostro tomaron una iluminación especial. No era iluminado. Cristo despedía una luz esplendente, y a poco de esta visión tan singular, aparecieron dos personajes muy queridos para el pueblo hebreo, Moisés, y Elías.

Moisés, que de la montaña del Sinaí había revelado la voluntad de Dios para el pueblo hebreo y para todos los pueblos, manifestada en las tablas de la Ley.

Y ahí estaba también el gran profeta, Elías que anunciaría la llegada ya inminente del Mesías. Ellos conversaban con Jesús, no para celebrar su triunfo, sino para animarlo a su muerte.

Los apóstoles no habían en sí de asombro, pero aún les estaba preparada otra revelación. Así como aparecieron Moisés y Elías, de pronto volvieron a desaparecer en medio de una nube misteriosa que aumentó sus temores, pues la nube en toda la historia bíblica es una de las señales de Dios, signo visible de su manifestación. Era la majestad de Yahvé quien los cubría.

Y de entre la nube, una voz misteriosa:

**ESTE ES MI HIJO MUY AMADO, MI ELEGIDO... EN QUIEN TENGO MIS COMPLACENCIAS... ESCÚCHENLO...**

Escuchar a Jesús, es la recomendación del Padre, atender a Jesús, su Hijo, su amado, su elegido, ¡qué gran recomendación! Y qué familiares nos vuelven a sonar las palabras de María en Caná de Galilea: Hagan lo que él les diga. Ella fue la primera que escuchó a su Hijo, y la primera que supo hacer en todo su voluntad. Ella nos invita a hacer también nosotros la voluntad del Padre, en el que encontramos alegría para la vida, transfigurándonos también nosotros, dejando que Cristo se transfigure en tantos niños inocentes, en tantas miradas luminosas, en tantos cristianos santos, auténticos luceros en el firmamento de la humanidad. Una contemplación que nos hace experimentar la presencia, la cercanía, la belleza y la misma santidad de nuestro Dios. ¡Cuanta luz hay en nuestro mundo, entre las personas que nos rodean, y a veces no la vemos!

Aquella visión terminó. Tan absortos estaban los apóstoles, tan admirados, postrados en el suelo, en profunda adoración, después de haber estado dormidos, que hubo necesidad de que Cristo de una manera familiar los tocara en el hombro, para que todo volviera a ser familiar entre ellos.

Habían saboreado por un instante lo que nosotros tendremos oportunidad de contemplar sólo al fin de los tiempos, al Cristo resucitado. Fue solo un instante, pero un instante que nunca olvidarían, y que sostendría su fe en los momentos en que su maestro les fuera arrebatado, y no solo eso, ellos tendrían que sostener la fe de sus hermanos en que Cristo cumpliría su promesa de volver, y volver para quedarse para siempre con los suyos.

Por eso no todos los apóstoles habían subido a la montaña. Un secreto como el que se les confiaba no era posible ser guardado entre tantos. Solo ellos fueron testigos, y tendrían que serlo entre sus hermanos los apóstoles, en el momento supremo cuando lo vieran bajar a la tumba.

De ahí, al bajar Cristo con los suyos del Tabor, lo hizo para dirigirse a la muerte. Ya no era hora de las grandes multitudes, era la hora del desenlace, era su hora, la hora del choque de Cristo con la iniquidad humana. Era el atardecer de la vida del Cristo joven, al que nos encontraremos todos en la frontera entre nuestra muerte y nuestra resurrección.

Del Tabor, Cristo bajó con los suyos, ya solo para subir, y precisamente él solo, a otra montaña, la del Gólgota, en Jerusalén, entregando su vida por la salvación de todos los hombres.

Como los apóstoles ahora nos toca a nosotros sostener la fe de nuestros hermanos, de nuestra Iglesia y de nuestro mundo, cuando voluntariamente muchos hombres han metido a la tumba a Cristo y no quieren saber nada de él. Ayudémosles a encontrarlo, pero encontrarlo no entre los muertos, sino entre los vivos, ya que él vive, vive para

**Mateo 17, 1-9: Se transfiguró ante ellos**  
**Autor: P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap**  
**Sitio Web: P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap**

**Génesis 12, 1-4a; 2 Timoteo 1, 8b-10; Mateo 17, 1-9**

¿Por qué la fe, las prácticas religiosas están en declive y no parecen constituir, al menos para la mayoría, el punto de fuerza en la vida? ¿Por qué el tedio, el cansancio, la molestia al cumplir los propios deberes de creyentes? ¿Por qué los jóvenes no sienten que les atraen? ¿Por qué, en resumen, esta monotonía y esta falta de gozo entre los creyentes en Cristo? El episodio de la transfiguración nos ayuda a dar una respuesta a estos interrogantes.

¿Qué significó la transfiguración para los tres discípulos que la presenciaron? Hasta entonces habían conocido a Jesús en su apariencia externa, un hombre no distinto a los demás, de quien conocían su procedencia, sus costumbres, su tono de voz... Ahora conocen a otro Jesús, al verdadero Jesús, al que no se consigue ver con los ojos de todos los días, a la luz normal del sol, sino que es fruto de una revelación imprevista, de un cambio, de un don.

Para que las cosas cambien también para nosotros, como para aquellos tres discípulos en el Tabor, es necesario que suceda en nuestra vida algo semejante a lo que ocurre a un chico o a una chica cuando se enamoran. En el enamoramiento el otro, el amado, que antes era uno de tantos, o tal vez un desconocido, de golpe se convierte en único, el único que interesa en el mundo. Todo lo demás retrocede y se sitúa en un fondo neutro. No se es capaz de pensar en otra cosa. Sucede una auténtica transfiguración. La persona amada se contempla como en un halo luminoso. Todo aparece bello en ella, hasta los defectos. Si acaso, se siente indignidad hacia ella. El amor verdadero genera humildad. Algo cambia también concretamente hasta en los hábitos de vida. He conocido a chicos a quienes por la mañana sus padres no lograban sacar de la cama para ir al colegio; si se les encontraba un trabajo, en poco tiempo lo abandonaban; o bien descuidaban los estudios sin llegar a licenciarse nunca... Después, cuando se han enamorado de alguien y se han hecho novios, por la mañana saltan de la cama, están impacientes por finalizar los estudios, si tienen un trabajo lo cuidan mucho. ¿Qué ha ocurrido? Nada, sencillamente lo que antes hacían por constricción ahora lo hacen por atracción. Y la atracción es capaz de hacer cosas que ninguna constricción logra; pone alas a los pies. «Cada uno», decía el poeta Ovidio, «es atraído por el objeto del propio placer».

Algo por el estilo, decía, debería suceder una vez en la vida para ser verdaderos cristianos, convencidos, gozosos de serlo. «¡Pero a la chica o al chico se le ve, se toca!». Respondo: también a Jesús se le ve y se le toca, pero con otros ojos y con otras manos: del corazón, de la fe. Él está resucitado y está vivo. Es un ser concreto, no una abstracción, para quien

ha tenido esta experiencia y este conocimiento. Más aún, con Jesús las cosas van incluso mejor. En el enamoramiento humano hay artificio, atribuyendo al amado cualidades de las que tal vez carece y con el tiempo frecuentemente se está obligado a cambiar de opinión. En el caso de Jesús, cuanto más se le conoce y se está a su lado, más se descubren nuevos motivos para estar enamorados de Él y seguros de la propia elección.

Esto no quiere decir que hay que estar tranquilos y esperar, también con Cristo, el clásico «flechazo». Si un chico, o una chica, pasa todo el tiempo encerrado en casa sin ver a nadie, jamás sucederá nada en su vida. ¡Para enamorarse hay que frecuentarse! Si uno está convencido, o sencillamente comienza a pensar que tal vez conocer a Jesús de este modo distinto, trasfigurado, es bello y vale la pena, entonces es necesario que empiece a «frecuentarlo», a leer sus escritos. ¡Sus cartas de amor son el Evangelio! Es ahí donde Él se revela, se «transfigura». Su casa es la Iglesia: es ahí donde se le encuentra.

#### **Evangelio de la Misa: Mt 27,1-9: La transfiguración de Jesús**

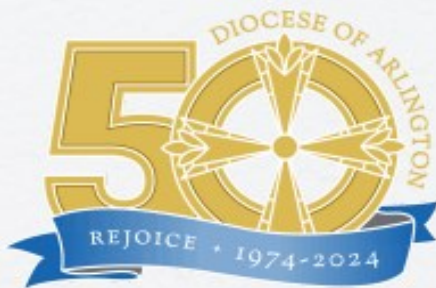
Jesús se "transfigura" ante los apóstoles y su rostro resplandece como el sol. Un suceso extraordinario sucede ante los ojos atónitos de aquellos tres apóstoles. Pedro, Santiago y Juan ven a Jesús "transfigurado" y ellos se sienten como en otro mundo, es decir como si estuvieran ya gozando del cielo. Una voz les reconforta ante el asombro inicial, y a la vez les ilustra sobre lo que están viendo y gozando: su Maestro, Jesús, es el Hijo Eterno del Padre, a quien hay que escuchar, de quien hay que aprender, a quien hay que seguir y obedecer y por el que merece la pena amar y trabajar de verdad.

#### **Oración para cada día de la semana**

*Señor, que te mostraste transfigurado ante los apóstoles, y como el verdadero Hijo de Dios, de quien hay que aprender y al que hay que amar. Que nunca dude de tu divinidad, y a la vez de tu paso por la tierra de los humanos, para enseñarme a vivir sin olvidar la meta definitiva de la vida, el cielo. Mis limitaciones y defectos, mis errores y pecados, me ciegan a veces, y me olvido del único deber en la vida: ser santo, amarte de verdad y demostrártelo en cada momento de mi vida ordinaria. Por esto te pido, Señor, que nunca me olvida del cielo, que me prometes para siempre, y de la confianza que me ofreces si acudo a Ti cada día en la oración. Alegría y optimismo quiero que sean siempre los sentimientos habituales de mi vida y de mis relaciones con los demás. Pero también deseo merecer ese optimismo cristiano por mi correspondencia fiel y sincera en el trabajo bien hecho, en la amistad bien vivida, y en la generosidad ampliamente practicada. Como los apóstoles quiero bajar del monte de la ilusión y de los buenos deseos, para practicar, en la vida ordinaria, las virtudes humanas y cristianas con mis parientes y convecinos, con los amigos y los lejanos. Señor, que nunca me falte la fe en tu palabra, la confianza en tu gracia, y en consecuencia el amor de Dios en mis obras.*

**Padre Segismundo Fernández Rodríguez**





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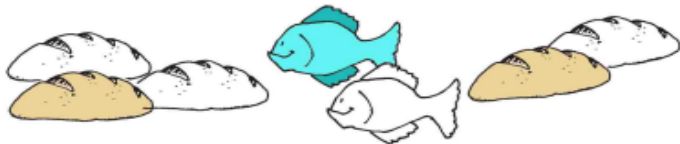


A miracle happened that day.

Use the code to find what it was.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

1 12 12      1 20 5  
1 14 4      23 5 18 5  
19 1 20 9 19 6 9 5 4  
20 8 5 18 5      23 5 18 5  
20 23 5 12 22 5  
2 1 19 11 5 20 19  
15 6  
12 5 6 20 15 22 5 18 19

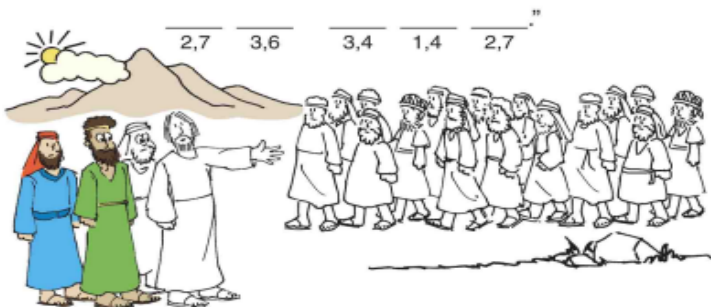


The crowd was with Jesus all day. At evening the disciples thought that Jesus should send the people away so they could buy themselves food.

What did Jesus say to the disciples? Use the graph to find the answer.

1	A	G	M	S	V
2	D	H	N	T	W
3	E	I	O	U	Y
4	5	6	7	8	

2,7 2,5 3,4 3,8 2,4 3,6 2,6 3,6 2,7  
2,6 3,4 3,4 2,4 2,7 3,6 1,5 3,6  
1,4 2,8 1,4 3,8 3,8 3,6 3,7  
1,5 3,5 1,8 3,4 2,7 2,5 3,4 1,6  
1,7 3,6 1,6 3,4 2,7 2,5 3,5 2,6 1,5  
2,7 3,6 3,4 1,4 2,7



# Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

August 6, 2023 • Matthew 14:13-21

## Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

Jesus went by boat to be alone.  
The crowds followed Him along the shore.  
He saw them and had compassion.

Help the people follow Jesus through the maze.



The disciples said they only had 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. What happened next?

Fit the words in the crossword. Then fill in the blanks.

two  
fish  
five  
broke  
heaven  
loaves  
thanks  
looking

1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									

Jesus directed the people to sit down on the grass.  
Taking the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ up to \_\_\_\_\_, He gave \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. Then He gave them  
to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.



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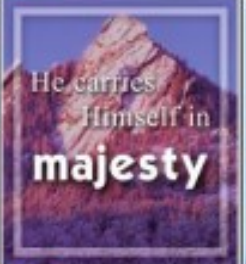
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