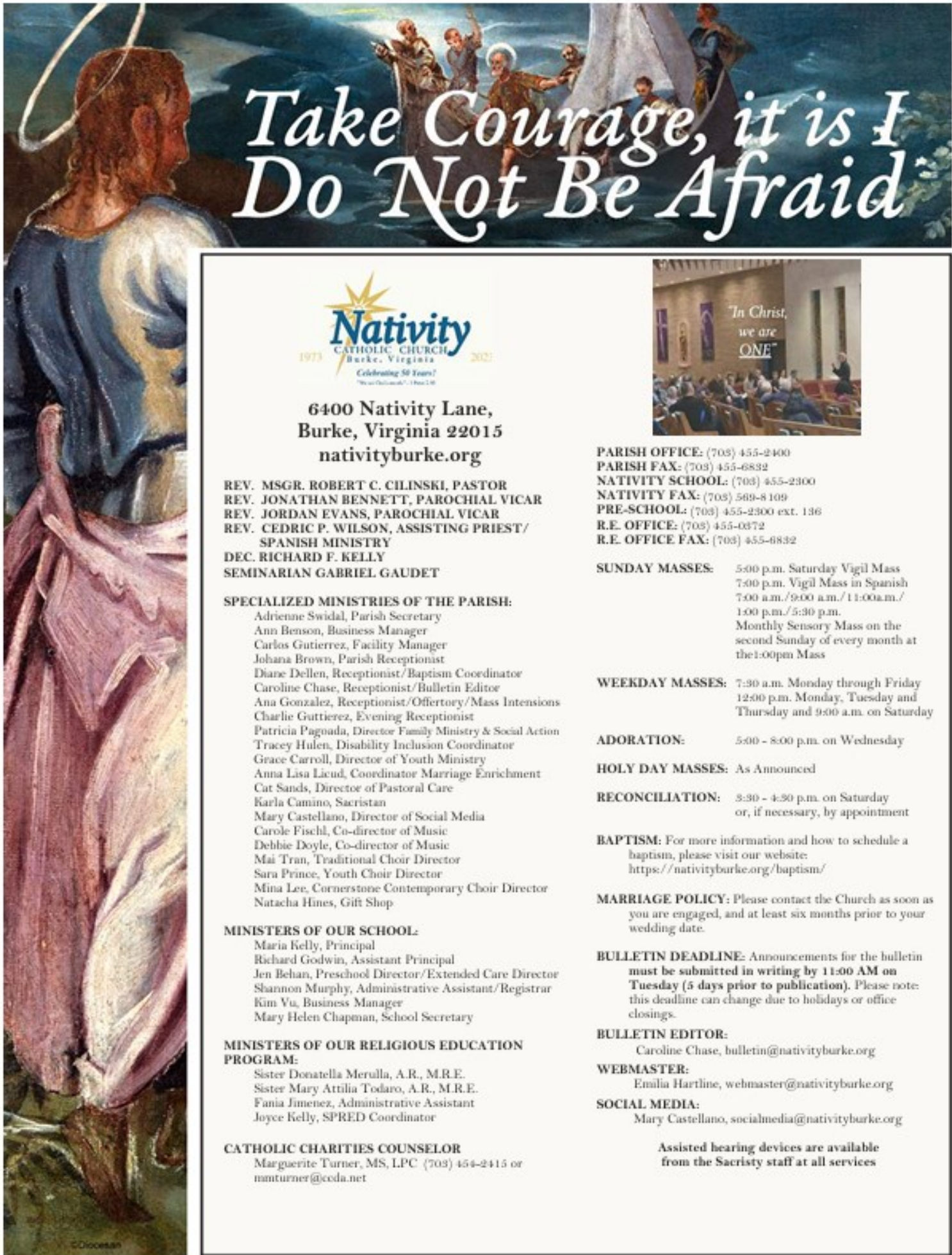




Take Courage, it is I Do Not Be Afraid



6400 Nativity Lane,
Burke, Virginia 22015
nativityburke.org

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

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

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
Joyce Kelly, SPRED Coordinator

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 455-2415 or
mmturner@coda.net



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

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

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

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

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

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

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

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

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

BULLETIN EDITOR:
Caroline Chase, bulletin@nativityburke.org

WEBMASTER:
Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:
Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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

A Message from our Pastor Msgr. Bob Cilinski



"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"
-Matthew 14:33

My dear parishioners,

Today's readings point to two surprising places where we find the Lord: in the quiet and in the storm.

Elijah is running for his life and he goes to the holy mountain. He looks for a sign of God's presence in the wind, in the earthquake, and in fire, but God was in none of those places. Sometimes God comes to us not in the spectacular, but in the ordinary, the everyday, the routine of our lives. St. Thomas Aquinas said that God's sustaining the universe, keeping it going everyday, is as awesome as its creation. If God ceased caring for us, we would cease to exist. Every breath and every heartbeat is a sign of God's presence. God comes to us in the quiet and silence and in prayer. Do we take time to meet God in the silences?

There are not only the silences, there are also the storms. We all experience the storms of life, whether those storms have to do with children, marriage, finances, health, emotional problems, work, or other people. Our instinct when the storm comes is to think that God has abandoned us. But the Gospel tells us that the Lord is with us even in the storm. Jesus says *"It is I, do not be afraid."*

The church, the boat, is built not only for calm days, but for storms. Not only for a few people but for everyone. The church is a sturdy boat that has lasted two thousand years and helped billions of people weather gigantic storms. We hang on to our Catholic life together when the personal storms come.

Two places where every single one of us can meet Christ are in the silence and the storm. Christ is there in both.

I read this note, sent out to freshmen as they prepare to move away to college. Parents with young ones, enjoy them every day because before you know it they are off to 13th grade... aka... college.

Attention Freshmen who are moving in during the coming weeks: A little request....

When your mom wants to unpack all of your clothes and make your bed - Let her.

When your dad wants to introduce himself to all the people on your floor - Let him.

When they want to take pictures of every move you make this weekend - Let them.

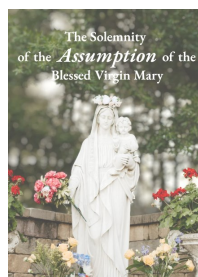
If they embarrass you or act crazy - Let them.

As you start this new chapter of your life, they are also starting the new chapter of theirs. And believe it or not, this is probably more difficult for them than it is for you. So let them treat you like their "baby" one last time.

Love and Summer Blessings,

Bob Cilinski

Msgr. Bob Cilinski, Pastor



Friday, August 14th
Feast of the Assumption
Evening Vigil Mass at 7:00 pm
Saturday, August 15th
Feast of the Assumption
Morning Mass at 9:00 am

**Because this solemnity falls
on a Saturday, it is NOT
a holy day of obligation**



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 20TH!

**NOTE: If a session is full, it will automatically
show you other available options.**

nativityburke.org

**To register go our parish
website or scan Qr Code**



nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org

703-455-0372



Monthly Sensory Mass:
Sunday, August 9th at 1:00 pm

In an effort to embrace and welcome the neurodiverse members of our community, Nativity Catholic Church is hosting a monthly Sensory Mass on the second Sunday of every month at the 1:00 pm Mass. All are welcome to attend!

A special invitation is extended to any person in need of sensory accommodations. A sensory Mass requires a welcoming stigma-free environment and accommodations to help reduce over-stimulation and sensory overload.

We also invite you to join us after the Sensory Mass for coffee, donuts, and fellowship in the cafeteria.

If you would like to learn more about the Monthly Sensory Mass, please email Tracey Hulén, Disability Inclusion Coordinator at thulen@nativityburke.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, August 25th 2026

Ministry Volunteer Appreciation Mass at 7:00 PM
followed by a reception in the Fr. Martin Center.

More information to follow.



Inova Blood Donor Services

Church of the Nativity Blood Drive



Saturday, August 15, 2026

7 a.m. – 12 p.m.

6400 Nativity Ln., Burke, VA

Inova Blood Donor Services will be in the Parish Hall.

Contact

Mark Altobelli

(571) 309-7194 | mark.altobelli@gmail.com

Donors will receive a special lifesaver T-shirt. *

Photo ID required. Allow one hour for your donation. *While supplies last. Colors and sizes may vary. Must complete screening process to receive giveaway.



Book your appointment today!

Visit <https://bit.ly/CN0815>

Call **1.866.256.6372**, use code **6052**



AUGUST 22, 2026

Join us for an afternoon full of joy, music, food and lots of foam-filled fun as we celebrate the start of a new school year together

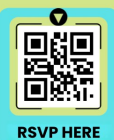
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

10:00 am – 10:30 am Welcome and Music

10:30 am – 11:30 am Foam Party

11:30 am – 12:30 am Picnic (BBQ Provided)

Please come ready to get wet. Bring a towel, lounge chair or picnic blanket and lots of energy! Parents are welcome to join the fun. (Supervision required)



RSVP HERE

[HTTPS://NATIVITYBURKE.ORG/BACK-TO-SCHOOL-PARTY/](https://nativityburke.org/back-to-school-party/)

SPONSORED BY:



IN MARY'S FOOTSTEPS A Group for Widows

We are a group of women who share the experience of the loss of our beloved husbands and join together in faith and fellowship. We have gathered for lunches or dinners out, retreats at the Benedictine Monastery, museum tours, etc. ***Our next meeting will take place on Monday, August 10th at 11:00 am in the Father Ready room.*** For further information, please contact Cat Sands at csands@nativityburke.org.

BACK TO SCHOOL



Celebrating A Golden or Silver Wedding Anniversary This Year? If you were married in 1976 or 2001, please join Bishop Michael Burbidge for the 2026 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on:

Sunday, October 18th at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA.

Visit your parish office to register no later than October 2nd. For more information, visit <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/event/marriagejubilee/>

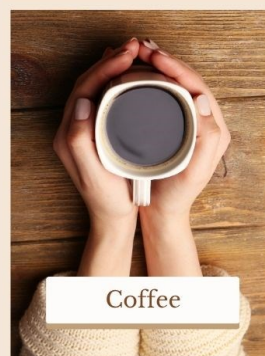
Employment Opportunities in the Diocese

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

Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate



Chocolate



Coffee

For sale in the Nativity Gift Shop



To protect human life & the truth about marriage

CATHOLICS NO

on the

"Virginia Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment" and
"Virginia Remove Constitutional Same-Sex Marriage Ban Amendment"

Pledge to Vote: CatholicsVoteNo.com

 CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Early Voting begins September 18
Election Day November 3




Nativity Catholic Church New Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Join Our New Bible Study,
"Praying with Scripture Together: Heart & Liturgy"

We are launching a new Bible Study on Tuesday mornings, focused on personal daily meditation and contemplation of the upcoming Sunday Gospel and reflection on the first and second readings. We will encounter our Lord Jesus through scripture, prayer, and community.
No matter where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN
Contact: Deacon Richard Kelly at deaconrfk@aol.com
Please register by September 8

Tuesdays | 10:00 am - 11:30 am | Starting September 15th
Fr. Ready Room (in-person and virtually during the winter)

**'Come and See' - OCIA (formerly RCIA)
the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults**
*Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more
about the Catholic Faith? Are you missing the Sacrament
of the Eucharist or Confirmation?*

Then we invite you to join Nativity's OCIA/Order of Christian Initiation of Adults journey of faith. The Welcome Class is on Monday, September 21, 2026, at 7:00 pm with our weekly Monday evening sessions from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Fr. Ready Room.

OCIA forms new disciples, as adults prepare to enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 28th, 2027, with reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and/or First Holy Communion.

Our Monday evening sessions continue weekly until just prior to Pentecost Sunday (April 26, 2027) 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.

OCIA 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 Parish Office at (703) 455-2400, or speak to Monsignor Bob Cilinski, or email Linda Loffredo at lindaloffredo@gmail.com. Visit our website <https://nativityburke.org/rcia/> for more information and online registration.



PLEASE NOTE

NO NOON MASS

Thursday, August 20, 2026,
due to a scheduled
meeting in the church

Nativity Religious Education Program

Classes
start Sept.
20th



FOR THE GRADES BELOW:

Session	Day	Primary Catechist (Grade)	Assistant Catechist (Grade)
1	Sundays 3:45pm-5:00pm	3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
2	Sundays 7:00pm-8:15pm	K, 1, 2	K, 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8
3	Mondays 4:45pm-6:00pm	1, 6	6
4	Mondays 7:00pm-8:15pm	N/A	K, OCIC, 4
5	Tuesdays 4:45pm-6:00pm	1, 4	1, 4, 5, 8
6	Tuesdays 7:00pm-8:15pm	N/A	K, 3, 6, 7, 8

VOLUNTEER
CATECHISTS
RECEIVE 50% TUITION
DISCOUNT FOR A
SCHOOL YEAR
COMMITMENT

Scan the QR-Code
to Sign-up!



We also in need office volunteers for all sessions



All volunteers working with children need to submit Diocesan paperwork for a background check and complete a Virtus training



nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org

CYO BASKETBALL ** NATIVITY STARS **

REGISTRATION

Registration opens September 9th!

All boys and girls in grades 3-8 are welcome to register

Registration link: (provided near registration date)

PRACTICES AND GAMES

Practices: Begin mid-late October

Games: December to March

VOLUNTEERS

Coaching volunteer roles available.

High School Student Volunteer roles available (basketball experience preferred); receive volunteer hours!

Please reach out if interested!

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT
CYOSPORTS@NATIVITYBURKE.ORG



MASS INTENTIONS & MASS SCHEDULE

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

Monday, August 10

7:30 am † Connie & Fred Errico

12:00 pm Special Intention for "In Mary's Footsteps" Ministry

Tuesday, August 11

7:30 am † Anne Kilbourn Caretto

12:00 pm † Bill Mallon

Wednesday, August 12

7:30 am † Lonnie Singleton

Thursday, August 13

7:30 am † Richard Damico

12:00 pm Special Intention for the Perkinson Family

Friday, August 14

7:30 am † Kayla Stone

7:00 pm † David Pedneau (*Vigil Mass - Feast of the Assumption*)

Saturday, August 15 - Feast of the Assumption

9:00 am † Diana Marchese

5:00 pm † Len Yankosky

7:00 pm † Mario Sanchez (*Spanish*)

Sunday, August 16

7:00 am Nativity Parishioners

9:00 am † Nellie Rawski

11:00 am † Carmen & Amerina Naccarato

1:00 pm † John Clark

5:30 pm † Jai Wotherly

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



Pray the Pro-Life Rosary and Witness with Us!

When: Friday mornings after the 7:30 am Mass

Where: 900 S. Washington St, Falls Church, VA.

Join Nativity in praying the Pro-Life Rosary for mothers in need and for the protection of human life. Your peaceful presence outside on the sidewalk in front of the Falls Church abortion facility makes a difference by increasing awareness, and for parents who find themselves in unplanned/crisis pregnancies. Contact rickloffredo@outlook.com.

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

PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC):

We are a social group, mostly aged 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate group.) Meet us for: dining out in Alexandria (Aug 9); Thursday lunch (Aug 13); Museum of the Bible (Aug 18); Meadowlark Gardens (Aug 20); serving meal at Christ House (Aug 22); Nationals baseball game (Aug 27); picnic (Aug 30). For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.

Sunday Evening Gatherings: 7pm-8:30pm

SEPT 27

OCT. 25

DEC. 6

JAN. 24

FEB. 28

APR. 25

Gatherings are at the same time but in different meeting spaces

PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE TO ATTEND.



LEARN MORE AT

[HTTPS://NATIVITYBURKE.ORG/DISABILITY-INCLUSION/](https://nativityburke.org/disability-inclusion/)



A faith-sharing ministry for:
young adults (ages 18-39)

that brings together individuals with and without disabilities to build meaningful friendships, encourage one another in faith, foster a true sense of belonging, and reflect Christ's call to inclusion.



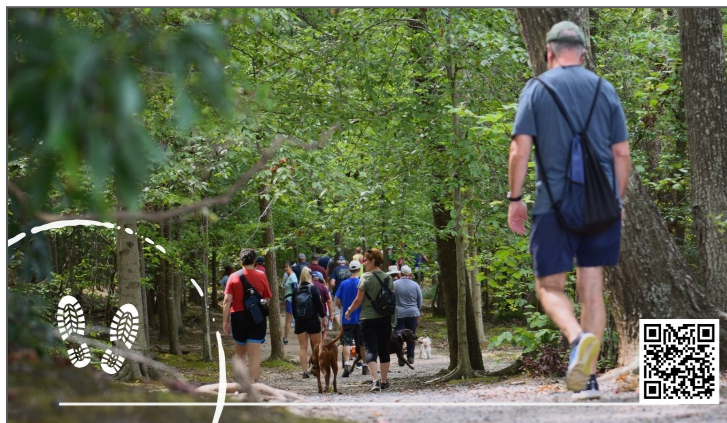
Faithful Friends walk together in faith and life. Through shared experiences like attending Mass, participating in church events, and engaging in both spiritual and social gatherings, Faithful Friends builds meaningful, supportive relationships and these friendships deepen our Catholic Faith and create opportunities for spiritual growth and connection.



Caregivers Supporting Loved Ones with Disabilities (of all ages) are invited to join us for a time of *community, encouragement, and spiritual support*. This gathering will include small group conversations, a presentation from a fellow caregiver, and space to connect with

other parish families navigating similar journeys. Caregivers include those caring for family members with disabilities such as sensory processing challenges, ADHD, autism, or intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities, etc. We consider caregivers to be any relative who is walking alongside a family member with special needs. Caregivers must register in advance to attend.





Marriage Enrichment Ministry & Creation Care Ministry

7th Annual

HEROES HIKE

with Msgr. Bob Cilinski

September 12th | 10:30 am | Heroes Hike at Lake Mercer

Adults of the parish are invited to this fellowship hike that is about 5 miles.

For more information and to register visit:

www.nativityburke.org/heroes-hike/

Contact Anna Lisa Licud:

marriage@nativityburke.org | (571) 208-2821

Nativity School: now accepting Applications for Preschool 3, and 1st through 6th grades for this 2026-27 School Year. Classes begin Wednesday, August 19!

For details, visit the school website at:

www.nativityschool.org/application-process/

or contact Shannon Murphy at (703) 455-2300



145th Men's Retreat
Nov 9-12, 2026

The next Men's Cursillo Retreat will be held at San Damiano in November. This retreat offers an opportunity to relax and rediscover the peace Jesus meant for you to know, walking daily with Him, as God's beloved son.

It will be held during the week from Nov 9-12 and information about it can be found on the Arlington Cursillo Website <https://www.arlingtoncursillo.org/upcoming-mens-weekend>

Anyone interested or with questions can contact

Marc Laverdiere mglaverdiere@msn.com or

Laura Laverdiere lauralaverdiere@msn.com.



donut worry!

NEXT WEEKEND IS DONUT SUNDAY

Mass of Remembrance for Families of Child Loss

All Parents, Grandparents, relatives, and friends of child loss, from pregnancy loss through adulthood are welcome.

August 15th | 10:30 am

St. Agnes Catholic Church

1910 N. Randolph St., Arlington, VA

A light reception will follow the Mass

Celebrant & Homilist:

Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge

Bishop of Arlington



Scan the
QR Code
to Register

For more information:

familylife@arlingtondiocese.org

703.841.2550

Marriage Enrichment Ministry

7th Annual POTLUCK Gathering

You're invited to our potluck gathering, where the table will be laden with a scrumptious spread. Bring a dish, appetizer, or dessert to share. Everyone pays for their own drinks.



September 12 | 6:30-8:30 PM

Bunnyman Brewing

5583 Guinea Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032

Register here:

<https://nativityburke.org/heroes-hike/>



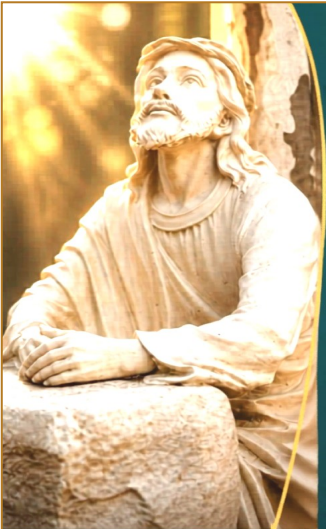
For more information, contact Anna Lisa at 571-208-2821 or marriage@nativityburke.org





"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27)

In the midst of uncertainty and challenge, Jesus calls us to trust in His presence. Vocations invite us to step out in faith, whether to priesthood, consecrated life, or sacramental marriage, placing our lives in His hands and allowing Him to guide us. How is He calling you? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (703) 841-2514 or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.



YOU ARE INVITED
Annual Catholic Mental Health Day of Prayer

"Grounded in Jesus Truth: Lifestyles for Mental Health"

Nurturing Mind, Body and Spirit

With Holy Mass celebrated by
BISHOP MICHAEL F. BURBIDGE

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
DEACON BRAD WATKINS :
FR. LINO

REGISTRATION:
\$25

⊕ Confession; lunch; small group sharing

⌚ 8:30-2:15
August 22, 2026

🏛️ Good Shepherd Catholic Church
8710 Mt. Vernon Hwy
Alexandria VA 22309

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

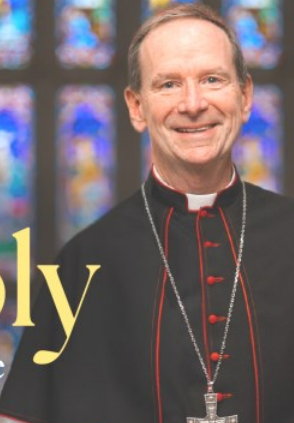



Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce

San Damiano Spiritual Life Center, White Post, VA
September 11-13, 2026
Early Bird through July 31: \$420
Regular Price August 1-September 10: \$460

*"This retreat has been without a doubt the most validating investment of my time, energy, and resources that I've experienced since I began my healing journey. To anyone on the fence like I was...
Come. Be made new."*

arlingtondiocese.org/healingretreat
familylife@arlingtondiocese.org
703.841.2550

Walk Humbly
Bishop Burbidge

Sick / Homebound Visits

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

DIOCESAN CAR MINISTRY

The Car Ministry accepts vehicles, reconditions them and then provides them as a gift to low-income families referred by pastors and social agencies. Click on the "Donate your Car" link on the Car Ministry's website, www.carministry.org, or contact the charity's Director, Larry Gordon at 703.237.8479 for more info.

YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY: GRADES 9-12

Life Teen

August 23 | 6:30-8:30pm | Kickoff Event!



Every Sunday after that, 6:30-8:30!

Save the Date: OCT 25th, RALLY

Diocesan HS Youth rally @ Bishop O'Connell HS

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY: GRADES 6-8

Edge

September 4 | 6:30pm-8pm



Blaze (Girl's Small Group)

September 4 | 5pm-6:15pm

CONTACT US!

Grace Carroll, Director of Youth Ministry

gcarroll@nativityburke.org

Claire Anderson, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

canderson@nativityburke.org

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

**CALLING ALL THIRD DEGREE KNIGHTS!
COMPLETE YOUR FAITH JOURNEY.
STEP UP TO THE PATRIOTIC
FOURTH DEGREE. SERVICE TO GOD
AND COUNTRY AS A SIR KNIGHT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR JOHN LATHROP
AT FN2996@VAKOFC.ORG

PRO-LIFE CORNER

On The Dignity And Rights Of The Intellectually Disabled Person:

Back in January 5th, 2004, Pope (St.) John Paul II spoke at an international symposium on the dignity and rights of the intellectually disabled. His words then are equally meaningful or more so today and worthy of reflection. "The starting point for every reflection on disability is rooted in the fundamental convictions of Christian anthropology: even when disabled persons are mentally impaired or when their sensory or intellectual capacity is damaged, they are fully human beings and possess the sacred and inalienable rights that belong to every human creature. Indeed, human beings, independently of the conditions in which they live or of what they are able to express, have a unique dignity and a special value from the very beginning of their life until the moment of natural death... The wounded humanity of the disabled challenges us to recognize, accept and promote in each one of these brothers and sisters of ours the incomparable value of the human being created by God to be a son in the Son.

"The quality of life in a community is measured largely by its commitment to assist the weaker and needier members with respect for their dignity as men and women... Only by recognizing the rights of its weakest members can a society claim to be founded on law and justice: the disabled are not different from other people..."

"For disabled people, as for any other human being, it is not important that they do what others do but that they do what is truly good for them, increasingly making the most of their talents and responding faithfully to their own human and supernatural vocation. Recognition of their rights must be followed by a sincere commitment on the part of all to create practical living conditions, structures which provide support and legal protection that can respond to the needs and dynamics of the growth of disabled persons and of those who are involved in their situation, beginning with their families.

"In this world of ours that approves hedonism and is charmed by ephemeral and deceptive beauty, the difficulties of the disabled are often perceived as a shame or a provocation and their problems as burdens to be removed or resolved as quickly as possible. Disabled people are, instead, living icons of the crucified Son. They reveal the mysterious beauty of the One who emptied himself for our sake... It is said, justifiably so, that disabled people are humanity's privileged witnesses. They can teach everyone about the love that saves us; they can become heralds of a new world..." https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/speeches/2004/january/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20040108_handicap-mentale.html

EWTN Features "Sensory Mass" for Neurodiverse at Nativity Church

Part of that commitment spoken by John Paul II above is reflected in Nativity's monthly Sensory Mass that was featured on EWTN. The reporter begins, "After much loving thought, study and planning, a special type of mass is being offered at a church in Northern Virginia. What is called a sensory mass provides a safe space for parishioners with sensory processing issues mental illness or disabilities to worship in an accepting environment. It has offered up only a handful of parishes around the country. EWTN News in Depth attended a sensory mass last weekend. Here's reporter Roselle Regis creating a safe and welcoming space where everyone feels accepted and can be themselves... This is what Nativity Catholic Church in Burke, Virginia, strives to be with its sensory mass. It's like regular mass, but with a few changes." Then Msgr. Bob explains, "Dimming the lighting, softer sounds, turning down the speaker system less. Less music, and quieter times. A sensory mass helps reduce overstimulation and sensory overload. Many people benefit from this environment, including those with sensory processing challenges, autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and adults with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. When I heard that 20% of the population struggles with that and would not be able to come to mass, I said, I think we need to take a look at this. It got my attention because I really believe in opening wide the doors for those with developmental disabilities and because they bring so many gifts to the church..." Watch EWTN's feature at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUGITd6Ybfc>.

SPRED (Special Religious Development): is another relevant Nativity Church program. In this ministry, children (K-8) who are developmentally disabled come together with spiritual catechists to share and form with

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



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

For details, visit the school website:

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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.



Fr. Sikora Council 7992 Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.
The first meeting is a business meeting, the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation.

Rosary 7:15 PM; meeting at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows.
Meet in the Nativity school cafeteria.

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

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

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

15 August: Nativity Blood Drive from 7:00 am to Noon, Inova Blood Donor Services will be in the Parish Hall. Donors will receive a special lifesaver T-shirt while supplies last. Light breakfast will be served. Book your appointment at <https://bit.ly/CN0815>. Volunteers needed to assist in this drive, including signing up donors after Masses in August, setting up the night before, and serving breakfast!. SUG available on the Linktree. Contact Mark Altobelli, at mark.altobelli@gmail.com.

16 August: Donut Sunday! Please consider serving donuts after each Mass on Sunday or at least stop by to enjoy a donut and a chat with a Knight!

20 August: Our next exemplification for new knights begins at 7:00 pm. For more information, contact our Deputy Grand Knight, Steve Resch at dgk7992@nativityburke.org or the Grand Knight, Vince Augelli at gk7992@nativityburke.org.

22 August: Adopt-a-Highway event; volunteer to collect trash along Old Keene Mill Highway. SUG available on the Linktree!

22 August: Nativity's First Foam and Fun event still needs an event lead and volunteer grill masters to help grill and serve hamburgers and hot dogs. Foam and fun will be provided by Nativity Family and Marriage Ministries and parishioners! SUG available on the Linktree!

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

Prayer Requests: Prayer requests will stay active for one month. Prayer update (health, location, contact, etc.) status is deeply appreciated. Send an updated request for continued support. <https://forms.gle/LiPCRmzfRnYEU8s5>

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

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

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. See info on LinkTree.

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

The Fraternal Committee: Brothers helping brothers in need of assistance. Brothers and their families (living and deceased) in need of a helping hand, contact Br. John Landy at navy8@yahoo.com.

3rd Degree Knights - Grow with 4th Degree: Participate in patriotic activities that promote Catholic citizenship. 4th Degree Assembly meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Nativity school cafeteria. 7:30 pm rosary, 7:45 pm business meeting followed by fellowship. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator John Lathrop at fn2996@vakofc.org.

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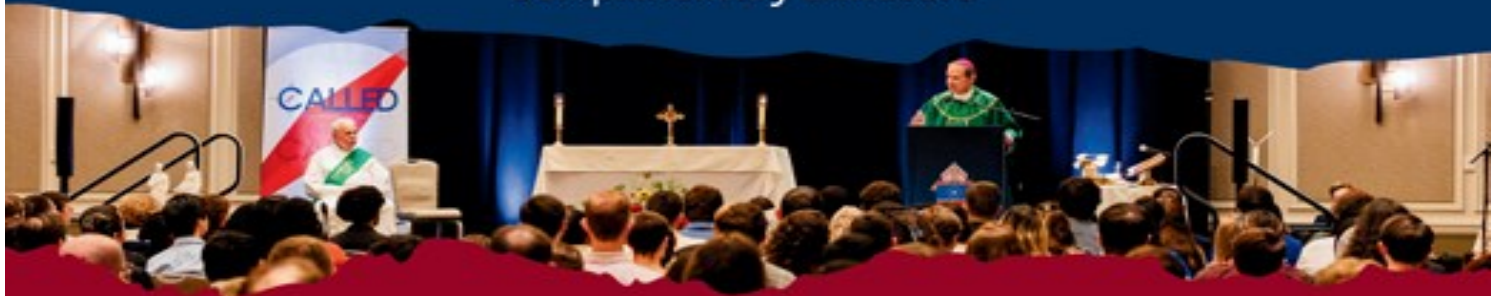


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Mateo 14, 22-33: La barca zarandeada por las olas**Autor: P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap****Sitio Web: P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap****1 Reyes 19, 9a.11-13a; Romanos 9, 1-5; Mateo 14, 22-33**

Los hechos del Evangelio no han sido escritos sólo para ser contados, sino también para ser revividos. A quien les escucha se le invita cada vez a entrar dentro de la página del Evangelio, a convertirse de espectador en actor, a ser parte en causa. La Iglesia primitiva nos da el ejemplo. La manera en que se cuenta el episodio de la tempestad calmada muestra que la comunidad cristiana lo aplicó a su propia situación. En aquella tarde, cuando había despedido a la multitud, Jesús había subido solo al monte para rezar; ahora, en el momento en el que Mateo escribe su Evangelio, Jesús se ha despedido de sus discípulos y ha ascendido al cielo, donde vive rezando e "intercediendo" por los suyos. En aquella tarde echó mar adentro la barca; ahora ha echado a la Iglesia en el gran mar del mundo. Entonces se había levantado un fuerte viento contrario; ahora la Iglesia vive sus primeras experiencias de persecución.

En esta nueva situación, ¿qué les decía a los cristianos el recuerdo de aquella noche? Que Jesús no estaba lejos ni ausente, que siempre se podía contar con él. Que también ahora daba órdenes a sus discípulos para que se le acercaran "caminando sobre las aguas", es decir, avanzando entre las corrientes de este mundo, apoyándose sólo en la fe.

Es la misma invitación que hoy nos presenta: aplicar lo sucedido a nuestra vida personal. Cuántas veces nuestra vida se parece a esa barca "zarandeada por las olas a causa del viento contrario". La barca zarandeada puede ser el propio matrimonio, los negocios, la salud... El viento contrario puede ser la hostilidad y la incompreensión de las personas, los reveses continuos de la vida, la dificultad para encontrar casa o trabajo. Quizá al inicio hemos afrontado con valentía las dificultades, decididos a no perder la fe, a confiar en Dios. Durante un tiempo nosotros también hemos caminado sobre las aguas, es decir, confiando únicamente en la ayuda de Dios. Pero después, al ver que nuestra prueba era cada vez más larga y dura, hemos pensado que no podíamos más, que nos hundíamos. Hemos perdido la valentía.

Este es el momento de acoger y experimentar como si se nos hubieran dirigido personalmente a nosotros las palabras que Jesús dirigió en esta circunstancia a los apóstoles: "¡Ánimo!, que soy yo; no temáis". Es famosa la frase con la que el sacerdote Abundio, en Los novios (I promessi sposi), justifica su miedo y cobardía: "Quien no tiene valentía no se la puede dar". Tenemos que desterrar precisamente esta convicción. ¡Quien no tiene valentía se la puede dar! ¿Cómo? Con la fe en Dios, con la oración, basándose en la promesa de Cristo.

Alguno dirá que esta valentía, basada en la fe en Dios y en la oración, es un pretexto, una huida de las propias posibilidades y responsabilidades. Una manera de descargar en Dios los propios deberes. Es la tesis de fondo de la obra de teatro de Bertolt Brecht, ambientada en Alemania en tiempos de la guerra de los Treinta Años, que tiene como protagonista a una mujer del pueblo llamada, por su capacidad de decisión y valor, "Madre Coraje". En plena noche, las tropas imperiales, tras haber matado a los guardias, avanzan contra la ciudad protestante de Halle para quemarla. En los

alrededores de la ciudad, una familia de campesinos, que acoge a la Madre Coraje con la hija muda, Katrin, sabe que lo único que puede hacer para salvar a la ciudad de la ruina es rezar. Pero Katrin, en lugar de ponerse a rezar, sube al techo de la casa, y se pone a tocar desesperadamente el tambor hasta que ve que los habitantes se han despertado y están de pie. Es asesinada por los soldados, pero la ciudad se salva.

Con esta crítica, que es la clásica crítica del marxismo, se ataca a quien pretende quedarse con los brazos cruzados, en espera de que Dios lo haga todo. Pero esto no tiene nada que ver con la verdadera fe y la verdadera oración, que es lo contrario de la resignación pasiva. Jesús dejó que los apóstoles remaran contra el viento durante toda la noche y que utilizaran todos sus recursos antes de intervenir personalmente.

XIX DOMINGO ORDINARIO – A**Evangelio: Mat 14,22-33- ¡Señor, sálvame!**

El párrafo evangélico relata un acontecimiento enter necedor por una parte, pero además lleno de enseñanzas para quienes creemos en Cristo como el Maestro y el Redentor. En primer lugar le vemos recogándose, a solas, para orar, mientras los apóstoles van a su trabajo habitual, la pesca. Las olas del lago de Genesaret dificultan la tarea y hacen peligrar la barca, por lo que Jesús sale en su ayuda. Pero antes quiere enseñarles que deben tener más fe en El, y confiar en su poder para vivir tranquilos.

Gracias, Señor, por el ejemplo que nos das con tu espíritu de oración.

Yo también necesito tratarte para que nunca me falle la fe y la confianza en tu persona, y tampoco se me debilite la caridad para con el prójimo.

Te prometo, una vez más, seguir dedicando todos los días unos minutos a hacer oración, a tratarte, a contarte "mis cosas":

preocupaciones y alegrías, proyectos y fracasos, trabajo y apostolado. Ayúdame a no faltar a esta cita cada día, para que mantenga habitualmente el espíritu contemplativo en todos los momentos del día, y así pueda convertir el trabajo y las diversiones, la vida de familia y las relaciones sociales en oración que a Ti te alabe y a mí me santifique.

Además me enseñas, Señor, a mantener siempre la fe en tu persona y a confiar en tu ayuda todopoderosa.

¡Cuanta paz, alegría y seguridad, me dan tus palabras: "Ánimo, soy Yo, no tengáis miedo"!

Quiero grabarlas en mi mente y en mi corazón, para que cuando vengan las tormentas y dificultades de la vida, sean el faro que me ilumine para seguirte, y la medicina que me reanime para no abandonarme en la desesperación o la tibieza, en el desánimo o en la indiferencia.

También surgen olas encrespadas y devastadoras dentro de la Iglesia, y contra Ella, en algunas ambientes sociales. Me pongo, Señor, en tus manos con humildad y confianza para implorar la fe y el sentido sobrenatural, la comprensión y el perdón, el coraje y la perseverancia en el bien, de todos los cristianos, para enfrentarnos a esos problemas eclesiales con santidad y generosidad apostólica. Que nunca me falte la fe auténtica y jamás dude de tus palabras.

Que cada día pueda decirte con optimismo y esperanza: ¡Señor, sálvame!.

Padre Segismundo Fernandez Rodríguez

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