



# 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

“O you of  
little faith,  
why did  
you doubt?”

*Matthew 14:31*

© Diocesan

## **Nativity** CATHOLIC CHURCH Burke, Virginia

1973

2023

*Celebrating 50 Years!*  
“We are God’s people” - 1 Peter 2:10

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

**REV. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR**  
**REV. 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/College Ministry  
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**



*"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."*

I am away on vacation to find God in the quiet, and at the beach with family and friends, and golf courses.....

Love and Summer Blessings,

*Fr. Bob Cilinski*  
Fr. Bob Cilinski, Pastor

**WOMEN OF NATIVITY—THANK YOU**

The Women of Nativity wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to all of the parishioners who donated so generously to the annual Back-To-School Supplies Collection.

Through your generosity we were able to send school supplies to Catholic Charities, ECHO, Lorton Community Action Center and Hispanic Outreach.

Thank you!!

**Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> - Feast of the Assumption, Evening Vigil Mass at 7:30 pm**

**Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> - Feast of the Assumption, a Holy Day of Obligation**



**Mass times are as follows:**

- 7:30 am Mass
- 9:00 am Mass
- 12:00 pm Mass
- 5:00 pm Mass
- 7:30 pm Mass (Bilingual)

**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.

*Come as you are.*

**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE**

**Make authentic connections with other women | Learn more about God**

Join us for **Opening Your Heart: The Starting Point** as we explore the fundamental questions of our Catholic faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ.



Email [wwpnativity@gmail.com](mailto:wwpnativity@gmail.com) or visit [www.nativityburke.org/wwp](http://www.nativityburke.org/wwp) for more info about our 4 study choices this year.

**We meet on Wednesdays at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm**

walking with purpose

[www.walkingwithpurpose.com](http://www.walkingwithpurpose.com)

*You're Invited!*

Fr. Bob Cilinski, the Priests, Deacon, Sisters, and staff invite you to attend the

**Adult Volunteer Ministers Appreciation Mass & Reception**

Wednesday, August 30, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Nativity Catholic Church

Please RSVP by August 23, 2023 to: [aswidal@nativityburke.org](mailto:aswidal@nativityburke.org)

**Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica Mission Cooperative Plan Appeal**

During the weekend of 26 and 27 August, our second collection supports the annual Mission Cooperative Plan Appeal for our diocese. Our parish mission organization is the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. This appeal helps our brothers and sisters who do not have access to basic pastoral services that support and grow their faith, like Mass, the sacraments, religious education as well as basic needs – like food, shelter, and healthcare.

You can support these organizations through the 2nd Collection. **If donating by check, please make your check payable to our parish and put “MCP” in the memo line.**

Through your support, the MCP Appeal helps these mission organizations form vibrant faith communities and strengthens the global Church. Please be generous, thank you!

**“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) to RSVP 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 14th**

7:30 am † John Heavey  
7:30 pm † Benedict Dichoso Jr. (*Vigil Mass*)

**Tuesday, August 15th — Feast of the Assumption**

7:30 am † Samuel Gensel  
9:00 am † Kay Stuchlak  
12:00 pm † Len Yankosky  
5:00 pm † Kay McGibbon Menchel  
7:30 pm † Mary Fay Wilkinson (*Bilingual Mass*)

**Wednesday, August 16th**

7:30 am † Margaret Mary O'Kane  
3:00 pm † Jean R. McGuirk (*Burke Rehab*)

**Thursday, August 17th**

7:30 am In Thanksgiving from the Sisters  
12:00 pm † Robert Coleman

**Friday, August 18th**

7:30 am † Joan Yelnicker

**Saturday, August 19th**

9:00 am † Nellie Rawski  
5:00 pm † Marshal Levitan  
7:00 pm † Julia Plaza

**Sunday, August 20th**

7:00 am † Sam Gensel  
9:00 am Parishioners  
11:00 am † Andrea Olivieri  
1:00 pm † Luis Moreno Riquelme  
5:30 pm † Luisa Caballer

**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!**



**Follow Bishop Burbidge on Twitter!**

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



**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.

## 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)



### CHILDREN'S ROSARY NEWS



During August, we will be on summer break. Meetings will resume in September on the SECOND and FOURTH Saturdays of each month (we added a second meeting time this year and will continue this rhythm next year), barring holiday weekends. We will meet in the School Chapel at 4:00pm. This is also a location change, we no longer meet in the Training Room.

*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!*

### ALTAR FLOWERS Donated by



Kevin and Chris Keane  
In loving Memory of  
Mary Catherine Keane

### 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/>

## 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)



### 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 am*

Fr. Robert J. Rippy, 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).

### 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!

### 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."*

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—MEET AND GREET

*The Nativity Women's Bible study group will start their program year with a Meet-and-Greet on: Friday, September 8th at 10:00AM in the Father Ready room.*

Our first study, Psalms: The School of Prayer, will meet on Fridays from September 15th - December 1st at 10:00 AM in the Father Ready room. Future sessions will include studies on Galatians and on the Gospel of Mark.

All Nativity women are welcome to join us for prayer, study, and fellowship! Please register on the Nativity website. Questions? Contact Camille Pryor at [wbs@nativityburke.org](mailto:wbs@nativityburke.org).

### 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!

## SAVE THE DATE

THE EVENING OF SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

*Registration Information to Follow*

# "BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW"

A NIGHT OF GRATITUDE  
AND CELEBRATION

at

The Hylton Center, Manassas VA

*Hosted by the BVM Foundation,  
celebrating six years of incredible work at  
the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinics*

FEATURING

Comedian Jeremy McLellan  
Drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres  
Dress: Smart Casual



<https://bvmtrustfoundation.org/events/>



**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)

**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 [handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com](mailto:handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com).

**The Fraternal Committee: Brothers helping brothers in need of assistance:** Brothers and the families of living and deceased brothers in need of a helping hand, contact Br. John Landy at [navyy8@yahoo.com](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@vakofc.org](mailto:fn2996@vakofc.org).

**Join the Knights!** The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy changing world. Join today! 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 THIS weekend, August 12 and 13. Also, a large "Irish Basket of Cheer" will be given away free 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.

# HELP LOW INCOME STUDENTS RECEIVE A CATHOLIC EDUCATION

*and receive most of your donation back through tax savings!  
(without having to itemize)*



The Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation (DASF) is part of the Virginia Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credit Program which provides scholarships to low income students new to a Diocese of Arlington Catholic school.

- Donors receive 65% of their approved donation in Virginia tax credits
- Donors do not have to itemize to use the tax credit
- Donors who itemize also receive a partial Virginia tax deduction and a partial federal tax deduction
- Donating appreciated stock also avoids capital gains taxes

## What is so great about a tax credit?

A tax credit allows you to subtract the amount of the credit dollar-for-dollar from the total amount you owe the state in taxes, not from taxable income. It is not necessary to itemize in order to use the tax credits!

To qualify for the Virginia tax credit, donors must request preauthorization for their donation from the Virginia Dept. of Education prior to making their donation. The DASF Office can help facilitate the preauthorization/approval process. Preauthorizations are valid for 180 days.

Interested? For more information or to download a Preauthorization Request Form, go online: [www.arlingtondiocese.org/Scholarship-Foundation](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Scholarship-Foundation).

Or contact the DASF Office:



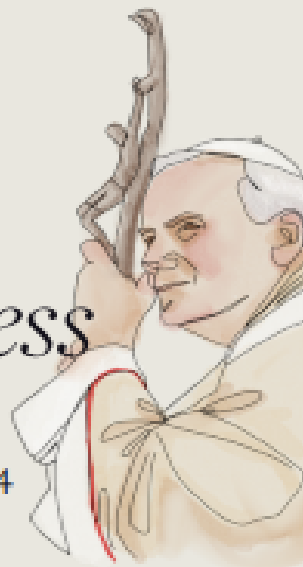
Jeanne Combos  
200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 811 • Arlington, VA 22203  
703-841-2764  
Or email: [DASF@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:DASF@arlingtondiocese.org)





REFORM

# An Invitation to *Christ-Centered Wellness*



THE BASILICA OF ST. MARY • ALEXANDRIA, VA  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14  
FRIDAY 7-8:30 PM • SATURDAY 8:30AM-1PM

*Retreat led by Reform Wellness*

## Schedule

Friday, October 13

7:00 pm | Welcome and Holy Hour

7:30 pm | Conference #1

8:30 pm | Benediction

Saturday, October 14

8:30 am | Holy Mass

10:00 am | Conference #2

11:30 am | Conference #3

12:30 pm | Fellowship



JACKIE MULLIGAN  
Chief Eucharistic Officer



DR. BRIDGET VANDER WOUDE  
Chief Wellness Officer



FR. BARRY BRAUM

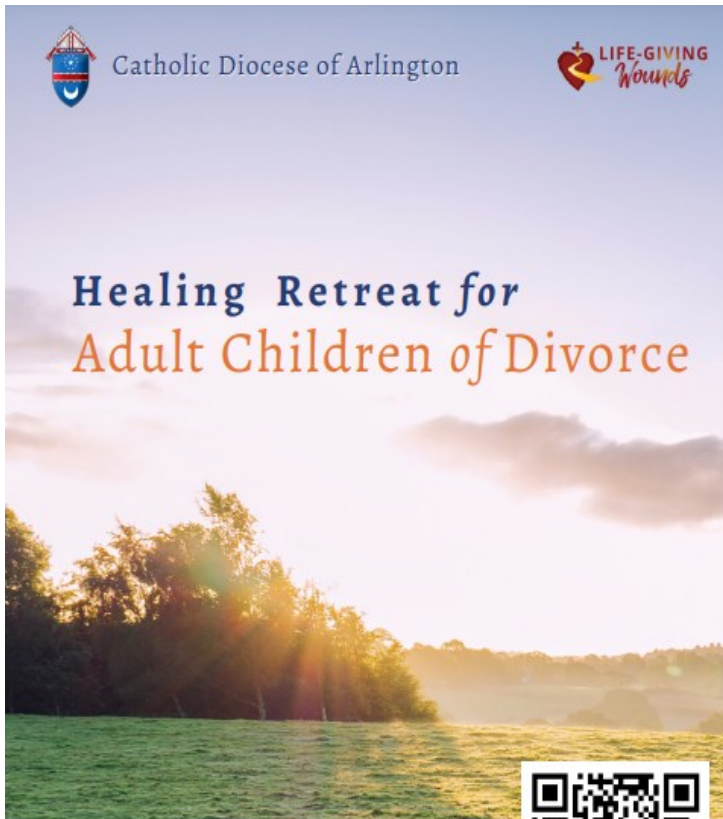
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REFORMWELLNESS.CO/EVENTS





**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.


**Nativity is a tithing community  
Giving back a portion of God's blessings in gratitude**



 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!

**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

**St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional & Maternity Housing**

A pro-life ministry for pregnant and single mothers in the Diocese, is seeking childcare volunteers on Wednesday nights from 6-7 pm so that the mothers can attend Life Skills classes. Please consider giving an hour of your time to help families grow in mind, body, and spirit! Please call (703) 910-4845 or email [smc@ccda.net](mailto:smc@ccda.net) for more information. St. Margaret of Cortona is also in need of household supplies and baby/toddler supplies for our families. Each donation goes directly to mothers in need. For a list of most-needed items, please visit <https://www.ccda.net/give-help/donate-goods-and-transportation/help-individuals-and-families/>.  
**Thank you for your consideration and support of our ministry to women and children in need!**

**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)

**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/>



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



*Submissions will be reviewed by a diverse panel.  
Not all recipes will be selected for the final product.*



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



**Nativity Students 'Buddy Up' for Reading**

Each of our classes pairs with another class – buddies up! – partnering throughout the school year for card exchanges, ‘buddy’ lunches, field day, during Mass, and more!

Recently, our Sixth Grade students visited their Kindergarten buddies to give them handmade cards, thanking them for a job very well done on their Kindergarten Virtue Fellowship presentation. After joyfully sharing their cards, they read aloud together.



Buddies of all ages really enjoy visiting with one another – and are always looking forward to the next time they can get together.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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**

**LIFE TEEN KICK-OFF - AUGUST 27**



**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.



Cost of attendance: \$135- card or check  
Includes eligibility screening, assistance in form completion, reminder calls throughout the process.

**Saturday October 21, 2023**  
Nativity in Burke Parish (School Cafeteria)  
6398 Nativity Ln, Burke, VA 22015  
Pre-registration required  
Doors open 10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



St. Mary of Sorrows

# Labor Day Picnic

September 4: 10 AM - 2 PM

★ **FAITH:** Mass at 10:00 in the church and a blessing for our day together.

★ **FUN:** Bingo, kids' games, laser tag, corn hole, ladder ball, crafts, face painting, old-fashioned races, balloon toss, clergy bowling, spin-art, pie-eating contest, Juggling demonstration, and more...**ALL FREE!**

★ **FOOD:** Hot dogs, hamburgers, K of C Famous Chicken Dinners, baked goods and ice cream treats available for purchase.

★ **FAMILY & FRIENDS**

# 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

## 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

### Sunday August 13

1 Kings 19:9a,11-13a  
Ps 85:9-14  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:22-33

### Monday August 14

**St. Maximilian Kolbe**  
Deuteronomy 10:12-22  
Ps 147:12-15,19-20  
Matthew 17:22-27

### Tuesday August 15

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab  
Ps 45:10-12,16  
1 Corinthians 15:20-27  
Luke 1:39-56

### Wednesday August 16

Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
Ps 66:1-3a,5,8,16-17  
Matthew 18:15-20

### Thursday August 17

Jos 3:7-10a,11,13-17  
Ps 114:1-6  
Matthew 18:21-19:1

### Friday August 18

Jos 24:1-13  
Ps 136:1-3,16-18,21-22,24  
Matthew 19:3-12

### Saturday August 19

Jos 24:14-29  
Ps 16:1-2a,5,7-8,11  
Matthew 19:13-15

We need periods of prayer-filled solitude to restore our energies and renew our vision of what God is inspiring us to do. We all have work to do for God in our families, in our workplaces, in social gatherings, in our parishes and in every problem that arises. Giving of ourselves to others will always drain us; to thrive and grow in our usefulness to God, we must allow him to replenish us often.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus finishes with the miracle of multiplying a few loaves and fish to feed thousands of people, and then he goes off by himself to pray.

When you host a large dinner party or complete a big project or overcome difficult obstacles, do you give yourself time to recuperate and let God minister to you?

After spending time alone with his Father, Jesus was so uplifted by the experience that he walked on water!

Jesus frequently spent time in prayer. He probably went off by himself to pray a lot more often than what is written in scripture. So why did Matthew mention it here? What was significant about this particular prayer time?

Through Matthew, God is showing us how to achieve a well-balanced faith.

Prayer helps us to prepare for whatever lies ahead, even when we don't know what we're walking into. What we gain from the Lord in our time alone with him is a gift designed for our benefit *and* for responding to the needs of others. It strengthens our faith, teaches us how to walk on water, and sends us to the next shore where

people who need God's help are waiting. God wants to minister to them through us. Are you prayed up and ready?

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † How much time do you spend in quiet aloneness with the Lord?
- † Is it enough to restore the inner peace that comes from staying in touch with God? Or do you feel drained and unprepared to continue?
- † What's your favorite way of praying? What kind of prayer makes you feel most connected to God? Why?
- † How does this help you in the tasks of your daily life?



**Mateo 14, 22-33: La barca zarandeada por las olas****Autor: P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap**Sitio Web: [P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap](http://www.ofmcap.org)

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 enternecedor por una parte, pero además lleno de enseñanzas para quienes creemos en Cristo como el Maestro y el Redentor. En primer lugar le vemos recogido, 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**



**ELLA VA, A PREPARARNOS EL CAMINO****Asunción de la Virgen, Javier Leoz**

Amigos; estamos celebrando una de las grandes fiestas de nuestra vida cristiana: LA ASUNCION DE MARIA...LA ASCENCION DE LA VIRGEN. ¡Media España y medio mundo, eleva sus ojos al cielo! ¡Allá, en lo más alto, se abre una ventana para que, a través de ella, pase la Madre del mismo Dios! ¡María!

¡Qué bien nos viene, la imagen de los juegos olímpicos para centrar esta fiesta!

¿Qué es lo que buscan o pretenden los atletas o los deportistas, los países que participan? Competir para ganar. Subir al podium y con cuantas medallas más y mejor.

Pues mirad esta festividad de la Asunción, me atrevería a decir, es la gran medalla que DIOS da a la Virgen por haber estado ahí, por haber corrido hasta el final, por haber permanecido fiel, por no haber humillado –y esta es la diferencia con los juegos olímpicos– al adversario sino al revés: HABERSE HUMILLADO PARA QUE DIOS HICIERA QUE ELLO QUE TENIA PENSADO

Hoy es el día en que DIOS eleva a la Virgen en el podium del cielo; le abre sus puertas, la sienta a su lado por haber jugado en limpio con sencillez y obediencia, con pobreza y humildad, con pureza y con disponibilidad.....

No me extraña que miles de pueblos, parroquias, catedrales, ermitas, hombres y mujeres, continentes, la tengan como punto de referencia en sus vidas. La suerte que tuvo Ella la queremos tener nosotros.

Si Ella en este día subió a los cielos; nosotros también estamos llamados a juntarnos con la Madre en ese mismo lugar

Si Ella permaneció hasta el final FIEL a sus principios; que nosotros no los perdamos. La fiesta de la Asunción es precisamente eso: NO PERDER EL NORTE...NO DEJAR QUE NADIE VULGARICE NUESTRA VIDA.

Hoy se habla mucho de la desmotivación que existe en la juventud, de cómo se queman etapas antes de tiempo; ¿pasará dentro de unos años cuando hay tanta ausencia de ideales? Yo tengo una respuesta: TENEMOS QUE LLENAR DE NUEVO DE FONDO A LAS PERSONAS. TENEMOS QUE REARMARLAS DE NUEVO. REHACERLAS DE NUEVO....ante este mundo que lo único que pretende a veces es que miremos exclusivamente a la tierra y nos olvidemos de esos otros valores que emergen del cielo, de esa fuente de felicidad y de fortaleza que nos viene de la FE EN DIOS.

Por ello, en este 15 de agosto, miles, millones de personas, salimos a la calle y acudimos a la Liturgia esplendorosa y triunfal de la Asunción. Con esa intencionalidad, sobre los hombros de muchos cristianos, paseamos y la subimos –para que la Virgen toque un poco con su mano el cielo- sobre nuestros hombros.

Por ello, en este día de gloria, de premio y de gratificación por parte de Dios a la Virgen María, soñamos también con el nuestro: Ella participó en el plan de Dios y, nosotros, si lo hacemos de la misma manera...entraremos por el mismo pórtico por el que María es recibida en medio de cánticos, trompetas y sonrisas celestiales.

Hoy DIOS se la lleva a su lado...porque su cuerpo no puede corromperse en la tierra. Pero todos, tu y yo, nosotros...la tenemos en el corazón pese a quien pese y caiga quien caiga. Pues mirar al cielo y tener fe ....conllea un triunfo; no son las medallas de oro y de plata de los juegos olímpicos, es la alegría de ver un día cara a cara a los nuestros y ver frente a frente el rostro de Cristo de Dios, del Espíritu y de María Virgen.

En una ocasión, un gran rey cruzaba el desierto. Lo seguían sus ministros. De pronto, uno de los camellos se desplomó a tierra y se rompió el baúl que cargaba en su joroba. Una lluvia de joyas, perlas preciosas y diamantes se desparramó sobre la ardiente arena. El rey dijo a sus ministros: “Señores, yo sigo adelante. Ustedes, si quieren, pueden quedarse aquí. Todo lo que recojan, será suyo”. Y continuó su viaje sin parpadear, pensando que ya nadie lo seguiría. Al cabo de un rato, se da cuenta de que alguien viene detrás de él. Vuelve la mirada hacia atrás y ve que es uno de sus ministros. El rey le pregunta:

– “¿Qué no te importan las perlas y diamantes de tu rey? Podrías ser rico toda tu vida...”

Y el ministro replica:

– “Me importa más mi rey que todas las perlas de mi rey”.

Esta bella historia del poeta persa Firdusi podríamos aplicarla perfectamente al Evangelio que hoy nos ofrece el Señor para nuestra meditación: “El Reino de los cielos –nos dice– se parece a un tesoro escondido en el campo: el que lo encuentra, lo vuelve a esconder, y, lleno de alegría, va a vender todo lo que tiene y compra aquel campo”.

Entre ambos relatos hay algunas diferencias: en la primera narración el ministro “deja” los tesoros de su amo; mientras que en la segunda, el hombre de la parábola “compra” el campo para adquirir el tesoro que ha encontrado. Parecería, según esto, que ambas narraciones resultan contrapuestas entre sí. Pero, no obstante estas variantes, el contenido de fondo es bastante semejante. Trataré de explicarme.

Lo que nuestro Señor quiere resaltar con la parábola del tesoro escondido –como también con la otra parábola que viene a continuación, la del mercader de perlas finas– no es tanto el objeto material del tesoro escondido, sino la decisión fundamental de estos dos hombres de dejar todo para llegar a poseer ese tesoro de incalculable valor que han encontrado. “Va a vender todo lo que tiene –nos dice Cristo– para comprar aquel campo”. Este es el mensaje esencial de la parábola: vender todo para poder comprar todo. Aquí está precisamente el punto de convergencia con el cuento persa: también el ministro deja sus perlas para quedarse con lo verdaderamente importante, que es su rey.

A la luz de esta última historia comprendemos que el tesoro escondido de nuestra parábola no es algo material, sino que es Cristo mismo, nuestro Rey supremo: importa infinitamente más el Señor de las cosas que las cosas del Señor. En efecto, todos los teólogos y biblistas católicos afirman con unanimidad que el Reino de los cielos del que Cristo nos está hablando en estas parábolas es ÉL mismo. El centro de su mensaje es su Persona. ¡Él es el único y verdadero tesoro de nuestro corazón!

Bernal Díaz del Castillo, en su “Historia de la conquista de la Nueva España”, nos narra que el capitán Hernán Cortés, cuando desembarcó con sus hombres y puso pie en el continente americano, quemó todas las naves. El mensaje era clarísimo: había que acabar con todo lo que significara una huida, un retorno al pasado o la posibilidad de una marcha atrás. No había escapatorias. La única opción posible era ir hacia adelante. Es el mismo mensaje que Cristo nos da en el Evangelio de hoy: no hay marcha atrás. Hay que “quemar” todo, “vender” todo para comprar ese tesoro escondido. Desafortunadamente, hoy en día son muy pocos los cristianos que están dispuestos a “quemar” las naves de sus seguridades personales o a “vender” todas sus posesiones con tal de alcanzar a Cristo.

¿Cuántos hoy en día se llaman “buenos cristianos”, pero siguen aferrados como lapas a su propio egoísmo y vanidad, y no quieren prescindir de sus frenéticos apegos a las riquezas, a las comodidades, a la vida fácil y a los placeres mundanos! Es mil veces más sencillo arrancar una concha o un erizo de un acantilado marino que mover su voluntad de sus apegos desordenados. Y lo peor de todo es que muchas veces estas cosas conducen al hombre al pecado, no porque sean malas en sí mismas, sino porque es tal la ambición con la que se vive que le impiden acercarse a Dios y abrir el alma a su gracia redentora.

Es ésta la lógica “paradójica” del Evangelio: llorar para reír, sufrir para ser feliz, dejar que te persigan para entrar en el Reino de los cielos, morir para vivir, vender todo para poseerlo todo... ¡Así es el Evangelio: una paradoja que conduce a la felicidad y a la vida eterna! San Pablo, que bien sabía de estas cosas, y no por oídas sino por experiencia personal, así lo expresa: “lo que tenía por ganancia, lo considero ahora por Cristo como pérdida, y aun todo lo tengo por pérdida a causa del sublime conocimiento de Cristo Jesús, mi Señor, por cuyo amor todo lo sacrifique y lo tengo por basura con tal de ganar a Cristo” (Fil 3, 7-8). Ésta es la ley cristiana del “perder todo para ganarlo todo”. “El que pierda su vida por mí, la encontrará”.

Hoy Cristo también está hablando con el mismo amor a tu alma. No le cierres tus entrañas. Escúchalo. Déjalo entrar en tu corazón y dale una respuesta pronta y generosa. No tengas miedo. Él está contigo y te da las fuerzas necesarias para responder con amor a su llamada. ¿Qué es lo que tú tienes que vender? ¡Ve, pues, lleno de alegría, a vender todo lo que tienes –aquello que te impida acercarte a Cristo– y compra ese campo que esconde el maravilloso tesoro, que es Jesucristo mismo!



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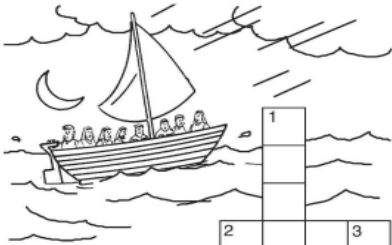
What happened next?

Use the code to fill in the letters.

○=A	●=E	⊕=I	⊗=M	■=Q	▣=U	▤=Y
●=B	⊖=F	⊕=J	□=N	▣=R	▤=V	▥=Z
⊖=C	⊗=G	⊕=K	■=O	▣=S	▤=W	
●=D	⊖=H	⊕=L	▣=P	▣=T	▤=X	

When they climbed into the boat,  
 The men in the boat worshipped Him saying,  
 "Peter questioned Jesus. What happened next?"

Fit the words into the crossword puzzle. Then transfer them to the numbered lines. Read what happened on the lake.



**Word List**

out	sink
you	Peter
got	water
got	Jesus
saw	began
boat	cried
said	walked
Lord	toward
tell	became
save	afraid
come	
wind	

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered starting points (1-19) and some letters filled in (A, V, G, S).

# Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+ August 13, 2023 • Matthew 14:22-33

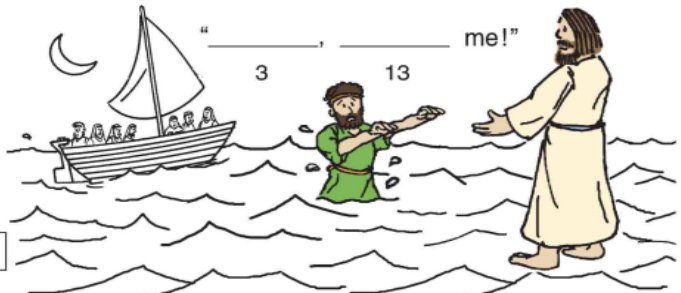
## Jesus Walks on the Water

Jesus sent the disciples out in a boat. He went to pray. When evening came, wind and waves pounded the boat.

Cross out the words in the waves with odd numbers. Read the remaining words in order.

1	The	2	Jesus	4	went	5	were	6	out	7	fish	15	There				
8	to	9	in	10	the	21	the	12	boat,	33	lake	3	and				
24	lake!	14	walking	16	on	23	were	20	the	45	whales	1	other	32	disciples		
27	kinds	13	dolphins	28	The	36	were	5	and	7	many	25	was	47	terrified	9	were
5	blowing	9	very	56	He	13	hard	37	The	62	was	1	and	74	hid	55	night
64	a	52	thought	73	it	68	ghost!	41	afraid	63	was	70	Jesus	91	said,	84	is
88	I.	78	"Take	25	the	80	courage!	82	It	89	water	96	afraid."	85	help		
87	some	92	Don't	94	be	89	need	96	afraid."	85	help						

8 4A 3 7 2  
 me to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_."  
 10 7 5 16  
 4A, " \_\_\_\_\_." \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
 4A 10 8 15 18  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_  
 14D 11 5  
 \_\_\_\_\_ He \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 6 16 4D 19  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to  
 9 12 14A  
 \_\_\_\_\_ He \_\_\_\_\_,  
 17 1 18





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