

TWENTIETH SUNDAY

in Ordinary Time



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.

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
Fr. Bob Cilinski**



*“O Woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish”
Matt 15:21-28*

My dear parishioners,

A foreign woman pursues Jesus for him to heal her daughter. The woman argues that *“even a dog gets the scraps if it begs enough.”* Jesus could have run away and avoided having to deal with her. But in today’s Gospel, Jesus doesn’t take the easy way out. He rewards her great faith. He makes the *“outsider”* an *“insider.”*

The Gospel asks us to act differently toward foreigners. It says *“don’t take the easy way out, instead be ready to live your faith.”* Live your faith that calls you to be compassionate and loving. Live your faith that calls you to welcome the stranger. We are all Brothers and Sisters and we are responsible for each other.

St. Paul tells us we are surrounded by a *“cloud of witnesses.”* He is referring to people past and present whose witness to living faith calls us to act differently. For those who believe in the power of Jesus Christ we understand that we are called to walk with each other, to take care of each other and to be part of that *“cloud of witnesses”* that calls us to live life differently.

Enjoy the last week of summer as school begins.

Love and Summer Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor

**Healing Mass and Prayer Service
Nativity Catholic Church
Tuesday, August 22nd – 7:30pm**



Cast all your cares upon Him for He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)
Join us for the Healing Mass on August 22nd, all are welcome! Our priests and prayer ministers look forward to seeing you there.

“For I am the Lord who heals you.” (Exodus 15:26)



Join the Knights! Do you want to make a difference as a Catholic Gentleman? Then join the Knights of Columbus! Visit <https://info.kofc.org/us.html> and enter our council #7992 for local information and to register.



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

The Importance of Sunday Mass

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


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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.

To Sign-up visit:
OUR PARISH WEBSITE:
NATIVITYBURKE.ORG
UNDER THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TAB
OR USE QR CODE

nativityburke.org





Mass for
**MULTICULTURAL
COMMUNITIES**

“My soul rejoices in the Lord.”

Friday, August 25, 2023 | Mass at 7:00PM

6:15PM - Prelude & Marian Procession

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge

Bishop of Arlington, Main Celebrant & Homilist

**After Mass: Reception featuring cultural food and performances
to follow in the parish hall. All are welcome!**

Nativity Catholic Church

6400 Nativity Ln., Burke, VA 22015



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 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.

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. Visit our website <https://nativityburke.org/rcia/> for more information and registration.

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.



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, August 21st

7:30 am † Mary Joan Harvey

Tuesday, August 22nd

7:30 am † Mark Wurm
12:00 pm † Madeline Casazza

Wednesday, August 23rd

7:30 am † Venilda Norma Sales
10:00 am † Florence Dizon (Heatherwood)

Thursday, August 24th

7:30 am † Dudley Nee
12:00 pm † Bob Fram

Friday, August 25th

7:30 am † Fred Boos
9:00 am † Shirley Smith

Saturday, August 26th

9:00 am † Madeline Polcari
5:00 pm † James Mangano
7:00 pm † Jose Peralta-Limas

Sunday, August 27th

7:00 am † Daniel J. Sullivan
9:00 am † Theresa C. Trautman
Parishioners
1:00 pm † Kierra Tucker
5:30 pm † Sharon Michel

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

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS Donated by



Kevin and Chris Keane
In loving Memory of
Mary Catherine Keane

Special collection for Maui wildfire relief this weekend

Earlier this month, devastating wildfires swept through Maui. The fires demolished much of the historic town of Lahaina. The death toll is at 111 and expected to rise. Consider donating to the Hawaiian Catholic Community Foundation, which uses donations for relief, recovery and rebuilding efforts in Maui.

You can also make donations online at: tinyurl.com/MauiCatholic, or mail checks made payable to “Catholic Diocese of Arlington” and note in the memo field “Maui Wildfire Relief” to Catholic Diocese of Arlington, P.O. Box 1960, Merrifield, VA 22116.



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)



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/>

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

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

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

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:

- ◆ We are in need of substitute teachers 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
- ◆ Diocesan-compliant
- ◆ Successful background check



To apply, email Rich Godwin at rgodwin@nativityschool.org, or call him at (703) 455-2300, ext.146. Thank 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/>

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

NEXT weekend , 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!

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 or visit 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

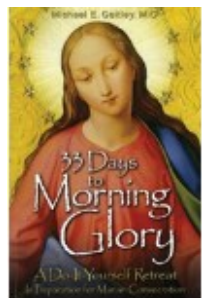
**St. Mary of Sorrows
Labor Day Picnic**

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.

Sign Up For the Diocesan E-Newsletter!

Receive special video messages from our bishop, learn about unique opportunities to get involved, and be the first to know the news about our Diocese - straight to your inbox. Sign up here: arlingtondiocese.org/email



33 Days to Morning Glory

Save the Date – September 27th, 2023. Do not miss out! Join us in a spiritual journey that will strengthen our faith and devotion to Jesus. 33 Days to Morning Glory is a 33-day program written by Fr. Gaitley meant to prepare us for our consecration to Mary. Our ministry at Nativity is offering this program during the month of October. The program is via Zoom for 6 meetings on Wednesday evenings 7:45PM to 9:00PM.

For more information and to register go to the Nativity Web site: <https://nativityburke.org/33-day-retreat/#register> or Contact: Jim Housel – 33dayconsecration@nativityburke.org.

SAVE THE DATE

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

FALL FESTIVAL

09.30.2023

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

PLANNING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!
FALLFESTIVAL@NATIVITYBURKE.ORG

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:

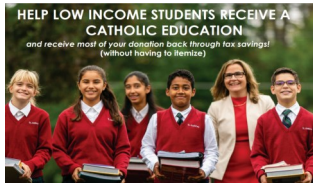
Day	Grade	Time
Sunday (Session 1)	3, 4, 7	3:45-5:00pm
Sunday (Session 2)	K, 1, 4, 5	7:00-8:15pm
Monday (Session 3)	1, 6	4:45-6:00pm
Monday (Session 4)	K, 1, RCIC, 5	7:00-8:15pm
Tuesday (Session 5)	2	4:45-6:00pm
Tuesday (Session 6)	3, 4, 5, 7	7:00-8:15pm

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



HELP LOW INCOME STUDENTS RECEIVE A CATHOLIC EDUCATION and receive most of your donation back through tax savings! (without having to itemize)

Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation

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

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

Looking for a Project for Your Group or Family?

Holding a drive for things that ECHO needs is a great project for your group or for teaching generosity to your children. ECHO provides guidelines and tips on our website at echo-inc.org on how to do it. Click on "Donate Goods," and choose "ECHO Donation Drive Guidelines." You can hold a drive for things that won't cost your donors any money such as gently used children's fall and winter clothing for Back to School, or large pots and pans or towels that the original owner no longer needs. If your intended collection audience is willing to purchase things for ECHO, remember that we will be gathering new school supplies for our Backpack Program this summer, and we can always use non-perishable food and personal hygiene supplies.



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.



2023 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO EMMITSBURG, MD

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

**NATIONAL SHRINE
 OF SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON**

9 a.m.

Presentation on Mother Seton
and veneration of her relics

9:45 a.m.

Mass with Bishop Michael F. Burbidge

10:30 a.m.

Visit Mother Seton museum and gift shop

12 p.m.

Outdoor picnic lunch at the Seton Shrine or
 Mount Saint Mary's Seminary
 (Limited restaurant options available, visitors
 encouraged to pack bag lunch. Note:
 transportation between locations not provided.)

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

1:30 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration
and recitation of the Holy Rosary

3:30 p.m.

Depart



For more information, please
 visit:
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/pilgrimage-emmitsburg/>
 or scan the QR code

The two shrines within this pilgrimage are at
 separate locations and require a 6-minute drive.
 Transportation to Emmitsburg is not provided,
 but some parishes are coordinating buses. Please
 contact your parish for possible travel
 arrangements.





Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesday. First meeting is a business meeting, 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.

Linktree Universal Sign-up Link:

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



29 Sep Nativity Fall Festival, Set-up: Volunteer on linktree.

30 Sep Nativity Fall Festival: Events & clean-up: Volunteer on linktree.

30 Sep Soccer Challenge: Volunteer on linktree.

Mowing: A deceased Knight needs your help taking care of the lawn this summer. Volunteer on linktree.

Food for Others: Volunteer drivers for food distribution 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.

Name Tags: Email Vince Augelli at VaKC23@gmail.com.

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. Volunteer on 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." Email 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 navvy8@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 Vince Augelli at fn2996@vakofc.org.

Join the Knights! The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy changing world. 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 "blessedmcgivney." Please email our Deputy Grand Knight at cokofc7992@gmail.com or the Grand Knight at pmdelatte@gmail.com if you have any questions.

The K of C Ladies Auxiliary: 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. Contact kdelatte65@gmail.com for information or to be added to our 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



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/>



A message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Here we are in the middle of August. The Creation Care veggie garden team has just finished adding up all of our harvested produce so far this year - 67.8 pounds! So many cherry tomatoes, cukes, and patty pan squash! Carrots are ready now and the beans are coming! Thank you to all who have done "gardening maintenance" over the summer. Needy recipients of the produce are so grateful. During a recent water line issue, gardeners were able to use the rain barrel installed by an Eagle Scout to keep the gardens going. A fall planting of kale, spinach, and broccoli is planned.

By the way, now is a great time to be visiting your local Farmer's markets for fresh produce! Increasing the plants in your diet is great for your health and for the planet-- take your own bags and compost your waste for bonus points!



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. To assist us as a Lunch/Recess Monitor, or Substitute Teacher, please contact Rich Godwin at (703) 455-2300, or rgodwin@nativityschool.org.

Important Upcoming Dates

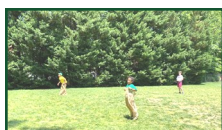
- Monday, August 21 - 2:00 - K-8 Sneak-A-Peek
 - Monday, August 21 - 3:00 - PTO Ice Cream Social
 - Wednesday, August 23 - Back-To-School
 - Wednesday, August 23 - 12 Noon Dismissal
 - Friday, August 25 - 9:00 am Mass
 - Friday, August 25 - 12:00 Noon Dismissal
 - Thursday, Aug 31 - 9:00 am Preschool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

Play With Their Buddies

At the end of the school year, our PE teacher runs a Field Day for our Seventh and Eighth grade students, where they spend the day involved in many different types of activities, such as soccer, kickball, volleyball, basketball, and more. It's a day spent away from the classroom – in the sweet sunshine – and the camaraderie of teamwork and collaboration.

The following day, our Seventh and Eighth graders – the student leaders of our school – run a 'buddy field day' for the younger students, Kindergarten through Sixth Grade. They add 'pizza box relays,' cup-stacking races, Gaga Ball games, hot dog and chips lunches, and more. The popsicles were a great big hit, too – thank you!



YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm
Weekly gatherings resume
August 27, 2023



LIFE TEEN SLIP-N-SLIDE KICK-OFF- AUGUST 27

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION

EDGE: GRADES 6-8

Alternating Sundays | 3:30-5:00pm
& Fridays | 7:00-8:30 pm
Gatherings resume in September



LIFE TEEN SLIP-N-SLIDE KICK OFF

August 27 | 6:30-8:30 pm
All high schoolers are invited to join us for the Youth Ministry kick off. Come enjoy a home-cooked meal, meet other young people in the parish, and battle your friends in slip-n-slide kickball!

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



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.

In search of paid childcare providers for The Nativity Childcare Ministry

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



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

Taylor, Nativity's Childcare Coordinator

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



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

Sign Up For the Diocesan E-Newsletter!

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

Sign up here: arlingtondiocese.org/email

Day of Prayer & Healing

Post-Abortion Retreat for Women

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Saturday, September 30, 2023

Día de Oración Y Sanación

Retiro después del Aborto Provocado para Mujeres:

sábado 29 de julio del 2023

sábado 30 de septiembre del 2023

For confidential help / Para ayuda confidencial:

703.841.2504



helpafterabortion.org
[instagram.com/afterabortioncare](https://www.instagram.com/afterabortioncare)
[facebook.com/HelpAfterAbortion](https://www.facebook.com/HelpAfterAbortion)



Nativity's members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) thank all parishioners for their great support of last week's "Trip To Ireland" raffle.



You bought more raffle tickets than ever before and your support will go a long way boosting AOH charitable programs. Congratulations to parishioner Brenda Canas for winning the "Irish Basket of Cheer." For everyone who bought a ticket, best of luck as we wait until October to draw the winning ticket for this great trip to the Emerald Isle. Let's hope it's 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.

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 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



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

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

PRO-LIFE NEWS

Fairfax Regional Respect Life Information session

Be part of an exciting and unprecedented effort to work for the common good and turn out the pro-life vote in Virginia: Wednesday, August 23: Fairfax County - St. Leo the Great after the 9:00am morning Mass <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/649163815447> OR at 7:00pm <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/649172862507>

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.

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

Living Waters

A Christian Response to
Gender, Sexuality and Freedom

for parents, young adults and high school students

- What is sexual orientation? **Monday, September 18, 2023**
- What does it mean to be chaste? **6:30pm**
- What does integration look like for those who experience same sex-attraction?
- Helping young adults navigate sexual and relational issues.
- The transgender craze.
- The Church's teaching on human sexuality as a roadmap to freedom.

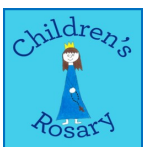
**St. Mary of the Immaculate
Conception Church
Fredericksburg, VA**

Presentation by
Marco Casanova
Associate Director
Desert Stream Ministries



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.



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 or (703) 841-3819 with any questions. Thank you!



Anyone Can Be a Hero!

October 6, 2023

8:00am

Twin Lakes Golf Course, Clifton, VA

Join us as we embrace the spirit of superheroes and support the mission of Porto Charities, increasing educational and employment opportunities available to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the Diocese of Arlington.

Our tournament features fun games and prizes, a silent auction and a delicious lunch provided by Ford's Fish Shack.

Whether you're a seasoned golfer or new to the sport, you can be a super hero for inclusive education and meaningful employment.

Are you ready to be a Hero?



Questions?
Contact Superhero
Stew McHie
smchie@portocharities.org
For registrations and sponsorships





Fall 2023 Newsletter



WELCOME BACK TO FALL ADVENTURES IN LEARNING (AIL)

The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke is very happy to **welcome you back** to our four-week Fall session on Wednesday, September 6, 13, 20 and 27. The AIL Planning Committee has lined up a diverse and interesting group of speakers and topics.

Please join us every Wednesday afternoon in September. **Coffee and tea will be ready and waiting! One registration fee of \$20 will be collected at the door. This covers everything at all four sessions.**

SCHEDULE INFORMATION

Dates: Wednesday September 6 to Wednesday September 27

New Location: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 8922 Little River Turnpike

Time: Doors open at 1:00. See detailed schedule below.

1:30 - Speaker Presentation and time for Questions

3:00 – Varied Small Groups, including Book Club led by Kim Moden

PROGRAM SPEAKERS (sequence of speakers subject to possible change)

September 6 – Fraud Prevention – Fairfax Police Detective Becker

September 13 – Older Drivers Start your Engines – Mike Perel, NHTSA (Ret)

September 20 – Washington Trolley Story – Larry Velte, Museum Volunteer

September 27 – German Prisoner of War in America: My Father's Story – Helga Warren, Author and Ann Shields, Researcher

SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF FAIRFAX-BURKE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

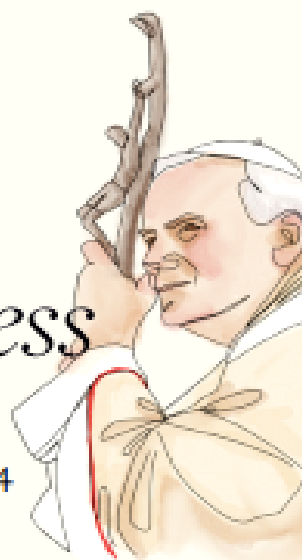
For us to meet our vision of providing seniors with transportation to Medical appointments and other trips of necessity, we need DRIVERS! If you feel this would be something you would be interested in volunteering for please call 703-323-4788, or visit our Web Site www.scfbva.org.

We are also eager to welcome new riders. If you or someone you know are in need of our service, please use the same contact information to sign up.

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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Foundation for CDA-SEEF
200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 811
Arlington, VA 22203

CONTACT: John French • john.french@arlingtondiocese.org

To make a gift online:
https://arlingtondiocese.org/Donate_SEEF

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday August 20

Isaiah 56:1,6-7
 Ps 67:2-6,8
 Romans 11:13-15,29-32
 Matthew 15:21-28

Monday August 21

St. Pius X, Pope

Jgs 2:11-19
 Ps 106:34-37,39-40,43ab,44
 Matthew 19:16-22

Tuesday August 22

Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Jgs 6:11-24a
 Ps 85:9,11-14
 Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday August 23

Jgs 9:6-15
 Ps 21:2-7
 Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday August 24

St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Revelation 21:9b-14
 Ps 145:10-13,17-18
 John 1:45-51

Friday August 25

Ru 1:1,3-6,14b-16,22
 Ps 146:5-10
 Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday August 26

Ru 2:1-3,8-11; 4:13-17
 Ps 128:1b-5
 Matthew 23:1-12

The Gospel reading this Sunday challenges us to examine our tendency to judge others. The Canaanite woman had two prejudicial strikes against her: gender and nationality.

Of course, Jesus was there as Savior for the whole world, but the disciples didn't know it yet. To stretch their minds (and ours), Jesus waited for the Canaanite woman's faith to become so obvious that it would overshadow every limitation that had been imposed upon her.

For Jesus, the only outsider is someone who refuses to come into the kingdom of God. But we don't readily think like this. Our Church is full of people who have been misjudged. Many feel outcast. We easily jump to wrong conclusions about each other.

For example, how readily do you greet the people near you in the pew if you don't know them? How comfortable are you about engaging in friendly conversation after Mass someone who looks unhappy? Does your parish make it easy for single parents to come to extra activities at church by providing free babysitters?

If you're divorced, do you assume that others are deliberately excluding you? That too is a misjudgment.

Why do homosexuals feel outcast even though Church teachings have been issued that *compassionately* invite them to a holy lifestyle?



Why are there lay people who feel blocked from being collaborators in ministry with their priests?

Judging our fellow Christians causes them to suffer. It also allows unmet needs to continue in the Church, because the giftedness of the judged is being rejected. But if we remain conscious of our own tendencies to react to others with assumptions and judgments, we have the power to choose to be Christ for them and to receive Christ from them.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Have you ever felt like an outsider? Even in the presence of Christ? How have you been pushed aside and neglected? What kind of damage did it do?
- † Are you willing to try again to get more involved?
- † Whom are we likely to judge?
- † What is your parish doing – or what have you personally done – to heal some of the damage that was caused when others were misjudged? What else needs to be done?

La fecundidad de la Palabra.

Angel Moreno - Viernes, 14 de julio de 2017
XV Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario "A":
La fecundidad de la Palabra,
Fuerza creadora

Dijo Dios: «Produzca la tierra vegetación: hierbas que den semillas y árboles frutales que den fruto, de su especie, con su semilla dentro, sobre la tierra». Y así fue. La tierra produjo vegetación: hierbas que dan semilla, por sus especies, y árboles que dan fruto con la semilla dentro, por sus especies; y vio Dios que estaban bien (Gn 1, 11-12). Canto agradecido Tú cuidas la tierra, la riegas y la enriqueces sin media. La acequia de Dios va llena de agua, preparas los trigales... (Sal 65)

Visión profética "Como bajan la lluvia y la nieve desde el cielo, y no vuelven allá, sino después de empapar la tierra, de fecundarla y hacerla germinar, para que dé semilla al sembrador y pan al que come, así será mi palabra que sale de mi boca: no volverá a mí vacía" (Is 55, 10). Parábola evangélica "Salió el sembrador a sembrar. Al sembrar, un poco cayó al borde del camino; vinieron los pájaros y se lo comieron. Otro poco cayó en terreno pedregoso, donde apenas tenía tierra, y como la tierra no era profunda brotó en seguida; pero en cuanto salió el sol, se abrasó y por falta de raíz se secó. Otro poco cayó entre zarzas, que crecieron y lo ahogaron. El resto cayó en tierra buena y dio grano: unos, ciento; otros, sesenta; otros, treinta" (Mt 13, 2ss).

Texto místico "Páreceme a mí que se puede regar de cuatro maneras: o con sacar el agua de un pozo, que es a nuestro gran trabajo; o con noria y arcaduces, que se saca con un torno; yo lo he sacado algunas veces: es a menos trabajo que estotro y sácase más agua; o de un río o arroyo: esto se riega muy mejor, que queda más harta la tierra de agua y no se ha menester regar tan a menudo y es a menos trabajo mucho del hortelano; o con llover mucho, que lo riega el Señor sin trabajo ninguno nuestro, y es muy sin comparación mejor que todo lo que queda dicho. Ahora, pues, aplicadas estas cuatro maneras de agua de que se ha de sustentar este huerto -porque sin ella perderse ha-, es lo que a mí me hace al caso y ha parecido que se podrá declarar algo de cuatro grados de oración, en que el Señor, por su bondad, ha puesto algunas veces mi alma" (Santa Teresa, Vida 11, 7).

Consideración

¿Cómo es tu tierra, con qué la riegas? ¿Cómo es tu cosecha? ¿La riegas con la escucha de la Palabra, con la oración? O ¿dejas secar la semilla que el Labrador ha plantado en ti?

Signos de Presencia

Bonifacio Fernandez, cmf - Martes, 1 de agosto de 2017
 Hay juegos de cartas que admiten las señas. Son gestos, movimientos en rostro que tienen un significado. El compañero de juego sabe interpretar.

Cuando leemos un texto escrito nos encontramos también ante una serie de signos. Son letras que hacen sílabas. Les ponemos voz y pronunciamos palabras; las palabras escritas son signos que remiten a la voz; y ambos tienen un significado: remiten a cosas, ideas, incluso a imágenes y metáforas de la realidad.

Nuestra vida cotidiana está vinculada a los signos; los necesitamos para movernos en las calles de las ciudades y en las rutas de las montañas. Los necesitamos para tomar conciencia de la línea del tiempo que atraviesa nuestra existencia desde la cuna al sepulcro. Las historias de amor están marcadas por hechos significativos: conocerse, declararse, comprometerse, pedirse.

Evocación

Nuestras biografías personales están llenas de realidades significativas: fotos del bautizo o de la boda, libros del colegio, recuerdos de personas, de lugares, de las etapas de nuestro itinerario personal. En un sentido amplio podemos hablar de los sacramentos de la vida. Se trata de objetos de la vida cotidiana que hacen referencia a momentos, relaciones y experiencias de nuestra vida. Cuando los contemplamos con atención transparentan secuencias de nuestra historia: nacimiento de los hijos, muerte de los padres, final de la formación profesional.

La metáfora de la vida

Esos mismos recuerdos pueden adquirir nuevos significados. Esto acontece cuando los miramos con ojos de fe en el sentido humano y cristiano. Los percibimos en la medida en que la fe cristiana entra en simbiosis con la vida humana. La historia personal se convierte en narración creyente; habla por sí misma de otra dimensión. Todas las acciones individuales y las interacciones relacionales forman parte de ese relato de la vida cotidiana. Nuestras historias de vida están entrelazadas de acciones e interacciones, pero también de intenciones y finalidades, de crisis y nuevos comienzos. Se inscriben en una trama que le confiere su unidad, manifiesta su alcance espiritual, la sitúa en el tiempo, tanto en el tiempo humano como en el tiempo cronológico.

Provocación

Las historias de vida manifiestan la memoria creyente. Y también los olvidos de cómo Dios se ha ido haciendo presente con su palabra creadora. Pueden ser memorias peligrosas, tanto si evocan el dolor como si actualizan la alegría. Desde ambas laderas remueven y conmueven el presente que se aísla sobre sí mismo en forma de identidad cerrada. Los acontecimientos no han sido así por casualidad. Podemos descubrir cómo el Espíritu de Dios ha ido configurando nuestra existencia. Podemos describir la presencia escondida de Dios en la historia y en el presente personal, conyugal, familiar. Para ello se necesita afinar la escucha de la Palabra bíblica que hablan también de nosotros. Se necesita agradecer y orar la vida cotidiana en contacto con las grandes historias bíblicas de amor y desamor. Seguros de que ese ejercicio es siempre una buena noticia.

INSISTE Y SE TE ABRIRÁ Domingo XX (A) Javier Leoz



Celebrábamos el pasado 15 de Agosto la Solemnidad de la Asunción. Lo que la primera lectura de este día proclama, a la fuerza, nos trae de nuevo cierta connotación mariana: nadie como Ella practicó, con sencillez, el derecho, la justicia, sirvió a Dios con locura y, Dios, la llevó hasta su eterna morada.

Y es que, cuando uno cumple lo que a Dios agrada, las cosas cambian de color. Y, para muestra, un botón: el Evangelio de hoy. ¡Qué se cumpla lo que deseas!

Han pasado las jornadas de la Juventud en Sydney. El Papa, con atino, les decía a los jóvenes que *“tan importante era la preparación de las jornadas, como el día de después”*. En otras palabras, Benedicto XVI, les decía lo mismo que, el Señor, a una madre preocupada por la salud física de su hija: ¡Que se cumpla lo que deseas!

Todos, incluido yo, necesitamos que alguien, de vez en cuando, nos abra caminos. Que alguien nos empuje para despojarnos y deshacernos de tantos demonios que no nos dejan ser nosotros mismos.

Todos, y vosotros también, necesitamos de un Dios que – por la mañana o por la noche- antes de ir a trabajar o descansar, nos susurre al oído: *“que se cumpla lo que deseas”*. La cuestión, como siempre, es mirar en la dirección adecuada. El problema, y muchos lo tenemos, es que nuestros deseos no son precisamente, la mayoría de las veces, anhelos de santidad o de verdad, de salud o de justicia, de felicidad sana o de paz. ¿Qué es lo que pedimos a Dios? ¿Qué echamos en falta en nuestro cuerpo físico y espiritual?

Malo será, queridos amigos, que creyendo estar muy lejos de Dios, tan lejos como se sentía del Señor la mujer cananea, pensemos que el Señor poco puede hacer por nuestra salvación, por nuestro bienestar personal o comunitario. ¿Es así? ¿Tenemos una fe incondicional a Jesús? ¿O una fe con condiciones? ¿Una fe tapagujeros o una fe comprometida, recia y vigorosa?

¿Qué demonios nos traen de cabeza? ¿Qué es lo que nos impide avanzar por los caminos que el Señor, la Iglesia o el Evangelio mismo nos propone?

Hagamos una reflexión. Pongámonos, como el día de la Asunción en los brazos de la Virgen, y pensemos que Ella – en nombre de todos sus hijos- está diciendo al Señor: mis hijos, nuestros hijos, oh Dios, tienen malignos en su interior. *Pidamos al Señor, porque a veces le pedimos muy poco, que nuestra fe sea sólida. Que no haga aguas a pesar de los torpedos que recibimos de un lado y de otro

*Pidamos al Señor, a veces somos muy variables, que nuestra fe y nuestra oración sean constantes. Que no sea hoy “sí” y mañana “no”. A un padre se le quiere las 24 horas del día. ¡Gracias, amigo y Señor!

Y, a Dios, se le gana por donde más se pierde: por el inmenso amor que nos tiene.

*Pidamos al Señor que, nuestra oración, sea insistente. Como el rezo del rosario, como los besos de los enamorados, como los piropos de todo un pueblo a su Patrona o a su Patrón que, al lanzarlos al viento, saben que alcanzan –tarde o temprano- los favores implorados.

Es Domingo, Día del Señor, y camino de la Iglesia, con las ganas de celebrar la Eucaristía... vemos que el Señor nos detiene una vez más y nos pregunta: ¿Me has escuchado bien? ¿Qué te ocurre? ... ¡Anda, vete y que se cumpla lo que deseas!



¿ME LO CONCEDES, SEÑOR?

Un deseo para mi vida:
crear sin desfallecer
Un deseo para mi gente:
que te quieran como yo te quiero
Un deseo para mis enemigos:
que podamos darnos la mano
¿ME LO CONCEDES, SEÑOR?
Un deseo para mi cuerpo,
que sea fuerte y con mi voz
y mi garganta, con mi corazón y mis manos
con mis pies y todo mi ser...
te pueda seguir dando gloria.
¿ME LO CONCEDES, SEÑOR?
Un deseo para mi alma,
que el maligno no habite en ella
Un deseo para mis días,
que no busque lo que no me corresponda
Un deseo para mi Iglesia,
que nunca se canse de mirar hacia Ti
Un deseo para mis ojos,
que sepan descubrirte en todo y sobre todo
¿ME LO CONCEDES, SEÑOR?
Un deseo para mi pobre oración,
que sea sincera y no interesada
Un deseo para mi caridad,
que sea grande y no una farsa
Un deseo para mi esperanza,
que espere y nunca te deje de lado
¿ME LO CONCEDES, S



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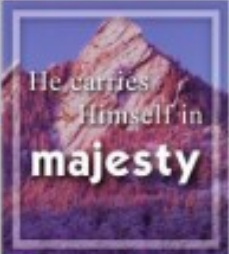
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