

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God.*

MATTHEW 16:16

21^º DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

*Tú eres el Mesías,
el Hijo del Dios vivo.*

MATEO 16:16



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

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

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

Maria Kelly, Principal
Richard Godwin, Assistant Principal
Jen Behan, Preschool Director/Extended Care Director
Shannon Murphy, Administrative Assistant/Registrar
Kim Vu, Business Manager
Mary Helen Chapman, School Secretary

**MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
PROGRAM:**

Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro, A.R., M.R.E.
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant
Joyce Kelly, SPRED Coordinator

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454-2415 or
mmturner@ccda.net



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

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

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

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

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

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

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

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

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

BULLETIN EDITOR:
Caroline Chase, bulletin@nativityburke.org

WEBMASTER:
Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:
Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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

A Message from our Pastor Msgr. Bob Cilinski



"But who do you say that I am?" - Matt 16:13-20

My dear parishioners,

There was a poem written by a bishop at the Second Vatican Council called "MARBLE FLOOR." In this poem he reflects on the vast basilica of St. Peter's in Rome. He wrote, *"There are many walls, so many columns, yet we are not lost. If we find meaning and oneness, it is the floor that guides us. It joins the spaces of this great building and joins the spaces within us. Peter, you are the floor. You guide our steps so the spaces may be one."* That bishop who wrote this poem later became Pope John Paul II.

Like the floor in St. Peter's, Christ is our rock, and the Pope is the point of unity as a church, our unity with each other, and with Christ. Peter's statement of faith, "You are the Christ," allows us to share together the joy of discovering the great gift of Jesus. What unites us is the foundation of faith in Jesus as Messiah and Son of God.

As we begin a new school year, the real agenda for the church is the joyful proclamation of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of God." This faith proclaimed by Peter, comes as a reply to a question addressed by Jesus to the disciples "Who do you say that I am?." We must each answer that question personally. There is no other foundation for the church than the free gift of God in Jesus and the future of the church rests on the promise made by Jesus "that the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it."

Christ Jesus is the "floor," the "foundation" on which we build our lives. May Jesus guide and bless all students, teachers, and parents as we begin a new year of learning, wisdom, and grace.

Love and Blessings,

Bob Cilinski

Msgr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor



ACCOLADE OF THE WEEK

Ms. Maria Kelly was honored by Bishop Burbidge at the Mass for Teachers for her 35 years as a Catholic Educator in the Diocese of Arlington. She has served as Principal of Nativity Catholic School for 25 years!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 20TH!

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

nativityburke.org

To register go our parish website or scan Qr Code



nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org

703-455-0372

'Come and See' - OCIA (formerly RCIA) the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Faith? Are you missing the Sacrament of the Eucharist or Confirmation?

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

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

Our Monday evening sessions continue weekly until just prior to Pentecost Sunday (April 26, 2027) preparing for life in the Church as intentional disciples. This faith journey deepens one's personal relationship with Jesus by encountering him through passionate teaching, personal witness, table discussion time with opportunities for Q&A, prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, spiritual events, and a Lenten outreach project.

OCIA is open to those who have not been baptized, Christians baptized in another faith, and baptized Catholics who have not received catechesis for the other Sacraments of Initiation.

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

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.



To protect human life & the truth about marriage

CATHOLICS VOTE NO

on the

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

Pledge to Vote: CatholicsVoteNo.com

 CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Early Voting begins September 18
Election Day November 3



ECHO Collection NEXT weekend, August 29/30 Food Room Most Needed

Thank you for including ECHO Food Room needs on your shopping list. The USDA calculates that a meal for one persons is considered to be 1.2 pounds of food. Thus far this fiscal year ECHO has distributed 288,560 pounds of food which converts to 240,466 meals given to our neighbors in Burke and Springfield. Thank you donors for your generosity in helping our neighbors. Your help is greatly appreciated. We collected 571 pounds on August 1/2. Thank you!!

ECHO 's policy is to not give expired, open or repackaged food to clients. PLEASE do not bring these items or glass jars!!

Bag Beans (black, red or garbanzo beans preferred), Lentils, Canned Fruit, Cereal/Oatmeal (low sugar), Can Tomatoes, Tomato paste, Canned Milk, Shelf stable milk, Hot Chocolate, Snacks (Crackers, raisins, granola bars, dry fruit, nuts, etc.) Baked Beans, Coffee (Instant and Ground), Honey, Pancake Syrup, Cooking Oil, Non-salt spices, Masa Corn Flour, Granulated Sugar, Lemon or Lime Juice, Tortillas, Condiments, Mac and Cheese, Canned Meat, , Paper boxes, Toilet Paper, Facial Tissue, Toothpaste, Razors, Shampoo, Laundry Detergent, Paper Towels, Body/Hand lotion, Band Aids, Diapers. (sizes 2, 4, 5, 6), Sanitary Napkins.

DIOCESAN CAR MINISTRY

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



Nativity Catholic Church New Tuesday Morning Bible Study

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

We are launching a new Bible Study on Tuesday mornings, focused on personal daily meditation and contemplation of the upcoming Sunday Gospel and reflection on the first and second readings. We will encounter our Lord Jesus through scripture, prayer, and community.

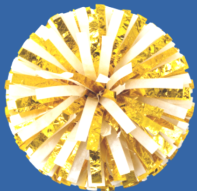
No matter where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here!

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

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Bible study facilitator:
Tanya Quinonez at tanyaeglewings@hotmail.com

For more information contact:
Deacon Richard Kelly at deaconrfk@aol.com
Please register by September 8



CYO CHEER ** NATIVITY STARS **

REGISTRATION

Registration opens September 9th!
All girls in grades 3-8 are welcome to register
Registration link: (provided near registration date)

PRACTICES AND GAMES

Practices: Begin mid-late October
Cheer Events: December to March

VOLUNTEERS

Coaching and Schedule Coordinator volunteer roles available.
High School Student Volunteer roles available (cheer experience preferred); receive volunteer hours!
Please reach out if interested!

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT
CYOSPORTS@NATIVITYBURKE.ORG

Nativity Religious Education Program

WE NEED CATECHISTS FOR THE GRADES AND SESSIONS BELOW:

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

We also in need office volunteers for all sessions

Scan the QR-Code to Sign-up!



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

Classes are starting soon. We need your help!



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

Classes start Sept. 20th



nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American

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, and rental car included.

The AOH will be selling a limited number of \$10 raffle tickets after Mass this weekend, August 22 and 23. Also, the "Irish Basket of Cheer" will be given away to one winner at the Nativity sale. Congratulations to previous Nativity parishioner winners: the Gorham family, the Lisi family, and Brenda Canas. Proceeds support local AOH Catholic charities and projects including Pro-Life, Catholic Schools, Religious Vocations, and Veterans Programs.

We are currently looking for volunteer readers for the 5:30 PM Sunday Mass. If you are interested in serving, training will be provided! Please stop by the sacristy right after Mass today to speak with us, or send an email to Karla Camino at kcaminos@nativityburke.com for more information.

NATIVITY CYO CROSS COUNTRY

IS RETURNING FOR THE FALL SEASON!



Registration is open to all Nativity Religious Education and Nativity school students in grades 3 thru 8.

Practices start August 31st.

Register at
nativityburke.org/cyo-track/

\$30 for the season.

Please email any questions to
cyotrack@nativityburke.org



**COACHES
NEEDED!**



Saturday, September 19, 2026
Hyatt Regency Reston

Bishop Burbidge invites all young adults (19-35)!



Keynote from
Shereen Yusuff
In English



Mass with
Bishop Burbidge



Keynote from
Fr. Rafael Capó
In Spanish

Breakout Sessions - Dinner - Live Music & Salsa Dancing Lessons - Complimentary Childcare



Presented by the Office of Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministries

For more information and to register:  Contact your parish young adult ministry for a \$10 discount.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - 2026/2027

Nativity Women's Bible study will begin our program year with a Meet and Greet on **Friday, September 11th at 10:00am in the Fr. Ready room**. Our first study, *The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy* (Ascension Press), will meet Fridays, September 18th - December 11th at 10:00 am in the Fr. Ready room. Our other sessions this year will be: Winter - *Wisdom* (Ascension Press - Zoom meetings) and Spring - *The Beatitudes and St. Francis of Assisi* (Hagios - In Person Meetings). All Nativity women are welcome to join us for prayer, study, and fellowship! **Online registration via the Nativity website will close August 25th** (or when at capacity). To be notified of future registration details or if you have questions, contact Camille Pryor at wbs@nativityburke.org

JOIN OUR YOUTH & CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Do you have a 7th-12th grade student interested in joining the Youth Choir? We will start our rehearsals again this September, but registration starts now! We will rehearse every other Monday evening from 7:00-8:30pm in the church. No audition necessary! See the website or contact Sara Prince, sprince@nativityburke.org for more information.

Do you have a 3rd-6th grade who likes to sing? Sign up for Children's Choir! We will start our rehearsals this September, but registration starts now! We will rehearse every other Monday evening from 7:00-8:00pm in the church. See the website or contact Sara Prince, sprince@nativityburke.org for more information.



MASS INTENTIONS & MASS SCHEDULE

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

Monday, August 24

7:30 am † Giorgio Merulla
 12:00 pm † Lisa Dawn Celestino

Tuesday, August 25

7:30 am † Ashley Jean Stone
 12:00 pm † Fred Boos
 7:00 pm Nativity Parishioners (*Volunteer Appreciation Mass*)

Wednesday, August 26

7:30 am † Richard J. O'Brien
 10:00 am † Andrew J. Lukac (*Heatherwood*)

Thursday, August 27

7:30 am † Sharon Linz
 12:00 pm † Sharon Michel

Friday, August 28

7:30 am † William Csehi

Saturday, August 29

9:00 am † Howard Trent
 5:00 pm † Charlotte and Richard Scales
 7:00 pm † Mario Sanchez (*Spanish*)

Sunday, August 30

7:00 am Intention for Healing
 9:00 am † Al Bisset
 11:00 am Nativity Parishioners
 1:00 pm † Henryk Sakaluk
 5:30 pm † Fr. Cary Kean, OFM

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



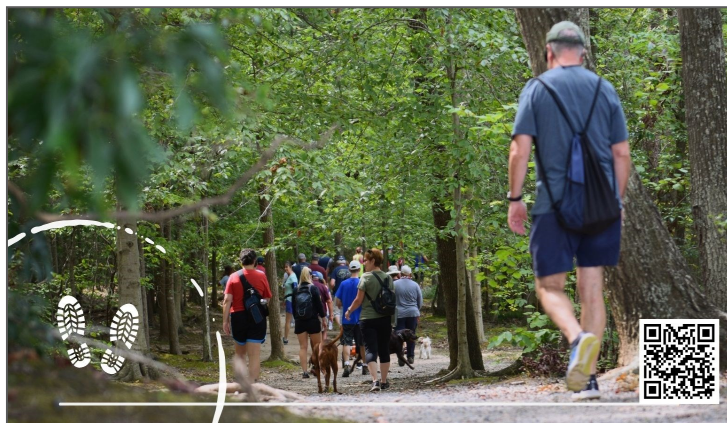
Pray the Pro-Life Rosary and Witness with Us!

When: Friday mornings after the 7:30 am Mass
 Where: 900 S. Washington St, Falls Church, VA.

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

YOU'RE INVITED!

To a Birthday Celebration for the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday, September 12, 2026, following the 9:00 am Mass. The Legion of Mary will host a celebration for Mary's Nativity (Feast Day September 8) with a reception and breakfast in the Fr. Ready Room. Please join your fellow parishioners in this tribute to the "Mother of Jesus."



Marriage Enrichment Ministry & Creation Care Ministry

7th Annual

HEROES HIKE

with Msgr. Bob Cilinski

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

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

For more information and to register visit:

www.nativityburke.org/heroes-hike/

Contact Anna Lisa Licud:

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

Are you separated or divorced?

***Journey of Hope** is a welcoming parish community for separated and divorced Catholics to share hope, healing, and fellowship that is rooted in Faith, God's Grace and immensurable Divine Mercy. Where ever you are on the journey, join us!*

Next Meetings

Thursday, September 17 @ 7:00 pm

Thursday, October 8 @ 7:00 pm

Nativity School - Room 203

Website nativityburke.org/separated-divorced

Contact separated.divorced@nativityburke.org



CYO BASKETBALL ** NATIVITY STARS **

REGISTRATION

Registration opens September 9th!

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

Registration link: (provided near registration date)

PRACTICES AND GAMES

Practices: Begin mid-late October

Games: December to March

VOLUNTEERS

Coaching volunteer roles available.

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

Please reach out if interested!

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT
CYOSPORTS@NATIVITYBURKE.ORG

Marriage Enrichment Ministry

7th Annual POTLUCK Gathering

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



September 12 | 6:30-8:30 PM

Bunnyman Brewing

5583 Guinea Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032

Register here:

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



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



Attention Please!

MOST MASS INTENTIONS HAVE
BEEN FILLED THROUGH
THE END OF DECEMBER 2026

**WE CURRENTLY DO NOT HAVE ANY
MORE MASS INTENTIONS
AVAILABLE**

**THE MASS CALENDAR FOR
1 JANUARY, 2027 - 31 JUNE, 2027
WILL OPEN IN THE MIDDLE OF
NOVEMBER 2026, PLEASE WATCH
FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN
THE BULLETIN OR ON OUR WEBSITE**



THE DOROTHEA PROJECT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS

WITNESS FOR OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS

TUESDAY, SEPT 15, 2026
10am MASS
followed by procession to Congress

St Peter's Church on Capitol Hill
313 Second St SE, Washington, DC 20003

Join Catholics standing in prayerful solidarity with our immigrant, migrant, and refugee neighbors and calling for their humane and dignified treatment.




RSVP AT
[BIT.LY/TDP-SORROWS](https://bit.ly/TDP-SORROWS)



[DOROTHEAPROJECT.COM](https://dorotheaproject.com)
atthedorotheaproject

 **TOGETHER IN HOLINESS™**
CONFERENCE SERIES

 **ST. JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION**

NOVEMBER 14, 2026
SAINT JOHN PAUL II NATIONAL SHRINE
WASHINGTON, DC

Family, a Domestic Church

PRESENTED BY
SAINT JOHN PAUL II NATIONAL SHRINE

COUPLE \$64
CHILDCARE \$5/CHILD

Register by October 5 to grab an Early Bird discount



 **REGISTER HERE**

QUALITY TIME | DYNAMIC SPEAKERS | CHILDCARE
MASS + ADORATION + CONFESSION

[TOGETHERINHOLINESS.ORG / WASHINGTON](https://togetherinholiness.org/washington)

Fall Grief Retreat:
Finding the Passion of Christ in Your Story
You do not have to grieve alone. Join other mothers of loss on September 18th & 19th for a fall retreat hosted by the Diocese of Arlington Chapter of Red Bird Ministries.
Draw closer to the Lord in your grief and find comfort, healing, and hope by connecting with others who understand the extraordinary cross you are carrying. For all mothers of loss, from pregnancy through adulthood.

When: Friday, September 18 (6:30–9:00 pm) and Saturday, September 19 (9:00 am–5:30 pm) Where: Morning Star Retreat House in Great Falls Cost: \$40 (includes \$25 grief group journal, breakfast, & lunch) Register: www.redbird.love/arlington-va
Questions? Email elizabeth@redbird.love

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

The next Men's Cursillo Retreat will be held at San Damiano in November. This retreat offers an opportunity to relax and rediscover the peace Jesus meant for you to know, walking daily with Him, as God's beloved son. It will be held during the week from Nov 9-12 and information about it can be found on the Arlington Cursillo Website <https://www.arlingtoncursillo.org/upcoming-mens-weekend>
Anyone interested or with questions can contact
Marc Laverdiere mglaverdiere@msn.com or
Laura Laverdiere lauralaverdiere@msn.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY: GRADES 9-12

Life Teen

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



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

Save the Date: OCT 25th, RALLY

Diocesan HS Youth rally @ Bishop O'Connell HS

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY: GRADES 6-8

Edge

September 4 | 6:30pm-8pm



Blaze (Girl's Small Group)

September 4 | 5pm-6:15pm

CONTACT US!

Grace Carroll, Director of Youth Ministry

gcarroll@nativityburke.org

Claire Anderson, Coordinator of Youth Ministry

canderson@nativityburke.org

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

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

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

PRO-LIFE CORNER

Catholic Charities - Pregnancy and Adoption Services

Catholic Charities is "Licensed. Ethical. Reputable. Since 1947, Pregnancy and Adoption support has served communities in Northern Virginia and surrounding areas. We are committed to providing transformative services to individuals, couples and families whose lives are impacted by unplanned pregnancy, parenting in a crisis situation and/or whose lives have been touched by adoption.

Unplanned Pregnancy Options

"Learning about the options and resources available to you before you decide is critical because whatever choice you make will impact you for the rest of your life!

The good news is you don't have to figure this out alone – You can call or text one of our friendly, certified pregnancy counselors anytime at 703-973-0129 and visit our page to learn more about the options and resources in Northern Virginia that are available to help you before you decide. Since 1947 we have been providing pregnancy and adoption services in Northern Virginia. We are available 24/7 to assist you as you consider your options, obtain support and make a plan. We will meet you at times and locations that are easiest for you.

Adopt a Child

"Making the decision to grow your family through adoption is a big step! Take some time to learn more about the options available to you and the pros and cons of each option. We can help you explore your options so that you can make an informed decision about which path is best for your family.

Adoption is a lifelong journey and likely one you are deciding if you will take. Our adoption program has been licensed by the state of Virginia since 1947. We serve all members of the adoption triad- birth family, adoptive family and adoptee. When you decide to adopt a child, adoption is interwoven into your identity and into your child's identity. We seek to equip and empower adoptive families with all of the support and information they need to give them a solid foundation in all of our adoption programs."

If interested in adoption, complete the information in the link below and a professional will respond. https://ccda.mysamdb.com/SAM/Fm/SimpleInquiryForm_Edt.aspx. For more details, go to <https://ccda.net/find-help/pregnancy-adoption/>, 703.841.3830.

The National Catholic Bioethics Center

Provides education, guidance, and resources to the Church and society to uphold the dignity of the human person in health care and biomedical research, thereby sharing in the ministry of Jesus Christ and his Church. <https://www.ncbcenter.org>

Tepeyac Pro-Life OB/GYN: Faith-based Pro-life OB/GYN restoring integrity of human person with modern medicine and healing of Christ. tepeyacobgyn.com, 703.273.9440.

Gabriel Project: Pregnancy Outreach for Expectant Mothers. Offers emotional, spiritual, material, and financial support through a pregnancy helpline and parish-based volunteer "Angel" support. helpforpregnantwomen.org. 866.444.3553.

Mary's Comfort of VA: Ensuring Expectant Mothers Shelter, Support and New Beginnings. Provides full support, including training in parenting and life skills, career coaching and educational advancement. maryscomfortva.org, 703.455.4500.

Project Rachel: Help after Abortion. A safe place to share your emotions and work toward healing. helpafterabortion.org, 703.841.2504.

The Lamb Center: provides laundry, showers, hot meals, counseling, and financial assistance for poor and homeless. <https://nativityburke.org/service/the-lamb-center/> others a small faith community.



Employment Opportunities in the Diocese

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

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

For details, visit the school website at:
www.nativityschool.org/application-process/
or contact Shannon Murphy at (703) 455-2300



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



Nativity School: Now accepting applications for Preschool 3, and 1st through 6th grades for this 2026-27 School Year. Classes started last week!!

For details, visit the school website:
www.nativityschool.org/application-process/
 or contact Shannon Murphy at (703) 455-2300

Join the Nativity School Extended Care Team Love Working With Children?

The following qualifications are necessary:

***A LOVE of Children!
'Can-Do' Attitude***

***Afternoon Availability, 2:30 to 6 p.m.
Diocesan Compliance to Work With Kids***

To apply, contact Jen Behan, Director,
 at jbehan@nativityschool.org.



Love working with children? Want flexibility? Substitutes wanted!

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



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

At Nativity, faith fills us. Love lives here. Nativity Stars are filled with the Holy Spirit! Join us to see how your child would spend his or her days here - learning, praying, sharing, and laughing. We may be just the school for which you've been searching! Contact us at www.nativityschool.org, (703) 455-2300, or smurph@nativityschool.org.



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
 IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



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

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

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

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

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

27 AUG: Brews with Brothers event at the Bunnyman Brewing, 5583 Guinea Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. This is an informal gathering. Bring a lawn chair and join others 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM on the grassy knoll for an evening of fun and fellowship. No sign-up necessary!

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

25,26 SEPT: Volunteers needed to help set-up, cook, and serve at Nativity's 2026 Fall Festival. Many opportunities available. SUG available on the Linktree!

Food for Others: Volunteer for food distribution to the poor, delivered on designated Thursday or Friday evenings. For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyermark7992@verizon.net. For Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com. Deliver food from Giant to the FFO warehouse Tuesday mornings; contact Br. Bob Colella robert.coella.86@gmail.com.

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

Prayer Requests: Prayer requests will stay active for one month. Prayer update (health, location, contact, etc.) status is deeply appreciated. Send an updated request for continued support. <https://forms.gle/LiPCRmzfyrnYEU8s5>

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

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

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

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

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

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

PARKING SAFETY REMINDER

For the safety of all, please do not park in fire lanes or in the travel lanes of the driveways at Nativity.
 In case of emergency, first responder vehicles must have access to our buildings. Knowing that parking is at a premium at our Sunday Masses, your cooperation and concern for other's safety is appreciated. THANK YOU!

Sunday Evening Gatherings: 7pm-8:30pm

SEPT 27

OCT. 25

DEC. 6

JAN. 24

FEB. 28

APR. 25

Gatherings are at the same time but in different meeting spaces

PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE TO ATTEND.



LEARN MORE AT

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



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young adults (ages 18-39)

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



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spiritual and social gatherings,

Faithful Friends builds meaningful, supportive relationships and these friendships deepen our

Catholic Faith and create opportunities for spiritual growth and connection.



Caregivers Supporting Loved Ones with

Disabilities (of all ages) are invited to

join us for a time of *community*,

encouragement, and *spiritual support*. This

gathering will include small group

conversations, a presentation from a

fellow caregiver, and space to connect

with

other parish families navigating similar

journeys. Caregivers include those caring

for family members with disabilities

such as sensory processing challenges,

ADHD, autism, or intellectual, physical,

and developmental disabilities, etc. We

consider caregivers to be any relative

who is walking alongside a family

member with special needs. Caregivers

must register in advance to attend.





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arlingtondiocese.org/healingretreat
familylife@arlingtondiocese.org
703.841.2550



LUNCH N' LIFE LUNCHEON

SEPTEMBER 17, 2026
12:00 PM -2:00 PM
Jubilee Christian Center
4650 Shirley Gate Road
Fairfax, VA 22030



Cost: \$20 per person (lunch & program)

To reserve, call 703-323-4788 and leave your name and message that you are attending. Checks are to be made out to Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke and mailed to: 4019 Olley Lane, Fairfax, VA 22032.

Reservation deadline: **September 10, 2026.**
SCFB transportation clients who need a ride should call one week in advance. Non-clients may register and then request a ride.

If Fairfax County Public Schools are closed or delayed due to weather, the event will be canceled.

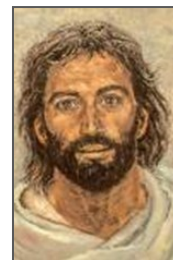
Our entertainment on September 17th is "Just Four Grins", a barbershop quartet known for their classic four-part harmonies. They sing love songs, funny songs and classics. Join us to laugh, sing and enjoy the show!

For more information about Four Grins see their Facebook page:
<https://m.facebook.com/JustFourGrinsQuartet/>

¿Ya sabemos quién es el Señor?

Domingo XXI (A)

Javier Leoz



Año Jubilar Paulino. Y, cuando uno se acerca a la segunda lectura y recuerda el hombre que, ayer, fue San Pablo, llega a preguntarse: ¿Qué le pudo ocurrir a este hombre para escribir así a los Romanos?

Lo que antes era necesidad, ahora es sabiduría de la fina

Lo que perseguía con saña, son ahora caminos irrastreables

Lo que antes de ayer era caos, hoy es origen, meta y fin del universo

Así es, amigos. Cuando uno descubre, cara a cara a Jesús, su vida cambia de la noche a la mañana. Acerquémonos a la sencillez de San Francisco de Asís. Asomémonos a la intrepidez de Francisco de Javier, a la bondad de Teresa de Calcuta, a muchos de los ídolos de nuestro tiempo (deportistas, cantantes, artistas) que de repente, de la noche a la mañana, ven que a su vida le faltaba algo, fondo.....les faltaba Dios. O, como al mismísimo ex/primer ministro británico, Tony Blair, que dejaba la Iglesia Anglicana porque, entre otras cosas, en la Católica encontraba con más nitidez a Jesucristo.

Preguntémoslo a Pedro. ¿Qué dice la gente de Jesús! Y, como San Pablo, Pedro nos responderá lo mismo que nosotros, con nuestra presencia en la Eucaristía, afirmamos y profesamos: ¡Es el Señor! ¡Es el Hijo de Dios!

¡Ay! ¡Si, como Pedro, tuviéramos esa convicción! ¡Cuántas puertas herméticamente cerradas se abrirían a la novedad del Evangelio!

¡Ay! ¡Si, como Pedro, tuviéramos el valor y el coraje –a tiempo y a destiempo- de profesar que, Jesús es el Mesías! No existirían otros dioses, miedos ni temblores para profesar nuestra fe.

¡Ay! ¡Si como Pedro, ante el Señor, una y otra vez, en el sagrario o en la calle, en el trabajo o en la oficina, manifestáramos lo que somos! Muchos, verían y encontrarían en nuestra actitud, una llave con la que poder abrirse o encontrar a Dios

¿Qué ocurre entre nosotros, amigos? ¿Por qué no gritamos a los cuatro vientos lo que, en el silencio, sentimos?

¿Tan débiles nos encontramos que preferimos tener a Dios en los cuatro muros del templo de nuestro corazón que saltando por las calles por las cuales andamos?

Tenemos un déficit en nuestra vida cristiana: nos falta conocimiento de Jesús. No hace aún dos semanas cuando, una feligresa, me decía: *“pregunto a mis hijos y mis nietos sobre Historia Sagrada y me llevo una gran sorpresa: no saben nada”*.

Surgen, en este domingo, una serie de preguntas que deben de sacudirnos nuestro vivir cristiano. Son para todos los que estamos reunidos, en el nombre del Señor, delante de este altar. Nos la dirige Jesús: ¿Qué soy para ti? ¿Quién soy para ti? ¿Qué sabes de mí? ¿Qué estás dispuesto hacer por mí?

¿Seríamos capaces de responderle? ¿Lo haríamos con frases huecas o con verdad de corazón? ¿Lo haríamos para contentar a Jesús o desde lo más hondo de nuestra conciencia?

No hace mucho tiempo en un programa de radio, por la noche, llamaba un joven que jamás había oído hablar de Jesús. Que en su infancia, su familia, se preocupó de poner filtro a todo lo que sonara a Iglesia, cristiano o religión. La sorpresa vino al final del programa cuando solicitó una persona que le enseñara algo sobre Jesucristo. Ahí está la cuestión. Para enseñar hay que saber, para saber hay que conocer y para conocer a Cristo hay que encontrarse con El. ¿Lo hemos entendido?

Feliz encuentro con el Señor

TE CONFIESO, QUE NO LO SÉ, SEÑOR

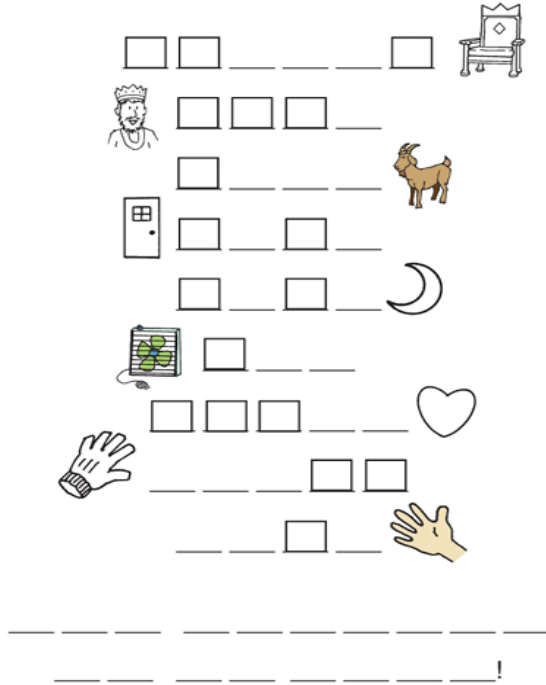
Digo amarte
cuando, media hora en tu presencia,
me parece excesivo o demasiado
Presumo de conocerte
y, ¡cuántas veces!
el Espíritu me pilló fuera de juego
Te sigo y escucho
y miro, una y otra vez,
hacia senderos distantes de Ti.
Te confieso, Señor,
que no sé demasiado de Ti.
Que tu nombre me resulta complicado
pronunciarlo y defenderlo
en ciertos ambientes.
Que, tu señorío,
lo pongo con frecuencia
debajo de otros señores
ante los cuales doblo mi rodilla
Te confieso, Señor,
que mi voz no es para tus cosas
lo suficientemente recia ni fuerte
como lo es para las del mundo.
Te confieso, Señor,

que mis pies caminan más deprisa
por otros derroteros que el placer
las prisas, los encantos o el dinero me marcan.
Te confieso, Señor,
que, a pesar de todo,
sigo pensando, creyendo y confesando
que eres el Hijo de Dios.
Haz, Señor, que allá por donde yo camine
lleve conmigo la pancarta de “soy tu amigo”
Haz, Señor, que allá donde yo hable
se escuche una gran melodía: “Jesús es el Señor”
Haz, Señor, que allá donde yo trabaje
con mis manos o con mi mente
construya un lugar más habitable
en el que Tú puedas formar parte.
Amén



Jesus said He would give Peter "keys." What were these keys to?

Write the name for each picture.
Then place the letters in boxes on the lines below.



What else happened?



Fill in the missing vowels.

u a a o u o u e u a e o o o u a l a i o e e a e e o u a e e i e o o e i i o

"B _ t wh _ t _ b _ _ t y _ _ ?"

J _ s _ s _ sk _ d. "Wh _ d _

y _ _ s _ y _ _ m ?"

S _ m _ n P _ t _ r _ nsw _ r _ d,

"Y _ _ _ r _ th _ Chr _ st,

th _ S _ n _ f th _

I _ v _ ng G _ d."



Children's Worship Bulletin™

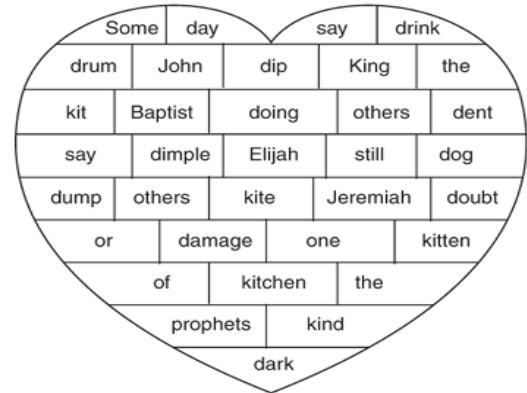
Ages 7+

August 23, 2026 • Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus Is the Son of God

Jesus asked the disciples,
"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

Cross out every word that starts with "d" or "k."
Write the remaining words on the lines below.



" _____ ;
_____ ;

_____ "

How did Jesus respond to Peter?

Going from left to right, write all the 1-words in order.
Then return to the top and write all the 2-words in order.
Then return to the top and write all the 3-words in order.

1 Blessed	2 but	3 Peter	1 are	2 by
3 and	1 you	2 My	3 on	1 for
2 Father	3 this	1 this	2 in	3 rock
1 was	2 heaven	3 I	1 not	2 I
3 will	1 revealed	2 tell	3 build	1 to
2 you	3 My	1 you	2 that	3 church
1 by	2 you		1 people	2 are

" _____ , _____

_____ "

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