

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

Jn 6:67-69



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/Social Action Ministries
Rebecca Judge, Director of Youth Ministry
Mary Castellano, Director of Social Media
Anna Lisa Licud, Coordinator Marriage Enrichment
Carole Fischl, Co-director of Music
Debbie Doyle, Co-director of Music
Mai Tran, Traditional Choir Director
Sara Prince, Youth Choir Director/Cornerstone Choir
Natacha Hines, Gift Shop

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro, A.R., M.R.E.
Maria Ammirati, Religious Education Coordinator
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
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. 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**



*"The Lord says: The man who eats my flesh and drinks my blood will live forever; I shall raise him to life on the last day."
- John 6:55*

Meditation by Mother Teresa of Calcutta Communion with the Word of Life

How tenderly Jesus speaks when he gives himself to his own in Holy Communion. *"My flesh is meat indeed and my blood is drink indeed. He that eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him."* Oh, what could my Jesus do more than give me his flesh for my food? No, not even God could do more nor show a greater love for me.

Holy Communion, as the word implies, is the intimate union of Jesus and our soul and body. If we want to have life and have it more abundantly, we must live on the flesh of our Lord. The saints understood so well that they could spend hours in preparation and still more in thanksgiving. This needs no explanation, for who can explain *"the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God?"* *"How incomprehensible are his judgments!"* cried St. Paul, *"And how unsearchable his ways, for who has known the mind of the Lord?"*

When communicating with Christ in your heart after partaking of the Living Bread, remember what our Lady must have felt when the Holy Spirit empowered her, and she who was full of grace became full with the body of Christ. The spirit in her was so strong that immediately she *"rose in haste"* to go and serve.

In the scripture we read of the tenderness of God for the world, and we read that God loved the world so much that he gave his Son Jesus to come to be like us and to bring us the good news that God is love, that God loves you and loves me. God wants us to love each other as he loves each one of us. When we look at the Eucharist we know how he loves us now. That's why he made himself the bread of life to satisfy our hunger for his love, and then, as if this was not enough for him, he made himself the hungry one, the naked one, the homeless one, so that you and I can satisfy his hunger for our human love. For we have been created for that. We have been created to love and be loved.

Love and Summer Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor



Married in 1999 or 1974?

Join us for the annual Mass for couples celebrating silver (25 year) or golden (50 year) anniversaries!!

The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass. If interested, please register by visiting the Parish office or going online by October 1st. We cannot register you by phone.

Where: Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Arlington, VA

When: October 20, 2024 | Mass at 3:00pm

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.

**5th 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.

For more information and to register visit:

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



Saturday, September 14th



6:30-8:30 PM

Bunnyman Brewing

5583 Guinea Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032



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

Our Sensory Masses will take place on the Second Sunday of each month. The next Sensory Mass is on September 8th at 1:00 pm.

5th Annual Heroes Hike

Join the Marriage Enrichment Ministry and the Creation Care Ministry for a hike around Lake Mercer

SEPTEMBER 14TH AT 10:30 AM
 MEET AT THE SOUTH RUN REC CENTER FIELD HOUSE - REGISTER ONLINE AT www.nativityburke.org/heroes-hike/ OR EMAIL marriage@nativityburke.org





Hosted by Nativity School PTO

NATIVITY BASEBALL NIGHT!

Cubs at Nationals

Aug 31, 2024 4:05 PM EDT
 Nationals Park
 1500 South Capitol St. SE, Washington, DC 20003, US

Sign-up and Purchase your Tickets today!
Special Rate: \$35 per ticket



<https://tinyurl.com/Nativity-Nationals>

For questions: contact JC Ramirez - hoyasjc@yahoo.com or Robert Walters - robertmwalters@gmail.com

You're Invited!


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

Adult Volunteer Ministers Appreciation Mass & Reception

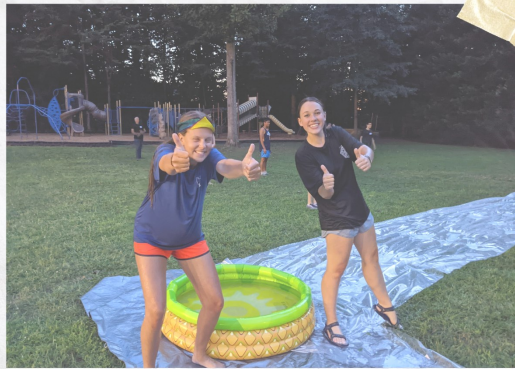
Wednesday, August 28, 2024 | 7:00 PM | Nativity Catholic Church

Please RSVP by August 21 online or scan the QR Code nativityburke.org/volunteer-appreciation/

We Joyfully Announce this Year's LUMEN GENTIUM Award Recipients:
 William & Janet Canavan and Don & Martha Lemieux



LIFE TEEN | GRADES 9-12
NATIVITY YOUTH MINISTRY



Slip 'n Slide Kickball
Kick-Off

Sunday, August 25, 2024 | 6:30 - 8:30pm
in the Well (Youth Ministry Room)

Dive into the new school year at our slip 'n slide kickball event!
Please register for the 2024-2025 year of ministry using our free, online form.

Pray the Pro-Life Rosary with Us!

When: Usually Friday mornings after Nativity's 7:30 am Mass
Where: 900 S. Washington St, Falls Church, VA.



Join Nativity in peacefully praying the Pro-Life Rosary on the sidewalk in front of the Falls Church abortion facility for mothers in need and for the protection of human life. Contact rickloffredo@outlook.com if you'd like to join us!



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

Monday, August 26th

7:30 am † Alonso Nieto

Tuesday, August 27th

7:30 am † William Helms

12:00 pm † Sharon Michel

Wednesday, August 28th

7:30 am † Matthew McCarthy

10:00 am Special Int. for Maria Asuncion Cortes Marquez
(Heatherwood)

Thursday, August 29th

7:30 am † Martin Fianagan

12:00 pm † Len Yankosky

Friday, August 30th

7:30 am † Anna-Lisa Hughes

9:00 am † Lydia Rifice

Saturday, August 31st

9:00 am † Carole and James Downes

5:00 pm † Joseph Lamagna

7:00 pm Special Int. for Maria Asuncion Cortes Marquez

Sunday, September 1st

7:00 am † Richard Ellis

9:00 am † Nay Toy

11:00 am † Pauline O'Mara

1:00 pm † Thomas J. Cassidy

5:30 pm Parishioners

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

Fall FESTIVAL

NATIVITYBURKE.ORG/FALL-FESTIVAL

Call for Volunteers!

The Fall Festival Committee is seeking volunteers to assist in planning and organizing the event. Please contact fallfestival@nativityburke.org for any inquiries or interest.

Sports & Prayer Nights:

High School Boys Edition

Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm

August 27
September 10
September 24
October 08

Stay connected to your friends and your faith! Boys in grades 9-12 are welcome. Meet in the Narthex of the Church for adoration, followed by sports like basketball, frisbee, & more.

Contact Ryan Remias: cyosports@nativityburke.org

Birthday Celebration for the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Saturday, September 7, 2024 the Legion of Mary will host a celebration for Mary's Nativity (feast day is September 8th) with a reception in the Father Ready Room following the 9:00 am Mass. Please join your fellow parishioners in this tribute to the "Mother of Jesus".

Golden Jubilee Celebration Livestream Event

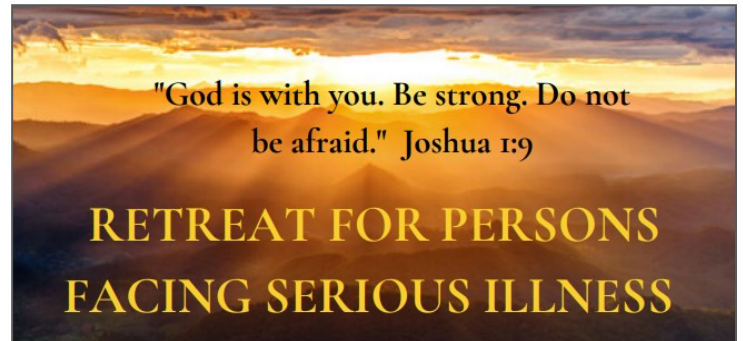
On Thursday, September 5th, all the faithful are encouraged to participate virtually in a special Golden Jubilee Celebration Livestream Event, featuring a premiere of a historical documentary of the diocese, an exclusive narrated first-look of the renovated Cathedral of Saint Thomas More, followed by the Solemn Mass and Altar Dedication celebrated by the Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge. This is a livestream-only event.

Event Link: <https://arlingtondiocese.org/event/livestream-event-golden-jubilee-celebration/>

12:30 p.m. Historical documentary premiere (30-min) commemorating 50 years as a diocese

1:15 p.m. Exclusive video tour of the renovated Cathedral of Saint Thomas More, narrated by Father James Hudgins, pastor of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Ashburn

2:00 p.m. Solemn Mass | Diocesan Golden Jubilee Celebration and Dedication of the Altar



SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2024
SAN DAMIANO RETREAT CENTER
WHITE POST, VA

This retreat is appropriate for:

- Individuals facing serious illness and their caregivers
- Men and Women

We are unable to accommodate individuals who are dealing with

- Serious mental illness:
- Impaired memory

SPACE IS LIMITED - NO COST TO PARTICIPATE
Register at retreat@ccda.net



A message from the Creation Care Ministry in preparation for the Season of Creation

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. This year, the theme for the season is "To hope and act with Creation".

Amid the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, many are beginning to despair and suffer from eco-anxiety. As people of faith we are called to lift the hope inspired by our faith, the hope of the resurrection. This is not a hope without action but one embodied in concrete actions of prayer and preaching, service and solidarity. What can you do? (excerpted from *Laudato Si Movement Season of Creation 2024 Celebration Guide*)

ALTAR FLOWERS - Donated by

John Michel and Bernadette Slee
In Loving Memory of Sharon Michel



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 Monica Lisi and her husband Steve Lisi 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!

JOIN THE YOUTH CHOIR!

Children's Choir:

Do you have a 3rd-6th grade student who likes to sing? Great news! We are restarting the Children's Choir this Fall! 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.

Youth Choir:

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. See the website or contact Sara Prince, sprince@nativityburke.org for more information.

OCDS Silent Retreat - Friday Oct. 25 - Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024

St. John of the Cross: Transformation of the Spiritual Life

The OCDS Community of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, in Annandale, VA is pleased to invite you to a weekend retreat at the beautiful Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV.

An hour and a half drive from Fairfax City. We are extremely fortunate to have the Rev. Steven Payne, OCD, Chair of Carmelite Studies at Catholic University, as our Retreat Director.

For more information please contact: Veronica Royal at veronicaroyal@icloud.com or Suzanne Koucheravy at skoucheravy56@gmail.com.



**Classes
Start Sept.
15th!**

We are in need of:
 Primary Catechist
 Assistant Catechist
 Office Assistants
 SPRED Program volunteers

Dear parishioners,

We need your help to teach our children! Volunteer catechists are urgently needed for various grades and times. Your support in shaping the future of our youth is invaluable. Prayerfully consider to serve our children.

High Schoolers are welcome to volunteer!

All volunteers 18+ must submit Diocesan paperwork and background check before working this children.

Thank you for helping us serve our children!

Session	Day & Time	Grade-Primary Catechist	Grade-Assistant Catechist
1	Sunday 3:45-5:00pm	N/A	3, 7, 8
2	Sunday 7:00-8:15pm	K, 1, 4, 6	K, 1, 3, 4, 6
3	Monday 4:45-6:00pm	K, 2, 3, 6, 8	1, 3, 6, 8, office assistant
4	Monday 7:00-8:15pm	RCIC, 3	RCIC, 6, 7 3, 2, office assistant
5	Tuesday 4:45-6:00pm	1, 2	office assistant
6	Tuesday 7:00-8:15pm	K, 5	N/A

SPRED PROGRAM VOLUNTEER- Work with special needs children. Program meets 2 times a month (9am-1pm). More information please email us nativity.ccd@nativityburke.org

QR-code will take you directly to the volunteer page



ECHO NEWS

A summer with few food drives and low food donations has left ECHO's Food Pantry with urgent needs. We hope that our generous community will help us soon. Requests for food assistance are higher than pre-Covid levels. ECHO sees clients by appointment so as not to overwhelm our capacity, and every food assistance appointment is filled nearly every day. Other organizations are seeing the same level of need.

Here is a local place to drop off food donations if you find it difficult to get to ECHO's Donation Door on a weekday between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm, or on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening, 7:00 to 9:00:

- Firestone Complete Auto Care, 6699F Springfield Mall, is holding a food drive for ECHO September 1 - 15. Non-perishable foods can be dropped off there Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Saturday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Sunday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

A list of places that maintain permanent food drop boxes for ECHO.

- Braddock District Gov't Office lobby, 9002 Burke Lake Road, weekdays 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and accessible through the Kings Park Library until 9:00 pm on Mondays and Tuesdays
- West Springfield Gov't Office, lobby of the police station, 6140 Rolling Road, open 24 hours
- Cardinal Forest Giant, 8320 Old Keene Mill Road
- Huntsman Giant, 7501 Huntsman Blvd.
- Saratoga Giant, 8074 Rolling Road
- Springfield Plaza, 6364A Springfield Plaza
- Crossroads Giant, 3480 S. Jefferson Street
- Kings Park Shopping Center Giant, 8970 Burke Lake Road

Check out details about some upcoming ECHO fund-raisers on ECHO's Facebook page.

ECHO's Housewares Department is hoping for donations of hand towels and 3- and 5-quart pots. The Clothing Department is concentrating on fall and winter clothing now and hoping for donations of warm clothing for boys or girls in sizes 4 through 20 as well as sneakers for older kids in sizes 1 to 6. Adult winter coats in small, medium and large sizes and new men's underwear are also needed.

ECHO has a few volunteer openings for people who are available on Thursday evenings and who would like to work with clothing donations. We are also looking for a Spanish speaker who would be interested in working with clients on Tuesday mornings. We have several openings for those interested in client engagement and are available Tuesday evenings. If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering for ECHO, please email volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org.

Yard Sale Coming in October

Mark your calendar now for October 26 when ECHO will have its Fall Yard Sale extravaganza at St. Bernadette's Gym, Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield.

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

**Change Lives.
Save Lives.**

"5k in the Park" to Benefit  **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**

Sunday: October 6, 2024
Fairfax Memorial Park Cemetery
 9900 BRADDOCK RD., FAIRFAX VA 22032
Registration: 9am
Run or Walk Start Time: 10am

Register by September 30 by going to:
Fairfaxmemorialfuneralhome.com





Flower Den, florist
We Make You Look Good!
(703) 750-9400 // flowerden.com

wanted

NAIVITY USHERS AND OFFERTORY COLLECTORS FOR MASS

Interested in participating more at Mass? Nativity needs additional Ushers and Offertory Collectors, both men and women, at all Masses but especially at the Sunday 1 PM and 5:30 PM Masses.

Ushers assist in seating attendees at Mass, selecting members to bring up the offertory gifts, and helping identify the elderly or handicapped who wish to receive Holy Communion.

Offertory Collectors perform the money collections by passing the baskets row-by-row in a designated section of the church.

Please consider joining our current Ushers or Offertory Collectors. Contact Bill Canavan at wcanavan@cox.net to learn more or to sign up for a training session.

Thank you!

Pray for those who are discerning a call to proclaim the hope of the Resurrection as religious brothers, sisters, priests or deacons. If you feel God is offering you the grace of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at (703) 841-2514 or email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

Nativity Catholic Church

Sensory Mass

WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD AND BELONG AT HIS TABLE

★ **2ND** ★

SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH AT THE
1:00 PM MASS

Next Sensory Mass:
September 8 | 1:00 pm

The Sensory Mass is open
to anyone who wishes to
participate

This Mass requires a welcoming stigma-free
environment and accommodations to help
reduce over-stimulation and sensory overload

● NEURODIVERGENCE

15-20% of the world's population exhibits
some form of neurodivergence (ADHD;
autism spectrum disorder; sensory
processing disorder, etc.) **



● AUTISM

Children with Autism (ASD) are twice as likely
to never attend church or other religious
services. *



● CHURCH ATTENDANCE

The children who are least likely to attend
church are those with disabilities like autism
spectrum disorder (ASD), developmental
delays, ADHD, anxiety, etc.



*Whitehead, 2018. Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion
**McAllister, 2024. Diversity and Inclusion



The Mass will include **softer music, dimmer lighting**, a
designated room as a **quiet space** if breaks are needed,
pictorial resources, and **self-regulation tools** for those
with special needs.



Families are encouraged to bring any regulation tools
(noise reduction items, quiet fidgets, flexible seating
items, weighted objects, etc) that can support focused
attention and provide comfort to a person so they can feel
safe in their environment.


For any questions,
please contact Alison Fram,
Director of Family Ministry
afam@nativityburke.org

WHO CAN BENEFIT...

Many people can benefit from the less stimulating
and stigma-free environment, including those with
sensory processing challenges, autism, Attention
Deficit Disorder (ADHD), Oppositional Defiant
Disorder (ODD), anxiety, intellectual and
developmental disabilities, and adults with
Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease



ALL
are
WELCOME
+



walking with purpose

Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

WWP Bible studies combine personal study with small group discussion, linking our everyday challenges to solutions given through Scripture. If you desire to grow in your faith—in a supportive community of Catholic women—join us!

New Studies Start September! We meet on Wednesday's at 9:30am OR 7pm and look forward to studying God's Word together!

To Learn More and Register go to:
www.nativityburke.org/wwp

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

Burial plot private sale, space never used at Fairfax Memorial Park, 9900 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Premium location behind the Crucifix Site, lot #259 - site B (near priests burials). Price \$ 8,000.00 OBO, serious inquiries only. Please contact: fyelicie@gmail.com or myelicie@verizon.net.



OCIA – ENCOUNTER JESUS THROUGH FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ‘Come and See’

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Faith? Are you missing the Sacrament of the Eucharist or Confirmation? We invite you to join Nativity’s OCIA/Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (previously known as RCIA/Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) journey of faith, starting September 16th, 2024, 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, April 19th, 2025, with reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. Our Monday evening sessions continue until just prior to Pentecost Sunday 2025, 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, 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 online registration.

Pro-Life Corner: The Transfiguration. Christ is transformed on the mountain, and the disciples see His glory. May the eyes of all people be transformed, that they may see each and every human life as a reflection of the glory of God Himself.

(Priests for Life’s Pro-Life Rosary)

“This is My Body: A Catholic Approach to Gender Dysphoria”

by Jason Evert: Watch Jason Evert’s compelling, informative, and timely speech from the Eucharistic Congress. Search for “Jason Evert at the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress.”

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children:

Sept. 14, 10-11 am. In the spirit of ecumenism, we will be gathering with people from different faiths in unity of purpose in this 10th Anniversary of Remembrance Services at Truro Anglican, 10520 Main Street, Fairfax, where 227 aborted babies were buried in 1987. By spreading the word and joining us, you are helping humanize our aborted brothers and sisters and deepening your own commitment to ending the injustice of abortion. The Day of Remembrance also offers hope and healing to women who have had abortions and others who have been hurt by abortion.

2024 Diocesan Respect Life Conference: Saturday, Sept. 7th, 9am-Noon, join us at St. Ambrose’s to spend time with other parishioners from the diocese as we seek to restore respect for all human life from the moment of conception until natural death in accord with the teachings of our Catholic faith. The featured speaker is Monica Kelsey, founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes, and there will be an update on the Diocese’s own Baby Box Initiative. This event is free, but registration is required: <https://secure3.arlingtondiocese.org/events/events/multiuse/step1.aspx?eventcode=OFLRL24>



“How America Can Become Family Friendly Again”: Sept 16 at 7pm. Join us at St. James Catholic Church for guest speaker Timothy Carney as he discusses community, faith, and the gift of children, and how to make raising a family more manageable in a family-unfriendly culture. Appetizers and drinks will be served.

Nativity All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life: Oct 18, 900 S. Washington St, Falls Church. Set aside one hour for this vigil (from 7am – 7pm) to join other parishioners of faith and conscience in peaceful prayer of the beautiful and inspiring Pro-Life Rosary on the sidewalk in front of the Falls Church abortion facility for mothers in crisis pregnancies, the protection of pre-born babies from death by abortion, the conversion of those in any way supporting abortion, and the healing of those parents suffering from past abortions. For more details and to SIGN UP, go to: bit.ly/42FrC2j

Attention Scouts - Religious Emblem Program Kick-Off



Part of the Scout Oath is Duty to God - one way to fulfill that is to earn a religious emblem while having fun and growing in your Catholic faith. All Scouting BSA Scouts ages 13 & up are invited join us on Thursday, 19 September at the Nativity School (Room 203) at 7:30pm.

We will conduct the first sessions of both the Ad Altare Dei (Ages 13 & 14) and Pope Pius XII (Ages 15+, Grade 9 & above) emblem programs, followed by monthly meetings thru April 2025. Emblem information can be found at <https://nccs-bsa.org/religious-emblems/>. Please contact Mr. Sam Morthland, Nativity’s Religious Emblem Coordinator at 571-594-1333 or spmorthland@gmail.com to register to attend and receive additional program information.

MATRIMONY



Why does our parish have a Marriage Enrichment Ministry?

The Marriage Enrichment Ministry strengthens marriages in the Church and supports and accompanies engaged and married couples called to the holy vocation of marriage.

Our roots are grounded in the 2014-2015 Synods of Bishops on the Family and the apostolic exhortations “Amoris Laetitia” and “Familiaris Consortio,” the Pathways document addresses these concerns and calls for, among other things:

- *Providing couples with effective and thorough preparation for sacramental marriage,*
- *using prayer and rituals to reinforce the need to partner with God to form a strong marriage, and*
- *providing ongoing support for recently married couples as they embark on marriage and family life.*

Why attend events and programs?

First and foremost, to strengthen your marriage and your relationship with God. And, to help you accomplish that, you and your spouse will have the opportunity. . . To spend dedicated time in prayer and reflection with each other. To hear encouraging testimonies from our speakers and each other. For fellowship with other married couples of faith.



**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL
CLOSE AT 12:30PM ON
FRIDAY, AUGUST 30TH AND
WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND
IN OBSERVANCE OF
LABOR DAY**



YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION

Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm | Resumes August 25



EDGE: GRADES 6-8

Twice a month: Sunday 3:30-5:00pm

& Friday 7:00-8:30pm

Resumes September 08



REGISTER FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Whether your child is new or returning, please fill out our 2024-2025 registration form. There is no cost to register, and this form only needs to be filled out once per year. It includes all Diocesan required waivers for on-site gatherings at Nativity. Head to our website to access the forms.

[See website for full schedule](#)

Before attending, please register for the 2024-2025 year of ministry using our free, online forms.

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

Sick / Homebound Visits

Are you or someone you know sick and/or homebound for any reason? We can arrange home visits from the parish and provide prayer and the sacraments. We would love to bring God's Grace and Peace to anyone in difficult times.

Please contact Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister, at csands@nativityburke.org to schedule a visit.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church is pleased to announce a ministry that will bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. The 12-week Surviving Divorce program begins on Tuesday, September 10 at 7:30 pm. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing. For additional information or to enroll in the program, please contact divorcedministry@holyspiritchurch.us.



WARMING UP VIRGINIANS

Catholic Charities Migrants and Refugees Ministry and Nativity Parish have a **10,000 Coats Collection Challenge.**

Please help us by donating wearable and clean coats, fleeces, and jackets to keep the less fortunate warm.



DROP OFF IN THE BOX IN THE NARTHEX



BIBLE STUDIES AT NATIVITY PARISH

Tuesday morning Bible Study: We meet from 10:00am-11:30am in the Fr. Ready room. This year we are looking at the Gospel and readings for Sunday, seeking to find within something which touches our lives and/or the world around us. Contact Miya Johnson miyajohnson@verizon.net.

Tuesday evening Young Adult Bible Studies: 6 weeks in small groups. At different times throughout the year, we offer 6-week long Bible studies where we encounter Jesus through the Gospels. We read three chapters of Scripture each week and come together to talk about it. We put you into a group and each group chooses where to meet, usually at a local restaurant or coffee shop. Register at <https://nativityburke.org/ya-bible-study/> Contact Alison Fram: afram@nativityburke.org.

Wednesday morning and evening, Walking With Purpose: Meeting in person. Walking with Purpose is a study program that aims to help bring women closer to Christ through Scripture. Meets weekly in person on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Registration for Fall 2024 will be available in July 2024. Visit <https://nativityburke.org/www/> for details about the ministry or contact wwpnativity@gmail.com with questions.

Thursday evening Bible Study: Meeting in person virtually. Currently studying the Old Testament Book of Tobit, featuring the Angel Raphael, written a few hundred years before the birth of Jesus. Meets each Thursday from 7:30 – 9:00pm in person in the school's Art Room and virtually. Contact Deacon Dick Kelly at Deaconrfk@aol.com.

Friday morning Women's Bible Study: Meetings are Friday Mornings from 10:00am -12:00 noon in the Father Ready room. We are studying Galatians (Jan/Feb 2024) and the Gospel of Mark (Mar/Apr 2024). Spring sessions will be in person. Winter session will be on Zoom. Join us for prayer, study, and fellowship! Register for the next session at <https://nativityburke.org/womens-bible-study-registration/>. Contact Camille Pryor at wbs@nativityburke.org.

Viernes por la noche Estudio Bíblico: El estudio bíblico en español "Little Rock" es un programa conducido por el Hno. Pedro Del Aguila y tres asistentes. Este ministerio está en nuestra parroquia de Natividad desde 2014, alentando a los fieles a tener una mejor visión de la Iglesia Católica y crear en ellos un interés mas profundo en las sagradas Escrituras. Horario: Viernes de 7:00–9:00 pm | De Septiembre 8, 2023 a Junio 7, 2024. Lugar: Salón Fr. Ready Este ciclo estaremos estudiando: El evangelio según San Juan y las Cartas. Contactarse: ElbaPfeifer,elbitabonita@aol.com.

Saturday morning That Man Is You: Meeting in person. A men's program that combines Scripture with the best research from science in an engaging interactive program that addresses the pressures and temptations facing Catholic men in our modern culture. Meets each Saturday 6:50am - 8:00am in the Fr. Ready room. Contact Tim Yeager at yeagertd@verizon.net or Bob Sands at bob@sandmark.net.

Saturday morning Men's Prayer and Reflection Group: Meeting in-person/virtually. Men of all ages! We hear the scriptures every Sunday, but to what extent do we understand what God is telling us and how He is enriching our very lives today? Join us in reading, researching, and reflecting on Sunday scriptures and discussing how it relates to our lives and helps us become better Catholic men, husbands, dads, family members, friends, parishioners, citizens, and above all, intentional disciples of Christ. Enjoy the fellowship! Meet Saturdays from 8:00am - 9:00am in the Training/Cry Room or Virtually. Drop-ins are always welcome! Contact Rick Loffredo [rickloffredo@outlook.com](mailto:rickleoffredo@outlook.com).

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ!" St. Jerome



MERCY FEST 2024



WWW.HOUSEOFMERCYVA.ORG/FESTIVAL

DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 FROM 10AM – 3PM
LOCATION: 8170 FLANNERY CT, MANASSAS VA 20109

Nativity Catholic Church



EMAIL & TEXTING SCAM ALERT

Nativity parishioners, please be aware of email scammers posing as Nativity priests. If you receive an email or text from any Nativity clergy urgently asking you for favors or money, this is a scam. Please ignore and block the sender. If you have any questions, please call the Nativity Parish office: (703) 455-2400

Historically, scammers have posed as Father Bob, now they are posing as our other Nativity priests.

CALLED

a conference for young adults

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Sheraton Reston Hotel

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

Registration opens on July 1st



Mass with Bishop Burbidge

Breakout Sessions
Dinner
Live Music & Dancing
Complimentary Childcare



Keynote from Arthur C. Brooks



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



Happy Summer from the Rosary Ministry!!



We hope you are all enjoying your summer. Remember the Rosary making doesn't stop for the summer even though we are not having meetings until September. There are plenty of supplies available in the church office. Feel free to pick some up and even make them with your kids. I have them string 10 beads then I make the knot. It keeps them busy and helps us get more rosaries into the hands of those who need them.

Last year we made about 4000 rosaries. Even though that's a lot we are way down from a few years ago when we made 12,000. We would love to see our numbers rising this year.

If you are already part of our ministry THANK YOU! If you would like to join see our link under ministries on the parish website. We will be starting meeting in September. Look for the announcement in the bulletin and on Facebook next month.

Volunteer OB/GYN Medical Professionals Needed at the Mother of Mercy Clinic. Join their mission to improve women's health!

The Mother of Mercy Clinic is seeking OB/GYN professionals to volunteer at their free medical clinic. Make a difference in Prince William County's underserved communities in a compassionate Catholic environment. Join our team, provide vital healthcare, and transform lives. Email volunteer.clinic@ccda.net or call 703-841-3838 for details.

Help Transform Lives by Donating Your Car

Help transform the lives of the poor and vulnerable by donating your used car, truck, motorcycle, RV, or boat, to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington. Your donation is tax deductible while supporting a cause that is near and dear to your heart. We'll arrange for the pickup of your vehicle donation at no cost to you. Please call 877-570-GIVE (4483) or visit <https://ccda.careasy.org/home> to complete our online form.

MUSIC
GAMES
FOOD
CRAFT

Fall FESTIVAL



SAVE THE DATE!

28 SEPTEMBER

11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

NATIVITYBURKE.ORG/FALL-FESTIVAL

Nativity CATHOLIC SCHOOL
 A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
 nativityschool.org

Have We Got the Spot For Your Kindergartner! Let's Meet!

Our Nativity Kindergarten Program is Engaging, Interactive, and Inspirational. We have two large learning spaces, where we employ a variety of instructional techniques to meet the needs of our students, while promoting growth Academically, Socially, Emotionally, and Spiritually.

One classroom is structured for developmental play activities, which use a variety of age-appropriate activities and manipulatives.

The other classroom is structured more traditionally, focusing on the teaching of Reading, Mathematics, Religion, etc. Students learn to read utilizing phonics; they use manipulatives to improve number sense and to deepen their skill level in Mathematics, and they explore other subjects, such as Robotics, Makerspace, Spanish, Music, Art, and Media. They can even take Piano Lessons, if you so choose! *And take a look at what our Kindergartners get up to throughout the school year!*



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Monday, Aug 26 Hot Lunch/Milk Program Begins
- Thursday, Aug 29 Preschool/Pre-K Sneak-A-Peek
- Friday, Aug 30 9:00 a.m. Mass
- 12:00 NOON Dismissal
- Monday, Sep 2 NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY
- Tuesday, Sep 3 Preschool/Pre-K First Day
- Wednesday, Sep 4 Band Demo
- Wednesday, Sep 4 7:00 p.m. BTS Night 6th-8th Grade
- Thursday, Sep 5 6:00 p.m. BTS Night Pres/Pre-K
- Thursday, Sep 5 7:00 p.m. BTS Night K-5th Grade

Join us at Nativity to see how your child would spend his/her days here - learning, praying, sharing, loving, and laughing. We may be just the school for which you've been searching! Yes, Catholic education is worth the investment!



Linktree Universal Sign-up Link - Volunteer for an event! Scroll down to view all event. https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992.

Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. 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.

Linktree Universal Sign-up Link:

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

Exemplification Ceremony: September 11 at 7 PM in the church we will welcome new members to our council. Sign up to be a new member of the Knights below. All Knights, families and friends are welcome to attend. If you are a current 1st or 2nd Degree Knight reach out to dgk7992@nativityburke.org to make your 3rd Degree.

Corporate Communion: Sunday, September 15 at the 9 AM Mass. Come join your brothers for a joint celebration of the Eucharist. No sign up is necessary; come with your families and sit in the reserved section.

Marian Homes Shred Event: Saturday, September 21 in the parking lot. Look for future SUG.

Fall Festival: Saturday, September 28 with preparation on Friday and cleanup on Sunday. This parish event requires some of our highest levels of participation! Mark the dates and plan to join your brothers serve food and drink. Look for future SUG.

Food for Others: Volunteer for food distribution to the poor, delivered on designated Thursday or Friday evenings. For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net. Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com.

Nativity Ushers assist at collections. Volunteer for your Mass! Volunteer on Link Tree for a database of potential helpers!

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. Info on Linktree.

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

The Fraternal Committee: Brothers helping brothers in need of assistance. Brothers and their families (living and deceased) in need of a helping hand, contact Br. John Landy at 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. Next meeting is September 10. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Mark Corzine at fn2996@vakofc.org.

Join the Knights! The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy changing world. Please email our Deputy Grand Knight, Michael Bender, at dgk7992@nativityburke.org or the Grand Knight, Chris Odell at gk7992@nativityburke.org with any questions.

Join today at <https://www.kofc.org/joinus>
 Your dues will be free for one year enter code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY when you register



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.

"God is with you. Be strong. Do not be afraid." Joshua 1:9

RETREAT FOR PERSONS FACING SERIOUS ILLNESS

This retreat offers a unique opportunity for persons who face serious physical illness to participate in a weekend retreat of spiritual renewal and refreshment.

Be comforted, inspired, and renewed by God's great love for you through prayer, worship, talks, breakout session and reflection time, led by our team of priests, doctors, nurses and caring volunteers. Spiritual Direction provided by Father Bob Cilinski.

September 27 - 29, 2024

**San Damiano Retreat Center
White Post, VA
NO COST TO PARTICIPATE**

This retreat is appropriate for

- Individuals facing serious illness and their caregiver
- Men and Women

We are unable to accommodate individuals who are dealing with

- Serious Mental Illness
- Impaired Memory

No smoking or vaping on premises
SPACE IS LIMITED!

Register at retreat@ccda.net

CONTACT

retreat@ccda.net
703-841-3830
www.ccda.net

VOLUNTEER at the retreat
https://bit.ly/vol_retreat



32nd International Week of Prayer and Fasting

CONQUERING *the* **DARKNESS:**
Triumph of
Mercy, Hope *and* Healing

October 12 - 20, 2024

in collaboration with the Legion of Mary



Join Us for These 9 Days of Mass, Prayer, Fasting, Rosary, & Adoration!



Our goal is to mobilize churches, communities, schools, prayer groups, and clergy to pray & fast:

- For the conversion of all people and nations
- To defend the sanctity of marriage and family life
- For all priests, vocations, and holiness of the members of the Church
- To build a culture of life
- For peace and to implore God's Mercy



You're invited to the **Opening**

International Day of Prayer

Saturday, October 12, 2024

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

MASS 9:15 am with Bishop Emeritus Robert J. Baker
SPEAKERS • CONFESSIONS • GLOBAL LIVING ROSARY
with EMCEE TED FLYNN

St. Mary of Sorrows Church

10500 Zion Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032

Mass & Morning Conference
St. Mary of Sorrows Church

Lunch & Afternoon Conference
Parish Center (St. Joseph Hall)

LIVE STREAMED - IWOPF.ORG  

OPENING DAY GUEST SPEAKERS



Bishop Emeritus
Robert J. Baker, STD



Jim
Wahlberg



Fr. Dan
Leary



Dan & Stephanie
Burke



Alexis
Walkenstein



Dr. Seggy
Acosta

Register for Opening Day at iwopf.org

Preregistration for Opening Day:
\$35 (includes lunch)

Register for 9 Days of Prayer, Fasting and Adoration

Register
at
iwopf.org



Scan this
QR code to
learn more
and register.

Questions?
(888) 478-PRAY
info@iwopf.org





Please join us for the 2024
Saint Mary of Sorrows Labor
Day Family Picnic!



Monday, September 2nd, 2024

Rain or Shine!



*Held on the Parish
Center grounds*



- ❖ **Ample free parking**
- ❖ **Free games, fun activities, and races for all age groups**
- ❖ **Yummy food and snacks for purchase: hamburgers, hot-dogs, pizza by the slice, ice cream, sno-cones, and our famous Knights of Columbus BBQ chicken dinners**
- ❖ **Visit our Country Store for homemade baked goods or plants and veggies**
- ❖ **Pie Eating Contest for adults**
- ❖ **Tours of the Church & Parish Ministry Tables**

2024 Labor Day Picnic Schedule

- 10:00 am: Mass celebrated at the Church
- 11:00 am: Picnic games and activities commence
- 11:15 am: Cooked foods, lunch meals, ice cream, Sno-cones, country store items, plant sales, and baked treats available for purchase
- 2:00 pm: Picnic ends

Reminder: The parish depends on volunteers of all ages to help make the event a success for all picnic goers; to volunteer, please go to:

<http://tiny.cc/SMoSLDPicnic>

POC is John Mitros: smos24@aol.com or 703.547.7897



shepherd's center

OF FAIRFAX-BURKE

Supporting and enriching the lives of older adults within the Fairfax-Burke and South County Communities

August 2024

Mark Your Calendars

Lunch N' Life with Captain John Gennaro



Fall Out and About Winery Event



A View from the Pilot House with Potomac Riverboat Captain John Gennaro

Join us for a catered lunch followed by a talk with Riverboat Captain John Genaro

Thursday, September 19th

Noon to 2PM

Jubilee Christian Center

4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax, VA 22030

Cost for lunch and program - \$15 per person

Deadline for reservations - September 14

Tour and Wine Tasting at Paradise Springs Winery

Join us for this special limited event Monday, October 7, 2024, 2 to 4 pm 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton, VA (Group will meet at 1:50 in the parking lot)

The event will include a tour of the grounds including 4 wine tastings followed by gourmet snacks and 2 additional tastings in the Barn. Unfortunately, this event cannot accommodate walking assistive devices and space is limited to 25 participants.

Cost per person is \$45 Deadline for reservations and payment - September 15

For reservations for either of these events, please contact the SCFB Office and leave your name and your desire to attend on our message system at 703-323-4788.

Checks should be mailed to 4019 Olley Lane, Fairfax, VA 22032.

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 25, 2024: Jos 24:1-2a,15-18b | Ps 34:2-3,16-21 | Eph 5:21-32 or Eph 5:2a,25-32 | Jn 6:60-69

Pray: My Lord and my God, thank you for your gift of bread from heaven, your Body and Blood. Amen.

Eat My Body, Drink My Blood, Have Eternal Life.

Being a Christian has always been a challenge, both in the past and present. Two thousand years ago, in a shocking revelation, Jesus told His disciples, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

This was a hard teaching, and many of His disciples couldn't accept it, so they chose to walk away. Yet Jesus remained steadfast in His message, refusing to water it down or change it. Only those who were convinced that Jesus was who He said He was stayed with Him.

People then started disputing His claim, crying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Did those who walked away realize that Jesus was not a mere man? Yes, He was fully man like they were, but He was (and is) also fully God and capable of anything! Didn't they already see His miracles? This should have revealed His divinity.



They knew Jesus as a kind, humble, compassionate, and wise teacher, so what happened? Did they think He went crazy?

They needed to open their minds and hearts to listen, trust, and believe. What Jesus proclaimed about eating His body and drinking His blood was beyond human reason. He assured them His words were "in spirit and life," but they refused to be open to the working of the Spirit to enlighten their hearts. They needed to lean on the assistance of the Holy Spirit to unlock and embrace this mystery of faith.

Belief in the profound supernatural nature of the Eucharist is a pure gift of grace from God the Father. Jesus offers Himself – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – as the way to eternal life, but He gives us free will to accept or reject this gift. True Catholic teaching delights in and celebrates the gift of the Real Presence.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What Catholic teachings do you find difficult to accept?
- † Have you ever been tempted to walk away, and what drew you back?
- † How does the Real Presence in the Eucharist affect you?
- † How does receiving the Eucharist help you share Christ with others?

¿NOS MARCHAMOS O NOS QUEDAMOS?**Por Javier Leoz**

1. - Jesús no dejó indiferente a nadie. Cuando tuvo que hablar, alto y claro, lo hizo. Sin componendas ni miramientos. Aún a riesgo de perder, por exigir demasiado, a gran parte de los suyos. Pero es que, Jesús, quería eso: autenticidad y sinceridad en sus seguidores. La predicación de Jesús, lejos de ser una imposición, era y sigue siendo una propuesta. A nadie se nos obliga a llevar la cruz en el pecho y, mucho menos, a decir que somos cristianos si –por lo que sea- no lo tenemos claro.

Hoy, con más severidad que nunca, estamos viviendo una deserción de la práctica de fe. Parece que lo que se lleva, es decir “no soy practicante” “a mi la Iglesia no me va” “paso de rollos religiosos”. En el fondo, hay un tema más grave: nadie queremos complicaciones. Los compromisos, de por vida, nos asustan; como en el evangelio de este domingo: encrespó el modo de expresarse y las directrices que marcaba Jesús de Nazaret.

2. - El Señor, porque sabe y conoce muy bien nuestra debilidad, siempre tiene sus puertas abiertas: unas veces para entrar y gozar con su presencia y, otras, igual de abiertas para marcharnos cuando –por lo que sea- nos resulta imposible cumplir con sus mandatos. Ahora bien; permanecer con El, nos lo garantiza el Espíritu, es tener la firme convicción de que nunca nos dejará solos. De que compartirá nuestros pesares y sufrimientos, ideales y sueños, fracasos y triunfos. Porque, fiarse del Señor, es comprender que no existen los grandes inconvenientes sino el combate, el buen combate desde la fe. Y, Jesús, nos adiestra y nos anima en esa lucha contra el mal y a favor del bien.

--¿Cuándo hemos dejado al Señor sólo?

--¿Sabemos estar en su presencia sin más compañía que el silencio?

--¿Nos planteamos, con frecuencia, lo que significa y conlleva el ser cristianos?

--¿Nos duele, en algún momento, la proclamación de la Palabra de Dios?

Estos interrogantes, al final de esta breve reflexión dominical, pretenden incentivar nuestra fe dormida. Si creemos y servimos al Señor, que lo hagamos con valentía, con transparencia y sabedores de que, seguirle, aunque no sea un camino de rosas, merece la pena.

3.- VOY CONTIGO, SEÑOR

Porque eres el único que permanece,
la verdad que nos hace libres
el sol que, más allá del que alumbraba en lo alto,
nos alumbraba una eternidad en el cielo.
Te lo prometo, Señor; yo no me voy
Porque, en el mundo, cambian muchas cosas
Lo que es amor, luego se convierte en egoísmo
Lo que es gratuito, a continuación es alto precio.
Tú, en cambio Señor, cumples lo que prometes
con un amor leal, legal y sin límites.
¿Se puede pedir algo más santo y bueno, Señor?

VOY CONTIGO, SEÑOR

Porque, en medio del recio viento,
eres veleta que orienta para no perderme
Porque, en medio del bravío mar,
eres timón seguro que siempre lleva a buen puerto
Porque, si miro hacia atrás,
sé que el arado que agarra mis manos
no podrá trabajar con la misma fuerza y hondura
que mirándote a los ojos, Señor.

VOY CONTIGO, SEÑOR

Ayúdame a no desertar, a no alejarme de Ti
Te doy las gracias,
por la libertad que me ofreces para seguirte
Te doy las gracias,
porque, aún en medio de tanta seducción,
sigues optando por mí,
sigues esperando mi respuesta
sigues añorando mi presencia.

VOY CONTIGO, SEÑOR

Ayúdame a cumplir con este reto,
con esta firme propuesta:
quiero estar contigo, Señor
Quiero estar a tu lado, siempre, Señor.

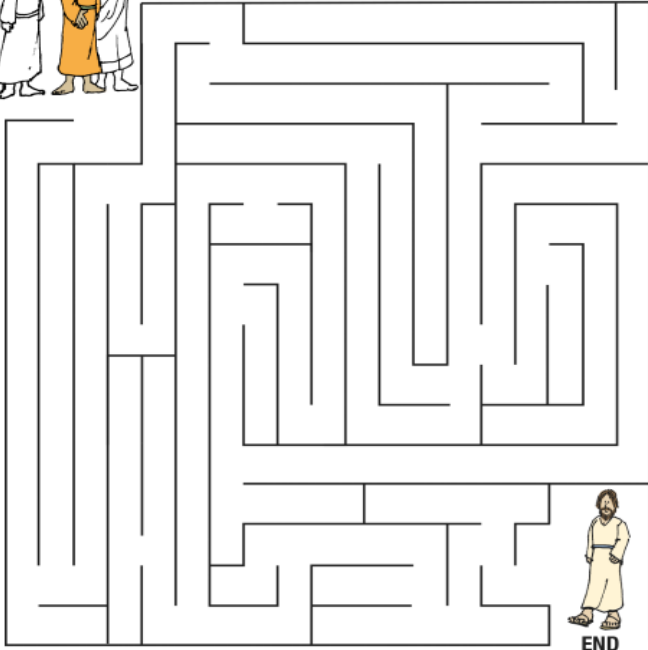


Simon Peter said, "We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

Help the disciples follow Jesus.



START



END

Many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him. Jesus asked the Twelve ...

Write the first letter of each picture on the blank above it. Then read the question Jesus asked.

" Y _____

_____ ?"



Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

August 25, 2024 • John 6:56-69

Many Turn Away

On hearing Jesus teach, many of His disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

Place the words in the blanks according to their position – page number, column number and position in the column.

" _____

p.1, col.2, #2

p.2, col.2, #2

p.1, col.1, #1

p.2, col.1, #3

p.2, col.2, #4

p.1, col.1, #3

p.2, col.1, #1

p.2, col.1, #5

p.1, col.1, #5

_____ full of the

p.2, col.2, #3

p.1, col.2, #1

p.2, col.1, #2

p.1, col.2, #5

p.2, col.2, #1

p.1, col.1, #5

p.2, col.1, #4

p.1, col.1, #2

p.2, col.1, #1

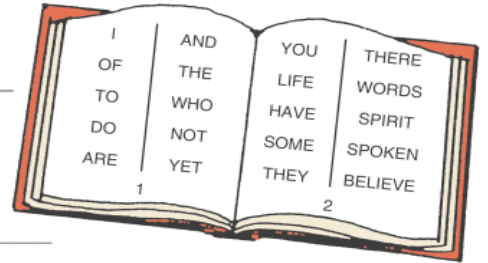
p.1, col.2, #3

_____ "

p.1, col.1, #4

p.1, col.2, #4

p.2, col.2, #5



Simon Peter answered Him.

Fit the words into the puzzle. Then write the words in the numbered blanks to find out what Peter said. HINT: Not all the words in the list or puzzle will be used in the answer below.



1 2

3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13

14 15

16 17

GO THE
OF HAVE
TO HOLY
WE LIFE
ARE LORD
AND THAT
GOD KNOW SHALL BELIEVE
ONE WHOM WORDS ETERNAL

" _____ 17-A _____ 1-D _____ 15-D

_____ 12-D _____ 15-A _____ 7-A ? You

_____ 10-D _____ 2-D _____ 11-A

_____ 8-A _____ 13-A _____ 5-D _____ "

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