



Nativity
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Burke, Virginia
1973 2023
Celebrating 50 Years!
"We are God's people" - 1 Peter 2:10

6400 Nativity Lane,
Burke, Virginia 22015
nativityburke.org

REV. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR
REV. EDWARD BRESNAHAN, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. JONATHAN BENNETT, PAROCHIAL VICAR
**REV. CEDRIC P. WILSON, ASSISTING PRIEST/
SPANISH MINISTRY**
DEC. RICHARD F. KELLY

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary
Ann Benson, Business Manager
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager
Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister
Maureen Andersen, Liturgical Minister
Johana Brown, Parish Receptionist
Anna Marty, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Ayse Kenner, Mass Intentions
Alison Fram, Director of Young Adult & Family
Ministries/College Ministry
Rebecca Judge, Director of Youth Ministry
Mary Castellano, Director of Social Media
Anna Lisa Licud, Coordinator Marriage Enrichment
Carole Fischl, Co-director of Music
Debbie Doyle, Co-director of Music
Mai Tran, Traditional Choir Director
Sara Prince, Youth Choir Director/Cornerstone Choir
Natacha Hines, Gift Shop

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS

EDUCATION PROGRAM:
Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro, A.R., M.R.E.
Faria Jimenez, Administrative Assistant

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454-2415



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

SUNDAY MASSES: 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass in Spanish
7:00 a.m./9:00 a.m./11:00 a.m./
1:00 p.m./5:30 p.m.

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

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

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

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

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Announcements for the bulletin
must be submitted **in writing** by 9:00 AM on
Tuesday (5 days prior to publication). Please note: this
deadline can change due to holiday office closings.
You may email submissions to
bulletin@nativityburke.org.

WEBMASTER:
Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:
Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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

21st
Sunday
in
Ordinary
Time

“And so I say
to you, you are
Peter, and upon
this rock I will
build my church,
and the gates of
the netherworld
shall not prevail
against it.”

Matthew 16:18

**A Message from our Pastor
Fr. 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,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—MEET AND GREET

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

Our first study, Psalms: The School of Prayer, will meet on **Fridays from September 15th - December 1st at 10:00 AM** in the Father Ready room. Future sessions will include studies on Galatians and on the Gospel of Mark. All Nativity women are welcome to join us for prayer, study, and fellowship! Please register on the Nativity website. Questions? Contact Camille Pryor at wbs@nativityburke.org.

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

THIS weekend, our second collection supports the annual Mission Cooperative Plan Appeal for our diocese.

Our parish mission organization is the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. This appeal helps our brothers and sisters who do not have access to basic pastoral services that support and grow their faith, like Mass, the sacraments, religious education as well as basic needs – like food, shelter, and healthcare.

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

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

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

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



RCIA – Encounter Jesus through Full Communion with the Catholic Church ‘Come and See’

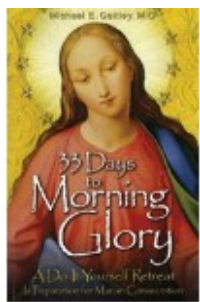
Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about Catholicism? Are you missing the Sacrament of the Eucharist or Confirmation? We invite you to join Nativity’s Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) journey of faith, starting September 18, 2023, with our Monday evening sessions from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Fr. Ready Room.

RCIA forms new disciples, as adults prepare to enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30, 2024, with reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. Our Monday sessions continue until just prior to Pentecost Sunday 2024, preparing for life in the Church as intentional disciples. This faith journey deepens one’s personal relationship with Jesus by encountering him through passionate teaching, personal witness, table discussion time with opportunities for Q&A, prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, spiritual events, and a Lenten outreach project.

RCIA is open to those who have not been baptized, Christians baptized in another faith, and baptized Catholics who have not received catechesis for the other Sacraments of Initiation. For details, contact the Church at (703) 455-2400, or speak to Father Bob Cilinski, or e-mail Linda Loffredo at lindaloffredo@gmail.com. Visit our website <https://nativityburke.org/rcia/> for more information and registration.

NATIVITY GIFT SHOP - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Gift shop desperately needs volunteers to open after all Masses on Sunday. Training will be provided, the work is easy and will require only about 15 minutes of your time (about half an hour on busy days). All proceeds benefit Nativity charities. We should have 2 volunteers at every Mass. Currently the biggest need is for the 7:00am, 9:00am, 1:00pm, and 5:30pm Mass. If interested, please call or stop by the parish office, or leave your name and telephone number at the Gift shop.



33 Days to Morning Glory

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

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

ALTAR FLOWERS Donated by



John Michel and
Bernadette Michel Slee
In loving Memory of
Sharon Michel



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, August 28th

7:30 am † Jack Dezzutti

Tuesday, August 29th

7:30 am † Margaret Bramlett Gilb

12:00 pm † Michelle Ann Weltens

Wednesday, August 30th

7:30 am † Paula Ramirez Panganiban

Thursday, August 31st

7:30 am † Marc Angelo Sanidad

12:00 pm † Florence Dizon

Friday, September 1st

7:30 am † Jim McCullough

9:00 am † Lucy Johnson

Saturday, September 2nd

9:00 am † Janet Wilson

5:00 pm † David Lynch

7:00 pm † Victor Hugo Carrillo Pacheco

Sunday, September 3rd

7:00 am † Carina Lacsa Harper

9:00 am † Michelle Weltens

11:00 am † Chris Cournoyer

1:00 pm Parishioners

5:30 pm † Bernice Taoras

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



A message from Nativity’s Creation Care Ministry

Thanks to those who stop by to say hello when you spot us tending to Nativity's St. Kateri native plant gardens around back by the veggie gardens or in the parking lot island, front and center to the church entrance!

What's new? So many native plants are currently in bloom in these gardens: Common Dittany, Mountain Mint, Summer Phlox, White Wood Aster, Wild Bergamot, Black Eyed Susans, Sundrops, Purple Love Grass, Maryland Wood Aster, and Goldenrod species.

In a small way, these gardens contribute to the critical biodiversity of insects needed to maintain our food webs. What might look like a weed at first glance is often a critical plant in the life cycle of our local pollinators. What might look like dead stems and seed heads that need trimming back may be important food sources for birds or an overwintering spot for other of God's smallest creatures. To learn more about conserving God's biodiversity while gardening:

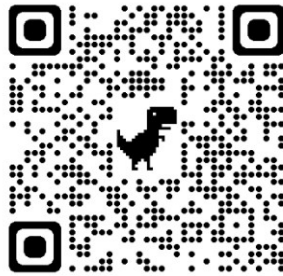
<https://www.plantnovanatives.org/post/fewer-inputs-to-your-landscape-more-butterflies-and-birds?>

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

FALL FESTIVAL

Volunteers Needed!!

SIGNUP USING THE QR CODE



WE NEED YOUR HELP ON SEPT 30, 2023
FOR THE FOLLOWING:

CAKE DONATIONS FOR CAKE WALK
GAMES
TICKET SALES
PUMPKIN DECORATING
AND MORE!

SIGN UP OR CONTACT
FALLFESTIVAL@NATIVITYBURKE.ORG

IT'S PIE TIME!

Our Fall Festival Pie Contest Is Back!

Time to start practicing those prize-winning recipes. There will be both adult and junior divisions this year with cash prizes for first, second, and third place in each. Individuals may submit up to three pies. Sorry, no pies needing refrigeration. Pre-registration not required, but appreciated.

Registration begins September 1st.

We are also looking for judges on festival day.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT LYNN DYSART (LDYSART@COX.NET)



CALLED: A Conference for Young Adults

Bishop Burbidge invites all young adults (ages 19 to 35, single and married) from parishes across the Diocese of Arlington to join him at **CALLED: A Conference for Young Adults**. Join him on Saturday, September 23, 2023, for the annual Mass for Young Adults, an inspirational keynote from Mr. Sam Goodwin who was trapped in Syria's notoriously brutal prison system, breakout sessions, dinner, prayer, live music, vendors, ministry booths, and plenty of social time! Make new friends and connect to your local Young Adult Ministries as we contemplate how we've been **CALLED** to holiness. We are excited to offer complimentary childcare for this conference! Invite your friends! The Mass and Conference will run from 2:00pm-9:15pm.



Register now to take advantage of Early Bird Pricing!
To register visit:
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/young-adult-ministry/called/>

Mass Honoring Military and First Responders

Fr. Diamond Council #6292 and Fr. Malloy Assembly #1894 of the Knights of Columbus will host our 8th annual Mass Honoring Military and First Responders at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church (3700 Blenheim Blvd, Fairfax, 22030) on Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 11:00 am

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

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

Love working with children? Want flexibility? Consider subbing for us...

We are in need of substitute teachers for the new school year with the following minimum qualifications:

We are in need of substitute teachers with the following minimum qualifications:

- ◆ 2-plus years of college
- ◆ Ability to follow a lesson plan and give effective instructions in the absence of the teacher
- ◆ Proficiency in maintaining effective classroom management skills
- ◆ Diocesan compliant
- ◆ Successful background check



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

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF GRATITUDE

At
THE HYLTON CENTER
September 16, 2023

Featuring Comedian

Jeremy McLellan



Jeremy McLellan


Buy Tickets



Doors Open 7:30 pm | Show Starts 8:00 pm




Celebrating six years incredible work at Catholic Charities
Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic




PILGRIMAGE
to Emmitsburg, MD
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes



National Shrine of Elizabeth Ann Seton



Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Make authentic connections with other women | Learn more about God

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

Email wwpnativity@gmail.com or visit www.nativityburke.org/wwp for more info about our 4 study choices this year.


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



walking with purpose
www.walkingwithpurpose.com

Returning Ministry for the Seriously Ill

Catholic Charities is pleased to announce the return of the Retreat for Person's Facing Serious Illness on October 6 - 8, 2023. This retreat offers a unique opportunity for persons who face serious physical illness to participate in a weekend retreat of spiritual renewal and refreshment. You will find details for those who wish to attend the retreat by visiting: <https://www.cdda.net/events/2023/retreat-for-persons-facing-serious-illness/>




RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES:

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

There is a 50% RE tuition discount for catechists for their year commitment.

It is a Diocesan and Parish requirement that we perform background checks on all our volunteers working with children.

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




Have You Heard?

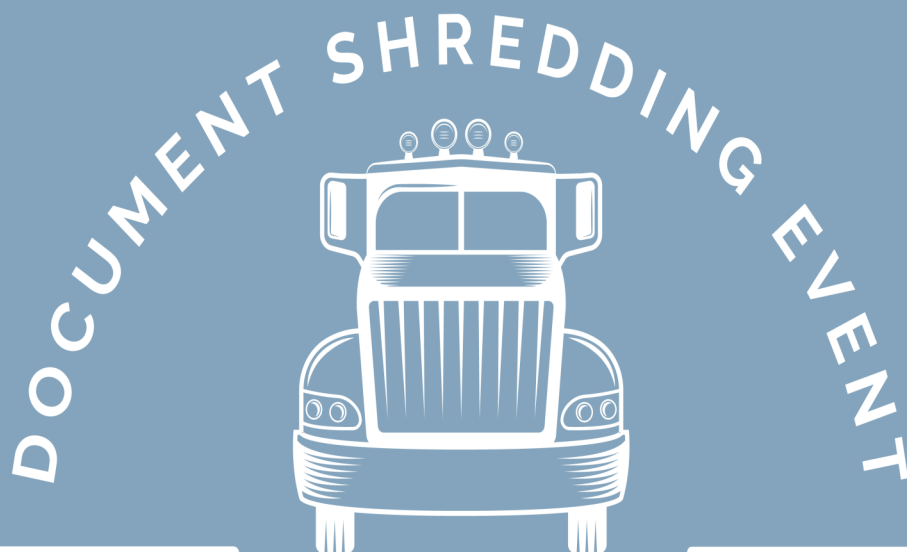
WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL!

The Church needs healing, and the world needs Jesus. The Holy Spirit is inviting us to return to the source and summit of our faith—the Eucharist.



eucharisticrevival.org

MARIAN HOMES, INC. for the intellectually disabled



SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 23

SPONSORED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Nativity Catholic Church

6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA 22015

Parking Lot - Drive thru - from 10:00 am-12:00 noon

DONATIONS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED

Proceeds will be for the benefit of the intellectually disabled

Bring your old documents, cancelled checks, paper,
manila folders, windowed envelopes, etc.

NO newspapers, magazines, card board

NO heavy metal objects, especially 3-ring binders

NO hard-drives, discs, tapes, etc.



Marian Homes, Inc.
For the Intellectually Disabled

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



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

Classes begin September 17th

There is a 50% RE tuition discount for catechists for their year commitment.

It is a Diocesan and Parish requirement that we perform background checks on all our volunteers working with children.

Lead Catechist needed:

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

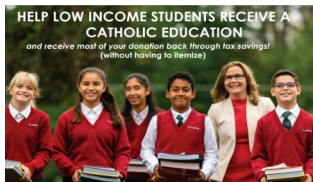
Assistant Catechist needed:

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

To Sign-up visit:

OUR PARISH WEBSITE:
 NATIVITYBURKE.ORG
 UNDER THE RELIGIOUS
 EDUCATION TAB
 OR USE QR CODE

nativityburke.org



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

Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation

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

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



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

NEED TO TALK?

Catholic Charities provides quality mental health services & counselors grounded in a Catholic understanding of the human person. "Nativity's Counselor" Ms. Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC is back at Nativity counseling clients in-person and is available on Thursdays from 10:00am-6:00pm to talk with any parishioners who may be struggling.

To set up an appointment, please contact Marguerite at 703-454-2415 or mmturner@ccda.net.

The Parish Office will close at 12:30pm on Friday, September 1 and will be closed all day on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day.



Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesday. First meeting is a business meeting, second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation. Rosary 7:15 PM; meeting at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows. Meet in the Nativity school cafeteria.

Linktree Universal Sign-up Link:

Volunteer for an event! https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992

8 Sep Priest's BBQ Volunteer on linktree.

14 Sep Exemption: Meet in the church at 7pm. New members and 1st and 2nd Degree Knights who wish to make 3rd Degree should arrive in coat and tie. Reach out to Br. Chris Odell at cokofc7992@gmail.com. Families and Brother Knights are encouraged to attend.

23 Sep Marian Homes Shred Event: 9:45am – noon.

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

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

30 Sep Soccer Challenge: Volunteer on linktree.

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

Food for Others: Volunteer drivers for food distribution to the poor. If you have a truck or van and can occasionally help deliver to Springfield on Friday evenings contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com.

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

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

Handy Knights Ministry: If you are unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small repairs in your home due to health or other factors, call the "Handy Knights." Email: handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com.

The Fraternal Committee: Brothers and the families of living and deceased brothers 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 Vince Augelli 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. Join today! <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> and experience the Knights free for one year: Enter the Agent Code "CPEREZ", click "Add" and complete the form. Be sure to enter our council #7992 for local information when you register. Please email our Deputy Grand Knight at cokofc7992@gmail.com or the Grand Knight at pmdelatte@gmail.com if you have any questions.

The K of C Ladies Auxiliary: Formed to assist and support the Knights, our Church and the four virtues of Charity, Unity, Sorority and Patriotism. We are spouses, daughters, mothers, or sisters of Knights of Columbus who are in good standing or deceased. Our fellowship and informational meetings are the First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Fr. Ready Room. Contact kdelatte65@gmail.com for info or to be added to our email distro.

** Event pre and post management tools are available on linktree. Event leads, please review and complete all event tasks.*



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

Saturday October 21, 2023

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

Struggling with addiction in the family?

Both the afflicted and affected don't need to be alone. There are many resources available including AA, NA, Alanon, Calix and a diocesan chaplain. Call the HELPLINE (970) 989-2670 for support. This is NOT LIMITED to addicts, anybody that would like to speak with a priest or a friend in Christ May call!

Sign Up For the Diocesan E-Newsletter!

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



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY DATE NIGHT

Speaker: Fr. Bob Cilinski

Our Blessed Mother

REFRESHMENTS • CHILDCARE • FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, September 23, 2023

6:00-8:30 PM in the Cafeteria

Register on the parish website or by emailing marriage@nativityburke.org

Call For Entertainers!

We have **available slots**
for entertainment acts
on the big stage for the
upcoming
Nativity Fall Festival
on September 30.

For inquiries, please contact
macladyva@aol.com





NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



JOIN OUR STAFF! Consider joining our School Staff as part of our Extended Care Team to help us provide After-School Care by contacting our Extended Care Director, Mrs. Jen Behan at (703) 455-2300, or jbehan@nativityschool.org.

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

Important Upcoming Dates

- Thursday, Aug 31 - 9:00 am Preschool Sneak-A-Peek
- Thursday, Aug 31 - 10:00 am PreK Sneak-A-Peek
- Friday, September 1 - 9:00 am Mass
- Friday, September 1 - 12:00 Noon Dismissal
- Monday, September 4 - Labor Day, No School
- Tuesday, September 5 - Preschool/PreK Begins
- Tuesday, September 5 - 8th Grade Fellowship
- Tuesday, September 5 - Piano Demo, K-3
- Wednesday, September 6 - Band Demo, 4th - 8th
- Wednesday, September 6 - Back-to-School Night, 6-8
- Thur., Sept. 7 - Back-to-School Night, Preschool/PreK
- Thursday, September 7 - Back-to-School Night, K-5
- Thursday, September 7 - Band & Piano Sign-Up, 6 pm.
- Friday, Sept. 8 - Priest Barbecue - Free Hot Dog Lunch
- Sunday, Sept. 10 - Friday, Sept. 15 - Book Fair!

Off We Go... Into A New School Year!

And ... just like that ... school began this week with an Open House, 2 half-days, and one full day – to ease



all of us into the new school year as painlessly as possible. Our PTO held an Ice cream Social in the cafeteria right after Monday’s Open House to welcome everyone back to school. The popsicles were a great big hit with ALL of us – thank you!

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!

Nativity Catholic School is committed to making Catholic education accessible to those who desire it, and offers financial assistance to make their dream come true.

Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, for more information, at (703) 455-2300 and/or smurph@nativityschool.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

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



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

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER &
FORMATION

EDGE: GRADES 6-8

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



LIFE TEEN SLIP-N-SLIDE KICK OFF

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

✉ cym@nativityburke.org 📷 @nativitycym

Donate Your Car to Catholic Charities!

If you are thinking of replacing your car with something new, please consider donating your old car to Catholic Charities.

Proceeds from the sale of working and non-working cars provide critical funds for our volunteer programs.

It's easy, we handle all the paperwork and you receive an IRS donation receipt. Email Cars@ccda.net or call (703) 841-3898.

PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC)

We are a social group, mostly age 60 and over.

(40 to 59? Ask about our free associate-membership group.)
Meet us for: picnic at Occoquan Regional Park (Sept 3); Square Dancing (Sept 5, 19, 26); outdoor Stations of the Cross at Nativity Church (Sept 6); Slavic Festival (Sept 10); Thursday lunches (Sept 14, 28); dinner in Fairfax (Sept 17); walk on the W&OD Trail (Sept 21); musical "Into the Woods" (Sept 24). For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.

*The Sisters of Our Lady of La Salette
Invites you to celebrate the*

177th Anniversary of the
Apparition of Our Lady of La Salette

La Salette Novena Prayer at 6:00 P.M.
September 7 to 15, 2023
St. Michael Church front Garden

Eucharistic Celebration at 8:30AM.
Saturday, September 16, 2023
St. Michael Catholic Church
7401 Saint Michael Lane
Annandale, VA 22003

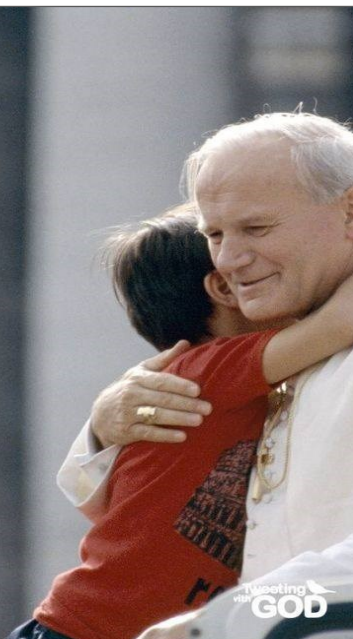
Simple Reception follows



*Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of
Sinners, pray without ceasing for us*

WHEREVER
PEOPLE ARE
SUFFERING
MAKE IT
YOUR TASK
TO SERVE
THEM

Joannes Paulus II



Meeting
GOD

CHILDREN'S ROSARY NEWS



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

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

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

Living Waters

A Christian Response to Gender, Sexuality and Freedom

for parents, young adults and high school students

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

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

Presentation by
Marco Casanova
Associate Director
Desert Stream Ministries



NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY

AN ORIGINAL NATIVITY MINISTRY DOING GOD'S WORK BY SERVING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF HIS FLOCK. WE WORK DISTRIBUTING FOOD, CLOTHING, AND PERSONAL ITEMS TO THE POOR AND HOMELESS IN D.C. AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA EVERY SUNDAY MORNING, RAIN OR SHINE.

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT THE NATIVITY PARISH WEBSITE OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN DAILY/SUNDAY RUNS, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN RUBINO AT: JOHN.ALBERT.RUBINO@GMAIL.COM.

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

Core Principle:
The Marriage Enrichment Ministry strengthens marriages in the Church and provides support to all couples called to the holy vocation of marriage.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY
@NATIVITYPARISHBURKE



In search of paid childcare providers for The Nativity Childcare Ministry

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



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

Taylor, Nativity's Childcare Coordinator
<https://nativityburke.org/childcare-ministry/#provider>



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



Every human life is sacred
every woman, every man, every child
born and unborn



We walk with mothers in need, women in crisis pregnancies, their children, and families

Consider our resources for free or low-cost prenatal and other medical care, financial assistance, baby items, mental health counseling, spiritual, and other confidential support



We offer healing to women who have experienced abortion

Learn about Project Rachel After Abortion Care Ministry or visit a Catholic parish near you



We pray, fast, and advocate for laws that protect every human life, from conception until natural death

Join the Virginia Catholic Conference advocacy network at vacatholic.org to protect all life

Find it all here:



Day of Prayer & Healing

Post-Abortion Retreat for Women

Saturday, July 29, 2023

Saturday, September 30, 2023

Día de Oración Y Sanación

Retiro después del Aborto Provocado para Mujeres:

sábado 29 de julio del 2023

sábado 30 de septiembre del 2023

For confidential help / Para ayuda confidencial:

703.841.2504



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



Give a Gift for Life

Please give a Gift for Life this season to help Project Rachel provide counseling and healing retreats to those who suffer the effects of abortion. One after-abortion care retreatant wrote: "I would have NEVER had the courage to show my face at this [abortion healing] retreat... God works in mysterious ways and by His grace, I found the courage to step forward in my faith. I am so grateful that this ministry exists and was there for me... without judgement when I was ready to tackle the deep-rooted pain in my heart. I am forever grateful!" For more information and/or to donate: www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife

Parish App Feature-of-the-Week



Inspiration Daily

- Thoughts on Catholic life
- Informative and inspirational
- Simple insight for living a deeper faith everyday

Learn more or download our parish app at myparishapp.com

*Available on Apple and Android Phones.



Catholic Diocese of Arlington



Healing Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce

Are your parents divorced? Join us for the
Arlington Life-Giving Wounds retreat this Fall!
Come experience the healing love of Christ.
September 8-10, 2023



arlingtondiocese.org/healingretreat

Volunteers Needed



ST. MARTIN DE PORRES SENIOR CENTER

This multipurpose program operated by Catholic Charities provides a variety of services to prevent isolation of seniors and promote their wellness, happiness, and independence. At the Center, we provide congregate meals and a wide variety of health, exercise, social, recreational, educational, and entertainment activities, as well as field trips. *Volunteers are needed to serve as receptionists, serve meals, help with activities, teach English for speakers of other languages, and much more!*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- NURSES FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS CHECKS
- NUTRITIONIST
- EXERCISE INSTRUCTORS
- ARTS AND CRAFTS INSTRUCTORS

COMMITMENT:

- CENTER HOURS ARE 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
- MONDAY - FRIDAY
- FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES BASED ON AVAILABILITY

Location:

**4650 Taney Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22304**

SIGN UP HERE!!!

<http://bit.ly/SMDPVOL>

or **SCAN** this code



CONTACT

OFFICE OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer@ccda.net/703-224-1478



CatholicCharitiesArlington



@CCDArlington



CatholicCharitiesDioArlington


**CATHOLIC
CHARITIES**
DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON



Fall 2023 Newsletter



WELCOME BACK TO FALL ADVENTURES IN LEARNING (AIL)

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

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

SCHEDULE INFORMATION

Dates: Wednesday September 6 to Wednesday September 27

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

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

1:30 - Speaker Presentation and time for Questions

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

PROGRAM SPEAKERS (sequence of speakers subject to possible change)

September 6 – Fraud Prevention –Fairfax Police Detective Becker

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

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

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

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

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

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

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday August 27

Isaiah 22:19-23
Ps 138:1-3,6,8
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20

Monday August 28

St. Augustine, Bp, Dr

1 Thes 1:1-5,8b-10
Ps 149:1b-6a,9b
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday August 29

Passion of St. John the Baptist

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Ps 139:1-6
Mark 6:17-29

Wednesday August 30

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Ps 139:7-12b
Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday August 31

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13
Ps 90:3-5a,12-14,17
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday September 1

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
Ps 97:1,2b,5-6,10-12
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday September 2

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11
Ps 98:1,7-9
Matthew 25:14-30

When Jesus ordained Peter to become the rock upon which he would build his Church, he made a promise. The gates of hell, he said, speaking of the netherworld that belongs to the principalities and powers of darkness (see Ephesians 6), "shall never prevail against it."

Jesus did not say that hell would never win battles against the Church. He said that the *gates* of hell would not win. Of course they won't; gates don't attack! Gates protect. Gates hold inside their boundaries whatever has been enclosed by a fence or wall. Do you know anyone who's been imprisoned by their sins? Or by hellish circumstances?

Christians are not called to take a defensive posture against attacks and encroachments from evil-doers. Christians are called to take the offensive – we are called to attack the very gates of hell, knock them down, and conquer the devils that are trying to drag people into their kingdom of misery and eternal death.

What Jesus did 2000 years ago to free people from evil he still does today through you and me.

For the sinners who want to escape from evil before it's too late, Jesus gave gate keys to Peter when he ordained him as the first shepherd (priest and pope) of Christianity. These keys have been passed from generation to generation through the unbroken line of Catholic priests.

What are the keys? The gates of hell are unlocked by Sacraments; they open the way to eternal life. When a priest "looses" (releases) the grace and forgiveness of God upon a repentant sinner during the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or when a priest "binds" a man and woman together in the Sacrament of Marriage, it's Jesus who's doing it through him.



The supernatural power of the Sacraments conquers evil every time

we take them seriously and rely on the graces they provide.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Where is there a locked gate in your life, which needs to get blown open so that Jesus can rescue you from some sort of darkness?
- † What will you do this week to utilize the Sacraments more deeply, more profoundly?
- † Who do you say Jesus really is, and how do you encounter this Jesus in the Sacraments?
- † Which Sacrament (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Marriage, Ordination, or the Anointing of the Sick) is most powerful for you personally? Why?

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

September 2023

Church of the Nativity

Rev. Robert C. Cilinski, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Padre Pio
Born to farmers in 1887, in southern Italy,



Francesco Forgione joined the Capuchin Friars at the age of 15, taking the name "Pio." In 1918, St. Pio received the five wounds of Our Lord's Passion, called the stigmata, in his body. Renowned for his preaching, holiness, and charity, thousands flocked to him for Confession and spiritual direction. Amidst his suffering, he continued to labor for the spiritual and physical well-being of others, founding a hospital that still operates today.

Perfect is possible

Jesus said, "... be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). Perfection to Jesus means loving God with all our hearts, praying for our enemies, and taking care of the poor. Love and service is the true measure of perfection.

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor" Romans 12:9-10.



Seven virtues for successful Catholics

Practicing virtues – habitual and firm dispositions to do good – leads to long-lasting interior freedom, joy, and peace. The following seven virtues, with God's grace, can help you do that:

Faith enables our belief in God and all that He has revealed through Scripture, Tradition, and the Church's teachings. Reciting the Creed, especially at Mass, is an act of faith.

Hope is the desire for Heaven and trust in God's promises to us. Trusting in the Lord even in trials and asking for forgiveness for sins are acts of hope.

Charity enables us to love God above all things and our neighbors as ourselves. True love is when we wish – and act for – the authentic good of others.

Prudence is the virtue that helps us to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it.

Justice helps us respect others' rights and give to each his due. We owe God our worship. We are made in His image, so we owe each other respect.

Fortitude strengthens us to follow Christ in the world, even if it's unpopular and uncomfortable.

Temperance properly orders our desire for pleasure, so that we appreciate earthly goods in moderation and value heavenly goods most. Observing the one-hour fast from food before receiving the Eucharist is an act of temperance.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics attend Mass on holy days of obligation?

Throughout the year, the Church celebrates six feasts that honor a central mystery of our faith with extra enthusiasm. These days are so important that all Catholics are required to attend Mass to celebrate. They are listed on the US Conference of

Catholic Bishops' website, <http://www.usccb.org>.

All Sundays are also holy days of obligation. We live the third commandment to honor the Sabbath by attending Mass every Sunday.

Celebrating these holy days is a reminder that we belong firstly to God.

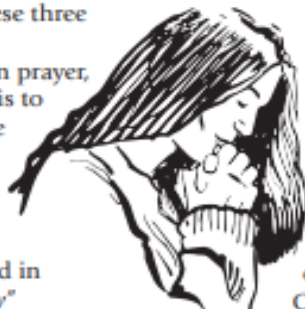


Finding time for powerful prayer

If you struggle to find time to pray, try these three tips:

Prioritize. Much unseen good depends on prayer, and it's as critical to our souls as breathing is to the body. Jesus corrected St. Martha because she lost sight of "the one thing...needful" (Luke 10:41-42). Reserve time for daily prayer. Treat it as an important appointment - because it is.

Set boundaries. Jesus dismissed the crowd in the evening and "went up into the hills to pray"



(Matthew 14:23). Give God your undivided attention in prayer for whatever time you can. Be fully present, minimizing distractions. Let the world wait while you spend time with the One who loves you most.

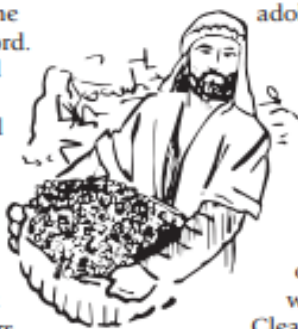
Activate your work. Few of us have the luxury of being able to spend all day in prayer but we can make a morning offering, giving our day to God's service. Entrust all the events, tasks, and concerns of the day to God's mercy and providence. This way, our work is made holy and can help bring souls to Christ.

from Scripture

Matthew 20:1-16a, The generous landowner

In this Gospel reading, Jesus told a parable in which He compared God's kingdom to a vineyard in the charge of a generous landlord. In the parable, the landlord hires groups of workers at various times of the day. All agree with the landlord to work for a "fair wage."

The vineyard is God's kingdom and God is the generous landlord. Some Bible scholars propose that the earlier groups of workers represented the Jewish people, who had followed God's laws for thousands of years, while the Gentiles were the latecomers. The workers also stood for



those whom God calls at various stages of life: from infancy, adolescence, adulthood, and old age.

Then the landlord paid the laborers, beginning with the five o'clock workers. It must have shocked Jesus' listeners to hear that the landlord paid those who worked one hour as if they'd worked for twelve hours.

Clearly, God's idea of a "fair" wage is not the same as ours. What is important is not how many hours we've served God, but if we answered Him when He called us.

Q & A What's the proper way to show reverence before I receive Communion?

In days past, everyone approached the altar, knelt at the altar rail and received the host on our tongues. That was prescribed as a posture of reverence to show respect and adoration for the Body and Blood of our Lord.

The bishops in the United States have decided that we may approach the altar and stand to receive Communion. When we approach, we are to bow as a gesture of reverence before we receive the consecrated host from the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.

Today we can receive the host either on the tongue or in the hand. To receive in the hand, we place one hand, palm up, on top of the other to form a "throne." We can also receive Holy Communion in the form of precious Blood. When Holy Communion is offered under both kinds we repeat the bow of our heads before receiving each one.

Genuflection is appropriate at other times. For example, we genuflect before the tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament.

Our Mission
 To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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<http://www.growinginfaith.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

Feasts & Celebrations

September 1 - St. Giles (710). Shrouded in mystery, St. Giles was a hermit who lived near the Rhône River in France. His fame as a miracle worker drew crowds and disciples to him. Eventually, St. Giles became abbot of a monastery.

September 8 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary's birth brought her parents joy, and we are joyful too - because Mary brings salvation to all of us with the birth of Jesus.

September 14 - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (c.326). St. Helena, mother

of Emperor Constantine, discovered what is believed to be the Cross of Christ while on pilgrimage in Jerusalem. Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on the site.

September 28 - St. Wenceslaus (929). Raised by his devout grandmother, St. Ludmilla, "The Good King" St. Wenceslaus worked to end Christian persecution in Bohemia, encouraged German missionaries, built churches, and cared for the sick and poor. He was martyred by a group of dissatisfied nobles, led by his brother, Boleslaus.



¿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 irrastrea-
bles
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. Aso-
mémonos a la intrepidez de Francisco de Javier, a la bondad
de Teresa de Calcuta, a muchos de los ídolos de nuestro tiem-
po (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 britá-
nico, Tony Blair, que dejaba la Iglesia Anglicana porque, en-
tre 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!**

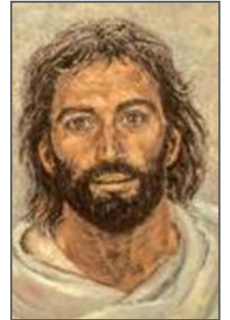
**¡Ay! ¡Si, como Pedro, tuviéramos el valor y el coraje –a
tiempo y a destiempo- de profesar que, Jesús es el Mesías!
No existirían otros dioses, miedos ni temblores para profe-
sar nuestra fe.**

**¡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, manifes-
táramos lo que somos! Muchos, verían y encontrarían en
nuestra actitud, una llave con la que poder abrirse o en-
contrar a Dios**

¿Qué ocurre entre nosotros, amigos? ¿Por qué no gritamos a
los cuatro vientos lo que, en el silencio, sentimos? ¿Tan débi-
les nos encontramos que preferimos tener a Dios en los cuatro
muros del templo de nuestro corazón que saltando por las cal-
les por las cuales andamos?

Tenemos un déficit en nuestra vida cristiana: nos falta conoci-
miento de Jesús. No hace aún dos semanas cuando, una feli-
gresa, me decía: “pregunto a mis hijos y mis nietos sobre His-
toria 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 esta-
mos 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 Jesu-
cristo. Ahí está la cuestión. Para enseñar
hay que saber, para saber hay que conocer
y para conocer a Cristo hay que encon-
trarse con El. ¿Lo hemos entendido?
Feliz encuentro con el Señor



TE CONFIESSO, 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 pilla 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

¿Cómo se sabe que el Infierno existe? Hemos nacido y vivimos en esta tierra para pasar de esta vida a la eternidad

Por: buenanueva.net | Fuente: buenanueva.net



El Infierno es una de las realidades más cuestionadas y atacadas, tal vez por un mecanismo de evasión del justo castigo que espera a los que ofendamos a Dios y dejemos de aprovechar la oportunidad y las oportunidades que El mismo nos da de arrepentirnos para perdonarnos, y así poder llegar, no al Infierno, sino al Cielo.

Respecto del Infierno hay errores muy difundidos: unos creen que el Infierno no existe. Otros creen que sí existe, pero que allí no va nadie, aduciendo que Dios es infinitamente bueno. Pero no hay que olvidar que Dios es, al mismo tiempo, infinitamente justo. Recordemos, también, que el propio Jesucristo nos habló en varias ocasiones sobre la posibilidad que tenemos de condenarnos. Y no sólo nos habló de esa posibilidad, sino que, además, varias veces nos describió ese lugar de castigo eterno. He aquí algunas descripciones por boca de Jesús: “Los malvados ... los arrojará en el horno ardiente. Allí será el llanto y el rechinar de dientes” (Mt. 13, 42). “Y a ese servidor inútil échelo en la oscuridad de allá afuera: allí habrá llanto y desesperación” (Mt.25,30). “Malditos: aléjense de Mí, al fuego eterno” (Mt. 25, 41). Y he aquí lo que dice el Libro del Apocalipsis sobre el Infierno y los que llegan a allí: “Pero para los cobardes, los renegados, los corrompidos, los asesinos, los impuros, los hechiceros, los idólatras, en una palabra, para todos los falsos, su lugar y su parte es el lago que arde con fuego de azufre, que es la segunda muerte.” (Ap 21, 8) “Y todo el que no se halló inscrito en el libro de la vida fue arrojado al lago de fuego.” (Ap 20, 15)

Coinciden los Teólogos en que la más horrenda de las penas del Infierno es la pérdida definitiva y para siempre del fin para el cual hemos sido creados los seres humanos: la posesión y el gozo de Dios, viéndolo “cara a cara”. Ya que únicamente Dios puede satisfacer el ilimitado deseo de felicidad que El mismo ha puesto en nuestra alma para ser satisfecho sólo por El, puede comprenderse cuán grande puede ser la pena de no poder disfrutar de lo que se denomina la Visión Beatífica. Para resumir esta pena en palabras de San Agustín, “es tan grande como grande es Dios”.

Otro de los tormentos del Infierno es el sentido de eternidad. Es un sitio de fuego, pero es un fuego distinto al que conocemos en la tierra, pues afectará nuestra alma y nuestro cuerpo, pero no nos destruirá. Es un fuego que no se extingue, ni extingue, sino que es eterno, sin descanso, sin tregua, sin fin ... para siempre ... “El fuego no se apaga, pues han de ser salados con fuego”, nos dijo Jesucristo (Mc. 9, 48-49). Significa esto que el fuego funciona como la sal: es un fuego que conserva y que penetra todo nuestro ser, pues cuerpo y alma recibirá el tormento del infierno.

Y estos horrores del Infierno no deben servir para desviar la atención. Los horrores del infierno no son para que pensemos ¡qué malo es Dios! sino para darnos cuenta del horror del pecado.

El Infierno es una realidad innegable. De hecho, el Infierno es de creencia obligatoria para los Católicos, y es de los dogmas de nuestra fe que presenta mayor número de textos de la Sagrada Escritura que lo sustentan, en los cuales por cierto aparece con diferentes nombres (abismo, horno de fuego, fuego eterno, lugar de tormentos, tinieblas exteriores, gehena, muerte segunda, fuego inextinguible etc.). En resumidas cuentas, el Infierno forma parte, junto con el Cielo y el Purgatorio, de las opciones que nos esperan después de esta vida terrena.

Entre los secretos que reveló la Santísima Virgen María a los pastorcitos de Fátima, está una visión del Infierno, que les dio en una de sus apariciones. Decía Lucía, la vidente de Fátima que murió ya anciana en 2005: “Algunas personas, también piadosas, no quieren hablar a los niños pequeños sobre el Infierno, para no asustarlos. Sin embargo, Dios no dudó en mostrar el Infierno a tres menores y una de ellas contando apenas seis años”.

Por más que Lucía describía lo que ella y los otros dos videntes vieron (cfr. Memorias de Lucía), no es posible imaginar cómo es el Infierno. El Infierno es un lugar de dolor y horror -más de lo que podemos pensar, suponer o describir- al que son arrojadas las almas que en la tierra desperdician las gracias de salvación que Dios en su infinita Bondad, nos otorga a todos.

La Voluntad de Dios es que todos los hombres lleguen a disfrutar de la Visión Beatífica. Dios no predestina a nadie al Infierno. Para que alguien se condene es necesario que tenga una aversión voluntaria a Dios, un enfrentamiento o una rebeldía contra El y, además, que persista en esa actitud hasta el momento de la muerte (cfr. CIC #1037). Hemos nacido y vivimos en esta tierra para pasar de esta vida a la eternidad. Y allí habrá o “Vida Eterna” en el Cielo, al que podemos llegar directamente o pasando antes por un tiempo de purificación en el Purgatorio... o habrá “muerte eterna” en el Infierno.



What else did Jesus say to Peter?

Circle words in each row as directed. Use the remaining words to fill in the blanks.

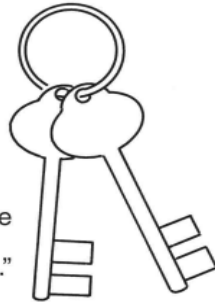
2 foods KEYS ASPARAGUS POTATOES

2 months JULY KINGDOM HEAVEN JUNE

2 animals BIRD EARTH GIRAFFE BOUND

2 musical instruments LOOSE FLUTE PIANO LOOSE

Jesus said, "I will give you the _____ of the _____ of _____; whatever you bind on _____ will be _____ in heaven, and whatever you _____ on earth will be _____ in heaven."



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"You Are the Christ"

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples a question. What did He ask?

Add and subtract letters to fill in the blanks.

1. - orm + - use = _____
2. - ncil + - m + - amp + - can = _____
3. - w + - arn = _____
4. - ck + - ail = _____
5. - sk + - kife = _____



"1) _____ do 2) _____ 3) _____ the 4) _____ of 5) _____ is?"

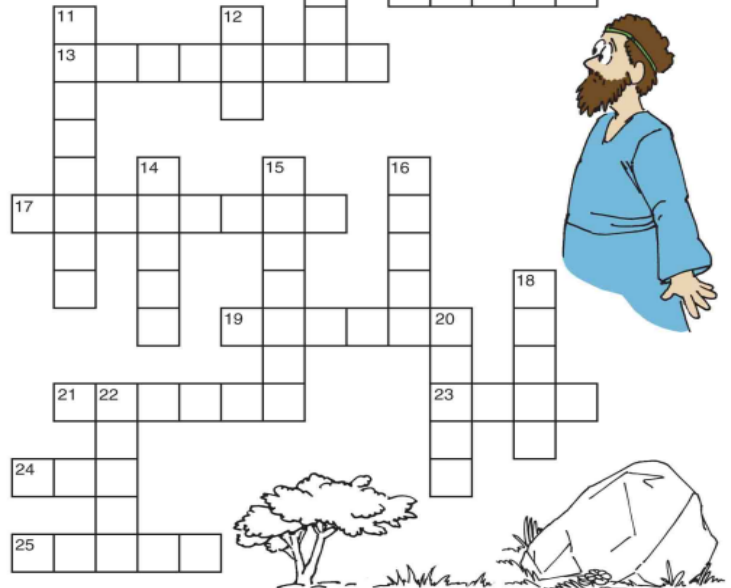
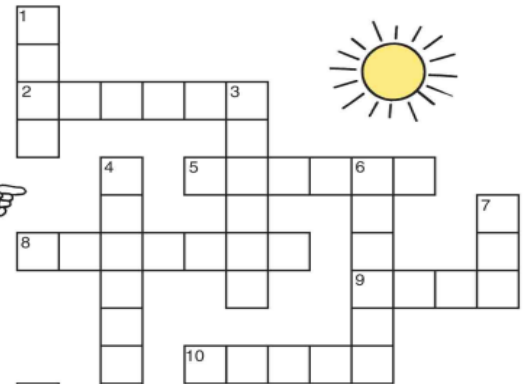


What did the disciples say?

Use the words in the box to fill in the crossword. Then fill in the blanks.

God	rock	Hades	Simon	Father	Baptist	overcome
man	tell	Jesus	Christ	heaven	Blessed	prophets
son	build	Jonah	church	living	Jeremiah	revealed
John	gates	Peter	Elijah			

The disciples replied, "Some say _____ the _____; others say _____; and still others, _____ or one of the _____." ... _____ answered, "You are the _____, the _____ of the _____." _____ replied, "_____ are you, _____ of _____, for this was not _____ to you by _____, but by My _____ in _____." And I _____ you that you are _____, and on this _____ I will _____ My _____, and the _____ of _____ will not _____ it."





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