

WHOEVER *wishes to come after me* MUST DENY HIMSELF

MATTHEW 16:24



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

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

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

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



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

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

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

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

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

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

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

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

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

BULLETIN EDITOR:
Caroline Chase, bulletin@nativityburke.org

WEBMASTER:
Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:
Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A Message from our Pastor Msgr. Bob Cilinski



"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." - Mt. 16.25

My dear parishioners,

Choosing God is not without its pain. Jeremiah cried out in a meditation that *"Every time I speak your name, O God it gets me into trouble!"*

Thinking that suffering was beneath Jesus' dignity, Peter exclaims his intention to prevent the Lord's suffering. Like Peter, we all want to be on a winning team and get behind a winning God. But Jesus our Lord is the "Suffering Servant."

Because Jesus is willing to take up His cross in obedience to the Father, He can ask those who follow Him to embrace their crosses as well. This should not surprise a community who gathers to proclaim our Savior's death until He comes again. When we embrace the crosses in our lives with faith and love, we are drawn closer to God and to one another. The cross that we bear brings us new life and the Lord is always there to help us.

May the Lord bless our labors, our school work, our sacrifices in our vocations, and our loving service. May this new year of parish life bring a renewed commitment to the cross of Jesus.

Love and blessings,

Bob Cilinski

Msgr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

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

PARKING SAFETY REMINDER

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

Celebrating A Golden or Silver Wedding Anniversary This Year? If you were married in 1976 or 2001, please join Bishop Michael Burbidge for the 2026 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on:

***Sunday, October 18th at 2:30 p.m. at
the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA.
Visit your parish office to register no later than
October 2nd. For more information, visit
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/event/marriagejubilee/>***



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 20TH!

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

nativityburke.org

To register go our parish website or scan Qr Code



nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org 703-455-0372

IMPORTANT

Registration closes September 7th to give our catechists time to prepare for classes beginning September 20th. Registration reopens September 23.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Parish Office will close at
12:30 pm on Friday, September 4th



To protect human life & the truth about marriage

CATHOLICS



NO

on the

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

Pledge to Vote: CatholicsVoteNo.com



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARLINGTON

Early Voting begins September 18
Election Day November 3



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

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

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

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

DIOCESAN CAR MINISTRY

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

Testimonial from the Mitchell Family in Appalachia Recipients of Nativity's 28th Home

To the wonderful people that built my home:

I would like to thank everyone that helped in any way for my home build. I could never thank you all enough or explain what this means to me and my family.

This is a dream I never thought would have come true. I went from having nothing to a home that will provide me and my family a warm and safe place.

The stress has been taken off me more wondering if I would have enough wood to last me through the winter and getting up all through out the night just to feed the fire to stay a little warm. This summer has been awesome coming into a cool home. I went from never having anything new to having everything. You will never know how this feels to walk into a beautiful home and think this is all mine.

Thanks to each and every one that had a hand in this project, I will forever be grateful.

Love,
The Mitchells



Seeds of love are sown and nourished in the family

Invite the Holy Family into your home to learn how true love grows. Join fellow parishioners on a 6-week small group, online retreat via Zoom from Sep. 29 - Nov. 3, 2026, with a consecration to the Holy Family on November 8.



Attention Please!

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

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

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

Nativity Religious Education Program

WE NEED CATECHISTS FOR THE GRADES AND SESSIONS BELOW:

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

We also in need office volunteers for all sessions

Scan the QR-Code to Sign-up!



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

Classes are starting soon. We need your help!

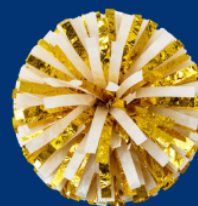


VOLUNTEER CATECHISTS RECEIVE 50% TUITION DISCOUNT FOR A SCHOOL YEAR COMMITMENT

Classes start Sept. 20th



nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org



CYO CHEER NATIVITY STARS

REGISTRATION

Registration opens September 9th!
All girls in grades 3-8 are welcome to register
Information: <https://nativityburke.org/cyo-cheer/>
Registration link: (provided near registration date)

PRACTICES AND GAMES

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

VOLUNTEERS

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

Information: <https://nativityburke.org/volunteer-coaches-needed/>

Please reach out if interested!

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT
CYOSPORTS@NATIVITYBURKE.ORG

NATIVITY CYO CROSS COUNTRY

IS RETURNING FOR THE FALL SEASON!



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

Practices start August 31st.

Register at
nativityburke.org/cyo-track/

\$30 for the season.

Please email any questions to
cyotrack@nativityburke.org



COACHES NEEDED!

Bethany Toy is a writer for Food For The Poor, our long-time partner in Operation Starfish. Bethany's journey began here at Nativity Catholic Church, where she heard about poverty from former pastor Father Richard Martin, and saw first-hand the way Nativity parishioners responded to the needs of the poor. In her own words, here is Bethany's story...

My path in life has been filled with twists, turns, potholes and miles of uncertainty. However, as I continue to take steps every day, I can look back and see the path laid for me from my first day at Nativity Catholic Church to now. When I was little, my parents moved us from sunny, hot, humid Tampa, FL, to Fairfax, VA. At only 5 years old, I was anxious about how life at this new school and parish would be. My fears were quickly erased as everyone welcomed my family with open arms. Not only was it a safe place for me to study for the next eight years, but it was also a place of work for my mother.

Fr. Martin played a key role in my early developmental years, teaching my classmates and me about the trials of poverty and how, as Christians, it is our job to take our neighbors' hands, to walk alongside them as they continue their journey with God.

This was amplified further within our own lives every year: each of us was sent home with a little cardboard house to save money in, symbolizing a family finding a new home through the support of Food For The Poor.

When I graduated from Nativity and moved on with my life, I found a passion for the written word and aspired to one day use my gift to help others. I was eventually called back to sunny Florida to earn my master's degree in Rhetoric and Composition. Not long afterward, I received a call from a close friend who now worked at FFTP asking if I would be interested in a writing position there. It instantly sent me back to my childhood at Nativity, where I had grown up working with FFTP to ensure families in Haiti had safe housing. I jumped at the chance to serve those in need yet again.

Three years into working at FFTP, I had the opportunity to see our faith in action on a mission trip to Guatemala. The photos hanging on the church walls at Nativity are heart-wrenching; however, they do not do poverty justice. The smell, the dirt roads covered in debris, the homes constructed out of anything these families can get their hands on: these things are forever etched into my heart. Though I saw the despair of poverty around me, there was hope in the eyes of the people I met. Determination rang out in their voices as they spoke about how they wished to create a better future for themselves. It was then that I remembered a lesson Fr. Martin had explained: you can have all the riches in the world and yet still be poor in heart. When I came home, it was a jarring experience to turn a tap and know I could drink from it, to flip a switch and know I could rely upon it to light a room. All these things I used to take for granted, while never being as rich in faith, hope and love as those I met on that trip. To this very day, I think of those whom I walked with in those communities and do my best to honor them when writing their stories.

From building cardboard house piggy banks to walking beside families whose lives were transformed by generosity, Nativity and FFTP have shaped my life forever. I'm grateful for all the challenges, failures and triumphs that led me here. Most importantly, I will remain forever grateful for the man who showed me that service is the greatest gift of all. *Bethany Toy, Fulfillment & Review Writer Food For The Poor, Inc.*



MASS INTENTIONS & MASS SCHEDULE

"We are God's People"

1 Peter 2:10

Monday, August 31

7:30 am Special Intention for Renato Fazari
12:00 pm † Stanley J. Haddock

Tuesday, September 1

7:30 am † Charles DeKany
12:00 pm † Helen Boling

Wednesday, September 2

7:30 am † Leo & Anna Ruda
3:00 pm † Mother of Randy Browner (Sunrise)

Thursday, September 3

7:30 am † Maximillian Kolbe Haddock
12:00 pm † Anthony Lisi & Donna Bush

Friday, September 4

7:30 am † Loic Olichon

Saturday, September 5

9:00 am † John & Bernadette DeKany
5:00 pm † John Betts
7:00 pm † Saturnina E. Woodward (Spanish)

Sunday, September 6

7:00 am † Jairo Gustavo Vargas
9:00 am † Clarence Ward
11:00 am † Girium Dagne
1:00 pm Nativity Parishioners
5:30 pm † Bruno Gaspardo

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

YOU'RE INVITED!

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

Would you like to broaden your knowledge on the presence, power, and beauty of our Blessed Virgin Mary?

Come join us at our Legion of Mary meeting, held on Wednesdays, at 7:00 pm in the Teachers Lounge. Interested, contact: Kathryn Quan at jaynekatrynq1@yahoo.com.



**ALTAR FLOWERS
Donated by**

John Michel &
Bernadette Slee

In Loving Memory of Sharon Michel



THE DOROTHEA PROJECT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS

WITNESS FOR OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS

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

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

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




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

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

JOIN OUR YOUTH & CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

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

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



A message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Let Living Water reach our hearts.

The Season of Creation is an ecumenical initiative, celebrated from September 1 - October 4. Inspired by this year's theme, Living Water, Pope Leo reminds us that transformation begins in the heart. Ecological conversion invites us to ask: What in me needs to be transformed? When our hearts are renewed, truth, justice, mercy, care and love can flow outward into our relationships, communities and care for creation. Pope Leo concludes his annual message on Care for Creation with an image of hope: "from the desert to the garden, from division to communion and from violence to peace." A desert becomes a garden when water begins to flow—and when we choose to cultivate new life. This Season of Creation, may we allow God's Living Water to flow first into our own hearts. May contemplation awaken gratitude, gratitude become love, and love lead us to conversion and action for justice, peace and our common home. Pope Leo's message reminds us that ecological conversion begins in the heart, but it cannot end there. When we allow God to transform us, that transformation must flow outward—into how we care for one another, how we respond to injustice, and how we protect our common home. This is the invitation of the Season of Creation: to let Living Water from the heart of Jesus flow through us and become a source of hope, peace and action in our communities."

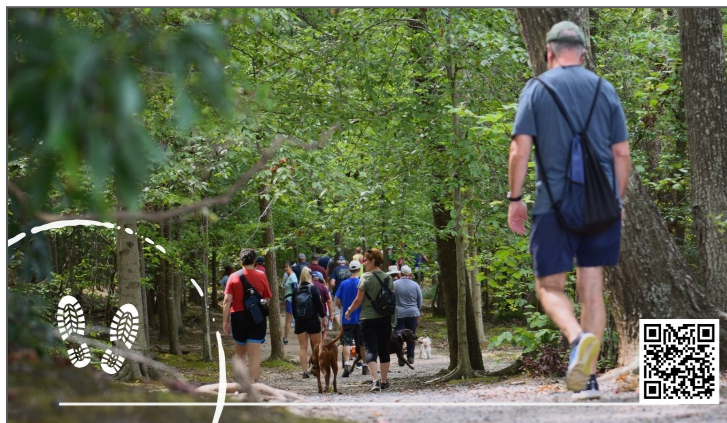
(excerpted from Laudato Si Movement)

Retreat for Person's Facing Serious Illness Hosted by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Arlington October 2 – 4, 2026

Seeking Rest and Renewal?

Amid illness and uncertainty, God's love remains a source of comfort and strength. You and your caregiver are warmly invited to a peaceful weekend retreat for people facing serious illness. This retreat is an opportunity for prayer, reflection, spiritual guidance, and gentle care. Beginning with Mass celebrated by Bishop Burbidge, you will be accompanied by diocesan priests and compassionate volunteers experienced in serious illness, offering prayerful support, understanding, and encouragement. Come find spiritual healing, hope, and rest in God's loving presence. For questions or to register, email retreat@ccda.net, and a nurse will contact you within a few days. For further information, please call (703) 841-3830. Space is limited.





Marriage Enrichment Ministry & Creation Care Ministry

7th Annual

HEROES HIKE

with Msgr. Bob Cilinski

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

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

For more information and to register visit:

www.nativityburke.org/heroes-hike/

Contact Anna Lisa Licud:

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

Are you separated or divorced?

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

Next Meetings

Thursday, September 17 @ 7:00 pm

Thursday, October 8 @ 7:00 pm

Nativity School - Room 203

Website nativityburke.org/separated-divorced

Contact separated.divorced@nativityburke.org



CYO BASKETBALL ** NATIVITY STARS **

REGISTRATION

Registration opens September 9th!

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

Information: <https://nativityburke.org/cyo-basketball/>

Registration: (provided near registration date)

PRACTICES AND GAMES

Practices: Begin mid-late October

Games: December to March

VOLUNTEERS

Coaching volunteer roles available.

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

Information: <https://nativityburke.org/volunteer-coaches-needed/>

Please reach out if interested!

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT
CYOSPORTS@NATIVITYBURKE.ORG

Marriage Enrichment Ministry

7th Annual POTLUCK Gathering

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



September 12 | 6:30-8:30 PM

Bunnyman Brewing

5583 Guinea Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032

Register here:

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



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



Eight Students Receive a Knights of Columbus Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarship Award!



In memory of the Nativity Church's and Knights passionate past pro-life leader, the late George J. Getek, this Scholarship Program was established to further build up the Culture of Life at Nativity from the "ground-up", energizing (public, private, Catholic, or homeschooled) 8th-grade, high school and college/university/trade school students to:

- Become better educated on pro-life issues consistent with Catholic Church teaching
- Be better able to think more critically about and communicate pro-life issues with their friends and others they interact with.

No pro-life experience was required to win a scholarship. George's wife, Ellen Getek, indicated, "George was a firm believer in the importance of education so this scholarship in his name is even more special to me and our family."

One scholarship was awarded to the top scorer in each of the five grade-groups, and then three additional scholarships were awarded. This year's scholarship awardees at the grade school, HS and university level were honored at Nativity's End of Year Knights of Columbus Awards Dinner. Each attending student received a check for \$1,000, a framed certificate of achievement, and then read a one 1-minute excerpt from one of his/her respective essays. Six of the eight students are shown in this group photo, including (l-r): Elliot Ivie (Nativity Grade School; winner of the Mike Litzelman Memorial Award for top scoring 8th-grader), Anthony Licud (St. John Paul II HS), Andrew Tramel (TJHSST), Elise Ladino (CNU), Sophia Cassidy (DeSales Univ), and Gabriel Garcia (UVA). Maria Martinez (GWU) is shown receiving her framed certificate from Grand Knight Michael Bender. Although Malia McGarry (Univ of Louisville) was not able to attend the awards ceremony, through God's Providence, she happened to meet George Getek's wife, Ellen, and her family after a recent Mass!

After the presentations, GK Michael addressed the students, "We pray that going forward you will feel more confident, more at ease, and better equipped to address some of these critical life issues with friends and others you may encounter. This spiritual work of mercy can lead to conversion of hearts, saving of lives, and peace of mind and soul." One dinner guest summarized the positive impact of the speeches, "I wish I had been as well informed in my younger days as these students are!"

This youth scholarship program depends on donations. Consider a tax-deductible gift by check (to "Nativity Pro-Life Ministry" with note 'Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarship Program') or online <https://osvhub.com/nativityburke/giving/funds> by clicking Pro-Life Ministry button with same note. For more information, contact rickloffredo@outlook.com.





YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY: GRADES 9-12



Save the Date: OCT 25th, RALLY
Diocesan HS Youth rally @ Bishop O'Connell HS

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY: GRADES 6-8



Edge
September 4 | 6:30pm-8pm

Blaze (Girl's Small Group)
September 4 | 5pm-6:15pm

CONTACT US!

Grace Carroll, Director of Youth Ministry
gcarroll@nativityburke.org

Claire Anderson, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
canderson@nativityburke.org

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

Seton Jr.-Sr. High School in Manassas, VA, invites you to its Fall Open House on Sunday, October 4, 2026 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Seton School, offering grades 7-12, is Newman Guide recommended. Formal presentations begin at 2:00 pm, followed by mock classes, tours and a reception. Email Mrs. Tara Judge for additional information or with questions: admissionsassociate@setonschool.net.

Are you registered in the Parish?

If you are not receiving mail or emails from the parish, chances are you are not registered. You are free to stop by the Parish Office to fill out a registration form to become a registered member of Nativity Parish or go online to: nativityburke.org and download one. Registration is required to be a Baptismal Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Knestout issued the following pre-election letter to the faithful of their dioceses.

This Election Season is Different August 2026

In Virginia, every year is an election year. However, the contents on the ballot this fall are anything but ordinary. In the upcoming election (Sept. 18 – Nov. 3), the decisions we make will shape the future of our Commonwealth in unprecedented ways. In addition to a U.S. Senate race and local Congressional races, Virginia voters will decide three proposed constitutional amendments with far-reaching consequences.

Two of the proposed changes to Virginia's constitution – Ballot Question 1 (abortion) and Ballot Question 2 (marriage) – concern fundamental matters of right and wrong.

Ballot Question 1 would cement a so-called "fundamental right" to abortion into our state constitution – all the way up to birth and for "every individual," even children. It would endanger women's health and safety and even push parents out of life-changing and irreversible decisions for their minor daughters. It would shield "any individual" who assists in an abortion from legal consequences. When debating the language of the proposed constitutional amendment, legislators even rejected a proposal to require that any baby born alive after an attempted abortion would receive the same level of care and treatment as any other infant. Ballot Question 1 is extreme, dangerous, radical and horrific.

Ballot Question 2 would remove the definition of marriage as the "union between one man and one woman" from our constitution, and would replace it with "any lawful marriage between two adult persons." We affirm the dignity of every person. We also proclaim the truth that marriage – created by God – is and will always be the union of a man and a woman. God's design for marriage – woven into the fabric of our being – was established before any nation, religion or law. We are called to honor and preserve it. The marital union – between a man and a woman who give themselves completely to each other – is a unique and irreplaceable bond that is the basis of the family and society.

God is the author of life and marriage. We must protect and preserve these extraordinary gifts from our Creator. As Catholics, we have a sacred duty to form our consciences prayerfully and correctly, and to vote NO on Ballot Question 1 and Ballot Question 2. Ballot Question 3 would restore voting rights to individuals who have completed their time of incarceration. This issue is a matter of prudential judgment upon which people of goodwill can disagree. Through the work of the Virginia Catholic Conference, we have consistently supported this measure and continue to do so. In your own assessment of this proposal, we invite you to consider the Church's teaching on participation in the common good, rehabilitation, restoration, mercy and second chances – as well as times when you have witnessed God's redemptive work in your own life and the lives around you.

More information on the three ballot measures can be found on the websites of the Virginia Catholic Conference and our two dioceses. Early voting begins September 18. Election Day is November 3.

As the Catechism reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate... in promoting the common good.... As far as possible, citizens should take an active part in public life" (nos. 1913-1915). Through conscience formation, prayer and fasting, may we as Virginia voters all prepare to cast votes that will honor the gift of life and Jesus who is "the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington
Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout, Bishop of Richmond

Retreat For Persons Facing Serious Illness

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

Amid illness and uncertainty, God's love remains a steady source of comfort, strength, and renewal. You, and your caregiver, are invited to a peaceful weekend retreat filled with compassionate care, spiritual support, and gentle rest.

Through prayer, inspiring talks, group discussions, and quiet reflection, you'll encounter God's healing presence. A team of priests, medical professionals, and caring volunteers will accompany you, offering both spiritual and emotional support.

Diocesan priests will provide one-on-one spiritual direction, and therapeutic support will be available in a respectful, nurturing environment. Whether you seek peace, hope, or simply a place to rest in God's love — you are welcome here.

October 2 - 4, 2026

**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
ccda.net
703-841-3830

VOLUNTEER
volunteer@ccda.net





NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Nativity School: Now accepting applications for Preschool 3, and 2nd through 6th grades for this 2026-27 School Year
It's not too late – join us!

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

Back to School – And Busy!!



We've just started back to school and we've been very busy! A few new staff members have joined us, as we began the school year with a Diocese-wide Mass at All Saints Catholic Church celebrated by Bishop Burbidge, and the keynote speaker, Arthur Brooks, who provided insight and inspiration for the new school year. It was time well-spent.



The following day, we welcomed our students and their families with a partial week, including a Family Day – a half-day with a Sneak-A-Peek, Mass, and Hot Dog & Popsicle Party, served up by our PTO and Knights of Columbus. It was a fantastic way to begin the school year – full of faithful, food-filled fun!



Love working with children? Want flexibility? Substitutes wanted!

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

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

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



Fr. Sikora Council 7992 Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.
The first meeting is a business meeting, the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation.
Rosary 7:15 PM; meeting at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows.
Meet in the Nativity school cafeteria.

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

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

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

18 SEPT: Volunteer pitmaster grillers needed from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for Priests BBQ in Nativity parking lot near Fr. Martin Center. SUG available on the Linktree!

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

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

24 OCT: Save the date for our Masquerade Ball! Plan to attend, plan to volunteer, or plan to do both! SUG not yet available, but check the Linktree soon for updates.

Food for Others: Volunteer for food distribution to the poor, delivered on designated Thursday or Friday evenings. For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyerkc7992@verizon.net. For Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com. Deliver food from Giant to the FFO warehouse Tuesday mornings; contact Br. Bob Colella robert.colella.86@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

Handy Knights Ministry: Parishioners unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small home repairs due to health or other factors, contact the "Handy Knights." Email 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 navy8@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.

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.

Employment Opportunities in the Diocese

Find the perfect Opportunity at:

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/human-resources/employment-opportunities/>

Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Make authentic connections with other women | Learn more about God

Join us for ***Keeping in Balance*** where we'll explore Biblical ideas for managing life's pace and pressure while living with calm and steadiness. Your lifestyle of health and holiness awaits.



Here, at Nativity Catholic Church | Wednesday's starting Sept. 23
9:30-11:30 AM (+ childcare)

CONNECT <https://nativityburke.org/wwp/>
Questions? Contact WWP at wwpnativity@gmail.com



Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

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

Spiritual Motherhood: The Transforming Power of the Feminine Genius Bible study will lead you on a journey of discovering your true identity. Cultivate your unique capacity to nurture, restore, and bring others closer to Christ.

SPIRITUAL Motherhood



THE TRANSFORMING POWER
OF THE
Feminine Genius

walking with purpose

Here, at Nativity Catholic Church | Wednesday's starting Sept. 23 7-9PM

CONNECT <https://nativityburke.org/wwp/>
Questions? Contact WWP at wwpnativity@gmail.com



Sunday Evening Gatherings: 7pm-8:30pm

SEPT 27

OCT. 25

DEC. 6

JAN. 24

FEB. 28

APR. 25

Gatherings are at the same time but in different meeting spaces

PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE TO ATTEND.



LEARN MORE AT

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



A faith-sharing ministry for:

young adults (ages 18-39)

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



Faithful Friends walk together in faith and life.

Through shared experiences like attending Mass, participating in church events, and engaging in both

spiritual and social gatherings,

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

Catholic Faith and create opportunities for spiritual growth and connection.



Caregivers Supporting Loved Ones with Disabilities (of all ages) are invited to join us for a time of *community*, *encouragement*, and *spiritual support*. This gathering will include small group conversations, a presentation from a fellow caregiver, and space to connect with

other parish families navigating similar journeys. Caregivers include those caring for family members with disabilities such as sensory processing challenges, ADHD, autism, or intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities, etc. We consider caregivers to be any relative who is walking alongside a family member with special needs. Caregivers must register in advance to attend.



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SEPTEMBER 3



7:00 PM - 8:30 PM



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Father Vincent Capodanno Memorial Mass

The Memorial Mass for Father Vincent R. Capodanno, MM, will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, 3 September 2026, in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Avenue, Northeast, Washington, D.C. His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D., Archbishop for the Military Services, USA, will be the principal celebrant.

This annual Mass is celebrated in memory of Father Capodanno, killed in Vietnam on 4 September 1967, as he ministered to embattled Marines. Father Capodanno posthumously received the Medal of Honor, and in May 2006 the Catholic Church officially proclaimed him a Servant of God and thus formally initiated his Cause for Canonization. The Father Vincent Capodanno Guild is the only official organization established to promote the cause for canonization of Father Capodanno.

For more information, visit www.CapodannoGuild.org. All are invited to attend the Memorial Mass on the 59th anniversary of his death. There will be open seating, so please plan to arrive early. Military members are encouraged to wear the uniform of the day, and business attire is appropriate for civilians.

OUR MISSION

We, the People of Nativity Catholic Church, by our baptism, are joyful disciples of Jesus Christ. We strive to love God, love others, and form new disciples. We celebrate Jesus Christ in Word, Sacrament and Service.

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STEP UP TO THE PATRIOTIC
FOURTH DEGREE. SERVICE TO GOD
AND COUNTRY AS A SIR KNIGHT**

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

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 visits Nativity to counsel clients in-person on Thursdays from 10:00am-6:00pm. She is available 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.



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Potomac Falls, VA

Sunday, August 30

Mass | 3:30 PM

Marian Procession | 3:00 PM

Festival | 4:30 - 8:00 PM

Mass Celebrated by Bishop Michael F. Burbidge

Bishop of Arlington

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featuring



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Procession!

Cultural
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Singing &
Dancing!

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Saturday, September 19, 2026
Hyatt Regency Reston

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



**Keynote from
Shereen Yusuff**
In English



**Mass with
Bishop Burbidge**



**Keynote from
Fr. Rafael Capó**
In Spanish

**Breakout Sessions - Dinner - Live Music & Salsa Dancing Lessons -
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and to
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¡NO SOMOS CIUDADANOS DE SEGUNDA!

Domingo XXII (A)

Javier Leoz

Se agota el mes de agosto, y en el Día del Señor, hemos de seguir sintiendo la seducción, la cercanía y el lenguaje de un Dios que, lejos de abandonarnos, confía en lo poco o en lo mucho que podamos realizar en su nombre. ¿Que no nos entienden? ¿Y? ¿Pasa algo? ¿Comprendieron a los profetas? ¿Asumieron nuestros hermanos mayores del Antiguo Testamento todo lo que los Patriarcas indicaban o enseñaban? ¿Fue el camino de Juan Bautista un sendero virginal sin espinas ni abrojos? ¿El nacimiento, crecimiento y pasión de Cristo fue, igualmente, un aplauso y un reconocimiento rotundo a su persona? ¿Y el testimonio y la vida de la mayoría de los santos?

Amigos; muchos interrogantes que, al unísono, merecen una única respuesta. La que San Pablo nos da en la segunda lectura de este día: **lejos de ajustarnos a los moldes del mundo, hemos de agradar a Dios.**

*Agradar a Dios, muchas veces, conlleva el pelear con los “dioses”, con los “pequeños diosillos” de turno que nos rodean.

*Agradar a Dios, en diversas ocasiones, es ir contracorriente. Es decir “no” o un “¡basta!” allá donde creemos que se excede la conducta, los experimentos o el relativismo visceral que nos rodea.

Quien no lo quiera, como no lo deseaba Pedro, es pretender o soñar con un Jesús a la medida del mundo. ¿Que nos seducen otros cantos de sirena más que la voz exigente de Jesús? Estamos a tiempo. Pero ¿y a la larga? ¿Qué permanecerá eternamente estable y provechoso? Ni más ni menos que la fuerza de Dios. Sus promesas. Su Palabra que supera, con creces, la palabrería del mundo. A mí, como sacerdote, no me alarma el hecho de que algunos sonrían de algunas cosas que, para nosotros, son sagradas. Si que me llama la atención que, muchas de esas risas, vengan desde el graderío de muchos que, siendo bautizados y profesando la misma fe que nosotros, hacen burla o mofa de aquello que, según ellos, acogieron desde la libertad y en el sacramento del Bautismo.

A nosotros, como creyentes, no nos tiene que importar demasiado el no ser secundados en nuestros criterios. En nuestra forma de ver la sociedad o el mundo. En cambio, como creyentes, si que nos tiene que llevar a un análisis de si, el mundo, no estaría mejor si se rigiera con ciertos cánones o mínimos que nos marca el Evangelio.

Últimamente, la Iglesia Católica, en diversas latitudes –no solamente en España- está sometida a una especie de acoso. De incompreensión. Parece como si, su presencia, fuera una especie de privilegio que debiera de desaparecer. Pero, no lo olvidemos, la razón principal es otra: **hay un intento de despejar a fuera de juego a Dios. Hay una intencionalidad, clara y malévol, de apartar todo lo que suene a religioso.**

Ante ello, como creyentes, nos toca jugar un papel fundamental: **ante el acoso y derribo hemos de resistir con una fe formada, auténtica y convencida.** Es en estos momentos, en los que nos toca vivir aquí y ahora, donde Dios va cribando con delicadeza y atención la paja del trigo, la cizaña del buen grano, los cristianos fortalecidos de los cristianos vencidos por la debilidad o sonrojados por el qué dirán. Sí, amigos; nuestro seguimiento a Jesús no es camino dulce. Nuestra amistad con Cristo no nos lleva a una mesa repleta de tarta de manzana o vinos de solera. Pero, eso sí, quien siga hasta el final (ojala estemos en esa final todos los que estamos en esta Eucaristía) se encontrará, nos encontraremos, con las promesas fielmente cumplidas por Cristo. Mientras tanto, lejos de mirar hacia el cielo esperando una señal de que estamos en la dirección adecuada, nos volcaremos de lleno en nuestra misión de cristianos. Que lejos de escondernos, como si fuéramos ciudadanos de segunda o de tercera, sepamos sazonar todas las situaciones que nos vienen a la mano, desde la seguridad de que Dios nos acompaña y nos aconseja. ¡Feliz Día con el Señor!

COGERÉ TU CRUZ, SEÑOR

Pues su madera, bien lo sé, Jesús
es escalera que conduce a la Resurrección.

Cogeré tu cruz, Señor,
pues su altura, es altura de miras
para los que creen en otro mundo
para los que esperan en Dios
para los que, cansándose o desangrándose,
saben compartir y repartir en los demás.

Cogeré tu cruz, Señor;
pues sus clavos, pasan la carne
pero no matan la fe.
Es la fe, quien a la cruz,
le da otro brillo y hasta otro color:
ni es tan cruel ni es definitiva.

Después de la cruz, vendrá la vida.
¡Dame tu cruz, Señor!

Merece la pena arriesgarse por Ti
Merece la pena sembrar en tu campo
Merece le pena sufrir contratiempos
Merece la pena adentrarse en tus caminos

sabiendo que, Tú, los recorriste primero.

¡Cogeré tu cruz, Señor!
Enséñame dónde y cómo
Indícame hacia dónde
Háblame cuando, por su peso,
caiga en el duro asfalto.
Quiero coger tu cruz, Señor,
porque bien lo sé,
hace tiempo que lo aprendí
que ideales como los tuyos
tienen y se pagan por un alto precio
Quiero coger tu cruz, Señor,
porque es preferible
en el horizonte de los montes
ver tu cruz
que el vacío del hombre errante
Amén





The Son of Man is going to come in His Father's glory with His angels.

Solve the sudoku puzzle. All the numbers 1-9 must be used once in each row, column and box. Then use the code to fill in the blanks.

1 He	6	■	8	△	5	3	4	9	1
2 according	7	1	□	9	4	2	6	5	8
3 reward	4	9	5	8	★	1	3	△	2
4 done	2	☆	6	5	9	4	7	▲	3
5 they	1	5	4	2	□	7	8	6	9
6 will	9	3	7	1	8	6	2	●	5
7 person	5	7	2	6	1	8	◇	3	4
8 have	3	6	◇	●	2	5	1	8	7
9 each	8	4	1	3	7	◇	▼	2	6

Then ▲ — ★ — □

◇ — △ — ■
to what ▼ — ☆ — ●

Jesus told His disciples,
"For whoever wants to save their life will lose it,
but whoever loses their life for Me will find it."

Find 15 differences in the bottom picture.



Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

August 30, 2026 • Matthew 16:21-28

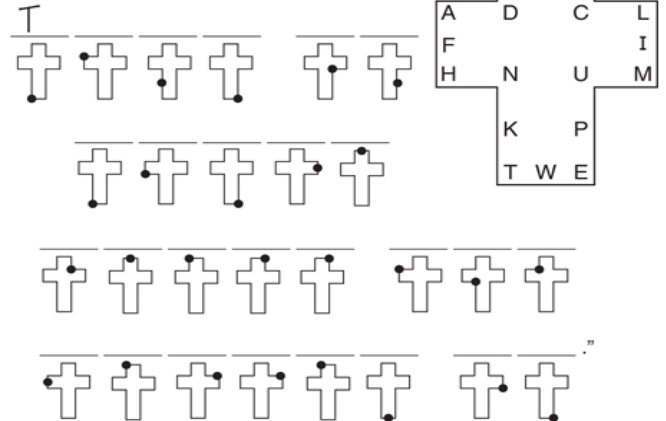
Jesus Tells About His Future

Jesus explained to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things, be killed, and on the third day be raised to life.



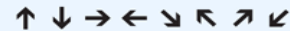
Use the code to write the letters on the blanks.

Jesus said to them, "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and

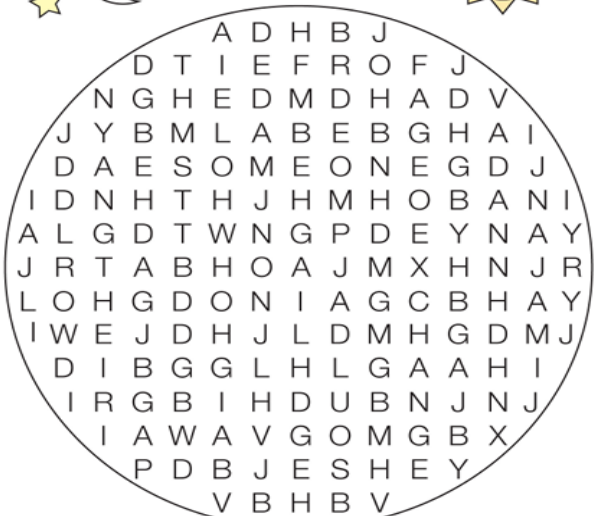
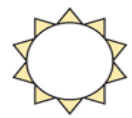


Jesus asked two questions.

Find the 14 underlined words in the word search.



"What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"



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