

EVERY PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE



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

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

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro, A.R., M.R.E.
Maria Ammirati, Religious Education Coordinator
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

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



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

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

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

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

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

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

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

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

WEBMASTER:

Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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



**A Message from our Pastor
Fr. Bob Cilinski**



*“Be doers of the word and not hearers only.”
James 1:21*

My dear parishioners,

We are reminded today that what is most important is, *“what’s in our heart.”* What should be in our heart? LOVE! Love for God and for each other - which Jesus tells us are the two greatest commandments. Jesus noticed where the scribes and Pharisees went wrong, *“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”*

We are not perfect, but Jesus is there to help us if we ask Him. What Jesus wants to do is fill our hearts with His love. Out of this love, He desires that we love and serve God and treat one another in a kind and loving way.

As we begin a new school year and parish life together, maybe the words of St. Catherine of Sienna provide our marching orders - *“always keep your eyes on God. Let everything you do be directed toward God. Let each of you try to grow from strength to strength....”*

Happy Labor Day!

Fr. Bob Cilinski
Fr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor

**DONUT
SUNDAY**
NEXT WEEKEND



Please note that the 2024 Mass Intentions Calendar is fully booked thru December 31, 2024. We will open the January 1 - June 30, 2025 Mass Intentions Calendar in November. Stay tuned for the bulletin announcement with the exact date!

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY
ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND
IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY
MORNING MASS ON LABOR DAY AT 9:00 AM**



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

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

**Classes
Start Sept.
15th!**



Dear parishioners,

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

High Schoolers are welcome to volunteer!

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

Thank you for helping us serve our children!



Session	Day & Time	Grade-Primary Catechist	Grade-Assistant Catechist
1	Sunday 3:45-5:00pm	☺👉	3, 7
2	Sunday 7:00-8:15pm	K, 1, 4, 6	K, 1, 3, 4, 6
3	Monday 4:45-6:00pm	2, 3, 6, 8, 5	3, 6, 8,
4	Monday 7:00-8:15pm	☺👉	☺👉
5	Tuesday 4:45-6:00pm	1, 2, 8	3, 2, 7
6	Tuesday 7:00-8:15pm	5	☺👉

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

QR-code will take you directly to the volunteer page



Nativity Catholic Church

Sensory Mass

WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD AND BELONG AT HIS TABLE

★ **2ND** ★

SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH AT THE
1:00 PM MASS

Next Sensory Mass:
September 8 | 1:00 pm

The Sensory Mass is open
to anyone who wishes to
participate

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

● NEURODIVERGENCE

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



● AUTISM

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



● CHURCH ATTENDANCE

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



*Whitehead, 2018. Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion

**McAllister, 2024. Diversity and Inclusion



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



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

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

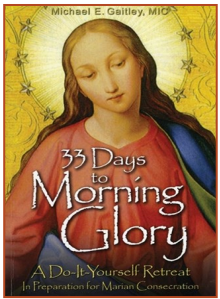
WHO CAN BENEFIT...

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



ALL
are
WELCOME
+

Save the Date - October 1st. Do not miss out! October is the month of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Jesus loves His Mother. He has asked her to be our Mother too. Take time this month to learn about consecration to Jesus through Mary. Be part of a 6-week parish virtual program based on the book "33 Days to Morning Glory" by Fr. Michael Gaitley. In the words of St. Louis de Montfort, "By this devotion we give to Jesus all we can possibly give Him, and in the most perfect manner, that is, through Mary's hands."

For more information and to register go to the Nativity Web site at <https://nativityburke.org/marian-consecration>.

For questions, please contact Nenuca Robles Admana at 33DayConsecration@nativityburke.org.



**Be the light for education!
Second Collection for
Catholic University this weekend**

Since 1903, The Catholic University of America has been blessed by the generosity of parishioners around the country through the National Collection. James Cardinal Gibbons, the first chancellor and the ninth Archbishop of Baltimore, affectionately called the collection "the people's endowment." Catholic University is the national university of the Catholic Church. Gifts to the National Collection — the only second collection taken for higher education in the U.S. — support students and helps the University conduct critical research that will serve parishes and dioceses throughout the country.

Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge 2024

The Knights of Columbus (K of C) soccer challenge will be held Saturday, September 28th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Nativity Fall Festival.

Youth ages 9 through 14 are invited to participate. Each player will be allowed 15 penalty kicks at the goal which will be divided into scoring zones. Highest score in each age group will be declared the champion and will be eligible to compete at the October K of C District competition. Questions, please contact Dave Zivich at davezivich@gmail.com.



WELCOME BACK FROM THE ROSARY MINISTRY!!

We hope you all had a great summer. Need something to do while the kids are in school? While you sit and wait for them to finish up a sports practice? Come to our September meeting and learn how to make Mission Rosaries!



September 17th from 1-3 PM In the Father Ready Room. We welcome back any Rosary makers! New, experienced or those who want to learn. We will have teachers there that will teach new people or give a refresher class to those who need it. Lydia has been amazing in keeping our bin in the office well stocked and we can't thank her enough! Hope to see you September 17th!! If you have any questions please email us at: rosaryministry@nativityburke.org.



Married in 1999 or 1974?

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

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

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

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

Burial plot private sale, space never used at Fairfax Memorial Park, 9900 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Premium location behind the Crucifix Site, lot #259 - site B (near priests burials).

Price \$ 8,000.00 OBO, serious inquiries only. Please contact: fyelicie@gmail.com or myelicie@verizon.net.

5th Annual POTLUCK Gathering

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

For more information and to register visit:
<https://nativityburke.org/heroes-hike/#register>



Saturday, September 14th

6:30-8:30 PM
Bunnyman Brewing
5583 Guinea Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032




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

5th Annual Heroes Hike

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


SEPTEMBER 14TH AT 10:30 AM

MEET AT THE SOUTH RUN REC CENTER FIELD HOUSE - REGISTER ONLINE AT www.nativityburke.org/heroes-hike/ OR EMAIL marriage@nativityburke.org




Pray the Pro-Life Rosary with Us!

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



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

Fall FESTIVAL

NATIVITYBURKE.ORG/FALL-FESTIVAL

Call for Volunteers!

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




MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, September 2nd
9:00 am † Stephen Piraino

Tuesday, September 3rd
7:30 am † Matthew McCarthy
12:00 pm † Anthony Lisi & Donna Busch

Wednesday, September 4th
7:30 am † Mirtha Guardia
3:00 pm † Geraldine Kerezsi

Thursday, September 5th
7:30 am † Francisco Caimol
12:00 pm † Franco Spadaccini

Friday, September 6th
7:30 am † Gordon P. Gill
9:00 am † Stephan Bruce (School Mass - Doors Locked)

Saturday, September 7th
9:00 am † Michael Oates
5:00 pm † John Betts
7:00 pm Spec. Int. for Maria Asuncion Cortes Marquez

Sunday, September 8th
7:00 am † Tess DeLaney
9:00 am † Matthew Kosiek
11:00 am † Hank McClements
1:00 pm Spec. Int for the Ray Family (Sensory Mass)
5:30 pm † Matthew McCarthy

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

Sports & Prayer Nights:

High School Boys Edition

Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm

**September 10
September 24
October 08**

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

Contact Ryan Remias: cyosports@nativityburke.org

OCIA

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF

Adults



SEP | 16th | 2024

**OCIA – ENCOUNTER JESUS THROUGH FULL
COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

'Come and See'

email Linda Loffredo at lindaloffredo@gmail.com or
visit our website <https://nativityburke.org/rcia/>
for more information and online registration



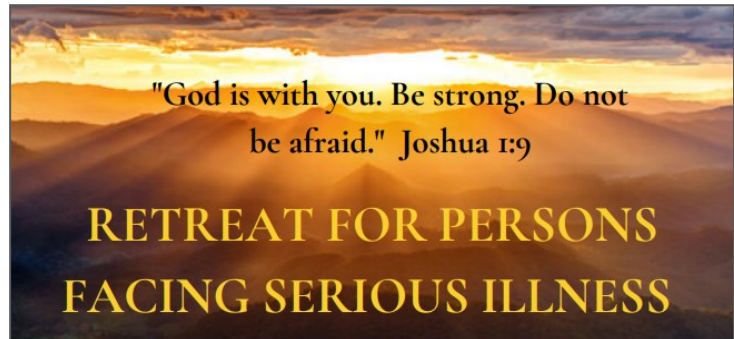
JOIN THE YOUTH CHOIR!

Children's Choir:

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

Youth Choir:

Do you have a 7th-12th grade student interested in joining the Youth Choir? We will start our rehearsals again this September, but registration starts now! We will rehearse every other Monday evening from 7:00-8:30pm in the church. See the website or contact Sara Prince, sprince@nativityburke.org for more information.



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

This retreat is appropriate for:

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

We are unable to accommodate individuals who are dealing with

- Serious mental illness:
- Impaired memory

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12
DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION
Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm | Resumes August 25



EDGE: GRADES 6-8
Twice a month: Sunday 3:30-5:00pm & Friday 7:00-8:30pm
Resumes September 08




REGISTER FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

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

[See website for full schedule](#)
Before attending, please register for the 2024-2025 year of ministry using our free, online forms.


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



Nativity Creation Care Ministry

You may have noticed a beautiful new Season of Creation liturgical banner in our midst! What is Season of Creation? The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015. The Season of Creation begins on September 1, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. Throughout the month-long celebration, we come together in an annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for our common home. What can you do to make a difference for God's Creation? *(excerpted from Catholic Climate Covenant)*

Attention Scouts - Religious Emblem Program Kick-Off



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

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

MARIAN HOMES, INC. for the intellectually disabled



SATURDAY-SEPTEMBER 21

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.



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.

The Knights of Columbus - Dames Auxiliary

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

**ECHO Collection NEXT weekend 7/8 September
Food Room Most Needed Items**

ECHO's Food Room continues to break records. We collected 1,027 lbs of food on July 6/7 at Nativity.

- Choose sizes appropriate for our average family size of four.
- Include an assortment of food to ensure a variety of items.
- We are short on many other items such as personal care products and the items listed below. Any donation, large or small, is most gratefully welcomed.

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

Protein Items, e.g., can chicken, Spam, chili, Tin Fish (tuna, sardines, salmon, etc.), Canned Fruit, Bagged Beans (black, red, or garbanzo preferred), Lentils, Spaghetti (pasta and sauce) Instant and Ground Coffee, Canned Tomatoes, Tomato (paste and Tomato Sauce), Baked Beans, Bagged Rice (white, jasmine or basmati), Instant (Box) Potatoes, Crackers, Ramen, Can milk, shelf stable milk, Boxed Pasta, Juice (Bottles or box), Tea (Green, Herbal or Black), Healthy Snacks, Spices (garlic, onion, cinnamon, salt, pepper), Masa (Corn) Flour, Boxed cereal, Lemon or Lime Juice, Jelly and Honey, Tortillas, Cooking Oil, Brown Paper Bags, Reusable Grocery Bags.
Children's Toothbrushes, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Facial Tissues, Dish Soap, Paper Towels Body/Hand Lotion, Band Aids, Shaving Cream/Razors, Diapers - Sizes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Baby Wipes, Sanitary Napkins.



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

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic Faith? Are you missing the Sacrament of the Eucharist or Confirmation? We invite you to join Nativity's OCIA/Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (previously known as RCIA/Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) journey of faith, starting September 16th, 2024, with our weekly Monday evening sessions from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Fr. Ready Room.

OCIA forms new disciples, as adults prepare to enter the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 19th, 2025, with reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. Our Monday evening sessions continue until just prior to Pentecost Sunday 2025, preparing for life in the Church as intentional disciples. This faith journey deepens one's personal relationship with Jesus by encountering him through passionate teaching, personal witness, table discussion time with opportunities for Q&A, prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, spiritual events, and a Lenten outreach project.

OCIA is open to those who have not been baptized, Christians baptized in another faith, and baptized Catholics who have not received catechesis for the other Sacraments of Initiation. For details, contact the Parish Office at (703) 455-2400, speak to Father Bob Cilinski, or e-mail Linda Loffredo at lindaloffredo@gmail.com.

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

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

(Priests for Life's Pro-Life Rosary)

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

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

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children:

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

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



“How America Can Become Family Friendly Again”: Sept 16 at 7:00pm. Join us at St. James Catholic Church for guest speaker Timothy Carney as he discusses community, faith, and the gift of children, and how to make raising a family more manageable in a family-unfriendly culture. Appetizers and drinks will be served.

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

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

**IN MARY'S FOOTSTEPS
A Group for Widows**

We are a group of women who share the experience of the loss of our beloved husbands and join together in faith and fellowship. Our meetings are on the second Monday of the month at 11:00am in the Fr. Ready Room. We have gathered for lunches or dinners out, retreats at the Benedictine Monastery, museum tours, etc. Please feel free to join us at our next meeting on September 9 at 11:00am. For further information, please contact Cat Sands at csands@nativityburke.org. May God bless you!



Nativity Catholic Church



EMAIL & TEXTING SCAM ALERT

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

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

NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY



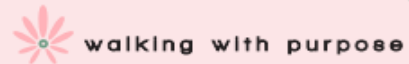
No Hands But Yours is an original Nativity Ministry doing God’s work by serving those less fortunate members of His flock. We work distributing food, clothing, and personal items to the poor and homeless in DC and northern VA every Sunday morning, rain or shine.

We also have weekly trips into designated areas bringing Panera bread donations along with help from local food banks. Through the blessings of God, we have grown through our Nativity community and continue to do so. For more details visit the Nativity Parish website at <https://nativityburke.org/service/no-hands-but-yours/>. Families are also welcomed! If you have interest in learning more and would like to participate in daily/Sunday runs, please contact John Rubino at: john.albert.rubino@gmail.com.

PW Catholic Business Network Dr. John Bruchalski – Divine Mercy Care and Tepeyac OB/GYN

The Prince William Chapter of the Catholic Business Network of Northern Virginia invites YOU to our next event on Wednesday, September 18, Wednesday, September 18, at the House of Mercy (8170 Flannery Court, Manassas) from 5:30 - 7:00 PM. Join celebrated author and OB/GYN Dr. John Bruchalski as he shares how practicing obstetrics today is a “fire of the Holy Spirit” hot mess that is an opportunity to grow, adapt, and trust in God’s Mercy. Learn how Tepeyac OB/GYN, now in its 30th year, continues to serve and inspire a new generation of excellent physicians and practitioners. An opportunity to network with local Catholic business people will follow this important talk. Light refreshments will be served. Three sponsorship opportunities available for \$150, includes complimentary ticket, business promo at event, and your logo/link on our website for one year.

Register online through Event Sponsorship option. Members: \$25. Non-members, or at the door, or less than 48 hours before the event: \$35. Register through the CBN-PW website at: <https://cbnova.org/Prince-William-Calendar>.



Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

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

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

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



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL
of Bethlehem Foundation



Thank You. Your generosity at the Nativity Catholic Church raised \$3,043.42 through the Angel Tree program last Advent. Your kindness allowed us to deliver life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land welcoming 4,231 babies in 2023 and serving a catchment area of 1 million people in Bethlehem.

This year we completed over 150,000 services at Holy Family Hospital. Your Advent gifts enable the Hospital to deliver lifesaving medical care to the most vulnerable and at-risk families in Bethlehem. We are doubly thankful for you. We are profoundly grateful for your support and prayers for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

To hear more Good News, please visit us at birthplaceofhope.org.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The first Prayer Shawl meeting after the summer break will be held on Monday morning, September 16th at 9:30am in the Fr. Ready room. All are welcome!

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flower Book for 2024 is open. This is a thoughtful way to honor a loved one, living or deceased. If you are interested, please stop by the parish office to sign up. You can now also go online and reserve flowers on our website at: <https://nativityburke.org/altar-flowers/>.



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



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

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



Students learn to read utilizing phonics; they use manipulatives to improve number sense and to deepen their skill level in Mathematics, and they explore other subjects, such as Robotics, Religion, MakerSpace, Spanish, Music, Art, and Media. They can even take Piano Lessons, if you so choose!

Contact Shannon Murphy at (703) 455-2300, or smurph@nativityschool.org, for a school tour and additional information.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Monday, Sep 2 NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY
Tuesday, Sep 3 Preschool/Pre-K First Day
Wednesday, Sep 4 Band Demo
Wednesday, Sep 4 7:00 p.m. BTS Night 6th-8th Grade
Thursday, Sep 5 6:00 p.m. BTS Night Pres/Pre-K
Thursday, Sep 5 7:00 p.m. BTS Night K-5th Grade

Love working with children? Want flexibility? Consider subbing at Nativity School... Please Join Us!

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



Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, for more information, at (703) 455-2300

Join the Nativity School Extended Care Team! Love Working With Children? Creative with Fingerprint? Like to Sift Sand?

The following qualifications are necessary --

- A LOVE of Children!
'Can-Do' Attitude
Afternoon Availability, 2:30 to 6:00 p.m.
Diocesan Compliance to Work With Kids



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



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

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

Linktree Universal Sign-up Link:

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

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

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

Marian Homes Shred Event: Saturday, September 21 from 10 AM - 12 PM in the parking lot. Look for future SUG.

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

Nativity All-Day Prayer Vigil for LIFE: Friday, October 18 (as part of the 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign). Volunteer to lead the Pro-Life Rosary for one hour. See SUG at bit.ly/42FrC2j. Contact Br. Rick Loffredo for more info at life7992@nativityburke.org.

Food for Others: Volunteer for food distribution to the poor, delivered on designated Thursday or Friday evenings.

For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net. Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

Email handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com.

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

3rd Degree Knights - Grow with 4th Degree: participate in patriotic activities that promote Catholic citizenship. 4th Degree Assembly meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Nativity school cafeteria: 7:30 PM rosary, 7:45 pm business meeting followed by fellowship. Next meeting is September 10. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Mark Corzine at fn2996@vakofc.org.

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



Follow Bishop Burbidge on Twitter!

Bishop Burbidge has over 25,000 followers on Twitter! His daily reflections and posts are popular and insightful. Follow him @BishopBurbidge.

NATIVITY CYO SPORTS

TRACK & FIELD CROSS COUNTRY



**HAVE FUN AND MAKE FRIENDS AS WE RUN,
JUMP, AND THROW**

**REGISTRATION OPENS
SEPT. 1ST**

**PRACTICES BEGIN
SEPT. 16TH**

This fall, Nativity will be adding two CYO sports: Track & Field and Cross Country! Track is open to all 3rd-8th graders and Cross Country to all 6th-8th graders. For more info and to register, visit:
<https://nativityburke.org/cyo-track/>

**EMAIL CYOSPORTS@NATIVITYBURKE.ORG FOR ANY
QUESTIONS. COACHES NEEDED!!!**



NATIVITY STARS BASKETBALL

REGISTRATION

All boys and girls in grades 3-8 in Nativity's Religious Education Program or enrolled in Nativity Catholic School are welcomed to register

Registration opens October 1st

Register at <https://nativityburke.org/cyo-basketball/>

PRACTICES AND GAMES

Practices begin late October
Games run from December to March

VOLUNTEERS

Coaching and volunteer roles are available.
Please reach out if interested!

**FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT
CYOSPORTS@NATIVITYBURKE.ORG**

ECHO NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MATRIMONY



Why does our parish have a Marriage Enrichment Ministry?

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

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

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

Why attend events and programs?

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

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

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

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

St. John of the Cross: Transformation of the Spiritual Life
The OCDS Community of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, in Annandale, VA is pleased to invite you to a weekend retreat at the beautiful Priest Field Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV. An hour and a half drive from Fairfax City. We are extremely fortunate to have the Rev. Steven Payne, OCD, Chair of Carmelite Studies at Catholic University, as our Retreat Director. For more information please contact: Veronica Royal at veronicaroyal@icloud.com or Suzanne Koucheravy at skoucheravy56@gmail.com.

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

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 1, 2024: Dt 4:1-2,6-8 | Ps 15:2-5 (1a)
| Jas 1:17-18,21b-22,27 | Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Pray: Jesus, help me grow in holiness with a pure heart and a faithful, charitable life. Amen.

What matters most to Jesus is our inner purity and our love in action.

The Pharisees were a group of pious, law-observant Jews who tried hard to maintain the purity of Jewish traditions by avoiding contact with impure pagan cultural influences of the time. They practiced strict purification rituals, observed special dietary restrictions, and held themselves and others firmly to their faith's rigid traditions and practices.

They were known for their expectations of personal piety, and their leaders were sticklers for adherence to all 600-plus laws in the Torah. The leaders of this Jewish sect were very devout, and they sincerely believed their devotional customs and traditions honored God.

However, their long list of dos and don'ts was often judgmental of others, and they frequently clashed with how Jesus preferred to do things. Jesus tried to show them many times that they were missing the point of what God desires most of us: love in action and the purity of our hearts.

The center of Christ's teachings revolves around two things: love of God and love of neighbor. Jesus is most interested in the love



and purity of our hearts, our humility and compassion, and our faith in action shown in our sincere love and kindness to others.

When it comes to purification, rather than picking at someone else's flaws, Jesus wants us to look inward to discover our own sins and work to unplug the channels of grace in our relationship with Him. The bottom line is that we must rid our hearts of anything that is not of God, who is love itself.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Is there anything in your life blocking the entire flow of grace God wants to give you to reach the potential that He sees in you?
- † How is God calling you to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only?
- † What traditions and habits can sometimes distract people from true faith, and how?
- † How can we nurture our inner spiritual lives to keep our faith pure and holy against worldly temptations?



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



Monday, September 2nd, 2024
Rain or Shine!



*Held on the Parish
Center grounds*



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

2024 Labor Day Picnic Schedule

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

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

<http://tiny.cc/SMoSLDPicnic>

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

32nd International Week of Prayer and Fasting

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

October 12 - 20, 2024

in collaboration with the Legion of Mary



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



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

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



You're invited to the **Opening International Day of Prayer**

Saturday, October 12, 2024

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

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

St. Mary of Sorrows Church
10500 Zion Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032

Mass & Morning Conference
St. Mary of Sorrows Church

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

LIVE STREAMED - IWOPF.ORG  

OPENING DAY GUEST SPEAKERS



Bishop Emeritus
Robert J. Baker, STD



Jim
Wahlberg



Fr. Dan
Leary



Dan & Stephanie
Burke



Alexis
Walkenstein



Dr. Seggy
Acosta

Register for Opening Day at iwopf.org

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

Register for 9 Days of Prayer, Fasting and Adoration



Scan this QR code to learn more and register.

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



Come and See

A Vocation Discernment Retreat

September 20-22, 2024



'Follow me for I am meek and humble of heart'

Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Saint Benedict Monastery

Sister Kathy Persson, OSB

vocations@osbva.org,

571.428.2511

9535 Linton Hall Road, Bristow,

VA 20136

RSVP: September 15, 2024

- *Pray with the Sisters*
- *Time for Quiet*
- *Meet other Discerners*
- *Enjoy the Monastery Grounds*
- *Reflect on your Path*



*Is
God
Calling
You?*

CALLED

a conference for young adults

Saturday, September 21, 2024
Sheraton Reston Hotel

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

Registration opens on July 1st



**Mass with
Bishop Burbidge**

Breakout Sessions
Dinner
Live Music & Dancing
Complimentary Childcare

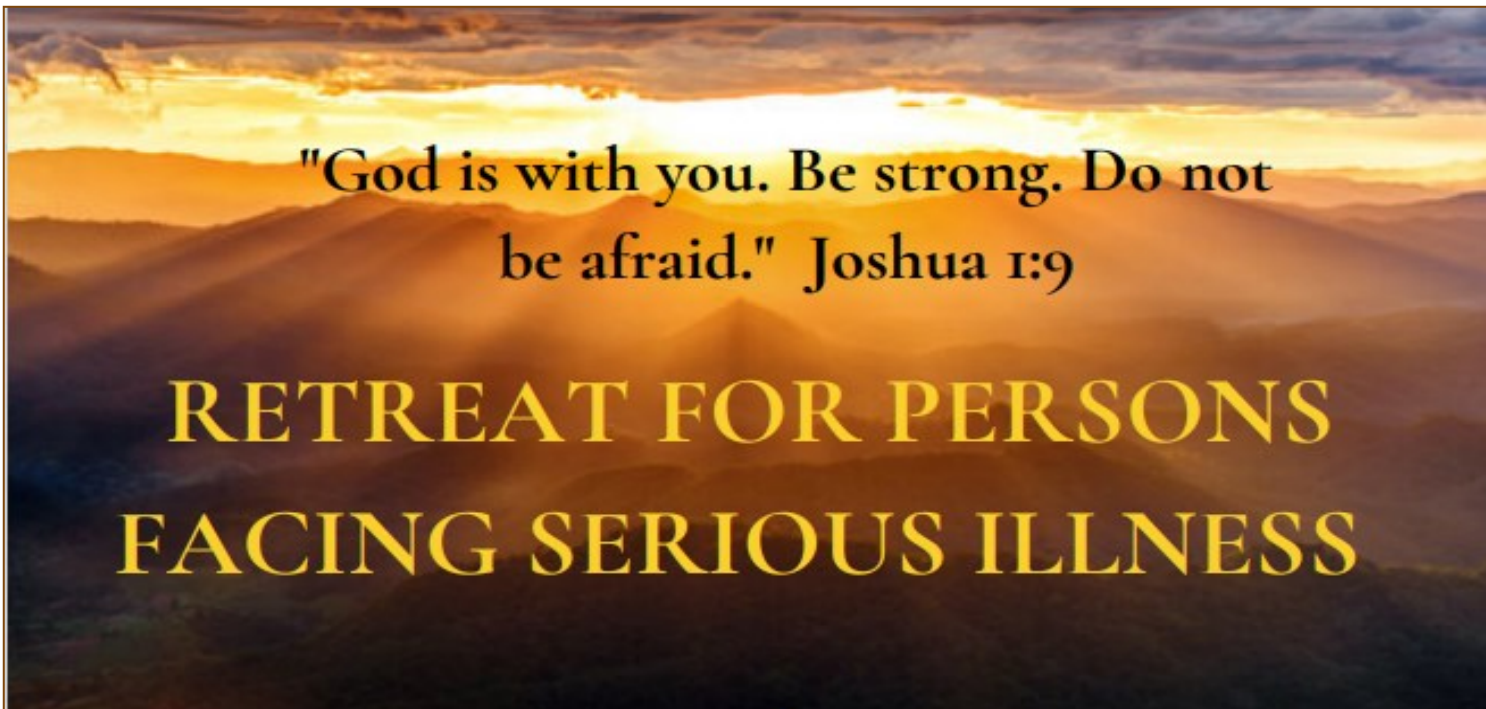


**Keynote from
Arthur C. Brooks**



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





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

RETREAT FOR PERSONS FACING SERIOUS ILLNESS

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

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

September 27 - 29, 2024

San Damiano Retreat Center

White Post, VA

NO COST TO PARTICIPATE

This retreat is appropriate for

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



We are unable to accommodate individuals who are dealing with

- Serious Mental Illness
- Impaired Memory

No smoking or vaping on premises

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Register at retreat@ccda.net

CONTACT

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

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



DIOS ES ALGO PURO XXII

Javier Leoz



Hemos finalizado los domingos del discurso del Pan de la Vida: pan sabroso, pan vivo, pan del cielo, pan que alimenta, pan que fortalece y....vemos que no hay nada como el PAN DE DIOS. Otra cosa, por supuesto, es como sea nuestra disposición interna para recibirlo. La pureza de Dios, en su pan sagrado, ha de encontrar además de manos limpias y paladar fino unas entrañas más limpias que una patena del altar.

1. Las formas, aun siendo importantes, no son esenciales. O, por lo menos, no nos hemos de quedar en las formas. En cuántas ocasiones, la apariencia de una fina arena, esconde caverna peligrosa. O, en cuantos momentos, una botella que en su etiqueta dice ser buen licor, se convierte en un amargo veneno. ¿Las formas? Sí, por supuesto, siempre y cuando lejos de engañar, sean y tengan por dentro lo que dicen. Abundaban los fariseos entonces y, tal vez, sigan existiendo en medio de nosotros. Pero no es menos cierto que tan malos son los fariseos que no se dan cuenta de su propia realidad como, aquellos otros, que apuntan a los demás y ellos lo son por goleada: no mueven un dedo por nada ni por nadie. Eso sí; siempre es más cómodo apuntar al humo que al incendio de mi propia casa.

Jesús quiere poner en el centro de todo al Dios puro y verdadero. Todo aquello que distorsiona esa voluntad, que impide llegar hasta el amor de Dios, no tiene vigencia o deja de tener sentido. La ley de Dios, la suprema, es el amor. ¿Qué ocurría entonces? Ni más ni menos que, el conjunto de normas que indicaban cómo llegar hasta el amor de Dios se habían convertido en objeto de adoración, en el centro de toda reverencia. Hasta tal punto que, ellas y sólo ellas, eran causa de salvación o de condenación.

2 ¿Cuál es el gozo de Dios? Que le amemos desde la libertad y no por obligación. A un padre no se le aprecia porque un papel me dice que soy su hijo, sino porque previamente he sentido su cuidado, su palabra, su protección o su corrección fraterna.

Con el amor de Dios pasa tres cuartos de lo mismo: es un amor gratuito, un don que se nos da. ¿Qué ofrecer nosotros a cambio? ¿Un te quiero porque me das? ¡Por supuesto que no! ¡Un te quiero, Dios, porque eres mi Padre y sé que me amas!

Eso, en definitiva, es lo que nos adelantó Jesús con su Palabra y su misma vida. Amar a Dios es cumplir sus mandamientos. Pero, cumplimos sus mandamientos porque sabemos que no solamente agradamos a Dios al hacerlo, sino porque al cumplirlos con libertad y sin excesivas fijaciones o distorsiones, damos con la fuente de la felicidad, de la paz y del amor que Dios nos tiene. Cumplir por cumplir, no es bueno. Tampoco irnos al polo opuesto. Pidamos al Señor, a Jesús, que nos ayude a poner en el centro de todo lo que somos y pensamos a un Dios que camina junto a nosotros. Un Dios que, en sus justas leyes, nos anima a no olvidarle y a marcarnos un sendero por el cual podamos llegar hasta El. ¿Lo intentamos?

TU ERES MI LEY, SEÑOR

Javier Leoz

Mi esperanza, en los momentos de fracaso
 Mi alegría, en las heridas que producen la tristeza
 Mi fortaleza, cuando la debilidad asoma y se cuela
 por la ventana de mi existencia
 Eres mi ley, Señor;
 Contigo aprendo a distinguir entre el bien y el mal
 A separar la verdad de la mentira
 A diferenciar la humildad de la soberbia
 El pecado de la perfección
 Porque, Tú eres mi ley, Señor
 Te pido que nunca me olvide de Ti
 Que nada ni nadie distraiga mi atención
 y pueda, en la medida de mis posibilidades,
 ser instrumento de tu amor y de tu gracia.
 Porque, Tú eres mi ley, Señor

Te pido que me ayudes:
 a cumplir con rectitud tus mandatos
 a meditarlos día y noche
 a llevarlos constantemente en mi pensamiento.
 Pero sobre todo, Señor,
 Porque tu eres mi ley,
 ayúdame a que ningún otro precepto
 esté por encima de Ti.
 Que ley alguna suprima tu nombre
 Que interesadas leyes se conviertan
 en un muro que me impidan el verte
 que me impidan el encontrarte.
 Y si algún día ocurriera, Señor,
 que la letra fuera más grande que tu presencia
 ayúdame a borrar de mi memoria
 todo aquello que me obstaculiza
 amarte y entregarme a ti con todo el alma.
 Amén



Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

September 2024

Church of the Nativity

Rev. Robert C. Cilinski, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Peter Claver

Born into a farming family in Spain in 1580, St. Peter

joined the Jesuits at the age of twenty and was

ordained in 1615. While serving in Colombia in 1610, he was horrified by the slave trade. Rushing to meet each arriving slave ship, he brought water, medicine, food, and clothing to the enslaved people on board. He taught them about God and baptized nearly 300,000 individuals. St. Peter lived humbly and penitentially, in solidarity with those he served.

Don't delay to seek Love

Don't wait to become perfect before seeking God's love, or you never will. The good news is, we don't have to. God already loves us — infinitely. When we accept His love and grace with open hands, it will transform our hearts.

"My steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you" (Isaiah 54:10).



Find true peace

As Catholics, we understand that the key to true happiness and peace lies in proclaiming Christ as our Lord and following Him faithfully. By knowing Jesus, experiencing His love, keeping His Commandments, and serving Him in others, we will find genuine joy, fulfillment, and peace.

Know Jesus and experience His love:

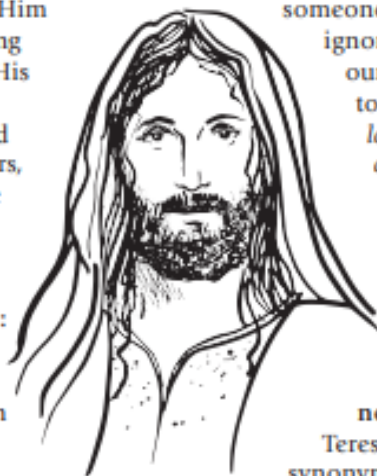
God invites each of us to enter into a deep friendship with Him (John 15:15). This friendship is characterized by mutual respect, intimacy, and cooperation. Jesus reveals His love for us through the Scriptures, the Sacraments of the Church, and especially through the Mass. In prayer, ask God to reveal His personal, everlasting love for

you. That's a prayer He is eager to answer.

Love Him back: Do you know someone who claims to care but ignores what you say? Jesus, our greatest Friend, asks us to listen to Him. *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments"* (John 14:15). By living the Ten Commandments and the Eight Beatitudes (see Matthew 5:3-ff), we demonstrate our love for Jesus.

Serve Him in our neighbors:

For Mother Teresa, serving the poor was synonymous with serving Jesus (Matthew 25:40). She prepared their beds and treated their wounds as if He were the next to use them. By performing ordinary tasks with love and intentionality, we can experience true and lasting happiness.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why are there Church's precepts?

Just as families have household rules guiding how each member contributes to supporting the home, the Catholic Church has issued rules, called precepts, that act as the principal obligations of every Catholic. These are: attend Mass every Sunday



and Holy Day of Obligation, receive Communion and attend Confession at least once annually, study Catholic teaching, observe the Church's marriage laws, give children religious training, to strengthen and support the parish community, do penance, and join in the Church's mission.

Mistakes can be blessings

Do you dread making mistakes and feel remorse when you do? Instead, realize that mistakes are simply outcomes we didn't expect and can lead to growth.

Start by admitting your mistake. You can only learn from a mistake if you admit you made one. Acknowledging the error takes the focus away from assigning blame and moves it toward understanding a future course of action.

Enlist help. Talking to someone else about what happened gives you the benefit of another's experience. He or she may have made a similar mistake

or know of a solid solution. Plus, describing the event forces you to think it through and may even help you see opportunities you didn't know were there.

Decide on change. Ask, "What will I do better next time?" Real growth and change happen when you see possibilities for improvement.

Benefit from mistakes. If you can learn from the current error, you may be able to avoid a future one. Remember, God is the only one you know who doesn't make mistakes.



from Scripture

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48, The demands of discipleship

In this Gospel passage, the disciples hear about an unfamiliar man who healed in Jesus' name. Their initial reaction was one of jealousy. They seemed more concerned about losing the spotlight than the healing itself. Jesus put things into perspective. The man shared their goal of building up God's Kingdom. They gained an ally, not an enemy.



These are serious words, but the opposite is great news: "Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19).

God rewards us for the good we do for others.

Our example holds powerful influence.

Being a faithful disciple isn't easy.

Embracing unfamiliar coworkers, rooting out sin, and setting a good example can be challenging, but we are not alone, nor are we without grace. Whatever God asks us to sacrifice, the reward will be infinitely greater.

Discipleship requires a change of heart, lifestyle, and habits. Jesus was very clear: if we choose to follow Him, we cannot harbor private sins on the side. If our sins lead others into sin, our responsibility is even greater.

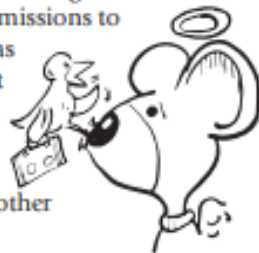
Feasts & Celebrations

Sept. 3 - St. Gregory the Great (604). St. Gregory resigned as chief prefect of Rome to become a monk at the Abbey of St. Andrew. As Pope, he used his political skills to make peace with the invading Lombards, save Rome from famine, and restore order within the Church itself.

Sept. 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows. In Luke 2:35, Simeon predicted Mary's sorrows as "a sword piercing" her soul. Despite her sorrow, Mary stood at the foot of the Cross, dignified and fearless while others ran away.

Sept. 27 - St. Vincent de Paul (1660). St. Vincent de Paul was devoted to the spiritual and physical relief of the poor and sick. He founded several hospitals and ransomed over 1,200 galley slaves from North Africa.

Sept. 29 - The Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. Three archangels entrusted with important missions to mankind, such as St. Gabriel's visit to the Blessed Mother, announcing she was to be the Mother of God.



Q & A How can I get better at defending my beliefs?

One good way to be sure you can explain what you believe is to have solid information at your fingertips.

To start, keep a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* handy. It summarizes what we believe and why, with an excellent glossary to help navigate. Your library may have one or you can buy it from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org, 800-235-8722).

Read some common questions and answers about Catholic faith and practices by Church experts. For example, a helpful resource, *Catholic Answers to Catholic Questions*, by Paul Thigpen, Ph.D., is available at Our Sunday Visitor books (www.osv.com, 800-348-2440). Or, ask your priest for a Church-approved recommendation.

Know the common misconceptions. There are many misunderstandings about the Catholic Faith. Knowing what the Church actually teaches on topics like the Eucharist, Mary, the Saints, and salvation will prepare you to clarify these points.

Don't forget to ask for help from the Holy Spirit. In fact, just let the Spirit do the talking.

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