

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



**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

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
Diane Dellen, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Ana Gonzalez, Offertory/Mass Intentions
Charlie Gutierrez, Evening Receptionist
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.
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant
Joyce Kelly, SPRED Coordinator

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454-2415 or
mmtturner@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
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/](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 holiday office
closings. 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 Msgr. Bob Cilinski



"Anyone of you who does not renounce his possessions cannot be my disciple" - Luke 14-25-33

My dear parishioners,

Today is the canonization of St. Carlo Acutis, the first millennial Saint and first canonization of Pope Leo's pontificate. Carlo Acutis was a young Italian boy who died at the age of fifteen from leukemia. He was born May 1, 1991 and was skilled in all things to do with information technology, computers and the internet. He shared with a friend that he thought his life would be short. He said *"Everyone is born as an original, but many people end up dying as photocopies. Don't let that happen to you"*. We are reminded to be the person God made us to be. He is a model of how to use technology for good without being manipulated or controlled by it.

For Carlos the highest good was God, *"Happiness is looking toward God."* Carlo showed the love of God in how he lived. He helped immigrants and beggars, the disabled and the elderly. He was a friend to those his own age whose parents had separated. Another distinct feature of young Carlos was his love for the Eucharist. When many of his friends did not go to Mass, Carlo found something beautiful in it that attracted him, something divine that he experienced. He famously said, *"the Eucharist is my motorway to heaven"* and that with each Communion we come closer to the goal of sanctity. Carlo said of his time in adoration as being close to Jesus like St. John the beloved disciple at the last supper.

Carlo Acutis died after a short illness caused by acute leukemia. He faced his death with great courage as did his suffering parents. His parents prayed for a miracle but came to realize that God does not save us *"from"* death but saves us *"in"* death. Carlos died October 12, 2006.

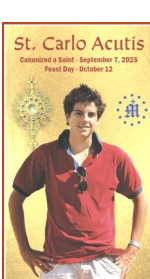
Our dear friend in heaven Francisco Fredrickson, a Nativity parishioner, found great inspiration from Carlo Acutis as he embraced his own terminal illness at a young age. Like Carlo, Francisco had a deep love of the Eucharist and became an altar server to be close to Jesus at Mass. He also loved soccer just like Carlo. He prayed, asking Blessed Carlo to help him and his parents. They were buddies and now together in heaven.

As the first millennial Saint, may Carlo's witness inspire many young people to walk the same path of holiness and greatness as he did.

Love and blessings,
Bob Cilinski
Msgr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor



Francisco Fredrickson receives his First Holy Communion



Congratulations
to Fr. Cedric Wilson on the
47th Anniversary of his Ordination
being celebrated on September 16th



NATIVITY FALL FESTIVAL

27 SEPT 2025

Come celebrate the beauty of the season with faith, fun, and fellowship!

📍 Location: Nativity Catholic Church
📅 Date: 27 September 2025
🕒 Time: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
🌐 Visit us at: <https://nativityburke.org/fall-festival>

🍰 **Cake Walk** 🎃 **Pumpkin Decorating**
🥧 **Pie Baking Contest** 🎵 **Live Entertainment**
🍎 **Fall Treats** 🎯 **Games & Rides**
🎉 **Fellowship & Fun for All Ages!**

VOLUNTEER SIGNUP

Nativity Religious Education Program

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Classes
start Sept.
14th



Student Registration closes on September 2nd
Classes start on September 14th
Student Registration will re-open on September 17th



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

For the grades below:

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

nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org

Join CYO Fall Track & Field / Fall Cross Country!

Nativity will be participating in CYO Fall Track & Field / Fall Cross Country! This is open to all 3rd - 8th graders attending Nativity Catholic School or Nativity's Religious Education program. Registration opened September 1, practices start mid-September. This is a great opportunity for youth to make friends and grow as part of the community here at Nativity! For further details, please visit <https://nativityburke.org/cyo-track/> or contact cyosports@nativityburke.org.


IN MARY'S FOOTSTEPS
A Group for Widows

In Mary's Footsteps is a faith and fellowship group that focuses on the continuing journey of widows. Meetings are held the second Monday of every month. They include prayers offered for our beloved husbands, time to talk about them and our needs moving forward. Our next meeting is **Monday, September 8th at 10:30am (note time change) in the Father Ready Room.** Contact Cat Sands at 703-455-2400 or csands@nativityburke.org for more information.

Catholic Scouts—Ready to Level Up Your Faith?

Are you a Scout looking for something more than just rank advancements and merit badges? Want to make your faith part of your Scouting journey? Through fun activities, real conversations, a retreat, and service, you'll go deeper into what it means to be Catholic.

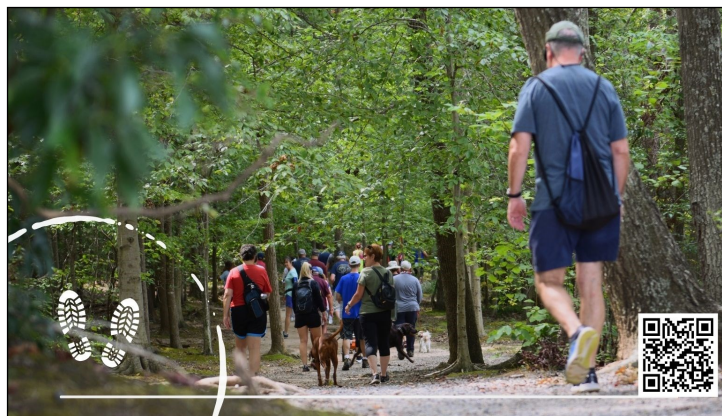
All Scouting BSA Scouts ages 13 & up are invited join us on Thursday, 18 September at the Nativity School (Rooms 203 & 204) at 7:30pm. We will conduct the first sessions of both the Ad Altare Dei (Ages 13 & 14) and Pope Pius XII (Ages 15+, Grade 9 & above) emblem programs, followed by monthly meetings thru April 2026.



Emblem information can be found at <https://nccs-bsa.org/religious-emblems/> or <https://nativityburke.org/religious-emblem-program/>. Please contact Mr. Sam Morthland, Nativity's Religious Emblem Coordinator at 571-594-1333 or spmorthland@gmail.com to register and receive additional program information. (P.S. There are emblem programs for Cub Scouts too, if interested just ask!)

ALTAR FLOWERS - Donated by

The Powers Family
In Loving Memory of
Joe & Mena Macaluso



Marriage Enrichment Ministry & Creation Care Ministry

6th Annual

HEROES HIKE

with Msgr. Bob Cilinski

September 13th | 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

2025 WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT SALE

WHEN: September 13/14, 2025 (Before/after Masses)

WHERE: Nativity Vestibule/Narthex

WHEN: September 20/21, 2025 (Before/after Masses)

WHERE: Nativity Vestibule/Narthex

PRICE: \$22.00 (Cash, check, or credit card)



The Women of Nativity (WON) appreciates your continued support of our fundraiser benefiting ministries within Nativity and our local community.



Session Schedule

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

Scan QR-Code to register



Classes start September 14th!

Get in Touch

703-455-0372 nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org nativityburke.org/re/

Marriage Jubilee Mass 2025



Celebrating A Golden or Silver Wedding Anniversary this year? If you were married in 1975 or 2000, please join Bishop Michael Burbidge for the 2025 Mass for Jubilarians to be celebrated on Sunday, October 19th at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA. Contact our parish office to register: **no later than October 3rd. For more info, visit <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/event/marriagejubilee/>**

The National Collection for The Catholic University of America: Second collection - this weekend

Gifts to the national collection—the only second collection taken for higher education—helps the University conduct critical research and develop innovative programming to serve parishes and dioceses throughout the country. Such initiatives include: the formation of seminarians, priests, and religious, the preparation of lay ministers for service and leadership in the Church certification of expertise in areas such as church management and administration, child protection, canon law, and hispanic & youth ministries, innovative programming like the Catholic Project for Priestly Vocations and the Fulton J. Sheen Excellence in Preaching Initiative and much more. Support the formation of the next generation of Church leaders, and give generously to the National Collection for The Catholic University of America.

For additional information please contact Leo Gallegos, director of the National Collection, at gallegos@cua.edu.

'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? We invite you to join Nativity's OCIA/Order of Christian Initiation of Adults journey of faith.

The Welcome Class is on Monday, September 15th, 2025, 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, April 4th, 2026, with reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Our Monday evening sessions continue weekly until just prior to Pentecost Sunday (May 24, 2026) 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 Monsignor Bob Cilinski, or e-mail Linda Loffredo at lindaloffredo@gmail.com.

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



Marriage Enrichment Ministry

6th 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 13 | 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



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 Meeting

When: Thurs., Sept. 11 @ 7 pm

Where: Nativity School, Room 203

Website nativityburke.org/separated-divorced

Contact separated.divorced@nativityburke.org

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27)

Every vocation involves sacrifice. Whether you are married, learning to put your spouse's needs before your own, or a priest choosing to forgo family life to serve others, each path involves laying down your desires for the sake of love. Trust that Christ will provide you with the strength to follow Him on your journey.

Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (703) 841-2514 or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

NATIVITY ROSARY MINISTRY

Hello Nativity!! Hope everyone had a great summer. The Rosary Ministry is always looking for new people to join. I have heard people say they aren't crafty. Well you don't need to be crafty. Can you count to 10? Can you measure string and cut it? Can you dip the ends of the string in nail polish? These are very important jobs that keep our Rosary makers well supplied to make Rosaries. Of course we always need new people to make Rosaries as well. All Supplies are provided by the Ministry. If you are interested in our ministry we meet once a month and alternate Tuesdays and Sundays every other month. We do this with the hopes of getting the people who can't make it to meetings during the workday.

Our first meeting will be Tuesday, September 16th from 1:00-3:00pm in the Father Ready Room. We will have teachers and supplies at all the meetings. We also have bins in the office full of supplies if you can't make it to the meetings. If you have any questions, contact us at rosaryministry@nativityburke.org.



MASS INTENTIONS & MASS SCHEDULE

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

Monday, September 8

7:30 am Special Intention for the Campbell Family
12:00 pm † Tito Castellon & Bertha Moya

Tuesday, September 9

7:30 am † Thuy Dang
12:00 pm † Dorothy Denny Cumber

Wednesday, September 10

7:30 am † Thuy V. Dang

Thursday, September 11

7:30 am Special Intention for Robert Jasinski
12:00 pm † The Perkinson Family

Friday, September 12

7:30 am † Harold & Patricia Korves

Saturday, September 13

9:00 am † Barbara Boyd
5:00 pm † David Lynch
7:00 pm † Victor Esprella

Sunday, September 14

7:00 am † Jay Jenc
9:00 am Special Intention - 50th Wedding Anniversary for Galileo & Melba Namata Parishioners
11:00 am
1:00 pm † Deacon Harold J. Burke
5:30 pm † Mary Hart

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

The Importance of Sunday Mass

As the body will die without food, the soul will expire without nourishment. As Catholics, that spiritual nourishment comes at the Sunday Eucharist. The Lord's Day is essential for our faith.



30-Day Eucharistic Retreat Save the Date, 30 September!



Jesus did not die on the Cross to remain in the tabernacle! He died to dwell in your soul and be received by you in Holy Communion. Jesus wants to be with us always – He is always in the tabernacle for us waiting for a visit. He wants his Sacred Heart in the Eucharist to fill your heart. The 30 Day Eucharistic Revival is a Fr. Calloway, MIC.

The program begins on 30 September and features 5 Zoom meetings on Tuesday evenings from 7:45 to 9:00 pm. The program concludes with prayer and adoration on 5 November. To register, scan the QR code or visit the Nativity website: <https://nativityburke.org/33-day-retreat/> For questions, visit our Nativity webpage or contact the 33 Day Ministry at 33DayConsecration@nativityburke.org.

Retreat for Person's Facing Serious Illness
Hosted by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Arlington
October 3 - 5, San Damiano Retreat Center, White Post

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 person's facing serious illness. This retreat is an opportunity for prayer, reflection, spiritual guidance, and gentle care. Diocesan priests, medical professionals, and volunteers will accompany you with compassion and support. 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.



Participants in Promoting the Common Good
September 2025

As Virginia voters, this fall we will elect our next Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. We will also decide who will occupy all 100 Virginia House of Delegates seats. Election Day is November 4. Early voting begins September 19.

As the Catechism reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good.... As far as possible, citizens should take an active part in public life" (nos. 1913-1915).

To promote the common good, we must form our consciences and vote, recognizing that:

- Many issues are important.
- Not all issues have equal moral weight.
- Protecting life is paramount.

Above all else, addressing the tragedy of abortion is the "pre-eminent priority because it directly attacks our most vulnerable and voiceless brothers and sisters and destroys more than a million lives per year in our country alone" (Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, Introductory Note, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2023).

The Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) has prepared an array of voter education resources to help form consciences and provide timely information. Visit vacatholic.org/Election2025 or scan the QR code to view these materials.

We encourage parishes to distribute each of the VCC resources, especially:

- The VCC's Candidate Comparisons in the races for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, which provide the candidates' positions on key issues; and
- The Proposed Constitutional Amendments: Be Vigilant! resource, which explains three proposed amendments to Virginia's constitution. These proposals have already moved part of the way through the General Assembly process. One of them would allow virtually unlimited abortion at any stage of pregnancy. The legislators we elect in the House races this November will decide whether these proposed constitutional amendments advance any further.

With so much at stake, we must prepare to engage in this year's critical voting decisions – through conscience formation, prayer and fasting. United in the Eucharist, let us pray for one another and join together as active participants in promoting the common good.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Michael F. Burbidge

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
 Bishop of Arlington

Barry C. Knestout

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
 Bishop of Richmond

YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION

Sundays | 6:30-8:30 p.m.



EDGE: GRADES 6-8

Fridays twice a month:

6:30-8:00 p.m.

See website for full schedule



REGISTER FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Whether your child is new or returning, please fill out our 2025-2026 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)



**THE PERSON OF JESUS
AND THE IMPORTANCE
OF FOLLOWING HIM**

Talk

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
FROM 8:00-9:00AM
IN THE FR. READY ROOM**

**GUEST SPEAKER
FR. JORDAN EVANS**

**OPEN TO ALL MEN IN THE
PARISH - SPONSORED BY
THE MEN'S PRAYER
AND REFLECTION GROUP**

8th Grade Testing Required for Placement in Four Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Arlington

8th Grade students attending public schools or non-Catholic private schools who are interested in attending Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Arlington need to take the High School Placement Test (HSPT). The date, time and locations are listed below.

TEST DATE:

Saturday, November 15, 2025

TEST SITES:

Bishop Ireton High School, Alexandria

Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington

St. Paul VI High School, Chantilly

Saint John Paul the Great High School, Dumfries

TEST TIME:

8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

FEE:

Contact the High School

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

Any 8th grader attending public school, non-Catholic private schools or Catholic schools outside the Arlington Diocese.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students must register on-line on the high school's website. The registration must be completed on-line by the high school's registration deadline. The testing fee should accompany the registration.



for the

10th Annual Mass Honoring Military and First Responders

Sunday, September 14, 2025, 11:00 AM

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

3700 Blenheim Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030

Main Celebrant & Homilist:

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington



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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR MURRAY
RUPERT AT MRUPERT800@AOL.COM**

"I PLACE MUCH OF MY HOPE FOR THE FUTURE IN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER" - Pope Saint John Paul II

Your honeymoon was a special time. Wherever you went, the things you saw and did were secondary. Just being together was most important. The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend has the same focus. The weekend centers entirely on your relationship. It is a positive, simple common sense, private experience between you and your spouse, that revitalizes marriage by helping you to see again those loving qualities in each other that you may be taking for granted. Upcoming experiences are:

September 12-14, 2025 - Richmond VA

October 24-26, 2025 - Jessup MD

November 7-9, 2025 - Rehoboth Beach DE

For more info call 757-690-1369 or to register visit WWME.org.

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.



A Message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

In today's Gospel Jesus told his disciples they had to let go of a lot of things they were attached to so they would be willing to carry their cross and go forward with him. He wanted them to understand the cost of discipleship. Today's reading from the book of Wisdom reminds us that we tend to be "unsure of our plans." In fact, we often are too comfortable with the way things are, and just watch things happen - without doing anything that involves lifting our cross, e.g. expressing our Christian beliefs. However, through the scriptures and enlightened by the Holy Spirit, our Creator shows us how to walk the straight paths on earth. God intends us to travel with him along such paths and calls us to volunteer and get on with Jesus' mission. But there is a cost to being his disciple. For example - we might be accused of "being too political" rather than simply following the teaching of Jesus. Are we willing to pay the price? What cross are we asked to bear as we follow Jesus? These teachings have special meaning during the September weeks when, again this year, Pope Leo XIV has asked us to observe a "Season of Creation" from September 1 - October 4. Just as the Church observes other special periods of time - e.g. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter time, Pope Leo XIV is calling us to focus on God's creation. Mother Earth, our planet, our common home is sinking into bad shape and needs the kind of healing Jesus did on his journey to Jerusalem. As today's Gospel puts it at the end, we must "lift our cross" among other things by "renouncing all our possessions" that are contributing to earth's health problems. They're making us sick and killing a lot of earth's vitality. Future generations are going to be hurt the most. During this Season of Creation, we can think--What might "renouncing our possessions" look like in our own family? (*excerpted from Catholic Climate Covenant*)

LOVE TO SING? JOIN THE 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. 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.

Pray the Pro-Life Rosary with Us!

When: Usually Fridays after Nativity's 7:30am Mass.
Where: 900 S. Washington Street, Falls Church. 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.



Former abortion workers report that when someone prays in front of an abortion facility, the "no-show" rate for abortion appointments can go to as high as 75 percent! Be that someone. (*40 Days for Life*). Contact rickloffredo@outlook.com to join us!

ECHO Collection THIS weekend, 6/7 September Food Room Most Needed Items

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. At Nativity, we collected 950lbs on the weekend of 2/3 August .

- 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.

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 Bag rice, Protein Items (can chicken, Spam, sardines, salmon, tuna, chili) Canned Fruit (100% juice), Peanut Butter, Cereal/ Oatmeal (Low sugar), Instant (Box) Potatoes, Box Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Can Tomatoes, Tomato paste & sauce, Can Milk, Shelf Stable Milk and Hot Chocolate, Snacks (Crackers, raisins, granola bars, dry fruit, nuts), Baked Beans, Instant Coffee, Tea (green, herbal, black), Pancake Mix & Syrup, Cooking Oil, Non-Salt Spices (cinnamon, cumin, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder), Masa (Corn) Flour, Sugar, Lemon or Lime Juice Honey and Jelly, Tortillas (corn and flour), Condiments (Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard), Macaroni & Cheese.

Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge 2025

The Knights of Columbus (K of C) Soccer Challenge will be held on Saturday, September 27th 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.

Council volunteers are needed to help run the soccer challenge.

Volunteer at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4EACAC29A2F58-43421618-soccer>

MARIAN HOMES CASINO NIGHT GALA 2025

Friday, October 3, 2025 | 7 - 11 p.m.
Country Club of Fairfax

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
www.marionhomes.org/gala

Join us for an exciting night of casino games, food, drinks, and prizes. All proceeds support Marian Homes, a nonprofit organization that provides safe, loving homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This year's gala will help fund our 10th group home, expanding our mission to give more individuals a place to live with dignity, care, and community.

POKER ♦ BLACKJACK ♦ ROULETTE

"Let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth"

Men's 144th Arlington Cursillo Retreat

MON, Nov 10 - THUR, Nov 13, 2025

San Damiano Spiritual Life Center, White Post, VA



The Cursillo Weekend is a retreat, but also so much more. It is an opportunity to examine and celebrate yourself, deepen your relationship with Christ, and continue – or begin – your faith journey with the love and support of the Catholic community.

You will:

- Grow spiritually
- Make new friends
- Experience Christ's unlimited love

For more information visit: <https://www.arlingtoncursillo.org/>

If you are interested and would like to learn more feel free to contact lauralaverdiere@msn.com.



**NATIVITY'S
PARENT
LOUNGE**

RE SUNDAYS

**Fr. Ready Room or Church Conf.
Room from 7-8:15 PM**

*After dropping off your child,
please stay for a few minutes or
the whole time the children are at
RE to enjoy light refreshments.
No agenda, no sign-ups—just a
chance to meet other parents and
build community.*

Contact Anna Lisa Licud
marriage@nativityburke.org
Marriage Enrichment Minisry



**FOR SAFETY REASONS, PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF
OR LEAVE USED CLOTHING OR OTHER HOUSEHOLD
ITEMS IN OUR NARTHEX OR AT ANY OF OUR EXITS**

If you have items to donate, please call the Parish Office at 703 455 2400 first to find out if there is a need. You can also always contact ECHO at 703 569 9160 or visit them to drop off donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield.

PRO-LIFE CORNER



Back to School: A Huge Red Flag

Shawn Carney, president of 40 Days for Life, reports in his 9/2/2025 email, A Huge Red Flag, "School is back in session, and many schools are teaching a lot more than reading, writing, and arithmetic. With a Virginia school district under investigation for allegedly paying for teens to have secret abortions, all parents need to find out what's going on in their children's schools.

Recently on The 40 Days for Life Podcast, we revealed seven back-to-school red flags to watch out for to keep your kids safe from Planned Parenthood: Watch or listen by visiting: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/back-to-school> (*Back to School, Billy Got the Chop--PODCAST Season 10, episode 34*). Parental discretion is advised. Just like the school library, the contents of this episode are not all appropriate for children. But unlike the school library, this podcast will help keep kids safe as we provide critical tips for parents to be pro-active in protecting their students... It's possible to preserve kids'; innocence. Tune in to find out how!"

Project Rachel - Help after Abortion: A safe, confidential place to share your emotions and work toward healing. helpafterabortion.org, 703.841.2504. Virtual Drop-In Zoom Sessions on September 11 th to explore resources and recovery options in a safe and non-judgmental space.

Day of Prayer and Healing on September 27th: Private and peaceful group healing events in English and Spanish. Hear from others who have found healing. You are not alone.

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

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

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

Catholic Charities Pregnancy and Adoption Services: Provides transformative services to those impacted by unplanned pregnancy. <https://www.cdda.net/need-help/pregnancy-and-adoption-services/>, 703.841.3830.

Marian Homes: Purchases and maintains affordable homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities. marianhomes.org/

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

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

REGISTER TODAY TO SECURE YOUR SPOT!



A MIGHTY IS HER CALL RETREAT

HER CALL IS SACRED



SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
9:15 AM - 4:15 PM
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

Nursing babies are welcome.
WWW.MIGHTYISHERCALL.COM

“Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” LUKE 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

FREE ULTRASOUND EXAM COUPON
Pregnant (or think you might be) and considering abortion?

Please call or text (703) 946-3077



Schedule your free ultrasound today!

Need a ride? Our mobile unit can come to you or we'll help you come to us.

Visit us at abcwomenshealth.com Se habla español.

This coupon valid for one free ultrasound. Limit one per client.

DONUT SUNDAY

THIS WEEKEND



Mass in Observance of
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 4th | 4:30pm

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington | Celebrant and Homilist



St. Rita of Casia, Patroness of Domestic Violence Victims, Pray for Us



all proceeds benefit


Order of Malta sponsored
MercyRide 2025
September 13 7:00am

W&OD Trail: 7, 20, 35 mile lengths

Questions: mercyrideinfo@gmail.com



COUNTYWIDE DAY FOR DONATIONS
Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

DONATE NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS AT THESE LOCATIONS

<p>Lorton Lidl 9001 White Spruce Way, Lorton, VA 22079 TO BENEFIT LORTON COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER</p>	<p>McLean Giant 1454 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, VA 22101 TO BENEFIT SHARE OF MCLEAN</p>
<p>Herndon Giant 2425 Centreville Rd., Herndon, VA 20171 TO BENEFIT CORNERSTONES</p>	<p>Annandale Giant 7137 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003 TO BENEFIT ACCA</p>
<p>Fairfax Walmart Supercenter 11181 US-29, Fairfax VA 22030 TO BENEFIT BRITHEPATHS</p>	<p>Huntsman Giant 7501 Huntsman Blvd., Springfield TO BENEFIT ECHO</p>
<p>Reston Giant 1450 North Point Village Center, Reston, VA 20194 TO BENEFIT LINK AGAINST HUNGER</p>	<p>Chantilly Walmart 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly, VA 20151 TO BENEFIT WESTERN FAIRFAX CHRISTIAN MINISTRY</p>



Scan QR to learn more or visit
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/NCS
Search: Stuff the Bus



To request this information in an alternate format call 703-222-9764, TTY 711. A Fairfax County, VA, publication. 8/2025


NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



**Join Us: This School Year's
Upcoming Open House for Prospective Families
2026-2027 School Year
24 September from 10:00-11:00AM**

Yes, Catholic education is worth the investment!

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

**Nativity Teachers and Parents -
Partnering From Day One**

In one of our first meetings of the year, Nativity parent Stephanie Bruce, our room parent coordinator, gathered all the homeroom teachers – and this school year's room parents – together to get to know each other over lunch, talking about plans for the upcoming year's festivities. The room was alive with lots of good ideas, enthusiasm, and laughter. Before we knew it, the bell had rung and we were off to our next classes ... but we had made a start. A GRAND start to the best year!

**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



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.

Important Upcoming Dates ~

- Mon, Sep 8 - 8th Grade Fellowship
- Tues, Sep 9 - NWEA Testing/Reading, Grades 2-7
- Wed, Sep 10 - NWEA Testing/Math, Grades 2-7
- Thur, Sep 11 - NWEA Testing/LA, Grades 2-7
- Thur, Sep 11 - O'Connell High School Visits
- Sun, Sep 14 - Book Fair Begins
- Mon, Sep 15 - Band Lessons Begin
- Wed, Sep 17 - Constitution Day
- Thur, Sep 18 - Spirit Wear Day
- Thur, Sep 18 - Family Science Night
- Fri, Sep 19 - Grandparents' Day
- Fri, Sep 19 - Book Fair Closes at 12 Noon



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>. Your dues will be **free for one year**: Be sure to enter our council #7992 and the code **RCANTER** when you register.

Please email our Deputy Grand Knight, Vince Augelli, at dgk7992@nativityburke.org or the Grand Knight, Michael Bender at gk7992@nativityburke.org with any questions.

21 September - Knights Corporate Communion. Requesting ALL Knights and families at 9:00 am Mass. We know that Christmas and Easter are the biggest days to attend Mass for Catholics. Let's make Knights Corporate Communion a strong contender! *Wear your Knights name tag.

27 September - Nativity Fall Festival Knights support. Tent raising on 26 September. Sign up on the SUG.

The 30th annual Gabriel Homes golf tournament. Monday, September 15th at 10:00 a.m. at Evergreen Country Club in Haymarket, VA. Father Sikora Council and Nativity Church are looking for players to join their teams. If you're a golf lover and want to play, please sign up on the LinkTree and provide your information to FS Tom Goodwin as soon as possible.

20 September Marian Home Shred Event. Come shred your important papers and documents securely and help Marian Homes provide group homes for those with intellectual disabilities by making a donation. Sponsored by the Nativity Knights of Columbus, Saturday September 20, 10:00 to 12:00 Noon, Nativity parking lot, drive through.

Join fellow Nativity parishioners on Wednesday, September 24th, for a peaceful 40 Days For Life All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life. We will be praying the pro-life Rosary on the sidewalk at 900 S Washington St, Falls Church. Our prayers are for an end to abortion, for mothers in crisis, and for the conversion of all who support abortion. See the LinkTree for more details.

27 September Soccer Challenge. The Fr. Sikora Council 2025 Soccer Challenge will be held as part of this year's Fall Festival, September 27th. Volunteers are needed to help score participants and retrieve soccer balls. See Link Tree for details and sign up.

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 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

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.coella.86@gmail.com.

Name Tags. If you have not received your name tag, email our Warden, Robert Myers, 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 or 703-250-1492.

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

The Rosary Ministry at Nativity is collecting old and broken Rosaries. Or just any Rosaries you have laying around and don't have use for anymore. We will clean, repair and donate them to people around the world. We cannot accept rosaries that you would want returned to you. This is a proper way to repurpose Rosaries you no longer want to keep. There will be a box near the rosary board in the back of the church or they can be dropped off in the grey basket at the church office. Please contact rosaryministry@nativityburke.org with any questions or concerns.

Gifts for Seminarian Education Endowment Fund (SEEF)

Please support our seminarians and SEEF, a permanent endowment fund established in 2011. SEEF's income provides funding for annual seminarian expenses such as room, board, tuition, health insurance and books, which total almost \$45,000 per seminarian. Please give generously!

To donate, make checks payable to: "Foundation for the CDA - SEEF." Mail to: The Foundation, 200 N. Glebe Road, Suite 811, Arlington, VA 22203. Questions: contact John French at john.french@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-3819.

Diocesan Week of Service: Love in Action – Service in Community

The Diocese of Arlington invites you to take part in a powerful witness of our faith from November 9 through 16 for the first Diocesan Week of Service, a time dedicated to putting Love in Action through Service in Community

Rooted in the Gospel and inspired by the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, our parishes and ministries are joining together to bring Christ to our neighbors by serving individuals and families who are most in need—spiritually, emotionally, and physically. From feeding the hungry and visiting the sick, to comforting the sorrowful and praying for the living and the dead, this week calls each of us to live our faith in concrete and compassionate ways.

Want to get involved? Visit:

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/serviceweek>

Join us in being the hands and heart of Christ to others.

Let's serve with purpose, pray with hope, and grow together in the love of God.

Golfing with Wolves

**CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT at
POTOMAC SHORES GOLF COURSE**

**Thursday September 18, 2025
SHOT GUN START 10:30 AM**

SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Invites you to a fun day of golf, friends, and food at the only publicly accessible
Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Club



TO REGISTER VISIT: onecau.se/johnpaulgolf

Individual \$175 until August 15/\$200 afterwards

Foursome \$700 until August 15th/\$800 afterwards

Corporate and Family Sponsorships available

Consider sponsoring a priest or religious

Box lunch and Sit Down Awards dinner with buffet included




Awards Dinner following-tickets available for dinner only



Proposed Constitutional Amendments: Be Vigilant!



Proposed Amendments to Virginia's Constitution would:

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Create a radical "fundamental right" to abortion
(Opposed by VCC) |  Remove Virginia's "union between one man and one woman" definition of marriage
(Opposed by VCC) |
|  Restore voting rights
(Supported by VCC) | |

These three proposals were **initially approved** by the General Assembly earlier this year. If they pass the legislature again in 2026 – and are then approved by Virginia voters on a ballot – they would become law.

The legislators we elect this November will decide whether the proposed amendments are advanced or stopped.

Extreme, Radical and Deadly Abortion Amendment

This proposed amendment would enshrine virtually unlimited abortion at any stage of pregnancy as a "fundamental right" in Virginia's constitution.

In addition to the paramount problem of not recognizing the child's life, the amendment:

- Does not include any age restriction
- Does not include any safety standards
- Jeopardizes Virginia's parental consent law
- Jeopardizes Virginia's conscience protections for healthcare providers
- Expands Virginia's already permissive abortion laws
- And has numerous other problems!

Abortion is a fundamental tragedy, not a "fundamental right".

Ending a life is not a right and does not belong in the constitution.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments:



Amendment Rejecting the Truth about Marriage

This proposed amendment would remove Virginia's constitutional definition of marriage as the "union between one man and one woman." It would add language recognizing "any lawful marriage between two adult persons" instead.

Marriage was created by God as the union of a man and a woman. God's design and purpose for marriage existed before any nation, religion or law. The family – based on marriage between a man and a woman – is the fundamental unit of society and is integral to the common good.

**Marriage – as created by God – is essential to the common good.
Each of us is called to preserve God's design.**

Amendment Restoring Voting Rights

This proposed amendment would restore voting rights to all people who have completed their prison sentences.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate...in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person.... As far as possible, citizens should take an active part in *public life*" (nos. 1913-1915).

Enabling individuals, upon release, to resume taking an active part in voting decisions affirms their dignity and provides them a second chance to fulfill their duty to participate in promoting the common good. It enables them to have a say in decisions that affect them, their families and their communities.

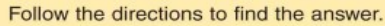
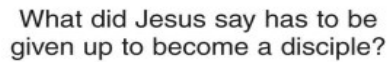
As the U.S. Catholic Bishops have noted, restoring voting rights is an important aspect of reintegration:

"[W]e must welcome ex-offenders back into society as full participating members, to the extent feasible, and support their right to vote."

- Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000.

Join the Virginia Catholic Conference's advocacy network
and see all of our Election 2025 resources at:
vacatholic.org/Election2025

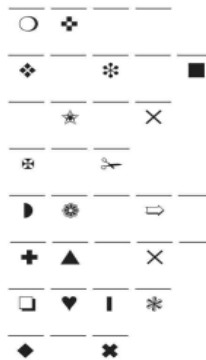




1. Switch the G and the H.
Change the C to an E. _____
2. Change the F to the second to last letter of the alphabet. Move the G to the end. _____
3. Switch the second E and the Y.
Change the D to an R. _____
4. Change the B to the letter between U and W in the alphabet. Change the A to a T. _____
5. Change the J to the letter after M in the alphabet. _____
6. Switch the first and sixth letters. _____

Think of a word to match the clues. Then fill in the blanks below.

Provides light on Earth.



“ of you to
a
Won't you
and
the
to see if you have
it?”



September 7, 2025 • Luke 14:25-33

Large crowds were following Jesus.
What did He say to them about being a disciple?

A circular arrangement of lowercase letters, starting with 'a' at the bottom and proceeding clockwise. In the center of the circle is a stick figure holding a large wooden cross. The figure is wearing a yellow shirt and blue pants. The cross is made of two long wooden beams. The figure is standing on a horizontal line that passes through the center of the circle. The letters are arranged in a ring around the figure, with 'a' at the bottom, 'z' at the top, and the rest of the alphabet in between.


n

Unscramble the names below. Use the numbered letters to fill in the blanks and find the answer.

amjse	J	_____	17	7	_____
yanr	R	_____	8	12	3
ejscasi	J	_____	4	_____	1
gsoaldu	D	_____	6	_____	16
wynhtie	W	9	10	5	_____
ulpa	P	15	_____	14	_____
retorb	R	_____	2	13	11



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

9	10	7	11	10	7	8	10	7	5	4	
12	13	14	7	11	2						
2	15	15	2	4	7						
11	10	7	2	3	7						
12	16	12	5	3	4						11
10	5	17									





Clases de inglés y Ciudadanía



¡Únase a Nuestra
Comunidad de Culturas!



Las clases presenciales de Inglés, Ciudadanía, Escritura, y Conversación del ciclo de otoño comienzan en septiembre 23, 2025.

Iglesia Católica St. Mark, Centro de Formación Cristiana, 9972 Vale Road,
Vienna, VA 22181

■ Fecha de inscripción:

- Septiembre martes 16 y jueves 18 entre 7:00 y 8:00 PM en la Iglesia St. Mark.
- Se tomará un examen para ayudar a seleccionar el nivel más conveniente para los estudiantes.
- <https://tinyurl.com/22fk78ms>



Clases:

Martes y jueves, de septiembre 23 a diciembre 11.

Las clases de inglés se dictarán de 8:00 PM a 9:30 PM

Las clases de ciudadanía, escritura y conversación se dictarán de 7:00 PM a 7:45 PM

■ Donde:

Iglesia St. Mark, Centro de Formación Cristiana,
Segundo piso.

■ Costo por las 11 semanas del curso:

Clases de Inglés: \$20.00

Clases de Ciudadanía, Escritura, o Conversación:
\$10.00 por curso. Cuando sea necesario usar un libro,
su costo será adicional. Se aceptará el pago con
tarjetas de crédito o débito.

■ Preguntas:

Visite nuestra página Web : www.stmarkesl.org/

Email: stmarksesl@gmail.com

Teléfono: 703-980-9380.

Para español: Llama a Margarita: 703-281-0146

■ Ciudadanía

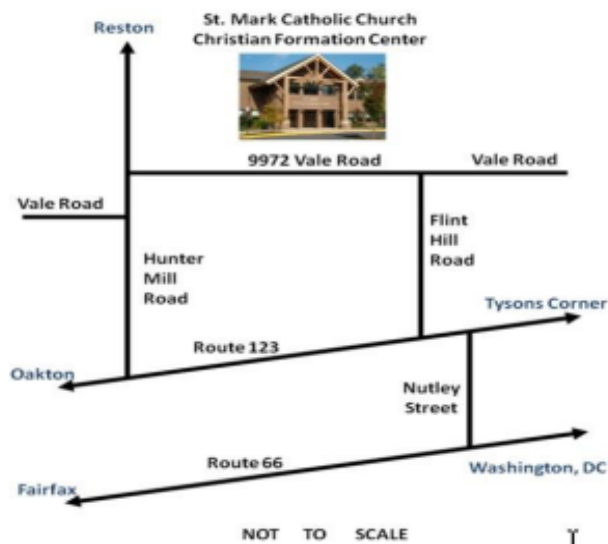
Se ofrece solamente a los estudiantes de ESL de St. Mark, de niveles intermedio o avanzado. Incluye clases individuales y una práctica para la entrevista, previa al examen de ciudadanía.

■ Escritura

Se ofrece solamente a los estudiantes de ESL de St. Mark, de niveles intermedio 3 y avanzado.

■ Conversación

Se ofrece solamente a los estudiantes de ESL de St. Mark, de niveles intermedio y avanzado.



XXIII Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario, Ciclo C.**San Lucas 14, 25-33: El seguimiento****Autor: Padre Guillermo Juan Morado**

Creer en Jesús es seguirle con valentía y perseverancia por el camino de la cruz – que es, a la vez, el camino de la resurrección –. La fe es algo más que acompañar circunstancialmente a Jesús o que sentir admiración por Él. La fe exige la identificación del discípulo con el Maestro y comporta el dinamismo de caminar tras sus huellas. No se puede creer en Jesús sin vivir como Él, sin seguirle. Y este proceso de seguimiento supone estar dispuestos a un cambio continuo, a una verdadera conversión.

Jesús pide una entrega radical, que solamente puede pedir Dios. Explicando las condiciones que se requieren para seguirle, el Señor, indirectamente, revela su identidad divina. Él es más que un profeta. Siguiéndole a Él se hace concreta la observancia del primer mandamiento de la ley de Dios: "Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, con toda tu alma y con todas tus fuerzas". Seguir a Jesús es responder, con la propia vida, al amor de Dios.

Esta primacía de Dios, esta renuncia a divinizar lo que no es divino, que Jesús pone como condición para ser discípulo suyo, la recoge San Benito al indicar la finalidad de su regla: "No anteponer absolutamente nada al amor de Cristo". Ni los lazos familiares, ni los bienes, ni el amor a uno mismo pueden tener la precedencia. El primer lugar le corresponde a Dios, que ha salido a nuestro encuentro en la Persona de Cristo.

El Señor, caminando delante de nosotros, nos indica cómo hacer real este programa exigente. Pide renuncia aquel que se anonadó a sí mismo; pide pobreza el que por nosotros se hizo pobre; pide llevar tras Él la cruz aquel que se hizo obediente hasta la muerte. Conformando nuestros pensamientos, nuestras palabras y nuestras acciones con los del Señor responderemos a la primera vocación del cristiano, que no es otra que seguir a Jesús (cf *Catecismo* 2232).

La capacidad para construir el edificio de la propia vida y la fuerza para salir airoso del combate no provienen de nosotros mismos, sino de Dios. El seguimiento de Cristo no es una escalada en solitario reservada a unos pocos héroes, sino una ascensión que realizamos unidos a Él. San Juan es el evangelista que pone de relieve este aspecto con mayor claridad: no se trata sólo de escuchar a Jesús o de caminar detrás de Él, se trata de vivir en comunión con Él, permaneciendo en Él, como los sarmientos permanecen unidos a la vid (cf *Jn* 15,4).

Mediante los sacramentos y la oración recibimos la gracia de Cristo y los dones del Espíritu Santo que hacen posible esta comunión. El libro de la *Sabiduría* se pregunta: "¿quién rastreará las cosas del cielo, quién conocerá tu designio, si tú no le das sabiduría enviando tu Santo Espíritu desde el cielo?" (cf *Sb* 9,13-18). Es el Espíritu Santo el quien nos sana de las heridas del pecado y nos renueva interiormente para vivir como hijos de la luz.

Como el Salmista, también nosotros nos acogemos a la memoria de la fe para no tener miedo, para no flaquear en este camino del seguimiento, que es el camino de la auténtica felicidad: "Señor, tú has sido nuestro refugio de generación en generación" (Sal 89). Apelamos a la misericordia de Dios, a su compasiva bondad, para que "haga prósperas las obras de nuestras manos".

Es gratis y...¡nadie lo pide! Reflexiones dolor y la muerte**El perdón es la medicina adecuada, la solución, el sentido de la vida, lo que andaba buscando, lo que más necesitaba.****Por: P Mariano de Blas LC | Fuente: Catholic.net**

Pues bien, hay por ahí arrumbado en las sacristías un Sacramento que se llama el "Sacramento del Perdón". Y se da gratis, no cuesta nada, pero la gente ya casi no lo pide. Yo quisiera decir que la confesión es un encuentro con Dios. Un encuentro auténtico con Él, no deja igual, ¡transforma!.

Así como los encuentros de la Samaritana, de Zaqueo, de Pablo, etc., en esos encuentros hay un algo que hacer saltar la chispa de sentir a Dios como la medicina adecuada, la solución, el sentido de la vida, el que andaba buscando, lo que más necesitaba. La medicina toca en la llaga abierta, pero no para abrirla más, sino para curarla.

El pecador ante Dios no se siente descubierto, sino perdonado. Ante Cristo Crucificado el pecador no debe sentir vergüenza sino amor. La confesión es un encuentro peculiar: la miseria choca con la misericordia, el pecador y el redentor se abrazan, el hijo pródigo y el padre se vuelven a encontrar. Pero; ¿qué manía de confesarse con el hombre y no con Dios!

Porque las sogas que me atan son de esta estopa: ¿Qué va a pensar el Padre?, el hombre? El Padre no piensa nada, no debe de pensar nada. ¿Cómo le digo esto sin descomponerme? No me atrevo, mañana me confieso, para lo mismo responder mañana.

Y, ¿qué manía de confesarse consigo mismo!: "He fallado, he caído muy bajo, muy hondo, ¡qué vergüenza!", ¿Para qué me confieso otra vez si voy a volver a fallar? Te confiesas tu mismo ante tu orgullo herido, que supura rabia, desesperanza, porque no acepta ser un pecador más, de los que tienen que llorar y arrepentirse como todos.

Confesarse con Dios es mejor que confesarse con el hombre o consigo mismo. Duele, ¡sí!, pero ese dolor es de otra clase, duele haber herido un amor, haber ofendido a un Padre, haber roto una amistad. Dolor redentor y humilde que cura, que trae la paz de Dios.

¡Confíesate con Él!, dile tus pecados. Llórale a Dios tu arrepentimiento. Prométele que vas a cambiar, que vas a levantarte de nuevo.

Cuando te confiesas sube la cuesta del Calvario y plántate delante de ese gran Cristo Crucificado, sangrante, que está muriendo por ti. Ahí, ante ese Cristo ¡confíesate!. Cuéntale, llórale tus pecados y a Él pídele perdón.

El encuentro con el hombre provoca vergüenza, el encuentro con uno mismo provoca orgullo herido y la desesperación, el encuentro con Cristo Crucificado produce la paz del perdón. Hoy haz una cita con el Redentor. Soy el hijo pródigo, me siento pecador, no necesito inventar pecados, ahí están, son muchos, llevan mi nombre, pero el perdón de Dios es infinitamente mayor.

Cristo perdona siempre y con mucho gusto. Ahí encontrarás siempre al mismo Dios con el perdón en la mano y en el corazón, un perdón siempre del tamaño del pecado.

A Cristo le gusta, le fascina perdonar. Con terminología humana podríamos decir, que se siente realizado perdonando, perdonándose a ti y a mí. Se trata de un encuentro con Dios muy especial. El médico que va con el enfermo sabe muy bien qué medicina recetarle, tiene medicina para todos los males; las hay dulces, las hay pequeñas, las hay grandes, hay medicinas para todos los males.

La verdad es que cuando uno se confiesa bien, se siente curado. Es el encuentro del hombre cansado y triste con Dios Omnipotente que restaura sus fuerzas. Hay en la penitencia vitaminas para la tristeza y el cansancio, males de quien diariamente debe recorrer un largo camino.

La verdad es que la confesión restaura esas fuerzas y nos brinda paz, es el encuentro del amigo que ha fallado a la amistad con el Amigo, con Cristo, con Dios, con ese Padre misericordioso que siempre trae en las manos algo para ti.

La confesión frecuente reafirma mi amistad con Dios, con el Cristo de mis días felices y mis grandes momentos. Por eso, si al confesarme me asiste un poco de fe como un grano de mostaza, debería ser un encuentro regocijante y un gran acontecimiento cada vez.

La forma mejor de confesarse es hacerlo a la puerta del infierno para llenarnos de susto o frente a un crucifijo para llenarnos de amor.

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