



**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 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. 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**

**23
ORDINARY
TIME**

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



“Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God... he comes to save you” - Isaiah 35:45

My dear parishioners,

The letter of St. James will be read for five Sundays and its message clusters around the themes of faith and good works, the way we treat the poor and outcast, the danger of riches, and the Christian vision of hope. James provides a stern warning to the rich and powerful who might feel superior to others.

To underscore his point, James points out that God chose the poor of the world *“to be rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom.”* Jesus embraced poverty and was the innocent one who suffers for His people. Jesus is the lamb led to the slaughter. Jesus heals the blind, the deaf and the mute. In Jesus, a new age is dawning. Let us live in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

God chooses us to share in the building of the Kingdom. Trust that with God all things are possible. Let love open your eyes, ears, heart and mind.

Love and Blessings, Go Commanders!

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor



This weekend's Second Collection will benefit our Religious Education Program. Please be generous, thank you!!



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.



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 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



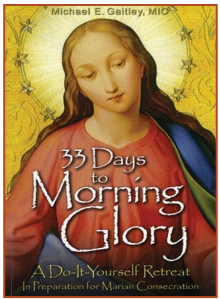
SATURDAY-SEPTEMBER 21

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.



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.

DONUT SUNDAY
THIS 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!

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.

Mass for Marriage Jubilarians 2024



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

MUSIC
GAMES
FOOD
CRAFT

Fall FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE!!

28 SEPTEMBER
11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

[NATIVITYBURKE.ORG/FALL-FESTIVAL](https://nativityburke.org/fall-festival)

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>.

NATIVITY CYO SPORTS
TRACK & FIELD
CROSS COUNTRY

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/>

Fall Track & Field:

Registration Open NOW!
Practices Begin: September 16th
Register at <https://nativityburke.org/cyo-track/>
Meet: Saturday, October 19th, 2024

Fall Cross Country:

Registration Open NOW!
Practices Begin: September 16th
Register at <https://nativityburke.org/cyo-track/>
Meet #1: September 28, Laurel Hill Park
Meet #2: October 12, Franconia Park (formerly Lee District Park)
Meet #3: October 26, Fort Hunt Park

Costs:

\$25 Fall Track & Field per athlete
\$25 Fall Cross Country per athlete
\$40 if athlete participates in both

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



EDGE KICK-OFF
GRADES 6-8

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact cym@nativityburke.org



Please register your child for the 2024-2025 year of ministry using our free, online form

nativityburke.org/cym/edge



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 in need of the following committees: Games, Goldfish Toss, Entertainment, and Crafts. We invite a family, a couple of friends, or a ministry to lead! Please contact fallfestival@nativityburke.org for any inquiries or interest.




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

Monday, September 9th
7:30 am † Michael Gerencser

Tuesday, September 10th
7:30 am † Deacon Walt Gelinias
12:00 pm † Stephen Lisi Jr.

Wednesday, September 11th
7:30 am Special Int. for Cathy Clark

Thursday, September 12th
7:30 am In Thanksgiving
12:00 pm † Jonathan Cavizza

Friday, September 13th
7:30 am † Barbara Boyd
9:00 am † Carol Gerke

Saturday, September 14th
9:00 am Anniversary of Galileo & Melba Namata
5:00 pm † David Lynch
7:00 pm Parishioners

Sunday, September 15th
7:00 am † Elaine Nolan
9:00 am † Thomas O'Loughlin
11:00 am † William Michael Garrity
1:00 pm † Edward D. Rawski
5:30 pm † Aida Valderrama

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

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

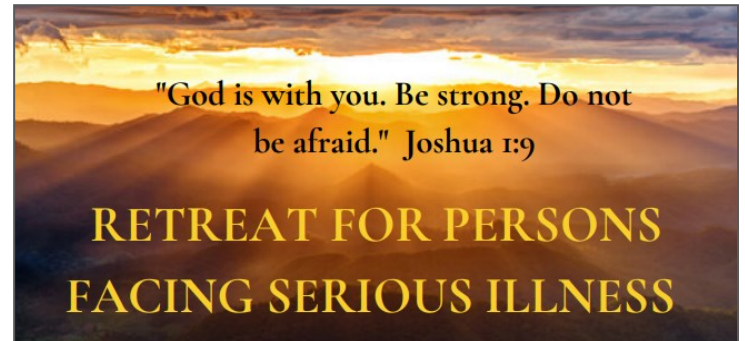


NEW SERVERS:

Boys and girls who are now in the fifth grade, who would like to be Altar Servers for either the English or Spanish Masses, need to attend TWO (out of Three) training sessions this fall. The training sessions will be held in the church at 6:00pm on Monday September 23, Thursday September 26 and Monday September 30. One parent should attend the first training session if possible. The sessions last one hour

A RETURNING SERVERS WORKSHOP:

Will be held on October 10 at 6:00pm in the church.



**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)

 **A message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry**

Virginia Green Baggers sew reusable grocery bags and distribute them for free at events in Northern Virginia including Creation Care's annual Fair Trade Market at Thanksgiving. Last year they donated 150 bags to us to package your purchases! All of the bags are unique and are made with fabric scraps donated by friends and family. Their goal is to take as many plastic and paper bags out of circulation as possible--to prevent the buildup of these bags in landfills and in the oceans, to reduce our dependence on petroleum and to reduce pressure on the world's forests. If you or your group would like to help them cut or sew, or donate fabric, please email teachhss@aol.com. No sewing experience necessary. Creation Care looks forward to meeting you at the Heroes Hike or Bunnyman Brewery next Saturday September 14! See the church website for more details.

CYO SPORTS - Winter Basketball

Registration opens October 1st and will close near the end of October with practices set to start the last week of October. Games will go December through March. We welcome boys and girls in grades 3 through 8 registered in either Nativity's Religious Education Program with good attendance or enrolled in Nativity Catholic School. For more info visit: <https://nativityburke.org/cyo-basketball/>

 **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. This ministry is open to all members of our community. It provides a tangible sign of our prayers and concern to the critically ill. Members lovingly craft shawls, which are subsequently blessed by a priest, and shared with those who are in need.

ECHO Collection THIS 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 Visitation. John the Baptist leapt for joy in his mother's womb. We pray that people may realize that abortion is not about children who "might" come into the world, but is about children who are already in the world, living and growing in the womb, and are scheduled to be killed. (*Priests for Life's Pro-Life Rosary*)

"My Personal Witness" by Lila Rose - Experience Lila Rose's compelling speech from the Eucharistic Congress. Although raised Protestant, when a friend invited her to a Catholic Mass she felt awe in the presence of Eucharist. Within 18 months Lila was confirmed into the Catholic Church and received the Eucharist for the first time. Rose became aware of all the innocent children killed by abortion and prayed: "Lord, use me to save lives!" She founded LiveAction to defend the rights of the most vulnerable. See her amazing work at <https://www.liveaction.org/> then search for "Lila Rose's Full Speech at the National Eucharistic Congress".

"Our Civic Duty as Catholics: The Moral Obligation to Vote" – September 11, 7:00pm Monique Baroudi will speak on the timely and important topic at St. Leo's.

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 at Truro Anglican, 10520 Main Street, Fairfax, where 227 aborted babies were buried in 1987. Help humanize our aborted brothers and sisters and deepen your own commitment to ending the injustice of abortion. Day of Remembrance also offers hope and healing to women who have had abortions and others hurt by abortion.

"Beginning of Life Issues: IVF, ART, and Human Embryos" – Sept. 14, 9:45am – 12 Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, PhD in Neuroscience (Yale) and Senior Ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center will speak at St. Raymonds. All are invited!

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

Nativity All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life – Oct 18, 900 S. Washington St, Falls Church Set aside one hour for this 40 DFL 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 at-risk pre-born babies, parents in crisis pregnancies, and those suffering from past abortions. For more details and to SIGN UP, go here: bit.ly/42FrC2j

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

Gabriel Project - Pregnant? Need help? Call 703.841.3810 or visit Helpforpregnantwomen.org. **Project Rachel** - Help after Abortion: Helpafterabortion.org, or call 703.841.2504.

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!



WARMING UP VIRGINIANS

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

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

DROP OFF IN THE BOX IN THE NARTHEX



BIBLE STUDIES AT NATIVITY PARISH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MERCY FEST 2024

HOUSE OF MERCY

WWW.HOUSEOFMERCYVA.ORG/FESTIVAL

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



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, smurph@nativityschool.org, for a school tour & additional info.

**IMPORTANT
 UPCOMING DATES**

- Monday, Sep 9 - 8:00 am 8th Gr. Fellowship
- Friday, Sep 13 - Priest BBQ (free lunch)
- Sep 17 to Sep 19 - NWEA Testing
- Sunday, Sep 22 - Book Fair Begins
- Monday, Sep 23 - 8th Grade Retreat
- Friday, Sep 27 - Grandparents' Day
- Friday, Sep 27 - 12:00 pm Dismissal
- Friday, Sep 27 - Book Fair Ends
- Saturday, Sep 28 - Parish Fall Festival 11-7

**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?
 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: Wednesday, September 11 at 7:00 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 9:00 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 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the parking lot. See SUG on LinkTree.

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 SUGs on LinkTree for food tent, beer & wine garden, and soccer challenge.

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 handyknights@nativity.org.

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

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

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

Event pre and post management tools are available on Linktree. Program Chairs & Event leads, review and complete all event tasks.



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**




SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY NIGHT OCTOBER 26, 2024



FR. MARTIN CENTER

Parish App Feature-of-the-Week



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

Learn more or download our parish app at myparishapp.com

**Available on Apple and Android Phones.*

Inspiration Daily

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.

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.

walking with purpose

Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

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

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

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

"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



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



NEED TO TALK?

Catholic Charities provides quality mental health services & counselors grounded in a Catholic understanding of the human person. "Nativity's Counselor" Ms. Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC visits Nativity to counsel clients in-person on Thursdays from 10:00am-6:00pm. She is available to talk with any parishioners who may be struggling. To set up an appointment, please contact Marguerite at 703-454-2415 or mmturner@ccda.net.

2024 Retreat for Adult Children of Divorce

Registration for the 2024 Arlington Life-Giving Wounds retreat is open. We warmly invite anyone who comes from divorced parents to attend this powerful retreat taking place Friday-Sunday, September 13-15, at San Damiano Retreat Center, White Post, VA. Welcome our Lord into this wound, connect with others from this background, and go forward renewed in faith, hope, and love. Cost is \$375 through August 14, or \$425 after August 14. Registration can be found at www.arlingtondiocese.org/healingretreat. Do you know someone who might benefit from this retreat? Please tell them about it. If they have questions, they can call the Office of Marriage, Family, and Respect Life at 703-841-2550.

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.



"5k in the Park" to Benefit



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Sunday: October 6, 2024

Fairfax Memorial Park Cemetery
9900 BRADDOCK RD., FAIRFAX VA 22032

Registration: 9am
Run or Walk Start Time: 10am



Register by September 30 by going to:
Fairfaxmemorialfuneralhome.com



Fairfax MEMORIAL
A Tradition Of Trust • Exceeding Expectations



RPG GROUP



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

Save the Date
CALLLED
a conference for young adults
09.21.24
Sheraton Reston Hotel

THE WALK HUMBLYP
PODCAST
With **BISHOP BURBIDGE**

"I recognize the importance of communications and evangelization, the use of all tools possible to get out the Good News."
—Bishop Burbidge

<https://www.catholicerald.com/walk-humbly-podcast/>

MARION HOMES FUNDRAISER

Join Marian Homes, Inc. for a thrilling casino night fundraiser on September 27, 2024, at 7:00pm, at the Country Club of Fairfax. Enjoy a night of high stakes and excitement to benefit the Marian Homes, Inc. capital campaign. Tickets are \$100 until August 1, including playing chips and great food, with additional beverages available at a cash bar. Dress to impress in cocktail attire and dance to a live DJ. Try your luck at blackjack, roulette, craps, Texas Hold'em, and more. Participate in a raffle for extra winnings. All proceeds support intellectually disabled adults. Purchase tickets here: <https://shorturl.at/vm2XD>. Don't miss out! Contact marketing@marianhomes.org for more info.

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

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



Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 8, 2024: Is 35:4-7a | Ps 146:7-10 (1b)
| Jas 2:1-5 | Mk 7:31-37

Pray: Jesus, open my ears and heart to love and follow you more closely each day. Amen.

Open Your Heart with the Word of God and the Healing Grace of His Sacraments.

“Ephphatha” – Be opened! Jesus used this command to heal the deaf man with a speech impediment. Jesus performed (and still performs) many miracles without any tangible contact with the beneficiary; however, the Church believes that the signs and gestures He used to heal the man that day laid the foundation for the Seven Sacraments.

He continues to give us His healing and sanctifying graces through His “touch” offered in the Sacraments, normally through clergy as His instruments. In the Sacrament of Baptism, for example, the Church includes this ephphatha rite, asking that the newly baptized become open to the Word of God in his or her life.

Among crowds of people, many who were seeking healing, Christ chose this man to heal. What about all the other people who were flocking to Jesus, hoping to be healed, that did not get chosen for immediate healing? Did it mean He didn’t care for them? Not at all. Jesus loves everyone and was present with them, too, just as He continues to be with all those whose hearts are open in trust to His love, truth, and grace.

Jesus’ gift of healing comes in different forms in the perfect timing and way we need, whether for



our body or soul. We must believe and follow Jesus, the Son of God, and His teachings as we live our lives, love Him wholeheartedly, and trust in His perfect love and saving grace.

Just as the deaf man was healed in this Gospel’s miracle story, Christ continues to encourage all believers to “be opened” to the healing graces and spiritual nourishment of His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the healing Sacrament of Penance. We trust that the form of healing that God will grant us through our belief in Christ the Healer will always be what God, who loves us for eternity, deems best for our soul.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † How have you experienced God’s healing presence in your life or witnessed it in someone else?
- † How has God used you as an instrument of healing for another person?
- † How can we demonstrate that we are trying to “be open” to God’s sanctifying graces in our lives?

¿SORDINA O FINURA DE OÍDO? XXIII T.O. B Javier Leoz

“No ya peor sordo que , aquel que no quiere oír”. Y también, en la vida de la fe, hay mucho sordo.

1. A veces pensamos que Dios que es tan bueno que comprende y hasta asume nuestras debilidades. Por eso, su Palabra, cuando es excesivamente dura y nos pone las cartas sobre la mesa, solemos decir: eso es para otros. Automáticamente nos hacemos los sordos. Es algo que no va con nosotros.

Y es que, alcanzar la verdad en nuestra existencia, es una tarea ardua, difícil. Exige empeño, atención, perseverancia. Y, porque no decirlo, son tantos los inconvenientes, los “inhibidores” que nos impiden escuchar con nitidez a Dios que, en el campo de la fe, hay mucho sordo. Sobre todo, y lo más grave, la sordera espiritual que nos hace caer en el olvido sistemático de Dios. Yo diría que estamos padeciendo la “gripe E”. La gripe espiritual. Donde nos dejamos contagiarnos por lo malo. Y damos por bueno lo que es pernicioso para nuestra salud espiritual.

¿Qué hacer para luchar contra la “gripe E”.

a) Primero salir de nuestros egoísmos personales. El abrirnos, además de darnos horizontes, nos posibilita un enriquecimiento personal y comunitario. ¿Cómo me encuentro frente a Dios y frente a mis hermanos? ¿Qué actitud presento en palabras y obras?

b) Segundo: tenemos que despertar de nuevo, con ilusión y con entusiasmo, en la alegría de creer y de esperar en Jesús. No podemos dejar que, la mano providente del Señor, salga constantemente a nuestro encuentro. ¿Qué hacemos nosotros? ¿Nos ponemos en disposición de cambio? ¿Estamos dispuestos a ello? Para ello, antes que nada, pedir al Espíritu Santo que nos haga sentir con fuerza la presencia de Dios. Sólo un torrente de agua es capaz de deslizarse con fuerza por las laderas de un monte. Sólo un cristiano tocado por el Señor será capaz de dar testimonio en los precipicios a los que se asoma la humanidad.

c) Tercero: pidamos al Señor, que siempre que nos presentemos ante EL, lo hagamos con docilidad. Ni vemos todo lo que hay ni oímos todo lo que EL nos dice. La peor sordera que existe en el mundo cristiano es precisamente que nos cuesta escuchar mensajes cristianos. Preferimos mundanizar nuestra fe, a que nuestra fe cristianice todo lo que somos, tenemos y decimos. Nos podríamos preguntar, por ejemplo, si en nuestras redes sociales (las que están a nuestro alcance) si las ponemos a disposición de los mensajes cristiano o si, por el contrario, también les hemos puesto sordina para todo lo que suena a divino.

Que el Señor abra nuestros oídos. Que seamos capaces de percibir su presencia. Que su Palabra sea un río de agua viva. Que, en medio de tantas enfermedades y preocupaciones, la fe sea fuente de salud, de confianza y de esperanza.

Hay muchos intereses y muchos medios empeñados en producir sordera ante todo lo que suena a espiritual. Que seamos capaces de enfrentarnos a ello, limpiándonos una y otra vez el oído que da cobertura a nuestra fe.

¡TÓCAME, SEÑOR!

J. Leoz

Para que oyendo, como Tú quieres,
sepa escuchar con nitidez lo que me dices.

Y si a veces, Señor, vuelvo la cabeza
haz que, de nuevo, con la veleta de la fe
me marques el sentido de mi vida.

¡Perdóname, Señor!

Cuando te escucho y finjo no haberlo hecho

Cuando te escucho, y pienso que no es para mí

Cuando te escucho, y me hago el sordo

¡TÓCAME, SEÑOR!

Porque, si me toca sólo la mano del mundo

siento que me pierdo la mejor parte de Ti

Creo apartarme del camino verdadero

Escucho aquello que sólo a unos interesa.

¡TÓCAME, SEÑOR!

Y despiértame de mi letargo espiritual

para que, volviendo otra vez a Ti,

pueda entender que sin Ti

todo es vacío, ansiedad y sufrimiento

¡TÓCAME, DE NUEVO, SEÑOR!

Porque, a veces, estoy demasiado tocado

por las manos de un mundo caprichoso

de una sociedad corrompida

de un ambiente que no me deja oír

lo que me produce paz y alegría sin límites

¿ME TOCARÁS, SEÑOR?

Abreme mis oídos, que te escuche

Mis manos, que me dé

Mis ojos, para que vea

Mis pies, para que camine

Mi conciencia, para que nunca te olvide

Amén



Reza por mi**Rezar, y sobre todo que recen por ti, es la mayor aspiración que uno puede tener en la vida**

Por: Miguel Ángel Robles | Fuente: Religión en Libertad



Rezar es una conversación con los que ya no están, el recuerdo de los que te antecedieron y la oración para seguir su ejemplo. Rezar es pedir por ellos. Y también pedirles a ellos por los que estamos aquí. Es el momento de más calma del día, y, en mi caso, el de primera hora de la mañana, poco más de las seis, y el agua de la ducha caliente cayendo despacio sobre los hombros. Rezar es una fotografía en sepia, un regreso a la casa de tus abuelos y al tiempo sin tiempo de tu infancia. Es pasar por la Iglesia de San Pedro, de camino al colegio, y rezarle al Cristo de Burgos un Padre Nuestro para que te ayude en los exámenes. Es el refugio del frío, y el silencio acogedor. Rezar es tener memoria.

Rezar es lo que va antes del trabajo o después del trabajo, y lo que nunca lo suplanta, porque ya lo dice el refrán: a Dios rogando y con el mazo dando. Es lo único que puedes hacer cuando ya no puedes hacer más, y es la forma de comprometerse de quien no tiene otro medio de hacerlo, como cuando rezamos por un enfermo que se va a operar y ya está todo en manos del cirujano (y de Dios). Rezar no hace milagros, o sí los hace, eso nunca lo sabremos, pero ofrece consuelo al que reza y a aquel por quien se reza. Rezar nunca es inútil, porque siempre conforta.

Rezar es decir rezaré por ti y, también, reza por mí. Y es, por tanto, lo contrario a la vanidad. Rezar es la aceptación de tus limitaciones. Es aprender a resignarse cuando lo que pudo ser no ha sido. Es vivir sin rencor, aprender a olvidar, aceptar la derrota con dignidad y celebrar el triunfo con humildad. Rezar es resignación cuando procede, pero también arrebató y pundonor cuando toca. Es buscar las fuerzas si no se tienen y confiar en que las cosas van a ser como deberían ser. Rezar es optimismo, no dar nada por perdido, luchar y resistir, como en la canción, erguido frente a todo, y es mi padre antes de morir. Rezar es fragilidad y entereza.

Rezar es curar las heridas, restañar los arañazos, superar el daño que te han hecho. Pasar página y empezar de cero. Perdonar las ofensas y también pedir perdón. Y sobre todo tener gratitud. Rezar es dar las gracias por vivir y por lo que la vida te ha dado. Es despertarse con las ilusiones renovadas. Aferrarse desesperadamente a lo inmaterial. Acordarse de lo que de verdad importa, y relativizar todo lo demás. Es establecer las prioridades, poner en orden los papeles de tu mesa, buscar la trascendencia, pensar a lo grande.

Rezar es desconectar y apagar el móvil. Es introspección en la sociedad del exhibicionismo. Es relajarse y calmar los nervios. Y prepararse mentalmente para lo que ha de venir. No es solo buscar el coraje, sino también la inspiración, la idea, el enfoque, la luz, el claro en medio de la espesura. Rezar es razonar, aunque parezca lo más irracional que haya. Es la mente funcionando como cuando juegas un partido de tenis. Es planificar y anticipar las jugadas. Es abstracción en los tiempos de lo concreto y lo material. Es pausa en un mundo excitado. Es calma cuando todo es ansiedad. Y es aburrido en la dictadura de lo divertido.

Rezar es una forma extrema de independencia, una actividad casi contracultural, lo más punki que se puede hacer una tarde de domingo. Es la forma más radical de practicar mindfulness, tan pasada de moda que cualquier día se volverá extraordinariamente cool. Rezar podría computar como horas de trabajo para los empleados públicos, pero no sirve porque es una práctica "antisistema", sin reconocimiento alguno del establishment. Tan políticamente incorrecta que la gente oculta que reza como esconde la tripa para la foto. Rezar es un placer oculto, que se reserva para la intimidad. Un acto privado, y casi a escondidas, que, cuando se hace acompañado, necesita cierta oscuridad y mucha, mucha, confianza.

Rezar es desnudarse y abrir tu alma a la persona con la que rezas. Y es una declaración de amor por la persona que tienes en tus rezos. Es derramar tu cariño sobre los que más quieres y sentir el cariño de los que rezan por ti. Rezar es tener a otros en tus oraciones y estar en las oraciones de otros, que es mucho más que estar solo en su memoria. Rezar, y sobre todo que recen por ti, es la mayor aspiración que uno puede tener en la vida. Un privilegio inmenso. Es querer tanto a alguien como para rezar por él, y que alguien te quiera tanto como para rezar por ti. ¿Cabe mayor orgullo? ¿Existe mayor plenitud que la de saber que hay una madre, un hermano, un hijo o un amigo que quiere que Dios te proteja, y te dé salud, y te ilumine, y te ayude, y te acompañe, y esté siempre contigo?

Rezar es tener fe. Tener fe en la vida, en las personas, en tus amigos, en tus hijos, en tus padres, en Dios. Rezar es la maestría de niños y abuelos. Y es un súper poder que nos predispone al bien. Rezar es creer y ser practicante de un mundo mejor.



Jesus commanded the people not to tell anyone about what He had done. But they did! People were overwhelmed with amazement.

Write the letter missing from each set on the line.

They said,

"He has _____ everything _____
CEF MNP LMO CDF UVX DFG JKM KMN"

He even makes the _____
CEF DFG YZB EGH

and the _____
FGI CDF ZBC QST

_____."
LNO STV RSU DFG QRT NOQ CDF YZB IJL



Faith and Healing

A woman fell at Jesus' feet. Her daughter was possessed by an evil spirit. The woman begged Jesus to heal her daughter.

Use the puzzle below to find out what happened next. Cross out the first letter and every other letter after. (We have done the first 2 for you.) Then copy the remaining letters to the lines below and read the rest of the story.

S p h m e n b k e n l t i s e r v w e y d b t w h m a p t n j b e c s d u f s k c p o r u
 w l c d v h t e s l w p b h z e k r n s g h q e q h r a w d d f c a b i n t w h p j y e d s
 k u j s q s b a c w d h f e g r h f j a k i l t m h n a p n q d r s t e v n w t y t z h c e b d
 w e r m j o k n h o w u t t q o c f d h b e z r q l y i r t b t d l f e j g q i w r m l.
 S h _____

Fit the words in the puzzle. Transfer the letters to the story.

- man
- put
- deaf
- talk
- hand
- took
- away
- man's
- ears
- spit
- said
- Jesus
- could
- place
- crowd
- speak
- people
- hardly
- begged
- tongue
- looked
- heaven
- opened
- brought
- fingers
- plainly
- touched

The crossword puzzle grid includes the following letters:

- 3: p
- 4: p
- 9: h
- 12: g
- 16: p
- 18: h
- 20: h
- 22: m
- 24: y
- 25: y
- 2: t
- 5: d
- 11: d

Some 4) _____ 8) _____ a 12) _____ to 1) _____ who was 7) _____ and 10) _____
 18) _____ 19) _____. They 6) _____ Him to 16A) _____ His 20) _____ on the 12) _____.
 He 23) _____ the 12) _____ 25) _____ from the 21) _____ and 16D) _____ His 13) _____ into the
 22) _____ ' 15) _____. Then He 3) _____ and 2A) _____ the 22) _____ ' 2D) _____
 He 24) _____ to 9) _____ and 5) _____, "Be 11) _____!" The 22) _____ ' 15) _____ were
 11) _____ and he 10) _____ 14) _____ 17) _____.

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