

Exaltation OF THE Holy Cross



**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 Intensions
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
mmturner@ccda.net



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

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

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



*“God so loved the world that he sent his only Son
to be our Savior” - John 3:16*

THE FEAST OF THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS

My dear parishioners,

The strange name of this feast can mean several things. It can mean the triumph of the cross as a Christian symbol because it could not be displayed publicly for centuries. Christians used the anchor or fish as symbols for the Lord. By the time this feast was named by the church, there were all kinds and styles of crosses. This feast is a uniting of many different local feasts celebrating the cross.

The meaning of “*triumph*” goes deeper. The cross sums up a life. Today’s Second reading is Paul’s quotation of a Christian hymn about the obedience of Christ. The cross is a powerful symbol of His obedience to the Father. Jesus obeyed the Father’s will not only in death but throughout His life. The cross sums up everything Jesus said and did.

Today’s gospel reading shows us the cross as a symbol of victory. If lifted up, the Lord will draw all things to Himself. The Risen Christ, obedient on the cross, now shares His life with us through the Holy Spirit.

The cross means different things to different people. Once a symbol of shame and death, it has been transformed by Jesus into a symbol of love, life and victory. That is what today’s feast tells us. It all depends how you look at it. We bring our own emotions, memories and life experiences to the cross. Jesus fills whatever we bring to the cross with the power of Easter.

So today we stand within the shadow of the cross. The Cistercian monks have a saying..... “*As the World turns on its Axis... the Cross stands firm!!!*” The victory is now yours and mine to share. The victory of God’s love and mercy is what we celebrate in the Triumph of the Cross.

Love and blessings,

Bob Cilinski
Msgr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”
- JOHN 3:16*

God created us to be in relationship with Him. Sin broke that relationship. Jesus came to earth so that we may reconcile our relationship with God. Following Jesus’ example, we can be blessed with a joy-filled life on earth and eternal life in Heaven.

These four points are known as the “*kerygma*” – the first proclamation of the Gospel. This core message is the basis of our Catholic faith. How do you live this out in your daily life?

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.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING



NEW SERVERS: Boys and girls who are now in the fifth grade through twelfth grade, who would like to be an altar server 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 from:
6:00 - 7:00pm on **THURSDAY - SEPT 17, MONDAY - SEPT 22 and THURSDAY - SEPT 25**. One parent should attend the first training session if possible to register your child.

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.

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

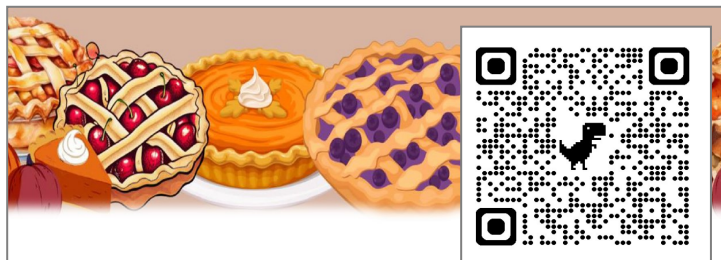
Youth ages 9 through 14 are invited to participate.

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>

**PIE BAKING CONTEST**

GET READY: OUR FALL FESTIVAL PIE CONTEST IS HERE AGAIN!

Showcase your pie baking skills and creativity in a fun and delicious way! This year we are excited to have three pie divisions! Introducing our "Youthful Delights" for participants ages 15 and under, along with "Mature Morsels" and "Savory Sensations" for those ages 16 and up. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third-place finishers in each category. Participants are welcome to submit up to three pies. Please note that pies that require refrigeration cannot be accepted. To pre-register, scan the QR code. For further details, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jessica Mayfield-Mayo at 1jessmayo@gmail.com.

A Prayer for Catechists

Catechetical Sunday 2025

*Prayer for Catechists*

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church.

Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.

Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.

We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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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**

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.

MARIAN HOMES, INC. for the intellectually disabled



SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 20

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.



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/>

'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.



Register to Vote!

This fall, voters will select candidates for Governor, Lt. Gov., Attorney General and the House of Delegates.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCT. 24

Visit vote.elections.virginia.gov or scan the QR code to:

- Register online.
- Check registration status.
- Find your polling place.
- Request Absentee Ballot.



FOR MORE INFO:

vacatholic.org/Election2025

EARLY VOTING BEGINS SEPT. 19.

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4.



MASS INTENTIONS & MASS SCHEDULE

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

Monday, September 15

7:30 am † Virginia Mooradian
12:00 pm † Milton & Jean Depew

Tuesday, September 16

7:30 am † Clarke "Pete" Brintnall
12:00 pm † John Leslie Stone III

Wednesday, September 17

7:30 am † Jim Jagielski
3:00 pm Special Intention for Jonathan James & Ria Namata (*Burke Rehab*)

Thursday, September 18

7:30 am † Ellen O'Connor Fitzgerald
12:00 pm † Patrick E. Lachance Jr.

Friday, September 19

7:30 am † Danilo & Myrna Javier

Saturday, September 20

9:00 am † James Jagielski
5:00 pm † Martin Machado
7:00 pm † Wilson & Jandir Pinto

Sunday, September 21

7:00 am † Jairo Gustavo Vargas
9:00 am † Tommy Veatch
11:00 am † Deceased Members of the Costello & Yankosky Families Parishioners
1:00 pm † Richard T. Pioli
5:30 pm † Richard T. Pioli

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

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!)

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:



The next Prayer Shawl meeting will be held on Monday morning, September 15th at 9:30 am in the Fr. Ready room. This ministry is open to all members of our community!



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



Grow in your prayer life! Join us and gain an understanding of what a Eucharistic-centered prayer life is. When you make the Eucharist the center of your daily work and actions, your prayer life becomes a part of your being.

Learn to embrace the teachings of the real presence of Jesus. Our Holy Mother Intercedes before the Eucharist for us, and St. Joseph helps us to live a Eucharistic-Centered Life. The 30 Day Eucharistic Revival developed by Fr. Calloway, MIC will encourage us to deepen our commitment to Eucharistic prayer.

The program begins on 30 September and features 5 Zoom meetings on Tuesday evenings 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 Web site: <https://nativityburke.org/33-day-retreat/>. For questions, visit our Nativity webpage or contact the 33 Day Ministry at 33DayConsecration@nativityburke.org.

First Annual George Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarship Program Awards

In Nativity's first annual *George Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarships Program*, the Knights of Columbus Council 7992 awarded four scholarships of \$500 each in memory of the Council's passionate Pro-Life Leader, George Getek. Over several decades, Getek enthusiastically served the Council as Life Program Chair and expounded on pro-life issues. He worked tirelessly in organizing Nativity's *40 Days for Life* vigils, and the annual National *March for Life* and *Life Chain* events.

The purpose of this initiative is to further build up Nativity's culture of life from the "ground-up," energizing high school and college/trade school students to become better educated on life issues consistent with Catholic Church teaching and to exercise Catholic pro-life critical thinking on current topics. Every student that applies for a scholarship—or even reads the application—will be more confident, more at ease, and better equipped to address these critical issues with their friends. This can lead to conversion of hearts and the saving of lives downstream. This youth scholarship initiative depends on donations. Contact life7992@nativityburke.org or donate online at <https://osvhub.com/nativityburke/giving/funds>. Enjoy these excerpts from this year's winners!



Art submission by Lyla Hegblom

Pro-Life Scholarship Winner: Lyla Hegblom

"My drawing focuses on the bond between a mother and child and how important they are to each other. The mother's heart is connected to the baby's heart, showing their connection. I have noticed that when I feel sad, my mom feels sad for me, and when I feel happy, she shares the feeling.

The moon represents the Mother Mary... As Archbishop Fulton Sheen explains, the moon reflects light from the sun, yet does not deprive the sun of any brilliance, just as Mary reflects Jesus. The tree represents both the tree of life as well as the family tree. A family tree is not possible without a child, and a child is not possible without parents. The pink of the mother's shirt represents femininity and love, and the blue and yellow elements represent emotions of hope, joy, and peace... [Mary] said yes to motherhood, yes to God, yes to life. Mary chose to love, and we should follow her example."



Pro-Life Scholarship Winner: Joe Tiago Jr.

"The Annunciation is magnificent because it expresses Mary's firm belief in the Lord... Mary shows us obedience of the Lord's will and how we are to follow him.

The Lord tells us to value life, to value children. In Psalm 127:3 we are told "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward". So we must work diligently to protect and uphold the life of others, especially children."

Pro-Life Scholarship Winner: Gabriella Lazarte

"A person is a person, matter how small. – Dr. Suess.

[My] opposition to abortion, infanticide, and chemical abortion is built upon [an] ethical framework that defends the right to life of every human being from conception. This is grounded and supported by both religion and science, as evident in the Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and scientific research... This opposition is supported by a commitment to protecting the most vulnerable and seeking to foster a society where all human life is cherished and protected...

This is my profound pro-life commitment, fighting for the sanctity of every human life."

Pro-Life Scholarship Winner: Anthony Licud

"The New Commandment in the 13th chapter of John's Gospel says, "Love one another. Just as I have loved you." How are we loving others by aborting them or ending their lives? We must treat each other as God treats us: with mercy, compassion, and love, not with hate, violence, and brutality... When Mary arrived at Ein Karem where Elizabeth and Zachariah lived, Elizabeth rejoiced that the Mother of God came to her. This also is how we may embrace expectant mothers: with joy and delight... [T]he children in their wombs, and they themselves are sacred. All life is sacred."

**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**

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!



A Message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Creation Care invites you to earn FREE TICKETS at the Saturday, September 27 Fall Festival by bringing your reusable water bottle to one of two water-bottle stations for a refill! DID YOU KNOW?

1. Tap water is carefully regulated, treated, and monitored for safety. Bottled water is less stringently tested. Many bottled water brands (such as Dasani and Aquafina) are simply filtered tap water anyway.
2. Tap water is much more affordable, typically costing less than a penny per gallon (Fairfax Water rates are about \$0.004/gallon, less than half a penny), while bottled water can cost \$1-12 per gallon!
3. Bottled water is worse for the environment, requiring large amounts of plastic production, huge amounts of waste (to the tune of 50 billion bottles each year), additional energy and water to produce, and transportation costs for distribution.
4. The plastic in bottled water has been shown to shed microplastics into the water, which people then ingest, causing health concerns. It is exacerbated when the bottles get heated up (such as when a case of bottled water is left in the trunk of your car).



Come out and enjoy a night with the Nativity Italian Cultural & Historical Society as we are kicking off the year with laughter, friendship and a sweet treat!

Join us for our first meeting of the year on:
Thursday, September 25, from 7:00-9:00 PM
in the Cafeteria.

Come enjoy cake, light refreshments, and plenty of good company. All are welcome - bring a friend and share in the fun!

First-half lineup:
A Welcome Back Social
A Cooking Lesson with Chef Nick "The Colonel"
All Things Bologna - a History Presentation
Festa Di Natale Christmas celebration

Guests can join the festivities for \$5.00.

Members can renew membership for
\$20.00/single or \$25.00/family.

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.
Don't miss out - be a part of the fun and fellowship!

Pro-Life Corner

Save the Dates!

- Life Chain: Sunday, October 5th - Join fellow believers across the U.S. and Canada for the Annual Life Chain from 2:30-3:30pm. Park at St. Lawrence Catholic Church and meet on sidewalk at Franconia Rd. Pro-Life signs available. rickloffredo@outlook.com.

- Nativity All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life: Friday, October 24th - Join fellow Nativity parishioners for one hour between 7am-7pm as we peacefully pray the pro-life Rosary on the sidewalk in front of abortion facility at 900 S. Washington St, Falls Church.

When someone prays in front of an abortion facility, the no-show rate for appointments can go to as high as 75%! (40 DFL).

Be that someone with us! <https://bit.ly/4pdRUn8>

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 proactive 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. *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>.



Enjoy a cup of authentic

Honduran Coffee

**at the Parish Fall Festival
Saturday | 09.27.2025**



Enjoy a Taste of Honduras! As you explore the **Fall Festival**, stop by our **coffee booth** to enjoy delicious Honduran coffee and hear inspiring stories from our Nativity missionaries' recent trip. Hear about the El Colirio and Monte Verde clinics, see native Lenca textiles, and experience a bit of Honduras—one cup at a time!



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)



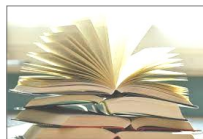
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**TODAY, Sunday, September 14 ~
Our Book Fair is in the Cafeteria
going on NOW!!
Join Us 8:30 am - 2:30 pm**



Our Book Fair will feature a wide range of books suitable for all age groups and interests. We're using a new vendor, Ignatius Book Fairs. From the latest children's fiction, to timeless classics, to faith-filled titles, there's something for every young reader. This is a fantastic opportunity for you and your child to find new books to read, cherish and enjoy. **Come By and Say Hello!**

Annual Priest Barbecue: Serving Food and Fun For All

One of our favorite start-of-school traditions is the Priest Barbecue, hosted by Monsignor Bob, Father Bennett, Father Wilson, Father Evans and Sisters Donatella and Mary Attilia – hamburgers and hotdogs served up by the Knights of Columbus. It was a BEAUTIFUL Friday afternoon – students played soccer with Mr. Armendia, and passed the football and shot baskets with Monsignor. We LOVE hanging out with our priests! Many thanks to The Knights of Columbus for grilling up the best hamburgers and hotdogs for all of us!



**Join Us Next School Year
Upcoming Open House for Prospective Families 2026-
2027 School Year on 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.

Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, at (703) 455-2300,
or smurph@nativityschool.org.

Important Upcoming Dates ~

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
Mon, Sep 22 - New Altar Server Training 6:00-7:00 p.m.



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.

20 Sept - 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.

21 Sept - Knights Corporate Communion: Requesting ALL Knights and families: 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.

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.

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.

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

27 Sept - 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.

5 October - Life Chain: Join fellow believers gathering nationwide on the first Sunday of every October to prayerfully stand for Life. Park at St. Lawrence Catholic Church and meet on the sidewalk at Franconia Rd from 2:30-3:30pm. Signs will be available. life7992@nativityburke.org.

24 October - Need eight more Knights to lead the pro-life Rosary: (1-hour time slots from 7am-7pm) during the All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life. Join fellow Nativity parishioners on Friday, October 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 and sign up!

Oktoberfest Celebration! Join the Knights of Columbus for a fun-filled Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 25! Enjoy authentic German food, festive drinks, games, and music in a lively atmosphere. Bring family and friends for an evening of fellowship and fun!

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.colella.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.

Nativity Catholic Church

Gathering for **Caregivers** of Family Members with Special Needs

Caregivers of loved ones with special needs (of all ages) are invited to **join us for a time of community**, encouragement, and spiritual support. This gathering will include small group conversations, a presentation from a fellow caregiver, and space to connect with other parish families navigating similar journeys. Caregivers include those caring for family members with special needs such as sensory processing challenges, ADHD, autism, or intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities, etc. We consider caregivers to be any relative who is walking alongside a family member with special needs. **Caregivers must register in advance to attend.**



 Sunday, September 21  7:00–8:30 pm  Father Ready Room

nativityburke.org/caregivers-gathering/

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September Dates

Parent permission is required to shadow, complete the form with the QR code to secure your spot!

8:30am - 2:30pm: 9/16, 9/23, 9/30

7:30am - 2:30pm: 9/18, 9/19, 9/25, 9/26



Sign up today!

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October 25, 2025

7PM



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Gentlemen
Sign-Up

Dress Code
Business Casual

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REGISTRATION CLOSES
October 11, 2025



Ladies
Sign-Up



Questions? Issues?

Contact jtureaud@protonmail.com

Homilía en la Fiesta de la Exaltación de la Santa Cruz**Author: Valentine Umoh****Iglesia de la Vera Cruz – Villanueva del Arzobispo****In cruce salus****Nm 21:4b-9, Salmo 77, Flp 2:6-11, Juan 3:13-17**

Cuando miramos la Santa Cruz, ¿qué nos viene a la mente? Cuando hacemos la señal de la Santa cruz, ¿qué estamos profesando exactamente? Cuando vemos un crucifijo en un establecimiento, en la capilla, ayuntamiento, un ambulatorio, en el parque, en la plaza etc. ¿Qué nos llama la atención? Aunque ahora en Europa y no solo en España hay un movimiento anti-cruz que quiere quitar todos los crucifijos del espacio público. Cuando ves a alguien hacer la señal de la cruz antes de una comida, o antes de empezar las clases o el trabajo del día o antes el partido de fútbol, cuando ves a alguien inclinarse, hacer genuflexión o reverencia a la Santa Cruz de Cristo, ¿qué mensaje se nos comunica?

Sí, en la cruz está nuestra salvación... in cruce salus. La Santa Cruz es el símbolo más importante de la fe cristiana. La Santa Cruz es el resumen de nuestra Fe. La Santa Cruz es el símbolo del amor de Dios a la humanidad. La Santa Cruz es la identidad cristiana. Si quitamos la Santa Cruz, el cristianismo no tiene mensaje que comunicar al mundo.

Cuando miramos la Santa Cruz, nos recordamos la Salvación y la misericordia de Dios. Hoy leemos en el Evangelio el encuentro entre Jesús y Nicodemo. Jesús le explica el significado de la salvación y de la vida eterna. Lo que me llama la atención en la respuesta de Jesús es lo siguiente: “Dios no envió a su hijo al mundo para condenar al mundo, sino para que el mundo se salve por él.” Hay tanta gente que odia a Dios y a la religión no por nada, sino porque no quieren ser juzgados o condenados por sus valores. Sienten que cuando hablamos sobre la fe, la santidad y la salvación, que esos tienen que ver con la condena de los pecadores. No, eso no es lo que representa la Cruz de Cristo. La Cruz de Cristo es más bien una invitación al arrepentimiento para obtener la vida eterna.

En el Gólgota (Calvario), según los relatos evangélicos, Jesús fue crucificado en medio de dos criminales, uno a su derecha y otro a su izquierda. Uno de los criminales reconoció a Cristo crucificado en la Cruz y suplicó misericordia. El ladrón dijo: “Acuérdame de mí cuando vengas en tu reino” (Lc 23,42). Y Jesús le respondió inmediatamente “Hoy estarás conmigo en el paraíso” (Lc 23,43).

Mientras muchos otros rechazan la cruz, o no quieren ser identificados con ella; mientras tantos contemplan la cruz como una cosa de vergüenza y escándalo; mientras tantos se burlan de Cristo crucificado en la cruz como aquel otro ladrón: “Salvó a otros, no pudo salvarse a sí mismo.” Mientras tantos hombres de nuestro tiempo se avergüenzan de la cruz; otros la ignoran; otros la escupen; otros la ridiculizan; tantos abogan por que la cruz sea retirada del espacio público o sea aniquilada; aquí estamos, en este 14 de septiembre, celebrando la Fiesta de la Exaltación de la Cruz. Y en palabras del Apóstol Pablo, aunque tantos ven en la Cruz “locura, escándalo y debilidad” para nosotros que creemos, la cruz de Cristo es el poder y la sabiduría de Dios. (1Cor 1,22-25).

Queridos hermanos en Cristo, la cruz es algo maravillosamente grande y honorable. Es grande porque en ella encontraron su consumación muchos actos nobles de Cristo. La cruz es honorable porque es a la vez el signo del sufrimiento del Hijo de Dios y el trofeo de su victoria. Es signo de su sufrimiento, porque en ella padeció libremente hasta la muerte. Pero también es su trofeo, porque fue el medio por el cual el diablo fue herido y la muerte vencida; las puertas cerradas del infierno fueron derribadas, y la cruz se convirtió en la única salvación común del mundo entero.

Tanto amó Dios al mundo que envió a su Hijo amado al mundo, para que todo el que cree en Él tenga vida eterna. Por eso, cuando miramos la Cruz de Cristo, cuando contemplamos a Cristo crucificado, cuando contemplamos la Santa Cruz, contemplamos ese acontecimiento y esa persona singulares que dieron vida al mundo. Cristo ya nos aseguró que “cuando sea elevado (es decir, cuando sea crucificado), atraeré a todos hacia mí.”

Al exaltar hoy la Cruz de Cristo, recordemos ser valientes defensores, promotores del mensaje de la cruz: Misericordia, Perdón y Salvación. Que no nos avergoncemos de esa cruz y de ese acontecimiento que nos dio la salvación en Cristo Jesús.

Te adoramos, oh Cristo y te bendecimos, porque por tu santa cruz redimiste al mundo y especialmente a mí, pobre pecador.



¿Estas celebrando tus bodas de oro o de plata este año? Si te casaste en 1975 o 2000, únete al obispo Michael Burbidge en la Misa de Jubileos Matrimoniales, que se celebrará el domingo 19 de octubre a las 2:30pm en la Catedral de Santo Tomás Moro en Arlington, Virginia. Contacta a tu parroquia para inscribirte no más tardar del 3 de octubre. Para más información, visita arlingtondiocese.org/marriagejubilee.

La Exaltación de la Santa Cruz “Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito.” Juan 3:16

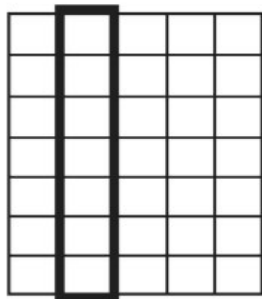
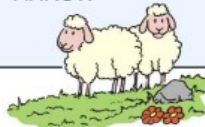
Dios nos creó para tener una relación con Él. El pecado rompió esa relación. Jesús vino a la tierra para que pudiéramos reconciliar nuestra relación con Dios. Siguiendo el ejemplo de Jesús, podemos ser bendecidos con una vida llena de alegría en la tierra y con la vida eterna en el Cielo. Estos cuatro puntos son conocidos como el “kerigma” - la primera proclamación del Evangelio. Este mensaje central es la base de nuestra fe católica. ¿Cómo vivimos esto en nuestra vida diaria?



The angels of God are glad when the lost are found.

Write these words, in alphabetical order, in the boxes below. The second letter of each word will spell the missing word below.

GIVEN JELLY CEASE ARROW
FORTH EJECT ICING



“ _____ !

The lost has been found!”



“The Parable of the Lost Sheep”

Find the underlined words hidden in the puzzle below. Circle them. You will find them



“Suppose a shepherd had one hundred sheep. If one of them became lost, he would leave the ninety-nine sheep in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it. And upon finding it, he would joyfully put it on his shoulders and go home.”



Children's Worship Bulletin™

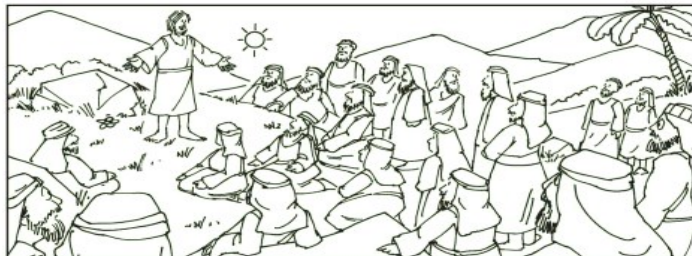
Ages 7+

September 14, 2025 • Luke 15:1-10

The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin

Many different people were gathering around Jesus to hear Him teach. Some did not like what He said.

Find 16 differences in the pictures below.



“The Parable of the Lost Coin”

Write the words from the coins on the correct lines by matching their numbers.

“Suppose a _____ had _____ 11

_____ 18 and she _____ 8 _____ 15 . She would

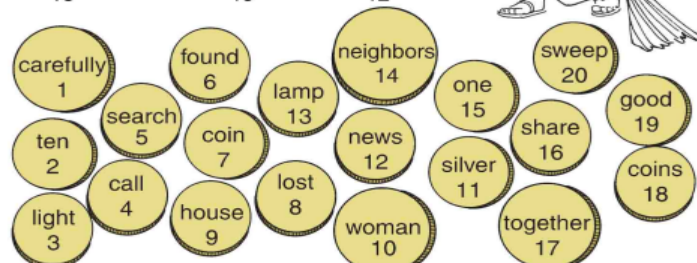
_____ 3 a _____ 13 , _____ 20 her _____ 9

and _____ 5 _____ 1 . When the _____ 7

was _____ 6 , she would _____ 4 her

_____ 14 _____ 17 to

_____ 16 the _____ 19 _____ 12 .”



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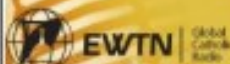


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