



With your fatherly blessing, Lord, strengthen these servants of yours in their resolve to dedicate themselves as catechists. Grant that in their ministry they may derive from pondering your Word the strength of the church's teaching. And let them gladly join those who are honoring and serving your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord, *of the* Book of Blessings

# Catechetical Sunday

Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children.

They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. On Catechetical Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation.



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  
mturner@ccoda.net



PARISH OFFICE: (703) 455-2400  
PARISH FAX: (703) 455-6832  
NATIVITY SCHOOL: (703) 455-2300  
NATIVITY FAX: (703) 569-8109  
PRE-SCHOOL: (703) 455-2900 ext. 136  
R.E. OFFICE: (703) 455-0872  
R.E. OFFICE FAX: (703) 455-6892

**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](mailto:bulletin@nativityburke.org).

**WEBMASTER:**

Emilia Hartline, [webmaster@nativityburke.org](mailto:webmaster@nativityburke.org)

**SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Mary Castellano, [socialmedia@nativityburke.org](mailto:socialmedia@nativityburke.org)

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

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



*“Along the way, Jesus asked his disciples,  
‘Who do people say that I am?’” - Mark 8:27-35*

My dear parishioners,

One of my favorite days of the year is Catechetical Sunday... which happens to be today. Part of the reason I like it is because I am a catechist, a teacher of the faith along with hundreds of others in our parish. I appreciate the opportunity to celebrate and thank all the people who communicated their faith to me throughout the years: my parents, teachers, priests, sisters, mentors, and friends. I am grateful too for the saints, the writers of spiritual books, and people I have never met who taught me by their heroic living and deep reflection.

Jesus was a catechist. He taught his disciples by instruction and also by his example of prayers, compassionate healing, and willingness to forgive any sinner and restore them to grace. One of the most interesting ways Jesus taught was by asking questions. He doesn't always answer them but leaves them open for our ongoing reflection. How we answer Jesus' question, *“Who do you say that I am?”* makes all the difference in the world.

It will decide how we live and what our priorities are. It will influence our relationships and the things we value and give our life to. St. James reminds us that faith is not something that only happens in our head nor the sentiments we hold in our heart. Real faith is not in the thinking, but in the doing. On this Catechetical Sunday I thank all parents and teachers, youth ministers and sponsors for the gift of passing on the faith to others. May we come to a deeper friendship with Jesus so we can personally respond to the question Jesus asks, *“Who do you say that I am?”*

Tomorrow, September 16th, we honor Fr. Cedric Wilson as he celebrates his 46th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood. He is a teacher and preacher of the Good News of the Gospel and has faithfully followed Jesus in his life. Thank you Fr. Wilson for your generous *“Yes”* to God's call for you to be a priest. Your joy and dedication to service is a great witness of the priesthood for our times and we thank you.

I look forward to celebrating together at the Parish Festival, Saturday, September 28. Save the date!!

Love and Blessings,  
*Fr. Bob Cilinski*  
Fr. Bob Cilinski,  
Pastor



**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
FR. CEDRIC WILSON**

On the 46th anniversary of  
your ordination: September 16th, 1978

**PARKING LOT GUIDANCE**

On Sundays, as people are leaving the church parking lot after Mass, cars are being blocked by other cars parked in the right-turn lane onto Old Keene Mill Road (at the entrance closest to the traffic light). Since it is an actual traffic lane, we ask that NO CARS be parked in the turn lane near Old Keene Mill Road. Thank you for your cooperation and respect for other parishioners. The invitation to *“love our neighbor”* really does begin in the parking lot! So grateful, Fr. Bob.

**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.





## Pope Francis bestows title of ‘Monsignor’ on five Diocese of Arlington Priests *Catholic Diocese of Arlington (arlingtondiocese.org)*

ARLINGTON, VA— Five priests from the Catholic Diocese of Arlington have been named by Pope Francis as Chaplains to His Holiness with the title Monsignor.

The new Monsignors are:

Rev. Msgr. Robert C. Cilinski, Pastor, Nativity Parish in Burke and Episcopal Vicar for Charitable Works  
 Rev. Msgr. Dennis W. Kleinmann, Pastor, Saint Veronica Parish in Chantilly  
 Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Rippy, Judicial Vicar and Director of St. Rose of Lima Priests Retirement Villa  
 Rev. Msgr. Lee R. Roos, Pastor, All Saints Parish in Manassas and Dean for Deanery V  
 Rev. Msgr. William P. Saunders, Pastor, Saint Agnes Parish in Arlington and Episcopal Vicar for Faith Formation

In a statement, Bishop Burbidge said, *“I congratulate Monsignors Cilinski, Kleinmann, Rippy, Roos, and Saunders for the recognition they have received for their dedicated and faithful priestly ministry. Their pastoral service has been and remains a special gift to the Diocese of Arlington. Each has demonstrated the virtues of the priestly vocation, and their lives have inspired all who know them, especially their brother priests and those discerning a vocation to the priesthood. I ask all in the Diocese of Arlington to join me in congratulating our new Monsignors and to continue to pray for them and all our priests.”*

“Monsignor” is the form of address for priests who receive from the pope certain ecclesiastical honorific titles. Monsignors have rendered valuable service to the Church and provide some special function in church governance. Pope Francis accepts recommendations from diocesan bishops for nominations for the title of Chaplain to His Holiness, with consideration only being given to priests 65 years or older.

### ***Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Cilinski***

Rev. Msgr. Robert C. Cilinski was born in Alexandria, VA on June 25, 1953, to Edward and Catherine Cilinski. He was baptized at St. Louis Parish, Alexandria and attended grade school there. Raised in Virginia, he graduated from St. John Vianney High School Seminary in Richmond, VA in 1971. He then attended St. Meinrad College in Meinrad, IN in 1975, graduating with a B.A. in Philosophy. After finishing college studies, he entered Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD in September 1975 to study for the Diocese of Arlington, where he received his M. Div. Father Cilinski was ordained to the priesthood on May 12, 1979, by Most Reverend Thomas J. Welsh at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More in Arlington.

After ordination, Father Cilinski served as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Arlington (June 1979 – May 1982), parochial vicar at Holy Family Parish, Dale City (June 1982 – June 1986), chaplain for the George Mason University Catholic Campus Ministry (June 1986 – June 2000), Administrator at All Saints Parish, Manassas (June 2000 – January 2002), pastor of All Saints Parish, Manassas (January 2002 – June 2014), and pastor of Nativity Parish, Burke (June 2014 – present). In December 2016, Father Cilinski was appointed as the Episcopal Vicar for Charitable Works, and as an ex-officio member of the Board of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Arlington.



He has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Arlington Catholic Herald, member of the College of Consultors (April 2000 – March 2005), Vicar Forane (August 2002 – June 2014), member of the diocesan Clergy Personnel Board (February 2014 – December 2017), chairman of the Peace and Justice Commission (August 2018 – present), member of the diocesan Building Commission (February 2018 – present), and serves as member of the diocesan Presbyteral Council ex-officio (2016 – present). He served as president of Gabriel Homes Board of Directors (1990-2023) which provides residential facilities for developmentally disabled adults and serves as Spiritual Director for the Retreat for Persons Facing Serious Illness (2000 - Present).

**CONGRATULATIONS FR. BOB!**

**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.

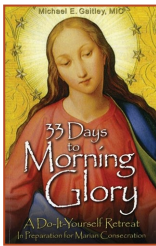
**A RETURNING SERVERS WORKSHOP:**

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

**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/>

**Starting October 1, 2024 - Join us for "33 Days to Morning Glory," a six-week parish program authored by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley to prepare us for our consecration to Jesus through Mary.**



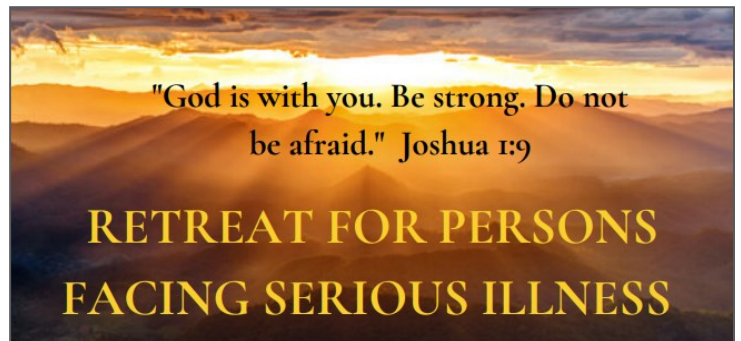
St. Maximilian Kolbe said, "Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did." Be one of over 200 Nativity parishioners who have already taken this phenomenal spiritual journey that will strengthen our faith and help us to grow closer to Jesus through the Virgin Mary. The program includes 6 Zoom meetings and culminates with an in-person Consecration Ceremony on November 10.

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

For questions, please contact Nenuca Robles Admana at [33DayConsecration@nativityburke.org](mailto:33DayConsecration@nativityburke.org)



**CATECHETICAL SUNDAY**



**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](mailto:retreat@ccda.net)**



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

Creation Care ministry helps Nativity, the diocese and the community to live Pope Francis encyclical on the environment--Laudato Si. Laudato Si' teaches us that "everything is connected"... and that we currently face a complex planetary crisis that is both environmental and social. As our world has grown hotter, less stable, and more lifeless, we all suffer, and the poorest and most vulnerable suffer above all.

During this Season of Creation, there is hope. Pope Francis calls us to develop a "loving awareness" of this home we share and to act on the values we hold dear. (LS 220) We pray that the Nativity community and the world will listen to Pope Francis's call. In honor of this commitment and to celebrate the wonderful but endangered biodiversity that our planet depends on, by popular demand, Nativity Parish and Creation Care Ministry will welcome back Secret Garden Birds and Bees with a Raptor Show at 3:00 pm at the Parish Fall Festival.

The visiting birds are Wildlife Ambassadors--they are in captivity because they wouldn't survive in the wild. We hope that sharing their stories will raise awareness about all of the wonderful creatures that live all around us in God's creation. For more information, email [nativitycreationcare@gmail.com](mailto:nativitycreationcare@gmail.com).



**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.



Youths 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](mailto:davezivich@gmail.com).





**ENJOY A NIGHT OUT**  
 BACK BY POLULAR DEMAND  
**NATIVITY'S**  
 4TH ANNUAL  
**MASQUERADE BALL**  
 OCTOBER 26, 2024



**THE BEST EVENT OF THE FALL SEASON**  
 MASKS ENCOURAGED BUT NEVER REQUIRED

**Attention Scouts - Religious Emblem Program Kick-Off**



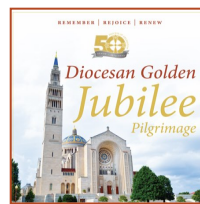
Part of the Scout Oath is Duty to God - one way to fulfill that is to earn a religious emblem while having fun and growing in your Catholic faith. All Scouting BSA Scouts ages 13 & up are invited join us on Thursday, 19 September at Nativity School (Room 203) at 7:30pm.

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](mailto:spmorthland@gmail.com) to register to attend and receive additional program information.

**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>.



**Join Father Bob, the Sisters, and other parishioners to celebrate the 50th Diocesan Golden Jubilee with a Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC Saturday, October 5**

<https://nativityburke.org/jubilee-pilgrimage/>

Sign up to ride on the Nativity buses, free of charge, on Saturday, October 5th. Meet in the Nativity church narthex by 8:00am to check in. The bus will leave for the Shrine at 8:15am, and is scheduled to return to Nativity by 3:30pm.

The cafeteria at the Shrine will be available to purchase lunch OR you can eat at a local restaurant OR you can bring your own bagged lunch. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this free event! Plenary Indulgence information available.

For questions or more information about the pilgrimage, please contact Nativity parish pilgrimage captains, Rick and Linda Loffredo, [lindaloffredo@gmail.com](mailto:lindaloffredo@gmail.com) or call 703.249.9492.

**Schedule:**

- 8:00 am - Meet in the Nativity narthex for bus departure
- 9:00 am - Opening Music in the Basilica
- 9:30 am - Arrival and Reception of Pilgrims, Welcome Remarks
- 9:45 am - Seated Overview Tour (20 min)
- 9:45 am - Family "Seek & Find" activity, Confessions begin
- 10:45 am - Spiritual Reflection (English in main Church by Fr. Keith O'Hare, Spanish in Crypt by Fr. Matthew Zuber-bueler)
- 11:30 am - Mass (celebrant and homilist, Bishop Burbidge)
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:45 pm - Eucharistic Adoration and Procession
- 2:30 pm - Blessing of Religious Articles
- 2:45 pm - Board the buses for return to Nativity



**Fall FESTIVAL**

[NATIVITYBURKE.ORG/FALL-FESTIVAL](http://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](mailto:fallfestival@nativityburke.org) for any inquiries or interest.




**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:**  
The first Prayer Shawl meeting after the summer break will be held on Monday morning, September 16th at 9:30 am 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.



**ILLUMINATED ROSARY**  
Sunday, October 6, at 7:00 PM  
in the Church Sanctuary.  
Please plan to bring your family and friends out for this beautiful event.

**Save the Date - October 2 @ 6:30pm**

Please join us October 2 at 6:30 pm in the Father Martin Center for **"Kids In Today's Society"** presented by MPO Tony Capizzi and PFC Liam May with the Fairfax County Police Department.



MPO Capizzi and PFC May will discuss current trends in social media, narcotics, and mental health concerns in the teen population. The class provides guidance for parents to talk to their children and find resources if their kids are dealing with any of these challenges. They will also bring items that demonstrate what kids use to conceal their contraband and show off what some of the contraband looks like. It is important to note that this presentation is for **PARENTS ONLY**. It is open to parents of Nativity Catholic School students, Religious Education Parents and parishioners.



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

Monday, September 16th  
7:30 am Special Int. for Brian Arriola

Tuesday, September 17th  
7:30 am Special Int. for Mrs. Kelly  
12:00 pm † Matt McCarthy

Wednesday, September 18th  
7:30 am † Graciano Morales & Carmen Morales  
3:00 pm Special Int. for Maria Asuncion Cortes Marquez

Thursday, September 19th  
7:30 am † Antonio Cosgaya  
12:00 pm † Daniel Pellegrin

Friday, September 20th  
7:30 am † Santiago A. Hernandez, Jr.  
9:00 am † Maurice McCarthy

Saturday, September 21st  
9:00 am Parishioners  
5:00 pm † Joseph Ernie Poblete  
7:00 pm † Aida Guardia

Sunday, September 22nd  
7:00 am † Elaine Nolan  
9:00 am † Sally Kosiek  
11:00 am † Michael Brendan Wilson  
1:00 pm † Timothy Smith  
5:30 pm † James Boyle

**In prayer, let us remember  
the sick and deceased of the parish  
visit [nativityburke.org](http://nativityburke.org) for the Priest Mass Schedule**

**Love to sing? Would you like to help enhance our church music?**

Come sing with the Nativity Traditional Choir, we are actively seeking new members! We sing many different musical styles and are looking for new choir members in all sections, especially High Soprano, Soprano, Tenor, and Bass.

The Nativity Traditional Choir (NTC) sings at the 9:00am. Sunday Mass throughout the year, Christmas Eve Midnight Mass with the Christmas Chamber Orchestra, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday morning Mass with the Easter Brass Quintet, parish Confirmation Mass, and other special occasions. Its repertoire consists of sacred music spanning different periods and styles, such as Traditional hymns, Classical & Romantic choral works, as well as Gospel and Contemporary Catholic hymns. Rehearsals are held on Thursday nights in the Church from 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

If you have a love for music and a desire to use your musical gift to worship the Lord and enhance the liturgy while praying and singing in harmony with others, you're welcome to join us. The choir is open to anyone over the age of 18. If interested or if you wish to join, please come speak to the NTC choir Director at the 9:00am Mass, or contact Mai Tran at [maitran2020@yahoo.com](mailto:maitran2020@yahoo.com).



# Kids in Today's Society (KITS)

## Nativity Catholic School

(6398 Nativity Ln, Burke, VA 22015)

Wednesday, October 2nd

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Presented by the Fairfax County Police Department. Come learn about current trends in social media, narcotics, and mental health concerns in the teen population. During the presentation we will provide guidance in talking to your kids and help you find resources.





**Sports & Prayer Nights:**

**High School Boys Edition**

**Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm**

**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](mailto:cyosports@nativityburke.org)

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



**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](mailto:lindaloffredo@gmail.com).

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

**Pro-Life Corner**

**Keys To Bioethics:** Clear answers to bioethical challenges arising from scientific and technological progress <https://laityinvolved.org/project/keys-to-bioethics/>  
**Advance Medical Directives for all Catholics:** legal instrument for use by all Catholics young or old, [arlingtondiocese.org/family-life/respect-life/end-of-life-medical-directives/](http://arlingtondiocese.org/family-life/respect-life/end-of-life-medical-directives/)  
**Profile:** Susan B. Anthony (SBA) Pro-Life America Marjorie Dannenfelser, President of SBA Pro-Life America, was raised in an Episcopalian family in North Carolina, but Marjorie “met smart, faithful Catholics who so loved their faith that it just, it inspired” her to become Catholic in 1989. Early on, the two key issues for her were: “The object of the abortion, what is it?” and “What if I’m wrong [supporting abortion]? The consequences of being wrong are eternal and damaging.” Dannenfelser, now a mother of five, leads SBA Pro-Life America, a nationwide network of over 1,000,000 Americans committed to serving women and saving babies. See her Sept. 5 EWTN interview: [youtube.com/watch?v=JmvgNc-OSkk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmvgNc-OSkk)  
**“How America Can Become Family Friendly Again” – Sept 16 at 7:00 pm:** Join us at St. James Catholic Church for guest speaker Timothy Carney as he discusses community, faith, and the gift of children, and how to make raising a family more manageable in a family-unfriendly culture. Appetizers and drinks will be served.



**Abortion Apologetics for Young People – Sept 17 at 7:00 – 8:30pm:** Free training and education for teens (and parents) to grad schoolers to understand the harm coming from the abortion industry and show how to engage in a healthy dialogue with the intent of changing hearts and minds. No registration required. St. John the Evangelist Church, 271 Winchester Street, Warrenton, VA. Mercy Hall behind the church.

**34th Annual Life Chain – Oct 6 at 2:30 - 3:30 pm:** 6222 Franconia Road, Alexandria Life Chains are a cooperative, are a cooperative, non-denominational effort of the entire Christian community held all across the U.S. and Canada <https://www.lifechain.net/>. Join us in this peaceful, prayerful public witness of solidarity by the Christian community supporting the sanctity of human life. Park at St. Lawrence and join us on the sidewalk.

**Nativity All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life – Oct 18:** 900 S. Washington Street, Falls Church. Set aside one hour for this 40 DFL vigil (from 7:00am – 7:00pm) 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. SIGN UP here: [bit.ly/42FrC2j](https://bit.ly/42FrC2j)

**Northern Virginia Baby Box Fundraiser – Safe Haven Baby Boxes:** ([www.shbb.org](http://www.shbb.org)) Safe Haven Baby Boxes’ mission is to prevent illegal abandonment of newborns by raising awareness, offering a 24-hour hotline for mothers in crisis and offering the Safe Haven Baby Boxes as a last resort option for women who want to maintain complete anonymity, [secure.qgiv.com/for/babyboxfundraiserfornorthernvirginia/](https://secure.qgiv.com/for/babyboxfundraiserfornorthernvirginia/)

**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](http://tepeyacobgyn.com), 703.273.9440.

**A Woman’s Choice Center:** Providing Compassionate Support: free pregnancy, medical, educational, and support services for women and families, 703.538.4305.

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!





Dear parishioners,

We need your help to teach our children! Volunteer catechists are urgently needed for various grades and times. Prayerfully consider to serve our children. High Schoolers are welcome to volunteer!

**All volunteers 18+ must submit Diocesan paperwork and background check before working this children.** Thank you for helping us serve our children!

***Classes start this Sunday, September 15th!***

***Student Registration will re-open on September 18th***

Session	Day & Time	Grade-Primary Catechist	Grade-Assistant Catechist
1	Sunday 3:45-5:00pm		K
3	Monday 4:45-6:00pm	6	2, 5

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



QR-code will take you directly to the volunteer page

**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.

**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 mturner@ccda.net.

*"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." MARK 8:34*  
 Living a stewardship lifestyle means not only being responsible for my own life, but for the lives of others as well. We realize that our gifts are not intended for ourselves, rather they are meant to be shared with others. "Taking up my cross" means doing things when someone else needs me and not when it's convenient for me.

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

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

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

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



**Change Lives. Save Lives.**

**"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**

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

**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!

Nativity Catholic Church



**EMAIL SCAM ALERT**

Nativity parishioners, please be aware of email scammers posing as Nativity priests. If you receive an email 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.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

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



**EDGE: GRADES 6-8**  
Twice a month: Sunday 3:30-5:00pm  
& Friday 7:00-8:30pm  
See website for full schedule



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

**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](mailto: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

**NATIVITY CYO SPORTS**

**TRACK & FIELD**  
**CROSS COUNTRY**

<b>REGISTRATION OPENS</b> SEPT. 1ST	<b>PRACTICES BEGIN</b> 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](mailto:CYOSPORTS@NATIVITYBURKE.ORG) FOR ANY QUESTIONS. COACHES NEEDED!!!



# NATIVITY STARS BASKETBALL

## REGISTRATION

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

Registration opens October 1st

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

## PRACTICES AND GAMES

Practices begin late October  
Games run from December to March

## VOLUNTEERS

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

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



**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, [osmurph@nativityschool.org](mailto:osmurph@nativityschool.org), for a school tour & additional info.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**IMPORTANT  
 UPCOMING DATES**

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 Fingerpaint?  
 The following qualifications are necessary:**

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



**To apply, contact Jen Behan, Director, at [jbehan@nativityschool.org](mailto: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](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](https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992)

**Illuminated Rosary:** Sunday, October 6, at 7 PM in the church sanctuary. Please plan to bring your family and friends out for this short, but beautiful event. We are looking for a new lead for this event. Please reach out to Br. Bob Sands or Br. Vince Augelli if you can assist. See SUG on LinkTree.

**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 on linktree Contact Br. Rick Loffredo for more info at [life7992@nativityburke.org](mailto: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](mailto:sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net). Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at [mstock\\_w@yahoo.com](mailto:mstock_w@yahoo.com).

**Name Tags:** If you have not received your name tag, email Warden Br. Lenny Richoux at [warden7992@nativityburke.org](mailto:warden7992@nativityburke.org).

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

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

**Handy Knights Ministry:** Parishioners unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small home repairs due to health or other factors, contact the "Handy Knights." Email [handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com](mailto:handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com).

**The Fraternal Committee:** Brothers helping brothers in need of assistance. Brothers and their families (living and deceased) in need of a helping hand, contact Br. John Landy at [navyy8@yahoo.com](mailto:navy8@yahoo.com).

**3rd Degree Knights - Grow with 4th Degree:** participate in patriotic activities that promote Catholic citizenship. 4th Degree Assembly meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Nativity school cafeteria: 7:30 PM rosary, 7:45 PM business meeting followed by fellowship. Next meeting is October 8. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Mark Corzine at [fn2996@vakofc.org](mailto: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](mailto:dgk7992@nativityburke.org) or the Grand Knight, Chris Odell at [gk7992@nativityburke.org](mailto: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.**

# Annual Mass FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



CELEBRATED BY  
MOST REV.  
MICHAEL BURBIDGE

St. Mark Catholic Church  
9970 Vale Rd, Vienna, VA

13 OCTOBER | 9:00 AM

Light reception & fellowship to follow



### Hispanic Heritage Mass and Festival with Bishop Burbidge

Join us for our annual Hispanic Heritage Mass and Festival with Bishop Burbidge on Sunday, October 13, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., including Mass at 12:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More, 3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington! We will be celebrating the rich spirituality, faith traditions, diverse cultural music, and delicious regional food of our Hispanic brothers and sisters.

Everyone is welcome, and we hope to see you there!  
Free admission and food will be available for purchase.

### The Knights of Columbus - Dames Auxiliary

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

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

### Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation

Give a child the gift of a Catholic education and receive most of your donation back in federal and state tax savings!

The Virginia Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credit Program will award a 65% state tax credit for donations made to the Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation, which will, in turn, provide scholarships for new students wishing to attend our diocesan Catholic Schools. You do not have to itemize in order to receive the 65% tax credit! Donations must be preauthorized in advance. Please call Jeanne Combos at 703-841-2764 (or email at [DASF@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:DASF@arlingtondiocese.org)) or go online for more details and to download the preauthorization request form at:

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Scholarship-Foundation/>

### 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. Play chips and enjoy 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](mailto:marketing@marianhomes.org) for more info.



**FRIDAY  
OCTOBER 04**      **TWIN LAKES "THE OAKS"  
CLIFTON, VA**

**\$175 (EARLY BIRD ENDS SEPT. 8)**

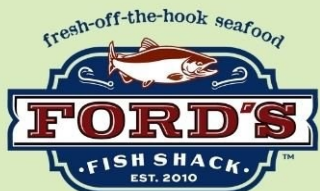
Includes green fees, cart, continental breakfast, drinks, premium lunch, 2 raffle tickets, a Mulligan and swag bag!

**TO REGISTER:**



[portocharities.org/golf](http://portocharities.org/golf)  
smchie@portocharities.org

**PREMIUM SEAFOOD LUNCH BY**



Lunch-only guests may participate in raffle & silent auction!

**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**



**Funds help provide education and employment for youth with disabilities in the Catholic Diocese of Arlington**



**BE A HERO!**

"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](mailto:retreat@ccda.net)

**CONTACT**

[retreat@ccda.net](mailto:retreat@ccda.net)  
703-841-3830  
[www.ccda.net](http://www.ccda.net)

**VOLUNTEER** at the retreat  
[https://bit.ly/vol\\_retreat](https://bit.ly/vol_retreat)







**FORMED**<sup>®</sup>

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

### TO ACCESS FORMED

Go to [Formed.org](https://formed.org) and enter our Parish code: **M4CJ3W** on the homepage. Create a personal account with your user name/email and password. Start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place!

**IMPORTANT:** Do not sign up as an individual. Our Parish access code provides more content than an individual subscription.

## St. Maximilian Kolbe | Catholic Saints

At age twelve, St. Maximilian Kolbe received a vision of Our Lady where he accepted the crowns of both purity and martyrdom, vowing to promote devotion to Mary as the defense against the twentieth century's evils. Join Dr. Sean Innerst and Dr. Ben Akers as they dive into the life of this modern martyr killed in Auschwitz to spare the life of a husband and father.

# 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](http://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](mailto:info@iwopf.org)



YOU ARE PERSONALLY INVITED TO A....

# MEN'S EVENING OF REFLECTION

PLEASE JOIN US FOR:

- HOLY SACRAMENT OF THE MASS
- SPIRITUAL & MEDITATIVE TALK
- OPPORTUNITY FOR CONFESSION
- FELLOWSHIP, DRINKS & DINNER

**UPCOMING DATE:** SEPTEMBER 18TH

**TIME:** 7:00 - 9:30 PM

**LOCATION:** DIVINE MERCY UNIVERSITY

45154 UNDERWOOD LN, STERLING, VA 20166

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$25

**WHO:** ALL MEN INTERESTED IN DEEPENING THEIR FAITH

[CLICK HERE OR SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER](#)



FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:  
RCMENSSECTIONVA@GMAIL.COM



# Giorgio Frassati

RETREAT  
for  
Young Adults

Ages 21-35

\* OCT 18-20  
FRIDAY-SUNDAY

COME CLIMB WITH US!

Verso l'alto "on to the heights"  
means not only to climb the mountains  
before us, but also refers to scaling the  
peaks and navigating the troughs of the  
spiritual life and finding Jesus.

PGF

*\*For the more adventurous souls —  
come along on a Sunday afternoon excursion  
to the summit of a Blue Ridge Peak!*



Fr. J.P. Heisler & Fr. J. Townsend  
will guide us to the summit!

Email Deacon Mark Maines at:  
[Mark.Maines@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:Mark.Maines@arlingtondiocese.org)



RETREAT COST IS \$285. FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE.



# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

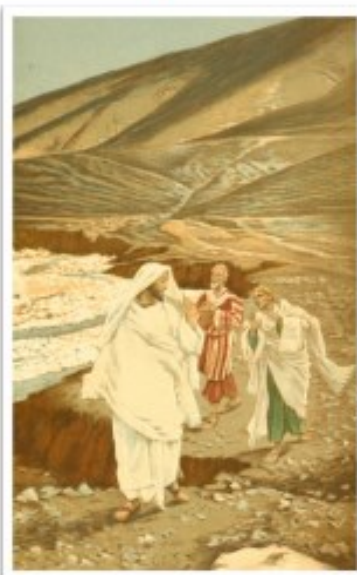
## 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**September 15, 2024:** Is 50:5-9a | Ps 116:1-9 |  
Jas 2:14-18 | Mk 8:27-35

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, help me take up my cross and follow you in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

### Who is Jesus to YOU?

Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say I am?" and "Who do you think I am?" This is a typical question for most of us, too. We want to know what people think about us, which often influences our self-concept, actions, reasoning, and confidence. Sometimes, caring too much about what others think can be unhealthy, but other times, when seeking a close relationship with someone, this is very important.



People usually try to get to know each other first before entering any true and lasting friendship, especially a romantic relationship. Spending time together to learn what is important to one another is crucial. We try to learn everything we can about each other's likes/dislikes, values, hopes, dreams, goals, fears, concerns, and life experiences. After sharing, we may ask ourselves, "how do they see me? Does this person accept me for who I am?" The other person probably thinks the same thing because mutual acceptance builds respect and trust, vital in any loving relationship.

Jesus wanted a personal, loving, and trusting relationship with His disciples and desires the

same kind of intimate friendship with us. Once the disciples acknowledged Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus told them the hard truths they would need to accept, even if they didn't yet fully understand, that He would suffer, die, and rise from the dead. Not only this, but all who love and believe in Him must do the same if they genuinely trust Him.

Today, Jesus continues to ask, "Who am I to you? Are you willing to spend time with me as your intimate friend and confidant? Do you believe my teachings even when it seems hard? Are you willing to put your faith in me into action? Will you accept your own suffering, persecutions, trials, and crosses in this life, trusting that I will carry you to eternal joy and peace with my Father?"

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † Are there some parts of your life where you must align your actions with your Catholic beliefs?
- † What crosses and sacrifices has God asked you to bear, and has any good come from them?
- † How can you strengthen your relationship with Jesus and your acceptance of difficult Church teachings?
- † How can you help others in their journey of faith?

## El Espíritu de Jesús abre las puertas que la “letra” cierra bajo cuatro llaves | Ignacio Simal 181 19 201



Jesús les dijo: Yo soy el pan de vida; el que a mí viene, nunca tendrá hambre; y el que en mí cree, no tendrá sed jamás [...] Todo lo que el Padre me da, vendrá a mí; y al que a mí viene, no le echo fuera. (S.Juan 6:35, 37 RVR1960)

Los seres humanos tenemos la tendencia a sacralizar todo lo que amamos. Y con esa sacralización de lo amado le arrebatamos su libertad, su evolución, su crecimiento... En fin, hacemos de lo amado un objeto estático, sin ningún tipo de mudanza y cambio. Y cómo nos asusta lo que está en constante cambio y evolución, porque ello desestabiliza nuestras convenciones sociales y/o religiosas. Aquellos que se sienten seguros con la estabilidad que les ofrece lo que no muda, lo que siempre es igual, experimentan auténtico pavor a la posibilidad de que el objeto estático de su amor cambie de alguna manera, y eso les hace reaccionar con violencia hacia aquellos que afirman que no todo puede permanecer igual, que los tiempos cambian, y que el soplo del Espíritu de Dios es incontrolable.

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Ya la primera comunidad de cristianos experimentó una situación que iba a cambiar el devenir eclesial (Hechos,15). Los no judíos estaban recibiendo el Espíritu, y creyendo en Jesús sin pasar por el judaísmo. Es decir, sin pasar por el rito-señal de la Alianza que Dios hizo con los patriarcas. Fue un conflicto, no pequeño, que nosotros no somos capaces de atisbar en toda su dimensión. Pero lo que sí podemos afirmar es que no existía ninguna enseñanza de Jesús al respecto, y todos los textos de las Escrituras militaban en contra de la admisión de los no gentiles sin pasar por la circuncisión. La primera comunidad tenía dos opciones, o aferrarse al texto, o atender a la acción del Espíritu rompiendo la convención religiosa o escrituras. Evidentemente, optaron por atender al viento del Espíritu que sopla donde quiere, y como quiere. Y esto lo hicieron a sabiendas que iba a levantar ampollas, como así fue, en un amplio sector del “cristianismo” de aquel tiempo.

Cuando leemos las “historia” de Jesús en los Evangelios, debemos caer en la cuenta de que la mayoría de lo sucedido en la historia de la concepción, nacimiento y vida de Jesús contravinieron el pensamiento de los que estaban apegados a la letra del texto, y no a la libertad de actuación del Espíritu de Dios. Esta es una verdad no abierta a la discusión.

El Evangelio de Jesús de Nazaret, el Cristo, nos invita a dejar que nuestra barca sea impulsada por el viento del Espíritu, y no por el viento de “la letra” que nos conduce a ninguna parte. Este último viento da una apariencia de movimiento, pero lo que realmente logra es que demos rodeos constantes en torno al mismo lugar.

De ahí que cuando Jesús de Nazaret, impulsado por el viento del Espíritu, inicia su ministerio, su praxis gira en torno a la comunión de mesa con “publicanos y pecadores”. Los apegados a letra de las Escrituras, y a los usos y costumbres de su tradición religiosa, reaccionan preguntando a los discípulos de Jesús, “¿por qué se sienta a comer con esa clase de gente?” (Mc. 2:16). Y es que como ya hemos dicho, dejarse conducir por el viento del Espíritu logra la inclusión a la vida de la comunidad de Jesús a los excluidos y excluidas por el sistema religioso. Mientras que, por otra parte, escandaliza a las mentes bien pensantes según la letra de las Escrituras.

Y de nuevo nos encontramos con las palabras de Jesús con las que hemos iniciado esta reflexión: “Yo soy el pan de vida; el que a mí viene, nunca tendrá hambre; y el que en mí cree, no tendrá sed jamás [...] Todo lo que el Padre me da, vendrá a mí; y al que a mí viene, no le echo fuera”.

El Padre-madre que está en los cielos da a Jesús a todos aquellos y aquellas que a lo largo de los siglos han sido excluidos de la comunidad del pueblo de Dios, y de la sociedad en la que vivían. De tal manera que no hay nadie, absolutamente nadie, que viniendo a Jesús con fe, con ansias de construir el mundo nuevo y con nostalgia de eternidad, le rechace para la militancia en el pueblo de Dios a favor de la conversión de la historia en la nueva forma de convivencia social propuesta por Jesús de Nazaret.

El Espíritu de Jesús abre las puertas que la “letra” cierra bajo cuatro llaves. La “letra” cerraba las puertas a que los paganos formarían parte del pueblo de Dios si hacerse prosélitos del judaísmo; cerraba las puertas a que las mujeres tomarán puestos de dirección, e incluso tomarán la palabra en la comunidad de fe; a que los divorciados y divorciadas participaran de la comunión plena de la Iglesia, y así podríamos seguir con un largo etcétera de exclusiones en la dilatada y densa historia de las iglesias. Hoy, las iglesias inician un discernimiento relativamente nuevo, el discernimiento de no condenar, admitiendo a la comunión plena, a aquellas personas que durante siglos han sido excluidas y maltratadas en sus espacios, las personas LGTBI. Y ahí estamos, iniciando un camino escandaloso para los apegados a la “letra”, y cerrados, en mi opinión, a la inspiración del Espíritu de Jesús. La historia se repite: cada paso liberador que toma la gracia de Dios siempre ha escandalizado a los que idolatran la literalidad de los textos sagrados.

La “letra” puede cerrar puertas, pero el Espíritu de Jesús las abre para no volverlas a cerrar jamás. La “letra” nos condena al hambre existencial y al dolor que este provoca. Sin embargo Jesús de Nazaret sacia nuestro hambre existencial, de tal manera que no volveremos a tener hambre jamás. Pero, siempre hay un “pero”, todo depende de que no miremos nunca jamás atrás, porque “nadie que ponga su mano en el arado [con la fuerza del viento del Espíritu] y mire atrás es apto para el mundo nuevo de Dios [donde reinará la justicia, la fraternidad y la misericordia]” (Luc. 9:62 BTI).

**XXIV Domingo Ordinario - B**  
**Evangelio de la Misa: Mc 8,27-35**  
**Seguir a Cristo**

Hoy se lee en el Evangelio un párrafo denso en contenido doctrinal, y por tanto de gran importancia y utilidad para la aceptación de la fe y para la vida cristiana.

Es el Evangelio de la “encuesta” de Jesús sobre lo que pensaba la gente de El. También en esta ocasión la encuesta está previamente manejada (¿manipulada?). Más que la opinión de los demás, Jesús con su pregunta quería inculcar a sus apóstoles y seguidores quién era El, cómo habrá de terminar su existencia terrena, y qué había que hacer realmente para seguirle con alegría, entrega y responsabilidad.

Señor, Jesús, que compartes nuestra existencia terrena y convives con todos: con quienes te siguen por curiosidad o interés personal, y con quienes te aceptan y se entregan a Ti con amor y fidelidad.

No te importaban las opiniones de los demás sobre tu persona y misión. Sobre todo te preocupaba que con sinceridad te entendieran y con lealtad te siguieran constantemente, incluso cargando con la inevitable cruz de cada día.

Tú fuiste por delante con tu vida y tu muerte. Tu eres el mejor Maestro y Guía para caminar por la vida. Dame, Señor, la fe auténtica y por tanto el sentido sobrenatural suficiente para entenderte y seguirte, y así cargar con la bendita cruz de cada día.

Y que jamás merezca el reproche que lanzaste a Pedro: ¡“Quítate de mi vista, Satanás, tú piensas como los hombres y no como Dios!”.

Tristemente se ven algunos cristianos tibios y dubitativos, críticos y superficiales, que se empeñan en catalogarte con métodos y criterios puramente humanos, y a veces con una visión torpe, materialista e interesada.

Con esa cerrazón humana y sin sentido sobrenatural no pueden entenderte, valorarte ni seguirte; e incluso tu mensaje se tergiversa convirtiéndolo en pura filantropía, la pureza en decencia, la mortificación en simpleza y todas las obras estériles.

Que esas palabras, Señor, me ayuden a no perder el sentido sobrenatural en toda mi vida: en el trabajo y en la diversión, en la familia y con los amigos, en el gozar de la cultura y en el compartir la solidaridad cristiana.

Quiero, Señor, negarme a mí mismo, para aceptar y cargar con la cruz de cada día, y así seguirte hasta “perder mi vida” por el Evangelio.

Padre Segismundo Fernandez Rodríguez



**RECONOCER A JESÚS EL CRISTO**  
**EL 24 DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**  
**CICLO B**

¿Quién decís que soy yo?

El episodio ocupa un lugar central y decisivo en el relato de Marcos. Los discípulos llevan ya un tiempo conviviendo con Jesús. Ha llegado el momento en que se han de pronunciar con claridad. ¿A quién están siguiendo? ¿Qué es lo que descubren en Jesús? ¿Qué captan en su vida, su mensaje y su proyecto?

Desde que se han unido a él, viven interrogándose sobre su identidad. Lo que más les sorprende es la autoridad con que habla, la fuerza con que cura a los enfermos y el amor con que ofrece el perdón de Dios a los pecadores. ¿Quién es este hombre en quien sienten tan presente y tan cercano a Dios como Amigo de la vida y del perdón?

Entre la gente que no ha convivido con él se corren toda clase de rumores, pero a Jesús le interesa la posición de sus discípulos:

«Y vosotros, ¿quién decís que soy yo?». No basta que entre ellos haya opiniones diferentes más o menos acertadas. Es fundamental que los que se han comprometido con su causa, reconozcan el misterio que se encierra en él. Si no es así, ¿quién mantendrá vivo su mensaje? ¿Qué será de su proyecto del reino de Dios? ¿En qué terminará aquel grupo que está tratando de poner en marcha?

Pero la cuestión es vital también para sus discípulos. Les afecta radicalmente. No es posible seguir a Jesús de manera inconsciente y ligera. Tienen que conocerlo cada vez con más hondura. Pedro, recogiendo las experiencias que han vivido junto a él hasta ese momento, le responde en nombre de todos: «Tú eres el Mesías».

La confesión de Pedro es todavía limitada. Los discípulos no conocen aún la crucifixión de Jesús a manos de sus adversarios. No pueden ni sospechar que será resucitado por el Padre como Hijo amado. No conocen experiencias que les permitan captar todo lo que se encierra en Jesús. Solo siguiéndolo de cerca, lo irán descubriendo con fe creciente.

Para los cristianos es vital reconocer y confesar cada vez con más hondura el misterio de Jesús el Cristo. Si ignora a Cristo, la Iglesia vive ignorándose a sí misma. Si no lo conoce, no puede conocer lo más esencial y decisivo de su tarea y misión. Pero, para conocer y confesar a Jesucristo, no basta llenar nuestra boca con títulos cristológicos admirables. Es necesario seguirlo de cerca y colaborar con él día a día. Ésta es la principal tarea que hemos de promover en los grupos y comunidades cristianas.

José Antonio Pagola



Then Jesus called the crowd to Him along with His disciples. What did He tell them?

Use the code to write the words into the numbered blanks and read the verse.

- |            |          |              |
|------------|----------|--------------|
| 3 CROSS    | 1 GOSPEL | 11 SAVE      |
| 2 DISCIPLE | 5 FOLLOW | 7 LIFE       |
| 9 ME       | 8 LOSE   | 12 WHOEVER   |
| 10 TAKE    | 4 DENY   | 6 THEMSELVES |

"\_\_\_\_\_ wants to be My  
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ must \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
6 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
up their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 \_\_\_\_\_. For \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_ wants to  
\_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ it, but  
11 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ s their \_\_\_\_\_  
12 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
for \_\_\_\_\_ and for the \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ it."  
9 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_



"But what about you?" He asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

Connect the dots from 1 to 55.



Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about Him.



# Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

September 15, 2024 • Mark 8:27-35

## Jesus Is the Messiah

As Jesus and His disciples were traveling, He asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

Write the following words in the correct spaces to get the answer. (Hint: Count the letters in the word and find the matching number of blanks.)  
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They replied, "Some s a y

\_\_\_\_\_ the

\_\_\_\_\_ ;

others say

\_\_\_\_\_ ;

and still others, one of the

\_\_\_\_\_."

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer ... be killed and after three days, do what?

Use the code to write the words from this Bible story in the blanks. (Hint: Words are not in order.) Read the letters in the darker boxes from top to bottom to see the answer.

- |          |           |          |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| = TEACH  | = SON     | = JESUS  |
| = CROSS  | = HIM     | = PEOPLE |
| = CHRIST | = MESSIAH | = BEGAN  |

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