

# 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

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

#### **SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:**

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

#### **MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:**

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

#### **MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.  
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro, A.R., M.R.E.  
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant  
Joyce Kelly, SPRED Coordinator

#### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR**

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454-2415 or  
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](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 Msgr. Bob Cilinski



**"No servant can serve two masters" - Luke 16:15**

My dear parishioners,

The parable of the landowner, who goes out throughout the day hiring more workers for his vineyard, teaches us about God's invitation to be co-workers for the Kingdom and God's generosity to those who respond.

There is no need for anyone to stand idly by, for we are called and chosen to participate in something marvelous and joyful. Name the many ways you work for the Lord, some of which no one notices. Name the ways in which the Lord has been generous and loving to you. Everyday, let us bless the Lord and praise God's name. Thank you for the love and goodness you share in our church, parish community, school and religious education center.

Love and blessings,

*Bob Cilinski*

Msgr. Bob Cilinski,  
Pastor

### 2025 WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT SALE

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 training sessions this fall.

The remaining two training sessions will be held in the church from: 6:00 - 7:00pm on **MONDAY - SEPT 22 and THURSDAY - SEPT 25**. One parent should attend the first training session if possible to register your child.



### Bishop Michael F. Burbidge's Statement on the Assassination of Charlie Kirk

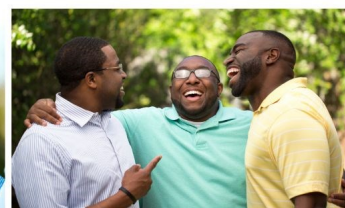
September 10, 2025

As Americans, we are witnesses in just the past few weeks to a vicious pattern of political and social disorder. At Annunciation Catholic Parish in Minneapolis, the killings of Harper Moyski and Fletcher Merkel, two innocent children. In Charlotte, the murder of Ukrainian refugee Iryna Zarutka. And now the political assassination of Charlie Kirk, known for his commitment to civil and rational discourse. We entrust each of these victims to God, our Heavenly Father and author of every human life, and his son Jesus Christ, the reason for our supernatural hope.

What we see unfolding in our nation is a vicious pattern of hatreds rooted in the rejection of God, of the dignity of the human person, and the sanctity of the family. We can eradicate these ills only through a firm reliance on God, through a deeper devotion to Christ and the Gospel, through a sincere love for persons reflected in law, and through a renewed commitment to justice and public order.

We are living through a perilous moment. Our challenge is not only one of partisan disagreement, law, and policy, but in a deeper way our challenge is to uphold the central goods of American political life: of faith, of families, and of a national commitment to live together in harmony as brothers and sisters.

### Nativity Catholic Church



SCAN ME!

### 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/](http://nativityburke.org/caregivers-gathering/)



**NATIVITY  
FALL FESTIVAL**

**27 SEPT 2025**

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

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

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

**VOLUNTEER SIGNUP**



**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](mailto:1jessmayo@gmail.com).

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**OUR SISTERS URGENTLY NEED A VOLUNTEER CATECHIST FOR  
OUR TUESDAY-4:45-6:00 PM,  
1ST GRADE CLASS!**

## POSITIONS ALSO NEEDED FOR ALL SESSIONS:

- Substitute catechist
- Office assistants

Please note- All volunteers working with children must submit Diocesan paperwork for a background check and attend a Virtus training.

**For more information and to sign up,  
please visit our page or scan the QR  
[code.nativityburke.org/re/volunteer](https://code.nativityburke.org/re/volunteer)**

## Religious Education Session Schedule

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





## CATHOLIC SPORTS CLUB YOUNG ADULT BASKETBALL



JOIN US ON  
THURSDAYS IF  
YOU'RE IN YOUR  
20S OR 30S!

Starting 9/25

8:30-10:15PM  
Nativity Gym (FMC)

FACEBOOK EVENT



### A Message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

**HYDRATE  
WITHOUT  
WASTE**



CLEANER PLANET

#### The Fall Festival is NEXT SATURDAY!

Reminder to bring your reusable water bottle to earn free tickets at our water-bottle refill stations! Everyone in the family is eligible.

**Raptor show at 3:00 pm:** Get up close and personal with some of creation's most fascinating creatures.

**Celebration of Trees Table:** Earn a book for completing our native tree scavenger hunt! Great for families!



## MARIAN HOMES CASINO NIGHT GALA 2025

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

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!  
[www.marionhomes.org/gala](http://www.marionhomes.org/gala)

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

POKER ♦ BLACKJACK ♦ ROULETTE



### HOLY LAND OLIVEWOOD CHRISTIAN DISPLAYS

On the weekend of October 4th and 5th, 2025, there will be a display of beautiful olive wood handmade carvings from the Holy Land in our church.

These carvings are made by the Christians of Bethlehem who use them as their main source of income. These brothers and sisters of ours are enduring hardships **Especially Now** because of the volatile situation in their home country.

Christians in the Holy Land used to be more than 37% of the population. There are less than 1% now. As Christians of faith, it is our duty to support our brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. YOU can support them by purchasing some of these beautiful carvings after mass. For more information, please contact us at 202-302-5889 or visit [www.BethlehemCarvings.org](http://www.BethlehemCarvings.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!



### 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/>



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

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

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

Want to get involved? Visit:

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

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

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

**ALTAR FLOWERS - Donated by**

The Pannoni Family  
In Loving Memory of  
Lisa Pannoni



**Retreat For  
Persons Facing Serious Illness**

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

Amid illness and uncertainty, God's love remains a steady source of comfort, strength, and renewal. You, and your caregiver, are invited to a peaceful weekend retreat filled with compassionate care, spiritual support, and gentle rest.

Through prayer, inspiring talks, group discussions, and quiet reflection, you'll encounter God's healing presence. A team of priests, medical professionals, and caring volunteers will accompany you, offering both spiritual and emotional support.

Diocesan priests will provide one-on-one spiritual direction, and therapeutic support will be available in a respectful, nurturing environment. Whether you seek peace, hope, or simply a place to rest in God's love — you are welcome here.

**October 3 - 5, 2025**

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](http://retreat@ccda.net)



**MASS INTENTIONS &  
MASS SCHEDULE**

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

**Monday, September 22**

7:30 am † Carol Bradshaw  
12:00 pm † Ana Vasquez

**Tuesday, September 23**

7:30 am † Jose Pastor Jr.  
12:00 pm † Stephen Lisi Jr.

**Wednesday, September 24**

7:30 am † Ruth Jones  
10:00 am Special Intention for Galileo Mark & Ivy Namata (Heatherwood)

**Thursday, September 25**

7:30 am Special Intention for David A. White  
12:00 pm Special Intention for Der Boghossian  
60th Wedding Anniversary

**Friday, September 26**

7:30 am † Mary Harter

**Saturday, September 27**

9:00 am † Pat McAnallen  
5:00 pm † Frank & Lucy Klimkos  
7:00 pm Special Intention for Ketty Morales

**Sunday, September 28**

7:00 am † Florinda Molina  
9:00 am † Guadalupe Nieto  
11:00 am † Philip C. Freije  
1:00 pm † Anthony Miles, Jr.  
5:30 pm Parishioners

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

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



Our Holy Mother Mary is our model! Mary devoted herself exclusively to the Eucharistic glory of Jesus. She knew that it was the desire of the Eternal Father to make the Eucharist known, loved, and served by all men; that the need of Jesus' heart was to communicate to all men his gifts of grace and glory.

Mary's desire was to make him known in his Sacrament. The "30 Day Eucharistic Revival" developed by Fr. Calloway, MIC will inspire you to make the Eucharist the center of your life.

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](mailto:33DayConsecration@nativityburke.org).

CONTACT  
[retreat@ccda.net](mailto:retreat@ccda.net)  
[ccda.net](http://ccda.net)  
703-841-1830

VOLUNTEER  
[volunteer.ccda.net](http://volunteer.ccda.net)





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

Council volunteers are needed to help run the soccer challenge.

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

**Sick / Homebound Visits**

Are you or someone you know sick and/or homebound for any reason? We can arrange home visits from the parish and provide prayer and the sacraments. We would love to bring God's Grace and Peace to anyone in difficult times.

Please contact Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister, at [csands@nativityburke.org](mailto:csands@nativityburke.org) to schedule a visit.



**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!**



*Life Chain*



**LIFE CHAIN SUNDAY**

**Sunday, October 5th from 2:30 to 3:30pm  
Park at St. Lawrence, 6222 Franconia Road, Alexandria  
Meet us on the nearby sidewalk**

LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful, prayerful public witness—a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children, hurts women and men, and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death.

Join our Life Chain as part of the hundreds of thousands of Christians that hold vigil together for one hour across the United States and Canada on this First Sunday in October every year! <https://www.lifechain.net/>.

Life Chains are safe, legal and non-confrontational. We coordinate each event with the Fairfax County Police who have assured us of their support. We ask adults and youth to spend the hour standing in silent or group prayer. Small children, senior citizens and handicapped persons are welcome to sit, just bring your own chairs.

Nativity Contact: Rick Loffredo at [RickLoffredo@outlook.com](mailto:RickLoffredo@outlook.com).

**NATIVITY ROSARY MINISTRY****Hello Nativity!! Happy Fall!!**

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.

We distribute our rosaries at Nativity but a majority of our rosaries are sent out into the world. We get requests from all over the world and try to fill as many as we can. One of our Rosary Makers has made over 500 rosaries for their childhood parish who doesn't have the means to buy or make rosaries on their own. Another group from Florida was looking for some rosaries for their catholic school. We were able to send them 85 Rosaries as well. This is such a beautiful Ministry and we love knowing that we are helping Mary by making these Rosaries and getting them into praying hands. Around the corner and around the world as Father Martin used to say.

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 Sunday meeting will be October 19 from 2:00-3:30pm 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 you can contact us at [rosaryministry@nativityburke.org](mailto:rosaryministry@nativityburke.org).





# RALLY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025

**ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED!**



**What:** Mass with Bishop Burbidge, Eucharistic Adoration, inspirational speakers, breakout sessions, inflatable games, music, ice cream, and more!

**Cost:** \$30 (includes registration, bus, snacks, dinner, & t-shirt)

**Time:** Depart Nativity at 11:00 a.m., return no later than 9:00 p.m.

**Registration:** Fill out the form on the parish website or scan the QR code. Registration closes on Wednesday, October 22 at 10:00 a.m.




**Fall Marriage Enrichment Program:**  
**Joyful Ever After Summit**

Fridays, October 3, 10, 17, and 24  
6:30-8:30 PM | Nativity Teachers' Lounge  
Potluck Dinner

**The mission of Joyful Ever After is to help couples flourish in holy marriages, build strong marriage communities, and enrich parish life with the soul of the family.**

**Registration Link**  
<https://nativityburke.org/mem-program/>  
Anna Lisa - [marriage@nativityburke.org](mailto:marriage@nativityburke.org)

## Pro-Life Corner

**Nativity All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life:** Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> - 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> *Abortion is never medically necessary, 'even in an emergency,' experts say* - As reported by Katie Yoder in OSV News, September 3, 2025, "Abortion—an act performed with the sole or primary intent of ending human life in the womb—is never medically necessary, according to medical doctors and Catholic experts on the issue... Instead, these experts said, doctors must endeavor to care for the two patients involved in every pregnancy: the woman and her unborn baby... [S]ituations can exist where a pregnant woman may receive life-saving treatment for herself even if it threatens or indirectly leads to her baby's death [such as an ectopic pregnancy]. The intent, here, is to save her life, not end her baby's life... Addressing church teaching, Bishop Daniel E. Thomas said that abortion is "never the right moral decision" and that '(w)e must make a clear moral and legal distinction between tragically losing a child and intentionally taking the life of a child'"

"The Catechism of the Catholic Church, which summarizes church teaching, recognizes the inherent dignity of the human person beginning at conception and condemns any "crime against human life," such as abortion. 'Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion,'... 'Both the preborn child and mother are human beings with rights...and have equal dignity,' [Meaney] said."

"These experts shared their guidance for pregnant women who are feeling overwhelmed or scared by their situation. [Dr. Christina Francis, a board-certified OB-GYN,] wanted them to know that no state law prevents excellent obstetric care and that they have access to additional support through pregnancy centers and other programs. Raviele added that, if a woman has been told to abort her baby, she should seek a second opinion. She recommended women turn to the Catholic Medical Association. Bishop Thomas addressed how the church, including everyday Catholics, can accompany pregnant women facing life-threatening situations. 'First, to accompany with love and pastoral care pregnant women who find themselves in these frightening situations,' he said. He called on pastors and pro-life family and friends to be aware of the nuances to better help women."

**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>

**Project Rachel - Help after Abortion:** A safe, confidential place to share your emotions and work toward healing. [helpafterabortion.org](http://helpafterabortion.org), 703.841.2504. **Day of Prayer and Healing** on September 27<sup>th</sup>: 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](http://helpforpregnantwomen.org), 866.444.3553.

**Marian Homes:** Purchases and maintains affordable homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities, [marianhomes.org/](http://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/>.





# *Peace in the Storm*

## Chronic Pain and Illness Support Group

**Tuesday, September 23 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm | Church Conference Room**  
**Thursday, October 9 | 12:15 - 2:15 pm | Fr. Ready Room**

Nativity Catholic Church is aware of the many challenges that chronic pain and illness pose in the lives of our parishioners. We understand how these conditions can lead to questions of faith, too, and want you to know that you are not alone!

All adult parishioners who have chronic pain or illness are invited to participate in a parish-based, small, faith fellowship group developed by the national ministry called The Peace in the Storm Project. We meet to reflect, pray, and deepen our understanding of God's love, presence, and purpose with and through health challenges within the context of our Catholic faith and parish community. Group participants will receive The Peace in the Storm Project **Discussion Guide** at no cost.



If you are interested in joining the group or for more information, please email Anna Lisa Licud at [alitud@nativityburke.org](mailto:alitud@nativityburke.org) or visit our parish website [www.nativityburke.org/peace-in-the-storm/](http://www.nativityburke.org/peace-in-the-storm/)



**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](mailto:retreat@ccda.net), and a nurse will contact you within a few days. For further information, please call (703) 841-3830. Space is limited.



**5K in the Park**  
**Sunday,**  
**October 19**

Fairfax Memorial Park Cemetery  
 9900 Braddock Rd, Fairfax VA 22032

Registration 9:00am Run/Walk 10:00am

**Be a Winner. Run for a Cause.**

Register before Oct 12 at  
[Fairfaxmemorialfuneralhome.com](http://Fairfaxmemorialfuneralhome.com)

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

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

## SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



# OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY  
 NOVEMBER 2, 2025  
 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Register Here!



Bring the whole family! Meet students, teachers, and coaches and learn what makes JP GREAT!!

17700 Dominican Drive, Potomac Shores, VA 22026  
[jpthegreat.org](http://jpthegreat.org) · 703.445.0246



**NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence  
 nativityschool.org

**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

We are in need of substitute teachers with the following minimum qualifications:

- ⇒ 2-plus years of college
- ⇒ Ability to follow a lesson plan and give effective instructions in the absence of the teacher
- ⇒ Proficiency in maintaining effective classroom management skills
- ⇒ Diocesan-compliant
- ⇒ Successful background check



For more information, email Rich Godwin at rgodwin@nativityschool.org, or call him at (703) 455-2300, ext.146; or you can contact Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, at (703) 455-2300, or smurph@nativityschool.org.

**Important Upcoming Dates ~**

\*\*\*\*\*

- Mon, Sep 22 - Charleston Wrap Fundraiser Begins
- Mon, Sep 22 - Band Lessons Begin
- Mon, Sep 22 - New Altar Server Training 6-7 p.m.
- Thurs, Sep 25 - New Altar Server Training 6-7 p.m.
- Fri, Sep 26 - Panera Fundraiser 4-8 p.m.
- Mon, Sep 29 - No School/Professional Development
- Fri, Oct 3 - Virtue Awards Bestowed at Mass
- Fri, Oct 3 - Blessing of Animals 2:15-2:45 p.m.
- Fri, Oct 3 - PTO Board Game Night 6-9:30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

At Nativity, faith fills us. Love lives here. Nativity Stars are filled with the Holy Spirit! Join us to see how your child would spend his or her days here -- learning, praying, sharing, and laughing.

We may be just the school for which you've been searching!

Contact us at [www.nativityschool.org](http://www.nativityschool.org), (703) 455-2300, or smurph@nativityschool.org.

**PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC):**

We are a social group, mostly aged 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate group.) Meet us for:

Mass at St. Louis Church/visit to Poor Clares Monastery (Oct. 5); Thursday lunches (Oct. 9 & 23); dinner in Ashburn (Oct. 11); tour of historic Rippon Lodge and Neabsco Creek Boardwalk (Oct. 18); Ocean City Beach Days (Oct. 24-27); serving meal at Christ House (Oct. 25); ancient cemeteries tour/dinner in Alexandria (Oct. 26); Annual Dinner Dance (Nov. 15). For details, visit our website: [bit.ly/ptsc](http://bit.ly/ptsc). With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at [ptscnva@gmail.com](mailto:ptscnva@gmail.com).



**KNIGHTS  
 OF COLUMBUS**  
 IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



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 Agelli, at [dkg7992@nativityburke.org](mailto:dkg7992@nativityburke.org) or the Grand Knight, Michael Bender at [gk7992@nativityburke.org](mailto:gk7992@nativityburke.org) with any questions.

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

**27 Sept - Nativity Fall Festival Knights support.** Tent raising on 26 September. 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 - Knights Recruiting Event and donut Sunday!** Please sign up to support via LinkTree.

**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!

**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](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 [sawyer koc7992@verizon.net](mailto:sawyer koc7992@verizon.net). For Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at [mstock\\_w@yahoo.com](mailto:mstock_w@yahoo.com). Deliver food from Giant to the FFO warehouse Tuesday mornings; contact Br. Bob Colella [robert.colella.86@gmail.com](mailto:robert.colella.86@gmail.com).

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

**Nativity Ushers assist at collections:** Volunteer for your Mass! Volunteer on LinkTree to maintain a database of potential helpers!

**Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies:** We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. See info on LinkTree.

**Handy Knights Ministry.** Parishioners unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small home repairs due to health or other factors, contact the "Handy Knights." Email [handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com](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 [navy8@yahoo.com](mailto:navy8@yahoo.com) or 703-250-1492.

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

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





### Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation

Saturday, September 27, 2025 | Noon–3 PM

Holy Cross Abbey, Berryville, VA



Join parishioners from across the Arlington Diocese for a peaceful and prayerful walk through the sacred grounds of Holy Cross Abbey. Treat yourself to this special Jubilee event.

#### Experience the Spirit of Pilgrimage

- Hear from Cistercian monks about their eco-friendly land stewardship
- Learn about the Cool Spring Natural Cemetery that they maintain
- Reflect on God's creation during a mindful 1 mile walk to the chapel
- Join the monks for their 2 p.m. prayer in the chapel
- Visit with other pilgrims on the 1 mile walk back to the pavilion

To see the schedule and reserve your place at this limited capacity venue, visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0448AAA82FAAF49-57786714-jubilee#/>

**Transportation Available** If there is enough interest, we will reserve a coach bus leaving from Reston with stops in Leesburg and Purcellville. See RSVP form.

**Location:** Holy Cross Abbey, 901 Cool Spring Ln, Berryville, VA

Meet at the pavilion just beyond the driveway entrance.

Sponsored by the Care for Creation Network of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington

Spending a weekend at a seminary is a critical part of exploring your vocation. You live, pray, eat and recreate with seminarians and experience first-hand what seminary life is like. Join Vocations Director Father Noah Morey for a weekend at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The group departs northern Virginia Friday November 21 at 5:30 p.m. and returns Sunday November 23 in the afternoon. Cost is \$40.

Contact the Office of Vocations for more info and to register: [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org) or 703-841-2514. The deadline to register for this trip is Monday November 10.

#### NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY



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

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

### Mass in Observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 4<sup>th</sup> | 4:30pm

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Arlington | Celebrant and Homilist



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

#### Struggling with addiction in the family?

Both the afflicted and affected don't need to be alone. There are many resources available including AA, NA, Alanon, Calix and a diocesan chaplain. Call the HELPLINE (970) 989-2670 for support. This is NOT LIMITED to addicts, anybody that would like to speak with a priest or a friend in Christ May call!



**THE WALK HUMBLY**  
PODCAST  
With BISHOP BURBIDGE

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

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

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

**Men's 144th Arlington Cursillo Retreat**

**MON, Nov 10 - THUR, Nov 13, 2025**

**San Damiano Spiritual Life Center, White Post, VA**



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

You will:

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

For more information visit: <https://www.arlingtoncursillo.org/>  
If you are interested and would like to learn more feel free to contact [lauralaverdiere@msn.com](mailto:lauralaverdiere@msn.com).

#### **Gifts for Seminarian Education Endowment Fund (SEEF)**

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

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

## 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](http://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](http://vacatholic.org/Election2025)

**EARLY VOTING BEGINS SEPT. 19.**

**ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 4.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:rickloffredo@outlook.com)



*St. Andrew the Apostle Concert Series Presents*

# SERVIRE

2025 American Prize Finalists in Choral Performance



  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5**  
**4:00 PM**

**ADMISSION IS FREE. DONATIONS WELCOME.**

After the concert, enjoy a reception in our Parish Hall to meet the artists and learn more about Servire's mission to "Sing & Serve".



**ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE**  
**MUSIC MINISTRY**



# Proposed Constitutional Amendments: Be Vigilant!



## Proposed Amendments to Virginia's Constitution would:



Create a radical  
"fundamental right"  
to abortion  
(**Opposed by VCC**)



Remove Virginia's  
"union between one  
man and one woman"  
definition of marriage  
(**Opposed by VCC**)



Restore voting rights  
(**Supported by VCC**)

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

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



## **Extreme, Radical and Deadly Abortion Amendment**

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

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

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

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

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



## Proposed Constitutional Amendments:



### ✗ Amendment Rejecting the Truth about Marriage

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

Marriage was created by God as the union of a man and a woman. God's design and purpose for marriage existed before any nation, religion or law.

The family – based on marriage between a man and a woman – is the fundamental unit of society and is integral to the common good.

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

### ✓ Amendment Restoring Voting Rights

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# IN PERSON SPEED DATING

St. Timothy Catholic Church

October 25, 2025

7PM



Bl. Karl and Empress Zita



St. Louis and Zelig Martin

School Cafeteria & Gym  
Open to Ages 20 - 39



Gentlemen  
Sign-Up

Dress Code  
Business Casual

RSVP-ONLY

REGISTRATION CLOSES  
October 11, 2025



Ladies  
Sign-Up



Questions? Issues?

Contact [jtureaud@protonmail.com](mailto:jtureaud@protonmail.com)



# What's college seminary like? See for yourself!

## Quo Vadis Father-Son Seminary Visit

**Saturday  
November 15  
9 am - 2pm**

**\$15 per person**

Quo Vadis events are for young men in high school interested in growing in their spiritual life and exploring their vocation.



Meet the seminarians and their formators  
See where they live, pray, eat and study  
Tour their campus at Catholic University

Fathers are welcome but not required.



For more information and to register, visit  
[ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis).

Deadline to register is November 3

Sponsored by the Office of Vocations

703.841.2514 /

[vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org)



## Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School

# Shadow a Wolf for a day!

To get a taste of the full JP experience, sign up for a shadow day! Visit classes, meet JP students, and enjoy a free lunch!



## 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!*

703.445.0246 | [JPTHEGREAT.ORG](http://JPTHEGREAT.ORG) | [ADMISSIONS@JPTHEGREAT.ORG](mailto:ADMISSIONS@JPTHEGREAT.ORG)  
17700 DOMINICAN DRIVE, POTOMAC SHORES, VA 22026





**Dios sale al encuentro****Reflexiones Dios****No es sino en lo más profundo de nuestro ser que podemos encontrar a Dios.****Por: P. Eusebio Gómez Navarro | Fuente: Catholic.n**

Una de las más hermosas descripciones de Dios en pos de la persona es la de Francis Thompson en el poema The Hound of Heaven.

*Yo huía de Él, durante las noches y durante los días;*

*yo huía de Él en el transcurso de los años;*

*yo huía de Él por las laberínticas sendas de mi propia mente;*

*y en medio de las lágrimas me escondía de Él, lo mismo que entre la risa pasajera...*

Dios sale al encuentro, y nosotros huimos, Dios está presente en todos los momentos de nuestra vida. Dios se encuentra siempre disponible para nosotros. No tenemos más que hablarle. Ahora. Hoy. Esta noche. Él comprende nuestro lenguaje, nuestros temores, nuestros secretos, nuestra amargura. Él no te considerará como un sentimental si le hablas afectuosamente del pasado, si eres ya viejo. No se apartará de ti aunque seas un mentiroso, un ladrón, un asesino, un hipócrita, un traidor.

Dios siempre sale al encuentro del ser humano, de la oveja perdida, del hijo que se marchó de casa. En esta historia de búsqueda y encuentro, la iniciativa y la parte más importante la lleva Él. Dios es el principal agente y el principal amante. Porque ama, se da y se entrega totalmente. Si buscamos a Dios, más nos busca Dios a nosotros. Y el místico Abu Azid confesó: *Yo busqué a Dios durante treinta años; yo creía que era yo quien lo deseaba, pero no, era él quien me deseaba a mí*. El buscar a Dios lleva consigo el esforzarse por cambiar el corazón, por desear y perseguir toda clase de bondad.

El ser humano busca, a veces sin saberlo, a Dios. La razón es bien sencilla, pues cada persona es imagen de Dios, espejo del amor, de la felicidad y de la vida. Unas personas lo descubren en la niñez, otros ya en la edad adulta. Cuando san Agustín cayó en la cuenta de lo que era, dijo: ¡Tarde te amé! ¡Oh hermosura tan antigua y siempre nueva! ¡Tarde te amé! (...)

El ser humano, en muchas ocasiones, busca a Dios donde no le puede encontrar o pasa de Dios y huye de él y vive como si no existiese, como si él estuviese lejos. Y no se da cuenta el hombre que Dios es un Dios escondido porque se encuentra en la intimidad de nuestro corazón. Dios nos llama a no escondernos de su mirada, a descubrir su presencia en lo cotidiano, en lo oculto de nuestra vida e historia.

A Dios, pues, lo podemos encontrar a través de una fe impulsada por el amor. Él vive dentro de cada uno. «Ésa es vuestra tragedia. ¡Olvidáis! ¡Olvidáis al Dios que hay en vosotros! ¡Queréis olvidar! ¡El recuerdo implicará el alto deber de vivir como un hijo de Dios...! Es más fácil olvidar, convertirse solamente en un hombre... ¡Vivir negando la vida!» (Eugene O'Neill).

El Dios que está con nosotros, aparece muchas veces débil e impotente, sin poder hacer nada. *Dios nos da a conocer que tenemos que vivir como seres humanos que resuelven su vida sin Dios. El Dios que está con nosotros es el Dios que nos abandona... Ante Dios y con Dios, vivimos sin Dios. Dios se deja arrojar del mundo para ir a parar a la cruz; Dios es impotente y débil en el mundo, y precisamente así y únicamente así es como está junto a nosotros y como nos ayuda* (D. Bonhoeffer).

Dios está en nosotros, ha entrado en nosotros. Todas las noches, Leónidas, padre de Orígenes, acostumbraba besar el pecho de su hijo dormido por reverencia al Dios que estaba realmente presente en el tabernáculo vivo del corazón de su hijo. Dios está presente realmente en el tabernáculo de cada corazón humano; aquí podremos encontrarlo, pues, aquí habla, escucha, mora, vive y da vida.

Dios está muy presente en nuestra vida y nos invita a transformarnos en él y vivir con él. Con él podemos hablar, está al alcance de la mano, él es nuestro Padre. Dios se nos revela como un Dios cercano, quiere ser amigo. Dios está presente en el ser humano, en cada acontecimiento y en cada cosa.

Dios está en la fuente y en el río, en el mar y en el aire, pero sobre todo está, en lo más profundo de la persona. *El centro del alma es Dios, al cual cuando el alma hubiere llegado según toda la capacidad de su ser, y según la fuerza de su operación e inclinación, habrá llegado al último y más profundo centro suyo en Dios, que será cuando con todas sus fuerzas entienda y ame y goce a Dios....*

El ser humano es un ser inacabado, con capacidad para conocer y amar a su Creador que está en su corazón. Este Dios vive en lo más profundo del ser humano y vive escondido, *le está al alma escondido, y le conviene siempre al alma... tenerle por escondido*.

Por la fe podemos ver a Dios que está dentro. Esto mismo es lo que afirma Pablo VI: *En el punto de encuentro esencial con el misterio religioso, con Dios, está dentro de nosotros mismos; está en la celda interior de nuestro espíritu, en aquella actividad personal que llamamos oración*.

Una de nuestras grandes tragedias del ser humano es el no haber descubierto la interioridad, las riquezas que llevamos escondidas dentro. *Gran parte del sufrimiento que padece mucha gente puede ser atribuido, en no pequeña medida, al hecho de que vivimos exiliados de nuestra tierra natal... del mundo interior* (A. Maslow). Lágrimas de sangre derramó Agustín cuando descubrió el sin sentido de la vida que llevaba: *Te buscaba fuera y tú estabas dentro*.

Es importante encontrar el camino que conduce al interior, tener hambre de luz y de verdad. El peligro no está en el mundo, en lo exterior, sino en centrarse en lo que nos da vida. *Lo importante no es abandonar materialmente el mundo, pues el mundo está en uno mismo y la reforma del ego es más rigurosa que el retiro en una región solitaria, un ashram o un monasterio* (M.M. Daby). La oración tiene que ser un espacio abierto donde entren los otros y Dios, donde se avance en conocimiento propio.

Así como el sol madruga para entrar en tu casa, si le abres la ventana, así Dios te despierta cada mañana para que lo adores en tu interior, para que hables con él, para que vivas plenamente. El amor y la fe son los ojos que Dios nos ha dado para descubrirle y habitar en él. *Si alguno me ama, guardará mi palabra y mi Padre le amará y vendremos a él, y haremos morada en él* (Jn 14,13). Para hablar con él, tenemos que abrirnos a él y dejarle entrar en nuestro ser.

En toda búsqueda la persona debe confiar en Dios. *Confía en Yavé con todo tu corazón, y no te apoyes sobre tu propia prudencia. En todos tus caminos piensa en Él, y Él allanará tus senderos* (Pr 3,5-6).

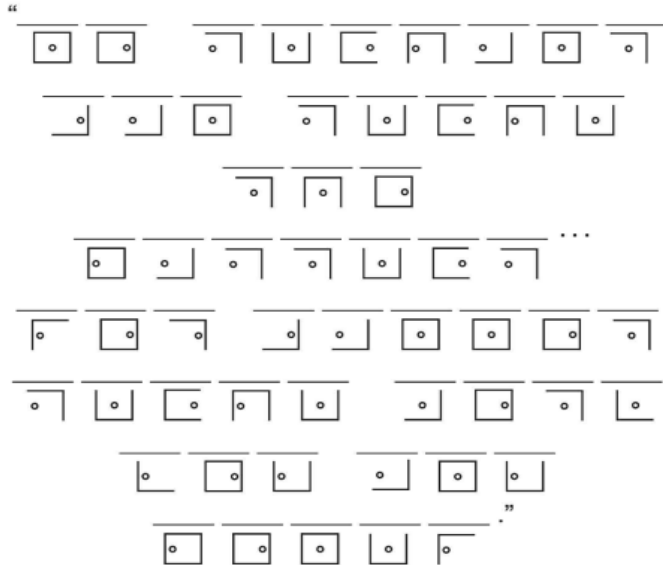


Jesus said,



o o o	o o o	o o o
A B C	D E F	G H I
o o o	o o o	o o o
J K L	M N O	P Q R
o o o	o o o	o o o
S T U	V W X	Y Z

Use this code to complete the puzzle.



The manager was worried about what would happen to him. Who would welcome him into their homes? Then, he got an idea! What did he do?



Change the letters written below to these:

B to E	F to M	X to I	T to N
Q to W	R to L	G to R	J to H
D to P	E to U	K to O	Y to D
S to Y	V to A	Z to S	H to G
C to T			

J B F B C Q X C J  
C J B D B K D R B Q J K  
K Q B Y J X Z F V Z C B G  
H K K Y Z K G F K T B S  
J B R K Q B G B Y C J B  
V F K E T C Z C J V C  
C J B S K Q B Y

The master thought the manager was very clever because now the manager would have some friends!



# Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

September 21, 2025 • Luke 16:1-13

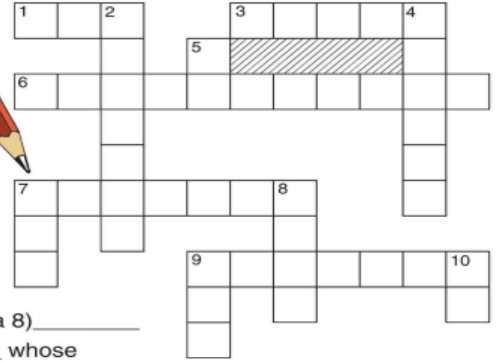
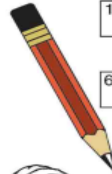
## The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

Fit the words into the puzzle, and then put them on the numbered lines.

BE  
DO  
ANY  
MAN

NOW  
RICH  
SHALL  
LONGER

ACCUSED  
MANAGER  
WASTING  
POSSESSIONS



There was a 8) \_\_\_\_\_  
7d) \_\_\_\_\_ whose  
7a) \_\_\_\_\_ was 9a) \_\_\_\_\_ of 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
his 6) \_\_\_\_\_. The 8) \_\_\_\_\_ 7d) \_\_\_\_\_  
said, "You cannot 5) \_\_\_\_\_ 7a) \_\_\_\_\_ 9d) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_." The 7a) \_\_\_\_\_ said to himself,  
"What 3) \_\_\_\_\_ I 10) \_\_\_\_\_ 1) \_\_\_\_\_?"

Write a word that is the opposite of the one given. Transfer the letters to the lines below.

tall 1 2 3 4 5  
lose 6 7 8  
small 9 10 11 12 13  
under 14 15 16 17  
sell 18 19 20  
night 21 22 23  
go 24 25 26 27  
give 28 29 30 31



Jesus said, "  
6 2 14 13 15 13 11 24 10 8 18 31  
5 4 19 1 5 13 21 6 7 5 2 15 13 11 20 9 7 5 5 9 13  
24 22 8 10 9 1 25 18 16 5 11 19 1 5 13 21 6 7 5 2  
26 19 24 2 22 8 21 6 2 3 13 15 16 4 7 1  
21 7 1 2 14 8 13 1 5 6 7 5 2 15 13 4 23  
9 7 5 5 9 13 6 7 9 9 10 9 1 25 18 27  
21 7 1 2 14 8 13 1 5 6 7 5 2 26 19 24 2




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