

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor
and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

℣℞ 10:21



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



VERY REV. MSGR. 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
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. Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. on Saturday

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

RECONCILIATION: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. on Saturday
or, if necessary, by appointment

BAPTISM: For more information and how to schedule a
baptism, please visit our website:
<https://nativityburke.org/baptism/>

MARRIAGE POLICY: Please contact the Church as soon
as you are engaged, and at least six months prior to
your wedding date.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Announcements for the bulletin
must be submitted **in writing** by 9:00 AM on
Tuesday (5 days prior to publication). Please note: this
deadline can change due to holiday office closings.
You may email submissions to
bulletin@nativityburke.org.

WEBMASTER:
Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:
Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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

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



***Voting as Faithful Citizens
September 2024***

Election Day is November 5. Early voting begins September 20. As Americans, we will decide who our next President will be. As Virginians, we will also decide who will represent our Commonwealth in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. As faithful citizens, it is our sacred duty to form our consciences and vote.

World and national events are ever-changing and often tragically alarming. In Ukraine and the Middle East, war, violence, and immense suffering are daily realities. Across our country, extreme and dangerous proposals to expand access to abortion will appear on many states' ballots this November. Seemingly everywhere we look, a "throwaway culture" runs rampant, disregarding dignity and embracing indifference, selfishness, abandonment, and greed.

Yet, we must see beyond all the destruction and despair. The Church's timeless teachings show us how. They shine light in the darkness, providing an anchor for our enduring hope and a sure guide for the formation of our consciences.

As we have stated in previous pre-election letters, these teachings tell us that three principles must guide how we vote:

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

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

Resources provided by the Virginia Catholic Conference explain the principles, the positions of candidates, and practical tips for voter registration. Visit www.vacatholic.org to view these materials.

Through conscience formation, prayer, and fasting, prepare your minds and hearts to engage in this year's critical voting decisions. United in the Eucharist, let us pray for one another, as Americans, Virginians, and faithful citizens.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond

POLITICAL ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

As the November Elections approach, it is a good time to review our policies regarding political activities on Church property. You can find additional information at:
<https://vacatholic.org/election2024/>

A few principals to keep in mind:

- Distribution of partisan campaign literature (i.e. leaflets, bumper stickers, etc. that tend to support or oppose a candidate) on church property is not permitted. The same is true for any voter guides or other election-related materials (*other than those prepared by Bishop Burbidge, the Virginia Catholic Conference or the USCCB*). If you discover someone distributing such materials, politely ask them to stop and escort them off the property.
- Candidates for political office may not be endorsed or opposed, either at Mass or through any official Church channel.
- Voter guides or election-related materials other than those prepared by Bishop Burbidge, the Virginia Catholic Conference or the USCCB, may not be distributed.

For more information visit: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship-bulletin-inserts>

**Special Second Collection for
Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts - This Weekend**

Catholic Charities USA is accepting donations to support and assist in humanitarian relief efforts in response to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Helene across the southeastern part of the United States. These resources will be utilized as a response to immediate emergency needs for such necessities as water, food, shelter, medical care, and aid in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts. Checks and donations should be made payable to **Nativity Catholic Church**, please notate on the memo line:

"Hurricane Helene Relief." To donate online visit:
<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/?form=helene>



CHRISTMAS WREATH SALES

It is that time of year again! Nativity's Boy Scout Troop 1100 is selling Christmas wreaths to help fund our camping activities. All sales will be online and shipped directly to the buyer. If you usually buy a fresh wreath, consider supporting our troop. They make great gifts to send to family across the miles. Sales take place in October to be assured of early December delivery. Please use this QR code to go directly to the sales page for Troop 1100 or go to: <https://giftitforward.com> and use fundraising code: TR1100VA001. We will be selling after Mass October 12/13 and 26/27. Questions? Contact Elizabeth Tramel at andrewandelizabeth@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!!



The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, October 14th in Observation of Columbus Day, morning Mass at 7:30am.

Sensory Mass

WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD AND BELONG AT HIS TABLE

NEXT SENSORY MASS: OCTOBER 13th AT 1:00PM

Healing through the Annulment Process

October 19 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, free but please register!

Want to learn more about our Lord's healing presence through the Annulment process? As a divorced Catholic have you thought about an Annulment and don't know where to begin or what it's about? Join fellow members of the Diocese who have gone through divorce and Rev. Thomas P. Ferguson, pastor of Good Shepherd Church in Alexandria and judge in the Diocesan Tribunal, for a special morning to learn about the Annulment process and how to embark on this unique pathway to healing and renewal.

Participants will attend Holy Mass followed by an informative discussion about the Annulment process led by Fr. Ferguson with opportunity for questions and answers. A procession to Nativity Church's Grotto and Rosary to Our Blessed Mother to begin the journey to healing will conclude the morning. Attendees are then invited to optional fellowship at a local restaurant after the event. The event is free, but please register by visiting:

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/event/annulmenthealing/>



2024 WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT SALE

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

Cost: \$22.00 each - cash, check, or credit card



WHEN: October 19/20, 2024
(before/after Masses)
WHERE: Nativity Narthex
WHEN: October 26/27, 2024
(before/after Masses)
WHERE: Nativity Narthex

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 October meeting and

learn how to make mission Rosaries on:
Sunday October 20th from 2:00-3:30pm
in the Father Ready Room.

We welcome back all 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. Hope to see you October 20th! If you have any questions please email us at: rosaryministry@nativityburke.org



REGISTER TO VOTE!

This fall, voters will select candidates for the office of President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative and – in some areas – “down-ballot” offices. The deadline to register is **Tues., Oct. 15.**



Who is eligible to register?

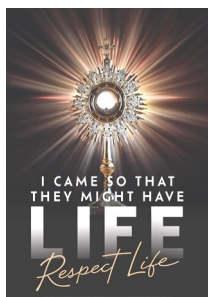
- Must be a U.S. citizen.
- Must be a resident of Virginia.
- Must be 18 on or before the next election (e.g., 17-year-olds born on or before Nov. 5, 2006 can register today).
- Not be registered and plan to vote in another state.

How to register:

- You can register online, by mail, or at your local registrar's office, among other locations. Visit vote.elections.virginia.gov or scan the QR code to:
- Register to vote online.
 - Check registration status.
 - Find your polling place.
 - Apply to vote absentee by mail.

FOR MORE ELECTION RESOURCES FROM THE VIRGINIA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE VISIT:
vacatholic.org/Election2024

EARLY VOTING BEGINS SEPT. 20. **REGISTRATION ENDS OCT. 15.** ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 5.



OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

U.S. Bishops Affirm that Ending Abortion Remains our Pre-eminent Priority - Bishop Burbidge's Respect Life

Month Statement states: Jesus calls each of us to respect that gift of life in every human person. While we live in a society that often rejects those who are weak, fragile, or vulnerable, they are the most in need of our care and protection. The law and millions of our brothers and sisters have yet to recognize this reality... But what we now see is that fifty years of virtually unlimited abortion has tragically created a national mindset where many Americans have become comfortable with some amount of abortion. This allows the abortion industry to continue to provide any amount of abortion... *“abortion remains our pre-eminent priority as it directly attacks our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, destroying more than a million lives each year in our country alone.”* ... We see many politicians celebrating the destruction of preborn children, and protecting access to abortion, even up until the moment of birth. Pope St. John Paul II's words resonate today: *“we are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, ... we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life.”*

We must renew our commitment to work for the legal protection of every human life, from conception to natural death, and to vote for candidates who will defend the life and dignity of the human person... We must call for policies that assist women and their children in need, while also continuing to help mothers... through local pregnancy help centers... and to all who are suffering from participation in abortion... We must rededicate ourselves to pray on behalf of life... Through the graces of this revival, may we witness, work, and vote so that all children in the womb will be protected in law and welcomed in love, and that all mothers and families will be strengthened by our support and accompaniment.



SUPPORT OUR LOCAL POLICE STATION

NATIONAL FAITH & BLUE WEEKEND

The National Faith & Blue Weekend is October 11-14, 2024 under the theme “Partnering for stronger, safer communities”. As part of the nation’s largest annual collaborative policing initiative, National Faith & Blue Weekend facilitates safer and stronger communities by engaging law enforcement officers and local residents through the connections of faith-based organizations. Faith & Blue is based on the premise that strong communities are built through mutual respect and understanding. Law enforcement and faith institutions are key pillars of each community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive.

Nativity Parish supports the local West-Springfield District Police Station and is part of their ecumenical Police and Faith Community, with Joe Tiago on the planning committee. The committee is planning the 3rd Quarter Police and Faith Leadership Gathering to be held at the West Springfield District Station on October 8, 2024. Faith community leaders from over 70 houses of worship will gather to share resources, create relationships, and connect with the Fairfax County Police Department.

- * Appreciation letters and cards
- * Healthy snacks, Protein bars and shakes
- * Baked goods

Donations can be dropped off at the designated table in the church narthex before/after weekend Masses on October 12-13, or by contacting Joe Tiago at jonotionline@hotmail.com. All donated items will be delivered to the West-Springfield District Police Station on Monday, October 14, 2024. Thank you for your generosity!

ALTAR FLOWERS - Donated by
 Kathleen and Thomas Powers
 In Loving Memory of
 Robert and Marjorie Powers



Interdenominational

Infant Memorial Service

Saturday, October 19, 2024
 7 p.m.
 St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
 3700 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax VA 22030

Family and friends of all faiths are welcome.

Please email
memorialservice@tepeyacobgyn.com
 to register.

Types of infant loss include miscarriage, abortion, ectopic pregnancy, deceased embryos from fertility procedures, stillbirth, fatal perinatal diagnosis, death of a premie baby, and infant death.

All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life

Nativity All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life – October 18, 900 S. Washington Street, Falls Church. Donate one hour for this 7:00am–7:00pm Vigil by joining us in peaceful prayer on the sidewalk in front of the Falls Church abortion facility.



Msgr. Bob will join us during 11:00am-12:00pm, give a short speech, and join us in a tour of the “A Best Choice Mobile Ultrasound and Pregnancy Resource Center” that will be parked nearby from 10:45am – 12:15pm for tours. SIGN UP here: bit.ly/42FrC2j

Congratulations to the winners of the Nativity Fall Festival Pie Contest!

Adult Division:

- 1st Place - Jordan Osman - Heavenly Soulful Autumn Pie
- 2nd Place - Leah Kocsis - Upside Down Apple Pecan Pie
- 3rd Place - Grace Palumbo - Cookie Butter Apple Pie

Junior Division:

- 1st Place - Elizabeth Kocsis - Kentucky Pecan Pie
- 2nd Place - Nicholas Ramirez Villa - White Chocolate Cardamom Pumpkin Pie
- 3rd Place - Nicholas Peters - All American Apple Crumb Pie

Thanks to all who entered and thanks to our judges who sampled all those delicious pies!

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2024

*“GO and invite **EVERYONE** to the banquet”*

20 OCTOBER 2024

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AT NATIVITY PARISH

FELLOWSHIP

ENJOYMENT

FUN

MUSIC

DINNER & DESSERT

RAFFLE PRIZES

SILENT AUCTION

PHOTO BOOTH

CASH BAR (BEER & WINE)

DJ - BOBBY G.
MASTER ENTERTAINER
DANCING

**NATIVITY'S
MASQUERADE
BALL**

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26, 2024

6:30 PM - 11:00 PM

TICKETS \$40 PER PERSON

MASKS AND/OR COSTUMES ENCOURAGED
BUT NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND AND HAVE FUN




NATIVITY SCHOOL

TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk Signup Below:

October 25, 2024
7pm
Nativity Lane
Parking Lot

Come and Join Us!

Safe Environment
for Spooktacular
Sweets & Treats!




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

Monday, October 14th

7:30 am † Catherine Cilinski

Tuesday, October 15th

7:30 am † Abelardo Garcia
12:00 pm † Victor Valderrama

Wednesday, October 16th

7:30 am † Robert Hansen
3:00 pm † June Bagby (*Burke Healthcare*)

Thursday, October 17th

7:30 am † Father Richard Martin
12:00 pm † Aurora Lao

Friday, October 18th

7:30 am † Alfreida Ziemski
9:00 am † Paul Luti

Saturday, October 19th

9:00 am † Felicidad de Chandek
5:00 pm † Henrietta T. Critelli
7:00 pm † Julia Plaza

Sunday, October 20th

7:00 am † Erika Cadran
9:00 am † Sam and Mae Libero
11:00 am † Father Richard Martin
1:00 pm Parishioners
5:30 pm † Dominic and Maria Dulisse

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



St. Lucy Fall Food Drive:
Saturday, October 26th from 9:00AM-1:00PM

The St. Lucy Fall Food Drive will take place from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, 26 October to support Catholic Charities in its campaign against hunger in the Diocese. The St. Lucy truck will be parked at the rear of the church parking lot nearest Old Keene Mill Road (like in the previous food drives). During that time, you can drive to the truck and our team will take any donations from your vehicle (please place your donations in your trunk for safe and easy removal). Catholic Charities also accepts monetary donations, especially grocery gift cards (Giant, Safeway, etc.); any donation is welcome! Please make checks out to CCDA, with "St. Lucy Project" in the memo line. We can always use help with loading donations; if you'd like to volunteer, please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D49ADAE29A6FE3-stlucy1>. If you would like to help hand out the blue bags after Mass on 19-20 October, please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D49ADAE29A6FE3-stlucy#/> Any questions, please email the St. Lucy Team at nativity.stlucyteam@gmail.com. Thank you and God bless you!

Nativity Catholic Church 40 Hours Devotion 2024

Sunday 20th October

- 5:30 pm *Sunday Mass* - Opening Mass for Forty Hours Devotion with Solemn Exposition at the end of Mass
- 6:30 pm *Vespers* - Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours
- 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm *Confessions*
- 9:30 pm - 11:30 pm *Confessions*
- 11:45 pm *Compline* - Night Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament afterward

Monday 21st October

- 7:30 am *Mass* - Simple Exposition of the Most Holy Eucharist at the end of Mass
- 8:00 am *Lauds* - Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours
- 8:30 am - 9:30 am *Confessions*
- 12:30 pm *Daytime Prayer* - Midday Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm *Confessions*
- 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm *Confessions*
- 7:00 pm *Vespers with Homily* - Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours with a Conference on the Eucharist
- 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm *Confessions*
- 11:45 pm *Compline* - Night Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament afterwards

Tuesday 22nd October

- 7:30 am *Mass* - Simple Exposition of the Most Holy Eucharist at the end of Mass
- 8:00 am *Lauds* - Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours
- 8:30 am - 9:30 am *Confessions*
- 11:30 am Reposition of the Most Holy Eucharist in preparation for Mass
- 12:00 pm *Mass* - Exposition following Mass
- 12:30 pm *Daytime Prayer* - Midday Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm *Confessions*
- 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm *Confessions*
- 6:30 pm Reposition of the Most Holy Eucharist in preparation for Mass
- 7:00 pm *Mass* - Closing Mass for Forty Hours Devotion
- 8:00 pm *Procession* - Eucharistic Procession throughout the Church ending with Solemn Benediction

Sign up at: <https://nativityburke.org/40-hours-eucharistic-devotion/>

Nativity Italian Heritage & Cultural Society

Dr. Heather Bougher, Associate Professor of Art History at the College of Southern Maryland, will be our guest presenter on October 17, at 7:00pm. Dr. Bougher received her PhD in Interdisciplinary Arts from Ohio University in January 2021, focusing on Italy's art and architectural history and aesthetics of the 14th-16th century. She is a member of the College Art Association, Italian Art Society, and the Renaissance Society of America. Dr. Bougher's Italian art history presentation will focus on the art and monuments of Rome and the Vatican.

All are welcome to join as members or attend as guests for \$5. You don't have to be Italian just enjoy the spirit of Italian culture. As always a social hour follows. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share if you can.

Date: October 17 at 7:00pm
Place: Nativity School Cafeteria

RALLY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27



Who: All high school students

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

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

Time: Depart Nativity at 11am, return no later than 9pm

Registration: Fill out the form on the parish website or scan the QR code. Registration closes on October 23.





SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF EFFORTS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA IS ACCEPTING DONATIONS TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO THE DEVASTATION WROUGHT BY HURRICANE HELENE ACROSS THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES.

THESE RESOURCES WILL BE UTILIZED AS A RESPONSE TO IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY NEEDS FOR SUCH NECESSITIES AS WATER, FOOD, SHELTER, MEDICAL CARE, AND AID IN LONG-TERM REBUILDING AND RECOVERY EFFORTS.

CHECKS AND DONATIONS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO "NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH" AND PLEASE NOTATE ON THE MEMO LINE:

"HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF."

TO DONATE ONLINE VISIT:

[HTTPS://WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESUSA.ORG/?FORM=HELENE](https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/?form=helene)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

NEED TO TALK?

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

Help Transform Lives by Donating Your Car

Help transform the lives of the poor and vulnerable by donating your used car, truck, motorcycle, RV, or boat, to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington. Your donation is tax deductible while supporting a cause that is near and dear to your heart. We'll arrange for the pickup of your vehicle donation at no cost to you. Please call 877-570-GIVE (4483) or visit <https://ccda.careasy.org/home> to complete our online form. easy online form.

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 📷 [@nativitycym](https://www.instagram.com/nativitycym)



Pro-Life Corner

Profile: Jason Evert - This is My Body: A Catholic Approach to Gender Dysphoria (As noted by Evert in his talk at the Eucharistic Congress.)

Sexuality is something we are vs. something you do. Gender theory is a set of ideologies claiming that gender is just a social construct, whereas gender dysphoria is something individuals experience. As Catholics, we know that we cannot lie to those with gender dysphoria with false compassion because they deserve the truth and also they shouldn't be rejected because every person has infinite value. Evert points to Pope Francis' better option of accompaniment where we walk with these individuals in truth and love. Listen to what Pope Francis said: *"The removal of sexual difference in fact creates a problem not a solution."*

When a child experiences gender dysphoria the studies are clear: 80 to 95% of the time as they go through puberty they will naturally come to identify with their biological sex. So about 90% of the time it resolves itself unless *"gender affirmative care"* intervenes. This has four stages. Social transitioning leads to administering puberty blocker drugs to children as young as eight years old pausing bone development and neurological development and can cause crying, irritability, impatience, aggression and suicidal ideation and attempt. *(The UK just banned these drugs for minors and closed the biggest gender clinic.)* This treatment fast forwards to the third stage, injecting cross-sex hormones, which sterilizes the child and also quadruples her risk of heart disease, and to keep up the look s/he will need to be a lifelong pharmaceutical patient. The fourth step is surgery, which advocates call a *"gender affirmative procedure."* A common surgery is a bilateral mastectomy. Children's hospitals in Oakland and LA are now doing double mastectomies for 12- and 13-year-old girls, respectively and in Oregon it's 15 without parental permission.

About 10 years after the procedure, the suicide rate of these individuals climbs to 19 times higher than the general population. Isolate out the female-to-male transitioners and the suicide rate is 40 times higher. 90% of people who commit suicide have a diagnosable mental health condition, such as autism, OCD, depression, anxiety, and trauma. Hormones and surgery are making their bodies a false target of intervention, contributing to mental illness instead of actually treating it.

The truth is that we can't add the word 'trans' to another word and create a new reality. As expert Ryan Anderson has said, biology is not bigotry. Every single cell of the human body that has a nucleus is sex specific, so you could never change your sex. Jason gives suggestions for how to handle various potentially tense situations with compassion and truth. Because although our culture here from politics to pharmaceuticals to sports to the media is currently out to sea pushing transgenderism, there is about to hit an absolute tsunami of de-transitioners. These are individuals realizing it was a mistake, saying, *"why did you adults let me do this to my body??"* Now they're turning around and fighting back and winning lawsuits, like Keira Bell.

The church predicted this when Vatican II said that when God is forgotten, the creature itself grows unintelligible. Evert says the church's answer to this disintegration of man is John Paul II's integrated vision of man in his Theology of the Body.



A Message from the Creation Care Ministry



Thanks to all who volunteered to help as Recycling Monitors at the Fall Festival! Cans and plastics were recycled at Nativity while glass bottles were delivered to the Purple glass bins and plastic film to the Trex recycling at Safeway.



Many enthusiastic young people earned nature books as prizes for completing a native tree "scavenger hunt" while learning more about the value and importance of our native trees as habitat. Our visiting raptor "wildlife ambassadors" captivated festival goers--especially Deacon Christian!



Four Principles of Catholic Social Teaching*

The central and enduring themes of Catholic social teaching are organized under four principles that provide a moral framework for decisions in public life.

www.vacatholic.org

The Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Direct attacks on innocent persons are never morally acceptable. In our society, the gravest example is abortion. Euthanasia, assisted suicide, human cloning, in vitro fertilization and the destruction of embryos for research are others. Protecting the dignity of life also includes overcoming poverty, ending use of the death penalty, and opposing racism, torture, unjust war, human trafficking and all activities that contribute to the “throwaway culture” identified by Pope Francis.



on innocent persons are never morally acceptable. In our society, the gravest example is abortion. Euthanasia, assisted suicide, human cloning, in vitro fertilization

The Common Good

The common good is achieved when social conditions allow people to reach their fulfillment more fully and easily. It upholds the fundamental right to life, which makes all other rights possible. It asserts the right to food, shelter, education, employment, health care, housing, freedom of religion and conscience, and family life. It requires an economy that serves people, not the other way around. It calls on employers to uphold the dignity and rights of workers by offering productive work, decent and just wages, adequate security in their old age, the choice of whether to organize and join unions and the opportunity for legal status for immigrant workers. Workers should contribute a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, treat employers and co-workers with respect and contribute to the common good. This principle requires we protect and care for all of God's creation, especially the most vulnerable among us, and the earth, our common home.



upholds the fundamental right to life, which makes all other rights possible. It asserts the right to food, shelter, education, employment, health care, housing, freedom

Subsidiarity

The human person is social. The family is the fundamental building block of society, based on marriage between a man and a woman, a sanctuary for creation and nurturing of children. Policies and programs should defend, strengthen and respect this foundational unit and uphold parents' rights and responsibilities to care for and educate their children. Further, every person and association has a right and duty to actively shape society and promote the well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Subsidiarity means that society's larger institutions should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local ones. These larger institutions are obliged, however, to protect human dignity and meet human needs when smaller institutions cannot adequately do so.



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Solidarity

We are one human family, despite our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences, called to love our neighbor as ourselves. We must work to eradicate poverty, disease and racism; and welcome immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers who are seeking employment, safety, education and a better life for their families. Solidarity requires preferential concern for the poor. A basic moral test of any society is how it treats those who are most vulnerable. This preferential option for the poor and vulnerable includes all who are marginalized – unborn children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and terminally ill, victims of injustice and oppression and immigrants.



eradicate poverty, disease and racism; and welcome immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers who are seeking employment, safety, education and

*Adapted from *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, Nos. 44-56, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015.

Please consider volunteering for the diocesan Gabriel Project parish-based pregnancy help outreach, a model of the national USCCB “Walking with Moms” initiative. The ministry offers a Gabriel “Angel” to accompany an expectant mother with emotional, spiritual and material support. An upcoming volunteer companion orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church from 6:00-7:30pm in Classroom #5 in the building adjacent to the church. To learn more, please contact director Sarah LaPierre at gabrielproject@arlingtondiocese.org, call (703) 841-3812 or click: www.arlingtondiocese.org/gabrielproject.

Mass for the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day)

Join Bishop Michael F. Burbidge as he celebrates the annual Mass for the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) at Fairfax Memorial Park Cemetery, 9900 Braddock Road, Fairfax, on Saturday November 2, at 11:00 am. Please join us as we pray with Bishop Burbidge for the repose of the souls of all of our loved ones and for all who have died. Refreshments afterward at the Fairfax Memorial Park Cemetery Office. (Rain site: Holy Spirit Catholic Church)



**Support Our Seminarians
During Our \$100,000 Challenge Gift
Make Your Gift Today!**



Mail your check made out to:
Foundation for CDA-SEEF
200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 811, Arlington, VA 22203
CONTACT: Gretchen Koch • gretchen.koch@arlingtondiocese.org
To make a gift online: arlingtondiocese.org/Donate_SEEF

“It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” (MARK 10:25)

Jesus uses tough language that we may not want to hear. However, we are all called to be generous with all of our gifts. Not just the ones we pick and choose, but all our gifts, and especially the one that means the most to us! That includes our time in prayer to God, our talent in participating in parish ministries and our treasure supporting our local parish and other charities.

Prayerfully prepare to vote using the Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) Election 2024 Resource Hub. This fall, voters will select candidates for the office of President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative and – in some areas – “down-ballot” offices. At the VCC Election Resource Hub, you will find information on Catholic Social Teaching, Candidate Comparison Charts for the Presidential and U.S. Virginia Senate races, register-to-vote flyers, a letter from Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Knestout, and more! Find all the resources in English and Spanish at: vacatholic.org/Election2024

Retrouvaille - Marriage Help

Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. For confidential information about how to register for the program on the weekend of October 18-20, 2024. Please call 703.351.7211 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org.

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

Seton High School in Manassas, VA, 9314 Maple Street, will hold its annual Open House on Sunday, November 3 from 2:00-4:00pm. Formal presentations begin at 2:00pm followed by mini-classes, tours, and a reception. For additional information, please visit www.setonschool.net admissions or email admissionsassociate@setonschool.net.

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



“Oh, What a Blessing!”



Catholics worldwide celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron and protector of all God’s creatures, exuding a deep love of nature, on October 4, every year. The feast commemorates the life of St. Francis, who was born in the 12th century and is the Catholic Church’s patron saint of animals and the environment. Nativity celebrates St. Francis’ feast day by holding a Blessing of the Animals each year.



Father Bresnahan gathered the whole school on the black top behind the building, and the students brought their dogs, cats, hamsters, stuffed animals – and more – to receive the Blessing. On a day that called for clear skies, we felt a few rain drops hit us as Father moved around the playground Blessing the animals. It almost felt as if God were helping Father Bresnahan sprinkle His Holy Water, too.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Monday, Oct 14 - NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day
- Friday, Nov 1 - Winter Uniform Begins
- Friday, Nov 8 - 11:30 am Dismissal
- Friday, Nov 8 - 12:30 pm Parent/Teacher Conf. Begin
- Monday, Nov 11 - 11:30 am Dismissal (Veterans’ Day)
- Monday, Nov 11 - 12:30 pm Parent/Teacher Conferences

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

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 and successful background check

Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, for more information, at (703) 455-2300



Linktree Universal Sign-up Link - Volunteer for an event!
 Scroll down to view all event. https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992.

Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. First meeting is a business meeting, the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation. Rosary 7:15 PM; meeting at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows. Meet in the Nativity school cafeteria.

Linktree Universal Sign-up Link:
 Volunteer for an event! Scroll down to view all events. https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992

Financial Readiness Seminar: Tuesday, October 22, 7-9pm. All are invited to better understand the benefits available to Catholics through the Knights of Columbus.

St. Lucy Food Drive: Bag distribution after Mass October 19-20, collection on Saturday October 26. See SUG on LinkTree.

Trunk or Treat: Mark your calendar for Friday, October 25. This event is designed to provide a safe place for the children of the parish to come, show off their costumes, collect some treats, and have some fun. See SUG on LinkTree.

Masquerade Ball: Saturday, October 26 with preparation on Friday and cleanup on Sunday. Ticket sales will be before and after Mass. See SUG for sales and the event on LinkTree.

Coats for Kids: Sunday, November 10 at Lorton Community Action Center. Volunteer to distribute warm coats! See SUG on LinkTree.

Food for Others: Volunteer for food distribution to the poor, delivered on designated Thursday or Friday evenings. For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net. Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com.

Name Tags: If you have not received your name tag, email Warden Br. Lenny Richoux at 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.

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

3rd Degree Knights - Grow with 4th Degree: participate in patriotic activities that promote Catholic citizenship. Next meeting is October 8. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Mark Corzine at fn2996@vakofc.org.

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

Gifts for Seminarian Education Endowment Fund (SEEF)

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

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

SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Middle School Football Interest Night at John Paul Friday, October 18, 2024

Calling all middle school boys interested in high school football! John Paul the Great invites you to a meet and greet with JP families before our home game on Friday, October 18th! Meet us at the gate at 6pm to get your game tickets and grab a free meal ticket for your middle school son! We look forward to seeing you there!

Fall Open House Sunday, November 3, 2024

Join us for Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School's Fall Open House on Sunday, November 3rd from 1-4 pm! Learn more about the exciting opportunities JP has to offer - robust academic programs including STEM, DE courses and Bioethics, vibrant student life and House System, competitive athletics, faith community steeped in Dominican tradition, and more! This Fall Open House is a great event for all ages, but especially students in 7th & 8th grade. To learn more and RSVP in advance, please visit: https://jpthegreat.schooladminonline.com/portal/new_inquiry

JP 5K Saturday, November 9, 2024

The JP5K & Fun Run is a fundraising event that supports the Special Services Department at Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School. Everyone is welcome! For registration and more details, please visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Dumfries/JP5KRunWalkforOptions>

Middle School Clinics & Workshops

John Paul is excited to host many sports clinics and enrichment workshops throughout the year! For more information and to register, please visit: https://www.jpthegreat.org/apps/pages/upcoming_events

Boys Lacrosse Clinic: Saturday, November 23, 2024

Girls Basketball Clinic: Saturday, December 7, 2024

Girls Volleyball Clinic: Saturday, December 14, 2024

How to High School: Saturday, January 11, 2025

Boys Basketball Clinic: Saturday, January 18, 2025

Drama Workshop: Saturday, February 1, 2025

Super Science Saturday: Saturday, February 22, 2025

Intro to Music Workshop: Saturday, April 5, 2025

School & Scholarship Applications Now Open!

John Paul is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 school year! To apply please visit: https://www.jpthegreat.org/apps/pages/how_to_apply. For more information about scholarships and to see if your child will qualify please visit:

<https://www.jpthegreat.org/apps/pages/scholarships>

Upcoming Admissions and Financial Aid Deadlines

Friday, January 10, 2025: School Application Priority Deadline

Friday, January 10, 2025: Scholarship Application Deadline

Friday, January 10, 2025: Financial Aid Priority Deadline

Shadow a Wolf for a Day!

Shadow Days at John Paul are in full swing! Do you have an 8th-10th grader who is interested in seeing what it is like to be a JP student? Sign them up for a Shadow Day visit! For registration and more details, please visit: https://jpthegreat.schooladminonline.com/portal/new_inquiry Limited spots available!

Fall Play Friday-Sunday, December 6-8, 2024

JP Drama will debut its fall play, A Man For All Seasons, on Friday, December 6th with shows running through Sunday, December 8th - This play tells the story of Saint Thomas More, patron Saint of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington. John Paul is producing this show in conjunction with the Catholic Diocese of Arlington as part of their 50 year Golden Jubilee Celebration! Tickets will go on sale soon!



Financial Seminar & Social

Join us for an informative live presentation from The Knights of Columbus. Learn about insurance and other financial products from an organization that is aligned with your faith.

All are invited to better understand the benefits available to Catholics through the Knights of Columbus. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to learn and to enjoy good company during the social! It is open to the entire community.

Our agency has been a consistent high performer for the Knights of Columbus and its members, offers the knowledge and experience to help you best leverage our insurance products¹ and fraternal benefits.

The Knights of Columbus has once again earned AM Best's A+ (Superior) Rating for Financial Strength*. In addition, Knights of Columbus was designated by Forbes as one of "America's Best Insurance Companies"² and Standard & Poor's ranked us among the strongest life insurers financially in North America³.

*As of December 2022

October 22nd, 2024. 7PM
Nativity Church, Fr. Ready Room

**An excellent opportunity for young adults to learn & discuss financial skills!*

No purchase necessary.



Knights of Columbus

You will also learn about how Catholics now have an opportunity to work with Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors (KoCAA) through one of our **Financial Advisors**.⁴

Bob Canter, LUTCF
571-669-4170

¹Insurance products are offered through Knights of Columbus, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510.
²Knights of Columbus ranked #22 in the permanent life insurance category on Forbes' 2024 America's Best Insurance Companies list. Forbes partnered with Statista to independently survey more than 16,000 customers who owned at least one insurance policy across 7 insurance product categories.
³Standard & Poor's AA+ Ranking North American Life Insurance Companies from Strongest to Weakest by S&P Global Ratings. As of January 25, 2023.
⁴Investments are offered through Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, information found on www.kofcassetadvisors.org.

ABORTION HEALING
SUPPORT
IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU

after abortion

info@helpafterabortion.org
confidential after abortion care:
(703) 841-2504

THE MARIH CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS
The Marih Center, a pro-life pregnancy resource center serving families for 50 years, is experiencing an influx of new families (741 new in addition to our existing families in 2023). We are in need of additional volunteers, especially Spanish translators. Our hours at the Center at 3230B Duke Street in Alexandria are Mon -Thurs 10:00am-3:00pm & Sat.10:00-11:00am. We welcome your call and heart of service to help so many in need. Please call Beth Gilles-Whitehead at 703-370-4774.

2Minutes2Virtue
2Minutes2Virtue is for Catholics who want to get the most out of Sunday readings. Every week, a featured priest from the Catholic Diocese of Arlington will give his take on the Sunday Gospel reading, and use it as inspiration behind the week’s challenge. Look out for your own parish priest, and experience the wisdom of so many priests in our own diocese.
You can sign up by texting "2m2v" to 84576, and receive the weekly challenge straight to your mobile phone!

Be a PVI Panther! Apply by January 10

Sunday, October 27
OPEN HOUSE
1-3 p.m.

Register for Open House

St. Paul VI Catholic High School
42341 Braddock Rd. Chantilly, VA

www.paulvi.net
703.352-0925



For high school girls
Enjoy a day in God's creation
Pray and hang out with the sisters
9:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Family
9:30 a.m. Go to Leesylvania Park
Hike & hang
Noon - Departure
(Rain plan: board games at parish
or park shelter)
Deadline to register: November 11.

What's college seminary like? See for yourself!

Quo Vadis Father-Son Seminary Visit

**Saturday
November 23
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.

Deadline to register is November 12

Sponsored by the Office of Vocations

703.841.2514 /

vocations@arlingtondiocese.org



*The St. Andrew the Apostle Concert Series
Presents:*



Voces8 US Scholars

*Paul Smith, Conductor
Daniela Mars, Flutist*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
4:00 PM**

ADMISSION IS FREE. DONATIONS WELCOME.

A meet-the-artists reception with light refreshments
will follow the concert in the Parish Hall.



**ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE
MUSIC MINISTRY**





CATHOLIC CHARITIES ST. MARTIN DE PORRES SENIOR CENTER

St Martin de Porres Senior Center provides a variety of services to prevent isolation of seniors and promote their wellness, happiness, and independence. The senior center is a multicultural community, with over 20 countries represented. St. Martin's provides congregate meals, health screenings, exercises, educational presentations, and numerous activities.

Location:

**4650 Taney Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22304**

SIGN UP HERE!!!

<http://bit.ly/SMDPVOL>

or SCAN this code



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- EXERCISE INSTRUCTOR
- NURSE OR NURSING STUDENT
- COMPUTER AND TECH INSTRUCTORS
- BREAKFAST AND LUNCH VOLUNTEERS
- NUTRITIONIST
- ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT
- ARTS AND CRAFTS LEADER
- PRESENTOR OF TOPICS OF INTEREST TO SENIORS

**Center Hours are
Monday - Friday
9:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Flexible schedules based on availability

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 13, 2024: Wis 7:7-11 | Ps 90:12-17 |
Heb 4:12-13 | Mk 10:17-30

Sharing God's Riches

Jesus asks the rich young man, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good." What's he trying to achieve?

First, if the young man truly believes that Jesus is good and that his teachings are good, and if he has observed his miracles and behavior, then it should be obvious to him that all this goodness is proof that Jesus is God.

Also, Christ's question offers the young man an opportunity to become more humble. If he truly believes what Jesus says, then he should realize that since only God is good, no one else, including himself, obeys the commandments perfectly. Such a realization should have opened his heart to the truth that Jesus explains next:

"There's only one thing keeping you from being holy like God: earthly attachments. To gain freedom from this world and possess only what belongs to the kingdom of God share your treasures."

He's saying this to all of us, but he's not telling us to become destitute. To "give up" everything we possess means being willing to give it away. If it's a good thing for us to have because it blesses us, God does want us to enjoy it, but true joy comes from being God's partner as a distributor of his wealth. It's the fullest way to live! And we are all called to live this way.

If we remain attached to earthly stuff, we distance ourselves from God and hurt those who would benefit from our generosity. However, to achieve



complete freedom from attachments, we cannot rely only on our own efforts. It's often very difficult to let go and become willing to share everything.

The good news is that Jesus made it possible by taking our sins to the cross and sharing with us his own Holy Spirit, who empowers us to do whatever he asks of us. Our lives on earth become more fulfilling when we dare to share. The more we give to others in a spirit of love, the more we receive the treasures of heaven. Indeed, we become one of heaven's treasures!

Reflect & Discuss:

- † In comparison to the holy ways of dealing with life's circumstances that Jesus modeled for us, how unlike Jesus – how worldly – are you today?
- † And how divine is your behavior? What earthly treasures have you given away?
- † Decide upon an action that will help you detach from earthly treasures this week.
- † Share the story of a time when you gave away an earthly treasure even though you really didn't want to detach from it. What motivated you to give it away? How did God repay you?

**¿Trabajas mucho y no tienes tiempo de rezar? El Papa te aconseja
Papa Francisco: Para oír y aceptar la llamada de Dios, y preparar una casa para Jesús,
deben ser capaces de descansar en el Señor
Por: n/a | Fuente: PildorasdeFe.net**

Muchos somos los que día a día, en aras de llevar adelante nuestra familia (me incluyo), nos atiborramos de tareas y actividades en la que parece que nunca nos alcanza el tiempo para hacer uno que otra cosa. Nos sumergimos tanto en nuestras labores que nos olvidamos de hacer una pausa, respirar, y hasta algunas veces, orar.

El Papa Francisco, durante el encuentro de familias que se llevó a cabo en el Mall of Asia Arena de Manila en Filipinas, ha invitado a todo el pueblo católico a no dejarse llevar por los ajetreos de la vida laboral y descansar en la oración para conocer la voluntad de Dios en sus vidas. Sería bueno que muchos de nosotros, prestáramos atención a su mensaje y nos pongamos en práctica antes de que las labores hagan que nuevamente nos olvidemos de esto que es esencial y necesario para nuestra vida, sobre todo, para nuestro crecimiento espiritual

El Santo Padre, luego de escuchar los testimonios de algunas familias que asistieron al encuentro, realizó la siguiente afirmación: "Para oír y aceptar la llamada de Dios, y preparar una casa para Jesús, deben ser capaces de descansar en el Señor. Deben dedicar tiempo cada día a la oración".

Es posible que algunos me digan: Santo Padre, yo quiero orar, pero tengo mucho trabajo. Tengo que cuidar de mis hijos; además están las tareas del hogar; estoy muy cansado incluso para dormir bien. Y seguramente es así, pero si no oramos, no conoceremos la cosa más importante de todas: la voluntad de Dios sobre nosotros. Y a pesar de toda nuestra actividad y ajetreo, sin la oración, lograremos muy poco.

El Papa Francisco hizo énfasis luego que descansar en la oración es especialmente importante para las familias. Donde primero aprendemos a orar es en la familia. Allí conseguimos conocer a Dios, crecer como hombres y mujeres de fe, vernos como miembros de la gran familia de Dios, la Iglesia.

"En la familia aprendemos a amar, a perdonar, a ser generosos y abiertos, no cerrados y egoístas".

De este modo, aprendemos a ir más allá de nuestras propias necesidades, para encontrar a los demás y compartir nuestras vidas con ellos. Por eso es tan importante rezar en familia. Por eso las familias son tan importantes en el plan de Dios sobre la Iglesia.



**Votar como ciudadanos fieles
Septiembre de 2024**

El Día de las Elecciones es el 5 de noviembre. La votación anticipada comienza el 20 de septiembre. Como estadounidenses, decidiremos quién será la próxima persona que asumirá la Presidencia. Como ciudadanos de Virginia, también decidiremos quién representará a nuestro Estado en el Senado y en la Cámara de Representantes de los Estados Unidos. Como ciudadanos fieles, tenemos el sagrado deber de formar nuestra conciencia y de votar.

Los acontecimientos mundiales y nacionales cambian constantemente y a menudo son trágicamente alarmantes. En Ucrania y el Medio Oriente, la guerra, la violencia y el inmenso sufrimiento son realidades de la vida diaria. A lo largo y ancho de nuestro país, el próximo mes de noviembre en las papeletas electorales de muchos estados aparecerán propuestas extremas y peligrosas para ampliar el acceso al aborto. Al parecer, a dondequiera que miremos, se propaga sin control una "cultura de descarte", en la cual se pasa por alto la dignidad y se acogen la indiferencia, el egoísmo, el abandono y la codicia.

No obstante, debemos ver más allá de toda la destrucción y la desesperación. Las enseñanzas imperecederas de la Iglesia nos muestran la manera de hacerlo. Hacen brillar la luz en la oscuridad y ofrecen un pilar para nuestra perenne esperanza y una guía segura para la formación de nuestra conciencia.

Como hemos afirmado en cartas preelectorales anteriores, estas enseñanzas nos indican que hay tres principios que deben guiarnos en nuestra forma de votar:

- * Muchos asuntos son importantes.
- * No todos los asuntos tienen el mismo peso moral.
- * La protección de la vida es de fundamental importancia.

Abordar la tragedia del aborto es la "máxima prioridad porque ataca directamente a nuestros hermanos y hermanas más vulnerables y sin voz y destruye más de un millón de vidas al año sólo en nuestro país" (*Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos, Formando la conciencia para ser ciudadanos fieles, Nota introductoria*).

Los recursos proporcionados por la Conferencia Católica de Virginia explican los principios y la postura de los candidatos y ofrecen consejos prácticos para el registro electoral. Visiten el sitio web www.vacatholic.org para consultar estos materiales.

Por medio de la formación de la conciencia, la oración y el ayuno, preparen la mente y el corazón para participar en las decisiones críticas referentes a la votación de este año. Unidos en la Eucaristía, recemos los unos por los otros, como ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos y de Virginia y como ciudadanos fieles.

<https://vacatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Four-Principles-of-CST-2022-Spanish.pdf>

Fielmente en Cristo,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond



Cuatro Principios de la Doctrina Social *

Los temas centrales y perdurables de la doctrina social católica se organizan bajo cuatro principios que proporcionan un marco moral para tomar decisiones en la vida pública.

www.vacatholic.org

La dignidad de la persona

La vida de una persona es sagrada. La dignidad de la persona es lo fundamental para haber una visión moral para la sociedad.



Los ataques directos hacia personas que son inocentes nunca son moralmente aceptables. En nuestra sociedad, el ejemplo más grave es el aborto. Eutanasia, suicidio asistido, clonación,

fertilización in vitro y la destrucción de embriones para la investigación son otros. Protección de la dignidad de la vida también incluye superar la pobreza, acabar con el uso de la pena de muerte y oponerse al racismo, la tortura, la guerra injusta, el tráfico de seres humanos y todas las actividades que contribuyen a la "cultura desechable" identificada por el Papa Francisco.

El bien común

El bien común se alcanza cuando las condiciones sociales permiten que las personas logren su realización personal



plenamente y fácilmente. El bien común defiende el derecho fundamental a la vida, que hace posible todos los otros derechos. Este afirma el derecho a alimentos, vivienda,

educación, empleo, salud, libertad de religión y conciencia, y vida familiar. Este requiere una economía que atiende a personas, no al revés. Pide a los empleadores a respetar la dignidad y los derechos de los trabajadores ofreciendo trabajo productivo, salarios justos, seguridad adecuada en la edad avanzada, la opción de poder organizar y unirse a los sindicatos y la oportunidad para obtener el estatus legal para los trabajadores inmigrantes. Los trabajadores deben contribuir con un día de trabajo para la paga de un día justo, tratando a los empleadores y compañeros de trabajo con respeto y contribuir al bien común. Este principio requiere de proteger y cuidar toda la creación de Dios, especialmente a los más vulnerables entre nosotros y la tierra cual es nuestra casa que compartimos.

Subsidiariedad

La persona humana es sociable. La familia es el pilar fundamental de la sociedad, basada en el matrimonio entre



un hombre y una mujer, es un santuario para la creación y la crianza de los niños. Las políticas y los programas deben defender, fortalecer y respetar esta unidad

fundamental y defender los derechos y responsabilidades de los padres de cuidar y educar a sus hijos. Además, cada persona y asociación, en forma activa, tiene un derecho y un deber de formar la sociedad y promover el bienestar de todos, especialmente a los pobres y vulnerables. Subsidiariedad significa que grandes instituciones de la sociedad no deben abrumar o interferir con las instituciones más pequeñas o locales. Estas grandes instituciones están obligadas, sin embargo, a proteger la dignidad humana y satisfacer las necesidades humanas, cuando las instituciones más pequeñas no pueden hacerlo adecuadamente.

Solidaridad

Somos una familia humana, a pesar de nuestras diferencias



nacionales, raciales, étnicas, económicas e ideológicas, llamados a amar a nuestro prójimo como a nosotros mismos. Debemos trabajar para erradicar la pobreza, la enfermedad y el

racismo; y dar la bienvenida a los inmigrantes, refugiados y solicitantes de asilo que están buscando empleo, seguridad, educación y una vida mejor para sus familias. Solidaridad requiere preocupación preferencial a los pobres. Una prueba moral básica de cualquier sociedad es de cómo se trata a aquellos que son más vulnerables. Esta opción preferencial a los pobres y vulnerables incluye todos los que están marginados, niños no nacidos, las personas con discapacidad, ancianas, desahuciadas, víctimas de injusticia y opresión; y los inmigrantes.

*Adaptado de *Formando la conciencia para ser ciudadanos fieles* (núms. 44 a 56), de la Conferencia Católica de los Obispos de los Estados Unidos del año 2015

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