

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Here I am, send me



The celebration of World Mission Day is aimed at supporting the missionary work carried out in my name by the Pontifical Mission Societies, in order to meet the spiritual and material needs of peoples and Churches throughout the world, for the salvation of all.
~Pope Francis



© Diocesan



1973

2023

Celebrating 50 Years!
"We are God's people" - 1 Peter 2:10

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

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

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary
Ann Benson, Business Manager
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager
Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister
Maureen Andersen, Liturgical Minister
Johana Brown, Parish Receptionist
Anna Marty, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Ayse Kenner, Mass Intentions
Alison Fram, Director of Young Adult & Family Ministries/College Ministry
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 Annmirati, Religious Education Coordinator
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454-2415



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
CCD OFFICE: (703) 455-0372
CCD 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.

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
Fr. Bob Cilinski**



*"Our Gospel did not come to you in word alone but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction."
- 1 Thes 1-1:5*

My dear parishioners,

This weekend with Catholics all over the world, we will celebrate World Mission Sunday. Our celebration centers on prayer and sacrifice, offered at the Eucharist, for the missionary task: for the priests, Sisters, Brothers and lay catechists who are helping their people to know the love of Christ through their service in village missions, in small schools, in medical outposts, in orphanages, refugee camps and crowded cities throughout Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and remote regions of Latin America.

Our first reading for today speaks of God's calling each of us "by name" and sending us so others may come to know Him. In the second reading, St. Paul speaks to the Thessalonians: *"We give thanks to God always for you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Throughout our world today, missionaries, "called and sent" by God, proclaim the Gospel and offer help and hope, and the experience of Jesus' love, to the suffering poor. The poor, in turn, "give thanks to God," remembering in prayer all who offer prayers for the Missions and help through the Propagation of the Faith. Each of us are called to be missionaries. Today on Mission Sunday, in prayer and sacrifice, let us together answer that call.

Love and blessings,
Fr. Bob Cilinski
Fr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

**ALL SAINTS DAY
Wednesday, November 1st**

The Solemnity of All Saints is on Wednesday, November 1st. The Mass schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, October 31
Vigil Mass at 5:30PM

Wednesday, November 1
7:30AM, 9:00AM (school), 12:00PM,
5:00PM and 7:30PM (bilingual)

**ALL SOULS DAY
Thursday, November 2nd
The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed**

Each year All Souls Day is a day of special prayer for all those who have died. We pray that those souls in need of perfection may swiftly pass through their purification and come into the presence of God.

It is the grace of the Communion of Saints that we can have this special relationship of prayer with those who have departed this life. The Mass schedule is as follows:

Thursday, November 2
7:30AM, 12:00PM and 7:00PM (Mass of Remembrance)

**MASS OF REMEMBRANCE
Thursday, November 2nd at 7:00PM**

One of our most beloved traditions at Nativity Church occurs every year during the month of November. This is the month when the whole Church remembers those who have passed from this world in hope of eternal life. At Nativity we celebrate a special Mass for those of our parish family who have died in the past year.

We wish to invite your family and friends to this special Eucharist. This special Mass will take place on Thursday, November 2nd at 7:00pm.

Please know that you are in our prayers and in the prayers of the community of Nativity.

Love and Blessings,
Fr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Nativity Parishioners are joined in fervent prayer for the victims of violence in Israel and Gaza as well as those impacted by related acts of hatred and harassment worldwide.

As a Catholic Community, our words and actions must uphold the dignity of all people.

Let us pray for and end to war and a just and equitable lasting peace in the Holy Land and Beyond.

Love and Blessings,
Fr. Bob Cilinski, Pastor

FAMILY GAME DAY

Get ready for a day of fun, games, and delicious food at our Family Game Day hosted by the Knights of Columbus and Family Ministry! This event is perfect for families with children or grandchildren of any age! Scan the QR code to register. Families must register by Oct. 19 at 4pm to attend!

SUNDAY, 22 OCT 2023
 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
 NATIVITY'S BACKFIELD (OR CAFETERIA IF RAIN)



Please be aware that the Church, parking lots and Church grounds are private property. Campaigning, placement of political signs or distribution of flyers for political campaigns, is strictly prohibited.

NATIVITY ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY

Did you know there's an Italian-American Museum in D.C.? It opened quietly during the pandemic, but hopes to make a big impact. This month, the Nativity Italian Heritage and Cultural Society will hear about the museum and all it entails. Liz DiGregorio, museum director, will explain how the museum came about; the different, curated themes of each of its four floors, the Italian history of the neighborhood; and relationship to Holy Rosary Church, which features an Italian Sunday mass.

Membership sign-ups for the 2023-24 season continue and Festa di Natale ticket sales start, exclusively for members at the moment. Available tickets will be sold in the narthex at a later date. Guests are welcome at monthly meetings for \$5. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share, if you can.

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

PLACE: NATIVITY SCHOOL CAFETERIA



Get Ready to Set Your "Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move" for World Mission Sunday

Pope Francis, in his message for World Mission Sunday 2023, reflects on the theme "Hearts on fire, feet on the move," based on the story of the disciples who encounter Jesus on their way to Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35).

He invites all of us to "set out once more, illumined by our encounter with the risen Lord and prompted by his Spirit. Let us set out again with burning hearts, with our eyes open and our feet in motion. Let us set out to make other hearts burn with the word of God, to open the eyes of others to Jesus in the Eucharist, and to invite everyone to walk together on the path of peace and salvation that God, in Christ, has bestowed upon all humanity."

On World Mission Sunday, we join our Holy Father in supporting his missions. As we pray and respond here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish and school throughout the world. Together, through our prayers and financial support, we bring the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions.

In a world where so much divides us, World Mission Sunday rejoices in our unity as missionaries by our Baptism, as it offers each one of us an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized in more than 1,111 mission dioceses.

You can find the resources as part of this newly-launched micro-site for World Mission Month: <https://onefamilyinmission.org/>

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AT NATIVITY PARISH

AMUSING

ENJOYMENT

MUSIC

DINNER & DESSERT

RAFFLE PRIZES

SILENT AUCTION

DJ - BOBBY G.

MASTER ENTERTAINER

DANCING

PHOTO BOOTH

CASH BAR (BEER & WINE)

NATIVITY'S MASQUERADE BALL

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2023

6:30 PM - 11:00 PM

TICKETS \$40 PER PERSON

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



Prepare and vote: Read the Bishop's Letter and other VCC resources

In the coming weeks and months, voters will elect members to all 140 seats in the Virginia General Assembly, as well as other offices in some localities. Much is at stake!

Early voting began September 22. Election Day is November 7. New General Assembly maps are in effect for this year's elections. To help you prepare, please visit the VCC Election Resource hub (Link below). There you can view, download and print the following materials, three of which are newly released and one of which is re-issued:

- A pre-election letter from Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Knestout
- A Register to Vote flyer explaining how to register, eligibility and key dates
- A New Political Maps flyer to help you find your new districts and the candidates
- A re-issued Four Principles of Catholic Social Teaching resource.

Please review these materials. Share them with family and friends too, and remind them to pray, form their consciences and vote! **For more information visit: vacatholic.org.**

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 on time 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 21/22. Please contact Elizabeth Tramel at andrewandelizabeth@gmail.com with any questions Thank you for your support!!

THE WALGREENS FLU CLINIC FOR THIS WEEKEND HAS BEEN CANCELLED

TRUNK OR TREAT

Join Nativity Catholic School on Friday, October 27th from 7:00-8:00pm for a Trunk or Treat. All vehicles setting up will need to arrive between 6:00-6:30pm.



For Volunteer and Car Registration (trunk registration must be diocese compliant) visit: <https://nativityburke.org/trunk-or-treat/>

TRUNK OR TREAT



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

Monday, October 23rd

7:30 am † Bonnie L. Turner

Tuesday, October 24th

7:30 am † Lucille Lynch
12:00 pm † David Joseph Lynch

Wednesday, October 25th

7:30 am † Flordeliza Celebrado
10:00 am † Kathy Cunning (*Heatherwood*)

Thursday, October 26th

7:30 am † Nicoletta Mascelli
12:00 pm † John Dellaquila

Friday, October 27th

7:30 am † Raymond Swider Sr.

Saturday, October 28th

9:00 am † Carlos Garcia
5:00 pm † Abel Tapia
7:00 pm All Souls Novena

Sunday, October 29th

7:00 am All Souls Novena
9:00 am All Souls Novena
11:00 am All Souls Novena
1:00 pm Parishioners
5:30 pm All Souls Novena

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

Every Friday, Pray the Pro-Life Rosary, 8:45am-9:45am: Meet in the Narthex after Friday 7:30am Masses and join us on the sidewalk in front of the abortion facility at 900 S. Washington Street, Falls Church.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Fr. Cedric Wilson
October 27th



SCAM ALERT - PLEASE BEWARE

Recently, persons using fake email addresses pretending to be Fr. Bob Cilinski and other parish staff members, have been requesting special favors and/or gift cards. Please note that Fr. Bob (or any of the other priests or parish staff members) **DO NOT and will NEVER email, text or ask anyone** for any kind of financial assistance or favors. Please be careful and delete these kinds of emails or messages immediately. If you are unsure or have any questions, please call the parish office at 703-455-2400.

ANNUAL FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Wednesday, 8 November at 7:30pm

All parishioners are invited to join the Knights of Columbus for a patriotic ceremony at the Holy Spirit Parish School Gymnasium, 8800 Braddock Road, Annandale. Local scouts from both parishes will help retire the flags and the West Point Glee Club will perform. If you have a worn or soiled flag that needs to be retired, drop it in one of the special collection boxes available in the Narthex and inside the Nativity school entrance. This patriotic event is a great way to celebrate Veteran's day and to show the proper reverence and respect for the symbol of freedom that is our American Flag. A reception with light refreshments and fellowship will follow the ceremony.

For more information, contact John Ostrowski at jaostrowski89@gmail.com

Pray for those who are discerning a call to proclaim the hope of the Resurrection as religious brothers, sisters, priests or deacons. If you feel God is offering you the grace of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at (703) 841-2514 or email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

Nativity's Young Adult Ministry


Join our...

6 week SMALL GROUP

LOOKING FOR A SENSE OF
COMMUNITY, SPIRITUAL
GROWTH, OR A DEEPER
CONNECTION TO YOUR FAITH?



Sign up here!
Any questions?
Email our Director of Young Adults
Ministry: [Alison Fram at
afram@nativityburke.org](mailto:afram@nativityburke.org)



Adult Children of Divorce Mini-Retreat at Nativity Catholic Church

Saturday, October 28th
9:00 AM Mass and 9:35 AM Refreshments in the Narthex
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Retreat with speaker Art Bennett

Many adults whose parents are divorced carry invisible wounds from their parents' divorce. Adult children of divorce are impacted by the emotional reality of divorce and how it affects their thoughts about marriage and family, which can impact their relationships. The impact is more than answering the question, "Who do we spend the holidays with?" There is surviving the aftermath of divorce and the emotional hurdles. No matter the age when your parents divorce, there is a loss experienced. The loss of parents as a unit, the home, security, and stability. Family traditions may have ceased, which were rooted in the familial past, and one may not feel firmly rooted. Adult children may feel they are the family peacemaker and may struggle with trust. One may feel alone or lost, searching for lasting healing and love. Coming to this mini-retreat for a few hours is a special time just for you, for healing, for understanding, and in community.



World Mission Sunday 2023

October 22nd

Were not our hearts burning within us?

Luke 24:13-35




26M	38,140	8,750	12,000	844,000	258,540
Children	Seminarians	Shelters	Health Centers	Catechists	Religious sisters

**BE THE SPARK THAT
TRANSFORMS LIVES.
GIVE NOW.**



WWW.ONEFAMILYINMISSION.ORG

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




ROSARY MINISTRY - HELP WANTED

Can you count to 10!!

Please join us for our November rosary ministry meeting, Tuesday, November 21st from 1:00-3:00pm in the Father Ready room. We will be teaching you how to make mission rosaries and prayer bracelets.

Come join us in praying the Rosary every Tuesday and Thursday after the noon Mass. We will be praying the special intention for peace in Israel and Ukraine. Please sign up on the church website under rosary ministry at nativityburke.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS - Donated by



Barbara and Stan Zagalak
In Loving Memory of
Frank Albrecht

Bridget Fullenkamp
In Loving Memory of
Francis Fullenkamp



Preparing and Voting as Virginia Catholics

This year, voters will elect members to all 140 seats in the Virginia General Assembly – 40 in the Senate and 100 in the House of Delegates – as well as other offices in some localities. Early voting begins September 22. Election Day is November 7.

Much is at stake, and it is the sacred duty of each voter to form his or her conscience and participate in these critical decisions. To prepare:

First, register to vote if you are not registered already. A Virginia Catholic Conference bulletin insert explains how to register, eligibility and key dates. Registration ends October 16.

Second, locate your new districts. New General Assembly district maps are in effect for this year's elections. A VCC bulletin insert explains how to find your new state Senate and House of Delegates districts and who the candidates are.

Third, prayerfully form your conscience. The VCC's *Four Principles of Catholic Social Teaching* bulletin insert provides a helpful overview for reflection, in an easy-to-read format.

Visit www.vacatholic.org to view these materials.

As we have stated in previous pre-election letters, three foundational principles are essential to forming consciences and evaluating candidates:

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

Addressing the tragedy of abortion is the "preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed" (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, [*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*](#), Introductory Letter).

As a Catholic and a voter in Virginia, please respond to the call of faithful citizenship. Prepare and engage in these vitally important elections. Protect life to the fullest extent possible.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Burbidge".

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry C. Knestout".

Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout
Bishop of Richmond

WORKCAMP 2024
Information Meeting

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
 4:30-5:15pm in the Well

Are you a teen, parent, or adult volunteer interested in getting involved with WorkCamp? Whether you're new to the program or returning, this meeting is for you!

Contact:
 Brigid Williams
 wc@nativityburke.org







***** ALL PARISH EVENT *****
NATIVITY'S 5K/FUN RUN
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH FROM 7AM - 11AM
REGISTRATION OPEN - EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT UNTIL 11/1

"THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE SURROUNDED BY SUCH A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES. LET US THROW OFF EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS AND THE SIN THAT SO EASILY ENTANGLES. AND LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE MARKED OUT FOR US. FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE PIONEER AND PERFECTER OF FAITH. WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS." HEBREWS 12: 1 - 3



ON CAMPUS AT NATIVITY
6400 NATIVITY LANE
BURKE, VA 22015


DONUT SUNDAY
 THIS WEEKEND




YOUTH MINISTRY

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

HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS
GIRLS: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, weekly
GUYS: Thursdays, 7:00-8:30pm, 2x/month



EDGE: GRADES 6-8
 Alternating Sundays | 3:30-5:00pm
 & Fridays | 7:00-8:30 pm



WORKCAMP INTEREST MEETING
 Come learn more about WorkCamp, an annual week-long overnight camp fostering Christ-centered service, faith, and fellowship for high schoolers within the Diocese.
 Who: High schoolers, parents, and adult volunteers
 When: Sunday, November 12 from 4:30 p.m-5:15 p.m
 Where: The Well (Youth Ministry Room)

[See website for full schedule](#)
 Before attending, please register for the 2023-2024 year of ministry using our free, online forms.

✉ cym@nativityburke.org 📺 @nativitycym

ECHO was recently offered the opportunity to be the recipient of a Bonefish Grill charity night event. Bonefish Grill, 5920 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria, will commit a share of their proceeds to support ECHO on Wednesday, October 25, from 4:00 to 9:00 pm. Diners do not have to present a flyer or do anything else to participate except enjoy their meal.

PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC)
 We are a social group, mostly age 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate-membership group.) Meet us for: walk in historic cemetery and dinner (Nov 5); square dancing (Nov 7, 21, 28); Thursday lunch (Nov 9); dinner in Fairfax City (Nov 12); Annual Dinner Dance (Nov 18); Flamenco dance performance (Nov 19); Thanksgiving Day dinner (Nov 23); serving evening meal at Christ House (Nov 25); tailgate party and Ice & Lights show (Nov 26); Christmas party (Dec 2). For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.



Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesday. 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: https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992
Volunteer for an event! Scroll down to view all events.

22 October, 1:00pm - 6:00pm, Fall Family Picnic & Games. Cooks, servers and game helpers are needed. Volunteer on linktree.

14-29 October, Masquerade Ball – Ticket Sales after Masses: Volunteer on linktree.

27 October, Trunk or Treat 2023: 1 or 2 hour blocks between 5:00pm & 9:00pm to pre, cook, treat & clean-up.

3, 4 & 5 November, Masquerade Ball: Event set-up assistance needed: It takes a lot of volunteers to set-up, request your assistance to make this evening a huge success. Volunteer on linktree.

6 November, 6:45 PM Mass of Remembrance: Need volunteers to be Reading Lectors, Drivers for Windows, and reserve attendance.

Food for Others: Volunteer drivers for food distribution to the poor. If you have a truck or van and can occasionally help deliver to 7 Corners on Thursday evenings or to Springfield on Friday evenings please consider helping. For Thursdays, please contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net. For Fridays, please contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com.

Name Tags: Email Vince Augelli at VaKC23@gmail.com.

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. Volunteer on linktree.

Handy Knights Ministry: If you are unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small repairs in your home due to health or other factors, call the "Handy Knights." Email handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com.

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

3rd Degree Knights: Grow with 4th Degree - participate in patriotic activities that promote Catholic citizenship. 4th Degree Assembly meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Nativity school cafeteria: 7:30 pm rosary, 7:45 pm business meeting followed by fellowship. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Vince Augelli 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. Join today!

<https://www.kofc.org/joinus> and experience the Knights free for one year: Enter the Agent Code "CPEREZ", click "Add" and complete the form. Be sure to enter our council #7992 for local information when you register. Please email our Deputy Grand Knight at cokofc7992@gmail.com or the Grand Knight at pmdelatte@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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

JOIN THE NATIVITY SCHOOL STAFF!

Consider joining our School Staff as part of our Extended Care Team to help us provide After-School Care by contacting our Extended Care Director, Mrs. Jen Behan at (703) 455-2300, or jbehan@nativityschool.org. To assist us as a Lunch/Recess Monitor, or Substitute Teacher, please contact Rich Godwin at (703) 455-2300, or rgodwin@nativityschool.org.



· LARAINÉ BENNETT ·

ART OF LIVING WITH LESS



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY
DATE NIGHT
 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH
 CAFETERIA FROM 6-8:30 PM

Childcare Provided | Refreshments | Fellowship



A message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

It's that glorious time of year again-leaves are falling and there's a chill in the air. It's autumn! God blesses us with nature's beautiful springtime when things come to life, and he also blesses us with its lovely passing as we move into autumn. And as He gave us dominion over this Earth, we should do what we can to protect it. Here are three things you can do this autumn to protect and respect God's beautiful creation. If you're just getting started, try the "Easy habit." Ready for more? Try the habit that's "A Bit More Commitment", or go "All-In." **Easy habit:** do nothing. That's right: do nothing! If you have leaves falling in your yard, you may be tempted to rake and bag them up, or even call in a leaf vacuuming services. But what if you knew that leaving the leaves to decompose right where they fall could protect your garden through the winter and feed it into the spring? Overwintering insects as well as birds and amphibians will appreciate your leaf neglect as well. If your leaves are too thick, rake them into your garden beds. Or give the earth and yourself a break and do nothing. It couldn't be easier.

A bit more commitment: hold off on the heater as long as you can. The hot summer days that require air conditioning are behind us, and the chilly days that beg us to crank up the heater are on their way. When you do feel the chill, hold off on the heater. Throw on a sweater, vest, or some slippers. You can also use a lap blanket or switch to flannel sheets. All these ideas will keep you warm and keep your carbon footprint and heating bill low.

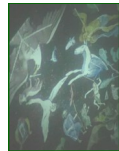
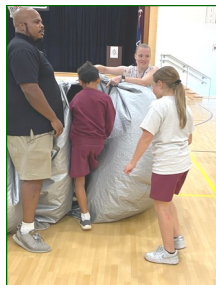
All in: commit to seasonal produce. Modern supply chains allow us to have fresh strawberries and other fruits and veggies all year round. And while this is a sweet luxury, it also means our wintertime produce often travels from all around the world. This autumn and winter, consider making a commitment to purchasing only seasonal produce. T'is the season for squashes and root vegetables. Sticking to seasonal fruits and vegetables reduces carbon emissions while providing you fresher, healthier foods. Get creative with all the wonderful root soup recipes!



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
nativityschool.org



Recently, we were taken on a journey through the universe from the comfort and security of our own gym, inside a very large, portable, inflatable planetarium. A SkyDome. We, budding astronomers, entered the dome and were introduced to a digitally produced "star-filled" sky. Our navigator helped us to identify every planet in our solar system in dramatic "flights" toward each world.



We especially enjoyed our introduction to the Greek mythological heroes among the stars.

We ALL enjoyed it – It was OUT of this WORLD!

**At Nativity, faith fills us. Love lives here.
Nativity Stars are filled with the Holy Spirit!**

~ Important Upcoming Dates ~

- Thursday, October 26 - 8th Grade Popsicle Sale
- Friday, October 27 - No School, Teacher Work Day
- Friday, October 27 - Trunk or Treat, 7 - 8 pm
- Tuesday, October 31 - Dress Down Day
- Tuesday, October 31 - Classroom Halloween Parties
- Tuesday, October 31 - Halloween Parade, 2:15 pm
- Wednesday, November 1 - Winter Uniform Begins

Join us at Nativity to see how your child would spend his/her days here - learning, praying, sharing, loving, and laughing. We may be just the school for which you've been searching! 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.

Pray for Peace in the Middle East with fellow Parishioners!

The Nativity Rosary Ministry leads the rosary 3 times a week and we encourage all to join us. The rosary is prayed after the noon Masses on Tuesday and Thursday at Nativity, and we gather via Zoom on Sunday evenings at 7:30 PM.

Contact Brenda Zepf at zepfmb@gmail.com for the link (which is sent out just before the meeting) Come and pray the rosary with us. We are praying for the people experiencing the terrors of war with the killing, the fear, the evil destruction and the horror in which the families find themselves.

We must pray for these people in any way and every way that we can. Feel free to take a rosary from the rosary board.

We are reaching out to God in trust and we know He will hear us! Again, join us in prayer for the Middle East. Diane Fields, diane.l.fields44@gmail.com.



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

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

Registration Period: October 1st - 27th
Registration Fee: \$95

PRACTICES AND GAMES

Practices start in October
Games run from December to March

COACHES

Please reach out if you are interested in coaching. Volunteer spots still available!

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



National Black Catholic History Month

*We've Come This Far by Faith:
Continuing to Write the Vision*

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

2700 19th St S, Arlington, VA 22204



Write the Vision
A PROPHETIC CALL TO THRIVE
THE NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS

- 5:30PM Vigil Mass, Fr. Anthony Bozeman, SSJ, Concelebrant & Homilist
- 6:45PM Refreshments
- 7:00PM Keynote Address – Fr. Anthony Bozeman, SSJ
- Presentation of the Fr. Augustus Tolton/Mother Mary Lange Award

REGISTER HERE: www.arlingtondiocese.org/NBCHM2023



Office of Multicultural Ministries
Catholic Diocese of Arlington



Keynote Speaker:
Fr. Anthony Bozeman, SSJ
Academic Dean of St. Joseph Seminary,
Washington, DC



FALL MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT Program



Fridays from 6:30-8:30 PM
Teachers Lounge

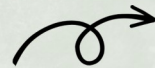
OCT. 20, 27 | **NOV. 3, 10, 17**

RSVP marriage@nativityburke.org

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Young Adult Ministry

- WHO ARE WE? WE ARE AN ALL-INCLUSIVE GROUP OF YOUNG ADULTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 19-35 WHO ARE IN THE "MIDDLE" WHETHER THEY ARE SINGLE, NEWLY MARRIED WITH OR WITHOUT CHILDREN OR PERHAPS A RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATE!
- WHAT DO WE OFFER? OUR YAM OFFERS SMALL GROUPS, FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES, BASKETBALL, AND SO MUCH MORE!



Sign Up For the Diocesan E-Newsletter!

Receive special video messages from our bishop, learn about unique opportunities to get involved, and be the first to know the news about our Diocese - straight to your inbox.

Sign up here: arlingtondiocese.org/email

Ladies: Discover the Gifts You Have Been Given

You are invited to a GIVEN Gathering event on Saturday, November 11 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Saint Thomas à Becket Catholic Church, 1421 Wiehle Ave, Reston. The event, hosted by the Diocese of Arlington's Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life and created by The GIVEN Institute, is designed to inspire you to receive the gift you are, to realize the gifts you have been given, and respond with the gift that only you can give. The event includes talks by Sister Mary Gabriel, SV, Mary Lenaburg and Katie Weiss as well as opportunities for Mass, Confession and Adoration. Coffee, light pastries available in the morning and lunch provided in the afternoon. Cost is \$55. To learn more and to register visit <https://giveninstitute.com/arlington-given-gathering/>.



You can designate Nativity Church or Nativity School as the beneficiaries of your Amazon Smile! You can choose Nativity by going to: **YOUR ACCOUNT, YOUR AMAZON SMILE and designating Nativity.** Amazon then contributes a small percentage of each purchase to Nativity. For questions, please contact Ann Benson at: 703 455 2400. Thank you!

The Knights of Columbus - Ladies Auxiliary

Formed to assist and support the Knights, our Church and the four virtues of Charity, Unity, Sorority and Patriotism.

We are spouses, daughters, mothers, or sisters of Knights of Columbus who are in good standing or deceased.

Our fellowship and informational meetings are the First Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Fr. Ready Room. Contact kdelatte65@gmail.com for information or to be added to our email distribution list.



DO YOU ENJOY COOKING?

Join our Youth Ministry Hospitality Crew!

We are in need of parishioners to cook about once a month for our high school Youth Ministry program on Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:30pm.

Contact Director of Youth Ministry, Rebecca Judge cym@nativityburke.org

NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY

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 D.C. AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA EVERY SUNDAY MORNING, RAIN OR SHINE. FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT THE NATIVITY PARISH WEBSITE OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN DAILY/SUNDAY RUNS, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN RUBINO AT: JOHN.ALBERT.RUBINO@GMAIL.COM.

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday October 22

Isaiah 45:1,4-6
 Ps 96:1,3-5,7-10
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
 Matthew 22:15-21

Monday October 23

Romans 4:20-25
 Luke 1:69-75
 Luke 12:13-21

Tuesday October 24

Romans 5:12,15b,17-19,
 20b-21
 Ps 40:7-10,17
 Luke 12:35-38

Wednesday October 25

Romans 6:12-18
 Ps 124:1b-8
 Luke 12:39-48

Thursday October 26

Romans 6:19-23
 Ps 1:1-4,6
 Luke 12:49-53

Friday October 27

Romans 7:18-25a
 Ps 119:66,68,76-77,93-94
 Luke 12:54-59

Saturday October 28

**Sts. Simon and Jude,
 Apostles**
 Ephesians 2:19-22
 Ps 19:2-5
 Luke 6:12-16

In the Gospel reading, when Jesus asks the Pharisees to tell him whose image was engraved on the coin owed for the census tax, he uses it to teach a lesson about the image that should be engraved upon our hearts. Our hearts should belong to God and to God alone.



The Romans believed that their emperors were divine. Therefore, to possess Roman coins meant carrying around the graven image of a human god. The Pharisees knew this when they challenged Jesus.

Paying the census tax to Caesar symbolized more than just submission to a foreign government. It had religious connotations. If Jesus was a true prophet, he should speak up against Jews possessing pagan coins. If he was a true messiah, he should deliver them from the oppression and taxes of the foreign government – or so they thought.

We don't know how they happened to have the Roman coin that they showed to Jesus. If they pulled it out of their own purses, which is likely, it

revealed their hypocrisy. However, Jesus wasn't just interested in exposing their hypocrisy; he wanted to make a point about the True Messiah.

If we belong to God, Jesus is engraved upon our hearts. We have been rescued from the destruction of sin by the Messiah.

We have let him deliver us from the oppression of evil that was caused by our sins.

Whose image do others see when they look at your life? When people see you, do they see Jesus engraved upon you? To the extent that they do, that's the extent to which you belong to the kingdom of God!

Reflect & Discuss:

- † How do you know that others see Jesus in your life? What's the evidence?
- † What have they told you about yourself that is also a description of Christ?
- † What are some of the ways in which Jesus has come into your life and changed you from within?
- † How has that changed the way you live?
- † How does this evangelize the people around you?



MORNINGS OF *Mercy* FOR DIVORCED CATHOLICS

HOLY MASS | TALK | BENEDICTION

Hurting after divorce? Want to enter into fellowship with Catholics in similar situations and to grow more deeply in your relationship with Jesus?

Event is free, but please register
ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/MORNINGS OF MERCY

FEBRUARY 4
ST. LUKE
MCLEAN, VA

MAY 20
ST. TIMOTHY
CHANTILLY, VA

AUGUST 12
GOOD SHEPHERD
ALEXANDRIA, VA

NOVEMBER 18
ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON
LAKE RIDGE, VA



Catholic Diocese of Arlington
Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life
familylife@arlingtondiocese.org | (703) 841-2550

COME AND LEARN HOW TO PROMOTE VOCATIONS

All Are Invited

Thursday, November 9, at 7 pm

Saint Joseph Room, 313 Duke Street

**The Very Rev. Edward C. Hathaway,
the Pastor and Rector of the Basilica of Saint Mary,
Will Be the Speaker**



**The Serra Club of Arlington, part of the USA Council of Serra International,
promotes vocations to the ministerial priesthood and consecrated life
in the Diocese of Arlington.**

**Come for light refreshments and learn more about the mission of the Serra Club
of Arlington, which is part of the Pontifical work of the Catholic Church.**



*For additional information, contact Mary Petrino, President-Elect,
Serra Club of Arlington, at mary.petrino@gmail.com.*



Giorgio Frassati

for **RETREAT**
Young Adults

Ages 21-35

*** NOV 10-12**
FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati was a young, vibrant, and wealthy man who loved life, God, and the mountains of Italy. He shared his wealth with the poor, savored friendships with a broad circle of men and women, and brought hundreds closer to Christ.

COME CLIMB WITH US!

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

PGF



Fr. Riley will guide us to the summit!

Email Deacon Mark Maines at:
Mark.Maines@arlingtondiocese.org

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



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



*Novena
to Our Lady
of Guadalupe
for Couples Struggling with
Infertility,
Miscarriage &
Infant Loss*

led by Bishop Burbidge

December 4th - 12th



Submit your intentions,
pray the novena &
find more information at:



OurFruitfulLove.com/novena



Catholic Diocese of Arlington
Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life
(703) 841-2550 | familylife@arlingtondiocese.org



Preparación y votación como católicos de Virginia

Este año, los votantes elegirán miembros para ocupar todos los 140 escaños en la Asamblea General de Virginia – 40 en el Senado y 100 en la Cámara de Delegados – así como para otros cargos en algunas localidades. La votación temprana comienza el 22 de septiembre. El día de las elecciones es el 7 de noviembre.

Hay muchas cosas en juego y cada votante tiene el deber sagrado de formar su conciencia y de participar en estas decisiones críticas. Para prepararse:

Primero, regístrese para votar si no lo han hecho todavía. En un suplemento adjunto a los boletines parroquiales preparado por la Conferencia Católica de Virginia se explica cómo registrarse, quién tiene derecho a hacerlo y cuáles son las fechas clave. La inscripción termina el 16 de octubre.

Segundo, localicen sus nuevos distritos. Hay nuevos mapas de los distritos de la Asamblea General vigentes para las elecciones del presente año. En un suplemento adjunto a los boletines parroquiales preparado por la Conferencia Católica de Virginia se explica cómo encontrar sus nuevos distritos estatales del Senado y de la Cámara de Delegados y quiénes son los candidatos.

Tercero, formen su conciencia en espíritu de oración. El suplemento adjunto a los boletines parroquiales preparado por la Conferencia Católica de Virginia, titulado *Cuatro Principios de la Doctrina Social Católica*, ofrece una útil visión general para reflexión en un formato de lectura fácil.

Visiten www.vacatholic.org para ver estos materiales.

Como hemos afirmado en varias cartas previas a las elecciones, hay tres principios fundamentales que son esenciales para la formación de la conciencia y la evaluación de los candidatos:

- Hay muchos asuntos importantes.
- No todos los asuntos tienen la misma importancia moral.
- La protección de la vida es fundamental.

Abordar la tragedia del aborto es la “máxima prioridad porque ataca directamente a la vida misma, porque tiene lugar dentro del santuario de la familia y por la cantidad de vidas destruidas” (Carta introductoria publicada por la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos titulada *Formando la conciencia para ser ciudadanos fieles*).

Como católicos y como votantes en Virginia, sirvanse responder al llamado a la ciudadanía fiel. Prepárense y participen en estas elecciones de vital importancia. Protejan la vida en la mayor medida posible.

Fielmente en Cristo,

Monseñor Michael F. Burbidge
Obispo de la Diócesis de Arlington

Monseñor Barry C. Knestout
Obispo de la Diócesis de Richmond

SIN VIVIR AL MARGEN

Domingo XXIX

Javier Leoz



Donde no llega la razón, llega el corazón. Donde no llegues tú, llegaré yo. Y, cuando leo estas letras, me preguntó por qué a veces es tan difícil combinar fe e ideas, política y religión, el cielo con la tierra, lo humano con lo divino. ¿Hasta dónde puede llegar la fe? ¿Hasta dónde pretenden llegar aquellos que solamente juzgan y se rigen por la razón o la ideología de la que, siempre, queda alguien al margen?

1. Cuántas situaciones de injusticia se evitarían si, por ejemplo, la moral iluminase ciertas actuaciones que las damos como insignes conquistas del mundo moderno cuando, a la corta o a la larga, comprobaremos que son decadencia. ¿Es intromisión denunciar que la humanidad, en más de una ocasión, se autodestruye cuando legisla en contra de la dignidad del propio ser humano?

-Dar al César, lo que es del César, no siempre implica quedarse al margen de aquello que consideramos negativo para un progreso bien entendido. ¿No sería más bien cobardía o falta de valentía a la hora de defender unos criterios que consideramos válidos, esenciales e irrenunciables para nuestro futuro?

-Dar al César, lo que es del César, no es decir “amén” a todo lo que el poder establecido nos mete hasta los tuétanos y, normalmente, en contra de los más desfavorecidos.

-Dar al César, lo que es el César, es saber que, la Iglesia, no es una institución política –ni mucho menos– pero que no puede ni debe vivir al margen de lo que gime en su interior: su ser profético que le empuja a denunciar cuando se rebasan ciertos límites, y a anunciar que, la última instancia a la que debemos someternos, es precisamente Dios.

2. Ser buen cristiano no significa vivir divorciados de las instancias donde se cuecen los destinos del mundo. Hoy hay diversas corrientes en las que se proclama aquello de “la Iglesia en la sacristía” “la fe es un ámbito privado” “en la calle hay que ser ciudadano, no cristiano”.

Ante estas soflamas no cabe sino, recordar, que la fe es un derecho público y privado, personal y comunitario, social y no marginal. Como personas, hemos de ejercer libremente nuestro ideario cristiano sin miedo a ser tachados de entrometidos. Qué gran perjuicio, para el Evangelio, para la Iglesia y para la sociedad misma, si –nuestro cristianismo– lo redujéramos a ser eso: buenos ciudadanos. No nos hemos bautizados para ser los necios del mundo. Más bien al contrario; nuestro bautismo nos empuja a salar aquellas situaciones que requieren un punto de verdad o de ilusión, de alegría o de justicia, de dignidad o de equidad. Pero ¿qué ocurre cuando la Iglesia hace, dice o evidencia todo esto? Que escuece y se pretende silenciarla. Nunca, un paciente que se acerque a un médico, le criticará por el hecho de que estudie, cure y sane sus heridas. Al contrario, aunque le duela, sabe que en ello se le va la vida.

Aquí está el término medio. La sociedad tiene sus propias normas pero, sus legisladores, no son perfectos y por lo tanto tampoco muchas de las cosas que dicen, hacen o estampan en cuño de ley. Y, cuando la Iglesia alerta de ciertos excesos no es por intrusión (ni mucho menos) sino porque, en la herida, se puede desangrar el futuro de una sociedad caprichosa, hedonista donde vence el fuerte, sufre el pobre y el “césar” (por sus deliberaciones o actuaciones) se marcha de su palacio ajeno al sufrimiento producido en su pueblo.

¿Difícil papeleta el saber hasta dónde entramos unos y hasta donde han de entrar otros? Tal vez. Lo que nunca debemos hacer como cristianos es eso... conformarnos con ser buenos vecinos. En todo caso intentar por encima de todo ser buenos cristianos. Aunque a más de uno le duela. ¡Qué se va hacer! ¡O somos cristianos o no lo somos!

Hoy celebramos el día del DOMUND (la jornada mundial de la propagación de la fe). Ojala que su lema “RENACE LA ALEGRÍA” sea una llamada a que, desde el ámbito en el cual cada uno nos encontramos, sepamos también comprometernos de cerca o de lejos con aquellos que se encuentran –en primera línea– dando la cara por los más pobres pero, sobre todo, anunciando al POBRE de los pobres que es Cristo. Sólo así, al atardecer de la vida, seremos capaces de cerrar los ojos con la satisfacción de haber hecho renacer la alegría de la fe en diferentes puntos de nuestra tierra. Que Santa Teresa de Jesús, cuyo Año Jubilar hemos iniciado por el quinto centenario de su nacimiento, nos ayude también a ser eternos andariegos por los caminos del mundo con el báculo de la vida cristiana contemplativa, activa y más comprometida.

¿CESAR.....O TU, SEÑOR?

Cuando confundo lo divino con lo humano,
y me quedo sólo con lo segundo
Cuando, volcado de lleno en lo superficial,
olvido que Tú existes desde los mismos inicios de mis días
Cuando, escuchando tu Palabra,
me quedo con aquellas escritas por el presente
Entonces, Señor, sólo entonces
me doy cuenta...que sirvo demasiado al “césar” de este mundo.
Cuando pretendo una iglesia desarraigada y no profética
alejada de todo compromiso.
¿CÉSAR.....O TU SEÑOR?
Cuando dedicado al intercambio de moneda
no veo que, la mayor, riqueza soy yo:
como persona y como hijo tuyo
como llamado a la vida y a la gracia
a la santidad, a la sencillez y a la adoración en tu presencia
Cuando, pendiente de lo que acontece a mi alrededor
te doy las migajas de unos minutos de oración
o las prisas de una misa rutinaria
Cuando, soñando con ser grande
dejo de lado aquel cielo en el que, para entrar, he de ser pequeño
¿CÉSAR.....O TU SEÑOR?
Que no me olvide, oh Señor, que Tú eres el centro de todo
Que no me olvide, Señor, de orientarme desde Ti y contigo
Que no me olvide, Señor, que –el cielo y la tierra–
son todo obra de tu mano
Que no me olvide, Señor,
que entre los “césares” que intentan manipular mi conciencia
sólo Tú, Señor, tienes derecho a entrar en ella.

Amén.
Javier Leoz



Nuestra lucha con las riquezas

**Ron Rolheiser (Trad. Benjamín Elcano, cmf) -
Lunes, 25 de septiembre de 2017**



Hace algunos años asistí a un funeral. El hombre al que estábamos despidiendo había gozado de una vida plena y rica. Había llegado a la edad de 90 años y era respetado por haber sido a la vez dichoso y honrado. Pero había sido siempre un hombre fuerte, un líder natural, un hombre que se había hecho cargo de las cosas. Había tenido un buen matrimonio, formado una gran familia, logrado éxito en los negocios y mantenido papeles de liderazgo en varias organizaciones cívicas y eclesiales. Era un hombre que infundía respeto, aunque a veces era temido por su fuerza.

Su hijo, sacerdote, estaba presidiendo su funeral. Empezó su homilía de esta manera: “La Escritura nos dice que setenta es la suma de los años de un hombre, y ochenta la suma de los más robustos. Ahora bien, nuestro padre vivió noventa. ¿Por qué esos diez años de más? Bueno, de hecho, eso no es un misterio. ¡Dios le concedió esos diez años adicionales para madurarlo! ¡Era demasiado fuerte e inquieto para morir a los ochenta! Pero durante los últimos diez años de su vida sufrió una serie de masivos empeoramientos. Murió su esposa; nunca superó eso. Tuvo un ataque repentino; nunca lo superó. Tuvo que ser llevado a un centro de vida asistida; nunca lo superó. Todos estos condicionamientos hicieron su trabajo. Para cuando murió, pudo tomar tu mano y decir: ‘Ayúdame’. No pudo decir eso desde el momento en que pudo atar los cordones de sus propios zapatos hasta esos últimos años. Estuvo por fin dispuesto para el cielo. Ahora bien, cuando se encontró con san Pedro a las puertas del cielo, pudo decir: ‘¡Ayúdame!’, más bien que decir a san Pedro cómo podría organizar las cosas mejor”.

Esta historia nos puede ayudar a entender la enseñanza de Jesús de que los ricos encuentran difícil entrar en el reino de los cielos, mientras los niños pequeños entran con tanta naturalidad. Tendemos a comprender mal ambas cosas: por qué los ricos encuentran difícil entrar en el reino y por qué los niños pequeños entran más fácilmente.

¿Por qué los niños pequeños entran en el reino tan naturalmente? Al responder a esto, tendemos a idealizar la inocencia de los niños pequeños, que puede verdaderamente estar golpeándonos. Pero eso no es lo que Jesús está apoyando como un ideal aquí, un ideal de inocencia que para nosotros, adultos, es imposible en cualquier caso. No es la inocencia de los niños lo que Jesús alaba; más bien es el hecho de que los niños no tienen la menor pretensión de autosuficiencia. Los niños no tienen otra opción que conocer su dependencia. No son autosuficientes, y saben que no pueden tomar medidas en vez de otros. Si nadie los alimenta, van hambrientos. Necesitan decir, y decirlo con frecuencia: “¡Ayúdame!”.

Generalmente, para los adultos es lo contrario, especialmente si somos fuertes, talentosos y bendecidos con suficiente riqueza. Fácilmente alimentamos la ilusión de la autosuficiencia. En nuestra fortaleza, olvidamos más naturalmente que necesitamos a otros, que no somos autosuficientes.

La lección que vemos aquí no es que las riquezas sean malas. Las riquezas, como el dinero, el talento, la inteligencia, la salud, el buen aspecto, la habilidad para el liderazgo o la fuerza plana, son dones recibidos de Dios. Y son buenos. No son las riquezas lo que nos impide entrar en el reino. Más bien es el peligro de que, poseyéndolas, tendremos también más fácilmente la ilusión de que somos autosuficientes. Y no lo somos. Como Tomás de Aquino señala de la misma manera que define a Dios (como *Esse Subsistens* - Ser Suficiente en sí mismo), sólo Dios no necesita de alguien o algo más. Todos los demás tenemos esa necesidad, y los niños pequeños captan esto mejor que los adultos, especialmente los adultos fuertes y talentosos.

Además, la ilusión de la autosuficiencia genera otro peligro. Las riquezas y el confort que traen, como vemos en la parábola del rico que tiene un mendigo a su puerta, nos puede hacer ciegos a la situación y hambre de los pobres. Ese es uno de los peligros de no pasar hambre nosotros. En nuestro confort, tendemos a no ver a los pobres.

Y así, no son las riquezas en sí mismas las que son malas. El peligro moral de ser rico es más bien la ilusión de autosuficiencia que parece acompañar por siempre a las riquezas. Los niños pequeños no sufren esta ilusión, sino los fuertes. Ese es el peligro de ser rico, rico en dinero u rico en otras cosas.

¿Cómo minimizamos ese peligro? Siendo generosos con nuestras riquezas. El Evangelio de Lucas, aun siendo el Evangelio más duro para con los ricos, es también el Evangelio que más claramente muestra que las riquezas no son malas en sí mismas. Dios es rico. Pero Dios es enormemente generoso con esa riqueza. La generosidad de Dios, como aprendemos de las parábolas de Jesús, es tan excesiva que resulta escandalosa. Da un vuelco a nuestro medido sentido de equidad. Las riquezas son buenas, pero sólo si son compartidas. En el Evangelio de Lucas, Jesús alaba al rico generoso pero avisa al rico que acapara. La generosidad es propia de Dios; el acaparamiento es antitético al cielo.

Y así, desde que aprendemos a atarnos los lazos de nuestro propio calzado hasta que los varios debilitamientos de la vida empiezan a despojarnos de la ilusión de autosuficiencia, las riquezas de todo tipo constituyen un peligro. Nunca debemos olvidar la petición: “¡Ayúdame!”



What did Jesus tell the Pharisees?

Move through the box in the direction of the arrow under each blank to find the correct letter.



Begin
End

C	S	A	V	T	B	B
R	V	E	I	S	L	Q
I	O	T	T	A	C	A
G	C	H	A	R	S	E
S	A	W	R	S	A	N
D	E	S	A	O	G	D
O	I	A	H	D	O	T
G	S	T	W	G	D	D
Y	F	X	F	I	P	T

"G _ _ _ _"

↑ ↗ →

↓ ←

↓ ↓ ↓ → → ↑ ← ↑ → ↑ ↑ →

↓ → ↓ ← ↖ ↓ ↓

→ → ↓ ↓ ← ↑ ← ↓

← ↑ ← ↓ ↖ ↓ ← ↑ ↑ ↑

The men heard this and left in amazement!

Jesus knew what the men were doing. He asked, "Why are you trying to trap Me?" What did He say next?



Complete the math problems.

Find the answer, then write the letter on the line.

1 = A	6 = F	11 = K	17 = Q	22 = V
2 = B	7 = G	12 = L	18 = R	23 = W
3 = C	8 = H	13 = M	19 = S	24 = X
4 = D	9 = I	14 = N	20 = T	25 = Y
5 = E	10 = J	15 = O	21 = U	26 = Z
		16 = P		

"
15+4 4+4 20-5 16+7 8+5 11-6

10+10 12-4 2+3 2+1 30-15 6+3 7+7

19+2 21-2 16-11 2+2 3+3 12+3 20-2

8+8 12-11 12+13 7+2 8+6 4+3

15+5 16-8 8-3 18+2 5-4 12+12

The coin was a

6-2 1+4 20-6 25-24 9+9 18-9 17+4 10+9



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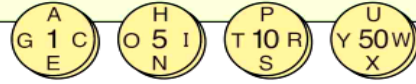
October 22, 2023 • Matthew 22:15-22

Paying Taxes to Caesar

The Pharisees made plans to trap Jesus with His own words. They sent their students to ask Him a question.



Find their question for Jesus by using this coin code.



"
5 ● 10 ● 5 ● 10 ● 10 ● 5 ● 1 ● 5 ● 10 ●

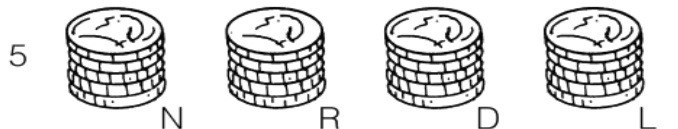
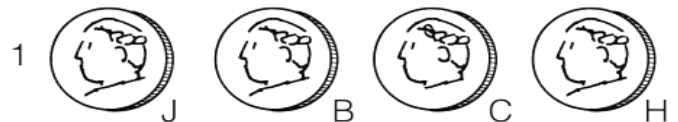
10 ● 5 ● 10 ● 1 ● 50 ● 10 ● 1 ● 50 ● 1 ● 10 ●

10 ● 5 ● 1 ● 1 ● 1 ● 10 ● 1 ● 10 ●

5 ● 10 ● 5 ● 5 ● 10 ● ? "

They brought the coin to Jesus. He asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

Find the picture that is different in each row. Write its letter on the blank above its row number.



They answered,

"
1 2 3 4 2 5 4



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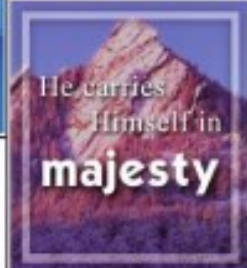
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