



**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
mmtturner@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**

**30
ORDINARY
TIME**

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



*“Master I want to see”
- Mark 10:51*

My dear parishioners,

The story of Bartimaeus is one of the most beautiful in the gospels. Jesus is making a long journey to Jerusalem and along the way his disciples follow him. He is the way!!!! The blind are taken up too. In this beautiful story it is remarkable how many times we hear the word “call”..... Bartimaeus every day waiting and hoping and calling out to Jesus. The disciples telling him to stop calling. Then Jesus says “call him over.” Then they say “he is calling you.” So hearing the word call reminds us of our vocation. The master is calling you.

Bartimaeus might have been physically blind, but he sees! He sees who Jesus is. He knows that Christ is passing by and calls out to him. He doesn't care that people are telling him that his quest is useless. He just calls out to Christ his simple request and he is rewarded. What do you want me to do for you? Jesus asks. The blind man shows us how to answer “I want to see.” He didn't say,.. “let me think about it, I'll get back to you tomorrow. He knew immediately what he needed and with precision and passion said “I want to see.” I want to know your presence. I want to see my sins as they really are. I want to see the truth of the choices I face. I want healing from life's hurts. I want to see you for who you are.

Bartimaeus is given sight. And so are we. Do we live with hopes? Do we have hope for our ourselves and plans for our future? God does. And Bartimaeus did. So should we. I have great hopes for the parish of Nativity and it gives me great energy for the present. When Jesus calls we can go to him. When he asks what we want, we can tell him with precision. Let us live with hopes and trust in the Lord's love and care for us.

Love and Blessings,

Bob Cilinski

Msgr. Robert C. Cilinski,
Pastor

**Solemn Vespers Celebration for
Msgr. Bob Cilinski with Bishop Burbidge
On Sunday, November 24 at 7:00pm**

Bishop Burbidge invites you to join him for the celebration of Solemn Vespers to be held in thanksgiving for the naming of six priests of the Diocese of Arlington as "Chaplains to His Holiness" by Pope Francis and bestowing on them the title of Monsignor. Solemn Vespers will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More, Arlington, at 7:00pm, on Sunday, November 24, 2024, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. All are invited to a dessert reception to follow in Burke Hall.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

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
Monday, November 4th at 7:00pm***

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

Love and blessings,
Msgr. Bob Cilinski

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



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

ALL SAINTS DAY

**The Solemnity of All Saints is on
Friday, November 1st - A Holy Day of Obligation**

The Mass schedule is as follows:

Thursday, October 31

Vigil Mass at 5:00PM

Friday, November 1

7:30AM, 9:00AM (School Mass), 12:00PM,

5:00PM and 7:00PM (Bilingual)

ALL SOULS DAY

Saturday, 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. All Souls Day envelopes will be available in the back of the church and parish office. It is with 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:

Saturday, November 2

9:00AM

Middle School Edge | Nativity Youth Ministry

ALL SAINTS

Bonfire

Gather 'round the crackling flames, roast a marshmallow, and get spooked by some scary saint stories as we celebrate All Saints Day!



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1
7:00 - 8:30 PM | GRADES 6 - 8

Men's Cursillo!

The next Men's Cursillo weekend will be held at Missionhurst in Arlington from Thursday, November 7 to Sunday, November 10.



Cursillo (pronounced Cur-see-yo) is a movement of the Catholic Church that provides an opportunity to experience God's love within a community of joyful fun and supportive prayer. The weekend is designed to promote Catholic ideals, fellowship, and spiritual growth in daily living. We'd love to have you join us!! For more information, please contact Marc or Laura Laverdiere at lauralaverdiere@msn.com. There are also Cursillo information cards in the information rack in the narthex. Applications, and more information are available online at: <https://www.arlingtoncursillo.org/>.

IN MARY'S FOOTSTEPS
A Group for Widows

We are a group of women who share the experience of the loss of our beloved husbands and join together in faith and fellowship. We have gathered for lunches or dinners out, retreats at the Benedictine Monastery, museum tours, etc. Due to the Veterans' Day holiday, our next meeting will take place on Monday, November 11th at 10:30am in the church training room. For further information, please contact Cat Sands at csands@nativityburke.org. May God bless you!

Nativity Catholic Church seeks to hire a Part Time Receptionist, Baptism Coordinator/Assistant Compliance Liaison

Duties are to assist the front desk receptionist with greeting and helping parishioners. This job primarily schedules baptisms, answers questions about baptism procedures/godparent requirements, etc. Job will also provide baptism certificates and register baptisms in sacramental records.

The job includes preparing marriage certificate as requested by the priest celebrating the marriage, recording the names and other information in the marriage register book, preparing notification of marriage forms for the catholic bride and/or groom, and mailing the notifications to the Catholic Church of their baptism. The position is also the assistant liaison for Arlington Diocese Child Protection. Competitive salary based on experience.

Requirements:

- *Proven experience as front desk representative
- *Familiarity with office machines (e.g., fax, printer, etc.)
- *Proficient in English (oral and written)
- *Bilingual Spanish - English a plus
- *Knowledge of MS office – including Excel, Word, and Microsoft Office
- *Strong communication and people skills
- *Good organizational and multi-tasking abilities
- *Customer service orientation

Submit cover letter and resume NLT November 20, 2024, to Msgr. Bob Cilinski c/o Ann Benson at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA 22015, or via email to abenson@nativityburke.org .

All Saints Mass Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31
5:00 PM (VIGIL MASS)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1
7:30 AM
9:00 AM (SCHOOL MASS)
12:00 PM
5:00 PM
7:00 PM (BILINGUAL)



Nativity Catholic Church, Burke, VA

DONUT SUNDAY
NEXT WEEKEND



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Fr. Cedric Wilson
October 27





NATIVITY ITALIAN HERITAGE & CULTURAL SOCIETY
FESTA DI NATALE

DINNER AND GALA EVENT ON DECEMBER 7TH AT 7:00PM,
 DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM. LIVE MUSIC FEATURING LAURA FARRELL,
 DINNER CATERED BY BOYD & PARKER EVENTS.

TICKET AND EVENT INFORMATION:
 TICKETS ARE \$42 AND ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE USING THE
 QR CODE BELOW. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MARTIN
 NOVAK AT (703) 371-6693 OR JAISON HARRIS AT (856) 466-5037.



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)

Prayerfully prepare to vote using the Virginia Catholic Conference (VCC) Election 2024 Resource Hub. 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 and in the Narthex, you will find information on Catholic Social Teaching, Candidate Comparison Charts for the Presidential and U.S. Virginia Senate races, a letter from Bishop Burbidge and Bishop Knestout, and more! Find all the resources in English and Spanish at: vacatholic.org/Election2024

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Marriage Enrichment Ministry is looking for a few individuals to help on our October 12 date night. Come make a positive impact to support marriages and families. Email marriage@nativityburke.org or call 571-208-2821.



NATIVITY 5K/FUN RUN

Steps of Hope

6400 Nativity Lane
 Burke, VA 22015

Saturday Nov. 16, 2024
7am - 11am
All Parishioners Event

Psalm 25:5 - Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

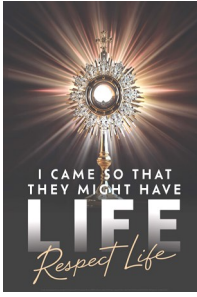
Scan code & Register by 10/28.



Support our School!
Create your Champion Page Today!
 For more info visit:
<https://Nativity5kfun.givesmart.com>




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.

WORKCAMP 2025 Information Meeting



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

4:00-4:45pm in the Well

(Youth Ministry Room)

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:
wc@nativityburke.org



ECHO Collection NEXT weekend 2/3 November Food Room Most Needed Items

ECHO's Food Room continues to break records. We collected 781 lbs at the beginning of this month.

- Choose sizes appropriate for our average family size of four.
- Include an assortment of food to ensure a variety of items.
- We are short on many other items such as personal care products and the items listed below.

ECHO's policy is to not give expired, open or repackaged food to clients. PLEASE do not bring these items or glass jars!!

Protein Items, e.g., can chicken, Spam, chili, Tin Fish (tuna, sardines, salmon, etc.), Canned Fruit, Bagged Beans (black, red, or garbanzo preferred), Lentils, Spaghetti (pasta and sauce) Instant and Ground Coffee, Canned Tomatoes, Tomato (paste and Tomato Sauce), Baked Beans, Bagged Rice (white, jasmine or basmati), Instant (Box) Potatoes, Crackers, Ramen, Can milk, shelf stable milk, Boxed Pasta, Juice (Bottles or box), Tea (Green, Herbal or Black), Healthy Snacks, Spices (garlic, onion, cinnamon, salt, pepper), Masa (Corn) Flour, Boxed cereal, Lemon or Lime Juice, Jelly and Honey, Tortillas, Cooking Oil, Brown Paper Bags, Reusable Grocery Bags, Children's Toothbrushes, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Facial Tissues, Dish Soap, Paper Towels Body/Hand Lotion, Band Aids, Shaving Cream/Razors, Diapers - Sizes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Baby Wipes, Sanitary Napkins.

"This is My Body: A Catholic Approach to Gender Dysphoria" by Jason Evert

Saturday, November 2, 8:00-9:00am in the Fr. Ready Room

Watch Evert's compelling Eucharistic Congress speech in which he blends Pope Francis' accompaniment approach in truth with the hope of JP II's integrated vision of man as authentic self.



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

Monday, October 28th

7:30 am † Maryann Pilot

Tuesday, October 29th

7:30 am † Carlos Garcia

12:00 pm † Mary Ann Salas Gener

Wednesday, October 30th

7:30 am Special Int. for Lisa Schenck

Thursday, October 31st

7:30 am † Patrick and Agnes Lachance

12:00 pm † Adriana Ladino

5:00 pm † James Michael Boyle (*Vigil Mass*)

Friday, November 1st - All Saints

7:30 am † Deceased Members of Supapo-Namata Family

9:00 am † Samuel Cuomo (*School Mass*)

12:00 pm Special Int. for the Valentine Family

5:00 pm † Patricia Ann Smith

7:00 pm † Christopher Hackett (*Bilingual*)

Saturday, November 2nd

9:00 am Parishioners

5:00 pm All Souls' Novena

7:00 pm † Difuntos Legionarios

Sunday, November 3rd

7:00 am † Sam Gensel

9:00 am † Joaquin Bogayong

11:00 am All Soul's Novena

1:00 pm † Pablo and Maria Santana

5:30 pm † William McLaughlin

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

Nativity All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life

THANK YOU to all who witnessed for life in person during Nativity's recent All-Day Prayer Vigil for Life. You lived out the Gospel message by continually lifting up in prayer from dawn to dusk the most vulnerable, weakest and defenseless among us—the at-risk preborn and newly born babies—and their moms and dads in crisis pregnancies, and for the conversion of those supporting abortion. Some pro-lifers from other parishes joined us in solidarity!



A special thanks to A Best Choice Mobile Ultrasound and Pregnancy Resource Center for being at the facility with us, and then later at Nativity Church for free tours.





Mission Trip to Cameroon

Feb 1 - 14, 2025

Viridiane's Hope for Children's Health and Education (VHCHE)

Be part of something bigger than yourself. Travel with likeminded men and women to rural areas of Western Africa and work with the locals to build wells and to remodel/repair a chapel. Missionaries will travel to New Melong, Cameroon and stay in the vicinity of Saint Anne Catholic School and will help with projects at the school. They will then travel to the villages of Bangang and Babouantou to drill drinking water wells. Time permitting, missionaries will also travel to Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon to visit the Monastery of Our Lady of Mont Febe and the Basilica of Mary Queen of the Apostles.

- Cost of trip: \$3,500.00/person, includes airfare from Washington DC to Douala, Cameroon, basic travel insurance, lodging and meals, local transportation while in Cameroon, and VISA fees.
- All travelers must possess a valid passport that expires after August 14, 2025, and show proof of a valid yellow fever vaccine prior to applying for a visa to Cameroon.
- A deposit of \$1,000.00 is required by November 1, 2024, nonrefundable after December 1, 2024. Balance due by January 1, 2025.
- Ability to speak and understand French is an advantage, but not required.
- All travelers must be 21 or older and in good health.

Sponsor: Viridiane's Hope for Children's Health and Education (VHCHE, Corp.), a Virginia 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a Catholic Charity of the Arlington Diocese. VHCHE's mission is to develop projects that improve the physical, spiritual, emotional health, and education environment for children in underserved communities around the world. Contact vhcecorp@gmail.com for more information. Or visit our website at VHCHE.org.

Ignatian Volunteer Corps – Serving the Least Among Us

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is a Jesuit-sponsored organization that provides retired men and women, age 50 and older with substantive opportunities to serve others and transform lives. IVC matches the skills, talents, and life experiences of these volunteers with nonprofit organizations that assist the materially poor or address issues related to poverty. A unique feature of IVC is a spiritual reflection component that helps volunteers discover the deeper meaning in their service, and their lives. To learn more about IVC contact Mike Goggin, Senior Director, IVC of the National Capital Area: 202-277-4447, mgoggin@ivcusa.org, <http://www.ivcusa.org/NCA>. On Sunday, November 3rd, 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm, IVC along with over 20 other community organizations will gather at the Springfield Town Center for the Expo to Venture into Volunteering. We'll be there showcasing our work and IVC service corps member opportunities. Come meet us there. It's the perfect time to get involved!



ECHO NEWS

Making Thanksgiving Truly Festive

Once again ECHO is working to connect clients who would welcome the gift of a Thanksgiving feast with people in our community who would like to donate groceries for a festive meal to a family having a hard time this season. A donor may ask for a specific size of family to assist, and ECHO will match the donor with a local household in need. ECHO will offer a list of foods for the donor to deliver or suggest an amount of grocery store gift cards that can be delivered or mailed. Cards should be mailed to arrive at the recipient's home by November 24. If you would like to help one or more families have a happy Thanksgiving, contact Fran Eck at franalanec@msn.com.

ECHO's Holiday Gifts for Children

The ECHO elves are working to stock the Holiday Gift Shop! ECHO needs donations of new toys (not gift-wrapped, please) for children ages 0-15 for this much-anticipated program. Donations should be made no later than December 6th. Donations can be chosen from our Amazon wish list and delivered directly to ECHO. Find the list at www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/31K8QEMXDB5SX/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1, but it may be most easily accessed through our website, www.echo-inc.org/wishlist-on-amazon. Or donors may deliver gift items directly to our donation door. Popular items are baby dolls, scooters with helmets, soccer balls (sizes 3,4,5), riding toys, and family board games. See a complete list of suggestions at ECHO's website under the "Donate Goods" tab. ECHO, located at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, is open on weekday mornings from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00.

Evening Volunteers Needed

Volunteering at ECHO is fun and rewarding. Currently, there are few daytime positions open. However, for a person who is available between 7:00 and 9:00 pm on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, there are several openings in housewares, clothing, admin support, and the teen program. If you'd like to find out more, email volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org.

Scouting for Food

Scouting for Food is a massive project by local Boy Scout Troops to collect non-perishable foods from donors' homes throughout the community and deliver it to organizations that provide food assistance. On the weekend of November 2, Cubs and Scouts will distribute notices to the homes where they will pick up bags of food donations on November 9. Residents who get those notices should put their donations out early in the morning of November 9 so that they will be there when Scouts come by.

ECHO has a great need for the food that will be donated that weekend. This is a major community-wide drive and a vital source of food for ECHO's food pantry. Please look for a Post-It notice on November 2 and donate on November 9.

See ECHO's website www.echo-inc.org for a list of most-needed food and personal hygiene items.

Upcoming Dates to Note

- November 2 - Saturday Opening
- November 9 - Scouting for Food Drive
- November 11 - Closed for Veterans Day
- November 24 - Thanksgiving Meal delivery deadline
- December 7, 8, 10 - Holiday Gift Shop
- December 15 - Christmas Meal gift delivery deadline



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



ALL SAINTS BONFIRE & S'MORES
Edge: Friday, November 1 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Life Teen: Sunday, November 3 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Join your Youth Ministry friends as we gather around the fire with s'mores and scary saint stories in honor of All Saints Day. Bring your own camp chair, and get ready to be spooked!

[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

Tepeyac Pro-Life OB/GYN - Faith-based Pro-life OB/GYN restoring integrity of human person at tepeyacobgyn.com, call 703.273.9440.

Divine Mercy Care 2024 Gala – Friday, November 8 from 6:00-10:00pm. Celebrate 30 years of Tepeyac “Transforming Hearts Through Healthcare” with dinner, auction, band, and dancing at Westfields Marriott. RSVP by 10/28.

Keys To Bioethics – Clear answers to bioethical challenges arising from scientific and technological progress <https://laityinvolved.org/project/keys-to-bioethics/>.

Profile: Randall Smith – Let’s Really Follow the Science “Follow the science!” Okay, let’s do that. There’s absolutely no doubt, scientifically, that human life begins at conception. At that moment, the full set of chromosomes is present that make a human life. It’s not a lizard, a chimp, or a goat. It’s a human being. But people are not quite getting the message, not facing the grim truth. Abortion is the termination of a human life... Terminating a life is “healthcare”?...Oppose lethal injection for convicted murderers? Good. How about innocent babies?... But some people seem to think laws against terminating human lives are “oppressive.” Some philosophers say things like “It’s not a person”; others shout, “It’s a fetus!” But those are linguistic games, not science. If you kill a teenage girl, it doesn’t become acceptable if you shout: “It was only an adolescent!” The word you use doesn’t change the reality of the person. History tells us that lots of people in the past thought blacks and indigenous Mexicans were “human,” but not fully “persons.” That distinction has always been a mistake, and it’s one of the worst mistakes we ever make. There’s no point other than conception when that developing being “magically” becomes human... So we should just be honest and admit that what’s being discussed is the right to terminate unwanted human lives... Let’s not muddle the issue with Orwellian doublespeak like “reproductive justice” (unless “justice” means “don’t kill innocent babies”) or “abortion is health care” (the kind of “care” where one person always dies)...Did you know that Abraham Lincoln alienated a lot of people into seceding from the Union because they feared he would remove “the constitutional protections” for slave ownership?... It’s modern science that tells us that human life begins at conception... It’s a human life, a human person, and you have as much obligation to that life as you do to any homeless person, any immigrant, and any oppressed worker... Supporting a culture of individual “choice”... will never help people develop the virtues and character traits needed to protect all... They’ll be just as “disposable,” invisible, and forgotten as that unborn child... What would Mother Theresa of Calcutta say? You don’t help the poorest of the poor by killing babies. So either stand with her and the Church or admit that you’re in the company of those who think unwanted humans are disposable.

(Excerpts from <https://www.thecatholicthing.org>, October 15, 2024)



A Message from Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Just as the beggar Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus in today's Gospel, the message of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* is also a cry to the Lord. He is distressed by the destruction of the earth and the condition of the poor, but he is convinced that the generosity and solidarity of people can and will win out. The pope highlights the growing awareness that the earth is our common homeland, and of the concern for the common good. This should inspire all to live in harmony, make sacrifices for our sisters and brothers, and rebuild the home God has given us. Our faith, and the faith traditions of so many other believers worldwide, should be a catalyst to help us confront the problems that afflict God's creation and to resolve them together for the benefit of all. For more information about Creation Care email: nativitycreationcare@gmail.com.
Excerpted from the Catholic Climate Covenant.

We're Hiring

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

- Work on a team with our Director of Youth Ministry and Core Team of adult and teen volunteers
- Make an impact on the faith lives of our young people at Nativity
- Middle school ministry focus (grades 6-8)
- 30 hours, full-time + benefits

Contact: Rebecca Judge
Director of Youth Ministry
rjudge@nativityburke.org



Please note that the 2024 Mass Intentions Calendar is fully booked thru December 31, 2024. We will open the January 1 - June 30, 2025 Mass Intentions Calendar in November. Stay tuned for the bulletin Announcement with the exact date!



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.



Follow Bishop Burbidge on Twitter!
Bishop Burbidge has over 25,000 followers on Twitter! His daily reflections and posts are popular and insightful. Follow him [@BishopBurbidge](https://twitter.com/BishopBurbidge).

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

Nativity's STEM Program Growing With St. Isidore Greenhouse



It was a beautiful Autumn day recently when the Very Reverend Monsignor Bob Cilinski and Ms. Kelly gathered Nativity students and staff around our new greenhouse for its Blessing and Dedication.

Each class explored the building and viewed the initial plantings. Long a dream of our Principal, Ms. Kelly, the greenhouse is part of Nativity's STEM program and all classes will be involved. A GREAT big thank you to Mrs. Nash, our new PE and Robotics Teacher, who asked to teach an Agriculture Elective here at Nativity, moving the installation of the greenhouse earlier in our schedule. Monsignor Bob blessed our greenhouse, dedicating it to Saint Isidore because of his work with animals and plants and nature. Known for his love of the poor, Saint Isidore often miraculously supplied them with food.

Most of the food harvested from our greenhouse will be given to those in need. Currently, beans are being grown that will be used in Nativity's Thanksgiving baskets.



Important Upcoming Dates ~

- Wednesday, Oct 30- 7th Grade Field Trip
- Thursday, Oct 31 - Class Halloween Parties
- Friday, Nov 1 - Winter Uniform Begins
- Monday, Nov 4 - Pictures Begin
- Friday, Nov 8 - 11:00 Dismissal
- Friday, Nov 8 - 12:00 Parent/Teacher Conf.
- Monday, Nov 11 - 11:00 Dismissal (Veterans' Day)
- Monday, Nov 11 - 12:00 Parent/Teacher Conf.

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
- Mass of Remembrance:** Wednesday, November 6. Sign up to volunteer on the 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 November 12. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Mark Corzine at fn2996@yakofc.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. or the Grand Knight, Chris Odell at gk7992@nativityburke.org with any questions.

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

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.

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>

NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY



The No Hands But Yours (NHBY) Ministry is an original Nativity Ministry doing God’s work by serving those less fortunate members of His flock. NHBY works distributing food, clothing, & personal items to the poor & homeless in DC & NoVA every Sunday morning, rain or shine.

We also have weekly trips into designated areas bringing Panera bread donations along with help from local food banks. Through the blessings of God, we continue to grow through our Nativity community and other ecumenical communities.

For more details on the NHBY Ministry you can visit the Nativity Parish website and under the Ministry tab, select No Hands But Yours. We also have a Signup Genius where you can access specifics along with our schedule where you can volunteer to assist. Families are also always welcomed! Monetary donations are also welcomed via the Nativity Catholic Church Donation Page at <https://osvhub.com/nativityburke/giving/funds>.

If you have interest in learning more and would like to participate in daily/Sunday runs, please contact Manuel Ponciano (manuelmar10@yahoo.com); Joe McKane (joeinxpt@gmail.com); Jim Valentine (val6405@gmail.com); Jim Housel (jchousel.60@gmail.com), and/or John Rubino (john.albert.rubino@gmail.com). Thank you all for helping the needy.

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!!

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!

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.

Subscribe to the
MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY

MONTHLY FLOCKNOTE



Ana Lisa

Marriage Enrichment Ministry Coordinator
marriage@nativityburke.org

HAVEN of Northern Virginia Workshops

Haven is a nonprofit, nonsectarian community organization of trained volunteers that offers emotional support to the bereaved, the seriously ill, the dying and to their families and friends. Haven also provides education to the community about the needs of those who are grieving. Since September 1976 Haven volunteers have helped individuals work through their grief, offering comfort and support by sharing insights, resources and techniques that encourage recovery and healing.

Grief Support Groups

Open Suicide Loss Support Group

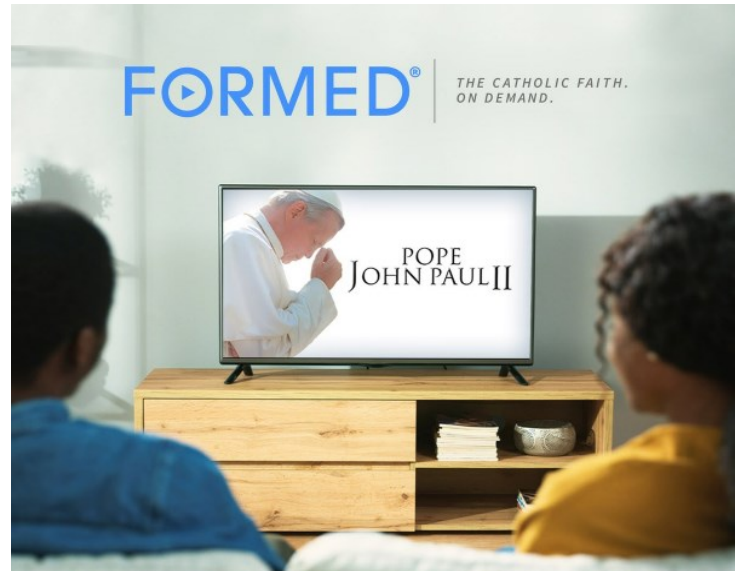
This group, open to persons who have had a loved one die by suicide, is held twice monthly. Participants will be offered information and suggestions for handling the complexity of grief that often follows a suicide. To participate, call Haven at 703-941-7000. *The group meets on Saturdays.*

Four-Week Widow/Widower Bereavement Support Group (formerly six-weeks). The group is open to persons whose spouse or partner has died. This loss can be numbing and devastating. You may have feelings of sadness, loneliness and abandonment. No one can heal your pain, but this group will help you learn ways to cope with this difficult experience. Pre-registration is required and participants must be able to attend all sessions. Check our home page or call Haven for dates.

Parent Loss Support Workshop

This group is open to anyone who has experienced the death of a parent. Coping with a loss like this is often a traumatic and painful experience. This group will provide participants with coping skills and give them an opportunity to share their experience with others who also are struggling to deal with the myriad facets of death. Check our home page: Haven of Northern Virginia Grief Support (havenofnova.org) or call Haven at for dates and further information. *Pre-registration is required.*

Haven of Northern Virginia is located at 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, Virginia 22003. Phone 703-941-7000 or email havenofnova@verizon.net



Pope John Paul II

This epic film follows Karol Wojtyla's journey from his youth in Poland through his late days on the Chair of St. Peter. It explores his life behind the scenes: how he touched millions of people, changed the face of the Church and the world, and how he defended the dignity of mankind. His feast is celebrated on October 22nd.

TO ACCESS FORMED

Go to Formed.org and enter our Parish code: **M4CJ3W** on the homepage. Create a personal account with your user name/email and password. Start enjoying the best Catholic content all in one place! **IMPORTANT:** Do not sign up as an individual. Our Parish access code provides more content than an individual subscription. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Benson at abenson@nativityburke.org

ABORTION HEALING SUPPORT
 >>> IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU

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

after abortion



SAINT JOHN PAUL THE GREAT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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!

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

Sick / Homebound Visits

Are you or someone you know sick and/or homebound for any reason? We can arrange home visits from the parish and provide prayer and the sacraments. We would love to bring God's Grace and Peace to anyone in difficult times. Please contact Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister, at csands@nativityburke.org to schedule a visit.

The Knights of Columbus - Dames Auxiliary

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



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.

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.

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.

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.

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



SIP & SHOP

Wednesday, November 13

6 - 8 p.m.

8th Annual Sip & Shop

Holiday Vendor Open House

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

Start your Christmas shopping early!

Join us for wine, fellowship, and shopping all in one evening!

A variety of hand-crafted wood crafts, jewelry, greeting cards, candles, embroidered gifts, and more will be for sale.

Contact: sipandshop@paulvi.net

Young Adult Adoration

First Fridays from 8-9pm
Friday, November 1st @ Holy Spirit Catholic Church
Refreshments to follow 9-10pm

Confession
Available!



MONTHLY

Topic: Growing in a Personal Relationship
with Jesus

Refreshments to follow: beer, wine, Charcuterie

Bring a friend and meet local young adults.

- Short Talk by Priest or Deacon
 - Music Meditation
- Silent 20 min for prayer and spiritual reading
 - Rosary
 - Benediction

You're Invited

Advent's Journey of Hope



Experience the joyful Advent season of the coming of Christ by reflecting on the Gospels, meditating on the music, and experiencing the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. A perfect time for us to reflect on our journey as we welcome Christ into our hearts. Join us and Mark Forrest, Irish Tenor, for this evening of prayer.

Location: Nativity Catholic Church

6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA 22015

Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2024 Time: 7:00 PM

Contact: 703-455-2400



MARKFORREST.COM

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 27, 2024: Jer 31:7-9 | Ps 126:1-6 | Heb 5:1-6 | Mk 10:46-52

Make the Most of Divine Opportunities

After Jesus touches our lives – answers a prayer, gives us a healing, provides a life-changing insight, or makes any other kind of difference – what do we do next? Our life has been changed by divine grace. Do we make the most of this new opportunity?

God never forces us to take a new direction or follow a certain path, not even if we've made a bargain with him, such as: "Lord, if you heal me, I will go to Mass every day."

Jesus says to us what he said to Bartimaeus, the man he healed in this Sunday's Gospel reading: "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Go where?

Sometimes his instructions are a little more informative than that. When he cures someone from sin, he adds: "Go and sin no more". Okay, but go where?

Every step we take is important. Where we go and what we do next makes a difference that ripples off into the future with ramifications (blessings and/or woes) that are impossible for us to predict. Jesus isn't downplaying the significance of this. Rather, what happens next is so important that he wants us to have full control over it.

Jesus told Bartimaeus "Go your way." And what did Bartimaeus do with that freedom? He "followed him on the way." He opted for the best possible direction. His life changed dramatically, not only because he had been blind and now he had good eyesight, but because he wanted to learn from Jesus and become one of his followers.



How many times have we returned to an old familiar path after an encounter with Christ? If following him means taking a new direction, getting involved in a new ministry, or changing careers or friends, we too often settle back into old routines. Comfort zones are hard to leave. But following Jesus is a life-changing adventure if we're sincere about it.

Following Jesus and learning from him should be our top priority. Every encounter with Christ should change us – even at Mass when we reunite ourselves to him in the Eucharist.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Think of the last time Jesus responded to your need for help. What changed afterward?
- † How long did the change last?
- † Describe a time when you changed directions in your life because of an encounter with Christ. What did Jesus do for you?
- † How did you figure out which way to go afterward?

**¿Y...YA VEMOS?
Domingo XXX
Javier Leoz**



Qué duro resulta cuando, nuestras vidas y nuestros sufrimientos, son indiferentes a los demás. A nadie nos agrada ser un cero a la izquierda. Pero, sobre todo, es en los momentos de dolor, en la noche oscura, en las horas amargas cuando más echamos en falta alguien que esté a nuestro lado. Un amigo que, escuchando nuestros lamentos o siendo consciente de nuestra situación personal, nos aporte un poco de luz y abra delante de nosotros un horizonte de felicidad. Con razón, no sé quién, llegó afirmar: “es mejor que te odien a que te castiguen con la indiferencia. Entre otras cosas porque, el odio, está más cerca del amor”.

1. Bartimeo tuvo esa suerte. Sabía de las andanzas de Jesús. De su gran obra y de su mano milagrosa. Era un marginado. De esos que, a la sociedad de aquel momento, interesaba poco o nada. Entre otras cosas porque, la enfermedad, era un signo de maldición. Cuando Jesús pasa, aquel que era ciego grita: “ten compasión de mí”. Al principio, como tantas veces hacemos nosotros con los demás, Jesús hace oídos sordos. Pero, Bartimeo, insiste: “ten compasión de mí”.

Muchos lo intentaron silenciar. Como, muchos medios de comunicación, instituciones de nuestros tiempos, intentan aplacar las voces que hablan de Dios o ridiculizar las súplicas de los que quieren llegar hasta el Señor. Pero, Bartimeo, logró captar la atención del gran Sanador y Salvador: JESUCRISTO. Supo aprovechar la ocasión y no la dejó pasar de largo. Tenía todo en su contra y saltó de la oscuridad a la luz, de la noche absurda al día lleno de luz. ¿Pudo alcanzar algo más grande Bartimeo? ¿Por supuesto que sí! Lo que ofreció a Jesús de antemano: su fe. Tenía fe en Aquel que transitaba por ese lugar. Supo brincar sonoramente por encima de inconvenientes y hacerse oír en medio de la muchedumbre. Bartimeo, en el fondo, representa a todo hombre, a todo ser humano que busca a Dios en medio de la marabunta. Representa al desahuciado que se siente desamparado, oprimido o marginado.

2. ¿Quién de los que estamos aquí no hemos tenido alguna experiencia de Dios? ¿Quién de los que estamos en esta Eucaristía no hemos pasado de la mentira a la verdad, de la tristeza a la alegría o del llanto al gozo cuando nos hemos encomendado a Jesús?

Nadie, amigos, puede apagar el fuego que llevamos dentro. El “ten compasión” de Bartimeo, ha de repiquetear con especial fuerza en la realidad que nos toca vivir. Entre otras cosas porque, nuestros ojos, llevan gafas que distorsionan la realidad: nos hacen consentir malo como bueno; el aborto como derecho; la eutanasia como un gran logro o mil experimentos científicos como signo de los nuevos tiempos. No es buena la miopía espiritual. Aquella que nos empuja exclusivamente a lo efímero y nos previene o ciega contra lo eterno. No es positiva esa miopía espiritual que nos hace defender la humanidad de una forma sesgada e interesada, de aquella otra lucha humanitaria que quiere ser para todos justa, íntegra y basada en valores cristianos.

Algunos nos dirán ¡de qué vais vosotros! ¡El Señor os ha abandonado! ¡Estáis ciegos o vivís engañados! Ojala, también nosotros, podamos responder: sólo sé...que antes no veía, y ahora veo; las cosas más claras, mi vida más resuelta, mi fe más profunda y mis ideales más cristianos.

Que este domingo, además, nos haga abrir bien los ojos ante tantos “bartimeos” que nos dicen “tened compasión de nosotros”. Personas que viven inmersas en la duda. Hombre y mujeres desconcertados y apabullados por el ambiente dominante. Cristianos que se han cansado de esperar y han desertado del camino de Jesús. Gargantas que han cambiado el “ten compasión de mí, Señor” por el “aléjate de mí, Señor porque veo por mí mismo”.

Que lejos de vivir de espaldas a las situaciones de dolor y de prueba que viven tantos hermanos nuestros, podamos responderles con toda la fuerza de nuestra fe: “¿Qué quieres que haga por tí?”

Que en este Año de la Fe respondamos a Jesús con nuestras fuerzas: yo creo en Ti, yo espero en Ti, yo te amo a Ti Señor.

**NO PASES DE LARGO, SEÑOR
Javier Leoz**



Que temo quedarme en la oscuridad,
cuando sé que Tú eres el Señor de la luz perpetua
que me pierdo mucho, si Tú no estás,
y tan sólo gano encerrarme en mi mismo.
Necesito que te detengas, Señor;
Tú sabes que mi voz no siempre es escuchada
Que mi vida es indiferente a muchas personas
Que valgo poco o nada y que, en muchos momentos,
prefiero la tiniebla a la luz.

¿Te detendrás, Señor?

¿Me concederás un minuto de tu eterno tiempo?

¿Me hablarás con palabras de amor?

¿Me enseñarás el sendero que lleva a tu presencia?

¡NO PASES DE LARGO, SEÑOR!

Me pondré en pie, para que veas

Gritaré, para que me escuches

Insistiré, para que me respondas

Hace tiempo, Señor, que me siento así:

Buscándote para hablarte de lo mío

Preguntando por Ti, para saber más de Ti

Queriendo salir de muchos rincones oscuros

Queriendo ver, con los ojos del Evangelio

¡NO PASES DE LARGO, SEÑOR!

Acércate y, pronto sabrás, que soy un pobre hombre
Que, creyendo ver, me falta descubrir lo más importante
Que, pensando en todo, a veces se me escapa lo esencial

Que, estando seguro de mi mismo, soy barco a la deriva

Por eso, como Bartimeo, Señor, te digo:

¡TEN COMPASION DE MI!

Ten un poco de pasión por mi vida
para que sea un poco más radiante y sencilla
iluminada por la verdad y asentada en la justicia

Ten un poco de pasión por mi alma, Señor,

y desaparezca de ella todo pliegue o arruga

Ten un poco de pasión por mi voz, Señor,

y que sea fuerte y firme para proclamar

que, sólo Tú Señor, eres quien atiende a la humanidad
quien escucha a la humanidad

como Dios manda

Amén.



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.

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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

El Arte de Escuchar Escuchar es una Virtud Cristiana

Por: H. Jordán Sánchez | Fuente: El Blog de la Fe

Cuando se trata de opinar, siempre nos gusta ser tomados en cuenta, en el interior pensamos que nuestras ideas son mejores a las demás, queremos ser escuchados. Esto nos lleva a no tomar en consideración a los demás, pues no se trata sólo de proponer ideas, sino de considerar los estados de ánimo, los diversos temperamentos y actitudes de cada persona. Es por eso que escuchar se convierte en una verdadera virtud cristiana que consiste en dejarse a uno mismo, dejar las propias ideas, los propios sentimientos y ánimos del momento para estar dispuesto a acoger las palabras del prójimo. Escuchar implica callar, y callar implica dejarse a sí mismo, dejar ese impulso egoísta y natural de querer ser escuchada a toda costa.

Así el arte de escuchar se ejercita en todo momento, con cualquier persona con la que hablamos y sólo si permanecemos unidos a Cristo podremos ir venciendo en cada momento ese impulso del egoísmo que nos impulsa a querer imponer ideas u olvidarnos de cómo puede reaccionar el otro ante mis comentarios. Así el escuchar pasa a ser un apéndice de la caridad, sólo el que ama a Cristo y por Él a sus hermanos será capaz de escuchar.

La Virtud de Callar

Es entonces cuando se aprende a callar por virtud, por amor al prójimo. El callar no excluye la sana discusión, necesaria siempre para discernir ante las opiniones, pero cuando dentro están las pasiones se corre el riesgo de excluir la caridad para hacer prevalecer el propio egoísmo; se cierra la mente, pero lo más triste, se cierra el corazón.

Callar por amor. Cuánto nos falta aprender esta virtud tan necesaria hoy en día. Si supiéramos callar por amor, evitaríamos discusiones innecesarias, críticas mordaces y comentarios hirientes. De esta manera saber guardar silencio no sólo es cuestión de prudencia, sino de amor cristiano, es la lucha de vencer el egoísmo y la soberbia cada día, de imponerse a las pasiones y propios estados de ánimo.

Saber hablar y saber guardar silencio, saber escuchar y acoger la opinión del prójimo, todas estas actitudes podemos vivirlas cada día, comenzando con la familia, pero también en la calle, en el trabajo o la oficina. Saber hablar, callar y escuchar no son sólo virtudes cristianas, sino que son también humanas, pero si actuamos siempre bajo el amor de Cristo el esfuerzo realizado toma un valor más trascendente, un valor para la vida eterna.



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