

Hope Advent



6400 Nativity Lane,
Burke, Virginia 22015
nativityburke.org

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

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary
Ann Benson, Business Manager
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager
Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister
Maureen Andersen, Liturgical Minister
Johana Brown, Parish Receptionist
Diane Dellen, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Ana Gonzalez, Offertory/Mass Intentions
Charlie Gutierrez, Evening Receptionist
Patricia Pagoda, Coordinator Family Ministry/Social Action
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
Mina Lee, Cornerstone Contemporary Choir Director
Natacha Hines, Gift Shop

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454-2415 or
mmturner@ccda.net



PARISH OFFICE: (703) 455-2400
PARISH FAX: (703) 455-6832
NATIVITY SCHOOL: (703) 455-2300
NATIVITY FAX: (703) 569-8109
PRE-SCHOOL: (703) 455-2300 ext. 136
R.E. OFFICE: (703) 455-0372
R.E. OFFICE FAX: (703) 455-6832

SUNDAY MASSES: 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass
7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass in Spanish
7:00 a.m./9:00 a.m./11:00 a.m./
1:00 p.m./5:30 p.m.
Monthly Sensory Mass on the
second Sunday of every month at the
1:00pm Mass

WEEKDAY MASSES: 7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday
12:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and
Thursday
9:00 a.m. on Saturday

ADORATION: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

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

BAPTISM: For more information and how to schedule a
baptism, please visit our website: [https://
nativityburke.org/baptism/](https://nativityburke.org/baptism/)

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

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Announcements for the bulletin
must be submitted in writing by 11:00 AM on
Tuesday (5 days prior to publication). Please note:
this deadline can change due to holiday office closings.
Email submissions to bulletin@nativityburke.org.

WEBMASTER:
Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:
Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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

A Message from our Pastor Msgr. Bob Cilinski



"Be Watchful ! Be Alert !"
- Mark 13:33

My dear parishioners,

Today we begin the season of Advent and a new liturgical year of the church. Advent is a time of hopeful and joyous anticipation. Advent, the word means "coming", celebrates in our time the unfolding graciousness and hospitality of God that should characterize us as followers of Christ.

The challenge of Advent for us (because it can be such a busy time) is to take the time to allow Christ to be born anew in our hearts. It is not a headlong drive toward an exhausting crash on Christmas day. The church invites us to an Advent of quiet reflection and awakening.

The color of Advent is a deep blue to characterize the joyful anticipation of Christ. We can expect the light of Christ to gradually claim our darkness, our longings, and our waiting until it reaches the full splendor of Christmas. The candles of our advent wreath are lit each week until the circle is complete.

We wait in joyful hope because God is ever faithful and true. God never abandons us. We belong to God. We the clay and God the potter as Isaiah tells us. So be watchful and alert. Look around you for Christ coming. Do not be found sleeping but watch with expectant eyes.

Daily reflection booklets are available in the lobby of the church for you to take with you. Our Advent penance service is Thursday DEC. 18 beginning at 6:30pm. Many priests will be available for confessions to help us prepare the way of the Lord and to bring us peace and new grace. In December, the Catholic Charities collection and our Poor Box collection along with the Advent Giving Tree project will allow us to share our Christmas giving with those in need. It is a time that will bring us ever closer to Christ. Let us prepare joyfully as we pray: Come Lord Jesus !

Love and blessings,

Bob Cilinski

Msgr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

Advent Wreath Prayers



If you are setting up an Advent wreath in your home this year, here are some prayers you could say while you light its candles. You may say these before or after a meal, when waking up, before going to bed, or whenever you and the members of your household gather for prayer. Before you say the prayer, read and talk over the Gospel you heard at Sunday Mass that week.

Week 1: O God, who asks us to be watchful and alert because we do not know when you will come, let this candle give us light and help us stay awake. At those times when we you ask us to act, give us strength to respond at once. Through Christ our Lord.

Week 2: O God, who sent John The Baptist to proclaim a baptism of repentance, let these two candles prepare the way for the Lord within us. Forgive our sins and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Make us ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Through Christ our Lord.

Week 3: O God, who sent John The Baptist as a voice crying out in the desert, open our ears to hear his message as we light the pink candle. Shape our lives so that they will become a straight path to you. Make us ready to greet your Son when he comes to us. Through Christ our Lord.

Week 4: O God, who sent your angel Gabriel to announce good news to Mary, make us happy with your word of life. Let our hearts be so filled with love for you that they glow with the lights of these four candles. May we live in a way that will please you. Through Christ our Lord.



THE NATIVITY CRAFT MINISTRY WELCOMES
EVERYONE TO OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS
BAZAAR ON:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
FROM 9:00AM TO 1:00PM & AFTER
THE 5:00PM MASS
AND
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
AFTER THE 7:00AM, 9:00AM,
11:00AM & 1:00PM MASSES

WE ARE OFFERING A LARGE ASSORTMENT
OF EXCEPTIONAL HANDCRAFTED ITEMS. BE
SURE TO ALSO CHECK OUT OUR BEAUTIFUL
"UPCYCLED" CRAFTED ITEMS!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES.
WE ACCEPT CASH, CHECKS
AND CREDIT CARDS.



**DONUT
SUNDAY**
NEXT WEEKEND



ECHO Collection next weekend, 6/7 December Food Room Most Needed Items

Thank you for including ECHO Food Room needs on your shopping list. The USDA calculates that a meal for one persons is considered to be 1.2 pounds of food. Thus far this fiscal year ECHO has distributed 288,560 pounds of food which converts to 240,466 meals given to our neighbors in Burke and Springfield. Thank you donors for your generosity in helping our neighbors. Your help is greatly appreciated. We collected 1,873 lbs on November 1 & 2.

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

Bag Beans (black, red or garbanzo beans preferred), Lentils
Bag rice, Protein Items (can chicken, Spam, sardines, salmon, tuna, chili) Canned Fruit (100% juice), Peanut Butter, Cereal/Oatmeal (Low sugar), Instant (Box) Potatoes, Box Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Can Tomatoes, Tomato paste & sauce, Can Milk, Shelf Stable Milk and Hot Chocolate, Snacks (Crackers, raisins, granola bars, dry fruit, nuts), Baked Beans, Instant Coffee, Tea (green, herbal, black), Pancake Mix & Syrup, Cooking Oil, Non-Salt Spices (cinnamon, cumin, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder), Masa (Corn) Flour, Sugar, Lemon or Lime Juice Honey and Jelly, Tortillas (corn and flour), Condiments (Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard), Macaroni & Cheese. Muffin Mix, Toilet Paper, Facial Tissues, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Soap, and Dish Soap, Adult's Toothbrushes, Body/Hand Lotion, Band Aids Diapers - Sizes 2, 4, 5, 6, Baby Wipes, Sanitary Napkins.



BREAKFAST WITH
Santa

DECEMBER 6TH FROM 9:30-11:00AM

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INVITE ALL THE CHILDREN OF NATIVITY PARISH TO JOIN THEM IN THE PARISH CAFETERIA ON: SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 6TH FROM 9:30AM TO 11:00AM
FOR FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND A CHANCE TO MEET AND HAVE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA.

THERE WILL BE A CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND A LITTLE SOMETHING FROM SANTA FOR ALL BOYS AND GIRLS WHO ATTEND. SO THAT SANTA KNOWS YOU WILL BE THERE, WE REQUEST YOU LET HIS ELVES KNOW THAT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND. PLEASE SEND THEM YOUR FAMILY NAME, AND THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN & ADULTS COMING. PLEASE EMAIL: 240EDWYWORKHARD@GMAIL.COM.



LIGHTS! CAMERA! FAITH!

Hey 8-12th graders!
Step out of the audience and become part of an amazing adventure in:

THE ARLINGTON DIOCESE

ONE ACT & SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

If you are passionate about theatre and film, or just curious, this is a unique opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ through the arts! Come to an interest meeting and informal audition on December 11 at 7:00p.m. or scan the QR code to find out more about dates and times.



Questions? Email Barbara Schwartz, theatreministry@nativityburke.org

Monday, December 8 is the
Feast of the Immaculate
Conception. This is a Holy Day
of Obligation.

Mass Times are as follows:
7:30am, 12:00pm, 5:00pm
and 7:00pm (bilingual)



George Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarships

The Knights of Columbus George Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarship Program is now available! Students still have time to apply for a scholarship! NOTE: *The due date has been extended. Application submissions are due no later than midnight, Sunday, January 4, 2026.*

Key Points:

- Eight \$750 scholarships, no pro-life experience required!
- For 8th grade and high school (public, private, Catholic, or homeschooled) and college/university/trade school students
- The applicant or the applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s) must be registered member(s) of Nativity Catholic Church, Burke.

Students will be more confident, more at ease, and better equipped to address current life topics with others.

For further details and to apply, visit
<https://nativityburke.org/getek-memorial-scholarship/>



FOR E-GIVING, PLEASE USE
THE QR CODE OR VISIT:
<https://osvhub.com/nativityburke/giving/funds>

Nativity Creation Care Ministry invites you to make a difference with your holiday shopping this year! The ministry is sponsoring a Fair Trade Shopping event in the Nativity School cafeteria this weekend.

Please consider all your gift giving needs and shop the Fair Trade Market in the school cafeteria on Saturday, November 29 from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm and on Sunday, November 30 from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Find gifts for men, women, children and pets for Christmas, birthdays, baby showers, housewarming and hostess gifts and just because! These unique, meaningful gift options include clothing such as socks, scarves and hats; one of a kind jewelry; Christmas décor like Nativity sets, ornaments and garlands; household items such as frames, candles, wall décor, pillows and lamps; children's gifts including baby toys; cookie, soup and spice mixes, coffee and more will be offered—each item has a story to tell about the artisans who created it. Over 100 artisan organizations in over 50 countries are supported by our Fair Trade Market group. Fair Trade is endorsed as a means of sustainable development by Catholic Relief Services and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bring your visiting family and friends! Credit cards accepted. Free reusable bags from Virginia Green Baggers while supplies last.

If you absolutely can't make it in person or if you think of additional gift needs after you get home, you can still shop online at www.fairtradewinds.net and your purchase will make a difference to these Fair Trade artisans. In addition, Fair Trade Winds will donate 10% of sales to Nativity Creation Care's sustainability and garden programs. Use code NATIVITY2025 at checkout through Monday, December 8. Please share with your friends and family! Questions? Email nativitycreationcare@gmail.com.

**Nativity Creation Care
Fair Trade Holiday Market**

IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA • 6400 NATIVITY LANE, BURKE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 ✨ 4:00-7:00 PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 ✨ 8:00 AM-3:00 PM



Gifts for everyone on your list!

We Believe...

- People and the planet should be treated with the same respect.
- People should be paid fairly for their work.
- Small, local businesses are the backbone of our communities.
- Our shopping purchases can have a positive impact on the world.
- Every product has a story.
- Your purchase is an important part of the big world we live in.

Buying fair is an extension of our faith.

FAIR TRADE WINDS WILL DONATE 10% OF SALES TO NATIVITY CREATION CARE SUSTAINABILITY AND GARDEN PROGRAMS. Reusable fabric bags donated by Virginia Green Baggers—while supplies last.

QUESTIONS OR WANT TO VOLUNTEER? NATIVITYCREATIONCARE@GMAIL.COM WWW.FAIRTRADEWINDS.NET
Cash, check, or credit cards accepted.

**THE WOMEN OF NATIVITY
ANNUAL ADVENT GIVING TREE**

Thank you to everyone who chose an ornament this year!
Now we are counting on you to please return the gifts to the Church Narthex this weekend and next:
November 29 & November 30 and December 6 & 7.

Wrapping instructions for each newly purchased gift are on the back of the ornament. Several of the organizations have requested the gifts be UNWRAPPED for easier distribution and to maintain the integrity of their program involving young children. Please securely attach the ornament you have chosen from the tree to the gift. This helps us greatly in separating the gifts for the different groups.

GIFT CARDS should be placed in an envelope with the recipient marked on the outside along with the amount of the gift card. Please do not wrap the GIFT CARDS.

It is important to return gifts on the scheduled dates to meet the delivery requirements of the charities.

The last day to return the gifts is December 7, it would be sad if we could not fulfill a child's request at Christmas time.

Again, we thank our caring parishioners who will make this a special and happy holiday for many of our brothers and sisters!

Please feel free to contact Patrice Chadbourne at patdavchad@yahoo.com OR Kathy Mc Hugh at irish5579@gmail.com with any questions.

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

December 4th - 12th

Sign up for the novena, submit your intentions & find more information at:
OurFruitfulLove.com/novena



Where is Your Calling to Serve?



Join the Nativity Knights of Columbus, Viridiane's Hope, and Commissioned by Christ on a mission trip to Cameroon, West Africa in 2026. Two trips are planned: February 17–27 for 4–6 participants and October 22–November 1 for 12–15 participants.

Missionaries will serve rural communities by drilling wells, renovating chapels, planting gardens, and supporting youth education. For more information, contact Joe Tiago at vhhec corp@gmail.com or Michelle Haworth at michelle.haworth@commissionedbychrist.org. Learn more at vhche.org or cbc-missions.org.



Walking with the Holy Family Walk-a-Thon

Walk with the Holy Family starting in Advent! To benefit Catholic Relief Services, the Virginia CRS Chapter will be hosting a state-wide virtual walk-a-thon fundraiser, "Walking with the Holy Family", from November 30th to January 4th. Through Advent and the Christmas Season, walk on your own time in solidarity with families who must leave their homelands due to food insecurity, violence, or instability and raise funds to support CRS programs throughout the world. For more information, visit bit.ly/VACRS or scan the QR code.

Service of Remembrance 2025

Let the light of your loved one continue to shine this season.

Sunday, December 14

6:00pm

Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home

Send a photo of the light of your life to:
Events@fairfaxmemorial.com
to be included in the candlelight service



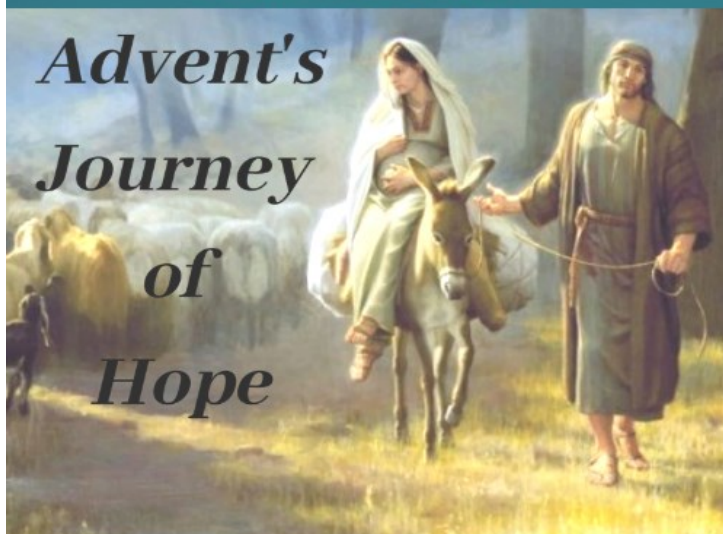
Employment Opportunities in the Diocese

Find the perfect Opportunity at:

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/human-resources/employment-opportunities/>

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 3, 2025 Time: 7:00 PM

Contact: 703-455-2400

MARK FORREST.COM



MASS INTENTIONS & MASS SCHEDULE

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

Monday, December 1

7:30 am Special Intention for the Arens Family
12:00 pm † Gene Rose

Tuesday, December 2

7:30 am † Ann Woo
12:00 pm † Lisa Bubak

Wednesday, December 3

7:30 am † SGM Jeffrey Todd
3:00 am Thanksgiving Mass (Sunrise)

Thursday, December 4

7:30 am † William "Butch" Scheufele
12:00 pm † James Jagielski

Friday, December 5

7:30 am Thanksgiving Mass

Saturday, December 6

9:00 am † Jaime Ruiz
5:00 pm Special Int. for Thuy Tran & Do Ngo
7:00 pm Parishioners

Sunday, December 7

7:00 am † Jairo Gustavo Vargas
9:00 am † Larry Brindza
11:00 am † Gloria Summers
1:00 pm † Eileen Soldano
5:30 pm † Michael Milkovich

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

High School Retreat December 19-21



Come be renewed in your faith, build community, & unwind in the breathtaking views of the Potomac. You can expect a weekend of small groups connections, Mass, adoration, confession, games, & great food! Register on the parish website by December 8 at 10 a.m.

Contact Rebecca at cym@nativityburke.org



WORKCAMP 2026

Registration Open

Teens currently in grades 9-12 are invited to a week-long overnight camp providing them with an opportunity to encounter Christ through service, faith, & fellowship.

Applications for teens and adult volunteers are open now through **January 20.**

Missed the interest meeting? See the handout on our website for details about registration, costs, formation, and volunteer needs.

WorkCamp 2026: June 20-26
Contact: wc@nativityburke.org



Nativity Catholic Church Invites you to a Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, December 13th at 6:45pm

Mass will be followed by a procession to the Father Martin Center and a reception. There will be a Mariachi Band alongside Latin American dancers. All are invited!

Iglesia de la Natividad te invita a una celebración de nuestra Señora de Guadalupe El sábado 13 de diciembre a las 6:45pm. La Misa comienza a las 6:45pm, seguida por una procesión al Centro Padre Martin (gimnasio).

Habrà una banda de mariachis junto a los Bailarines Folklorico.

Invocamos tu intercesión, Mader, nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Nos apareces de maneras que podemos entender. Oramos por todos nuestros hermanos católicos cristianos que sufren persecución religiosa por su fe. Les pedimos que los cubran en su manto, les den coraje de corazón y firme fe en la presencia de su hijo en su sufrimiento.

Parents who have lost children:

Join us for Mass and a Morning of Reflection this Advent season

With:

Very Rev. Jamie Workman
Vicar General, Diocese of Arlington

& Betsy Leon
National Speaker & Author

Saturday, December 6 | St. Philip Catholic Church

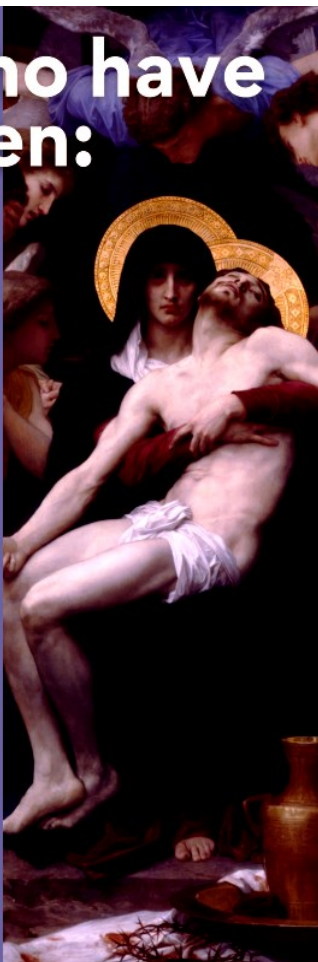
7500 St. Philip Ct., Falls Church, VA

8 am - 12 pm
(Parish Mass at 8 am)

Event is free, but please register at:
arlingtondiocese.org/parentsmass
(Space is limited)



Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life
703.841.2550 | familylife@arlingtondiocese.org | @arlingtonfamily



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, Sr. Director, IVC of the National Capital Area: 202-277-4447 or mgoggin@ivcusa.org, or visit www.ivcusa.org.



A Legacy Honored The Mission Continues



Our community is celebrating the Papal Honor Medal bestowed upon our incredible Sisters for their 35 years of teaching our children. We are profoundly grateful for their extraordinary work, patience, love, and compassion. Their legacy has shaped countless lives within our community, and now, they inspire us to answer a greater call to help children in need around the world.

Extend a helping hand: Answer the call to action

Inspired by the sisters' lifetime of service, our mission is expanding to support vulnerable children and their communities in Congo and the Ivory Coast. By contributing to this campaign, you can directly continue the legacy of hope our sisters have built right here at home.

Please join us this Advent Season in supporting their mission to extend their loving care to children in need across the world



No gift is too small, and every donation is a testament to the collective power of faith and compassion

To donate, please scan QR-Code below or make checks payable to:
Handmaids of Reparation

Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.
Thank you for supporting our mission



Your support will provide vital assistance for:

- **Religious Sisters' Supplies and Education:** Ensure our sisters on the ground have the resources and training they need to continue their essential work and retirement assistance.
- **Construction of a School and Convent in Congo:** Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. You can help build a school to provide a foundation for countless young minds.
- **Support for Our Clinic in Nassian, Ivory Coast:** Your donation will help maintain and expand our critical healthcare services, offering hope and healing to the sick.



YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION

Sundays | 6:30-8:30 p.m.



EDGE: GRADES 6-8

Fridays twice a month:
6:30-8:00 p.m.

See website for full schedule



SKY ZONE | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Come hang with your Youth Ministry Edge friends for an exciting evening filled with high-flying flips, trampoline slam dunks, ultimate dodgeball, & much more! Register on the parish website by December 10.

Who: Middle schoolers (Grades 6-8)

When: Check in at 5:45 p.m. | Pick up at 8:15 p.m.

Cost: \$35

See website for full schedule

Before attending, please register for the 2025-2026 year of ministry using our free, online forms.

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

Pro-Life Corner

KOVAR Enduring Love Campaign – Homes for Intellectually Disabled: Stand with parents who seek to find a home for their children that outlive their ability to provide direct care on their own. Contact Mark Sawyer, sawyermark7992@verizon.net.

Virginia Pro-Life Day in Richmond – Thursday, Jan 15, 2026 – Save the Date! Join us in Richmond for a day of advocacy and Mass with the Bishops Burbidge and Knestout! Support Life issues and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow parishioners across the state in this exciting day. Register at vaprolifeday.org. for Car-pool with us and to snag a warm yellow Nativity for Life beanie.



Contact rickloffredo@outlook.com for details.



National March For Life (MFL) – Friday, Jan 23, 2026 – Save the Date! Sign up here <https://bit.ly/3TLtmEN> to join us on the Nativity-provided free bus, snag a warm yellow Nativity for Life beanie and connect with people of goodwill from

across our country in peacefully and joyfully rallying around the basic truth that every human life – including the unborn and their mothers – is beautiful, has unique dignity, and worthy of protection. POC: rickloffredo@outlook.com.

The Satanic Temple's lawsuit challenging pro-life laws permanently dismissed: Kristan Hawkins, Students for Life President reports in Satanic Temple furious over court ruling 11/20/2025 email, "The Abortion Lobby just suffered a major defeat in federal court... A federal judge just permanently dismissed The Satanic Temple's lawsuit challenging Idaho's pro-life laws, ruling their claims "lack merit"... But that hasn't stopped The Satanic Temple. They're now calling abortion a "religious ritual" and have opened multiple abortion facilities where they ship deadly Chemical Abortion Pills to women who request them in just a few clicks. They claim abortion is part of their 'faith.' They even describe it as a 'destruction ritual.' ... The Abortion Lobby [s] openly breaking the law...for illegally trafficking Chemical Abortion Pills.

Chemical Abortion Pills alone kill more than 600,000 preborn babies every year (according to the Abortion Lobby's own estimations). Women have died from complications. <https://www.studentsforlifeaction.org/students-for-life-action-calls-for-swift-passage-of-bill-that-would-stop-dangerous-chemical-abortion-pill-trafficking/>.

Gabriel Project: Pregnancy Outreach for Expectant Mothers. Offers emotional, spiritual, material, and financial support through a pregnancy helpline and parish-based volunteer "Angel" support. helpforpregnantwomen.org. 866.444.3553,

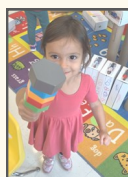
Project Rachel: Help after Abortion. A safe place to confidentially share your emotions and work toward healing. helpafterabortion.org, 703.841.2504.

The Lamb Center: provides laundry, showers, hot meals, counseling, and financial assistance for poor and homeless. [https://nativityburke.org/service/the-lamb-center/](http://nativityburke.org/service/the-lamb-center/)

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

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

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



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

PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC):

We are a social group, mostly aged 60 and over. Meet us for: Walk along W&OD Trail in Vienna (Dec. 2); Thursday Lunch (Dec. 11); Navy Band Christmas Concert at DAR Constitution Hall/dinner near White House (Dec. 20); Breakfast with Santa at Arlington K of C (Dec. 21); Christmas Day dinner (Dec. 25); serving meal at Christ House (Dec. 27); Mass at St. Anthony Church/lunch (Dec. 28); New Year's Eve lunch celebration (Dec. 31); New Year's Day lunch in Old Town Alexandria (Jan. 1). For details, visit: bit.ly/ptsc or email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



Students Shine a Spotlight on Saints in Readers' Theater

'Spotlight on Saints' is a middle school elective taught by Ms. Fetzer, our Music Teacher, introducing students to the lives of the saints through humorous, reader's-theater plays. Each script features a different saint and helps students connect faith to real-life choices, while strengthening fluency and reading skills. This October, the class performed a skit on St. Thérèse of Lisieux, sharing her "Little Way" with the first graders. The student actors brought joy, creativity, and genuine reverence to their performance.

In September, they performed a skit about St. Andrew Kim Taegon, the first Korean priest and pastor, for our Kindergarten-ers. This month, their focus centered around teaching our second graders about the life of St. Martin de Porres, a young man of great healing but of mixed race, at a time when that was not accepted, even by some Religious.



Important Upcoming Dates ~

- Tues, Dec 2 - Students Return to School
- Tues, Dec 2 - Christmas Window Painting 7th Grade
- Wed, Dec 3 - Five Guys Fundraiser 5-9 PM
- Thur, Dec 4 - HSPT 8th Grade Testing
- Fri, Dec 5 - November Virtue Awards
- Mon, Dec 8 - Thur, Dec 11 - Santa's Workshop

At Nativity, faith fills us. Love lives here. Nativity Stars are filled with the Holy Spirit! Join us to see how your child would spend his or her days here -- learning, praying, sharing, and laughing. We may be just the school for which you've been searching!

Contact us at www.nativityschool.org, (703) 455-2300, or smurph@nativityschool.org.



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



Fr. Sikora Council 7992 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.

Join the Knights! The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy changing world. Join today at <https://www.kofc.org/joinus>. Your dues will be **free for one year**. Be sure to enter our council #7992 and the code **RCANTER** when you register.

Please email our Deputy Grand Knight, Vince Augelli, at dgk7992@nativityburke.org or the Grand Knight, Michael Bender at gk7992@nativityburke.org with any questions.

Volunteer for an event! Scroll down to view all events, https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992.

Knights, are you receiving the Grand Knight Newsletter? If not, go to: <https://NativityBurke.flocknote.com/NativityKnights> to sign up.

Judy Jagielski: Thursday Nights Ride to Nativity Support Group. SUG is live!

Widow Support: Thursday Nights Ride to Nativity Support Group.

6 December: Breakfast with Santa! Come join us in the cafeteria for a fun filled breakfast with a special guest! Knights, we need your help on Friday night to prepare and on Saturday for the breakfast. SUG is live!

7 December: Knights Donut Sunday. SUG is live!

13 December: Fr. Sikora Gravesite Rosary-Lunch SUG is live!

16 December: Knights Christmas Party – come celebrate with family & friends! SUG is live!

Prayer Requests: Prayer requests will stay active for one month. Prayer update (health, location, contact, etc.) status is deeply appreciated. Send an updated request for continued support. <https://forms.gle/LiPCRmzfRnYEU8s5>

Food for Others: Volunteer for food distribution to the poor, delivered on designated Thursday or Friday evenings. For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyerkc7992@verizon.net. For Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com. Deliver food from Giant to the FFO warehouse Tuesday mornings; contact Br. Bob Colella robert.coella.86@gmail.com.

Name Tags: If you have not received your name tag, email our Warden, Robert Myers, at warden7992@nativityburke.org.

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

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

Handy Knights Ministry: Parishioners unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small home repairs due to health or other factors, contact the "Handy Knights." Email handyknightsfnativity@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. 4th Degree Assembly meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Nativity school cafeteria. 7:30 pm rosary, 7:45 pm business meeting followed by fellowship.

If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Murray Rupert at fn2996@vakofc.org.

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

FOR SAFETY REASONS, PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF OR LEAVE USED CLOTHING OR OTHER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS IN OUR NARTHEX OR AT ANY OF OUR EXITS

If you have items to donate, please call the Parish Office at 703 455 2400 first to find out if there is a need. You can also always contact ECHO at 703 569 9160 or visit them to drop off donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield.



Pray the Pro-Life Rosary and Witness with Us!

When: Friday mornings after the 7:30 am Mass
Where: 900 S. Washington St, Falls Church, VA

Join Nativity in praying the Pro-Life Rosary for mothers in need and for the protection of human life. Your peaceful presence outside on the sidewalk in front of the Falls Church abortion facility makes a difference by increasing awareness, and for parents who find themselves in unplanned/crisis pregnancies. Contact rickloffredo@outlook.com.

2025 Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 November Light the first violet candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing Hope. Reflect on the source of your hope in Christ and what it means in your life.	1 December Be intentional. As soon as your alarm goes off, rise and kneel before a crucifix. Offer your day—and this entire season—to God with purpose and reverence.	2 Decide how you will draw closer to Christ this Advent—through intentional prayer, acts of penance, charitable giving, or participation in the Sacraments.	3 Read Luke 1:26–38, where Mary's "Yes" made way for the coming of Christ. Ask for the grace to respond with your own "Yes" to God's will in your life.	4 Set out your empty nativity scene as a sign of anticipation of the coming of the King. Gradually add the remaining figures throughout the Advent season.	5 Attend First Friday Mass, in honor of Jesus' Sacred Heart. "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like yours." And He will.	6 St. Nicholas of Myra Call or visit your parish office and ask who needs help this Christmas. Then do something about it — quietly, as St. Nicholas did.
7 Light the second violet candle for Peace. Pray for the "peace which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) for yourself and whoever needs it most.	8 Immaculate Conception God preserved Mary from sin so that she could be the mother of Jesus. Attend Mass and pray for our country. It is a holy day of obligation.	9 Make a small sacrifice today, offered solely to God. It is even more meaningful if it's done in secret, as encouraged in Matthew 6:18.	10 Prepare your heart and soul to welcome the King. Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and encounter the mercy of God.	11 Advent is a busy season for parishes. Consider calling or emailing your parish office to ask how you can offer your time and support.	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mary's miraculous image reveals a profound mystery of Christmas (John 1:14). Take time today to pray for expectant mothers and the gift of new life.	13 "If you have two shirts in your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the man with no shirt" (St. Basil the Great). Donate gently used clothing you don't need.
14 <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> Light the rose candle for joy to mark the halfway point to Christmas.	15 Offer the alms of patience when you're irritated, a smile when you're weary, and a kind word in place of judgment. You will touch hearts in ways you'll never fully realize.	16 <i>Harboring</i> Unforgiveness burdens the heart and disrupts inner peace. Pray for the grace to let go, so you can move forward in freedom and healing.	17 Only nine days remain until Christmas. Place a lamp or candle in a window as a sign of welcome for the Christ Child.	18 Visit the Blessed Sacrament, where Jesus fulfills His promise to remain with us (Matthew 28:20). Take this time to renew your faith in His unwavering love.	19 Today, refrain from recreational screen use between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Offer this sacrifice for those who struggle with screen-related addictions.	20 Share the joy of the Gospel—gather a group of friends and go caroling to bring the Good News to others through song.
21 Light the final violet candle, symbolizing Love—awaiting the coming of Christ, the ultimate expression of the Father's love (John 3:16).	22 The King is coming—prepare to welcome Him. Take time to ready your home as a reflection of the joy and reverence in your heart.	23 Discern which Advent practices you feel called to carry beyond Christmas. Which ones deepened your relationship with God? Which ones strengthened your capacity for charity?	24 <i>Rejoice!</i> Tonight, place the Christ Child in the manger and rejoice!	<i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).</i>		

John Paul Application Deadline- Monday, December 15th

Calling all 8th graders - John Paul's Priority Application Deadline is December 15th! If you are interested in applying to Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School, we encourage you to submit your application by our priority deadline - Monday, December 15th. Click here to start your application today! If you are interested in our tuition assistance opportunities (*all tuition assistance applications due January 12th*), please visit https://jpthegreat.fsenrollment.com/users/sign_in. If you have questions, please contact us at 703-445-0246 or admissions@jpthegreat.org.

John Paul the Great Clinics & Workshops - 4th-8th grades!

Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School has a few exciting opportunities for younger students to hone their skills and explore their interests! Boys Wrestling Camp is back (ongoing - end of January), Girls Basketball Clinic (Sat, Dec 13th), and Super Science Saturday (Sat, Feb 28th) this winter! To register, please visit:

<https://saintjohnpaul.mypaysimple.com/s/middle-school-event-registration>

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

**CALLING ALL THIRD DEGREE KNIGHTS!
COMPLETE YOUR FAITH JOURNEY.
STEP UP TO THE PATRIOTIC
FOURTH DEGREE. SERVICE TO GOD
AND COUNTRY AS A SIR KNIGHT.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR MURRAY
RUPERT AT MRUPERT800@AOL.COM

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLET

Advent is the time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Let us embrace this season to hope, reflect, and pray—so that we may be ready to receive Him. To help you better prepare for and celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, Bishop Burbidge published a downloadable booklet of 36 daily reflections for the Advent and Christmas seasons. It is his hope that these brief meditations will serve to illumine the daily Gospels and better acquaint you with the saints whose feasts are celebrated during these sacred seasons. Visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/advent/ to download.

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42)

God calls us to be vigilant, ready to respond to His invitation. Could He be stirring your heart toward priesthood or consecrated life, to serve His Church with unwavering dedication? Stay awake to His call through prayer. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (703) 841-2514 or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

THE WALK HUMBLY PODCAST With BISHOP BURBIDGE

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

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

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

**VIRGINIA
PRO-LIFE DAY 2026**

*DÍA A FAVOR DE LA VIDA
EN VIRGINIA*

**JANUARY 15, 2026
15 DE ENERO DE 2026**



Join us in Richmond for a day of advocacy
and Mass with the bishops!

WE NEED YOUR VOICE!

Register now at:
VAPROLIFEDAY.ORG

**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.

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.

Honduras Mission Trip 2026



Operation Starfish®

July 12-18, 2026

This mission trip is designed for College-age and Young Adult parishioners to visit our newest partnership in Honduras through Operation Starfish.



NATIVITY ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY EVENT

TICKET SALES: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

You have the opportunity to purchase your Festa di Natale tickets this weekend. The Festa will be held on Saturday, December 6. Get your tickets soon, this popular event usually sells out!

Ticket Sale Schedule:

Saturday, November 29 after the 5:00pm Mass or
Sunday, November 30 after the 9:00am & 11:00am Masses.
Cost: \$40.00 per ticket. Check, cash or credit card accepted.

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 mmtturner@ccda.net.



The Virginia Chapter of
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
invites you to join us for our

Virtual Walk-A-Thon

WALKING WITH THE HOLY FAMILY

A STATEWIDE EVENT FROM
ADVENT TO EPIPHANY TO BENEFIT CRS



**SUN, NOV 30, 2025 TO
EPIPHANY SUN, JAN 4, 2026**



Walk on your own time in solidarity with families who must leave their homelands due to food insecurity, violence, or instability.



Walk wherever you wish.



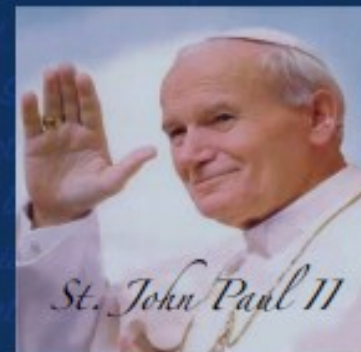
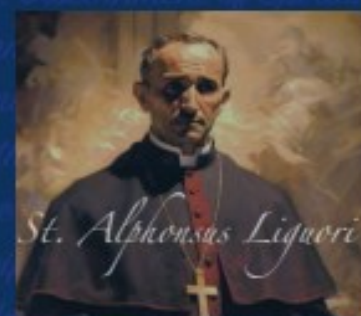
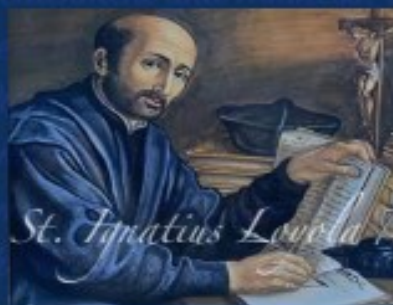
For more details, visit
the link below
or scan the QR code.

1. Set a walking goal.
2. Keep track of your miles.
3. Walk and pray in solidarity with the poor.
4. Donate before, after, or during the walk-a-thon.



bit.ly/VACRS





The Blessed Virgin Mary



February 13-15

A Retreat for Married Couples

A Valentine's Weekend Getaway!

Through the lives and teaching of the Saints, this retreat will focus on aiding married couples to incorporate a deeper spiritual life into their vocation.



Fr. Stephen Vaccaro was ordained in 2017 as a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, and is currently assigned as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Winchester, VA.

Fr. Ed Guilloux was ordained in 2019 as a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, and is currently assigned as parochial vicar at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Middleburg, VA. He was born in France and moved to the United States as a child.



Retreat cost is \$499 per couple. Financial assistance may be available.

For more information or to register, please contact Deacon Maines:

mark.maines@arlingtondiocese.org or visit our website at ArlingtonDiocese.org/Retreat



Adviento. Alguien llega *Reflexiones Adviento y Navidad*

En cada adviento revivimos, con la fe, y volvemos hacer presente en la esperanza la primera venida de Cristo.

Por: P. Antonio Rivero, L.C. | Fuente: Catholic.net



Adviento. Sí, llegada de Alguien importante, para algo importante, por algo importante, a un lugar importante. Descubramos el sentido profundo de este tiempo litúrgico tan sencillo, austero y propicio para la meditación y la esperanza.

En cada adviento revivimos, con la fe, y volvemos hacer presente en la esperanza la primera venida de Cristo en su carne sencilla, prestada por María, hace más de dos mil años. Y al mismo tiempo ese adviento, todo adviento, nos lanza y nos proyecta y nos hace desear la última venida de Cristo al final de los tiempos en toda su gloria y majestad, como nos describe san Mateo en el capítulo 25: “Ven, Señor Jesús”. Pero también en cada adviento, si vivimos en clave de amor y de fe, podemos recibir y descubrir la venida intermedia de Cristo en su Eucaristía –detrás de ese pan y vino, que ya no es pan ni vino, sino el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo–, en el prójimo necesitado –pregunten, si no, a san Martín de Tours cuando dio la mitad de su manto a ese pobre aterido de frío en pleno invierno francés hace ya muchos, muchos años, y en la noche Cristo se le apareció vestido con esa mitad del manto para agradecerle ese hermoso gesto de caridad–, o también descubrir el rostro de Cristo detrás de ese dolor o adversidad de la vida. Cristo continúa viniendo. El adviento es continuo y eterno. El hombre vive en perpetuo adviento. Cristo viene siempre, cada año, cada mes, cada semana, cada día, cada hora y cada minuto. Basta estar atento y no embotado en las mil preocupaciones.

Quién llega: Es Jesucristo, nuestro Señor, nuestro Salvador, el Redentor del mundo, el Señor de la vida y de la historia, mi Amigo, El Agua viva que sacia mi sed de felicidad, el Pan de vida que nutre mi alma, el Buen Pastor que me conoce y me ama y da su vida por mí, la Luz verdadera que ilumina mi sendero, el Camino hacia la Vida eterna, la Verdad del Padre que no engaña, la Vida auténtica que vivifica.

Cómo llega: Llegó humilde, pobre, sufrido, puro hace más de dos mil años en Belén. Llega escondido en ese trozo de pan y en esas gotas de vino en cada Eucaristía, pero que ya no son pan ni vino, sino el Cuerpo sacrosanto y la Sangre bendita de Cristo resucitado y glorioso. Y llega disfrazado en ese prójimo enfermo, pobre, necesitado, antipático, a quien podemos descubrir con la fe límpida y el amor comprensivo. Y llega silencioso o con estruendo en ese accidente en la carretera, en esa enfermedad que no entendemos, en esa muerte del ser querido, para recordarnos que Él atravesó también por esas situaciones humanas y les dio sentido hondo y profundo.

Por qué llega: porque quiere hacernos partícipes de su amor y amistad. Quiere renovar una vez más su alianza con nosotros. El amor es el motor de estas continuas venidas de Cristo a nuestro mundo, a nuestra casa, a nuestra alma. No hay otra razón.

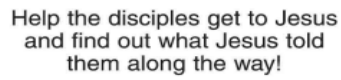
Para qué llega: para dar un sentido de trascendencia a nuestra vida, para decirnos que somos peregrinos en este mundo y que hay que seguir caminando y cantando. Llega para enjugar nuestras lágrimas amargas. Llega para agradecer esos detalles de amor que con Él tenemos a diario. Llega para hablarnos del Padre, a quien Él tanto ama. Llega para alimentar nuestras ansias de felicidad. Llega para curar nuestras heridas, provocadas por nuestras pasiones aliadas con el enemigo de nuestra alma. Llega para recordarnos que no estamos solos, que Él está a nuestro lado como baluarte y sostén. Llega para pedirnos también una mano y nuestros labios y nuestro corazón, porque quiere que prediquemos su Palabra por todos los rincones del mundo.

Dónde llega: llega a nuestro mundo convulso y desorientado y hambriento de paz, de calor, de caridad y de un trozo de pan; a nuestras familias tal vez divididas o en armonía; a nuestros corazones inquietos como el de san Agustín de Hipona, corazón que sólo descansó en Dios. Quiere llegar a todos los parlamentos internacionales y nacionales para dar sentido y moralidad a las leyes que ahí se emanan. Quiere llegar al palacio del rico, como a la choza del pobre. Quiere llegar junto al lecho de un enfermo en el hospital, como también a ese salón de fiestas, donde él no viene a aguar nuestras alegrías humanas sino a purificarlas y orientarlas. Quiere llegar al mundo de los niños, para cuidarles su inocencia y pureza. Quiere llegar al mundo de los jóvenes, para sostenerles en sus luchas duras y enseñarles lo que es el verdadero amor. Quiere llegar al mundo de los adultos para decirles que es posible la alegría y el entusiasmo en medio del trabajo agotador y exhausto de cada día. Quiere llegar a cada familia para llevarles el calor del amor, reflejo del amor trinitario. Quiere llegar al mundo de los ancianos para sostenerles con el báculo del aliento y la caricia de la sonrisa. Quiere llegar al mundo de los gobernantes para decirles que su autoridad proviene de Dios, que deben buscar el bien común y que deberán dar cuenta de ella.

Cuántas veces llega: si estamos atentos, no hay minuto en que no percibamos la venida de Cristo a nuestra vida. Basta estar con los ojos de la fe bien abiertos, con el corazón despierto y preparado por la honestidad, y con las manos siempre tendidas para el abrazo de ese Cristo que sabe venir de mil maneras. Por tanto, podemos decir que siempre es adviento. Es más, nuestra vida debe ser vivida en actitud de adviento: alguien llega. No vayamos a estar somnolientos y distraídos.

Cómo prepararnos: nos ayudará en este tiempo leer al profeta Isaías, meditar en san Juan Bautista que encontramos al inicio de los evangelios y contemplar a María. Isaías con su nostalgia del Mesías nos prepara para la última venida de Cristo. San Juan Bautista nos prepara para esas venidas intermedias de Cristo en cada acontecimiento diario y sobre todo en la Eucaristía. Y María nos hará vivir, rememorar en la fe ese primer adviento que Ella vivió con tanta esperanza, amor y silencio, para poder abrazar a ese Niño Jesús sencillo, envuelto en pañales y recostado en un pesebre.

Adviento, tiempo de gracia y bendición. Llega alguien, sí. Llega Dios. Y Dios es todo. Dios no quita nada. Dios da todo lo que hace hermosa a una vida. Y hay que abrirle la puerta y Él entrará y cenará con nosotros y nosotros con Él. Y nos hará partícipes de su amor y felicidad. ¡Qué triste quien no le abra la puerta a Cristo, dejándolo fuera, helándose y despreciado, con sus Dones entre sus Manos benditas! ¿Habrás alguien así, desalmado y sin sentimientos? ¡No lo creo! Al menos no lo quiero creer.

[illegible]

A cartoon illustration of four men with beards and head coverings, wearing traditional robes of green, blue, red, and white, walking from left to right.

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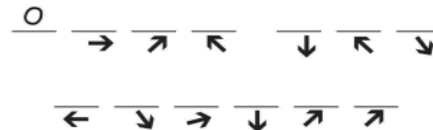
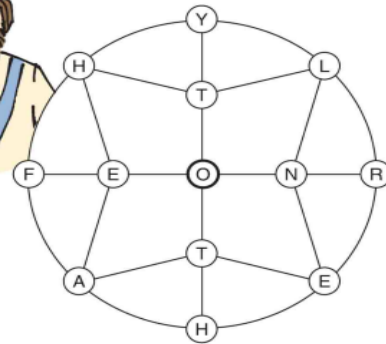
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“ 13 9 6 5 10 2 20 8 18 ”



The Coming of the Son of Man



66



99



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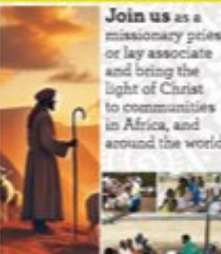
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