

# Hope



6400 Nativity Lane,  
Burke, Virginia 22015  
nativityburke.org

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

#### SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

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

#### MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

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

#### MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.  
Sister Mary Attalia 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



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

SUNDAY MASSES: 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass  
7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass in Spanish  
7:00 a.m./9:00 a.m./11:00 a.m./  
1:00 p.m./5:30 p.m.

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

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

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

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

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

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

#### WEBMASTER:

Emilia Hartline, [webmaster@nativityburke.org](mailto:webmaster@nativityburke.org)

#### SOCIAL MEDIA:

Mary Castellano, [socialmedia@nativityburke.org](mailto:socialmedia@nativityburke.org)

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

**A Message from our Pastor  
Fr. 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 (violet) 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.

Our Advent Penance service is Thursday, December 14 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 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 Advent Blessings,

*Fr. Bob Cilinski*  
Fr. Bob Cilinski,  
Pastor

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**



Our nation’s patronal feast, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is Friday, December 8th, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary’s conception free from original sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.

**The Mass schedule celebrating the Immaculate Conception, will be as follows:**

Thursday, December 7th: Vigil Mass at 7:00pm.  
Friday, December 8th: 7:30am, 9:00am (*School Mass*),  
12:00pm (*Live streamed*), 5:00pm and 7:30pm (*Bilingual Mass*).

**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.



**Christmas Mass Schedule 2023**

**Sunday, December 24 | Christmas Eve**

**4:00 pm\***

**6:00 pm**

**8:30 pm**

**Midnight**

**Monday, December 25 | Christmas Day**

**7:00 am**

**9:00 am**

**11:00 am\***

**1:00 pm (Spanish)\***

*\*Live Streamed*

*Service of Remembrance*  
 Celebrating the Memory of your Loved One  
**Sunday, December 17th**  
**6:00pm**  
**Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home**  
 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax VA 22032



**Join us for a Special Candlelight Service with Live Music, a Children's Choir, a Harpist and more.**

This is a free event with refreshments

RSVP by Friday, December 8th by email:  
[weremember@fairfaxmemorialfuneralhome.com](mailto:weremember@fairfaxmemorialfuneralhome.com)  
 Please include a picture of your loved one.

**Nativity Stars Gala & Auction  
 We Need Your Help!**

Planning for our biggest fundraising event, The Nativity Stars Gala & Auction, is in FULL Swing! Funds raised at the event will provide financial assistance for STEM and student enrichment activities, plus other resources to help our students thrive at school.

There are many volunteer opportunities and activities which do not require VIRTUS training or Diocesan certification. Many Lead/Committee roles are available, however we are IN NEED of the following:

- Auction Procurement (Live & Silent) Chair(s)/Committee
- Food & Beverage Chair(s)/Committee
- Entertainment & Decorations Chair(s)/Committee
- Sponsorship Chair(s)/Committee
- Raffle Sales Coordinators
- Event Logistics Coordinator
- Event Volunteer Coordinator



Please click on the QR code to join the planning committee. We thank you for your help and support in making this event a wonderful success! Any questions, please email [auction@nativityschool.org](mailto:auction@nativityschool.org).



**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl meeting for December will be held on Monday morning, December 11th at 9:30am in the Fr. Ready room. All are welcome!

**OFFERTORY RENEWAL**

Many thanks to all parishioners for your generosity to our parish offertory and prayerfully renewing your support for the work of the church at Nativity. You can return your offertory pledge card to the office or place it in the collection basket. Our stewardship gives praise and thanks to God.

**THE WOMEN OF NATIVITY  
 ANNUAL GIVING TREE**

Thank you to everyone who chose an ornament this year! All gifts need to be returned to the Church narthex this weekend, December 2 & 3. **Please note, this is the last weekend for the gifts to be returned!**

Wrapping instructions for each gift are on the back of the ornament. Several of the organizations we service 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 to the gift. This helps us greatly in separating and bagging the gifts for the various groups.


GIFT CARDS should be placed in an envelope with the recipient marked on the outside. Please write gift card \$ amount on the gift card. It is easier to handle GIFT CARDS if they are not wrapped. It is important to return gifts on the scheduled dates to meet the delivery requirements of the charities. It would be sad if we could not fulfill a child's request.

Again, we thank our caring parishioners who will make this a special and happy holiday for many of our less fortunate neighbors! Please feel free to contact Patrice Chadbourne at [patdavchad@yahoo.com](mailto:patdavchad@yahoo.com) or Kathy Mc Hugh at [irish5579@gmail.com](mailto:irish5579@gmail.com) with any questions.

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

**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 6, 2023 Time: 7:00 PM**  
**Contact: 703-455-2400**



**MARK FORREST.COM**



**Handmaids of Reparation  
of the Sacred Heart of  
Jesus  
Advent Project**

Help our Nativity Sisters reach their fundraising goal!

The very special Advent season draws near. It's time to begin preparing for the coming of our Lord whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. Families both individual and parish, participate in traditional activities during this Church season. It's also a time to remember our sisters and brothers throughout the world who need physical and spiritual comfort.

Every year our Religious Order, Handmaids of Reparation of the Sacred Heart reaches out to families in our RE program and parish for prayers and monetary support during the Advent season.

Our mission has always been driven by a commitment to improving the lives of those in need, both spiritually and materially. Over the years, we have witnessed the transformative power of faith and education, and it is with this belief that we have embarked on a significant endeavor in Congo.

We understand that times can be challenging for everyone, and your generosity is deeply appreciated. Your support is not just a financial contribution; it is a gesture of solidarity, an affirmation of faith, and a symbol of love for your fellow human beings.

To learn more about our Missions, and our Annual Advent Project, and to donate, please visit our website or scan the QR-Code. Thank you kindly for your prayers and continuous support.

Prayerfully,  
Sister Donatella Merulla and  
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro

To learn more and to donate  
please visit their site:  
[handmaidsofreparation.org](http://handmaidsofreparation.org)



**MASS FOR PARENTS WHO  
HAVE LOST CHILDREN**

DECEMBER 16, 2023 | 9AM

ST. LUKE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
7001 GEORGETOWN PIKE, MCLEAN, VA

VERY REV. JAMIE WORKMAN  
VICAR GENERAL | CELEBRANT



PLEASE RSVP HERE:

[ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/PARENTSMASS](https://www. ArlingtonDiocese.org/parentsMass)



**TROOP 52130  
WINTER COAT  
DRIVE**

Bring your donations on  
Dec 9 & 10 to help bring  
joy to people in need!

Drop off Nativity  
Catholic Church  
6400 Nativity Lane  
Burke, VA

Thank you for your support!

**Prepare your heart for Christmas!**

Nativity will offer an Advent Penance Service on Thursday, December 14 from 6:30–8:00 pm approx. 15 priests will be available to hear confessions

**THE WALK HUMBLY  
PODCAST  
With BISHOP BURBIDGE**



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

— Bishop Burbidge

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

### National Eucharistic Revival

Catholics all across the country are in the middle of a National Eucharistic Revival, an initiative of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops that aims to inspire, educate, and unite the faithful in a more intimate relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of our Catholic Faith.

In the months to come, you will see and hear about more opportunities to deepen our faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

Scan the QR code from the banner in the Narthex to sign up for news about the National Eucharistic Congress planned in Indianapolis next summer, July 17–21, 2024. They expect 80,000 people to fill Lucas Oil Stadium with all the fans cheering for the same side, our Lord in the Eucharist!

Plus, there will be four routes of Eucharistic Pilgrimages that will make their way across the country and converge in Indianapolis! These pilgrims will accompany Jesus from city to city, lighting hearts on fire along the way. The route from the east, the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route, plans to pass by our nation's capital, blessing locals and tourists alike with his real Presence. All routes will meet in Indianapolis at the National Eucharistic Congress.

**To find out how you can participate, go to <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/> and sign up for news from the National Eucharistic Revival.**



### Nativity Catholic Church Invites you to a Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, December 9th 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!



### MASS INTENTIONS

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

#### Monday, December 4th

7:30 am † Pablo Osiris Santana

#### Tuesday, December 5th

7:30 am † Nicolas and Virginia Gavilan  
12:00 pm † Marc Angelo Sanidad

#### Wednesday, December 6th

7:30 am † Jeanne McConaghay  
3:00 pm † Pablo Osiris Santana (*Sunrise*)

#### Thursday, December 7th

7:30 am † Janice Brintnall  
12:00 pm † Elsa Dona  
7:00 pm † Monica Fenrich

#### Friday, December 8th - Immaculate Conception

7:30 am † Joan Boos  
9:00 am † James Logsdon (*School Mass*)  
12:00 pm † Helen Bubak (*live streamed*)  
5:00 pm † Luz Journet  
7:30 pm † Kay Stuchlak (*Bilingual*)

#### Saturday, December 9th

9:00 am † Margueritte Swider  
5:00 pm Special Int. for Hang Tran & Duy Le  
6:45 pm † Jaime Ruiz

#### Sunday, December 10th

7:00 am Parishioners  
9:00 am † Philip McHugh  
11:00 am † Santiago A. Hernandez, Jr.  
1:00 pm † Nelly Caceres de Espinoza  
5:30 pm † Leo DePaepe

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

*Please note that the current Mass Intentions Calendar is open from January thru June, 2024. We are limiting the requests to 5 intentions per family/household per calendar year. Visit the parish office or email [akenner@nativityburke.org](mailto:akenner@nativityburke.org) to schedule intentions.*

### Serve Those in Need with Your Gift to Catholic Charities

The theme for the 2023 Catholic Charities Parish Christmas Collection is *"Behold, I Make All Things New."*

Please Consider a Generous Gift to Those in Need Through a gift to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, you are serving the poor, protecting the vulnerable, and welcoming the newcomer. Your support helps maintain ministries that serve neighbors in need throughout the 21 counties and seven cities of our diocese. If donating with check or cash, use the special bulletin insert/contribution envelope. You may also make an online gift at [ccda.net/Christmas](http://ccda.net/Christmas).



# Thank you!

How you provided hope last year:



Evening meals provided at  
Catholic Charities Christ House

**17,627**

Pounds of Food  
Distributed to the  
Hungry

**2.2M**



People helped  
with Emergency  
Assistance  
(rent, utilities, car repair)

**2,196**



Patients treated  
at our Free  
Medical Clinics

**1,531**



Refugees resettled  
or served

**2,133**



People provided  
with Mental Health  
Counseling

**905**



Number of people  
helped with Pregnancy  
& Adoption services

**359**



Prison inmates  
receiving  
Spiritual Care

**1,080**



Source: Catholic Charities tracking systems, fiscal year 2023

**Your help is still needed!**

Make a gift online today, scan here



[ccda.net/donate](https://ccda.net/donate)

Church of the Nativity

Rev. Robert C. Cilinski, Pastor

# 2023 Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3 December</b> Light the first violet candle in your Advent wreath and pray with today's Gospel, <i>Mark 13:33-37</i> .	<b>4</b> Choose a way you can grow closer to Christ in Advent: more mental prayer, penance, almsgiving, Sacraments.	<b>5</b> Display the stable for the Nativity Scene. Add figures gradually throughout Advent.	<b>6 St. Nicholas of Myra</b> Perform a simple act of kindness for someone today in honor of this generous saint.	<b>7</b> On the Memorial of Saint Ambrose, bishop and teacher, pray for all clergy in the Church.	<b>8 The Immaculate Conception of Mary</b> Celebrate by attending Mass and praying a Rosary for our country.	<b>9</b> Prepare heart and soul to welcome Christ. Make an examination of conscience and attend Confession.
<b>10</b> Light the second violet candle and meditate on <i>Mark 1:1-8</i> .	<b>11</b> Offer a small sacrifice out of love for Jesus, who offered Himself up for love of you.	<b>12</b> Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pray for all pregnant women and thank God for the gift of new life.	<b>13</b> Advent is a busy time for parishes. Call or email your parish office and ask how you can serve.	<b>14</b> In prayer, forgive someone who has hurt you. Ask for the grace to let go and move on.	<b>15</b> Call Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-CRS or <a href="http://www.catholicrelief.org">www.catholicrelief.org</a> ) to see how you can contribute.	<b>16</b> Las Posadas begins today honoring Mary's and Joseph's search for shelter. Gather friends and go caroling.
<b>17 Gaudete Sunday</b> Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. Pray with <i>John 1:6-9, 19-28</i> .	<b>18</b> Put a lamp or candle in a window to welcome the Christ Child. Light it every night until Christmas.	<b>19</b> Feed the hungry. Look for someone who is physically hungry or hungry for human kindness.	<b>20</b> Review your "Advent resolutions" and renew your commitment to them.	<b>21</b> Spend time before the Blessed Sacrament today to ready your heart for the arrival of the King.	<b>22</b> Reflect on how your relationship with Christ grew this Advent. Thank Him for the graces you received.	<b>23</b> Make an effort to see everyone with loving eyes today.
<b>24</b> The fourth week of Advent lasts only one day. Meditate on the great news the angel brought (see <i>Luke 1:26-38</i> ).	<b>25 Rejoice!</b> Place the Christ Child in the manger. Go to Mass today 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>				

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## A message from the Creation Care Ministry It's not too late to SHOP FAIR TRADE WITH THE CREATION CARE MINISTRY!

Did you miss the Fair Trade Sale last weekend or think of additional gift giving needs after the sale? It's not too late to make a difference with your holiday shopping! Visit [www.fairtradewinds.net](http://www.fairtradewinds.net) and use promo code **NATIVITY2023** through Friday, December 8 to credit our sale with your purchases.

*Not familiar with how Fair Trade benefits the artisans involved?*

Fair trade began as an alternative form of aid for developing countries where traditional charity was not enough. Fair trade creates self-sufficient, independent organizations that work towards long-term change and positive development. In many ways, fair trade partnerships allow artisans to feel more dignified than if they just received money from a charity organization. Fair trade places a real value on the skills and talents of the artisans, many of whom have been working on their craft for years and learned the skills from their parents or grandparents.

Unlike traditional charity, fair trade includes a social premium, on top of a fair wage, which goes to the community as a whole. Each cooperative then decides how to use the money for projects like clean water wells, new workshop facilities, a daycare facility, and other projects that will benefit the entire community.

Another advantage of fair trade over traditional charity is the fact that in working towards long-term development, fair trade provides steady, regular employment so that artisans have money coming in consistently. This regular income makes a big difference in the kind of livelihood the artisans can have for themselves and for their families. As fair trade organizations grow their partnerships, they also are able to provide educational resources like skill training, health care, financial planning, and more. These are extremely useful resources that traditional charity usually does not provide, but are crucial for the independent development of artisan communities. Thank you for shopping Fair Trade! Questions? Email [nativitycreationcare@gmail.com](mailto:nativitycreationcare@gmail.com).

### LIFE TEEN RETREAT

# No Longer Strangers

*Come be renewed in your faith, connect with friends, and unwind in breathtaking surroundings*

Who: High schoolers (Grades 9-12)

Where: Loyola on the Potomac

When: December 15-17

Cost: \$100

Contact: [cym@nativityburke.org](mailto:cym@nativityburke.org)

Registration open now through December 5



**The Knights of Columbus - Ladies Auxiliary**  
Formed to assist and support the Knights, our Church and the four virtues of Charity, Unity, Sorority and Patriotism. We are spouses, daughters, mothers, or sisters of Knights of Columbus who are in good standing or deceased. Our fellowship and informational meetings are the First Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Fr. Ready Room. Contact [kdelatte65@gmail.com](mailto:kdelatte65@gmail.com) for information or to be added to our email distribution list.



## thank you!

TO EVERYONE THAT SUPPORTED OUR SPARTANS FUNDRAISER

WITH YOUR SUPPORT WE RAISED A TOTAL OF \$ 400.00

YOUR SUPPORT IS GOING TOWARDS, FOOD, WATER, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, TEACHING MATERIALS FOR CHILDREN AND SUPPORT FOR OUR RELIGIOUS SISTERS IN OUR ORDER

IN GRATITUDE,

**Sister Donatella and Sister Mary Attilia**



[handmaidsofpreparation.org](http://handmaidsofpreparation.org)

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION

Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm

### HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS

GIRLS: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, weekly

GUYS: Thursdays, 7:00-8:30pm, 2x/month



### EDGE: GRADES 6-8

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



### LIFE TEEN RETREAT

All high schoolers are invited to join us at our Life Teen retreat "No Longer Strangers" for an exciting weekend of fellowship, faith, and unwinding in breathtaking surroundings.

Who: All high schoolers (Grades 9-12)

When: December 15-17

Cost: \$100

\*Registration closes on December 5\*



See website for full schedule

Before attending, please register for the 2023-2024 year of ministry using our free, online forms.

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

## NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY

AN ORIGINAL NATIVITY MINISTRY DOING GOD'S WORK BY SERVING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF HIS FLOCK.

WE WORK DISTRIBUTING FOOD, CLOTHING, AND PERSONAL ITEMS TO THE POOR AND HOMELESS IN D.C. AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA EVERY SUNDAY MORNING, RAIN OR SHINE.

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT THE NATIVITY PARISH WEBSITE OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN DAILY/SUNDAY RUNS, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN RUBINO AT:

JOHN.ALBERT.RUBINO@GMAIL.COM.





**NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence  
[nativityschool.org](http://nativityschool.org)



**\* Feast Your Eyes \*  
on Teamwork and Generosity**



It's one of our very favorite traditions -- and one in which the entire school is involved -- assembling full turkey dinners for local families in need. This year, we donated 55 full Thanksgiving Feasts. It's both a Church and School effort: The Church purchased and received turkey donations and the students brought in all the 'fixins.' Our Eighth Graders assembled the packages, specially made for each family. From our family to yours -- A Very Happy Christmas Season and May God Bless!

\*\*\*\*\*

**~ Important Upcoming Dates ~**

- Mon, Dec. 4 - Fri, Dec. 8 - Catholic Charities Week
- Mon, Dec. 4 - Thurs, Dec. 7 - Santa's Workshop
- Wednesday, December 6 - St. Nicholas Day
- Friday, December 15 - 12 NOON Dismissal
- Friday, December 15 - 7 p.m. 7&8 Grade Dance
- Monday, December 18 - Class Parties
- Monday, December 18 - 7 p.m. Christmas Pageant
- Tuesday, December 19 - Pajama Day!
- Tuesday, December 19 - Polar Express Day
- Wednesday, December 20 - 11:30 a.m. Dismissal
- Thursday, December 21 - No School/Christmas Break

\*\*\*\*\*



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



**Council Meetings:** 1st and 3rd Tuesday. First meeting is a business meeting, the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation. Rosary 7:15 PM; meeting at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows. Meet in the Nativity school cafeteria. Linktree Universal Sign-up Link: [https://linktr.ee/fr\\_sikora\\_council\\_7992](https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992)  
**Nativity Ushers assist at collections:** Volunteer for your Mass! Volunteer on Link Tree!

**12 December 6:00-9:00pm:** Knights Christmas Party. All the info is in the link. Relax, white elephant gift, a beverage & great meal. Purchase tickets through Link Tree.

**16 December 9:00 am-1:30 pm:** Fr. Sikora Gravesite Rosary & Lunch. Meet at Nativity.

**30 & 31 December: Consecration to the Holy Family 2023.** Distribute Consecration to the Holy Family Prayer Cards to parishioners as they arrive for mass. Volunteer on Link Tree.

**Food for Others:** Volunteer drivers for food distribution to the poor. If you have a truck, SUV or van and can occasionally help deliver to 7 Corners on Thursday evenings or to Springfield on Friday evenings please consider helping. For Thursdays, please contact Br. Mark Sawyer at [sawyerkc7992@verizon.net](mailto:sawyerkc7992@verizon.net). For Fridays, please contact Br. Matt Stockburger at [mstock\\_w@yahoo.com](mailto:mstock_w@yahoo.com).

**Name Tags:** Email Vince Augelli at [VaKC23@gmail.com](mailto:VaKC23@gmail.com).

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

**Handy Knights Ministry:** If you are unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small repairs in your home due to health or other factors, call the "Handy Knights." Email [handyknights@nativity@gmail.com](mailto:handyknights@nativity@gmail.com).

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

**ECHO Food Room Needed Items - Collection this weekend**

Choose sizes appropriate for an average family size of four. ECHO cannot give our clients food whose expiration date is past, open food, or repackaged food (no zip-loc bags). Last month we collected 900lbs! Items most needed:  
Protein Items (e.g. can chicken, Spam, sardines, chili, beef stew) Spaghetti Sauce, Tea (green, herbal, black), Milk products (canned, shelf stable, hot chocolate), Macaroni and Cheese, Can Tomatoes, Healthy Snacks (nuts, raisins, dried fruit, granola bars etc.), Sugar, Masa (Corn) Flour, Box Potatoes, Lentils, Instant Coffee, Canned fruit, Bagged beans (black, red, or garbanzo), Bag Rice, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Crackers, Spices (garlic, onion, cinnamon, salt, pepper), Lemon/Lime Juice Juice (Bottles or Box), Honey, Cooking Oil, Tortillas, Muffin/Cornbread Mix, Brown paper bags, Reusable grocery bags.  
**HYGIENE PRODUCTS:** Children's Toothbrushes, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Bath Soap, Dish Soap, Paper Towels, Diapers - Sizes 3, 4, 5, Sanitary Pads, Band Aids, Shaving Cream/Razors.



## **Consecration to the Holy Family Event - 30/31 December**

**December 30th is the Feast of the Holy Family, and our K of C Council will assist our Pastor, Fr. Bob, in conducting a Consecration to the Holy Family for our parish Families at the end of all Masses on December 30th and 31st. You can learn all about this K of C program at: [www.kofc.org/consecration](http://www.kofc.org/consecration) To help families live out the joy of Christ, Knights of Columbus Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father.**

**Our role as the K of C council is to assist our Pastor in helping our community to understand and offer this important and impactful prayer. The idea is that preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. It is choosing a way of life for your family.**

**Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God's love through His Church.**

## Family Ministry

Connecting families from the time you are expecting through elementary school



Have you been looking for a way to connect with Catholic families for community, encouragement, and growth? There are MANY families with young children at Nativity and in our ministry, "family" encompasses families in all shapes and sizes- married couples, single parents, adopted children, one child, multiple children, etc.

This Advent, prepare your hearts for Christ's Nativity with 2minutes2virtue (2m2v) and Searching for More (SFM)! Stay tuned for short and inspiring video reflections led by our diocesan priests and lay faithful during each week of Advent. Stay up-to-date on new releases by subscribing to the diocesan email newsletter, the diocesan YouTube channel. You can also find 2m2v and SFM wherever you subscribe to podcast. You can also find the videos on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter as they release. Receive the weekly 2m2v challenge straight to your phone by texting "2m2v" to 84576, and join our public Facebook Group for further inspiration!

# MASS & BRUNCH

for adult children of divorce

Let's keep our focus on Jesus through what can be a complicated season

December 16, 2023 | 11:30am

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church  
3304 Washington Blvd, Arlington

This event is free but please RSVP at:  
arlingtondiocese.org/acodmass

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Young Adult Ministry

- WHO ARE WE? WE ARE AN ALL-INCLUSIVE GROUP OF YOUNG ADULTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 19-39 WHO ARE IN THE "MIDDLE" WHETHER THEY ARE SINGLE, NEWLY MARRIED, WITH OR WITHOUT CHILDREN, OR PERHAPS A RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATE!
- WHAT DO WE OFFER? SMALL GROUPS, FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES, BASKETBALL, ETC.



### ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flower Book for 2024 is now open. This is a thoughtful way to honor a loved one, living or deceased. If you are interested, please stop by the parish office to sign up. You can now also go online and reserve flowers on our website at: <https://nativityburke.org/altar-flowers/>.

### Love working with children? Want flexibility? Consider subbing for us...

We are in need of substitute teachers for the new school year 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

To apply, email Rich Godwin at [rgodwin@nativityschool.org](mailto:rgodwin@nativityschool.org), or call him at (703) 455-2300 ext.146. Thank you!

### Preventing Homelessness in Fairfax County....


Family PASS provides intensive case management to address the underlying challenges that lead to homelessness: wage disparity and lack of affordable housing in Fairfax County. Our clients are working families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads due to low wages and high housing costs. As needed, we provide emergency rental assistance to avoid eviction, and then work with families to develop educational/career goals that would lead to a living wage. We also work with clients on the following: budget counseling and connecting them to community resources, assist with educational expenses, including tuition, books, technology, etc. assist with utilities, childcare, transportation, and some debt reduction, as it relates to families being able to work, achieving their goals, and stabilizing their family.

To learn more or to donate, visit our website [www.familypassfairfax.org](http://www.familypassfairfax.org)



**FREE**  
family event

**Dec. 21-22**  
5-8 pm



Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
**Bethlehem Walk**  
a living nativity • [holytrinityupdates.com](http://holytrinityupdates.com)

Travel back in time to the City of Bethlehem for a free family event. A living nativity returns to Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 8213 Linton Hall Road, Gainesville, on Thursday and Friday, December 21-22 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm.

**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 is back at Nativity counseling clients in-person and is available on Thursdays from 10:00am-6:00pm 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](mailto:mmturner@ccda.net).

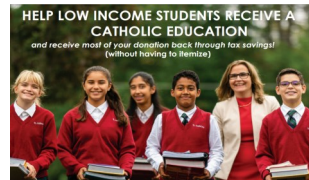


**Join the Knights!**

Do you want to make a difference as a Catholic Gentleman? Then join the Knights of Columbus! Visit <https://info.kofc.org/us.html> and enter our council #7992 for local information and to register.

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

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.



**Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation**  
*Help low income students receive a Catholic Education and receive most of your donation back through tax savings! (without having to itemize)*

The Virginia Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credit Program will award a 65% state tax credit for donations made to the Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation, (DASF), which provide scholarships for low-income students new to our diocesan Catholic Schools. You do not have to itemize in order to use the 65% tax credit! Donations must be preauthorized in advance. Please call Jeanne Combos at 703-841-2764 (or email [DASF@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:DASF@arlingtondiocese.org)), or go online for more details and to download the preauthorization request form at: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Scholarship-Foundation/>

**SCAM ALERT - PLEASE BEWARE**

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

WHEREVER  
PEOPLE ARE  
SUFFERING  
MAKE IT  
YOUR TASK  
TO SERVE  
THEM

*Joanne Paulus MS*



Meeting with GOD



# Quo Vadis Father-Son Seminary Visit



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

**What's college seminary like? See for yourself!**  
Meet the seminarians and their formators  
See where they live, pray, eat and study  
Tour their campus at Catholic University  
Fathers are welcome but not required.

**Saturday  
January 27  
8:45am-2:15pm**



For more information and to register, visit  
[ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis](http://ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis)  
Deadline to register is January 18.  
Sponsored by the Office of Vocations 703.841.2514 /  
[vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org)



*Come pray for Vocations!*

**ST. THERESE VOCATIONS SOCIETY**  
**MORNING OF**  
**REFLECTION**

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**10** February | Blessed Sacrament Church  
2024 | 1427 W. Braddock Road  
8:30am-noon | Alexandria, VA 22302

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CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, MASS, TALK & HOLY HOUR  
REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 5:  
VOCATIONS@ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG 703-841-2514  
ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/STTHERESE



# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Sunday, December 3

Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b; 64:2-7  
 Ps 80:2-4,15-16,18-19  
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
 Mark 13:33-37

### Monday, December 4

Isaiah 2:1-5  
 Ps 122:1-9  
 Matthew 8:5-11

### Tuesday, December 5

Isaiah 11:1-10  
 Ps 72:1-2,7-8,12-13,17  
 Luke 10:21-24

### Wednesday, December 6

Isaiah 25:6-10a  
 Ps 23:1-6  
 Matthew 15:29-37

### Thursday, December 7

**St. Ambrose, Bp, Dr**  
 Isaiah 26:1-6  
 Ps 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a  
 Matthew 7:21,24-27

### Friday, December 8

**Immaculate Conception**

Genesis 3:9-15,20  
 Ps 98:1-4  
 Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12  
 Luke 1:26-38

### Saturday, December 9

Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26  
 Ps 147:1-6  
 Matthew 9:35 – 10:1,5a,6-8

As we prepare for Christmas, of course we're thinking about how to show fondness and appreciation to the special people in our lives by choosing gifts that will be meaningful to them. And yet, assuming that we can actually find (or make) something that will be appreciated, will the gift really make a difference in the long run?

Since Christmas is the celebration of the birthday of Jesus, let's give him a gift, too – a long-lasting gift. But what can we give to someone who already has everything? Or does he?

What gift can you give to Jesus that will have an eternal impact, a gift that no one else can give him, a gift he doesn't already have? Here's the answer: What have you been withholding from him?

Today's first reading reminds us that God is our Father. The responsorial Psalm asks the Father to help us turn to him. The second reading gives thanks to God for all that he has done for us. So – what gift can you give to God to express your appreciation for what he has given to you?

this Christmas. And it's about the way he is coming to you right now, today.

There's something new that he wants to give you. When he offers it, will he find you doing what's right (as in the first reading)? Will he find you using your spiritual gifts (as in the second reading)? Will he find you alert and ready to do his bidding (as in the Gospel reading)?



Advent is an opportunity to take notice of the gifts he gives us and become

aware of the gifts we can give to him that he doesn't already have. It should make an eternal difference – for him *and* for us.

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † List the gifts that God has given to you. Then think about how much appreciation you have given to God for the gifts on that list. Do you know how much he appreciates your appreciation?
- † Name ways that Jesus comes to us today.
- † What will you do this Advent to become more aware of Jesus coming to you?
- † How will this make you more ready for Christmas?

In the Gospel reading, we're reminded of the need to prepare – to actually do something that makes a difference – for the coming of Christ. This not only refers to his Second Coming; it's also about the day when he comes for us as we breathe our last earthly breaths. And it's about the way he wants to come to you

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2023

## Church of the Nativity

Rev. Robert C. Cilinski, Pastor

### One Minute Meditations

#### St. Edmund Campion

Born to a Catholic family in 16th century England,

St. Edmund left a brilliant academic career at Oxford to become a

Jesuit missionary – a death sentence, since Catholics were being heavily persecuted under Queen Elizabeth I. He traveled around, secretly ministering the Sacraments to English Catholics, until he was betrayed by an informer and arrested. Despite efforts to persuade or threaten him, St. Edmund remained true to his faith. He was martyred with two companions at Tyburn.



#### Mary's "Yes"

When the angel appeared to Mary and told her what God was asking of her, she didn't have to agree. God gave all of us free will to allow us to make our own choices. Mary said "yes" to God out of love. Her reward (and ours, too) is eternity with her Son.

*"And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him"*  
(Luke 2:40).



### A "Christ-centered" Christmas is a joyful one

For Catholics, the weeks leading up to Christmas are a sacred time to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. For a joy-filled Christmas, try these ideas:

**Encourage joyful anticipation.** As disciples of Jesus, it is our role to help others to believe and hope in the power of God to change the world as He transforms hearts and minds. *"But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me"* (Micah 7:7). Look for opportunities to share your confidence in His love.

**Focus on prayer.** Become an Advent prayer intercessor praying for every

soul to come home to God, especially at this time of peace. Ask that He gives everyone the grace to live a new life reflecting glory on the Messiah.

**Serve.** Pope Francis said during Advent, "We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass, but let's ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What should we do?" The pope said we should

continuously ask God what we should do to contribute to the good of the Church and society. We can do "something concrete, even if it is small" to help others. He suggested visiting the lonely, the elderly, the sick or someone in need.



### Why Do Catholics Do That?

#### Why do Catholics celebrate the "Immaculate Conception?"

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed that Mary, by a special grace, was preserved from original and personal sin from her own conception in her mother's womb, in view of her role as the

Mother of God. This grace bore immeasurable fruit for all of us in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. On December 8 – a Holy Day of Obligation – we ask Mary to pray for us, so we, too, receive Jesus into our hearts with a faithful love like hers.





# Have a peaceful, Merry Christmas!

Do you aim for an idyllic Christmas celebration complete with a warm fire, joyful music, and tinsel-covered tree? For many of us, Christmas comes at the end of weeks spent shopping, wrapping, and spending, and is wrought with family tensions, obligations, and exhaustion. Try these steps to keep your sanity and your Savior in your Christmas celebration:

**Be realistic.** It isn't the goal of the season to make everyone happy. If you don't overspend and over extend before Christmas, you'll be in a better frame of mind when it arrives.

**Soothe the beast.** Beautiful music can set a soothing tone for your celebration. Pick your favorite holy hymns to put yourself in the Christmas frame of mind.

**Reach out.** Want to make your own problems seem small? Take on someone else's. Do at least one good Christmas deed for someone needy.

**Seek the eternal.** Jesus gives us peace, purpose, and perspective. Spend time with Jesus each day of Advent and Christmas to remind yourself of what is most important about Christmas.



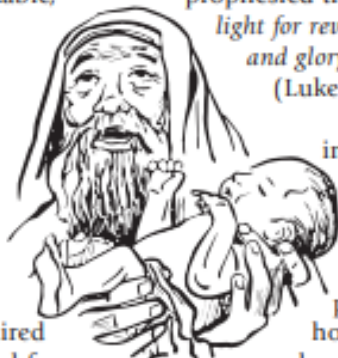
## from Scripture

### Luke 2:22-40, Encountering God in the ordinary

To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable, and His family was quite ordinary. In fact, when it was time to present Jesus in the temple, His parents couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb, and instead made the offering of the poor – two pigeons. As faithful Jews, they did all that was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.

Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized Him as the Messiah.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:32).



Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope. The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know Him, receive Him, and to be happy with Him forever.

## Q How can I & make Christmas joy last?

The Church's real Christmas season starts on Christmas Day and lasts until the Baptism of Our Lord. By celebrating the whole season, you can make your Christmas joy last long after you've taken down the tree. Here are some highlights of the season:

**Feast of the Holy Family, December 31.** Gather for a meal with loved ones, or contact out-of-town friends or family.

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1.** Dedicate a Rosary to the Blessed Mother, asking her to help you grow in love and trust.

**Epiphany, January 7.** The example of the Magi honoring Jesus has become a symbol of sharing Him with the world. This is our chance to think about the way we live so that we can better reveal Christ to our world.

**The Baptism of Our Lord, January 8.** Baptism is our entry into the Kingdom. Take time this day to renew your Baptismal vows and decide what you can change in your life to help you live as Christ did.



## Feasts & Celebrations

**December 3 – First Sunday in Advent.** We anticipate Christ's birth and His coming on the last day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

**December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531).** The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She asked St. Juan to carry roses to the bishop as proof. When the roses were emptied from his *tilma*, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

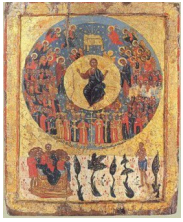
**December 15 – St. Maria di Rosa (1855).** Born into a wealthy family in Brescia, Italy, Paula was renowned for holiness, generosity, and concern for the sick. She founded the Handmaids of Charity in 1840. She took the name Sr. Maria Crucifixa di Rosa.

**December 27 – St. John the Beloved (1st Century).** As an apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. Scholars believe he is the "beloved disciple" who sat by Jesus at the Last Supper in John's Gospel.



### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.  
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<http://www.growinginfaith.com>  
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)



### ***La segunda venida del Señor, realidad anunciada y esperada “La segunda venida del Señor, realidad anunciada y esperada en la fidelidad”***

Comenzamos este domingo un nuevo año litúrgico, el tiempo de Adviento. Cada uno de nosotros tiene experiencia del transcurrir de los días, semanas y años. Vamos envejeciendo en el suceder de nuestra existencia. Experiencia que se puede vivir desde la fe o como un mero devenir del tiempo. Cuando no se vive de la fe este acontecer de cada persona y del mundo temporal, llegamos al final a un callejón sin salida, el del sin sentido de nuestra vida, ya que sólo vivimos y morimos. Desde la fe, en cambio, estos hechos alcanzan un sentido nuevo. Conocemos que no sólo es un caminar en el tiempo, sino vivir siempre un presente y continuo ***Kairós***, el momento particular de gracia que permite unirnos a nuestro Dios, realizar su providencia según nuestra vocación particular, abiertos también a los hermanos, orientándonos siempre a la meta de la Vida eterna con Dios.

El año litúrgico precisamente trata de darle un sentido nuevo al transcurso de días, semanas y años, no como mera repetición de hechos del pasado como si fuera un eterno retorno, sino invitándonos a tener “memoria” cada año actualizando los misterios que refieren a la salvación del hombre. Habíamos verificado el domingo pasado en la fiesta de Cristo Rey, que Él es alfa y omega, principio y fin, en la historia humana, en virtud de su humanidad. Como Hijo, en cambio, es presencia siempre viva en la eternidad trinitaria. Nosotros también comenzamos nuestro existir en el alfa-aunque estamos presentes desde siempre en el pensamiento del Dios providente- y nos orientamos al encuentro definitivo con quien es Omega.

El tiempo de adviento permite remitirnos al comienzo de la historia humana que en la promesa de un Salvador nos recobrará de la postración del pecado de los orígenes, y en su nacimiento actualizado de cada Navidad, nos proyecta a su segunda venida que es ya realidad en esperanza.

Por eso en la primera parte del tiempo litúrgico que comenzamos, la idea fuerte toca a la realidad anunciada, pero por realizar, de la segunda venida, a la que debemos prepararnos con espíritu vigilante ya que no conocemos ni el día ni la hora de su acontecer como recuerda el evangelio de este día. Ya cercanos a la Navidad – en cambio- actualizaremos lo que se anuncia en la primera lectura (Is. 63,16b-17.19b; 64,2-7) cuando el pueblo de Israel reclamaba la venida del Mesías previendo la salvación de la misma historia. El texto de Isaías manifiesta el reproche dirigido a Dios ya que se pensaba que había abandonado a su pueblo endureciéndole incluso hasta el corazón. De hecho la Sagrada escritura habla de este endurecimiento, por ejemplo, refiriéndose al Faraón que se obstina en no dejar salir a los israelitas de Egipto o el hecho de que Dios deja a su suerte a los que no lo reconocen presente en las realidades creadas (Rom. 1, 18). En realidad, ante el rechazo obstinado de Dios por parte del hombre, muchas veces queda éste librado a su suerte, víctima de su propia elección, revestida de autosuficiencia.

Es entonces cuando descubre el ser humano sus errores y, arrepentido, se dirige a su Creador para que se abran los cielos y se derrame la salvación. La respuesta de Dios será la de venir a nuestro encuentro porque su gracia misericordiosa supera la presencia del pecado humano. El tiempo de Adviento, en fin, nos prepara a dar cumplimiento lo vivido el domingo pasado, el triunfo de Cristo como rey de todo lo creado.

Esto es así porque el nacimiento en carne del Hijo de Dios vence la envidia del demonio que nos hizo caer, mostrándonos que el ser pequeños como el Niño de Belén, nos eleva nuevamente a la dignidad de hijos adoptivos y, porque su segunda venida, manifiesta que todo es devuelto al Padre una vez que es puesto a los pies del Señor.

De allí la importancia de mirar desde el presente la segunda venida del Señor. Ese señor que se fue de viaje –como señala el evangelio- que ha dejado su casa, que es la humanidad, la Iglesia o la comunidad misma, a nuestro cuidado, dándonos tareas concretas a cada uno y advirtiéndolo al mismo tiempo, “¡tengan cuidado! ¡Estén prevenidos! ¡No se duerman!”

¿Por qué ésta exhortación? Porque cuando nos acostumbramos a vivir en el tiempo, en lo mundano de cada día, concluimos viviendo como si Dios no existiera y lo eterno no aparece en el horizonte del que se dice creyente. Las preocupaciones de cada día, las costumbres, las modas y las ideologías de turno, acaban con arrebatarnos la mirada y pensamiento en lo eterno como meta de nuestro caminar, adormeciéndonos con los pasatiempos del presente sin esperar con gozo la venida del que siempre está viniendo.

No creer, por tanto, que por ignorar el momento de su venida y comprobar su tardanza estamos libres de que llegue de improviso y nos sorprenda.

La exigencia será siempre la de la vigilancia, de quien espera su retorno. Hemos de preguntarnos acerca de cómo estoy viviendo cada día, ya que nosotros también hoy volvemos a sentir la experiencia que señala el profeta, el sentirnos agobiados por el pecado, mientras el Señor nos responde con palabras del apóstol San Pablo (1 Cor. 1,3-9) diciéndonos “Dios es fiel”. Nosotros que somos tan sensibles ante la infidelidad y el engaño de la persona que amamos, sensibles ante la mentira de quien nos esconde algo de suma importancia recordar que “¡Dios es fiel!”, no se desdice de sus promesas, de lo que ha pensado desde toda la eternidad y, por eso nos llama también a la fidelidad para con Él, viviendo en comunión permanente con su Hijo hecho hombre – como lo recuerda el apóstol.

Se anuncia, por lo tanto, el que vivamos en comunión con Jesús mientras dure nuestra misión de “porteros” o “servidores” de su casa, de la humanidad, de la Iglesia y de la comunidad (Mc. 13, 33-37).

Para esta tarea muchas veces difícil no estamos solos, porque precisamente para vivir la fidelidad nos ha colmado de sus dones, regalándonos con lo mejor de Sí mismo. Como diciéndonos, no tienen excusa si ustedes no son fieles, ya que esto no es porque Dios falle, sino porque no sabemos responder a tanto amor recibido. El no responder a ese amor del que es fiel hace que vivamos confundidos, de allí que el ser humano no sepa muchas veces en el tiempo presente cómo obrar en lo que ha de ser un anticipo de la eternidad. Cuando no se camina por la vida en unión con el Señor, este transitar por el mundo pierde también su sentido.

Por eso hermanos, vivamos este adviento con esperanza, como lo significamos con el verde de la corona de adviento, signo de la vida nueva que se nos ofrece. Cada cirio encendido cada domingo de este tiempo litúrgico irá mostrando que a medida que caminamos en la esperanza, somos iluminados cada vez más sobre el sentido de la vida hasta llegar a la Luz plena de la Navidad donde recibiremos al Salvador prometido.

Vivamos cada día intensamente, iluminados por la luz de la fe de modo que no sea un mero transcurrir de horas, días, meses y años, sino que sea una actualización siempre viva de los misterios santos que nos han salvado y nos encaminan a la Casa del Padre común de todos. La exigencia será siempre la de la vigilancia, de quien espera su retorno. Hemos de preguntarnos acerca de cómo estoy viviendo cada día, ya que nosotros también hoy volvemos a sentir la experiencia que señala el profeta, el sentirnos agobiados por el pecado, mientras el Señor nos responde con palabras del apóstol San Pablo (1 Cor. 1,3-9) diciéndonos “Dios es fiel”. Nosotros que somos tan sensibles ante la infidelidad y el engaño de la persona que amamos, sensibles ante la mentira de quien nos esconde algo de suma importancia recordar que “¡Dios es fiel!”, no se desdice de sus promesas, de lo que ha pensado desde toda la eternidad y, por eso nos llama también a la fidelidad para con Él, viviendo en comunión permanente con su Hijo hecho hombre – como lo recuerda el apóstol.

Se anuncia, por lo tanto, el que vivamos en comunión con Jesús mientras dure nuestra misión de “porteros” o “servidores” de su casa, de la humanidad, de la Iglesia y de la comunidad (Mc. 13, 33-37).

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**Padre Ricardo B. Mazza, Cura Párroco de la parroquia “San Juan Bautista” de Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz, en Argentina. Homilía en el domingo 1º de Adviento, ciclo “B”. 27 de Noviembre de 2011.**

### **I Domingo Adviento - B Evangelio de la Misa: Mac 13,33-37 ¡Velad!**

En el comienzo del año litúrgico son especialmente oportunas las recomendaciones a estar en vela: “*Mirad, vigilad: pues no sabéis cuándo es el momento*”. Son advertencias cariñosas y como dichas al oído de cada uno, para que seamos sensatos, precavidos, y en definitiva verdaderamente sabios con la sabiduría del “bien vivir”, poniendo los medios auténticos que conducen a lo único importante: la felicidad en esta vida, y después la felicidad, para siempre, en el cielo.

*Gracias, Señor, por estas advertencias que me haces en tu Evangelio, o Buena Nueva, para que sea sensato, prudente y responsable con mi vida. Tus palabras siempre están llenas de luz, de verdad, y por tanto de auténtica vida, la que Tu quieres que tenga para ser feliz y encontrarme contigo en este mundo y después en el cielo. Gracias, Señor, por estas palabras que me susurras, una vez más, al oído, y en concreto ahora que comenzamos un año*

*litúrgico, y quieres que lo comience “con buen pie”. “Velad entonces, pues no sabéis cuando vendrá el dueño de la casa, si al atardecer, o a medianoche, o al canto del gallo, o al amanecer; no sea que venga inesperadamente y os encuentre dormidos”. Acojo también, Señor, tus palabras con la responsabilidad del compromiso vocacional del buen cristiano, que quiere ser santo, y difundir tu amor, tu verdad y tu vida, en mi entorno social y familiar, entre mis amigos y colegas, y especialmente a todos mis familiares: padres, hijos, hermanos.*

*Me siento tan reconfortado con tus palabras, y tan animado y feliz con tus muestras de amor y confianza conmigo en este comienzo del año litúrgico, que prometo no dejar nunca mi oración o trato contigo cada día, para mantener esta intimidad, o vida interior y espiritual; y de esta manera siga aprendiendo de tu vida ejemplar, de tus enseñanzas siempre iluminadoras y animantes; y al mismo tiempo pueda participar siempre de la alegría de tu amor y de la satisfacción del deber cumplido y del servicio a mis hermanos los hombres.*

*Que nunca pierda la fe y confianza en tus palabras, y que jamás olvide tus cariñosas recomendaciones a ser responsable con mi santidad y mi apostolado.*

**Padre Segismundo Fernandez Rodríguez**

Ser Inmaculada no es un privilegio que sitúe a la Virgen María fuera de la historia, distante de nuestros acontecimientos cotidianos, sino que es el punto de partida de una historia nueva, de una realidad emergente, de una capacidad renovada para asumir el proyecto de Dios, para cumplir el designio de amor que, desde la eternidad, abarca a toda la humanidad y a cada persona en concreto.

Con María Inmaculada comienza una esperanza fundada que nos asegura que el imperio del mal no es irremediable, que el peso del pecado no es invencible, que la noche oscura tendrá fin y que la sombra de la muerte no se cierne inexorable como un destino fatal.

María nace toda santa, llena de gracia, abierta totalmente a la acción del Espíritu Santo, como nueva criatura de una humanidad que comienza a vislumbrar un destello de luz. Los dones y privilegios de la Virgen María siempre están referidos a Jesucristo.

El Concilio Vaticano II afirma: “no hay que admirarse de que entre los Santos Padres fuera común llamar a la Madre de Dios toda santa, libre de toda mancha de pecado, como si fuera una criatura nueva, creada y formada por el Espíritu Santo” (LG 56). Y presenta a María “enriquecida desde el primer instante de su concepción con una resplandeciente santidad del todo nueva” (LG 56). Una resplandeciente santidad del todo nueva. Una santidad luminosa, que despidе rayos de luz, una luz muy clara.

La creación comienza con la luz. “Dijo Dios: “Exista la luz”. Y la luz existió” (Gn 1,3). Dios separa la luz de la tiniebla. La luz es la realidad que guía toda la obra de la creación. El cielo, el mar, la tierra, las plantas, los astros, los peces, las aves, los animales, el hombre “nacieron a la luz”. La luz está estrechamente unida a la vida, y el hombre viene a la luz, busca la luz, camina en la luz, huye de las tinieblas, es hijo de la luz o del día, realiza las obras de la luz.

Hay una fuerte oposición entre las tinieblas, símbolo del pecado y de la muerte, y la luz, expresión de la salvación y la vida. Las tinieblas se identifican con la noche, el tiempo del delito, la angustia y el miedo.

En la Biblia se desarrolla un vocabulario construido con el símbolo de la luz. Dios es “columna de fuego”, “se revela y habla desde el rayo y el fuego”, es “el que quita la luz a los enemigos de Israel”, “hace resplandecer su rostro y concede la gracia y la paz”. Los profetas recuerdan que el pueblo elegido debe “caminar en la luz” y “difundir la luz”.

En los libros sapienciales la luz es símbolo del bien, de la vida, de la felicidad. Las tinieblas son el símbolo del peligro, de la enfermedad, del dolor y de la muerte. En Jesucristo converge toda la densidad bíblica, simbólica y existencial, que encierra y evoca el término “luz”. En su venida “nos visitará el sol que nace de lo alto, para iluminar a los que viven en tinieblas y en sombra de muerte” (Lc 1,78-79). Su destino consiste en ser “luz para alumbrar a las naciones” (Lc 2,32). Jesucristo es la “luz verdadera” (Jn 1,9). Él puede decir: “Yo soy la luz del mundo” (Jn 8,12). Los cristianos estamos invitados a “caminar en la luz” y a recordar lo que afirma San Pablo: “todos sois hijos de la luz e hijos del día” (1 Tes 5,5). Con la Concepción Inmaculada de la Virgen María amanece en la historia de la humanidad.



Was Jesus talking to the disciples only?

Use the graph to find Jesus' words.

1	A	H	O	T	W
2	C	I	R	U	X
3	E	N	S	V	Y
4	5	6	7	8	



“  
 1,8   1,5   1,4   1,7   2,5  
 3,6   1,4   3,8   1,7   1,6  
 3,8   1,6   2,7  
 2,5   3,6   1,4   3,8   1,7   1,6  
 3,4   3,7   3,4   2,6   3,8   1,6   3,5   3,4  
 1,8   1,4   1,7   2,4   1,5  
 ”

Jesus tells us that something will last forever. What is it?

Use the code to fill in the letters.

- ☀ = A
- ☆ = E
- ★ = M
- = R
- ◐ = V
- ☼ = B
- ★ = H
- ☆ = N
- ◑ = S
- ◑ = W
- ☁ = D
- ☆ = I
- ★ = O
- ◐ = T
- ☹ = Y
- ☆ = L
- ★ = P
- = U

Jesus said,

“  
 ★ ☆ ☀ ◐ ☆ ★ ☀ ☆ ☁  
 ☆ ☀ ● ◐ ★ ◑ ☆ ☆ ☆  
 ☆ ☀ ● ◐ ☀ ◑ ☀ ☹  
 ☆ ○ ◐ ★ ☹ ◑ ★ ● ☁ ●  
 ● ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ◐ ☆ ●  
 ☆ ☀ ● ◐ ☀ ◑ ☀ ☹  
 ”

# Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+ December 3, 2023 • Mark 13:24-37

## Signs of Things to Come

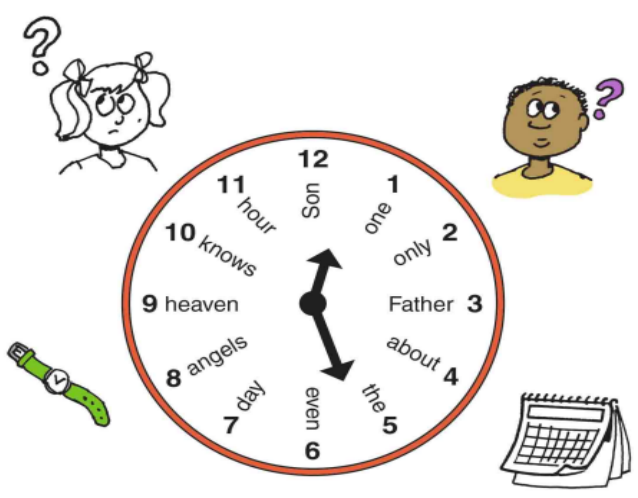
Jesus told His disciples that the Son of Man (a name that Jesus called Himself) would come in the clouds.

Find these letters in the picture. S - O - N O - F M - A - N



Who knows when Jesus will return?

Use the numbers on the clock to write in the missing words.



Jesus said, “No \_\_\_\_\_ that  
 1:00 10:00 4:00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_  
 7:00 11:00 6:00 5:00 8:00  
 in \_\_\_\_\_, nor \_\_\_\_\_,  
 9:00 5:00 12:00  
 but \_\_\_\_\_.”  
 2:00 5:00 3:00

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