

Peace



6400 Nativity Lane,
Burke, Virginia 22015
nativityburke.org

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

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS

EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro, A.R., M.R.E.
Maria 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.

WEBMASTER:

Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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

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



*“Comfort, O Comfort my people, says your God”
(Is. 40:1)*

My dear parishioners,

We enter the second week of Advent and prepare for the coming of Christ into our world ever anew. We light two candles on the wreath and at this time of the year we notice something happening within us. Deep, half-forgotten stirrings come to life inside us, the desire to reconcile, to get closer to Christ and His church, to get in touch with friends and family, to be at peace inside and out. Advent is the time to allow the comfort of God to renew our hope. Jesus will return and will come to us and our deepest needs will be met. This is the comfort and promise God gives us. Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas and the coming of Christ into our life with new power. May we create time for those deep stirrings of Christ’s grace to grow within us.

Today we support Catholic Charities, and next week, our parish poor box. Nowhere do we see more clearly Our Lord’s special compassion for the poor than at Christmas. Together, we meditate on His entrance into the world as a helpless, poor and homeless baby born to a young mother and father. Our Savior became one of us in poverty and rags and he has a special place in His Sacred Heart for the poor and vulnerable. Thank you!

This Thursday is our Advent Penance Service - 21 priests will be available for individual confessions.

“Every year Advent reminds us that grace – and that is God’s will to save us, is more powerful than sin.” - St. John Paul II.

Happy Advent!

Love and Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

**THE WOMEN OF NATIVITY
ADVENT TREE PROJECT - THANK YOU!**

To All Nativity Parishioners:
The 2023 Advent Tree was a huge success because of the generosity of our Nativity Parish Family. WON enthusiastically supports and administers the project, but it is you, our parishioners who make it possible. This year we were once again overwhelmed by the outpouring of love shown by so many of you. On behalf of the families who received your gifts and gift cards through the Advent Giving Tree Project: **THANK YOU!!!**

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 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.

Prepare your heart for Christmas!

Nativity will offer an Advent Penance Service on Thursday, December 14 from 6:30–8:00pm, 21 priests will be available to hear confessions



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*

**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.

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

**THANK YOU
FROM THE CREATION CARE MINISTRY**

Congratulations to all who participated by volunteering or shopping at our annual Fair Trade sale this year! Sales were at \$20,393 prior to any online sales--last year we were at just under \$18,000 and in 2019 and 2021 we were also above \$20K. 2019 Was a virtual sale with outdoor display during Covid. Bottom line, the sale was highly successful--for Fair Trade Winds and the artisans they represent, for our ministry for the 10% we earn, and for the shoppers who went home with meaningful gifts.

Thank you to Father Bob for his ongoing support of Creation Care and the entire Fair Trade effort and Father Bresnahan for his most enthusiastic reading of the announcements!

Thanks to our tireless volunteers at the sale or narthex table--Mike Hathaway, Kathy Walters, Mary Sullivan-Haller, Maria Rodriguez, Linda Nordstrom, Anne Zimmerman, Patty Barbu and Sue Bomar.

Thanks to Maria Ammirati for helping to recruit the teen volunteers and to Stacey Heath for coaching the students on making the signs. Kudos to Mary Castellano for her fun Facebook post, Emilia Hartline for a great webpage presence, Caroline Chase for always making our bulletin blurbs prominent and attractive and Adrienne Swidal for coordinating the calendar!

Thank you to caterers Sylvia and Nancy for the generous loan of the tablecloths and to Helen and the Virginia Green Baggers who provided 100 free reusable bags which our shopping parishioners LOVE!

And last but not least, special thanks to Paul Culler, Ben and Sarah, and everyone at Fair Trade Winds for their tireless work on behalf of the Fair Trade artisans and for helping us to arrange a successful sale. Special thanks to Emily at FTW who makes our fliers each year.



**A Prayer for Advent from
The Nativity Creation Care Ministry**

Dear God, our Creator, You revealed your love to us and Creation once for all through the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. By the grace of Your Creator Spirit, teach us to celebrate our faith in the Incarnation that took place in Creation.

Dear Jesus, Savior of Creation, we ask that You may be born in us, once again, as we seek to cultivate hope for our common home. As Your followers, teach us to care for the dignity of all human beings and all Creation, now and in the future. We pray for today's victims of global warming, both human and nonhuman. We pray for more ambition in the energy transition, in this country and globally. We pray for our governments, and especially for those at COP28, to negotiate a global and fair phase-out of fossil fuels. And, finally, we pray for the courage to be prophets of our time, calling upon our leaders to bear fruits of ecological justice after COP28. Come Emmanuel! Make us ever more hopeful people for a hopeful planet. Let us be part of Your light of hope to the world. Amen. *(credit Laudato Si Action Platform)*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Fr. Edward Bresnahan

December 13th



FREE family event
Dec. 21-22
5-8 pm

Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 8213 Linton Hall Road, Gainesville, on Thursday & Friday, December 21-22 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Bethlehem Walk
a living nativity • holytrinityupdates.com




girl scouts **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**

Dec 9 & 10

Thank you for your support!



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/parentsmaass)



Consecration to the Holy Family Event (30/31 December)

December 31st is the Feast of the Holy Family, and our 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 KofC program here: 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 KC 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.

SAVE THE DATE - Stella Marina Kit Build

Looking for something to do this Christmas with your kids or visitors? Come join Stella Marina on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 10:00am in the Nativity cafeteria to make 1,000 birthing kits! Celebrate the Epiphany by giving the gift of a safe birth to a mom and baby - in honor of Jesus and Mary! To sign up, use the link: <https://signup.com/go/CexWnOf>.
Questions: email Meg at meg@stellamarina.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.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.

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.

DONUT SUNDAY
NEXT WEEKEND



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, December 11th

7:30 am † Paul Cilinski

Tuesday, December 12th

7:30 am Special Int. for the Tapia Family

12:00 pm Special Int. for Fr. Bresnahan

Wednesday, December 13th

7:30 am † Anthony Miles

Thursday, December 14th

7:30 am † Frank Klimkos

12:00 pm Special Int. for Blesilda Licud

Friday, December 15th

7:30 am † Stephen A. Banks

9:00 am † Grace Caroline Taylor (School Mass)

Saturday, December 16th

9:00 am † Majorie Powers

5:00 pm † Ramon & Aurora Tineo

7:00 pm † Lucila Cossio

Sunday December 17th

7:00 am Parishioners

9:00 am † Sam Gensel

11:00 am † Michael Boehm

1:00 pm † Johana Purchiaroni

5:30 pm † Elizabeth Joan "Lisa" Gray

**In prayer, let us remember
the sick and deceased of the parish
visit 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 to schedule intentions.

<https://nativityburke.org/mass-intentions/>

The next rosary ministry meeting will take place on Tuesday, 16 January from 1:00pm-3:00pm in the Father Ready room. Join us for our Bead Party! Please bring your extra beads and we will make colorful rosaries with the "extra" beads. Continue to pray the Rosary every day, Happy Advent!

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

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.

You can donate by check or cash, by using the special contribution envelope. You may also make an online gift at ccda.net/Christmas.



Nativity Catholic Church Christmas Choir Schedule

Sunday, December 24 | Christmas Eve

4:00 pm* - Children's Choir

6:00 pm - Festival Choir

8:30 pm - Youth Choir

Midnight - Traditional Choir

with carols starting at 11:00 pm

Monday, December 25 | Christmas Day

7:00 am - Ensemble

9:00 am - Ensemble

11:00 am* - Cornerstone Choir

1:00 pm (Spanish)* - Spanish Choir

**Live Streamed on YouTube*



WORKCAMP 2024
Registration Open!

JUNE 22-28
FREDERICK COUNTY, VA

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, and fellowship.

Applications for teens and adult volunteers are open now through January 15.

Contact:
 wc@nativityburke.org




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



JOIN US AT...
BASKETBALL
 FOR ALL YOUNG ADULTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 19-35

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT
NATIVITY GYM (FR. MARTIN CENTER)
8:30PM - 10:15PM

For more details go to:
<https://nativityburke.org/ya-basketball/>



YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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

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

WORKCAMP APPLICATION OPEN
 All teens currently in grades 9-12 are invited to join us at WorkCamp, a transformational week of service and Christian community! We are in need of adult volunteers to serve in a variety of roles. Check out our website for more details and registration.

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

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





Simbang Gabi
 Please join us in celebrating Simbang Gabi at Nativity on Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00pm, the Rev Jamie Workman will be presiding. For more information and the full schedule visit: www.arlingtondiocese.org/simbanggabi/

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.

Simbang Gabi 2023

BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS

NEW



December 15th

7:00 PM All Saints, Manassas
7:00 PM Blessed Sacrament, Alexandria
7:00 PM St. Theresa, Ashburn
7:00 PM Queen of Apostles, Alexandria

December 16th

7:00 PM St. Mary of Sorrows, Fairfax

December 17th

5:00 PM Holy Family, Dale City
5:30 PM St. Anthony of Padua, Falls Church
6:00 PM St. Louis, Alexandria

December 18th

7:00 PM Our Lady of Good Counsel, Vienna
7:00 PM St. Joseph, Herndon

December 19th

6:00 PM Christ the Redeemer, Sterling
7:00 PM Holy Spirit, Annandale

December 21st

7:00 PM Corpus Christi, Aldie
7:00 PM St. John the Apostle, Leesburg
7:00 PM St. Timothy, Chantilly

December 22nd

6:00 PM St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Lake Ridge

December 23rd

6:00 AM Good Shepherd, Alexandria
7:00 PM St. Bernadette, Springfield

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

at 7:00 PM

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
12975 Purcell Rd, Manassas, VA 20112

MOST REV. MICHAEL F. BURBIDGE
Bishop of Arlington
Main Celebrant & Homilist

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

at 7:00 PM

Nativity Catholic Church
6400 Nativity Lane Burke, VA 22015

Rev. Jamie Workman
Vicar General
Main Celebrant & Homilist

DAILY: DECEMBER 16TH – 24TH

5:00 AM St. Ann, Arlington

5:00 AM St. Leo the Great, Fairfax



Sponsored by:

The Office of Multicultural Ministries & The Filipino Catholic Community of the Diocese of Arlington

Visit www.arlingtondiocese.org/SimbangGabi for more information

Contact: mcm@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-3881





**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 prayer 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 Atilia Todaro



To learn more and to donate please visit their site: handmaidsofreparation.org



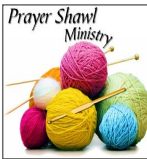
NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY

AN ORIGINAL NATIVITY MINISTRY DOING GOD'S WORK
 BY SERVING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF HIS FLOCK.
 WE WORK DISTRIBUTING FOOD, CLOTHING, AND PERSONAL ITEMS
 TO THE POOR AND HOMELESS IN D.C. AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA
 EVERY SUNDAY MORNING, RAIN OR SHINE.
 FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT THE NATIVITY PARISH WEBSITE
 OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN DAILY/SUNDAY
 RUNS, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN RUBINO AT:
JOHN.ALBERT.RUBINO@GMAIL.COM.

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. Contact John French at john.french@arlingtondiocese.org or (703) 841-3819 with any questions. Thank you!



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!

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, or call him at (703) 455-2300 ext.146. Thank you!



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

Please include a picture of your loved one.

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.



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



***Nativity's Christmas Windows:
 7th Graders Share Artistic Flare***

One of our favorite Christmas traditions each year is the painting of the windows throughout the school by Mrs. Heath and our Seventh Graders, assisted by parent volunteers: Mrs. Oddo, Mrs. Foley, and Mrs. Scaman. Mrs. Heath, Nativity's Art Teacher, first outlines the designs – the trees, bells, stars, wreaths, baby Jesus, etc. – and then the students use tempera paint on the window to add color to the art. Take a peek ~



~ Important Upcoming Dates ~

- Tuesday, December 12 - Ledo's Fundraiser 5 - 9 p.m.
- 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

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

Yes, Catholic education is worth the investment!

Nativity Catholic School is committed to making Catholic education accessible to those who desire it, and offers financial assistance to make their dream come true.

Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, for more information, at (703) 455-2300 and/or smurph@nativityschool.org.



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: Volunteer for an event!

Scroll down to view all events.

https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992.

Nativity Ushers assist at collections Volunteer for your Mass!
 Volunteer on Link Tree!

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

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

30 & 31 Dec. 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.

7 Jan. Young Family Epiphany Movie. See Link Tree.

14 Jan. Knights support Donut Sunday. See Link Tree.

19 Jan. National March For Life. Mark the date.

20 Jan. Free Throw Contest - we need your support Volunteer on Link Tree.

27 Jan. Adopt-a-Highway clean up 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 sawyer koc7992@verizon.net. For Fridays, please contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com.

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

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. Info on link-tree.

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.

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

3rd Degree Knights - Grow with 4th Degree participate in patriotic activities that promote Catholic citizenship. 4th Degree Assembly meets the second Tuesday of the month in the Nativity school cafeteria: 7:30 pm rosary, 7:45 pm business meeting followed by fellowship. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Vince Augelli at fn2996@vakofc.org.

Join the Knights! The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy changing world. Join today! <https://www.kofc.org/joinus> and experience the Knights free for one year: Enter the Agent Code "CPEREZ", click "Add" and complete the form. Be sure to enter our council #7992 for local information when you register. Please email our Deputy Grand Knight at cokofc7992@gmail.com for more info

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SESSIONS

Please join us to learn more about how to help newly-arrived families thrive in Northern Virginia. We are offering volunteer information sessions about our opportunities and onboarding process.

Volunteer Information Sessions:

- *Held the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm*
 - *Virtual format*
 - *Sessions will last about an hour*
 - *Registration is required*
 - *Please use the link or QR code to register for the information session that best matches your schedule.*
 - *Registration link:*
 - bit.ly/4opcwH



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Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
 Ps 85:8-14
 2 Peter 3:8-14
 Mark 1:1-8

Monday, December 11

Isaiah 35:1-10
 Ps 85:9ab,10-14
 Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 12
Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 214-17 or
 Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab
 Judith 13:18b-19
 Luke 1:26-38 or 1:39-47

Wednesday, December 13
St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

Isaiah 40:25-31
 Ps 103:1-4,8,10
 Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, December 14
St. John of the Cross

Isaiah 41:13-20
 Ps 145:1,9-13b
 Matthew 11:11-15

Friday, December 15

Isaiah 48:17-19
 Ps 1:1-4,6
 Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday, December 16

Sirach 48:1-4,9-11
 Ps 80:2ac,3b,15-16,18-19
 Matthew 17:9a,10-13

Reconciliation and create a wider road into your heart that's easy for Jesus to travel, a through-way upon which he can arrive in great speed and glory.

All humankind is as frail as grass, and all our glory is like the flower of the field that withers and wilts. Only the glory of

Prepare for the Lord! – for whatever he wants to give us, do for us, and ask of us. He has a plan for our lives, a divine purpose that will bring us to our full potential.

We can only do this by uniting ourselves to Christ, joining him on the straight path, the holy path. How do we know when we are on the right path? By the fruits of the journey.

Isaiah says: A voice cries out in the desert! What is barren in your life, and dry, hot, or empty? Sins dry up our potential for fruitfulness.

Advent is a good preparation for Christmas – and meeting the Lord anew – if we use it to face our sins, reconcile with God, and follow Jesus back onto the holy path. If we neglect this opportunity, our lives will be barren of the strong faith we need during difficulties.

Prepare the way of the Lord! He has more love to give you, more healing, more joy! Make straight in the wasteland of your sins a highway for our God. Go to the Sacrament of



God stands forever.

What are your troubles and struggles? Here is where Jesus wants to minister to you, and here is where you are most vulnerable to sin.

What in your life is going well? What activities are you doing that seem

productive? Are any of them grassy glories that can wither away? A hundred years from now, will what you're doing today still have an impact – a beneficial impact?

God has given you talents and a calling, a special purpose that requires those talents. Yes, you! We are all called to have fruitful lives that make an eternal difference. Jesus wants to come straight to us to produce the fruits of his kingdom in our lives and in others.

Prepare for the Lord to make an eternal difference through you!

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What are you going to do to straighten a crooked path?
- † What are you spending time on that will wither up and wilt away?
- † How does thinking about eternity straighten the path that you're walking on today? What changes because of this perspective?

Homilia Segundo Domingo de Adviento (Ciclo B)

La semana pasada comenzábamos el tiempo de Adviento, las cuatro semanas previas a la fiesta de Navidad, en la que nos preparamos para celebrar y actualizar el nacimiento del Hijo de Dios hecho hombre, porque eso y no otra cosa es la Navidad. Y nos hacíamos el propósito de aprovechar los medios que tenemos y se nos ofrecen durante este tiempo para que la Navidad no nos encuentre adormecidos, despistados con otros temas, y podamos salir al encuentro de Cristo

En este II domingo de Adviento, el evangelista Marcos nos habla del *comienzo de la Buena Noticia de Jesucristo, el Hijo de Dios*. Y al comienzo, lo que resuena no es la voz de Jesús, sino la voz de los profetas, cuya misión es roturar -arar como hacían nuestros antepasados con la tierra para preparar la cosecha-, la aridez de los corazones.

Jesús no llega al corazón de las personas de sopetón. Necesita precursores, alguien que le prepare el camino. Juan Bautista recoge las palabras de Isaías y predica y prepara...

"Una voz grita en el desierto". ¿Acaso nuestros oídos están taponados? ¿No oímos? O lo que es peor, ¿no hay respuesta?.

Pedía el Señor que se hablase al corazón de Jerusalén, al corazón del pueblo. Ese Jerusalén somos hoy nosotros, la Iglesia. ¿Quién es quien habla con profundidad al corazón? Jesús. Sus palabras fueron siempre de vida y de gracia y llegaban al corazón de la gente, especialmente a los que más sufrían.

Hablar al corazón, es decir palabras sinceras y sentidas, palabras vivas: la palabra que el hermano necesita y espera.

Es hablar desde la comprensión y la empatía (de percibir lo que el otro puede sentir). Es proyectar un haz de luz en la noche del que sufre. Es encender la esperanza. Es hablar desinteresadamente. Es hablar desde, y para el amor.

Hoy NO HABLAMOS AL CORAZÓN. Hablamos más al cerebro, para convencerle de nuestras ideas o ideologías. Hablamos a las pasiones, para despertarlas o comerciarlas. Hablamos a los sentidos, para provocar en ellos necesidades y apetencias. Hablamos al bolsillo, para sacar el dinero, para obtener un beneficio. Pero... al corazón no llegan nuestras palabras.

Pensemos ahora en los medios de comunicación, pensemos en los discursos de los políticos, en los mensajes de todos esos famosos y famosillos que deambulan por la vida social, en las enseñanzas de los educadores, en nuestros diálogos en familia o nuestras conversaciones cotidianas...

Hemos de confesar que la mayoría de las veces nuestros diálogos pecan de superficiales.

Hablemos, pues, al corazón: que los padres hablen al corazón de sus hijos; que los educadores hablen al corazón de sus alumnos; que los gobernantes hablen al corazón de su pueblo; que los artistas hablen al corazón del mundo.

"Preparad el camino al Señor..." cantamos y escuchamos repetidamente en este tiempo de Adviento. ¿Qué pasos ha de dar el hombre? ¿Qué caminos tiene que preparar? ¿Cómo ha de preparar su corazón?

Todos podemos dar pequeños pasos, que uno tras otro, son un gran trecho que podemos recorrer con la ayuda de Dios.

El primer paso es creer, es decir, que te fiarnos de Dios. ¡Qué difícil hoy fiarnos de nadie! "No te fies ni de tu padre" se nos dice. Pues bien, hermanos, Dios nos pide en este Adviento y siempre que creamos sólo en Él, y no vale creer en otros diosillos. Pero no nos pide creer sin más, nos pide creer porque Él (Dios) nos ama.

Un segundo paso para preparar ese camino sería dejarnos limpiar. La casa está muy sucia (la casa somos nosotros): hay mucha telaraña, malos olores, rincones donde no ha entrado la luz. Y al Señor le gustan las cosas sencillas pero limpias. Antes las mujeres bajaban al "llavaner" (lavadero) a lavar y allí intercambiar también experiencias; pues bien, bajemos nosotros también al lavadero, al Sacramento de la Reconciliación, y también comunitariamente, experimentamos el perdón con Dios y el encuentro con los hermanos que, más o menos, también andan como nosotros.

Es importante que nos liberemos. Hay muchos apegos y leyes de consumo que nos atan. La casa está llena de cosas, de esas figuritas inservibles y de dudoso gusto que vamos recopilando en nuestros y en los viajes por la vida de los demás, diosillos que vas acumulando en nuestra vida. Y hay tanto trasto que no hay sitio para Dios.

Compartamos. No tendríamos tantas cosas si supiéramos compartir. Recordemos las palabras del Precursor: "El que tenga dos túnicas, que comparta con el que no tiene; el que tenga para comer que haga lo mismo".

Liberémonos de nosotros mismos. No es que no nos queramos, es que nos queremos mal. Estamos demasiado preocupados por nosotros mismos, y si Dios nos visita al estar tan pendientes de nosotros lo más probable es que no le hagamos caso. A Dios nunca se llega si no es por el camino de la humildad.

Otro paso a dar es hacer crecer el deseo de Dios, que eso es Adviento. Desear a Dios por encima de todo, desearlo como el alimento o "la droga" de nuestras vidas, desearlo más que los placeres y las evasiones.

Y por último: Amemos. Amemos a Dios que tanto nos ama, amémosle más que a todo, amémosle siempre.

Pero hemos de amar no sólo al Dios que está en los cielos, sino al que anda por ahí y se le puede encontrar por cualquier calle o casa, al Dios permanentemente encarnado, al Dios más visible, al Dios más necesitado.

Preparar la Navidad no es llenar de espumillón y de flores de pascua nuestras casas, es "dar el cayo" por los demás. En la Iglesia lo hacemos de una forma organizada por medio de Cáritas y se condenan aquellos que menosprecian y no colaboran con esta gran labor; porque ser cristiano, amar a Dios a quien no vemos, es amar a los hermanos a quienes sí vemos y en quienes se refleja el rostro del auténtico Cristo sufriente.

Esta preparación de los caminos del Señor —de los que nos hablaba el Evangelio— es lo que llamamos conversión. Y todo conversión es un proceso que debemos recorrer en pequeños pasos.

Hoy la Palabra de Dios nos invita a convertirse o cambiar totalmente nuestra vida, a empezar a vivir de nuevo, a ser el hombre o la mujer nuevos: el de la fe, la esperanza y el amor en todas sus dimensiones.

El Dios que se nos hace presente, el Dios de las promesas y de la gracia, está y viene a nuestra vida. Pidamos hoy, con fe, que venga a nosotros su reino; que pase este mundo; que todo se renueve; que venga Jesucristo, nuestro Señor.

Que así sea.



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HORARIO DE LAS MISAS

LUNES, 25 DE DICIEMBRE:

SOLEMNIDAD DE LA NATIVIDAD DEL SEÑOR

1:00PM

SABADO, EL 30 DE DICIEMBRE:

FIESTA DE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

7:00PM

MISA DE AÑO NUEVO

LUNES, 1 DE ENERO 2024

SOLEMNIDAD DE SANTA MARÍA, MADRE DE DIOS 1:00PM

SABADO, 6 DE ENERO 2024

SOLEMNIDAD DE LA EPIFANÍA DEL SEÑOR

7:00PM

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