

Joy Advent



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

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

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary
Ann Benson, Business Manager
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager
Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister
Maureen Andersen, Liturgical Minister
Johana Brown, Parish Receptionist
Diane Dellen, Receptionist/Baptism Coordinator
Caroline Chase, Receptionist/Bulletin Editor
Ana Gonzalez, Offertory/Mass Intentions
Charlie Gutierrez, Evening Receptionist
Patricia Pagoza, Coordinator Family Ministry/Social Action
Rebecca Judge, Director of Youth Ministry
Mary Castellano, Director of Social Media
Anna Lisa Licud, Coordinator Marriage Enrichment
Carole Fischl, Co-director of Music
Debbie Doyle, Co-director of Music
Mai Tran, Traditional Choir Director
Sara Prince, Youth Choir Director
Mina Lee, Cornerstone Contemporary Choir Director
Natacha Hines, Gift Shop

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

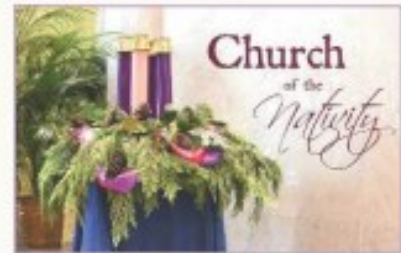
Maria Kelly, Principal
Richard Godwin, Assistant Principal
Jen Behan, Preschool Director/Extended Care Director
Shannon Murphy, Administrative Assistant/Registrar
Kim Vu, Business Manager
Mary Helen Chapman, School Secretary

MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

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



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

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

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

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

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

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

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

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

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

WEBMASTER:

Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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

A Message from our Pastor Msgr. Bob Cilinski



*"The desert and the parched land will rejoice and bloom."
- Isaiah 35:1*

My dear parishioners:

Today is "Rejoicing Sunday" Gaudete Sunday! Advent celebrates the coming of salvation into our lives. The attitude of the believer is that "we wait in joyful hope." What we look for and anticipate is no less than God who will bring about "vindication and divine recompense."

The coming of vindication and recompense is good news for the poor, the lowly, the weak, the oppressed, the hungry, the sorrowing, the suffering, and the dead. In Matthew's gospel, these are among those who were blessed.

Today our parish participates in the Catholic Charities Christmas Collection. It is the Advent invitation to share with those in need. We have positioned ourselves favorably for the coming of God's kingdom where "justice shall flourish in its time and fullness of peace forever."

This Thursday, December 18 is our Advent Penance service. 25 Priests will be available for individual confessions. It's the best way to prepare for Christmas when Jesus takes away our sin and enters in to heal and love us.

Happy third week of Advent. Rejoicing in the Lord will be our strengths. It's a beautiful time in the church, but also stressful. Take some time this week for prayer, exercise, and other personal needs. You will feel a lot better.

Love and blessings,

Bob Cilinski
Msgr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

Advent Wreath Prayers



If you have set 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 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.

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christmas Mass Schedule 2025

Christmas Eve | Wednesday, December 24

*4:00 pm | Children's Choir
6:00 pm | Saturday Praise Choir
8:30 pm | Youth Choir
Midnight | Traditional Choir

Christmas Day | Thursday, December 25

7:00 am | "Wake the Dawn"
9:00 am | "Wake the Dawn"
*11:00 am | Cornerstone Choir
*1:00 pm | Spanish Mass | Hispanic Choir

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 31 | 5:00 pm Vigil - Adoration from
8:00 pm - Midnight
Thursday, January 1, 2026 | 7:00 am, 9:00 am, *11:00 am,
1:00 pm (Spanish)

*Live-streamed

ADVENT



The Candle of Joy

WEEK THREE

NATIVITY OFFICE CLOSURE

The Nativity Parish Office will close at
12:00 noon on Friday, December 19th



Consecration to the Holy Family Event 27 and 28 December 2025

December 28th is the Feast of the Holy Family, and our Council will assist our Pastor, Msgr. Bob, in conducting a Consecration to the Holy Family for our parish Families at the end of all Masses on December 27th and 28th. It is our hope that this process may help strengthen our families and to devote ourselves to the ideal model of familial love set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

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.

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.

Go to the Nativity Website to learn more about this activity and how to prepare for it: <https://nativityburke.org/holy-family-consecration/>

You can also learn all about this K of C program here: www.kofc.org/consecration

On the weekend prior (20/21 December), the Nativity Knights of Columbus will include a bulletin entry that describes the activity and recommended preparation steps for families. Information is also on the Parish Website under Activities and Events.

On Saturday December 27th and Sunday December 28th, the Knights will distribute Consecration Prayer Cards to parishioners as they arrive at Mass, and the celebrant will lead the congregation in the Consecration Prayer at the end of Mass.

Nativity Catholic Church



EMAIL & TEXT SCAM ALERT

Nativity parishioners, please be aware of email scammers posing as Nativity priests. If you receive an email from any Nativity clergy urgently asking you for favors, money, gift cards or if you have a "moment", this is a scam. Please ignore and block the sender.

If you have any questions, please contact the Nativity Parish office: (703) 455-2400

Nativity Advent Penance Service Thursday, December 18

25 Priests will be available
for individual confessions
from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

It is the best way to
prepare for Christmas
when Jesus takes away
our sin and enters in to
heal and love us.



NEED TO TALK?

Catholic Charities provides quality mental health services & counselors grounded in a Catholic understanding of the human person. "Nativity's Counselor" Ms. Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC visits Nativity to counsel clients in-person on Thursdays from 10:00am-6:00pm. She is available to talk with any parishioners who may be struggling. To set up an appointment, please contact Marguerite at 703-454-2415 or mmturner@ccda.net.



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

Virtual Walk-A-Thon

WALKING WITH THE HOLY FAMILY

A STATEWIDE EVENT FROM
ADVENT TO EPIPHANY TO BENEFIT CRS



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



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



Walk wherever you wish.



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



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

bit.ly/VACRS



National March For Life Friday, January 23, 2026

Sign up to join us on the Nativity-provided free bus, snag a warm yellow Nativity for Life beanie on the bus and connect with people of goodwill from across our country in peacefully and joyfully rallying around the basic truth that every human life – including the unborn and their mothers – is beautiful, has unique dignity, and worthy of protection in what has become the world's largest annual human rights demonstration.



We will depart after the Nativity's March for Life 10am Mass, board the bus, attend the noon Rally with a host of inspiring speakers, start marching at 1:00pm, stop at St. Peter's Church for hot chocolate/coffee/ restroom break & then return at 4:00pm.



If you can't make it in person, please pray!

WORKCAMP 2026 Registration Open

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

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

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

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



Keep Christ in Christmas Nativity Displays - \$60

If you are interested in purchasing one like this one with your own custom caption, please scan the QR Code below and use the form to complete your order or email: handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com, and we will email you a copy of the online form.

Limited Supply – We are only making 12 this year!



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**

LIGHTS! CAMERA! FAITH!

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

THE ARLINGTON DIOCESE

ONE ACT & SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Performances: January 25, St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
February 6 & 7, Nativity Catholic Church

Directed by

Barbara E. Schwartz

George Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarships

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

Key Points:

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

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

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

Virginia Pro-Life Day in Richmond - January 15, 2026

Carpool with us and to snag a warm yellow Nativity for Life beanie as we support life issues along with Bishop Burbidge and enjoy the camaraderie of other pro-life people from across the state during the 5th annual VA Pro-Life Day! Your personal presence is vital.

Talking points, legislative updates and tips for effective advocacy will be provided by the organizers to make meetings easy and successful.

You can just listen and learn, or volunteer to highlight the provided pro-life talking points of one of the bills.

We will gather in constituent groups at Greater Richmond Convention Center at 8:30am to listen to inspiring speeches and review provided talking points package, then meet with our respective state senator/delegate, and then optionally visit galleries or attend Mass before lunch and heading back to Nativity. Tentative Schedule for Pro-Life Advocacy Day to follow. Contact rickloffredo@outlook.com if interested in carpooling. For more official event details and to register, <https://vaprolifeday.org/>.



Service of Remembrance 2025

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

Sunday, December 14

6:00pm

Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home

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



Join us for a reception afterwards

**Join us at the Falls Church Abortion Facility
on Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 pm
for a Pro-Life Rosary and Carols**

During this time of Christ's coming, let us ponder the first three Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary:

The Annunciation

Mary is troubled by the angel's greeting, yet rejoices to do God's will. Let us pray that those who are troubled by their pregnancy may have the grace to trust in God's will.

The Visitation

John the Baptist leapt for joy in his mother's womb. We pray that people may realize that abortion is not about children who "might" come into the world, but is about children who are already in the world, living and growing in the womb, and are scheduled to be killed.

The Nativity

God Himself was born as a child. The greatness of a person does not depend on size, for the newborn King is very small. Let us pray for an end to prejudice against the tiny babies threatened by abortion.

We pray that you will join us in witnessing to the right-to-life for all!

"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:2-3)

John's question invites us to seek Christ's presence in our lives. If you feel a spark of joy in serving others, God might be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life, sharing His healing love as a shepherd. Listen closely to His voice. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (703) 841-2514 or via email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.



MASS INTENTIONS & MASS SCHEDULE

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

Monday, December 15

7:30 am † Joseph Bowers Jr.
12:00 pm † Gene Rose

Tuesday, December 16

7:30 am Special Intention for Nina Roa Manuel
12:00 pm † Patricia Lyons

Wednesday, December 17

7:30 am † Ethel Gerencser
3:00 pm † Daniel F. Skelly Jr. (*Burke Healthcare*)

Thursday, December 18

7:30 am Special Intention for Mike & Mary Schmidtman
12:00 pm † Catherine McCann

Friday, December 19

7:30 am † John Albino Suarez

Saturday, December 20

9:00 am Special Intention for Gaetano Jack Annunziata
5:00 pm † Rita Miles
7:00 pm † Animas del Purgatorio

Sunday, December 21

7:00 am Yankosky and Costello Families
9:00 am Parishioners
11:00 am † Fatimo George Lester Lobo
1:00 pm † Peter Joyce
5:30 pm † Karol and Catherine Golinowski

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

Save the Date!

NATIVITY STARS GALA & AUCTION

A night at the races!

Saturday, May 16, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Nativity Catholic School

Fr. Martin Center





A message from our Sisters



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

As we move deeper into this beautiful Advent season, a time set apart for hope, reflection, and quiet preparation, we want to reach out with sincere gratitude. Your prayers, kindness, and continued support have always uplifted our mission and the communities we serve. We are writing with a gentle reminder about our Advent fundraiser. So far, we have received only a few donations. While each contribution is truly appreciated, the needs remain great, not only for the children and families in Congo and the Ivory Coast, but also for the dedicated religious sisters serving them daily. These sisters depend on your generosity to continue their mission of providing education, healthcare, spiritual support, and essential resources in places where help is scarce and hope is desperately needed. We humbly ask you to consider contributing this Advent season. Even the smallest offering becomes part of something much larger, bringing comfort, opportunity, and dignity to those who have so little, and sustaining the sisters who give their lives in service to them. We know these times are challenging for many, and there is no obligation or expectation. Your prayers, goodwill, and compassion already mean more than you know. But if your heart feels called, we invite you to join us in shining even a small light into places where it is needed most. Thank you for your generosity, your faith, and your loving spirit during this sacred season. May Advent fill your home with peace, hope, and abundant blessings.



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

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

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



Your support will provide vital assistance for:

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



Honduras Mission Trip 2026



Operation Starfish®

July 12-18, 2026

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



Thank You from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry!

Creation Care Ministry wishes to thank everyone who played a role in the Fair Trade Market over Thanksgiving weekend! Total sales were close to \$30,000, a new record, providing income and resources to the amazing Fair Trade artisans around the world. In addition, Creation Care receives 10% of the sales, funding our projects on campus throughout the year, without a drain on other church resources.

Thanks to our tireless volunteers at the market or narthex table--Mike Hathaway, Kathy Walters, Mary Sullivan-Haller, Maria Rodriguez, Linda Nordstrom, Shirley Perales, Anne Zimmerman, Patty Barbu, Sue Bomar, Alma Powers, Abigail, Isabella, Rachel and Brody, Tiffany and her family. (I hope I didn't miss anyone.) Some of you were on your feet for hours, unpacking, arranging, re-packing, wrapping, assisting shoppers, running up and down the stairs, and smiling! Many teen volunteers also assisted with directing and keeping our tables neat.

Thank you to Msgr Bob for his ongoing support of Creation Care and the entire Fair Trade effort and to our priests for their tireless reading of the announcements! Kudos to Mary Castellano for her photography and posts, Emilia Hartline for a great webpage presence, Caroline Chase for always making our bulletin blurbs prominent and attractive, Adrienne Swidal for never messing up the calendar dates and answering all our signage questions, and Maureen Andersen for assistance with narthex arrangements and announcements—not to mention our facilities staff, Carlos and his team. And thank you to caterer Sylvia 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, Sarah, Ben and Megan, 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION

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



EDGE: GRADES 6-8

Fridays twice a month

6:30-8:00 p.m.

See website for full schedule



EPIPHANY PARTY: JANUARY 4

Join us for our first Youth Ministry gathering of the new year as we celebrate our annual Epiphany Party! Bring a wrapped gift under \$15 if you want to participate in the White Elephant gift exchange. Edge 3:30-5:00 p.m. | Life Teen 6:30 p.m.

LIFE IS VERY GOOD - JANUARY 22

Join us for a night of praise the evening before the annual March for Life! The night will feature dynamic speakers & musicians, Adoration, relics, & more! The cost is \$10 and is open to teens in grades 6-12.

See website for full schedule

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

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

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

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

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



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

Pro-Life Corner

- "Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what it wants."
St. Mother Teresa

Gabriel Project - Pregnancy Outreach for Expectant Mothers:

Offers emotional, spiritual, material, and financial support through a pregnancy helpline and parish-based volunteer "Angel" support. helpforpregnantwomen.org. 866.444.3553. Project Rachel - Help after Abortion: A safe, confidential place to share your emotions and work toward healing. helpafterabortion.org, 703.841.2504.

Tepeyac Pro-Life OB/GYN - Faith-based Pro-life OB/GYN:

restoring the human person with modern medicine and healing of Christ. tepeyacobgyn.com/, 703.273.9440

Mary's Comfort of VA - Ensuring Expectant Mothers Shelter:

Support and New Beginnings: Provides training in parenting and life skills, career coaching and educational advancement. maryscomfortva.org, 703.455.4500

Catholic Charities Pregnancy and Adoption Services:

Provides transformative services to those impacted by unplanned pregnancy. <https://www.cdda.net/need-help/pregnancy-and-adoption-services/>, 703.841.3830

KOVAR Enduring Love Campaign - Homes for Intellectually Disabled:

Stand with parents who seek to find a home for their children that outlive their ability to provide direct care on their own. Contact Mark Sawyer, sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net.

Marian Homes:

Purchases and maintains affordable homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities. marianhomes.org/.

The Lamb Center: provides laundry, showers, hot meals, counseling, and financial assistance for poor and homeless. <https://nativityburke.org/service/the-lamb-center/>

End of Life Medical Directives:

The Advance Medical Directive is a legal instrument authorized by, and meeting the requirements of the laws of Virginia which can be completed for use by all Catholics-whether young or old, healthy or dying. Go to: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/family-life/respect-life/end-of-life-medical-directives/>.

NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY



No Hands But Yours is 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 DC and northern VA every Sunday morning, rain or shine.

We also have weekly trips into designated areas bringing Panera bread donations along with help from local food banks. Through the blessings of God, we have grown through our Nativity community and continue to do so. For more details visit the Nativity Parish website at <https://nativityburke.org/service/no-hands-but-yours/>. Families are also welcomed! If you have interest in learning more and would like to participate in daily/Sunday runs, please contact John Rubino at: john.albert.rubino@gmail.com.

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.



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



Nativity Students Serving the Community at Thanksgiving

As they do every year, our students take part in a community-wide service effort to assemble complete Thanksgiving dinners for local families in need.

The church identifies the families and provides all the turkeys, and the school families supply the rest of the meal. Each class is assigned a specific dinner item or two -- from jugs of milk, to pumpkin pies, to mashed potatoes and gravy, to green beans and cranberry sauce.

Our Sixth and Eighth Grade students wrap and decorate the boxes in a Thanksgiving Fall theme; the Eighth Grade also collects the items daily from each classroom and then assembles the dinners. This year, 70 full Thanksgiving dinners were assembled and distributed. Well done, Stars.



Important Upcoming Dates ~

December 15 - 9:00 am Decorated Christmas Trees Return Deadline

December 16 - Ugly Sweater Day

December 17 - Christmas Pageant

December 18 - Pajama Day; Reindeer Games!

December 19 - Last Day of School; Class Parties Right After Mass; Wear **Red & Green Day!**

January 5 - Students Back to School!

At Nativity, faith fills us. Love lives here. Nativity Stars are filled with the Holy Spirit! Join us to see how your child would spend his or her days here -- learning, praying, sharing, and laughing.

We may be just the school for which you've been searching!

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:



The next Prayer Shawl meeting will be held on Monday morning, December 15th at 9:30 am in the Fr. Ready room. This ministry is open to all members of our community!



Fr. Sikora Council 7992 Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. First meeting is a business meeting, the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation. Rosary 7:15 PM; meeting at 7:30 PM. Fellowship follows. Meet in the Nativity school cafeteria.

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

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

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

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

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

Widow Support: Thursday Nights Ride to Nativity Support Group.

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

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

Food for Others: Volunteer for food distribution to the poor, delivered on designated Thursday or Friday evenings. For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyermark7992@verizon.net. For Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com. Deliver food from Giant to the FFO warehouse Tuesday mornings; contact Br. Bob Colella robert.colella.86@gmail.com.

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

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

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

Handy Knights Ministry: Parishioners unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small home repairs due to health or other factors, contact the "Handy Knights." Email handyknightsfnativity@gmail.com.

The Fraternal Committee: Brothers helping brothers in need of assistance. Brothers and their families (living and deceased) in need of a helping hand, contact Br. John Landy at navy8@yahoo.com.

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



Ancient Order of
HIBERNIANS
Irish • Catholic • American



The Msgr. Bradican Division members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) thank all Nativity parishioners for their great support of this year's "Trip To Ireland" raffle.

You bought more raffle tickets than ever before and your support goes a long way boosting AOH Catholic charitable programs. Congratulations to this year's winner of the trip, Beth Lyons, daughter of AOH member Dan Lyons. Congratulations again to Nativity parishioners, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gorham, for winning the "Irish Basket of Cheer."



Dear Friends,

We would like to invite you to help decorate our parish home, Nativity Church, for Christmas. If you would like to share in decorating our Christmas Sanctuary, please fill in the bottom of this flyer and drop it by the parish office after any Mass, **no later than Monday, December 15th**. Your gift will be acknowledged in the Holy Family Bulletin. **Please return the entire sheet – do not cut!**

Thank you,
Msgr. Bob Cilinski

.....
(Please fill in the information requested below and attach your gift to this sheet.)

Print clearly the information **EXACTLY** the way you would like it to appear in the Christmas Bulletin. If you prefer to be **ANONYMOUS**, please check here _____ and only the special intention or the deceased name(s) will appear in the bulletin, **NOT YOURS**.

Flowers Given by: _____
(Print your name(s) or your family name EXACTLY the way you would like it to appear.)

In Loving Memory of / With Special Intention for:
(Print the name(s) of the deceased/or write in your own special intention.)

.....
Nothing below this line appears in the bulletin. This information is for your gift **ONLY**.

NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR – Even if you have asked to remain anonymous in the bulletin.

PHONE NUMBER: _____ **AMOUNT OF GIFT \$** _____

Your parish envelope number (if possible) _____



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Sunday, December 14
3:30 pm

 Cathedral Concerts
Cathedral of Saint Thomas More

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COLECTA PARROQUIAL DE NAVIDAD
13-14 de diciembre de 2025

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¡Dona hoy!

Para hacer su donación, sírvanse escanear el código QR o donar en línea en ccda.net/Christmas




Portadores de ternura, amor, y compasión

UNA REFLEXIÓN DE ADVIENTO

El encuentro de Juan Diego con la morenita de Tepeyac no solo alteró el curso de su vida pero sino la historia de nuestro continente. Ven y reflexiona como este evento nos impulsa hoy en día a ser portadores de ternura, amor, y compasión en un mundo quebrantado.

Sábado
20 de diciembre, 2025

Hora
09.30 AM - 12.00 PM

Parroquia de la Natividad
Fr. Ready Room




Inscríbete utilizando el QR code.

Para más información comunícate con Javier: info@minkaconsulting.com



¡QUE NO CUNDA EL DESÁNIMO!

3° de Adviento (A) Javier Leoz



1. A muy pocos días de la Navidad, la liturgia de este día, nos empuja y nos invita a que nos abramos a la alegría más grande: Jesús. Hoy es un día de júbilo por muchas razones **Viene, Dios, a salvarnos. ¿Quién no se alegra cuando, en el incierto o negro horizonte, aparece una voz amiga o un rostro dispuesto a echar una mano?**

Viene, Dios, y nuestras tristezas y llantos, tendrán un final. ¿Cómo no vamos alegrarnos cuando, ante nosotros, se levanta todo un muro de incertidumbres, problemas, impaciencia o dificultades?

Viene el Señor, y como canta un Himno litúrgico “Mas entonces me miras...y se llena de estrellas, Señor, la oscura noche”.

Domingo del regocijo. En el mundo, desgraciadamente, no abundan las buenas noticias. Para una que viene envuelta en alegría, surgen otras tantas que nos sobresaltan y nos hacen morder el polvo de nuestra realidad: **queremos pero no podemos ser totalmente felices.** Lo intentamos, pero con todo lo que tenemos ¡y mira que tenemos! nos cuesta labrar y conquistar un campo donde pueda convivir el hombre; vivir el pobre o superarse a mejor el ser humano.

Por ello mismo, la cercanía de Jesús, nos infunde optimismo e ilusión. Todo queda empapado, si no permitimos que otros aspectos se impongan al sentido navideño, por el gusto del aniversario que se avecina: la aparición de Jesús en la tierra.

2. ¿Deseamos de verdad esa visita del Señor? ¿En qué estamos pensando? ¿En quién estamos soñando? Porque, para celebrar con verdad las próximas navidades, hay que tener —no hambre de turrón ni sed de licor— cuanto apetito de Dios. Ganas de que, su llegada, inunde la relación y la reunión de nuestra familia; motive e inspire los villancicos; que, su inmenso amor, mueva espontáneamente y en abundancia nuestra caridad o que, el silencio en el que se acerca hasta nosotros, haga más profunda y sincera nuestra oración.

Este Domingo de la alegría nos hace recuperar el brillo de la fe. Las ganas de tenerle entre nosotros. El deseo de que venga el Señor. La firme convicción de que, Jesús, puede colmar con su nacimiento la felicidad y las aspiraciones de todo hombre.

Porque el Señor se revela, y su llanto ya se escucha al fondo de las calles de Belén, ya no tenemos derecho al desaliento ni al pesimismo. ¡Nos queda mucho por hacer! Y, teniendo tanto por hacer, Dios se hace hombre para compartir con nosotros todo intento de que el mundo pueda recuperar la alegría de vivir; la justicia con los más necesitados o la fe para todo aquel que la ha perdido.

Amigos: ¡sigamos preparando los caminos al Señor! Y, si podemos, lo hagamos con alegría. Sin desencanto ni desesperación. El Señor, no quiere sonrisas postizas pero tampoco caras largas. El Señor, porque va a nacer, necesita de adoradores con espíritu y joviales. ¿Seremos capaces de ofrecerle a un Dios humillado y humanado, el regalo de nuestra alegría por tenerle entre nosotros? ¿No canta un viejo adagio aquello de “a un amigo agasájale sobre todo con la alegría de tu corazón”? ¿No es Jesús un amigo dispuesto a compartirlo todo con nosotros?

Un padre, contento y dichoso, convocó a sus hijos para comer alrededor de una mesa vacía. Los hijos, asombrados, le preguntaron: “padre; ¿por qué estás tan alegre si, en la mesa, no hay ningún alimento todavía y faltan más de 4 horas para comer? A lo que el padre les contestó: “quiero, que conmigo, disfrutéis anticipadamente el gran manjar que nos aguarda”. Padre e hijos, disfrutaron —mientras llegaba la comida— hablando, soñando y rumiando...con el gusto que tendría el gran banquete que les iba a ser servido. Que nosotros, ya desde ahora, celebremos, gocemos, saboreemos y nos alegremos del gran banquete del amor que, en tosca madera y por el Padre Dios, va a ser servido en un humilde portal. Desde ahora, amigos, disfrutemos y gocemos con nuestra salvación. Y, como Juan, ojala que a esa gran alegría, por ser los amigos de Jesús, respondamos —más que con palabras— con nuestras obras. Es decir, con nuestra vida.

United in Charity

PARISH CHRISTMAS
COLLECTION

December 13-14, 2025

Your support of Catholic Charities helps serve the poor, protect the vulnerable, and welcome the newcomer – *our neighbors right here in our diocese.*

*“I have a new set of skills
that I can take with me.”*

★ **Q** and her children had fallen on rough times. When they moved to the safety of Catholic Charities transitional housing for women, she was able to go back to school to study nursing.



*“Everyone deserves a fresh
start or a second chance.”*

★ **PETER** lost his mother, his stepfather, and his job. He began to drink to numb the pain. At Catholic Charities transitional housing for men, he received the spiritual, emotional, and educational support he needed to get sober and start looking for a job again.

*“I stand here for every Afghan girl
who was told to stay silent.”*

★ **SHAHIRA** feared for her life in Afghanistan and studied in secret. When she and her family fled to the United States, Catholic Charities helped them settle in Virginia. She is now studying business at a local university.



Give today!



To make your gift today, scan
the QR code or give online at
ccda.net/Christmas



PARISH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

December 13-14, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pope Leo XIV's motto *In Illo uno unum*, which means "In the One, we are one," reminds us of the profound unity we share as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. We are not isolated individuals but members of God's family, created in his image and bound to serve one another with love and care.

When we are *United in Charity*, we recognize the face of Christ in those who come to us in need. We respond with Christ's love, offering support to give them hope and the opportunity to transform their lives.

On the weekend of December 13 and 14, I ask you to unite in love for our vulnerable neighbors by making a gift to the Parish Christmas Collection. Your gift has the power to uplift a heart, provide hope, and restore faith.

As we prepare to celebrate Our Lord's birth in a humble stable, may we be newly aware of the unity of the human family and support those in need.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael F. Burbidge

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

Your gift helps individuals and families in need – right here in the Diocese of Arlington.

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free medical clinics

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pregnancy and adoption
services

353



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resettled or
served

2,039



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families provided with
mental health
counseling

837



People helped with
emergency assistance
(rent, utilities, car repair)

1,673



Education & workforce
development
(GED/English/citizenship classes,
vocational training)

2,291



Source: Catholic Charities fiscal year 2025

To make a gift, please go to ccda.net/Christmas or mail this envelope to Catholic Charities.

YES! I/We will share our blessings with those in greatest need.

☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____ Parish: _____

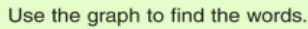
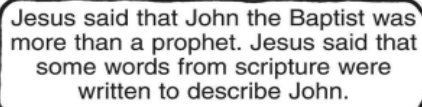


**MAKE
A GIFT**

Scan the QR code or visit
ccda.net/Christmas



Please make checks payable to Catholic Charities and note Christmas Collection in the memo.



1	A	E	H	M	P	U
2	B	F	I	N	R	W
3	D	G	L	O	S	Y
	4	5	6	7	8	9

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} & \overline{\quad} & & \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} & \overline{\quad} & \\ 2,6 & & 2,9 & 2,6 & 3,6 & 3,6 & & & \end{array}$$

3,8	1,5	2,7	3,4	1,7	3,9
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1,7 1,5 3,8 3,8 1,5 2,7 3,5 1,5 2,8

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3,9 3,7 1,9, 2,9 1,6 3,7 2,9 2,6 3,6 3,6

1,8 2,8 1,5 1,8 1,4 2,8 1,5 3,9 3,7 1,9 2,8

2,9 1,4 3,9 2,4 1,5 2,5 3,7 2,8 1,5

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \quad \text{---} \quad \text{---}^{\text{39}} \\ 3,9 \quad 3,7 \quad 1,9 \end{array}$$


December 14, 2025 • Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist and Jesus

John the Baptist was in prison.
He sent his friends to ask Jesus a question.

Begin with the 2nd letter. Cross it out and then cross out every other letter. Write the remaining letters on the lines.

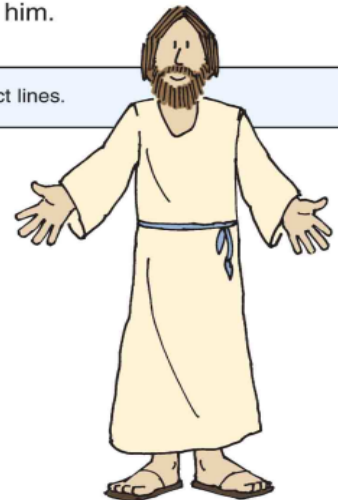
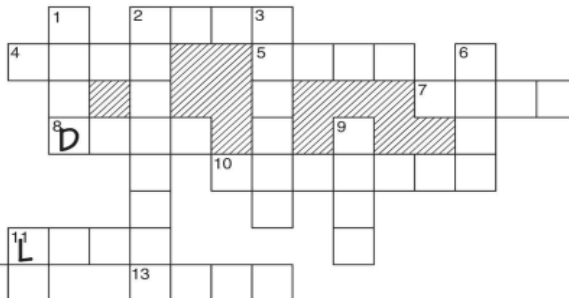


“ _____
 _____,
 _____?”

Here is the answer Jesus told John's friends to deliver to him.

First, fit the words into the puzzle. Second, transfer the words to the correct lines.

IS	NEWS
ME	POOR
THE	WALK
AWAY	BLIND
DEAD	CURED
DEAF	SIGHT
DOES	RAISED
FALL	BLESSED
GOOD	RECEIVE
HAVE	LEPROSY
HEAR	PREACHED
LAME	



"The (18A) _____ (10) _____, (15) _____,
the (11A) _____ (7) _____, those who (6) _____
(11D) _____ are (14) _____, the (8) _____
(4) _____, the (1) _____ are (3) _____, and the
(16) _____ (9) _____ is (2D) _____ to the
(2A) _____. (18D) _____ (19) _____
(17) _____ one who (13) _____ not (20) _____
(5) _____ on account of (12) _____."



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