

Joy



Go Home



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 Annirelli, 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



"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord" - John 1:6-8, 19-28

My dear parishioners,

Joy is the main message this week because it's Gaudete "Rejoicing" Sunday. John the Baptist points us to one greater than he... *"I am not the Christ... I am not worthy to carry his sandals."* Jesus is the true light of the world and His coming to us fills us with joy.

St. Paul instructs us to always be joyful and never stop praying. Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants us to do.

The Catholic Charities collection last Sunday, was used to provide services to the vulnerable and poor throughout the Diocese. We, as the people of Nativity share in the spirit of Christmas gift-giving by our participation in this collection. Thank you so much for your generosity. We will touch the lives of hundreds of families this Christmas.

May Christ, who was born into poverty and to Mary and Joseph who were homeless, give you peace and the fullness of joy in your love for one another.

Advent Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL CLOSE AT 12:00 NOON
ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH.
THERE WILL BE NO 1:00PM MASS
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH.**

Oh God ...

*Oh God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work, help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a warm home, help me to remember the homeless;
When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer;
And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency and
bestir my compassion.
Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed,
those who cry out for what we take for granted.*

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

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 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 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*



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.



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
SIGN UP



CALENDAR FOR
UPCOMING EVENTS

**Save the date for spending the day with us
on the annual National March for Life (MFL)
in Washington, DC!**

This year it is set for Friday, January 19, 2024 with the theme of *"With every woman, for every child."* Be on the lookout for the signup information to reserve a seat on the free bus trip sponsored by Nativity and its Pro-Life Ministry.

- Nativity's MFL Mass begins 10:00am, after which we will have a short coordination meeting and then load the bus and depart 10:45-11:00am.
- The Rally will begin at 12:00pm ET on the National Mall.
- The National March for Life will begin immediately following the Rally and up to the steps of the U.S. Capitol Building. We expect to return to Nativity ~ 3:30-4:00pm.

<https://marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life/>



Marriage Enrichment Ministry

CORE PRINCIPLE:
THE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT
MINISTRY STRENGTHENS
MARRIAGES IN THE CHURCH
AND PROVIDES SUPPORT TO
ALL COUPLES CALLED TO THE
HOLY VOCATION OF
MARRIAGE.



NATIVITY CATHOLIC
CHURCH



Nativity Catholic Church Office Schedule

Friday, Dec 22 Office Open 8-5
Saturday, Dec 23 Office Open 9-7
Sunday, Dec 24 Office Open 9-2

**Monday, Dec 25 - Friday, Dec 29
Office Closed**

Saturday, Dec 30 Office Open 9-5
Sunday, Dec 31 Office Open 9-2
Monday, Jan 1 Office Closed
Tuesday, Jan 2 Office Closed
Wednesday, Jan 3 Office Open 8-5



**Please support the Starfish collection for
the patients of Cardinal Leger Hospital for
Lepers in Haiti THIS weekend!**

We will once again be offering crocheted ornaments made by the lepers of Cardinal Leger Hospital in Haiti after Masses this weekend. Please stop by the Christmas tree in the Narthex. The ornaments are free but any donations are much appreciated!
<https://nativityburke.org/leper-collection/>



shepherd's center
OF FAIRFAX-BURKE

Lunch N' Life

Thursday, January 18, 2024 12 noon — 2 PM
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
6304 Lee Chapel Rd., Burke, VA 22015

Cost: Lunch and Program - \$15.00 per person

Please contact Bea Stephenson for reservations at 703-273-5730

Deadline for reservations — Jan. 12, 2024

If you are a registered SCFB transportation client and you require transportation to the luncheon, please contact SCFB a week before the event and we will try to find a ride for you. If you are not a registered client you can call and register ASAP and we can then try to find you a ride for the event.

SCFB's office phone number is 703-323-4788.

If Fairfax County public schools are closed or have a delayed opening on Jan 18 due to inclement weather, this event will be cancelled.

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 auktion@nativityschool.org.

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



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.



A Message from The Nativity Creation Care Ministry

God spoke, bringing forth everything—light, sky, day, night, and waters. In the creation of man, He bestowed upon us the ability to comprehend and appreciate His handiwork. Unfortunately, we often overlook this gift of understanding creation. Imagine a piece of beautiful music unheard; it loses its beauty and purpose. Likewise, our indifference runs the risk of rendering the entire splendor of Creation meaningless. Think about all the breathtaking sunsets we've overlooked, engrossed in our TVs or phones. How many mesmerizing starry skies have gone unnoticed? Creation is an objective concept; it's through the Word that humans discern, interpret, and find meaning in creation, searching for the Creator's signature. This responsibility is unique to humans. Our destiny is intertwined with this Word, shedding light on the profound beauty of the events in the Bethlehem manger.

May this final week of Advent bring God's Creation to life as we pause to be alert to its miracles.

(adapted from Laudato Si Movement Advent Calendar)

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/

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

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

Family Ministry

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.



MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER
SIGN UP



CALENDAR FOR
UPCOMING
EVENTS

**DONUT
SUNDAY**
THIS WEEKEND



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, December 18th

7:30 am † John M. Turner Jr.

Tuesday, December 19th

7:30 am † Robert Powers

12:00 pm † William Mason

Wednesday, December 20th

7:30 am † Rita Miles

3:00 pm † Leo Anthony DeFranco (*Burke HC*)

Thursday, December 21st

7:30 am † Melba Garcia

12:00 pm † Stephen Boling

Friday, December 22nd

7:30 am † John Roskowski

Saturday, December 23rd

9:00 am † Victoria L. Hernandez

5:00 pm † Peter J. Joyce

7:00 pm † Tim Linn

Sunday, December 24th (NO 1:00pm Mass)

7:00 am † Estefania Pagan

9:00 am † Allan Marcotte

11:00 am † Jose Barrios

4:00 pm Parishioners

6:00 pm † Melakou (Luigi) Yoseph

8:30 pm † Cara Abburscato

Midnight Christmas Mass

12:00 am Special Int. for the Purchiaroni family

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

Please note that the 2024 Mass Intentions Calendar is open thru June, 2024 only. 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.

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.

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.

**Follow Bishop Burbidge on Twitter!**

Bishop Burbidge has over 25,000 followers on Twitter! His daily reflections and posts are popular and insightful. Follow him @BishopBurbidge.

ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES*Marriage Enrichment Ministry*

JOIN US

**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)

Sign Up For the Diocesan E-Newsletter!

Receive special video messages from our bishop, learn about unique opportunities to get involved, and be the first to know the news about our Diocese - straight to your inbox.

Sign up here: arlingtondiocese.org/email

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.



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



For those attending Christmas Midnight Mass, the Nativity Traditional Choir invites you to join them for an hour of Christmas Caroling in the church on Sunday 12/24/2022 at 11:00pm, right before the Solemn Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. Come sing along with us your timeless Christmas carols and enjoy other beautiful Christmas music sung in various styles. We hope to see you all there!

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!



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!

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.

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 SENIOR BINGO



MONDAY, 29 JANUARY 2024

**IN HONOR OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK,
NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS HOSTING A SENIOR BINGO.
ALL SENIOR CITIZENS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 29TH IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA.
10:00 AM STARTS MINGLE TIME WITH BINGO TIME
TO FOLLOW FROM 10:30 AM TO 11:30 AM.
LITE SNACKS AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED.**

PLEASE RSVP TO MRS. MCGUIRE AT 703-455-2300 EXT. 145.





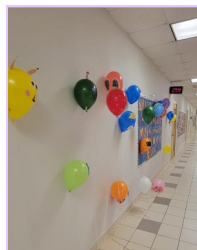
NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

nativityschool.org



Second Grade Thanksgiving Parade

Mrs. Basselgia, our second grade teacher, has recently begun a unit near Thanksgiving, involving art, design, critical thinking, math, reading comprehension – and imagination! It's second grade's 'Balloons Over Broadway Celebration,' and each year it gets even better!



First, Basselgia shares the illustrated biography of Tony Sarg, an immigrant who started working with his own marionettes on the streets of New York City, until he was asked by Macy's Department Store to develop window exhibits of his puppets. Later, Macy's asked Sarg to help build the costumes and floats celebrating the cultural street festivals that so many of Macy's employees missed since they, too, were immigrants.

Each year the parade got bigger, but when the live animals started to scare the children, Macy's asked Sarg to come up with something to replace the animals. 'Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade,' by Melissa Sweet, introduces the reader to a 6-year-old Sarg and his marionettes, takes us through many evolutions of his work at Macy's and, ultimately, ends with the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade as we know it today.

Following Sarg's creative process, the second graders are each given their own balloon, which is filled with Helium. Each student must decide on its design, it's decoration; using math skills to measure, plot, and cut.

Mrs. Basselgia says the students really enjoyed working through the process, especially sharing their masterpieces in the parade at the end. "Next year," "she says," "I will make it even better!"

~ Important Upcoming Dates ~

Monday, December 18 - 'Christmas Tree' Due
Monday, December 18 - Ugly Sweater Day
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
Wednesday, January 3, 2024 - Classes Resume
Friday, January 12 - Father/Father Figures' Breakfast
Friday, January 12 - 12 NOON Dismissal



**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: 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!

24 Dec. Christmas Mass Ushers. Volunteer on Link Tree.
Volunteer on Link Tree.

24 & 25 Dec. Christmas Parking Lot Ushers - Parking Patrol.
Volunteer on Link Tree.

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.

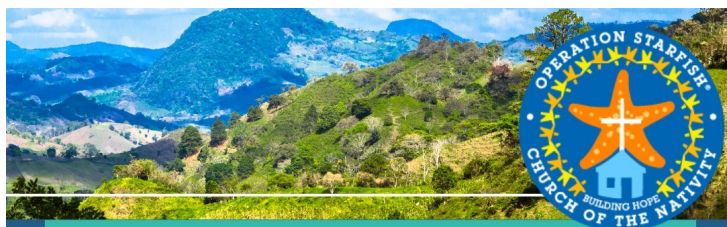
Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. Info on link-tree.

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 handyknightsofnativity@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



HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

JULY 8-12, 2024

In partnership with
Operation Starfish

If you're **college-age or a young adult**, contact Alison Fram to express your interest in coming with us!

Our mission is to visit **Honduras** and see our newest partnership with **Operation Starfish**.

 afram@nativityburke.org



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.

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/>.

THE WALK HUMBLYP 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/>

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!

Support Our Seminarians
Help Build the Future of Our Diocese
Make Your Gift Today!



Mail your check made out to:
Foundation for CDA-SEEF
200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 811
Arlington, VA 22203

CONTACT: John French • john.french@arlingtondiocese.org

To make a gift online:
https://arlingtondiocese.org/Donate_SEEF

DATE NIGHT AT MALEK'S

7118 OLD KEENE MILL RD, SPRINGFIELD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH AT 6:30 PM
PLEASE RSVP, SEATS ARE LIMITED



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY

A festive poster for a Christmas Family Movie Day event. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes. In the center is a large red silhouette of a movie camera. A red Santa hat with white fur trim and a white pom-pom is on the left side of the camera. Two yellow film reels with red sprocket holes are positioned on the camera's body. The text "Christmas Family" is written in a white cursive font across the middle of the camera, and "MOVIE DAY" is written in large, bold, white capital letters below it. To the right of the camera is a red megaphone. Below the camera, on a red curved base, is a yellow and white striped popcorn bucket filled with popcorn. The event details are written in white text on the red base: "Sunday, January 7", "Nativity School Cafeteria", and "From 2:00pm-4:00pm". Below this, in white text, is the invitation: "It's still the Christmas season! We invite families with children to come watch the movie 'The Star' with movie snacks." At the bottom left is a QR code. To its right, in white text, is the instruction: "Scan the QR code to RSVP", followed by "Registration closes on Family Ministry, & Marriage" and "January 5". To the right of the QR code and RSVP text, in white text, is the host information: "Hosted by: Nativity's Knights of Columbus, Family Ministry, & Marriage Enrichment Ministry".

**Christmas Family
MOVIE
DAY**

Sunday, January 7
Nativity School Cafeteria
From 2:00pm-4:00pm

It's still the Christmas season!
We invite families with children to come
watch the movie "The Star" with movie snacks.



**Scan the QR code to
RSVP**
Registration closes on Family Ministry, & Marriage
January 5

**Hosted by: Nativity's
Knights of Columbus,
Family Ministry, & Marriage
Enrichment Ministry**

Sick / Homebound Visits

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

Are you registered in the Parish?

If you are not receiving mail or emails from the parish, chances are you are not registered. You are free to stop by the Parish Office to fill out a registration form to become a registered member of Nativity Parish or go online to: nativityburke.org and download one. Registration is required to be a Baptismal Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor.

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





Explore Career Opportunities at Paul VI

Exploring your next career move? Curious about teaching or working in a Catholic high school? Come find out more about working at St. Paul VI Catholic High School. Whether you're contemplating a change soon or in the near future, we welcome you and anyone you know to join our information session on Tuesday, January 9 at 7 p.m. at St. Paul VI Catholic High School, 42341 Braddock Road, Chantilly, VA 20152 to delve deeper into teaching or working in a Catholic high school. RSVP by emailing Dr. Tom Opfer at topfer@paulvi.net.

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/>

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.

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.

PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC)

We are a social group, mostly age 60 and over. (35 to 59? Ask about our free associate-membership group.)

Meet us for: New Year's Day lunch (Jan 1); square dancing (Jan 2, 16, 23, 30); walk at Greenspring Gardens (Jan 9); Thursday lunches (Jan 11 & 25); visit to Marine Corps Museum (Jan 14); "Murder on the Orient Express" play (Jan 21); serving evening meal at Christ House (Jan 27); dinner (Jan 28).

For details, visit our website: bit.ly/ptsc. With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at ptscnva@gmail.com.

Subscribe to the MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY

MONTHLY FLOCKNOTE



Ana Lisa

Marriage Enrichment Ministry Coordinator
marriage@nativityburke.org

The Importance of Sunday Mass

As the body will die without food, the soul will expire without nourishment. As Catholics, that spiritual nourishment comes at the Sunday Eucharist.

The Lord's Day is essential for our faith.
 Make Sunday Mass the heart of your week.

Did you receive a Christmas gift that you will never use?

I would love to take it off your hands! I am collecting new items to use as prizes for Nativity's senior bingo on January 29th. Donations can be dropped off at the school office beginning January 3, 2024. For more information contact Mrs. McGuire at the school at 703-455-2300 ext. 145.

Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation Give a child the gift of a Catholic education and receive most of your donation back in federal and state tax savings!

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, which will, in turn, provide scholarships for new students wishing to attend our diocesan Catholic Schools. You do not have to itemize in order to receive the 65% tax credit! Donations must be preauthorized in advance. Please call Jeanne Combos at 703-841-2764 (or email at DASF@arlingtondiocese.org) or go online for more details and to download the preauthorization request form at:

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Scholarship-Foundation/>



Lunch N' Life

Thursday, January 18, 2024 12 noon — 2 PM

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

6304 Lee Chapel Rd., Burke, VA 22015

Ms. Andrea Loewenwarter

**Historic Resources Specialist will speak on
Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center**



Cost: Lunch and Program - \$15.00 per person

Please contact Bea Stephenson for reservations at 703-273-5730

Deadline for reservations – Jan. 12, 2024

If you are a registered SCFB transportation client and you require transportation to the luncheon, please contact SCFB a week before the event and we will try to find a ride for you. If you are not a registered client you can call and register ASAP and we can then try to find you a ride for the event.

SCFB's office phone number is 703-323-4788.

If Fairfax County public schools are closed or have a delayed opening on Jan 18 due to inclement weather, this event will be cancelled.

MORNINGS OF *Mercy* FOR DIVORCED CATHOLICS

HOLY MASS | TALK | BENEDICTION

Hurting after divorce? Want to enter into fellowship with Catholics in similar situations and to grow more deeply in your relationship with Jesus?

Event is free, but please register
ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG/MORNINGS OF MERCY

FEBRUARY 3
ST. LUKE
MCLEAN, VA

MAY 18
ST. TIMOTHY
CHANTILLY, VA

AUGUST 10
GOOD SHEPHERD
ALEXANDRIA, VA

NOVEMBER 23
ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON
LAKE RIDGE, VA



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

Deadline to register is January 18.

Sponsored by the Office of Vocations 703.841.2514 /
vocations@arlingtondiocese.org

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17

Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11

Luke 1:46-50,53-54

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8,19-28

Monday, December 18

Jeremiah 23:5-8

Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19

Matthew 1:18-25

Tuesday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a

Ps 71:3-4a,5-6b,16-17

Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday, December 20

Isaiah 7:10-14

Ps 24:1-4b,5-6

Luke 1:26-38

Thursday, December 21

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a

Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21

Luke 1:39-45

Friday, December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28

1 Samuel 2:1,4-8d

Luke 1:46-56

Saturday, December 23

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24

Ps 25:4-5b,8-10,14

Luke 1:57-66

John the Baptist came to "testify to the light." What does this mean?

We know that Jesus is the Light of Truth shining in the darkness to draw us to eternal life. And we know that his Spirit enlightens us in the truth so that we can be saved from the destructive forces of our sins and follow our Savior to heaven. But what was the testimony of John? How did he testify to the light? And how does this affect our lives today?

John's testimony was: "I am not the Christ. I am a voice. A voice in the desert." His testimony brings us to the Light of Christ by challenging us with: "Where is your life arid and dry? Listen! Christ is coming to meet you there! Stop wandering around! Repent, change, do whatever is necessary to look for Jesus so that you can find him. He is coming to you!"

We've all experienced times when Jesus seems unavailable when we need him. What has opened your

eyes to his presence? Whose voice has turned you back to God? It's time to do the same for others, to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those who are held captive in their sins, and to announce how to be blessed by a close friendship with the Lord.

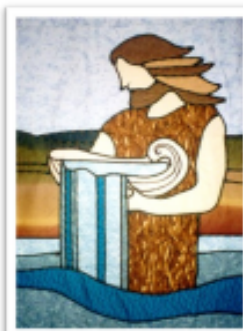
We all have the same testimony and the same calling as John had: We are all supposed to be voices crying out loud enough to be heard above the din of the world. Many souls are lost in the wilderness of confusion, hopelessness, pain,

heartache, and despair, not to mention sin.

What kind of a voice do you have? Because we have Christ within us, our very lives are the voice.

Even if our vocal chords do not utter a single word, the way we live in the light is how we speak the truth of the light. The better we live the truth, the louder and clearer is our message.

What people choose to do with our message is up to them, but it's up to us to speak it so that they're given that choice.


Reflect & Discuss:

- † How has your life been changed by your faith in Jesus? What evil has been conquered, what darkness has been overcome?
- † How has the Spirit of the Lord anointed you?
- † What gifts do you have that enable you to give to the poor (the financially poor or the emotionally starving or the spiritually hungry) or to heal broken hearts?
- † How has God used you to provide liberty to captives and release to prisoners?
- † How are these a testimony that teach others about Jesus?

Catholic Diocese of Arlington

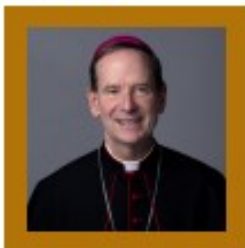
Men's Conference 2024

RENEWED IN CHRIST

REFLECTING HIS LIGHT TO THE WORLD



Featuring:



The Most Reverend
Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington
Mass Celebrant & Homilist



Rev. Daniel Mode
Chaplain of the U.S. Coast Guard



Dr. Jonathan Reyes
Speaker & Author

MARCH 2ND

Register at: arlingtondiocese.org/men

8:30am - 2:15pm
St. Joseph Catholic Church
750 Peachtree St., Herndon, VA



Office of Marriage, Family and Respect Life
(703) 841-2550
familylife@arlingtondiocese.org

Catholic Diocese of Arlington and Arlington Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

2024 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



Behold, I Make *All Things New*



March 9th

8:30am - 2:15pm

ST. JOSEPH
CATHOLIC CHURCH

750 PEACHTREE ST.
HERNDON, VA



Featuring:



The Most Reverend
Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington
Mass Celebrant and Homilist



Patricia Sandoval
International Pro-life
Speaker and Author



**Sr. Mary
Madeline Todd, O.P.**
Author and
Theologian

Register:

ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG
WOMEN



The Office of Marriage, Family
and Respect Life
(703) 841-2550
familylife@arlingtondiocese.org

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/4opcwwH



CONTACT

Lea Ann Gross

703-851-6388 | leaann.gross@ccda.net | www.ccda.net



CatholicCharitiesArlington



@CCDArlington



CatholicCharitiesDioArlington



III de Adviento, Ciclo B.**¡Estad siempre alegres en el Señor!****Autor: P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap****Sitio Web: P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap****Is 61,1-2a.10-11; 1****Ts 5,16-24;****Jn, 1,6-8.19-28).****¡Estad siempre alegres en el Señor!**

El tercer domingo de Adviento se llama domingo «de la alegría» y marca el paso de la primera parte, prevalentemente austera y penitencial, del Adviento a la segunda parte dominada por la espera de la salvación cercana. El título le viene de las palabras «Estad siempre alegres» (gaudete) que se escuchan al inicio de la Misa: «Estad siempre alegres en el Señor; os lo repito, estad alegres. El Señor está cerca» (Filipenses, 4,4-5). Pero el tema de la alegría invade también el resto de la liturgia de la Palabra. En la primera lectura oímos el grito del profeta: «Desborde de gozo con el Señor, y me alegro con mi Dios». El Salmo responsorial es el Magnificat de María, intercalado del estribillo: «Me alegro con mi Dios». La segunda lectura, finalmente, comienza con las palabras de Pablo: «Hermanos: Estad siempre alegres».

Ser felices es tal vez el deseo humano más universal. Todos quieren ser felices. El poeta alemán Schiller cantó este anhelo universal al gozo en una poesía que después Beethoven inmortalizó, haciendo el famoso Himno a la Alegría que concluye la Novena Sinfonía. También el Evangelio es, a su modo, un largo himno a la alegría. El nombre mismo «evangelio» significa, como sabemos, feliz noticia, anuncio de alegría. Pero el discurso de la Biblia sobre la alegría es un discurso realista, no idealista ni veleidoso. Con la comparación de la mujer que da a luz (Juan 16,20-22), Jesús nos ha dicho muchas cosas. El embarazo no es en general un período fácil para la mujer. Es más bien un tiempo de molestias, de limitaciones de todo tipo: no se puede hacer, comer ni llevar puesto lo que se desea, ni ir adonde se quiera. Sin embargo, cuando se trata de un embarazo deseado, vivido en un clima sereno, no es un tiempo de tristeza, sino de alegría. El porqué es sencillo: se mira adelante, se degusta el momento en que se podrá tener en brazos a la propia criatura. He oído a varias madres decir que ninguna otra experiencia humana se puede comparar a la felicidad que se experimenta al convertirse en madre.

Todo esto nos dice algo muy preciso: las alegrías verdaderas y duraderas maduran siempre desde el sacrificio. ¡No hay rosa sin espinas! En el mundo, placer y dolor (lo hemos observado ya en una ocasión) se siguen el uno al otro con la misma regularidad con la que al elevarse una ola que impulsa al nadador hacia la playa le sigue un hundimiento y un vacío que le succiona hacia atrás. El hombre busca desesperadamente separar a estos dos «hermanos siameses», de aislar el placer del dolor. Pero no se consigue, porque es el propio placer desordenado el que se transforma en amargura. O de improviso y trágicamente, como nos dicen las crónicas diarias, o un poco a la vez, a causa de su incapacidad de durar y del tedio que genera. Basta pensar, por poner un

ejemplo más evidente, qué queda de la excitación de la droga un minuto después de que haya cesado su efecto, o a dónde lleva, también desde el punto de vista de la salud, el abuso desenfrenado del sexo. El poeta pagano Lucrezio tiene dos poderosos versos al respecto: «Un no sé qué de amargo surge de lo íntimo de cada placer nuestro y nos angustia incluso en medio de nuestras delicias».

Al no poder, por lo tanto, separar placer y dolor, se trata de elegir: o un placer pasajero que lleva a un dolor duradero, o un dolor pasajero que lleva a un placer duradero. Esto no vale sólo para el placer espiritual, sino para toda alegría humana honesta: la de un nacimiento, una familia unida, una fiesta, el trabajo llevado felizmente a término, el gozo de un amor bendecido, la amistad, una buena cosecha para el agricultor, la creación artística para el artista, una victoria para el atleta.

Alguno podría objetar: ¿pero entonces para el creyente la alegría, en esta vida, será siempre y sólo objeto de espera, sólo un gozo «de lo que está por venir»? No; existe una alegría secreta y profunda que consiste precisamente en la espera. Es más, es tal vez ésta, en el mundo, la forma más pura de la alegría; la alegría que se tiene en esperar. El poeta Leopardi lo dijo maravillosamente en la poesía *Il sabato del villaggio*. La alegría más intensa no es la del domingo, sino la del sábado; no es la de la fiesta, sino la de su espera. La diferencia es que la fiesta que el creyente espera no durará sólo algunas horas, para después ceder de nuevo el puesto a «tristeza y tedio», sino que durará para siempre.





NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

III Domingo Adviento - B Evangelio de la Misa: Jn 1,6-8,19-28 Preparar la Navidad

Sigue la invitación a preparar la Navidad mirando al personaje, Juan el Bautista, que "no es la luz, sino testigo de la luz".

De él aprendemos a situarnos ante Cristo, Luz que viene a iluminar la mente y el corazón de los hombres, para conocer la verdad, y caminar en la vida por sendas de caridad, de justicia, de solidaridad, de optimismo y de felicidad, en definitiva de amor de Dios entre los hombres.

Qué ejemplo más maravilloso nos das, Señor, con Juan el Bautista. De su mano quiero prepararme para recordar, un año más, tu nacimiento en Belén, y celebrar gozosamente tu llegada a la tierra para regenerarnos con la gracia de Dios, y así más fácilmente poder vivir también nosotros como hijos de Dios.

Empapado por esta consideración de ser hijo de Dios, y urgido a vivir en el amor de hermanos con todos los hombres, quiero, Señor, mostrarme como Juan el Bautista siempre humilde y sencillo; trabajador y apostólico, sacrificado y generoso; quiero parecerme a esa "voz que clama en el desierto"; y así ser testigo de tu verdad y lucero de tu paz y tu perdón, para que, familiares, amigos y conocidos, abran los corazones a tu maravillosa doctrina de gracia y de amor, de justicia y de santidad. Señor, quiero contribuir a que esa presencia tuya entre nosotros, que tanta gente no percibe, se haga visible no solo por la institución oficial de tu Iglesia y por las proclamas organizativas de los creyentes, sino por mi vida de fe, por mi caridad con todos los hombres, y sobre todo con los más necesitados, por mi responsabilidad laboral y social, por hacer de mi familia un hogar luminoso y alegre, donde reine Tú, y en consecuencia donde rija tu santa ley de amor y de paz, de alegría y felicidad, profunda y contagiosa.

Mis defectos y mis pecados me apartan con frecuencia de estos ideales cristianos, y por eso te prometo hacer una buena Confesión como preparación imprescindible para celebrar esta próxima Navidad.

Por tanto, Señor, que mi vida "en gracia de Dios" y mi consideración de hijo de Dios, se manifieste sobre todo en mi vida de familia cristiana, y así esta Navidad te sientas más a gusto y feliz en nuestro hogar familiar en torno al Belén.

Padre Segismundo Fernandez Rodríguez

Ciclo B. III Domingo de Adviento Julio César Villalobos, C.M.

El Adviento tiene un rostro: la alegría

Una vez, un joven de 15 años de edad estaba en su escuela, jugando con sus compañeros, visitando la biblioteca de esa escuela, de pronto el encargado de la biblioteca le pregunta: "Oye, ¿tu madre no se llama María Rosa? El joven contest: claro, ¿y por qué preguntas eso? Escuché por la radio que tu madre se acaba de sacar un premio por un poema que tú enviaste por el día de la madre, contestó el señor encargado de aquella biblioteca. No se imaginan el grito de alegría que lanzó este joven de 15 años, una alegría que fue tan contagiante que sus demás compañeros de escuela también danzaron con él.

¿Todas las noticias que ves, que escuchas, que sabes, que te cuentan son siempre motivo de gozo o de tristeza?, ¿de fastidio o de desesperanza?, ¿de indignación de o de incertidumbre?... Para Isaías, ¿cómo es el Mesías que viene? (cf. Is. 61,1-2ª. 10-11). Aquel sobre quien el Espíritu Santo le asiste y le unge, con un fin: "dar buena noticia a los que sufren".

Si estamos con Dios, ¿cómo no alegrarnos con él? Por eso es que debo "desbordar de gozo con el Señor". Y todo esto ¿por qué?: "Porque me ha vestido con traje de salvación".

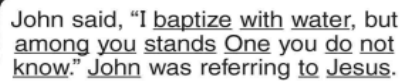
Hoy Dios nos quiere vestir de gozo, porque pronto vendrá y eso sí que es buena noticia en un mundo donde las malas noticias son el pan de cada día. ¿Saben cuál es el querer de Dios según el Apóstol San Pablo? (cf. 1 Tes. 5,16-24): que estemos alegres, que oremos constantemente, QUE NO APAGUEMOS EL FUEGO DEL ESPÍRITU. Adviento es un tiempo para el gozo y para la apertura al Espíritu Santo. Pero, ¿cuántas veces he ido apagando el Espíritu de Dios en mí o en los demás?

Juan el Bautista, un nuevo personaje del Adviento, que aparece en el evangelio de hoy (Jn. 1,6-8. 19-28), nos trae una buena noticia que nos llena de gozo: "Yo bautizo con agua, pero medio de ustedes hay uno que no conocen, que viene detrás de mí, y al que no soy digno de desatar la correa de su sandalia".

Él (por San Juan Bautista), vino con la misión de presentarnos al que nos da la paz y el gozo, la esperanza y las ganas de vivir...ese es Jesús. Viene, como testigo de la luz. ¿Cuántos de nosotros somos testigos de luz o de las tinieblas? Adviento es un tiempo para ratificar ese compromiso de ser luz para otros que la han perdido.

Adviento tiene un rostro: la alegría.

Fuente: Somos.vicencianos.org (con permiso)



They are $\rightarrow \leftarrow \nearrow \searrow \nwarrow \swarrow \uparrow \downarrow$.



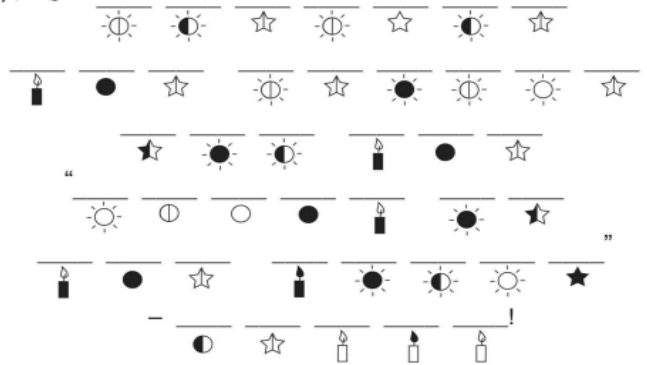
A large, complex black and white maze with many paths and dead ends, designed for a challenge. The maze is composed of numerous rectangular and square paths, creating a dense and intricate pattern. It is intended to be a challenging puzzle for the reader.



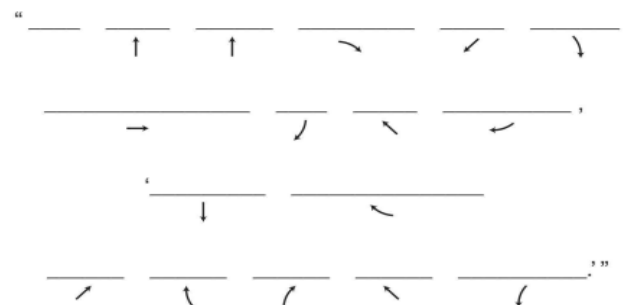
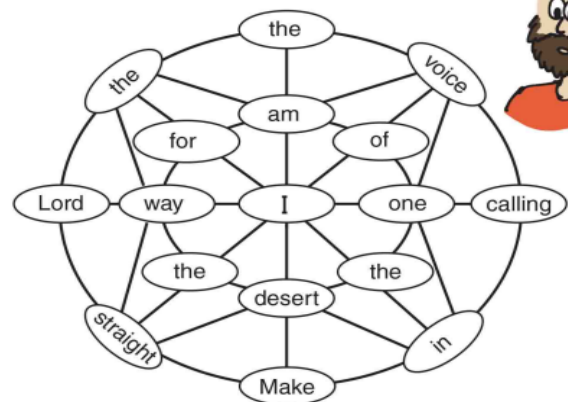
December 17, 2023 • John 1:6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist was sent from God. Why?

☆ = A ☆ = E ○ = G ⊙ = I ☀ = L ☀ = P 🔦 = S 🔦 = U
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Hint: Each word is used only once.



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