

Love Advent

Nativity

1973 CATHOLIC CHURCH 2023
Burke, Virginia

Celebrating 50 Years!

"We are God's people" - 1 Peter 2:9

6400 Nativity Lane,
Burke, Virginia 22015
nativityburke.org

REV. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR
REV. CHRISTOPHER H. HAYES, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. EDWARD BRESNAHAN, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. CEDRIC P. WILSON, ASSISTING PRIEST/
SPANISH MINISTRY
DEACON 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/College Ministry
Rebecca Judge, Director of Youth Ministry
Mary Castellano, Director of Social Media
Jennifer Sturgeon, Director of Marriage Enrichment/
Ecumenical Ministry
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.
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Sturgeon, Confirmation Coordinator

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



“Joseph, do not be afraid.” - Matthew 1:20

My dear parishioners:

Next week we will once again celebrate the birth of our Savior. The days leading up to Christmas were difficult ones for Joseph and Mary. Joseph was faced with feeling hurt and betrayed by the news of his pregnant bride. Was his life taking a good turn or a bad turn? Was this a blessing or a terrible mess? He had the right to reject Mary and not take her as his wife. We make a mistake if we soften these images. How close was Joseph to divorcing Mary? It was a difficult time.

But Joseph is told in a dream who this child is to be. And Joseph believes. Joseph embraces Mary and her unexpected child with faith.

God speaks to us in the midst of our difficulties. We also are given the grace to follow His call. Let us trust, as did Joseph and Mary, in the God who comes to us in word and sacrament and have the courage to celebrate Christmas even in the midst of life’s difficulties.

Mary now encourages us by her constant motherly love and protection. Her words spoken to Juan Diego in her appearance can speak to us today!

Hear and let it penetrate into your heart, my dear little son; let nothing discourage you, nothing depress you. Let nothing alter your heart or your countenance. Also do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else that you need?
 - *Words of our Lady of Guadalupe, to Juan Diego, Dec. 12, 1531.*

Love and Christmas blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski, Pastor



Christmas Mass Schedule 2022

Saturday, December 24 | Christmas Eve

- 4:00 pm
- 6:00 pm*
- 8:30 pm
- Midnight*

Sunday, December 25 | Christmas Day

- 7:00 am
- 9:00 am
- 11:00 am*
- 1:00 pm (Spanish)*

*Live Streamed on YouTube

Advent Wreath Prayers



If you 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 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.

On This Date in Nativity History
16 December 1973

During Nativity’s first Advent season, the parish’s sense of community was severely tested by the weather. Father Ready planned a penance service during Advent on December 16, 1973, and had arranged for a number of visiting priests to be on hand to hear confessions. Unfortunately, the area was hit by an unusually heavy (for December) snowstorm, and none of the invited priests were able to attend. But the people came out in large numbers to “*Holy Hunt*,” (below) all walking because the roads were impassable. So, Father Ready heard all the confessions by himself. Someone produced a guitar, and the congregation sang folk and spiritual music all night as long as it took for the last confession to be heard. Father Ready recalled later “*Michael rowed that boat ashore for a really long time that night.*”



This historical note is the twenty eight of a weekly Bulletin feature leading up to Nativity’s fiftieth anniversary, 11 June 2023.

The Parish Office will close at 12:00 noon on
 Tuesday, December 20th &
 Friday, December 23rd
 Please check the bulletin and our website for the
 Christmas and New Year Office Opening Schedule



Handmaids of Reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Advent Project

Help our 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.

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: handmaidsofrepatriation.org




Year End Office Schedule

Tuesday, December 20 - Office closes at 12:00 noon
 Friday, December 23 - Office closes at 12:00 noon
 Saturday, December 24 - Office open 9:00-7:00
 Sunday, December 25 - Office closed all day
 Monday, December 26 - Office closed all day
 Tuesday, December 27 - Office open 8:00-5:00
 Wednesday, December 28 - Office open 8:00-5:00
 Thursday, December 29 - Office closed all day
 Friday, December 30 - Office closed all day
 Saturday, December 31 - Office open 9:00-7:00
 Sunday, January 1 - Office closed all day
 Monday, January 2 - Office closed all day



Engaged and Married Couples are invited to be a part of the Marriage Enrichment Ministry (MEM)
You are invited to the upcoming events and programs

- January - Small groups meet at homes for the Better Together program
- January 27 - Book Fellowship with Fr. Hayes "Spousal Prayer"
- January 28 - Virtual Date Night with Greg and Stephanie Schutte on "Day-to-Day Marriage with the End in Mind"
- February 5 - St. John Paul II Shrine Pilgrimage (all day)
- February 18 - Date Night with Messy Family Project "Growing a Family Culture"
- March 25 - Date Night "Marriage & Intimacy"
- April 22 - Mini Retreat (10:00 AM-Noon)
- April to May - six week Marriage Program
- May 20 - Date Night "Comedy & BBQ" combined with the Knights of Columbus

Plus fellowship events: meeting for ice cream with our families, Paradise Springs, hikes, Pizza Friday, Coffee Connections, sharing resources, NFP support, and more. Email Jennifer Sturgeon at marriage@nativityburke.org to be added to our monthly FlockNote, where all our upcoming events are shared.

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 Saturday 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, accompanied by a chamber orchestra. We hope to see you all there!

For Young Adults (21-39)

You are part of a larger community that...

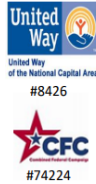
- Serves with Christ House cooking breakfast every 3rd Saturday
- Grows together in 6-week Bible studies
- Plays Basketball every Thursday at 8:30pm in the Father Martin Center
- Serves at Mass as a greeters, ushers, musicians and more!
- New? Contact our Director Alison Fram to join our newsletter

afam@nativityburke.org
(703) 577-5329






ECHO, Inc.
 Ecumenical Community Helping Others
 7205 Old Keene Mill Road
 Springfield, VA 22150
 Phone: (703) 569-7972
 Fax: (703) 455-2763
 www.echo-inc.org
 Email: admin@echo-inc.org



December 07, 2022

Nativity Parishioners

Please pass along to your congregation ECHO's thanks for their participation in our annual Holiday Shop. By generously donating nine bags of toys for holiday shop they enabled ECHO to provide over 600 children in the Springfield/Burke area with a Christmas gift – a precious holiday memory for children in families experiencing economic hardship. I only wish we could share with your congregation the smiles of the children and thanks of the parents when they received their gift.

For over 50 years ECHO's volunteers have provided emergency food, clothing, household items, counseling, financial assistance, holiday meals and school backpacks to families facing illness, low or no wages, and/or housing instability. In fiscal year 2022 ECHO provided about \$256,000 in rent/mortgage/utility support, 42,500 bags of food, 3,386 bags of clothing, over 500 Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, the Holiday Gift Shop for about 600 children, and almost 1,100 backpacks filled with school supplies to students. This assistance is desperately needed to keep families intact and children in school. Our organization is run entirely by nearly four hundred volunteers who allow us to keep our overhead below two per cent.

We are truly grateful to have you on our "ECHO Team" and sharing in our mission. Thank you for your much-needed assistance in making life a little brighter for children.

Gratefully,

Robert J. Vitter

Robert T. Vitter
 President



A message for Advent from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Like St. Francis in the Canticle of the Creatures, which gave God many thanks for all the living beings that inhabit the planet, we want to go through each day of Advent in thanksgiving for so many things that have been given to us by our Creator God. The sound of the waves, gravity, the clouds that give us shade and rain, the scent of plants, sand, bees, chocolate, and so many other things that we enjoy every day and rarely value them as we should.

Let us pray, God of all creation, ...in the season of Advent, [we anticipate] your coming in the humbleness of a child, your Son Jesus. We thank you for the great gift of the Incarnation, as Jesus joined in our human nature, sharing the material being of all creation. Let us honor the goodness of all your gifts in the natural world. In a season too often marked by overconsumption and excess, let us give thanks for all the good things throughout nature. Each day, let us ponder their goodness as signs of your love. Let us be in solidarity with those in poverty and nurture a spirit of true generosity. May the light of Advent grow daily together with our love for your creation, redeemed by your Son whose coming we will celebrate soon. Amen.
(excerpted from Laudatosimovement.org)

Make a year-end gift from your IRA to our parish!

Donate to the Parish through a Tax-Free IRA Gift! Generally, this provision allows individuals age 72 or older to make tax-free gifts from an IRA directly to the parish. To complete an IRA Charitable Rollover contact your IRA provider for instructions. Please note that these gifts could take a couple weeks to transact. For questions contact the parish office or visit <http://www.arlingtondiocese.planmylegacy.org>.

 * **Thank You from the Nativity Craft Group** *
 * With the generous support of our wonderful Nativity community, the Craft Group was able to donate to charities and support groups in our area. Your contributions and faithful support of our bazaar have made a great difference in the lives of many. *
 * The Craft Group is always open to new members who enjoy learning new things, great fellowship and a great time creating lovely items. All items produced are sold at the annual Nativity Christmas Bazaar to support the needy in our area. *
 * We also accept and appreciate any donation of yarn and fabric used to make the various items for the Bazaar. The group meets every Thursday at 9:30am in the Fr. Ready Room. We invite everyone to visit and/or participate. *
 * Thank you for your wonderful support!
 * The Nativity Craft Group *



During the last few months, through the Sacrament of Baptism, we joyfully welcomed the following into our Parish Community:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Noah John Paraiso | Brielle Grace Valasco |
| Kaelynn Adriana Lewis | Marcela Grace Quispe |
| Camden Milo Staines | Layla Rose Rumsey |
| Benjamin David Bishop | Alice Louise Keller |
| Juliana Rose Jasinski | Holly May Keller |
| Maverick Daniel Beck | Archer Warren Keller |
| Henry Nicholas Valentino | Ronan William Wittrock |
| Amias Anael Paz | Vincent Maddox Stokes |
| Mateo Liam Hinkle | Eleanor Grace Hemmick |
| Betty Josephine Bodani | Maeve Ann McNulty |
| Hayden Eloise Brewer | Mila Grace Bailey |
| Olena Thanh-Thy Darby | Elena Francesca Iacobucci |
| Victoria Lily Reno | Cora Diane Pitrelli |
| Beatrice Noelle Nicaastro | Luke William Stryker |
| Michelle Diana Lujan Fuentes | Ashley Margaret Smith |
| Crew Phillip Kleess | Bennett Matthew Ruggiero |
| Jack Arthur Ambrozik | Maxwell Christopher Argyros |
| | John Francis McCullough |

CONGRATULATIONS!



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 back of the church. The ornaments are free but any donations are Much appreciated! <https://nativityburke.org/leper-collection/>



WORKCAMP 2023
Registration Open!

JUNE 17-23
FREDERICK COUNTY, VA

Teens, parents and adult volunteers are invited to a week-long overnight camp providing the high school teens with an opportunity to encounter Christ through service, faith, and fellowship.

Scan the QR Code to learn more!

Questions?
 Contact Brigid Williams | wc@nativityburke.org





Rosary Ministry News

Attention all rosary makers, past and present. Mark your calendar for January 10th from 1:00-3:00 PM in the Fr. Ready Room for a "Bead" Party.

If you have extra beads or rosary supplies bring them to the meeting. Most of us have a container of various colored beads. By consolidating our beads, we can create interesting rosaries as well as providing supplies for future classes. Help us to bring those lonely beads back to life and to make more rosaries for the foreign missions. For more info email: rosaryministry@nativityburke.org.




JOIN US FOR A *fiesta!*

NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL SPRING AUCTION

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
 6:30 - 10:00PM

WHERE: NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
 FATHER MARTIN CENTER

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

Monday, December 19th
 7:30 am † Luz Luciano

Tuesday, December 20th
 7:30 am † Robert Powers
 12:00 pm † Rita Miles

(BHC) Wednesday, December 21st
 7:30 am † Karol Golinowski & Joseph Bowers
 3:00 pm † David Pritchard

Thursday, December 22nd
 7:30 am † Vivian Uthe
 12:00 pm † Catherine McCann

Friday, December 23rd
 7:30 am † Victoria Hernandez

Saturday, December 24th
 9:00 am † Alicia Reyes Luna
 4:00 pm † Donna McCraith
 6:00 pm † Patrick Manning
(Spanish) 8:30 pm † David Pritchard
(Midnight) 11:59 pm † Joanna Arnista

Sunday, December 25th
 7:00 am † Michael Hahn
 9:00 am † Richard Ferraro
 11:00 am Special Int. for Sisters
 Donatella & Mary Attilia Parishioners
(Spanish) 1:00 pm

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

For Mass Intentions requests, please visit:
<https://nativityburke.org/mass-intentions/>



Save the Dates for two Significant Pro-Life Events in Early 2023!

National March for Life in Washington DC – Friday, January 20, 2023

Join us as we march to Capitol Hill! Please let us know if you tentatively plan to attend so travel arrangements can be made! Simply sign up using Sign-Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4eacac29a2f58-2023>

Depart Nativity ~11:00am

Rally at Noon, and March to the Capitol at 1:00pm

Return to Nativity around 3:30pm

“We will celebrate the 50th annual March for Life and the momentous overturn of Roe v. Wade! We will honor those who have gone before us making this historic victory possible. We will present the strategic plan for building a culture of life ... This year, rather than marching to the steps of the Supreme Court, where we have for decades asked our highest Court’s Justices to undo the destructive decision that was Roe v. Wade, we will now march to a new front in our battle for life, the steps of the United States Capitol.”

Jeanne Mancini, President of the March for Life

Guest speakers/performers for the Rally include:

- Jonathan Roumie, best known for his award-winning role as ‘Jesus’ in the series, THE CHOSEN
- Coach Tony Dungy, Pro-Football Hall of Famer and a New York Times best-selling author
- We Are Messengers, the Dove-nominated and K-LOVE Award-winning musical group

Virginia Defending Life Day & Virginia March for Life – Wednesday, Feb 1, 2023

Join Bishop Burbidge and us—your personal presence will powerfully support pro-life members of the Virginia General Assembly and encourages others to reconsider their views. We want our legislators to see that we expect them to pass life-affirming legislation. Bishop Burbidge, as the new Chair of the USCCB Pro-Life Committee, is keenly aware of how important this state-level representation is. Although this may be a bit out of the norm for you, we believe you will enjoy the comradery and find it empowering to stand up for this noble cause!

What's the plan?

- 6:30am Depart Nativity
- 8:30am Gather at the Richmond Convention Center
- 10:00am Senate and Delegate Meetings
- 12:00pm March for Life Rally
- 1:00pm Virginia March for Life
- 2:00pm Depart Richmond
- 4:00pm Return to Nativity

Don't worry! Should you be interested in talking, tips for effective advocacy, talking points and legislative updates will be provided by the organizers to make your day fun, easy, and successful. Please let us know if you tentatively plan to attend so sufficient travel arrangements can be made!

Simply sign up using Sign-Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4EACAC29A2F58-20231>

More details to follow. Please contact Rick and Linda Loffredo at rickloffredo@outlook.com if you have any questions.

“When Joseph awoke he did as the angel of the Lord directed him.” Are you prayerfully vigilant about discovering your vocation in Christ? Might He be inviting you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at (703) 841-2514 or email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.

Mass in Recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

All are welcome to join Bishop Michael Burbidge celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in the holy sacrifice of the Mass hosted at St. Bernadette's Catholic Church, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield. Mass will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 11:00am, with a reception to follow.

This Mass is organized and sponsored by the Black Catholic Ministry, Office of Multicultural Ministries of the Diocese of Arlington. For any questions, please email mcm@arlingtondiocese.org or call (703) 841 3881.



You can designate Nativity Church or Nativity School as the beneficiaries of your Amazon Smile! You can choose Nativity by going to: **YOUR ACCOUNT, YOUR AMAZON SMILE and designating Nativity.** Amazon then contributes a small percentage of each purchase to Nativity. For questions, please contact Ann Benson at: 703 455 2400.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flower Book for 2023 is now open with many dates available. 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/>.

Multicultural Cookbook

Do you love to cook? Have a special cultural dish you love to share at family gatherings? We need you! As part of the Golden Jubilee for the Diocese of Arlington, the Multicultural Sub-Committee is producing a multicultural cookbook! It will include recipes from every culture, submitted by those who call the Diocese of Arlington home! Recipes will be reviewed and selected by a diverse panel, and then published in a keepsake cookbook in commemoration of the Diocesan Golden Jubilee. Recipes will be arranged according to the liturgical calendar so that, from years to come, folks will be able to open their cook-book at any time in the liturgical year and find a special recipe to enjoy!

Find out more here and access the submission form: https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/jubilee-gather-at-the-table.

Give a Gift for Life

Please give a Gift for Life this season to help Project Rachel provide counseling and healing retreats to those who suffer the effects of abortion. One after-abortion care retreatant wrote:

"I would have NEVER had the courage to show my face at this [abortion healing] retreat... God works in mysterious ways and by His grace, I found the courage to step forward in my faith.

I am so grateful that this ministry exists and was there for me... without judgement when I was ready to tackle the deep-rooted pain in my heart. I am forever grateful!" For more information and/or to donate: www.arlingtondiocese.org/giftforlife

HOME 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.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

April 30 - May 9, 2023



PRICE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare from your desired Airport
• All airport taxes & fuel surcharges
• 8 Nights in Medjugorje at 4* Hotel
• Breakfast and Dinner / or lunch daily (Half board)
• Wine with dinners
• Assistance of a licensed local guide
• Transfer as per itinerary
• Sightseeing and admission fees as per itinerary
• Visit the community Cenacolo and Mother's Village
• Climb Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain
• Daily Holy Mass
• Whisper Headsets
• Attend daily Evening program and talks
• Meeting with visionaries (Pending availability)
• Excursion to the places agreed by a spiritual guide
• Tips to your guide, driver and hotel staff
• 81 Tours backpack & portfolio of all travel documents

PACKAGE PRICE



EXCLUSIONS: Meals not specifically noted; Beverages; Single supplement (limited availability) - \$270; Travel Insurance; checked baggage fees if required.



Celebrating "Simbang Gabi" A Philippine Christmas Tradition
On Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 7:00pm
Nativity Church will join the Northern Virginia Filipino Ministry in celebrating the traditional "Simbang Gabi" Mass. All are invited!

New Year's Weekend Mass Schedule
Saturday, December 31
9:00am, 5:00pm, 7:00pm (Spanish)
Sunday, January 1
7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm (bilingual)
There will be NO 5:30pm Mass
Wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed New Year!

Struggling with addiction in the family?
Both the afflicted and affected don't need to be alone. There are many resources available including AA, NA, Alanon, Calix and a diocesan chaplain. Call the HELPLINE (970) 989-2670 for support. This is NOT LIMITED to addicts, anybody that would like to speak with a priest or a friend in Christ May call!

donut worry!
THIS WEEKEND IS DONUT SUNDAY



Linktree Universal Sign-up Link: Want to volunteer for an event? All event sign-ups can be done through the following link. https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992. Event leads can also fill out a form to announce an event, and file an After Action Report through the link.

Council Christmas Party: 20 December, 6:30pm, at Giardino's Italian Restaurant. We will post a link to make reservations.

Family Holiday Movie Outing: Sign up on the link tree to help set up and serve refreshments. Event will be on 8 January from 12:00-4:30 in the Nativity Cafeteria.

March for Life: The annual march in support of the unborn is 20 January. There is still a great need for parade Marshals. Sign up on the link tree.

Name Tags: Email Warden Michael Bender at michaelbambender@hotmail.com to order.

Sunday Mass Coffee and Cookies: We are providing coffee and cookies following Sunday morning Masses. To volunteer go to https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992.

Handy Knights Ministry: If you are unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small repairs in your home due to health or other factors, there is a ministry with the Knights of Columbus that may be able to assist – the "Handy Knights." You can reach us at 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, please contact Br. John Landy at navyy8@yahoo.com or 703-250-1492.

Food for Others: We need volunteers to help with our food distributions. The distribution picks up from the warehouse and delivers to Springfield. It should only take about an hour of your time on Friday evenings once a month based on the current number of volunteers in rotation. If you are interested in helping deliver, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com.

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. Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way. Join today! Simply go to <https://info.kofc.org/us.html> and enter our council #7992 for local information and to register. E-membership for the first year is free using the new code "blessedmcgivney". On 14 November at 7:00pm, we will be having an Exemplification Ceremony for new members and those 1st and 2nd degree Knights who wish to make their 3rd Degree. Please email our Deputy Grand Knight at PMDELATTE@gmail.com or the Grand Knight at tjsgk7992@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Council Meetings: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Rosary at 7:15pm; meeting follows at 7:30pm. Fellowship after every meeting. Meetings are now in person in the Nativity school cafeteria, with the option to attend virtually as well. The second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation including the "Into the Breach" video/discussion series and guest speakers.

Calling all 3rd Degree Knights: Members of the 4th Degree have the special honor of holding the title "Sir Knight," participating in patriotic activities, color and honor guards and organizing programs that promote Catholic citizenship. Meetings 2nd Tuesday of the month; 7:30pm rosary; 7:45pm business meeting followed by fellowship.

If you are interested in becoming a 4th Degree Sir Knight, please contact our Faithful Navigator Mark Corzine (wfn2996@gmail.com) for more information.

We Still Need Some Helping Hands!! Yours!!

No Hands But Yours is an original Nativity ministry that as Father Bob frequently and eloquently reminds us, does 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 both in DC (McPherson Square and tent encampments) and northern VA every Sunday morning, rain or shine. We also share Panera bread donations with local area foodbanks on Mondays and Wednesdays, and visit other DC sites on Wednesday mornings as well.

Through the generosity of a few committed parishioners, we have been able to and continue to provide bagged lunches (sandwich, banana, cookies, chips, and napkin), coffee, hot chocolate, bottled water, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, socks, undergarments, and as funds are available, hats, gloves, clothes, winter jackets, pants, shoes, sleeping bags, tarps and tents each Sunday and Wednesdays.

Our drivers and helpers leave from the Nativity parking lot after the 7:00am Mass, to distribute these lunches, supplies and donated clothing items. Those whom we have served tell us, "we know we can depend on you every Sunday to take care of us." In truth, as much as we try, there are many who go unserved or underserved. The need is great and as everyone knows, the cost of living has stretched our budget. Join us: We need your financial support and/or your time in this effort. With winter now upon us, our ministry needs more drivers (to commit to drive once every 6 weeks) and parishioners who are willing to provide bagged lunches (we currently distribute 160-200 lunches and 96 plus rolls of toilet paper as well as five-six cases of water weekly).

If you want to help, please contact Manuel Ponciano at 202-262-6659 or email:

Manuel Ponciano >	mamuelmar10@yahoo.com
Joe McKane >	joieexp@gmail.com
Jim Valentine >	val6405@gmail.com
John Rubino >	john.albert.rubino@gmail.com
Jim Housel >	jchousel60@gmail.com

or leave a note in our Parish Office and one of us will get back with you shortly. If you can't spare your time right now, you can financially contribute to the "No Hands But Yours" ministry on our parish website. Please consider doing so!! For those wishing to also lend us a hand in providing some of the items listed above, the Ministry has set up a convenient on-line means of doing so, as seen below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4AAFAC22A1FA7-nohands>

All you need to do is scroll down to see what's needed and when, check the one(s) that work for you, and then hit the orange "Submit and Sign-Up" button at the end of the page. Almost painless!! And we accept any food/adult winter clothing items after morning mass throughout the week as well...

And remember always, that "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours..."
– St Teresa of Avila

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

"We, the People of Nativity Catholic Church, by our baptism, are joyful disciples of Jesus Christ. We strive to love God, love others, and form new disciples. We celebrate Jesus Christ in Word, Sacrament and Service."



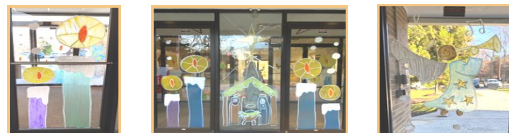
NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
nativityschool.org



~ A Winter Wonderland ~

One of our favorite Christmas traditions each year is the painting of the windows throughout the school by Mrs. Heath and our Seventh Graders.

Mrs. Heath, Mrs. Mayoral, and the students first outline their designs – the trees, bells, kings, baby Jesus, etc. – and then use acrylic paint to add color to their work. Take a peek...



Nativity Virtue and Academic All-Stars!

At the end of each trimester during the school year, we celebrate one individual from each class who is awarded the Citizen of the Trimester (see photo above). The award is presented to the students who have demonstrated outstanding citizenship qualities; for example, displaying good character, respecting others and their property, participating in the community, etc., during the marking period. *Congratulations to our all-around Nativity Stars!*



Each month, Father Bresnahan teaches us a different virtue, Bible verse, and Saint. At the last Mass of every month, we recognize a student from each class who best exemplifies that month's virtue (see photo above). November's virtue was Obedience; we listen to God, follow his Commandments, *pray, and do good works with joy!* *Congratulations to our award recipients.*

Upcoming Dates At-A-Glance!

Dec. 19: Ugly Sweater Day

Dec. 19: Christmas Pageant - 7 pm

Dec. 20: Class Parties

Dec. 20: 11:30 am - Christmas Break Begins!

Jan. 3: School Resumes!

Jan. 9: Third Grade Field Trip

Jan. 13: 12 NOON Dismissal

Jan. 13: Father/Father Figure Breakfast

YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact: Rebecca Judge
cym@nativityburke.org

Get connected to our Youth Ministry community by filling out the free 2022-2023 registration form. See the website to register or scan the QR codes below.

LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm

Dinner



Fellowship

Prayer & Formation

EDGE: GRADES 6-8

Alternating Sundays 3:30-5pm
& Fridays 7-8:30pm
See website for schedule

Meet new friends

Play games

Explore your faith



HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS

Girls: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00pm | 2x / month
Guys: Thursdays, 7:30-9:00pm | 2x / month

Build meaningful relationships with your peers through small group discussion, communal prayer, and fellowship activities



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Father Christopher Hayes
24 December



JOIN THE NATIVITY EXTENDED CARE TEAM
*Love working with Children? Creative with fingerprint?
Like to sift sand? The following qualifications are necessary:*

- A LOVE of children and a 'Can-Do' Attitude
- Afternoon availability, 2:30pm-6:00pm
- Diocesan compliance to work with kids
- Adhere to COVID-19 Safety Protocols

To apply, please contact: Jen Behan, Director at jbehan@nativityschool.org

The Stella Marina, Operation Starfish project is collecting new and gently used Pack 'n Plays for moms in Haiti to use for their babies and young children. The collection runs year round. Feel free to contact Susan at swelchparis@stellamarina.org to coordinate pick-up or leave in the parish office marked Stella Marina. Please visit <https://nativityburke.org/packnplay-needed/> for more information. Thank you!

ECHO Current Needs

ECHO provides clothing in a store-like setting. Clients are able to come to ECHO by appointment a few times a year to choose clothing for their families. At ECHO, we feel it is critical to provide clothing appropriate for cold weather. It is also important for ECHO to provide for growing children. No one wants to go to school in clothing that is too small. ECHO is especially in need of new or gently used (without stains or tears) apparel in the following types and sizes: boys' winter coats; boys' jeans sizes 14, 16, 18; men's sneakers, size 9; men's jeans in waist sizes 30, 32 and 34; men's winter coats, sizes S, M, L; men's long sleeve T-shirts; men's sweatpants. In women's and girls' clothing, we need girls' coats sizes 14, 16, 18; girls' sneakers, big kids sizes 1,2, 3; girls' jeans sizes 14, 16, 18; girls' long sleeve T-shirts or knit shirts; women's winter coats, sizes Med or Large; women's jeans, sizes 4, 6. ECHO only distributes new underwear, and we would love to have donations for both genders in all sizes. Additional ECHO's Housewares Department will be extremely grateful to receive King and Queen bedding, bath towels, saucepans with lids, large pots, blenders, coffee pots and irons.



**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
February 11
9 am - 2pm**



For more information and to register, visit ArlingtonDiocese.org/QuoVadis.
Deadline to register is February 3.
Sponsored by the Office of Vocations
703.841.2514 / vocations@arlingtondiocese.org

**Love working with children? Want flexibility?
Consider subbing for 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
- ◆ Successful completion of Virtus training
- ◆ Successful background check
- ◆ Adherence to COVID-19 Safety Protocols

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

Love Is Given Prayer Group
Please join us every Thursday evening from 7:15pm to 8:45pm for an evening of prayer, praise and community. We meet each week in the Fr. Ready room. Come in through the school entrance, first room on your left. We look forward to seeing you!

Donate Your Car to Catholic Charities!

If you are thinking of replacing your car with something new, please consider donating your old car to Catholic Charities. Proceeds from the sale of working and non-working cars provide critical funds for our volunteer programs. It's easy, we handle all the paperwork and you receive an IRS donation receipt. Email Cars@ccda.net or call (703) 841-3898.

Are you looking for a once a month (30 minutes) volunteer opportunity at church?

We are reinstating our 'plant ministry' which was suspended during Covid. We are looking for 3-4 more people willing to water the peace lilies on the altar and church reception space. Please respond to ArtandEnvironment@nativityburke.org if you would like to join this ministry. Additionally we are looking for a willing volunteer to help update the vestibule bulletin board for the different Liturgical Seasons and Colors. Please contact Caroline Chase at bulletin@nativityburke.org if you are interested!

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!

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14
Ps 24:(7c,10b)1-6
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

Monday December 19

Judges 13:2-7,24-25a
Ps 71:3-6ab,16-17
Luke 1:5-25

Tuesday December 20

Isaiah 7:10-14
Ps 24:1-6
Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday December 21

Song of Songs 2:8-14
or Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Ps 33:2-3,11-12,20-21
Luke 1:39-45

Thursday December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28
1 Sam 2:1,4-8
Luke 1:46-56

Friday December 23

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24
Ps 25:4-5ab,8-10,14
Luke 1:57-66

Saturday December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-5,
8b-12,14a,16
Ps 89:2-5,27,29
Luke 1:67-79

Love is the theme of the Fourth Sunday of Advent. A good definition of love is in the name that we see in the first reading and again when the prophecy is fulfilled in the Gospel reading: Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." To have love is to have "God with us". To give love is to give God who is with us.

Have you ever felt like you've run out of love to give? Well, that's quite impossible! We might run out of patience; we might get tired of giving more love than we receive from others, but God who is love is always with us.

When we feel empty from loving someone who doesn't equally love us back, or when we reach the point of despising someone who repeatedly hurts us, this is when we need to ask God for a supernatural ability to love with his love. This prayer always works! It's how we become effective evangelizers as dis-

tributors of his love.

When we give God's love to those who are unpleasant to love, we're revealing to them God who is with us.

We all have people in our lives who fail to be Christ to us. They don't love us like God wants them to love us. So we need to remind ourselves that our happiness is not dependent upon how they treat us. God is with us! We need to call upon Emmanuel. God who is with us



loves us fully and unconditionally, whether or not we deserve it.

When we're looking for others to love us more than they do, we feel unloved, but if we

keep our eyes on Jesus, his love fills all the gaps.

Emmanuel. It's a name for Jesus that we should use year-round.

As you finish preparing for the celebration of Christmas, focus on Emmanuel. Sing to Emmanuel. Pray to Emmanuel. This sign, this reminder, this name is God's personal Christmas gift to you.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Are you loved enough?
2. What will you do this week to become more aware of God's love for you?
3. As a spiritual exercise, go to the nativity display at church. Write on a small piece of paper the names of those who fail to love you sufficiently. Place it in the manger and, if it has straw or hay, take a piece of it (or take a flower petal or leaf from a nearby plant) as a reminder that Emmanuel was born to give you more than enough love.
4. What is the best Christmas gift you've ever received from God? Why did it make you feel loved?



— WORLD —
Marriage
— SUNDAY —

Sunday February 25, 2023
5:00 pm Vigil Mass followed by Dinner

St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, Fairfax, VA
The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington | Principal Celebrant and Homilist

RSVP at ArlingtonDiocese.org/wms



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

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington & Arlington Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

2023 Women's Conference

Love Rejoices In Truth

March 11th, 2023

8:30am to 2:30pm
St. Joseph Catholic Church
750 Peachtree St.
Herndon, VA 20170



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



Nikki Kingsley
Convert, Speaker
& Author of *"Thirst for Truth:
From Mohammad to Jesus"*

Register at:

arlingtondiocese.org/women



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



The Catholic Diocese of Arlington
Men's Conference 2023

*My Soul Rejoices
In The Lord!*

March 4th

8:30am - 2:30pm

St. Joseph Catholic Church
750 Peachtree St.

Herndon, VA

Register at:
arlingtondiocese.org/men



**The Most Reverend
Michael F. Burbidge**

Bishop of Arlington
Mass Celebrant and Homilist



Tim Staples

Convert, Apologist at
Catholic Answers and author
of "Behold Your Mother"



**The Very Reverend
Thomas Petri, O.P.**

President, Pontifical Faculty of
the Immaculate Conception



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

**Y CON MARIA...
LA ESPERANZA SE
HIZO NIÑO
IV Adviento Javier Leoz**



1. Poco margen tenemos, en el presente año, entre el IV Domingo de Adviento y la Natividad del Señor. Pero, incluso en ese corto espacio, María emerge como la gran figura de esta liturgia que nos llevará, mañana ya, a la Solemne Misa del Gallo.

No podía faltar, María Madre de Dios, como aquella que nos trae al Salvador en este tiempo de adviento que es periodo de espera y de esperanza.

Y, con María, llegó la expectación. ¡Todo está a punto de cumplirse! El "sí" de aquella mañana en Nazaret, nos traerá en las próximas horas al Dios con nosotros. Creyó, esperó y se brindó a todo lo que Dios le pidió. ¿Se puede aguardar más de una mujer que fue un cheque en blanco para el Señor?

María, la mujer que se vació totalmente para Dios, está llena a rebosar del Espíritu. Colmada de las promesas que nuestros antiguos confiaban en ver. Seremos nosotros los que en el día de Navidad, contemplemos cara a cara lo que ha germinado en el interior de una Virgen.

A Ella, y no lo olvidemos, le debemos la primera Navidad. ¿Cómo celebrar cristianamente estos próximos días? ¿En dónde poner el acento? ¿Cómo conseguir que Dios siga naciendo en nosotros?

No lo dudemos, en María, tenemos la respuesta. Sus actitudes, su forma de ser, su personalidad y su figura, nos dan el tono para desarrollar la melodía que a Dios más le gusta.

No lo dudemos, en María, se dan una serie de virtudes y de gracias que, al imitarlas, a la fuerza damos con el secreto y en el clavo para complacer a Dios y para hacer el Evangelio realidad.

¡Sí! Con María llegó la esperanza. No podemos dejar de lado a ninguna de las dos: ni a María, porque es fuente de esperanza, ni a la esperanza, porque es la mejor radiografía de una mujer que amó en su corazón y con locura a Dios, mucho antes que recibirlo en sus propias entrañas.

2. ¡Qué gran pórtico el de la Navidad! ¡María Virgen! Celebremos con gozo santo estos próximos días. Dejémonos guiar por esta estrella que ilumina los senderos que conducen a Belén. Miremos a esta mujer que, siendo pequeña, es grande y confidente en cuanto que nos enseña a renovar nuestras personas para que Dios pueda también en nosotros nacer.

Miremos hacia el cielo ¿No la veis? ¿Quién ha dicho que solo aparecerá una estrella en el amplio universo? Hoy, en este cuarto domingo de adviento, María es también un destello que marca los compases del caminante que quiere marchar sin detenerse hacia Belén.

Que apuremos estas últimas horas. Preparemos, por supuesto, el encuentro familiar: la mesa, los dulces, el calor, el belén o el árbol. Pero, que entre todo ello, no olvidemos lo más importante. Dios para nacer necesita de un corazón bien dispuesto. Que cuando llegue en las próximas horas encuentre también una oración en nuestras casas. Que los villancicos sean un distintivo musical de estas jornadas, que además de familiares, son días de fe. En definitiva, ya que Dios sale a nuestro encuentro en un Niño que se mueve en los fondos de Santa María, que salgamos también nosotros alegres, llenos de fe, preparados, convertidos y dispuestos a que sean unas navidades santas y cristianas.

¡DÁNOS TU CONFIANZA, MARIA!

Para que Dios nazca en nosotros sin pedir nada a cambio y, sea nuestro corazón, una cálida cuna donde Jesús encuentre cobijo y consuelo.

¡DÁNOS TU CONFIANZA, MARIA!

Para que, en estas horas de santa tensión, donde el cielo y la tierra juegan a juntarse podamos también nosotros hambrear el manjar de Amor que se sirve en Belén.

¡DÁNOS TU CONFIANZA, MARIA!

Queremos que, Tú, seas una puerta por la que podamos entrar y disfrutar del Misterio de Dios humanado. Una puerta que, cuando se abra desde fuera entendamos y comprendamos que es Dios quien lo hace desde dentro que es Dios quien tira desde el cielo.

¡DÁNOS TU CONFIANZA, MARIA!

Para que no vacilemos ni en el amor ni en la fe
Para que nos pongamos en camino hacia
Aquel que viene
Para que seamos heraldos de la Buena Noticia
Para que, el Niño que quiere salir de tus entrañas,
encuentre aquí y ahora
hermanos que le amen, le ayuden y le sigan

¡DÁNOS TU CONFIANZA, MARIA!

Para que Dios esté pronto con nosotros
Para que nosotros, pronto estemos con El
Para que creamos, aun sin ver
Para que aún sin ver, creamos por encima de todo

¡DÁNOS TU CONFIANZA, MARÍA!

Sólo así, podremos vivir, celebrar
cantar y festejar el encanto de la Navidad.



¿Cómo orar en Adviento y en Navidad?
Reflexiones Adviento

Vino a los suyos, pero los suyos no le recibieron... ¿Habrà posada para el Verbo encarnado en nuestros días?

Por: P. Evaristo Sada LC | Fuente: la-oracion.com



"Dios puso su morada entre los hombres" (Ez 37,27) "por el gran amor con que nos ha amado." (Ef 2,4) Pero ¿es acogido? "Vino a los suyos, pero los suyos no le recibieron" (Jn 1,11) ¿Habrà posada para el Verbo encarnado en nuestros días? Eso se juega en la libertad de cada uno.

Quisiera sugerir algunas pautas para orar en Adviento:

1. Contemplar el misterio de la encarnación:

La encarnación del Verbo es la entrada de la presencia de Dios en el mundo y en la historia. El mundo de la carne busca a su Creador. El mundo de la Gracia busca al hombre. El Verbo encarnado es el lugar de encuentro de las dos búsquedas. La divinidad habita corporalmente en Jesús de Nazaret y así encuentra descanso la doble búsqueda.

"Se anonadó a sí mismo, tomando la forma de siervo y haciéndose semejante a un hombre." (Flp 2,7) Nuestra fe se pone a prueba: "esto no puede ser", el Trascendente no puede ser tan cercano, no puede ser que se vuelva tangible, de carne y hueso, un bebé indefenso; es demasiado que Dios llegue al extremo de hacerse siervo. Tenemos aquí la prueba más convincente del gran amor con que Dios nos ama, de su incomprensible predilección por el hombre. Dios prueba su amor, el hombre debe probar su fe.

En Adviento y Navidad contemplamos el rostro de Dios que por amor se acercó a nosotros y vive en medio de nosotros. Más cercano está de quien más se acerque a contemplarle. Estar allí contemplándolo con mucho amor es acercarse; eso es lo que obra el amor: una creciente cercanía.

2. Dar posada al Redentor que ha venido, pero aún debe ser acogido.

La Redención la ha realizado Cristo con su encarnación, muerte y resurrección, pero aún debe verificarse en cada uno y eso depende de la acogida personal. Dios nunca se impone al hombre, siempre pregunta. Dios es mendigo de la acogida por parte del hombre; se toma muy en serio su libertad. La respeta hasta el grado de verse humillado. Con paciencia, nuestro Dios sigue tocando la puerta.

La plenitud de los tiempos ya ha llegado con la venida de Cristo, pero no se ha cumplido del todo: se realiza o no en cada persona, que libremente lo acepta o lo rechaza. Lo acepta cuando permite que el amor de Dios le impregne del todo, cuando su persona se cubre con la sombra luminosa del Espíritu Santo y Él obra su transformación en Cristo, a través de una sinergia de donaciones repitiendo la historia de la Madre de Dios.

El Redentor es acogido cuando cada uno vive una vida cristiana, una vida en Cristo, no una doble vida, donde aún se reserva algo para sí, sin tomar completamente en serio la búsqueda de la santidad. "Cuando venga Él, el Espíritu de la Verdad, os guiará hacia la verdad completa (Jn 16,13) La radicalidad de la irrupción de Dios en la historia por la encarnación del Verbo es la que Jesucristo pide hoy de cada uno de sus hijos por la aceptación libre e incondicional del Espíritu Santo, la ley del amor, en la propia vida.

En ese sentido, Adviento es tiempo de conversión, por eso el ornamento morado en la misa: "El Padre celestial, que en el nacimiento de su Hijo unigénito nos manifestó su amor misericordioso, nos llama a seguir sus pasos convirtiendo, como él, nuestra existencia en un don de amor. Y los frutos del amor son los «frutos dignos de conversión» a los que hacía referencia san Juan Bautista cuando, con palabras tajantes, se dirigía a los fariseos y a los saduceos que acudían entre la multitud a su bautismo." (*Benedicto XVI, 9 de diciembre de 2007*)

3. Adorarlo con corazón de pastor y de ángel.

"Si no os hacéis como niños, no entraréis en el Reino de los cielos" (Mt 18,3) Para entrar a la cueva de Belén hay que hacerse pequeño, como niño. Los pastores y los ángeles tienen corazón de niño. El niño tiene una mirada pura, se maravilla de todo, todo lo disfruta, es capaz de dar amor y de recibir amor con humildad y corazón de pobre.

Los pastores y los ángeles se dieron el tiempo para centrarse en lo esencial: la contemplación del hijo de Dios que habita en medio de nosotros. Los pastores dejaron sus ganados, los ángeles dejaron el cielo; todos se juntaron para adorar a Dios en los brazos de María.

Adviento y Navidad deben ser tiempos de más calma para pasar más tiempo junto a Cristo Eucaristía. Sí, hay que tener el valor de romper esquemas y centrarse en lo esencial. Que esta Navidad, Cristo sea el mejor atendido y el más amado.

Para escribir tus comentarios entra a [¿Cómo orar en Adviento y en Navidad?](#)

Esperamos tus comentarios, participa. Comparte tu sed y tu experiencia de Dios con apertura y humildad, para ayudarnos entre todos en un clima de amistad.



Horario de las Misas de Navidad

Sábado, 24 de diciembre

4:00pm*, 6:00pm, 8:30pm, Medianoche*

Domingo, 25 de diciembre | Navidad

7:00am*, 9:00am, 11:00am*,

1:00pm* (Español)

*Transmisión en vivo en YouTube

NO habrá Misa a las 5:30pm



Feliz Navidad





*Horario de misas del Fin de semana
de Año Nuevo*

Sábado, 31 de diciembre

9:00am, 5:00pm, 7:00pm (Español)

Domingo, 1 de enero

7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm (Bilingüe),

NO habrá misa a las 5:30pm



*¡Les deseamos a todos un Feliz
y Bendecido Año Nuevo!*




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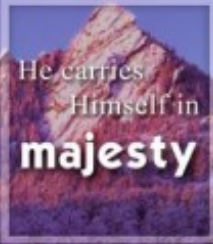
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