

Love



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

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

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:

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

MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

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



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

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

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

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

HOLY DAY MASSES: As Announced

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

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

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

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

WEBMASTER:
Emilia Hartline, webmaster@nativityburke.org

SOCIAL MEDIA:
Mary Castellano, socialmedia@nativityburke.org

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

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



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

My dear parishioners:

This 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, December 12, 1531.

Love and blessings,

Msgr. Bob Cilinski
Pastor

Advent Wreath Prayers



If you have set up an Advent wreath in your home this year, here are some prayers you could say while you light its candles. You may say these before or after a meal, when waking up, before going to bed, or whenever you and the members of your household gather for prayer. Before you say the prayer, read and talk over the Gospel you heard at Sunday Mass that week.

Week 4: O God, who sent your angel Gabriel to announce good news to Mary, make us happy with your word of life. Let our hearts be so filled with love for you that they glow with the lights of these four candles. May we live in a way that will please you. Through Christ our Lord.

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
Christmas Mass Schedule 2025

Christmas Eve | Wednesday, December 24

- *4:00 pm | Children’s Choir
- 6:00 pm | Saturday Praise Choir
- 8:30 pm | Youth Choir
- Midnight | Traditional Choir | Singing starts at 11:00 pm

Christmas Day | Thursday, December 25

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

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

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

**Live-streamed*

Thank you to all who supported Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington in last weekend’s Parish Christmas Collection. Your donation brings healing and hope to those who need it most. If you have not made a gift yet, you may still contribute by donating online at ccda.net/Christmas.

Join us Monday, December 22nd for the annual Youth and Children’s Choir Christmas Concert. The choirs will be sharing traditional Christmas carols as well as their favorite contemporary Christian Christmas songs. The concert is at 7:00pm in the church and is free. All are welcome!

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 NATIVITY Gift Shop. The ornaments are free but any donations are much appreciated!





DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

Christmas 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas shines as a season of joy, unity, and renewed hope. The Child of Bethlehem comes to draw us together as one family of faith, bridging every distance and healing every division. His radiant light pierces the darkness reminding us that in Christ love triumphs and peace endures.

As we gather once more around the manger of Bethlehem, our hearts are filled with awe and gratitude for the gift of God's love made visible in Jesus Christ. At Christmas, we rejoice in the wondrous mystery of the Incarnation—God made man, dwelling among us to share our humanity, joys, and sorrows. In Him, heaven and earth are united, and through Him, we are reconciled to our Creator. The birth of our Savior reveals that God's love knows no boundaries.

I invite you to celebrate this holy season with renewed thanks for the gift of one another. May we follow the example of the Holy Family, who in faith and love welcomed the will of God with trust and serenity.

May the joy of this Christmas strengthen the bonds of unity among us and may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts and homes.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Burbidge".

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

**National March For Life
Friday, January 23, 2026**

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



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



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

WORKCAMP 2026
Registration Open

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

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

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

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



**LIGHTS!
CAMERA!
FAITH!**

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

THE ARLINGTON DIOCESE

ONE ACT & SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Performances: January 25, St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
February 6 & 7, Nativity Catholic Church
Directed by
Barbara E. Schwartz

George Getek Memorial Pro-Life Scholarships

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

Key Points:

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

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

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

The Parish Office will be closed all day on:

- Wednesday, December 24th
- Thursday, December 25th
- Friday, December 26th
- Monday, December 29th
- Wednesday, December 31st
- Thursday, January 1st
- Friday, January 2nd

Please check our website for further details regarding the Christmas and New Year Schedule!

Keep Christ in Christmas Nativity Displays - \$60

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

Limited Supply – We are only making 12 this year!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Deacon Richard Kelly
December 27th



A message from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Mary inspires us to listen to God's call. We do this in prayer. We also do this by being attentive to what is happening in our lives – as individuals, as communities, as a society, as a civilization. If we are attentive, with God's grace we can begin to discern God's call in our lives and our world. Pope Francis provides an excellent example of this, summoning us to care for God's creation. We need to open our eyes and ears to what is happening to our mother the Earth and the possibilities to heal her that are still available.

Thus there is another house that we need to concern ourselves with. It is our common home, the Earth. And as it turns out "eco" in the word "ecology" comes from the Greek word for 'house' or 'household.' Pope Francis wrote his encyclical 'Laudato si' because he discerned God's call to the household of the faith to accept his urgent challenge to protect our common home. No home created by us, however lavish and comfortable can substitute for the beautiful home created by God. This is a living house that we are called to cherish. Wishing all a blessed Christmas from your Nativity Creation Care Ministry! nativitycreationcare@gmail.com.



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

Monday, December 22

7:30 am † Dwight Maypa & Athea Eparwa
 12:00 pm † Stephen Mitton

Tuesday, December 23

7:30 am † Stephen Mitton
 12:00 pm † Balsam Sabbagh

Wednesday, December 24

7:30 am † Mary Pajewski
 10:00 am Special Int. for Bishop Burbidge (*Heatherwood*)

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm † Sally Mernah
 6:00 pm † Richard John O'Brien
 8:30 pm Special Intention for Chuyen Pham
 11:55 pm † Marshall Levitan (*Midnight Mass*)

Thursday, December 25 — Christmas Day

7:00 am Nativity Parishioners
 9:00 pm † Sr. Mary Karen Snee
 11:00 am † Richard J. Ferraro
 1:00 pm † Mercedes Burbano de Lopez

Friday, December 26

7:30 am † Eedo Kernus

Saturday, December 27

9:00 am Special Intention Jim & Marie May and Family
 5:00 pm † Angela & Santiago Machado
 7:00 pm † Petronila Santi

Sunday, December 28

7:00 am † Mike & Chuck Litzelman
 9:00 am Special Intention for Derek Admana
 11:00 am Parishioners
 1:00 pm † Luis & Margarita Moreno
 5:30 pm † Chief Warrant Officer 5 Sharon Swartworth

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

Save the Date!

NATIVITY STARS
GALA & AUCTION

A night at the races!

Saturday, May 16, 2026

6:30 p.m.

Nativity Catholic School

Fr. Martin Center



Walk Humbly

Bishop Burbidge



Where is Your Calling to Serve?



Join the Nativity Knights of Columbus, Viridiane's Hope, and Commissioned by Christ on a mission trip to Cameroon, West Africa in 2026. Two trips are planned: February 17–27 for 4–6 participants and October 22—November 1 for 12-15 participants.

Missionaries will serve rural communities by drilling wells, renovating chapels, planting gardens, and supporting youth education. For more information, contact Joe Tiago at vhhec corp@gmail.com or Michelle Haworth at michelle.haworth@commissionedbychrist.org. Learn more at vhche.org or cbc-missions.org.



**Consecration to the Holy Family Event
27 and 28 December 2025**

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

To help families live out the joy of Christ, Knights of Columbus Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father.

The idea is that preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. It is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God's love through His Church.

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

You can also learn all about this K of C program here: www.kofc.org/consecration. Information is also on the Parish Website under Activities and Events.

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

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

Nativity Catholic Church



**EMAIL & TEXT
SCAM ALERT**

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

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

ROSARY MINISTRY MEETING

These frosty days are perfect for making rosaries! The Rosary Ministry is meeting on Tuesday, January 20 from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Fr. Ready Room. We have all the supplies you need to make Mission Rosaries that are put in the hands of people all around the world. We recite the rosary for the first 15 minutes, praying for intentions and then we set out to teach anyone with a desire to learn. For more information contact us at rosaryministry@nativityburke.org.

Peace in the Storm



Chronic Pain and Illness Support Group

Tuesday, December 23 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm | Church Conf Room
Thursday, January 8 | 12:45 - 2:15 pm | Fr. Ready Room

Do you have diabetes, high blood pressure, or high cholesterol? Do you have to take medications every day? Nativity Catholic Church is aware of the many challenges that chronic illness and chronic pain pose in the lives of our parishioners. All adult parishioners who have chronic pain or illness are invited to participate in a parish-based, small, faith fellowship group developed by the national ministry called The Peace in the Storm Project. We meet to reflect, pray, and deepen our understanding of God's love, presence, and purpose with and through health challenges within the context of our Catholic faith and parish community. Group participants will receive The Peace in the Storm Project **Discussion Guide** at no cost.



If you are interested in joining the group or for more information, please email Anna Lisa Licud at alicud@nativityburke.org or visit our parish website www.nativityburke.org/peace-in-the-storm/

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

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

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

You can just listen and learn, or volunteer to highlight the provided pro-life talking points of one of the bills. We will gather in constituent groups at Greater Richmond Convention Center at 8:30am to listen to inspiring speeches and review provided talking points package, then meet with our respective state senator/delegate, and then optionally visit galleries or attend Mass before lunch and heading back to Nativity. Tentative Schedule for Pro-Life Advocacy Day to follow.



Contact rickloffredo@outlook.com if interested in carpooling. For more official event details and to register, <https://vaprolifeday.org/>.



A message from our Sisters



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

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



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

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

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



Your support will provide vital assistance for:

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



HANDMAIDSOFREPARATION.ORG

YOUTH MINISTRY

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



EDGE: GRADES 6-8
Fridays twice a month
6:30-8:00 p.m.
See website for full schedule



EPIPHANY PARTY: JANUARY 4
Join us for our first Youth Ministry gathering of the new year as we celebrate our annual Epiphany Party! Bring a wrapped gift under \$15 if you want to participate in the White Elephant gift exchange. Edge 3:30-5:00 p.m. | Life Teen 6:30 p.m.

LIFE IS VERY GOOD - JANUARY 22
Join us for a night of praise the evening before the annual March for Life! The night will feature dynamic speakers & musicians, Adoration, relics, & more! The cost is \$10 and is open to teens in grades 6-12.

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

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

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

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

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



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

Pro-Life Corner

Profile: Sisters of Life

"The *Sisters of Life* are women who are in love with Love—Love incarnate, crucified, and Risen—and captivated by the truth of the beauty of every human person, created in God's image and likeness. We believe every person is valuable and sacred. We believe that every person is good, loved, unique and unrepeatable. We believe that every person's life has deep meaning, purpose and worth. In fact, we give our lives for that truth.



- **We vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of every human life.** The Sisters of Life are a contemplative/active Roman Catholic community of women religious, who profess the three traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and a fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life. As spiritual mothers living in the heart of the Church, we experience the threats to human dignity and life all the more deeply. We pray. We fast. We serve. Why? Because we want to uphold the dignity and worth of each person, created from and for God's great love.

- **Our missions.** Our missions include serving women who are vulnerable to abortion, giving them the support and resources to be able to choose life for themselves and their children; hosting weekend retreats; evangelization; outreach to college students; and helping women who have suffered after abortion to encounter the mercy and healing of Jesus Christ."

<https://sistersoflife.org/>

- Sign up for free IMPRINT magazine mailing list: <https://sistersoflife.org/imprint-sign-up/>

- Let Love podcasts: <https://sistersoflife.org/let-love-podcast/> (S18: Listening in Advent)

- Located in nearby DC: <https://sistersoflife.org/where-we-are/dc/>

- Vocations—For Love Alone: <https://sistersoflife.org/vocations/>

- To Donate: <https://sistersoflife.org/donate/>

"Your generosity makes possible our religious lives and missions. We rely completely on God's providence, through the financial support of our benefactors. Your contribution helps to provide for the needs of our Sisters, as well as provide for the needs of our missions to pregnant women, women who have suffered after abortion, and some of our evangelization efforts."

<https://sistersoflife.org/donate/>

KOVAR Enduring Love Campaign – Homes for Intellectually Disabled: Stand with parents who seek to find a home for their children that outlive their ability to provide direct care on their own. Contact Mark Sawyer, sawyermark7992@verizon.net.

End of Life Medical Directives:

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

Gabriel Project: Pregnancy Outreach for Expectant Mothers: Offers emotional, spiritual, material, and financial support through a pregnancy helpline and parish-based volunteer "Angel" support. helpforpregnantwomen.org. 866.444.3553.

Project Rachel: Help after Abortion: A safe, confidential place to share your emotions and work toward healing. helpafterabortion.org, 703.841.2504.

The National Catholic Bioethics Center:

Provides education, guidance, and resources to the Church and society to uphold the dignity of the human person in health care and biomedical research, thereby sharing in the ministry of Jesus Christ and his Church. <https://www.ncbcenter.org>.



Date Night for Couples

Welcoming Conflight as an Opportunity for Learning: Navigating Your Approach to Conflict

Speaker: Jeanine Turner

 **Saturday, January 24**

 **6:30-8:30 PM**

 **Nativity Cafeteria**

Register Online:

nativityburke.org/mem-date-night/

Contact: Anna Lisa Licud

marriage@nativityburke.org

Childcare & dinner provided!



Nativity CATHOLIC SCHOOL
 A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
 nativitalschool.org




**Fairfax County Police & Nativity Families:
 Helping Santa's Elves**

It was a very cold morning, but that didn't stop the whole school from gathering outside to see Santa ride in with his local crew, the Fairfax County Motor Squad. Pulling up Nativity Lane in police cars and motorcycles with Santa, were his Reindeer, The Grinch!, Mrs. Claus, Queen Elsa, and others, all hoping to visit with our students and pick up the new toys we had collected as part of our December service effort.



As a school, we gathered new, unwrapped books and toys, such as a Nintendo switch console, crafting kits, Lego sets, story books, and much more, for Santa to give to children in the INOVA Children's Hospital Child Life Unit.



Santa and his team moved through groups of students and teachers, laughing, talking, high-fiving, giving out candy canes, and all the while a very green Grinch rather surreptitiously sneaked up on Santa and our principal, Ms. Kelly, causing a bit of a commotion and plenty of fun to go around!
Way to Go, Nativity Stars!!

Important Upcoming Dates ~~~

- January 5 - Students Back to School!**
- January 12 - 4th Grade Student Fellowship**
- January 13-15 - NWEA Testing**
- January 16 - No School**
- January 19 - No School MLK Birthday**

At Nativity, faith fills us. Love lives here. Nativity Stars are filled with the Holy Spirit! Join us to see how your child would spend his or her days here -- learning, praying, sharing, and laughing. We may be just the school for which you've been searching!
 Contact us at www.nativitalschool.org, (703) 455-2300, or smrph@nativitalschool.org.

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




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

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

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

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

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

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

Widow Support: Thursday Nights Ride to Nativity Support Group.

Prayer Requests: Prayer requests will stay active for one month. Prayer update (health, location, contact, etc.) status is deeply appreciated. Send an updated request for continued support. <https://forms.gle/LiPCRmzfyRnYEU8s5>

Food for Others: Volunteer for food distribution to the poor, delivered on designated Thursday or Friday evenings. For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyerkc7992@verizon.net. For Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock_w@yahoo.com. Deliver food from Giant to the FFO warehouse Tuesday mornings; contact Br. Bob Colella robert.colella.86@gmail.com.

24 December: Christmas Parking Lot Ushers - Parking Patrol. Outside - dress for success. **SUG is live!**

24 & 25 December: Christmas Mass Ushers & Collectors. Assist in seating and collections. **SUG is live!**

27-28 December: Creation of the Holy Family. Hand out cards before service. **SUG is live!**

24 January: The annual K of C Free Throw Challenge will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026 from 6-9 PM. Six volunteers are needed to help. Please see **SUG** for details of work and time commitment.

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

Prayer Requests: Prayer requests will stay active for one month. Prayer update (health, location, contact, etc.) status is deeply appreciated. Send an updated request for continued support. <https://forms.gle/LiPCRmzfyRnYEU8s5>

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

Honduras Mission Trip 2026

Operation Starfish®
 July 12-18, 2026



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



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Navidad 2025

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

La Navidad resplandece como una temporada de alegría, unidad y esperanza renovada. El Niño de Belén viene a reunirnos como una sola familia de fe, superando toda distancia y sanando toda división. Su luz radiante atraviesa la oscuridad y nos recuerda que en Cristo el amor triunfa y la paz perdura.

Al reunirnos nuevamente en torno al pesebre de Belén, nuestros corazones se llenan de asombro y gratitud por el don del amor de Dios hecho visible en Jesucristo. En Navidad, nos regocijamos en el maravilloso misterio de la Encarnación: Dios hecho hombre, que habita entre nosotros para compartir nuestra humanidad, nuestras alegrías y nuestras penas. En Él, el cielo y la tierra se unen, y por medio de Él somos reconciliados con nuestro Creador. El nacimiento de nuestro Salvador revela que el amor de Dios no conoce fronteras.

Los invito a celebrar esta santa temporada con un renovado agradecimiento por el don que somos los unos para los otros. Que sigamos el ejemplo de la Sagrada Familia, que con fe y amor acogió la voluntad de Dios con confianza y serenidad.

Que la alegría de esta Navidad fortalezca los lazos de unidad entre nosotros, y que la paz de Cristo reine en sus corazones y en sus hogares.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

Monseñor Michael F. Burbidge
Obispo de Arlington

¿Cómo orar en Adviento y en Navidad? Reflexiones Adviento

Vino a los suyos, pero los suyos no le recibieron... ¿Habrá 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) ¿Habrá 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?](http://la-oracion.com)

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.



What did Joseph do when he woke up from his dream?



An Angel Visits Joseph

Joseph was pledged to marry Mary, but when he found out she was pregnant, he decided to divorce her quietly. Then an angel appeared to him.

Find out what the angel said. Begin at the **START** arrow. Read every other letter, starting with D. Write the letters on the lines.



"D O N O

Find your way through the maze. Read the words along the correct path.

BEgin "He from to them exclaiming
 "He came sent God who
 the off to took lamb Jesus became all
 a Mary Jerusalem taught and while
 back sinners to traveled and nights
 forgive for until days She gave sought
 long wife. slept came seeking birth the ten
 home day so God them just they she a
 name turned told before obey him. know night And will voice without for
 holy and as begins an a END
 shepherds

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What else did the angel say?

Use this code to find out.

□	○	△	*	▽	
★	J	V	G	E	L
▽	S	B	A	C	W
△	I	T	F	Y	D
●	N	P	U	E	R
■	A	H	O	M	L



“
 □▽○●*★ ▽▽□▲▽★▽■ △★□▲○*★●
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This took place to fulfill what the Lord had said. What other name did God say the baby would be called?

Add and subtract letters to find the answer.



- grl + - ouse +

- tch + - dot

+ - purs +

- umbrella =

This word means "God with us."

*In some Bible versions, this name is spelled starting with an "E".

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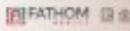
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