



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



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

**SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:**

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

**MINISTERS OF OUR SCHOOL:**

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

**MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

Sister Donatella Merulla, A.R., M.R.E.  
Sister Mary Attilia Todaro, A.R., M.R.E.  
Maria Ammirati, Religious Education Coordinator  
Fania Jimenez, Administrative Assistant

**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](mailto:bulletin@nativityburke.org).

**WEBMASTER:**  
Emilia Hartline, [webmaster@nativityburke.org](mailto:webmaster@nativityburke.org)

**SOCIAL MEDIA:**  
Mary Castellano, [socialmedia@nativityburke.org](mailto:socialmedia@nativityburke.org)

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



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 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At Christmas, we hear the proclamation: *"For unto us a Savior is born who is Christ and Lord."* This good news of great joy is the reason for our renewed faith and hope.

In a world experiencing so much unrest, a Savior is born who announces peace, brings glad tidings, and comforts his people. In a nation that is divided, a Savior is born who unites us as God's holy family, as brothers and sisters. In our lives, when we are overwhelmed by our crosses and sufferings, a Savior is born who embraces us in his love and mercy with the strength and grace we need.

And for all these gifts, the Lord asks so little in return. He simply wants us to strive every day to trust him, to be faithful, and to be instruments of his peace to all those we love and meet. What we do at Christmas teaches us the way.

So, with the help of Mary and Joseph, strive to be what our Church and world need more than ever: holy families. Do so by loving and respecting one another and giving to each other the most precious gifts of all: your time and attention. As you have been forgiven, ask for the grace to forgive others, especially those who have offended you, so that no bitterness is within your heart. Continue the spirit of giving that is so prevalent at this time of year, especially as you share your resources and blessings with our brothers and sisters in most need.

Dear friends in Christ, please be assured of a special remembrance at the Christmas Masses I will celebrate, and please pray for me. Through the intercession of Mary and Joseph, trust in the power of the Lord to renew and transform our world, nation, and each one of us. May the peace that only Christ can give be yours at Christmas and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Michael F. Burbidge*

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Arlington

**THERE WILL BE NO 1:00PM or 5:30PM MASS  
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH  
NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES AT:  
7:30AM - 9:00AM - 11:00AM - 1:00PM**



## Nativity Catholic Church Christmas Choir Schedule

### Sunday, December 24 | Christmas Eve

4:00 pm\* - Children's Choir - Fr. Bob Cilinski

6:00 pm - Festival Choir - Fr. Bresnahan

8:30 pm - Youth Choir - Fr. Wilson

Midnight - Traditional Choir - Fr. Bob Cilinski  
(with carols starting at 11:00 pm)

### Monday, December 25 | Christmas Day

7:00 am - Ensemble - Fr. Bresnahan

9:00 am - Ensemble - Bishop Burbidge

11:00 am\* - Cornerstone Choir - Fr. Bennett

1:00 pm (Spanish)\* - Spanish Choir - Fr. Wilson

\*Live Streamed on YouTube



## Stella Marina Birthing Kit Build

Looking for something to do this Christmas with your kids or visitors? Come join Stella Marina on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 10:00am in the Nativity cafeteria to make 1,000 birthing kits! Celebrate the Epiphany by giving the gift of a safe birth to a mom and baby - in honor of Jesus and Mary!

To sign up, visit our website at:

[nativityburke.org/birthing-kit-build/](http://nativityburke.org/birthing-kit-build/)

Questions: email Meg at [meg@stellamarina.org](mailto:meg@stellamarina.org)

For those attending Christmas Midnight Mass, the Nativity Traditional Choir invites you to join them for an hour of Christmas Caroling in the church on Sunday 12/24/2023 at 11:00pm, right before the Solemn Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. Come sing along with us your timeless Christmas carols and enjoy other beautiful Christmas music sung in various styles. We hope to see you all there!



### PRIME TIME SINGLE CATHOLICS (PTSC)

We are a social group, mostly age 60 and over.  
Meet us for: New Year's Day lunch (Jan 1); square dancing (Jan 2, 16, 23, 30); walk at Greenspring Gardens (Jan 9); Thursday lunches (Jan 11 & 25); visit to Marine Corps Museum (Jan 14); "Murder on the Orient Express" play (Jan 21); serving evening meal at Christ House (Jan 27); dinner (Jan 28).  
For details, visit our website: [bit.ly/ptsc](http://bit.ly/ptsc). With questions or to RSVP, email Tom at [ptscnva@gmail.com](mailto:ptscnva@gmail.com).



**Christmas Family MOVIE DAY**

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

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

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

Hosted by: Nativity's Knights of Columbus, Enrichment Ministry

ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES

*Marriage Enrichment Ministry*



JOIN US




## Nativity Catholic Church Office Schedule

Sunday, Dec 24	Office Open 9-2
Monday, Dec 25 - Friday, Dec 29	Office Closed
Saturday, Dec 30	Office Open 9-5
Sunday, Dec 31	Office Open 9-2
Monday, Jan 1	Office Closed
Tuesday, Jan 2	Office Closed
Wednesday, Jan 3	Office Open 8-5

*Merry Christmas!!*



## HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

**JULY 8-12, 2024**

In partnership with  
**Operation Starfish**

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

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

 [afram@nativityburke.org](mailto:afram@nativityburke.org)



*We thank the following who have helped decorate  
our Christmas Sanctuary with their flower donations*



**IN LOVING MEMORY and IN HONOR OF**

The Spachtholz, Tokarek & Fleming Families  
For all those who cannot be with their loved ones on this blessed day  
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander J. Rohan, Alice Cavanaugh,  
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent E. Occhipinti  
Karen A. Snee  
Ana Pardo Montiel  
Kerry Gorton  
Rita and Tony Miles, Anthony Miles, Jr.  
Parents of Chuck and Carole  
The McKnight & Goffredi Families  
Ethel Gerencser, Michael Gerencser  
Col. Edward (Ned) C. Redican, USAF  
Marie and Frank Denny  
Capt. G. Kevin Hynes, USAF  
Dottie Andrews  
Frank and Lucy Klimkos  
Jeanne and LeRoy McConaghay  
Priests, Sisters and Deacons of Nativity Parish  
Christopher and Marilyn McDonald  
Deceased Members of the Rookard Family  
Lucretia and John P. Rowley, Jr.  
Shirley and Patsy Palladino  
DePaepe, Walskes and Nordstrom Families  
John and Mary Rimkus, Jerome and Helen Timm  
Francesco Barbariol  
Lisa Pannoni  
Maureen Huggins  
Philip, Kathleen and Robert  
Donald P. Mayo, Jr.  
Richard J. Ferraro  
Deceased members of the Yarros Family  
Melanio and Febe Valdellon  
Peace in our World  
My Mom, generous heart, loving spirit  
My beloved wife, Henrietta  
Ernie Weeks and Deceased Members of the Weeks & Vega Families  
Robert Hansen  
The Karbowski Family  
The Kolodziej, Trzok, Borrelli, Cantu Families  
Len Yankosky  
Rita and Tony Miles, Anthony Miles, Jr.  
All our Deceased Family Members  
Mrs. Jean Sullivan  
Walker Joe McGraw and his Great Grandparents: Joan and Everett Perry,  
Patrick and Patricia O'Donnell  
Deceased Members of the Werner and Wine Families  
The Cuomo and Holtmann Families  
John C. Kowalski  
The Connell, DiPalma and Martin Families  
Our Beloved father Julio Cesar Rios

**DONATED BY**

The Spachtholz Family  
Vince and Carol Ann Occhipinti  
Thomas J. Snee  
The Gorton Family  
Marita Klimkos  
Chuck and Carole Domasinski  
The McKnight Family  
Tom and Jean Lewis & Family  
Mrs. Eleanor Hynes Redican  
Carol Denny  
Mrs. Eleanor Hynes Redican  
Fritz Andrews  
Rick Klimkos  
The Mukai Family  
The Birden Family  
The McDonald Family  
Linda Rookard  
The Bonner Family  
The Mitchell Family  
Bruce and Linda Nordstrom  
Charles and Ann Rimkus  
Murray and Adriana Rupert  
Gerry Pannoni  
The Huggins Family  
Kathleen McHugh  
Jessica and Victoria Mayfield-Mayo  
Patricia L. Ferraro  
The Brandt Family  
Beng L. Valdellon  
The Canavan Family  
Your loving Daughter, Mandy (Boo)  
Frank, Forever my love  
Zulma Weeks  
Sue Hansen  
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Karbowski  
Mary Louise Kolodziej  
Mary Ann Yankosky and team Yank  
Marita Klimkos  
Mr. and Mrs. McGillvray Jr.  
Jay and Lisa O'Donnell  
The Werner Family  
Mary Ann and David Holtmann  
Harold Kowalski  
Pat Connell  
Abigail and Nicolas Rios



### National Eucharistic Revival

Catholics all across the country are in the middle of a National Eucharistic Revival, an initiative of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops that aims to inspire, educate, and unite the faithful in a more intimate relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of our Catholic Faith.

In the months to come, you will see and hear about more opportunities to deepen our faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

Scan the QR code from the banner in the Narthex to sign up for news about the National Eucharistic Congress planned in Indianapolis next summer, July 17–21, 2024. They expect 80,000 people to fill Lucas Oil Stadium with all the fans cheering for the same side, our Lord in the Eucharist!

Plus, there will be four routes of Eucharistic Pilgrimages that will make their way across the country and converge in Indianapolis! These pilgrims will accompany Jesus from city to city, lighting hearts on fire along the way. The route from the east, the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route, plans to pass by our nation's capital, blessing locals and tourists alike with his real Presence. All routes will meet in Indianapolis at the National Eucharistic Congress.

To find out how you can participate, go to  
<https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/> and sign up for news from the National Eucharistic Revival.

### Nativity Catholic Church

## Family Ministry

Have you been looking for a way to connect with Catholic families for community, encouragement, and growth? There are MANY families with young children at Nativity and in our ministry, "family" encompasses families in all shapes and sizes- married couples, single parents, adopted children, one child, multiple children, etc.



MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER  
SIGN UP



CALENDAR FOR  
UPCOMING  
EVENTS

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

Please Consider a Generous Gift to Those in Need. Through a gift to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, you are serving the poor, protecting the vulnerable, and welcoming the newcomer. Your support helps maintain ministries that serve neighbors in need throughout the 21 counties and seven cities of our diocese.

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



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

#### Sunday, December 24th (NO 1:00pm or 5:30pm Mass)

7:00 am	† Estefania Pagan
9:00 am	† Allan Marcotte
11:00 am	† Jose Barrios
4:00 pm	Parishioners
6:00 pm	† Melakou (Luigi) Yoseph
8:30 pm	† Cara Abburscato
Midnight	Special Int. for Purchiaroni Family

#### Monday, December 25th

7:30 am	† Marshal Levitan
9:00 am	Special Int. for Sezwin Crasto
11:00 am	† Christopher Arendt
1:00 pm	† Mercedes Lopez

#### Tuesday, December 26th

7:30 am	† John Heavey
12:00 pm	† Robert DeVito

#### Wednesday, December 27th

7:30 am	Special Int. for Valentine Family
10:00 am	† Joseph Flaherty (Heatherwood)

#### Thursday, December 28th

7:30 am	Special Int. for Derek Admana
12:00 pm	† Luis & Margarita Moreno

#### Friday, December 29th

7:30 am	Special Int. for Carolynn Remaly & Fam.
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#### Saturday, December 30th

9:00 am	† Don Marcotte
5:00 pm	† Michael Brensy
7:00 pm	† John Byron Hackett, Sr.

#### Sunday, December 31st

7:00 am	† Peggy Heiss
9:00 am	† Ellie Martin
11:00 am	† Paul Shelton
1:00 pm	† Jacob Joseph Para
5:30 pm	Parishioners

In prayer, let us remember  
the sick and deceased of the parish  
visit [nativityburke.org](https://nativityburke.org) for the Priest Mass Schedule



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

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

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

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

### Nativity Stars Gala & Auction We Need Your Help!

Planning for our biggest fundraising event, The Nativity Stars Gala & Auction, is in FULL Swing! Funds raised at the event will provide financial assistance for STEM and student enrichment activities, plus other resources to help our students thrive at school.

There are many volunteer opportunities and activities which do not require VIRTUS training or Diocesan certification. Many Lead/Committee roles are available, however we are IN NEED of the following:

- Auction Procurement (Live & Silent) Chair(s)/Committee
- Food & Beverage Chair(s)/Committee
- Entertainment & Decorations Chair(s)/Committee
- Sponsorship Chair(s)/Committee
- Raffle Sales Coordinators
- Event Logistics Coordinator
- Event Volunteer Coordinator



Please click on the QR code to join the planning committee. We thank you for your help and support in making this event a wonderful success! Any questions, please email [auction@nativityschool.org](mailto:auction@nativityschool.org).

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



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

December 31st is the Feast of the Holy Family, and our Council will assist our Pastor, Fr. Bob, in conducting a Consecration to the Holy Family for our parish Families at the end of all Masses on December 30th and 31st. You can learn all about this KofC program here: [www.kofc.org/consecration](http://www.kofc.org/consecration)

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

Our role as the KC council is to assist our Pastor in helping our community to understand and offer this important and impactful prayer. The idea is that preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. It is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God's love through His Church.



### A Message from The Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Merry Christmas from The Nativity Creation Care Ministry! Thanks to all who volunteered for and shopped at our Thanksgiving Fair Trade Sale! We hope that your gifts will be well received and appreciated for the difference they make to the artisans around the world. Fair Trade embodies the principles of Catholic Social Teaching including Care for God's Creation, the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers; your purchases help to make communities sustainable. In addition, Fair Trade Winds makes a generous thank-you donation to our ministry to support our projects throughout the year.

Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God. Pope John Paul II chose as his theme for the World Day of Peace in 1990, "Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All of Creation." Creation Care Ministry wishes you peace this Christmas season and thanks you for all your support this year! For more information: [nativitycreationcare@gmail.com](mailto:nativitycreationcare@gmail.com)

## NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL SENIOR BINGO

MONDAY, 29 JANUARY 2024

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

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



### NEED TO TALK?

Catholic Charities provides quality mental health services & counselors grounded in a Catholic understanding of the human person. "Nativity's Counselor" Ms. Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC is back at Nativity counseling clients in-person and is available on Thursdays from 10:00am-6:00pm to talk with any parishioners who may be struggling.

To set up an appointment, please contact Marguerite at 703-454-2415 or [mmturner@ccda.net](mailto:mmturner@ccda.net).



## WORKCAMP 2024

### Registration Open!

JUNE 22-28  
FREDERICK COUNTY, VA

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

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

Contact:  
[wc@nativityburke.org](mailto:wc@nativityburke.org)



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

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

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

## DATE NIGHT AT MALEK'S

7118 OLD KEENE MILL RD, SPRINGFIELD

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



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRY



# YOUTH MINISTRY

## LIFE TEEN: GRADES 9-12

DINNER - FELLOWSHIP - PRAYER & FORMATION

Sundays | 6:30-8:30pm

## HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS

GIRLS: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, weekly

GUYS: Thursdays, 7:00-8:30pm, 2x/month

## EDGE: GRADES 6-8

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

## EPIPHANY PARTY

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 3:30-5:00pm  
Life Teen 6:30-8:30pm

See website for full schedule

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

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




### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Deacon Richard Kelly

December 27th



**SCAM ALERT - PLEASE BEWARE**

Persons using fake email addresses pretending to be Fr. Bob Cilinski and other parish staff members, have been requesting special favors and/or gift cards. Please note that Fr. Bob, or any of the other priests or parish staff members, **DO NOT and will NEVER email, message, text or ask anyone** for any kind of financial assistance, special requests or favors. Please be careful and delete these kinds of emails or messages immediately. If you are unsure or have any questions, please call the parish office at 703-455-2400.



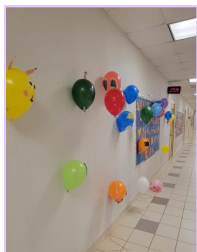
**NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

[nativityschool.org](http://nativityschool.org)



## Second Grade Thanksgiving Parade

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



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

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

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

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

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### ~ Important Upcoming Dates ~

Wednesday, January 3, 2024 - Classes Resume  
Friday, January 12 - Father/Father Figures' Breakfast  
Friday, January 12 - 12 NOON Dismissal

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Yes, Catholic education is worth the investment!

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



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



**Council Meetings:** 1st and 3rd Tuesday. First meeting is a business meeting, the second meeting of the month is devoted to faith formation. Rosary 7:15 PM; meeting at 7:30 PM.

Fellowship follows. Meet in the Nativity school cafeteria.

**Linktree Universal Sign-up Link:** Volunteer for an event!

Scroll down to view all events.

[https://linktr.ee/fr\\_sikora\\_council\\_7992](https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992).

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

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

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

**30 & 31 Dec. Consecration to the Holy Family 2023**

Distribute Consecration to the Holy Family Prayer Cards to parishioners as they arrive for Mass. Volunteer on Link Tree.

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

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

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

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

**27 Jan. Adopt-a-Highway clean up** Volunteer on Link Tree.

**Food for Others:** Volunteer drivers for food distribution to the poor. If you have a truck, SUV or van and can occasionally help deliver to 7 Corners on Thursday evenings or to Springfield on Friday evenings please consider helping. For Thursdays, please contact Br. Mark Sawyer at [sawyermark7992@verizon.net](mailto:sawyermark7992@verizon.net). For Fridays, please contact Br. Matt Stockburger at [mstock\\_w@yahoo.com](mailto:mstock_w@yahoo.com).

**Name Tags:** Email Vince Augelli at [VaKC23@gmail.com](mailto:VaKC23@gmail.com).

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

**Handy Knights Ministry:** If you are unable to perform basic maintenance tasks or small repairs in your home due to health or other factors, call the "Handy Knights." Email [handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com](mailto:handyknightsofnativity@gmail.com).

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

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

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



# Good News

## INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### Sunday, December 24

2 Sam 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

Ps 89:2-5,27,29

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

#### Monday, December 25

##### Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Ps 98:1-6

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

#### Tuesday, December 26

##### St. Stephen

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Ps 31:3c-4,6,8ab,16bc,17

Matthew 10:17-22

#### Wednesday, December 27

##### St. John, Apostle

1 John 1:1-4

Ps 97:1-2,5-6,11-12

John 20:1a,2-8

#### Thursday, December 28

##### Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 John 1:5 – 2:2

Ps 124:2-5,7b-8

Matthew 2:13-18

#### Friday, December 29

1 John 2:3-11

Ps 96:1-3,5b-6

Luke 2:22-35

#### Saturday, December 30

1 John 2:12-17

Ps 96:7-10

Luke 2:36-40

Today's Gospel shows us how the mission of Christ affected the Virgin Mary even before Jesus became human through her.

However, that is not when his salvation plan began. Jesus is God; he has always existed. His salvation plan impacted Mary in the moment of her own conception.

In the Nicene Creed we say that God "came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man." In other words, his Spirit bathed Mary in his pure, holy presence. Even though she could not understand how the Messiah could possibly be conceived within her, by the grace of God's Spirit she could know that God was the one who was asking for it and God was the one who was doing it.

All of us are called by God to carry the presence of Christ and birth him more fully into the world. What are you doing about it? How much are you fulfilling your divine destiny? Remember, he always empowers us to accomplish whatever he asks us to do. God knows what he's doing when he calls us to continue what

Mary began, and he is always trustworthy and dependable. There is nothing to fear, no reason to hold back from fulfilling our true destiny.

Everything that God does is always good, even when his plan



for our mission requires a journey through the cross. If we follow Christ, sooner or later we hang with him on the cross, persecuted for our faith.

With this in mind, when he asks us to do something for his kingdom, of course our answer is yes, right?

Why wouldn't it be? Of course we want to cooperate with his plan. Mary shows us that we can say yes to his plan even when we don't understand it nor see how God could possibly do what he says he'll do.

It's normal to feel inadequate, like he cannot fulfill his plan *through us*, because we know we are weak, sinful, and unqualified. Don't trust your feelings about it; trust God!

#### Reflect & Discuss:

- † When was the last time you said to God, "But how can this be? You want me to do WHAT? I don't understand why!" What were you afraid of?
- † How strong was your trust in God?
- † When God chooses you for a task or responsibility, what helps you move from uncertainty or confusion or reluctance into saying "yes"?
- † When the plans of God don't make sense or they seem unpleasant, how do you overcome your reluctance?



Navidad 2023

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

En Navidad, escuchamos la proclamación: "Porque nos ha nacido un Salvador que es Cristo y Señor". Esta buena noticia de gran alegría es la razón de nuestra renovada fe y esperanza.

En un mundo que experimenta tantos disturbios, nace un Salvador trae buenas nuevas y consuela a su pueblo. En una nación dividida, nace un Salvador que nos une como familia santa de Dios, como hermanos y hermanas. En nuestras vidas, cuando nos sentimos abrumados por nuestras cruces y sufrimientos, nace un Salvador que nos abraza con su amor y su misericordia con la fuerza y la gracia que necesitamos.

Y por todos estos dones, el Señor pide muy poco a cambio. Simplemente quiere que nos esforcemos cada día por confiar en él, por ser fieles y por ser instrumentos de su paz para todos aquellos a los que amamos y con los que nos encontramos. Lo que hacemos en Navidad nos enseña el camino.

Así que, con la ayuda de María y José, esfuércense por ser lo que nuestra Iglesia y nuestro mundo necesitan más que nunca: familias santas. Háganlo amándose y respetándose unos a otros y dándose los regalos más preciados de todos: su tiempo y su atención. Como ustedes han sido perdonados, pidan la gracia de perdonar a los demás, especialmente a quienes les han ofendido para que no haya amargura en su corazón. Continúen con el espíritu de dar que es tan frecuente en esta época del año, especialmente al compartir sus recursos y bendiciones con nuestros hermanos y hermanas más necesitados.

Queridos amigos en Cristo, tengan la seguridad de un recuerdo especial en las Misas de Navidad que celebraré y, por favor, recen por mí. Por intercesión de María y José, confiemos en el poder del Señor para renovar y transformar nuestro mundo, nuestra nación, y a cada uno de nosotros. Que la paz que sólo Cristo puede dar sea suya en Navidad y siempre.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

*Michael F. Burbidge*

Mons. Michael F. Burbidge  
Obispo de Arlington

### Homilia Solemnidad de la Natividad del Señor (Misa del día) Feliz Navidad a todos.

Esta es la gran noticia de esta mañana: Dios nos habla en su Palabra, que es Jesús. Una sola Palabra, pero ¡qué Palabra! Una Palabra que nos sabe a Dios. Mucho mejor, una Palabra que es Dios en persona: Jesucristo.

Dios ha nacido, forma parte de nuestra historia, para que nosotros gustemos de su historia, de su proyecto y de su vida. Desde ahora formamos parte de Él. Hoy nos dejamos emocionar por esta Palabra, por un

gesto y una mirada. Dios que nos habla, que nos toca, que nos mira. Navidad es la caricia de Dios, el abrazo de Dios a todo ser que alienta, que tiene vida. El beso de ternura de Dios a toda la humanidad.

Pero la clave, como siempre está en nuestra libertad, está en cómo recibimos nosotros la Palabra. Ella acampa entre nosotros, toma nuestra condición, "se hace hombre para divinizar a nosotros", "se abaja para levantarnos".

Ahora Jesús viene a nosotros y podemos descubrirle en los pobres y necesitados. Muchas veces no le queremos ver cuando llama a nuestra puerta, le rechazamos como fueron también rechazados José y María buscando posada en Belén. Este el gran drama del hombre: el rechazo de Dios y del hermano. Es significativo ver cómo tuvieron que ir fuera de los muros de la ciudad, cómo los primeros que se dieron cuenta del nacimiento de su hijo fueron los excluidos de aquella época, los pastores, quienes eran mal vistos porque nunca participaban del culto como los demás y vivían al margen de los demás. Los suyos no lo recibieron, por ello su trono fue un pesebre, su palacio un establo, su compañía un buey y una mula... ¡Por algo, hermanos, quiso Dios que fuera así!

Hoy, María y José, siguen llamando a nuestra puerta. Siguen pidiendo posada, trabajo, acogida en los rostros de tantos hermanos nuestros que necesitan de nosotros. Pobres, inmigrantes, hombres y mujeres desesperados, sin sentido... Hombres, mujeres, niños, jóvenes y mayores, que han negado la posibilidad de encontrarse con Dios, que reniegan de su condición de hijos de Dios, porque nosotros no lo testimoniamos con nuestro modo de vivir. "Y sabrán que sois discípulos míos, si os amáis los unos a los otros como yo os he amado".

Como lo expresa el profeta Isaías: nos ha nacido un niño que con su luz vence nuestras tinieblas, que traerá alegría, gozo, justicia y paz sin límites. Dios "ha desnudado su santo brazo a la vista de todas las naciones", se ha "remangado" y ha mostrado su poder, ha "echado un pulso" al mundo y ha vencido, es "maravilla de consejero, Dios guerrero, Padre perpetuo, príncipe de la paz". Pero lo ha hecho a su estilo, en un pueblecito escondido del mapa, en el seno de una familia humilde, en un pesebre pobre y rodeado de la gente sencilla, los pastores. Así nace Dios. "¡Hoy nos ha nacido el salvador, el Mesías, el Señor!"  
¡Dejémosle sitio en la posada de nuestra vida!

Demos gracias a Dios porque, sin dejar de ser Dios, se hace hombre. Porque, ello, nos lleva a ser mensajeros de esta gran noticia. A cambiar el mundo con la fuerza del amor, del perdón, de la alegría y de la ilusión. Ese es el secreto de la Navidad: Dios se hace presente en el mundo para salvarlo, para ser fuente inagotable de gracia y de ternura, de perdón y de felicidad.

Que al contemplar al Dios Niño nuestras conciencias se vean interpeladas: el que es Todopoderoso, entra al mundo por la "puerta de atrás", de la humildad. El que lo tiene todo, aparece ante nosotros desnudo. El que, en el cielo habitaba entre ángeles, gloria y majestad, nace en el mundo en medio de la soledad, la indiferencia o la frialdad. ¿Por qué nosotros -siendo menos que Dios- no optamos por seguir su ejemplo?

Es un contrasentido que estos días todos nos deseemos paz y felicidad, cuando en nuestro mundo siguen habiendo desdichas, guerras, enemistades y muchas carencias, nos sólo en lo material sino también en lo afectivo y moral. Todo ello es porque el mundo, los hombres aún no hemos comprendido el gran misterio de la Navidad; que la razón, el sentido de nuestras vidas, la auténtica felicidad nos la da Jesús; que la paz, el modo de sentirnos definitivamente hermanos es reconociendo en Jesús al Hijo de Dios mediante el cual todos somos hermanos.

De corazón, con espíritu cristiano, yo os animo a vivir con dicha, paz y felicidad, el gran acontecimiento del Nacimiento de Dios; y a ser portadores a todos los hombres de esa inmensa luz que ilumina la existencia de todo ser humano.

Que la Palabra que es luz verdadera nos alumbré y que acampe en nuestro ser.

Que así sea