

# THE HOLY FAMILY



**6400 Nativity Lane,  
Burke, Virginia 22015**  
[nativityburke.org](http://nativityburke.org)



**VERY REV. MSGR. 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/Social Action Ministries  
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

#### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR**

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

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

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

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** 7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday  
12:00 p.m. 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**

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



*“Heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience” - Col 3:12*

My dear parishioners,

The Christmas message brings incredible hope and joy to the world. The Christmas story continues to happen in our lives. Christ the Savior is born into our families and into each of our hearts. God comes as an unexpected gift, an unexpected child, a holy surprise of God. Christ now wants to be born into all families.

This Christ child continues to break down the barriers caused by sin, to bring reconciliation and healing to the world. That first Christmas night, heaven and earth met, and the human family was once again reconciled with God. Peace was announced by the angels. And we can always be at peace with God and one another if only we accept and welcome Christ into our hearts.

I am so inspired by the faith and generosity of Nativity Parish. There is lots of love in the community and I see the face of Christ in each family and each person. On behalf of Fr. Bresnahan, Fr. Bennett, Fr. Wilson, Deacon Kelly, Deacon Christian, Sister Donatella and Sister Mary Attilia, I wish you all my sisters and brothers, a most blessed and grace filled Christmas. Be assured you will all be remembered in the holy sacrifice of the Mass. May the light of Christ shine on all your hearts. Merry Christmas to all our beautiful families!

Love and blessings,

*Bob Cilinski*  
Msgr. Bob Cilinski  
Pastor

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 30th. Donations can be dropped off at the school office beginning January 6, 2024. For more information contact Mrs. McGuire at 703-455-2300 ext. 145.



**CHRISTMAS THANKS**



Thank you to all who made our Christmas Masses so beautiful! The church was decorated so beautifully, the choirs sang in joyous praise, the Liturgical Ministers, including our altar servers, lectors, ushers, greeters and Eucharistic Ministers who served with love. Many thanks to our Musicians, Sacristans, Parish Staff, Mass Coordinators, our Priests and Deacons who made our Advent and Christmas liturgies so beautiful. Special thanks to our Art and Environmental Chair Vickie Sands, our Sacristan Maureen Andersen, the Knights of Columbus, and our choir directors Carole Fischl, Debbie Doyle, Mai Tran, Mina Lee and Sara Prince.



**Consecration to the Holy Family Event  
28-29 December 2024**

December 29th 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 28th and 29th. 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/category/upcoming-events/>. You can also learn all about this K of C program here: [www.kofc.org/consecration](http://www.kofc.org/consecration).

The Nativity Knights of Columbus will provide information that describes the activity and recommended preparation steps for families. **Information is also on the Parish Website under Activities and Events.**

On Saturday December 28th and Sunday December 29th, 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.

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God  
Mass Schedule**

Tuesday, December 31 - 5:00 pm Vigil Mass  
Wednesday, January 1 - 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am\*,  
1:00 pm Spanish Mass  
*\*Live streamed*

*Year End Office Schedule*

**Monday, December 30 - Friday, January 3**  
Office closed all day

**Saturday, January 4 - Open 9:00am - 5:00pm**  
**Sunday, January 5 - Open 8:00am - 2:00pm**



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Marriage Enrichment Ministry is looking for a few individuals to help with **Child Care** and/or **Clean Up** during our **January 11** date night. Come make a positive impact to support marriages and families. Email [marriage@nativityburke.org](mailto:marriage@nativityburke.org) or call/text 571-208-2821.



## Bishop Burbidge's Respect Life Office and all the Vulnerable Unborn Children in Virginia need YOU in Richmond!

- Pro-Abortion Legislators want to pass the Extreme Abortion Virginia Constitutional Amendment
  - ⇒ Senate has pledged to take up the extreme abortion amendment on Day 1 of the 2025 General Assembly Session with the House of Delegates to follow
  - ⇒ Will result in more abortions than Roe ever allowed
  - ⇒ Allows for more brutal killing of the innocent, weak and helpless unborn children - stand with us against this!
  - ⇒ Crushes parental rights; Forces taxpayers to fund abortion; Shields malfeasant providers; Places women and children at unprecedented risk!
- Take Action - Pray for an end to this evil! **Be Present in Richmond at least one of these days: January 8, 9, 10**
  - ⇒ Sign-up at <https://vshl.org/we-need-you-in-richmond/>
  - ⇒ Simply be in Richmond in-person at the Virginia General Assembly between 10 am and 1pm to help line the hallways of the capital and fill the galleries of the House of Delegates & State Senate to make sure our elected representatives know we are watching them and oppose this extreme Amendment.
  - ⇒ Email [rickloffredo@outlook.com](mailto:rickloffredo@outlook.com) if you want to join us Wednesday, January 8th, or want to go another day!

*God bless you for standing up for the most innocent, most vulnerable and weakest among us!*



## Marriage Enrichment Ministry

# Communications in Marriage

ART OF BEING PRESENT

*Date Night!*

Saturday, January 11  
6:30- 8:30 PM  
Nativity Cafeteria

Childcare & Dinner Provided



Register at:  
<https://nativityburke.org/date-night/>  
Contact: **Anna Lisa Licud**  
[marriage@nativityburke.org](mailto:marriage@nativityburke.org)



**Jeanine Turner**  
Professor & Author  
Georgetown University



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sister Ernestine  
January 1st



# OPERATION STARFISH HONDURAS MISSION TRIP

JULY 7-11, 2025

If you're college-age or in your 20s or 30s, 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)

# WORKCAMP 2025 *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, and fellowship.

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

Contact:  
wc@nativityburke.org



## Pray the Pro-Life Rosary with Us!



When: Usually Fridays after Nativity's 7:30am Mass. Where: 900 S. Washington Street, Falls Church. Join Nativity in peacefully praying the Pro-Life Rosary on the sidewalk in front of the Falls Church abortion facility for mothers in need and for the protection of human life.

## IN MARY'S FOOTSTEPS A Group for Widows

We are a group of women who share the experience of the loss of our beloved husbands and join together in faith and fellowship. We have gathered for lunches or dinners out, retreats at the Benedictine Monastery, museum tours, etc. Our next meeting will take place on Monday, January 13th at 11:00am in the Father Ready room. For further information, please contact Cat Sands at csands@nativityburke.org. May God bless you!

## Knights of Columbus Council 7992 Basketball Free Throw Challenge

This fun event will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM in the Father Martin Center and is open to all boys and girls ages 9 - 14. Each contestant will be scored on 15 free throws taken from an age-designated foul line. Boy and girl winners for each age group will be determined by highest score. In case of a tie, five additional tie-breaker free throws will be used to determine the winners. Participants can arrive any time between 6-9 PM and do not have to remain for the entire event. Winners will be notified by email. Participation time for each contestant is approximately 15 mins. No early registration or notification is required. Contestants register at the event before participating. This is a community event so all are welcome regardless of parish affiliation. Bring friends and compete with each other! Group winners will be eligible to compete at the Knights of Columbus District Challenge in February at Holy Spirit in Annandale. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Batrla at jbat747@gmail.com.



# SENIOR BINGO

IN HONOR OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK, NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS HOSTING A SENIOR BINGO.

ALL SENIOR CITIZENS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 30TH IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA. 10:00 AM STARTS MINGLE TIME WITH BINGO TIME TO FOLLOW FROM 10:30 TO 11:30 AM.

LITE SNACKS AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED. PLEASE RSVP TO MRS. CHAPMAN AT 703-455-2300.

## Merry Christmas from the Rosary Ministry!!

Please join us for our January Rosary meeting on **Tuesday, January 21st from 1:00-3:00pm** in the Father Ready Room

We will be teaching how to make mission Rosaries. It is a great ministry to help pass some time on these long winter days. Plus it gets Rosaries into praying hand all over the world. Please contact us with any questions at Rosaryministry@nativityburke.org.





**MARCH FOR LIFE  
JOIN US ON JANUARY 24, 2025  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

The right to life is a human right. Our defense of that right is a joyful witness to the beauty and dignity of every human person. The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country.

Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It's the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. But this is not just a protest... TOGETHER, WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE LIFE.

We celebrate each and every life, from the moment of conception. We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected! More information to follow.



**ECHO Collection next weekend 4/5 January  
Food Room Most Needed Items**

ECHO's Food Room continues to break records. We collected 926 lbs in December.

- Choose sizes appropriate for our average family size of four.
- Include an assortment of food to ensure a variety of items.
- We are short on many other items such as personal care products and the items listed below.

**ECHO's policy is to not give expired, open or repackaged food to clients. PLEASE do not bring these items or glass jars!!**

*Protein Items, e.g., can chicken, Spam, chili, Tin Fish (tuna, sardines, salmon, etc.), Canned Fruit, Bagged Beans (black, red, or garbanzo preferred), Lentils, Spaghetti (pasta and sauce) Instant and Ground Coffee, Canned Tomatoes, Tomato (paste and Tomato Sauce), Baked Beans, Bagged Rice (white, jasmine or basmati), Instant (Box) Potatoes, Crackers, Ramen, Can milk, shelf stable milk, Boxed Pasta, Juice (Bottles or box), Tea (Green, Herbal or Black), Healthy Snacks, Spices (garlic, onion, cinnamon, salt, pepper), Masa (Corn) Flour, Boxed cereal, Lemon or Lime Juice, Jelly and Honey, Tortillas, Cooking Oil, Brown Paper Bags, Reusable Grocery Bags.*

*Children's Toothbrushes, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Facial Tissues, Dish Soap, Paper Towels Body/Hand Lotion, Band Aids, Shaving Cream/Razors, Diapers - Sizes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Baby Wipes, Sanitary Napkins.*



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

**Monday, December 30th**

7:30 am Special Intention for the Shia Family

**Tuesday, December 31st**

7:30 am † Cass DeFiore  
12:00 pm † Eileen Scanlon Soldano  
5:00 pm † Dr. Rosan Delos Santos

**Wednesday, January 1st**

7:00 am Parishioners  
9:00 am Special intention for the Roa Family  
11:00 am Special Intention for Lila Ortiz  
1:00 pm † Cosme Manuel Rosal Jr.

**Thursday, January 2nd**

7:30 am † Carveth Gooch  
12:00 pm † Mary Buckley

**Friday, January 3rd**

7:30 am † Lois Agosta

**Saturday, January 4th**

9:00 am † Lucy Klimkos  
5:00 pm Special Intention for the U.S. Sea Services -  
Navy, Marines, Merchant Marine, Coast Guard  
7:00 pm Parishioners

**Sunday, January 5th**

7:00 am † Jairo Gustavo Vargas  
9:00 am † Babette Williams  
11:00 am † Cesar Castro  
1:00 pm Special Intention for Donna Pellegrin  
5:30 pm † Tito Morales

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

**Nativity Assembly**

Bethlehem Stable  
Divine Manifestation  
Jesus Takes First Breath

Mary and Joseph  
Blessed Within Beyond Measure  
Welcome Parenthood

Calves and Foals and Lambs  
Surround the Baby Jesus  
Curled in a Manger

Angels and Shepherds  
Celebrate with Cheerful Chants  
Elated Acclaims

Regal Visitors  
Present Choice Gifts from Gentiles  
Thoughtful of His Reign

At This Reception  
Jesus Springs as Prince of Peace  
Alight to the World

*Jim Boucher*



# YOUTH MINISTRY

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



**EDGE: GRADES 6-8**  
Twice a month: Sunday 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
& Friday 7:00-8:30 p.m.



See website for full schedule

**EPIPHANY PARTY: JANUARY 5**  
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: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**LIFE FEST: JANUARY 23, 2025**  
Details coming soon! Will be open to grades 8-12


See website for full schedule

Before attending, please register for the 2024-2025 year of ministry using our free, online forms.

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

**Employment Opportunities in the Diocese**  
Find the perfect Opportunity at:  
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/human-resources/employment-opportunities/>

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



**Pro-Life Corner**  
**National March For Life (MFL) - Friday, January 24, 2025:** Join 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. Save the date.

**Virginia Pro-Life Day in Richmond - January 29, 2025:** Support Life issues and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow parishioners across the state. Your personal presence is vital in supporting pro-life members of the General Assembly or encouraging those who have voted against pro-life bills in the past to reconsider their views. Contact [rickloffredo@outlook.com](mailto:rickloffredo@outlook.com) if interested in attending.


**Tepeyac Pro-Life OB/GYN: Faith-based Pro-life OB/GYN:** restoring integrity of human person with modern medicine and healing of Christ. [tepeyacobgyn.com](http://tepeyacobgyn.com), 703.273.9440.

**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](http://helpforpregnantwomen.org), 866.444.3553.

**A Woman's Choice Center - Providing Compassionate Support:** Free pregnancy, medical, educational, and support services for women and families. [awomanschoicecenter.com](http://awomanschoicecenter.com), 703.538.4305.

**Mary's Comfort of VA: Ensuring Expectant Mothers Shelter, Support and New Beginnings:** Provides full support, including training in parenting and life skills, career coaching and educational advancement. [maryscomfortva.org](http://maryscomfortva.org), 703.455.4500.

**St. Margaret of Cortona - Transitional and Maternity Housing:** Helping single mothers in exceptionally difficult circumstances: Assisting mothers with children who may be transitioning from homeless and domestic violence shelters to independent living; and Assisting women pregnant with their first child or pregnant moms who already have other children and find themselves at significant risk in their current living situations. [https://www.ccda.net/need-help/housing/family-housing-\(st-margaret\)/](https://www.ccda.net/need-help/housing/family-housing-(st-margaret)/), or call 703.910.4845.



**Mary's Shelter: Sheltering Women and Their Children:** Provides an expectant mother, and any additional children she may have, with housing for up to three years in order to further her education and/or secure employment. <https://marysshelterva.org/>, 540.374.3407.

**Catholic Charities Pregnancy and Adoption Services:** Provides transformative services to individuals, couples and families whose lives are impacted by unplanned pregnancy, parenting in a crisis situation and/or whose lives have been touched by adoption. <https://www.ccda.net/need-help/pregnancy-and-adoption-services/>, 703.841.3830

**Project Rachel: Help after Abortion:** A safe place to share your emotions and work toward healing. For confidential inquiries and to learn more. [helpafterabortion.org](http://helpafterabortion.org), 703.841.2504.

**Rachel's Vineyard - A safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem broken hearts:** Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment. [www.rachelsvineyard.org/](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/), 877.467.3463.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**  
The Altar Flower Book for 2025 is open. This is a thoughtful way to honor a loved one, living or deceased. If you are interested, please stop by the parish office to sign up. You can now also go online and reserve flowers on our website at: <https://nativityburke.org/altar-flowers/>.





It's that time of the year once again, when we take a look at our lives and make some resolutions. It's also a perfect time to take a look at what is necessary to keep our parish viable and growing. For just as the parish has certain obligations concerning the parishioners, we the parishioners, have responsibilities concerning the parish.

For example, did you know that when your children turn 18 years old, they are considered adults and should register as such with the parish? Also, are you aware that as your families grow with the birth of children, your parish registration cards need to be updated? It also is very important to update the parish registration cards as your children grow in their faith. And how about changes in address and phone numbers?

These items might seem insignificant when compared to other events going on in our lives, and can be easily overlooked, but when it is necessary for the office staff to get in touch with families, current information becomes very important.

So as we begin a new year, with its many resolutions and good intentions, let's make updating our parish information one of them!

**Sick / Homebound Visits**

Are you or someone you know sick and/or homebound for any reason? We can arrange home visits from the parish and provide prayer and the sacraments. We would love to bring God's Grace and Peace to anyone in difficult times.

Please contact Cat Sands, Pastoral Minister, at [csands@nativityburke.org](mailto:csands@nativityburke.org) to schedule a visit.

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia Workshops**

Haven is a nonprofit, nonsectarian community organization of trained volunteers that offers emotional support to the bereaved, the seriously ill, the dying and to their families and friends. Haven also provides education to the community about the needs of those who are grieving. Since September 1976 Haven volunteers have helped individuals work through their grief, offering comfort and support by sharing insights, resources and techniques that encourage recovery and healing.

**Grief Support Groups**

**Open Suicide Loss Support Group**

This group, open to persons who have had a loved one die by suicide, is held twice monthly. Participants will be offered information and suggestions for handling the complexity of grief that often follows a suicide. To participate, call Haven at 703-941-7000. *The group meets on Saturdays.*

**Four-Week Widow/Widower Bereavement Support Group**



*(formerly six-weeks).* The group is open to persons whose spouse or partner has died. This loss can be numbing and devastating. You may have feelings of sadness, loneliness and abandonment. No one can heal your pain, but this group will help you learn ways to cope with this difficult experience. Pre-registration is required and participants must be able to attend all sessions. Check our home page or call Haven for dates.

**Parent Loss Support Workshop**

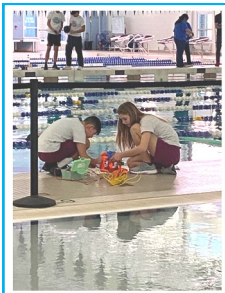
This group is open to anyone who has experienced the death of a parent. Coping with a loss like this is often a traumatic and painful experience. This group will provide participants with coping skills and give them an opportunity to share their experience with others who also are struggling to deal with the myriad facets of death. Check our home page: Haven of Northern Virginia Grief Support ([havenofnova.org](http://havenofnova.org)) or call Haven at for dates and further information. *Pre-registration is required.*

*Haven of Northern Virginia is located at 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, Virginia 22003. Phone 703-941-7000 or email [havenofnova@verizon.net](mailto:havenofnova@verizon.net)*

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

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

### Nativity School Recognized as an International STEM School of Excellence



"Here at Nativity, we are intentionally preparing future leaders with the skills they will need for our changing world," said Maria Kelly, School Principal. "We are thrilled to be recognized by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) and honored to be named a STEM School of Excellence.

This recognition is for the school's outstanding commitment to providing a robust, integrative STEM education experience," explained Mark Harrell, director of ITEEA's STEM Center for Teaching and Learning, praising Nativity's academic strength. "We at ITEEA are incredibly proud of and grateful to Nativity Catholic School for its dedication to fostering STEM literacy for all students. Your hard work and commitment to excellence is truly inspiring. We celebrate your achievements and look forward to seeing the amazing things you will continue to accomplish," said Harrell. "Thanks to the dedicated leadership of Principal Maria Kelly and the strong support of pastor Msgr. Bob Cilinski in partnership with parents," said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, "Nativity Catholic School offers students a faith-filled education focused on academic excellence. We, in the diocese, are proud of Nativity's recognition as a School of Excellence and look forward to their continued success."

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#### Important Upcoming Dates ~

- Monday, Jan 6 – School Resumes
- Monday, Jan 20 – No School/MLK Day
- Sunday, Jan 26 – Catholic Schools Week Begins
- Monday, Jan 27 – Spelling Bee, 2:15 PM
- Thursday, Jan 30 – Military/Emer Personnel Event
- Friday, Jan 31 – Free Lunch for All Students
- Saturday, Feb 1 – PTO Multicultural Event, 6-9 PM

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 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:

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

Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy at (703) 455-2300 and/or smurph@nativityschool.org.



**Linktree Universal Sign-up Link - Volunteer for an event!**  
 Scroll down to view all event. [https://linktr.ee/fr\\_sikora\\_council\\_7992](https://linktr.ee/fr_sikora_council_7992).

**Council 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.

**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)

**Consecration to the Holy Family:** On Saturday, December 28 and Sunday, December 29, the Knights will distribute Consecration Prayer cards to parishioners as they arrive at Mass and the celebrant will lead the congregation in prayer at the end of Mass. See SUG on LinkTree.

**Free Throw Challenge:** The annual Free Throw Challenge will be held on Saturday, January 11 from 6-9 PM in the Fr. Martin Center. Volunteers are needed, most especially during the first half of the event. See SUG on Linktree.

**Food for Others:** Volunteer for food distribution to the poor, delivered on designated Thursday or Friday evenings. For Thursdays, contact Br. Mark Sawyer at sawyerkoc7992@verizon.net. Fridays, contact Br. Matt Stockburger at mstock\_w@yahoo.com. Deliver food from Giant to the FFO warehouse Tuesday mornings; contact Br. Bob Colella robert.colella.86@gmail.com.

**Name Tags:** If you have not received your name tag, email Warden Steve Resch at warden7992@nativityburke.org.

**Nativity Ushers assist at collections:** Volunteer for your Mass! Volunteer on Link Tree for a database of potential helpers!

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

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

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

**3rd Degree Knights - Grow with 4th Degree:** participate in patriotic activities that promote Catholic citizenship. Next assembly meeting is January 14. A GREAT OPPORTUNITY – The next exemplification will be a special event for the 4th Degree 125th anniversary - February 22, 2025 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Several Sir Knights from our assembly will attend and transportation is available. If you are interested, please contact our Faithful Navigator Mark Corzine at fn2996@vakofc.org.

**Join the Knights!** The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy changing world. Please email our Deputy Grand Knight, Michael Bender, at dgk7992@nativityburke.org. or the Grand Knight, Chris Odell with any questions.

## EMAIL & TEXTING SCAM ALERT

Nativity parishioners, please be aware of email scammers posing as Nativity priests. If you receive an email or text from any Nativity clergy urgently asking you for favors or money, this is a scam. Please ignore and block the sender. If you have any questions, please call the Nativity Parish office: (703) 455-2400





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**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. Questions: contact John French at [john.french@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:john.french@arlingtondiocese.org) or (703) 841-3819.

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 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Retreat Begins / Session 1  
 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Break/Book Signing  
 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Session 2 - 7 Sorrows Rosary/Prayer  
 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch/Book Signing  
 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Session 3 - (Bring Flower for Our Lady)  
 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Break/Book Signing  
 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Session 4  
 4:30 p.m. - Retreat Ends



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**Solemnidad de María Santísima, Madre de Dios, Ciclo C****María meditaba en su corazón todas estas palabras****Autor: P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap****Sitio Web: P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap****Números 6, 22-27; Gálatas 4, 4-7; Lucas 2, 16-21 María meditaba en su corazón todas estas palabras**

El Concilio nos ha enseñado a mirar a María como la «figura» de la Iglesia, esto es, su ejemplo perfecto y su primicia. Pero ¿puede María servir de modelo a la Iglesia también en su título de «Madre de Dios» con el que es honrada este día? ¿Podemos llegar a ser madres de Cristo?

Ello no sólo es posible, sino que algunos Padres de la Iglesia han llegado a decir que, sin esta imitación, el título de María sería inútil para uno: «¿De qué me sirve -decían- que Cristo haya nacido una vez de María en Belén, si no nace también por fe en mi alma?». Jesús mismo inició esta aplicación a la Iglesia del título «Madre de Cristo», cuando declaró:

«Mi madre y mis hermanos son los que escuchan la palabra de Dios y la ponen en práctica» (Lc 8, 21). La liturgia del día nos presenta a María como la primera de quienes se convierten en madres de Cristo mediante la escucha atenta de su palabra. Ha elegido, de hecho, para esta Solemnidad, el pasaje evangélico donde está escrito que «María, por su parte, conservaba todas estas palabras, meditándolas en su corazón».

Cómo es posible transformarse, en concreto, en madre de Cristo, lo explica el mismo Jesús: escuchando la Palabra y poniéndola en práctica. Hay dos maternidades incompletas o dos tipos de interrupción de una maternidad. Una es la antigua y conocida del aborto. Tiene lugar cuando se concibe una vida pero no se da a luz porque, entretanto, por causas naturales o por el pecado de los hombres, el feto ha muerto. Hasta hace poco, éste era el único caso que se conocía de maternidad in-completa. Hoy se conoce otro que consiste, al contrario, en dar a luz un hijo sin haberlo concebido. Así ocurre con los niños concebidos en probetas e implantados, en un segundo momento, en el seno de la mujer, y en el caso desolador y triste del útero dado en préstamo para albergar, a veces bajo pago, vidas humanas concebidas en otro lugar. En este caso a quien la mujer da a luz no viene de ella, no es concebido «antes en el corazón que en el cuerpo».

Lamentablemente, también en el plano espiritual existen estas dos tristes posibilidades. Concibe a Jesús, sin darle a luz, quien acoge la Palabra sin ponerla en práctica, quien continúa practicando un aborto espiritual tras otro, formulando propósitos de conversión que luego son sistemáticamente olvidados y abandonados a medio camino; quien se comporta hacia la Palabra como el observador apresurado que mira su rostro en el espejo y luego se marcha olvidando de inmediato como era (St 1, 23-24). En resumen, quien tiene la fe, pero no tiene las obras.

Al contrario, da a luz a Cristo sin haberlo concebido quien realiza muchas obras, a veces también buenas, pero que no proceden del corazón, de amor por Dios y de recta intención, sino más bien de la costumbre, de la hipocresía, de la búsqueda de la propia gloria y del propio interés, o sencillamente de la satisfacción que da actuar. En suma, quien tiene las obras, pero no tiene la fe.

Estos son los casos negativos, de una maternidad in-completa. San Francisco de Asís nos describe el caso positivo de una verdadera y completa maternidad que nos asemeja a María: «Somos madres de Cristo -escribe- cuando lo llevamos en el corazón y en nuestro cuerpo por medio del divino amor y de la conciencia pura y sincera; lo generamos a través de las obras santas, ¡que deben brillar ante los demás para ejemplo!». Nosotros -viene a decir el santo- concebimos a Cristo cuando le amamos con sinceridad de corazón y con rectitud de conciencia, y le damos a luz cuando realizamos obras santas que lo manifiestan al mundo.

**La Sagrada Familia constituye el mejor testimonio de que la familia sobrevive a los ataques que intentan destruirla**  
**Alocución de monseñor Domingo Salvador Castagna, arzobispo de Corrientes,**  
**constituye el mejor testimonio de que la familia sobrevive a los ataques que intentan destruirla**  
**Por: Mons. Domingo Salvador Castagna, arzobispo de Corrientes | Fuente: churchforum.com**

Alocución de monseñor Domingo Salvador Castagna, arzobispo de Corrientes para el domingo de la Sagrada Familia  
 (31 de diciembre de 2006) Lucas 2, 41-52

Testimonio de vida. La Sagrada Familia constituye el mejor testimonio de que la familia sobrevive a los ataques que intentan destruirla. Su fin, como lo pretenden contradictorios mentores de la actualidad, constituiría el fin catastrófico de la humanidad. Va mucho más allá de la procreación biológica. Sin familia no hay género humano, no hay vida, y los habitantes del deteriorado planeta terminan conformando una multiplicación en serie de fríos y metálicos robots. La santidad de la Familia de Nazaret revela valores esenciales, rasgos humanos que configuran el ideal del amor generoso y de la espiritualidad. La decadencia que se ha producido en las últimas décadas -en contra de la familia- es consecuencia de un estado de enfermedad que tiende a constituirse en epidemia. Las ideologías de turno, nacidas del pesimismo y del vacío, han destruido la dignidad original del varón y la mujer, del niño por nacer, de la educación y de la ancianidad. Subrepticamente, con motivo de la nueva ley de educación, se filtra el veneno de un protocolo (CEDAW) que, bajo el título noble de la indiscriminación, traiciona desbozadamente los valores que hacen a la concepción cristiana del hombre. No quisiera que se me tildara de negativo por el hecho de describir una realidad lacerada por el error y la inmoralidad.





What happened in the years after that?

Use the code to find these words from the scriptures.

○=A	◐=E	◑=I	◒=M	◓=Q	◔=U	◕=Y
●=B	◒=F	⊕=J	◑=N	◒=R	◓=V	◔=Z
◑=C	◑=G	⊕=K	◒=O	◒=S	◓=W	
◑=D	◑=H	⊕=L	◑=P	◓=T	◓=X	

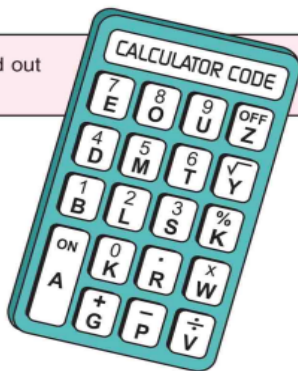


Word search grid using the code from the previous block.

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When Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom.

Use the calculator code to find out Jesus' age.



Calculator code puzzle:

6 X 7 2 ÷ 7

√ 7 ON • 3

8 2 4

# Children's Worship Bulletin™

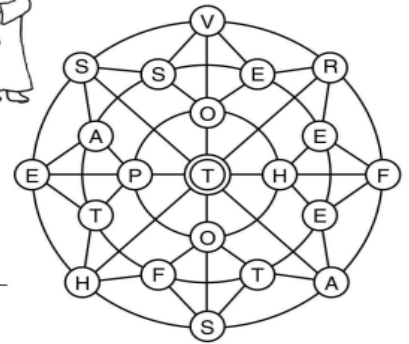
Ages 7+

December 29, 2024 • Luke 2:41-52

## Jesus at the Temple

Every year, Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for something special. What was the occasion?

Start at the center, then follow the arrows and fill in the letters below.



Tracing practice with arrows and lines.

After the Feast, Jesus' family left to return home. Mary and Joseph thought He was somewhere in the group. That evening, they found that He wasn't there, so they returned to Jerusalem to look for Him. After three days, they found Him! Where was He?

Fit the missing part of each word in the puzzle below.

tem\_\_\_\_\_ chers \_\_\_\_\_ tions

w\_\_\_\_\_ am\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ tening

\_\_\_\_\_ ting cou\_\_\_\_\_ ask\_\_\_\_\_

He \_\_\_\_\_ as sit \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ ong the

tea \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ ple

\_\_\_\_\_ rts, lis \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_ ing ques \_\_\_\_\_ !



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