



# THE HOLY FAMILY OF *Jesus, Mary & Joseph*



*The child  
grew and  
became strong,  
filled with  
wisdom; and  
the favor  
of God  
was upon him.*

*Luke 2:40*



**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

#### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR**

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 454-2415



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

**SUNDAY MASSES:** 5:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass  
7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass in Spanish  
7:00 a.m./9:00 a.m./11:00 a.m./  
1:00 p.m./5:30 p.m.

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

**HOLY DAY MASSES:** As Announced

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

**BAPTISM:** For more information and how to schedule a  
baptism, please visit our website:  
<https://nativityburke.org/baptism/>

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

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Announcements for the bulletin  
**must** be submitted **in writing** by 9:00 AM on  
Tuesday (5 days prior to publication). Please note: this  
deadline can change due to holiday office closings.  
You may email submissions to  
[bulletin@nativityburke.org](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 Fr. 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.

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, Sister Donatella, Sister Mary Attilia and Sister Ernestine, 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, wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

Love and Christmas Blessings,

*Fr. Bob Cilinski*  
Fr. Bob Cilinski,  
Pastor

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES AT:  
7:30AM - 9:00AM - 11:00AM - 1:00PM (Spanish)  
THE PARISH OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN ON:  
Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 8:00AM**

### Annual Parish Offertory Commitment

THANK YOU to all the parishioners who responded to our annual offertory renewal. Reflecting on God's goodness and the many blessings He has given us, a record number of parishioners submitted their pledges of support for the coming year. The new commitment began with the Advent season. Your donation enables the parish to continue our mission of bringing the community closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ through the sacraments, outreach and prayer.

May God continue to pour out His blessing on each one of us as we approach the New Year, filled with opportunities for gratitude and grace.



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

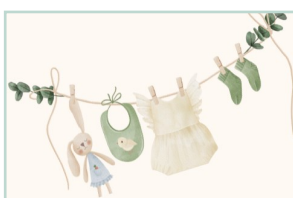
December 31st is the Feast of the Holy Family, and our Council will assist our Pastor, Fr. Bob, in conducting a Consecration to the Holy Family for our parish Families at the end of all Masses on December 30th and 31st. You can learn all about this KofC program here: [www.kofc.org/consecration](http://www.kofc.org/consecration)

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.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
Sister Ernestine  
**January 1st**



## 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)

### 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).

*"By faith Abraham obeyed."* If you should be called to serve the Lord as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, pray for a deep faith and obey Him in love. Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, [michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:michael.isenberg@arlingtondiocese.org) or (703) 841-2514.

### 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 Committee chaired by Vickie Sands, our Sacristan Maureen Andersen, and our choir directors Carole Fischl, Debbie Doyle, Mai Tran and Sara Prince. Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus who provided parking lot ministry of Welcome and Safety!

### 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).

### Struggling with addiction in the family?

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



### A Message from The Nativity Creation Care Ministry

The new year is often a time to review our financial habits among our other resolutions. Online giving provides so many benefits to both the parish and the parishioner in time saving, safety and security, and consistency. What is not as often mentioned is the reduction in physical resources. Your commitment to online giving reduces use of paper envelopes and checks, postage and delivery resources among others. Make this the year that you switch to online giving; your new habit will bring many benefits and show care for God's creation, one of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching.

Nativity's website notes that: Online donations may be made via OnlineGiving at any time from the comfort of your own home or any place with internet access. Online donations are credited to your tax statement for the end of the year (except when made anonymously), and each user can change his or her preferences or desired donation amounts at any time.

Learn more at: <https://nativityburke.org/online-giving/>

## 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.





### 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

### 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).



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

#### Monday, January 1st

7:30 am Special Int. for Marta Griffith  
9:00 am † Carl Heitmanek  
11:00 am Special Int. for John Bliss  
1:00 pm † Ignatius Paul Grano (*Spanish Mass*)

#### Tuesday, January 2nd

7:30 am † Carmela Merulla  
12:00 pm † Richard O'Brien

#### Wednesday, January 3rd

7:30 am † Margaret Zambrano  
3:00 pm † Nancy Kraft (*Sunrise Living*)

#### Thursday, January 4th

7:30 am † Rafael Toledo-Ocampo  
12:00 pm † Lucy Klimkos

#### Friday, January 5th

7:30 am Special Int. for the Shia Family  
9:00 am Special Int. for Danilo Dizon

#### Saturday, January 6th

9:00 am † Gigi Hanna  
5:00 pm Parishioners  
7:00 pm † Bertha Yapura De Alcocer

#### Sunday, January 7th

7:00 am † Ernie Weeks  
9:00 am † Mary Galle  
11:00 am † Karen Gammache  
1:00 pm † Antonio Regio  
5:30 pm Living & Deceased Members of Conte Fam.

In prayer, let us remember  
the sick and deceased of the parish  
visit [nativityburke.org](http://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.



### APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING

On the weekend of January 20/21, the knights will be speaking at all Masses asking for help to build Nativity's 26th home in the heart of Appalachia. The goal will be to raise \$110,000, and because of Nativity's generosity throughout the year, we are already at over \$30,000 towards that goal.

Donations can be made either through electronic giving, mailing directly to the office at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, VA, 22015, or through donations at the Mass on that weekend.

Please make checks out to Nativity Parish and annotate on your check that it is for the Appalachia Home Building project and include your envelope number for ease of posting to your account. Refer any questions to Bob Corsi, [bobcorsi@cox.net](mailto:bobcorsi@cox.net).

### Gifts for Seminarian Education Endowment Fund (SEEF)

Please support our seminarians and SEEF, a permanent endowment fund established in 2011. SEEF's income provides funding for annual seminarian expenses such as room, board, tuition, health insurance and books, which total almost \$45,000 per seminarian. Please give generously! To donate, make checks payable to: **"Foundation for the CDA - SEEF."**

Mail to: The Foundation, 200 N. Glebe Road, Suite 811, Arlington, VA 22203. Contact John French at [john.french@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:john.french@arlingtondiocese.org) or (703) 841-3819 with any questions. Thank you!

### Are you registered in the Parish?

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

### The Knights of Columbus - Ladies Auxiliary

Formed to assist and support the Knights, our Church and the four virtues of Charity, Unity, Sorority and Patriotism. We are spouses, daughters, mothers, or sisters of Knights of Columbus who are in good standing or deceased.

Our fellowship and informational meetings are the First Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Fr. Ready Room. Contact [kdelatte65@gmail.com](mailto:kdelatte65@gmail.com) for information or to be added to our email distribution list.

### Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation

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

The Virginia Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credit Program will award a 65% state tax credit for donations made to the Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation, which will, in turn, provide scholarships for new students wishing to attend our diocesan Catholic Schools. You do not have to itemize in order to receive the 65% tax credit! Donations must be preauthorized in advance. Please call Jeanne Combos at 703-841-2764 (or email at [DASF@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:DASF@arlingtondiocese.org)) or go online for more details and to download the preauthorization request form at:

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

## Building a Culture of Life Friday, January 12, 7:00-9:00pm Nativity Cafeteria

Nativity welcomes Pro-Life speaker Olivia Turner, President of the Virginia Society for Human Life, Refreshments Served.

Join us in fellowship a week before the National March for Life as Nativity hosts renowned Pro-Life speaker, Olivia Turner! A regular on national news and syndicated programs. Frequent witness before legislative bodies. Traveled to over seventeen countries and all fifty states to speak on post-abortion syndrome and pro-life issues. A favorite on college campuses.

*Here are some topics that Olivia will discuss:*

- What happens now? Unraveling the damage of Roe v. Wade
- Best ways to participate in building a true Culture of Life at every level
- Facts about the impact of abortion on the health and well-being of women, the social damage done, and the way forward legislatively
- How to help heal the wounded from abortion
- How to respond to current conversations with truth and compassion

*Sponsored by Nativity Marriage Enrichment,  
Pro-Life and Knights of Columbus*

**RSVP: [alicud@nativityburke.org](mailto:alicud@nativityburke.org) or text 571.208.2821**

### After Abortion Care Volunteer Opportunities

Please help support the diocesan after abortion care outreach through prayer and awareness. To learn more, please RSVP for a Project Rachel Zoom Call on Thursday, January 11 from 12:30-1:00pm by emailing Sarah LaPierre, Project Rachel director, at [info@helpafterabortion.org](mailto:info@helpafterabortion.org).

## THE WALK HUMBLY PODCAST With BISHOP BURBIDGE



**"I recognize the importance of communications and evangelization, the use of all tools possible to get out the Good News."**

— Bishop Burbidge

<https://www.catholicherald.com/walk-humbly-podcast/>



**Christmas Family MOVIE DAY**

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

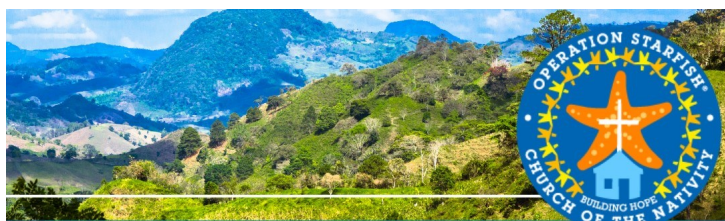
It's still the Christmas season!  
We invite families with children to come  
watch the movie "The Star" with movie snacks.

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

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

**"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive."**  
**Colossians 3:13**

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone -- a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.



## 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)

## 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)**

## ENGAGED AND MARRIED COUPLES

## Marriage Enrichment Ministry



JOIN US





### ECHO Food Room Needed Items Collection NEXT weekend

Choose sizes appropriate for an average family size of four. ECHO cannot give our clients food whose expiration date is past, open food, or repackaged food (no zip-loc bags). Last month we collected 1,405lbs! Items most needed:

Protein Items (e.g. can chicken, Spam, sardines, chili, beef stew) Spaghetti Sauce, Tea (green, herbal, black), Milk products (canned, shelf stable, hot chocolate), Macaroni and Cheese, Can Tomatoes, Healthy Snacks (nuts, raisins, dried fruit, granola bars etc.), Sugar, Masa (Corn) Flour, Box Potatoes, Lentils, Instant Coffee, Canned fruit, Bagged beans (black, red, or garbanzo), Bag Rice, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Crackers, Spices (garlic, onion, cinnamon, salt, pepper), Lemon/Lime Juice (Bottles or Box), Honey, Cooking Oil, Tortillas, Muffin/Cornbread Mix, Brown paper bags, Reusable grocery bags.

HYGIENE PRODUCTS: Children's Toothbrushes, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Shampoo, Bath Soap, Dish Soap, Paper Towels, Diapers - Sizes 3, 4, 5, Sanitary Pads, Band Aids, Shaving Cream/Razors.

### 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.



## NO HANDS BUT YOURS MINISTRY

AN ORIGINAL NATIVITY MINISTRY DOING GOD'S WORK  
BY SERVING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF HIS FLOCK.  
WE WORK DISTRIBUTING FOOD, CLOTHING, AND PERSONAL ITEMS  
TO THE POOR AND HOMELESS IN D.C. AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA  
EVERY SUNDAY MORNING, RAIN OR SHINE.  
FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT THE NATIVITY PARISH WEBSITE  
OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN DAILY/SUNDAY  
RUNS, PLEASE CONTACT JOHN RUBINO AT:  
[JOHN.ALBERT.RUBINO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JOHN.ALBERT.RUBINO@GMAIL.COM).



## NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH Young Adult Ministry

- WHO ARE WE? WE ARE AN ALL-INCLUSIVE GROUP OF YOUNG ADULTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 19-39 WHO ARE IN THE "MIDDLE" WHETHER THEY ARE SINGLE, NEWLY MARRIED, WITH OR WITHOUT CHILDREN, OR PERHAPS A RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATE!
- WHAT DO WE OFFER? SMALL GROUPS, FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES, BASKETBALL, ETC.



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
SIGN UP



CALENDAR FOR  
UPCOMING EVENTS

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 7992 BASKETBALL FREE THROW CHALLENGE

This fun event will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, 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. Participation time for each contestant is typically 15-20 mins. No early registration or notification is required. Contestants sign in upon arrival.

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](mailto:jbat747@gmail.com).



### St. Lucy Winter Food Drive: Saturday, February 10th from 9:00AM-1:00PM

The next St. Lucy Winter Food Drive will take place from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, 10 February to support Catholic Charities in its campaign against hunger in the Diocese. The St. Lucy truck will be parked at the rear of the church parking lot nearest Old Keene Mill Road (like in the Oct. drive). During that time, you can drive to the truck and our team will take any donations from your vehicle (please place your donations in your trunk for safe and easy removal). Catholic Charities also accepts monetary donations, especially grocery gift cards (Giant, Safeway, etc.); any donation is welcome! **Please make checks out to CCDA, with "St. Lucy Project" in the memo line.**

We can always use help with loading donations; if you'd like to volunteer, please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D49ADAE29A6FE3-stlucy1>.

If you would like to help hand out the blue bags after Mass on 3-4 February, please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D49ADAE29A6FE3-stlucy#/>

If you have questions, please email the St. Lucy Team at [nativity.stlucyteam@gmail.com](mailto:nativity.stlucyteam@gmail.com). Thank you and God bless you!



**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

**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 &amp; 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)

Do you need a ride to a medical appointment or to go grocery shopping and are unable to drive? The Shepherd's Center-Fairfax Burke provides these services. Feel free to contact the Shepherd's Center Fairfax Burke at 703-323-4788 for information.

**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 Story on Display at Nativity



This Christmas Season the audience filled the Fr. Martin Center, as our Nativity Stars took their talents to the stage to tell the story of Jesus' birth.

Each class played a part, singing Christmas favorites for us throughout the evening, as the Fifth Graders engaged the audience with a stellar performance from King Herod and his entourage; the Shepherds; the Three Wise Men; Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.

*Hearfelt thanks to Mr. Smith, our Math/Music Teacher, and to Mrs. Klaric, our Fifth Grade Teacher, who directed the performers through their paces. Our very talented Nativity Stars packed a powerful performance for their parents.*

### ~ 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.

Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, for more information, at (703) 455-2300 and/or [smurph@nativityschool.org](mailto:smurph@nativityschool.org).



**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!

**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.

### 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 and Successful background check

Contact Mrs. Shannon Murphy, our Registrar, for more information, at (703)455-2300 and/or [smurph@nativityschool.org](mailto:smurph@nativityschool.org).

# Good News

## INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

### Feast of the Holy Family

#### Sunday, December 31

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or  
*Sirach* 3:2-6, 12-14  
 Ps 105:1-7a, 8-9 or  
*Ps* 128:1-5  
 Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or  
*Colossians* 3:12-21  
 Luke 2:22-40

#### Monday, January 1 Mary, Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27  
 Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8  
 Gal 4:4-7  
 Lk 2:16-21

#### Tuesday, January 2 Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

1 Jn 2:22-28  
 Ps 98:1-4  
 Jn 1:19-28

#### Wednesday, January 3

1 Jn 2:29 – 3:6  
 Ps 98:1, 3c-6  
 Jn 1:29-34

#### Thursday, January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

1 Jn 3:7-10  
 Ps 98:1, 7-9  
 Jn 1:35-42

#### Friday, January 5 St. John Neumann, Bp

1 Jn 3:11-21  
 Ps 100:1b-5  
 Jn 1:43-51

#### Saturday, January 6

1 Jn 5:5-13  
 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20  
 Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38

"Joy mixed with drama marks the fifth [joyful] mystery, the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple." Saint John Paul the Great wrote this in *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, his interesting encyclical about the Rosary.

He continued: "Here he appears in his divine wisdom as he listens and raises questions, already in effect one who 'teaches'. The revelation of his mystery as the Son wholly dedicated to his Father's affairs proclaims the radical nature of the Gospel, in which even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom. Mary and Joseph, fearful and anxious, 'did not understand' his words."

We, too, often fail to understand the words of Jesus. His teachings challenge us to accept a more difficult life, a life of doing good to our enemies, turning the cheek and going the extra mile, a life of courageously standing up for the truth and adhering to high moral standards that are counter-cultural.

Our preference, when living this way is inconvenient or unpleasant, is to rationalize and make excuses for our worldly behavior. But once we truly understand the demands of the Kingdom of God, we see

their benefits and we obey gladly.

Without this understanding, we have to simply trust that the words of Jesus are right and true. Like Mary and Joseph, we need to ponder in our hearts what we don't understand, while moving forward and doing what Jesus wants us to do.

As challenging as this is, that's when we discover how amazing God is.

#### Reflect & Discuss:

† What teaching of the Church have you rationalized away so that you don't have to obey it? Or what teaching of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matt. 5, 6, 7) or elsewhere in the

Gospels do you excuse yourself from?

† How much is your disobedience due to not understanding what is really being taught?

† What will you do to seek and gain a better understanding?

† How meaningful is the Holy Family to you? What is it about the relationships between Jesus, Mary and Joseph that appeals to you?

† What has this taught you about God's Kingdom?





Catholic Diocese of Arlington and Arlington Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

## 2024 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



Behold, I Make

*All Things New*



*March 9th*

*8:30am - 2:15pm*

ST. JOSEPH  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

750 PEACHTREE ST.  
HERNDON, VA



*Featuring:*



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



**Patricia Sandoval**  
International Pro-life  
Speaker and Author



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

*Register:*

ARLINGTONDIOCESE.ORG

**WOMEN**



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

Catholic Diocese of Arlington

# Men's Conference 2024

## RENEWED IN CHRIST

### REFLECTING HIS LIGHT TO THE WORLD



#### Featuring:



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



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



**Dr. Jonathan Reyes**  
Speaker & Author

## MARCH 2ND

Register at: [arlingtondiocese.org/men](http://arlingtondiocese.org/men)

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



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



FIAT fun with the  
#MediaNuns

LIGHTS!  
Camera!  
ACTION!

FIAT  
ENTRY

Join the Daughters of St. Paul for an afternoon of  
media reflection, fun and prayer.

**Sunday February 25, 1:00—5:00 p.m.**

**More information & registration:**

[www.ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT](http://www.ArlingtonDiocese.org/FIAT) or [vocations@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@arlingtondiocese.org)

Pauline Books & Media  
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Alexandria, VA 22314

For high school girls interested  
in growing spiritually and  
exploring their vocation.

Cost: \$15  
Deadline to register:  
Feb. 19

## Fiesta. Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José

**Lc 2,22-40: Lo sencillo y su grandeza**

**Autor: Mons. Jesús Sanz Montes, ofm**

Dios se ha hecho carne, ha querido acampar su vida divina en nuestro terruño humano asumiendo y haciendo suyas todas las cosas que contrae y conlleva nuestro diario vivir. Uno de ellos, y no el menos importante, es que nacemos, crecemos, vivimos en una familia. Sin familia el hombre se deshumaniza. Y por eso Dios, puesto a humanarse, no ha querido prescindir de esta realidad. Aquella Santa Familia, de María, José y Jesús, como aquellos primeros cristianos, tratándose como eran tratados por Dios, fueron capaces de transformar el mundo... sacando al Dios desconocido de los panteones para reconocerlo en lo cotidiano, en los días laborables, en lo familiar de una vida humana sin más.

Dios vino a enseñarnos lo mejor, y lo hizo desde el asombro humilde de María y José, llamados a acoger y acompañar lo extraordinario de Dios desde lo ordinario de su condición. Sin omitir ninguna de las obligaciones que como creyentes y como miembros del pueblo de Israel debían también ellos seguir: "cuando llegó el tiempo de la purificación de María, según la ley de Moisés, llevaron a Jesús a Jerusalén, para presentarlo al Señor". Y sin embargo, esa aparente cotidianeidad, esa sencilla vida ordinaria, escondía algo sublime, ocultaba sin pretenderlo a Alguien a quien tantos habían esperado en Israel. Dos ancianos, Simeón y Ana, habían esperado ese momento de ver al Mesías. Ellos dos eran como los representantes de una larga fila, inmensa, de todos los que antes de ellos vinieron y los que después de ellos hemos venido.

Nos los podemos imaginar temblorosos y llorosos por ver cumplido lo que toda una vida habían estado esperando. Simeón se puso a cantar un himno de alabanza porque estaba arrullando entre sus manos arrugadas y tiernas a quien era presentado como luz para todos los Pueblos. Y comprendió que la vida ya le había dado todo, y tan hermosamente, y tan puntualmente, y tan inmerecidamente... pero se lo había dado de verdad.

Todos nosotros tenemos la misma promesa del anciano Simeón, sea cual sea nuestra edad y circunstancia. Hemos nacido para ese encuentro con Alguien que se nos da como la luz que corresponde a tantas negruras y apagones, como la misericordia que corresponde con todas nuestras durezas, como la gracia que es capaz de abrazar nuestras soledades, la alegría que recoge en su odre festivo todas nuestras lágrimas laborables. Este encuentro es lo que en estos días y siempre llamamos Navidad. Dios nos ha invitado a su fiesta al hacernos nacer a su Hijo para nuestro bien, y al mostrarlo dentro de aquella bendita familia.

### Día de Oración y Sanación

Retiros después de Aborto Provocado: Un Día de Oración y Sanación para mujeres que han experimentado un aborto provocado tomará acabo el sábado, 10 de febrero del 2024. Estos eventos de sanación en grupo se hacen en un ambiente privado y tranquilo, en inglés y español, basado en el modelo "Entrando a Cana" (2 retiros separados en 1 ubicación). Habrá una oportunidad de oír de participantes pasados y otras que han encontrado la sanación. No estás sola. Toma el primer paso. Para preguntas confidenciales, llame al Proyecto Raquel: (703) 841-2504

***"...Como el Señor los ha perdonado, así deben ustedes perdonar." Colosenses 3-13***

Perdonar es una de las cosas difíciles para las personas. No podemos dar lo que no tenemos. Necesitamos recibir la misericordia y el perdón de Dios antes de darlos a otras personas. Acérquese al sacramento de la Reconciliación y reciba la misericordia y el perdón de Dios. Entonces, comparta el don del perdón con alguien - un miembro de la familia, un amigo o un compañero de trabajo. Tome su teléfono y llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a alguien, justo en este momento.





## Sagrada Familia - B Evangelio de la Misa: Lc 2,22-40 En el hogar de Nazaret

En esta fiesta de la Sagrada Familia se celebra y se honra a la familia formada por María, José y el Niño Jesús. No podía faltar esta celebración durante la Navidad. Jesús vino al mundo en una familia, y en ese ambiente se educó como hombre y se preparó para realizar su obra salvadora. En el hogar de Nazaret se miran todas las familias cristianas, para aprender y dignificar la propia familia.

El Evangelio de este día nos muestra a esta familia acudiendo al templo para "la purificación de María, y según la ley de Moisés llevaron a Jesús a Jerusalén para presentarlo al Señor". Igual que hacían todas las familias normales y devotas de entonces.

*Gracias, Señor, por esa imagen tan aleccionadora de tus padres llevándote al templo. La normalidad de tu familia, cumpliendo las leyes justas del momento social, engrandecen la vida familiar, que se ajusta a tu santa ley y disfruta del ambiente familiar y se ve premiada con una prole feliz y generosa.*

*Te pido, en primer lugar, Señor, por mi familia: padres, hijos y hermanos.*

*Que en todos reine la bondad de corazón, la humildad y sencillez, y la generosidad para fomentar la verdadera alegría y felicidad en el hogar, y para dar amor y bienestar a todos los demás antes que a uno mismo.*

*En esta misma línea pido por todas las familias del mundo: que sean hogares luminosos y alegres, escuelas de humanismo, iglesias domésticas, donde reine la paz, el amor y el temor de Dios.*

*Quiero también acompañarte hoy y ponerme al lado de tus padres, María y José, en la ceremonia de tu Presentación en el templo.*

*Como un criado familiar quiero ofrecer mis servicios a tan augusta familia, y también observar las actitudes y comportamiento de aquel matrimonio santo.*

*Pocos matrimonios han recibido tantos elogios y promesas optimistas y esperanzadoras, y a la vez tantos presagios de dolor y contradicción.*

*El anciano Simeón rebosa de alegría porque ha visto y tocado al Salvador.*

*Se puede ya morir en paz. Ha llegado la luz a las naciones y la gloria al pueblo de Israel. ¡Qué satisfacción escuchar estas palabras!*

*Con la alegría de la profetisa Ana, quiero mostrar al mundo mi satisfacción por conocerte y tratarte en tu ambiente familiar.*

*Ayúdame, Señor, a hacer de mi familia la iglesia doméstica donde Tu reines, y todos, hijos, familiares, amigos y conocidos, encuentren un remanso de paz, alegría, bienestar y amor de Dios; y en especial los pobres y necesitados encuentren en mi casa acogida, calor y ayuda generosa.*

**Padre Segismundo Fernandez Rodríguez**

## El silencio de san José Reflexiones Adviento y Navidad

**Dejémonos "contagiar" por el silencio de san José.  
Nos es muy necesario, en un mundo demasiado ruidoso, que no favorece el recogimiento.  
Por: SS Benedicto XVI | Fuente: Catholic.net**

En estos últimos días del Adviento, la liturgia nos invita a contemplar de modo especial a la Virgen María y a san José, que vivieron con intensidad única el tiempo de la espera y de la preparación del nacimiento de Jesús. Hoy deseo dirigir mi mirada a la figura de san José. (.....)

Desde luego, la función de san José no puede reducirse a un aspecto legal. Es modelo del hombre "justo" (Mt 1, 19), que en perfecta sintonía con su esposa acoge al Hijo de Dios hecho hombre y vela por su crecimiento humano. Por eso, en los días que preceden a la Navidad, es muy oportuno entablar una especie de coloquio espiritual con san José, para que él nos ayude a vivir en plenitud este gran misterio de la fe.

El amado Papa San Juan Pablo II, que era muy devoto de san José, nos ha dejado una admirable meditación dedicada a él en la exhortación apostólica *Redemptoris Custos*, "Custodio del Redentor". Entre los muchos aspectos que pone de relieve, pondera en especial el silencio de san José. Su silencio estaba impregnado de contemplación del misterio de Dios, con una actitud de total disponibilidad a la voluntad divina. En otras palabras, el silencio de san José no manifiesta un vacío interior, sino, al contrario, la plenitud de fe que lleva en su corazón y que guía todos sus pensamientos y todos sus actos.

Un silencio gracias al cual san José, al unísono con María, guarda la palabra de Dios, conocida a través de las Sagradas Escrituras, confrontándola continuamente con los acontecimientos de la vida de Jesús; un silencio entrelazado de oración constante, oración de bendición del Señor, de adoración de su santísima voluntad y de confianza sin reservas en su providencia.

No se exagera si se piensa que, precisamente de su "padre" José, Jesús aprendió, en el plano humano, la fuerte interioridad que es presupuesto de la auténtica justicia, la "justicia superior", que él un día enseñará a sus discípulos (cf. Mt 5, 20).

Dejémonos "contagiar" por el silencio de san José. Nos es muy necesario, en un mundo a menudo demasiado ruidoso, que no favorece el recogimiento y la escucha de la voz de Dios. En este tiempo de preparación para la Navidad cultivemos el recogimiento interior, para acoger y tener siempre a Jesús en nuestra vida.

## MISA DE AÑO NUEVO

LUNES, 1 DE ENERO 2024

SOLEMNIDAD DE SANTA MARÍA, MADRE DE DIOS 1:00PM

SABADO, 6 DE ENERO 2024

SOLEMNIDAD DE LA EPIFANÍA DEL SEÑOR

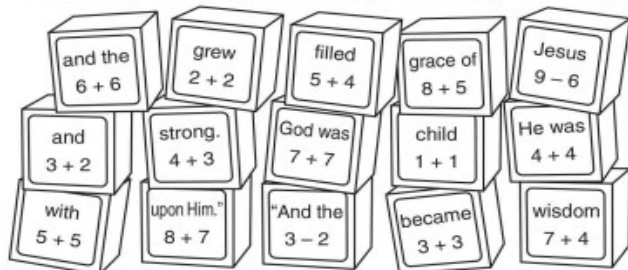
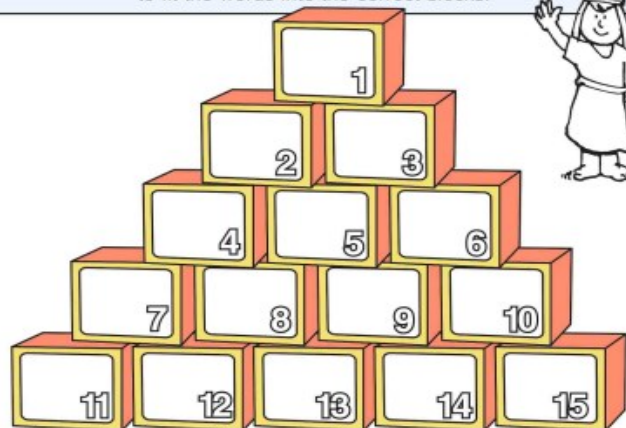
7:00PM





What happened to Jesus after their visit to the temple?

Do the math problems and use the answers to fit the words into the correct blocks.



Simeon was a devout and religious man in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit promised that before Simeon died, he would see Christ. He held the baby Jesus and praised God.

Find the underlined words in the puzzle below.

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



## Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

December 31, 2023 • Luke 2:22-40

### Jesus Presented in the Temple

According to the Law of the Lord, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.

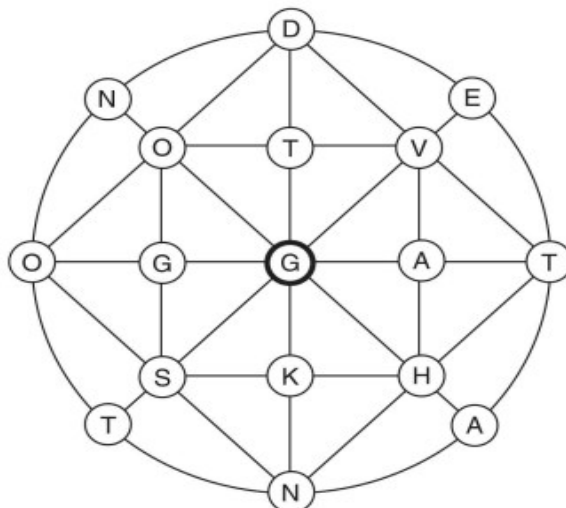
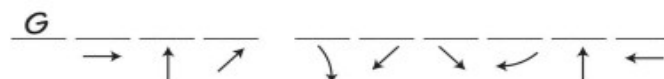
Find 12 differences in the 2nd picture.



Anna was a prophetess. She was in the temple worshipping day and night. She fasted and prayed. When she saw the child Jesus, what did she do?



Follow the arrows, beginning with the letter in the center.





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 Great taste never sleeps  
 Your local Burke IHOP proudly supports Nativity Church.  
**We are open 24 hours a day 7 days a week, 365 days a year.**  
 Free Wi-Fi, Kids Eat free on Tuesday nights, and Wednesday is Senior Night. See what's new at IHOP.  
**Make it an IHOP day.**

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