

6TH SUNDAY

in Ordinary Time

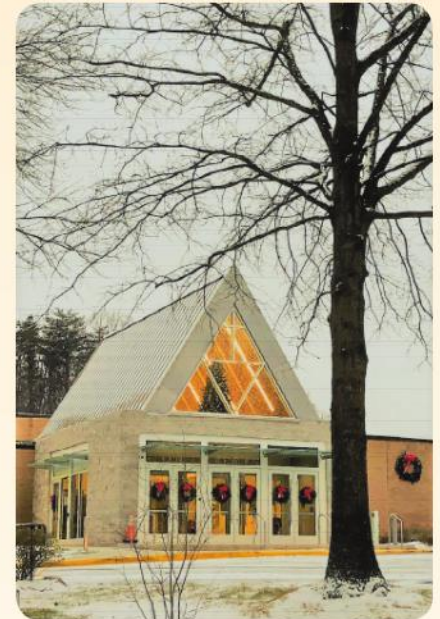


Teaching About Anger. * "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill...' whoever kills a man shall be liable to judgment. * But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother without cause shall be liable to judgment. * Whoever says 'You shall not be defiled by what you eat or drink, but by what comes out of your mouth...' that is what you should do. * But I say to you, anything your gift



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

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



REV. ROBERT C. CILINSKI, PASTOR
REV. CHRISTOPHER H. HAYES, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. STEPHEN VACCARO, PAROCHIAL VICAR
REV. CEDRIC P. WILSON, O.S.A., VISITING PRIEST
DEACON RICHARD F. KELLY
DEACON JOSE PARDO, SPANISH MINISTRY

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES OF THE PARISH:

Adrienne Swidal, Parish Secretary
Ann Benson, Business Manager
Carlos Gutierrez, Facility Manager
Carol Mack, M.T.S., Pastoral Minister (part-time)
Maureen Andersen, Liturgical Minister
Kathleen Ferraris, Parish Receptionist
Ingrid Sanchez-Seymour, Director of Youth Ministry
Alison Fram, Director of Young Adult/College Ministry
Caroline Chase, Bulletin Editor
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
MaryJo Mazzella, Pre-School Director/Extended Care Director
Shannon Murphy, Administrative Assistant/Registrar
Kim Vu, Business Manager
Mary Helen Chapman, School Secretary

MINISTERS OF OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELOR

Marguerite Turner, MS, LPC (703) 772-4751

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
7:30/9:00/11:00/12:45/5:30 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: 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Parental Instruction required. Parents must be registered members of the parish.

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 Friday (10 days prior to publication). Please note: this deadline can change due to holiday office closings. You may email submissions to bulletin@nativityburke.org.

WEBMASTER: Stacey Smith, webmaster@nativityburke.org
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR: Mary Castellano
socialmedia@nativityburke.org



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

Reflection

Sirach, the wise sage, said that we have a choice to do evil or to do what is just and right. God does not want anyone to make irresponsible and harmful choices. God wants us to follow the path that leads to wisdom and happiness.

Paul said that God’s wisdom is not like the so-called “wisdom” of the world that leads to ruin. God’s wisdom, as inscrutable as it seems, can be fathomed by those who believe. The Spirit enlightens our minds and hearts and helps us to make right decisions.

Jesus embodied the fullness of God’s word in his life and teachings. He said that obeying the external “letter” of God’s word was not as important as having an interior spirit of fidelity. Do we “murder” people with our sharp words? Are we faithless and dishonest in our relationships? Are lust and greed the motives behind our deeds? The ultimate purpose of God’s word is to bring us into a fuller relationship with God and one another. The choice is ours.

For Reflection ~ Where have I failed to fulfill Christ’s command to be faithful? How can I radiate God’s wisdom to someone today?

Lent will soon be upon us and we are challenged to change our hearts and our lives through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The Gospel of Matthew offers much to reflect upon as we seek to imitate Jesus and follow the way of the cross. As disciples of the Lord, we are challenged by the radical demands that Jesus expects from his disciples. Following in the footsteps of Moses and other prophetic voices, Jesus proclaims the Good News of God’s love and forgiveness; and, at the same time, offers a revolutionary way to live: “Turn the other cheek! Love your enemies! Be reconciled!” The ongoing challenge to live and love and forgive as Jesus did remains at the heart of what it means to be Church, the Body of Christ!

Love and Blessings,

Fr. Bob Cilinski

Fr. Bob Cilinski,
Pastor

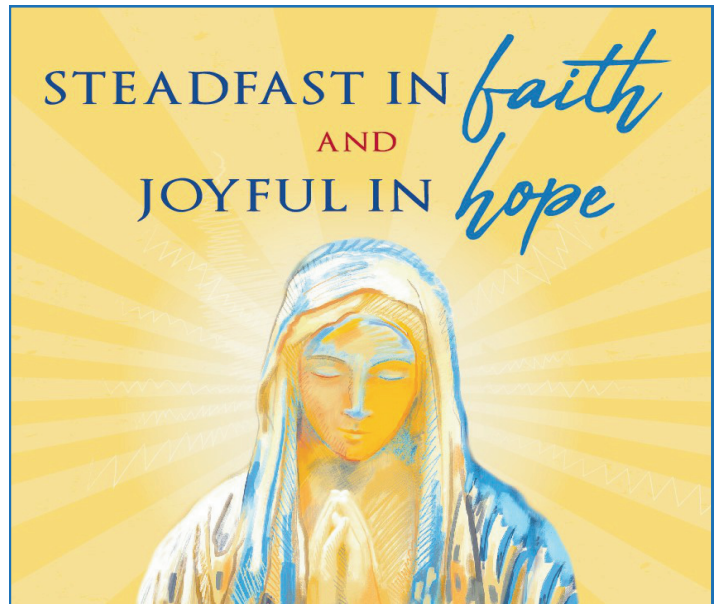
SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for a Night of Reflection with

Irish Tenor Mark Forrest

On March 11th, 2020 at 7:00PM
At the Nativity Catholic Church,
all ages are welcome!

For more information visit: markforrest.com



**2020 Bishop’s Lenten Appeal
Steadfast in Faith and Joyful in Hope**

The 2020 Bishop's Lenten Appeal Commitment weekend is next weekend! Once a year we are asked to make a commitment to support the work of our diocesan programs and ministries which provide services that no single parish could provide on its own. This important effort is a means by which we work together by sharing the gifts God has bestowed upon us. Our parish goal is 100 % participation. Through the BLA, may we seek to imitate the steadfast faith of the Blessed Virgin Mary and joyfully reveal our gratitude for our many blessings!

Mass Schedule for Ash Wednesday, February 26th

6:00am, 7:30am, 9:00am, 12:00pm, 4:00pm,
6:00pm, and 8:00pm (Spanish)

The Importance of Sunday Mass

As the body will die without food, the soul will expire without nourishment. As Catholics, that spiritual nourishment comes at the Sunday Eucharist. The Lord’s Day is essential for our faith. Make Sunday Mass the heart of your week.

ALTAR SERVER - GMU BASKETBALL GAME

All altar servers are invited to attend the Altar Servers Appreciation Basketball Game with Fr. Bob and Fr. Vaccaro:

***George Mason vs St. Joseph’s at 4:30pm
at Eagle Bank Arena
on Saturday, February 22.***

The bus will leave from Nativity at 3:30pm. Sign-ups will take place online and at the parish office. Parents of servers are welcome to sign-up as chaperones as well. Parents’ permission forms are required. The deadline to sign-up is February 20.





St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance

Come join the Knights of Columbus for the traditional celebration of the Patron Saint of Ireland at our *Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance* to be held in *the Father Martin Center at 6:30PM, on Saturday, March 21.*

It is always a great evening of dining, dancing, and entertainment. Irish dancers from the O'Neill-James School of Dance will perform, with music for listening and dancing provided by Black Tie DJs. Bring your friends and reserve a table for 8 or 10 or meet fellow parishioners through designated seating.

You will enjoy the best corned beef dinner in town for \$30 per ticket. Tickets will be sold after all Masses from February 29 through March 15. This event usually sells out so please get your tickets early! Coat and tie, please. For additional information, contact Gene McGrath at 703-250-1281 or email genemcgrath@verizon.net.



Join Stella Marina on Sunday, March 22nd for our third annual Parish Lenten Kit Build



After all Sunday morning Masses in the school cafeteria! Stop down to build a clean birthing kit for the midwives in Haiti. Meet Dr. Eugène Maklin of New Hope Hospital, Plane du Nord, and staff from Food For The Poor, as we celebrate "making a difference one baby at a time."

There will be refreshments and highlights of some of those in our own church family who are helping make a difference in Haiti. For more info visit:

<https://nativityburke.org/build-birthing-kits/>

Knights of Columbus Frenchy Cyr Memorial Scholarships

Once again, Nativity's Knights of Columbus Council 7992 will be awarding Cyr Memorial scholarships for Catholic secondary school tuition (grades 9-12). Scholarship application forms will be available in the later part of March. As a reminder entrants must be registered parishioners at Nativity, or a son, daughter, or grandchild of an active member of Council 7992.

Questions: please contact Dave Zivich at davezivich@gmail.com or 703-440-8437.

Joyful Noise

Please join us on Friday, February 21 from 7:30pm-9:00pm in the Church. Come for Eucharistic Adoration, an opportunity for confession, and praise and worship songs. There will also be a short talk from Fr. Rich Miserendino.



Annual 5-Car Raffle

Please stop by out in front of Church today and take a look at the New Koon's Honda CRV to be raffled. Have you sold your tickets yet?

Proceeds will benefit the youth ministry, the parish building fund, and Knights of Columbus charities. Each \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all five 2020 vehicles plus \$20,000 in cash prizes. Please mail your sold ticket stubs/payment directly to All Saints in the envelope provided. We have additional tickets if you sell all of yours. Please contact PGK Sam Morthland @ 703-455-2186 if you have any questions or need additional tickets.



Nativity Catholic Church, Catholic Charities and Britepaths invite you to attend a FREE: Budgeting & Money Management Workshop Wednesday, March 4 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Are you tired of trying to make ends meet? Don't have a monthly budget? Want to plan for a better future for you and your children? Not sure how to include longer-range planning for donations, retirement, vacations, college expenses, home renovations, and so on?

This FREE workshop is for all who are interested in better managing their finances. Great for single parent families, couples, seniors on fixed incomes and young adults out in the workplace for the first time. Separate sessions for English and Hispanic audiences. All are welcome, regardless of religious affiliation. Bring a friend! Online registration link:

nativityburke.org/budgeting-workshop/



NATIVITY PARISH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

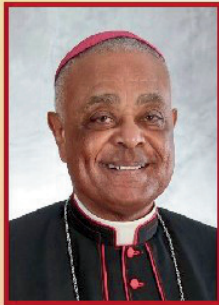
2020 Leap Year Art Auction

Professionally Curated Art, Catered Food/Wines \$15.00 pp, \$60.00 Patrons Package for 6 ppl

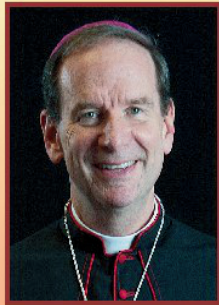
FEBRUARY 29, 2020 | 6:00PM -10:00 PM FATHER MARTIN CENTER CC ACCEPTED

QUESTIONS? WANT TO REQUEST ART? CALL TOM SAVAGE, CHAIR, 512-983-5641 or tomkc7992@gmail.com

The Diocese of Arlington Peace & Justice Commission Presents:



Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory,
Archbishop of Washington



Most Rev. Michael F. Burbidge,
Bishop of Arlington

open wide our hearts: the enduring call to love

Confronting the sin of racism: a diocesan response
through understanding, conversion, and action

Saturday, March 14, 2020

Nativity Catholic Church, Burke VA

Schedule:

- 6:00 pm Mass
Celebrant and Homilist: Archbishop Gregory, Concelebrant: Bishop Burbidge
- 6:15 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Keynote by Archbishop Gregory
- 7:45 pm Panel and Q&A with Archbishop Gregory and Bishop Burbidge, and diocesan parishioners responding

RSVP: peace@arlingtondiocese.org

Registration on a first come, first served basis. RSVP by March 9, 2020



Celebrating the Retirement of Carol Mack On Sunday, February 23 at the 9:00am Mass

After lots of reflection, Carol Mack has decided to retire from her position as Pastoral Care Minister and her last day will be February 28, 2020. We will celebrate with Carol on Sunday, February 23 at the 9:00am Mass.

Carol has grown to love the people of Nativity during her 24 years working at the parish and her ministry in the church for 35 years has been a great blessing. We are grateful for her many years of dedicated service. Carol has shared a ministry of loving presence in both the joys and sorrows of life's journey.... births and baptisms, weddings, sickness, death and grieving the loss of loved ones. She has provided the light of Christ which we celebrated on the Feast of the Epiphany to so many and that light will continue to shine in our parish for years to come.

We lift up Carol in our prayers as she prepares for her retirement. Although stepping down from her position, Carol and her family will continue to be parishioners and she will continue to serve as a Eucharistic Minister and bringing communion to the homebound and willing to assist with funerals when needed.

Thank you Carol for all of your goodness.

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE IN THE GIFT SHOP

Fair Trade Divine Chocolate is available in the Gift Shop!! In Ghana, West Africa, women sit on the board of directors of the Kuapa Kokoo cooperative where they earn a fair price for their cocoa and also own a third of the Divine Chocolate brand and share in the profits of the company. Plus it is Delicious!!!

The Nativity Gift Shop needs your help!

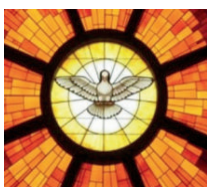


The Gift Shop is looking for a few dedicated volunteers to help in the gift shop during the following Mass times:
Tuesdays at 12:00pm, Thursdays at 12:00pm, and Sunday evenings at 5:30pm.
If you are interested, you can leave your name and phone number at the gift shop or at the Parish Office and Natasha Hines will contact you.

LUNCH N' LIFE – March 19, 2020 - 12:00-2:00pm

Are You 50 or Better? Please join us for the next Lunch N' Life, sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday, March 19 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road in Fairfax. Jim Radigan, (U.S. Navy Retired) will discuss his experiences as the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Navy Antarctica Squadron. For reservations, call Bea Stephenson at 703-273-5730, by March 13. The cost is \$10.00; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office at (703) 323-4788. See www.scfbva.org for more information.

The Love is Given Prayer Group Invites You to "The Spiritual Gifts Workshops" to be held on Thursday, February 20 at 7:15pm in the Fr. Ready Rm.

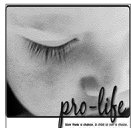


Come and learn what the spiritual gifts are, how they operate, and how to activate them in your daily life as well as for ministry in the Church. The first workshop is on "The Charismatic Gifts of the Holy Spirit" and will be presented by Terry Riggins, Parish Liaison to the Charismatic Renewal and Coordinator

Spiritual Assistance Ministry in the Diocese of Arlington. All are welcome to this workshop to stir up, refresh, and strengthen the spiritual gifts within you!

Support our Nativity Parish Girl Scouts!

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES ARE HERE.
February 8-9 & 22-23
For sale after all masses



“Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother.” Learn ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”

The GABRIEL PROJECT supports women who are facing a crisis pregnancy and need help. Contact 1-866-444-3553 or gabrielproject@arlingtondiocese.org. You are not alone! (Gabriel Project is a crisis pregnancy program open to all and sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.)



February is **DELIZIOSA** with the Nativity Italian Heritage and Cultural Society



Join us for a delectable evening of “Wine and Chocolate.” Roberto D’Onofrio of Impero Wine Distributors, Lorton, and Omar Nazarei of Nazbro Chocolates in Occoquan will be explaining how their products are made and suggesting wine and chocolate pairings for us to sample. Roberto will bring an invigorating assortment of wines to accompany Omar’s handmade fine chocolates and fudge.

Attendees will be invited to different serving stations to sample the pairings. Please bring cash because if you like what you taste, you may purchase both wine and chocolates to take home!

When: Thursday, February 27 at 7:00pm
Place: Nativity School Cafeteria

Become a member at any meeting or by contacting nihcsmembership@gmail.com. Guests are welcome for \$5. Visit our website at: nativityburke.org/nihcs

The 2020 Altar Flower Book is open.

This is a thoughtful way to honor a loved one, living or deceased. If you are interested, please call the parish office at 703-455-2400 or stop by to sign up.

Nativity



703-455-0372 - <https://nativityburke.org/re/>
nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org

REMEMBER: We don’t follow all FCPS Teacher Workdays

We still have classes on: Tuesday, March 3

WEATHER POLICY– We follow the FCPS weather Policy. Please follow FCPS social media outlets as well as our website.

Please make sure you have a calendar and mark important dates for your student! You can find calendars in the RE office or online on our page: https://nativityburke.org/wp-content/uploads/RE_Calendar_2019-2020.pdf

Are you receiving our emails? Most of our communications (reminders, notifications, etc.) will be going out via email. If you have not received an email from us yet. Please email the RE office to update your information.



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

Monday, February 17

7:30am Special Int. for Leonor High

Tuesday, February 18

7:30am † Suzanne Berends
12:00pm † Tom Hogan

Wednesday, February 19

7:30am † John Harmer
(Burke HC) 3:00pm † Rosemary Jenkins

Thursday, February 20

7:30am Special Int for Victoria Shia
12:00pm † Ronald Rabatin

Friday, February 21

7:30am † Patrick Robinson
(School) 9:00am † Victoria L. Hernandez

Saturday, February 22

9:00am † Adriana Therese Ladino
5:00pm Parishioners
7:00pm † Esther & Nilthan Alvarado

Sunday, February 23

7:30am † Maria Angelica Soriano
9:00am † Adriana Ladino
11:00am † Don Becker
12:45pm † Wyatt Crossin
5:30pm † Grace Lee

The priest schedule for Masses is found on our webpage:

nativityburke.org

In prayer, let us remember
the sick and deceased of the parish.

**In Observation of Presidents’ Day, the Parish Office
will be closed all day on Monday, February 17th.**

Diabetes Support Group

Nativity's Diabetes Support Group will be meeting on Thursday, February 27th at 7:30pm in classroom 203. All who are having challenges with diabetes are welcome as well as their family. Come join us as we share the bright spots and landmines. For more information contact RoseAnne Zivich, at email: brzivich@aim.com.

Office of Catholic Schools' Teacher Job Fair SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020

The Office of Catholic Schools invites prospective teachers to a Teacher Job Fair on March 7, 2020. The Fair will be held at St. Paul VI High School, 10675 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22030, from 9:00am-11:00am. For more information visit <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Catholic-Schools/Careers/> or call (703) 841-2519. We believe in our teachers! Join our excellent schools for a faith-filled experience.



Council Meeting: The next council meeting is Tuesday, February 18th, Rosary starts at 7:15pm and the meeting will start at 7:30pm.

Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity:

February: TBD. March 24th Nativity, March 26th Nativity, April 21st Nativity, May 7th Nativity. 4th Degree: Saturday, 18 April, Virginia Beach.

ST. LUCY FOOD DRIVE: The Council works closely with the Arlington Diocese Catholic Charities (St. Lucy Project) by collecting food donations twice per year to help address food insecurity in the diocese. This is a very worthy cause, but it is also very manpower-intensive. In each of our last three drives, we filled two truckloads with food donations, and we remain incredibly grateful for every Knight who has helped us. Our next food drive is in mid-February, and we could use your help again. During this long weekend, we'll be handing out bags at the end of every Mass. If you are able to lend a hand, please meet the St. Lucy team members in the narthex. The more urgent need is the following weekend of 22-23 February, when we will be collecting food donations before every Mass. The St. Lucy Team (Jim Barrineau, Claes Lewenhaupt, and Jason Hines) will be present at every Mass to lead the effort, but we still need a minimum of two able-bodied Knights for every Mass to assist with loading the trucks.

To volunteer, please use this link: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0D49ADAE29A6FE3-stlucy.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Hines at jason.hines@pm.me or at (571) 230-2804.

ART AUCTION: What better way to celebrate Leap Year than joining us for our 25th Annual Art Auction on February 29.

Tickets are on sale after all Masses beginning 6 February. Have empty wall space? There will be art to fill that spot, plus great food, wine, and door prizes. We will need Brothers to help in a variety of capacities, and we welcome your assistance.

Sign up to help here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A45A9A82AA3F85-leap>. For more info, contact PGK Tom Savage at tomkc7992@gmail.com.

Catholic Men's Conference: the Arlington Catholic Diocese will hold its annual 2020 Men's Conference Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Saint Joseph Catholic Church 750 Peachtree Street, Herndon, VA 20170. Speakers include: Rev. Roger Landry, Priest, Catholic columnist, author of "Plan of Life: Habits to Get You Closer to God" and "A Man of God: A Guide for Men," and papal attaché at the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations. Go here to learn more and to sign up: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/men/>

Lenten Fish Fry – LEAD NEEDED: The two brothers who normally lead our two Lenten fish fries (this year scheduled for March 6 and April 3) are unable to run these events this year. There are normally plenty of volunteers to help, so if you can step up to LEAD the event, please contact Grand Knight John Ostrowski at JOGK77992@gmail.com

Save the dates:

- St. Lucy Food Drive (15-16 and 22-23 Feb)
- Business Meeting (18 Feb)
- Blood Drive (22 Feb)
- Art Auction (29 Feb)



Sacrament of First Penance Celebrated by Second Graders

On a recent sun-filled Saturday, more than 200 second graders received First Penance, continuing their religious education. The Church was filled with family and friends, all gathered to witness this next step in their spiritual journey. So inspiring!



This Week ~ Seats Available - Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten - 8th. For details, contact Shannon Murphy at smurph@nativityschool.org.

Open House for New Families Tuesday, February 18 * 9:00-10:30am

We invite you and your family to visit our MakerSpace, see our Science Lab, view our Art Studio, meet our students and teachers, tour our campus, learn about student clubs, check out our 1:1 Chromebook program, and more!

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.

We look forward to meeting you!



Just download the App, register with 'Nativity of our Lord.' Thank you!



DOWNLOAD OUR BULLETIN

nativityburke.org/bulletin



NATIVITY SCHOOL PTO
 PRESENTS
CHILI
COOK-OFF
 Hot Prizes for the best chili!
 Friday, February 21 | 6:30-8:30 PM
 NATIVITY CAFETERIA & FATHER MARTIN CENTER
 Dr. Seuss The Lorax will be shown in the gym
 BRING THE HEAT!


Parishioners please beware:

Do not to leave personal objects (like purses) in your cars in plain view while attending Mass or anywhere else you park your cars. This will protect you from providing encouragement for someone to break in!

Go Forth: Called & Chosen Event for 8th graders

All 8th graders of the diocese are invited to the *Go Forth: Called & Chosen* event with Bishop Burbidge on Monday, March 9 at All Saints Catholic Church. The program begins at 10:00am and includes a vocations rally, Mass, and lunch, and concludes by 1:30pm.

All 8th graders must be accompanied by an adult; space is limited to 8th graders and their chaperones. Please arrive early so all can be seated before 10:00am. For more information or to RSVP contact the Office of Vocations, vocations@arlingtondiocese.org or 703-841-2514 by February 24. (8th graders in Catholic schools will be coming with their classes.)

2020 Black History Month Mass

All are welcome to attend the Black History Month Mass to be held on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 5:00pm at Holy Family Catholic Church, 14160 Ferndale Road, Dale City. Guest homilist will be Brother Henry Fulmer, O.F.M. Reception will follow after Mass.



**A message from
Your Nativity Creation Care Ministry**

In honor of the upcoming fifth anniversary of Laudato Si, Nativity Creation Care Ministry is bringing you, over a period of weeks, Top Ten Takeaways from 'Laudato Si' by James Martin, S.J.

Pope Francis' revolutionary ...encyclical calls for a "broad cultural revolution" to confront the environmental crisis. "Laudato Si" is also quite lengthy.

Can it be summarized? In other words, what are the main messages, or "takeaways" of this encyclical?

4) *Catholic social teaching now includes teaching on the environment.*

Against those who argue that a papal encyclical on the environment has no real authority, Pope Francis explicitly states that "Laudato Si" "is now added to the body of the Church's social teaching" (No. 15). By the way, an encyclical is a type of teaching that enjoys the highest level of authority in the church, second only to the Gospels and church councils like Vatican II. As such, it continues the kind of reflection on modern-day problems that began with Leo XIII's "Rerum Novarum," on capital and labor, in 1891. Pope Francis uses some of the traditional foundations of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the idea of the "common good," to frame his discussion. In keeping with the practices of Catholic social teaching, the pope combines the riches of the church's theology with the findings of experts in a variety of fields, to reflect on modern-day problems. To that end, he explicitly links St. John XXIII's "Pacem in Terris," which addressed the crisis of nuclear war, with "Laudato Si," which addresses this newer crisis.

Next week: Takeaway 5: Discussions about ecology can be grounded in the Bible and church tradition.

Nativity is a tithing community

Giving back a portion of God's blessings in gratitude.

"Each day with one heart—we are the hands of Jesus"

Weekend Discernment Retreat for Men

Grow in prayer and discernment, speak with priests and seminarians. February 28-March 1 (starts Friday 6:00pm, ends Sunday after lunch) at the San Damiano Spiritual Life Center.

Cost is \$60 (includes private room, all meals, financial aid available). Deadline to register: February 14. Website: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/yearly-discernment-retreat-men/>

Separated? Divorced? Widowed???

The Rebuilding Program, sponsored by the Diocese of Arlington Office of Marriage, Family, and Respect Life, helps people of all faiths who are separated, divorced, or widowed and want to move on with their lives. The nine week program starts Sunday, February 23rd and meets Sunday evenings 5:30 - 8:00pm at the St. Martin De Porres Senior Center in Alexandria. Topics include adaptation, grief, anger, self-worth, openness, love, and relatedness. For more information email facilitator@copingrebuilding.com, or visit us on the web at <http://www.copingrebuilding.com>.

COLLEGE MINISTRY and YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Contact Director: Alison Fram
afram@nativityburke.org, cell: 703-577-5329
 Find us on the parish website: nativityburke.org

Young Adult Ministry Serving people ages 21-39

Facebook Group - "Catholic Life
 Young Adult Ministry"
 Instagram - @nativityyam



Small Group - Tuesdays 7:30-9:00pm.

CSC Basketball - Thursdays, 8:30-10:30pm,
 Fr. Martin Center.

Fairfax Theology On Tap - Monday, Feb. 17, 7:30pm
 at The Auld Shebeen.

Joyful Noise P&W with Adoration and Confession -
 Friday, Feb. 21, 7:30-9:00pm Church.

See our full list of upcoming gatherings:
nativityburke.org/youngadult

• **MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION** •
 For married couples, that they continue to grow
 in holiness with their spouse everyday.

COLLEGE MINISTRY Serving people ages 18 - 21

Follow us on social media!



Facebook Group - Nativity



Instagram - @nativitycollege

Any college-age student is welcome to join us for
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 Registration Begins May 15

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 Registration Begins May 15

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See Calendar for current Schedule.
 We follow the RE calendar and FCPS
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¡NO TODO VALE!

VI Domingo (A)

Javier Leoz

Dice una conocida sentencia: *“Una cosa no es justa por el hecho de ser ley. Ha de ser ley porque es justa”*. El hombre, que anhela su propia libertad (sin más límites que la propia conciencia) está inclinado a rechazar todas aquellas normas, o mínimas pautas, que vayan en contra de esa idea: yo soy dueño de mi vida, de mi historia y de todo lo que pienso y realizo. ¿O no es así? ¿No hay una práctica rebeldía del hombre contemporáneo a todo lo que se le impone como ley?

1.El evangelio de este domingo VI nos viene estupendamente. Frente al “todo vale” que, en cierta manera nos propaga el mundo, Jesús nos dice el “pero yo os digo”.

-Frente al aborto (porque el ser humano es dueño de su propio cuerpo), el Señor nos recuerda que –el 5º mandamiento- sigue tan vigente como lo conoció y escuchó Moisés: *“¡No matarás!* “Y que, la vida, viene de Dios y, sólo Dios, puede disponer de ella.

-Frente al olvido o la marginación de los más mayores (cuando la sociedad afirma que ya han cumplido), el Señor nos trae a la memoria el 4º punto de lo revelado por Dios en el Monte Sinaí *“honrarás y respetarás a tus padres”*.

-Frente a la opulencia (en contraste escandaloso con los países más pobres), en este día de Manos Unidas que lucha por el desarrollo de los pueblos más desfavorecidos y hambrientos, el Señor nos lleva al segundo mandamiento: *“amarás al prójimo como a ti mismo”*.

-Frente al intento de absolutizar leyes y normas que siendo indignas se exigen a todas las personas sin derecho a objeción de conciencia (como recientemente reclamaba el Papa Benedicto XVI), Jesús nos recuerda que, sólo Dios, es digno de ser adorado y de ser tenido como suprema ley a favor del hombre.

2.La Palabra de Dios, sus leyes, no son ningún adorno para la humanidad. Es la constatación de un hecho real: muchos de los que creemos en el Señor no tenemos orientada suficientemente, y con fortaleza cimentada, nuestra vida en el Reino de Jesús. Dios, y es así, no es ningún adorno: si su Ley fuera cumplida..muchos dramas del mundo serían superados.

Jesús no quiere esclavos de su Reino. Hay un dicho que dice algo así “la letra con sangre entra”. La ley del Señor, desde el momento en que está sustentada en el amor, requiere discípulos libres (no obligados), con luz propia (no con imitaciones), con sal y picante (no derretidos o vencidos). A nadie se nos obliga a creer y, por lo tanto, cumplir la voluntad de Dios, esperar en El y en sus promesas nos lleva a la siguiente conclusión: vivir según Dios es un gran regalo. Un privilegio que el Señor nos recuerda en el evangelio que acabamos de escuchar.

Cristo que sabe cómo se está con Dios metido en el corazón, desea para nosotros lo mismo: la felicidad auténtica. ¿Y cómo se alcanza? Sirviéndole con alegría y con prontitud, con entusiasmo y con diligencia, con perfección y con humildad.

Iba un peregrino camino de Compostela y, en un anochecer, mirando hacia las estrellas preguntó: “Señor; ¿qué quieres de mí? Vivo según tu Palabra y camino por tus sendas. Te busco...y no sé si acabo de encontrarte. Una voz, desde lo más profundo del silencio le contestó: “te quiero a Ti”.

Esta es la ley del Señor. Sus mandamientos están encaminados precisamente hacia ello: a un encuentro real, misterioso y personal entre Dios y el hombre.

QUE NO SEA REBELDE, SEÑOR

A tu Palabra, pues ella me ilumina
me enseña los caminos hacia tu Reino
A tu presencia, pues contigo y en Ti,
encuentro la felicidad plena
la dicha verdadera y las razones para vivir

QUE NO SEA REBELDE, SEÑOR

A tus leyes, pues con ellas,
podré ser libre de verdad
sin someterme a otras, que en el mundo,
son injustas y caprichosas

QUE NO SEA REBELDE, SEÑOR

A tu voluntad, para no ser esclavo de nadie
y sirviéndote a Ti, pueda descubrirte
en mi entrega sencilla pero sincera a los demás

QUE NO SEA REBELDE, SEÑOR

A tu proyecto sobre mí,
y llevar a buen puerto
lo que, mis débiles fuerzas, me permitan

QUE NO SEA REBELDE, SEÑOR

A tus exigencias en la vía hacia la perfección
A tu corazón, para moldear el mío frío y duro
A tu llamada, para no olvidarme
de lo mucho que, hoy siempre, me amas.

Amén.

Bonifacio Fernández, cmf - Lunes, 20 de octubre de 2008

Éste es un asunto complejo. Tiene una viva vertiente humana. Y una no menos viva dimensión eclesial. Veamos de ordenar algunos datos:



El número de bautizados casados sacramentalmente que se divorcian y vuelven a unirse en un una nueva relación matrimonial es cada vez más grande. **Las estadísticas alarman.** Tras ellas están las personas reales de carne y hueso, de inteligencia y corazón.

La ruptura de un matrimonio, basado en el amor, no es indolora. Normalmente no es un capricho efímero. Detrás de una separación hay una historia de amor convertida en historia de sufrimiento. Hay heridas personales. Hay sentimientos de fracaso. Y **mucho dolor.**

En casos extremos la separación se hace inevitable. Es una obligación para salvar la propia salud personal y evitar males mayores. En otros muchos casos de separación hay uno que es abandonado.

La sociedad actual no favorece una **cultura de la fidelidad**, del esfuerzo, de la gratificación a largo plazo. Exalta con fruición la infidelidad y la inestabilidad. ¡Pero todavía sigues con el mismo! La poligamia y la poliandria sucesivas se nos presentan como éxito y logro en los iconos sociales y culturales.

La comunidad cristiana siente el dolor de estos cristianos separados, divorciados y casados de nuevo; son miembros de la misma; a veces amigos y familiares. Se siente en conflicto: por una parte está la amistad, la convivencia, la pertenencia a estas personas; por otra, está la necesidad de ser fieles a la palabra de Jesús: **“lo que Dios ha unido no lo separe el hombre”** Mt 19,5-6). La comunidad cristiana se ve envuelta en un conflicto. La autoridad de la palabra de Jesús y el amor a los hermanos.

La comunidad cristiana entiende que los casados, divorciados y casados en un nuevo matrimonio civil, **siguen siendo cristianos.** Muchos de ellos siguen siendo personas de oración; meditan la Escritura, educan a sus hijos en la fe; están comprometidos en la lucha por la justicia y la solidaridad. Participan en la eucaristía. Pero no están en plena comunión objetiva con la palabra de Jesús. Por eso justifica la exclusión de estas personas de la comunión eucarística. Entiende la Iglesia que en la Eucaristía se actualiza el amor fiel, único, indisoluble y redentor de Jesús. Ese amor esponsal que se celebra está en contradicción con la ruptura de la promesa de fidelidad y compromiso que han hecho los divorciados.

El matrimonio civil como relación de amor estable y fiel, como mutua ayuda y proyecto de vida, es una realidad humana muy valiosa y positiva. No es lícito devaluarlo como concubinato. En cuanto relación de amor comprometido y dialogante, tierno y fecundo, es reflejo del Dios-amor. Es una realidad con alcance religioso. **“Todo el que ama ha nacido de Dios y conoce a Dios. Quien no ama no ha conocido a Dios”** (1Jn 4, 7-8)”.

La exclusión de la plena comunión eucarística no es un juicio sobre las personas; menos aún constituye su descalificación o culpabilización. No es un castigo ni una discriminación. Las personas son respetables, aun

cuando sus decisiones fueran equivocadas o contrarias a la praxis cristiana. **Cada uno es responsable último de su propia vida ante Dios.** La capacidad de rectificar los propios errores o de convertirse de sus pecados es admirable humanamente.

La misericordia salvadora de Dios es universal. Dios ama a todos y cada uno. Es el suyo un amor incondicional. Ofrece siempre una **esperanza de futuro**, de crecimiento en la fe y en el amor.

La iglesia no puede mantener a estas personas sin salida. Tiene que ofrecer un camino hacia la plena comunión. **¿Cómo ayuda la Iglesia a estas personas?** ¿Cómo muestra su amor materno? ¿Cómo sufre y ama la comunidad cristiana junto con estas personas? ¿Realmente les muestra que el yugo es suave y la carga ligera?

La llamada

Angel Moreno - Viernes, 20 de enero de 2017




Estamos en los primeros domingos del Tiempo Ordinario, tenemos ante nosotros el año apenas estrenado, y la Palabra de Dios nos propone el pasaje evangélico de la llamada de los primeros discípulos, y su actitud inmediata de seguir a Jesús, dejando redes, casa, familia...

Puede parecer una escena irreal, porque es difícil comprender que de una forma tan inmediata alguien pueda decidir una opción totalmente radical. Debemos interpretar que el texto evangélico compendia el relato. Seguro que los pescadores de Galilea ya habrían tenido noticias de Jesús de Nazaret, y que la opción de seguirlo no es posible sin sentir históricamente la llamada.

De una u otra manera, en el discernimiento vocacional para las distintas formas de vida cristiana, debe haberse registrado un sentimiento de llamada, con la concurrencia de circunstancias objetivadoras que ayuden a comprender la opción de vida como una obediencia y no como una decisión inventada.

Solo cuando se ha registrado el paso del Señor por nuestras vidas cabe arriesgarse en el seguimiento evangélico, porque de lo contrario, sería difícil superar una posible crisis vocacional si no se encuentra razón trascendente por la que ser fiel. Esto vale para la vida consagrada y para la vida matrimonial. El relato se hace eco de una profecía sobre el territorio en el que Jesús ejerce su misión. Este dato de fijar la vocación en un lugar concreto también es importante, porque a la hora de recordar la llamada es luminoso poder fijarla en tiempo y lugar, como les sucedió los discípulos de Juan el Bautista, cuando se encontraron por primera vez con Jesús, se dieron cuenta que era la hora décima, hacia las cuatro de la tarde. He leído una expresión que resume muy bien el sentido de nuestra vida: **“Soy amado y llamado, por eso existo”** (José A. García). Si esto es principio y fundamento, que diría san Ignacio de Loyola, también sirve a la hora de cimentar la propia vocación. ¿A qué te sientes llamado? ¿Cuándo y dónde percibiste el paso del Señor por tu vida? ¿Tu modo de vida responde a una obediencia, o es un proyecto independiente, que tú te has impuesto?

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