

Church of the Nativity



Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00pm

Confession available at 4:15pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 10:15am, 12Noon

Daily Mass in the Church
Monday-Saturday, 12:10pm

Masses are LIVE on Facebook & our website

Sunday: 10:15am

A Stewardship Parish

May 23, 2021

315 Prospect Street ♦ Midland Park ♦ NJ ♦ 07432
Parish Website: www.nativitynj.org

Church Office: 201.444.6362 FAX: 201.444.5056 Email: office@nativitynj.org
Religious Education Office: 201.447.1776 Email: religiously@nativitynj.org



The Solemnity of Pentecost

MASS Intentions

| Time | Mass Intention | Mass Requested By |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Sunday | May 16th | The Ascension of the Lord |
| 8:00 Mass | Pearl Komsa | Phil & Karen Fracassini |
| 10:15 Mass | Carl & Jackie Holst | 14th Wedding Anniversary |
| 12:00 Mass | Wladyslaw Latanyszyn | Staff of Nativity Church |
| Monday, May 24th 12:10PM | Mr. & Mrs. Broderick | Mr. & Mrs. J. Griffin |
| Tuesday, May 25th 12:10PM | Ralph G. Lombardi | George & Josephine Thompson |
| Wednesday May 26th 12:10PM | All Souls in Purgatory | Mr. & Mrs. J. Griffin |
| Thursday May 27th 12:10PM | George Fredricks James B. McElwain | Karen Broncatello & Family David & Rosemary Kooreman |
| Friday May 28th 12:10PM | Consuelo & Rodolfo & Carlos Cevallar | Consuelo Budleman |
| Saturday | May 29th | |
| 12:10PM | Mr. & Mrs. Cadrell Rose Piegaro | Mr. & Mrs. J. Griffin John & Lisa DiMaggio |
| 5:00PM | Anne McNamara | Meg Szydluk |
| Sunday | May 30th | The Most Holy Trinity |
| 8:00 Mass | Jack Komsa | Phil & Karen Fracassini |
| 10:15 Mass | Karen G. Usnick | Jack & Maryanne Kelley |
| 12:00 Mass | Kathleen Priestner Thomas | Priestner Family |

Parish Clean Up Day 2021



A beautiful day with wonderful parishioners!



Thanks to everyone who came out!

Please remember the sick who have asked for our prayers

Helen Moser, Patti Hill, Rosemary Maso, Terry DeSimone, Jesica Tasca, Doug Gianelli

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased

Marion LaFemina, Dan Bardzell, Patricia Ferrone, Ralph Lombardi, Colette Mitchell, Elizabeth Eide, Maria, Martinez, Fr. Pius Sammut, John Mohlmann, Fr. Pius Sammut, Cloris Leachman, Vincent Gallagher, Tom Kennedy, Anne Palumbo, Alex Trebeck, Penny Mollica, Vittorio Mollica, Sean Connery, Carlo DeMaria, Pat Birrer, Mary Beth Lombardi, Kevin Jones,

Next Sunday is Holy Trinity

*A Word
from the
Pastor*



Pentecost Sunday

First Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11*

The Holy Spirit descends upon the apostles gathered in Jerusalem.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 104:1,24,29-31,34* - God's Spirit renews the earth.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 12:3b-7,12-13* - We are all one in Christ

Jesus.

Gospel Reading: *John 20:19-23*: Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is to we know that after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world. In the context of the feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit upon the apostles mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be translated as "breath." This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiveness of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people. *Loyolapress.com*



Crowning of Mary

May Crowning is a traditional Roman Catholic ritual held during the month of May. It is a solemn procession where the Blessed Virgin is crowned with a garland or crown of flowers honoring Mary as "the Queen of May."





**CHILDREN'S
CATECHETICAL MINISTRY**

May 23, 2021

**THIS SEMESTER, ARCHDIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS
WE ARE VIRTUAL!!**

Religious Education Program for Grades K-8:

Re-registration letters will be mailed to all families presently enrolled. Re-registration may be done either by mail or in person. Beginning JULY 5, NEW registration will be taken at the Religious Education Office during office hours.

To complete registration for our Parish Catechetical Program, a family:

- Must be registered members of the parish
- Present a certificate of Baptism for the child/ren and
- Registration fee

To ensure that we make adequate provision for all planning to attend in the summer or fall, we ask that ALL NEW REGISTRATION be completed by August 6, 2021. Please relay this information to prospective new registrants who might not receive this bulletin, especially those planning to enroll first graders who have not been in our kindergarten this year. Thank you!

For our Junior High Students (Gr. 7 – 8) Service Project Forms are due back at the beginning of next school year.

We are grateful to the catechists, assistants, students, and parents for all they have done to make this year meaningful to so many.

ATTENTION MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS AGE 18 AND OVER

The Church of the Nativity must ensure that children and youth who worship, study, or participate in activities sponsored by our parish can do so in the safest and most secure setting possible. As you are probably aware, the Archdiocese of Newark is requiring that all volunteers who participate with minors or can potentially be in contact with minors must undergo training related to prevention, identification, response and reporting sexual abuse.

The Pray the Rosary Let us remain devoted to Our Blessed Mother. Let us humbly pray with the Virgin Mary.



**Sanctuary Light
Memorials**
Week of May 24, 2021

The Sanctuary Light in the Church is burning in memory of
Marion LaFemina
By: Fred & Pat Shaver

The Sanctuary Light in the Chapel is burning in memory of
John & Susie Klybus
By: Anna Brancatella & Fr. George

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP

All NEW parish volunteers – in any capacity – must attend this training workshop and have a criminal background check done. Workshops are being offered at Nativity and neighboring parishes throughout Bergen County.

Next workshops at Nativity are scheduled for:

**Friday June 11, 2021 @ 9:30 AM
in the McGrath Room**

Please register online only visiting
www.virtus.org.

Next workshops at Nativity are scheduled for:

Capacity is limited. No walk-ins.

Face masks and social distancing regulations will be enforced.

Also, you may attend a workshop at our neighboring parishes if their dates are better for your schedule.

**The Church is
OPEN EVERY DAY
10:00AM to 2:00PM**

**For Personal Prayer and Reflection
Confession is Always Available**

The Church of the Nativity Prayer Chain is accepting prayer requests. Please call the rectory with your request.



What Is Pentecost?

If you go back and read the Old Testament, you will discover that Pentecost was one of the Jewish feast days. Only they didn't call it Pentecost. That's the Greek name. The Jews called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks. It is mentioned five places in the first five books — in [Exodus 23](#), [Exodus 24](#), [Leviticus 16](#), [Numbers 28](#), and [Deuteronomy 16](#).

It was the celebration of the beginning of the early weeks of harvest. In Palestine, there were two harvests each year. The early harvest came during the months of May and June; the final harvest came in the Fall. Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early wheat harvest, which meant that Pentecost always fell sometime during the middle of the month of May or sometimes in early June.

There were several festivals, celebrations, or observances that took place before Pentecost. There was Passover, there was Unleavened Bread, and there was the Feast of Firstfruits. The Feast of Firstfruits was the celebration of the beginning of the barley harvest. Here's the way you figured out the date of Pentecost.

According to the Old Testament, you would go to the day of the celebration of Firstfruits, and beginning with that day, you would count off 50 days. The fiftieth day would be the Day of Pentecost. So Firstfruits is the beginning of the barley harvest and Pentecost the celebration of the beginning of the wheat harvest. **M**

Since it was always 50 days after Firstfruits, and since 50 days equals seven weeks, it always came a "week of weeks" later. Therefore, they either called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks.

Why Is Pentecost Significant to Christianity?

Modern Christians observe Pentecost as a holiday, not to celebrate a wheat harvest, but to remember when the Holy Spirit invaded the Church in [Acts 2](#).

1. The Holy Spirit filled the Church with power and added 3,000 new believers. The account in Act 2 reports that, after Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus' followers were gathered together for the Feast of Harvest (aka Pentecost), and the Holy Spirit "filled the whole house where they were sitting" ([Acts 2:2](#)). "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" ([Acts 2:4](#)).

This is why Christians still celebrate Pentecost.

John Gill expresses the significance in his commentary:

"Through this baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, the apostles became more knowing, and had a greater understanding of the mysteries of the Gospel, and were more qualified to preach it to people of all nations and languages."

2. The Holy Spirit was prophesied in the Old Testament and promised by Jesus. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit in [John 14:26](#), who would be the Helper for his people.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

This New Testament event is also significant because it fulfills an Old Testament prophecy in [Joel 2:28-29](#).

Week of May 24, 2021

The Bread and Wine
in the Church are offered
in memory of

Peter Arcuri

By: *Walter & Judy Fitzgerald*



"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

Pentecost was a Jewish celebration. And so in our modern day of the New Testament church, we don't celebrate Pentecost in the way that the Old Testament Hebrews did. But Pentecost was the moment in history after Christ had ascended. And he had promised during the gospel narratives, during his earthly ministry, that he would leave, but that he would send the comforter, he would send the holy spirit. And it was at that moment in Pentecost where the spirit came, and he empowered the early believers, specifically the apostles that were left, and Peter, who is almost a comedic personality in the gospel narratives.

Three Historical Insights into Pentecost

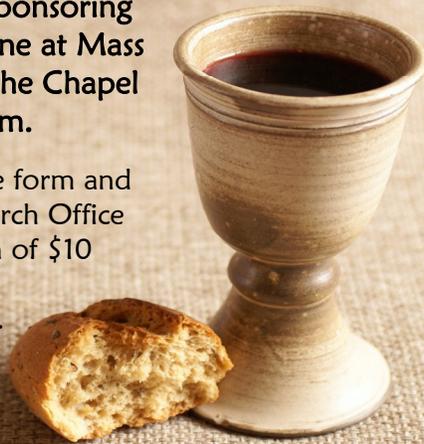
There are three things you need to know about Pentecost that will help you understand [Acts 2](#).

1. Pentecost was a pilgrim festival. That meant that according to Jewish Law, all the adult Jewish men would come from wherever they were living to Jerusalem and personally be in attendance during this celebration.
2. Pentecost was a holiday. No servile work was to be done. School was out. The shops were closed. It was party time.
3. There were certain celebrations and sacrifices and offerings which were prescribed in the Law for the day of Pentecost. On Pentecost, the High Priest was to take two loaves of freshly baked wheat bread and offer them before the Lord. The wheat bread was made from the newly harvested wheat.

In short, Pentecost in the time of the Apostles was a great and grand harvest celebration. The streets of Jerusalem were clogged with thousands of pilgrims who had come from every point of the compass to celebrate the goodness of God and the bringing in of the wheat harvest.

You can have a loved one fondly remembered by sponsoring the Bread and Wine at Mass in the Church or the Chapel in memory of them.

Please complete the form and return it to the Church Office with your donation of \$10 for a Bread & Wine offering for a week.



(Please check one)

- Church Bread & Wine
- Chapel Bread & Wine

Week starting, Monday _____

Your Name _____

Phone _____

This offering is in memory / honor of:
(Please circle one)

Pro Life Corner

Amendment Can Bring Freedom

Annually we celebrate the birthday of our independence - the birth of our nation with parades, fireworks and parties.

Why then do we have abortion laws which deny children their right to have birthdays? We have allowed this holocaust to go on too long. It should never have become a law at all! We cannot honor the laws of man above the laws of God – one of which states "Thou shalt not kill".

We need to take off the blinders. We need to change.

What we need is a human life amendment to the constitution outlawing abortion.

Ruth Weber - Davenport Iowa



Pray the Rosary LIVE every Friday at 3:00PM on our website and Facebook.

Join us and be one of our weekly **Rosary Prayer Warriors**

Call the rectory and speak with Fr. Jason

Watch Us Online!!

www.nativitynj.org

Facebook

Vimeo.com Coming soon!

Youtube.com Coming soon!

Each and every Daily Mass

And Sunday 10:15AM full of music and singing!

Nativity is now part of...

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Look for Nativity the next time you log on to shop!

We ask that you continue to remember Nativity throughout the these months with your prayers and contributions.

Please consider using our

On-Line Giving Program

<https://www.myowngiving.com/>

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This is especially convenient for you with your busy activities and vacations which keep us so busy & away from home.

