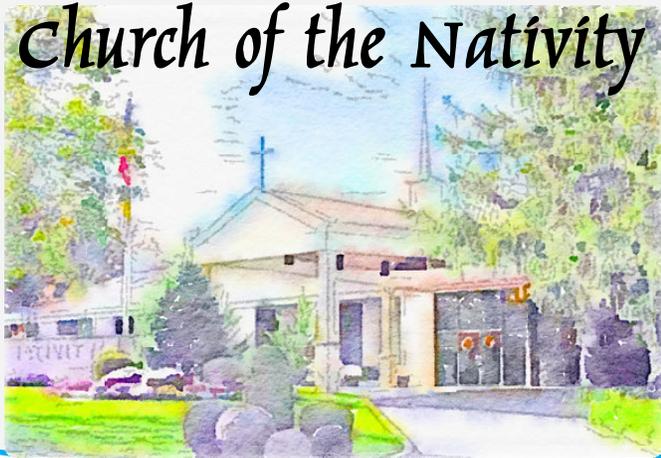


Church of the Nativity



Mass Schedule

LIVE on Facebook & our website
Sunday: 10:15am

Daily Mass - Monday-Saturday 7:30am

Check our website for information
and updates at nativitynj.org

A Stewardship Parish

May 24, 2020

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 religioused@nativitynj.org

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:16-20



*This year Cardinal Tobin has approved the transfer of the Ascension to Sunday, May 24, 2020.

MASS Intentions

During this pandemic all weekday Masses are at 7:30am and Sunday Mass is at 10:15am LIVE on our website and Facebook

Time	Mass Intention	Mass Requested By
Saturday	May 23rd	
12:10PM	John Schmid	Michael & Evelyn Petteruti
5:00PM	Martin Walsh Gloria Bruno	Siobhan Donaghy Michael & Evelyn Petteruti
Sunday	May 24th	
8:00 Mass	Phil Fracassini	Phil & Karen Fracassini
10:15 Mass	Sue Steccato	Fran & Tia Patterson
12:00 Mass	Bishop Charles J. McDonnell	Fr. George & Fr. Jason
Monday, May 25th 12:10PM	<i>Memorial Day</i> Manuel Dutan	Nativity Parish
Tuesday, May 26th 12:10PM	Carl & Jackie Holst	13th Wedding Anniversary
Wednesday May 27th 12:10PM	James B. McElwain	Dave & Rosemary McElwain Koorman
Thursday, May 28th 12:10PM	Mary Rizzo	Patricia Keller
Friday, May 29nd 12:10PM	Susan Bardzell Aponte	Family
Saturday	May 30th	
12:10PM	Tom Vanacore	Nativity Parish
5:00PM	Nancy McNamara DiPietro	Audrey Sweeney
Sunday	May 24th	
8:00 Mass	Jack Komsa	Phil & Karen Fracassini
10:15 Mass	Grace Caldiero <i>15th Anniversary</i>	Joseph & Anna Caldiero
12:00 Mass	John & Sally O'Hagan	Patrick & Janet O'Hagan

Please remember the sick who have asked for our prayer

Pat Birrer, Terry DeSimone, Begonia Ceron

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased

Tom Vanacore, Michael DeMarco, Sr., Thomas Johnston, Andrew Ferrone, Margaret Zeman, Richard Cavalier, Anne Robbins, Anthony Panariello, Edward Sequeira, Amelia Tallon, Nick Gismond, Anthony Fortunato, Helen Gruber,

MOTHER'S DAY MASS REMEMBRANCE

- Barbara DeSantis & Teresa DeSantis
By: John & Alice DeSantis
- Mary Ellen Brosnan & Josephine Antonucci
By: Tom and Elin Antonucci
- Ida Angelucci and Elvira Bockino
By: Diana Bockino
- Winefred Dunning & Mary Stella Kennedy
By: Tom and Brigit Kennedy
- Bridget Ferolano and Eleanor Romano
By: John and Diane Romano
- Cecilia G Paton and Marcie Mc Garr
By: Marcella Mc Garr
- Maria Cristina Rovetto
By: Tony and Phyllis Veli
- Margaret Yolman and Carolyn Taylor
By: John Yolman
- Lillian Torrone & Joan Torrone
By: Donald Torrone
- Mary Mollica & Rita Kahwaty
By: Vincent & Paula Mollica
- Jane F. Matthews & Marie V. Matthews
By: Gerald Matthews
- Catherine Zwirek & Susan Kiernan
By: Miss Joan Zwirek
- Elizabeth Scagleone & Mary Salge
By: John and Rhonda Salge
- Marilyn Vanderhoven & Eleanor Palumbo
By: Annmarie Palumbo
- Rosella Murgia & Grazia Murgia
Irene Monsu By: Louis Murgia
- Anna Gibbs Burns & Catherine McKeon Loughran
By: Catherine Loughran
- Helen E. Hufnagel & Lydia Clare Smith
By: Gerard Hufnagel
- Sarha & Angela Bruno, Mary Mullady
By: Mullady Family
- Helen Dwornik & Dorothy Hillman
By: Randy & Debbie Peters
- Susan F. Robertiello & Althea Philips
By: Dr. & Mrs. John Gangale
- Giovanna Mary Matilda
Theresa Patricia Stacey, Cathy
By: Rita & Joanne Daly
- Sophia Kwoidki & Alfreda Wymbs
By: Christian & Lorraine Wymbs
- Barbara Korpics
By: David Korpics

MOTHER'S DAY MASS REMEMBRANCE

*A Word
from the
Pastor*



The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

Commentary on Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20

“WHY ARE YOU MEN FROM GALILEE standing looking into the sky?” The Ascension is not to be understood literally as if Jesus floated up into space on his way to “heaven”. Where is “heaven”? It is above Jerusalem? Is it in the whole sky encircling the earth? Heaven should be conceived not as a place but as a relationship with God and God is everywhere in the whole universe. Jesus did not have to ‘go’ anywhere to be with his Father. Paschal mystery The Ascension is part of what we call the Paschal Mystery. There are four inter-related parts: suffering and death; resurrection; ascension; and the sending of the Spirit. They are closely interlocked as one reality. If the resurrection says that the crucified Jesus is alive, the Ascension says that the living Jesus has entered into glory, sharing on an equal level the glory of his Father. This is expressed in many different ways in different writings of our Christian (New) Testament. We have three of these viewpoints or understandings in each of today’s readings. On God’s right hand In the Letter to the Ephesians (Second Reading) the fact is stated with great solemnity but without saying how it took place. The author speaks of the:

“strength of [God’s] power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come.”

This is basically the meaning of the Ascension, namely, that Jesus, our triumphant Messiah-King, reigns in glory over all creation. There is no mention of “where” he is or how he got there. Familiar account If we go to the Acts of the Apostles (First Reading) we come to a description which, for many Christians, is the definitive account of the Ascension. Jesus rose on Easter Sunday and then spent 40 days instructing his disciples about the Reign or Kingship of God. During this time they wondered when Jesus was going to restore the Kingdom of Israel. They were still in a state of great misunderstanding about the nature of Jesus’ mission – and their own. As they will eventually come to understand, it is they themselves who will become the agents not of restoring the Kingdom of Israel but, much more importantly, helping to establish the Kingship of God all over the world. Then, one day on the Mount of Olives just outside Jerusalem, as they looked on, he “was lifted up” and “a cloud took him from their sight”. The “lifting up” is to be understood more in a spiritual sense, as it is in John’s Gospel where he speaks a number of times about Jesus being “lifted up” (e.g. “I, being lifted up, will draw all people to myself.”) It refers in particular to the Risen Jesus being raised to the glory of God the Father. This is further emphasised by the cloud that took him from their sight. The same cloud that, in the Hebrew Testament, shrouded Mount Sinai as the sign of God’s presence or the cloud that enveloped Jesus at his Transfiguration. Lower your eyes And that is why the disciples need to be told not to stay standing there gawking up at the sky. That is not where the Risen and Ascended Jesus is to be found. If they want to meet him again, they have to go back to Jerusalem, where, in a few days’ time, they themselves will be filled with the Spirit of God and of the Risen and Ascended Jesus. They will become the Body of the Risen and Exalted Jesus, his effective presence to “the ends of the earth”. As Jesus had told them just before his Ascension (in the Acts), “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.” As we saw on previous Sundays, in order to continue being with his disciples, Jesus had to leave them. His “old” presence in one human body, in one small corner of the world, reaching a small number of people, in one tiny period of history now gives way to a new presence that will reach the whole world in every age. From now on wherever there is “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness...”, wherever there is truth, love, compassion, justice, freedom, beauty the Spirit of Jesus is there. Same message, different location Today’s Gospel (from Matthew) has a similar message. While the scene in Acts takes place in Jerusalem (for Luke the focal point of all that Jesus means for the world), Matthew has the disciples back on their home ground in Galilee. For, it is in the familiarity of home, not up in the skies, that Jesus is to be found. They are at the mountain “where Jesus arranged to meet them”. This is the mountain where Jesus once revealed himself to three disciples at the Transfiguration (chap. 17) and where he touched them (“Stand up; do not be afraid.”). This is not really an ascension scene. It is understood that the Risen Jesus is already in the glory of the Father. We have here rather an appearance of the Risen Jesus, an appearance that relies on faith. So, on the one hand they worship and, on the other, they have doubts – an experience all of us can have from time to time. The emphasis here is not on the appearance of Jesus but on what he has to say to his disciples. It is in three parts – past, present and future. Jesus, source of all authority First, Jesus tells them that all authority of the Creator God himself, has been given to him. To commit oneself totally to Jesus is to commit oneself to God. Second, Jesus gives the command to “make disciples” of people everywhere. He is thus passing on much of his own authority to his disciples. Pentecost will be the confirmation of this. They are to do what he did. They will have the power to reconcile the sinful with God and with the community and to decide who are not yet ready for reconciliation and full participation in the community’s life. The community has standards to keep in order to be a living and credible witness of Jesus and his Gospel. It has a corporate right to maintain those standards. They are to teach, to heal, to break down the divisions that separate people. Baptism in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit will be the symbol of incorporation as members of Christ’s Body, as disciples of Jesus. Always with us Third, the Risen and Ascended Jesus is not far away. He is with his followers and will be with them to the end of time. It is a reminder of the promise made at the very beginning of Matthew’s Gospel, before the birth of Jesus: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name will be called Emmanuel (which means, God is with us)” (Matt 1:23) and again later on, “Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matt 18:20). The gift of the Spirit is not mentioned but is clearly implied by the promise of the ongoing presence of Jesus. Today’s feast then is a celebration of Jesus’ glory after his suffering and death – a glory in which we also hope to share. At the same time, we celebrate the ongoing presence of the Risen Jesus among us, a presence which calls on every one of us to be living witnesses to that presence here in our own community and to the ends of the earth.

<https://livingspace.sacredspace.ie>



CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

May 24, 2020

Religious Education Program for Grades K-8:

Re-registration letters will be mailed to all families presently enrolled. Re-registration may be done by mail. NEW registration will be taken at the Religious Education Office once the social distancing measures have been lifted

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 July 31st, 2020. 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.

FIRST COMMUNION

Please call us 201-447-1776 if you need special arrangements to pick up your banner materials.

CONFIRMATION JOURNEY:

The Confirmation journey the parish youth started back in the fall will continue as soon as all the restrictions are lifted.

Just a few reminders... ALL forms are overdue. There are still forms that have not been returned. Please give your immediate attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the CCD Office at 201-447-1776.

The **Legion of Mary** is a lay apostolate group devoted to Our Blessed Mother. and devote yourself to Mother Mary.



Sanctuary Light Memorials

Week of May 24, 2020

The Sanctuary Light in the Chapel is burning in memory of

Rev. Jason Mantich

By: Claire Haycock

The Sanctuary Light in the Church is burning in memory of

Al Barcavage

By: Ray & Barbara Cantwell



Paschal Candle Memorial

Deceased Members of the Casertal Musco Family
By: Elisa Musco

Rosella Murgia
By: Louis Murgia

Deceased Members of the Bruno & Mullady Families
By: Francesca Mullady

James Kevin Sullivan
By: Marlene Nardone

Members of the Gallagher Family
By: Hugh Gallagher

John J. Oates
By: Louise Oates

Memorialize the Paschal Candle in the name of a loved one, in thanksgiving, to honor a special birthday or anniversary or other occasion in your family. This year's Paschal Candle will be used all year long for funerals and baptisms.

Your Name _____

Phone _____

This offering is in memory/honor of:

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



Memorial Day 2020

As the weather begins to get warmer and the days start to get longer, you may be anticipating the upcoming Memorial Day weekend—and with good reason. Nowadays, Memorial Day is known for being the unofficial start of summer. The three-day weekend usually involves a backyard barbecue, a few classic Memorial Day desserts, a bunch of fun tunes on a patriotic playlist, and, most importantly, time spent with family (and maybe even friends, if your area has eased social distancing restrictions!). To pump yourself up and get into the spirit of the day, check out some Memorial Day quotes that remind us why we're proud to be Americans.

And to that end, it's important to remember that this holiday is about so much more than a cookout. First and foremost, it's observed to remember those who fought for our freedom—the heroes who gave their lives to protect the prosperity of our country. We hope you'll choose to pause and remember them this year, and to remind your children and family members to do the same.

Still, no matter what your plans are for the weekend, you may be wondering: When is Memorial Day Weekend 2020? After all, we all know that the holiday comes around every May, but its exact date changes year to year. Here, we're sharing the exact date for 2020, as well as some of the history of Memorial Day.

M



When is Memorial Day Weekend 2020?

This year, Memorial Day is on Monday, May 25, 2020. The date changes every year, but there actually is a method to the madness: Memorial Day is always held on the last Monday in May.

Memorial Day was created to honor the brave people who died while serving in the U.S. military. One of the very first known observances took place way back on May 1, 1865, in Charleston, South Carolina, right after the end of the Civil War, according to the History Channel. A group of freed slaves—men, women, and children—had buried the bodies of Union soldiers after Confederate soldiers evacuated Charleston. On May 1, people gathered for a parade in the fallen soldiers' honor, singing hymns and placing flowers at the fighters' graves.

Jennifer Aldrich was the editorial assistant for CountryLiving.com

Week of May 24, 2020

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

John & Susie Klybus

*By: Fr. George &
Anna Brancatella*



Easter Flower Collection

In Memory of...

Laura Patterson

Frank J Moore

Robert & Kathleen Scavone

Ryan Daniel Peters

Deceased Members of the Walter &
Judith Fitzgerald

Marilyn Jane Nichols



Hello Nativity Parishioners,
Happy Spring! I know that the current circumstances are not the best, but I hope you and your family are feeling well and looking forward to better days. One way to feel better is to get outside for some fresh air and also to help those in need. I am inviting you to join us in the Nativity Community Garden this season.

Even if you do not have a green thumb or any previous gardening experience, come learn with us, get some exercise, and feel good about helping others. Last year, as a very small group, we successfully grew tomatoes, peppers, string beans, zucchini, eggplant and herbs, and donated over a dozen bags of produce to the local Love Fund.

Families, partners, or individuals are welcome, and the garden makes working and meeting easy for natural social distancing. Since there is no early scheduled Parish Spring Clean-Up this year, we are preparing the garden for the season.

If you are interesting in joining us, or have a way to help us with plants, mulch,... contact Fr. George, or feel free to contact me directly. Stay safe and be well! We'd love you to join us!

Jolie Kurz, Coordinator
Nativity Community Garden
(201-715-4409) jolie104@optonline.net



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

Three Strikes & They're Out!

Throwing Abortion Advocates a Curveball with the Facts

Many women will die from illegal abortions if abortions were once again outlawed. Therefore, abortion should remain safe and legal.

STRIKE 1: Abortion advocates use this as a scare tactic to encourage the belief that millions of women would die from illegal abortions if abortion was outlawed. **Prior to the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions which legalized abortion on demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy, 90% of all abortions were performed by licensed physicians, 15 not by women using coat hangers and back alley abortionists as has been portrayed by radical abortion advocates.**

STRIKE 2: Dr. Bernard Nathanson, the co-founder of the National Abortion Rights Action League in the early 1970s, has admitted that **the abortion rights movement made wildly exaggerated claims of**



Sanctuary Light Memorials



Would you like the Sanctuary Light to burn in either the Church or the Chapel...

- in memory of a loved one
- in thanksgiving
- or to honor a special birthday or anniversary or occasion in your family

The Sanctuary Light offering, in either the Church or Chapel, is available for one week in memory/honor of a loved one.

Please complete the form and return it to the Church Office with your contribution of \$10 per week.

(Please check one)

- Church Sanctuary Light
- Chapel Sanctuary Light

Week starting, Monday _____

Your Name _____

Phone _____

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

5,000-10,000 annual deaths from illegal abortion. In reality, in 1972, the year before *Roe v. Wade*, only 39 deaths due to illegal abortion were reported.

Deaths from illegal abortions decreased dramatically after the introduction of antibiotics in the 1940s.

STRIKE 3: Just because abortion is legal does not mean it is safe. Of course, abortion is never safe for the baby. There is evidence to suggest a link between abortion and breast cancer, perforated uteri, tubal (ectopic) pregnancies, miscarriages, infertility, drug and alcohol abuse, and death, not to mention the long term emotional and psychological anguish that many women report experiencing after having their babies destroyed.

The mission of the Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Newark is to promote the Catholic Church's teaching on the respect, care and protection of human life from conception to natural death. Their office serves as a liaison to clergy, religious and laity in order to assist in affirming the dignity of life and provide support to people in need.

<https://www.rcan.org/offices-and-ministries/respect-life>