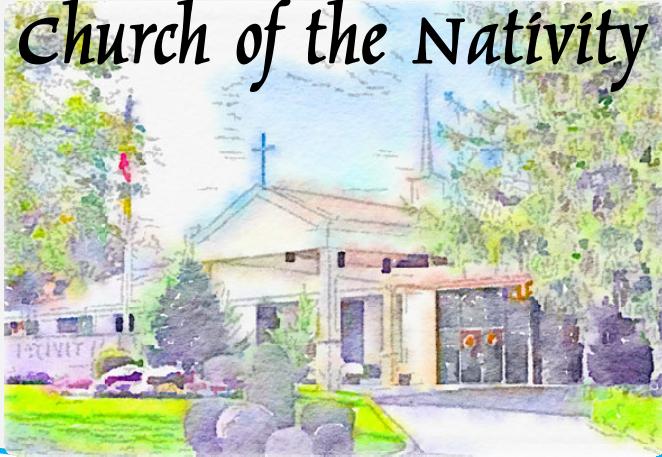


# Church of the Nativity



## 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

Sunday 10:15am and 12:10pm Masses are  
LIVE on Facebook & our website

A Stewardship Parish

July 5, 2020

315 Prospect Street ♦ Midland Park ♦ NJ ♦ 07432  
Parish Website: [www.nativitynj.org](http://www.nativitynj.org)

Church Office: 201.444.6362 FAX 201.444.5056 Email [office@nativitynj.org](mailto:office@nativitynj.org)  
Religious Education Office: 201.447.1776 Email [religioused@nativitynj.org](mailto:religioused@nativitynj.org)

*Happy Independence Day 2020*

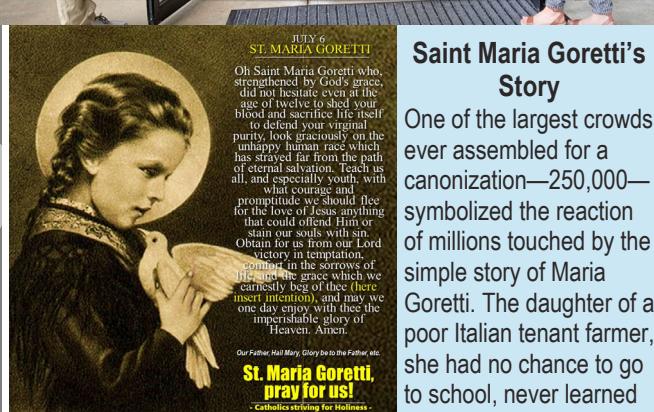


## MASS Intentions

Time	Mass Intention	Mass Requested By
<b>Saturday</b>	July 4th (Independence Day)	
9:00AM	<b>People of Parish</b>	Nativity Church
5:00PM	<b>Angelo Mollica</b>	Vincent & Paula Mollica
<b>Sunday</b>	July 5th	
8:00 Mass		
10:15 Mass	<b>James Connick</b>	Ray & Barbara Cantwell
12:00 Mass		
Monday, July 6th 12:10PM		
Tuesday, July 7th 12:10PM	<b>Catherine McGarry</b> (5th Anniversary Dies Natalis)	McGarry Family
Wednesday July 8th 12:10PM	<b>Paul Cantilina</b>	Jim & Jane Brady & Family
Thursday, July 9th 12:10PM		
Friday, July 10th 12:10PM	<b>Carin Leigh Cantilina</b>	Cantilina Family
<b>Saturday</b>	July 11th	
12:10PM	<b>Laura Patterson</b>	Fran & Tia Patterson
5:00PM	<b>Sophie Charczynski</b>	Gail Okoniewski
<b>Sunday</b>	July 12th	
8:00 Mass	<b>Phil Fracassini</b>	Philip & Karen Fracassini
10:15 Mass	<b>Robert Patterson</b> (Happy Birthday Intention)	Nativity Family
12:00 Mass	<b>Helen &amp; Ed Major</b>	Tom & Ruth Major



We Are OPEN—10 AM to 2PM DAILY



### Saint Maria Goretti's Story

One of the largest crowds ever assembled for a canonization—250,000—symbolized the reaction of millions touched by the simple story of Maria Goretti. The daughter of a poor Italian tenant farmer, she had no chance to go to school, never learned to read or write. When

Maria made her First Communion not long before her death at age 12, she was one of the larger and somewhat backward members of the class.

On a hot afternoon in July, Maria was sitting at the top of the stairs of her house, mending a shirt. She was not quite 12 years old, but physically mature. A cart stopped outside, and a neighbor, 18-year-old Alessandro, ran up the stairs. He seized her and pulled her into a bedroom. She struggled and tried to call for help. "No, God does not wish it," she cried out. "It is a sin. You would go to hell for it." Alessandro began striking her with a long dagger. Maria was taken to a hospital. Her last hours were marked by the usual simple compassion of the good—concern about where her mother would sleep, forgiveness of her murderer (she had been in fear of him, but did not say anything lest she cause trouble to his family), and her devout welcoming of Viaticum, her last Holy Communion. She died about 24 hours after the attack.

Alessandro Serenelli was sentenced to 30 years in prison. For a long time he was unrepentant and surly. One night he had a dream or vision of Maria gathering flowers and offering them to him. His life changed. When he was released after 27 years, his first act was to beg the forgiveness of Maria's mother.

Devotion to the young martyr grew, miracles were worked, and in less than half a century she was canonized. At her beatification in 1947, her 82-year-old mother, two sisters, and her brother appeared with Pope Pius XII on the balcony of St. Peter's. Three years later, at Maria's canonization, a 66-year-old Alessandro knelt among the quarter-million people and cried tears of joy.

**Reflection:** Maria may have had trouble with catechism, but she had no trouble with faith. God's will was holiness, decency, respect for one's body, absolute obedience, total trust. In a complex world, her faith was simple: It is a privilege to be loved by God, and to love him—at any cost.

Please remember the sick who have asked for our prayer

**Pat Birrer, Terry DeSimone, Begonia Ceron,  
Ann Robbins, Joseph Rigolio**

.....

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased

**Pat Sullivan, John Mooney, Paul Cantilina, Jim Firehock, Antonio Fundaro, Lena Padovano, Ethel Finnerty, Mark Woitscheck, Tom Vanacore, Michael DeMarco, Sr., Thomas Johnston, Andrew Ferrone, Margaret Zeman, Richard Cavalier, Anne Robbins, Anthony Panariello, Amelia Tallon, Helen Gruber, James Doran Margaret McPherson**

**A Word  
from the  
Pastor**



## *A Catholic History Lesson on America's Independence Day*

POSTED BY LISA TOTH SALINAS

Here's a little Independence Day quiz for 4th of July readers of *The Catholic Gene*. Try your hand (without reading the answer below) at guessing the century and location where this statute was the law of the land: ...all and every Jesuit, seminary priest, missionary or other spiritual or ecclesiastical person made or ordained by any authority, power or jurisdiction, derived, challenged or pretended, from the pope or see of Rome...shall be deemed and accounted an incendiary and disturber of the publick peace and safety, and an enemy to the true Christian religion, and shall be adjudged to suffer perpetual imprisonment, and if any person, being so sentenced and actually imprisoned, shall break prison and make his escape, and be afterwards re-taken, he shall be punished with death.



"The Founding of the Colony of Maryland" by Tompkins Harrison Matteson, painted in 1853 (Maryland State Art Collection)

and foundations laid for the anti-Catholicism which observers have noted as endemic to the American scene".

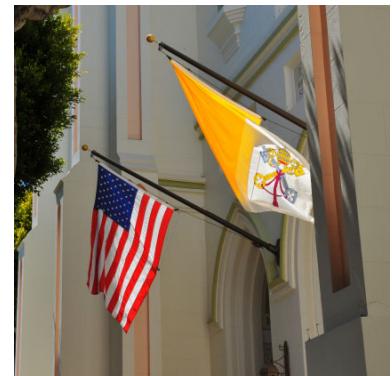
A relatively small number of Catholics did successfully settle in what would later become the eastern United States, most notably in Maryland, which was established by the efforts of the Catholic Calvert family (by the 1st and 2nd Lords Baltimore) under King Charles I in 1633. Among instructions to the colonists (of which Protestants were the majority), the governor and commissioners were required to:

*...cause all Acts of Romane Catholoques to be done as privately as may be, and...instruct all Romane Catholoques to be silent upon all occasions of discourse concerning matters of Religion; and...treat the Protestants with as much mildness and favor as Justice will permit.\**

Religious liberty has come a long way in the United States of America. Though established and governed by Catholics initially, Maryland's history, like that of the rest of what would become the United States of America, would be fraught with growing pains regarding the establishment of religious freedom. By 1708, there were 3,000 Catholics in Maryland – a small one-tenth of the population – and they had seen major setbacks. Anglicanism had been established in the colony in 1702, requiring taxes and compulsory attendance, while Catholics could not vote or hold public office. Ten years later their right to worship privately was reinstated, but it would be a long road to religious liberty for the Catholics of Maryland and the American colonies.

Maryland, however, had planted a seed for the future. In the words of Robert Baird, a 19th-century historian who was often critical of the Catholic Church: *Think what we may of their creed, and very different as was this policy from what Romanism elsewhere might have led us to expect, we can not refuse to Lord Baltimore's colony the praise of having established the first government in modern times in which entire toleration was granted to all denominations of Christians.*

As we Americans (many of us American Catholics) celebrate the independence of our country, we have a lot to be thankful for. A look back at the history of our nation cannot help but give us a better appreciation for the freedoms that we may take for granted each year as we put out our American flags and deck out our homes in red, white and blue for the 4th of July.



**CATECHETICAL MINISTRY****July 5, 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 July 6, 2020**

The Sanctuary Light in the Chapel is burning in memory of

***Clement Scalo***

By: Elisa Musco

The Sanctuary Light in the Church is burning in honor of

***Tom & Bridget Kennedy's  
50th Wedding Anniversary***



**SHINING  
THE LIGHT OF  
CHRIST**  
**2020 ANNUAL APPEAL**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK



Church Office:  
[office@nativitynj.org](mailto:office@nativitynj.org)

Fr. George, Pastor  
[fr.george@nativitynj.org](mailto:fr.george@nativitynj.org)

Fr. Jason, Parochial Vicar  
[fr.jason@nativitynj.org](mailto:fr.jason@nativitynj.org)

Sr. Lois Marie Parente C.S.S.F.,  
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[sr.lois@nativitynj.org](mailto:sr.lois@nativitynj.org)

Olivia Harrington,  
Coordinator of Religious Education  
[oharrington@nativitynj.org](mailto:oharrington@nativitynj.org)

Religious Education Office  
[religioused@nativitynj.org](mailto:religioused@nativitynj.org)



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



**Religious Freedom Week**

Beginning June 22, the Feast of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops celebrates Religious Freedom Week. Join us in promoting religious freedom For the Good of All.



St. Thomas More



St. John Fisher

All people desire to know their Creator. All people have a natural impulse to seek the good and to live in accordance with that good. All people can flourish when they pursue the truth about God and respond to the truth. Religious freedom means that all people have the space to flourish. Religious freedom is both an American value and an important part of Catholic teaching on human dignity. When we promote religious freedom, we promote the common good and thus strengthen the life of our nation and the community of nations.

**Pray** that people of all faiths would be free to worship without fear of attacks and harassment.

**Reflect**

Houses of worship provide spaces for people to step back, often with fellow believers, and pray. The disturbing rise in attacks on these places is an attack on religious freedom. Gunmen in churches, synagogues, and mosques terrorize faith communities. In Europe and North America, churches have been desecrated. Priests all over the world have been killed, even while celebrating liturgies. The problem is not limited to attacks on Christians. Over 50 people were murdered in two mosques in New Zealand, while there have been several attacks on synagogues here in the U.S. in recent years. Mosques and synagogues have been vandalized, while there has been a rise in attacks on Jews and Muslims who are simply going about their daily life. These kinds of attacks are assaults on the image of God and cannot be tolerated.

Learn more at [www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek/](http://www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek/)

**Week of July 6, 2020**

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

*John & Susie Klybus*

*By: Fr. George &  
Anna Brancatella*



**The Church is  
OPEN  
10:00AM to 2:00PM  
For Personal Prayer and Reflection  
Confession is Always Available**

**Nativity is now part of...**

**amazon smile**

**You shop. Amazon gives.  
Look for Nativity  
the next time you log on to shop!**

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](mailto: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

### Good News...Bad News!

The good news is that the tide is turning and many pro-abortionists are very concerned about numerous trends. Abortionists are retiring, dying and quitting. Young doctors are far less inclined to follow their footsteps. Abortion mills are closing and staffs are quitting. Planned Parenthood is being exposed for its obsession with money and disregard for women's well-being and is facing a number of law-suits that highlight these facts.

Moreover, our youth is far more scientifically aware; is increasingly pro-life and ready to witness on social media, amongst friends and family and at the nation's capital at the annual pro-life march. Ultrasound machines show the child sucking his or her thumb and renders the humanity of the child in the womb beyond any doubt. So, disingenuous ➤



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)

### REPORTING ABUSE: AN UPDATE

Since 2002, the Archdiocese of Newark has formalized a process of reporting sexual abuse allegations, in accordance with the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, Essential Norms* and a Memorandum of Understanding between the state prosecutors' offices and the NJ Dioceses. A year ago, Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter, *Vos estis lux mundi*, (*You are the light of the world*) that strengthened and formalized the process for holding bishops accountable. As part of the implementation of the letter here in the United States, a platform was created by an independent, third party providing a secure, confidential, and professional way to report allegations against living bishops. This service is in place to gather and relay reports of sexual misconduct involving bishops of the United States, and reports of their intentional interference in a sexual abuse investigation. Individuals may make a report online at [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling toll free (800) 276-1562. If you wish to report any other kind of misconduct by a bishop—or sexual abuse by a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister, or layperson working for the Church—please contact the Archdiocese of Newark at (201) 407-3256.

To make a report involving a bishop that pertains to sexual abuse or related misconduct, visit [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call (800) 276-1562.