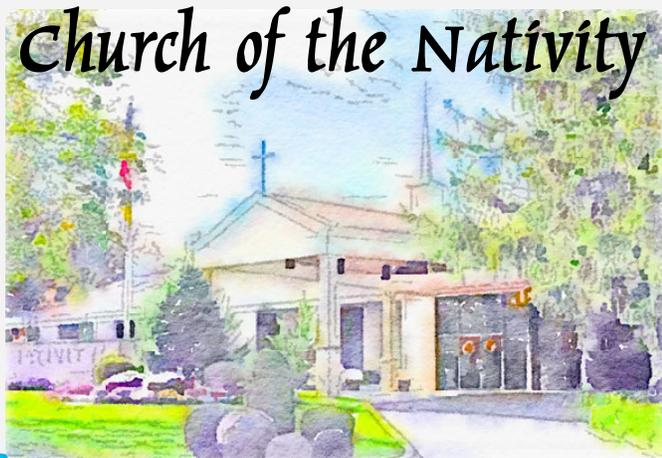


# Church of the Nativity



A Stewardship Parish

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday: 5:00pm**

Confession available at 4:15pm

**Sunday: 8:00am, 10:15am, 12:00pm**

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

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

**August 9, 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 [religious@nativitynj.org](mailto:religious@nativitynj.org)**



**CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY IS NOW OPEN**

**We Are OPEN—10 AM to 2PM DAILY**

### Religious Education

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9:00am-4:30pm.

Classes: Grades K-6:

Sundays: 9:00am-10:00am; Thursday-3:30pm-4:30 pm

Grades 7-8:

Sun- 9:00-10:00am; Monday 6:30-8:00pm (School)

Another 7 & 8th grade meet on weekdays in homes.

### Rite of Christian Initiation (R.C.I.A.)

Anyone interested in becoming a Roman Catholic, or any adult Catholic who has not received all the Sacraments of Initiation and would like to receive these Sacraments, please contact the Church Office.

### Parish Membership

Every family in of our parish is encouraged to register. Forms are available in the church or at the Church Office. If you move or change your home address or email address, kindly notify the Church Office. If you want to add your cell phone to your family information contact the Church Office.

### Penance/Reconciliation

Saturdays 4:15 pm in the vesting sacristy in the lobby of the church, or by appointment in the Church Office.

### Baptisms

The Sacrament of Baptism takes place at the 12 Noon Mass. Arrangements are made by contacting the Church Office before the birth of the baby. Baptismal catechesis is required of all parents. Please call the Church Office for details. A member of the Baptism Preparation Ministry will contact the parents prior to the Baptism.

### Marriage

The Common Policy for Marriage for all Dioceses of the State of New Jersey require notification of marriage at least ONE YEAR in advance. Please contact one of the parish priests to set a date.

### Anointing

If anyone is ill, homebound, or in the hospital, please notify the Church Office.

Our Parish  
is  
Accessible



*MASS Intentions*

Time	Mass Intention	Mass Requested By
<b>Saturday</b> August 8th		
12:10PM		
5:00PM	<b>Anne O'Hamlon</b> <b>Ann Parente</b>	Margaret & Family Michael & Evelyn Petteruti
<b>Sunday</b> August 9th		
8:00 Mass	<b>Phil Fracassini</b>	Phil & Karen Fracassini
10:15 Mass	<b>Bob Stubbs</b>	Fletcher & Diana Hock
12:00 Mass	<b>Kyra Kolpin</b>	Mom
Monday, August 10th 12:10PM	<b>David Griffin</b> (Living Intention)	Mr. & Mrs. Griffin
Tuesday, August 11th 12:10PM	<b>Margaret Fearon</b>	Ray & Barbara Cantwell
Wednesday August 12th 12:10PM	<b>Gertrude Moller</b>	Mr. & Mrs. James Griffin
Thursday, August 13th 12:10PM	<b>Monika Boguszewski</b>	Marilyn Nagle
Friday, August 14th 12:10PM	<b>Lucy Porco</b>	Diana Bockino
<b>Saturday</b> August 15th - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary		
12:10PM	<b>Rev. Franci Ierardi</b>	Mike & Melissa Brancatella
5:00PM	<b>Thomas Frawley</b>	Kieran & Sharon Cummings
<b>Sunday</b> August 16th		
8:00 Mass	<b>Rosella Murgia</b>	Edith Ann Ruggiero
10:15 Mass	<b>Gabriel Kario</b>	Michael & Evelyn Petteruti
12:00 Mass	<b>Paul Cantilina</b>	Emily Melzel



Newly ordained Rev. John Ginty is assigned to Nativity for the summer. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 21st. Later this month we will have some inspiring words on his vocation to the priesthood

This summer, while you are in these seats...



Please don't forget about these



Summer is days and weeks filled with great weather, no school and fun vacations. We ask that you continue to remember Nativity throughout the summer months with your prayers and contributions. Please consider using our **On-Line Giving Program**. This is especially convenient for the summer months when activities and vacations keep us so busy and away from home.

*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*

**Kenneth Neumann, Jr., Nicole Van Lenten,  
Michael Melnyk, Pat Sullivan, John Mooney,  
Paul Cantilina, Jim Firehock, Antonio Fundaro,  
Lena Padovano, Ethel Finnerty, Mark Woitscheck,  
Tom Vanacore, Michael DeMarco, Sr.,**

*A Word  
from the  
Pastor*



## Sunday Readings—19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **first reading** is taken from the first Book of Kings 19:9a, 11-13a and relates the story of Elijah in the cave and the Lord coming to him in a "still small voice."

The **second reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 9:1-5 in which St. Paul speaks of the sorrow of heart that he has because the Jews, as a nation, had refused to see Christ as the Messiah who was promised to them by God through their patriarchs and prophets.



The **Gospel** is from St. Matthew 14:22-33. Our Lord sent His disciples to row across the lake, knowing that they would meet strong, gale-force head-winds and be in danger. He did this because He wanted to strengthen their faith and trust in Himself. He intended to come to them at the right moment, working two miracles — walking on the water and calming the storm. This He did and the result was as He had intended — their faith in Him was strengthened, they declared He was the Messiah,

the Chosen of God. Peter, already the recognized leader, and always the most daring among them, showed himself ready to risk drowning in order to prove his trust and confidence in Christ. While he trusted in Christ, all went well, but when his faith weakened he would have been lost were it not for the outstretched helping hand of his master. This was also a very necessary lesson in the education of Peter and his companions.

For us, too, there is a necessary lesson in this incident. It is that we must continue to trust in Christ and his loving Father, even when God seems to have deserted us. Most of the troubles and trials of our lives are caused by the injustice and lack of charity of our fellowmen. The remainder can be attributed to our own defects and sins or to some weakness in our mental and bodily make-up. But God foresees all these misfortunes, and can prevent them. Instead he lets them take their course, because they can and should be the means of educating us in our knowledge of life's true meaning and they should draw us closer to him.

Christ foresaw the storm and the grave risk His Apostles would run when He sent them off across the lake. But that trial and the grave danger they ran was for their own good, because they learned to realize that He was from God and they could always trust Him. Our trials and our earthly ailments are also foreseen by God and permitted by him (even if inflicted on us by a sinful fellowman) so that they will draw us closer to Him and help us on the road to heaven.

This they will do, if we accept them and bear with them until He comes to our aid. Our troubles in life are like the growing pains of our youth — they are necessary if we are to arrive at our full stature as sons of God. They form, mold and shape our religious character and bring us closer to God — if we allow them to do so. For the lukewarm Christian who rebels against God because of his earthly sufferings, they can do the opposite. He cannot see the purpose and value of suffering because he has never seriously pondered or grasped the real meaning of this life and God's loving plans for him. As in the first reading today, God may not be in the tornadoes or earthquakes or roaring fires, nor does He cause them perhaps, but He is ever near to His true children when such calamities occur. He has a purpose in every trial or tribulation which crosses the path of our lives, a purpose always to our eternal advantage if only we will see and accept his will in these trials.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.





**CATECHETICAL MINISTRY**

**August 9, 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**

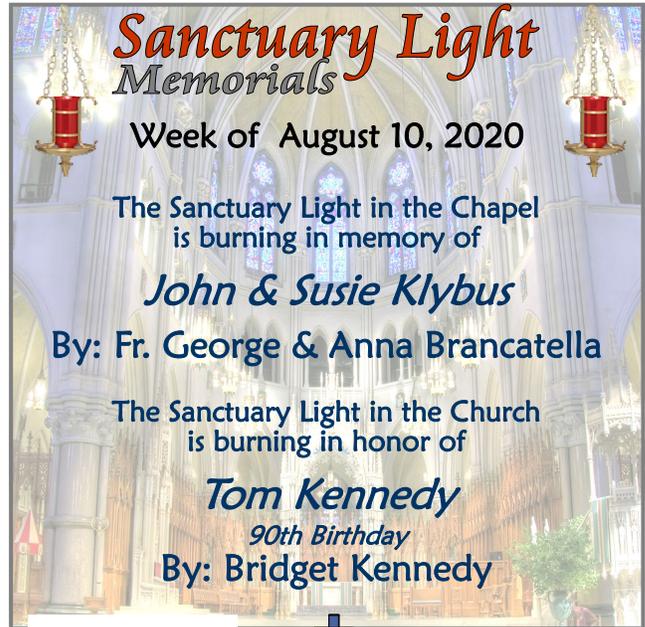
Please call us 201-447-1776 if you need special arrangements to pick up your banner materials.

**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.



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



Church Office:  
**office@nativitynj.org**



Fr. George, Pastor  
**fr.george@nativitynj.org**

Fr. Jason, Parochial Vicar  
**fr.jason@nativitynj.org**

Sr. Lois Marie Parente C.S.S.F.,  
*Financial Affairs*  
**sr.lois@nativitynj.org**

Olivia Harrington,  
Coordinator of Religious Education  
**oharrington@nativitynj.org**

Religious Education Office  
**religioused@nativitynj.org**

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



**Pope at Angelus:**

**God's patience opens our hearts to hope**

With the parable of the wheat and the weeds, said Pope Francis said at the Sunday Angelus, Jesus "helps us understand God's patience, opening our hearts to hope."

In Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the parable of the man who plants good wheat in his field. In the night, an enemy sows weeds among the wheat; and when wheat and weeds begin growing together, the farmer's servants desire



to pull out the weeds. The master, though, tells them to wait until the harvest, for fear that they will pull up the wheat with the weeds.

"Between us," he said, "we can say that even today the soil has been infested by so many herbicides, weed killers, and poisons that do harm to ourselves and the earth."

**Called to patience**

In this parable, Pope Francis explains, the master of the field is God, "who only and always sows good seed," and whose "goal is a good harvest." The adversary is the devil, "God's quintessential opponent" who, out of "envy and hostility" seeks to destroy the work of God. "The devil's intention is to hinder the work of salvation, to stonewall the kingdom of God through wicked workers, the sowers in scandal," the Pope said. The wheat and the weeds are not a symbol of abstract good and evil, but a representation of human beings, "who can follow God or the devil." And he noted, many times we too hear about a family or a community who was in peace suddenly is divided by conflict, envy. "Nasty things begin to happen," he said remarking on how we accuse someone of sowing gossip".

"It is always the devil or our temptations if we fall into the temptation to gossip and destroy others," he said..

Pope Francis contrasts the desire of the servants "to eliminate evil – that is, evil people – immediately," with the plan of God, which is wiser and more far-seeing. The disciples of Jesus, he said, are called to be patient, to focus on saving the wicked, rather than suppressing them.

**Two visions**

"Today's Gospel presents two ways of acting and living history," the Pope said: "the vision of the master on the one hand, that of the servants on the other." While the servants are focused on ridding the field of weeds, the master is concerned with the good wheat, and knows how to protect it "even amongst the weeds."

Pope Francis warned against "those who are always hunting for the limitations and defects of others." Instead, it is "those who know how to recognise the good that silently grows in the field of the Church and history, cultivating it to maturity," who are able to collaborate in the vision of God.

**Week of August 3, 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



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

### The Courage to Speak and to Act Against Abortion

The mother's womb should be the very safest place for a child. Tragically, it has become the most dangerous location- more dangerous than any battlefield or terrorist target. In some cities, about 40 percent of pregnancies end in abortion.

To defend these innocent children and to speak and act on their behalf takes courage. Perhaps family and friends may not like our pro-life stance. Perhaps we may lose business. We all know people who have had an abortion so perhaps we do not want to offend a relative or loved one. It is all too easy to make excuses, which often results in paralyzed inaction and apathy.

We are always told of reasons why we cannot speak up against abortion. If the priest speaks in Church, he will be rebuked by some who will try to argue it's too political; or it's too religious. We are told it's too disturbing; in our schools and colleges. On the public streets, it's too distressing in business it's too 'controversial, in the family it's too divisive, and in social settings, it's too impolite or politically incorrect.

Let's stop counting the cost to ourselves if we speak up and start counting the cost to the innocent children, if we remain silent.



## 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)

### 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.