

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**

September 13, 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



CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY IS NOW OPEN

We Are OPEN - 10 AM to 2PM DAILY

Religious Education

THIS SEMESTER, ARCHDIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS

WE ARE GOING VIRTUAL!!

Religious Education Program for Grades 1-8:

Re-registration letters were mailed to all families presently enrolled. Re-registration may be done by mail. NEW registration will be taken at the Religious Education Office.

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.

**Pray the Rosary with us
LIVE each Friday at 3:00PM
on our website and Facebook**

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
Saturday September 12th		
12:10PM	Marge Fearon	Dom & Annette Sblendoro
5:00PM	Tony Kahwaty	Vincent & Paula Mollica
Sunday September 13th		
8:00 Mass	Pearl Komsa	Phil & Karen Fracassini
10:15 Mass	Salvador Gadoy <i>(33rd Ann. Dies Natalis)</i>	Gadoy Family
12:00 Mass	Robert Scavone	Scarvone Family
Monday, Sept. 14th 12:10PM	Camille Munsch	Marty Munsch
Tuesday, Sept. 15th 12:10PM	Max Vierheilig <i>(25th Anniversary Dies Natalis)</i>	The Vierheilig Family
Wednesday Sept. 16th 12:10PM	Neil Torres <i>(41st Birthday)</i>	Armando & Cynthia Torres
Thursday, Sept. 17th 12:10PM	Otto Voss	Judy Fitzgerald
Friday, Sept. 18th 12:10PM	Ken Major, Sr.	Mom & Dad
Saturday September 19th		
12:10PM	Ida Ponti	Patricia Keller
5:00PM	Steven Mulry	Patrick & Janet O'Hagan
Sunday September 20th		
8:00 Mass	Jack Komsa	Phil & Karen Fracassini
10:15 Mass	Nicole Van Lenten	Jim & Deirdre Gallenagh
	Michael Hoover	The Kelley Family
12:00 Mass	Grace Kelly	Betty Ann McGill



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



SHINING
THE LIGHT OF
CHRIST
2020 ANNUAL APPEAL
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK



**KEEP CALM
AND BECOME AN
ALTAR SERVER!**

Please remember the sick who have asked for our prayer

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

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased

**Hilary Griffin, Patricia Jordano, Patricia Hench,
Monika Boguszewski Christine Fiaschi, Kenneth
Neumann, Jr., Nicole Van Lenten, Michael Melnyk,**

For more information about becoming an Altar Server... contact Fr. Jason at fr.jason@nativitynj.org

*A Word
from the
Pastor*



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

Sirach 27:30—28:9

Those who seek God's mercy must be merciful toward others.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103:1-4,9-12

A song of praise to God who is kind and merciful.

Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9

We belong to the Lord.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus teaches that we must forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

Background on the Gospel Reading

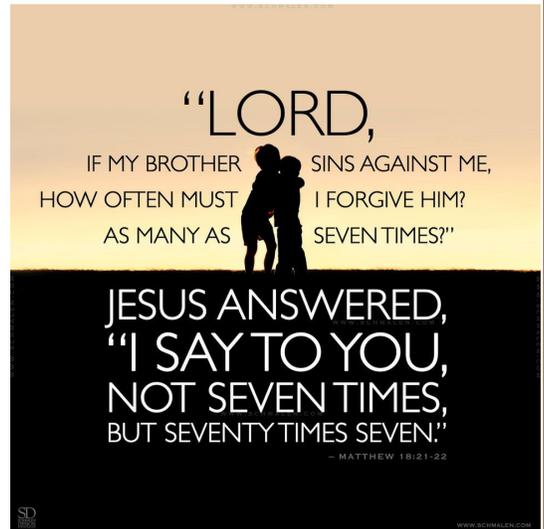
Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

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CHILDREN'S CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

September 13, 2020

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

Religious Education Program for Grades 1-8:

Re-registration letters were mailed to all families presently enrolled. Re-registration may be done by mail. NEW registration will be taken at the Religious Education Office.

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 **September 20, 2020**. Please relay this information to prospective new registrants, especially those planning to enroll first graders who have not been in our kindergarten this year.

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

FIRST COMMUNION 2020 - September 26; 10AM & 1PM

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

CONFIRMATION JOURNEY 2020

With great joy we restarted the Confirmation Journey. We ask your prayerful support for these young people of our parish community as they seek to deepen their relationship with the Lord at this most meaningful time in their lives.

Just a few reminders... **ALL forms are overdue**. Please give your immediate attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the CCD Office at 201-447-1776.

ATTENTION ALL 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. The Archdiocese of Newark requires 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 **Legion of Mary** is a lay apostolate group devoted to Our Blessed Mother. Let us humbly pray with the Virgin Mary.



Sanctuary Light Memorials

Week of Sept. 13, 2020

The Sanctuary Light in the Chapel
is burning in memory of

Harry Koch

By: Jim & Patti Hill

The Sanctuary Light in the Church
is burning in honor of

Landon Wilson

By: The Kelley Family

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.

Please register online only visiting www.virtus.org.

Next workshops at Nativity are scheduled for:

Monday, October 12 @ 7:00 at the McGrath Room
Thursday November 19 @ 7:00 at the McGrath Room

Face masks and social distancing regulations
will be enforced.



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.





"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times? Jesus answered, 'I say to you, not seven times but seventy seven times.'" Forgiveness. Again. It seems that this idea is central to Jesus' thinking, for he mentions it and gives us examples of it many times in the Gospels.

Jesus, in his usual, masterful teaching fashion, uses a parable to make his point more clear to us. It is about a king who decides to "settle accounts with his servants." One of his servants is brought before him who owes him a vast amount of money, an amount so great that the servant has no way to pay back his debt to his master. The master orders him to be sold, along with his wife and children, in order to pay off the debt. The servant falls down before the master and begs him "to be patient with him and he will pay it back in full" (verse 26). As the scripture tells us, the master is moved with compassion for his servant and he forgives the servant's entire loan. The servant then goes out and finds a fellow servant who owes him a tiny amount in comparison to what he owed to the master. He beats his fellow servant and demands payment. That fellow servant begs him to be patient with him in the same manner, but instead the servant who has had his entire debt forgiven has his fellow servant thrown into jail until he pays off his debt. Others report this to the master and he calls the former servant back before him and lets him have it. "You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?" (verse 33).

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This parable is as clear as it can be for us. And it is one of our greatest challenges. It is difficult for the same reason it was to the Jews of Jesus's time. Jesus' teaching contradicts everything that the world teaches and it flies in the face of the old law of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" that was common throughout the world then, and remains so even now in our own time. The "Master" in the parable, of course, is Jesus. This is what Jesus did for all of us when he was raised up on the cross. He forgave our entire debt, that is, our sins against God, and those against our neighbors, and against ourselves. He wiped them off the books. And we are told here that we are to do the same for those who have sinned against us. And the parable shows us the consequences for not doing so. The master in the parable handed the unrepentant, unforgiving servant "over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt" (verse 34). Then he finishes his teaching with the ultimate truth that, "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart" (verse 35).

These words are to be taken personally. They are to be taken to heart in each one of us. Jesus is expressing the will of the Father to us in this matter of forgiveness. And he not only preaches it, but he practices it by sacrificing everything in order to do the will of the Father.

These words of Jesus, then, are to be heard as our duty of love and thanksgiving to the One who canceled our whole debt on that cross. We are to forgive as he forgave. This is how we can love others as he loved. We know how hard it is to forgive another who has injured us in some way. As Christians, we know the internal struggle between the desire to get revenge and our desire to imitate Jesus in all things. This struggle is real, but Jesus does not ask us to do the impossible. He asks us to do what he knows we are capable of doing in faith. A profound practice of daily prayer is needed. It is needed both to deepen our relationship with Jesus, but also to receive the wisdom and the graces we need to courageously follow Jesus by forgiving those who have injured us, just as he forgives us every day.

Lord, We pray that you strengthen our faith and deepen our understanding of the great gift of forgiveness that you have so freely and compassionately given to us. Give us the vision of faith so that we can see those who have wounded us through your eyes. We pray this in your name, Jesus. Amen!

Week of August 13, 2020

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

Landon Wilson

By: The Kelley Family



The Church is
OPEN

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

Nativity is now part of...

amazonsmile

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

Our Little Future Citizens

Soon we can exercise our right to vote in the Presidential election. We may have different political opinions but as mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and grandparents we should all be united as one in the effort to protect life. This is the most important issue there is. Without life, nothing else matters!!

Don't let big business such as Planned Parenthood pull the wool over your eyes any longer. As for their "rabbit ads," I find them highly offensive to women.

Babies are being killed by the millions while still in their mother's womb through the crime of abortion. The earliest form of child abuse is abortion and the most deadly. We should all be outraged by this heinous crime - and it is a crime of the worst magnitude. The blood of these innocent ones cry out for our help.

Please search your hearts, your consciences and your faith and vote for our little future citizens.

Vote for Life.



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 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 or call (800) 276-1562.