

Church of the Nativity



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

A Stewardship Parish

September 27, 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



Mass on the Grass 2020

Nativity's end of summer *Mass on the Grass* really turned into a rally of joy. It felt almost as if we were beginning something. It was great to be with everyone and thank you for coming out and braving the chill to celebrate the Eucharist together.

MASS Intentions

Time	Mass Intention	Mass Requested By
Saturday September 26th		
10:00AM	First Communions	
12:10PM	<i>No Mass This Day</i>	
1:00PM	First Communions	
5:00PM	Paul Cantilina	Pat Keller
Sunday September 27th		
8:00 Mass	Romanus Agu <i>(Fr. Emmanuel Agu's Father)</i>	Nativity Church Family
10:15 Mass	Tyler Feeley	The Stix Family
	Margie Tomanelli	The Kelley Family
12:00 Mass	Grace Kelly	Christine Principe
Monday, Sept. 28th 12:10PM	Richard Cavalier	Diane Flynn
Tuesday, Sept. 29th 12:10PM	János Magyar <i>(25th Anniversary Dies Natalis)</i>	Mary Czubakowski
Wednesday Sept. 30th 12:10PM	William Huyler, Jr.	Jim & Patti Hill
Thursday, Oct. 1st 12:10PM	Joe & Kathleen Daly <i>(60th Wedding Anniversary)</i>	The Daly Family
Friday, Oct. 2nd 12:10PM	Peter Anthony Cantilina	The Cantilina Family
Saturday October 3rd		
12:10PM	Baby 'Kevin Joseph' <i>(Lost to Miscarriage)</i>	Brian & Diane Flynn
5:00PM	Paul Cantilina	Hugh & Barbara Gallagher
Sunday October 4th		
8:00 Mass	Deceased Members of Rosary Society	Rosary Society
10:15 Mass	John Paul Roveto	Tony & Phyllis Veli
	Bob Kolpin	Audrey Kolpin
12:00 Mass	Kathleen Scavone	Scavone Family



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

Next Sunday at 12:45PM



Blessing of the Animals

Are you a pet or animal lover? Do you have your own furry or feathered friends at home, or know others with animal companions? Cat and dog, pig and bird, lizard and spider, hamster and fish (in water, please!) - All are welcome to join us next **Sunday, October 4th at 12:45pm** for a special **Blessing of the Animals** service.

This special event commemorates the *feast of St. Francis of Assisi*, where animals have been blessed since the middle ages. No saint is more closely associated with animals than St. Francis of Assisi. He rejoiced in the value and beauty animals bring to creation.

All pets are welcome to bring their humans, of course! We hope to see you and your furry, feathered, fuzzy, and finny companions October 4th!



SHINING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
2020 ANNUAL APPEAL
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

Please remember the sick who have asked for our prayer

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

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased

Mary Beth Lombardi, Margaret Tomanelli,

*A Word
from the
Pastor*



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:25-28

It is possible to turn from sin and preserve one's life.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 25:4-9

A prayer to God for mercy.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-11 (shorter form Philippians 2:1-5)

Be like Christ who humbled himself and was exalted by God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus poses a question to the chief priests and elders on the meaning of obedience.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers' tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions speak louder than words" and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father's will.

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Jesus' conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John's message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent—tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God.

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**CHILDREN'S
CATECHETICAL MINISTRY**
September 27, 2020

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR GRADES K-8:

Re-registration letters were mailed to all families presently enrolled. Re-registration may be done either by mail or in person. 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 children and Registration fee

To ensure that we make adequate provision for all planning to attend our virtual sessions, we ask that ALL NEW REGISTRATION be completed ASAP. 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.

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

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP

All NEW parish volunteers – in any capacity – must attend this training workshop and have a criminal background check done.

See this next box → and register. →

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM:

We are happy to announce that on Saturday September 26th at 10:00AM and 1:00 PM, 28 children in our parish family received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. They and their families have prepared for this event for some time now, learning what the Eucharist is about and what it means to be part of the Eucharist community of people. We invite all members of our parish community pray for the children and their families.

CONFIRMATION JOURNEY 2020:

Just a reminder...

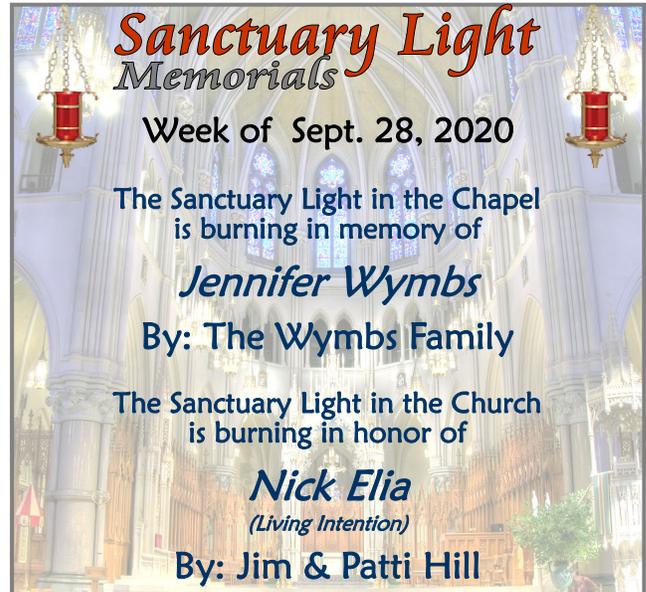
Session #10 will be on Sunday October 11 @ 1:00 at the Church
Make up session will be October 18. More details will follow
Sponsor forms and letters of certification forms are due now.
ALL other forms are overdue.

ATTENTION PRE-K and KINDERGARTN MOMS

GOOD NEWS FOR LITTLE ONES IS BACK!

IS SOMEONE UNDER 6 IN YOUR FAMILY? If you have a small child under the age of 5, you'll be happy to know that during the 10:15 AM Mass, we offer our Religion readiness program for those ages 4 to under 6 entitled "Good News for Little Ones". This Program is supervised by Olivia Harrington our Religious Ed. Coordinator and staffed by trained catechists and volunteers. This program will be in the Upper Room of the Church.

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



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.



The Parable of the Two Sons

Toward the end of His ministry, Jesus made a triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on the back of a young donkey. For many Israelites, this scene represented their hopes that the Messiah had finally come to reestablish the sovereignty of Israel. Rome would be driven out, and Israel would enjoy the peace that the prophets had promised. Unfortunately, Jesus's goals were much different than people expected. Despite the huge crowds that greeted Him with waving palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna," Jesus was headed on a trajectory that would eventually lead to the cross. This means that His time in Jerusalem would include serious clashes with religious authorities. Eventually, many of the voices who shouted "blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" as Jesus rode into town would scream "crucify Him" less than a week later.

It's amid this turmoil that Jesus offers the little-known Parable of the Two Sons.

The Parable of the Two Sons

When Jesus arrives at the temple again, the chief priests confront Him. They want to know where He gets His authority. They're basically asking Him, "Just who do You think You are?!" After a brief conversation when Jesus refuses to tell them where He derives His authority, He tells this parable:

... There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, "Son, go and work today in the vineyard."

"I will not," he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing.

He answered, "I will, sir," but he did not go.

Which of the two did what his father wanted?

"The first," they answered ... (Matthew 21:28-31).

Every parent is familiar with a child who willingly—even happily—agrees to do a chore but never bothers to do it. He contrasts this with a second child who initially refuses to do the work, but has a change of heart and does it.

It doesn't matter how agreeable your children are when you ask them to do something—they're only obedient when they get it done. The priests know this is true, and they answer accurately.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him" (Matthew 21:31b-32).

God had sent John the Baptist to prepare Israel for the Messiah's coming. But where the religious leaders were skeptical of John's message, Israel's sinners responded to John's message. Most of Israel's religious establishment made a big show of their obedience, but they refused to recognize what God was doing.

Christ's judgment of Israel was based on the fact that their traditions and lofty expressions of worship didn't translate into actual submission to God.

How does this parable apply to us?

So what is the meaning of the Parable of the Two Sons? This story should unsettle us. We might have the best intentions with our promises of faithfulness, but promised obedience isn't necessarily obedience. Like the fig tree, it's possible to convince ourselves that the appearance of vibrancy is proof of our devotion—but Jesus is looking for fruit.

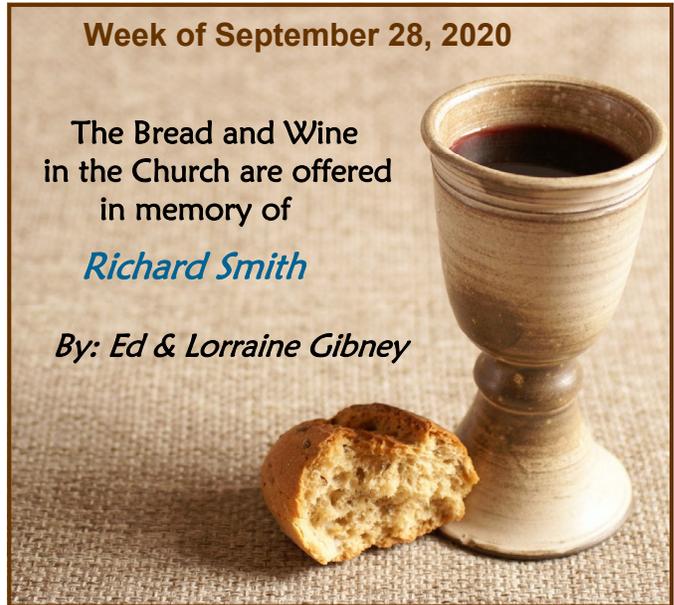
Thankfully, the parable of the two sons reminds us that it's never too late to follow through on the things Jesus asks from us!

Week of September 28, 2020

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

Richard Smith

By: Ed & Lorraine Gibney



**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

Abortionist Has Terrifying Vision at Medjugorje, Converts on the Spot

In 2011, an unlikely group of non-religious abortionist doctors found themselves visiting the most active Catholic apparition site in the world, Medjugorje. One of the doctors, a gynecologist in her sixties, had personally performed 1000s of abortions. But her life suddenly changed after having a supernatural vision on Apparition Hill!

The group was led by Valentina, a young woman from Ukraine. She had had her own conversion experience while visiting Medjugorje for the first time in 2007, and since then had been leading pilgrimages there. Inspired by Bl. Mother Teresa, Valentina had also dedicated herself to serving the sick poor.

Her work got her connected with her local medical community, which led to her inviting the group of doctors to Medjugorje.

An important part of their time in Medjugorje was climbing to the top of Apparition Hill, one of the first places Mary is said



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)

to have appeared to the child visionaries in 1981. That's when something incredible happened. "I had scarcely put my foot down on the hill," the abortionist later explained, according to Mystic Post, "when everything changed before my eyes.

"The rocks disappeared. The hill was suddenly covered with the bones and skulls of all the babies I had aborted over forty years.

"Look at these hands!" she cried out, stretching out her hands before the group. "Here are the hands which killed an entire city!"

With that, the doctor was done with abortions. Many of the other doctors in her group also had conversion experiences. In all, Valentina has taken somewhere around 400 abortion doctors to Medjugorje in the last few years.

Whatever you make of the alleged visionaries, stories of conversion are always something to celebrate!

Pray for the conversion of abortionists!

by ChurchPOP Editor - August 20, 2016