

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

October 4, 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

First Holy Communion

Sienna Behr
Michael Buttino
Mateo Casale
Ethan DeLorenzo
William DeNagel
Liam Fells
Khloe Feuilly
Adriana Ffrench
Carter Grieco
Daniel Grisanti
Lorenzo Henriquez
Emma Intagliata
Maximilian Kalata
Kendyl Knight
Chase Knight
Madeline Libretta
Emma McGonigle
Bryce McLearnie
Hailey Montoya
Avery Quinn
Jasper Parlegreco

Sadie Pellie
Mason Rawlings
Nathan Reyes
Colton Schmidt
Abigail Schott
Luc Tirico
Peyton Toro
Olivia Villavicencio

*May you always know
the peace of Jesus,
the light of His love and
the joy of His life within*

2020

HOLY COMMUNION



MASS Intentions

Time	Mass Intention	Mass Requested By
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
Monday, Oct. 5th 12:10PM	Jennifer Wymbs	Mom & Dad
Tuesday, Oct. 6th 12:10PM	Daniel Griffin	Mr. & Mrs. Griffin
Wednesday Oct. 6th 12:10PM	Susad Barszell Aponte	Family
Thursday, Oct. 8th 12:10PM	Rosella Murgia	Murgia Family
Friday, Oct. 9th 12:10PM	James K. Sullivan	Marlene
Saturday October 10th		
12:10PM	Theresa Pullets <i>(Living Intention)</i>	Diane Flynn
5:00PM	Paul Laikowski	Stan & Claire Laikowski
Sunday October 4th		
8:00 Mass	Phil Fracassini	Phil & Karen Fracassini
10:15 Mass	Rosalia Veli	John & Rosalie Giudice
12:00 Mass	Nicole Van Lenten	Fred & Pat Shaver



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



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!

We are grateful to the Lord for these children, who received their First Communion last week at Nativity



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, Kevin Jones, Margaret Tomanelli,

*A Word
from the
Pastor*



27th 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.

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.

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.





**CHILDREN'S
CATECHETICAL MINISTRY**

October 4, 2020

**THIS SEMESTER, ARCHDIOCESAN REQUIRMENTS
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

They were totally awesome! Photos coming soon.

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 October 5, 2020

The Sanctuary Light in the Chapel
is burning in memory of

Jennifer Wymbs

By: The Wymbs Family

The Sanctuary Light in the Church
is burning in memory of

Jennifer Wymbs

By: The Wymbs 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.





Blessing of the Animals Mural, Mexican Consul, Los Angeles

Blessing of animals can be either of the animal or of the human-animal relationship, and can apply to pets and other companion animals, or to agricultural animals and working and other animals which humans depend on or interact with.

Blessing of animals, or of the slaughtering process, before slaughter, is a key element of some religions.

Ceremonial blessing of companion animals occurs throughout the world for example, Australia, Canada, Scotland, Spain, and the USA. Blessing of animals is a religious activity, and occurs broadly across most religions in some form, including, for example, across Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Shintoism, Unitarian Universalism, amongst others. Secular respect for animals is also strong, for example, World Animal Day, an international day of action for animal rights and welfare celebrated annually, but is still held on 4 October, the feast day of Francis of Assisi, a Christian patron saint of animals.

Annually now, on or around October 4, Christians worldwide celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis with a blessing of animals and prayers for creation. Catholicism has specific liturgies for the blessing of animals, highlighting creation and interdependence. United Methodists also have a specific liturgy highlighting creation and mutual interdependence.

Separate variants of Christianity will sometimes combine to hold joint, ecumenical, animal blessing ceremonies, for example Catholic and Episcopalian churches.

Many synagogues now have ceremonies for the blessing of animals, and some say the idea may have originated in ancient Judaism. The Jewish ceremony is often performed on the seventh day of Passover (in the spring) as a celebration of the Hebrews' (and their animals') emancipation from slavery in Egypt more than 3,000 years ago. Many Jewish congregations schedule blessings of the animals after the High Holy Days, with ceremonies around the second weekly Torah portion of the Jewish Year, the Parashat Noach, the portion about Noah and the ark, the saving of both humans and other animals, they also being gifts from God.

Pre-Christian

The Lorscher Bienensegen, believed to date back to the 9th century, is a Christian bee-keeping prayer written in Old High German to bring honey bees back to their hives in good health, and may arise from earlier Anglo-Saxon and apparently pagan "For a Swarm of Bees" in pre-Christian Germanic areas.

Christianity

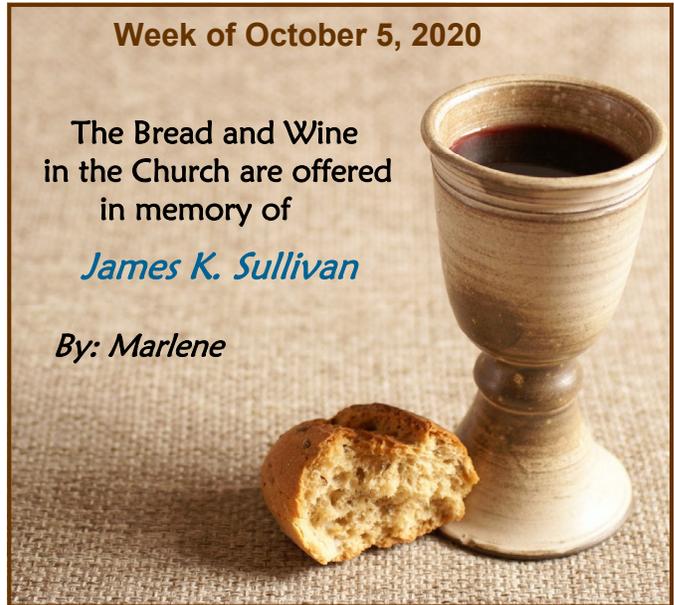
Saint Francis of Assisi is associated with the patronage of animals and it has become customary for Catholic and Anglican churches to carryout animal blessing ceremonies on his feast day of 4 October. Saint Dwynwen is more known for being a Welsh patron saint of lovers but she is also lesser known as being the patron saint of sick animals which she would bless. Legend has it that in the 4th century, whole herds of wild animals would come for the blessing of Saint Blaise.

Week of October 5, 2020

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

James K. Sullivan

By: Marlene



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

The Elections and Voting

Would you like to save a child's life? On Election Day you will be given that chance. The candidates running for office have starkly different positions on the most fundamental issue: abortion.

Babies will live and die based on how you vote. The children are counting on you. Please do not let them down.

Las Elecciones y el Voto

Le gustaría salvar la vida de un niño? En el día de las Elecciones usted va a tener esa oportunidad. Los candidatos que se presentan para los puestos electivos tienen posiciones muy diferentes con respecto a una de las cuestiones más fundamentales: el aborto.

Hay bebés que van a vivir o morir según como usted vote. Los niños cuentan con usted, Por favor no les falle.



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.