

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**

October 11, 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

**We are in need of a proper projector and screen
to make the Mass experience more
prayerful and more devout.**

We cannot use books any longer due to the pandemic.

But you sing better with the words on the wall.

Donate Now!!

We need to purchase the proper equipment!

**The pandemic may have given a punch
but we are resilient. Your faith is stronger.
Help us to help you have each and every Mass full of
music and singing!**

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

**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

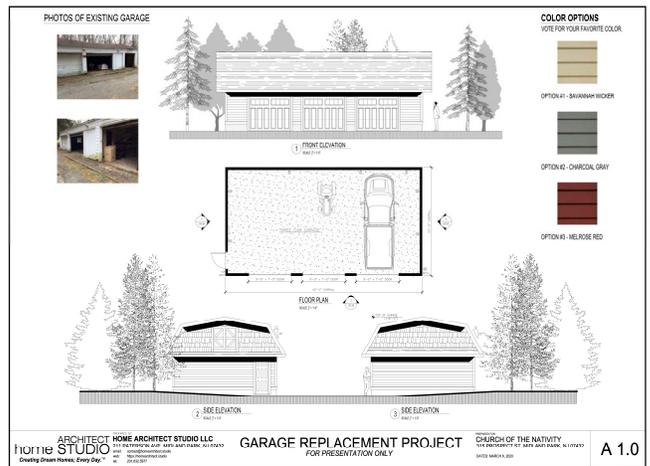
Time	Mass Intention	Mass Requested By
Saturday October 10th		
12:10PM	Theresa Pullets <i>(Living Intention)</i>	Diane Flynn
5:00PM	Paul Laikowski	Stan & Claire Laikowski
Sunday October 11th		
8:00 Mass	Phil Fracassini	Phil & Karen Fracassini
9:00 Mass	John & Susie Klybus	Fr. George & Anna Brancatella
10:15 Mass	Rosalia Veli	John & Rosalie Giudice
12:00 Mass	Nicole Van Lenten	Fred & Pat Shaver
Monday, Oct. 12th 12:10PM	John Henry Griffin, Sr.	Mr. & Mrs. Griffin
Tuesday, Oct. 13th 12:10PM	Gene Kooke <i>(Living Intention)</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Griffin
Wednesday Oct. 14th 12:10PM	Anna Griffin Cavanagh	Mr. & Mrs. Griffin
Thursday, Oct. 15th 12:10PM	Kathleen Nee <i>(Living Intention)</i>	Siobhan & Aiden
Friday, Oct. 16th 12:10PM	Claire B. McElwain	Dave & Rosemary McElwain-Kooreman
Saturday October 17th		
12:10PM	Mary Beth Lombardi & Kevin Jones	Ralph & Mary Lombardi
5:00PM	Barbara DeSantis	Joe & Cathleen Daly
	Paul Cantilina	John DeSantis
Sunday October 18th		
8:00 Mass	Janice Fracassini	Phil & Karen Fracassini
10:15 Mass	Vincenzo Veli	John & Rosalie Giudice
12:00 Mass	Dr. Camille Paglia	Michael & Jill Zitman & Stephen



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



The maintenance garage plans were submitted and we are ready to go!

Let's pray together

We are looking for a friendly contractor that wants to help the parish!

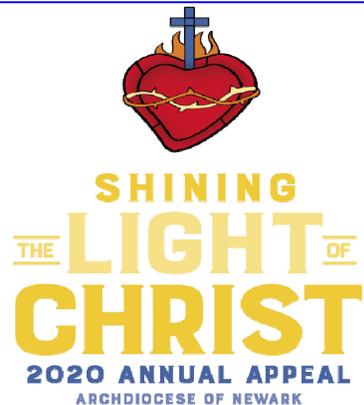
During this time of pandemic, Please... pray for each other. Check on your neighbors

Please remember the sick who have asked for our prayer

Pat Birrer, Terry DeSimone, Begonia Ceron, Joseph Rigolio, Pat Keller, Alessio T.,

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased

Tom Major, Mary Beth Lombardi, Kevin Jones, Margaret Tomanelli,



A Word
from the
Pastor



Blessing Our Pets: In The Spirit Of St. Francis And Judaism

On Sunday, Oct. 2, churches around the world will celebrate something that St. Francis of Assisi started almost 800 years ago: blessing our animals. It was Francis who first introduced the idea that human beings are only one of a myriad of creations of God and all are blessed in God's "eyes." The feast day of St. Francis (the day that he died) is celebrated every year on October 4, and blessing of the animal services are usually scheduled for the Sunday closest to

that day.

Whether you realize it or not, you probably know something about St. Francis. He is the most popular Catholic saint in the world. He is the one who preached to the birds; blessed fish that had been caught, releasing them back into the water; communicated with wolves, brokering an agree-



ment between one famous ferocious wolf and the citizens of a town that were terrified of it and used real animals when he created the very first, live, Christmas nativity scene. As a result of these, Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment.

The first blessing of the animals happened like this: One warm afternoon early in his ministry (sometime between 1210-15), Francis wandered outside of Assisi, full of self-doubt, asking God if perhaps everything he had done until that point had been for the wrong reasons. Francis wondered if he should have simply gotten married and raised a family as his father wanted him to do. It was while he was praying alone to God that Francis glimpsed some birds along the path. He paused and began to speak to them as if to equals. Soon, he began to "preach" to them about God's glories and all the reasons why both humans and birds should be grateful. That day marks the beginning of the environmental movement, the beginning of the era when we begin to understand ourselves as intrinsically connected to all of creation.

He exhibited a sensitivity to the living and organic things around him that sets him apart from other people of his day and the saints who came before him. He even cared for the inanimate objects of creation with a sensitivity that is similar to Buddhist teachings about kindness toward all sentient beings. One of the most beautiful paragraphs of "The Golden Legend" by Jacobus of Voragine (a late medieval text about the lives of the saints) explains:

The saint would not handle lanterns and candles because he did not want to dim their brightness with his hands. He walked



reverently on stones out of respect for him who was called Peter, which means stone. He lifted worms from the road for fear they might be trampled underfoot by passersby. Bees might perish in the cold of winter, so he had honey and fine wines set out for them. He called all animals brothers and sisters. When he looked at the sun, the moon, and the stars, he was filled with inexpressible joy by his love of the Creator and invited them all to love their Creator.

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CHILDREN'S CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

October 11, 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.



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.



Continued from page 3.

This connection between St. Francis and animals is the single fact about him that most people know. He emphasized that creation includes more than humankind. He always called creatures his brothers and sisters and he worked to further widen the fraternity to link humans and creatures in the same relationship with God. But was Francis really the first person to bless the animals? It appears not. Judaism, long home to blessings of all kinds, may have come first.

Many synagogues now have their own blessing of the animals ceremonies, and, they say, the idea originated in ancient Judaism. Without reference to Francis of Assisi (but occasionally, with a passing reference to him), 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. Why not exult in the freedom of all creatures from bondage, and not just the humans? Such an occasion reminds humans to care for their pets as if they are more like companions than slaves.

Also, at this time of year, many Jewish congregations schedule blessings of the animals after the High Holy Days, centering their ceremonies around the second weekly Torah portion of the Jewish Year cycle: *Parashat Noach*, the portion about Noah and the ark. Way back then, God promised never to destroy the earth again — and both humans and animals were understandably joyful. On this occasion, animals are blessed as creatures, reminding humans how we share that essential quality with our pets. This October 28-29, the story of Noah will be read in synagogues around the U.S. for *Shabbat Noach* — and more synagogues than ever before will include an animal blessing in their services that would make a Franciscan feel at home.

I happened to be at Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in Greenwich Village a few years ago on *Shabbat Noach*. They had a special blessing for animals (mostly dogs) that day—something that they do every year. People and pets crowded the aisles and everyone who had a companion with fur in their lives received a ribbon attachable to a collar. It wasn't



quite the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, but it was terrific nonetheless. In both the Christian ceremony performed in early October and in Jewish ceremonies later in the month, the message to those of us with animal companions is the same: take care of them as you would take care of yourself. Show gratitude; they are gifts from God. Jon Sweeney Huffington Post - Dec 02, 2011



Week of October 12, 2020

The Bread and Wine
in the Church 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...

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

It Is Called Abortion

We agonized about the shootings in our schools over past years and we ask why this happened. Hasn't it occurred to you that by our own laws we have refused God entrance in our public schools, thereby opening wide the doors to Satan and his evil ways.

We hear about the memorials of the Holocaust, and are saddened. We must remember, so it doesn't happen again.

We read about the genocide going on in parts of Africa and are appalled.

We here in the U.S. have our own genocide going on. It's called Abortion! We have evil laws upholding the killing of the unborn babies. We have politicians spouting their determination to uphold this evil. Why? What are they thinking? Evil begets evil! They should be upholding God's law!

There again we have removed God's law from our minds and hearts and let the evil of abortion in. We are blind to the truth - abortion is murder. When will we ever learn?!



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.