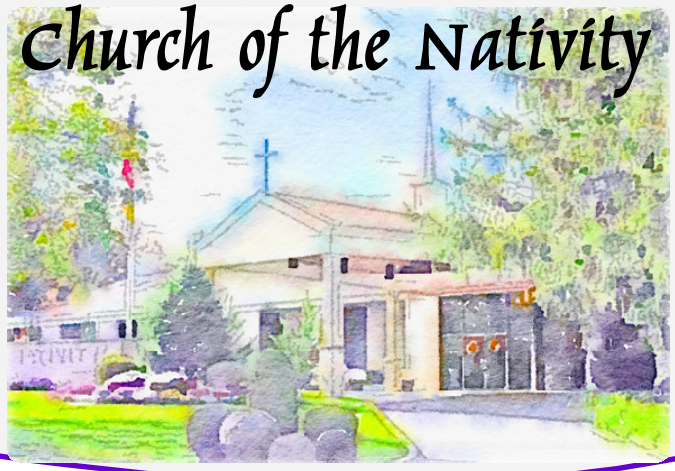


A Stewardship Parish

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00pm
Confession available at 4:15pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 10:15am, 12Noon

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

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

December 20, 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

MASS Intentions

Time	Mass Intention	Mass Requested By
Saturday	December 19th	
12:10PM	***Mary Beth Lombardi and Kevin Jones***	Walter & Judy Fitzgerald
5:00PM	***Paul, Peter & Carin Cantilina***	*Rosary Society*
Sunday	December 20th	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**
8:00 Mass	**Phil Fracassini**	Phil & Karen Fracassini
10:15 Mass	**John & Susie Klybus**	The Klybus & Brancatella Family
12:00 Mass	***Thomas Major***	Patrick & Janet O'Hagan
Monday, Dec. 21st 12:10PM	***Armando & Cynthia Torres*** *(43rd Wedding Anniversary)*	Cynthia Torres
Tuesday, Dec. 22nd 12:10PM	***Peter Anthony Cantilina*** *(29th Ann. Dies Natalis)*	Cantilina Family
Wednesday Dec. 23rd 12:10PM	***Joseph Ganguzza***	Doninik & Cherie Piegaro
	Thursday, December 24th	**Christmas Eve**
12:10PM	***John Flynn***	Diane Flynn
2:00PM	***For the People of the Parish***	Nativity Church
3:45PM	***Robert & Kathleen Scavone***	The Scavone Family
	Carin Leigh Cantilina Peter A. Cantilina Paul R. Cantilina	The Cantilina Family
	Philip & Elizabeth Scaglione	The Salge & Scaglione Family
5:30PM	***Pam Laughlin***	The Laughlin Family
7:00PM	***John Carrol***	The Broncatello Family
10:00PM	***Jerry Dobson***	Stan & Claire Laikowski
12 Midnight	***Gina Merighi & Filomena Abballe***	The Abballe Family
	Friday, December 25th	**Christmas Day**
8:00AM	***Deceased Members of the Gimmelli Families***	Ed & Jean Priestner
10:15AM	***Wojciech Zak***	*Marcin & Agnieszka Wiecek*
12Noon	***Thomas & Vallie Maskery***	*Fred & Barbara Barbi*
1:30PM	***Agnes Long*** *(Living Intention for Healing)*	*The Donaghy Family*

Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Church of the Nativity

www.nativitynj.org

Please visit our website for more information and to **Live Stream our Masses**

Christmas and New Years Schedule

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24, 2020

New 2:00PM – Christmas Eve Mass New
3:45 pm - Children's Family Liturgy
5:30 pm - Mass for Differently-abled People
7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Eucharistic Liturgy
10:00 pm - Christmas Eve Eucharistic Liturgy
New 12 Midnight – The Christmas Eve Mess New

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25, 2020

8:00am; 10:15am & 12:00 Noon
and 1:30PM New

Saturday, December 26, 2020

12:10PM – Weekday Mass
(Feast of St. Stephen - Protomartyr)

5:00 pm – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sunday, December 29, 2020
Feast of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 am, 10:15 am & 12:00 Noon

New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31, 2020
12:10PM – Weekday Mass
5:00 pm
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God

New Year's Day

Friday, January 1, 2021
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God

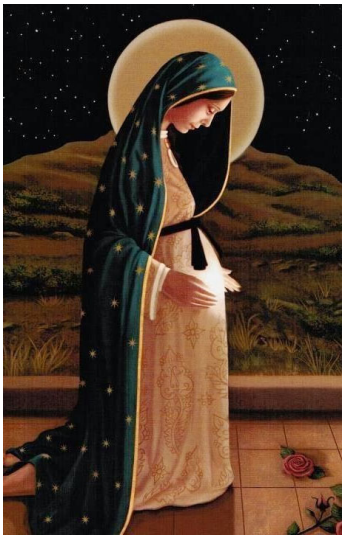
8:00 am, 10:15 am & 12:00 Noon

Sunday, January 3, 2021
The Epiphany of the Lord

A Word from the Pastor

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Living the Liturgy in the Home for Advent and Christmas



Here Mrs. Newland gives various suggestions for celebrating the liturgy within the home (namely, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany and the feasts within these seasons) to form your children in the truths of the faith. She includes such activities as the traditional Advent wreath, posters to express different themes throughout each of the three seasons, and decorations for the family Christmas tree.

The word Advent means *The Coming,* and this season of the liturgical cycle is meant to prepare us for a very real event that still lies ahead — the Second Coming of Christ in glory. Then we shall see Him face to face, as the shepherds saw Him in Bethlehem. All things will be restored to perfect harmony, right will be triumphant, goodness rewarded, evil conquered forever, and we will live eternally in resurrected bodies that are bright with God's own glory. Advent, we might say, is the season to prepare for that time when Christ will make all his greatest promises come true.

It may be a little disconcerting to be told all this at such a late date after having been led to believe that Advent is solely a preparation for Christmas. But this deeper understanding of the season need not rob us of our former Christmas joy. Indeed, the joy increases. Christmas becomes even more significant as the beginning of this great fulfillment. Epiphany extends beyond the event related in the gospels, in which God-made-Man is shown to the world as King, to the foreverness of His reign when His kingdom *has* come in all its fullness.

Still another Coming is emphasized in Advent, one which is every bit as real as the coming of Christ on the first Christmas and His Second Coming. This is His daily coming in the Mass and the sacraments, in grace as we go about our prayer and work during the day. He comes to us in our neighbor, who is the instrument of His will for us. And He comes to our neighbor through us, when we live God's life and make Christ present to him.

Advent is the time of preparing for eternity. Understanding this, the family can plan its own delightful program of customs, traditional or original, and make ready for the glory that is promised.

The Advent wreath, familiar everywhere, teaches many lessons. Its circle, which never ends, teaches us that God and the joy of eternity never end. Made of evergreen, which never changes, it reminds us that God's love never changes. The purple ribbons which decorate it recall the penance with which we must purify our hearts, and the candles with their light, which increases each week (one the first week, two the second, then three, four), tell us that Christ is the Light of the World; *(Continued on page 5)*

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Church of the Nativity

My Dearest Friends,

We are in the midst of a pandemic with many difficulties, worries, problems, fears and anxieties.

We are not different from each other; we are all feeling this in our own individual way and also as a community. But our strength comes as a community of faith. Things may seem bleak and on the dark side, but there still remains the Eternal Joy of Christmas and that does not change!

Our Eternal Joy came, born to us in a manger, so that we may be saved; so we may find salvation and **hope**. The mist of all this darkness, in the midst of all these difficulties and worries, the anxieties and fears, there remains hope.

Hope can be seen in the hands and gestures that, although don't clasp together in a handshake, continue to be offered with our fist pumps, or elbow knocks in greetings. **Hope** is, although we wear a mask that covers our smiles, our eyes speak volumes of emotions. Hope is seeing that we haven't forgotten the elderly, those at risk, or those who are lacking food and clothing. Hope remains because we see how we are responding to this darkness of the pandemic. We respond with love, caring and joy.

Join us to celebrate and be part of **Hope** and, rediscover your lives in the Eternal Christmas Joy, Jesus, the Light of the World.

For your convenience and social distancing, we have added extra masses. Masks are required.

www.nativitynj.org Please visit our website for more information and to

Live Stream our Masses

CHILDREN'S CATECHETICAL MINISTRY

December 20, 2020

THIS SEMESTER, ARCHDIOCESAN REQUIRMENTS WE ARE VIRTUAL!!

May you have the gift of Faith, the blessing of Hope and the peace of His Love at Christmas and always. From the Religious Education Office.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

This week, families will be preparing for Sacramental Reconciliation with CHAPTER # 6 "It's Only the Beginning", with the followings objectives: to demonstrate that great habits help us become the-best-version-of-ourselves; to explain that daily prayer helps us hear God's voice and gives us courage to do what he is inviting us to do; and to teach that gratitude for God's blessing fills us with joy.

CONFIRMATION JOURNEY 2021

Enrollment Forms for the 2021 Confirmation Program were mailed and need to be returned to the Religious Education Office on or before January 17, 2021. We ask that you give your attention to the return of the information.

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:

Thursday, January 7 @ 1:00 PM at the McGrath Room

Friday, January 15 @ 7:00 PM at the Church

Face masks and social distancing regulations will be enforced.

Also, you may attend a workshop at our neighboring parishes if their dates are better for your schedule.

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

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 December 21, 2020

The Sanctuary Light in the Church is burning in memory of

James & Ellen Fratus

By: Ellen Norris

The Sanctuary Light in the Chapel is burning in memory of

John & Susie Klybus

By: Fr. George & Anna Brancatella

Rosary Society News

From the Rosary Society…

The Community Thrift Store is open for business and is accepting clothing and their usual items.

Please affix #18 to any donation

Their hours are limited:

Drop offs are Mondays only, 10 AM to 12 Noon.

Shopping is Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM.

They will be closed Wednesday and Friday.

This Coming Weekend's Masses

Time	Mass Intention	Mass Requested By
Saturday	December 26th **Feast of St. Stephen**	**Protomartyr**
12:10PM	***Lillian Irizarry***	Enrique Giraldo
5:00PM	***Paul, Peter & Carin Cantilina***	Jim & Jane Brady and Family
Sunday	December 27th	**Feast of Holy Family**
8:00 AM Mass	**John Polansky**	Joseph & Dorothy Collins
10:15 AMMass	**Pat Birrer**	Ray & Barbara Cantwell
12:00 PM Mass	***'Baby' Finn Loughlin***	Siobhan Donaghy

Living the Liturgy in the Home for Advent and Christmas

(Continued from page 3)

we must not be like the darkness which "grasped it not", (John 1:5). The prayers said with the lighting of the candles (perhaps at mealtime, or at evening prayers) are the Collects or Prayers of the Advent Sunday Masses, and they ask God to stir up in us a great desire for His Coming, to strengthen us so we shall be ready. The wreath can ornament a dinner or coffee table, a sideboard, or, if possible, can be hung by ribbons from a fixture in the ceiling.

The penances of Advent — certain self-denials, extra tasks, good works, alms, prayers — not only serve to purify us and strengthen our wills, but are a part of the offering of self which we will make to Christ at His great Christmas Mass, the celebration of His birthday.

Small children love to make Jesus a birthday present, and there is a delightful Advent custom which helps them visualize their efforts. Each day a wisp of straw or soft yarn can be placed in a tiny crib at the child's bedside or in a larger one for the whole family. On Christmas morning a little figure of the Child lying on the soft bed helps to show symbolically the usefulness of these gifts and Christ's pleasure in receiving them.

Older children enjoy preparing a series of posters for the family bulletin board to help explore the messages of the season. Colored construction paper, clippings from newspapers, magazines, headlines, words and letters, snapshots, maps — anything that would serve in a montage arrangement can be used to illustrate the different *Comings.*

The principal theme, *He Will Come,* is the subject of the Gospel for the first Sunday of Advent. Its text is full of suggestions: the terror of the unprepared, the longing of those who are ready, signs of Christ in the sun, the moon, the sky, the symbolism of the fig tree, many more. "When these things begin to take place, stand erect, lift up your heads, for your deliverance is at hand" (Luke 21:28).

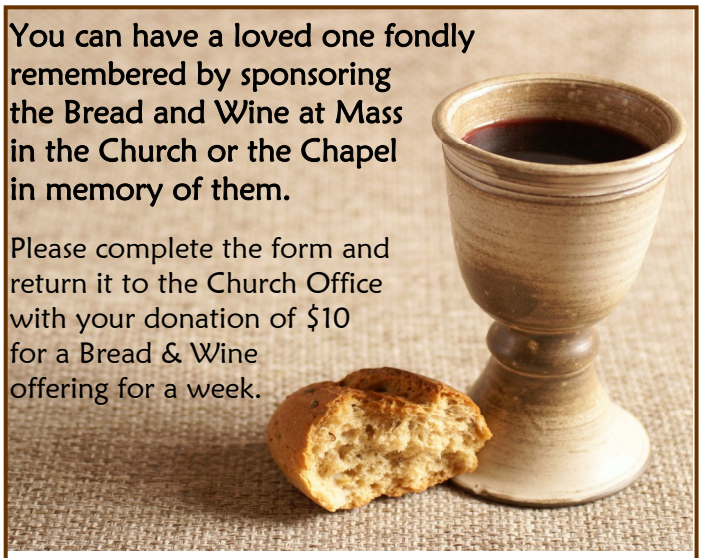
The theme *He Comes* can be illustrated with symbols and figures related to the Mass and the sacraments, pictures of those to whom He comes sacramentally and those who still do not know Him, and so forth.

Activity Source: *Homemade Christians* by Mary Reed Newland, George A. Pflaum, Dayton, Ohio, 1964

**Mary Reed article is continued in the next bulletin on December 27th.*

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

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)

_____

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)

_____

URGENT

Pro Life Corner

Reproductive Freedom Act
Statement of the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey

The Catholic Church believes and teaches that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death. For that reason, we, the Bishops of each of the dioceses in New Jersey, join in voicing the strongest possible opposition to the "Reproductive Freedom Act."

Without minimizing other serious threats to human life and dignity evident in contemporary American society, the Catholic Church consistently maintains that "the threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed" (USCCB, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, "Introductory Letter," 2020).

When informed of the text of the USCCB document early in 2020, Pope Francis observed that the right to life of the unborn "is the most fundamental right. This is not first a religious issue; it is a human rights issue. (Pope Francis to American Catholic Bishops, USCCB Region IX, January 16, 2020)."

As the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, we urge all Catholics and people of good will to reject this proposed legislative initiative in our state and to contact your State legislators to vigorously express opposition to its passage.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop, Archdiocese of Newark

Most Reverend David M. O'Connell - Bishop, Diocese of Trenton

Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan - Bishop, Diocese of Camden

Most Reverend Kevin J. Sweeney—Bishop, Diocese of Paterson

Most Reverend James F. Checchio - Bishop, Diocese of Metuchen

Most Reverend Kurt Burnette - Bishop, Eparchy of Passaic

Most Reverend Yousif Habash
Bishop of Our Lady of Deliverance of Syriac Catholic Diocese

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