

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 29, 2023

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jan. 30<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Anthony & Yolanda Randazzo by Patrick & Laura Randazzo
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Jan. 31<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>St. John Bosco, Priest &amp; Religious Founder</b> Rosario Leotta by Nicholas & Grace Bavaro
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Feb. 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Frank Svoboda by JoAnn Svoboda
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>
	<b>Presentation of the Lord</b>
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Anthony Falletta by Jean Falletta & Family
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup></b>
	<b>St. Blaise, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b>
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Purgatorial Society
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feb. 4<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Connie Losada by The Losada Family
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Feb. 5<sup>th</sup></b>
	<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
<b>7:30 a.m.</b>	Lucy Keith by Bob & Jane Gatto
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Dolores & Edward Schetelich by Sal & Cathy Gitto
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Joseph Castronuovo by Marilyn Castronuovo



### Remembering in Prayer

Kindly contact the office if you know of a parishioner who is sick, having surgery or in need of pastoral care. We would like to remember them in our prayers and care for their spiritual needs.

The collection for the weekend of Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> was:

Offertory - \$10,920  
Catholic Education - \$2,575

Thank you for your continued support of our parish!

### CANDLE OFFERING

**Sanctuary:** Patrina Passalaqua by Josephine LaGrego  
**St. Joseph:** Sal Marchasano by Jane & Bob Gatto  
**St. Anthony:** Kim Heuer by Peggy Steinbeck  
**Padre Pio:** James Nicoletti by Lynn Nicoletti

### FLOWER OFFERING

**Sanctuary:** Parish Intentions  
**Blessed Virgin Mary:** Mike Rainsford by Mary Frances & Family  
**St. Joseph:** Special intention by Marie & Al Simone



### Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Sunday:** Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a  
**Monday:** Heb 11:32-40; Mk 5:1-20  
**Tuesday:** Heb 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43  
**Wednesday:** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Mk 6:1-6  
**Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40  
**First Friday:** Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29  
**First Saturday:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Mk 6:30-34

### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”* MATTHEW 5:3

The phrase “poor in spirit” can be confusing. Think of it in this sense – poor in spirit means depending on God’s providence and not depending on our own self-reliance. Being detached from earthly things (power, money, and comfort) and being attached to heavenly things (charity, sacrifice, and mercy). Denying ourselves from satisfying our desires and helping others obtain their basic needs.



### Annual Tax Statements

If you would like to request a summary of your annual tax-deductible donations, please email Laura McIntyre at [tech@nativitymonroe.org](mailto:tech@nativitymonroe.org) or call Laura at extension 15. When placing a request please be sure to include name, address, and envelope number. Requests will be mailed to the address on file within 10 days of request.

## A MESSAGE FROM FR. NALAKA

Dear Nativity Family,

We were honored and blessed with the presence of our Bishop last weekend. We can always use the encouragement and hope that Bishop's pastoral visits bring to us. Therefore, I thought of sharing with you some of my takeaway from the Bishop's homily that you also may use in your prayer and reflection.

A quote from the Bishop's homily, *"It takes a lot of faith and courage to say 'yes' to Jesus. As the first disciples responded, we are also to trust and follow Jesus without limits or conditions whatsoever.*

*Following Jesus doesn't mean we focus on ourselves, our personal concerns, our personal prayer or even our own life (they are all important), rather being a disciple includes that we become missionaries who always bring others to Christ, sharing what we have found. We are to use our natural talents and human connections to draw others to Christ."*

In addition, we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This day is also dedicated as the **World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life**. We are so blessed with the presence of two consecrated women, Sisters Mary Leonard and Marie Collette. Let us be thankful for all the efforts they make in bringing Christ's shining light to our community. I also ask for your humble prayers for the increase of vocations in priestly and consecrated life.

May God bless each one of our families! With love and prayers, Fr. Nalaka

## FAITH FORMATION

### February's Calendar

Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>/Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>: Faith Formation Class  
 Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>: Faith Formation Class  
 Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>: Faith Formation Class  
 Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>: Life Net (grade 8)  
 Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>: Blessing Cup (grade 2)  
 Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>/March 1<sup>st</sup>: Faith Formation Class

**Reminder:** Service and make ups are overdue.

### Men's Retreat



Nativity of Our Lord's men's retreat is back this year! Retreats are a great way to strengthen your relations with God and create fellowship with your brothers in Christ. Details to follow in the upcoming bulletins. Please save the date:

**Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**

## PARISH CALENDAR

<b>Jan. 31</b>	FF – 6:00 – 7:00pm Hall
<b>Feb. 1</b>	FF – 4:30pm – 7:00pm Hall
	FF – 6:00pm – 7:00pm RR
<b>Feb. 2</b>	Bible Study – 9:30 am & 7:00pm Hall
	Choir Practice – 7:30pm Church
<b>Feb. 3</b>	First Friday & Adoration
<b>Feb 4</b>	Children's Liturgy
	Fair Trade/Food Pantry
	Family Life Ministry – 5:00pm Hall
	RCIA- Classroom 1 – 4:30 – 6:00pm
<b>Feb 5.</b>	Children's Liturgy
	Fair Trade/Food Pantry
	Hospitality Sunday
	RCIA – 12 noon – 1:00pm RR
<b>Feb. 6</b>	K of C – 6:30pm Hall
	RCIA 6:30 – 8:00pm RR
<b>Feb. 7</b>	FF – 6:00 – 7:00pm Hall
<b>Feb. 8</b>	St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. – 9:10am
	FF – 4:30pm – 7:00pm Hall
	FF – 6:00pm – 7:00pm RR
<b>Feb. 9</b>	Bible Study – 9:30 am & 7:00pm Hall
	Choir Practice – 7:30pm Church
<b>Feb. 11</b>	RCIA- Classroom 1 – 4:30 – 6:00pm
<b>Feb. 12</b>	<b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>
	RCIA – 12 noon – 1:00pm RR
<b>Feb. 13</b>	C of P – 1:00pm
	RCIA 6:30 – 8:00pm RR
<b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>Valentine's Day</b>
	Prayer Shawl – 1:30pm
	FF – 6:00pm – 7:00pm RR
<b>Feb. 15</b>	FF – 4:30pm – 7:00pm Hall
	FF – 6:00pm – 7:00pm RR

## HOSPITALITY SUNDAY



Please join us for bagels, muffins and more as we share in fellowship **on February 5<sup>th</sup> after the 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00am masses** in Fr. Congdon Hall. All are welcome.

**Congratulations to our Second Grade  
Faith Formation Students on  
Receiving their First Reconciliation  
January 26, 2023**

*Adamcik, Mason  
Arevalo, Richard  
Bloomfield, Colton  
Budrewicz, Shane  
Byrne, Madelyn  
Carneiro, Christo  
Cignarella, Evan  
D'Alliessi, Lia  
Del Valle, Sofia  
Ferreira, Vayda  
Guzikowski, Isla  
Hluchy, Adrianna  
Hluchy, Damon  
Hluchy, Shaun  
Jegam, Judith*

*Lago, Laila  
L'Esperance, Aurelie  
Marschner, Mikayla  
Millner, William  
Nawrocki, Lucas  
Pesantez, Dominic  
Salso, Finn  
Sellitto, Salvatore  
Simone, Grace  
Tan, Amaris  
Vite, Corrado  
Walsh, Savannah  
Wasenda, Lucas  
Williams, Penelope  
Williams, Peyton*

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD PARISH**



is pleased to announce the continuation of the  
2022-23 Bible Study

**ACTS: The Spread  
of the Kingdom  
Second Segment  
4 sessions**

**February 2 to February 23, 2023  
Third Segment – 9 sessions  
April 13 to June 8, 2023**

All Thursdays! 9:30 to 11:30 am /  
repeated 7:00 to 9:00 pm.  
See flyer in this or subsequent bulletins.



**Rite of Christian Initiation of  
Adults (RCIA)**

*Consider your own calling, brothers  
and sisters. Not many of you were  
wise by human standards, not many were powerful,  
not many were of noble birth.*

*1 Cor. 1:26*

Paul looks out from the pages of Scripture today and echoes what we often say about ourselves. “I’m not smart enough to evangelize... I don’t have any credentials... I’m not ordained as a priest or deacon or bishop... I just can’t evangelize... I don’t have the right stuff!” That may all be true. But Paul goes on to explain that Jesus has that right stuff – all the power, and through grace, we can be effective!

Jesus can use us – no matter what our education or pedigree. All He needs is a willing and loving heart and a desire to share the faith we have been given as a gift. Blessed are the poor in spirit. It is a gift of the Father that we are in Christ Jesus – and through Him all things are possible. There are lots of little people out there who get stuck in the littleness and never get to the “all things are possible.”

Can you un-stuck them by bringing them to the Lord? Perhaps you can bring others to Jesus by introducing someone to the RCIA. Help them find out more. For information, contact JoLynn Krempecki at 732-690-2610 (jollynnkrempecki@msn.com ) or Sister Marie Colette at 609-371-0499 (pa@nativitymonroe.org ). Jesus promises that we’ll be blessed if we do!

**Valentine’s Dinner Dance**

FLM is hosting their annual Parent/Child Valentine’s Dinner Dance on **Saturday Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 5pm-8pm** in Father Congdon Hall. For further details and to register, please follow the QR code. Please RSVP no later than January 29<sup>th</sup>.



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MINISTRIES

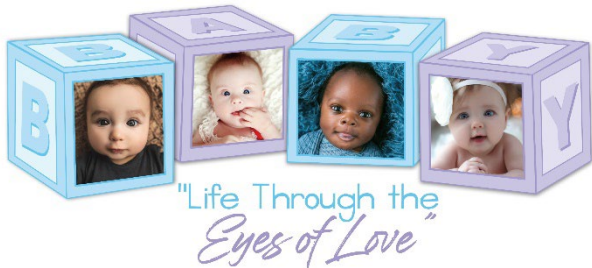
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**St. Vincent DePaul** – If you are experiencing financial hardship due to a temporary loss of employment, illness, or disability, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is available to provide assistance for your everyday needs such as food, utility assistance, or agency referrals. Please dial the parish number 609-371-0499, then press 4, and leave a message with your name and phone number. Someone will return your call. All calls are handled in strict confidence.

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*You're invited!*



**Life Choices Resource Center's  
Annual Charity Banquet  
Sunday, February 19, 2023, 4 to 8 pm  
Pines Manor, Edison, NJ  
\$75 per person, includes dinner.  
Tricky Tray and 50/50**

**Please join us in a celebration for LIFE!**

Come and witness!

God's love in action at Life Choices Resource Center as we "Walk with Moms in Need." Enjoy a night filled with the Love of those who join in our mission of **saving babies**, and **helping families** when the world tells them something different.

*Please call us for reservations or donations  
For more information:  
(732) 516-0911. R.S.V.P. by 2/10/23.*

[www.LifeChoicesRC.com](http://www.LifeChoicesRC.com)

**The Ladies Auxiliary of the Applegarth  
Volunteer Fire Department**



**GRAB & GO  
SOUP  
FUNDRAISER!!!**

**Sunday Jan. 29th 11am-1pm**



CHOOSE FROM  
**homemade:**  
LENTIL  
CHICKEN NOODLE  
Split pea  
\$8.99/qt.



**DRIVE UP TO THE  
APPLEGARTH ENGINE CO.  
AT  
130 APPLEGARTH RD.**

**PLACE YOUR ORDER.  
DRIVE AWAY TO HEAT UP & ENJOY!!**



**Marriage Enrichment**

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your spouse? Why not give yourselves a Marriage Encounter Weekend.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held February 24 - 26.

Please apply ASAP as space is limited. Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco).

Visit us at: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) for more information.





## The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

(February 2)

The various names, meanings, and traditions overlapping in today's Feast are like the crystals in a kaleidoscope. The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, the Purification of Mary, the Feast of Candlemas, marking forty days after Christmas. The biblical account of the Presentation is the source for the "two turtle doves" in the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas," the sword piercing Mary's Immaculate Heart, the Fourth Joyful Mystery of the rosary, and the Canticle prayed by all the world's priests and nuns every single night of their lives.

Behind all of these names and meanings are, however, a few fundamental theological facts worth reflecting upon. The Lord Jesus Christ, forty days after His birth, was presented in the temple in Jerusalem by His parents, Mary and Joseph. Saint Luke's Gospel recounts the story. After the Presentation, Jesus was to enter the temple again as a boy and later as an adult. He would even refer to His own body as a temple which He would raise up in three days. Jesus's life was a continual self-gift to God the Father from the very beginning to the very end. His parents did not carry their infant Son to a holy mountain, a sacred spring, or a magical forest. It was in His temple that the God of Israel was most present, so they brought their son to God Himself, not just to a reflection of Him in nature.

### 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal *Renewed and Sent on Mission by the Eucharist*

Please watch your mailbox for a letter from Bishop Checchio coming to you this week announcing the 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Our parish can share in a successful Appeal by earning a rebate of 50% of the amount collected over goal.

Through our support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal, you help those in our diocese whose needs are the greatest-the poor, the homeless, and those struggling with illness or grief. Among other needed pastoral ministries, your gift also supports the formation of seminarians and the ministry of our hospital and prison chaplains. The many pastoral, educational and charitable ministries of the Dioceses of Metuchen would not be possible without a generous contribution from every household. Please be as generous as your means allow.

## Surviving Divorce March 2023

For men and women seeking healing from separation or divorce. This 12-week program, while based on the teachings of the Catholic Church, is open to anyone who needs comfort, counsel, and clarity after a divorce. Meetings will be held on Thursdays 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM beginning March 2, 2023, at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ. For more information or to register contact Ro Bersch at 908-313-5947.

**< KID'S KORNER >** Gospel Today  
 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Matthew 5:1-12a  
 Beatitude means happiness, and in the Gospel today, Jesus teaches The Beatitudes as a guide for the way we should live each day.

Year A

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# The Good News

FREE

FREE

Jesus wants us to be happy. Jesus teaches happiness to all in His Sermon on the Mount.

In His sermon today Jesus teaches us a good way to live.

Draw a picture of yourself in the newspaper, then share and talk to someone about what you drew.

*This is what Jesus says:*

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.



Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.



Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.



Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

This is \_\_\_\_\_, happily living The Beatitudes.

Living the message in The Beatitudes, gives happiness to everyone - ourselves, those around us and especially Jesus!

Seek justice

