

JUNE 29, 2025



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Mission Statement:

Sustained by the Eucharist, we reflect the joy of Christ's birth to all people through love, compassion and service.

185 APPEGARTH ROAD, MONROE TOWNSHIP, NJ 08831-5961

Phone: 609.371.0499

www.nativitymonroe.org

Pastor:

Rev. Nalaka Silva — Ext. 11
pastor@nativitymonroe.org

Deacon:

Robert Gatto — Ext. 18
deacon@nativitymonroe.org

Deacon:

John Shelton — Ext. 19
deacon2@nativitymonroe.org

Deacon:

John Bertrand
deacon3@nativitymonroe.org

Parish Secretary:

Sandra Buttons — Ext. 10
admin@nativitymonroe.org

Youth Minister:

youth@nativitymonroe.org

Music Ministry:

Catherine Naughton
music@nativitymonroe.org

Parish Accountant:

Christine Colletti Dranchak — Ext. 13
finance@nativitymonroe.org

Office Assistant:

Laura McIntyre — Ext. 15
tech@nativitymonroe.org

Director of Religious Education:

Tara Vigario
 609.371.2518
reoa@nativitymonroe.org

Building Manager:

Bill Tronolone — Ext. 10

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00 PM (*Vigil*)

Sunday: 7:30 AM; 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Holydays: 7:00 PM (*Vigil*) & 9:00 AM

Weekdays: Monday to Friday: 8:30 AM

Morning Prayer Wednesday and Thursday: 8:00 AM

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 to 3:30 PM, or by appointment.

BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second Sunday of each month after the 11:00 AM Mass. Parents must attend the Baptismal Preparation class before the celebration. This class is offered on the third Wednesday of each month. Call the Parish Office for required pre-registration.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Adults inquiring about the Catholic Church with a desire to become Catholic are invited to call the Parish Office for more information about the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.

MATRIMONY

Couples contemplating this Sacrament must contact the Parish Office at least one year in advance. All couples planning marriage must attend Pre-Canva classes or Engaged Encounter.

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK AND AGED

We are anxious to assist anyone who cannot celebrate Mass with us due to illness, handicap or age. If you wish to receive the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist, Reconciliation, or Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish Office to make those arrangements.

HOLY ORDERS

If God is calling you to become a priest, deacon or religious, please call the Diocesan Office of Vocations at 732.562.1900, ext. 1700.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday *through* Thursday, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM, and 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM. The office will be closed on Fridays.

Saints Peter & Paul – June 29, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday June 30th

Weekday

8:30 a.m. Edward Strugala by Arlene Strugala

Tuesday July 1st

Weekday; St. Junipero Serra, Priest

8:30 a.m. Harold Augustine by Daughter Lillian

Wednesday July 2nd

Weekday

8:30 a.m. Lance Willey by Fran Willey

Thursday July 3rd

St. Thomas, Apostle

8:30 a.m. Mohn Family by Marilyn Callahan

Friday July 4th

Weekday; Independence Day

8:30 a.m. Purgatorial

Saturday July 5th

Weekday; St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; St. Elizabeth of Portugal

4:00 p.m. Kevin Joseph Deegan by Sylvia Baboomian

Sunday July 6th

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. Michael Donnelly by Cherie Tacopino

9:00 a.m. Michael Rainsford by Mary Frances

11:00 a.m. Luisa Tisbe by Frank and Marissa Casey

CANDLE OFFERING

Sanctuary: Kevin Joseph Deegan by Sylvia Baboomian

BVM: Maria Maroko by Jackie & Joe D'Angelo

St. Jude: Catherine Busceti by Vigario Family

Padre Pio: William Alford by Nancy and Anthony Rota



Saints Peter & Paul

Sunday: Vigil: Acts 3:1-10; Gal 1:11-20; Jn 21:15-19

Day: Acts 12:1-11; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19

Monday: Gn 18:16-33; Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday: Gn 19:15-29; Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday: Gn 21:5, 8-20a; Mt 8:28-34

Thursday: Eph 2:19-22; Jn 20:24-29

First Friday: Gn 23:1-4, 19, 24:1-8, 62-67; Mt 9:9-13
or, for Independence Day, any readings from the Mass

“For the Country or a City” or the Mass “For Peace and Justice”

First Saturday: Gn 27:1-5, 15-29; Mt 9:14-17

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

“I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.” (2 TIMOTHY 4:7)

How many of us can say this? St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “God doesn’t call us to be successful, he calls us to be faithful.” How many times have we been blinded by the success of the world at the expense of our faith? Matthew Kelly says, “Take one minute each day to remind yourself that you are just passing through this life and will die one day; you will live more intentionally with a passion and purpose.”

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this time receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

The Collections for the Weekend of

June 22 - \$11,587

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



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.

HIS WORD TODAY

BY REV. WILLIAM J. REILLY

“But Peter looked intently and said, ‘Look at us.’ He paid attention to them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, ‘I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk.’ Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong. He leaped up, and stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God.”

We honor the two great Apostles together, Peter and Paul, the former our first Pope and the second the apostle to the gentiles. The scripture accounts of Peter’s commissioning, his triumphs and disasters are well known. The journeys and letters of Paul are fourteen books of the bible teaching and forming us and were written even before the gospel texts which we treasure.

May Peter’s words and actions be mirrored as we have something to give those cripples in our lives. May we respond by giving them the Jesus we know as we reflect His person to our world. What we have is ours to give – the person of Jesus by our kindness, caring and willingness to reach out to them. Saint Mother Teresa is the model from our own time and experience. “Look at us.”

Grief Education Series being offered:

The Journey of Life... Its Transitions and Challenges

The Bereavement Ministry is offering a seven-week grief education series that will focus on any and all losses with connections to the spiritual journey and a heavy accent on the spiritual approach. Losses may include job loss, estrangement, relocation, financial loss, empty nest syndrome, and more. Each session will include a short presentation, questions, scripture considerations, personal reflection and prayer in different forms.

These one-hour sessions will be presented by trained grief counselors and Nativity parishioners.

Sessions will be held on **consecutive Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. beginning on July 8.** *Come Journey with Us On the Road to Emmaus! (Luke 24:13-35).*

For more information and to register contact: **MaryAnn Sullivan at 609-233-2768.** Space is limited. Registration required by Monday, July 7.

Parish Calendar

Jun 29 (Sun)	Initiation Ministry/ Catechumenate 8:30am to 11:30am Cl#1, 5&6
Jun 30 (Mon)	Initiation Ministry/ Inquiry 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm RR
Jul 4 (Fri)	Independence Day Parish Office Closed
	First Friday & Adoration
	Purgatorial Mass 8:30 am Church
Jul 5 (Sat)	Initiation Ministry- Adult Confirmation Prep 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm TBD
Jul 6 (Sun)	Initiation Ministry/ Catechumenate 8:30am to 11:30am Cl#1, 5&6
Jul 7 (Mon)	K of C Meeting 6:15 pm Hall
	Initiation Ministry/ Inquiry 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm RR
Jul 8 (Tue)	Grief Education 6:00 pm RR
Jul 10 (Thu)	Adult Faith Formation 9:30 am - 12:00 pm & 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Hall
Jul 12 (Sat)	Initiation Ministry- Adult Confirmation Prep 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm TBD
Jul 13 (Sun)	Initiation Ministry/ Catechumenate 8:30am to 11:30am Cl#1, 5&6
Jul 14 (Mon)	Initiation Ministry/ Inquiry 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm RR
Jul 15 (Tue)	Grief Education 6:00 pm RR
Jul 16 (Wed)	Baptism Prep 7:00 pm RR
Jul 17 (Thu)	Hospitality Breakfast 9:00 am

Listen for
God's Voice
In everything you do

Knight of Columbus Council # 14658 High School Seniors' Award Application

The Knights of Columbus offers scholarship money to the 2025 High School graduating class. To apply, you must be a parishioner of the Nativity of Our Lord Church. Answer the following questions using Times New Roman 14pt font.

- Student's Name
- Address
- Name of High School
- GPA (on 100% Scale)
- Describe your post-HS graduation plans in 300 words or fewer. Include which college you hope to attend. What field of study are you interested in? What extra-curricular activity have you participated in the past 4 years?
- In 150 words or fewer, kindly include any additional information you want to share with the Knights.
- Student's Signature
- Parent/Guardians' Signature

Email the completed application to **tronbill@comcast.net**. All applications must be received by **Tuesday, July 1, 2025**. Any questions regarding the Seniors Award Application may be directed to Bill Tronolone (tronbill@comcast.net)

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Silver & Gold & 5 Year Wedding Anniversary Celebration

You are cordially invited to celebrate your **25th, 50th, 50+ or 5th Wedding Anniversary** with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James F. Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on Sunday, **October 19, 2025 at 3:00 PM**. The Silver and Gold Anniversary Prayer Service will again include couples celebrating 5 years of marriage. Registration is required. Please register online at: <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration>. If you are unable to access, please contact the **Family Life Office at 732-562-1543** or am-arshall@diometuchen.org. Registration will close on **October 10, 2025**.

Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations may be made online at <https://www.diometuchen.org/silver-and-gold-anniversary-celebration> or calling **732-562-1543**.



NATIVITY of OUR LORD SENIOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Nativity of Our Lord is excited to introduce our Senior Youth Ministry!

A space for our teenagers with a heart full of enthusiasm, it's time for us to show up for our lovely community!

contact Omega Romano-Tanner at youth@nativitymonroe.org



ACTIVITIES

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

SOCIAL EVENTS



Knights of Columbus CALENDAR RAFFLE Winning Numbers

Week of June 22	
Sunday	171
Monday	940
Tuesday	526
Wednesday	909
Thursday	457
Friday	980
Saturday	787

Ministries

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 aid with 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.

Homebound Ministries - Eucharist Ministers bring communion to the homes of those who are unable to attend Mass due to illness or other circumstances. Please call **Marge Nadolny** at **609-409-6164** or email **margen21@comcast.net**.

Helping Hands: We help parishioners with small household tasks such changing smoke detector batteries, lightbulbs, opening & closing vents, etc. If you need assistance, please call Esther Wolff at 732-521-6019 for more information.

St. Vincent DePaul

Food Pantry: Summer is here and children will be home from school. We need to restock our food pantry for increased demand. We would appreciate donations of cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna and chicken and macaroni & cheese. Please leave your donations in the bin through the double doors on your left as you enter church. Thank you for your generosity.

Initiation Ministry



Saints Peter and Paul were giants in the early church... Peter, the vicar of Christ on earth, and Paul, the super evangelist to the world. But they weren't always giants. They each had a past that was quite checkered. Peter, himself, asked Jesus to leave him because he was a "sinful man". But Jesus doesn't call the perfect to do His work. He offers the chance to change through the power of the Holy Spirit – and then, He can use an imperfect person to do great things. Jesus wants to use each of us to draw others closer to Him. Are you being called to mirror Christ and to evangelize? For information about the initiation process and what you might do in it, contact **JoLynn Krempecki** at **732-690-2610** (**jolynnkrempecki@msn.com**) .

Mass Offerings with dates

Religious Order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka

Name	Requested by	Date
Edward Harbeck	Lorraine & Don Cassano	June 23, 2025
Edward Harbeck	Kathleen, Jason & Nora Dean	June 24, 2025
MacKaylann Zeron	Carman Medina	June 25, 2025
Cindy Duntley	Carman Medina	June 26, 2025
Charles Batista	Carman Medina	June 27, 2025
Catherine Busceti	Elaine Fourman	June 28, 2025
Salvatore Gambino	Marilyn Callahan	June 30, 2025
Catherine Busceti	Annette Bruno	July 1, 2025
Catherine Busceti	Bill & Cathy Lenahan	July 2, 2025
David O'Hanlon	Armstrong Family	July 3, 2025
Catherine Busceti	Marilyn Rohrbach	July 4, 2025
Arlene Giovinazzo	Marge Nardony	July 5, 2025
Bonnie B. Tummino	Rolland & Lorraine Jopling	July 7, 2025
Zeljka Hromnin	Dinka Hromin	July 8, 2025
Zeljka Hromnin	Albert, Karen, Stephanie & Ava Hromin	July 9, 2025

"Your kindness and support mean a great deal to us. We will begin offering Holy Masses for the souls and I have included the specific dates on which the Masses to be celebrated. A sincere thank you to the entire Nativity Parish community for your generosity." – Father Dileepa, Rector, Mazenod College, Sri Lanka

SAVE THE DATE

Women's Retreat

When: **August 22, 23, and 24**

Where: **Sisters of St. Joseph Center for Spirituality
Ocean Grove, NJ**

Theme: **Abiding in Love - The Tale of Two Marys**
Registration Forms Available in the Narthex

Men's Retreat

Nativity of Our Lord RC Church invites you to join us for a transformative men's retreat themed:

BE NOT AFRAID: THE JOURNEY OF CHRISTIAN HOPE

This powerful Retreat is an invitation to step away from the noise of our daily life and walk together in faith, courage and brotherhood. Through prayer, reflection and honest conversation, we'll explore how Christ calls us to live with hope even in the face of fear and uncertainty. Come be renewed, strengthened and reminded that we are never alone on this journey.

Where: San Alfonso Retreat Home
755 Ocean Avenue,
Long Branch, NJ 07740

When: Friday, July 18th – Sunday, July 20th 2025

Cost : \$175 per person



Led by the Retreat Team at the San Alfonso Retreat House. San Alfonso is a Redemptorist Spiritual Center situated on nine acres along New Jersey's coastline. The weekend consists of several conferences, discussions, opportunities for consultation, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist, reflection, rest and prayer.



Registration Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
Contact Number: _____
Email Address: _____

In Case of emergency

Name of Contact: _____
Cell Phone Nbr: _____

Special Dietary Needs

Gluten Free _____ Vegetarian (no fish, no eggs) _____ Allergies _____

Registration Deadline is Sunday, July 12th, 2025. Kindly return this registration form to admin@nativitymonroe.org or you can drop it off in the Parish Office. All checks should be made payable to **Nativity of Our Lord Church**.

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