#### APRIL 21, 2024



## 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.

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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:

**Judith Gonzalez-Matias** — 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.

#### **RCIA**

Adults inquiring about the Catholic Church with a desire to become Catholic are invited to call the Parish Office for more information about the Rite 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-Cana 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 3:00 PM The office will be closed on Fridays.

#### Forth Sunday of Easter - April 21, 2024

#### **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday Apr.22<sup>nd</sup>

**Easter Weekday** 

8:30 a.m. Rose Pfitzer by Pfitzer Family

Tuesday Apr.23<sup>rd</sup>

Easter Weekday

8:30 a.m. Ralph Cavall by Grace Ryan

Wednesday Apr.24th

Easter Weekday

8:30 a.m. William Herrnkind Jr. by Joan Chiarini

& Family

Thursday Apr.25<sup>th</sup>

St. Mark

8:30 a.m. Jennie & Tony Gentile by daughter

Virginia & Family

Friday Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>

Easter Weekday

8:30 a.m. Jennylynn Wolff & Stephen Diaz by

Marilyn Gonzalez

Saturday Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>

Easter Weekday

4:00 p.m. Angelo Cardone by E. Cardone &

Family

Sunday Apr. 28th

Fifth Sunday of Easter

7:30 a.m. Mary & Anthony Verderami by Joseph

Verderami

9:00 a.m. Thoma & Carole Tatham by Karl Tat-

ham Family

11:00 a.m. Richard Steinbeck by Wife Peggy &

Children: Cheryl, Kevin & Jennifer

#### **CANDLE OFFERING**

Sanctuary: In Thanksgiving by Virginia

St. Jude: Ralph Cavall by Grace Ryan

St. Anthony: Anthony Tacopino by Wife and Family

St. Padre Pio: James Nicoletti by Lynn Nicooletti

#### **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12; First John 3:1-2; John 10:11-

18 Monday: Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24-13:5; John 12:44-50

**Thursday**: First Peter 5:5-14; Mark 16:15-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14



"I am the good shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep...and they will heed my voice." - John 10:14 -16

When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Jesus what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Many times Jesus responds in "quiet whispers" that are not so obvious. So, take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His voice.

#### The Collection for the Weekend



Offering - \$13,465.00

#### 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.

#### **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.

#### **HIS WORD TODAY**

by Rev. William J. Reilly Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father and I will lay down my life for the sheep... This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again."

The beautiful image of the role of the shepherd: giving life, protecting life, feeding and leading the flock. Jesus described Himself, but His work continues in the church today. As He speaks of knowing the Father, He also knows us and our needs as part of the flock. May we come to know the shepherd, appreciate His role, and follow Him as we walk our journey. He left ninety-nine in search of the one, and I may be that one.



## A Powerful Prayer to Our Lady of

**Mount Carmel** 

O most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother

of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein that you are my Mother.

O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart, to succor me in this my necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. O show me herein that you are my Mother.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us that have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times)

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. (Repeat three times)

Parish Calendar					
Apr. 21 (Sun)	RCIA Adapted for Children 11:00 am Cl.1				
Apr. 22 (Mon)	K of C Assembly 6:00 pm Hall				
Apr. 23 (Tue)	Bereavement 6:00 pm RR				
	Prayer Shawl 1:30 pm Hall				
	Sacrament Set-up 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Room 5 and 6				
	RCIA Inquiry Meeting 5:30 pm Cl#1				
Apr. 24 (Wed)	Confirmation 11:00 am - 7:00 pm Hall				
Apr. 25 ( Thu)	Adult Faith Formation/Bible Study 9:30 am & 7:00 pm Hall				
	CP 7:30 pm Church				
Apr. 28 (Sun)	RCIA Adapted for Children 11:00 am Cl.1				
Apr. 30 (Tue)	Bereavement 6:00 pm RR				
	RCIA Inquiry Meeting 5:30 pm Cl#1				
May 1 (Wed)	Comm. Pr. 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Church				
May 2 (Thu)	Comm. Pr. 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Church				
	Adult Faith Formation/Bible Study 9:30 am & 7:00 pm Hall				
	CP 7:30 pm Church				
May 3 (Fri)	Sacrament Set-up 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Room 5 and 6				
	First Friday Adoration				
	First Purgatorial Mass 8:30 m Church				
May 4 (Sat)	First Communion Mass 10:00 am Church				
. ,	First Communion Reception 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Hall				

#### **Congratulations!**

Our newly baptized members of the Catholic faith.



**Joseph Casey Stephen** ~ April 6, 2024

**Camryn Marie Cafiero** ~ April 6, 2024

#### **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.

<u>Homebound Ministries</u> - 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 - Do You Need a Helping Hand with Minor Tasks 'Around the House? It has come to our attention that some senior communities charge a rather large fee to replace light bulbs and perform other small household tasks. Do you need help replacing batteries in a smoke or carbon monoxide detector, opening, and closing ceiling vents, or changing a light bulb? There are parishioners who are willing to help in these situations. Please contact Esther Wolff at 732-521-6019.

#### **RCIA**



In the post Easter (Mystagogy) phase of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), the neophytes (new Catholics) explore more deeply what it means to "belong" fully to the people of God as a result of their initiation at the Easter Vigil. During this Easter Season, we, the community, are invited to draw upon the newness of the neophytes' experience as a way to reawake our own appreciation for the mystery of being the beloved children of God. This reality can never become so familiar that it no longer arouses in us wonder and awe — and the desire to share the amazing message. Is there someone in your life with whom you would like to share that reality? For information about Initiation Ministry — Contact JoLynn Krempecki at jolynnkrempecki@msn.com or 732-690-2610.

#### **Religious Education**

Congratulations to all the students on another successful year!! Have a wonderful summer and looking forward to seeing everyone at Mass this summer.

Parents: look for the 2024-2025 registration link being emailed on May 13th. All forms can be filled out digitally including payment.

Sessions next year will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from  $6:00-7:15 \, \mathrm{pm}$ . Please remember the challenge with the Wednesday session. If you can pick Tuesday that would be great!

#### 8th Grade

Confirmation Practice: 4/21 - 7:00pm - 8:15pm Confirmation Practice: 4/22 - 7:00pm - 8:15pm Sponsor needs to attend only 1 practice day.

Confirmation: 4/24 – 4:30pm with Bishop Checchio Children need to be dropped in church hall by 3:30pm Sponsors need to be in the hall by 4:00pm



#### **Bereavement Support**

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

If you are grieving the death of a loved one, you are invited to join Nativity of Our Lord's Bereavement Support Group. Our sessions begin on **Tuesday**, **April 23**, **2024** and are held once a week for seven weeks. There is no cost. If you are interested in more information, or to register, please call **Jane Gatto at 917-848-2300 or MaryAnne Sheeren at 609-937-4963**. Please note that the final date to register for our spring sessions is April 18, 2024,





## 2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal

#### STAY WITH US, LORD: Renew our Hearts and Send Us on Mission

Thank you to all who have given so generously to the 2024 Bishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not made a pledge, there is still time to participate. Mail your gift to: Diocese of Metuchen Bishop's Annual Appeal, PO Box 4000, Metuchen, NJ 08840-4000 or give online at https://diometuchen.org/BAA.

#### COLLECTION AS OF 4/15/2024

Goal: \$88,000.00

Total Pledged & Received: \$79,488.37

**Amount Received: \$64,590.79** 

Percent of Goal Pledged: 90.33%

Percent of Goal Received: 73.40%

**Average Gift Amount: \$263.21** 

**Number of Donors: 302** 

Thank you for your generosity!

#### In God's Image

The Catholic Faith Sharing Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at Church of the Sacred Heart, South Plainfield, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM. Our next meeting is May 8 and will be both in person and online. Please email for more information. The group is open to LGBTQ adults, 18 and over, and their families. All are welcome for faith sharing, prayer, conversation and support. For more information, contact Fr John at 732 790 3136 or the group may be reached via email at sacredheartigi@gmail.com.





#### **QUOTES FROM SAINTS**

"I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God."

This quote truly comes into perspective with the knowledge that **St. Dominic Savio** died when he was only 15 years old. Although he was young, he displayed a pure heart for God during his brief lifetime. He serves as an inspiration to Catholics everywhere that even the smallest positive action can bring glory to God. Whatever you do, whatever your skills, and whatever your age — you can live your life for the glory of God. Let this

inspire you to take action today. Even the smallest act for

God can make huge changes in someone's life.

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#### **EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL**

At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that, by the words of Christ and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's Body and Blood. Faithful to the Lord's command the Church continues to do, in his memory and until his glorious return, what he did on the eve of his Passion: "He took bread...." "He took the cup filled with wine...." The signs of bread and wine become, in a way surpassing understanding, the Body and Blood of Christ; they continue also to signify the goodness of creation.

Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1333

#### **Rest in Peace!**

Please include in your prayers the souls of: Anthony J. Mustillo ~ 4-8-2024 Margarita Martinez ~ 2-11-2024 (Memorial Mass)

#### **Alert: In light of increasing email Scam!**

Please be advised that the Parish Staff and Ministry Leaders are never permitted to request monetary favor via-email. Please ignore those email request and we suggest similar precautions among friends.

#### Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend July 19-21, 2024

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 July 19 – 21, 2024. 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 for more information.



#### District Men's retreat

#### **The Power of Prayer**

Facilitated by Fr. Ed Czarcinski and
Deacon Bob Gerling
Our Lady of Lourdes 233 N. Main St.
Milltown NJ 08850
May 11, 2024 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
RSVP by May 4, 2024
Cost is \$20.

Please join us as on a journey into the power and importance of prayer.

Includes a continental breakfast and boxed lunch. Communicate any food allergies and dietary restrictions in the entry form. The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered to retreat participants at 11:30 AM. For additional information contact GK Will. Include your name and contact information in the message. **Ololkofc7250@gmail.com** or **(732) 631-4491**.

RSVP by May 4, 2024 and submit this portion with payment.
Make check out to K of C#7250
Mail to Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 233 Main Street, Milltown NJ 08850

Name	Council and/or Parish	Phone	Dietary restriction

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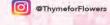
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