

JULY 27, 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.

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*Deacon:*

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*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-Canas 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.

## Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time – July 27, 2025

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday July 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Weekday**

**8:30 a.m.** Anselmo and Mary Arellano by Jim and Raquel DeMillio

**Tuesday July 29<sup>th</sup>**

**St. Martha, Mary & Lazarus**

**8:30 a.m.** Salvatore Cacciutto by Daughter, Catherine Cacciutto

**Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Weekday; St. Peter Chrysologus,**

**8:30 a.m. Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

Marie DeLuca by Christine Robinson

**Thursday Jul 31<sup>st</sup>**

**St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest**

**8:30 a.m.** Alongi Family by Annamaria Rapisarvi

**Friday Aug 1<sup>st</sup>**

**St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

**8:30 a.m.** Purgatorial

**Saturday Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Weekday; St. Eusebius of Vercelli,**

**4:00 p.m. Bishop; St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest**

William Massi by Denise Massi

**Sunday Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**7:30 a.m.** Sal & Josphine Rapisarvi by Annamaria & Sal Rapisarvi

**9:00 a.m.** Anthony Tacopino by By wife Cherie Tacopino

**11:00 a.m.** Frances Domski-Arico by Her sister Harriet Helmstadt

### The Collections for the Weekend of

**July 20 - \$13,301**

**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.

### CANDLE OFFERING

**Sanctuary:** Carmela Occhipinti by Virginia Pitarresi

**BVM:** Christine Timchak by Nancy Stone

**St. Jude:** George Verdaguer by Pat & Don Marino

**St. Theresa:** Carmela Occhipinti by Christine & Bill Flynn

**Padre Pio:** Mirka Cuadros by Family



### Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Sunday:** Gn 18:20-32; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

**Monday:** Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Mt 13:31-35

**Tuesday:** Ex 33:7-11, 34:5b-9, 28; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

**Wednesday:** Ex 34:29-35; Mt 13:44-46

**Thursday:** Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Mt 13:47-53

**First Friday:** Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Mt 13:54-58

**First Saturday:** Lv 25:1, 8-17; Mt 14:1-12

### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

*“Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” LUKE 11:9*

Jesus assures us that if we ask, God will take care of what we need. The problem is that our culture often confuses what we really need with what we simply want. The truth is that many of us need very little. However, we usually want so much more! Stewardship is simply being grateful for all that we are and all that we have been given, and generously sharing all of our God-given gifts with others. Gratitude and generosity are gifts that opens doors to new relationships with others and with God.

### 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

**“Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of the disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray say:....Our Father...’”**

How frequently we spy Jesus alone, in a deserted place praying, in communion with His Father. The disciple asked that He teach them, already familiar with the call of John to repentance. Jesus offered what He also teaches us, a prayer of praise, of gratitude, of repentance and petition. This formula we report constantly.

There are prayers too, which go beyond words, known as mental prayer, contemplation, or a very common prayer practice taken from the scripture where a biblical passage becomes the source of meditation. Perhaps the easiest way to pray as a disciple is to remember, our prayer is our intimate conversation with the closest friend I have. I speak; I listen!

### St. Vincent DePaul

#### Backpacks for Kids Collection

This year we hope to provide school supplies and outfits for approximately 35 children in our local area whose families have been helped by our St. Vincent DePaul Society. We are again collecting gift cards or monetary donations this year. We are also collecting backpacks. We will have a box in the Narthex starting next weekend July 26th /27th until August 10th. If you would like to contribute to this drive, we would appreciate a backpack, gift cards from Walmart, Target or Staples in any amount (Please be sure the \$ amount of the gift card is clearly marked on the card) or a check made payable to Nativity St Vincent DePaul Society. We thank you for your generosity.

#### The Prophets 1 – Adult Enrichment Course September 4 – December 11, 2025

These classes taught by Fr. Glenn Comandini, S.T.D. will introduce attendees to the prophetic books of the Old Testament by reading, examining and contemplating the words and deeds of the prophets of Israel. Thursdays, September 4 – December 11, 2025 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM at St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, 146 Metlars Lane in Piscataway. \$20 per person for all 14 classes. **Register Online:** <https://diometuchen.org/faitth-formation> For questions email [am-arshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:am-arshall@diometuchen.org) or call (732) 562-1543

### Parish Calendar

Jul 27 (Sun)	Initiation Ministry/ Catechumenate 9:00 am to 11:30am Cl#1, 5&6
	St. VdeP—Backpack Collection—Box at Narthex
Jul 28 (Mon)	Initiation Ministry/ Inquiry 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm RR
	St. VdeP—Backpack Collection—Box at Narthex
Jul 29 (Tue)	St. VdeP—Backpack Collection—Box at Narthex
	Grief Education 6:00 pm RR
Jul 30 (Wed)	St. VdeP—Backpack Collection—Box at Narthex
Aug 1 (Fri)	St. VdeP—Backpack Collection—Box at Narthex
	First Friday & Adoration
	Purgatorial Mass—8:30 am Church
Aug 2 (Sat)	St. VdeP—Backpack Collection—Box at Narthex
	Initiation Ministry- Adult Confirmation Prep 5:00 pm—6:30 pm TBD
Aug 3 (Sun)	St. VdeP—Backpack Collection—Box at Narthex
	InInitiation Ministry/ Catechumenate 9:00 am to 11:30am Cl#1, 5&6
Aug 4 (Mon)	St. VdeP—Backpack Collection—Box at Narthex
	Initiation Ministry/ Inquiry 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm RR
Aug 5 (Tue)	St. VdeP—Backpack Collection—Box at Narthex
	Grief Education 6:00 pm RR







### Knights of Columbus

### CALENDAR RAFFLE Winning Numbers

Week of July 20	
Sunday	583
Monday	620
Tuesday	609
Wednesday	542
Thursday	164
Friday	439
Saturday	866

### PARISH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Nativity's office hours will change for the month of **July**. The office will be open **9am-1pm Monday through Thursday**.

### Initiation Ministry



### REJOICE! RITE OF WELCOME!

Next weekend, August 3rd at the 9:00 Mass, we will celebrate the Rite of Welcome for **Kathleen Kazanjian and Chinonso Anyanwu**. They have been preparing for many months to take this first step toward full initiation in the Catholic Church. Following the Rite, they will officially be Candidates for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

You, the Nativity Parish family, are very important in this Rite, for it is the entire Church who accepts and accompanies those preparing to become new members. Over the coming months, Kathleen and Chinonso will attend catechumenal sessions in preparation for their eventual Confirmation and First Eucharist. Please keep them in your prayers during this last week of proximate preparation for the Rite of Welcome.



**If You Crochet  
or Knit....  
You Can  
Make A  
Veteran Very  
Happy!**

The Event Coordinator at the NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park told the Stonebridge Veterans Club that there is a need for TWIN SIZE AFGHANS.

The Stonebridge Veterans Club has initiated this project to bring comfort to the vets and their spouses residing at the VMH of Menlo Park. It would mean a lot to the residents to have something home-made and cozy.

The Stonebridge Stitchers, Nativity of Our Lord's Prayer Shawl Ministry and the Regency Crochet/Knit Group are all working in conjunction to make this project a success.

If you are interested, please reach out to the Stonebridge Veteran Club. The club can reimburse those who crochet/knit for the cost of the yarn or can purchase and deliver to anyone interested in participating. Please also spread the word.

Please contact either Georgena Russo (917-257-2442) or Cynthia Vagnuolo (908-770-1637) if you are interested or have any questions.



### **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 [amarshall@diometuchen.org](mailto:amarshall@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.

### **Save the Date: Nativity of Our Lord Church Blood Drive**

Join us for the Nativity of Our Lord Church Blood Drive on **Sunday, September 21st 2025, from 8 am to 2 pm**. The event will take place at 185 Applegarth Road in Monroe, NJ. Donating blood is simple and takes just about an hour of your time. **Each donation can save up to three lives**, benefiting cancer patients, accident victims, surgical patients, women in childbirth, and those with sickle cell disease & leukemia. Our blood supply is in critical need, and we could use your help. Let's come together to save lives! Will you be a part of this important cause!

**To participate, schedule an Appointment by visiting: Schedule an Appointment: [https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/325602](https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/325602)**. Or scan this QR code below.

**Eligibility:** Visit [www.nybc.org/eligibility](http://www.nybc.org/eligibility) or call NYBC at (800) 933.2566.

**Walk-Ins Welcome:** While appointments are preferred, walk-ins are also welcome.

Remember to eat, drink, and bring your donor ID card or photo ID. Your time is a precious gift that can make a lifetime of difference for a patient in need.

Thank you for your support!



### **A Women's Retreat**

#### **For Parishioners of Nativity of Our Lord ABIDING IN LOVE... THE TALE OF TWO MARYS**

We will reflect and pray through scripture, art, story, and music  
about what invitations and graces

Mary of Nazareth and Mary Magdalene have to offer us in our time.

Presenter: Sister Joannie Cassidy

SSJ Center for Spirituality 21 Main Ave, Ocean Grove

Dates: August 22-24, 2025 **Cost for parishioners: \$175; Non-parishioner: \$290**

Complete and return with a non-refundable check for **\$175/\$290** payable to Nativity of Our Lord (Put Women's Retreat on memo line) to: Nativity of Our Lord Retreat, 185 Applegarth Road, Monroe Township, NJ 08831 or drop off in "Women's Retreat" mail slot in the Narthex.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency contact name and phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Food allergies \_\_\_\_\_ Vegan? \_\_\_\_\_ Gluten free? \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian? \_\_\_\_\_

Need a ride? \_\_\_\_\_ Can provide a ride? \_\_\_\_\_





## DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 15, 2025

Rev. Nalaka Silva, Pastor  
Nativity of Our Lord Parish  
185 Applegarth Road  
Monroe Twp., NJ 08831-5961

Dear Father Silva,

Please extend my sincere thanks to the parishioners of Nativity of Our Lord Parish for their generous response to the 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal. I know that the pastor's endorsement and enthusiastic promotion of the Appeal are key in reaching the parish goal, so thanks to you, too. As of July 1, 2025, your parish achieved 128.37% of its \$88,000 goal with pledges totaling \$112,961.92 and \$104,502.66 in payments to date. I am pleased to enclose a \$8,251.33 rebate check to be used for local needs at your discretion. This check represents 50% of the amount collected over goal to date. A second round of rebate checks will be issued in November 2025 for payments received after July 1st.

I am particularly grateful to you, your parish staff and Appeal coordinators for the outstanding effort. Through your hard work, and that of pastors, parish teams and generous parishioners across the diocese, we have surpassed our \$7.4 million goal with over \$8.0 million in pledges to date making this year's BAA a great success and enabling us to advance our mission.

The wonderful response to the 2025 Bishop's Annual Appeal is a reflection of our people's commitment as a diocesan family to our Church of Metuchen and its ministries. God bless you and be assured you have my heartfelt gratitude and prayers.

With renewed best wishes, I remain

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA  
Bishop of Metuchen

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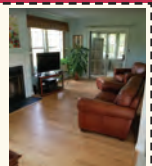


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