SEPTEMBER 7, 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 APPLEGARTH ROAD, MONROE TOWNSHIP, NJ 08831-5961

Phone: 609.371.0499 www.nativitymonroe.org

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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:

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-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 3:00 PM.

SUMMER HOURS (July/August)

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

The office will be closed on Fridays.

Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time – September 7, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday Sept. 8th

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 a.m. Varkey Varkey by Jake and Bridgit

Matthews

Tuesday Sept. 9th

St. Peter Claver, Priest

8:30 a.m. Eunice and Bertram Saldauha by Clem

Lobo

Wednesday Sept. 10th

Weekday

8:30 a.m. Kate Maiolo by Micheal Maiolo

Thursday Sept. 11th

Weekday

8:30 a.m. Smalley, Furmick, Heuer by Peggy

Steinbeck and Carol Furmick

Friday Sept. 12th

Weekday; The Most Holy Name of

8:30 a.m. Mary

Laura Wildner by David Wildner

Saturday Sept. 13th

St. John Chrysostom, Bishop &

4:00 p.m. Doctor of the Church

Rick Androlini by Kathy and Lawrence

Moloney

Sunday Sept. 14th

Exaltation of the Cross

7:30 a.m. John Martin by Susan Yates

9:00 a.m. Leo M. Casper by Jo Ann Casper

11:00 a.m. Judith Ann D'Armiento Jr. by Rocco

W. D'Armiento Jr.

The Collections for the Weekend of August 31 - \$ 14,128

Gaza - \$2,786

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

St. Joseph: Special Intention by Eileen Sullivan **St. Jude:** Anthony Tacopino by By wife Cherie

Tacopino

St. Anthony: Jeanette Martorano by Theresa & Joseph

Atanasio

Sacred Heart: In Thanksgiving by Jerry Dilorio



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33 **Monday:** Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

or 1:18-23

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19 **Wednesday:** Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26 **Thursday:** Col 3:12-17; Lk 6:27-38 **Friday:** 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Lk 6:39-42 **Saturday:** 1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

"Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." LUKE 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

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

"Great crowds were travelling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, 'If anyone comes to me without hating father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.""

What does it take to be a disciple of Christ? A heavy question seeking a serious answer. Our text about hating family seems so distant from the norm, 'love God above all things and my neighbor as myself.' Perhaps the response is to make sure that God comes first in my life and that everything else flow from it.

We have been taught by the late and loved Pope Francis that we are called to be missionary disciples. I love my family; I accept the challenges of the cross that I bear for Him and try to follow the call of Jesus by practicing my faith. That is the first step. To be a missionary I am being sent to bring that faith and discipleship to others. If all Catholics returned to practice the faith and lived the message of Jesus, the beatitudes, what a different world it would be. It begins with me, here and now.



Suggested Prayer Before Communion

O Lord, I believe and profess that you are truly Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. Accept me as a partaker of your mystical supper, O Son of God; for I will not reveal your mystery to your enemies, nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief I confess to you: Remember me, O Lord, when you shall come into your kingdom. Remember me, O Master, when you shall come into your kingdom. Remember me, O Holy One, when you shall come into your kingdom. May the partaking of your Holy Mysteries, O Lord, be not for my judgment or condemnation, but for the healing of soul and body. O Lord, I also believe and profess that this, which I am about to receive, is truly your most precious Body and your life-giving Blood, which, I pray, make me worthy to receive for the remission of all my sins and for life everlasting. Amen.

Taken from the Byzantine Liturgy

Parish Calendar			
Sept. 7 (Sun)	Hospitality Sunday after all masses Hall		
	Initiation Ministry/ Catechumenate 9:00 am to11:30am Cl#1, 5&6		
	Children's Liturgy 11:00 am - 11:30 am RR		
Sept. 8 (Mon)	Initiation Ministry/ Inquiry 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm RR		
	Companions of Pauline 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Hall		
	KofC Meeting 6:15pm - 10:15 pm Hall		
Sept. 9 (Tue)	Prayer Shawl 1:30 pm - Hall		
Sept. 10 (Wed)	St VdeP Meeting 9:00 am - 10:00 am Cl#11		
Sept. 11 (Thu)	Adult Faith Formation 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Hall		
	Adult Faith Formation 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Hall		
	Choir Practice 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Church		
Sept. 13 (Sat)	Initiation Ministry- Adult Confirmation Prep 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm TBD		
Sept. 14 (Sun)	Initiation Ministry/ Catechumenate 9:00 am to11:30am Cl#1, 5&6		
Sept. 15 (Mon)	Initiation Ministry/ Inquiry 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm RR		
Sept. 16 (Tue)	Bereavement Support Ministry 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm RR		
Sept. 17 (Wed)	W.O.N. Communion Breakfast 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Hall		
	Baptismal Prep 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm RR		



Ministries

<u>St. Vincent DePaul</u> – 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 <u>Marge Nadolny</u> at 609-409-6164 or email <u>margen21@comcast.net</u>.

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.

Initiation Ministry



An Invitation to Catholic Adults Seeking Confirmation...

If you are a baptized Catholic who has not yet been Confirmed, we are happy to offer you the opportunity to prepare for Confirmation.

If you have been thinking about receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation (and have ALREADY received Baptism and Eucharist), please email **JoLynn Krempecki** at **jolynnkrempecki@msn.com** or text **732-690-2610.** Preparation sessions will begin September 13, 2025.

We thank you for allowing us to be on this JOURNEY with you!

"The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace... By the sacrament of Confirmation (the baptized) are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit." CCC, 1285/LG, 11.

"We had our child baptized, but haven't been able to follow up yet with religious education ... Now what?"

Initiation Ministry – in collaboration with Religious Education Ministry – here at Nativity of Our Lord is happy to offer your children a pathway to full initiation – to Confirmation and First Eucharist, even if they've missed several years of religious instruction. Please email or call to inquire. You'll be happy you did! Contact JoLynn Krempecki jolynnkrempecki@msn.com or 732- 690-2610.



You Are Invited – Nativity Family

Fun Day
Saturday, October 4th | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Outdoor Mass at 4:00 PM

Join us for an afternoon filled with:

- Tasty food trucks
- Vendors offering unique and family-friendly items
- Games and activities for kids
- Music and tents for comfort
- 50/50 raffle
- Ministry Fair Come explore the beautiful ways you can get involved!

We are also collecting diapers for local charities that assist mothers and struggling families. All sizes are appreciated.

Let this be a day of fun, faith, and giving.



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. Or scan this QR code below.

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

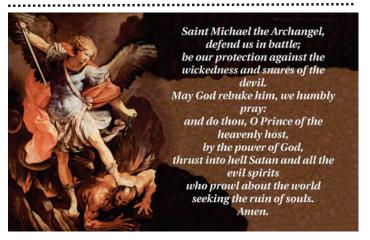
Walk-Ins Welcome: While appointments are preferred, walk-ins are also welcome.

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!







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

No one but you knows how great your grief is or how it affects your life. We must all travel our own journey. If you are grieving the death of aloved one, you are invited to join the Bereavement Support Ministry here at Nativity of Our Lord Church. Our Fall sessions will begin on Tuesday September 16th 2025 and will be held once a week for 7 weeks, ending Tuesday October 28th 2025. Our sessions are held at Nativity of Our Lord Church from 6:00 PM until 7:30PM. There is no cost, all supplies will be provided. If you would like more information,or to register, please call **Jane Gatto at (917) 848-2300**. Registration is required.

Women of Nativity Communion Breakfast

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

What better way to begin a new season than with a Communion Breakfast! The Women of Nativity invite all women of Nativity to join us for our annual Communion breakfast on Wednesday, September 17th, 2025 following the 8:30 am Mass in Father Congdon Hall. A delicious breakfast of French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon and Sausage, Home fries and grilled potatoes, assorted mini pastries, muffins, assorted bagels, fresh fruit salad, juice, coffee and tea. (many items are gluten free) The cost of this event is \$15.00 pp. Please fill out the form below along with your check payable to NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHURCH and drop it off in the box in the Narthex marked Women of Nativity. The deadline is September 11th.

Please join us as we gather together with inspiration, good food and great fellowship.

Questions: Call Carol McPartland - 609-642-6381

	omen of Nativity	
Con	nmunity Breakfast	
	Sept. 17, 2025	
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Name		
Amount	Check Number	
Phone		

Mass Offerings with dates

Religious Order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka

Name	Requested by	Date
Charles Batista	Carman Medina	Sept. 3, 2025
Gerald Chegin	Debbie Zorick	Sept. 4, 2025
Phyllis C. Deieso	Steve Fetchko	Sept. 5, 2025
Nicanor Ureta	The Family	Sept. 6, 2025
Harold Boyer	Camille Santi	Sept. 9, 2025
John Urli	Elaine Forman	Sept. 10, 2025
Marion Martino	Rosemarie & Michael Puma	Sept. 11, 2025
Concepcion Baez & Fouzi Rahid	Mom & Dad	Sept. 12, 2025
Anna Ocasio & William Pagan	Emely Cook	Sept. 13, 2025
Steve Domasica	Helen Biberica	Sept. 15, 2025
Steve Domasica	The Family	Sept. 16, 2025
Kerry Raslowsky	Paul & Susan Buckley	Sept. 17, 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







Stress In Your Marriage?

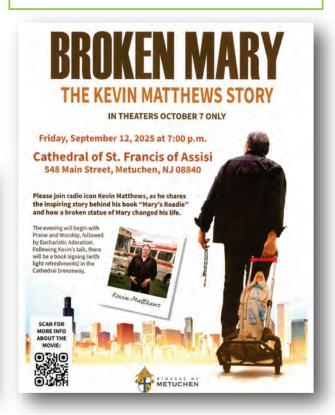
- · Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?
- · Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with your spouse?
- · Have you thought about separation or divorce?
- · Does talking about it only make it worse?

RETROUVAILLE is a Lifeline to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages sponsored by the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Metuchen, NJ.

RETROUVAILLE consists of a weekend experience for married couples (no group discussions) with four follow-up sessions. The upcoming weekend is January 30 – February 1, 2026. All inquiries are confidential. For further information, please contact **Rich Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or Annette Colasuonno 732-672-0748 or email 3024@helpourmarriage.org**.

HEALING MASS: September 20th

A Healing Mass will be celebrated in St. James The Less on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 10:00am. Let us pray as a community of faith for healing for ourselves, our families, our friends and all our loved ones. All are welcome.



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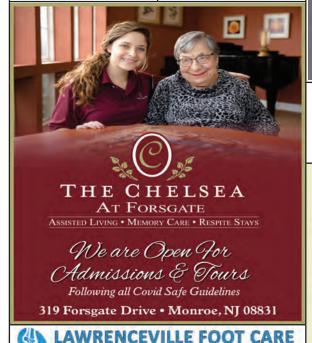
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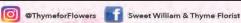
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