

NOVEMBER 10, 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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*Pastor:*

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[pastor@nativitymonroe.org](mailto:pastor@nativitymonroe.org)

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**Robert Gatto** — Ext. 18  
[deacon@nativitymonroe.org](mailto:deacon@nativitymonroe.org)

*Deacon:*

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*Deacon:*

**John Bertrand**  
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*Youth Minister:*

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*Director of Religious Education:*

**Tara Vigar**  
609.371.2518  
[reoa@nativitymonroe.org](mailto: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

Hospitality Sunday: *1st Sunday of the month after each Mass*  
(*Meet and greet, Continental Breakfast, etc.*)

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.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday November 11<sup>h</sup>**  
**St. Martin of Tours, Bishop**

**8:30 a.m.** Kondek & Volastro Families by  
Madelyn Volastro

**Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr**

**8:30 a.m.** Peggy Steinbeck by Cheryl & Jody

**Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin**

**8:30 a.m.** Frances & Phillip Cerbini by Family

**Thursday November 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Weekday**

**8:30 a.m.** Bernardo Sison by Vinna Bolastig  
(Clem)

**Friday November 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**St. Albert the Great, Bishop &  
Doctor of the Church**

**8:30 a.m.** Special Intentions for William  
Pentangelo by Patti Pentangelo (mom)

**Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Ger-  
trude, Virgin**

**4:00 p.m.** Mary Kenny by Patrick Kenny

**Sunday November 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary  
Time**

**7:30 a.m.** Angela Simone by Simone Family

**9:00 a.m.** Eileen Benway by Alfred Benway

**11:00 a.m.** Jack Haborak by Patti Haborak

**The Collection for the Weekend  
of November 3**

**Offering - \$14,656**

**All Souls \$4,126**



**CANDLE OFFERING**

**Sanctuary:** Joan Kuchinski by Ellie Hines

**BVM:** Mary Kenny by Patrick Kenny

**St. Therese:** Raymond Parnese Living Intention by  
Rosemary Parnese

**Sacred Heart:** Bond Family by Patti Pentangelo

**Padre Pio:** Healing for Raymond Parnese

**Flower Offering**

**Blessed Mother:** Mary Kenny by Patrick Kenny

**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday:** 1 Kgs 17:10-16; Heb 9:24-28; Mk 12:38-44

**Monday:** Ti 1:1-9; Lk 17:1-6

**Tuesday:** Ti 2:1-8, 11-14; Lk 17:7-10

**Wednesday:** Ti 3:1-7; Lk 17:11-19

**Thursday:** Phmn 7-20; Lk 17:20-25

**Friday:** 2 Jn 4-9; Lk 17:26-37

**Saturday:** 3 Jn 5-8; Lk 18:1-8

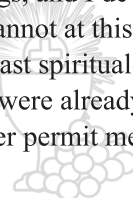
**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS**

*“I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living.” (MARK 12:43-44)*

Jesus gets right to the point – we are all called to give money to support the mission of the Church, regardless of our circumstance. No gift is too small or insignificant! Giving money to support the mission of our local parish is a matter of our faith, just like praying and participating in parish ministries. When you make a financial offering, is it from your “first fruits” or from what is “left over”

**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.



**A FRESH PERSPECTIVE  
ON THE SUNDAY READINGS**

Jesus observes people giving offerings in the temple. Many wealthy individuals contribute large sums, but a poor widow places two small coins, worth very little, into the treasury. Jesus then tells His disciples that this widow has given more than anyone else because, while the wealthy gave out of their abundance, she gave all she had to live on.

This story reveals a powerful truth: true generosity is measured not by the amount we give, but by the heart with which we give. The widow’s offering, though small in material value, held tremendous spiritual worth because it was an act of complete trust and surrender to God. She did not hold back; she gave everything, demonstrating her unwavering faith that God would provide.

In our lives, we may sometimes feel that our contributions, efforts, or talents are insignificant compared to others’. But Jesus reminds us that God sees beyond numbers and appearances. He values the purity of our intentions, our willingness to sacrifice, and our trust in Him. When we give out of love and devotion, even if it’s our time, compassion, or kindness, God treasures it deeply.

This passage challenges us to examine what we’re holding back. Are we giving only what’s easy and convenient, or are we willing to trust God with our all? The widow’s gift encourages us to serve and give wholeheartedly, even when we feel we have little to offer. No act of love or faith is too small for God’s kingdom; each one is a precious seed that He can grow into a blessing beyond what we can imagine.

Let us pray for the courage to give fully, to live openly, and to trust God with everything we have. In doing so, we become a living testament to His boundless love and grace.

**LAZARUS TEAM APPEAL**

The Lazarus Team is comprised of parishioners who assist Father Nalaka in offering condolences to family members of the recently deceased. This includes meeting with family members to prepare the funeral liturgy by selecting the readings, the music, family participants, etc. Other Lazarus Team members assist Father by serving at the Mass. The Team is in need of new members. Depending on the response, volunteers may be asked to participate about once a month. Hands-on training will be provided. If you feel called to this ministry, please call **Mary Ann Munson** at **732-270-4028**.

<b>Parish Calendar</b>	
Nov. 9 (Sat)	Thanksgiving food Collection and Turkeys
Nov. 10 (Sun)	Thanksgiving food Collection and Turkeys
	Catechumenate and/or Mystagogy and/or Adult Confirmation C. 1 & 11
	Hospitality Sunday after all Masses—Honor Veterans—Hall
Nov. 11 (Mon)	Thanksgiving food Collection and Turkeys
	Veteran’s Day
	Inquiry or Adult Confirmation 6:00 pm—7:30 pm RR
Nov. 12 (Tue)	Prayer Shawl- Hall 1:30pm Hall
Nov. 13 (Wed)	Parish Office Closed 8:00 am—12:30 pm
	St. V de P Mtg. 9:00AM -10:00AM Cl#11
Nov. 14 (Thu)	Choir Practice 7:30 pm Church
Nov. 15 (Fri)	St. V de Paul 12 noon -3:00 pm Hall
Nov. 16 (Sat)	Thanksgiving Food Collection
Nov. 17 (Sun)	Thanksgiving Food Collection
	Catechumenate and/or Mystagogy and/or Adult Confirmation C. 1 & 11
Nov.18 (Mon)	Inquiry or Adult Confirmation 6:00 pm—7:30 pm RR
Nov. 19 (Tue)	Make baskets with Companions 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Hall



## 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:** Help Wanted! Our Helping Hands Ministry needs volunteers! We help parishioners with small household tasks such as changing smoke detector batteries, lightbulbs, opening & closing vents, etc. If you are able to volunteer, please call **Esther Wolff** at **732-521-6019** for more information.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### November

10th Service Mass 11:00am - Grade 6  
Mass Together – 11:00am – Grade 4  
14th Grade 2 – Reconciliation Retreat 6:00 –  
8:00pm Hall

**THANK YOU  
VETERANS**

### BLESSING OF OUR MILITARY

In recognition of **Veteran's Day**, on **November 9th and 10th** there will be a blessing after all masses for those who have served or are currently serving in our military. It is an honor to pay tribute to the men and women who have unselfishly answered the call to duty. On Sunday **November 10th** after all masses, we will have a special hospitality Sunday in Father Congdon Hall in their honor. If you would like to share a framed photo of yourself or a loved one to be displayed on our tribute table, please bring a framed photo before any mass with the name and branch of military they served or are currently serving. Any questions contact **Donna Maguire 732-690-2019**.

## Initiation Ministry

### INITIATION MINISTRY LET US PRAY...

Together let us pray that Nativity of Our Lord Parish family will become ever more missionary in our efforts to share the Good News of Jesus.

#### Prayer for the Assembly – the People of God at Nativity of Our Lord Parish

Heavenly Father, from age to age You have gathered a people to Yourself. You called the prophets to speak to Your chosen people and to fulfill Your covenant. You sent Jesus to proclaim Your Kingdom and to redeem us. Jesus sent His disciples to preach the Good News of our salvation.

Give us the grace to share our faith with others, to explore Your sacred word, to teach the truth of our Catholic doctrine, and to pray more fervently. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a barrel; they put it on a lampstand where it shines for the rest of the house. In the same way, your light must shine in the sight of everyone, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.* Mt. 5:14-16

For information about Initiation Ministry, contact Jolynn Krempecki  
[jolynnkrempecki@msn.com](mailto:jolynnkrempecki@msn.com) or 732-690-2610.

## Giving Tree

This year our Parish is again providing Christmas Gifts to many needy families in our local area, our Diocese and in Perth Amboy as well as homebound senior citizens through our giving tree program. If you are interested in adopting a family or a child for Christmas this year or helping with the program, please contact **Karen Kuech** at **Kuechs@comcast.net** or **Linda Schilling** at **LMS652@gmail.com** for more information.

## Thanksgiving Food Collection

The St. Vincent De Paul Society together with the Companions of Pauline and our Religious Education Students will be preparing Thanksgiving Food Baskets for approximately 20 families this year. We will be collecting food and frozen turkeys for these baskets the weekend of **November 9th and 10th**. Canned corn, canned green beans, stuffing, instant potatoes, and canned cranberry sauce would be very much appreciated. Volunteers will be on hand that weekend to carry turkeys to our freezer. Turkeys and food can also be dropped off during the week when the office is open. 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.

## NJ Right to Life Raffle

New Jersey Right to Life, the state's oldest and largest pro-life organization, is having their annual fundraiser for protection of all human life from conception to natural death. On the weekend of November 9 & 10 raffle tickets will be sold at all Masses. Please stop at the table after Mass and offer your support. The cost is **\$10** per ticket. The prizes are:

**1st Prize – 2025 Volvo XC40 AWD SUV valued at \$44,595**

2nd Prize - \$1,000 ShopRite Gift Card

3rd Prize - \$750 ShopRite Gift Card

4th Prize - \$500 ShopRite Gift Card

Thank you!

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## Lunch and Learn: A Pre-Planning Event You Won't Want to Miss!

Date: **November 13th** Time: **12:00 PM – 1:30 PM** Location: **Café Amici 393 Davidson's Mill Road, South Brunswick, NJ**

Join us for a complimentary lunch while representatives from Brunswick Memorial Home and Holy Cross Cemetery share valuable insights on pre-planning.

Reserve your spot by November 6th: Call **732-254-9393** or visit **brunswickmemorialhome.com/plan-ahead-lunch-and-learn**.

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## Guatemala Scholarship Program!

The Catholic Charities Solidarity Team (CCST) in the Diocese of Metuchen has assisted the Diocese of Santa Rosa in Guatemala since 2008. One area of support is the scholarship program, and it is an important lifeline for many poor families in Guatemala. Our Parish has participated in this scholarship program since its inception when one of our youth group members went to Guatemala with CCST.

The scholarship program provides tuition, school supplies, medicines, and other basic necessities to families who would otherwise be unable to send their children to school. The school system in Guatemala is very different from here in the US. The government does not guarantee an education through high school and without help, most students leave school after the 6th grade in order to work to assist their families. A full scholarship for a high school student is \$675 a year (\$56.25 a month) or \$420 a year for a grammar school student (\$35/month) but we will be happy to combine your gift of any amount with others.

We thank the many faithful donors in our parish who contribute to this program. If you would like to learn more about this program, please email Trish Scalese at **ccstguatescholarshipmetuchen@gmail.com** or **Mary Ann Munson** at **mpmunson@att.net**.

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## Women of Nativity

All women of Nativity of Our Lord Church are invited to gather for a Thanksgiving Luncheon on Wednesday, **November 20, 2024 at 1:00pm** in Father Congdon Hall. Lunch will consist of a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

The cost of this event is **\$23.00 pp**. Please fill out the reservation form below and put it in the WON box in the narthex along with your check made payable to "NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHURCH". **RSVP by Friday, November 15**. Questions? Call **Carol 609-642-6381**.

### **Women of Nativity Thanksgiving Luncheon**

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$23.00 Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:**

**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHURCH!**

Deadline: Friday, November 15

NO reservations accepted after this date.

**PRE-SCHEDULING FOR THE 2025 MASS BOOK**

The **2025 Mass Book will open on Wednesday, November 13, 2024**. You may have one Sunday or Holyday Mass and one weekday Mass. Your completed Mass list should be delivered between **8:00am -12:30pm and 1:30pm - 3:00pm to the office on Wednesday, November 13th ONLY**. We will not accept early submissions. No phone requests will be accepted. If your requested Mass is not available, you will be given a date closest to your request. The confirmed date will only be emailed. Mass offering is \$10.00 each Mass payable to: Nativity of Our Lord Church

**!!MUST PRINT CLEARLY AND NEATLY!!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST MASS**

**First Choice:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Choice:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECOND MASS**

**First Choice:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Choice:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Check #

Cash:

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