

The Baptism of the Lord

The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

John 1:33



Nativity of Our Lord
Monroe Township, New Jersey

Baptism of our Lord – January 12, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday January 13th
St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor

8:30 a.m. People of the Parish

Tuesday January 14th
Weekday

8:30 a.m. Arthur Plutzer by wife, Anne and family

Wednesday January 15th
Weekday

8:30 a.m. Deceased Members of Hanna and Indyk Families by Mickey and Gene Indyk

Thursday January 16th
Weekday

8:30 a.m. Thomas W. Dardani by Wife, Helen Dardani

Friday January 17th
St. Anthony, Abbot

8:30 a.m. Louis Magnotti by Wife, Mary

Saturday January 18th
Weekday

4:00 p.m. Dolores and Ray Burns by Debbie and Bob McGee

Sunday January 19th
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. Kate Maiolo by Micheal Maiolo

9:00 a.m. Richard T. Petri by Michele Petri and Family

11:00 a.m. Elga Mattei Velez by Nelly Sorensen

The Collections for the Weekend of

December 29 - \$15,102

January 5 - \$20,577

Solemnity - \$4,786

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

CANDLE OFFERING

Sanctuary: Giuseprina & Leo Dedato by Margherita & Joe Caccavo

St. Joseph: Thanksgiving by Elaine Fourman

Baptism of our Lord

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17

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.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’” - Luke 3:16

The Catholic Catechism states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

Annual Tax Statements

If you would like to request a summary of your annual tax-deductible donations, please email Laura McIntyre at tech@nativitymonroe.org or call Laura at extension 15. When placing a request please be sure to include name, address, and envelope number. Requests will be mailed to the address on file within 10 days of request.

HIS WORD TODAY

BY REV. WILLIAM J. REILLY

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

“The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying: ‘I am baptizing you in water, but there is one to come who is mightier than I...’ When all the people were baptized. and Jesus was at prayer, after likewise being baptized, the skies opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in visible form like a dove.”

Last week the Epiphany, today a theophany, a revelation of God. We meet Jesus in a special moment, as Luke states, He was at prayer. From this first moment of His public ministry He is immersed in prayer. As we fast forward in the gospel we will find Jesus at prayer, In His priestly prayer for us in the gospel of John, in the garden of Gethsemane in His passion and His prayer to the Father.

May we who celebrated the birth of Jesus so recently, learn by His example of the role of prayer, and seek the same Holy Spirit in our lives as baptized Catholics, in this new year.



Mass with the Bishop on January 19, 2025

You are warmly invited to join us for the **9:00 AM Mass on January 19, 2025**, at Nativity of Our Lord Church. The Most **Reverend Bishop James Checchio**, Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, will preside over this special celebration.

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.



Parish Calendar

Jan. 12 (Sun)	Catechumenate and/or Mystagogy and/or Adult Confirmation C. 1 & 11
Jan. 13 (Mon)	Inquiry or Adult Confirmation 6:00pm—7:30pm RR
Jan. 14 (Tue)	Prayer Shawl 1:30pm Hall
Jan. 16 (Thu)	Adult Faith Formation/Bible Study 9am-11:30am & 7pm-9pm Hall
	Choir Practice 7:30pm Church
Jan. 19 (Sun)	Catechumenate and/or Mystagogy and/or Adult Confirmation C. 1 & 11
Jan. 20 (Mon)	MLK Parish Office Closed
	Inquiry or Adult Confirmation 6:00pm—7:30pm RR
Jan. 23 (Thu)	Adult Faith Formation/Bible Study 9am-11:30am & 7pm-9pm Hall
	Choir Practice 7:30pm Church
Jan. 26 (Sun)	Catechumenate and/or Mystagogy and/or Adult Confirmation C. 1 & 11
Jan. 27 (Mon)	K of C Assembly Cl. 5 & 6
	Inquiry or Adult Confirmation 6:00pm—7:30pm RR
Jan. 28 (Tue)	Prayer Shawl 1:30pm Hall
Jan. 30 (Thu)	Adult Faith Formation/Bible Study 9am-11:30am & 7pm-9pm Hall
	Choir Practice 7:30pm Church
Feb. 1 (Sat)	Children’s Liturgy 4:00 pm RR
Feb. 2 (Sun)	Catechumenate and/or Mystagogy and/or Adult Confirmation C. 1 & 11
	Hospitality Sunday After All the Masses - Hall
	Children’s Liturgy 11:00 am RR

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 as changing smoke detector batteries, lightbulbs, opening & closing vents, etc. If you need assistance, please call Esther Wolff at 732-521-6019 for more information.

Giving Tree: Thank you for your amazing generosity! Thank you to all those who adopted families and those who contributed gift cards and money. We were able to help over 23 local families with over 66 children, a group home, and poinsettias to our homebound parishioners.

PRAYER SHAWL

Our next Prayer shawl meeting will be January 14, 2025. We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. We have knitters and ladies who crochet. Our door is always open for new crafters. Anyone interested or in need of a shawl for friend or neighbor is welcome to call **Liz Coulston 732-561-4139**.

Eucharistic Ministers Needed for The Gardens At Monroe

1) We are in need of additional Eucharistic Ministers to visit Catholic residents at the Gardens (next door to church) to distribute Holy Communion each Sunday. EMs arrive at about 10AM and visit the residents (list provided each week) in their rooms. This takes about 30-40 minutes. We have a few teams so that an EM would visit residents about every third or fourth Sunday. I will arrange for you to shadow an EM currently doing this for training.

2) We also need EMs to lead a Eucharistic Service at the Gardens about once each month. This involves bringing some materials (missal, communion, Prayer of the Faithful) and reading most of the prayers of the mass and distributing

Initiation Ministry



John offered a baptism for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus didn't have any sins, but still submitted to John's baptism. Why? To begin a new life, to present Himself to His Father in all humility – to offer us an example. WE need the baptism of the Lord – which forgives sins, and which conforms us to Him, making us Children of God. Through that baptism we receive grace and the embrace of our Father – His Father. Those of us who were baptized as infants have lived in that grace and embrace all our lives. There are people who have yet to be washed in the Font of Life – others have not proceeded from their baptism to the Table of the Lord. Consider inviting them to explore the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation). For information contact **JoLynn Krempecki** at **732-690-2610 (jollynkrempecki@msn.com)**.

Rosary for Life – January 24, 2025

Come Pray a Rosary for Life (in solidarity with those at the March for Life in Washington, DC and across the country). Bishop Checchio is scheduled to attend! Friday, January 24, 2025 at 1:00 pm on Main Street in Woodbridge. Park and meet in the St. James Parish parking lot at 12:45 pm (369 Amboy Ave, Woodbridge, NJ) There is a 12:10 pm daily Mass at St. James for those who wish to attend. For more information, contact **amarshall@diometuchen.org** or call **732-562-1543**.

Communion to residents gathered in the Activities Room at the Gardens. Again, I will arrange for you to shadow and EM currently doing this.

3) Lastly, I need someone to replace me to do the quarterly schedule of EM assignments, recruit new EMs and be the contact person for the Gardens and EMs when needed. I have been doing this for nearly 30 years and it's time I handed this off to another parishioner.

If interested in assisting in this ministry in any of these roles, please contact **Deacon John Shelton** at email: **spm-cucc@aol.com** and put "GARDENS" as the subject.

New Homeschool Ministry

All parents of Homeschool Families are cordially invited to attend the inaugural meeting for the new Diocesan Homeschool Ministry.

The event will take place on January 14, 2025 from 6:30 -8:30 pm at St. Theodore RC Church at 855 Route 57, Port Murray, NJ.

Please come to hear about the ministry vision and a presentation on “Franciscan at Home” which is a free catechetical resource.

For more information about this event contact **Fr. Gilbert Starcher** at gstarcher@diometuchen.org

Bereavement Facilitator Training Course February – March 2025

Registration for the Bereavement Facilitator Training Course is now open. This six-session course will be held Wednesday evenings from 7 pm-9 pm on Zoom/Teams starting February 12- March 26, 2025 (No class on March 5, Ash Wednesday). This program is designed for individuals who want to become facilitators for existing parish bereavement support groups or who wish to start a bereavement support ministry at their parish or online. It can also benefit anyone who ministers to the bereaved in parishes in different capacities. For more information or to register visit: <https://archdioceseofnewark.regfox.com/loss-transition-2025>



If you are part of or would like to start a Parish Ministry for Senior Citizens You're invited to our

MINISTRY FOR SENIORS ROUNDTABLE

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- Wellness & Exercise
- Workshops and Seminars
- Prayer Companions
- Home Visits & Meals
- Field trips
- Social Time

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St. John Neumann Pastoral Center
146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ
For more information, contact: jruggiero@diometuchen.org

Register here:
<https://diometuchen.org/events/ministry-for-seniors-roundtable>



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2025 Choices Matter Conference

The Diocese of Metuchen's Office of Human Life and Dignity presents "The 2025 Choices Matter Conference – A Critical Life Issues Conference" which will be held at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway on **Saturday, March 29, 2025**. An Opening Mass will be celebrated by Bishop James Checchio at 9:00 AM and the conference will begin at 10:15 AM and end at 3:30 pm. This year's theme is "Choose Hope – A Path to Mental Wellness." The topics/expert speakers are:

- **The Pain is Real but so is Hope:** Deacon Ed Shoener
- **Mental Health as a Pro-Life Issue:** Erin McCole Cupp
- **The Light in Our Darkness:** Lisa Kratz Thomas
- **The Road to Hope – Responding to the Crisis of Addiction:** Keaton Douglas

General registration is \$35 and student registration is \$15. Fee includes lunch and handouts. To register visit: <https://www.diometuchen.org/choicesmatter>. For questions or for more information please email ammarshall@diometuchen.org or call 732-562-1543. Seating is limited.



Message from our Pastor

A Heartfelt Thank you!

As we have completed the joy-filled season of Christmas, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all who contributed to making our celebrations special and meaningful.

To our **Deacons, Parish Staff and our seminarian**, for their time and assistance in preparation of the liturgy and church for the festive season.

To our **choir members, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Ushers and Counters** for their time and efforts to add reverence and meaning to our celebrations.

To our **Arts and Environment Ministry** for the fabulous job done with decorating the church. In addition, to our **Building Manager** and all the **volunteers** for their help to make our church an exquisite place of worship during this holy season.

To all the **children who participated in the live nativity scene** and to our **Director of Religious Education, catechists, aids and parents** for their hard work in preparing the children.

To our **Hospitality Ministry** and all those who helped in organizing the celebration of our church feast.

To the **Monroe Township Fire department** and two of our fire fighters who put up the angels outside of the church.

To the **Knights of Columbus** and all those who set up the Nativity scene by the Stop & Shop.

To everyone who generously supported the Christmas Giving Tree and the members of the **St. Vincent De Paul Society** for bringing Christmas joy to the children of needy families. Thank you all for supporting to extend acts of kindness during this season.

To the **A. N. T. Nursery**, for providing us with beautiful Christmas trees, to **Pop's Farm Market** for the outdoor decorations, and to **Tree Wise Men** tree service for their assistance with the removal of Christmas trees.

I am also very grateful to all the parishioners for their generous donations to the parish as well as personal gifts to me and the staff. Your love and generosity are very much appreciated. I am especially grateful for the sense of community and family spirit we share. May the peace and joy of the newborn Savior continue to dwell in our hearts, homes, and community throughout the New Year!

May you be blessed with a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year! I am looking forward to another great year of growing together with you in faith, hope and love.

With love and prayers,

Fr. Nalaka



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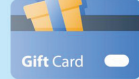
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