

Church of the Nativity

A Stewardship Parish



January 8, 2012

Mission Statement

The Church of the Nativity is a welcoming family committed to proclaiming the gospel values of Jesus Christ. Under the guidance of the Holy Family:

We are called to dedicate ourselves to build a Christian community that grows in faith and prayer through the celebration of the Eucharist.

We are called to witness in our daily lives the vision of Christ as taught in the Beatitudes.

We are called to encourage one another to share our talents and resources in the service of all God's people.

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Peter K. Funesti, *Pastor*

- Rev. Raymond E. Rodrigue, *Parochial Vicar*
- Rev. Mr. Carlos (Charlie) Briceno, *Transitional Deacon*
- Olivia L. Harrington, *Religious Education Coordinator*
- Denis J. Mullins, *Director of Music Ministry*
- Janet Nemece, *Director of Lay Ministries*
- Lorraine DeLuca, *Religious Education Assistant*
- Mary Lou Balog, *Pastoral Associate for Stewardship*
- Kaye Zbonack, *Parish Secretary*
- Jack Polito, *Business Manager/ CTC School Liaison*
- Jim Kenny, *Pastoral Associate*
- Rev. Msgr. James A. Burke, *In Residence/Weekend Assist.*
- Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Nydegger, *Weekend Assistant*
- Jim Chiappini, *Organist*
- Ciarán Sheehan, *Cantor*
- Roberto Hurtado, *Maintenance Supervisor*
- Pedro Herrera, *Maintenance Staff*



- Russell Kamp & Tia Patterson, *Parish Trustees*
- Rev. Ronald Stanley, O.P., *In Residence*
- Emmanuel Agu, *Seminarian*
- Alex Orozco, *Seminarian*
- Ronaldo Bustamante, *Seminarian*

Masses

- Saturday: 5:00 pm
- Sunday: 8:00, 10:15 am, 12 Noon
- Holy Days: Consult Bulletin
- Daily: Monday - Friday 12:10 pm (chapel)

Parish Membership

Every family participating regularly in the spiritual life of our parish is encouraged to register. Forms are available in the church or at the Rectory. If you move or change your address, kindly notify the Rectory.

Anointing

Two communal celebrations of anointing are celebrated one in the Fall and one in the Spring of each year. If anyone is ill, homebound, or in the hospital, please notify the Rectory.

Marriage

The Common Policy for Marriage for all Dioceses of the State of New Jersey require notification of marriage at least ONE YEAR in advance. Please contact one of the parish priests to set a date.

Religious Education

- Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
- Classes Grades K-6 Sun 9:00 am - 10:00 am
- Thurs 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- Grades 7-8 Sun 9:00 am - 10:15 am
- Thurs 7:15 pm
- Home Classes (special scheduling)
 - Good News for Little Ones (ages 2 ½ - 5)
 - During the 10:15 am Mass October - June

Rite of Christian Initiation (R.C.I.A.)

Anyone interested in becoming a Roman Catholic becomes a part of the process, as can any adult Catholic who has not received all the Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. For further information, please contact the Rectory.

Penance/Reconciliation

Saturdays 4:15 pm in the vesting sacristy in the lobby of the church, or by appointment in the Rectory.

Baptisms

The Sacrament of Baptism is scheduled for the following dates in 2012: January 22nd, February 19th, April 15th, May 20th and June 17th. Arrangements are made by contacting the Rectory soon after the birth of the baby. Baptismal catechesis is required of all parents. Please call the Rectory for details. A member of the Baptism Preparation Ministry will contact the parents prior to the Baptism.

Rectory

201.444.6362 FAX 201.444.5056
Email: Nativityrcc@aol.com

Parish Website

www.churchofthenativitynj.com

Catechetical Center


201.447.1776
Email: NativityCCD1@aol.com

315 Prospect Street Midland Park, NJ 07432

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mass	Please Remember	Mass Requested By
Saturday Jan. 7th 5:00 Mass	Gerard A. Weindorf <i>7th Anniversary</i>	Bettie Maes Ryan
	Jane Doherty	Rick & Joanne Gentile
Sunday	January 8th	
8:00 Mass	Genevive Glinka	Korpics Family
9:00 Mass	Jack Funesti	Family
10:15 Mass	Alfred Avella	Thomas, Terrence & Alice Avella
	Josephine Johnson	Balog/Sullivan Family
12:00 Mass	Louis A. Bello <i>21st Anniversary</i>	Julianne & Anthony Medici
	Marion Donnelly	Anne Mc Nerney
Monday Jan. 9th 12:10 Mass	Augustine "Gissy" Reid	Susan & John Hynes
Tuesday Jan. 10th 12:10 Mass	Minnie Holmes	Bill Troncone
	Jane Van Brunt <i>7th Anniversary</i>	Claire & Stan Laikowski
Wednesday Jan. 11th 12:10 Mass	Ernst Nemetz	Joan, Pat & Louisa of Direct Travel
Thursday Jan. 12th 12:10 Mass	Rosetta Guliano	Fr. Peter Funesti
	Anna Connell	Judie & Joe Haynes
Friday Jan. 13th 12:10 Mass	Jeremiah Twomey	Catherine & Amby McGarry
Saturday Jan. 14th 5:00 Mass	Daniel Fix	Carruthers Family
	Kay Doherty	Gregory & Frances Burks
Sunday	January 15th	
8:00 Mass	James Leone Jr.	Christine & Evan Dobkins
	Florence Michels	Emile Giliotti
10:15 Mass	Josephine Johnson	Nancy & Norm Morley
	Kelly Creegan	DeMarco Family
12:00 Mass	Marion Donnelly	Matt & Joan Skudera
	Mary Hodun	Rita & Jim Garner

The Mass on Saturday, December 31st was in memory of **Carmella "Millie" Petrillo 1st Anniversary**; requested by the Papapietro & Marsden Families



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The Epiphany of the Lord
January 8, 2012
११११११
*All kings shall pay him homage,
All nations shall serve him.*
~~Psalm 72:11

Thank you for your continued support of your Parish.

Weekly Offering



Reg. Collection for Dec. 24th/25th	\$4,374	122 Envelopes
Reg. Collection for Dec 31st /Jan 1st	\$8,095	163 Envelopes
Solemnity of Mary	\$2,652	118 Envelopes

Make a Gift through an IRA Charitable Rollover

The IRA Charitable Rollover has been extended through 2012. This extension allows individuals 70½ or older to make a direct distribution from their IRA to a qualified charity such as Church of the Nativity, the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, the Archdiocese of Newark, or another Archdiocesan institution. This will not increase your gross income and no charitable deduction is needed to obtain the tax benefit. By using a standard deduction, you will receive a tax break from making a charitable deduction.

For more information on how you and the Church can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover, please contact Theresa Lynch at the Planned Giving Office of the Archdiocese of Newark. She can be reached at (973) 497-4042 or at lynchthe@rcan.org.

Please remember in your prayers the sick
Francis P. Davagne, Richard Klinzing, Shirley Marsdan

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased
Margaret Clark, Edmund Petrillo, Peter Stark



A Word from the Pastor

The Lights of Christmas certainly are magical, aren't they? I love coming into the rectory and seeing the living room with just the lights of our tree on, or going to my room and see my personal tree just make the room glow. I love driving around town seeing peoples' trees all lit up, whether outside, or inside—through one of their windows; it is a special feeling. It reminds me of how fortunate we all are, and all we need to be grateful for: the places we live—the opportunities that have been given to us. It is overwhelming.

Yet as we journey into this new year of 2012, we have hope that God still walks with us. Whether we are experiencing joy, or sorrow, strength or weakness, confidence or doubt, GOD is with us; and that's what we need to remember. That's why we need each other, and need to PRAY with each other, every week. It is in the gathering of the people of God that **we** find ourselves and allow others to find us too.

That's what God did for the Magi or "wise men"; he allowed them to find the star and have confidence that the star would lead to an 'epiphany' for them. It did when they came upon Jesus. They had their doubts, and confusions, and even the challenge to figure out what Herod wanted. But they trusted, and their lives were never the same again.

My friends, as we begin this new year, let us learn to trust why God calls us together and what it all means. Why don't we let God lead us to an 'epiphany' of one another. Let God lead us to the wonder that is "**The Church of the Nativity**"



Thoughts on the scriptures:

The magi come from the east sincerely searching for "the newborn king of the Jews." The self-serving, deceitful plotting by Herod does not thwart their finding the newborn King. Like the Magi, in spite of our own "Herods," we too must diligently search for Christ. Even when we seem to lose sight of the star and the way forward is no longer clear, even when evil forces seek to thwart our search, we can trust that God never leaves us in darkness but always leads us to the light.

In our own experiences sometimes we grow discouraged in our search for God. But the truth is that we find God not primarily because we search but because God chooses to reveal the divine splendor and presence to us.

Peace,

Taken from the Living Liturgy

Living The Paschal Mystery

Salvation is meant for all, if we are but willing to follow God's signs revealing the gift. This feast, in the Western Church, is one celebrating the universality of salvation. The magi call us to abandon our own directions and desires, and our own country and kinsfolk to find the Messiah. The magi were led to the manger in Bethlehem; we also are led to the Light that brings life and salvation. We tend to be a "take charge" people. It is difficult for us to think in terms of following stars or believing in dreams. Although that is probably not the way God leads us today, the challenge of the gospel is to recognize in our daily living the way God does lead us. Perhaps we follow God's lead by smiling to a stranger or being open to a new idea. Any new direction in our lives can be an in breaking of the light that saves.



Looking for a unique gift for the new year?

How about the gift of Confirmation for 2012?! According to a recent Georgetown University study, 16% of Catholics have not yet been confirmed. In other words, if you have 10 Catholic friends, chances are at least one of them has not completed the final Sacrament of Initiation to the faith.

So as a very personal new year gift, we are encouraging you to invite them to consider participating with us in an 8 week program leading to Confirmation in the spring. With an emphasis toward young adults, we are offering a compelling introduction to the genius of Catholicism and a personal connection with Jesus, through open and honest discussion about God, religion, spiritual practices, and the issues of the day. Please contact Fr. Ray if someone you know, or perhaps even yourself, might be interested in this program...201-444-6362.

Catechetical Center



NATIVITY PAGEANT

Today, January 8, 2012 at 2:00 PM, the children of Nativity will present a Christmas Pageant at the Church. Come and celebrate with us!

FIRST PENANCE PROGRAM: On Saturday January 28th at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM in church, children, their parents, and other family members have been invited to a celebration in which the children have an opportunity to go to confession for the first time. Families have been notified of their assigned time. Please pray that the children's first experience of Sacramental Reconciliation will be one that leads them to seek God's healing love in the Sacrament throughout their lives.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2012

Enrollment Forms for the 2012 Confirmation Program were mailed and need to be returned to the Catechetical Center by January 15th, 2012. We ask that you give your attention to the return of the information.

On Sunday, January 15th, at our 10:15 A. M. Liturgy, our parish will welcome 54 teenagers into the Confirmation Program. They will take part in a "Welcoming Mass" as a sign of their being "accepted" by the community to receive the sacrament. As candidates they will enter a period of final preparation, which includes completion of service projects, participating in learning lessons and attending a day of Retreat. We ask your prayerful support for these young people of our parish community as they seek to deepen their relationship with the Lord at this most meaningful time in their lives.

Reminder to all candidates...First Session will take place Sunday 15 from 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 PM. All candidates are to meet in the Chapel after Mass. Please check your schedules.

Catechesis ...about Liturgy

History and symbolism of Epiphany: This festival celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord originally came from the Eastern Church. It was a feast day that combined a broad range of rich events: Christ's baptism in the Jordan, the wedding feast at Cana, and the visit of the magi. Eventually the Eastern and Western Churches shared each other's festivals, and celebration of the Epiphany in the West came to have the more narrow focus on the visit of the magi and the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. In the Western Church today the baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Sunday (or Monday) after Epiphany and the gospel of the wedding feast of Cana is proclaimed on the second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C. Symbolism abounds in the gospel assigned to the Epiphany celebration. The magi come from the east, the direction of the rising sun and of light, and the direction of Christ's second coming. Notice that the gospel neither numbers nor names the magi. Tradition (since the third-century theologian Origen) has set their numbers at three, probably because of the mention of the three gifts. Since the ninth century, names have been given—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Further, Caspar has been depicted as a black man, symbolizing that the Messiah was to be manifested to all peoples, regardless of race, religion, or nationality. From the sixth century, the magi have been designated as kings (see the responsorial psalm).



Our web site has a brand new look.

Come visit us often at the same web address...



www.churchofthenativitynj.com

Nativity Stewardship Update

Today we read about wise men, magi, and/or kings, who came to see "The New Born King". Whatever their title was, Isaiah wrote that "Kings would flock... to worship the Lord." Certainly, they were wise, far wiser than most men. They were willing to leave their lands, their comforts, and journey to find the great King whose birth was announced by **A star**. And who was Herod? History seems to record him as a fierce, paranoid politician, who, when these men arrived at his court, perceived them and, the New Born whom they were seeking, as challenging his power.

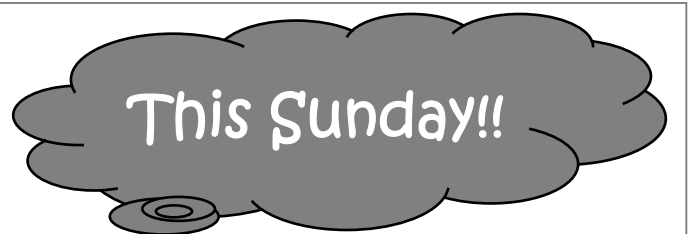
Father Peter keeps telling us that we are a Stewardship Parish. What is this journey of Stewardship? Are you old enough to remember Airline Stewards or Stewardesses? A Steward is one who manages the affairs of another. The wise men, or whatever their title, recognized a "New Born King" had been born and they came to find Him so that others might know Him. That is why this feast is called the "EPIPHANY": THE MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST.

As Stewards, we, too, journey to the Lord and more than that, we are called to find Christ and show Him to others; to be, an "EPIPHANY" for all those who come in contact *with us*. We do this in our family, journeying with them the faith journey by attending Mass and living as Jesus did. When we have found Him we show Him at work; by accepting the outsider; by caring for a sick or elderly relative, and, if we are in tune with God's call, He will show us how to show Him to others. At times this Stewardship Journey can be difficult because we do not live in a society where bringing Christ to others is "cool". We are asked to be moral in an immoral society; to be prolife in a "culture of death" (Pope John Paul 11), and to accept, in a society that finds it easier to hate. Jesus is counting on us to carry on the continuing journey of these "wise" men; and for us to give witness that the Lord is indeed among us. This is our challenge today; that in the manger of our hearts, we may journey to the Lord and show Him to all who are in our lives.

Christmas Flowers 2011 Donated by and in Memory of

Deceased Members of the
Connolly Family
Mr & Mrs Connolly
Grace R Kelly
Grace M Kelly
John Borovian

Members of the Borovian
Family
Peter & Carin Contilina
Paul Contilina
Marian Dudis
Mr & Mrs Frank Dudis



Come Celebrate With Us...

*The Children of Nativity
Present*

The Nativity Pageant

Sunday

January 8, 2012

2:00 PM

In the Church



Church of the Nativity Christmas 2011 Schedule

Feast of the Epiphany (Bell Sunday)

*Saturday, January 7, 2012
5:00 pm - Bring Your Bells*

*Sunday, January 8, 2012
Bring Your Bells
8:00 am 10:15 am ⊕ 12:00 Noon*

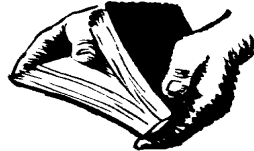
*Sunday, January 8, 2012
Nativity Pageant
2:00 pm*

*The Baptism of the Lord
Monday, January 9, 2012*

Scripture Study

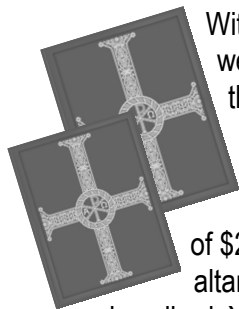
Scripture Study will begin again on Tuesday,
January 10th at 1:00 PM in **O'Connell Hall**.

Newcomers are welcomed.
For more information please
contact Mary Lou Balog
201-445-2534
mlbalog@optonline.net



Calling all Women of the Parish

Come join us on Friday & Saturday March 23 - 24 2012 at the Carmel Retreat Center in Mahwah. A team of women from the parish are planning a wonderful retreat. Guest speakers will inspire you, and God's presence and unconditional love will be there in abundance. Save the date now before your calendar fills.



With the completion of the new missal, we now have new Roman Missals. If there is someone in your life whom you would like to memorialize in this sacred book, you now have the opportunity to do so. For a donation of \$200 for the Missal on the Chapel altar, your loved one's name will be inscribed. You can also memorialize someone in one of the four remaining priests' study missals for \$150.

To donate an offering for one of Nativity's new missals in memory of a loved one, please contact Fr. Peter.

This Week At Nativity

**WEEK OF
Jan 9th**

Monday January 9	
Tuesday January 10	1:00PM CHA - Legion of Mary 7:30PM St. Luke's - Women's Cornerstone Meeting
Wednesday January 11	
Thursday January 12	10:30AM UR - Mom's Group 8:00PM OH - Knights of Columbus Meeting
Friday January 13	
Saturday January 14	
Sunday January 15	10:15 Mass C - Confirmation 2012 Welcome Mass 11:30AM CHA - Confirmation Class

KEY

C-Church	OH-O'Connell Hall	MG-McGrath Room	CHA-Chapel
S-School	KH-Kennedy Hall	UR-Upper Room	R-Rectory

Attention All Men MensCornerstone@aol.com



Nativity-St. Luke's Men's Cornerstone has its own email address! If you have considered attending and are on the fence, registering for the Men's Cornerstone on March 9-10, 2012 can't get any easier. Just send an email to

MensCornerstone@aol.com

and include your name, address and telephone number.

It's that simple!!! Someone from the team will be in touch with you. Expand your horizon and make life-long friends overnight. Join us on March 9-10, 2012. **You'll thank God you did!!!!** If you have any questions, please call Sean Conyngham (917) 359-3303 or Jim Kenny (201) 444-6362.