

Church of the Nativity

A Stewardship Parish



January 15, 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



A Word from the Pastor

WOW!! What a way to round out the Christmas season with our 'Nativity Pageant' last Sunday. Our children from preschool through high school gave us quite a show. We had interpretive dance to beloved Christmas hymns and individuals singing solos and performing on a musical instruments. We had the middle school concert band perform for us, and of course the 'Christmas story' performed. The younger children were taught by the middle school students. It was a great example of children sharing their **Time** and **Talents** with all of us...Stewardship at work. A special Thank You to Renee Gandet for her vision of what this pageant could be and as always to Olivia Harrington and Lorraine DeLuca for their time and energy. And a BIG BIG thanks to all who participated.

Thank you so much for those people who came out and helped to decorate the church for the Christmas season; and those who helped water all the poinsettias.

This weekend is sign up weekend for our Men's Cornerstone on March 9th & 10th (hosted at St. Luke's this year). I can't encourage you enough to take the opportunity this Lent and give yourself a gift in deepening your awareness of all the things you have to be grateful for.

Please consider it—it is only 26 hours of your time. It will be the best time spent for YOU in this new year.



How quickly Andrew transferred his allegiance from being a disciple of John to being a disciple of Jesus! The instant John pointed Jesus out as the "Lamb of God," Andrew followed Jesus. This encounter with Jesus was so powerful that Andrew immediately went to find his brother Peter, announced he had found the Messiah, and brought Peter to Jesus. Encounter elicits allegiance and allegiance generates action.



We prize independence. By contrast, the gospel places higher value on our relationship with Christ as our teacher and Savior in the midst of a community of fellow disciples.

Peace,

Taken from the Living Liturgy

Living The Paschal Mystery

As baptized Christians, our basic call is to follow Jesus by living the paschal mystery. By paschal mystery, we refer to Christ's own dying and rising as well as to our own daily dying to self and rising with Christ. To answer our baptismal call is to embrace this mystery, enter into a more profound relationship with Jesus and express our new identity and allegiance through all our daily actions. Fidelity to our baptismal call makes a difference in how we live.

Really, two challenges present themselves here. First, to know Jesus' footsteps of dying and rising. Second, to see this dying and rising in all the ordinary, "un-divine" circumstances of life. For example, money may be tight for the family. This can also mean that the family must take time to talk together, work things out and perhaps spend more time together, which can lead to the "rising" of a new family life of stronger relationships. Hearing the call is seeing through the little deaths we meet every day to the opportunities for new life that are always offered.

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

We would like to express our thanks:

To Father Peter Funesti, our Pastor,
for his vision to help us see the true meaning of Christmas.

To the Pageant Team:

Mrs. Toni Carrea, Mrs. Nicole Cieri, Mrs. Lorraine DeLuca, Mrs. Beth Anne DeMarco, Mrs. Renee Gandet, Mrs. Laurie Kamp, Miss Lauren Raffaelli, Mrs. Trish Olson, Mrs. Stephanie Pantale, Miss Jillian Smith and Miss Melissa Thompson for their commitment and hard work.

To the parents:

Thank you for building your children's foundation to the community of Nativity.

Sincerely,
Olivia Harrington, CRE

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:

"They spent their time in learning from the Apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and prayers." (Act 2:42)

Today, at our 10:15 A. M. Liturgy, our parish will welcome 54 teenagers into the Confirmation Program. 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 today Sunday January 15 from 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 PM. All candidates are to meet in the Chapel. Please check your schedules.

GOOD NEWS FOR LITTLE ONES PROGRAM

This program for children **2 ½ to 5 years of age** will help them come to know the Good News of God's Love and the concern for them. A staff of trained catechists and volunteers is currently presenting it. GOOD NEWS FOR LITTLE ONES is open during the 10:15 AM Mass on Sundays in the upper room of the Church. We invite parents to bring their children to this program as they attend Mass.

Children who attend Kindergarten should remain with their parents in the Church. For children under 2 ½ years of age, we ask that you make use of the cry room. Thank you! HELP YOURSELF Each week, we make available bulletins for children, grades one through six. "Explaining God's Word" will help the children more about their faith and the Sunday scriptures and have fun doing it. These bulletins are found in folders on the bulletin board in the rear of the church.

Catechesis ...about Liturgy

Baptism of the Lord and Ordinary Time: Usually the feast of the Baptism of the Lord falls on the Sunday after we celebrate the Epiphany and is the first Sunday in Ordinary Time. Because Epiphany is later this year, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord takes place on the Monday after Epiphany (January 9th), a day when most don't go to Mass. So we miss an important reminder this year: baptism is the "foundation" for Ordinary Time: Jesus' baptism was the source for his ministry, and so it is for Christians. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord serves to bridge the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany festal season and Ordinary Time. It ends a festal time and begins Ordinary Time. What characterizes Ordinary Time is a sequential reading from one of the Synoptic Gospels (this is Year B when we read from Mark's gospel). During these next few Sundays and again during the Sundays in Ordinary Time occurring after we've celebrated Lent-Triduum-Easter, we are reminded that we are baptized into Christ, share in his death and resurrection and take up his mission to bring salvation to all people. For this reason, it is especially unfortunate that we do not celebrate Jesus' baptism on a Sunday when people ordinarily come to Mass.



Dear God
When I take two
steps back is that
so that I can
really see what I
have to do?
Amen

Nativity Stewardship Update

A young man named Samuel is sleeping in the temple, (with permission!!). He wakes up instantly when he hears his name spoken. He cries out, "Here I am" and runs to his master, Eli, who is sleeping in another place. "You called me, what do you want?" "I didn't," Eli responds. "Go back to sleep." "And if it happens again," Eli says to Samuel: "Just say; Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." Samuel goes back to his sleep. God calls out "Samuel" one more time. Samuel follows Eli's instructions and says "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening".

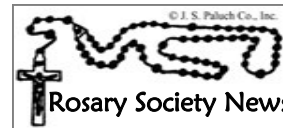
There is another calling in today's Gospel. Jesus is going to call two men to be disciples. He waits for them to notice him and get interested and when they start to follow Him. He says "What are you looking for?" They are so taken with Jesus they ask Him where he lives and he says "Come and see". THE REST IS HISTORY!!!!!! They do go and see, and spend the day with Him and Andrew is so excited he runs to get his brother Simon. "We have found the Messiah!" he shouts. They go to Jesus and the most important event in Simon's life takes place. Jesus gives him a new name that defines him. "From now on you will be called Cephas"— Jesus saw that innermost stability in Peter and, like Samuel, Peter could never have become fully himself if someone had not called his name clear to its depths.

Must it always be God or Jesus who calls our name in order for us to become ourselves? Couldn't a psychologist do it, or a spouse or a dear friend who believes in us? Yes, of course; each of these know us and challenge us to be ourselves. But only God can know our deepest desires, and only God can satisfy these desires: a reaching out for the one we want the most AND FOR WHOSE SAKE WE LOVE OTHERS.

Do you sense in your insides a voice whispering, calling you by your real name, calling you to be best friends with the Christ of God and when you realize that He is your best friend, you run to tell others who He is. You invite them also."Come and see". That's what Stewards do. They bring others, through prayer, word and action "to come and see.



NEW PROGRAMS
COMING SOON!



The Rosary Society hopes everyone had a Blessed Christmas and will have a happy & healthy New Year. We would

like to congratulate Joel Pinkler, who won the "quilt drawing" held at our Christmas Party.

Please mark your calendars for Thursday March 8, 2012 for our Night of Reflection.

Dear Nativity Parishioners,

On behalf of all the mothers and children at the York Street Project, I want to thank you for generosity at Christmas. Every year, without fail, you share your kindness with our families and they are so very appreciative. Your generosity is a ray of hope in the midst of these trying times.

Thank you for your on-going commitment to make a world of difference in the lives of poor and homeless women and children. It is because of friends like you we can continue our mission to break the cycle of poverty. Thank you also for keeping these women and children in your prayers.

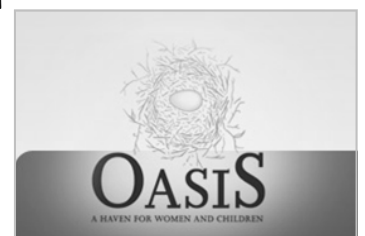


Gratefully,
Sr. Barbara Moran, Dir.,
The Nurturing Place

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Once again, I would like to thank you for your generosity in regards to the Oasis Giving Tree. Because of your kindness, not only did you help make Christmas possible for the families of our 350 women, but thanks to you, we were also able to help 6 other organizations provide Christmas for many other needy families including those affected by the floods. Your acts of kindness and generosity reached more than 700 families! It warms my heart to know that no matter how bad the economy is, you always come through! May the spirit of Christmas live on in your hearts all year long and may God continue to bless you!

Thank You!
Mary Ellen Vitti





World Marriage Sunday
February 12, 2012

To recognize World Marriage Sunday, on the February 11/12 weekend, we would like to identify Nativity's couples celebrating a special Wedding Anniversary this year. If you are celebrating your 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, or 50th + ... please complete the form below and you will receive a special blessing and a certificate at the Mass you attend.

World Marriage Sunday Form

Wife's Full Name _____

Husband's Full Name _____

2012 Anniversary Celebrating _____ Years

Mass attending February 11/12 _____

Phone Number _____

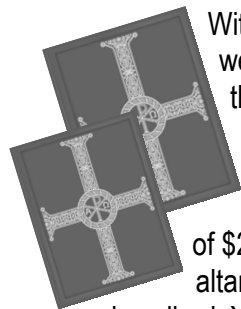
Calling ALL Women of the Parish

Come join in..

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 16th

Monday January 16	Martin Luther King Day Rectory Closed
Tuesday January 17	1:00PM CHA - Legion of Mary 1:00PM OH - Scripture Study 7:30PM St. Luke's - Women's Cornerstone Meeting
Wednesday January 18	
Thursday January 19	10:30AM UR - Mom's Group 3:00PM KH - YES: YES We Can Cook
Friday January 20	
Saturday January 21	
Sunday January 22	10:15AM C - Family Mass 11:30AM CHA/S - 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

Cornerstone@cornerstone2012.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

Cornerstone@cornerstone2012.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.