

# Church of the Nativity

## A Stewardship Parish



**December 4, 2011**

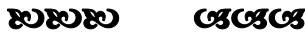
### Mission Statement

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

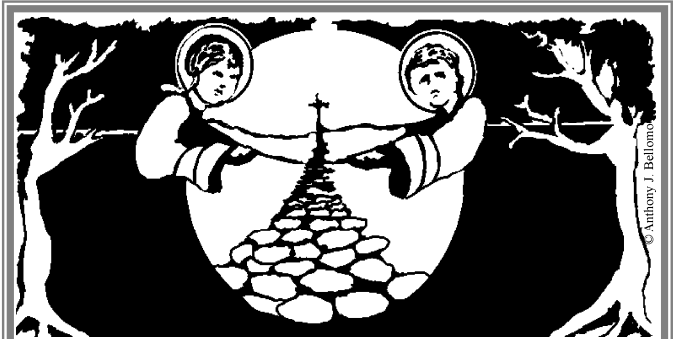
[www.churchofthenativitynj.com](http://www.churchofthenativitynj.com)

### Catechetical Center

201.447.1776  
 Email: NativityCCD1@aol.com

315 Prospect Street Midland Park, NJ 07432

*Mass Intentions for the Week*



*Second Sunday of Advent  
December 4, 2011*

ⲄⲄⲁⲁⲁ  
*Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.*

*— Mark 1:3*

Mass	Please Remember	Mass Requested By
Saturday Dec. 3rd 5:00 Mass	<b>Stanley Laikowski</b> <i>21st Anniversary</i> <b>Maria Delvalle</b>	Claire & Stan Laikowski  Ester & Gino
<b>Sunday</b> <b>December 4th</b>		
8:00 Mass	<b>Dec. Members of the Rosary Society</b> <b>Bud Hardt</b>	Rosary Society  Victor & Judy Bastis
10:15 Mass	<b>Alex Moncinik</b> <b>Barbara Korpics</b>	Mary & Jeff Allyn Catherine Cassano
12:00 Mass	<b>Patricia C. Sheehan</b> <i>3rd Anniversary</i>	Daughter, Maureen
Monday Dec. 5th 12:10 Mass	<b>Deborah Schrepel</b> <b>Al Giordiano</b>	Iannaccone Family Douglas & Paula Voorman
Tuesday Dec. 6th 12:10 Mass	<b>James F. Parker, Jr.</b> <b>Kay Doherty</b>	Vanek Family Ed & Mary McDonald
Wednesday Dec. 7th 12:10 Mass	<b>Pasquale, Giovanni &amp; Dec. Members of the Biele Family</b>	Carmelina Biele
Thursday Dec. 8th 12:10 Mass 3:30PM 7:30PM	<b>Deceased members of Nativity</b>	
Friday Dec. 9th 12:10 Mass	<i>For all the souls in Purgatory especially deceased members of FOSS</i>	Victor & Judy Bastis
Saturday Dec. 10th 5:00 Mass	<b>Patrick Fix</b> <b>Bertha &amp; Joseph Garrison</b>	Carruthers Family Marie Graf
<b>Sunday</b> <b>December 11th</b>		
8:00 Mass	<b>Rose Lamberto</b> <b>Bud Hardt</b>	Victor & Judy Bastis Victor & Judy Bastis
10:15 Mass	<b>Rose Lamberto</b> <i>18th Anniversary</i>	Daughter
12:00 Mass	<b>Carla Lyn, Rose Marie &amp; Joseph Pisacane</b> <b>Edmund &amp; Hedwig Vierheilig</b>	Kay Raimo  Family

**Thank you for your continued support of your Parish.**

**Weekly Offering**

Nov. 19th & 20th  
Nov. 26th & 27th

Collection for Nov. 19th & 20th	\$ 8,883	Number of Weekly Envelopes 204
Budgeted Revenue*	\$11,474	
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$ 2,591)</b>	
Collection for Nov. 26th & 27th	\$10,258	Number of Weekly Envelopes 231 Assessment Envelopes 117
Assessment Collection	\$ 1,967	
Total	\$12,225	
Budgeted Revenue*	\$11,474	
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 751</b>	

\*Amount needed each week to pay our parish expenses

We now have some of John Angotti's CD's available for purchase. Each CD is \$12. Please contact the

The Church of the Nativity Prayer Chain is accepting prayer requests. Please call the rectory with your request.

*Please remember in your prayers the sick*  
Dan MacCaskill, Michael Long, Nicholas D'Annibale

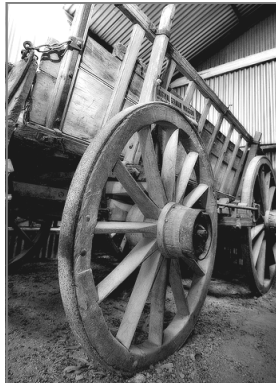
*Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased*  
Josephine Johnson, Rosemarie Pisacane, Charles Stec, Margaret Clark



## A Word from the Pastor

"The Lord be with you"....."and with your spirit". Well we are off to a new start in our Liturgy, with the NEW 'Roman Missal'. It is going to take some time to get used to it and put it as a regular response in our heads. Hopefully we will just laugh when we make a mistake or smirk. But it will warrant us to **"Be ALERT" "Be WATCHFUL"** as our advent season prepares us for the 'Feast of the Nativity'. Hopefully we can reflect with these new words on what we are doing in this central prayer of our church, the Mass. So thank you for your patience and your persistence as we together learn this new Mass.

I don't know if you have noticed our Advent wreath up close; please take a moment and see what it is made of. I am not talking about the beautiful greens, but the fact that it is a wagon wheel! Yes that's right a 'wagon wheel'. The reason for this is that the tradition of the Advent wreath came to us from the German farmers. When the harvest was over they would bring their carts into the barn and take the wheel and hang them from the rafters. Then to mark the days before Christmas they would hang things from the wheels to remind them that the great feast of Christmas was coming.



So when this tradition was brought into the church they added the greens and the candles as a way to mark the weeks. This became the Advent season we celebrate today. So go and stand underneath it and realize what an *old* tradition we have in our wreath.



### Thoughts on the scriptures..

In the gospel we are admonished to prepare the "way of the Lord." What is this "way of the Lord"? It is a life of "holiness and devotion" (second reading) a life of "repentance" and "forgiveness" (gospel), and a life of hearing "glad tidings" of God's salvation and announcing this "good news" (first reading) to the world. This is the way John the Baptist lived; this is the way of life into which Christ baptizes us with the Holy Spirit.

Regularly we hear news reports about people who do extraordinary things: a firefighter saves a child from a burning building, a parent goes without food to feed the child, or a missionary gives her life for the poor of a third world country. John the Baptist was surely an extraordinary man—from his miraculous birth through his desert living to his being precursor of the Messiah. Most of us are not so extraordinary or different, but nonetheless, we are called to announce the coming of the Lord through our manner of faithful living.

Peace,

## Living The Paschal Mystery

The amazing thing about these readings is that they remind us that we ourselves, by righteous of our own lives in Christ, continually prepare for divine presence. By the goodness of our lives, we announce that Christ has come and brought us salvation. All we need to do is respond in faithfulness, for by our 'holiness and devotion' (second reading), we are not just 'waiting for' but also 'hastening the coming of the day of God' (second reading). We live the 'way of the Lord' by eagerly welcoming God's abiding presence, living God's good gifts and attesting to peace and righteousness. Our everyday living does make a difference—*through* us Christ comes!



The Advent Wreath symbolizes the accumulation of light and is an expression of the growing anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world. The circular wreath represents God's eternity and unity.

Evergreens are a symbol of enduring life.

You can now memorialize or honor someone in your life with Nativity's 2011 Advent wreath.

Church Wreath - \$225

Chapel Wreath - \$175

Advent Wreath Candles - \$125

The candles will be available for you to take home after the season

To donate an offering for the Advent Wreath in memory of a loved one, please contact Fr. Peter.



## Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 8, 2011

We will be celebrating Mass at

12:10 PM ♦ 3:30 PM ♦ 7:30 PM

All Masses are in the Church

The Rectory will be closed

## 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](mailto: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.

# Catechetical Center



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION K-8

On Thursday, December 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception – we will have a Mass at 3:30 PM at the Church. Families are invited and encouraged to attend.

**First Penance Program:** All parents of children preparing for Sacramental Penance are reminded that this week's session is #5, "We Celebrate Penance with the Church" The benefits of the sacrament are many: renewed spiritual strength, remission of sin, interior peace and consolation, unity with Christ and His church.

## CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2012

Enrollment Forms for the 2012 Confirmation Program were mailed and need to be returned to the Catechetical Center by December 19<sup>th</sup>. We ask that you give your attention to the return of the information.

## 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.

## 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!**

Sign up forms are now in the back of the church

# Nativity CYO Basketball

For more information contact Ron Harrington at  
ronald.harrington@velan.com

## Catechesis...about Liturgy

**Advent: four Sundays:** This year Christmas is on a Sunday, which means that Advent is the longest it can possibly be—four full weeks. We note, however, that Advent is not a four-week season but it is really a four-Sunday season. If Christmas is on a Monday, for example, there are still four Sundays for Advent but the season is only one day longer than three weeks. This highlights for us the importance of each of the four Sundays of Advent and their readings. The first two Sundays help us reflect on the Second Coming, a discreet motif for the beginning of Advent. Only with the third Sunday of Advent do the readings explicitly turn our attention to the mystery of Christ's birth at Christmas.

**Receiving the new Roman Missal:** We have been preparing for the reception of the new Roman Missal for about two years now. In fact, the Missal has been in preparation for over a decade, with many decisions having been made: the words of the new translation, US adaptations for the rite, what new music to include. By now the Roman Missal has been introduced for our liturgical celebrations. There are noticeable changes, to be sure. At first the most noticeable change is the language of the Mass. Our responses are different. We most likely need to use a worship aid to help us change responses we've been saying by heart for years. For some, this will be taken in stride; for others it will be difficult. One positive way to receive the changes is that they afford us an opportunity to break out of liturgical 'autopilot'. That is, instead of rather mindlessly responding, we will now think about our responses. We will need to consciously use different, more unfamiliar words. This is good. Anything that helps us pay more attention at Mass, helps us to be more conscious of the wonderful thing we are doing in liturgy and helps us encounter more easily the faithful presence of God to us, can be nothing but a good thing!



## ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & LECTORS

Please sign up for  
Christmas Masses.  
The sign up sheets

are in the back of  
the church where you normally sign  
in. We ask that you do this as soon as possible.



Archdiocese of Newark

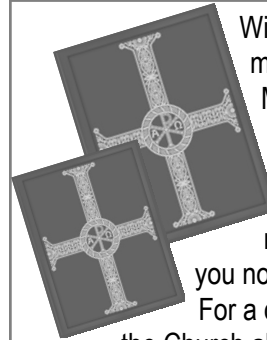
An Annulment Information Evening is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 14, 2011, Saint John the Apostle Church, 1805 Penbrook Terrace, Linden, NJ, at 7:30 PM.** A staff member of the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Newark will provide basic information about annulments; the requirements for annulments and how to begin the process of petitioning for an annulment. There will be an opportunity for questions at the end of the session. Pre-registration is not necessary, but for directions, please call the parish at **908-486-6363.**

## Nativity Stewardship Update

John the Baptist dressed in camel's hair and had a leather belt. He didn't dress like the Scribes, Pharisees and temple priests. He never was part of that crowd. But John the Baptist talked about change that was certainly coming. For change to take place, it was the people who had to change. If there is going to be no more war, then people need to stop hating others. If there is going to be charity and care for all, then people need to look inside their hearts and pull out the justice of God that resides there. If there is going to be change, then people need to change. We all want our country and our world to be better. We all want a cure for cancer and AIDS and malnutrition and every ailment or condition that is killing people. We all want the poor to be cared for. We all want an end to violence, both that which is carried out by terrorists and that which takes place in every town and city throughout the world. We all want peace. But what are we doing about it? The heart of John the Baptist's message is that if we want change, if we really want the One who will reform the world and return mankind to God's original plan, then WE need to change. The Gospel is calling us to look to ourselves. We belong to Jesus Christ. We are His People. He has called us to make His Presence real throughout the world. For us, love is not merely the opposite of hate. Love is the Presence of Jesus Christ within us and among us. For us charity is not just the opposite of greed. Charity is the Lord working through us to care for others. John the Baptist is challenging us to Stewardship.... in the words of Mother Teresa: "Christ has no hands and feet but ours". Stewardship challenges us to become the Hands and Feet of Christ. This is John the Baptist's challenge.....He is telling us that it is up to us to make the world God's place.



**The Christmas Giving Tree Gifts can be returned to the lobby this weekend or December 10th/11th at the latest. Thank you once again for your continued generosity!**



With the completion of the new missal, we now have a new Roman Missal in both the Church and the Chapel.

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 \$250 for the Missal on the Church altar and \$200 for the Missal on the Chapel altar, your loved one's name will be inscribed. You can also memorialize someone in one of our 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.



*With the beginning of Advent, our web site also has a brand new look.*

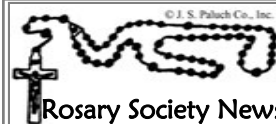
**New features include ...**

- ▶ Pastor's Corner
- ▶ On Our Horizon
- ▶ Church calendar
- ▶ and much more

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

**[www.churchofthenativitynj.com](http://www.churchofthenativitynj.com)**

**Keep current on all the stewardship opportunities as we are Christ's hands and feet in His vineyard.**



If you haven't made your reservation for our Christmas Party to be held this Tuesday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>,

please call Anna Homer (after 12 noon) at 201 652-6593.

## COMMUNITY THRIFT SHOP

If you are downsizing your Christmas decorations, why not donate them to the Community Thrift Shop. Please see the flyer in the back of the Church and mention #18 as this will benefit the Rosary Society.

## Church of the Nativity 2011 Christmas Schedule

### *Advent Mission*

7:30pm – Dec 12, 13 14  
Very Rev Dennis Corrado, CO

### *Communal Penance Service - with Individual Confessions*

December 17, 2011  
12:00 Noon at Guardian Angel in Allendale

### *Christmas Concert*

7:00 pm - Sunday, December 18, 2011

### *Christmas Eve*

Saturday, December 24, 2011  
3:45 pm - Children's Family Liturgy  
5:30 pm - Mass for Differently-abled People  
7:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy  
9:30 pm Choir & Congregation Christmas Carols  
10:00 pm Eucharistic Liturgy

### *Christmas Day*

Sunday, December 25, 2011  
Eucharistic Liturgies  
10:30 am & 12:00 Noon

### *Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

Friday, December 30, 2011  
Eucharistic Liturgies  
12:10 in church

### *Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God*

Sunday, January 1, 2012  
8:00 am 10:15 am & 12:00 Noon

### *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  
12:10 in church

# *This Week At Nativity*

## WEEK OF Dec. 5th

Monday December 5	7:30PM C - Choir Practice 3:30PM C - Pageant Rehearsal
Tuesday December 6	1:00PM CHA - Legion of Mary 6:30PM MG - Rosary Society Christmas Party
Wednesday December 7	1:00 PM OH - Nativity Knits 3:30PM C - Pageant Rehearsal
Thursday December 8	<i>Feast of The Immaculate Conception Mass at 12:10PM, 3:30PM, 7:30PM all Masses in the Church</i> 10:30AM UR - Mom's Group 7:30PM R - Finance Council Meeting 7:30PM St. Luke - Men's Cornerstone Meeting 8:00PM OH - Knights of Columbus Meeting
Friday December 9	
Saturday December 10	1:00PM C - Choir Practice Fr. Corrado speaking at all the Masses Last Day for Giving Tree Gift Returns
Sunday December 11	Fr. Corrado speaking at all the Masses 10:15AM C - Family Mass Last Day for Giving Tree Gift Returns

### KEY

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

*Mark your  
calendars!*



# Nativity's Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 18th  
7:00 PM