

THIS WEEK AT NATIVITY**SUNDAY:**

10:45-12:00 pm – Catechesis, POB

11:00 am – Mass, Church

MONDAY:**TUESDAY:**

8:15 am – Mass, Church

WEDNESDAY:**THURSDAY:**

9:30-11:00 am – Catechesis, POB

4:00-5:30 pm – Catechesis, POB & Upstairs

FRIDAY:

8:15 am – Mass, Church

SATURDAY:3:00-4:00 pm – Confessions (PO – 1st Fl. Conf.)

4:30 pm - Mass, Church

PO – Parish Office; POB – Parish Office Basement**Readings for November 8, 2020**

Wisdom 6: 12-16 1 Thes 4: 13-18

Matthew 25: 1-13

Saturday – 4:30 pm Mass**Lectors:** John Vanrens, Deborah Casey**Sunday – 11:00 am Mass****Lectors:** John Finn, Martha Fuller**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sunday: For the People

Tuesday: For the People

Friday: For the People

Saturday: For the People

National Black Catholic History Month

As part of National Black Catholic History Month, the diocese celebrates the lives of six African American candidates for the Cause of Canonization. We (Nativity) thought this would be a great opportunity to share once again with our parishioners, the biographies of some of these same six candidates whose paintings are currently on display inside our church, located on the right side, just beyond the cry room. Today we celebrate Mother Mary Lange, OSP. Please take a few moments to read today's insert and learn a little about her journey which has made her a candidate for the Cause of Canonization. Mother Mary often said **"My sole wish is to do the will of God."**

Please pray for the following:**Sick & Shut-Ins**

Bill Bach	Bill Balskus	Reid Baumgartner
Liz Bellew	Mary Jo Beresford	Dottie Brinker
Eugene Carlson	Kathy Chalfin	Barbara Cottrell
Diana DeRhodes	Joe Doering	Declan Donovan
Stella Evans	Barry Funk	Jackie Goetz
Jim Kaufman	Fr. Ray Kellerman	Al/Mary Lou Matre
Mary McErlane	Gretchen Niswonger	Ron Rulon
Debbie Schneider	Maureen Sullivan	Carl Udry
Bob Valerius	Jan Weaver	

Friends & Family

Mark Behreng	Sally Bowron	Aaron Bradford
Sheila Caldwell	James Doolittle	Bob Finn
Mary Sue Loftus	Rick Holtz	John Mack
Doug Martin	Bob Mitchell	Ellen Molloy
Greg Morley	David Palmer	Holly Rough
Peg Schuckman	Susan Shakelford	Mary Ellen Spaite
Mike Tebbe	Mary Williams	Craig Wrober

Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements for Holy Communion, Anointing of the Sick, Reconciliation, pastoral visits.

CHURCH OFFERINGS	<u>October 25, 2020</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Regular Collection	6,153.00	83,898.72
School Support	490.00	3,710.00
Online Collection	667.00	66,148.82
Total Offerings	7,310.00	153,757.54
Budget	10,900.00	185,300.00
Over (under) Budget	(3,590.00)	(31,542.46)

CHURCH OFFERINGS	<u>November 1, 2020</u>	<u>Fiscal YTD</u>
Regular Collection	14,478.00	98,376.72
School Support	40.00	3,750.00
Online Collection	13,197.50	79,346.32
Total Offerings	27,715.50	181,473.04
Budget	10,900.00	196,200.00
Over (under) Budget	16,815.50	(14,726.96)

This week, we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to **help Jesus in disguise**. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide struggling communities with relief and support and to work for peace and reconciliation

among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.



From the Pastor's Desk

As the brilliant autumn leaves fall to the ground and turn to brown, this is naturally a season to reflect on life, on our human mortality, and oftentimes revisit the grief of loved ones who have passed. It can also be a time to receive the consolation of the truth of the Gospel by going deeper in our understanding of Church teaching, especially regarding the "four last things": death, judgment, hell, and heaven.

In the Catholic liturgical year the month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls. This past week we celebrated the feast of All Souls; likely an experience in which we confront the pain of physical separation from our loved ones that comes with death. This pain gives rise to grief, which can manifest in sadness, anger, or fear. All very natural. As Christians, there is also a supernatural dimension to everything, including grief. Saint Paul reminds us of this in the second reading this Sunday from his first letter to the Thessalonians: "We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope."

Following Saint Paul, a number of saints and Christian writers have expounded upon this reality. Among them, Granger Westberg in his book *Good Grief*. I first read this book while doing a summer internship in the chaplain's office of Twin Towers Senior Living Community. It was also the first summer after I lost my Mom to cancer. Needless to say, the Lord led me to the place I needed to be to walk more fruitfully and faithfully with Him and others through the grief journey. As Catholics we might see such moments as our more personal participation in the Way of the Cross.

In *Good Grief*, the author reflects on the quoted passage from Saint Paul, to "not grieve like the rest, who have no hope." Westberg notes that sometimes in Christianity we can get the impression or be told outright that since Jesus is Risen then we shouldn't grieve. This is not what Saint Paul says. We still experience grief. As human beings, in fact, we must experience it. Grief is still part of a Christian's life. However, since we know the Risen Lord, there is a dimension for Christians not found in worldly ways of grief. Simply put, the promise of the Resurrection gives us hope!

"Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (Catechism #1817). Hope comes from God, a fruit of the Holy Spirit. If in our grief we do not feel hopeful, we turn to God and ask for hope. We plunge into prayer to place ourselves in a position to be filled with this hope from God. We pray the Stations of the Cross or the Rosary or the Divine Mercy chaplet to connect with the life and promises of Jesus. We take frequent refuge in the sacraments, especially the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Mindful participation in Mass immerses us in the great reservoir of Christian hope. Through this intentional entrance into the paschal mystery we are opened more to the hope of forgiveness and reconciliation, the hope of the resurrection of the dead, and the unseen glory of eternal life with those we love gathered around the throne, singing Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. We die to self so as to come alive in Christ, through whom we may be reunited one day with those who have gone before us. Jesus, you are our hope!



"Building Our Community" 2020-2021 Nativity Annual Fund kicks off this week:

The "Building Our Community" 2020-2021 Annual Fund kicks off this week with the goal of raising \$100,000 to establish a COVID Relief Fund to provide for unexpected expenses in the school due to the pandemic; to install technology in the church to allow for live-streaming of Mass and other sacramental celebrations; and to install a fire detection system in the parish office building. In addition, \$10,000 will be added to the School Education Fund, which helps provide tuition aid to families in need. Also, \$5,000 will be allocated to be shared between our St. Vincent de Paul and The Caring Place, a first-time annual fund priority to help our neighbors in the community. Within a few days, all Nativity families should receive a mailing regarding the specifics of the 2020-2021 campaign. Please take time to learn about this year's goals and prayerfully consider how you might help us improve our facilities and build our community during these challenging times. For more information regarding the "Building Our Community" 2020-2021 Annual Fund go to www.nativity-cincinnati.org/giving/annual-fund



St. Ann's Society "Feed the Need"

This year in particular, many of our neighbors served by The Caring Place and St. Vincent de Paul are in even greater need. This is where

"Feed the Need" steps in. Grocery certificates in \$5.00 denominations can be purchased to give to The Caring Place (through Thanksgiving) and St. Vincent de Paul (after Thanksgiving through Jan. 3rd). These organizations distribute them to their growing number of clients. This provides us with a perfect opportunity to feed the hungry as Jesus asks us. Additionally, grocery certificates make a great gift for someone special, the person who has everything, or as a memorial. St. Ann's will provide a card to acknowledge your gift. Please send your contribution to fund grocery certificates to the parish or school office marked "St. Ann's Feed the Need" or you can contribute on Nativity's safe and secure website under *Give to Nativity* and indicate *Feed the Need grocery certificates*. If you have any questions, please contact Eleanor Rutishauser at 513-631-8447 or ekrutishauser@gmail.com

Calling on Compassionate Co-workers in

Bereavement: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." In the Beatitudes from his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus invites his disciples to accompany those who are grieving. To pray for the living and the dead is a spiritual work of mercy. To bury the dead is a corporal work of mercy. If you desire to extend the mercy of Jesus into the world, consider becoming part of the Bereavement Team at Nativity of Our Lord parish.

There are three parts to this ministry in the parish:

1. Assist families in preparing the funeral liturgy;
2. Be present during the liturgy to walk with the family in whatever might be needed (e.g., bringing up the gifts, finding the place in the lectionary for the reading, etc.);
3. Help with the optional luncheon afterward. Due to COVID, Nativity is not hosting luncheons at the moment. The more immediate need is for generous disciples to offer their time and talent to help families prepare for and walk together through the funeral liturgy.

A good fit for this volunteer opportunity is someone with a flexible schedule, a gentle presence, and a prayerful spirit during Mass. The parish provides booklets and training to equip volunteers to help the family prepare the funeral liturgy. Contact Sr. Janet for more information.

If you've been wondering how to become more involved in the parish and extend the mercy of Jesus into the world, pray and consider whether God might be calling you to serve on the Bereavement Team at Nativity.



SVDP Coat Drive

It's that time of the year already and the SVDP Society at Nativity is collecting gently used and new coats of all sizes to be given to neighbors in need this winter. Check your closets and help fill the barrel located in the vestibule in the back of church. The area is accessible Mon-Friday 7:30 am through 2:30 pm and on the weekends at Mass time. Coats should be clean and have functioning zippers and buttons. Thank you ahead of time for your generosity!



In today's Gospel Jesus challenges us to "stay awake" by taking time to seriously look at ourselves, the priorities of our lives, and how we are growing spiritually. Ask yourself "What would Jesus Christ do?" Then put your gift in an envelope marked SVDP, drop it in the collection basket at church, or mail it to the parish office and we will make sure our SVDP Conference receives it.

November 8, 2020 - Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Nativity Christmas Tree Sale

The *Nativity Christmas Tree* sale is right around the corner! All Proceeds go to the Nativity General Fund. Please help make 2020 - another great year. It takes over 500 volunteer hours to make the sale a success.

Unload and Set-up - Friday, November 27th @ 8:30am

This is an excellent opportunity for students who need to satisfy their High School service hours requirement. Come out and work off all the Thanksgiving turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie! Food and drinks will be provided at the completion of the set-up at approximately 11:00 am.

Christmas Tree Sale - Friday, November 27th - Wed, December 16th - We need volunteers to help sell trees and wreaths, especially on the weekends, our busiest time. This is a fantastic way to get in the Christmas Spirit, meet new folks, and help Nativity! Another excellent idea for service hours!!!!

Get a group of your friends together and work some shifts as a team. It's a ton of fun! Consider taking the lead of a specific day/shift for the duration of the sale. *With all the volunteers last year, we managed to sell out in exactly 2 weeks!!!!*

Cleanup Day - Friday, December 18th or earlier (TBD)

This is also a great opportunity for students to satisfy their High School service hours requirement, and a wonderful opportunity to help your church and meet some new parishioners! *Must be cleaned prior to Christmas Eve services!!!!* This may happen sooner depending on sales! Will keep everyone posted.

2 Easy Ways to Volunteer:

We are using Sign Up Genius again to volunteer for the Christmas Tree Sale this year! Links are provided below:
Unload: Please go to <https://bit.ly/31YtDIS> for sign up.

Sales: Please go to <https://bit.ly/3jFahhP> for sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Phil Ganz by email at ganz.pj@pg.com or by phone at 513-673-7366 (Mobile) or 513-731-0012 (Home).

The Christmas Tree sale hours are Monday thru Friday from 5:00 pm till 9:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 noon till 8:00 pm.

We can always use firewood to keep the spirit warm!
Thank You for Supporting Nativity!!!



Christmas Giving Tree Starts NEXT WEEK!

Through the Giving Tree initiative, our generous Nativity community has provided Christmas gifts to nearly 400 children and seniors who live in poverty. This effort to reach out to needy neighbors is especially important this year.

The majority of gift requests will be posted on the web via Sign Up Genius in early November. We will have a limited number of gift tags on the Christmas tree in church, starting next Saturday November 14 . Dates to bring gifts to the church or chapel, as well as "drive-through drop-offs" will be scheduled in late November and early December.

We have some larger requests that can be filled with good quality used items. If you have any of the following that you would like to gift to a needy child, please let me know asap:

- BIKES for boys, ages 11 and 13
- a bike for a 12-year-old girl
- tricycle or bike for a 3-year-old girl
- electronic game systems for a 9-year-old boy and a 12 year old boy
- tablets for a 9-year-old and a 6-year-old
- baby strollers for infants
- big wheels for 3 or 4-year olds
- doll houses or doll strollers

If you have any of these gently used items available, please contact me, Grace Severyn, at graceseveryn@gmail.com, or by home phone (513) 821-4163 or cell (513) 510-9453.

~ Please remember Nativity in your will ~

November 8, 2020 - Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time