

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF  
**NATIVITY**  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
TUNKHANNOCK, PA



**ST. MARY**  
OF THE LAKE  
LAKE WINOLA, PA

**MAY 16-17, 2020**



**NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
99 EAST TIOGA STREET  
P.O. BOX 186  
TUNKHANNOCK, PA 18657  
(570) 836-3275 (570) 836-4268 (Fax)  
(570) 836-8946 (Kitchen/CCD)  
[nativitybvmchurch@frontier.com](mailto:nativitybvmchurch@frontier.com)  
[nativity@nativitystmary.org](mailto:nativity@nativitystmary.org)

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday: 5:00PM**

**Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00AM**

**Pastoral Council: Diane Stone, Chair**

**Finance Council: Chris DeMarco, Chair**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



**ST. MARY OF THE LAKE**  
1872 DALTON ROAD  
P.O. BOX 1  
LAKE WINOLA, PA 18625  
(570) 378-2181

[stmaryofthelake@frontier.com](mailto:stmaryofthelake@frontier.com)  
[stmary@nativitystmary.org](mailto:stmary@nativitystmary.org)

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday: 4:00PM**

**Sunday: 9:00AM**

**Pastoral Council: Bernie Garvey, Chair**

**Finance Council: Don Ames, Chair**

**Rev. Patrick L. Albert, Pastor**  
**Deacon Raymond A. Pieretti, Pastoral Associate**  
**Rev. Dennis Bajkowski (Ret.)**

**Parish Office: Fr. Nallin Hall, Tunkhannock**  
**Business Manager: Dick Schwoebel (570)677-7634**  
**Secretary: Mary Lou Chackan**  
**Office hours: 9:00AM – 2:00PM**

**WELCOME:** We warmly welcome all to join us in worship of our God. If you are new to our parish community, please be sure to tell Fr. Pat that you will be joining our parish community. Contact the parish office if you have any questions. Visitor envelopes are available at all entrances.

**MARRIAGE:** Christian marriage is a sacred and serious commitment. Couples contemplating marriage should notify a parish priest at least nine months before the date on which they intend to marry. This should be done before any other arrangements are made so that a couple may be suitably served by the parish and diocese. All couples are required to take part in a Pre-Cana program or Engaged Encounter Weekend. **Sunday Weddings are not permitted.**

**RCIA:** The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a community journey that leads to transformation of mind and spirit. Guided by the gospel and the examples of parish members, newcomers can find their place in the RCIA community of believers and discover their own relationship with Christ. The program runs from September through Pentecost with reception of the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Information is available at the parish office.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Knowing the Catholic faith and tradition is essential if faith and tradition are to continue to be nourishing facets of our lives. Religious formation is valuable for both youth and adults. Classes are conducted from September to May following the 9:00AM Mass on Sunday. Information on religious education programs for youth of all ages and educational opportunities for adults are available at the parish office.

**BULLETIN:** If you have information that you would like to place in the bulletin (community news, society/social news, etc.), please have it at the parish office no later than Tuesday morning.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Forty-five minutes before Saturday evening Mass or by appointment.

**SHUT-INS:** If someone you know is unable to attend Mass but would like to receive Communion or receive a copy of our weekly bulletin, please contact the parish office.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION PROGRAM:** All parents must attend a Baptismal Preparation meeting before this sacrament will be celebrated. Contact Father Pat at the parish office (570-836-3275) to schedule an appointment to discuss your child's baptism.

**HOSPITAL VISITS:** Visits are made on a regular basis. **PLEASE NOTE:** The new privacy laws limit the amount of information that we receive from the hospitals or nursing/convalescent homes. It is necessary that family or friends notify us of these admittances.

**HANDICAPPED SEATING AREA:** Please note that the front pew nearest to the side door is reserved to accommodate those who have need due to disability. Please be kind enough to leave this pew available for that purpose.

**PARKING LOT:** [St. Mary's] Please keep the emergency lane in front of the church clear at all times. It is essential that vehicles are able to get in and out of the parking lot in case of an emergency. Please adhere to the parking spaces as delineated. Please be considerate of your fellow parishioners when you are backing up or turning to park or to exit the parking lot. There is ample parking on the upper level and supplemental parking on the side of the church.

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

**"TO KNOW, LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD  
AND ONE ANOTHER  
IN IMITATION OF MARY"**

*Approved by both Parish Pastoral Councils  
January 2007*

[www.nativitystmary.org](http://www.nativitystmary.org)  
[@nativitystmary](https://www.facebook.com/nativitystmary)

## FROM THE PASTOR'S TYPEWRITER:

Challenge comes to us in many and varied ways. Oftentimes, our choice of a profession can seem tame, searching for occupations that are for the most part safe environments. This time in history has, in a large part, changed these realities, converting professions once thought to be relatively safe to occupations that have, by their very nature, become suspect in terms of safety. My own sister studied for many years to become a health care professional, attaining the level of nurse practitioner. Never did she dream that this wonderful goal would also bring with it a level of anxiety not thought of one year ago.



This time in history offers you and I a rare opportunity to see the tremendous bravery of so many of our health care workers, volunteers, aides, and so forth who by their dedication have made and continue to make a difference in our world. We give thanks to these heroes of our time as we continue to pray for all affected by this scourge to our world.

*Fr. Pat*

## ONLINE OFFERTORY IS NOW AVAILABLE

Nativity BVM and St. Mary of the Lake parishes depend on our faithful stewardship to pay our daily church expenses, make improvements and support our mission in the areas of worship, word, service, and community. Our Online Offertory system through Our Sunday Visitor provides us with the opportunity to contribute regularly and seamlessly.

**A growing number of parishioners have begun to use the online giving portal through our website. We are grateful for your contributions. We encourage all of our parishioners and friends to utilize this quick, easy and safe means of supporting your parish. We intend to keep this donation option available for the foreseeable future.**

To contribute, go to our website, [www.nativitystmary.org](http://www.nativitystmary.org), and click on your parish, either Nativity or St. Mary, at the top of the home page. Then click on the name of your parish under "Donate Securely". We accept most major credit cards as well as ACH donations using your checking or savings account.

For questions on the Online Offertory, please call Dick Schwoebel at 570-677-7634 or email him at [stmaryofthelake@frontier.com](mailto:stmaryofthelake@frontier.com).

**We need – and are grateful for – your continued support.** May our continued stewardship enable us "To Know, Love, and Serve the Lord and One Another, in Imitation of Mary."

ONLINE OFFERTORY



NOW AVAILABLE

**MASS ONLINE:** Until further notice, Fr. Pat is recording a Mass which is broadcast on our website ([nativitystmary.org](http://nativitystmary.org)) and on our Facebook page (@nativitystmary) through a link to a YouTube site. Everyone is encouraged to join in.

**There will be a Mass for the Sixth Sunday of Easter available this weekend. The Mass was filmed at St. Mary of the Lake church.**

We want to express our gratitude to **Dan Simrell of Simrell Media** for the beautiful presentation of the Mass for our viewing. The videography of the Mass significantly enhances the entire presentation.

**CAPUCHIN SISTERS SUPPORT FUND:** If you would like to assist with this need, please put your donation in an envelope marked "**Capuchin Sisters**" and mail it to the Parish Office.

**We are in need of a volunteer to join the group who shop weekly for the Capuchin Sisters.** It requires a couple of hours of your time once every five weeks. If you can help, please contact Dick Schwoebel at 570-677-7634 or [stmaryofthelake@frontier.com](mailto:stmaryofthelake@frontier.com).

## ANNUAL DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS:



**Due to the present restrictions keeping us from celebrating Mass in church, the Diocese has made an adjustment to the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass.**

The Wedding Anniversary Mass 2020 (June 14, 2020) will be seen on the Diocese of Scranton website and CTV will also be live streaming it. There will be only several people in the Cathedral of St. Peter for the actual Mass.

Couples who signed up to attend the Mass will be receiving an Anniversary packet from the Diocese of Scranton soon with a Mass booklet, enabling them to follow the Mass at home.

## BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER FOR PEGGY FINNEGAN:

If you would like to send a birthday card to Peggy for her **90<sup>th</sup> Birthday** which is on **May 28, 2020**, please mail your card to:



Peggy Finnegan  
c/o Nativity BVM Parish  
PO Box 186  
Tunkhannock, PA 18657

and we will deliver the cards to her. Peggy has been Nativity's "card lady" for many, many years. It would be nice to treat her with cards. Thank you for your consideration.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** In accordance with diocesan directives, we are exercising caution at this time and keeping the Parish Office closed to the public. We are still working and are available by phone (570-836-3275 or 570-378-2181) and by email either at [nativitybvmchurch@frontier.com](mailto:nativitybvmchurch@frontier.com) or at [stmaryofthelake@frontier.com](mailto:stmaryofthelake@frontier.com).

**PARISH FINANCES:** There is a great deal of concern among the members of our parish community regarding the mandatory closing of many of our businesses and the resultant uncertainty about earnings during the continuing coronavirus situation. Although some seem to be optimistic that the pandemic will be over shortly, most are aware that we could be under strict guidelines for a much greater period of time. Despite the closure of businesses and increasing unemployment, the financial impact has yet to be fully felt across our area.

**Management of our parish resources is conservative by nature and we will weather this downturn. However, we have no other source of funds than the generosity of our parishioners.** Some people have continued to make their contributions despite the fact that we are unable to come together weekly as was our custom. **We ask that you continue to remember to support your parish as best you can during these difficult times.** Envelopes can be mailed to your parish mail box; the address for your parish is on the front page of the bulletin. Any contribution that you can make will be gratefully received. **Thank you to those who have already sent their contributions.**

**SACRIFICIAL OFFERING: May 09-10, 2020**

**Nativity BVM Church:**

Weekly Collection Goal\* .....\$ 4,800.00  
 Actual Offertory\*\* .....\$ 2,681.00  
 Difference:.....\$( 2,119.00)

**St. Mary of the Lake Church:**

Weekly Collection Goal\* .....\$ 2,000.00  
 Actual Offertory\*\* .....\$ 1,800.00  
 Difference:.....\$( 200.00)

\*Weekly Collection Goal represents the amount needed weekly if we are going to make our 2019-2020 Parish Collections goal (envelopes and loose). It does NOT include Fundraising, Religious Education Income or any other income.

\*\*Actual Offertory represents the total amount received in the weekly collection (not including Christmas, Easter or special collections).

The generosity of our people is truly appreciated. We may not always reach our budgeted goals, but we are grateful to those who make a sacrifice on a weekly basis to sustain our parish ministries.

**PIEROGI SALE: Until further notice, we will not be selling pierogis in Fr. Nallin Hall on Fridays. Pierogis will also not be available at the Parish Office.** We



thank you for your understanding and we will notify you when they are again available.

**CCD NEWS:** CCD classes for both Nativity BVM & St. Mary of the Lake have been **suspended until further notice.**

**KEEPING IN TOUCH:** During this extended period of time when we are unable to get together as a parish community to worship and to conduct the social interaction that is so much a part of being a parish, it is important that we stay in communication with one another. We will continue to produce our weekly bulletin, which is being shared on both our website (nativitystmary.org) and Facebook page (@nativitystmary). **We also need to update our list of email addresses**, which sadly is very incomplete. **We're asking all parishioners to send us their email address at this time** (Nativity parishioners – please send to [nativitybvmchurch@frontier.com](mailto:nativitybvmchurch@frontier.com) and St. Mary of the Lake parishioners – please send to [stmaryofthelake@frontier.com](mailto:stmaryofthelake@frontier.com)).

We thank you for providing this information. It will be kept in strict confidence.

**ASCENSION THURSDAY  
 May 21<sup>st</sup>**



The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (colloquially known as Ascension Thursday or Ascension Day) is one of the great solemnities in the Christian liturgical calendar, and commemorates the bodily ascension of Jesus into heaven. Ascension Day is traditionally celebrated on a Thursday, the fortieth day of Easter. However, some Roman Catholic provinces

have moved the observance to the following Sunday. The feast is one of the ecumenical feasts (i.e., universally celebrated), ranking with the feasts of the Passion, of Easter, and Pentecost.

The observance of this feast is of great antiquity. Eusebius seems to hint at the celebration of it in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. At the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, St. Augustine says that it is of apostolic origin, and he speaks of it in a way that shows it was the universal observance of the Church long before his time.. Some believe that the much-disputed forty-third decree of the Synod of Elvira (c. 300) condemning the practice of observing a feast on the fortieth day after Easter and neglecting to keep Pentecost on the fiftieth day, implies that the proper usage of the time was to commemorate the Ascension along with Pentecost.

The three days before Ascension Thursday are sometimes referred to as the Rogation days, and the previous Sunday — the Sixth Sunday of Easter (or the Fifth Sunday *after* Easter) — as Rogation Sunday.

**A Mass for the holy day will be celebrated by Fr. Pat and will be posted on our website on Thursday.**

*"Life isn't measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."*  
 ~ Unknown





**PRO-LIFE ROSE:** Although there are no public Masses being celebrated in Nativity BVM church at the present time, Fr. Albert does say a private Mass each day in accordance with diocesan guidelines. **The rose is still present in front of the statue of Mary during these Masses and the intentions requested are being recognized.**

The intention for this week is for:

**health care workers, volunteers, aides, and so forth who by their dedication have made and continue to make a difference in our world**

Donated by the Pro-Life Committee

**If you would like to donate for a Pro-Life Rose at Nativity, please contact Diane Stone (570-836-3055).**

**WRITERS NEEDED FOR THE SAINT MARY OF THE LAKE BULLETIN COLUMN:**

Saint Mary of the Lake parishioners contribute one reflection per month to the bulletin column "From Saint Mary's Parish Community". We are in need of contributors for upcoming months. Can you help out? Here are some possible ideas you might develop: a personal anecdote about your faith life; a description of your experience in a parish ministry; a reflection on one of the readings for the week; a reflection relating the wonder of God's creation to nature; a description of how you get closer to God; a personal reflection on one of the sacraments; a description of your devotion to one of the Saints; other ideas that are personally meaningful to you. The act of writing your reflection can be personally fulfilling in and of itself! Please give this some prayerful consideration! Call Bill Waters at 570-378-2367 to get on the schedule!

**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE:** The sanctuary candle continues to burn each and every day in our churches. If you would like it to burn for your intention, please contact Mary Lou at the Parish Office (570-836-3275).



**THE LOWER WYOMING COUNTY FOOD PANTRY:** The Food Pantry will be **open on the first and third Thursday from 9:00-11:30AM** and the **first and third Monday evening from 6:00-8:00PM**. Please call me if there is anyone in need. We are doing a drive through system for minimal contact.

If the need arises, the Food Pantry is equipped to help feed 100 people for approximately 6 weeks.

God bless! **Mary Lou Franko (570-586-4811)**

**CEMETERY LOTS AVAILABLE:** **Pieta Cemetery**, one of our Parish Cemeteries (located on Dark Hollow Road in Tunkhannock Township) **has burial lots available**. For further info, to view the map of available lots and to inquire about prices & regulations, please contact our Parish Secretary, Mary Lou, at the Parish Office (570-836-3275).

**PAROCHIAL PRIDE:** We are proud to acknowledge three of our Nativity parishioners – **Sophie Burke & Thomas Elias** of Tunkhannock Area High School and **Tori Kovalchick** of Holy Cross High School – who have been recognized by the Scranton Times as **Scholastic Superstars of Northeast Pennsylvania**. Of the approximately 4,500 students who will graduate from high schools in Northeast Pennsylvania, only 25 become Scholastic Superstars.

Joining them on this prestigious list is Handlee Nichols, giving Tunkhannock Area High School three of the twenty-five honorees. The only other school with three representatives on the list is Abington Heights. These students are recognized not only for their achievements in the classroom but also for their impact on their school and community.

**Congratulations Thomas, Sophie and Tori.** Your parish community is proud of you!

**NATIVITY IS STILL LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WRITERS:**

Thanks to all who are participating in writing for our church bulletin. Your stories are inspiring and it's good for us to learn more about each other through this column.

Our schedule is filled through May, but the months go by quickly. **We still need writers for June through December** to fill our 2020 calendar. You can text Rita Fitzgerald @ 570-877-2695 or email her @ atir10@hotmail.com. We hope you will share your faith story.



Seven Loaves Soup Kitchen, 54 Warren Street in Tunkhannock (formerly the P&G Credit Union building), is still serving a

hearty meal every Monday through Friday from 5:00-7:00PM. For the time being, it is take out only. There is no charge and all are welcome.

Those who desire to volunteer to work at the kitchen or to donate food or make a financial contribution are asked to contact 570-996-5005 or 570-836-3145.



**BOY SCOUT NEWS**

**Next Committee Meeting:  
TBA – 6:30PM**

Upstairs Classroom @ Father Nallin Hall  
Alison Delano, Committee Chairperson  
570-233-4000 adelano1230@gmail.com

**CUB SCOUT NEWS**

**ADULT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Fr. Nallin Hall

**TBA**



**LOCAL CATHOLIC RADIO STATION  
JMJ RADIO 750AM or 98.9FM**

**REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR:** It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations.

In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis). To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska, at 570-862-7551.

**ALTAR & ROSARY MEETINGS:** Until we have a much clearer definition of how to conduct meetings in accordance with health & safety guidelines, both of our Altar & Rosary societies have suspended their monthly meetings. Watch the bulletin for more information in the coming months.

### Your Gift Matters

#### Make a Lasting Impact With a Future Gift

Generosity comes in many forms, and consideration of a planned gift is often the best way for you to support important causes that matter the most to you in your life. When you give to the Diocese of Scranton, you help us make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Your estate gift can support your parish** or any of our Diocesan ministries such as Catholic Social Services, seminarian education, tuition assistance for Catholic School students, parish life and care for our retired clergy.

Visit [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org) for the different gift options available to you.

We will work with you to find a charitable plan that lets you provide for your family and support the Diocese of Scranton. If you wish to discuss your estate plan, kindly contact Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development, at [Jim-Bebla@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Jim-Bebla@dioceseofscranton.org) or 570-207-2250.

**RETROUVAILLE:** Stress in your marriage? Do you feel alone? Are you bored, disillusioned, frustrated or angry in your relationship? Do you experience coldness or conflict in your relationship?

Retrouvaille is a program that helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriages. If you are thinking about, or already are, separated or divorced, there could still be hope for you.

For confidential information about the program, please call 631-338-5413 or 570-207-2213, or visit the website at [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org).

**Line Dancing**  
**Wednesday evening 7:00-8:30PM**  
**Fr. Nallin Hall**  
**Cancelled until further notice**



If you have an Easter Candy order form (available on our website), it can be taken/mailed to the Parish Office (P.O. Box 1, Lake Winola PA 18625).

Contact the Parish Office (570-836-3275) regarding pickup of your order or call one of the following committee members:

Dorothy Trauger.....(570) 378-2530  
Loretta Kenia.....(570) 378-2256  
Patti Zaleski.....(570) 280-6168

### DIOCESE OF SCRANTON ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY FUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges for all of us, including our parishes, kitchens, food pantries, shelters and Catholic schools. Our parishes and Diocesan ministries are facing increased risks of financial shortfalls and are struggling to pay bills and provide services due to the Coronavirus health crisis.

If you are in a position to do so, we kindly ask you to consider supporting the vital ministries provided by our parishes and our Diocese. **There is a link on the diocesan website where you can make a contribution to your parish, Catholic Human and Social Service programs or Catholic School tuition assistance.**



**MILITARY HONOR ROLL**  
**PLEASE KEEP ALL MEMBERS OF THE**  
**MILITARY IN YOUR PRAYERS**  
**DURING THIS TIME OF UNCERTAINTY**

**If you have a relative or friend serving in the military, please let us know so that we can include their name on our Honor Roll**

"You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

~ Eleanor Roosevelt

**SCAM ALERT:** Pennsylvanians should take steps to protect themselves from phishing scams that are **targeting people who are expecting a stimulus payment from the federal government** following the outbreak of COVID-19, the Department of Revenue and Department of Banking and Securities announced today.

"As we all work together to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, this unprecedented situation has created new opportunities for criminals to target Pennsylvanians, including those who are vulnerable or struggling," Revenue Secretary Dan Hassell said. "We want to remind everyone that they should not provide their direct deposit or other banking information to anyone who contacts them on the phone, through email or text messages, or on social media."

The stimulus payments, otherwise known as economic impact payments, are being distributed by the federal government as part of the federal economic stimulus legislation that was signed into law in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the IRS, in most cases the payments will be directly deposited into the bank accounts that taxpayers previously listed on their federal tax returns.

However, **the IRS has reported seeing a surge of scam artists perpetrating phishing schemes where they pose as government officials to trick people into turning over their banking information.** Doing so may allow a criminal to steal your identity, file a fraudulent tax return in your name or use your personal data for other illicit purposes.

"If you have received an unsolicited email or phone call asking for your personal or financial information, **the safest response is to delete the email or hang up the phone,**" advised Acting Secretary of Banking and Securities Richard Vague. "Consumers must remain vigilant about protecting their finances, especially if they are being pressured to act quickly."

#### **How to Recognize the Scam**

According to the IRS, some of the electronic messages associated with these phishing scams say, "In order to receive your stimulus check via direct deposit, you will need to confirm your banking information." These messages are targeting not only individual citizens, but also tax professionals.

Pennsylvanians are encouraged to remember several warning signs from the IRS, which says scammers may:

- Emphasize the words "Stimulus Check" or "Stimulus Payment." The official term is economic impact payment.
- Ask the taxpayer to sign over their economic impact payment check to them.
- Ask by phone, email, text or social media for verification of personal and/or banking information saying that the information is needed to receive or speed up their economic impact payment.

- Suggest that they can get a tax refund or economic impact payment faster by working on the taxpayer's behalf. This scam could be conducted by social media or even in person.

- Mail the taxpayer a bogus check, perhaps in an odd amount, then tell the taxpayer to call a number or verify information online in order to cash it.

**WORDS OF LIFE:** "As Americans, as Catholics and as pastors of our people, we write therefore today to *call our fellow citizens back to our country's founding principles, and most especially to renew our national respect for the rights of those who are unborn, weak, disabled and terminally ill.* Real freedom rests on the inviolability of every person as a child of God."

**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**  
"Living the Gospel of Life," © 1998 USCCB.

#### **Tax Benefits of the CARES Act**

The new CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act is designed to help you, businesses and nonprofits facing economic hardship during the coronavirus pandemic.

Here are a few key provisions of the CARES Act that may affect you and your charitable goals:

#### **Required Minimum Distributions Suspended**

The new law temporarily suspends the requirements for required minimum distributions (RMD) for the 2020 tax year. This probably comes as a relief to many of you who would have had to withdraw from your retirement accounts. Many of our donors use their RMD to make a gift from their IRA. Despite the RMD suspension, remember that if you are 70½ or older, you can still make a gift from your IRA or name your parish or the Diocese of Scranton as a beneficiary.

#### **New Tax Incentives**

The CARES Act expands charitable giving incentives and **allows taxpayers who take the standard deduction to make up to \$300 of charitable contributions to qualified charities this year.** You might think that this is a small amount and would not make a difference. But what if all of our donors gave "just" \$300? Such support would have a huge impact on those we serve.

**For those who do itemize their deductions, the new law allows for cash contributions to qualified charities such as your parish or the Diocese of Scranton to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for the 2020 calendar year.**

**REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEAD:** Your prayers are requested for the soul of Nativity BVM parishioner **TONY ZEME**, who passed away this week. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual Light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



**DIRECTIVES FROM THE APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY  
OF THE HOLY SEE TO BE USED  
IN THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON**

Please disseminate the following information regarding Perfect Contrition widely.

**PERFECT CONTRITION**

**With the increasing difficulty for individuals to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation due to the current health crisis, the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are reminded that by having perfect contrition one can receive the forgiveness of sins, apart from going to confession.**

**Perfect contrition** requires the following three things:

- A love of God above all else
- A sincere desire for the forgiveness from sin
- The resolution to go to confession as soon as possible when this health crisis subsides

**CONFESSION:** At this time, if an individual contacts a priest to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, an appropriate distance (at least six feet) should be maintained between the penitent and confessor. An appropriate location in the Church or sacristy should be chosen (not a rectory or parish office). Care should be taken to disinfect the space following each confession.

**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK:** Prompted by many hospitals that have directed the suspension of individuals visiting patients, all Extraordinary Ministers of Communion must refrain from visiting hospitals and nursing homes until further notice. Communal celebrations of the Anointing of Sick are to be suspended. The sacrament should be offered on an individual basis. With any pastoral visits to the homebound, ministers of Communion, both ordinary and extraordinary, should practice meticulous handwashing. If the person being visited is ill with an infectious disease, he or she should be offered a mask. The minister may also wear a mask and if necessary, gloves.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION:** It is highly likely that these celebrations will need to be postponed due to the cancellation of public Masses and Religious Education programs to a later date once the current health crisis has subsided.

**WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & FUNERALS:** On Sunday, March 16, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control announced a recommendation that public events have no more than 50 people. Due to the rapidly changing nature of this situation, that number could certainly change. We encourage all pastors to make smart and prudent decisions in each individual circumstance and to use common sense and rely on the current guidance of national, state and local leaders. Social distancing and alternative row seating in pews is to be strongly advised.

In celebrating wedding and funeral Masses, all of the directives previously issued for the Celebration of Mass (eliminating the Sign of Peace, no offering the Precious Blood, etc) must be applied.

Communal baptisms are discouraged. Fresh water should be used for each baptism and then discarded. If more than one person is to be baptized, water should be blessed in individual vessels and then poured over the head.

The use of cemetery chapels for final committal services is temporarily discontinued. Committal services should be grave-side only, weather permitting.

**ST. MARY-THON 2020:** Pandemic got you down? We've gone virtual for 2020! Let's pound the pavement (or treadmill) to support the 2020 St. Mary-Thon (**June 6<sup>th</sup>**). It's easy! Just follow these simple steps. **The first 100 racers to complete their registrations will receive an official 2020 St. Mary-Thon T-Shirt!**

1. Between now and June 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:59PM, run, jog, or walk 4 miles.
2. Submit your information and time on the digital form found on our race page at [stmarython@weebly.com](mailto:stmarython@weebly.com).
3. Proceed to the Shop to complete your registration. The cost is \$20.00.

Race t-shirts will be mailed out to the first 100 registrants as soon as production resumes.

**Prayer for Those Who Are Worried about the Spread of the Coronavirus**

*Father,*

*Worry and fear are not of Your heart. [1 John 4](#) reminds us that perfect love casts out all fear, and we pray Your perfect love upon the hearts of all those who are burdened with the fear of this virus. Lord, we know with no doubt that You are bigger than the threat of anything, especially illnesses. Please comfort those who are living in fear, please free them from the bondage that anxiety creates within. Remind them that You are still on the Throne and that You are still in control. Fully rain down the serenity that comes only from the Prince of Peace. Help those who are living in unease to trust You in this time so that in times to come we may rest assured that You will be faithful to be with us until the end of the age. We rest at the Throne of the Almighty such fears and cast them upon You ([1 Peter 5:7](#)), for Your burden is Light and Your Yoke is easy ([Matthew 11:30](#)), we know You cover us with Your wings ([Psalm 91:4](#)).*

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP:** All adult Catholics (age 18 and over) are expected to be officially registered in a Parish and participating at Mass and the other Sacraments on a regular basis. If you have graduated from College or High School and are now employed, you are expected to join on your own unless you are attending college or a trade school. In order for a child to receive First Penance, First Eucharist or Confirmation, at least one of their parents or legal guardian must belong to and participate in our Parish. If you need to register or have any questions, please feel free to contact the Parish Office at 570-836-3275.

## NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MASS SCHEDULE – WEEK OF MAY 17, 2020

SATURDAY	MAY	16	5:00PM	NO MASS
SUNDAY	MAY	17	7:30AM	NO MASS
			9:00AM	NO MASS
			11:00AM	NO MASS
MONDAY	MAY	18	7:00AM	NO MASS
TUESDAY	MAY	19	7:00AM	NO MASS
WEDNESDAY	MAY	20	7:00AM	NO MASS
THURSDAY	MAY	21	7:00AM	NO MASS
FRIDAY	MAY	22	7:00AM	NO MASS
SATURDAY	MAY	23	5:00PM	NO MASS
SUNDAY	MAY	24	7:30AM	NO MASS
			9:00AM	NO MASS
			11:00AM	NO MASS

### LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE

<b>SAT. MAY 16 &amp; SUN. MAY 17</b>	<b>SATURDAY 5:00PM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 7:30AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 9:00AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 11:00AM</b>
DEACON				
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)				
LECTOR	NO MASS	NO MASS	NO MASS	NO MASS
ALTAR SERVER(S)				
OFFERTORY GIFTS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS
COLLECTION COUNTERS				
<b>SAT. MAY 23 &amp; SUN. MAY 24</b>	<b>SATURDAY 5:00PM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 7:30AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 9:00AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 11:00AM</b>
DEACON				
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)				
LECTOR	NO MASS	NO MASS	NO MASS	NO MASS
ALTAR SERVER(S)				
OFFERTORY GIFTS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS
COLLECTION COUNTERS				

#### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

----- **THE SICK, THE SUFFERING AND HOSPITALIZED**, ESPECIALLY: CAROLYN MYERS, ELISSA ROSE, LYLE STURDEVANT, MARYN KUKUCHKA, LILLIAN KRISTUNAS, JENNIFER BUNNELL, MARIE STAIR, MARY ANN BROWN, ELIZABETH CALLAHAN, RICHELE MORTIMER, SHERI RAIL, CHERYL MacDONALD SWEET, AIDAN HOLMAN, TRISTAN EVANS, JOSEPH E. QUINN, ANGELIQUE ALEXANDRA PREVOST, MARGE HOLUB, BEN BROWN, ELEANOR FOSTER, MATTHEW LEWIS, DONALD TRAVER, DAWN DOMMES, MICHELLE HUERBIN, CAROLYN ROZANSKI, DON WHITE, DARRIN McGAVIN, FATHER BILL WILSON, EDWARD KIMBEL, CHERYL SANDS, MARY DELMAR, CHARLES CAREY, GARRET CONOVER, ANALISA DOMINIC, LUCAS SETH BOYANOWSKI, VERNA PRAWDZIK, MATTHEW FORTESE, JACOB WALTER, CURTIS, ARTHUR BUNNELL, TED BUNNELL, HELEN TALARICO, PAUL GOODRICH, MYRON LaBAR, TIKI LYONS, GRACE STURDEVANT, CAROL COBB, BRENT RANSOM, AUSTIN THOMAS, JIM BORDEN, JERRY STROKA, LINDA NIEMIEC, DIANE THOMPSON, ROSEANN GEORGE, SHELLIE SEYMORE, MARILYN BRODY, MONTANA COLE, CAROL GAYLORD, CHRIS OLSHAN, JR., HELEN RAIL, CHARLOTTE SMITH, LINDA RUEHLMAN, ROY PREVOST, ALLEN KEYES, CATHERINE LITWIN, JUDI HOWE, LEAH WILSEY, ANN ZACKARIAS, NATHAN DELMAR, LINDA, KATHLEEN ALTEMUS, CARL ALTEMUS, MARY LOUISE BECKETT, PAULA MOELLER, GEORGE ZALEDONIS, PAT STASCavage, JOHN RUEHLMAN JR, PEGGY FINNEGAN, JOAN STEPHENS, PEG BALL, JOSEPH YAKOSKI, PENNY ZONNEVILLE, ALLAN FITCH, ALICE WALSH, BOB & BETTY FORBA, JONATHAN STEFANICK, CAMILLE STEFANICK BERROCAL, EMMA BRODA, MARI CLAIRE JONES, CARMEN BOLIN, RICHARD MORYKON, AVA MASON, FLO TROWBRIDGE, TIA DERMCHACK, CURTIS EDWARDS, DOROTHY STODDARD, SEAN COLLETT.

----- THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED **ESPECIALLY ANTHONY ZEME** AND THE NEEDS OF OUR PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE PARISH OFFICE (836-3275) IF ANYONE IS HOSPITALIZED OR ILL OR IN NEED OF PRAYERS.

#### SANCTUARY LIGHT:

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IS AVAILABLE  
TO BURN FOR YOUR INTENTION.  
CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT  
(570) 836-3275

#### YOUR CONTRIBUTION:

Weekend Offering	\$2,681.00
Easter Offering	\$ 20.00

## NATIVITY BVM CALENDAR (TENTATIVE)

**ST. MARY OF THE LAKE MASS SCHEDULE - WEEK OF MAY 17, 2020**

SATURDAY	MAY	16	4:00PM	NO MASS
SUNDAY	MAY	17	9:00AM	NO MASS
MONDAY	MAY	18	8:00AM	NO MASS
TUESDAY	MAY	19	8:00AM	NO MASS
WEDNESDAY	MAY	20	8:00AM	NO MASS
THURSDAY	MAY	21	8:00AM	NO MASS
FRIDAY	MAY	22	8:00AM	NO MASS
SATURDAY	MAY	23	4:00PM	NO MASS
SUNDAY	MAY	24	9:00AM	NO MASS

**LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE**

<b>SAT MAY 16 &amp; SUN. MAY 17</b>	<b>SATURDAY 4:00PM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 9:00AM</b>
DEACON		
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)		
LECTORS	NO MASS	NO MASS
ALTAR SERVER(S)		
USHERS		
GREETERS		
OFFERTORY GIFTS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS
COLLECTION COUNTERS		
<b>SAT. MAY 23 &amp; SUN. MAY 24</b>	<b>SATURDAY 4:00PM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 9:00AM</b>
DEACON		
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)		
LECTORS	NO MASS	NO MASS
ALTAR SERVER(S)		
USHERS		
GREETERS		
OFFERTORY GIFTS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS
COLLECTION COUNTERS		

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole who healed those who believed. Amen.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

- THE SICK, THE SUFFERING AND HOSPITALIZED, ESPECIALLY: LORI PIERCE, LISA FREITAS, TRACY IRISH, CHRISTINA REEVES, JACKI NIERATKO, CARMEN PIERCE, ELAINE HUG, CHASE RUSSELLO, AVA MASON, LYNN McGLYNN, BONNIE KILGANNON, RUSTY PERKINS, JULIA KAIFER, MICHELLE HUERBIN, JENNIFER BUNNELL, JOSEPH PIERCE, THELMA SHEBBY, EDD KILGANNON, AUDREY DAVIS, SHIRLEY ROCHA, DOT JOHNSON, JAMES DOUGHERTY, STACIE MAGNECZ, TAMMY MIGLIORI, CAROLLYN DAVIS, LINDA ZALEWSKI, MELISSA HENNING HILL, MICHAEL BOGDON, JANET EVANS, ZACHARY WILLIAMS, PAT STEAD, BILL STEAD, RON GORKO, KATIE PACKER, PETER POLINSKY, DAVID TRESSLER, SR., ANN SMITH, DELORES HEAGY, FRAN MOLLUSKY, PEARL PIERCE, BERNICE BURANICH, MARY PETERSEN, SUE MIGLIORI, JOE SCHIAVONE, LINDA NIEMIEC, CAROLE GREENIP, JANE CAWLEY, FLORENCE KEYES, JEROME LAMONICA, JEAN LAMONICA, THEO FREAR, BROGAN PERFILIO, DICK & FLORENCE KELLY, MIKE HAMBURG, HARRIET McGARRIGLE, JONI JAMES, KAY NOREIKA. NATHAN REEVES, JOHN IRISH.

--- THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED AND THE NEEDS OF OUR PARISH AND PARISHIONERS

**PLEASE NOTIFY THE PARISH OFFICE (378-2181) IF ANYONE IS HOSPITALIZED OR ILL OR IN NEED OF PRAYERS.**

**SANCTUARY LIGHT:**

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE WILL BURN DURING  
THE WEEK OF MAY 17<sup>th</sup> FOR  
**MARYANN KASZUBA**  
OFFERED BY HER HUSBAND GEORGE

**YOUR CONTRIBUTION:**

Weekend Offering	\$ 1,800.00
Easter Offering	\$ 50.00

**ST. MARY OF THE LAKE CALENDAR (TENTATIVE)**

**JUN. 06 ST MARY'S THON**