

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



ST. MARY
OF THE LAKE
LAKE WINOLA, PA

MAY 30-31, 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
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

PENTECOST SUNDAY



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

stmaryofthelake@frontier.com
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
[@nativitystmary](https://www.facebook.com/nativitystmary)

FROM THE PASTOR'S TYPEWRITER:

What Will We Be When This Is Over?



I ask myself every day, "Who will I be when this pandemic is over?" Out of untroubled fear, will I become a neurotic, indisposed individual with ideas of doom and gloom for the remainder of my years (I haven't got many left, by the way). Will I walk around with a thermometer in my mouth like James Dean in the 1950s wearing a toothpick like a permanent dental fixture?

What about the incessant hand washing and sanitizing? Will I end up with skin grafts as a result of overwashing? And how about all those wonderful social graces taught by my mother and father – what will happen to them? When someone proceeds to shake my hand, will I recoil like a rattlesnake ready to strike at the slightest movement on the part of my opponent? By their very nature, pandemics can make us kookier if we allow them to.

Or will I become overadjusted to the future, becoming fearless regardless of consequences to myself or others? Will I become a fatalistic risk enhancer, a term born out of the early years of the HIV infection, a formidable and deadly experience to many. For many, the party has resumed and it is as if the nice weather has chased away the blues. I don't know who I will be in the future. I do know that, because I am following scientists and doctors and not radio announcers and fools, at least I will BE. As for those who trust their intuition, well – God bless them!

Stay smart. Stay safe. Stay Well!!!

Fr. Pat

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 6th**). 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 6th, 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.
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.

**AED IS LOCATED IN NATIVITY BVM CHURCH
& ALSO IN FR. NALLIN HALL**



ONLINE OFFERTORY IS NOW AVAILABLE

ONLINE OFFERTORY



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, 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.

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."

MASS ONLINE: Until further notice, Fr. Pat is recording a Mass which is broadcast on our website (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 Pentecost 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.

"Adoption was such a positive alternative to abortion, a way to save one life and brighten two more: those of the adoptive parents."

– **George W. Bush, Decision Points**

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING: May 23-24, 2020

Nativity BVM Church:

Weekly Collection Goal*\$ 4,800.00
Actual Offertory**\$ 2,521.00
Difference:.....\$(2,279.00)

St. Mary of the Lake Church:

Weekly Collection Goal*\$ 2,000.00
Actual Offertory**\$ 616.00
Difference:.....\$(1,384.00)

*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.

PARISH FINANCES: There is still a great deal of concern among the members of our parish community regarding the effect that the mandatory closing of many of our businesses and the resultant uncertainty about earnings has had on our community. Although some seem to be optimistic that the pandemic will be over shortly, most are aware that we could be under continuing guidelines for a much greater period of time and that a resurgence of the virus this fall could bring back the quarantine.

Management of our parish resources is conservative by nature and we are weathering this downturn. However, our only source of funds rests in the generosity of our parishioners. Many people have continued to make their contributions despite the fact that we are unable to come together weekly. **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.**

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 or at stmaryofthelake@frontier.com.

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.

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.

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 and St. Mary of the Lake parishioners – please send to stmaryofthelake@frontier.com).

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

 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

 **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:
CATHERINE CORBY
Donated by the Nativity Line Dancers
If you would like to donate for a Pro-Life Rose at Nativity, please contact Diane Stone (570-836-3055).

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.



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)

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.

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



ST. MARY'S AED IS LOCATED IN THE FOYER BETWEEN THE CHURCH & HALL

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. 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.

REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEAD: Your prayers are requested for the soul of St. Mary of the Lake parishioner **ROBERT ZALEWSKI**, 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.



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



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

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).

WORDS OF LIFE: "God creates us in his image and likeness, which means we are made to be in loving relationship with him. The essence of our identity and worth, the source of our dignity, is that we are loved by God."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"How to Build a Culture of Life"



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.

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 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-Bebbla@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.



MILITARY HONOR ROLL

PLEASE KEEP ALL MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY IN YOUR PRAYERS

LANCE CPL CHRISTOPHER HNATKO – U.S. MARINES
CAPTAIN JOSEPH P. BREYMEIER – U.S. ARMY
PVT JACOB BURGESS – U.S. MARINES
CPL CHARLES BLISS – U.S. MARINES
CADET RYAN ALFIER – U.S.A.F. ACADEMY
PVT ANDREW SOLANIC – U.S. ARMY
COL. JAMES J. CLANCY – U.S. ARMY
PFC MATTHEW CLANCY – U.S. MARINES
SEAMAN KAMRON HUBBARD – U.S. NAVY
SPEC. NICOLE GRIFFITH – U.S. ARMY
STAFF SGT ROBERT GOHLSEY – U.S. MARINES
LT CHELSEA ZWICKER – U.S. NAVY
COL. CRAIG KEYES – U.S.A.F.
CPL GARRETT SUND – U. S. ARMY
LIEUTENANT AMY LEBER – U.S. NAVY
LT COL ANDREW STRALEY – U.S. MARINES
LT JOHN D. PETERS, M.D. – U.S. NAVY
SGT JOSEPH A. HARDISKY – U.S. ARMY
PO2 ALEC FISHER – U.S. NAVY
CWO4 TONY RICHARDSON – U.S. MARINES
TECH SGT DONALD WEITZ – U.S.A.F.
SGT SETH CAINES – U.S. ARMY
CPO ERIC TOMCZAK – U.S. NAVY
STAFF SGT. PETER FRANKO III – U.S.A.F.
SGT THOMAS DILIONE – NATIONAL GUARD
ET2 JACOB KINTNER – U.S. NAVY
LCPL OLIVIA NICOLE CARICHNER – U.S. MARINES
STAFF SGT DAVID BALTRUSAITIS – NATIONAL GUARD
SCPO KENNETH C. FRANK – U.S. NAVY
SGT ROBERT J. POLSTER – U.S. ARMY
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AVERY REECE NEWHART – U.S. AIR FORCE
SFC RICKY BROWN – NATIONAL GUARD
PFC RYAN M. ERDEK – U.S. ARMY
SGT ROBERT D. BARBER III – U.S. MARINES
CADET RYAN ELL – U.S.AIR FORCE ACADEMY
SGT NICHOLE GRIFFITH – U.S. ARMY
SN MICHAEL T. BARBER – U.S. NAVY
PVT NIKKI CAPWELL – U.S. ARMY
SPEC DEVIN BATTENBERG – NATIONAL GUARD
CADET MARK AGUILAR – U.S.C.G. ACADEMY
MAJOR JEFFREY O'DELL – U.S. ARMY

We also want to recognize the service of the following veterans who have served our country:

MAJOR GEORGE D. KASZUBA, U.S. AIR FORCE (IRAQ)
CORPORAL JOSEPH IGNATOVICH, U.S. ARMY (KOREA)
SPEC. FRANK GAUS, U.S. ARMY SPEC. FORCES (VIETNAM)
SPEC. WILLIAM F. MARRONE, U.S. ARMY
PRIVATE JAMES DEEGAN, U.S. ARMY (NO. AFRICA, ITALY)
MAJOR FRANCIS TURNER, U.S. ARMY (WW II)
SPEC. 4 RANDY GREENIP, U.S. ARMY (ASA TURKEY)
AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DONALD WHITE, U.S.A.F. (KOREA)
AIRMAN BRUCE GELNETT, U.S.A.F. (KOREA)
SPEC. 4 CARL I. PACKER, U.S. ARMY
LANCE CPL RICHARD DOMBROSKI – U.S. MARINES (VIETNAM)
STAFF SGT. RICHARD DOMBROSKI – NAT'L. GUARD (RET.)
SGT. WALTER J. ZOLA, U.S. ARMY (KOREA)
AE3 KENNETH C. FRANK, U.S. NAVY (KOREA)
SSG WILLIAM SHAW, U.S. ARMY (GERMANY)
SGT. JOHN WILPIZESKI, U.S. ARMY
SFC TONY LANDI, U.S. ARMY (RET.)
SGT. SAMUEL HERRING, US ARMY (KOREA)
SGT. JERRY BEAUCHEANE, U.S. AIR FORCE
PFC NICHOLAS KORDILLA, U.S. MARINE CORPS (WW II)
SGT. NICHOLAS FERRUGGIA – U.S. MARINES
SGT. E5 ROBERT SPRAGUE – U.S. ARMY
SGT. JAMES SNYDER – U.S. AIR FORCE
LT. J.G. TIMOTHY LEBER – U.S. COAST GUARD
CAPT ALAN B. FLANAGAN – U.S. NAVY
AE1 JOSEPH YAKOSKI – U.S. NAVY (VIETNAM)
STAFF SGT. STEPHANIE DANIELS SUND (AFGHANISTAN)
COL. CARL PACKER (U.S. ARMY)

God Bless all who serve or have served our country.



PENTECOST

What is the Christian Celebration of Pentecost All About?

This Sunday, Christians across the world will celebrate Pentecost. In fact, not all Christians recognize this holiday (holy day). But it is generally honored in liturgical churches (Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Eastern Orthodox, etc.), in Pentecostal and Charismatic churches, and in many other Protestant churches as well. Pentecost is not as well-known or as popular as the Christmas and Easter, though it commemorates a watershed event in Christian history. In many ways, Pentecost is the birthday of the church.



What is Pentecost?

For Christians, Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the church." Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the church was started. This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the church into existence and enlivens it. Thus Pentecost is the church's birthday.

What does the word "Pentecost" mean?

The English word "Pentecost" is a transliteration of the Greek word *pentekostos*, which means "fifty." It comes from the ancient Christian expression *pentekoste hemera*, which means "fiftieth day."

But Christians did not invent the phrase "fiftieth day." Rather, they borrowed it from Greek-speaking Jews who used the phrase to refer to a Jewish holiday. This holiday was known as the Festival of Weeks, or, more simply, Weeks (*Shavuot* in Hebrew). This name comes from an expression in Leviticus 23:16, which instructs people to count seven weeks or "fifty days" from the end of Passover to the beginning of the next holiday (*pentekonta hemeras* in the ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew Scripture).

Shavuot was the second great feast in Israel's yearly cycle of holy days. It was originally a harvest festival (Exod 23:16), but, in time, turned into a day to commemorate the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. This day became especially significant for Christians because, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, during the Jewish celebration of *Shavuot*/Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon his first followers, thus empowering them for their mission and gathering them together as a church.

What actually happened on that day of Pentecost?

This event is recorded in the New Testament book known as The Acts of the Apostles. Chapter 2 begins, "And when the day of Pentecost [*ten hemeran tes pentekostes*] had come, [the first followers of Jesus] were all together in one place" (2:1). All of a sudden, a sound came from heaven, like a strong wind, filling the house where the people had gathered.

Something like tongues of fire rested on their heads. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak" (2:4). (Notice the tongues of fire on the heads of the people in the painting by Restout.)



The languages spoken by the early Christians were intelligible (not other worldly) and were heard by thousands of Jewish pilgrims who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate *Shavuot*. The content of the miraculous messages had to do with God's mighty works (2:11). Many who heard these messages in their own languages were amazed, though others thought the Christians were just drunk (2:12).

At some point, Peter, one of the leading followers of Jesus, stood up and preached his first sermon. He interpreted the events of that morning in light of a prophecy of the Hebrew prophet Joel. In that text, God promised to pour out his Spirit on all flesh, empowering diverse people to exercise divine power. This would be a sign of the coming "day of the Lord" (Acts 2:16-21; Joel 2:28-32).

Peter went on to explain that Jesus had been raised and had poured out the Spirit in fulfillment of God's promise through Joel (2:32-33). When the crowd asked what they should do, Peter urged them to turn their lives around and be baptized in the name of Jesus. Then they would be forgiven and would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (2:37-39). Acts reports that about 3,000 people were added to the church that day (2:41). Not a bad response to Peter's first sermon!

Should we believe that all of this actually happened?

If you are one who believes the Bible is God's inerrant or infallible Word, you will take for granted the truthfulness of the account in Acts. But if you're uncertain about biblical authority, then you might wonder if the account in Acts is to be trusted.

In fact, some scholars have questioned the historicity of Acts 2. They observe that this event appears in the New Testament only in Acts, and that it describes miraculous events that are beyond the scope of historical inquiry. These scholars tend to view Pentecost as a powerful metaphor for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the early church, rather than as an event that gave birth to the church.

Whether we believe the biblical account of Pentecost has everything to do with our estimation of the historical trustworthiness of Acts of the Apostles and the possibility of miraculous events actually happening. If you're familiar with my book *Can We Trust the Gospels?*, you won't be surprised to learn that I believe that Acts 2 describes what really happened. For reasons I can't explain here, I believe that the author of Acts, the same "Luke" who wrote the Third Gospel, was a reliable historian. Of course, as a Christian, I also believe that God could send the

Spirit in astounding ways and empower people to speak in languages that they did not know.

How is Pentecost related to Pentecostal Christians?

Pentecostal Christians have had a powerful experience of God's presence, which is usually accompanied with speaking in tongues (generally not a known language). Pentecostal Christianity used to be a small segment of Protestantism, but today it has spread throughout the world and is the fastest growing form of Christianity. Many Christians who are not Pentecostals nevertheless celebrate Pentecost and hope that the Holy Spirit will renew and empower the church, though not necessarily with the particular manifestations of the first Pentecost.

How do Christians celebrate Pentecost?

As you might expect, there are a wide range of Christian celebrations of Pentecost. Some churches do not recognize the holiday at all. Most churches at least mention it in prayer, song, or sermon. Some churches go all out, with worship focused on remembering the first Pentecost and praying for a similar outpouring of divine power.

Churches that employ liturgical colors generally use red on Pentecost as a symbol of power and fire of the Spirit. A couple of years ago, my church, St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Boerne, Texas, celebrate Pentecost with red balloons and other symbols of the Holy Spirit.

Some churches receive new members on Pentecost, thus commemorating the first "new members class" that joined the church after Peter's Pentecost sermon. Centuries ago in Britain, those joining the church wore white for baptism. Thus the Sunday was called "White Sunday" or "Whitsunday."

Copyright © 2011 by Mark D. Roberts and Patheos.com

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.

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.

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY: You enter our church ... not as stranger, but as a guest of God. He is your heavenly Father. Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips into His presence, offering Him your love and service. Be grateful to the strong and loyal ones who, in the name of Jesus Christ, built this place of worship, and to all who have beautified it and hallowed it with their prayers and praise.



"It's an universal law-- intolerance is the first sign of an inadequate education. An ill-educated person behaves with arrogant impatience, whereas truly profound education breeds humility."

— **Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn**

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](#)).

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MASS SCHEDULE – WEEK OF MAY 31, 2020

SATURDAY	MAY	30	ROGER BETTS – OFFERED BY HEATHER
SUNDAY	MAY	31	CHARLES DILIONE – OFFERED BY HIS FAMILY
			LUCY GRABNER – OFFERED BY HER FAMILY
			ANGELICA BUSSANI – OFFERED BY CAROLE & AMY RUBBINACCIO
			LOUIS MIRABELLI – OFFERED BY HIS FAMILY
MONDAY	JUN.	01	
TUESDAY	JUN.	02	
WEDNESDAY	JUN.	03	SOULS IN PURGATORY – OFFERED BY THE RUEHLMAN FAMILY
THURSDAY	JUN.	04	
FRIDAY	JUN.	05	
SATURDAY	JUN.	06	JEAN YABLONSKI – OFFERED BY FLORENCE & MARCELLA KONOPKE
SUNDAY	JUN.	07	CHARLES & DOROTHY KOVALCHICK – OFFERED BY THEIR FAMILY
			BONNIE PREVOST – OFFERED BY DAD, MOM, JIM & SHERI
			PATRICK HARAN – OFFERED BY GLORIA PASTERNAK

LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE

SAT. MAY 30 & SUN. MAY 31	<u>SATURDAY 5:00PM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 7:30AM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 9:00AM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 11:00AM</u>
DEACON EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)				
LECTOR	NO MASS	NO MASS	NO MASS	NO MASS
ALTAR SERVER(S)				
OFFERTORY GIFTS COLLECTION COUNTERS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS
SAT. JUN. 06 & SUN. JUN. 07	<u>SATURDAY 5:00PM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 7:30AM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 9:00AM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 11:00AM</u>
DEACON EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)				
LECTOR	NO MASS	NO MASS	NO MASS	NO MASS
ALTAR SERVER(S)				
OFFERTORY GIFTS COLLECTION COUNTERS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS

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 FORTESI, 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, MARY LOU ANDES.

----- THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED 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 \$2,521.00

NATIVITY BVM CALENDAR (TENTATIVE)

ST. MARY OF THE LAKE MASS SCHEDULE - WEEK OF MAY 31, 2020

SATURDAY	MAY	30	ANNA VAN AUKEN – OFFERED BY HER PARENTS
SUNDAY	MAY	31	MICHAEL BIRMINGHAM – OFFERED BY NICK & PAT SHYSHUK
MONDAY	JUN	01	
TUESDAY	JUN	02	JACK SNYDER – OFFERED BY THE ST. MARY OF THE LAKE SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY
WEDNESDAY	JUN	03	
THURSDAY	JUN	04	PAUL SINKER – OFFERED BY GEORGE & ELINOR DOUGHERTY
FRIDAY	JUN	05	
SATURDAY	JUN	06	FATHER PETER ALIAUSKAS – OFFERED BY GEORGE & CAROLE KAMAGE
SUNDAY	JUN	07	PATRICIA SCHWOEBEL – OFFERED BY THE ST. MARY OF THE LAKE SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY

LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE

<u>SAT MAY 30 & SUN. MAY 31</u>	<u>SATURDAY 4:00PM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 9:00AM</u>
DEACON		
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)		
LECTORS	NO MASS	NO MASS
ALTAR SERVER(S)		
USHERS		
GREETERS		
OFFERTORY GIFTS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS
COLLECTION COUNTERS		
<u>SAT. JUN 06 & SUN. JUN 07</u>	<u>SATURDAY 4:00PM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 9:00AM</u>
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 **ESPECIALLY ROBERT ZALEWSKI** 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 31ST FOR
SADIE SCOPELLITI
OFFERED BY BILL & DEE PASKO

YOUR CONTRIBUTION:

Weekend Offering \$ 616.00

ST. MARY OF THE LAKE CALENDAR (TENTATIVE)

JUN. 06 ST MARY'S THON