

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



ST. MARY
OF THE LAKE
LAKE WINOLA, PA

JUNE 6-7, 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

MOST HOLY TRINITY



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 DEACON'S BENCH:

My Brothers and Sisters,

Every once and a while, I sit at my kitchen table, look out at the side garden and ask myself some pretty basic questions. For instance, why do we fertilize the lawn? Sure, it makes it turn greener quicker, but then you have to mow it more often. Seems illogical. Or a Catch 22.



Another question I think about fairly often is why weed? We spend most of the day pulling them out only to wake up the next morning and even more have sprouted up. Why not just grow weeds and pull the shrubs? Shrubs never – and I mean never – just grow back. And why grow flowers? After all, the same pesky weeds you're always pulling grow up right in the center of the flowers, so when you try to pull out the weeds, you look down and realize you pulled the flower out and the weed is still there. My daughter is notorious for pulling out her plants and leaving the weeds because the weeds look nicer to her and that also bothers me because now she just doesn't weed. How does it not bother her?

I think I might have been in the house too long, or maybe I should give up thinking and just sit quietly. Whenever I find myself thinking this way, I start to think about what the yard would be like if there wasn't any grass. Probably just a whole lot of mud. Even though I dislike weeding, I would miss the flowers and the shrubs. If I had nothing in the gardens, the weeds would be everywhere.

I get myself in trouble thinking so much. I asked my wife what she thinks about and it was a big mistake. She said, "I wonder why we have two big dogs. Not one but two. When I just wanted a little lap dog. I wonder why we have a cockatiel, every time he screams for no reason. I wonder why there is more grass in the house after you mow the lawn than in the lawn..." I didn't like where the conversation was going and, just then, I remembered I had some weeding to do and went outside!!!! So *that's* why I weed the garden. It all makes sense now.

May God Bless You,

Deacon Ray

MASS ONLINE: Fr. Pat continues to record a Mass each week. It can be found on our website (nativitystmary.org) and on our Facebook page (@nativitystmary) through a link to a YouTube site.

There will be a Mass for the Feast of the Holy Trinity available this weekend. The Mass was filmed at Nativity BVM 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.

RESUMING IN-CHURCH WORSHIP: As the effects of the pandemic continue to subside in our state and more counties move from red to yellow and yellow to green, we will begin the planning stages and a timetable for reopening St. Mary of the Lake and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parishes.

In the planning stages of the reopening, we will need volunteers to assist in preparing both worship sites for a safe return to daily as well as Sunday worship. I am therefore inviting any and all to contact our office (570-836-3275) to volunteer for the tasks that will need to be fulfilled.

A letter to the parish will be forthcoming, explaining the "New Normal" of our worship schedule structure of Liturgy and all other aspects of safety. As there is no guide book on this experience, we ask your patience and understanding. If there should be a substantive spike in coronavirus cases, we will not hesitate to again close the buildings and rely on the streamed Mass.

Fr. Pat

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."

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.

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.

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.

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING: May 30-31, 2020

Nativity BVM Church:

Weekly Collection Goal*	\$ 4,800.00
Actual Offertory**	\$ 3,864.00
Difference:.....	\$ (936.00)

St. Mary of the Lake Church:

Weekly Collection Goal*	\$ 2,000.00
Actual Offertory**	\$ 2,163.00
Difference:.....	\$ 163.00

*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.



**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

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.**

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.

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 in loving memory of

Frank & Mary Kozielski

Donated by Mary Ann Brown

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: When we are worshipping in church, 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!

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



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).

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

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.

We still need writers for July 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.

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.

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).

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





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

WORDS OF LIFE: "The Gospel of Life is at the heart of Jesus' saving message to the world. Through the Incarnation of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life.'" **USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities**
"Pope St. John Paul II's Challenge to Our Church"



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-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.

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.

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.



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

Trinity Sunday

The dogma of faith which forms the object of the feast is this: **There is one God and in this one God there are three Divine Persons; the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God.** Yet there are not three Gods, but one, eternal, incomprehensible God! The Father is not more God than the Son, neither is the Son more God than the Holy Spirit. The Father is the first Divine Person; the Son is the second Divine Person, begotten from the nature of the Father from eternity; the Holy Spirit is the third Divine Person, proceeding from the Father and the Son. No mortal can fully fathom this sublime truth. But I submit humbly and say: *Lord, I believe, help my weak faith.*

Why is this feast celebrated at this particular time? It may be interpreted as a finale to all the preceding feasts. All three Persons contributed to and shared in the work of redemption. The Father sent His Son to earth, for "God so loved the world as to give His only-begotten Son." The Father called us to the faith. The Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, became man and died for us. He redeemed us and made us children of God. He ever remains the liturgist *par excellence* to whom we are united in all sacred functions. After Christ's ascension the Holy Spirit, however, became our Teacher, our Leader, our Guide, our Consoler. On solemn occasions a thanksgiving *Te Deum* rises spontaneously from Christian hearts.



The feast of the Most Holy Trinity may well be regarded as the Church's *Te Deum* of gratitude over all the blessings of the Christmas and Easter seasons; for this mystery is a synthesis of Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost.

This feast, which falls on the first Sunday after Pentecost, should make us mindful that actually every Sunday is devoted to the honor of the Most Holy Trinity, that every Sunday is sanctified and consecrated to the triune God. Sunday after Sunday we should recall in a spirit of gratitude the gifts which the Blessed Trinity is bestowing upon us. The Father created and predestined us; on the first day of the week He began the work of creation. The Son redeemed us; Sunday is the "Day of the Lord," the day of His resurrection. The Holy Spirit sanctified us, made us His temple; on Sunday the Holy Spirit descended upon the infant Church. Sunday, therefore, is *the* day of the Most Holy Trinity.

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

In the **Catholic Church** it is officially known as the *Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity*. Prior to the reforms of the **Second Vatican Council**, it marked the end of a three-week period when church weddings were forbidden. The period began on **Rogation Sunday**, the fifth Sunday after **Easter**. Trinity Sunday was established as a Double of the Second Class

by **Pope John XXII** to celebrate the **Trinity**. It was raised to the dignity of a Double of the First Class by **Pope Pius X** on 24 July 1911. During the Middle Ages, especially during the **Carolingian period**, devotion to the Blessed Trinity was a highly important feature of private devotion and inspired several liturgical expressions.

The currently prescribed **liturgical color** is white.

In the traditional **Divine Office**, the **Athanasian Creed** (*Quicumque vult*) is said on this day at **Prime**.

Before 1960, it was said on all Sundays after **Epiphany** and Pentecost which do not fall within **Octaves** or on

which a feast of Double rank or higher was celebrated or commemorated, as well as on Trinity Sunday. The 1960 reforms reduced it to once a year, on this Sunday.

In the 1962 Missal, the Mass for the First Sunday After Pentecost is not said or commemorated on Sunday (it is permanently impeded there by Trinity Sunday), but is used during the week if the ferial Mass is being said.

The Thursday after Trinity Sunday is observed as the Feast of **Corpus Christi**. In some countries, including the **United States, Canada, and Spain**, it may be celebrated on the following Sunday, when parishioners are more likely to attend Mass and be able to celebrate the feast.



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:

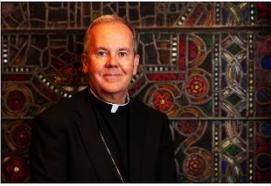
Required Minimum Distributions Suspended

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.



Bishop Bambera's Reflection on the Death of George Floyd: A Lesson in Walking Together

In the immediate days following the brutal killing of George Floyd, the world reacted with horror to the images of his struggle to breathe and to hold on to life. Countless numbers of individuals from throughout our country and world offered words of condemnation, sorrow and grief. I penned my name to a statement along with six other U.S. bishop chairmen of committees within the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Peaceful protests ensued in cities and towns throughout our land with participants crying out for an end to the injustice of racism and the hatred associated with that sin.

For me, however, the message and power of this time of upheaval and pain were most vividly captured in the visit of Terrence Floyd to the makeshift memorial located at the site of his brother's killing. Floyd knelt for a moment and then, surrounded by signs that simply said "Black Lives Matter," rose and addressed the gathered crowd with these words, "My family is a peaceful family. My family is God-fearing. ... Let's do this another way. Do this peacefully, please."

The combination of Terrence's spoken message with those three words, "Black Lives Matter," teach a lesson that we would all do well to sear into our minds and hearts. Floyd challenged the crowds to speak to the injustice of his brother's death "peacefully," echoing the very words of Jesus in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." The silent, printed words proclaiming "Black Lives Matter" captured an essential component of the Gospel message. Black lives do matter. For black lives, like every life, are made in the image of our Creator. And as such, peace will only come to pass when every life is treated with respect and dignity as the gift of God that it is.

As I watched George Floyd's brother continue to address that crowd in Minneapolis and challenge them to a peaceful way forward, I couldn't help but wonder what so many of those who listened to his words were thinking. I wondered if many of them feared to walk in their neighborhoods simply because of the color of their skin. Considering our history, particularly in recent years, I cannot imagine what it would be like to grow up as a young black man in America today.

It occurred to me at that moment, more than ever before, that Terrence Floyd's call for peace in the face of the brutality and sin that so mercilessly snuffed out the life of his defenseless brother, far from being political or ideological as some might suggest, was nothing short of a plea for justice in our land. His

words were a reminder to all of us that as a people who have proclaimed so boldly the absolute value of human life from the moment of conception until natural death, every life in between is just as deserving of respect and reverence.

We Christians are proud to assert our commitment to life. Sadly, however, we often lose our focus upon this noble cause – by the violence, looting and destructive elements that have infiltrated the peaceful efforts of so many who rightfully seek justice and equality – or by a host of other distractions that many of us do subtly or even unknowingly until we turn inward and examine ourselves. In turn, we can begin to pick and choose what is worthy of respect and what is not, at least in our own minds. Yet, nowhere in our faith tradition is it ever suggested that we are meant to determine who is worthy of redemption and who is not. That is a task left to God alone.

May we be humble enough in the face of division to admit our need for conversion as we seek to confront the evil of racism in our land. May we resolve at this moment in our lives and in our history as a nation to embrace the call of Isaiah the prophet to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks and so labor for God's gifts of peace, reconciliation and unity. And may we finally begin to live with authenticity the one command of Jesus: "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

2020 has been a tumultuous year with so many traditional celebrations either cancelled, postponed or altered to fit our extenuating circumstances. One of the most cherished traditions that will not look anything like what was experienced in the past is the ceremonial graduation.



We want to recognize the following members of our parish community who will graduate from High School this year:

Nativity BVM

Paul Binner
Sophie Burke
Joseph Thomas Casey
Joseph Andrew Colavitti
Kathryn Cusatis
Elizabeth LaFleur DeMarco
Thomas Norbert Elias
Tori Rose Kovalchick
Kaitlin Elizabeth Pasternak
Michael Paul Prebola
Brett Sickler

St. Mary of the Lake

Michael Green
Rachel Kenia
Anna VanAuken

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MASS SCHEDULE – WEEK OF JUNE 7, 2020

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
			LILLIAN JURISTA – OFFERED BY MARY KUKUCHKA
MONDAY	JUN.	08	
TUESDAY	JUN.	09	
WEDNESDAY	JUN.	10	WALTER ZOLA – OFFERED BY THERESA & FAMILY
THURSDAY	JUN.	11	
FRIDAY	JUN.	12	
SATURDAY	JUN.	13	JOHN STYKLUNAS – OFFERED BY JOHN BROSTOSKI
SUNDAY	JUN.	14	JOSEPH FRANK – OFFERED BY HIS PARENTS
			PETER FRANKO – OFFERED BY CAROL JAMES
			HENRY KALINOWSKI – OFFERED BY HELEN WIKOSKI

LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE

<u>SAT. JUN. 06 & SUN. JUN. 07</u>	<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	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS	SELECTION BY USHERS
COLLECTION COUNTERS				

<u>SAT. JUN. 13 & SUN. JUN. 14</u>	<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	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, MARY LOU ANDES.

----- THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED **ESPECIALLY BARBARA O'HARA** 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 \$3,864.00

NATIVITY BVM CALENDAR (TENTATIVE)