

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



ST. MARY
OF THE LAKE
LAKE WINOLA, PA

JANUARY 02-03, 2021



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



SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

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: Diane Stone / Ruth Tewksbury
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.instagram.com/nativitystmary)

FROM THE PASTOR'S TYPEWRITER:

And so comes another year filled with promise and opportunity, a year which has the potential to re-create our lives to further our gifts and talents. This New Year is literally filled with promise and possibilities as we cast off the gloom of 2020.



We and our world have been victims of circumstance and that has been unfortunate. We will be smarter next year, more aware of the world around us, more ready to assist those in need. To be more impassioned will be our approach to life. Each year, we have an opportunity to re-hone our skills toward "the good", to inspire and to be inspired by the world around us. I know for sure that 2021 will be a productive year for me in that many projects that were stunted in 2020 will be completed in the New Year – 2020 wasted enough of my time. The distractions of the past year have caused us all to freeze in our tracks as it were and allow a perfectly good year to pass by without our noticing it.

We hear so many people say, "Where did the year go?" We have been so terribly distracted by so much. So let us embrace this New Year with resolve and determination to contribute to a better year and a better world, but especially a better me and a better you, that the past may serve not as a curse, but a reminder of how precious life is and how grateful we are for possessing it.

A Happy New Year to All.

Fr. Pat

IN-CHURCH WORSHIP: Daily Mass is available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:00AM at Nativity and on Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00AM at St. Mary's. At this time, weekend Masses at Nativity are at 5:00PM on Saturday and 7:30AM & 11:00AM on Sunday. At St. Mary's, the weekend Mass is at 9:00AM on Sunday. Seating is limited in accordance with "safe distancing" norms, **masks are required.**

We ask your patience and understanding. **Fr. Pat**

MASS ONLINE: Fr. Pat continues to record a Mass each week for those who cannot attend in person. It can be found on our website (nativitystmary.org) and on our Facebook page (@nativitystmary) with a link to a YouTube site.

There will be a Mass for the Epiphany of the Lord available this weekend.

We receive numerous comments and expressions of gratitude regarding the Mass and we are grateful for your support and for your email messages each week.

Thanks 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.

DRIVE-IN MASS AT NATIVITY BVM AND ST. MARY OF THE LAKE

Drive-In Mass is available to Nativity BVM and St. Mary of the Lake! **Parishioners from our two parishes are able to listen to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass via an FM radio transmitter from the safety of their vehicle in the church parking lot.** All you need to do is to tune your car radio to the specific FM frequency which will be posted. Following the Mass, ministers will distribute the Holy Eucharist to parishioners outside the church in a socially distanced fashion. Receptacles for donations will be located in the parking lot. Come As You Are in the Family Car!

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR IN-CHURCH ATTENDANCE. Contact the Parish Office (570-836-3275) – First Come, First Served. When capacity has been reached, all other attendees will hear Mass broadcast over a radio receiver in the parking lot of the church. Communion will be distributed to all (including cars).

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.

ONLINE OFFERTORY

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 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.

If you wish 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.

2020 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL
As of December 7th

NATIVITY BVM CHURCH:

GOAL:..... \$32,000.00
 PLEDGED:..... \$19,411.28
 STATUS:..... 60.7%
UNDER GOAL:..... \$12,588.72
 PARTICIPATION: 11.05% (102 FAMILIES OUT OF 923)

ST. MARY OF THE LAKE CHURCH:

GOAL:..... \$12,000.00
 PLEDGED:..... \$ 5,324.56
 STATUS..... 44.4%
UNDER GOAL:..... \$ 6,675.44
 PARTICIPATION: 7.93% (34 FAMILIES OUT OF 429)

**Your support is necessary to maintain the programs
 and resources funded by the Appeal**
**Please consider making a pledge or donation
 to the Appeal today**
**More information is available on the diocesan
 website – www.dioceseofscranton.org**

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Dear Friends,
 Thank you so very, very much for offering your time, talent, and donations to provide Christmas spirit for a family from our community through the Adopt-A-Family Outreach St. Mary of the Lake parish was asked by a Guidance Counselor from the Tunkhannock Area School District to help with a family from our community Dad, Mom who is afflicted with a terminal illness and travels to weekly treatments, a seven year old daughter and nine, ten, twelve and thirteen year-old sons.

Clothing was requested for the children and you met those needs beautifully and also provided were Legos, LOL doll, remote control car, Christmas treats, afghan, nice warm clothing for dad and mom and accessories to help make her treatment trips more comfortable ... gift cards from McDonald's, Visa, Samario's, Dunkin' Donuts and Weis were given for meals and treats.

A special thank you to Debbie, Rachel, Mary, Bill, Marie, Carl, Katie, Rick, Julia, Paul, Ellen, Veronica, Patrick, Bill and Maureen, Marlene, Joyce, our Prayer Shawl Ministry and to friends who forwarded cash donations for purchases.

St. Mary of the Lake and Nativity BVM are such a blessing to our community through the Social Concerns Ministry. I am truly humbled by your kindness and generosity shown to those in need through the Adopt-A-Family outreach and the Lower Wyoming County Food Pantry.

Know that all of you hold a special place in my Christmas prayer and are wished the very best wishes for a healthy, blessed and Happy New Year. God Bless You!
 Love , Mary Lou



LOCAL CATHOLIC RADIO STATION
JMJ RADIO 750AM or 98.9FM

PRO-LIFE ROSE: We are happy that public Masses are again being celebrated in Nativity BVM church. **The rose is present in front of the statue of Mary during these Masses and the intentions requested are being recognized.**



The intentions for January are:

January 02-03

In memory of **Theresa Kiszka**, donated by Anna Hardisky

January 09-10

In memory of **Dorothy Kovalchick**, donated by her family

January 16-17

In memory of **Barb Jones**, donated by Peggy Finnegan

January 23-24

In memory of **Joseph Hardisky Sr.**, donated by his wife & family

January 30-31

Available

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

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.



Nativity applied for and received a \$3,000 grant from the diocesan Social Justice Trust Fund on behalf of the Seven Loaves Soup Kitchen. In response, they have sent the following message to the parish:

"A selfless gift to others in their time of need is truly an expression of Godly Love." Your recent donation of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) will continue to help the Seven Loaves Soup Kitchen meet the growing need for a nutritious meal and a friendly smile. Thank you for supporting the Soup Kitchen.

CAPUCHIN SISTERS NEED FIREWOOD FOR THE WINTER:



The Capuchin Sisters are in need of firewood to heat their residence for the winter. **We are asking our parishioners and friends to donate toward the purchase of the wood. Please contact the Parish Office (570-836-3275) if you have questions or mail your donation to P.O. Box 186, Tunkhannock PA 18657. Be sure to note "WOOD" on the memo line of your check.**

CCD NEWS: Our 2020-2021 virtual CCD program in both parishes is underway. Watch the bulletin for updates as we work to make sure that our children are taught safely in the coming year.

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 soon, 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 winter 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 most of us have been 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 which can be found on our website nativitystmary.org. Any contribution that you can make will be gratefully received. **Thank you to those who continue to regularly send their contributions.**



**AFTERNOON PRAYERS
with DEACON RAY**

**Tuesday afternoon prayers
3:00PM @ St. Mary's Church
All are welcome!**

CAPUCHIN SISTERS SUPPORT: 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.



BOY SCOUT NEWS

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

Alison Delano, Committee Chairperson
570-233-4000 adelano1230@gmail.com

CUB SCOUT NEWS

ADULT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Fr. Nallin Hall
TBA



**MILITARY HONOR ROLL
PLEASE KEEP ALL MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY IN
YOUR PRAYERS**

- PFC MATTHEW CLANCY – U.S. MARINES
- SEAMAN KAMRON HUBBARD – U.S. NAVY
- SPEC. NICOLE GRIFFITH – U.S. ARMY
- STAFF SGT ROBERT GOHLER – 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 NEHWART – 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
- 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

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
- MAJOR JOSEPH JURISTA – U.S. AIR FORCE (GLIDER PILOT)

God Bless all who serve or have served our country.



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.


PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: 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.

THE LOWER WYOMING COUNTY FOOD PANTRY: The Food Pantry is **open on the first and third Monday from 2:00-5:00PM**. 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)

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 the Parish Office (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.*

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 570-207-2250 or Jim-Bebbla@dioceseofscranton.org.

HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO BE A SPONSOR?

To serve as a sponsor, it is required that a person obtain a sponsor letter from his/her pastor. Sponsors must be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, (If married) be married according to the regulations for marriage as provided by the Roman Catholic Church, officially registered and participating weekly in the Sunday Eucharist & actively striving to live out your own baptismal commitment to Christ.

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.

WORD OF LIFE: "Through the Incarnation and birth of Christ, God reveals to us the dignity of all human life. Human life, as a gift of God, is sacred and inviolable. The Son of God has united himself with every human being and desires for us to share eternal life with him... Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, and we reflect his glory in the world."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
["Living Out Christmas in the New Year"](#)

**BISHOPS: GETTING THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS
"ACT OF CHARITY", SUPPORTS THE COMMON GOOD**

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The “gravity” of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and “the lack of availability of alternative vaccines,” are “sufficiently serious” reasons to accept the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, the chairmen of the U.S. bishops’ doctrine and pro-life committees said Dec. 14.

“Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community,” they said. “In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good.”

The bishops addressed the moral concerns raised by the fact the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have some connection to cell lines that originated with tissue taken from abortions.

However, this connection to morally compromised cell lines is so remote and the public health situation is too grave to reject the vaccines, said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Late Dec. 11, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration gave emergency-use approval to the Pfizer vaccine, with approval expected for Moderna the week of Dec. 14. UPS and FedEx began shipping the doses across the country Dec. 12, with the first shipments arriving Dec. 14.

Each state has a distribution plan for administering them. National guidelines call for health care workers and those in nursing homes and long-term care facilities to be first in line to get immunized.

On Dec. 8, The Lancet medical journal reported that four clinical trials of a third vaccine, being developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca “appears to have moderate efficacy in preventing symptomatic illness, and may significantly reduce hospitalization from the disease.” Astra Zeneca is expected to apply to the FDA for emergency use of its vaccine in the coming weeks.

Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann said they found the AstraZeneca vaccine it to be “more morally compromised” and concluded this vaccine “should be avoided” if there are alternatives available.

“It may turn out, however, that one does not really have a choice of vaccine, at least, not without a lengthy delay in immunization that may have serious consequences for one’s health and the health of others,” the two prelates stated. “In such a case ... it would be permissible to accept the AstraZeneca vaccine.”

Shortly after Pfizer and Moderna announced Nov. 11 and Nov. 16, respectively, that their vaccines were 95% effective against COVID-19, critics claimed the vaccines have been produced using cells from

aborted fetuses, leading to confusion over “the moral permissibility” of using these vaccines.

Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann addressed this issue in a Nov. 23 memo to their fellow bishops and addressed it again in their 2,400-word statement Dec. 12. In the memo, they noted some were “asserting that if a vaccine is connected in any way with tainted cell lines, then it is immoral to be vaccinated with them. This is an inaccurate portrayal of Catholic moral teaching.”

In their new lengthy statement, the two committee chairmen emphasized that any such cell lines were derived from tissue samples taken from fetuses aborted in the 1960s and 1970s and have been grown in laboratories all over the world since then.

“It is important to note that the making of the rubella vaccine – or that of the new COVID-19 vaccines – does not involve cells taken directly from the body of an aborted child,” Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann said. “Cells taken from two abortions in the 1960s were replicated in a laboratory to produce two cell lines that can be reproduced again and again, indefinitely.”

“To make the rubella vaccine, cells from these cell lines are stimulated to produce the chemicals necessary for the vaccine,” they explained. “It is not as if the making of the vaccine required ever more cells from ever more abortions.”

The two committee chairmen said the Vatican, through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Pontifical Academy for Life, “has offered guidance on the question of whether it is morally acceptable to receive a vaccine that has been created with the use of morally compromised cell lines.”

Both the congregation and the academy “emphasize the positive moral obligation to do good,” they said, “and in so doing to distance oneself as much as possible from the immoral act of another party such as abortion in order to avoid cooperation with someone else’s evil actions and to avoid giving scandal, which could happen if one’s own actions were perceived by other people to ignore or to minimize the evil of the action.”

“Our love of neighbor should lead us to avoid giving scandal, but we cannot omit fulfilling serious obligations such as the prevention of deadly infection and the spread of contagion among those who are vulnerable just to avoid the appearance of scandal,” the two prelates said.

At the same time, the bishops also cautioned Catholics against complacency about the moral issue of abortion and ethical issues surrounding the development of some vaccines.

“While having ourselves and our families immunized against COVID-19 with the new vaccines is morally permissible and can be an act of self-love and of charity toward others, we must not allow the gravely immoral nature of abortion to be obscured,” Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann said.

"It is true that one can receive benefits from an evil action in the past without intending that action or approving of it. The association with the evil action that comes with receiving benefits from that evil action, however, can have a corrupting influence on one's perception of the evil action, making it more difficult to recognize it as evil," they explained.

"One might become desensitized to the gravely evil nature of that action. One might become complacent about that action and ignore the obligation to do what one can to oppose the evil action," they said, adding that others might see "one's acceptance of benefits from an evil action" and feel the action isn't really evil, feel less urgency "to oppose that evil" or even miss opportunities to do what they can "to oppose it."

"We should be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research," Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann said.

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 Office (570-836-3275).

ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Nativity BVM Parish

Mr. & Mrs. James Rule - *In memory/honor of James & Agnes Rule, Emory Guffrovich and Tozia Goffrovich*

Steve & Judy Boyanowski - *In memory/honor of Eliza & Seth Overfield, Audrey & Dave Roosa, Ellen Day, Tim Cornell, the Overfield & Boyanowski families, Fr. Pat, Fr. Dennis & Deacon Ray*

St. Mary of the Lake Parish

Beverly McGlynn - *In memory/honor of the McGlynn & Noon families*

Pat Zaleski - *In memory/honor of Dorothey & Donna Zaleski and Ermine DeVita*

Rita Graziano

Carl, Marie & Katie Packer - *In memory/honor of Joseph & Mary Ganz and the Packer family*

Vince & Josette Abruzzini

Yvonne Snyder - *In memory/honor of John Snyder, John Murray, Jeff Snyder & Dominic Grandinetti*

Paul & Ellen Wengen

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY



Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words, the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all

the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. — *Pius Parsch*



The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated either on January 6 or, according to the decision of the episcopal conference, on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. Yet, as the antiphon for the *Magnificat* at Second Vespers reminds us, three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. Extra candles and/or lamps may be placed around the sanctuary and in other parts of the church to honor Christ revealed as the Light of the Gentiles (*Ceremonial of Bishops*). It is customary to replace the images of the shepherds at the crib with the three Magi and their gifts. — *Ceremonies of the Liturgical Year*,

Msgr. Peter J. Elliott, Ignatius Press.

Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Saviour.

That is the meaning, too, of the wonderful prophecy from Isaias which the liturgy appoints to be read in the first nocturn at Matins and at the Epistle of the Mass. This same thought of universal redemption the Church returns to as she sings, in the antiphon to the *Magnificat* at 2nd Vespers, applying the words to herself, of the union with Christ typified by the wedding feast at Cana, by the baptism of her children foreshadowed by that of Christ in the waters of the Jordan. Formerly the Epiphany was an additional day for solemn baptisms.



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

ST. MARY OF THE LAKE MASS SCHEDULE - WEEK OF JANUARY 03, 2021

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|---|
| SATURDAY | JAN. | 02 | NONE | |
| SUNDAY | JAN. | 03 | 9:00AM | THE FRANKO FAMILY – OFFERED BY RICK, MARY LOU & JULIA FRANKO TERESA WALL – OFFERED BY PAT WALL |
| MONDAY | JAN. | 04 | | NO MASS |
| TUESDAY | JAN. | 05 | 8:00AM | CHARLES SCIANDRA – OFFERED BY THE PETERS FAMILY |
| WEDNESDAY | JAN. | 06 | | NO MASS |
| THURSDAY | JAN. | 07 | 8:00AM | CARMEN PIERCE – OFFERED BY THE VANDERVEKEN FAMILY |
| FRIDAY | JAN. | 08 | 8:00AM | ATTY. DANIEL KELLEHER – OFFERED BY HIS FAMILY |
| SATURDAY | JAN. | 09 | | NO MASS |
| SUNDAY | JAN. | 10 | 9:00AM | JAMES CADDEN – OFFERED BY RICK & MARY LOU FRANKO PAULINE HAMBURG – OFFERED BY CAROLE & RANDY GREENIP |

LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| SAT. JAN. 02 & SUN. JAN. 03 | SATURDAY 4:00PM | SUNDAY 9:00AM |
| DEACON | | RAY PIERETTI |
| EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S) | | NONE |
| LECTORS | NO MASS | NONE |
| ALTAR SERVER(S) | | NONE |
| USHERS | | NONE |
| GREETERS | | NONE |
| OFFERTORY GIFTS | | COLLECTION BASKET |
| COLLECTION COUNTERS | | |
| | | |
| SAT. JAN. 09 & SUN. JAN. 10 | SATURDAY 4:00PM | SUNDAY 9:00AM |
| DEACON | | RAY PIERETTI |
| EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S) | | NONE |
| LECTORS | NO MASS | NONE |
| ALTAR SERVER(S) | | NONE |
| USHERS | | NONE |
| GREETERS | | NONE |
| OFFERTORY GIFTS | | COLLECTION BASKET |
| 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, 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, JONI JAMES, PETER POLINSKY, ANN SMITH, DELORES HEAGY, FRAN MOLLUSKY, PEARL PIERCE, BERNICE BURANICH, MARY PETERSEN, SUE MIGLIORI, JOE SCHIAVONE, LINDA NIEMIEC, CAROLE GREENIP, JANE CAWLEY, JEROME LAMONICA, JEAN LAMONICA, THEO FREAR, BROGAN PERFILO, DICK & FLORENCE KELLY, MIKE HAMBURG, HARRIET McGARRIGLE, KAY NOREIKA. NATHAN REEVES, JOHN IRISH, PAULA VANDORICK
- 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 JANUARY 3RD FOR
MARYANN KASZUBA
OFFERED BY HER HUSBAND GEORGE

YOUR CONTRIBUTION:
Weekly Offerings

\$

ST. MARY OF THE LAKE CALENDAR (TENTATIVE)

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MASS SCHEDULE – WEEK OF JANUARY 03, 2021

| | | | | |
|-----------|------|----|-------------------|--|
| SATURDAY | JAN. | 02 | 5:00PM | CATHERINE MITCHELL– OFFERED BY MICHAEL & SUSAN DiSTADIO |
| SUNDAY | JAN. | 03 | 7:30AM 11:00AM | WILLIAM OLIVER – OFFERED BY MICHAEL & SUSAN DiSTADIO JIM MANGANELLA – OFFERED BY DOLORES, CHERYL ANN & JENNIFER |
| MONDAY | JAN. | 04 | 7:00AM | ELIZABETH RADY – OFFERED BY HER FAMILY |
| TUESDAY | JAN. | 05 | 7:00AM | NO MASS |
| WEDNESDAY | JAN. | 06 | 7:00AM | MARY KAMM – OFFERED BY JAMES & LORRAINE MAILLET |
| THURSDAY | JAN. | 07 | 7:00AM | NO MASS |
| FRIDAY | JAN. | 08 | 7:00AM | MARY LOU CHACKAN – OFFERED BY JANET & BILL SHAW |
| SATURDAY | JAN. | 09 | 5:00PM | JEAN YABLONSKI– OFFERED BY JOHN & LINDA YABLONSKI |
| SUNDAY | JAN. | 10 | 7:30AM 11:00AM | DIANA KOVALICK – OFFERED BY ROY & JOAN BRODY & CHILDREN BILL McLAUGHLIN – OFFERED BY JERRY McLAUGHLIN |

LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE

| <u>SAT. JAN. 02 & SUN. JAN. 03</u> | <u>SATURDAY 5:00PM</u> | <u>SUNDAY 7:30AM</u> | <u>SUNDAY 9:00AM</u> | <u>SUNDAY 11:00AM</u> |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| DEACON | RAY PIERETTI | | | RAY PIERETTI |
| EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S) | NONE | NONE | NO MASS | NONE |
| LECTOR | NONE | NONE | | NONE |
| ALTAR SERVER(S) | NONE | NONE | | NONE |
| OFFERTORY GIFTS | COLLECTION BASKET | COLLECTION BASKET | | COLLECTION BASKET |
| COLLECTION COUNTERS | | | | |
| | | | | |
| <u>SAT. JAN. 09 & SUN. JAN. 10</u> | <u>SATURDAY 5:00PM</u> | <u>SUNDAY 7:30AM</u> | <u>SUNDAY 9:00AM</u> | <u>SUNDAY 11:00AM</u> |
| DEACON | RAY PIERETTI | | | RAY PIERETTI |
| EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S) | NONE | NONE | NO MASS | NONE |
| LECTOR | NONE | NONE | | NONE |
| ALTAR SERVER(S) | NONE | NONE | | NONE |
| OFFERTORY GIFTS | COLLECTION BASKET | COLLECTION BASKET | | COLLECTION BASKET |
| COLLECTION COUNTERS | | | | |

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

----- **THE SICK, THE SUFFERING AND HOSPITALIZED**, ESPECIALLY: CAROLYN MYERS, ELISSA ROSE, LYLE STURDEVANT, MARYN KUKUCHKA, LILLIAN KRISTUNAS, SEAN COLLETT, 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, EDWARD KIMBEL, CHERYL SANDS, MARY DELMAR, CHARLES CAREY, GARRET CONOVER, ANALISA DOMINIC, LUCAS SETH BOYANOWSKI, VERNA PRAWDZIK, MATTHEW FORTESE, JACOB WALTER, CURTIS, TED BUNNELL, ARTHUR 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, PAT STASCavage, PEGGY FINNEGAN, JOAN STEPHENS, PEG BALL, ALICE WALSH, JOSEPH YAKOSKI, PENNY ZONNEVILLE, ALLAN FITCH, 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, MARY LOU ANDES, SUSAN MORYKON, PATRICIA ANN CARR, FRANK LEE ALTOMARE, TIM HANNON, SUE BARZILOSKI

----- 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:

Weekly Offerings \$

NATIVITY BVM CALENDAR (TENTATIVE)