

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



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

**FEBRUARY 06-07, 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](mailto:nativitybvmchurch@frontier.com)  
[nativity@nativitystmary.org](mailto:nativity@nativitystmary.org)

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday: 5:00PM**

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

**Pastoral Council: Diane Stone, Chair**

**Finance Council: Chris DeMarco, Chair**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



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

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

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday: 4:00PM**

**Sunday: 9:00AM**

**Pastoral Council: Bernie Garvey, Chair**

**Finance Council: Don Ames, Chair**

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

**Parish Office: Fr. Nallin Hall, Tunkhannock**  
**Business Manager: Dick Schwoebel (570)677-7634**  
**Secretary: 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](http://www.nativitystmary.org)  
[@nativitystmary](https://www.instagram.com/nativitystmary)

## FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH:

My Brothers and Sisters,



Going for a walk is easy in the summer and fall months. It's in the winter that it becomes a real challenge, with the snow, wind and cold temperatures.

The cold months of winter help build endurance and determination. After all, anyone can go out in the sunshine and warm temperatures. But when it is cold, really cold, that's when you have to reach deep down and find the determination to get moving, and, sometimes, the first challenge might be to just get out the front door.

In the warm months, you see so many people out enjoying themselves but, in the cold, you may have the whole walk to yourself. Just the other day, I was on the Iroquois Trail, not expecting to see anyone, when some fellow hearty walkers came by and after exchanging smiles and nods, we each went on our way. This got me to thinking how many people come into our lives for just a brief instance and then they are gone and we never see them again.

These are not just people. Each one has a life story with all its ups and downs, joys and sorrows, good times and bad. They move like shadows in our lives or simply a gust of wind that mostly goes unnoticed in our busy lives. But these brief encounters are important not only to us but to them as well.

When we encounter each other, even if only for a brief moment, we have the opportunity to make a difference. When we greet them with a smile, we can bring a moment of grace and light into their lives. Especially, if they are feeling lost at that moment, we can be that bit of sunshine that lifts them up. If we simply offer a quick hello for an instant in time, we are actually saying to them – I see you and you are important. What we say and do to each other isn't unimportant. There are no chance encounters. Each one has a purpose in God's plan, and for us, even in those brief moments, we can find grace if we simply make the effort. You might be surprised that maybe that moment wasn't for them; maybe, just maybe, it was meant to be for you.

May God Bless You,

*Deacon Ray*

**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](http://nativitystmary.org)) and on our Facebook page (@nativitystmary) with a link to a YouTube site.

**There will be a Mass for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 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 and the music significantly enhance 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!

## 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.

ONLINE OFFERTORY



NOW AVAILABLE

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

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:** We continue to exercise caution at this time and are keeping the Parish Office closed to the public. We are still working and are available by phone (570-836-3275 or 570-378-2181). You can also reach us by email either at [nativitybvmchurch@frontier.com](mailto:nativitybvmchurch@frontier.com) or at [stmaryofthelake@frontier.com](mailto:stmaryofthelake@frontier.com).

**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](http://nativitystmary.org). Any contribution that you can make will be gratefully received. **Thank you to those who continue to regularly send their contributions.**

**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).



**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](mailto:stmaryofthelake@frontier.com).

**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.

**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)**



**AFTERNOON PRAYERS  
with DEACON RAY**

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

**2020 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL  
As of January 25<sup>th</sup>**

**NATIVITY BVM CHURCH:**

GOAL:..... \$32,000.00  
 PLEDGED:..... \$23,715.00  
 STATUS:..... 74.1%  
**UNDER GOAL:**..... \$ 8,285.00  
 PARTICIPATION: 13.42% (124 FAMILIES OUT OF 924)

**ST. MARY OF THE LAKE CHURCH:**

GOAL:..... \$12,000.00  
 PLEDGED:..... \$ 6,580.00  
 STATUS..... 54.8%  
**UNDER GOAL:**..... \$ 5,420.00  
 PARTICIPATION: 10.72% (46 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](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)**

**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 February are:

**February 06-07**

In memory of **all our friends & neighbors who have died from Covid-19**, donated by the Pro-Life Committee

**February 13-14**

In memory of **Rita "Gigi" McMillan**, donated by Marleen & Peter Butler and family

**February 20-21**

**Available.** Contact the Parish Office (570-836-3275).

**February 27-28**

**Available.** Contact the Parish Office (570-836-3275).

**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.

**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 or put it in the collection.

**SCAM ALERT:** We have recently seen a return of a scam being perpetrated now using Fr. Albert's email contacts file. An email is sent (from an email address that does not belong to Fr. Albert – "pastor.catholic9@gmail.com") – and the text of the message is a variation of the following:

"Good morning, how are you doing?  
I need a favor from you, email me as soon as you get this message.  
God bless,  
Rev. Patrick  
Pastor."

If you receive a text or email request from Fr. Albert that doesn't appear to be legitimate, please contact Dick Schwoebel at the Parish Office (570-836-3275) or cell phone (570-677-7634). **DO NOT REPLY TO ANY QUESTIONABLE REQUEST!**

**WORD OF LIFE:** "A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned."  
Pope Francis  
Message for the 29<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Sick 2021  
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**REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR:** It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations.

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



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



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

- 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 DILONE – 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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
- 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

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



# The Light is ON for You.



*Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Anyone who wishes to come to the sacrament of Reconciliation is invited to come to Nativity BVM church on Monday night from 5:00-7:30PM during Lent.

## HOW TO MAKE A GOOD CONFESSION

**Preparation:** Before going to confession, take some time to examine your conscience. This might be done by reviewing your life in comparison to the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the example of Christ's life. Pray to God for forgiveness.

### Going to Confession:

1. The priest will welcome you, and you both make the sign of the cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. You continue with these traditional words: *Bless me Father, for I have sinned. It has been (how long) since my last confession.* You might also add any other background that will allow the priest to be most helpful to you in the circumstances of your everyday life.

3. The priest will encourage you to have trust in God, and invite you to confess your sins. Speak freely and honestly – nothing you say in confession will ever be repeated by the priest. The priest may talk with you about how to make up for the sins you confess. He will then assign an act of penance corresponding to the nature of the sins – this may take the form of prayer, self-denial, and especially service to one's neighbor.

4. Act of Contrition – you offer a prayer expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving not to sin again. You may say this in your own words, or use this traditional prayer: *My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.*

5. Following this prayer, the priest extends his hands over your head and says the words of absolution: *God the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins. Through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* As the priest concludes this prayer, he will make the sign of

the cross over your head – you bless yourself and respond, Amen.

6. The priest will invite you to go in peace.

**After Confession:** When you leave the confession room, take a few minutes of private prayer and thanksgiving. Plan how you will complete the assigned act of penance. Make a firm resolve to continue your conversion by a life renewed according to the Gospel and the love of God.

## BISHOP BAMBERA TO CELEBRATE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS ON FEBRUARY 10

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Mass for the 29<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Sick on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 12:10PM at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. The Mass will be open to the public and also will be broadcast on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and across all social media platforms. Parishes around the diocese are also encouraged to offer a Mass for the Sick either on February 11<sup>th</sup> or another convenient day near it, but because of the current health crisis, the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is not to be offered communally. Resources for World Day of the Sick can be found on the Diocese of Scranton website.

## NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK AND WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

**Are you looking for some TLC for your marriage?** Join us in celebrating National Marriage Week and World Marriage Day, **February 7 through 14, 2021**. Get ideas for celebrating this event together, and register for a virtual marriage enrichment event with Chris and Linda Padgett (English) or Joel and Nora de Loera (Spanish). For details, call Jen Housel at 570-207-2213 x 1104 or visit:

<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/enrichment/national-world-marriage-week-february-7-14-2021/>

**Celebrate National Marriage Week, February 7 – 14!**

To learn more about resources and events, call Jen Housel at 570-207-2213 x 1104 or visit:

<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/enrichment/national-world-marriage-week-february-7-14-2021/>

**REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEAD:** Your prayers are requested for the soul of **CAROL SCHWARTZTRAUBER**, who was buried from our church this Friday. 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.



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

## DIOCESAN GUIDELINES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

### Ash Wednesday – February 17

Parishes should NOT follow the usual practice of imposing Ashes by thumb on the forehead of parishioners. Parishioners should be reminded that receiving ashes is not required. The faithful should recognize that their own internal disposition and intention to repent is the importance of Ash Wednesday and that the ashes are an external sign of that internal reality. Individuals who cannot receive ashes can still enter into Lent with a repentant heart. Ashes can be distributed to the faithful, as long as there is no direct contact. There are at least two possible ways of doing this. Parishes are encouraged to follow one of the following options:

- Use an individual cotton swab for each recipient to distribute ashes. This would be done by use of a Q-tip type of cotton swab. With the cotton tip, trace a cross on the recipient's forehead. Both the minister and recipient must be properly wearing masks during the distribution. A new Q-tip must be used for each person. After the use, each swab should be placed in a receptacle for burning.

- In much of the world, the normal way of distributing ashes is to sprinkle ashes on top of the head, with no contact, rather than imposing them on the forehead. This way of distribution can be done safely as long as both the minister and the recipient are wearing masks. The minister should sprinkle a small portion of ashes on top of the person's head rather than to trace the sign of the Cross on the person's forehead. Parishes should be aware that this method might require more ashes than most parishes usually use and that should be taken into account in planning for Ash Wednesday. Some explanation of this method will be necessary for the faithful. At the end of this document is a "Note on Ash Wednesday" from the Vatican Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments explaining this process further.

- A small amount of blessed ashes could be prepared, along with a simple prayer service, and provided to take home for household members (similar to sending blessed chalk at Epiphany). The blessing and distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday normally takes place during the celebration of Mass, following the homily and general intercessions. While the Diocese has previously taken efforts to avoid unnecessary movement of the faithful, if both ministers and the faithful remain masked, this process can take place safely with parishioners returning to their seats and allowing Mass to continue. When circumstances require, the blessing and distribution of ashes may take place apart from Mass, during a celebration of the word of God. (Book of Blessings #1656) Any individual who is accustomed to distributing ashes at another location, for example, a long-term care facility, are reminded that they must adhere to the safety guidelines of those facilities.

## ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Nativity BVM

Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> ..... 7:00AM  
..... 7:00PM

St. Mary of the Lake

Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> ..... 8:00AM  
..... 7:00PM

**ASH DISTRIBUTION ON THE HEAD – NO DIRECT TOUCH**



## 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



**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.*



## 2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution statements for the 2020 calendar year are available. To request a statement of your contributions for 2020, please complete the form below and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office. You may also call the Parish Office (570-836-3275) to request the statement.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**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).

**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](http://nativitystmary.org)) and Facebook page (@nativitystmary). **We also need to update our list of email addresses**, which sadly is very incomplete. **We're asking all parishioners to send us their email address at this time** (Nativity parishioners – please send to [nativitybvmchurch@frontier.com](mailto:nativitybvmchurch@frontier.com) and St. Mary of the Lake parishioners – please send to [stmaryofthelake@frontier.com](mailto:stmaryofthelake@frontier.com)).

**REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEAD:** Your prayers are requested for the soul of St. Mary of the Lake parishioner **JOE "CHEF" SCHIAVONE**, 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.



### COMMUNITY NEWS

- **Needed: winter boots, coats, socks and gloves** for placement in sleeping bags for homeless individuals. Adult sizes. Contact Ida Ferguson at 607-742-2179 for pickup or drop off.
- There is a **need for old blankets, quilts and sheets** to be used in the making of bedrolls for homeless persons. For pickup or drop-off, contact Ida Ferguson at 607-742-2179.
- **A food collection drive will be conducted next Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00AM – 2:00PM at the Nativity BVM church parking lot.** All items collected will go to Wyoming County food pantries and the Wyoming County Humane Society for distribution. Non-perishable food items, pet food, personal care items, and monetary donations will be gratefully accepted. Sponsored by the Wyoming County Democratic Women's Society. For further information, call 570-378-2605.

**REMEMBRANCE OF THE DEAD:** Your prayers are requested for the soul of **SHIRLEY MARTIN PRICE**, mother of St. Mary of the Lake parishioner Maureen Bender, 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.



### POPE FRANCIS' COMMENTS ON SCRIPTURE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Praying with Scripture is not meant to be a mindless repetition of biblical quotes but instead is a gift that is meant to be accepted in people's hearts, Pope Francis said.

During his weekly general audience Jan. 27, the pope said the words contained in Scripture were "not written to remain imprisoned on papyrus, parchment or paper, but to be received by a person who prays, making them blossom in his or her heart."

He also said Christians must not exploit the Bible or use it for "ulterior motives" like justifying "his or her own philosophical and moral view."

"It irritates me a little when I hear Christians who recite verses from the Bible like parrots: 'Oh, yes, the Lord says (this), he wants this,'" the pope said, departing from his prepared remarks.

"But did you encounter the Lord with that verse? It is not a question only of memory; it is a question of the memory of the heart, that which opens you to the encounter with the Lord. And that word, that verse, leads you to the encounter with the Lord," he said.

Livestreaming his audience from the library of the Apostolic Palace, the pope continued his series of talks on prayer by looking at how Christians pray with Scripture.

"The Bible was not written for a generic humanity, but for us, for me, for you, for men and women in flesh and blood, men and women who have a name and a surname, like me, like you," he said.

The Christian tradition of "Lectio Divina," reflecting on and praying with the biblical readings, allows Christians to enter "into dialogue with the Scripture," he said. And recognizing oneself in a particular passage, biblical character or situation "is a grace." However, he added, praying with Scripture is "delicate" because those who pray "must not slip into subjective interpretations" but instead be united to Scripture and view it as "an icon to be contemplated."

Pope Francis said the word of God "inspires good intentions," gives strength and serenity to those in need and "even when it challenges us, it gives us peace."

"On 'weird' and confusing days, it guarantees the heart a core of confidence and of love that protects it from the attacks of the evil one," he said.

### 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.



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

## ST. MARY OF THE LAKE MASS SCHEDULE - WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2021

SATURDAY	FEB.	06		<b>NO MASS</b>
SUNDAY	FEB.	07	9:00AM	PAULINE HAMBURG – OFFERED BY CAROLE & RANDY GREENIP
MONDAY	FEB.	08		<b>NO MASS</b>
TUESDAY	FEB.	09	8:00AM	MARY LOU CHACKAN – OFFERED BY CARL, MARIE & KATIE PACKER
WEDNESDAY	FEB.	10		<b>NO MASS</b>
THURSDAY	FEB.	11	8:00AM	SANFORD & HELEN VANDERVEKEN – OFFERED BY THE VANDERVEKEN FAMILY
FRIDAY	FEB.	12	8:00AM	<b>NO MASS</b>
SATURDAY	FEB.	13		<b>NO MASS</b>
SUNDAY	FEB.	14	9:00AM	SHIRLEY PRICE – OFFERED BY ST. MARY’S DISCIPLES OF MARY

### LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE

<b>SAT. FEB. 06 &amp; SUN. FEB. 07</b>	<b>SATURDAY 4:00PM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 9:00AM</b>
DEACON		
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)		NONE
LECTORS	NO MASS	NONE
ALTAR SERVER(S)		NONE
USHERS		NONE
GREETERS		NONE
OFFERTORY GIFTS		COLLECTION BASKET
COLLECTION COUNTERS		
<b>SAT. FEB. 13 &amp; SUN. FEB. 14</b>	<b>SATURDAY 4:00PM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 9:00AM</b>
DEACON		
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 PERFILIO, 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 FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> 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 FEBRUARY 7, 2021

SATURDAY	FEB.	06	5:00PM	JOAN BETTS– OFFERED BY HEATHER BETTS
SUNDAY	FEB.	07	7:30AM	KRISTYNA JEDRZEWSKA – OFFERED BY DONNA GRENCAVAGE
			11:00AM	ELIZABETH McCLOSKEY – OFFERED BY DIANE STONE
MONDAY	FEB.	08	7:00AM	HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY – OFFERED BY LINDA & SARA RUEHLMAN
TUESDAY	FEB.	09	7:00AM	<b>NO MASS</b>
WEDNESDAY	FEB.	10	7:00AM	FRITZ VALENCHES – OFFERED BY DIANE & TOM STONE
THURSDAY	FEB.	11	7:00AM	<b>NO MASS</b>
FRIDAY	FEB.	12	7:00AM	ALEC BARET – OFFERED BY SUZIE BARZILOSKI
SATURDAY	FEB.	13	5:00PM	TED ROMANKO– OFFERED BY JOHN & MARGE HOVAN
SUNDAY	FEB.	14	7:30AM	WILLIAM OLIVER – OFFERED BY MIKE & SUSAN DiSTADIO
			11:00AM	JOHN J. PASTERNAK JR. & MARY PASTERNAK – OFFERED BY GLORIA PASTERNAK

### LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE

SAT. FEB. 06 & SUN. FEB. 07	SATURDAY 5:00PM	SUNDAY 7:30AM	SUNDAY 9:00AM	SUNDAY 11:00AM
DEACON				
EUCCHARISTIC				
MINISTER(S)	NONE	NONE	NO MASS	NONE
LECTOR	NONE	NONE		NONE
ALTAR	NONE	NONE		NONE
SERVER(S)				
OFFERTORY GIFTS	COLLECTION BASKET	COLLECTION BASKET		COLLECTION BASKET
COLLECTION COUNTERS				
SAT. FEB. 13 & SUN. FEB. 14	SATURDAY 5:00PM	SUNDAY 7:30AM	SUNDAY 9:00AM	SUNDAY 11:00AM
DEACON				
EUCCHARISTIC				
MINISTER(S)	NONE	NONE	NO MASS	NONE
LECTOR	NONE	NONE		NONE
ALTAR	NONE	NONE		NONE
SERVER(S)				
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)