

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



ST. MARY
OF THE LAKE
LAKE WINOLA, PA

MARCH 27-28, 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 & 11:00AM

Pastoral Council: Diane Stone, Chair

Finance Council: Chris DeMarco, Chair

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

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY



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

stmaryofthelake@frontier.com
stmary@nativitystmary.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday:

Sunday: 9:00AM

Pastoral Council: Bernie Garvey, Chair

Finance Council: Don Ames, Chair

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



Hard to believe that Lent is almost over. It seems to go so quickly, with hardly enough time to prepare for Easter. One year ago, we were preparing to record and broadcast our YouTube Mass for Palm Sunday as well as Easter Sunday and subsequent Masses for an entire year.

I understand the frustration and sadness that accompanied our abandoning the church building for the safety of electronically televising our services. However, one year later and over one half million people succumbing to the virus, a very clear picture emerges and the true seriousness of this pandemic is clear.

We must now look ahead to the future, to rebuild our world, to pray for the many thousands who were lost and the very valuable lessons learned. We thank God this Easter, especially for our life and our health, keeping one eye on the past and one eye on the future. We survived a serious moment in human history; many did not.

May we be ever grateful to God and our own ability to trust and exercise wisdom in the face of a foe that we cannot see.

May you have a most Blessed Easter with your family.

Sincerely,

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 Palm Sunday 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 at 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 (88.1 for Nativity or 95.1 for St. Mary of the Lake).** 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!

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).



NATIVITY BVM FIRST RECONCILIATION: Nativity's First Communion CCD class would like to announce that they received First Penance during a beautifully reflective ceremony on **Saturday, March 13th at 10:00AM.** Please keep our students in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to experience God's grace and mercy and begin to prepare for First Eucharist.

**Caitlin Cahill
Carter Henfling
Lillian Lybolt
Isabella Poirier
Avery Sechrist**

**Alexandria Callahan
Gabiella Kuffa
Lila Pasko
Ava Rowe**

EASTER TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

Nativity BVM

Holy Thursday (4/1)	7:00PM
Good Friday (4/2)	1:00PM
Holy Saturday (4/3)	
Blessing of Easter Baskets	Noon
Easter Vigil Mass	8:00PM
Easter Sunday (4/4)	7:30AM
.....	11:00AM

St. Mary of the Lake

Holy Thursday (4/1)	7:00PM
Good Friday (4/2)	1:00PM
Holy Saturday (4/3)	
Blessing of Easter Baskets	12:30PM
Easter Vigil Mass	8:00PM
Easter Sunday (4/4)	9:00AM

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**

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.



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. **NOTE: This will be the last Monday for this Lenten program.**

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.

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 March are:

March 06-07

In memory of **Fran Wiernusz**, donated by Luke & Sam Casterline

March 13-14

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

March 20-21

In memory of **Mary Kozielski**, donated by Mary Ann Brown

March 27-28

In memory of **Anthony "Spike" Brown**, 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).

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.

ONLINE OFFERTORY



NOW AVAILABLE



AFTERNOON PRAYERS with DEACON RAY

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

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.



**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 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) or reach us by email at stmaryofthelake@frontier.com or nativitybvmchurch@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. Any contribution that you can make will be gratefully received. **Thank you to those who continue to regularly send their contributions.**

2020 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL As of March 23rd

NATIVITY BVM CHURCH:

GOAL:.....	\$32,000.00
PLEGGED:.....	\$26,790.00
STATUS:.....	83.7%

UNDER GOAL:.....	\$ 5,210.00
PARTICIPATION:.....	15.48% (143 FAMILIES OUT OF 924)

ST. MARY OF THE LAKE CHURCH:

GOAL:.....	\$12,000.00
PLEGGED:.....	\$ 8,330.00
STATUS.....	69.4%

UNDER GOAL:.....	\$ 3,670.00
PARTICIPATION:.....	13.08% (56 FAMILIES OUT OF 428)

**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**

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)

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 ANNUAL CLEAN UP
AT NATIVITY B.V.M. CHURCH CEMETERIES**

Our annual cleanup of Christmas and Winter decorations has begun at Mount Carmel and Pieta Cemeteries. Now that the snow has finally melted, attention and clean up can begin at the cemeteries once again. **We ask that the autumn and winter decorations be cleaned up from the grave sites by Monday, March 29, 2021.** Any remaining items after this date will be removed and discarded. We ask that you only park on the paved driveway when visiting the cemeteries as the grounds are very soft at this time of year. Questions/concerns can be clarified by contacting the Parish Office during normal business hours.

WORD OF LIFE: "There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life... Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those 'brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves'... We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life" (*The Gospel of Life* 86).

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).

INDEPENDENT AUDIT: DIOCESE OF SCRANTON IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH CHILD PROTECTION GUIDELINES

The Diocese of Scranton has once again been found to be in full compliance with U.S. bishops' policies to prevent sexual abuse of children by clergy and other church personnel.

The Diocese has passed independent audits of its child protection procedures every year since the policy was adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 2002.

The USCCB spells out the policies that dioceses must follow in its "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." The Charter is a comprehensive action plan for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. It also includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability and prevention of future acts of abuse.

The audit was conducted by StoneBridge Business Partners, a private auditing firm based in New York, which has been contracted to conduct compliance audits of the nation's 195 dioceses.

LIHEAP is a federally funded grant program administered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through its network of local county assistance offices. **LIHEAP** provides customers help with paying winter heating bills. Cash Grants of \$200 to \$1,000 are available. **LIHEAP** funds may be used to pay an electric bill even if electricity is not the main source of heat. There are household income requirements for this program which are listed below. Visit www.compass.state.pa.us to apply while funds are available.

Income Eligibility Guidelines	
Household Size	Annual Income
1	\$19,140
2	\$25,860
3	\$32,580
4	\$39,300

For families/households with more than 4 persons, add \$6,720 for each additional person.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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



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

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON DIRECTIVES FOR HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCES

Parishes around the Diocese of Scranton are busy preparing for Holy Week Masses and services. The faithful are invited and encouraged to attend Holy Week and Easter Masses to experience the joy, hope and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Despite the good news of effective vaccines for COVID-19, safety protocols will remain in place for the remainder of Lent, the Sacred Paschal Triduum and Easter Sunday. The faithful are reminded that the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses remains suspended by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera until further notice. For those attending Masses, parishioners will be required to wear properly-fitting face coverings, remain physically distant from other individuals and practice good hand hygiene. Parishioners who feel ill or suspect they (or another immediate family member) may be infected with the coronavirus are urged to stay home and participate in online/broadcast services to protect others. The Diocese of Scranton has released a comprehensive set of liturgical directives for parishes. The protocols are all available on the Diocese of Scranton website. Parishes have been encouraged to pay special attention to the length of Holy Week liturgies and take great care in developing plans to welcome the faithful on Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Some parishes have decided to take reservations while others plan to utilize overflow areas with livestream/broadcast capabilities.

PALM SUNDAY Sunday, March 28, 2021 The Diocese of Scranton will resume the practice of providing blessed palms to the faithful this year. While parishes are responsible for developing a safe and effective method of distribution, the faithful are reminded of the importance of maintaining a proper six-foot physical distance while receiving palms. The Diocese of Scranton has also directed that the Passion should be proclaimed in a format that does not require the use of missalettes by the assembly. Individual pamphlets or bulletins that include the readings may be distributed but must be taken by the faithful after Mass or discarded and not reused for another Mass.

CHRISM MASS Tuesday, March 30, 2021 Bishop Bambera is planning to celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 30, at 4:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Due to seating limitations, the Mass will be open to invited guests only. The faithful from across the 11-county Diocese are invited to participate in the Chrism Mass via a live broadcast on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. The Chrism Mass will also be livestream to the Diocese of Scranton website with a link made available on all Diocesan social media platforms.

HOLY THURSDAY Thursday, April 1, 2021 This year, the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will look different in the Diocese of Scranton but its significance will not change. Due to health and safety concerns, the washing of the feet will not take place this year.

Traditionally, the bishop/priest would wash the feet of twelve individuals. At the end of the Mass, a simple transfer of the Eucharist may take place. The Diocese has directed that the transfer needs to remain indoors and not involve movement of the assembly. The transfer can, however, involve the priest and an adult attendant carrying incense. Adoration by the faithful at the place of reposition may follow but parish leaders must ensure that all safety precautions, including physical distancing and mask wearing are followed.

GOOD FRIDAY Friday, April 2, 2021 Similar to Palm Sunday, the Passion should be proclaimed in a format that does not require the use of missalettes by the faithful. Pamphlets or bulletins that include the readings may be distributed but should be taken home by the faithful or discarded. On Good Friday, due to health and safety measures, the faithful are being asked not to approach the Cross for private adoration, such as kissing. After physically venerating the Cross himself, a priest is welcome to hold the Cross before the faithful and invite them to adore the Holy Cross in silence.

HOLY SATURDAY Saturday, April 3, 2021 The Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Paschal Candle may take place. Even though outside, only a small group such as the RCIA catechumens/candidates, along with the priest and an adult server/attendant may gather around the fire. Everyone participating must also be masked and remain physically distant from one another, especially when processing inside the church. It is extremely important that parishes not use congregational tapers during the Easter Vigil because blowing them out would require everyone to lower their masks and exhale at the same time. If catechumens and candidates are being fully initiated/received into the Church and confirmed at the Easter Vigil, care must be taken that the priest celebrates these rites safely, including using fresh water for each baptism and/or the use of a separate instrument to anoint an individual with Chrism.

EASTER SUNDAY Sunday, April 4, 2021 If it answers a pastoral need, parishes can add additional Masses on Easter Sunday. Weather permitting, parishes may consider holding outdoor Masses on Easter Sunday if it has already been parish practice last fall. Liturgical music should continue to be done simply, without large choirs, and the assembly is once again advised that singing is still not recommended at this point, even with a mask. The faithful can be sprinkled with holy water following the Renewal of Baptismal Promises. Fresh water in a separate container should be used and blessed for this sprinkling.



BISHOP JOSEPH C. BAMBERA STATEMENT ON COVID-19 VACCINES

On Thursday, March 4, 2021, Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, issued the following statement regarding COVID-19 vaccines:

"The COVID-19 pandemic has caused tremendous grief and fear in our country and world over the last year, leaving more than 500,000 dead in the United States alone.

"I want to be clear and concise in my pastoral guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccines. Given the grave danger this virus poses, it is morally acceptable to receive any of the current COVID-19 vaccines that have been determined to be clinically safe and effective. This position is supported by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"People should not delay getting a vaccine. Receiving a vaccine not only protects an individual's health but also serves the common good by protecting the community – including the weak and vulnerable.

"While fully recognizing the complex moral and ethical issues involved in vaccine development, at this time, people are not being given a true choice of which vaccine they receive, and likely won't be without a lengthy delay.

"Given that risk to public health, the faithful can in good conscience receive any of the current vaccines."

VIRTUAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

This can be a difficult time to navigate grief, particularly during this ongoing period of social distancing. Please consider joining the virtual grief support group offered by Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish in Scranton. *Anyone is welcome; you do not have to be a member of the parish to participate.* The group will convene online, Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 7:30PM. The dates of the virtual meetings will be April 7, 14, 21 and 28. For more information, please contact Deacon Ed Shoener at 570-814-5133 or at 570-344-7231.

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.

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 dmaryofthelake@frontier.com.

Reverend and dear Father,

In recent years, many women from the Diocese of Scranton have attended and appreciated the Catholic Women's Conference, *Refresh Your Faith*. As with numerous events, the Conference for June 2020 was cancelled. This year the planning committee is proceeding with the Women's Conference in an outdoor tented space on the campus of Marywood University.

The theme of "With Merciful Love" will be addressed by the keynote speaker, Theresa Bonapartis, and by the featured speakers, Father Chris Alar and Sister Virginia Joy. Taylor Tripodi will provide the spiritual music.

Please extend an invitation to the women of your Parish to attend. More detailed information and registration is available at www.cwcnepa.com. Announcements will be sent over the next few months to your Parish Secretaries with bulletin announcements, flyers to post, and invitations for group registrations from your Parish.

A request will also be forthcoming for priests to serve as confessors for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

With social distancing and limited numbers this year, reservations will be filling up fast, so encourage your parish members to participate and help to make this an enriching experience and a blessed day.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

†Joseph C. Bambera

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

KEEPING IN TOUCH: During this extended period of time when we are unable to get together completely 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** to our new email address – saintnativity@gmail.com.

PRAYERS FOR PALM SUNDAY

Almighty God, during this Holy Week, we ask you to encourage all Christians to draw close to you for their strength and comfort. We particularly remember those Christians who suffer persecution as a result of their faith. Creator God, we pray for your world. We pray for the nations of the world embroiled in long-term conflicts, and for communities scarred by political unrest and upheaval. Grant wisdom to the world's decision makers. Guide them to work for peace and the wellbeing of all people.

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY MASS SCHEDULE – WEEK OF MARCH 28, 2021

SATURDAY	MAR.	27	5:00PM	PAUL WOZNAK– OFFERED BY GLORIA PASTERNAK
SUNDAY	MAR.	28	7:30AM 11:00AM	JOSEPH FRANK – OFFERED BY HIS PARENTS DAVID DRELICK – OFFERED BY ROY & JOAN BRODY & FAMILY
MONDAY	MAR.	29	7:00AM	CAROL EMMETT – OFFERED BY LINDA YABLONSKI
TUESDAY	MAR.	30	7:00AM	NO MASS
WEDNESDAY	MAR.	31	7:00AM	CATHERINE POLMOUNTER – OFFERED BY THE FISK FAMILY
THURSDAY	APR.	01	7:00PM	LUCILLE & VINCENT BISHOP – OFFERED BY THE PRICE FAMILY
FRIDAY	APR.	02	7:00AM	NO MASS
SATURDAY	APR.	03	8:00PM	CATHERINE MITCHELL– OFFERED BY MARIAN STROKA
SUNDAY	APR.	04	7:30AM 11:00AM	WILLIAM OLIVER – OFFERED BY MIKE & SUSAN DiSTADIO ART BUNNELL – OFFERED BY PAT WALL

LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE

<u>SAT. MAR. 27 & SUN. MAR. 28 SATURDAY 5:00PM</u>		<u>SUNDAY 7:30AM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 9:00AM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 11:00AM</u>
DEACON				
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)		NONE	NO MASS	NONE
LECTOR		NONE		NONE
ALTAR SERVER(S)		NONE		NONE
OFFERTORY GIFTS	COLLECTION BASKET	COLLECTION BASKET		COLLECTION BASKET
COLLECTION COUNTERS				
<u>THURSDAY APR. 01 (HOLY THURSDAY)</u>		<u>7:00PM</u>		
DEACON				
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)		NONE		
LECTOR		NONE		
ALTAR SERVER(S)		NONE		
OFFERTORY GIFTS		COLLECTION BASKET		
COLLECTION COUNTERS				
<u>SAT. APR. 03 & SUN. APR. 04 SATURDAY 8:00PM</u>		<u>SUNDAY 7:30AM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 9:00AM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 11:00AM</u>
DEACON				
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)		NONE	NO MASS	NONE
LECTOR		NONE		NONE
ALTAR SERVER(S)		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 FORTESI, JACOB WALTER, CURTIS, 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, 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, TIM HANNON, FRANK LEE ALTOMARE, SUE BARZILOSKI, THERESA CAINES, STEVE BONCZEK

----- THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED) AND THE NEEDS OF OUR PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.
PLEASE NOTIFY THE PARISH OFFICE (570-836-3275) IF ANYONE IS HOSPITALIZED OR ILL OR IN NEED OF PRAYERS.

SANCTUARY LIGHT:

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE WILL BURN DURING
 THE WEEK OF MARCH 28TH FOR
DOMINIC GRANDINETTI
 OFFERED BY HIS FAMILY

YOUR CONTRIBUTION:

Weekly Offerings \$

ST. MARY OF THE LAKE MASS SCHEDULE - WEEK OF MARCH 28, 2021

SATURDAY	MAR.	27		NO MASS
SUNDAY	MAR.	28	9:00AM	JACK CONNOR – OFFERED BY NICK & PAT SHYSHUK JACK SNYDER – OFFERED BY BETTY CZYMERYK
MONDAY	MAR.	29		NO MASS
TUESDAY	MAR.	30	8:00AM	JOHN SNYDER – OFFERED BY HIS FAMILY
WEDNESDAY	MAR.	31	8:00AM	NO MASS
THURSDAY	APR.	01	7:00PM	ELEANOR GRANDINETTI – OFFERED BY BETTY CZYMERYK
FRIDAY	APR.	02	8:00AM	NO MASS
SATURDAY	APR.	03	8:00PM	MEMBERS OF THE VANDERVEKEN FAMILY – OFFERED BY THE VANDERVEKEN FAMILY
SUNDAY	APR.	04	9:00AM	REV. PETER ALISAUSKAS – OFFERED BY CAROLE & GEORGE KAMAGE

LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE

<u>SAT. MAR. 27 & SUN. MAR. 28</u>	<u>SATURDAY 4:00PM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 9:00AM</u>
DEACON		
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)		NONE
LECTORS	NO MASS	NONE
ALTAR SERVER(S)		NONE
USHERS		NONE
GREETERS		NONE
OFFERTORY GIFTS		COLLECTION BASKET
COLLECTION COUNTERS		
<u>THURSDAY. APR. 01 (HOLY THURSDAY)</u>		<u>7:00PM</u>
DEACON		
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)		NONE
LECTORS		NONE
ALTAR SERVER(S)		NONE
USHERS		NONE
GREETERS		NONE
OFFERTORY GIFTS		COLLECTION BASKET
COLLECTION COUNTERS		
<u>SAT. APR. 03 & SUN. APR. 04</u>	<u>SATURDAY 8:00PM</u>	<u>SUNDAY 9:00AM</u>
DEACON		
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER(S)	NONE	NONE
LECTORS	NONE	NONE
ALTAR SERVER(S)	NONE	NONE
USHERS	NONE	NONE
GREETERS	NONE	NONE
OFFERTORY GIFTS	COLLECTION BASKET	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, LINDA NIEMIEC, CAROLE GREENIP, JANE CAWLEY, JEROME LAMONICA, JEAN LAMONICA, THEO FREAR, BROGAN PERFILO, DICK & FLORENCE KELLY, MIKE HAMBURG, KAY NOREIKA, HARRIET McGARRIGLE, NATHAN REEVES, JOHN IRISH, PAULA VANDORICK, JOE DAVITT
- THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED AND THE NEEDS OF OUR PARISH AND PARISHIONERS

PLEASE NOTIFY THE PARISH OFFICE (570-378-2181) IF ANYONE IS HOSPITALIZED OR ILL OR IN NEED OF PRAYERS.

SANCTUARY LIGHT:

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE WILL BURN DURING
THE WEEK OF MARCH 28TH FOR
MARYANN KASZUBA
OFFERED BY HER HUSBAND GEORGE

YOUR CONTRIBUTION:

Weekly Offerings

\$