

# Holy Nativity Catholic Church

"Knowledge, love and service to God."

## Weekly Schedule

**Monday Mass:** Noon

**Tuesday Mass:** Noon

**Wednesday Mass** 10 am

**Thursday Mass:** Noon

**Friday Mass:** Noon

**Friday 5:30 pm Stations of the Cross followed by Soup**

**Saturday No Mass**

**Sunday Mass:** 10 am

Followed by fellowship in the parish hall

**Confession:** one hour before every mass and as requested. *Don't hesitate!*

**Holy Hour:** The Holy Eucharist will be unveiled for adoration one hour before each of the weekday masses.

## Announcements

**The Holy Nativity Men's Group** meets Wednesday, March 11, [second Wednesday] in the church hall, 6-8pm. Greg Biltz will present "A Walk with Christ During Holy Week: An Introduction to events leading to the crucifixion of Christ." The special 2-hour presentation is open to all parishioners and their guests.

**Relevant Radio:** We invite you to tune in to Fr. Rocky on KPIH 98.9 FM as he gives Lenten reflections on the Mass. Fr. Rocky is the CEO for Relevant Radio.

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1414 North Easy Street, Payson, Arizona 85541

The Most Rev. Steven J Lopes—Bishop

The Rev. Fr. Joseph F Vieira—Pastor

The Rev Mr. Tom Fox —Deacon

# Holy Nativity Catholic Church

*A Catholic Church under the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter*

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## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

**MARCH 1, 2020**

**SUNDAY, 10:00 AM**

# First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2020

Rev. Fr. Joseph F. Vieira, Celebrant

## Responsorial Psalm

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

## Tract

Whoso dwelleth under the defense of the Most High: shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

## Hymns

347 -- The Glory of These Forty Days

712 -- There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

170 -- Sanctus

174 -- Angus Dei

501 -- Take Up Your Cross

## Communion is taken by intinction

The Host is dipped in the Precious Blood and placed on the tongue.

If you wish NOT to receive the Precious Blood, place your finger over your lips.

When the Priest comes to you, he will give you the Host only.

## Prayer Requests

The Intention for today's Mass is for the repose of the soul of Nellie Morrison

To place requests call Fr. Vieira at 512-815-4760

or email at [frvieira.holynativity@gmail.com](mailto:frvieira.holynativity@gmail.com)

## Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

## A message from Father Vieira.....

As we enter the first full week of Lent, we pause to reflect on our choices for the Lenten fast. Some of us may have figuratively bit off more than we can chew. We chafe at the restrictions we have given ourselves, thinking them too harsh, or we mentally chastise ourselves for serving up a “soft-pitch” for the season. Either way we experience temptation to break away from what we have chosen. We are called to consider whether we are experiencing temptation or the pangs of guilty conscience. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines temptation as “An attraction, either from outside oneself or from within, to act contrary to right reason and the commandments of God.” (Glossary Catechism of the Catholic Church) How do we know we are being tempted? We feel a pull to do or experience something that we know will stand between us and God. A good rule of thumb is to ask if you would be embarrassed to have this shown on the evening news. Sin can be either acts of omission or commission. I can fail to come to a complete stop at the sign, or I can choose to intentionally lie concerning a particular issue. In the end it really does not matter, it is sin either way.

Now that temptation and sin have been discussed; how are we to face the coming weeks of Lenten temptations?

First, it is important to keep focused on the end goal. Sin separates us from God, mortal sin completely separates us from God and must be addressed in confession. Venial sins damage our relationship with God and others, and through a cumulative effect still place our soul in jeopardy. Hence the need for regular confession. In so doing we keep our eyes fixed firmly on Heaven.

So, we are tempted, what can we do? The Gospel reading this Sunday provides the example given by Jesus. First, He kept His eye on the end goal, the Salvation of souls. He refused to place personal needs above those of His people. Second, although He has the personal authority to bind Satan, we do not. As an example to us Jesus used Sacred Scripture to counter what the Devil was saying. The Apostle Paul called Scripture the “Sword of the Spirit”, in the book of Hebrews, it is said that the “Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword”. Christians are not called to be pacifists when it comes to spiritual combat, we are to draw our sword and engage the enemy. As a Master of the Sword, He demonstrated for all who follow in Christ the immense power of the Scriptures.

Finally, we are reminded that none of the life of Faith is possible without a firm relationship with our God and King. The forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness devoted to fasting and prayer demonstrate the priority of being devoted to a relationship with the Father. Fasting strips away many of the ties of the world, and the prayer draws us ever nearer to God.

I encourage you to take the coming weeks of Lent to fast from what comes between you and God; to study sacred Scripture daily, and as you read, lift all to God in prayer. You will not be disappointed.

Please join us for coffee and fellowship following Mass in the parish hall.

