

## THIS WEEK AT NATIVITY

**SUNDAY:**

11:00 am – Mass, “Church”

**MONDAY:****TUESDAY:**

8:15 am – Mass, “Church”

6:00 pm – First Communion Practice, (Families A-J)

6:45 pm – First Communion Practice, (Families K-Z)

**WEDNESDAY:**

7:00 pm – Confirmation (Families A-J), “Church”

**THURSDAY:**

9:30-11:00 am – Catechesis, “Parish Office Basement”

4:00-5:30 pm – Catechesis, “Parish Office Basement &amp; Upstairs”

7:00 pm – Confirmation (Families K-Z), “Church”

**FRIDAY:**

8:15 am – Mass, “Church”

9:00 am – Confessions, “Chapel” (please call for appointment)

**SATURDAY:**

4:30 pm, Mass, “Church”

**Readings for September 27, 2020**

**Ezekiel 18: 25-28      Philippians 2: 1-11**  
**Matthew 21: 28-32**

**Saturday – 4:30 pm Mass****Lectors: Bea Souder & Ed Smith****Sunday – 11:00 am Mass****Lectors: John Finn & Patrick Jennings****Sacramental Dates rescheduled:**

**Confirmation** will be celebrated in two ceremonies with Fr. Eric as the celebrant on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> (Families A-J) and Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> (K-W), both at 7:00 pm.

**First Communion** will also be in two ceremonies: Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> (Families A-J) and Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> (Families K-Z) both at 1:30 pm. **First Communion Practice will be held on Tuesday, September 29:** (Families A-J), will be at 6:00 pm and (Families K-Z), will be held at 6:45 pm in church. **Parents** if you did not receive an email regarding this, please make sure to contact Sister Janet at [janet.schneider@nativity-cincinnati.org](mailto:janet.schneider@nativity-cincinnati.org)

**Please pray for the following:****Sick & Shut-Ins**

Bill Bach	Bill Balskus	Reid Baumgartner
Liz Bellew	Stephanie Benhase	Mary Jo Beresford
Dottie Brinker	Eugene Carlson	Kathy Chalfin
Barbara Cottrell	Diana DeRhodes	Joe Doering
Declan Donovan	Stella Evans	Barry Funk
Jackie Goetz	Jim Kaufman	Fr. Ray Kellerman
Al & Mary Lou Matre	Mary McErlane	Gretchen Niswonger
Ron Rulon	Debbie Schneider	Maureen Sullivan
Carl Udry	Bob Valerius	Stan Vollman
Jan Weaver		

**Friends & Family**

Mark Behreng	Sally Bowron	Aaron Bradford
Sheila Caldwell	James Doolittle	Bob Finn
Mary Sue Loftus	Rick Holtz	John Mack
Doug Martin	Bob Mitchell	Greg Morley
David Palmer	Holly Rough	Peg Schuckman
Susan Shakelford	Mary Ellen Spait	Mike Tebbe
Mary Williams	Craig Wrober	

**Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements for Holy Communion, Anointing of the Sick, Reconciliation and pastoral visits.**

<b>CHURCH OFFERINGS</b>	<b>September 20, 2020</b>	<b>Fiscal YTD</b>
Regular Collection	4,124.00	54,968.54
School Support	55.00	2,310.00
Online Collection	507.00	49,970.32
Total Offerings	4,686.00	107,248.86
Budget	10,900.00	130,800.00
Over (under) Budget	(6,214.00)	(23,551.14)

\***OOPS!** Last week's bulletin contained a couple of typing errors. Regular collections YTD should have been \$50,844.54 and School Support YTD should have been 2,255.

Next weekend our second collection will be going to **Pregnancy Center East** where they believe those facing untimely pregnancy deserve to be empowered to choose life by being fully informed about the risks and consequences of abortion and about life-affirming alternatives.



Beginning on September 23, people across the world will gather outside of abortion facilities to lift their voices in prayer for the women and men who enter, the workers who provide abortion services, and the innocent lives lost. Those who commit to these 40 days of prayer and fasting, do so peacefully in the spirit of hope that someday we will see a world where the killing of unborn children is unthinkable.

**Registration for all our school Religion programs** (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Atrium), Breaking Open the Word (BOW), and Junior High Confirmation Prep, is now available on the website. Please complete the online registration and then print out the medical/permission form and bring it to the first class. <https://www.nativity-cincinnati.org/religious-education/religious-education-of-children/>

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

"No fair!"

I would scream that at my Mom and Dad when I felt like my younger brother was getting special treatment or when I wasn't getting what I thought that I deserved.

The response was invariably: "Nobody ever said life was fair."

I always hated that answer. So it would come as no surprise that readings for this Sunday resonate with me. The prophet Ezekiel recounts the complaints of God's Chosen People: "'The Lord's way is not fair!'" At this point in the faith journey of God's people, they are strangers in Babylon, the Temple has been destroyed, and they have been exiled from the Promised Land. Understandably the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are distressed that the fruits of their covenant with God, all the good things He promised them, have been taken away. The vineyard has been trampled. As always, such events in the story of Israel are a reminder that the people need to put first things first. God is calling them to Himself. The response that will restore them to life is not resentment but repentance.

The Lord Jesus, come in the fullness of time by the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the promises of the Father and establish an eternal covenant, takes things to the next level. Jesus elevates and perfects the promises of God, taking the commandments to their fulfillment in the law of love. The call to a relationship with God through an encounter of mercy that elicits heartfelt repentance is the witness of the Father's sons and daughters. The parable of the two sons is not merely an insight into parenting rebellious children but an allegory revealing the life of God's Chosen People.

Jesus tells this parable in response to the chief priests and the elders in the Temple challenging the authority of the rabbi from Nazareth, who is also the Incarnate Son of God. He is reminding the religious leaders that their task is not demanding blind obedience to religious rules but to form a community of faith in the living God through inviting others to encounter the merciful heart of God. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the God of the widow, the stranger, and the orphan. He is a Father with a heart for the poor, the marginalized, those on the peripheries of society, like tax collectors and prostitutes.

The mission of the Church, the task of disciples of Jesus, is the same. Every believer is baptized into Christ as priest, prophet, and king. A parish community is to be the place where those who are suffering from the wounds of rejection, resentment, and lack of loving concern from the world will come to encounter the loving-kindness of God through his children. The vineyard is the Biblical image for the area of divine work to generate life, to bear fruit, to

plant seeds of faith in fertile soil, and reap a rich harvest of faith, hope, and love.

This is, indeed, not fair. It is not strict justice, but a mercy that is not what we deserve. It is, in fact, more than we could ever hope for! Reflecting on God's generous gift of life in Jesus through our baptism, let us go forth and labor in the vineyard, even at a late hour in our life, to sow seeds of love and gratitude, witnessing to repentance, and receiving the poor with open arms into our parish family.



**Winter Sports Sign-up:** Nativity Boosters sponsors boys and girls GCCYS basketball teams for grades 3-8 and also offers instructional basketball for grades K-2. Please register at <https://nativity-cincinnati.weshareonline.org/BoosterSignups>.

No fees will be collected at this time, but the coordinators are busy making plans for the 20-21 season! Registration will close October 6<sup>th</sup>. Please note that you will NOT receive a confirmation email for registrations since no payment is required at this time. Changes to the basketball season may happen due to Covid-19 and we will do our best to adapt to these changes as they come. Please visit <https://www.gccys.com> to learn about the Health and Safety Guidelines of 2020. Questions can be directed to: Dapo Igbonegun; [instructionalbasketball@athletics.nativity-cincinnati.org](mailto:instructionalbasketball@athletics.nativity-cincinnati.org) (K-2); Shannon Lively; [boysbasketball@athletics.nativity-cincinnati.org](mailto:boysbasketball@athletics.nativity-cincinnati.org); (Boys (3-8)); Rick Jones; [girlsbasketball@athletics.nativity-cincinnati.org](mailto:girlsbasketball@athletics.nativity-cincinnati.org) (Girls 3-8).

**Here are 3 ways you can help earn free money for Nativity:**

**Kroger Community Rewards:** Go online to <http://kroger.com/account/communityrewards> and click on community rewards and change organization to Nativity of Our Lord. In addition, you will need to ensure your Kroger Plus Card is loaded to your account. As you shop at Kroger, Nativity will get a percentage of the bill! Here is a link that contains more information on the program; <https://www.kroger.com/topic/kroger-community-rewards-3>

**Amazon Smile:** AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service, and you can use your current Amazon account. To get started, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F> and search Nativity of our Lord Church as your charitable organization. Nativity will get 0.5% back for participating purchases! **FYI:** In order for us to get the 0.5% back you MUST be ordering in the Amazon Smile Browser (link above)! For those who use the Amazon shopping app, find "AmazonSmile" listed in the settings menu and follow onboarding instructions to activate AmazonSmile on your device.

**Box Tops for Education:** Box Tops for Education is now digital. Download the new Box Tops mobile app, choose Nativity School, and scan store receipts for instant earnings! Each box top is worth \$0.10, but they also have bonus deals which can make your purchase even more valuable. You must scan your receipt within 2 weeks of purchase. For more information on the program, including a list of participating products, visit [www.BTFE.com](http://www.BTFE.com).

**Parish Outreach Project:** Please do not forget that we are still trying to provide bananas, oranges/tangerines and individually wrapped desserts (L'il Debbie type) for the homeless who get meals from *Our Daily Bread*. They must be in the parish office by Thursday mornings – 8:30 am.

~Please remember Nativity in your will~

September 27, 2020 Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time