

## THIS WEEK AT NATIVITY

**SUNDAY:**

10:45-12:00 pm – Catechesis, “POB”  
11:00 am – Mass, “Church”

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

8:15 am – Mass, “Church”  
6:30 pm – Parish Council, “Remote”

**WEDNESDAY:****THURSDAY:**

9:30-11:00 am – Catechesis, “POB”  
4:00-5:30 pm – Catechesis, “POB & Upstairs”

**FRIDAY:**

8:15 am – Mass, “Church”

**SATURDAY:**

3:00-4:00 pm – Confessions (PO – 1<sup>st</sup> Fl. Conf.)  
4:30 pm - Mass, “Church”

**PO – Parish Office; POB – Parish Office Basement**

**Readings for October 25, 2020**

Exodus 22: 20-26      1 Thes 1: 5c-10  
Matthew 22: 34-40

**Saturday – 4:30 pm Mass**

**Lectors:** *Mary Lennard, Tom Millard*

**Sunday – 11:00 am Mass**

**Lectors:** *Mary Ann Romanello, Bitsy Smyjunas*

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sunday:            Nicholas Marchesani  
Tuesday:         For the People  
Friday:            Stan Vollman  
Saturday:         For the People

**National Black Catholic History Month**

As part of National Black Catholic History Month, the Offices of African American Pastoral Ministries and Social Action are collaborating with the USCCB, Archdiocese of Washington D.C., Archdiocese of Chicago, and the Tolton Ambassadors to celebrate the lives of the six African American candidates for the Cause of Canonization. On each of three Saturdays (November 7, 14, and 21) there will be a 90-minute Zoom presentation highlighting two of the holy candidates. To register for the Zoom presentations, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cloud-of-witnesses-sponsored-by-the-tolton-ambassadors-dc-tickets-122107178859>. For more information, contact Deacon Royce Winters at (513) 263-6640.

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

Bill Bach	Bill Balskus	Reid Baumgartner
Liz Bellew	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	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	Ellen Molloy
Greg Morley	David Palmer	Holly Rough
Peg Schuckman	Susan Shakelford	Mary Ellen Spaite
Mike Tebbe	Mary Williams	Craig Wrober

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

CHURCH OFFERINGS	October 18, 2020	Fiscal YTD
Regular Collection	4,933.50	77,745.72
School Support	110.00	3,220.00
Online Collection	2,608.00	65,481.82
Total Offerings	7,651.50	146,447.54
Budget	10,900.00	174,400.00
Over (under) Budget	(3,248.50)	(27,952.46)



**This year's golf outing generated \$24,050 in net proceeds for the Nativity Tuition Assistance program!** Many thanks to all those who supported the event by sponsoring, playing, volunteering, or donating auction items and prizes.



**“Moving Forward Together” 2019 Nativity Annual Fund ends with nearly \$94,000 in donations** - Many thanks to

the 155 Nativity families who donated to the “Moving Forward Together” 2019 Annual Fund. The campaign, which ran October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020, ended with \$93,930 in donations. Thanks to the generosity of all our Nativity families!!!

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

October is the month of the Holy Rosary, so let's continue this series reflecting upon my Marian pilgrimage in 2019, visiting shrines to the Blessed Virgin Mary in Medjugorje, Fatima, and Lourdes. Along the way I was blessed to renew my walk with Jesus by deepening my connection to the saints who came to know Him better through His mother Mary. This includes Saint Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes.

As with Francisco and Jacinta Marto, I was able to visit the places where Bernadette lived. With a few more decades to develop as a pilgrimage site, Lourdes is a bit more "touristy" in some ways than Fatima. There are placards with pictures and quotes from Bernadette's life throughout some of the stops. One that drew my attention was just outside the main room where the Soubirous family lived at the time of the apparitions of Our Lady to Bernadette.

Her father has fallen on hard times and lost his livelihood as the local miller, having to move everyone into cramped quarters. Eight people lived together next to a large fireplace with only a little window for ventilation in a room smaller than my current bedroom. It was precisely in this period of poverty and hardship that the Virgin Mary came to Bernadette.

On February 11, 1858, 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous went with her sister and a friend to collect firewood along the riverbank. A gentle breeze caught the teenager's attention. In the crevice of a rock, Bernadette noticed a "lady dressed in white," as she called her. For six months, from February to July, the lady in white appeared 18 times to Bernadette. The Lady did not reveal her name, "I am the Immaculate Conception," until March 25th, during the 16th apparition. In fact, during most of the other apparitions no words were spoken at all. Bernadette was simply called to spend time to be with the Lady.

On March 2, the Lady entrusted to Bernadette a two-fold message, saying: "Go and tell the priests that people are to come here in procession and to have a chapel built here." Her time with Our Lady had convicted Bernadette of the truth that God was interested in her personally, that He has a preferential love for the poor and marginalized. Curious crowds had begun to gather along the riverbank, attracting concerned attention. Bernadette was interrogated by the local authorities, both the police and the clergy. During all this time, Bernadette wasn't intimidated either by their questions or by the taunting of the crowds that gathered to watch her. One of the placards I read outside the cramped living quarters of the Soubirous family records Bernadette as saying, "I have been asked to tell you about it, not to make you believe it."

How simple! Perhaps sometimes we are reluctant to share the good news of Jesus because we've taken upon ourselves the burden of making others believe. Conversion is a work of the Holy Spirit. We are messengers, not saint-makers. Love God, love neighbor. The Virgin Mary was a simple youth in Palestine, not from any noble family or fortune. It seems little wonder why she connected with a poor peasant girl in Lourdes. When Our Lady asked Bernadette to pray the rosary, the beads were already in her pocket. The Lord teaches his disciples to come to Him in their need, to pray, to love others, to care for the sick and lonely. They are not sent to convert the world. They are sent to love their neighbor. It is through this witness to love that hearts are changed.

Every evening in Lourdes, like at Fatima, my little pilgrimage group joined a candlelit procession praying the rosary. Let's not make it too complicated. Pray the rosary, share the Gospel. How simple!



### **Calling on Compassionate Co-workers in Bereavement:**

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." In the Beatitudes from his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus invites his disciples to accompany those who are grieving. To pray for the living and the dead is a spiritual work of mercy. To bury the dead is a corporal work of mercy. If you desire to extend the mercy of Jesus into the world, consider becoming part of the Bereavement Team at Nativity of Our Lord parish.

There are three parts to this ministry in the parish: 1. Assist families in preparing the funeral liturgy; 2. Be present during the liturgy to walk with the family in whatever might be needed (e.g., bringing up the gifts, finding the place in the lectionary for the reading, etc.); 3. Help with the optional luncheon afterward. Due to COVID, Nativity is not hosting luncheons at the moment. The more immediate need is for generous disciples to offer their time and talent to help families prepare for and walk together through the funeral liturgy.

A good fit for this volunteer opportunity is someone with a flexible schedule, a gentle presence, and a prayerful spirit during Mass. The parish provides booklets and training to equip volunteers to help the family prepare the funeral liturgy. Contact Sr. Janet for more information.

If you've been wondering how to become more involved in the parish and extend the mercy of Jesus into the world, pray and consider whether God might be calling you to serve on the Bereavement Team at Nativity.

### **Baptism Class Next Sunday, Nov. 1st 12:00-1:30 pm**

Please contact Sr. Janet Schneider directly for information and Sign-up. 531-3164 ext. 505

October 25, 2020 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time