

## Nativity BVM Rectory Office

Phone: 610-566-0185 Fax: 610-566-2873

Hours: Mon.: 9am-Noon, 1pm-7:30pm, Tues: 9am-Noon, 1pm-4pm, Weds: 9am-Noon, 1pm-7:30pm,  
Thurs: 9am-Noon, 1pm-7:30pm, Fri: 9am-Noon, 1pm-3pm, Sat: Closed, Sun: 10am-2pm

**Rev. Edward H. Bell, Pastor** [nativitybvm@comcast.net](mailto:nativitybvm@comcast.net)

**Deacon:** Dr. William Kussmaul [w.kussmaul@verizon.net](mailto:w.kussmaul@verizon.net)

**Retired in Residence:** Msgr. Joseph McGeown (Phone Ext: 110)

**Retired in Residence:** Rev. John Mulgrew (Phone Ext: 109)

**Business Manager:** Deacon Mike Kubiak [deaconmike.nativitybvm@comcast.net](mailto:deaconmike.nativitybvm@comcast.net) (Phone Ext: 114)

**Parish Services Director:** Mr. John Blisard [jblisard.nativitybvm@comcast.net](mailto:jblisard.nativitybvm@comcast.net) (Phone Ext: 117)

**Administrative Assistants:** Mrs. Terri Benedetti & Mrs. Anne Sweeney [nativitybvm@comcast.net](mailto:nativitybvm@comcast.net) (Phone Ext: 100)

**Financial Assistant:** Mrs. Donna Tustin [dtustin.nativitybvm@comcast.net](mailto:dtustin.nativitybvm@comcast.net) (Phone Ext: 104)

**Religious Education Coordinator:** Mrs. Katie Haraburda [nativitybvmprep@gmail.com](mailto:nativitybvmprep@gmail.com) (Phone Ext: 105)

**Music Director:** Mrs. Cally Welsh [cwelsh.nativitybvm@comcast.net](mailto:cwelsh.nativitybvm@comcast.net) (Phone Ext: 111)

**Youth Ministry Coordinator:** Ms. Chiara Cardone [youth.nativitybvm@gmail.com](mailto:youth.nativitybvm@gmail.com) (Phone Ext: 101)

**Safe Environment Coordinator:** Mrs. Anne Sweeney [nativitybvm@comcast.net](mailto:nativitybvm@comcast.net) (Phone Ext: 100)

**Mother of Providence Regional Catholic School (PreK3-8):** Mrs. Therese Waters [www.mpregional.org](http://www.mpregional.org)

**New Parishioners:** We are pleased to welcome new members to our Parish Community. Please come to the Rectory during business hours to register and learn more about our parish. Students must be registered in the Parish before registering in the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) and/or participating in CYO.

### Sacraments

**Sacrament of Baptism** (1st and 3rd Sunday at 1:15pm): Parishioners should contact the Rectory to arrange for Baptism and PreJordan class. PreJordan is offered on the 2nd Thursdays at 6:30pm. Registration required.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Parishioners are asked to contact the Rectory at least 6 months in advance.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession:** Saturdays 3:30 to 4:30PM and by Appointment.

**Sacrament of the Sick:** Parishioners are asked to contact the Rectory for Anointing of the Sick visits.

*Holy Communion for homebound parishioners may be arranged by calling the Rectory.*

### Mass Schedule

**Daily Mass 8am (Monday- Saturday)**

**Saturday Vigil: 5pm**

**Sunday: 7am, 8am, 9am,  
10:15am and Noon**

**Mass Cards:** Mass cards are available at the Rectory Office. If you would like to have a Mass celebrated in memory of a deceased loved one, or for special intentions, please come to the Rectory during business hours.

### Are you receiving our Parish Emails?

We send out updates and announcements to keep you posted on parish events! If you want to sign up, visit our parish website at [nativity-bvm.org](http://nativity-bvm.org) and Sign Up to stay in touch on the Welcome page.

## Week Ahead

### Monday, January 15

- ◆ Daily Mass 8am
- ◆ 150th Anniv 7pm CR

### Tuesday, January 16

- ◆ Daily Mass 8am
- ◆ Rosary Group 7pm CR
- ◆ Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30pm CR

### Wednesday, January 17

- ◆ Daily Mass 8am
- ◆ St. Vincent de Paul 5pm CR

### Thursday, January 18

- ◆ Daily Mass 8am
- ◆ Rosary Makers 6:15pm PC
- ◆ Choir 7pm C
- ◆ Theology on Tap 7pm

### Friday, January 19

- ◆ Daily Mass 8am
- ◆ HS Youth Group 5:30-7pm PC

### Saturday, January 20

- ◆ Daily Mass 8am
- ◆ Rectory Office Closed
- ◆ Confessions 3:30-4:30pm C
- ◆ Vigil Mass 5pm C
- ◆ Young Adult Event 8pm BB

### Sunday, January 21

- ◆ Masses: 7am, 8am, 9am, 10:15am, Noon
- ◆ Faith Formation 9am CR
- ◆ Legion of Mary 10am PC
- ◆ Children's Liturgy during 10:15 Mass
- ◆ Young Family Fellowship 11am BB
- ◆ Baptisms 1pm C

AC= Adoration Chapel  
CR=Conference Room  
PC= Parish Center

BB= Brick Building  
C= Church  
S= School Building

*Here are some sobering statistics:*

The area that comprises the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has a total population of 4.1 million.

1.4 million identified as Catholic (34% of the total population).

1.1 million are registered in one of the 217 parishes (80% of the Catholic population).

222,000 attend Mass on average every week (20% of registered Catholics, 15% of the total Catholic population, and 5.4% of the total population).

All Parishes of the Archdiocese in recent years have experienced a decline in Mass attendance. This is a reason for concern! Similar concerns must be raised about the number of priests available for ministry.

A full one-third of the 353 currently active Archdiocesan priests will be beyond the retirement age of 75 by 2026. Half of them will be beyond age 75 by 2031. The current annual ordination rate will not compensate for this dramatic decrease in active clergy.

Some of our own Parish history: In our recent history, seven Masses were celebrated on a Sunday: six Masses were celebrated in the Church and one additional Mass was celebrated in the School Hall. In the last 13 years, our overall weekend Mass attendance has decreased by nearly 30% -- from 1,400 to 1,000 on average. More recently, the number of priests who celebrate Mass here on weekends is decreasing. Fr. Roszko is now a resident at the Oblate Retirement Home. Fr. Mulgrew who is 88 years old, no longer celebrates Sunday Mass -- he now concelebrates. Fr. Kelly had knee surgery this week and expects to be disabled for months. Fr. Mokluk and Fr. Morrissey assist at other Parishes and are available only on certain Sundays. It's been a real challenge for me to find priests to assist here on weekends.

As much as I've tried -- the reality is that there are fewer and fewer priests available. For example, the Pastor of my sister's Parish in Glenside, told the people last weekend he was going away for a needed vacation. He said he could not find a priest to come to the Parish and celebrate Mass. Therefore, he said there would be no 8:00 a.m. Mass until his return.

Another challenge is our present Weekend Mass Schedule: the more Masses we have, the more scattered and apart from one another we become. In an ideal world, we would want the whole Parish community to join together every weekend at one Mass. Scattered across our six Masses on a weekend, our sense of community, our sense of family loses something. There is no simple solution to all of this, but it is clear with the shortage of priests and our decreased numbers, we don't need six separate Masses on a weekend to accommodate 1,000 people at weekend Eucharist each week. Our beautiful Church building seats about 325 people. We can accommodate everyone easily with five Masses. So, beginning on the First Sunday of Lent, February 17-18, our new weekend Mass schedule will be: Saturday Vigil 5:00 p.m. (music), Sunday 7:00 a.m. (no music), 8:00 a.m. (no music), 10:00 a.m. (music), and 12:00 p.m. (music). Don't be scared by this! We are a vital and vibrant Parish, and intend to continue as such! I know that some parishioners will be directly affected by these changes in our Mass Schedule and I ask for your patience and understanding as we adjust to our new reality. As we move forward with this new Mass Schedule, we pray that it not only strengthens our Parish community by the increasing participation in the remaining Masses, but also in the rest of our Parish life, our various programs and ministries.

*Fr. Bell*

# YOUNG FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Young Family Fellowship is Sunday, January 21st after the 10:15am Mass in the Brick Building. All are welcome!

## Faith Formation



### Nativity BVM - Adoration Chapel

Chapel Hours: Sunday: 2pm to 11pm Monday-Friday: 7am to 11pm  
Saturday: Closed

#### Empty Hours:

Sunday: 2pm    Monday: 8am, 2pm    Tuesday: 11am, 12pm, 7pm  
Wednesday: 7pm, 8pm    Thursday: 7am, 8pm    Friday: 8am, 9am, 12 pm, 8pm

Dear Parishioners: The holidays are over and we are getting back to our regular routines. Don't forget to consider adding a visit with Our Lord in the Adoration Chapel to our 2018 routines. He is always there waiting for you. If you have any questions about the Adoration Chapel, I can be reached at cabf3029@gmail.com or by calling the rectory and leaving your phone number or email address. God bless, Carol Farnan

*“God dwells in our midst, in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar” - St. Maximilian Kolbe*



### Mass Moments with Deacon Bill

*How are the Sunday Mass readings related to each other?*

The first reading is usually from the Old Testament. The Psalm picks up a theme from the first reading, and the Gospel reading further amplifies it. The theme could be a word, like “shepherd” or “water.” It could be a concept, such as holiness, or suffering.

The second reading, usually from one of the New Testament letters, is not chosen to apply to the same topic as the other readings except on special occasions such as Feasts and Solemnities. On most Sundays we are hearing a continuous presentation of portions of a single letter like Ephesians or Romans.

## FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

# 40

Access Code:  
**JQGN73**

### The Most Important Human Rights Issue of Our Time

With compassion, love, and hope, 40 explores inspiring stories and deeply personal interviews some of the most prominent figures in the pro-life movement including Abby Johnson, Lila Rose, and Fr. Frank Pavone. Their stories will change hearts and make the pro-life movement more determined in the fight to end abortion.



Watch on [formed.org](http://formed.org)

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★★★★★

*“Wow! Incredibly powerful and so full of hope for the future.”*

—Rita S., Duluth, MN

## Young Adult Ministry



For young adults in their 20's & 30's, Nativity will be hosting a Swing Dance in the Brick Building on Saturday, January 20 from 8-11 pm. Tickets cost \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Price includes beer, wine, snacks, introductory lesson & open dance until 11:00 PM. No experience necessary! Stay tuned for instructions to purchase tickets online.

Questions? Email [totmediapa@gmail.com](mailto:totmediapa@gmail.com), or find our "Theology on Tap" group on Facebook by typing TOTMediaPA into the search bar.

## Social Ministry & Outreach



Nativity B.V.M Chapter of St. Vincent de Paul Society has adopted a family in Chester who was recently left without their basic needs. Through the generosity of our parishioners, we have provided them with bedding, beds, kitchen table and chairs, cooking supplies and some furniture to help them get settled. We have also provided aide to several other families this Christmas season.

Thank you for your generous support of our mission.

Thanks to everyone who helps feed and clothe the homeless men at **St. John's Hospice** in Philadelphia. **Casseroles** can be dropped off in the freezers in the Priest's Garage on Church St (behind Brick Building). **St. John's Hospice needs new or gently worn men's pants of all sizes 32, 34, 36, 38 waist, (inseam any length), New Men's underwear and New Men's white undershirts.** Clothing donations can be dropped off at the clothing donation bin right next to garage.

This month we donated: 97 Casseroles, 77 bags of clothing, and 4 boxes of toiletries. They are also in need of large toiletries: deodorant, body wash, powder, soap, lotion, shampoo, razors, mouthwash and etc. Toiletries may be dropped in the bin in the Church vestibule.

## Education & Youth Ministry



Mother of Providence Regional Catholic School offers many wonderful programs, including:

- Free hot lunch for all students every school day
- Foreign languages taught to children in Pk3 through eighth grades
- Music, Art, Physical Education classes weekly to all students
- After school Drama Club, Sea Perch Club, Art Club, and more
- Our Pk3 and PK4 programs are full day or half day
- Instrumental lessons in band instruments, violins and recorders
  - Our Teacher to Student ratio is 11:1

Mother of Providence Regional Catholic School offer a Tuition Transfer Grant to students transferring from public, private or home school situations into grades one through seven. This grant is \$1,000 off tuition for the first year and \$500 off the second year. Registration for the 2018-2019 school year has begun! It is recommended that you register early to ensure a spot in our school. Our PK classes tend to fill early and our classes are growing with several near capacity. For more information about Mother of Providence Regional Catholic School, please contact Ann Trevisan, the Advancement Director, at [atrevisan@mpregional.org](mailto:atrevisan@mpregional.org) or 610-876-7110.

**Mother of Providence Regional Catholic School** will have an Open House on Sunday, January 28 from 10:30am-12:30pm. This is a great way to see all that our school has to offer. Parent ambassadors will be available for tours. Refreshments will be served. Please register for the Open House at <https://mpregional.org/mprcs-open-house-registration>





Debbie Fitzgerald, Alice McCauley, Nancy Healey, Beatrice Finegan, Dennis West, Wesley Gallagher, P. Stephen Lerario, Sherry Brooks, Camryn Love, Ron Betz, Eileen DeDomenicis, Glen McGinley

Sick List Policy: A name will be added to the sick list in the bulletin for 30 days. After 30 days, the name will be removed. If you still need yourself or a loved one to remain on the list after 30 days, call or email the Rectory.

**God's Plan for Giving**

December 24, 2017: \$11,990 Envelopes: 272

December 31, 2017: \$11,775 Envelopes: 256

January 7, 2017: \$12,225 Envelopes: 251

*How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me? -Psalm 116:12*

**Liturgical Ministries**

**THE JOY OF BEING IN A MUSIC MINISTRY**

Participating in one of our music ministries often enables you to experience Mass at a deeper level; it enables you to return your musical talent to God and the Community. Below is information about all of our music groups. Just try one rehearsal; perhaps you'll return and sing (or play) your way to more meaningful liturgical prayer.

**Adult Choir:** Rehearsal in church on Thursday, 7 to 9PM. Now is a great time to join!

**Children's Choir** (Grades 2-8): Rehearsals are in church on Mondays, 5:15 to 6:00PM. PREP students are walked to school afterwards by an adult. First graders may join in January. Next Rehearsal: January 22

**Guitar Group & Instrumentalists:** Rehearsal is only once a month! We are open to anyone proficient in playing guitar or other instruments. We would love to add woodwind, brass, and string instruments as well. It is preferable that the player be in at least 6th grade. The group plays at the 12 Noon Mass on the second Sunday of the month and rehearses on the previous Monday. It's a small commitment for a great experience.

**Contemporary Singers** is open to anyone from Grade 7 to adult. This group sings with the Guitar Group at the 12 Noon Mass on the second Sunday of the month. Rehearsal time is once a month – at 11:30AM preceding the Mass. This multi-generational group is a great way for families to sing together. All the songs we do are from music being written today.

**Sunday Music Schedule**

Jan. 14 – 10:15 AM- Adult Choir 12 Noon – Guitar Group & Singers



*Mass Intentions*

**Monday, January 15**

8:00 Mary Friend  
by Diane Farally

**Tuesday, January 16**

8:00 Mary Friend  
by Mike & Ann Bender

**Wednesday, January 17**

8:00 Eileen Clement  
by Patti & Dylan Atkins

**Thursday, January 18**

8:00 Hanna Masterson  
by Rodney & Susan Lynch

**Friday, January 19**

8:00 Carl "Syd" Gluszek  
by the Gary Cocco

**Saturday, January 20**

8:00 Mary Friend  
by John & Shirley Salvucci  
5:00 Theresa J. Salvucci  
by Frank Bernhardt & family

**Altar Servers for January 20-21, 2018**

**5pm** J MacLellan, N Vanwyk  
**7am** A Cohen, D Tustin  
**8am** E Ranson, L Reilly  
**9am** A Convery, E Rigby  
**10:15** J DiMatteo, F O'Loughlin  
**Noon** M DiMatteo, N Mantegna

**Communion Ministers for January 20-21, 2018**

**5pm** S Kavalkovich  
**7am** M Werner  
**8am** A Pearson  
**9am** C Dorricott  
*Rose Tree: J McNerney*  
*Sterling: G Hoffner, E Troy*  
*Home Visits: T Stephan, J Rigby, C Dorricott*  
**10:15** C Czaja  
**Noon** D O'Brien

**Lectors for January 20-21, 2018**

**5pm** M Zeeb  
**7am** S Buchanan  
**8am** H Pyle  
**9am** R Teal  
**10:15** J Haraburda  
**Noon** B Blair