

## 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 22

- ◆ Daily Mass 8am
- ◆ Children's Choir 5:15-6pm C
- ◆ PREP 6-7:30pm S
- ◆ MS Youth Group 6-7:30pm PC
- ◆ 150th Anniv 7pm CR

### Tuesday, January 23

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

### Wednesday, January 24

- ◆ Daily Mass 8am

### Thursday, January 25

- ◆ Daily Mass 8am
- ◆ Rosary Makers 6:15pm PC
- ◆ Choir 7pm C
- ◆ Knights of Columbus 7:15pm BB

### Friday, January 26

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

### Saturday, January 27

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

### Sunday, January 28

- ◆ Masses: 7am, 8am, 9am, 10:15am, Noon
- ◆ Faith Formation 9am CR
- ◆ Legion of Mary 10am PC
- ◆ Children's Liturgy during 10:15 Mass
- ◆ Reception after 10:15am Mass BB

*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*

Bishop McIntyre is the Regional Bishop of Delaware and Chester Counties. He will pay a pastoral visit to our Parish on Sunday, January 28th. The Bishop will celebrate the 10:15a.m. Mass and then greet parishioners afterwards in the Brick Building.

## Faith Formation



*A 150th year celebration event! Join us for a group retreat, 33 Days to Morning Glory: Consecration to Jesus through Mary.*

Do you want to grow in holiness, but feeling too busy? Both John Paul II and St. Teresa of Calcutta knew that the quickest way to be transformed is through a relationship with Mary, Our Blessed Mother.

Join us in the Parish Center, Tuesdays February 20 through March 27 from either 10-1130 AM or 7-830 PM. There will be a weekly meeting for discussion and 30 minute video by popular author and speaker, Fr. Michael Gaitley. There will be a short daily reading and reflection from four great Marian Saints who will teach us the secrets of drawing closer to the Heart of Jesus through the Heart of Mary.

Please register by signing up at: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B0E4BACAE23AAF1-33days](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/60B0E4BACAE23AAF1-33days), by visiting the parish website at [nativty-bvm.org](http://nativty-bvm.org) under 150th Anniversary Celebration or calling the Parish Office prior to **February 9** so we can order books and materials for which there will be no cost during our celebration year!

Join us for this amazing opportunity to grow in holiness!

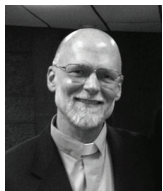


### *Nativity BVM - Adoration Chapel*

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

Dear Parishioners: To visit the Chapel and to experience the silence and the warmth of His presence brings peace to your soul. Just tell Him how much you love Him and be at peace. If you have any questions about the Adoration Chapel, I can be reached at [cabf3029@gmail.com](mailto:cabf3029@gmail.com) or by calling the rectory and leaving your phone number or email address. God bless, Carol Farnan

*“Could you not watch one hour with me?” – Mark 14:37*

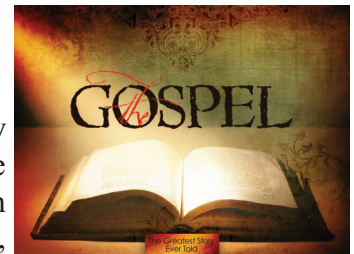


### **Mass Moments with Deacon Bill**

*What are the A, B and C cycles in the Mass readings?*

This question refers to the Sunday Mass readings, specifically the Gospels. As part of a major Vatican II effort to emphasize Scripture in the Mass, a series of three cycles was instituted. In Year A, the Sunday Gospels are taken from the book of Matthew. In Year B, they come from Mark, and in Year C from Luke. Each Cycle begins with the first Sunday of Advent and concludes at the end of the liturgical year with the Feast of Christ the King. What about the Gospel of John? John is so unique and important that readings from the 4th Gospel are heard every year, especially during Lent. Also, since Mark is shorter than the other 2 synoptic gospels, part of Year B is filled in with proclamations from John.

Do you remember which Gospel you heard today?



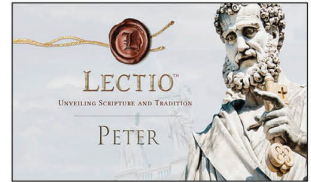
## Faith Formation continued

### FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

## Lectio: Peter

Session 7: Discipleship at a Distance

Access Code:  
JQGN73



*"This is a very good presentation of the life of Peter and the apostles which helps me to reflect on my own life as a follower of Jesus."*

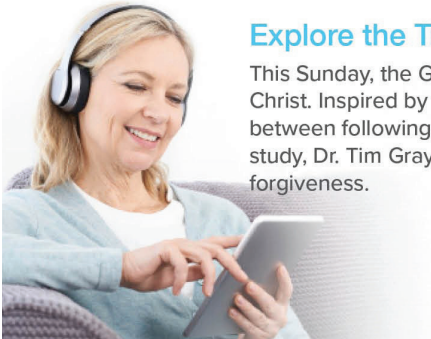
—Peter W, Terengganu, Malaysia

### Explore the True Meaning of Discipleship

This Sunday, the Gospel reading called each of us to become disciples of Jesus Christ. Inspired by the virtue and witness of Saint Peter, learn the difference between following Jesus closely and following him at a distance. In this powerful study, Dr. Tim Gray shows us what it truly means to follow Christ and to seek forgiveness.

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

**FORMED** THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.



## Social Ministry & Outreach

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, Joanne MacLellan

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**

January 14, 2017: \$12,800 Envelopes: 289

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

**Liturgical Ministries**

**GIVE YOURSELF A JANUARY JUMP-START- Join a Music Ministry**

Participating in one of our music ministries may truly be a way to “jump-start” your life. Singing or playing with a group is a social as well as musical experience. 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. New members always welcome. Now is a great time to join!

**Children’s Choir** (Grades 1-8): **NEXT REHEARSAL: Monday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>.** Rehearsal in church on Mondays, 5:15 to 6:00PM. PREP students are walked to school afterwards by an adult. First graders may now join.

**Guitar Group & Instrumentalists: Rehearsal is only once a month!** We invite 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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. 21, 28, Feb. 4 – 10:15 AM, Adult Choir



*Mass Intentions*

**Monday, January 22**

8:00 Mary Friend  
by Alice Pearson

**Tuesday, January 23**

8:00 Vincent Benedetti II  
by Gino & Terri Benedetti

**Wednesday, January 24**

8:00 Stanley Bernatowicz  
by Til Mack

**Thursday, January 25**

8:00 Mary Brady  
by Bob Valenti

**Friday, January 26**

8:00 Charles C. Racki  
by his family

**Saturday, January 27**

8:00 Intentions of Kim Rayer  
by Terri Benedetti  
5:00 Leszek Haraburda, 1st Anniversary  
by the Haraburda family

**Altar Servers for January 27-28, 2018**

**5pm** G & J Lehman  
**7am** A & J Perks  
**8am** J & N Mantegna  
**9am** M Keenan, G Pasquay  
**10:15** A & A Clark  
**Noon** K & F Ackroyd

**Communion Ministers for January 27-28, 2018**

**5pm** K McDevitt  
**7am** C Bourke  
**8am** C McMahan  
**9am** M Sanislo  
*Rose Tree: R Gatta*  
*Sterling: J Dixon-Shavney, S Spencer*  
*Home Visits: M Bacchia, S LeMole, M Sanislo*  
**10:15** M Dooley  
**Noon** L Mongan

**Lectors for January 27-28, 2018**

**5pm** J Haraburda  
**7am** M Zeeb  
**8am** D Mantegna  
**9am** R Teal  
**10:15** T Dooley  
**Noon** T O’Brien