



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Know God, Love Jesus, Serve Others

Lenten Newsletter 2021

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



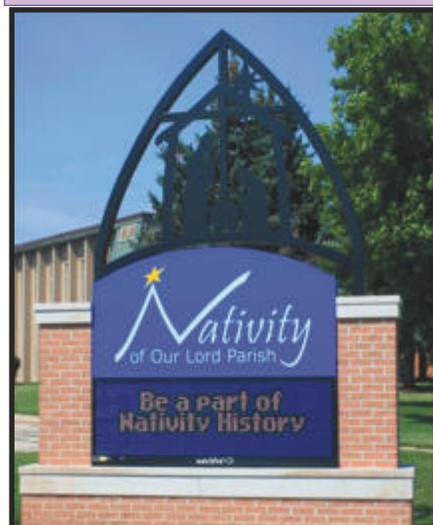
I'm not sure about you folks, but I am really happy to know that the month of January is completed and we have now moved into February. I know that may sound cruel, but I have always had a difficult time with January. Sure the month may start off fun with ringing in the New Year and raising champagne glasses in toasts while eating pickled herring. After that the month seems to be long and bitterly cold; except for this year. However, it still was a long month.

As we prepare to enter into the season of Lent I really want to stress the importance of making Lent a season of spiritual growth and renewal. 40 days may seem like a very long time, but as usual, it will quickly fly by. Look how quickly 2021 seems to be flying by. Trust me, Lent will be over before you know it. I'm sure you've already noticed in the stores that the Easter decorations, candy and egg coloring kits have been on display for quite some time. Please don't fall into the temptation of decorating your home in Easter attire; save those decorations for the day after Good Friday and leave them up for the next 50 days until the feast of Pentecost. And please refrain from eating the Peeps, Crème Eggs and jellybeans until Easter Sunday. There is a good reason why this season is 40 days and it's important that we appreciate each and every day.

Another thing to remember is that we shouldn't get frustrated with ourselves if we slip up in our Lenten resolutions. Resolutions are meant to help guide us through this season to get closer to God and Jesus. But it seems that similar to New Year's resolutions we can be very good for a couple of days but then after a week or so it seems like we've forgotten what it is we resolved to do. If this should happen don't give up. We are not falling into mortal sin if we forget to follow our resolution. Instead make a new resolution or start over again. God doesn't ask you to be successful in your resolutions He just asks you to persevere.

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2270 S. Oneida Street
Green Bay, WI 54304
920.499.5156

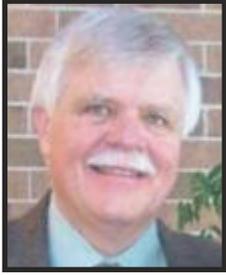
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"Nativity of Our Lord Parish"

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The Crucifix



I am sure you noticed that during the seasons of Advent and Christmas the large cross was removed from within the sanctuary. The cross will be replaced by a crucifix (size to be proportionate to the sanctuary space). The cross will be mounted in the back of the church where it can be draped with colors of the liturgical seasons and easily accessible for veneration during Holy Week and on Good Friday.

Do you know why a crucifix and not a cross is in the sanctuary?

The passage below is taken from the book “A Shepherd Tends His Flock” written by **Very Rev. John Girotti Vicar of Canonical Services and Associate Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Green Bay.**

“Perhaps one of the most distinctive and recognizable symbols of our Catholic Faith is the crucifix.

A crucifix is distinguished from a simple cross in that a crucifix is a cross with a “corpus” or figure of Christ’s body attached to it. The word crucifix means literally “the one having been fixed to the cross.”

An understanding of the word itself helps us to recognize why we as Catholics use a crucifix instead of a simple cross as one of our primary symbols. By using a crucifix, our attention is drawn not to the cross itself – as an instrument of torture or death – but rather to the Lord Himself and to what he did for us.

Sometimes, it is suggested that an empty cross best symbolizes the fact that, although Christ suffered and died for us on the cross, He also rose from the dead. Thus, the empty cross may be taken as a symbol of His Resurrection and His triumph over death. Christ is indeed risen! Certainly, Easter – the Resurrection – is a culmination of Christ’s redemptive act and the cornerstone of our Faith. We never simply stop at Good Friday! Sometimes, however, we need to see, perhaps graphically, what sin does. **We need to see how much God loves us, how He suffered and died for us.** Sadly, we can be so quick to forget – **and the crucifix is a powerful reminder to us.**

You might have noticed that every Catholic Church has an image of Christ crucified prominently displayed near the altar: in short, a crucifix. The reason for this is that the Mass is not mere commemoration of the death or Resurrection of Christ. It is more! The Mass is rather the continuation and the participation within the one and infinite sacrifice of Christ on the Cross at Calvary. Therefore, it is most fitting to see this image near the altar where Mass is celebrated.

We must not see the crucifix as a negative or dark image. If it troubles us, this may be because we are focusing on the effect of sin. Sin is not pleasant. Rather, we should see the image of Christ crucified as a sign of his complete love for us. Let us see his arms outstretched, gathering all the world to Himself!”

God Bless you all as you begin your Lenten journey. Dcn. John Bundra

Faithful stewardship should hold an important place in the life of every Catholic Christian disciple. As stewards, we gratefully recognize the gifts God has given and prayerfully and intentionally give a portion of those gifts back to God. Sharing, service and prayer...these are the three footsteps of stewardship.

We are Missionary Disciples who Serve!

We believe that every person has been created with wonderful gifts to bring us joy and to serve each other. The Epistle of St. Peter reminds us: "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (1 Peter 4:10). To be a steward of service means that we gratefully name and nurture our gifts and offer them to our Church and to the world.

During COVID-19, how will you share your gifts in service to our parish ?

PARISH

Living Justice Ministry:

Provides opportunities for parishioners to put the social teachings of the Church into action. Promotes strengthening & building of relationships in our community & parish households.

Stewardship Ministry:

Educates & promotes the Christian call to discover & share the gifts God gives each of us.

St. Vincent de Paul:

Offers tangible assistance to those in need on a person-to-person basis.

Women's Guild:

Make friends while serving God. Come to monthly meetings & help at events like the Winter Bazaar & Rummage Sale. Meets 1X/month. Time varies.

Knights of Columbus:

Men's group that promotes spiritual and temporal welfare and various fund-raising efforts all year. Meets 1x/month. Time varies.

Picnic Committee/Sub-Committees/Helpers:

All parish members are needed to implement our largest community-builder and fundraiser: There are many roles to fill such as chairpersons, fundraising, publicity, baking, grilling & food sellers, set-up before and tear down after.

Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH):

Helping homeless families transition to a stable & self-sufficient life.

Hope Center:

Help with donations, guidance for Love Life & St. Patrick's Pantry.

Men's Group:

Men's spiritual gathering includes learning and discussions. Meet on the 4th Wed. of month 6:30am to 7:45am 18 and older men.

Marriage Prep FOCCUS Couples:

Married couples are trained to administer the FOCCUS Inventory to engaged couples & discuss marital topics. Meet in your home 2-4x/year. (4-8 hrs. total)

N.E.W. Community Shelter Meals:

Help plan, prepare & serve an evening meal for the needy. 4th Saturday of month.

Prayer Warriors:

Pray for people in need of prayers.

Office Volunteers:

Stuff bulletins prepare parish mailings and provide support for various other projects as needed.

SCRIP:

Sell prepaid "gift cards" to raise funds for parish. Sold before & after weekend Masses.

Stephen Ministers:

Provide one-on-one pastoral care to parishioners. (50 hours of training). Ecumenical group meets 2X/month.

Yard Team:

Mow grass, weed, water plants inside & outside. Done seasonally on a weekly basis.

DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION

Catechist for Fall 2021

Teach grade level classes for grades 1-11. Lesson plans & materials are provided by the Discipleship Formation department. This role does require some classroom & weekly prep as well as classroom management.

Substitute Catechist for Fall 2021:

Fill in when the primary Catechist is unable to teach. As needed.

General Volunteer for Discipleship Formation:

Lots of projects in the Discipleship Formation department from copying & cutting to painting & moving furniture. We are always in need of extra hands. As needed.

Requirements for all Catechist:

A heart for Jesus, background check, 3-hr. VIRTUS training (Optional discipleship formation annual training evenings)

WORSHIP

Altar Servers:

Aid the priest at Mass/worship services. 3rd graders--adult. Great for Families.

Eucharistic Ministers:

Distribute Holy Communion. Open to all confirmed Catholics.

Eucharistic Ministry to Nursing Homes, Assisted Living & Homebound:

Bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are unable to attend Mass.

Cantor/Song leader:

Leads congregation in song at Masses.

Greeters:

Warmly welcome people entering church before Mass

Lectors:

Read and proclaim the Word of God during Mass.

Lockups/Weekends:

Secure the building on Saturdays & Sundays after last Mass.

Sacristans:

Attends & prepares the physical elements needed for the Mass

Seasonal Decorations:

Help change worship space 7x/year.

Ushers:

Serve as "official hosts" at Mass by greeting, seating & doing collection at Mass. 12 years & older.

Video Ministry:

Run video projection system on weekends. Rotating schedule.

Worship Ministry:

Fosters the overall spiritual life of parish.

Please take this opportunity to prayerfully discern your gifts and return this form to Deb Langenhuizen, Volunteer Coordinator in the Nativity Parish office. You may also contact Deb, at 920-499-5156 x211 or through email debl@nativitydisciples.org

Name	Home Phone	Cell Phone
Address	Email	

Recently I was handed an article listing 40 ideas for each day of Lent. You can check out the article by googling **House for All Sinners and Saints' 40 Ideas for Keeping a Holy Lent**. Check out the resolution for Day 25, I really like that one. I also want to warn you about Day 8, little children should probably not read that one or at least a different word should be used describing that resolution.

Finally and most importantly, throughout these days of Lent, invite the Lord to walk with you on your journey. I think that many people have the thought that Lent is a solitary journey and that we are called to imitate Jesus and his journey in the desert. Yet the truth is He wants to be on this journey with each and every one of us. And so it is very important that we allow the Lord to walk by our side. Invite him to be with you. Invite the Holy Spirit to be with you as well. With those two by your side this Lent will be an awesome and enriching experience.

God Bless,

Fr. Matt Simonar

Generously Sharing

During Lent, we are reminded of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for us on the cross. As followers of Jesus, we are called to sacrifice, to give of ourselves and our resources as a sign and sharing of Christ's love. As members of Nativity, we are asked to share financially to support Christ's mission of love and Mercy. This is one way our giving can make a real difference in the life of the world.

Please consider making regular donations to our parish - either by use of your contribution envelopes or online giving through our parish website. If you are not currently contributing, please consider giving at this time as an expression of your faith in God's divine providence.

We are grateful
for all your support



Divine Mercy Sunday

On Sunday, April 11 Nativity Parish will be celebrating the devotion to the Divine Mercy. Adoration & Reconciliation will be available from Noon to 3:00pm. The Chaplet will be sung at 3:00pm, followed with Benediction.



What is Divine Mercy?

Divine Mercy is the form God's love takes when it flows from the Trinity to his creatures. It takes on human flesh in Jesus Christ to show us God's love. This is why Divine Mercy is a Person, not just an attribute of God.

What is the Message?

God loves us - all of us, no matter how great our sins.

Remember your **ABC's** as a way to live out the message of the Divine Mercy and Gospel.

Ask For God's mercy - God wants us to repent and ask for his mercy.

Be merciful to others - God wants us to receive his mercy and in turn, be merciful to others.

Completely Trust in Jesus - Trust in God during good times and bad times.

The **Divine Mercy Novena Prayer** will be available to take before Holy Week. This is a good way to prepare for Divine Mercy Sunday.

The **Divine Mercy Chaplet** is prayed on ordinary Rosary beads. The Chaplet is powerful because it draws in its strength from the Mass. It is normally prayed at 3:00pm because Jesus died on the cross for us at this time.

All are Welcome to Join Us !

Stewardship of Sharing: Stewards are grateful people who believe that God has been generous with us and we, in turn, share with others. The scripture passage "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be" (Mt 6:21) challenges us to look at how and where we spend our financial resources. As followers of Jesus, we carefully consider the needs of our Church and the poor when developing a household budget. We are stewards, not out of obligation but out of gratitude and joy for all that God has done for us.

Lent and Easter Season

<p>Steward of Prayer: Prayer is about our relationship with God. We gratefully acknowledge God's presence in our lives and respond by investing ourselves. In nurturing this relationship we stay connected and understand God's will for our lives. As disciples of Jesus we strive to engage in personal prayer each day. As good stewards of our time, we return to God part of each day which has been so graciously given to us.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">February 17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ash Wednesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prayer Service with Ashes 6:45am & 12:00pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Masses: 8:00am & 6:30pm</p> 		18	 19 Stations of the Cross at 11:30am	20
		21 First Sunday of Lent	22  Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle	23 Adoration & Reconciliation 5:00 - 7:00pm St. Polycarp	24	25
28 Second Sunday of Lent	<p style="text-align: center;">March 1</p>  Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm	2 Adoration & Reconciliation 5:00 - 7:00pm	3 St. Katharine Drexel	4 St. Casimir	5  Stations of the Cross at 11:30am	6
7 Third Sunday of Lent	8  Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm St. John of God	9 Adoration & Reconciliation 5:00 - 7:00pm St. Frances of Rome	10	11	12  Stations of the Cross at 11:30am	13 First Communion Retreat 9:00 - 11:30am 
14 Fourth Sunday of Lent Daylight Saving Time Begins	15  Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm	16 Adoration & Reconciliation 5:00—7:00pm	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem	19  Stations of the Cross at 11:30am St. Joseph, Spouse of The Blessed Virgin Mary	20 Confirmation Retreat 9:00am - 5:30pm First Day of Spring

You are LOVED and FORGIVEN!

21 Fifth Sunday of Lent	22 ✠ Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm	23 Adoration & Reconciliation 5:00 - 7:00pm St. Turibius of Mogrovejo	24	25 The Annunciation of the Lord	26 ✠ Stations of the Cross at 11:30am	27
28 Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord Rice Bowl Returned	29 ✠ Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm	30	31	April 1 Holy Thursday 7:00pm Mass 	2 ✠ Good Friday Service at Noon PARISH OFFICE CLOSED at Noon	3 Holy Saturday 7:30pm Mass 
4 Easter Sunday Masses: 6:30am, 8:30am & 10:15am	5 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	6	7	8	9	10
11 Sunday of Divine Mercy Adoration & Reconciliation 12:00 - 3:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet 3:00pm	12	13 St. Martin I	14	15	16	17 1st Communion Weekend 
18 1st Communion Weekend 	19	20	21 St. Anselm	22 Earth Day	23 St. George St. Adalbert	St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

Stewardship of Service: We believe that every person has been created with wonderful gifts to bring us joy and to serve each other. The Epistle of St. Peter reminds us: "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (1 Peter 4:10). To be a steward of service means that we gratefully name and nurture our gifts, and offer them to our Church and to the world.



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Join Us for Lent, Easter or Just Anytime !

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 8:30am & 10:15am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday - Friday 8:00am

Ash Wednesday (February 17)

Prayer Service with Ashes - 6:45am & Noon

Masses - 8:00am & 6:30pm

Stations of the Cross

Mondays of Lent - 6:00pm

Fridays of Lent - 11:30am

Adoration & Reconciliation 5:00 – 7:00pm Tues. Feb. 23, Mar. 2, 9, 16, & 23

Holy Week & Paschal Triduum

Palm Sunday Masses (March 27) 5:00pm & (March 28) 8:30 & 10:15am

Holy Thursday (April 1) 7:00pm Mass

Good Friday (April 2) Noon Service

Holy Saturday (April 3) 7:30pm Mass

Easter Sunday (April 4) 6:30am, 8:30am & 10:15am Masses

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11

Adoration & Reconciliation Noon - 3:00pm

Starting at 3:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet (Sung) ending with Benediction