JANUARY 16, 2022

FR. MATT SIMONAR, Pastor

Parish Deacons John Bundra Michael Dabeck Darrell Lubenow

WEEKEND MASS Saturday 5:00 PM Sunday 8:30 &10:15 AM

WEEKDAY MASSES Tuesday - Friday 8:00 AM

RECONCILIATION 4:00 PM Saturdays First Friday after 8:00 AM Mass

BAPTISM Contact the Parish Office one month in advance.

MARRIAGE Contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Friday 8:00 AM - Noon

Parish Office 920-499-5156

Discipleship Formation 920-499-6012

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ nativitydisciples

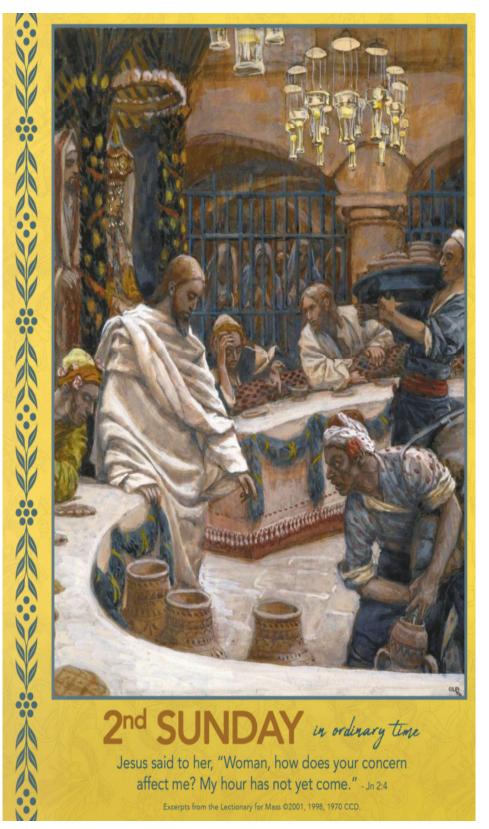
Website: www.nativitydisciples.org

natscene@nativitydisciples.org

Please call or email the Parish Office with address, phone or email updates.



2270 S. Oneida Street Green Bay, Wisconsin 54304



WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 16

Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11
Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12
Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21
Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the Week

Relationships are hard to clarify. Determining whether people in our lives are simply acquaintances and associates or a deeper level of friend is a journey that takes time. Identifying and celebrating those people who really care about us is a lifelong adventure that involves both moments of intense elation and heartache. Some relationships are more easily definable than others. Two people who are in love must decide whether the love they share has the freedom and depth necessary for lifelong commitments. Other relationships may look like friendship but may harbor grave dysfunction and toxicity. Discernment is needed on all fronts. Our relationship with God also needs definition and discernment. God has taken creation as His spouse and human beings as His children. God delights in us and all that He has made. The wedding feast at Cana demonstrates God's investment in all of this, especially our happiness. Life is a time for celebration and great rejoicing! ©LPi

PRAY TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE!

JANUARY 19-27, 2022

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Join today at www.9daysforlife.com!



WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 15

5:00 ¹ Janet Vanness

Sunday, January 16

- 8:30 People of Nativity of Our Lord Parish
- 10:15 🕆 Scott Vande Walle
 - 🕆 Jim Cowles

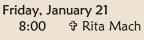
Tuesday, January 18

8:00 ♥ Paul & Doris Miller, Bob & Elaine Andree, Connie Zimmerman, Jean Miskell and families

Wednesday, January 19

8:00 ↔ Heyrman Family Thursday, January 20

8:00 ⊉ Roger Senft and Midge LeMere

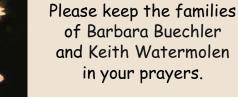


Saturday, January 22

Sunday, January 23

8:30 ⊕ Bill Perpich 10:15 ⊕ Marcey Pelnar







In Memor

Nativity Parish welcomes the following members who recently became part of our worshipping family.

We pray for God's blessings upon new members: Jared, Lara, Evelyn and Lincoln Kuchenbecker

Rose Bud Collection for Love Life Program



Members of the Ashwaubenon Knights of Columbus will be present at the doors following each Mass on January 15 and 16 to accept your contributions.

The Love Life Program provides baby supplies for local needy families that meet qualifications. Love Life is located in the Hope Center on Clinton Street, one block east of Ashland Avenue (by the former White Store) just north of Mason Street.



FIRST READING

As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you. (Is 62:5)

PSALM Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations. (Ps 96)



SECOND READING

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. (1 Cor 12:11)



GOSPEL

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. (Jn 2:11)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation, All rights reserved.



WORSHIP & MEDITATION



GOSPEL MEDITATION Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

God delights in you. How do you feel when you hear that? Delight usually comes with an exuberant flow of joy that seemingly arises from one's toes with the expression of great glee. Reflecting upon the deep measure of joy God has in us can be a source of joy for ourselves. Delight is infectious. A very young brother and sister were playing on the beach when the all too familiar ice cream truck made its daily rounds. The boy shook with excitement and delight as he took his sister's hand and exclaimed, "The ice cream man is here, isn't it great!" As they ran off toward the truck, one could hear the girl reply, "Yeah, I can't wait!" The experience of a child's delight in something so simple as ice cream, lifts our spirits from our burdens and transports us to the lighter, more innocent side of life.

Life is not meant to be a burden. Believe it or not, God actually wants us to be happy! In fact, the wedding feast at Cana shows us that God even puts His blessing on our happiness. It is okay to celebrate the wonder of ourselves and others. Life is good. It is always interesting to note that Jesus saves the good wine until last. You would think it would be the other way around. The superb quality of Jesus' wine points to the superior quality of life we find in Christ. It is not a life of burdens but a life of wonder and delight! In Christ, we are lifted from the superficial and mundane to a life of purpose, hope, and love.

God is with us through the long haul, through the challenges and sorrows as well as the successes and accomplishments. In spite of the fact that we often wander from the path, God's celebratory delight in us remains. As spouses are asked to remain faithful to each other through whatever life brings, God remains faithful too. This promise remains through this life and into the next. All we have to do is take the advice of Jesus' mother to heart when she says, "Listen to him." This wisdom saves us from foolishly giving in to the illusion that we can make better wine than Jesus.

Parish Stewardship January 8 - January 9, 2022

Sacrificial Offering	\$	7,063.00	
Qualified Charitable Dist. (IRA)	\$	0.00	
Loose Offering	\$	537.00	
Online Giving	\$	<u>4,590.00</u>	
Total	\$	12,190.00	
<i>To meet our budget, we need an average of <u>\$14,400.00</u> each week this month.</i>			
FYTD Budgeted Receipts	\$	428,800.00	

FYTD Actual Receipts	\$ 423,352.00
Fiscal Year Variance thru week 28	\$ (5,448.00)
Maintenance Improvement Fund	\$ 630.00



Please Consider Online Giving Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

for eating...shopping...or filling your tank **Order Scrip Gil**

\$CRIP is an easy and effective way to help the parish. You can buy Scrip in the Parish Office, at the weekend Masses, over the phone or by mail. Thank you!

1/3/22 - 1/9/22 - Scrip sold Sales - \$3,560.00 Profit - \$167.81

Men's Group Bible Study

Wednesday, January 26 at 6:30 AM in Bona Hall Enter door 1 on the north side.

Enjoy the morning with coffee and Kringle and watch The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation History. At 7:45 AM the discussion will end with an option to attend Mass at 8:00 AM.

> Christmas Blessings and New Year's Adventures ~ Fred 920-562-0443

Welcome to Nativity of Our Lord Parish!

Did you liked how God touched you in our Parish today? We would LOVE to talk with you. Are you interested in becoming a registered member of our parish? It is very SIMPLE! *Contact Deb Langenhuizen for more information:* 920-499-5156 x211 or email: debl@nativitydisciples.org



SUNDAY COFFEE & DONUTS!

Please join us in Bona Hall Sunday, January 23 for donuts, coffee and conversation.



January 16: Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

In the Gospel today, at the wedding feast in Cana, Jesus reveals Himself to His disciples and they began

to believe in Him. Everyday, God also gives us signs of His love and so we also can respond in faith and trust.



Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul becomes a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them reason to believe and to trust.

Packer Parking Volunteer Opportunity

Are you ready for Playoff Football? Then why not consider parking cars for the Packer playoff games?

The first Packer playoff game will take place January 22 or January 23. The time and day will be decided after all the wild card playoff games are played. If you are looking to catch the playoff spirit, this would be a great way. All funds raised will go directly to parish support.

Help the parish and get caught up in the Packer playoff experience!

If interested, please contact: Deb Langenhuizen at 920-499-5156 x211 or email: debl@nativitydisciples.org.



Bulletin Article Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles into the bulletin is by the end of the business day on Friday of the week prior to publication. Send articles to: natscene@nativitydisciples.org.

9 DAYS FOR LIFE NOVENA Wednesday, January 19 – Thursday, January 27, 2022 www.9daysforlife.com

Day One: Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Intercession: May the tragic practice of abortion end.

Prayers: Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Reflection: At every stage and in every circumstance, we are held in existence by God's love. The presence of an illness, disability, or other challenging situation never diminishes the value of a human life. God does not call us to perfection of appearance or abilities, but to perfection in *love*. Christ invites us to embrace our own lives and the lives of others as true *gifts*.

Abortion tragically rejects the truth that every life is a good and perfect gift, deserving protection. This violent practice ends the life of a human being at its very beginning and horribly wounds all those involved. But Christ came that we "might have life and have it more abundantly" *(John 10:10)*, taking on human flesh for the sake of our redemption. May our culture experience the power of God's transforming love, that all eyes may be opened to the incredible beauty of every human life.

Day Two: Thursday, January 20, 2022

Intercession: May each person suffering from participation in abortion find forgiveness, hope, and healing in Christ.

Prayers: Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Reflection: Countless children's lives have been ended by abortion, and countless parents and family members suffer guilt, grief, and regret—often in silence. Yet God's greatest desire is to forgive. No matter how far we have each strayed from His side, He says to us, "Don't be afraid. Draw close to my heart." Be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Consider the parable of the Prodigal Son. After repenting of sinning against his father, he returns from far away to seek forgiveness and work as a servant. But his father sees him approaching, runs to warmly embrace him, and hosts a banquet to celebrate his return. So, too, does God welcome all His children who come to Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation with contrite hearts, no matter how serious the sin. Let us turn confidently to Our Lord, Who is love and mercy.

Day Three: Friday, January 21, 2022

Intercession: May all who defend life find strength and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

Prayers: Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Reflection: God has carefully, tenderly created every person in His own image and likeness, to be in a loving relationship with Himself. From each tiny child knit within a mother's womb, to every person approaching death, all are loved perfectly and completely by God: "It is therefore a service of love which we are all committed to ensure to our neighbor, that his or her life may be always defended and promoted, *especially when it is weak or threatened* [emphasis added]" (*Evangelium vitae* 77).

In a world in which those who are most vulnerable are so often overlooked and disregarded, Christ calls us to embrace and uphold the unconditional dignity of every human life. In answering this call, we help to build "a new culture of life, the fruit of the culture of truth and of love" (*EV* 77). May the Holy Spirit continually renew us as we strive to faithfully defend God's gift of life.

Day Four: Saturday, January 22, 2022

Intercession: May all unborn children be protected in law and welcomed in love.

Prayers: Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Reflection: Today, we mourn the many children's lives ended by abortion and remember in prayer those who suffer the aftermath. We pray that children in their mothers' wombs would again be protected in law and do penance in reparation for abortions that have been committed in our world.

In his encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*), Pope John Paul II said, "may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer" (*EV* 100). May that prayer arise in our hearts today and each day forward until every human being is protected in law and welcomed in love.

Day Five: Sunday, January 23, 2022

Intercession: May all who support or participate in abortion, experience a conversion of heart to seek and receive the Lord's boundless mercy.

Prayers: Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Reflection: When God fashioned the human person in His own image and likeness, He destined us for eternal life with Him. Yet because of the sin of our first parents, death entered the world. The book of Genesis recounts the first occasion in which a person takes the life of another, as Cain violently kills his brother Abel. This instance of brother rising up against brother "at the very dawn of history is thus a sad witness of how evil spreads with amazing speed" (*Evangelium vitae* 8).

From the time of creation, disregard for human life has continued to spread. When we, like Cain, allow sin to find a place in our hearts, we become blinded to the truth. Sometimes this blindness might be so deep that we fail to recognize the undeniable humanity of unborn children. We may even tragically believe the lie that abortion is an act of compassion. But we know that "life, especially human life, belongs only to God: for this reason whoever attacks human life, in some way attacks God Himself" (*EV* 9). Let us pray that all who support abortion will encounter the transforming love of the Father and, with repentant hearts, seek His mercy.

9 DAYS FOR LIFE NOVENA, CONTINUED...

Day Six: Monday, January 24, 2022

Intercession: May every expectant mother receive compassionate care and support as she nurtures the life in her womb.

Prayers: Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Reflection: When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, she opened her heart to receive his message that she would conceive the Son of God in her womb. As a young, betrothed, but unmarried, woman, Mary knew that her pregnancy presented many challenges. Despite this knowledge, she faithfully responded, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (*Luke 1:38*).

Like the Blessed Mother, women who unexpectedly become pregnant often face significant challenges. They, too, are called to place their trust in God and faithfully respond to His *gift* of new life. And we are called to walk with them in their time of need. As Jesus taught us, when we love and serve others, we are loving and serving Him.

May all expectant mothers be encouraged by Mary's example and receive support and grace in lovingly welcoming their children into the world.

Day Seven: Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Intercession: May expectant fathers lovingly support the mothers of their children in welcoming new life.

Prayers: Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Reflection: Fatherhood has its origins in God, who chose to reveal Himself to us as Our Father, sending His only Son for the sake of our salvation. Fathers therefore have a special role "in revealing and in reliving on earth the very fatherhood of God" (*Familiaris consortio* 25). Fathers are called to exhibit "generous responsibility for the life conceived under the heart of the mother" (*FC* 25). They are uniquely entrusted with the protection and defense of both mother and child and, in this way, in safeguarding the sanctity of human life.

As evidenced in our world today, the role of the father "is of unique and irreplaceable importance" (FC 25). Often women choose abortion because they do not have the support of the child's father, or—even worse—the father of the child pressures her to make the decision to abort. At the same time, it is important to acknowledge with compassion that men can also be overwhelmed by an unexpected pregnancy and that society increasingly tells them that they should have no say in their children's lives. In the face of these false messages, we pray that expectant fathers will find courage in the example of Saint Joseph—who embraced the role of father amid difficult circumstances—and offer loving, life-affirming support to the mothers of their children.

Day Eight: Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Intercession: May expectant mothers choosing adoption receive grace and support in embracing this loving option.

Prayers: Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Reflection: Mothers placing their children for adoption often face many challenges along the way. One of the greatest obstacles can be inaccurately perceiving adoption as abandonment. But mothers who make an adoption plan for their children are not abandoning their children. Rather, they are exemplifying the sacrificial love of Christ on the Cross in choosing to do what is best for their children, even at great cost to themselves. Like Christ, they pour out their bodies and souls for the sake of another. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that, in the face of fears and trials, we can "hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm" (*Heb 6:18-19*). We pray that each expectant mother choosing adoption will be filled with "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding" (*Phil 4:7*) as she makes a loving choice for her child. Let us all cling fast to the anchor of hope, for we have received "a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father!'" (*Rom 8:15*).

Day Nine: Thursday, January 27, 2022

Intercession: May civic leaders work for the protection of all human life, in every stage and circumstance.

Prayers: Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Reflection: The Declaration of Independence boldly affirms that first among our inalienable rights is the right to life, given to us by the Creator. Yet despite being so solemnly proclaimed, the right to life is today threatened and often denied, particularly at the moments when life is most fragile. Our laws should—first and foremost—protect life. But "our highest Court does not recognize children in their mothers' wombs as persons and claims that abortion is a constitutional right. Further, many political leaders work actively to increase access to abortion. Some falsely describe it as health care and even as a basic human right" (*Priorities at the Polls*). Laws and policies that legalize or promote an intrinsic evil like abortion violate the virtue of justice.

Those who work as public officials and civic leaders have a duty to serve the common good, and therefore have a profound obligation to safeguard this most fundamental right to life. Through our own prayer, witness, and civic participation, we can encourage our leaders to truly answer their call to protect the rights of all people. For "there can be no true democracy without a recognition of every person's dignity and without respect for his or her rights" (*Evangelium vitae* 101).

READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Mary had great faith in God. She also knew that God could do anything. So when the wedding servers ran out of wine, she knew Jesus could help. She said, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do." That's the smartest thing any of us can do.

Pi

PRAYER Dear God, help me to do everything you say. I know you can do anything.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

What does Jesus tell you to do in his word, the Bible? Find out by reading the Bible for 15 minutes a day with your family. You could start by reading Luke.



KIDS CORNER

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Nativity of Our Lord, Green Bay, WI

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