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January 2nd, 2022

OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass @2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.





Contact Our Parish Office Monday-Friday: 8:30 AM-4:30 PM parishoffice@nativitybloomington.org \$ 952-881-8671 Fax: 952-881-8692 School Office 952-881-8160 Creative Clubhouse 952-881-9103



Our Postor Father Nathan LaLiberte \$\$\\$952-881-8671 x8066 frnathan@nativitybloomington.org

f @NativityBloomington

🔠 NativityofMaryMN

CONTACT OUR TEAM

PARISH OFFICE: 952-881-8671	Ext
Fr Nathan LaLiberte, Pastor	
frnathan@nativitybloomington.org	8066
Dcn. John Shearer, Deacon	
jshearer@nativitybloomington.org	8068
Dcn. Jim Reinhardt, Deacon	
deaconjim@nativitybloomington.org	5526
Dillard, Katy, Bookkeeper/TADS Specialist	
kdillard@nativitybloomington.org	8075
Fyksen, Patty, Creative Clubhouse Coordinator	
pfyksen@nativitybloomington.org	8065
Beth Gaetz, Ministry Coordinator	
bgaetz@nativitybloomington.org	8070
Hagerty, Wanda, School Admin. Asst.	
whagerty@nativitybloomington.org	8040
Hornecker, Jacob, Faith Formation	
jhornecker@nativitybloomington.org	8067
Millner, Nicole, Director of Liturgy & Music	
nmillner@nativitybloomington.org	8074
Pajak, Ryan, Principal	
rpajak@nativitybloomington.org	8060
Rachel, Joanne, Director of Parish Operations	
jrachel@nativitybloomington.org	8071
Sansom, Roger, Maintenance/Grounds	
rsansom@nativitybloomington.org	8073
Schumacher, Kelly, Elem. Faith Formation & Parish	Life
kschumacher@nativitybloomington.org	8069
Tobroxen , Judy, Parish Administrative Assistant	
jtobroxen@nativitybloomington.org	8072
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TRUSTEES Tom Burns: tlburns43@gmail.com Christopher Dietzen: christopher.dietzen@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

Steve Casalenda: scasalenda@remax.net

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR

Chad Huset: husetcs@hotmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR THE PRAYERS IN OUR PARISH BOOK OF INTERCESSIONS.

Please call or email Kathy Schoenecker with any prayer requests for the prayer chain. ekaan@aol.com / 612-581-4633

GENERAL INFORMATION AT NATIVITY OF MARY

Nativity of Mary is currently open on weekdays from 6:30am-4:30pm for private prayer as well as posted Confession, Adoration, and Mass Times. All Masses are celebrated at their usual times.

The bishops of Minnesota have reinstated the Obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, and we are overjoyed to invite and welcome everyone back to Mass! If you are not able to return to church but would still like to receive the Eucharist, please contact Beth Gaetz (bgaetz@nativitybloomington.org) about our homebound eucharistic ministry.

Facemasks: Those fully vaccinated are not at significant risk for contracting or spreading the coronavirus don't need to wear facemasks. Individuals who are more comfortable wearing a facemask may continue doing so but we will no longer require masks in the church buildings. Additionally, masks are strongly recommended in Nativity of Mary School.

Social Distancing: There are no longer any distancing or capacity restrictions in place in the church buildings. For those who prefer more social distancing, the Gathering Space and Chapel areas continue to be available.

Ongoing General Safety Protocols: If you are sick, stay at home. Please take care of yourself and protect others from becoming infected. Vulnerable persons and those caring for them should stay safe. Attend nonobligatory gatherings only to the extent that you judge the risk of infection to be low.

Do what you are comfortable doing. An individual may always practice more restrictive facemask and social distance standards than are required. Sanitization is effective. Washing hands and using hand sanitizer helps avoid both contracting and spreading infection. Vaccines are still recommended.

We will continue to livestream our Saturday 4:00pm Anticipatory Mass, as well as Holy Days of Obligation to our Youtube Channel: @NativityofMaryMN

*An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists anywhere people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. Attendance at liturgies and other events is at your own risk.

	Sunday:	ls 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/ Mt 2:1-12	Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
Weekly Readings:	Monday:	1 ln 3:22-4:6/	Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
January 2, 2022		1 Jn 3:22-4:6/ Mt 4:12-17, 23-25	Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
	Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44	Next Sunday:	ls 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/ Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
	Wednesday	: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52		Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

A Note from our Pastor

WRAPPING UP OUR ADVENT BOOK

Even though this is after the Christmas deadline for the book, I still wanted to write about the final chapters of the "The True Meaning of Christmas". I have heard from a handful of people that this book experiment was good and spiritually nourishing, and I heard from others that they missed the devotional and found Michael Barber's book to be a bit too heady. If you do have any feedback on the experience, please let me know before Lent.

Chapter 10: The Historical Figure of Jesus

In this chapter the author addresses the accusation that Jesus was never a real person, but rather a myth borrowed from stories of pagan gods. In writing his reflection he states clearly that there are no reliable resources to back such a claim. The weighty evidence that Jesus truly was a historical person far outweighs any marginal commentary stating otherwise. For example, Jesus is referenced in ancient, non-biblical, historical sources. The Gospels are both inspirited words as well as biographies, meant to relay important historical facts. They weren't written in the style of a myth narrative. Biographers in our current day have different standards than in the past, and thus this is no reason to believe Jesus wasn't a real historical figure. The reason why it is important to acknowledge that Jesus was a real historically figure is because for us as Christians, Jesus is not simply a metaphor or a symbol. The world cannot be saved by a mere idea; salvation is found in through the Christ.

- Have you had a personal experience of Jesus?
- If you have never been to the Holy Land maybe you have been on a pilgrim to a holy site (shrine, tomb of saint, etc.). Simply
 visiting the home of a famous historical person (Mount Vernon, Graceland, etc.) can often open us to see the 'realness' of the
 historical figure. Did your visit to into the life of a historic person help you learn about the humanity of the persons, as
 studying the Holy Land geography/culture might give us insights into Jesus?

Chapter 11: How December 25 Became Christmas

Historically, we see that there were actually a few dates that were originally in the running for the celebration of Christ's birth. For example, January 6 and January 7th are still celebrated as Christmas in various Orthodox and Eastern Churches. Some theories propose that the Church chose December 25th to supplant pagan celebrations honoring the god Saturn and/or a Roman sun god. There is nothing objectionable about choosing to remember Christ's birth on a day important to pagans. Throughout our history the Catholic Church has often "sanctified" elements of pagan culture insofar as they could be adopted to convey Christ, however, the need to supplant pagan celebrations as the main reason for Christmas on December 25th is not supported by strong evidence. With that being said, March 25th, the celebration of Jesus' conception (the Annunciation) is one of the oldest Christians celebrations, and if we calculate nine months after that we get December 25th. Also, the Winter solstice is around December 25th and so it was appropriate for Christians to celebrate Jesus, the Son of Righteousness, who is born the very same timeframe that sunlight begins to increase. These dates show that the created order is ultimately tied to Christ. So whatever the actual reason for the selection of December 25th being the day of Christ's birth, the symbolism surrounding it is very important.

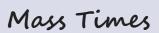
- Have you ever wondered why we celebrate on the 25th of December?
- What important dates do you mark in your family or among your friends, births/deaths/anniversaries etc.?

Chapter 12: The Development of the Christmas Celebration

"Happy Holidays" is a legitimate greeting for Catholics since we celebrate multiple feast days during the Christmas season (Mary on January 1st, Epiphany on January 6th and others). "Yule" was a northern European pagan feast that now is associated with Christmas. There is a fine line of adapting pagan practices inappropriately and baptizing them to convey Christ. English Protestant Puritans in 1647 outlawed Holy Days and Christmas because the liturgical calendar was so closely associated with the Catholic Church from which they wanted to distance themselves. At her founding, America directly inherited some of these sentiments. Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" served to allow Protestants more freedom in celebrating Christmas openly. While faith was a part of this renewal in the English/American Protestant world, it also served to put a new focus on Christmas: which generated greater appreciations for family gatherings and generosity to the poor during this season. Family and generosity to the poor are great, but this is a relatively new focus for the Christmas season. Saint Nicholas/Santa Claus is mentioned on pages 180-188, but you'll have to read about it yourself because I'm out of space! It's fascinating stuff!

- Has Christmas ever become more about family and service over and above Christ? How might we adjust and make it more about Christ's birth?
- How has celebrating the liturgical calendar of the Church helped strengthen your spiritual life?

In. Hatter & Puleat



Holy Mass (Church) Mondays: 8am, Tuesdays: 6pm, Wednesdays-Fridays: 8am, Saturdays: 4pm, and Sundays: 8:30am & 10:30am

Adoration (Church) Monday-Friday: 7-8am, Mondays: 8:30am-2pm, and Tuesdays: 5pm-5:50pm Confessions (Confessional) Tuesdays: 5pm, Wednesdays: 7:30am, Thursdays: 8:30am, and Saturdays: 3pm

NATIVITY OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Faith Formation



Catholic Youth Summer Camp CYSC is a weeklong Catholic camp for middle school students in the northwoods of Trego, WI. CYSC aims to awaken, empower and equip teens to live out the Catholic faith so that they may transform the world. CYSC is where high adventure activities lead to high adventure faith. Campers get to participate in

classic camp activities while also discovering the depth and beauty of the Catholic faith through experiencing the sacraments, prayer, small group, and Adoration. Camp will take place June 19-24 and is open for all those entering grades 6-9 in the fall of 2022.

Carmelite Book Study Group

- What: Fellowship and study of various books on Carmelite saints and spirituality. First book to be studied will be Everything is Grace: The Life and Way of Therese of Lisieux by Joseph F Schmidt.
- When: The 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month starting January 12, 2022 following 8:00 am Mass until 10:15.
- Schedule: 8:30-9:15 Fellowship and refreshments.
- 9:15-10:15 Book discussion. All in the Caritas Room.Who: Everyone is invited. The group will be facilitated by Annie Lex and Jane Montoya. Both are parishioners who are also Secular Carmelites for over 25 years each.

How to sign up: Contact Annie (annelex@comcast.net) or Jane (jane.montoya@live.com)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Needed

Volunteers are needed to bring Holy Communion to those in care centers--especially during the week. Our greatest needs are: Thursday mornings, 1-2 per month (for about a 2 hour time commitment each time); up to 4 new volunteers are needed, and a weekday of your choosing per month, between 9-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m. (this facility requires volunteers to be vaccinated against COVID-19). All facilities require the wearing of masks and the use of hand sanitizer, and all volunteers need to be Safe Environment (Virtus) certified before beginning their service. Orientation will be provided. Please email Beth Gaetz, Ministry Coordinator, at bgaetz@nativitybloomington.org if you are interested or would like more information.

Separated & Divorced Support Group Begins Soon

A 12 week, in-person support group for those experiencing separation or divorce will begin on January 3, 2022, and meet Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at St. Edward's Parish in Bloomington. The resource used is "The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide: Helping you find Peace, Power, and Passion After your Divorce" by Ascension Press. Commitment to all/most of the sessions is strongly encouraged and pre-registration is required; a free-will offering is welcomed. Contact Mia Ah Sani, St. Edward's Director of Pastoral Care for more information or to register: mahsani@stedwardschurch.org or 952-835-7101 ext. 223. Community Life NATIVITY OF MARY COAT & WINTER ITEMS DRIVE

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Coat & Winter Items Drive happening the weekends of January 15-16 & 22-23. Nativity of Mary is thrilled to partner with Every Third Sunday (ETS), a veteran support organization.

ETS located just 5 blocks from the Minneapolis VA center considers faith to be the keystone to everything they do. They believe modern medicine can treat the physical injuries a vet sustains in service, psychiatry can assist with the emotional difficulties, but the wounds to the soul many veterans struggle with cannot be healed without divine intervention and a belief that we are all here for a purpose.

We are asking the Nativity of Mary community to support this organization by fulfilling the tangible needs of veterans through donating winter coats and other winter items. Below you will find a list of some of their most needed items. Large donation boxes will be placed at the main entrances January 15-23. Please consider donating your gently used items.

- Blue jeans

- Shoes

ETS is in desperate need of:

- Winter coats	- Gloves	- Hats
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- Winter underwear - Boots

Other accepted items:

- Diabetic socks
- Sweat clothes (XL,2X)
- Men's boxer underwear Shirts
- Women's briefs (M (6), L(7), XL (8))

Become a Stephen Minister

Has God given you the gift of a caring, listening heart? Are you energized by knowing others deeply, praying together, and offering faith-filled support? If so, might you consider using these gifts as a Stephen Minister? Stephen Ministers undergo 50 hours of training and then provide one-on-one Christian care to those experiencing difficulties such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. From February - May 2022, Nativity of Mary and St. Edward's Church will collaborate to train a new group of Stephen Ministers--which will likely not happen again for several years. Current Stephen Ministers will be available in the Caritas Room after all Masses on the weekend of January 8-9 to provide more information and answer questions. You may also review the Stephen Ministry information on the Pastoral Care page of our website for more details, and if still interested, contact Jim Eddleston, NOM Stephen Ministry Leader, at 952-895-9808. The deadline for receipt of applications is January 12th, 2022. May God bless your discernment!

NATIVITY OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH 5

Parish Happenings



Learn more about the incredible education we offer here at Nativity of Mary Catholic School.

Preschool & Kindergarten Information Night January 6th, 2022 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Join us in the Parish Gathering Space (Door 9) for a presentation from our Principal, Mr. Pajak, hear from our teachers, and visit our classrooms!

For more information & to RSVP please visit: school.nativitybloomington.org/infonight



Middle School Information Night January 13th, 2022 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us in the Parish Gathering Space (Door 9) for a presentation from our Principal, Mr. Pajak, and to hear from our middle school teachers about the amazing middle school experience that Nativity offers.

For more information & to RSVP please visit: school.nativitybloomington.org/ middleschoolinfonight





EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

ADD REGULAR ADORATION TO YOUR NEW YEARS RESOLUTION!

Adoration schedule is on the bottom of page 3 of the bulletin.

Can you substitute or be a regular adorer? Contact Pam Meyer | 952-884-0158

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Saturday, January 1 3:00 PM 4:00 PM	 Mary, Holy Mother of God; New Years Day Reconciliation, Confessional Mass, Church (Max Paczkowski)
Sunday, January 2 8:30 AM 10:30 AM 11:45-1:00 PM	The Epiphany of the Lord Mass, Church (Nativity of Mary Parish) Mass, Church (Jonathan Dombrowski) Book Club, John Paul II Room
Monday, January 3 7:00-8:00 AM 7:30 AM 8:00 AM 8:30-2:00 PM	The Most Holy Name of Jesus Adoration, Church Rosary, Chapel Mass, Church († Jeff Chastek) Adoration, Church
Tuesday, January 4 7:00-8:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:00-5:50 PM 6:00 PM	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious Adoration, Church Reconciliation, Confessional Adoration, Church Mass, Church (†Patricia Templemeyer)
7:00-8:00 AM 7:30 AM 7:30 AM	y 5 St. John Neumann, Bishop Adoration, Church Reconciliation, Confessional Rosary, Chapel Mass, Church (†Margaret Drabek) RE/Confirmation Meeting, Gathering Space
Thursday, January 7:00-8:00 AM 7:30 AM 8:00 AM 8:30 AM 5:00 PM	 6 St. André Bessette, Religious Adoration, Church Rosary, Chapel Mass, Church (†Leland Raley) Reconciliation, Confessional PK & K Information Night, Gathering Space
Friday, January 7 7:00-8:00 AM 7:30 AM 8:00 AM	St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest Adoration, Church Rosary, Chapel Mass, Church (†Catherine Weisbrich)
Saturday, January 8 7:00-10:30 AM 3:00 PM 4:00 PM	B Free Food Giveaway, Parking Lot Reconciliation, Confessional Mass, Church (†Gene Fibuch)
10:30 AM	The Baptism of the Lord Mass, Church (†Mary Stettehaugh) Mass, Church (Nativity of Mary Parish) Book Club, John Paul II Room

NATIVITY OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

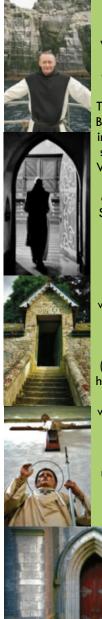
Sharing Our Treasure Scan HAPPY NEW YEAR to give online

During the month of December, our weekly budgeted contributions are \$32,525 (4 weeks).

Offering for Weekend (Week 25) December 18/19, 2021

	Weekly	Year to Date
Actual	\$31,238	\$497 , 614
Budgeted	\$32,525	\$481,475

Thank you <u>Steve Koening, Farmers Insurance</u> and all our other contributors for supporting our parish bulletin.



FINAL SABBATICAL REFLECTION: Cistercian Monks

While I was on Sabbatical in Ireland I had the opportunity of living with a community of Cistercian Monks. This branch of Monastacism comes from the reform of the Benedictine Tradition lead by St. Bernard of Clarvioux. St. Bernard founded this community in Dijon, France in 1098. By the end of the 12th Century it had spread throughout France, Germany, England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Scandinavia, and Eastern Europe. The main goal of the reform was to follow "the Rule" of St. Benedict more closely, and their life is mark by more rigorous seasons of penance and

prolonged silences. In the ancient times Cistercian Monks were not allowed to talk to one another and were instead encouraged to use sign language to communicate only what was necessary. Their life is also mark by seven

"hours" of prayer that is publicly chanted antiphonally. The book that is in one of the pictures is one of the ancient breviaries (consolidated psalms) that is used during these hours. Their first hour of prayer begins at 4 am and their last concludes at 7:30 pm. It was a way that the community ensured that their work (labor) did not become the focus of their life,

but rather was constantly infused with prayer. One of the more famous Cistercian monks from America was Thomas Merton, who wrote the famous autobiography entitled "Seven Story Mountain".



Quick Notes

ANGEL TREE FINAL REPORT

Thank you to all who donated, sorted or delivered gifts, and made Angel Tree possible! This past Advent here at Nativity of Mary was certainly a season of hope! Gratitude for what we have fuels a strong spirit of generosity. The donations collected helped the below organizations:

Kennedy Community Alliance, or "Kennedy Pantry": With public school students coming from all walks of life, Kennedy Pantry is a resource to those whose learning could be impacted by a lack of basic necessities.

Nativity Outreach Assistance: The cards collected are utilized by staff when individuals approach the parish directly, seeking assistance. By listening to an individual's story, and providing some assistance, we demonstrate that Christ meets the needs of all and our doors are always open.

VEAP: VEAP is a basic needs and social services organization whose programs promote access to healthy foods, stable housing and other supportive services. VEAP's programs are designed to address a particular need and when used together provide hope and can help avoid a financial crisis such as loss of housing, transportation or employment. Whether the hardship is from a disability, job transition, or the financial and physical stresses of aging, VEAP has been helping our neighbors in need for 45 years.

Tandem Family Resource Center: The roots of this organization go back to 1978, with a continuous thread of serving mothers and children in need in South Minneapolis. Tandem provides services to meet the basic needs of pregnant women and mothers, including health care services, housing, childcare, life skills education, and vocational training so that true independence can be achieved.

Here is what our parish collected:

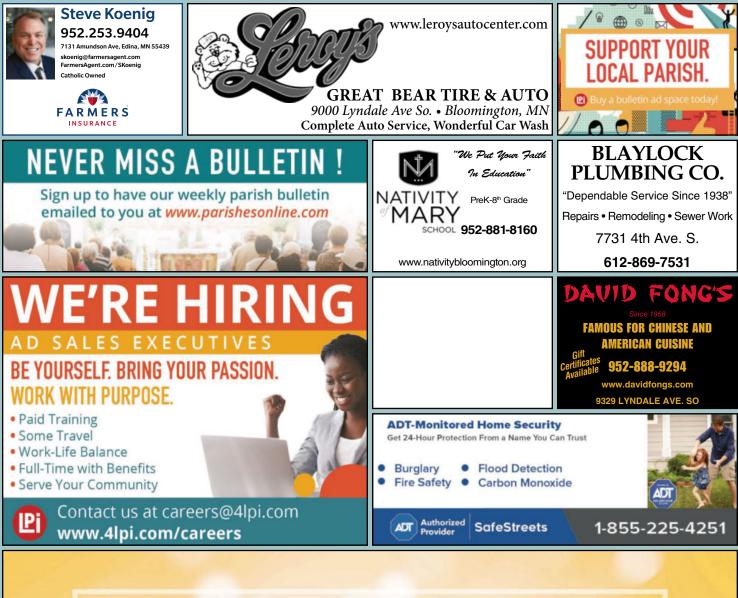
Ministry	# of items	# of gift cards	Total Value of Gift Cards
Kennedy Pantry	196	43	\$1,075
Nativity Outreach	N/A	61	\$1,525
VEAP	105	57	\$1,425
Tandem	245	37	\$925
Total	546	198	\$4,950

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TWIN CITIES Hope in action.

FREE FOOD GIVEAWAY!

The next Free Food giveaway will be Saturday January 8th from 9 - 10am in the South Parking Lot.

Anyone who comes will be given a 40 pound box of food no pre-registration or specific eligibility requirements. We are also in need of volunteers to help load boxes into cars. If you can lift 40 pound boxes and are interested in helping please contact Christopher Dietzen at christopher.dietzen@gmail.com



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