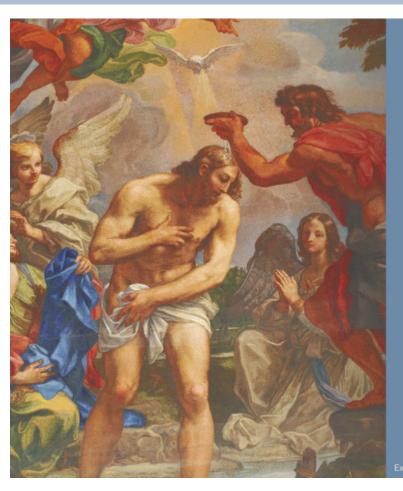




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January 9th, 2022

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

610

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

- Lk 3:21-22a

cerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

DI P



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

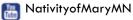


Our Pastor Father Nathan LaLiberte

📞 952-881-8671 x8066

frnathan@nativitybloomington.org

@NativityBloomington



CONTACT OUR TEAM

| PARISH OFFICE: 952-881-8671 | Ext | | |
|--|------|--|--|
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| Dcn. Jim Reinhardt, Deacon | | | |
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| Schumacher, Kelly, Elem. Faith Formation & Parish Life | | | |
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| Tobroxen, Judy, Parish Administrative Assistant | | | |
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PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

Steve Casalenda: scasalenda@remax.net

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR

Chad Huset: husetcs@hotmail.com



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.

Weekly Readings: January 9, 2022 **Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/

15 42:1-4, 0-7/ACIS 10:54-30/

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/ Mk 1:29-39 **Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/

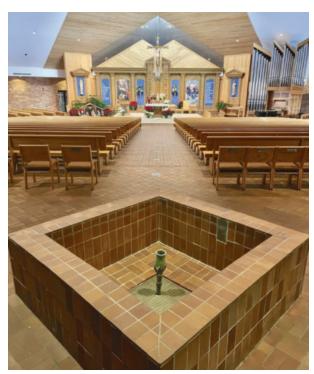
Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/

Jn 2:1-11

A Note from our Pastor

OUR BAPTISMAL FONT



As you are all aware, our large baptismal font has been empty throughout the entirety of the pandemic. About two months ago we tried to fill it again and when we did we discovered a serious leak. After the font was filled and sat overnight, sizeable amounts of water ran out of it. We had several specialists come to see if it could be fixed (plumbers, tile specialists, craftsmen, and even a pool specialist). Unfortunately, after several attempts at repairing it (including coating it with a latex-based sealant), it was determined that the font could not be repaired.

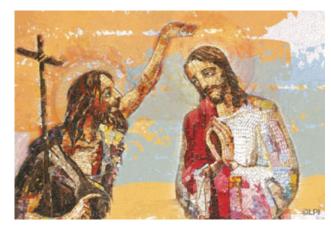
From what I have been able to gather, the font has been leaking for years, just in smaller amounts. The long period of time without use must have made it finally decide to call it quits. We are having some church decor specialists from St. Patrick's Guild come in towards the end of January to give us some suggestions for what can be done for a new font, and what prices would be attached to such a project.

As of right now there are no designs that have been selected. I have been assembling some possible options while visiting other parishes for penance services this Advent. However, none have really moved me as "the right fit". I wanted to update the parish community about this so that you understand why the font has not been refilled and because I want to receive feedback on what your experience of the current font has been, as well as if there are some thoughts that you have contemplated for designing a new font.

One of the ancient traditions for baptismal fonts was to make them octagonal in shape (symbolizing Christ raising on the 8th day). The most ancient baptismal fonts across Europe have this shape. Some other things to consider is whether or not we want a large pool with bubbling water like we had before. The reason this question comes to mind is because, to my knowledge, we have not been doing full immersions for baptisms (which is usually why churches have a deeper font).

Another option is that some parishes have a simple above ground stationary font with stagnant water. At All Saints in Lakeville I came across a hybrid between those two options where there is a tall font that is used to dip one's hands in for a blessing and then it also feeds into a larger base for immersion baptisms. I was told that the "running water" is meant to symbolize the 'living water of Christ'. One last thing to consider is how we could match some of the elements in the new sanctuary (stone/wood/ images) to show the connection between Baptism and the Eucharist.

Again, no decisions have been made, we are simply at the point of collecting information. I will keep you up to date on details as they emerge but in the interim, I earnestly welcome feedback to come to me via the parish council, chaired by Steve Casalenda, our Parish Trustees, Tom Burns and Chris Dietzen, or any of the Parish Staff. My email, phone and address are also in the bulletin if you want to share your comments directly with me. Please join me in praying for vision and direction for our Parish Community as we discern this very important element of our worship space.



In. Hatter & Roleate

Mass Times

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

Faith Formation

Catholic Youth Summer Camp

All students entering grades 6-9 in 2022 are invited to join us for a week at Catholic Youth Summer Camp June 19-24. Camp is sure to be the best week of the entire summer! With awesome camp activities like rock climbing, archery, water inflatables course, canoeing, paddle boarding, fishing, arts and crafts, and so much more! Catholic Youth Summer Camp is also a place where teens will grow in their faith with inspiring talks, small group discussion, Mass, and Adoration. Registration is now open!









■★★★★■ Nativity has a limited number of spots and they will fill fast! For more information and registration please see our website (QR Code to the left).

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)

Winter 2022 Grief Support Series Has Begun!

Churches in the Bloomington-Richfield area work together to provide free support and education for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one, free of cost. Group meetings are held in-person on Thursdays from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and the Winter Series has begun. You may attend all sessions or just those that seem most fitting.

Each session includes 30 minutes of an educational presentation, followed by an hour of small group sharing. All sessions in this Winter series will take place at Peace Lutheran Church, 8600 East Bush Lake Road, Bloomington, NN 55438 (call 952-944-6510 for questions about weather cancellations). All are welcome to attend.

Date, Topic, and Presenter

- Jan. 13: "The Effects of Grief", Bob Bartlett
- Jan. 20: "Grief and Resilience", Catherine Duncan
- Jan. 27: "Wings for Widows", Grant Meyer
- Feb. 3: "Grief and Intimacy", Bob Bartlett
- Feb. 10: "Wings for Widows", Grant Meyer
- Feb. 17: "Wellness During Grief", Phyllis Bruce
- Feb. 24: "The Mind-Body Connection", Lorry Lundborg



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

ETS is in desperate need of:

- Gloves - Winter coats - Hats

- Winter underwear - Boots

Other accepted items:

- Diabetic socks - Blue jeans - Sweat clothes (XL,2X) - Shoes - 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!



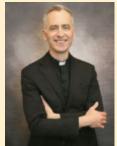
Middle School Information Night **January 13th, 2022** 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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



Please Join in Welcoming Bishop-elect Joseph Williams



On December 10, Pope Francis named Father Joseph Williams, a priest of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, as Auxiliary Bishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

The ordination of Joseph Williams to the Episcopacy will take place Tuesday, January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. The ordination will be

livestreamed on the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis' Facebook page. Time to be announced.

Learn more about Bishop-elect Williams, watch video interviews, and find details on the ordination at archspm.org/newbishop. Please join us in praying for our new auxiliary bishop!

Month of January

Pope's monthly prayer intention - For true human fraternity We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

TWEETS OF WISDOM FROM POPE FRANCIS





Christmas invites us to reflect on the drama of history, in which men and women, wounded by sin, search for truth, mercy, redemption; and on God's goodness, who has come to us to communicate the Truth that saves and to make us sharers in His life.

Parish Happenings

Saturday, January 8

3:00 PM Reconciliation, Confessional 4:00 PM Mass, Church (†Gene Fibuch)

Sunday, January 9 The Baptism of the Lord

Mass, Church (†Mary Stettehaugh) 8:30 AM 10:30 AM Mass, Church (Nativity of Mary Parish) 11:45-1:00 PM Book Club, John Paul II Room

Monday, January 10

7:00-8:00 AM Adoration, Church 7:30 AM Rosary, Chapel

MA 00:8 Mass, Church (†Charlotte Donnelly)

8:30-2:00 PM Adoration, Church

Tuesday, January 11

7:00-8:00 AM Adoration, Church

5:00 PM Reconciliation, Confessional

5:00-5:50 PM Adoration, Church 6:00 PM Mass, Church

(†Florence & Charles Majeske)

Wednesday, January 12

7:00-8:00 AM Adoration, Church

> 7:30 AM Reconciliation, Confessional

7:30 AM Rosary, Chapel

8:00 AM Mass, Church (†Shirley Kelly)

8:30-10:30 AM Carmelite Book Club, Caritas Room

6:30-8:00 PM **RE/Confirmation Meeting,**

Gathering Space

Thursday, January 13 St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of Church

7:00-8:00 AM Adoration. Church 7:30 AM Rosary, Chapel

MA 00:8 **Mass**, Church (†Kevin Baier) 8:30 AM Reconciliation, Confessional Middle School Open House, 5:00-8:00 PM

Gathering Space

7:00 PM Monthly Rosary, Chapel

Friday, January 14

7:00-8:00 AM Adoration, Church 7:30 AM Rosary, Chapel

> 8:00 AM Mass, Church (Marie Carlson)

Saturday, January 15

3:00 PM Reconciliation, Confessional

4:00 PM Mass, Church (†Larry & Violet Plonty)

Sunday, January 16 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Mass, Church (Nativity of Mary Parish)

10:30 AM Mass, Church (Susan Palmer) 11:45-1:00 PM Book Club, John Paul II Room

Sharing Our Treasure

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Scan to give online



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

Offering for Weekend (Week 26) December 25/26, 2021

| | Weekly | Year to Date |
|----------|----------|--------------|
| Actual | \$47,625 | \$545,239 |
| Budgeted | \$32,525 | \$514,000 |

During the month of January, our weekly budgeted contributions are \$19,700 (5 weeks).

Offering for Weekend (Week 27) January 1/2, 2022

| | Weekly | Year to Date |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|
| Actual | \$ <i>5,</i> 750 | \$550,989 |
| Budgeted | \$19 , 700 | \$533,700 |

Thank you <u>Restwell Mattress Factory in Bloomington</u> and all our other contributors for supporting our parish bulletin.

2022 WINE: Catholic Women's Conference

Saturday, February 26, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church, Saint Louis Park

The WINE: Catholic Women's Conference with emcee Alyssa Bormes begins with Mass, followed with music by Caroline Metzinger and inspirational talks by Kelly Wahlquist (WINE founder); Liz Kelly (Catholic author & retreat leader); Leah Jacobson (the Wholistic Feminist); and Alicia Donovan (Biblical beekeeper). The day includes prayer with prayer teams, confession, adoration, laughter, lunch, shopping, CHOCOLATE, and a fun raffle! Register at wineconference.org by February 1 for \$55 for the Saturday conference or \$100 for the Saturday conference plus a special Friday Gathering (open to 200 ladies)!

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Give the best St Valentine's Day gift possible by signing up for the February 12-13 Marriage Encounter! Weekends are held at Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org to register, for additional information or call 651.454.3238. If you have any questions, please call Mary Jackson at 651.454.3238.

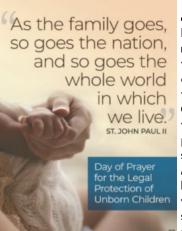
Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Feeling disconnected? Every married couple deserves the gift of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend! The next virtual weekends in this area will be held Feb 12-14 2021 and Feb 18-28 2021. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: twincitieswwme.org or contact Brent & Tracy at applications@twincitieswwme.org or 612-756-8720.

Quick Notes

Prayer Service for Life

Saturday, January 22, 10:30 a.m., Cathedral of Saint Paul



This prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. All are invited and welcome, Saint John Paul II Champions for Life Awardees will be recognized during the prayer service. This event is sponsored by the Office of Marriage, Family and Life. For more information visit archspm.org/prayerservice-life or call 651.291.4488.

Equipped for Life:

A Fresh Approach to Conversation about Abortion

Saturday, February 5, University of Saint Thomas, Saint Paul

This day of training, provided by National Pro-Life Leader Emily Albrecht through the Equal Rights Institute, will equip attendees with a large, successfully tested set of practical tools to use in future conversations. The morning program runs from 9 a.m.-noon, followed by an afternoon program from 1-4 p.m. Participate in both or just a partial day. Cost is \$15 for half-day, \$20 for full-day and \$10 per session for students (high school and college). Tickets are available at mncatholic.org/equippedforlife.

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. Here is what our parish collected:

| Ministry | # of items | # of gift cards | Total Value of Gift Cards |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Kennedy Pantry | 196 | 43 | \$1,07 <i>5</i> |
| Nativity Outreach | N/A | 61 | \$1,525 |
| VEAP | 105 | 57 | \$1,425 |
| Tandem | 245 | 37 | \$925 |
| Total | 546 | 198 | \$4,950 |



THINK OF WHAT IS above, not of what is on Earth.

COLOSSIANS 3:2



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