

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Established
in 1898

"Where the Lady of the house welcomes you to talk to her Son"

Roman Catholic Church

ADDRESS & PHONE

418 West 15th Street
Lorain, Ohio 44052
Telephone: 244-9090
Fax: 440-244-0421
Office hours: Monday-Friday,
8:00am-4:00pm
Lunch: 12:00pm-1:00pm
Email:
natbvm@outlook.com
Website:
nativitybvmlorain.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturdays: 4:00pm (Vigil)
Sundays: 8:30am & 10:30am
Monday, Thursday & Friday: 8:15am
Wednesday 6:30pm (Tuesday No Mass)
Holydays: Consult the bulletin for times
Eucharistic Holy Hour:
Every Saturday 2:30pm until 3:30pm
Prayer Group meets the third Monday
of the month at 7:00pm in the church.

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Robert J. Glepko
Retired Deacon: Rev. Mr. Robert J. Dybo
Secretary: Ms. Deborah Poltrone
Bookkeeper: Mrs. Alice Kinney
Facility Supervisor: Mr. Raymond Kinney
Sacristan: Ms. Chris Korab
Organist: Mrs. Diane Lesiuk
Director of Music: Mrs. Angela Bak
Parish Council President: Mr. James Shuster
Finance Chairperson: Mr. Robert Northeim



DECEMBER 26, 2021 THE HOLY FAMILY

RITE OF PENANCE (CONFESSION)

Saturdays 2:30-3:00pm or call the
parish office for an appointment.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome newcomers to our parish community.
If you are 18 years of age, we invite you to
register at the Parish Office during the week.

BAPTISMS

Pre-Baptism Classes are required by the Diocese.
Please call the parish office at least a month
before the baby is due.

WEDDINGS

Please call the parish office at least 6 months prior
to the wedding date to make arrangements.

RCIA

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Anyone
interested in Catholic instruction or information,
please call the parish office.

ESTATES

Please remember your parish in your Will
so that the message of Christ can continue
for generations to come.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)

Religion Classes for children grades 1-8 held at Nativity
on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm
Ms. Lenore Hales, Director

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the parishioners of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish of Lorain, Ohio, with over 123 years of faith and foundation in a Catholic Polish-American heritage, under the patronage of our Blessed Mother and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, assume the responsibility of welcoming all cultures of our Catholic and non-Catholic community by fostering Christian values and respecting all life, as we continue to build the Kingdom of God. Amen.

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS NIGHT

12:00 AM INTENTION OF CELEBRANT

- E-Deacon Bob Dybo
- L-Carl Snezek
- S-Lenore Hales, Riley Wade

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 INTENTION OF CELEBRANT

- E-Maureen Flynn
- L-Debi Poltrone
- S-Bob Clotz

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

8:30 † INTENTION OF CELEBRANT

- E-Susanne Fly
- L-Mike Davis
- S-Lenore Hales

10:30 † NATIVITY PARISHIONERS

- E-Peggy Kernohan
- L-Bob Stockhausen
- S-Bob Clotz

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, ST. JOHN, APOSTLE: NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, ST. THOMAS BECKET

6:30 † FR. EDWARD LUCA (Maureen Flynn)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, WEEKDAY

8:15 RALPH, MICHAEL WALDECKI, CHRISTINE ROSE (Family)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE:

ST. SYLVESTER I, POPE

8:15 † LANA HUMMEL (Dave & Norma Liebfried)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD: NEW YEAR'S DAY

9:00 INTENTION OF CELEBRANT

- E-Dean Mason
- L-Linda Dybo
- S-Maria Bak, Lowman Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

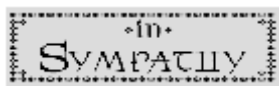
8:30 † NATIVITY PARISHIONERS

- E-Marilyn Muskiewicz
 - L-Carl Snezek
 - S-Mike Davis, Mary Ann Pogorzelski
- 10:30 † EDWARD OLEKSY (Mordarski Family)
- E-Maureen Flynn
 - L-Michele Arredondo
 - S-Zoey Pol, Sydney & Conor Nowak

Offertory Gifts: If the weekend Mass intention is for your family member (s), please inform one of our ushers before Mass if you would like to take up the gifts.

Let us remember to pray for those confined to hospitals and nursing homes, the homebound and their caregivers, our sons and daughters in the military, the homeless and those who have no one to pray for them.

We remember in our prayers the family of Marilyn Ann Yarsa whose funeral was celebrated December 16, 2021. May her soul rest in the peace of Christ.



We remember in our prayers the families of The Reverend Donald B. Cozzens, whose funeral was celebrated: 18 December 2021, and Deacon Thomas T Long, whose funeral was celebrated: 17 December 2021. May their souls rest in the peace of Christ.



- December 25 Concert 11:00/Midnight Mass
*Security provided
10:30 Mass
- December 27 *No Mass/Office closed
- January 1 9:00am Mass-Holy Mother of God
*NO 4:00 Mass
- January 3 Office closed

St. Stephen/Feast Day December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

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OUR WEEKLY OFFERING

Due to the Holidays, the weekly offering will be posted at a future date.



If you are able, please continue to give your weekly offerings and put the amount on the envelope. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

- Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
- Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
- Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
- Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

First Reading:

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

Psalms:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

Second Reading:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

TODAY'S GOSPEL

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

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REFLECTION

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.

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Please continue to pray for Fr. Bob. He thanks you from the bottom of his heart for all the prayers, gifts, and cards.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

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The Heritage Committee would like to thank everyone who attended St. Nicholas Day and the Cornerstone Committee for their donation to this event. **A special thank you to St. Nicholas!**

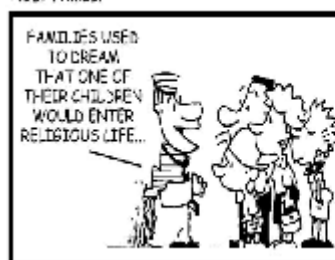
CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST

NAME: _____

ENVELOPE NO: _____

Please place this request in the collection or drop off at the parish office. **The statements will not be mailed out!** An announcement will be made when you may pick them up in the Church.

-HOLY FAMILY



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