



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

FEB 28
2021



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. - Mk 9:7-8

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

CLPI

LOVE GOD ~ LOVE OTHERS ~ MAKE DISCIPLES

MASS TIMES

Weekday Masses

Daily | Mon – Sat 9:00 am

Wednesday | 6:00 pm

Adoration at 5 pm

Weekend Masses

Saturday | 5:00 pm

Sunday | 8:30 am, 11 am

1:00pm(Spanish) and 5:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday | 3:30 pm & by appointment

Communion Services

Tuesday | 9:00 am

Wednesday | 7:00 am

CONTACT

Father Jerry Strange,

jerrystrange@nativitycatholic.net | 615-794-4004

Father Rodolfo Rivera

Rivera.mr@hotmail.com | 615-785-4831

Tim Conley, Deacon, RCIA

deacontim@nativitycatholic.net | 615-519-6053

CJ Donarski, Deacon

deaconcj@nativitycatholic.net | 760-716-4808

Philip Moore, Deacon, DRE

deaconphilip@nativitycatholic.net

LOCATION

Parish Address:

2793 Buckner Lane

Thompson's Station, TN 37179

Office: **615-794-4004**

Rectory Address:

2795 Buckner Lane

Thompson's Station, TN 37179

www.nativitycatholic.net

PRAYER & WORSHIP

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY MISSION STATEMENT

As parishioners of the Catholic Church of the Nativity, we are committed to carrying out the mission of Christ by: Proclaiming the Word of God ~ Celebrating the mysteries of the faith • Growing in the knowledge and the living of the faith ...while loving and serving our neighbors and growing together in holiness as members of the Body of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like a Mass celebrated for a specific intention, please contact the church office.

Monday, March 1

9:00 am, Weekday, +Gregory Bender

Tuesday, March 2

9:00 am, Weekday; Communion Service

Wednesday, March 3

7:00, am, Communion Service

9:00 am, Good Weather for Farmers

6:00 pm, End of Abortion

Thursday, March 4

9:00 am, Lenten Weekday, Increase of Vocations to Priesthood

Friday, March 5

9:00 am, Weekday, +Marilyn Jo McNamara Maley

Saturday, March 6

9:00 am, . Weekday, Communion Service

5:00 pm, Vigil, Third Sunday of Lent, End of Covid

Sunday, March 7

Third Sunday of Lent,

8:30 am, Intentions of Parishioners

11:00 am, +Christopher Pierce

1:00 pm, Intention of the Celebrant

5:00 pm, Poor Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY READINGS: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING:

GENESIS 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18

SECOND READING:

ROMANS 8:31B-34

.GOSPEL:

MARK 9:2-10

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, March 1

9:00 AM Mass

6:00 PM Knights of Columbus

7:00 PM Fidelis

7:00 PM Latino Choir Practice

Tuesday, March 2

9:00 AM Communion Service

9:30 AM Bible Study

5:00 PM Spanish Ministry

6:00 PM Latino EMHC

6:30 PM Fraternalis

7:00 PM Crecimientos Group

Wednesday, March 3

7:00 AM Communion Service

9:00 AM Mass

5:00 PM Adoration/Reconciliation

6:00 PM Mass

6:30 PM Blue Knights/Little Flowers

7:00 PM Bible Study

Thursday, March 4

9 00 AM Mass

9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry

9:45 AM Men 4 Him

6:30 PM RCIA

6:30 PM Phoenix Group

6:30 PM Altar Server Training

Friday, March 5

First Friday

Lenten Fish Fry (5:30)

9:00 AM Mass

4:30 PM Reconciliation

5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 6

9:00 AM Mass

5:00 PM Mass (KofC Coffee Sale)

Sunday, March 7 KofC Coffee Sale

8:30 AM Mass

11:00 AM Mass

1:00 PM Mass Spanish

2:15 PM Spanish Baptism Class

5:00 PM Mass

PARISH FINANCIALS

February 14 & 21, 2021

		Building Donations	
		January 2021	\$21,088
		2021 YTD	\$21,088
		2020 YTD	\$44,370
Received			
Registered Families	877		
Attendance	793/671		
Regular Collection	\$13,344		
Online Regular Collect	\$14,430		
Building Fund	\$6,455		
Online Building Fund	\$3,894		
Votive Candles	\$222		
TN Register	\$286		
Black & Indian Mission	\$242		



Reading I

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test.
 He called to him, "Abraham!"
 "Here I am!" he replied.
 Then God said:
 "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love,
 and go to the land of Moriah.
 There you shall offer him up as a holocaust
 on a height that I will point out to you."
 When they came to the place of which God had told him,
 Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it.
 Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his
 son.
 But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven,
 "Abraham, Abraham!"
 "Here I am!" he answered.
 "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger.
 "Do not do the least thing to him.
 I know now how devoted you are to God,
 since you did not withhold from me your own beloved
 son."
 As Abraham looked about,
 he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket.
 So he went and took the ram
 and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.
 Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from
 heaven and said:
 "I swear by myself, declares the LORD,
 that because you acted as you did
 in not withholding from me your beloved son,
 I will bless you abundantly
 and make your descendants as countless
 as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore;
 your descendants shall take possession
 of the gates of their enemies,
 and in your descendants all the nations of the earth
 shall find blessing—
 all this because you obeyed my command."

Responsorial Psalm

116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I said,
 "I am greatly afflicted."
 Precious in the eyes of the LORD
 is the death of his faithful ones.

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

O LORD, I am your servant;
 I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;

you have loosed my bonds.
 To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
 and I will call upon the name of the LORD.
R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.
 My vows to the LORD I will pay
 in the presence of all his people,
 In the courts of the house of the LORD,
 in your midst, O Jerusalem.
R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living

Reading II

Rom 8:31b-34

Brothers and sisters:
 If God is for us, who can be against us?
 He who did not spare his own Son
 but handed him over for us all,
 how will he not also give us everything else along with
 him?
 Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?
 It is God who acquits us, who will condemn?
 Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—
 who also is at the right hand of God,
 who indeed intercedes for us.

Gospel

Mk 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John
 and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.
 And he was transfigured before them,
 and his clothes became dazzling white,
 such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.
 Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses,
 and they were conversing with Jesus.
 Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
 "Rabbi, it is good that we are here!
 Let us make three tents:
 one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
 He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.
 Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
 from the cloud came a voice,
 "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."
 Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone
 but Jesus alone with them.
 As they were coming down from the mountain,
 he charged them not to relate what they had seen to
 anyone,
 except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.
 So they kept the matter to themselves,
 questioning what rising from the dead meant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nativity will celebrate the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent at 5:30 except Good Friday. We will not have a communal penance service due to Covid, but additional confessions will be offered on Wednesday evenings at 5 during Adoration and 4:30 on Fridays before Stations of the Cross.

LENTEN FISH FRY DINNERS: The Church of the Nativity Lenten Fish Fry Dinners are back each Friday, starting at 5:30 PM. All dinners will be "take-out" only each Friday during Lent (with the exception of Good Friday). You will be able to place your order while in your car and it will be delivered to you in your car in the back parking lot of our church. Meal offerings will include choice of baked or fried fish, french fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, mac & cheese and choice of banana or chocolate pudding. No beverages. Dinners will be \$10.00 per Adult, \$6.00 per child 10 & under.

Join the Teen Group at COTN Teens in 9th through 12th grade, join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. The night will start at 6 pm with Mass followed by Praise, Worship, and discussion. Masks are required. Per current Parish guidelines, we will not be serving a meal at this meeting. We will wrap up at 8pm. Hope to see you there!

The Men's Club is sponsoring a Skeet Shooting social event and has a few remaining slots open for men in Nativity Parish to join us, as our guests, for a fun time. The event will be held on Sunday morning, March 21, 9:30AM at the Owl Hollow (Charlie Haffner Memorial) Gun Range, located on Owl Hollow Rd. in Spring Hill (Franklin address). Just bring your 12-gauge and join us for a great time and a real blast. Please call Larry Bobrowski (615-419-4889) or Ernie Salsberry (606-923-7337) for details and to sign up. First come, first serve.

Phoenix Group: for Survivors of all sorts & people who have faced huge challenges. If you have experienced huge events in your life that have shaken your ground: serious illness, loss, divorce or whatever is for you that has made you see life differently... Join us, your story may inspire others! This group meets on Thursdays at 6:30 pm downstairs. Please contact Sheyla Zito for more information: (407) 732-8584 sheylazito@gmail.com

COTN husbands and wives are cordially invited to attend a "Fraternal Benefits Night"...an evening of valuable information sponsored by our Knight of Columbus Field Agent ...Attend and learn (with no pressure) the many ways a membership in the Knights can benefit your family. When: 3/10/2021 at 6:30PM (CST)... Where: via ZOOM at the following site: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87256598428>

2021 Spring Speaker Series LIVE, (March 3, 10, 17, 24), duplicate talks will be held at 10 a.m. and 7p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center, 2800 McGavock Pike, Nashville. We're excited to gather together to discuss the life and sainthood of St. Joseph in the Year of St. Joseph. All attendees will be required to wear a mask/face shield, will have their temperature taken, and will fill out a form.

3MT Microcourses: 3 Minute Theology is launching microcourses. These FREE microcourses are short lessons based on published 3 Minute Theology episodes. Each lesson contains helpful scripture, Catechism passages, reading, and questions to understand Catholic teachings and theology. Current courses are Lent and Apologetics. If you teach or are an inquisitive Catholic looking to learn more about the faith, the microcourses are for you. Get started at <https://3minutetheology.teachable.com/>.

FATHER JERRY'S HOMILY 2/21/21

We have a very short reading today, but a lot to pull from. There are three items to address.

1. What does Mark mean when he says the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness? John has baptized Jesus and the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the shape of a dove. Kings were anointed with oil at their coronation. Jesus is now anointed with the Holy Spirit. Jesus is consecrated and the Holy Spirit is working within and so, the Spirit's activity drives Jesus into the desert. Mark, as he does so often he tells us that this happens immediately focusing on Jesus' immediacy of His mission. The 40 days, a symbol of purification and testing. Noah was tested by the Flood and the world was purified. The Israelites were tested in the desert for 40 years but like us they failed often and although humans fail, Jesus will not fail His temptations, testing and purifications. We can also see in Christ a new Adam. Adam was tested and tempted and failed through which sin entered the world; sin and death. Jesus will pass the temptations and His work offers us a remedy for sin and turns the finality of death into eternal life. Adam has sort of turned Paradise into a desert, Jesus will flip the deserts of our lives back to the possibility of entering the Garden. The Tempter, Satan is the evil spirit. Jesus is led by the assailant, the Holy Spirit. A few weeks ago, we started with Mark's Gospel accounting Jesus' first miracle; an exorcism of the demonic. Here, Jesus shows us work will be to overthrow the Devil and claim back the world from the Fall of Adam and Eve.

2. Why is so important for Mark to tell us that Jesus will be with the wild beasts and ministered to by angels? Mark is the only Gospel to tell us this. Again, Jesus is a type of a new Adam. In Genesis, all the beasts are brought before Adam to see if any would be a proper helpmate. Christ is master of all the beasts of the world; King of the world. The angels? The writings of the Jews, the Talmud, a commentary on the Torah mentioned that Adam was served by the angels who brought him food and drink. After 40 days, Jesus is served by angels. Surely, in his humanity, he was hungry.

3. And why are we told about Jesus' preaching ministry at the end of the story? Jesus is at war with Satan, the enemy of God and Man. Jesus is going to be a great preacher and teacher but One who is constantly at war with the Devil. Spiritual warfare makes Jesus ready to proclaim the Good News.

Our Lent is against Satan, sin, and our willingness to run towards the things of the world to fill the void of our happiness; a happiness which is only ultimately filled in a lasting way by God. So we enter into Lent with the threefold armament of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Almsgiving to remind us everything belongs to God and our happiness is not found in wealth. Fasting to remind us that our happiness is not found in pleasure. Prayer to remind us that our happiness is not found in power, but to humble ourselves before the One who made us.

Spiritual warfare also prepares us to listen better and live a life worthy of our God.

Primera Lectura**Gn 22, 1-2. 9-13. 15-18**

En aquel tiempo, Dios le puso una prueba a Abraham y le dijo: "¡Abraham, Abraham!" Él respondió: "Aquí estoy". Y Dios le dijo: "Toma a tu hijo único, Isaac, a quien tanto amas; vete a la región de Moria y ofrécelo en sacrificio, en el monte que yo te indicaré".

Cuando llegaron al sitio que Dios le había señalado, Abraham levantó un altar y acomodó la leña. Luego ató a su hijo Isaac, lo puso sobre el altar, encima de la leña, y tomó el cuchillo para degollarlo.

Pero el ángel del Señor lo llamó desde el cielo y le dijo: "¡Abraham, Abraham!" Él contestó: "Aquí estoy". El ángel le dijo: "No descargues la mano contra tu hijo, ni le hagas daño. Ya veo que temes a Dios, porque no le has negado a tu hijo único".

Abraham levantó los ojos y vio un carnero, enredado por los cuernos en la maleza. Atrapó el carnero y lo ofreció en sacrificio en lugar de su hijo.

El ángel del Señor volvió a llamar a Abraham desde el cielo y le dijo: "Juro por mí mismo, dice el Señor, que por haber hecho esto y no haberme negado a tu hijo único, yo te bendeciré y multiplicaré tu descendencia como las estrellas del cielo y las arenas del mar. Tus descendientes conquistarán las ciudades enemigas. En tu descendencia serán bendecidos todos los pueblos de la tierra, porque obedeciste a mis palabras".

Salmo Responsorial**Salmo 115, 10 y 15. 16-17. 18-19****R. (Sal 114, 9) Siempre confiaré en el Señor.**

Aun abrumado de desgracias,
siempre confié en Dios.

A los ojos del Señor es muy penoso
que mueran sus amigos. R.

R. Siempre confiaré en el Señor.

De la muerte, Señor, me has librado,
a mí, tu esclavo e hijo de tu esclava;
te ofreceré con gratitud un sacrificio
e invocaré tu nombre. R.

R. Siempre confiaré en el Señor.

Cumpliré mis promesas al Señor
ante todo su pueblo,
en medio de su templo santo,
que está en Jerusalén. R.

R. Siempre confiaré en el Señor.**Segunda Lectura****Rm 8, 31b-34**

Hermanos: Si Dios está a nuestro favor, ¿quién estará en contra nuestra? El que no nos escatimó a su propio Hijo, sino que lo entregó por todos nosotros, ¿cómo no va a estar dispuesto a darnoslo todo, junto con su Hijo? ¿Quién acusará a los elegidos de Dios? Si Dios mismo es quien los perdona, ¿quién será el que los condene? ¿Acaso Jesucristo, que murió, resucitó y está a la derecha de Dios para interceder por nosotros?

Evangelio**Mc 9, 2-10**

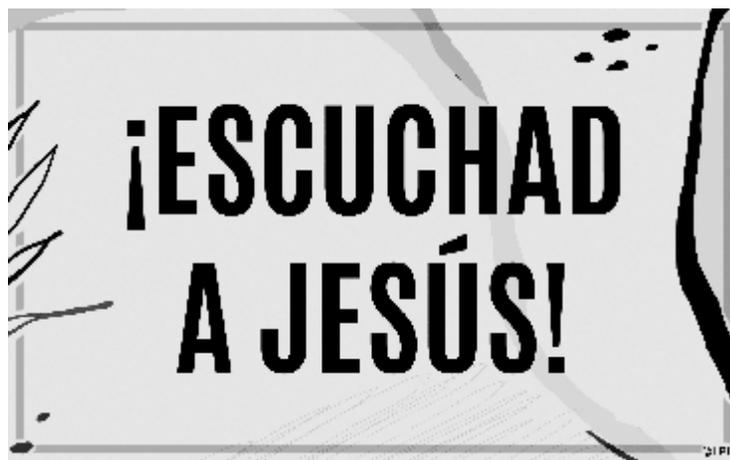
En aquel tiempo, Jesús tomó aparte a Pedro, a Santiago y a Juan, subió con ellos a un monte alto y se transfiguró en su presencia. Sus vestiduras se pusieron esplendorosamente blancas, con una blancura que nadie puede lograr sobre la tierra. Después se les aparecieron Elías y Moisés, conversando con Jesús.

Entonces Pedro le dijo a Jesús: "Maestro, ¡iqué a gusto estamos aquí! Hagamos tres chozas, una para ti, otra para Moisés y otra para Elías". En realidad no sabía lo que decía, porque estaban asustados.

Se formó entonces una nube, que los cubrió con su sombra, y de esta nube salió una voz que decía: "Éste es mi Hijo amado; escúchenlo".

En ese momento miraron alrededor y no vieron a nadie sino a Jesús, que estaba solo con ellos.

Cuando bajaban de la montaña, Jesús les mandó que no contaran a nadie lo que habían visto, hasta que el Hijo del hombre resucitara de entre los muertos. Ellos guardaron esto en secreto, pero discutían entre sí qué querría decir eso de 'resucitar de entre los muertos'.



Homily 1 st Sunday of Lent, 2021, Tim Conley

In our gospel, Satan is tempting Jesus Christ. What a waste of 40 days that must have been for Satan! Why was Jesus tempted? Did the Father not know what his son would do under pressure? Did Jesus need to learn some kind of lesson? No...Jesus went through this for you and me. The 1 st Adam's fall became for us, original sin. The 2 nd Adam came to restore original grace. In the book of Hebrews, it says that because we have a high priest who was tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin, he is able to empathize with us. This is why we can approach the Father with confidence in our time of need.

What did Jesus find in the desert? Wild beasts, the devil and angels ministering to him. What can we expect to find in the desert of our Lenten experience? The wild beasts of our fleshly appetites, spiritual warfare and God's messengers to encourage us.

Sometimes our desert experience is simply about times of spiritual dryness in our lives. There is no sense of the presence of God being with us. We feel abandoned by God. No one seems to understand what we're going through. It feels like we're going backwards but in fact, were advancing in mental, emotional and spiritual discipline. Many saints experienced this. Mother Theresa and St John of the Cross wrote about it.

How did Jesus overcome temptation? By the word of God and by his sense of mission. To each temptation, Jesus quotes scripture. Do we have hours for the internet but no minutes for the Word of God? If that is the case, no wonder the same temptations overcome us so easily. Have I asked myself: "What is my mission statement in life?"

For Lent, some people fast from the internet, TV or computer games, so they can have extra time to talk with God. You can pray a decade of the rosary, read one chapter a day from the Gospels or share your faith with someone you know. You can step up and help out in one of the ministries of the church. A visit to someone who is homebound and lonely, just to give them an hour where you are listening to them, could mean the world to them! Don't let this Lent be only about what I do not do!

Scripture says it was the Spirit who drove Jesus into the desert. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us to make thoughtful decisions as to what we will give up for lent and the positive actions we will take.

Homily Mark 1:12-15 Nativity 1 st Sunday of Lent , Deacon Phil

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. Just a few days ago we celebrated Ash Wednesday, which marked the beginning of Lent -- the question is, how are you doing so far? Lent as defined by the CCC is the "Liturgical season of forty days, beginning Ash Wednesday and ending with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting, and prayer."

The season of lent has a twofold character: Baptism and penance. In the verses just prior to our scripture reading today we see John the Baptist in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And he tells us that one mightier than he is coming. Right after this Mark tells us John baptized Jesus. "On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." In an instance -- the Trinity was revealed to us. Jesus the Son of God, -- the Holy Spirit descending like a dove, and -- the Father speaking from heaven. This marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Baptism is the public manifestation of Jesus as Son of God and as Messiah, and is shown by the presence of the Blessed Trinity. The Spirit descended visibly in bodily form upon Christ when he was baptized so that we may believe him to descend invisibly upon us when we are baptized. And what happens immediately after Jesus' baptism? He goes out into the desert to fast and pray. Yet scripture tells us the Spirit drove Jesus into the desert, and Jesus remained there." The wild beasts may indicate the danger and horror of what was coming, Satan was there to tempt Christ. However; the angels were there also to minister and protect Jesus.

Mark's Gospel is believed to be the first Gospel written and the shortest so his writings are to the point, He just says, "Jesus was tempted by Satan." To understand what Jesus went through you must read Matthew's account. Matthew explains the three temptations that Jesus received. Remember Jesus was in the desert for forty days, the first temptation was for him to turn the stones into loaves of bread. Jesus had to be hungry and tired, yet his answer was, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." The next temptation takes place on the pinnacle of the temple in the holy city, he was told by Satan to throw himself down, for it is written "He will command his angels concerning you, and On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone", and Jesus' response, "it is also written 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" You see, the devil, Satan knew the Bible very well. The last temptation, the devil led Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me. Jesus said to him, "Away with you Satan! For it is written, Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

Jesus, fully God but also fully human. His humanity was being tested by Satan and he resisted -- falling back on scripture to drive the temptation away. Jesus is showing us no matter how great the temptation, He is there with us, His words are true and we can believe and live by them.

Jesus shows us that through our struggles and testing, that God emerges, His presence is felt. Satan tests Jesus in the wilderness. We are tested daily in our lives, especially during this time of pandemic and isolation. Our Lord's suffering, His hunger, His loneliness and humiliation at the hands of His enemies were all for us. This very thought should make us gladly welcome the suffering that we may find in our daily lives. You may not be able to fast from food and drink, yet there are subtle ways of observing penance in our daily lives, maybe controlling our temper, less uncharitable talk, collecting food for the poor, holding the door for someone. These are ways that will help us through our Lenten journey. It also shows that we are grateful to our loving Savior for all that He suffered for us.

During this Lenten season we should work toward a real repentance. This is a change of mind and heart; repentance, with new attitudes, fresh patterns of behavior. "Rend your hearts, says the Lord, and not your garments." To repent is to turn, to be converted. The sinner turns from sin to God, the lukewarm heats up. What God wants is not sacrifice as much as steadfast love. Turn yesterday's sin into today's love. The love that keeps all God's commandments and the love that allows us to embrace the cross. Open yourself to God in free obedience and open yourself to others in love.

We should ask ourselves, are we capable of following Jesus in this modern world? Are we ready to repent for our sins and allow Jesus to work through us?

CONTACT INFORMATION

Altar Servers: Joe Savarino altarservers@nativitycatholic.net

Arts & Environment: Betty Qualls 615-584-4199 eqraq@gmail.com

Blue Knights: Mark Taddeo blueknights@nativitycatholic.net

Book Club: Cristina Ramirez 615-424-3047 cristinaramirez@charter.net

Building & Grounds: Frank Sticca 615-961-7136 fmsticca@gmail.com

Communication: Gina Taddeo Janice Russell calendar@nativitycatholic.net

E-Communications: Alaina Switzer ecomm@nativitycatholic.net

Elizabeth Ministry - Linda Wade (615)554-2007 lthomasart@gmail.com

Eucharistic Ministers: Deacon Tim Conley 615-519-6053 emhc@nativitycatholic.net

Event Photography: Tisha Wright tishasuzan@att.net

Faith Formation : Deacon Philip Moore,, Director of Religious Ed 615-794-4004 DeaconPhilip@nativitycatholic.net,

Gina Taddeo, Religious Ed Facilitator faithformation@nativitycatholic.net

Fidelis: Sandra Barclay fidelis@nativitycatholic.net

Finance: Bill Pogge 615-428-0083 billpogge@charter.net

Fraternus: JR Sanders (865) 712-1860 fraternus@nativitycatholic.net

Hearts & Hands: Diane Witt 678-773-9207 dddmmwitt@charter.net

Homebound: Marilyn Jansen 615-435-9312 mgmjansen@yahoo.com

Kitchen Coordinator: Andrea Sadd (615)260-5251 asadd5251@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus: Daniel Dore 225-281-4044 knights@nativitycatholic.net

Latino : Cecilia Sanchez 615- 752-8551 ceciliag77@gmail.com

Roberto Dominguez 615-708-7619 rodme54@gmail.com

Lectors: Jim Reising 615-392-7918 nativitylectors@aol.com

Little Flowers: Gina Taddeo 714-307-0617 littleflowers@nativitycatholic.net

Liturgy and Mass: Nancy Martinez Imartinez@nativitycatholic.net

Men's Club: Mark Dayer mark8038@gmail.com

Men 4 Him: Tom Vogel 404-403-0935 Thomas.vogel0705@gmail.com

Music: Nancy Martinez 615-414-4863 music@nativitycatholic.net

NHEC: Heather Leak 1484-757-9257 nativityhomeschool@gmail.com

Nativity Ambassadors: Beth Pender 931-388-7444

Nativity Early Learning Center: Laurie Barclay & Andrea McGrath 615-794-4004 earlylearningcenter@nativitycatholic.net

Parish Council: Father Jerry 615-794-4004 jerrystrange@Nativitycatholic.net

Photography Club: Raymond LaCroix 615-626-1249 rjlacroix@gmail.com

Prayer Chain: Jill Daniels nativitycatholicprayerchain@gmail.com.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Beth Pender 931-388-7444

Respect for Life- Jill Daniels jillrdaniels@gmail.com

Rosary: Tom Vogel 404-403-0935 Thomas.vogel0705@gmail.com

Senior Group (55+): Annette D'Angelo 615-241-14871

Teen Group: Steven Gaghan 724-612-3089 teengroup@nativitycatholic.net

Ushers: Michael Mangold 615-9459484 I ushers@nativitycatholic.net

Weddings: Barb Schee 314-324-1686 weddings@nativitycatholic.net

Women's Group: Nikki Jaent 615-944-6484 WGON@nativitycatholic.net

Young Parents Small Group: Jen Magochy 615-400-5625

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Milani Chiropractic
 Dr. Mario Milani
 Dr. Lara Milani
 ihcspringhilltn@gmail.com
 4910 Main St. Ste. 200
 Spring Hill, TN 37174
 615-302-1333
 springhillchiropractic.com



Candace DeJohn License # 321302
 Licensed Real Estate
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