



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

MARCH 14
2021



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. - Jn 3:20-21

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

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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

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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 15

9:00 am, Weekday, +Robert Dobratz

Tuesday, March 16

9:00 am, Weekday; Communion Service

Wednesday, March 17

7:00, am, Communion Service

9:00 am, +Scott Daley

6:00 pm, Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, March 18

9:00 am, Lenten Weekday, Increase of Vocations to Religious Life

Friday, March 19

9:00 am, Weekday, +Ruby Greene

Saturday, March 20

9:00 am, . Weekday, End of Abortion
5:00 pm, Vigil, Fifth Sunday of Lent, World Peace

Sunday, March 21

Fifth Sunday of Lent,
8:30 am, Intentions of Parishioners
11:00 am, Prayer Partners at CCOTN
1:00 pm, Intention of the Celebrant
5:00 pm, +Logan Callahan

SUNDAY READINGS: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING:

2 CHRONICLES 36:14-16, 19-23

SECOND READING:

EPHESIANS 2:4-10

.GOSPEL:

JOHN 3:14-21

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, March 15

9:00 AM Mass

7:00 PM Latino Choir Practice

Tuesday, March 16

9:00 AM Communion Service

6:00 PM Latino EMHC

6:30 PM Fraternus

7:00 PM Crecimientos Group

Wednesday, March 17

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

Thursday, March 18

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 P< WGON Meeting

Friday, March 19

Lenten Fish Fry (5:30)

9:00 AM Mass

4:30 PM Reconciliation

5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 20

St. Joseph's Altar

9:00 AM Mass

9:30 AM Photography Club

5:00 PM Mass(WGON Soup Sale)

Sunday, March 21

WGON Soup to Go Sale

St. Joseph's Altar

8:30 AM Mass

11:00 AM Mass

1:00 PM Mass Spanish

5:00 PM Mass

6:30 PM Men's Club Meeting

Save the Date: Fraternus Car Wash

Saturday, March 27th 2021

12pm - 3pm at TriStar Bank

4930 Main Street, Spring Hill

PARISH FINANCIALS

March 7, 2021

March 7, 2021		Building Donations	
Registered Families	877	February 2021	\$45,236
Attendance	1011	2021 YTD	\$66,324
Received		2020 YTD	\$64,480
Regular Collection	\$13,003		
Online Regular Collect	\$12,843		
Building Fund	\$2,646		
Online Building Fund	\$4,380		
Votive Candles	\$139		
Mass Intentions	\$40		
Easter Flowers	\$157		

Reading I

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place.

But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy.

Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects.

Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled."

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing:

"Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

Responsorial Psalm

137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the streams of Babylon
we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.

On the aspens of that land
we hung up our harps.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

For there our captors asked of us
the lyrics of our songs,
And our despoilers urged us to be joyous:
"Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

How could we sing a song of the LORD
in a foreign land?

If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand be forgotten!

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

May my tongue cleave to my palate
if I remember you not,

If I place not Jerusalem
ahead of my joy.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Reading II

Eph 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.

For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them

Gospel

Jn 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed.

But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

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.

The Women's Group will be sponsoring St. Joseph's Altar the weekend of March 19-21. St. Joseph's Altar is a commemoration of the relief attributed to St. Joseph during a famine in Sicily. Usually, the Altar is the centerpiece of a thanksgiving feast. This year due to COVID restrictions we may not fully celebrate but we can continue to honor and thank St. Joseph for his support in these difficult times. The Altar will be erected in the Narthex for the March 19th feast day and will remain throughout the weekend. Foods usually accompanying the Altar will not be offered however all proceeds from donations will be directed to The Pregnancy Center of Middle Tennessee.

Mark your calendars! Women's Group of Nativity will hold their March meeting on Thursday, the 18th at 6:30 P.M. Registration forms will be available for those who haven't previously registered and for new members. Dues: \$25.00. Wear your mask; chairs will be socially distanced. Join us for the business meeting and a fun game to follow.

Please pray with the CCON Respect Life group at Planned Parenthood in Nashville on Friday, March 19 from 11:00 to 1:00 alongside 40 Days for Life. For more info, contact Jill Daniels 615-945-3851 or jillrdaniels1@gmail.com

The Knight of Columbus and the Respect Life group will be removing the Abortion Awareness Crosses on March 27th. At the same time we will have 2-3 hours of maintenance work on the Rosary Walk. The Knights welcome all the other Church groups to join us as we did during the placement of the crosses. It is suggested that you bring gloves and as always please bring your masks.

Deacon C. J. Donarski is taking a leave of absence from active ministry to seek additional education. Please keep him in your prayers to continue his service as a member of the Diaconate

The next book club meeting will be on Thursday, March 25 at 6:30pm. The location is to be determined (if it's nice enough we may meet in the parking lot again). We will be discussing *The Breakdown*, by B.A. Paris.

NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES ON MARCH 14TH AND MARCH 21ST!

The Women's Group of Nativity will be sponsoring a Soup-to-Go Weekend March 20 and 21. Remember the soup sales last year? A 16 ounce container of soup will be available for \$5.00. The soups being offered will be chili, chicken noodle, and vegetarian vegetable. Soups will be sold after each mass, while supplies last. The proceeds will allow WGON to continue supporting the youth ministries of the church as well as The Pregnancy Center and The Well.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE MEMBERSHIP

The Tennessee Knights of Columbus welcome you to join the largest Catholic fraternal benefits organization in the world for free through June 30, 2021, using the discount code MCGIVNEY2020 at www.kofc.org/join. We are Catholic men building a bridge back to faith. There is much work to be done in this world, and that's what Knights do every day! Join more than 12,000 Catholic men in Tennessee who are dedicated to lives of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism as Men of the Cross! This amazing one-year membership (\$30 value) is in honor of recently beatified Blessed Michael J. McGivney, a young Catholic priest who founded the Order in 1882. If you are a baptized, practicing Catholic gentleman, age 18 or older, please join today!

2021 Spring Speaker Series LIVE, (March 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/>.

Do you want to be powerful?

You have it within you to change the world. When you decide to do the right thing you inspire others. When a child does the right thing; adults notice, younger siblings notice, parents and teachers notice. When you're with a group of people doing the wrong thing and you decide to do the right thing, you make change. Even among teens, a group of boys behaving badly will notice the one boy doing the right thing. They may make fun at first, but in their minds, they see that they are not doing the right thing. Be powerful. That's the way we change ourselves, our families, our community and the world.

Primera Lectura**2 Cr 36, 14-16. 19-23**

En aquellos días, todos los sumos sacerdotes y el pueblo multiplicaron sus infidelidades, practicando todas las abominables costumbres de los paganos, y mancharon la casa del Señor, que él se había consagrado en Jerusalén. El Señor, Dios de sus padres, los exhortó continuamente por medio de sus mensajeros, porque sentía compasión de su pueblo y quería preservar su santuario. Pero ellos se burlaron de los mensajeros de Dios, despreciaron sus advertencias y se mofaron de sus profetas, hasta que la ira del Señor contra su pueblo llegó a tal grado, que ya no hubo remedio.

Envió entonces contra ellos al rey de los caldeos. Incendiaron la casa de Dios y derribaron las murallas de Jerusalén, pegaron fuego a todos los palacios y destruyeron todos sus objetos preciosos. A los que escaparon de la espada, los llevaron cautivos a Babilonia, donde fueron esclavos del rey y de sus hijos, hasta que el reino pasó al dominio de los persas, para que se cumpliera lo que dijo Dios por boca del profeta Jeremías: Hasta que el país haya pagado sus sábados perdidos, descansará de la desolación, hasta que se cumplan setenta años.

En el año primero de Ciro, rey de Persia, en cumplimiento de las palabras que habló el Señor por boca de Jeremías, el Señor inspiró a Ciro, rey de los persas, el cual mandó proclamar de palabra y por escrito en todo su reino, lo siguiente: "Así habla Ciro, rey de Persia: El Señor, Dios de los cielos, me ha dado todos los reinos de la tierra y me ha mandado que le edifique una casa en Jerusalén de Judá. En consecuencia, todo aquel que pertenezca a este pueblo, que parta hacia allá, y que su Dios lo acompañe".

Salmo Responsorial**Salmo 136, 1-2. 3. 4-5. 6****R. (6a) Te recuerdo, Señor, es mi alegría.**

Junto a los ríos de Babilonia nos sentábamos a llorar de nostalgia; de los sauces que estaban en la orilla colgamos nuestras arpas. R.

R. Te recuerdo, Señor, es mi alegría.

Aquello que cautivos nos tenían pidieron que cantáramos.

Decían los opresores:

"Algún cantar de Sión, alegres, cántennos". R.

R. Te recuerdo, Señor, es mi alegría.

Pero, ¿cómo podríamos cantar un himno al Señor en tierra extraña? ¡Que la mano derecha se me seque, si de ti, Jerusalén, yo me olvidara! R.

R. Te recuerdo, Señor, es mi alegría.

¡Que se me pegue al paladar la lengua Jerusalén, si no te recordara, o si, fuera de ti, alguna otra alegría yo buscara! R.

R. Te recuerdo, Señor, es mi alegría.**Segunda Lectura****Ef 2, 4-10**

Hermanos: La misericordia y el amor de Dios son muy grandes; porque nosotros estábamos muertos por nuestros pecados, y él nos dio la vida con Cristo y en Cristo. Por pura generosidad suya, hemos sido salvados. Con Cristo y en Cristo nos ha resucitado y con él nos ha reservado un sitio en el cielo. Así, en todos los tiempos, Dios muestra, por medio de Jesús, la incomparable riqueza de su gracia y de su bondad para con nosotros.

En efecto, ustedes han sido salvados por la gracia, mediante la fe; y esto no se debe a ustedes mismos, sino que es un don de Dios. Tampoco se debe a las obras, para que nadie pueda presumir, porque somos hechura de Dios, creados por medio de Cristo Jesús, para hacer el bien que Dios ha dispuesto que hagamos.

Evangelio**Jn 3, 14-21**

En aquel tiempo, Jesús dijo a Nicodemo: "Así como Moisés levantó la serpiente en el desierto, así tiene que ser levantado el Hijo del hombre, para que todo el que crea en él tenga vida eterna.

Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo, que le entregó a su Hijo único, para que todo el que crea en él no perezca, sino que tenga vida eterna. Porque Dios no envió a su Hijo para condenar al mundo, sino para que el mundo se salvara por él. El que cree en él no será condenado; pero el que no cree ya está condenado, por no haber creído en el Hijo único de Dios.

La causa de la condenación es ésta: habiendo venido la luz al mundo, los hombres prefirieron las tinieblas a la luz, porque sus obras eran malas. Todo aquel que hace el mal, aborrece la luz y no se acerca a ella, para que sus obras no se descubran. En cambio, el que obra el bien conforme a la verdad, se acerca a la luz, para que se vea que sus obras están hechas según Dios".

Notice that today's Gospel takes place as Passover was near. That's why this reading is included for the Lenten cycle. The feast celebrating the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and was celebrated in the Spring. We are preparing for another Spring and yet another "Passover" of Easter.

What was the rationale for Jesus' activities today? Many of us have been told that the merchants were short changing; cheating the people. John doesn't say this. In fact, the money changers and merchants were actually performing a needed service for the many pilgrims that swarmed into Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. Foreign coins would imprint the images of persons on their coins and to the Jews, this was idolatry. To be proper, the money from other parts of the land was exchanged into Jewish currency. Animals, needed for the sacrifice could not be brought long distances in case they would be hurt since the animal must be unblemished. So the merchants took Jewish coinage and sold the needed animals for sacrifice.

So in John's Gospel, at least, the activity itself of buying and selling wasn't the issue. The issue was the place where they are doing the changing and selling, in the Temple complex itself. Well, we sell items to raise money for activities in our church complex, so what's the difference?

When Solomon built the Temple, there was an area called the outer court designated for Gentiles to be able to enter the Temple complex. There were those who weren't Jewish who did believe in the one God. These so called "God fearers" would gather in the outer court. which would allow the Gentiles to enter in and pray. There were many so called "God fearers", who were not Jewish, yet they believed in the one true God of the Jews. It is in this area that the money changers and booths are set up as a sort of market place. They are, in effect, robbing the Gentiles of a place to worship. There is simply no room for them. You cannot pray in a market place with its many noises, animals, smells, etc... which drive out the holiness of the place. And it is this area that Jesus wants to purify for it to return to a place of prayer.

Now, we sell items in our narthex. We raise money for our church needs. Are we contributing to the issue named in today's Gospel? We can, if we don't separate the place of worship from the place we raise money, or the money becomes more important than the worship. Since we make sure our church separates these concerns while also allowing for proper worship it is fine. We do not raise funds during the Mass and we make sure that there is enough space for worshippers to sit.

Jesus, in his righteous anger, then makes the claim that if you destroy this temple, in 3 days, it will be rebuilt. Everyone was confused. There was the belief that the Messiah would come and build an even greater Temple than the one originally built. The first Temple was built by Solomon. Then the exile of the

Jews comes about and the Temple is destroyed. Now, the Jews were later allowed to return and the rebuilt the Temple, the Second Temple which was not as grand as the first temple. Into power comes Herod, the King Herod alive at the time of Jesus. He wants people to think he is the Messiah so he embellishes the temple, to make it "an even greater Temple" than the one originally built by Solomon. Jesus is shifting from the Temple embellished by Herod, which took 46 years to construct, to Himself as the true Temple. The Temple was the dwelling place of God on Earth. Jesus is confirming His divinity. He is the presence of God Himself on earth.

And, as we know, Jesus will be destroyed, and arise as the "rebuilt Temple", the presence of God Himself on earth. Jesus becomes not only the Temple; the presence of God, but He is also the true sacrifice substituting Himself for the many animal sacrifices which could not forgive sins to the one sacrifice that forgives all sins once and for all.

In December, the prelates addressed concerns over what then were the newly approved BioNTech and Moderna vaccines because "an abortion-derived cell line was used for testing them," but "not used in their production."

Use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, approved Feb. 27 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, raises moral concerns because it "was developed, tested and is produced with abortion-derived cell lines," the chairmen of two U.S. Bishops committees said March 2.

The bishops concluded, however, that "while we should continue to insist that pharmaceutical companies stop using abortion-derived cell lines, given the world-wide suffering that this pandemic is causing, we affirm again that being vaccinated can be an act of charity that serves the common good."

However, the Johnson & Johnson Janssen one-shot COVID-19 vaccine raises "additional moral concerns" because it was "developed, tested and is produced with abortion-derived cell lines," Bishop Rhoades and Archbishop Naumann said.

In their December statement, the bishops noted that cell lines used were derived from fetuses aborted in the 1970s.

In their March 2 statement, the bishops quoted the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which judged that "when ethically irreproachable COVID-19 vaccines are not available ... it is morally acceptable to receive COVID-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process."

"However, if one can choose among equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines," the bishops added, "the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. Therefore, if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna's vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson's. The Vatican COVID-19 Commission and the Pontifical Academy for Life have said, "We believe that all clinically recommended vaccinations can be used with a clear conscience and that the use of such vaccines does not signify some sort of cooperation with voluntary abortion."

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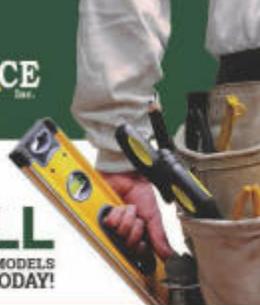
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