

DEC 26 2021



THE HOLY **FAMILY**

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

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 I 9:00 am

Wednesday I 7:00 am

CONTACI

Father Jerry Strange,

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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

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

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monday, December 27

9:00 am, St. John, Evangelist, Communion Service

Tuesday, December 28

9:00 am, Holy Innocents, Communion Service

Wednesday, December 29

5th Day Octave of Christmas 9:00 am, Michael Griffith 6:00 pm, Cody Wright

Thursday, December 30

9:00 am, 6th Day Octave of Christmas, End of Abortion

Friday, December 31

9:00 am, 7th Day Octave of Christmas, Bishop Spalding

Saturday, January 1

9:00 am, Mary, the Mother of God, Expectant Mothers of Nativity

5:00 pm, Vigil Epiphany of the Lord, Intentions of Parishioners

Sunday, January 2

Epiphany of the Lord 8:30 am, +William Michael Cherry, Jr. 11:00 am, + Robert Healy Sr 1:00 pm, Intention of the Celebrant 5:00 pm, Katherine Strange

SUNDAY READINGS: HOLY FAMILY

FIRST READING SIRACH 3:2-6, 12-14

SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

GOSPEL:

LUKE 2:41-52

Monday, December 27
9:00 AM Communion Service
6:30 PM Catechism 0&A Class

Tuesday, December 28

9:00 AM Communion Service

Wednesday, December 29

9:00 AM Mass 5:00 PM Adoration 5:15 PM Children's Choir 6:00 PM Mass

Rosary

Thursday, December 30

6:30 PM

6:30 PM

7:00 PM

9:00 AM Mass 9:45 AM Men 4 Him 12:30 PM Book club 6:00 PM Parents of Young Children 6:30 PM Book Club

RCIA

Online Regular Collect

Online Building Fund

Relig. Retirement Fund

Immaculate Conception \$531

Building Fund

Votive Candles

Choir Practice

\$9,836

\$1,970

\$1,275

\$166

\$859

Friday, December 31

9:00 AM Mass

7:00 PM Latino New Year's Mass

Saturday, January 1

9:00 AM Mass 5:00 PM Mass

Sunday, January 2

8:30 AM Mass 11:00 AM Mass

1:00 PM Latino Mass 5:00 PM Mass

PARISH FINANCIALS

December 12, 2021		Building Do	Building Donations	
		November 2021	\$25,321	
Registered Families	931	2021 YTD	\$259,346	
Attendance	1432	2020 YTD	\$241,385	
Received		Z	+	
Regular Collection	\$12,961	701	it is in	



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How do I Stand up for the Faith? I'm not a Theologian.

At one time or another, someone will ask you about your Catholic faith. It doesn't have to be the dreaded question to be avoided! There are really relatively few questions that are proposed: why do Catholics worship Mary (we don't, we honor her as the mother of Jesus), why don't priests marry (they dedicate their entire life to the Church and their people just as in marriage, "forsaking all others" for the sake of the people they serve), why do you believe the Pope can't make any mistakes (he can make mistakes, he is only infallible on matters of faith and morals.

There hasn't been an infallible statement since the mid-1900's. But we believe in those instances, and those instances only, God is guiding His Church by means of the Holy Spirit since Jesus said His Church will endure forever and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. How can a church survive 2022 years on mistakes?), or finally, why do Catholics not know the Bible? (We hear and read the Bible all of the time, but we are not that concerned with notating verses. We are a people of the Book and its message, not a people of the individual verses.)

If you are asked a question to which you do not know the answer, be honest. Just say you don't know, but never let it be left unsettled. Seek the answer and get back to provide an answer to the questioner. A good place to seek the answers is, www.catholic.com.

Elizabeth Ministry - Just as Mary was expecting her new baby, there are women in our parish who are also joyfully expecting, hoping for this gift of life or praying for healing. If you or someone you know would like an Elizabeth Minister mentor to be a prayerful, supportive friend during this time please email Elizabethministry@nativitycatholic.net

December Book Club Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 30th at 12:30pm and 6:30pm. We will be discussing the book "Blacktop Wasteland" by S.A. Cosby. Our group is open to ALL, so join us! Contact Dave Roe at 941-587-6590 or easygo67@yahoo.com for more information on the day-time book club. Contact Cristina Ramirez for the evening book club: cristinaramirez@charter.net

.**Teen Group** is for rising 9th graders (8th graders going into 9th grade) to high school Seniors. If you're interested in the Teen Group, please fill out the google form: https://forms.gle/33rJvhnNXmepXNir9 Next Teen Group meeting is January 9, 2022 - Adoration, Praise and Worship with fellowship afterwards.

Consecration to the Holy Family

Today we celebrate the Consecration to the Holy Family. The purpose of this special mass is to strengthen families. The Knights of Columbus invite each family in the parish to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family and to devote themselves to the ideal model of familial love set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

In preparation for this celebration, Holy Family Prayer cards are available in the Narthex on the Knights of Columbus table.

In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father.

Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. It is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God's love through his Church.

Together in Holiness

The St. John Paul II Foundation and the Diocese of Nashville invite all married and engaged couples to the 2nd annual Together in Holiness marriage conference on Saturday, February 19, 2022 from 10:45 am - 5:30 pm at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Nashville, TN. Dynamic Presentations \ Mass \ Childcare Eucharistic Adoration \ Reconciliation

Featuring: Damon Owens, Founder of Joyful Ever After Registration: \$64/couple and \$40/individual Early Bird discount available through Dec 13.

Scholarships available upon request.

On-site childcare (2-12yrs); pre-registration required. For more information, please visit togetherinholiness.org or email TH@forlifeandfamily.org.

Red Cross Blood Drive at Church of Nativity

WHEN: Sunday, January 16, 2022

TIME: 8:30AM to 1:30PM

Sign in at REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG to schedule your donation There is currently a critical shortage of blood and blood products. Please sign up. Each donation will impact at least three lives.

SEALED Confirmation retreat—The Diocesan SEALED Confirmation retreat will take place on Saturday, February 26th 2022. If you have not yet done so, please compete our survey by clicking here to help us in the planning of the event.

Pro-Life and Human Dignity Pilgrimage—Registration is open for the 2022 Pro-Life and Human Dignity Pilgrimage taking place January 19-23, 2022. For more information please see the attached flyer and visit our website at https://soundscatholic.com/pro-life

The Diocese of Nashville is seeking college-aged young adults with a fire for the faith to participate in Totus Tuus as a missionary. Totus Tuus is a fun, energetic, Catholic summer program for kids first grade through high school. Missionaries travel in teams of four to parishes around the diocese to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Missionaries must be available May 28 – July 22 and will receive a stipend. For more information and to apply, visit https://dioceseofnashville.com/totus-tuus/.

The annual World Marriage Day Celebration will take place on February 6 at 2:30pm at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. Couples celebrating their 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries are invited to attend Mass with Bishop Spalding, followed by a light reception. Interested couples should contact their parish office by January 3rd to get on the list for formal invitations. For anyone unfamiliar with the event, couples celebrating their 25th or 50th anniversary are invited to attend Mass with Bishop Spalding at the Cathedral and join a light reception after in the Fleming Center. This year, we are gathering together on February 6. Mass will be said at 2:30pm and participants can arrive starting at 2pm for a group photo.

In the Old Testament, the ark of the covenant carried God's presence and glory. In the New Testament, Mary, the new ark, carries Jesus' presence to Elizabeth. This presence moves her unborn son, John the Baptist, who responds by leaping for joy! This poses the question, does a blob of flesh respond to the Holy Spirit or does it take a human being to do so?

Does passage through a birth canal create personhood? Is the embryo a "thing" one hour before birth and become a person one hour after? If the unborn child is a person, then a person has rights and can neither be owned nor discarded.

As God-man, savior & Samp; king, why wasn't Jesus born at the center of Jewish life, in the great city of Jerusalem? Or even the Decapolis area, the center of Greek and Roman culture? Couldn't Jesus' words and miracles have gotten maximum exposure in the big cities? Why was Jesus born in the little, insignificant town of Bethlehem! As the birthplace of king David, Jesus' birth there affirms the prophecy that He would descend from the royal line. It's not a coincidence that "Bethlehem" means "house of bread".

The "Bread of Life"; comes to humble places like the womb of the young virgin Mary, who had no claim to wealth or fame. In the liturgy of the Eucharist today, he comes into the humble space within our hearts when we say: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, only say the word and my soul shall be healed." David says: "A contrite and humble heart he will not despise.". In the Eucharist, we receive Him and He receives us.

Nativity Early Learning Center (NELC) is looking for energetic, fun, dedicated, flexible, faith-filled individuals who are excited about working with our rambunctious saints and staff to join our family.

If this sounds like you and are interested in working part-time, please send your qualifications to nelc@nativitycatholic.net

Primera Lectura

1 Sm 1, 20-22. 24-28 Segunda Lectura

1 Jn 3, 1-2, 21-24

En aquellos días, Ana concibió, dio a luz un hijo y le puso por nombre Samuel, diciendo: "Al Señor se lo pedí". Después de un año, Elcaná, su marido, subió con toda la familia para hacer el sacrificio anual para honrar al Señor y para cumplir la promesa que habían hecho, pero Ana se quedó en su casa.

Un tiempo después, Ana llevó a Samuel, que todavía era muy pequeño, a la casa del Señor, en Siló, y llevó también un novillo de tres años, un costal de harina y un odre de vino.

Una vez sacrificado el novillo, Ana presentó el niño a Elí y le dijo: "Escúchame, señor: te juro por mi vida que yo soy aquella mujer que estuvo junto a ti, en este lugar, orando al Señor. Éste es el niño que yo le pedía al Señor y que él me ha concedido. Por eso, ahora yo se lo ofrezco al Señor, para que le quede consagrado de por vida". Y adoraron al Señor.

Queridos hijos: Miren cuánto amor nos ha tenido el Padre, pues no sólo nos llamamos hijos de Dios, sino que lo somos. Si el mundo no nos reconoce, es porque tampoco lo ha reconocido a él.

Hermanos míos, ahora somos hijos de Dios, pero aún no se ha manifestado cómo seremos al fin. Y ya sabemos que, cuando él se manifieste, vamos a ser semejantes a él, porque lo veremos tal cual es.

Si nuestra conciencia no nos remuerde, entonces, hermanos míos, nuestra confianza en Dios es total. Puesto que cumplimos los mandamientos de Dios y hacemos lo que le agrada, ciertamente obtendremos de él todo lo que le pidamos.

Ahora bien, éste es su mandamiento: que creamos en la persona de Jesucristo, su Hijo, y nos amemos los unos a los otros, conforme al precepto que nos dio. Quien cumple sus mandamientos permanece en Dios y Dios en él. En esto conocemos, por el Espíritu que él nos ha dado, que él permanece en nosotros.

Salmo Responsorial

Salmo 83, 2-3. 5-6. 9-10

R. (cf. 5a) Señor, dichosos los que viven en tu casa.

Anhelando los atrios del Señor se consume mi alma. Todo mi ser de gozo se estremece y el Dios vivo es la causa. R.

R. Señor, dichosos los que viven en tu casa.

Dichosos los que viven en tu casa, te alabarán para siempre; dichosos los que encuentran en ti su fuerza y la esperanza de su corazón. R.

R. Señor, dichosos los que viven en tu casa.

Escucha mi oración, Señor de los ejércitos; Dios de Jacob, atiéndeme. Míranos, Dios y protector nuestro, y contempla el rostro de tu Mesías. R.

R. Señor, dichosos los que viven en tu casa.

Evangelio

Lc 2, 41-52

Los padres de Jesús solían ir cada año a Jerusalén para las festividades de la Pascua. Cuando el niño cumplió doce años, fueron a la fiesta, según la costumbre. Pasados aquellos días, se volvieron, pero el niño Jesús se quedó en Jerusalén, sin que sus padres lo supieran. Creyendo que iba en la caravana, hicieron un día de camino; entonces lo buscaron, y al no encontrarlo, regresaron a Jerusalén en su busca.

Al tercer día lo encontraron en el templo, sentado en medio de los doctores, escuchándolos y haciéndoles preguntas. Todos los que lo oían se admiraban de su inteligencia y de sus respuestas. Al verlo, sus padres se quedaron atónitos y su madre le dijo: "Hijo mío, ¿por qué te has portado así con nosotros? Tu padre y yo te hemos estado buscando llenos de angustia". Él les respondió: "¿Por qué me andaban buscando? ¿No sabían que debo ocuparme en las cosas de mi Padre?" Ellos no entendieron la respuesta que les dio. Entonces volvió con ellos a Nazaret y siguió sujeto a su autoridad. Su madre conservaba en su corazón todas aquellas cosas.

Jesús iba creciendo en saber, en estatura y en el favor de Dios y de los hombres.

FATHER JERRY'S HOMILY 12/19/21

The Annunciation of Mary is in the North; flat land and meadows. Upon hearing of her cousin Elizabeth's pregnancy, Mary, in her own pregnancy, leaves the easily traveled countryside of the North, to go to the hill country in haste. (When born, her son will have His own uphill climb to the cross.) Speculation is that Mary will share her good news and check out what the angel told her about Elizabeth, and a desire to serve Elizabeth in her time of pregnancy. Elizabeth is barren and old. At this time, all pregnancies held the threat of a safe delivery, but in her later years, Elizabeth's pregnancy will be especially difficult and Mary will be there to help.

As Mary enters the home of her relative, she is met immediately with Elizabeth's greeting; a greeting welling up from the influence of the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth exclaims in a loud cry., "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth provides a blessing for the Christ child, but also for His mother, Mary.

In humility, Elizabeth asks, "how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" In the original Greek, Elizabeth uses the name Kyrios for Jesus. Kyrios is the Greek word for God. In Luke's Gospel, he utilizes the word Kyrios in the manner of a title of a king, but not just any king, but the King of the world; the one, true God. Generally, older cousins do not greet the younger cousins in this manner; an older cousin would have seniority. Mary is not honoring Elizabeth but the reverse, since Mary is the Mother of God, and it is Elizabeth's honor to be visited by the Messiah and His mother.

Why do we give so much honor to Mary? Are we taking away from Jesus by honoring her? Not according to the Bible. The Holy Spirit inspires Elizabeth to acknowledge Mary's Motherhood. It doesn't detract from Jesus' greatness to honor His mom. At the end of the reading Elizabeth even offers another blessing for Mary, "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" Mary is not just blessed because she is Jesus' mother, but blessed is she because of her faith. In His public ministry, Jesus will hear a woman in a crowd say, "Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed." To which Jesus will reply, "Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it." Who heard the word of God, believed and said yes in a more honored and deliberate way than Mary?

Then, not because of proximity, but rather because of the voice of Elizabeth exclaiming the arrival of Mary and the Kyrios, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy. At this time, Jesus, could not make the trip on His own, Mary assists Jesus and takes Him on His first evangelical mission. The Good News is brought to John, in the womb. Mary is the intermediary between John and Jesus. Mary has said yes to God and has become the new tabernacle carrying the Messiah within her.

And in the account of the Visitation, we find the ultimate argument against abortion. John is 6 months in the womb and Jesus is just beginning. At either age, if either of the children were aborted, think of the loss, most especially, Mary's loss; our loss.

Another point to ponder is that John didn't see Jesus in order to be moved by His message. Are there things that we never see yet believe in? The sun at night? The stars during the mid-day? Air? God is not present to us isually. An argument against the reality of God in the world for some. But like John, we don't have to see to be moved. We don't have to see to be affected by the Messiah. Love, itself has come among us and we can all be saved by His work. Even though we do not see Jesus, like John we all can leap for joy with Jesus.

Reminder: No Faith Formation Classes on December 26th and January 2nd.

See the Website for more information and important dates on First Communion and Confirmation. Please contact faithformation@nativitycatholic.net if you have any questions.

Attention Parish Families: Be sure to check our website regularly for upcoming events and information on our different ministries and small groups. You can also view the weekly bulletin online.

Hearts and Hands Ministry helps members of our parish who are ill or recuperating. We can provide meals, provide transportation to and from the doctor if needed, or help with light chores around the house. We also provide receptions following funerals at the church. Dianne Witt 678-773-9207 or dddmmwitt@charter.net

CONTACT INFORMATION

Adult Faith Formation: Dcn Phil Moore deaconphilip@nativitycatholic.net Altar Servers: Joe Savarino altarservers@nativitycatholic.net Arts & Environment: Beth Haydel 615-491-6377 bethhaydel@aol.com Blue Knights: Mark Taddeo blueknights@nativitycatholic.net Book Club: David Roe(day) (941)587-6590 easygo67@yahoo.com Cristina Ramirez(night) 615-424-3047 cristinaramirez@charter.net **Building & Grounds:** Tom Caste 615-336-0024 tcaste@bellsouth.net

Children's Choir: Kristy Zink 615-504-6234

childrenschoir@nativitycatholic.net Practice every Wednesday 5:15-6:00 Communication: Gina Taddeo Janice Russell calendar@nativitycatholic.net

E-Communications: Alaina Switzer ecomm@nativitycatholic.net Elizabeth Ministry - Linda Wade (615)554-2007 Imwade500@gmail.com Eucharistic Minister: Dcn Tim Conley 615-519-6053emhc@nativitycatholic.net

Faith Formation: Gina Taddeo, DRE, faithformation@nativitycatholic.net Nancy Martinez, Confirmation Coordinator, confirmation@nativitycatholic.net

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Little Flowers: Jeanette Griffith littleflowers@nativitvcatholic.net Liturgy and Mass: Nancy Martinez nmartinez@nativitycatholic.net

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Men 4 Him: Tom Vogel 404-403-0935 Thomas.vogel0705@gmail.com Mom's Group: Erika Hasford momsgroup@nativitycatholic.net Music: Nancy Martinez 615-414-4863 music@nativitycatholic.net **NHEC:** Heather Leak | | 484-757-9257 | nativityhomeschool@gmail.com

Nativity Ambassadors: Carrie Pfieffer (860) 460-1448

Nativity Early Learning Center: Andrea McGrath & Laurie Barclay nelc@nativitycatholic.net

Nursery: Tisha Wright 931-286-1163 nursery@nativitycatholic.net

Parents of Young Children: Jen Magochy 615-400-5625

Phoenix Group: Sheyla Zito 407-732-8584 sheylazito@gmail.com 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

RCIA: Dcn Tim Conley 615-519-6053 deacontim@nativitycatholic.net

Respect for Life- Jill Daniels jillrdaniels1@gmail.com

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

Senior Group (55+): Janice Russell 615-974-0023

Teen Group: Amy Freitas 615-944-3257 teengroup@nativitycatholic.net Ushers: Michael Mangold 615-9459484 I ushers@nativitycatholic.net Weddings: Barb Schee 314-324-1686 weddings@nativitycatholic.net Women's Group: Andrea Sadd 615-260-5251 WGON@nativitycatholic.net Young Adults: Sabrina DeJohn 615-626-0286 Sabrna_.sam.dejohn@yahoo.com

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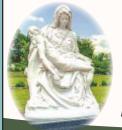
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