# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY JAN 2 2022



# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

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

### 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

### CONTACT

Father Jerry Strange, jerrystrange@nativitycatholic.net I 615-794-4004 Father Rodolfo Rivera Rivera.mr@hotmail.com I 615-785-4831 Tim Conley, Deacon, RCIA deacontim@nativitycatholic.net I 615-519-6053 Philip Moore, Deacon deaconphilip@nativitycatholic.netI 901-485-8055 Shannon Howard, Office Manager parishoffice@nativitycatholic.net I 615-794-4004 Gina Taddeo, Director of Religious Education faithformation@nativitycatholic.net I 714-307-0617

## 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                                    |          | PARISH CALEND               | AR OF E           | VENTS                   |
|--|----------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| If you would like a Mass celebrated for a specific | Monday,  | January 3                   | 9:45 AM           | Men 4 Him               |
| intention, please contact the church office.       | 9:00 AM  | Mass                        | 6:30 PM           | RCIA                    |
| Monday, January 3                                  | 6:00 PM  | Knights of Columbus Meeting | 6:30 PM           | Bible Study             |
| 9:00 am, Weekday, Kevin & Molly Mix                | 6:30 PM  | Catechism Q&A Class         | 7:00 PM           | Choir Practice          |
| Tuesday, January 4                                 |          |                             |                   |                         |
| 9:00 am, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Communion        |          |                             | Friday, Ja        | anuary 7                |
| Service  | Tuesday, | January 4                   | First Frida       | ay                      |
| Wednesday, January 5                               | 9:00 AM  | Communion Service           | 9:00 AM           | Mass                    |
| St. John Neumann,                                  | 6:30 PM  | Fraternus                   | 5:00 PM           | Latino Prayer Group     |
| 9:00 am, Will MIx                                  | 7:00 PM  | Latino Ministry Leaders     | 6:00 PM           | Latino Ministry Groups  |
| 6:00 pm, Expectant Mothers                         |          |                             | 6:00 PM           | Latino Crecimientos     |
| Thursday, January 6                                |          |                             | 7:00 PM           | Latino Ministry Laaders |
| 9:00 am, Weekday, Patrick Mix & Family             | Wednesd  | ay, January 5               |                   |                         |
| Friday, January 7                                  | 9:00 AM  | Mass                        | Saturday,         | January 8               |
| 9:00 am, Weekday, Meghan Kiely                     | 5:00 PM  | Adoration                   | 9:00 AM           | Mass                    |
| Saturday, January 8                                | 5:15 PM  | Children's Choir            | 9:30 AM           | Spiritual Adoption      |
| 9:00 am, Weekday, +Gene Simpson                    | 6:00 PM  | Mass                        | 11:00 AM          | Baptism                 |
| 5:00 pm, Vigil, Baptism of the Lord, +Mario        | 6:30 PM  | Rosary                      | 5:00 PM           | Mass                    |
| DiCristofaro                                       | 6:30 PM  | Blue Knights/Little Flowers |                   |                         |
| Sunday, January 9                                  | 7:00 PM  | Bible Study                 | Sunday, January 9 |                         |
| Baptism of the Lord                                |          |                             | 8:30 AM           | Mass                    |
| 8:30 am, +Steve John Ciaravella                    |          |                             | 11:00 AM          | Mass                    |
| 11:00 am, + William Michael Cherry, Jr             | Thursday | , January 6                 | 1:00 PM           | Latino Mass             |
| 1:00 pm, Intention of the Celebrant                | 9:00 AM  | Mass                        | 5:00 PM           | Mass                    |
| 5:00 pm, Intentions of Parishioners                | 9:30 AM  | Prayer Shawl Ministry       | 6:30 PM           | Teen Group              |
|  |          | PARISH FIN                  | ANCIAL            | S                       |

| December 1             |          | Building Do   |                  |
|------------------------|----------|---------------|------------------|
|                        | 071      | November 2021 | \$25,32          |
| Registered Families    | 931      | 2021 YTD      | \$259,34         |
| Attendance             | 1274     | 2020 YTD      | \$241,38         |
| Receive                | ed       | Z             | it is i          |
| Regular Collection     | \$10,025 | CIN           | VINC             |
| Online Regular Collect | \$10,830 | A GI          | at we            |
| Building Fund          | \$3,559  | REC           | CEIVI            |
| Online Building Fund   | \$2,814  | N N N -"      | HACTOR TRANSFORM |
| Votive Candles         | \$165    | 128 Three     |                  |
| Mass Intentions        | \$100    | Aster -       | and a feature    |
| Christmas Offering     | \$485    |               | a series         |

### SUNDAY READINGS: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

FIRST READING ISAIAH 60:1-6

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:2-3A, 5-6

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

# EDUCATION

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Why Must I Confess my Sins to a to a Priest?

There are a couple of reasons we confess our sins to a priest. First, if I am going to do something bad and I have to tell another human being, that would be a deterrent to sin. Secondly, in the Bible St. James tells us, Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." God doesn't speak to most of us in a human voice. He may push us by way of providence or conscience, but not an audible voice. In Confession, we hear the words, "you are forgiven." We confess to a priest who has had many years of education, training and experience to help us to see the issue and offer advice. In inexperience, your best friend may tell you the wrong thing to do. Lastly, when we have committed a sin, when we talk it over with someone we can claim our issue and toss it away: name it, claim it, and throw it away.

How many of us would visit a counselor or psychologist and tell them our deepest and darkest secrets just to get an answer? Great, now pay the hefty price for correction that may or may not help. Confession to a priest is free of charge.

There are two reasons for the Sacrament of Confession; to get rid of serious sins, such as breaking one of the Ten Commandments, or if you have no serious sins, to gain the Sanctifying Grace by means of the Sacrament to help you to say no to sin in the future.

**Elizabeth Ministry -** have you heard of this beautiful ministry? Would you like information? Visit the Elizabeth Ministry table in the narthex on Jan 14/15. Or email Elizabethministry@nativitycatholic.net for more information.

.**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. Nativity Early Learning Center 2022-2023 Registration

Registration for children ages 2-5 for the 22-23 school year will begin on January 17, 2022. Our school days are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Registration forms can be found at the top of the stairs in the Narthex or online. We will also have a table set up in the narthex with registration forms. For more information please visit: www.nativitycatholic.net/nativity-earlylearning-center

**CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM-** The Men's Club wishes to thank everyone who donated and/or were involved with our largest Christmas Basket Program ever! As a Parish, we collected over \$14,000.00 in donations to help us purchase the 40 food items delivered to 100 families. And 372 gift tags were taken off the Magi Tree and delivered to 186 children! And finally, our estimates indicated that approximately 200 families were involved during the Gift Wrapping, the food assembly and/or the deliveries of baskets and gifts to the 100 families. May God Bless all of you!!!!

### **COTN Prayer Chain**

The Church of the Nativity Prayer Chain has no requirements - just a commitment to say a prayer of our own choosing for the person requesting prayer. It is completely done by email and there are no meetings. Christians are called to intercede for each other, and this is a simple and effective intercessory method. Please send an email to nativitycatholicprayerchain@gmail.com to sign up as a prayer warrior or if you have any questions. This is also the email to use to ask for prayers for specific intentions relating to health, job, school, family or private intentions.

**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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Red Cross Blood Drive at Church of Nativity Together in Holiness** WHEN: Sunday, January 16, 2022 The St. John Paul II Foundation and the Diocese of Nashville invite all married and engaged couples to the 2nd TIME: 8:30AM to 1:30PM annual Together in Holiness marriage conference Sign in at REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG to schedule your on Saturday, February 19, 2022 from 10:45 am - 5:30 pm at donation There is currently a critical shortage of blood the Catholic Pastoral Center in Nashville, TN. and blood products. Please sign up. Each donation will Dynamic Presentations \ Mass \ Childcare Eucharistic impact at least three lives. Adoration \ Reconciliation Featuring: Damon Owens, Founder of Joyful Ever After SEALED Confirmation retreat—The Diocesan SEALED Confirmation retreat will take place on Saturday, Registration: \$64/couple and \$40/individual Early Bird discount available through Dec 13.

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.

**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.

**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

### Scholarships available upon request.

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

**The Arts and Environment ministry** helps to keep the altar clean, flowers fresth, and the candles ready. If you are interested in helping please contact Beth Haydel 615-491-6377 bethhaydel@aol.com

As the Homebound Ministry, we make visits and take Communion to any parishioners who are unable to get to church. Some of these are temporarily unable to get to Mass because of surgery or some other medical problems. Some are in their homes in Hospice care. Some are in Assisted Living Centers and have no way to get to church or they are physically unable to get out to attend Mass. If you are in need of this ministry, please contact Marilyn Jansen

(615)435-9312 mgmjjansen@yahoo.com

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

## LECTURES

#### **Primera Lectura**

Levántate y resplandece, Jerusalén, porque ha llegado tu luz y la gloria del Señor alborea sobre ti. Mira: las tinieblas cubren la tierra y espesa niebla envuelve a los pueblos; pero sobre ti resplandece el Señor y en ti se manifiesta su gloria. Caminarán los pueblos a tu luz y los reyes, al resplandor de tu aurora.

Levanta los ojos y mira alrededor: todos se reúnen y vienen a ti; tus hijos llegan de lejos, a tus hijas las traen en brazos. Entonces verás esto radiante de alegría; tu corazón se alegrará, y se ensanchará, cuando se vuelquen sobre ti los tesoros del mar y te traigan las riquezas de los pueblos. Te inundará una multitud de camellos y dromedarios, procedentes de Madián y de Efá. Vendrán todos los de Sabá trayendo incienso y oro y proclamando las alabanzas del Señor.

### Salmo Responsorial Salmo 71, 1-2. 7-8. 10-11. 12-13 R. (cf. 11) Que te adoren, Señor, todos los pueblos.

Comunica, Señor, al rey tu juicio y tu justicia, al que es hijo de reyes; así tu siervo saldrá en defensa de tus pobres y regirá a tu pueblo justamente. R.

#### R. Que te adoren, Señor, todos los pueblos.

Florecerá en sus días la justicia y reinará la paz, ere tras era. De mar a mar se extenderá su reino y de un extremo al otro de la tierra. R.

### R. Que te adoren, Señor, todos los pueblos.

Los reyes de occidente y de las islas le ofrecerán sus dones. Ante el se postrarán todos los reyes y todas las naciones. R.

### R. Que te adoren, Señor, todos los pueblos.

Al débil librará del poderoso y ayudara al que se encuentra sin amparo; se apiadará del desvalido y pobre y salvará la vida al desdichado. R.

R. Que te adoren, Señor, todos los pueblos.

### Is 60, 1-6 Segunda Lectura

Hermanos: Han oído hablar de la distribución de la gracia de Dios, que se me ha confiado en favor de ustedes. Por revelación se me dio a conocer este misterio, que no había sido manifestado a los hombres en otros tiempos, pero que ha sido revelado ahora por el Espíritu a sus santos apóstoles y profetas: es decir, que por el Evangelio, también los paganos son coherederos de la misma herencia, miembros del mismo cuerpo y partícipes de la misma promesa en Jesucristo.

### Evangelio

Mt 2, 1-12

Jesús nació en Belén de Judá, en tiempos del rey Herodes. Unos magos de oriente llegaron entonces a Jerusalén y preguntaron: "¿Dónde está el rey de los judíos que acaba de nacer? Porque vimos surgir su estrella y hemos venido a adorarlo".

Al enterarse de esto, el rey Herodes se sobresaltó y toda Jerusalén con él. Convocó entonces a los sumos sacerdotes y a los escribas del pueblo y les preguntó dónde tenía que nacer el Mesías. Ellos le contestaron: "En Belén de Judá, porque así lo ha escrito el profeta: Y tú, Belén, tierra de Judá, no eres en manera alguna la menor entre las ciudades ilustres de Judá, pues de ti saldrá un jefe, que será el pastor de mi pueblo, Israel".

Entonces Herodes Ilamó en secreto a los magos, para que le precisaran el tiempo en que se les había aparecido la estrella y los mandó a Belén, diciéndoles: "Vayan a averiguar cuidadosamente qué hay de ese niño y, cuando lo encuentren, avísenme para que yo también vaya a adorarlo".

Después de oír al rey, los magos se pusieron en camino, y de pronto la estrella que habían visto surgir, comenzó a guiarlos, hasta que se detuvo encima de donde estaba el niño. Al ver de nuevo la estrella, se llenaron de inmensa alegría. Entraron en la casa y vieron al niño con María, su madre, y postrándose, lo adoraron. Después, abriendo sus cofres, le ofrecieron regalos: oro, incienso y mirra. Advertidos durante el sueño de que no volvieran a Herodes, regresaron a su tierra por otro camino. When I begin Mass, I am always happy but I very often wonder how you are doing. Who had a fight on the way to church with their spouse? Who fought with their children to get them ready or even convince them to come at all? The two most difficult jobs in the world are being married and raising children and no one has a handbook. It seems that the people we always seem to hurt the most are those closest to us. The things we would say to a parent; spouse or child we would never consider saying to a strange on the street. Being in proximity brings people into strife and anxiety, even for the most perfect families and couples.

The Holy Family faced their own problems and anxieties of having to travel for census during Mary's late pregnancy, going on the run to a foreign country to avoid Herod's proclamation of death to infants and all the way back to Nazareth without the benefit of car, plane or train; but on foot, or at best on the back of an animal or in a cart.

Each one of us face difficulties in every facet of our lives. But in the family, it's tough. Staying married is a daily struggle and raising kids can be exhausting, or worse. Funny how nothing ever turns out the way we envision. Imagine another person not doing what we think they should do in accordance with our own personal view. Impossible.

Today we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We offer them as an example for us to lead our lives within the context of family. There's just one problem. Non or our husbands are Joseph, none of our wives are Mary and none of our children are Jesus. Still, we try.

There are those attributes than can help: patience, persistence, humility, compassion and gentleness. But I think a greater attribute would be prayer. The family is the Domestic church. In that church, faith begins and faith is sustained. To that end; pray. Pray as a family. Now I'm not naïve enough to ever think that just the application of virtue and prayer will remove difficulties. They help, but difficulties will still arise. Separation, divorce, and our children turn out to exercise their own personal free will. Jesus never said that we would not face troubles in our lives but He does promise to get us past our issues, not by removing them but by helping us out of the valleys to get over the mountain.

The Domestic church varies in its makeup: single parent, children, no children, adopted children, absent parents or absent children, but prayer will help. Perhaps words will get in the way. Get together, hold hands or not and just be quiet; praying to yourself for yourself and your family. Gather those you can to pray. Pray every day. If your older children refuse, let them see you praying for them. Be the example. Parents, lead your domestic church. Because, even though you may not be a saint Joseph, Mary or Jesus, we are all called to be saints. And a saint is someone who fails and gets up and keeps trying; keeps being persistent. Get to Mass, or watch on TV during Covid.

Marriage and family gets sloppy because we're human. We try to do our best and that's all God asks of us. Our adult children turn from the Church? It's OK to invite, but don't preach; pray. Preaching will turn them off and God has a plan for them. Remember we are called to love, not judge. Your spouse is away from the Church? Same thing.

Your younger children? Try to get them to Mass. Skipping Mass for other reasons shows them that the commandment to keep Holy the Lord's day is merely a suggestion; not a commandment. We go to great lengths to get our children to events such as soccer, sports, movies. We get them to school when they don't want to go. Mass is where all of us meet Christ face to face. We consume Christ and he becomes part of us at a molecular level. Remember when they were babies and you wanted to squeeze them so tight; you couldn't get them close enough to you? That's how much Jesus loves us, with a hug, constant presence and making himself so close to us, by way of the Eucharist that he becomes part of us. Our tanks are filled up; we spend the grace we get at Mass to be Christ for others that week. Just as you fill your car with fuel; the Mass fills your soul with fuel. The Holy Family is a perfection to strive for. Don't get down on yourself that you are not Joseph, Mary and your children aren't Jesus. Do strive to be a saint, a sinner who continues to persist in the attempt to do good.

# **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 lmwade500@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 **Fidelis:** Sandra Barclay fidelis@nativitycatholic.net

Fraternus: Mike Leak 615-425-9883 fraternus@natvitycatholic.net Hearts & Hands: Diane Witt 678-773-9207 dddmmwitt@charter.net Homebound: Marilyn Jansen 615-435-9312 mgmjjansen@yahoo.com Kitchen Coordinator: James Dell 931-334-7919 c-whatever@charter.net Knights of Columbus: Steven Gaghan 931-334-0701 knights@nativitycatholic.net

Latino : Cecilia Sanchez 615-752-8551 ceciliasg77@gmail.com Roberto Dominguez 615-708-7619 rodme54@gmail.com Lectors: Tom Vogel 404-403-0935 lectors@nativitycatholic.net

Little Flowers: Jeanette Griffith littleflowers@nativitvcatholic.net Liturgy and Mass: Nancy Martinez nmartinez@nativitycatholic.net Men's Club: Bob Zak 615-969-8461 rjzak51@aol.com Men 4 Him: Tom Vogel 404-403-0935 Thomas.vogel0705@gmail.com Mom's Group: momsgroup@nativitycatholic.net Music: Nancy Martinez 615-414-4863 music@nativitycatholic.net NHEC: Heather Leak 1484-757-9257 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 615-94594841 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





