

Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time † September 15, 2019

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Sept. 16 Sts. Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs 8:30 a.m. Fr. Lawrence Bellew, CP by Grace & Robert McLaughlin
Tuesday	Sept. 17 St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church 8:30 a.m. Alfred Manganiello by Tom & Betty Redmond
Wednesday	Sept. 18 8:30 a.m. Maria deFreitas by Gemma Julien
Thursday	Sept. 19 St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr 8:30 a.m. Giuseppe Militello by Angela Buffa
Friday	Sept. 20 Sts. Andre Kim Taegon, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs 8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Service
Saturday	Sept. 21 St. Matthew, Apostle 4:00 p.m. Lola Calcango and Family
Sunday	Sept. 22 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:00 a.m. Emily Anne Marshall by Marilyn & Jim Gregory Rose & Anthony Mascio by Janet Mascio 10:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Nativity Music Ministry by Nativity Music Ministry

Candle & Flower Offerings

The Sanctuary candle is offered for the People of the Parish. The candle before the Blessed Virgin Mary is offered in loving memory of Theresa Arcuri by John & Angela Pezzullo. The candle before St. Joseph is offered in loving memory of Robert Seifried by Judy. The candle before St. Anthony is offered in healing of Al Longo by Rose Ferrari.



The collection amount for the weekend of Sept. 8th was \$10,630 and the Peter Pence collection was \$1,965. Thank you for your continued support of our parish!

Office Hours

The office is open Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



PARISH CALENDAR

Sept. 15	Catechetical Sunday – 10 a.m. Mass SYG Kick off Meeting – 5:00 p.m.
Sept. 18	Parish Council – 7:30 p.m. Hall Room 5
Sept. 19	Choir Practice – 7:30 p.m. Hall
Sept. 22	RCIA – 9:00 a.m. Hall Room 1 Men's Spiritual Group-7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Hall Room 1
Sept. 23	Religious Education – Parent Mtgs. 6:00 pm - Hall
Sept 24	Prayer Shawl – 1:30 pm Hall Room 5 Bereavement Group – 7 p.m. Hall 1
Sept. 26	Choir Practice – 7:30 p.m. Hall
Sept. 29	RCIA – 9:00 a.m. Hall Room 1
Sept. 30	Religious Education – Parent Mtgs. 6:00 pm - Hall
Oct. 1	Bereavement Group – 7 p.m. Religious Education - Monthly- Gr. 3-7 - 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 2	Religious Education - Monthly - Gr. 3-7 – 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 3	St. Vincent DePaul Mtg. – 9:00 a.m. Hall Room 1 Choir Practice – 7:30 pm Hall
Oct. 4	JYG – 6:00 – 9:00 am Hall Room 5
Oct. 5	Fall Clothing Drive
Oct. 6	RCIA – 9am – Hall Room 1 SYG Meeting



Daily Readings

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday	Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 or 15:1-10
Monday	1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday	1 Tm 3:1-13; Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday	1 Tm 3:14-16; Lk 7:31-35
Thursday	1 Tm 4:12-16; Lk 7:36-50
Friday	1 Tm 6:2c-12; Lk 8:1-3
Saturday	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13

A MESSAGE FROM DEACON BOB

The parables in today's Gospel don't seem to make much practical sense to our modern sensibilities, and they probably made little or no sense to the people who were listening to Jesus. If one sheep were lost out of 100, it doesn't make sense to leave the 99 alone in the desert, to search for the one. If a person lost one small coin, that person may look for it, but it seems silly to rejoice with their neighbors if they found it. So, how does our God think so differently than we do? The implied answer in these two stories is that God is crazy in his thoughts and in his actions. God loves and values us so much, that he searches us out whenever we are lost. The times we search for anything that we care about and value are shadows of God's desire and efforts to find anyone who is lost. That's just what God is all about.

There are two types of divine intervention reflected in these parables. The lost coin doesn't know that it's lost. Sometimes people find themselves in that same situation. They are so spiritually and emotionally lost, that they don't even know they are lost. St. Augustine called this state of being, the "region of unlikeness." It's when a person is completely removed from God. Is there hope for such a person? There is, because God actively searches for those people, and places himself over and over again into their lives. Some people are like the lost sheep. They are at least aware that they are lost and in trouble. It's like a person who is living with substance abuse. That person's life is dictated by shame and fear and loneliness and conflict. As God searches after them, they see the power that God has in their ability to conquer that vicious life-style. And so often, it's those same people in recovery, who reach out at the hands of God to help others who are living with a painful addiction.

We should always be aware that any time we are lost, we can rely on God actively searching to help us out of our moments of loss. We can always rely on God to search us out to offer his grace to us so that we can be brought out of our fear and out of our troubles, into his arms of comfort and peace and serenity.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

Join us each Wednesday morning after the 8:30 am Mass in Father Condon Hall for reflection and discussion focusing on the scripture readings for the following Sunday. All are welcome.

Bishop Checchio has authorized a voluntary second collection to be taken in each of our parishes this weekend to assist with the disaster relief of Hurricane Dorian. An online giving option will be created on the diocesan website for those who prefer this method of giving. On behalf of Bishop Checchio, thank you for standing in solidarity with all those effected by Hurricane Dorian.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our new calendar and registration link is on our website. Please log onto www.nativitymonroe.org, click on the religious education tab at the top of the page, and then click on the religious education tab and follow the directions.

Please print out our 2019-2020 calendar and register your child for the fall.

Registration for the 2019-2020 Religious Education program was closed as of August 30th. You may still register; however, a late fee will be incurred.

If you have any questions regarding the 2019-2020 program, please contact the Religious Education Office at 609-371-2518 or email questions to pcl@nativitymonroe.org.

Reminders for September 2019 **Parent Meetings in Father Congdon Hall**

September 23rd Parent Meeting (1 Parent)
Grade 2 (6 - 7pm)

September 30 Parent Meeting (1 Parent)
Grade 8 (6 - 7pm)



WOMAN'S RETREAT

Join other women of faith for a day of recollection on Sunday, October 13th from 10:00 am -3:00 pm at the Upper Room in Neptune, NJ. These days women are so busy about many things it's easy to lose sight of one's being in the midst of one's doing. Have you ever wondered about your worth to your family, your colleagues, yourself or even God?

Join us as we pray with Proverbs 31. Come to understand that you are a woman of worth no matter where you find yourself on this journey of life.

Mass and lunch are included in the cost of the day (\$25.00).

To reserve a spot, kindly call the parish office (609) 371-0499 (ext:10) or email:

admin@nativitymonroe.org. **Deadline: October 4, 2019**



Nativity of our Lord Church **Clothing Drive**

October 5, 2019
9 am - 12 noon

Please support us by donating Used or New Clothes & Shoes. Donations will be collected at the front of the church. Organized by the Fil-Am Society

For questions: contact Franny Sicat at 917-364-1369 or franny_sicat@comcast.net.



CHURCH RENOVATION

During the renovation of the church, morning Mass will be celebrated 8:30 a.m. downstairs in Father Congdon Hall. Please respect this space since it will be our Chapel with the Eucharist present in the tabernacle.

**Weekend Masses will be celebrated at:
Monroe Township
Middle School
Performing Arts Center (PAC)
1629 Perrineville Rd, Monroe Township,
NJ 08831
Saturday 4:00 pm,
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am**

Important Information on Parking

Handicap parking is permitted in the bus lanes however please park head first into the spots. **DO NOT PARK ON AN ANGLE. DO NOT FOLLOW THE DIAGONAL LINES.**

Side Doors

You are still welcome to visit the chapel located downstairs in the Hall throughout the day. The side doors will be open Monday – Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Church Envelopes

If you attend another Church because of our renovation, kindly drop off your weekly envelope at the main office or drop it in the mail.

Scheduled Mass Intentions

If you have a 9:00 am weekend Mass intention (scheduled from July to December), it will now be scheduled at 8:00 am along with the 7:30 am intention. Thank you for your patience.

Food Pantry

Due to the renovations of the Church, kindly drop off all food donations directly to the Monroe Senior Center at the receptionist desk, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. May we continue to serve our brothers and sisters for the sake of Christ.





“Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.”

When a loved one dies, our world is forever changed. If you have recently lost a loved one, your first year or subsequent years without them can be painful. Many times

people are caught in the dilemma of the need to grieve and the pressure from others to get over it. If you are suffering over the death of someone you love, perhaps our Bereavement Team here at Nativity of Our Lord Parish can help you during this painful time.

Our six-week support group will begin on **Tuesday evenings, September 24, from 7:00 – 8:30PM in the Father Congdon Hall Room 1.** The sessions are focused on helping you adjust on your grief journey and offer a safe haven during this difficult time in your life.

To register or for more information, contact Sister Marie Colette at, 609-371-0499 ext.16 or pa@nativitymonroe.org.



Do you or someone you know have questions about the Catholic faith?

Have you ever considered or know of someone who is thinking about

joining the Catholic Church?

Have you or do you know of an adult who has never received First Holy Communion, or Confirmation?

If you have answered **“YES”** to these questions, **RCIA** may be for you.

We invite you, or any adult family member or friend who is not a member of the Catholic faith or who is not fully initiated into the Catholic Church to speak with Sister Marie Colette or Deacon Bob Gatto after all the weekend Masses on **September 14/15** to answer any questions you may have. **Look for them.** They will make themselves physically visible.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Our next trip to Atlantic City is Tuesday, October 15th to the Tropicana Casino. Cost is \$23 p.p. You will receive \$25 slot play money. A photo ID is required to obtain a player’s card to receive play money. Make check payable to Nativity Church Activities. Arrive at church parking lot by 9:15 a.m. Bus leaves promptly at 9:30 a.m. for reservations call Rose Ferrari at 609-395-7185.

MINISTRIES

St. Vincent De Paul Society: If you are experiencing financial hardship due to a temporary loss of employment, illness, or disability, the St. Vincent de Paul Society is

available to provide assistance for your everyday needs such as food, utility assistance, or agency referrals. Please dial the parish number 609-371-0499, then press 8, and leave a message with your name and phone number. Someone will return your call. **All calls are handled in strict confidence.**

Food Pantry: After all you have given, just be your usual generous selves. Please see instructions under the church renovation section. We thank you.

Fair Trade: Fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate is available in Fr Congdon Hall during the week. Call Maryanne Sheerin at 609-937-4963 with any questions or requests. Thank you for your continued support of fair trade.

Prayer Shawl: Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 24th downstairs in Room 5.** Join us as we create shawls for the sick and homebound members of the parish (and beyond!) New members are always welcome. Questions? Call Liz Coulston at 732-561-4139 or Dorothy Kopil at 609-655-8138.

Caring Meals: The Caring Meals group delivers soup year-round to our homebound parishioners and provides short-term help to parishioners who are recuperating from an illness or hospital stay with deliveries of home-cooked meals. If you like to cook or know of someone who could benefit from either of these two services, please call Maryanne Sheerin at 609-937-4963.

Helping Hands: Do you need a helping hand with minor tasks around the house? There are parishioners who are willing to help in these situations. Please contact Esther Wolff by phone at 732-521-6019.

Rosary Group: Please join us every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7:50 a.m. to recite the Holy Rosary **downstairs in the Hall.** Please respect this space since it will be our Chapel with the Eucharist present in the tabernacle.

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY

Nicholas Palmer. US Army. Afghanistan
Col. William Thomas Baden – Air Force
Lt. Christopher J. Freeland – US Navy
1st Lt. Steven Snyder – Air Force
Daniel Knowles – Coast Guard
Justin Joseph Laguna – Air Force Reserves
Michael Ernst – Air Force Reserves
Lt. Yvonne Zirrieth – US Navy

Capt. Bradley James Tobasco – Air Force

We would like to pray for family members of those in our parish who are in the military. Please submit names to admin@nativitymonroe.org



St. James the Less in Jamesburg will be holding their Fourth Annual Fall Festival on October 5, 2019 in their Church parking lot. The event will be from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. A car/motorcycle show will begin at 11:00 a.m. and Vendor Sales and Activities will begin at 12:00 p.m. Food, games for children, 50/50 are some of the activities. We hope you can join us! For information call Sandy at 732-521-3012.



**METUCHEN CURSILLO
MOVEMENT**
www.metcursillo.org

A N N O U N C E M E N T

**METUCHEN CURSILLO WEEKEND
FALL 2019**

The Metuchen Cursillo Movement will be holding their next Cursillo Weekend in the fall at the **BLUE ARMY SHRINE** in Asbury, NJ.

**THE WOMEN'S WEEKEND is scheduled for
November 14-17, 2019.**

**THE MEN'S WEEKEND is TBA.
Weekends start on Thursday evening and end on
Sunday afternoon.**

Bishop Checchio has called the Metuchen Cursillo Movement "an international Catholic evangelical apostolate", and has assigned Rev. Fr. John Primich as its Spiritual Advisor. Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning "short course," - a short course in Christianity. A Cursillo Weekend is an "**Encounter with Christ**".

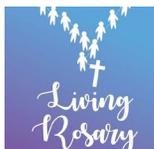
For details and to download an application, log on to www.metcursillo.org or you may contact the Lorri Casabianca at lorri.casabianca@gmail.com or (732) 738-1796. You may also contact Lucille Hess, Lay Director, at lhess@metcursillo.org. **Space is limited so please submit your registration asap!**



**Silver & Gold Wedding
Anniversary Celebration**

You are cordially invited to celebrate your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary with the Church of Metuchen and renew your marriage vows with Bishop James F. Checchio at a special Evening Prayer Service at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 4:00 PM. Registration is required. To register please contact your parish secretary or the Family Life Office at 732-562-1543 or amarshall@diometuchen.org. **Registration will close on October 11, 2019.** Although no fee is required, in the past many Jubilarian couples have given a donation of gratitude to the Church in memory of this special occasion. Donations of Gratitude may be made online or calling 732-562-1543.

Congratulations!



The **Immaculate Conception Rosary-Altar Society** will be hosting its annual Living Rosary on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. We would like to extend an invitation to your Rosary-Altar Society

to join us on this beautiful evening.

Participants are requested to gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Church in order to coordinate this event. Our parish is located on Manalapan Road, Spotswood.

Refreshments will follow immediately afterwards. Our event is open to Rosarian Members and anyone else that would like to participate.

To RSVP, please contact Geri Gross by calling at 732-251-4205 or email at grossgeri@yahoo.com. Please RSVP no later than Tuesday, October 1 with the number of persons attending so we can plan this beautiful event. We look forward to seeing you!

**Walk for Life ...Take a Walk, Save a Life!
Saturday, October 12, 2019
9am-12pm
Merrill Park, Iselin (Rain or Shine)**

Benefitting the lifesaving work of Life Choices Resource Center CCD Hours! DJ, Refreshments, Games – Family Fun No Distance or Time Restrictions! Don't walk alone ... create your own TEAM! Be a HERO and Make the Difference in the Life of an unborn child. Register today @ www.LifeChoicesRC.com or download a pledge form. \$200 raised provides 1 free ultrasound! Call (732) 516-0911 or TEXT with Questions.

**Immaculate Conception
Trivia Night**

Question: Which local school is hosting the best trivia night around?

Answer: Immaculate Conception School in Spotswood!

Get your team together for our First Annual Trivia Night on **Saturday, October 5th, 2019**. Join us for dinner, games, raffles, prizes and more. Invite your friends, families, neighbors, and even your bosses so you can show them how smart you really are! For more information, visit www.icsspotwood.org. Or, email Gloria Martin at gmartin@icsspotwood.com. We hope to see you there!