The First Sunday of Lent † March 1, 2020

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday	**March 2**
8:30 a.m.	Celey Manley by Paul & Melody Henry
Tuesday	**March 3**
	St. Katherine Drexel, Virgin
8:30 a.m.	Frances & Sal Donato by Rose Donato
Wednesday	**March 4**
	St. Casimir
8:30 a.m.	Robert Glosser and Son by Carolyn Glosser
Thursday	**March 5**
8:30 a.m.	Anna, Ellen & James Clifford, Sr. by the Clifford Family
Friday	**March 6**
8:30 a.m.	Purgatorial Society
7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Saturday	**March 7**
	Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs
4:00 p.m.	Patrick McDonald by Christina Boczkowski
Sunday	**March 8**
	Second Sunday of Lent
7:30 a.m.	Alan Otlowski by Alison & Thomas Feil
9:00 a.m.	Judy Caron by Angie Romanella
11:00 a.m.	Giuseppe Caruso by wife Maria

Parish Calendar

March 1	Religious Education - 2nd Grade Bread Share 11:00 am
March 2	Respect Life Meeting – 9:00 am K of C Meeting 6:30pm – Hall Men's Spiritual Group – 7:00pm - RR
March 3	Religious Education - Grades 3-7 Monthly Obligation – 6:00 – 7:30 pm
March 4	Religious Education - Grades 3-7 Monthly Obligation – 6:00 – 7:30 pm
March 5	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting – 9:00 am Choir Practice – 7:30 pm
March 6	Simple Soup Supper 6:00pm & Stations Of the Cross – 7:00 pm JYG – 6:00 – 9:00 pm
March 9	Companions of Pauline – 1:00pm – Hall Men's Spiritual Group – 7:00pm - RR
March 10	Prayer Shawl – 1:30pm
March 11	WoN Lenten Reflection - 8:30am – 11:30am Parish Council – 7:30 am
March 12	Choir Practice – 7:30pm Church
March 13	Simple Soup Supper 6:00pm & Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm
March 14	KoC St. Pat/Joe Party

Daily Readings
First Sunday of Lent

Sunday
Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11
Monday
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday
Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday
Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday
Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12
First Friday
Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
First Saturday
Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

Candle & Flower Offerings

The Sanctuary Candle ***is offered in loving memory of Ruth & Pino by Donna Young.***
The candle before St. Joseph is offered in loving memory of Mary Pinnaro by Maryanne Casalino

The collection amount for the weekend of Feb. 23rd was $11,899. Thank you for your continued support of our parish!

2019 Tax Exempt Statements

Any parishioner who would like to request a copy of their tax exempt statement, please either call Laura McIntyre at 609-371-0499 ext. 15 or email tech@nativitymonroe.org. Please be sure to provide your name, envelope number and mailing address. All forms will be mailed within 5 days of your request.

HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly

First Sunday of Lent

"For if by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance grace and of the gift of justification, come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ. In conclusion just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all. So through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all."

We begin the season of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, sacrifice and good works. It is not just a time to shift gears and remember, but to allow the saving work of Jesus to take place in our hearts.

Do I see the need for the abundant grace of Jesus in the world today? Am I able to move from what is around me needing salvation in Jesus, and see my own personal need for His saving, His amazing grace?

I begin my Lenten journey in a serious way, asking that the next few weeks will find me caring for my soul, my spiritual life, the spiritual well-being of others, my children. I ask forgiveness for what I have done and what I have failed to do.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Office Schedule 2019-2020

Saturdays: 10:30 am – 3:00pm
Mondays-Wednesdays: 9:00am – 2:00pm
Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday Evenings by appointment only. Religious Education Office is closed on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays

Reminders for March

1st	2nd Grade Bread Share – 11:00 am Mass
3rd	Monthly Obligations – Grades 3 -7 6:00 – 7:30 pm (Parent Book Club)
4th	Monthly Obligations – Grades 3 -7 6:00 – 7:30 pm (Parent Book Club)
17th	Grades 1 & 2 – Skills Sessions 6-7:30 pm
20th	7th Grade Presentation – 7:00 pm The Living Stations of the Cross
31st	Monthly Obligations – Grades 3 -7 6:00 – 7:30 pm (Parent Book Club)

Confirmandi 2020

Madison Mary Adamcik
Mia Catherine Alfonzetti
Aidan Michael Alvarez
Vincent Vincent Amabile

Jocelyn Anne Bassi
Tayler Elizabeth Batko
Alberto Juan Diego Beltra
Abigail Joan Benarick
John Francis Beyers

Jordyn Ava Brown
Ava Seraphina Cavotta
Alana Philomena Cerniglia
Madison Gianna Chervenyak(G)*
*Bethany Veronica Daroff**
Ryan Paul Daunais
Robert Domenic DeSalvo(R)*
Isabella Sarah Diaz
Ethan Isidore Dilascio (G)
Hugh Benedict Dougherty
Collette Vitus Dranchak

*Angelina Therese Fazzolari**
Jacqueline Gianna Genthe (R)
Christopher Christopher Geraghty
Raul Sebastian Germano
Madison Mary Giblin
Brandon Gregory Gochenour
Sydney Katharine Jackson

Avery Faith Labaska
*Dominic MatthewLapinski**
*Aleksander Christopher Lemanski**
Sarah Catherine Lozada
Matthew Andrew Lucas
Salvatore Nicholas Masella
Avery Conrad Masters
Nicholas Juan Diego Mennella
Nicholas Francis Monaco
Austin Luigi Moy
Allison Rose Nieves
*Amber Philomena Olah**

Rochelle Anne Olavides
*Jorden Agatha Oster**
*Julianna Claire Passalacqua**
*Michael Anthony Preuster**
*Lacie Grace Riccardi**
Meghan Julia Roach
*Julianna Elizabeth Seixeiro**
Sian Anthony Sequeira

*John Peter Skibniewski**

*Megan Mary Spoleti**

*Robert Thomas Toye**
*Isabella Elizabeth Tufano**
Nathan Sebastian Ureta

Nikki Ann Wagner

**Holy Trinity Students; (R)Readers; (G)Gifts*

1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.
3. The obligation of fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18-59.
   - *Fasting in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal and two smaller meals, which together are not equal to a full meal, so as to experience hunger.*
4. The obligation of abstinence applies to all Catholics who have reached the age of 14.
   - *Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat.*

WOMEN OF NATIVITY
LENTEN REFLECTION

Women of Nativity (WON) are once again grateful to JoLynn Krempecki for enabling us to offer a morning of Lenten Reflection. The theme will be "Meditations on the Way of the Cross." Details are as follows:

Date: March 11, 2020
Time: Beginning with 8:30 Mass to 11:30.
Place: Father Congdon Hall
Refreshments: Continental Breakfast
Cost: $10.00
Deadline for payment: March 4, 2020

Checks should be made payable to Nativity of Our Lord Parish and placed in the envelope marked "Women of Nativity - Lenten Reflection" in the parish office. Questions should be referred to Mary Ann Munson: 732-270-4028.

Simple Soup Supper

Bring your Friends and Family to enjoy Homemade & Meatless Soup every Friday in Lent. Father Congdon Hall. February 28 – April 3 at 6 -7 pm. (Donations accepted)

Drop off RSVP form at the office.
For Questions, please contact Franny Sicat at (917) 364-1369 or famsmnj@gmail.com

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check dates and indicate number of people attending:

March 6 _____

March 13 _____

March 20 _____

March 27 _____

April 3 _____

Lenten 2020 Reflection on PRAYER

"Teach us how to pray".

We will gather Tuesday's evenings, to learn about prayer. Fr. Lancelot will lead the discussion.

What it means to pray?
Why is it so important?

When: Tuesday March 2, 9, 16, 23
Time: 7.30pm
Where: Resurrection Room

The Applegarth Ladies Auxiliary
ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 22nd 2020
8:00am to 11:30am
Applegarth Volunteer Fire Department
130 Applegarth Road, Monroe Twp., NJ

MENU

- **Pancakes**
- **Eggs**
- **Sausage / Bacon**
- **Fresh Fruit / Muffins / Bagels**
- **Coffee / Tea / OJ**

Cost: Adults $10.00
Children 10 & Under $8.00
Help to support your local Volunteers!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS
1st Sunday of Lent

"It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." Matthew 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things. Ask God how he is calling you to serve.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Our next trip to Atlantic City is Tuesday, April 7th to the Tropicana Casino. Cost $23 PP. You will receive $25 slot play money. A photo I.D. is required to obtain a player's card, to receive play money. Make checks payable to: Nativity Church Activities. Arrive at church parking lot 9:15am. Bus leaves promptly at 9:30am. For reservations call Rose Ferrari 609-395-7185.

NAMING AND MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Updated as of March 1, 2020

During our Parish's renovation, we will be offering a few opportunities for our parishioners to purchase a liturgical item for memorial. A brochure has been sent to each family with all the details. We will be updating the sold list on our website and Facebook page. Please call the office with any questions. Thank you for all your continued support.

Naming Opportunity	Price		Price
NARTHEX		**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**	
Star of Bethlehem Stained Glass Window	$100,000	**1. Jesus is condemned to death**	$5,000
WINDOWS: above main entrance doors (3)		**2. Jesus carries His cross**	SOLD
Left Etched Glass Pane- Angel	$25,000	**3. Jesus falls the first time**	$5,000
Center Etched Glass Pane- Welcoming Sign	$25,000	**4. Jesus meets His Mother Mary**	SOLD
Right Etched Glass Pane- Angel	$25,000	**5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His cross**	SOLD
Etched Doors: main entrance (2)	$15,000 each	**6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**	SOLD
SANCTUARY		**7. Jesus falls for the second time**	SOLD
Reredos	$50,000	**8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem**	$5,000
Altar	$50,000	**9. Jesus falls for the third time**	$5,000
Presider's Chair	$10,000	**10. Jesus is stripped of His clothes**	SOLD
Ambo	SOLD	**11. Jesus is Nailed to the cross**	SOLD
Baptismal Font	SOLD	**12. Jesus dies on the cross**	SOLD
Altar Candles (2)	2 SOLD	**13. Jesus is taken down from the cross**	SOLD
Cantor's Lectern	$5,000	**14. Jesus is placed in the tomb**	SOLD
SEATING AND PEWS		**LITURGICAL ITEMS**	
Choir Seating (25) $1,000 each	23 SOLD	**Ambry**	SOLD
STAINED GLASS - JOYFUL MYSTERIES		**Holy Water Fonts (2) $3,000 each**	2 SOLD
The Annunciation	SOLD		
The Visitation	$10,000		
The Nativity of Our Lord	SOLD		
The Presentation	$10,000		
Finding Jesus in the Temple	$10,000		
STAINED GLASS—GLORIOUS MYSTERIES			
The Resurrection of Jesus	$10,000		
The Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven	SOLD		
The Holy Spirit comes upon Mary and the Apostles	SOLD		
The Assumption of Mary	SOLD		
Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth	SOLD		

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.**

Respect Life

A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

Food Pantry: After all you have given, just be your usual generous selves. We thank you. Please remember, to kindly drop off food donations directly at the Monroe Senior Center at the reception desk, Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:40pm. May we continue to serve our brothers and sisters for the sake of Christ.

Prayer Shawl: Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 10th at 1:30pm.** 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.

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.

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 **in our church**. Please respect this space since the Eucharist is present in the tabernacle.

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY

Jason Dunsavage – US Coastguard
2nd Lt Jenny Anselmo Forbes - US Army Intelligence
Major John Aiken, US Army
Sgt. Trevor Dulemba – US Army
Capt. Daniel Taubensat
MSG Geoffrey Marshall - US Army
John Pisapia – US Navy
Ryan Shelton, Capt. – US Army
Nicholas Palmer. US Army
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 Zirrith – US Navy
Capt. Bradley James Tobasco – Air Force
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Diaz – Air Force

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

A LENTEN FACT

Are Sundays in Lent part of Lent?

Yes, Lent runs from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday. No exceptions are made for Sundays. The Sundays of this time of year are called the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. The Sixth Sunday, on which Holy Week begins, is called, "Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord."

The Sisters of Christian Charity are looking for:
Nurse Aides -- Mallinckrodt Convent, Mendham, NJ
Evening (3-11:30p) and Night (11p-7:30a) Shifts
Certification desired, but not required
On the job training available
If interested, please contact Sister Elizabeth Kovacs
973-230-5335. administrator@scceast.org