

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

Rectory: www.nativityharrishill.org • School: www.nativityofmaryschool.org

Mary,
The Mother of God

January 1, 2012

RECTORY

4375 Harris Hill Road, Williamsville, NY 14221
632-8838 • Fax: 632-7898

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE, SCHOOL & FR. SCHWIER HALL
8550 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221

A Pro-Life Parish

PASTOR - Ext. 307

Rev. Msgr. Frederick D. Leising, PH.D.
Email: pastor@nativityharrishill.org

SENIOR PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. John J. Leising, Ext. 308
Email: frjohn@nativityharrishill.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Kathy Fonte, Ext. 9
Email: kathy@nativityharrishill.org

BUSINESS MANAGER

Maureen Orgek, Ext. 311
Email: maureen@nativityharrishill.org

DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

Courtney Frisch, 633-7441 ext. 317
Email: cfrisch@nativityofmaryschool.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Pat Grabowski, Ext. 5
Email: pat@nativityharrishill.org

PARISH SECRETARY

Bonnie Martin, Ext. 4
Email: bonnie@nativityharrishill.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Robert Volkman

PARISH TRUSTEES

David Rogers, Nancy Dobson

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Chair: Vic Martucci
Vice Chair: Megan Connelly

SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Phone: 634-3130

DIRECTOR, Mary Ann Hoag

SECRETARY, Maureen Rademaker

Religious Education Email:

nativityreligiouseducation2004@yahoo.com

YOUTH MINISTER

Stephanie Moss, 634-3130
Nativity.youthministry@yahoo.com

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Cherie M. Ansuini
633-7441, Ext. 302
Email: nativityprincipal1@yahoo.com

SCHOOL SECRETARY

Melanie Bream, 633-7441 ext. 301
mbream@nativityofmaryschool.org

FACILITIES MANAGER

Otto Misso • 810-0538
Email: Omissojr@yahoo.com



Parish Mission Statement

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish is a Roman Catholic faith community. Centered and formed by the Eucharist, we seek to learn and to live the Gospel and to lovingly grow through service to one another and to all God's people.

MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 8, 9:30, 11 AM, & 5 PM
Holy Day: See the bulletin
Weekdays: 6:30 & 9 AM
Saturdays: 8 AM

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday: 3:30 to 4:15 PM
Penance Services: TBA
Daily: after each weekday Mass upon request.

BAPTISMS

are on Sundays at 12 noon. Baptisms may be held at Parish Eucharistic liturgies. To have your first child baptized, parents-to-be **must** attend a Pre-Baptismal meeting. These sessions are on the second Tuesday of every month. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements for these classes.

MARRIAGES:

Arrangements should be made in person only, at least six months prior to wedding date desired. Pre-Cana instructions are necessary.

WEDDING MASSES:

Friday: After noon.
Saturday: 12 Noon, 2 or 6:15 PM

SICK CALLS - ANOINTING

OF THE SICK: Contact the rectory when needed.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Thursdays 8-9 PM,
First Fridays 9:30 AM-Noon

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday:
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Saturday: 9 AM to 12 Noon

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Register in person or by phone at the rectory.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1, 2012 MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Mon., Jan. 2 - Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors of the Church

- 6:30 •Msgr. Raymond Paa
- All Souls Day Intentions
- 9:00 •Dean B. Harwood - The Connelly Family

Tues., Jan. 3 - Most Holy Name of Jesus

- 6:30 •Msgr. Raymond Paa
- All Souls Day Intentions
- 9:00 •Pearl & Steven Nikiel - Arlene Nikiel

Wed., Jan. 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

- 6:30 •Msgr. Raymond Paa
- All Souls Day Intentions
- 9:00 •Pasquale Cimato - The Capozzolo Family
- Joseph Schanzer - Pat

Thurs., Jan. 5 - St. John Neumann, Bishop

- 6:30 •Msgr. Raymond Paa
- All Souls Day Intentions
- 9:00 •Msgr. Raymond Paa
- All Souls Day Intentions

Fri., Jan. 6 - St. André Bessette, Religious

- 6:30 •Msgr. Raymond Paa
- All Souls Day Intentions
- 9:00 •Rita Wozniak - Jean Clancy
- Joseph Prenevau - Mr. & Mrs. Howard Mandell

Sat., Jan. 7 - St. Raymond of Peñafort, Priest

- 8:00 •Margaret Smith - Husband & Sons
- 4:30 •Joseph Guerra - The Everett Family
- Marie Rasmus - Claude & Rita Helwig

Sun. January 8 - The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings for Today: *Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72;*

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

- 8:00 •Bette Jane Dudkowski - Pat Grabowski
- Al, Ruth & Dan Sael - Jack & Nancy Kirisits
- 9:30 •For the Intentions of the Nemmer Family - Nancy Ewing
- Al Raab - The Conway Family
- 11:00 •Nancy Stiglmeier - Mark & Karen Lampart
- Peter Naplec - Aunt Fran Sciolino
- 5:00 •Josephine Ervolina - The Stalker Family
- Marge Hickey - Liz Cohan & Bette Schuessler

PARISH OFFICE CLOSING

There will be *no parish office hours* on January 2, 2012, the day after New Year's.



THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please pray for the deceased benefactors of the parish and all who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, especially John Paulin, Rev. Mark Illig and Mary Flanagan.

MINISTRIES FOR JANUARY 7 & 8, 2012			
	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Servers
4:30 PM	Borcik, Bumbalo, Dobson, Dowdell, Endres	Wik	Erbacher, Panzer
8 AM	Attea, Beardi, Carmichael, Marx x 2	Salvo	Hartman x 2
9:30 AM	Campbell, Delaney, Goris, Stephan x 2	Miller	Fruth, Trapper
11 AM	DeBrauwere, DiRe, Ervolina, Zych x 2	Wrobel	Heffler, Kleinmann
5 PM	Clark, Gerstner, Keating, Volunteer x 2	Clark	Keppel x 2



THE SICK

Please remember, in your prayers, the following who are ill: Mary Baggs,

Jim Bonn, Dolores Classon, Fred Dentinger, Debra Evers, Kelly Farley, John Gatti, Carole & Susan Hilburger, Karen Horvath, Marcia Karan, Jackie Kennedy, Anna Rose Leavoy, John Lettieri, Barbara Oppen, Larry Paul, Mary Pelletier, Kenneth Pestka, Carole Pfohl, Jerry Phelps, Leah Marie Pula, Bill Rademaker, Jolene Rappa, Jodi Remsen, Joseph Rizzuto, Wende Schlum, Lorrie Steerey, Beverly Talladay, Mary Thielke, Julie Wharam.

Note: Please contact Bonnie in the Parish Office to have a loved one placed on the prayer list. Names will appear for three months. If their condition continues to warrant our prayers, please call the office and we will gladly include them in three month increments as long as necessary.

"What gift can I bring the newborn King?"

THE PASTOR'S VIEWPOINT



PASTORAL SHARINGS

Our Catholic tradition has encouraged, over centuries, forms of spiritual development and renewal that are meant to guide us in reviewing our lives and the trajectory of our pilgrimage into God.

When the calendar marks a new year, resolutions may be in order that aim at self or communal improvement in all of our relationships mediating communion with God. Yet, in truth, most of us are quite determined to remain where we are, either not convinced change is possible or needed, or comfortable with the familiar perspective with which we manage our days. Some people, no matter any contrary evidence, will not loosen their hold on reality as they know it.

I am reminded of the story about the patient taking a Rorschach Test. Every image reminds him of sex. So, the doctor observes, "Your problem is that you are obsessed with sex." To this judgment the patient responds, "It's not me. You are the one showing me dirty pictures." One's interpretative vision is hard to shake, even though one might admit it is finite, perhaps obsessive.

God is our Creator. God invests in life by inviting us to realize an unfulfilled potential for perfection, for unity.

In our terrestrial venue we are flawed. We need to become better persons. God partners with us in each and every story. Motivated by an unimaginable love, God saves us. God redeems us. The story of each of us is composed of episodes of intimacy and estrangement; of fidelity and betrayal; of grace and sin.

At the beginning of each new year the Church reminds us that we need to be instruments of justice and peace. The way toward owning this mission is mercy. At the heart of mercy is Jesus, the Christ. He shepherds all being. God's judgment means to justify, that is, to actually make right all that is askew. God brings justice in reconciliation. In this faith-vision lies the hope that should inspire our New Year's resolution to grow beyond where we have been, and to mature into what beckons us. Here, we are always unfinished.

A Blessed and Happy New Year to everyone.

Be attentive to the call within you, just as Mary was to her messenger. We all have much birthing to do, no matter our stage on life's pilgrimage. Resolve to do better. Resolve to nurture a legacy of love. Be steadfast and patient. God is not going away. God draws near.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Due to a computer glitch, contribution envelopes were mailed to everyone including those who requested that we not send envelopes. We apologize for the error and advise you to simply throw the unwanted envelopes in the recycle bins.

WEEKEND MASS CELEBRANTS

January 7 & 8

At Nativity

Sat.	Sun.			
4:30	8:00	9:30	11:00	5:00
JJL	JJL	JJL	WJS	FDL

At Sacred Heart

Sat & Sun. All Masses - FDL

FDL is Msgr. Frederick D. Leising

JJL is Fr. John J. Leising

WJS is Msgr. W. Jerome Sullivan

SANCTUARY TREES



Now that the Christmas trees are up in the Sanctuary, please take the time, either before or after Mass, to come forward and take a good look at the Chrismon—the hand-made ornaments on the trees.

On the front of each tree, starting at the top and coming down, are the ornaments representing the

Sacraments. These ornaments were originally made more than forty years ago by Mary Walker and a group of women from the parish. They have recently been refurbished by the Nativity Guild women.

The Guild has also purchased two new aprons for under the trees, meant to draw your attention to the ornaments.

STEWARDSHIP



The first reading today recalls God's special blessing upon the Israelites. The Lord has been gracious to us as well, pouring into our hearts that spirit which knows Him as Father and makes us His children. May we, like Mary, treasure these things in our hearts and live gratefully!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NATIVITY 365 CLUB

At this time of the year, we are preparing to launch the annual 365 Club appeal. This annual appeal will ensure our school's ability to reach the Diocesan and Parish annual fundraising guidelines and secure a sustainable future for our school.

Last year, our inaugural drive realized a phenomenal response, generating over \$32,000 for the school, thanks in large part to the generosity of the parish community. It was inspiring and encouraging to have received such an enthusiastic response!

With continued participation, we hope to experience another strong year.

To join, you may send your tax deductible donation (cash or check) directly to the rectory. Donations may also be made online at www.nativityofmaryschool.org where you can pay by credit card either at one time or extend your donation in installments over a year (go to the "Donate Online" link on the bottom left under the Upcoming Events Calendar). Donations in excess of \$365 will also be accepted if you are willing and able to contribute more.

For additional information please contact Courtney Frisch, cfrisch@nativityofmaryschool.org or at (716) 633-7441 ext 317.

Supporting our school helps our parish-please consider joining the 365 Club!



NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH AT NATIVITY

The following were baptized into Jesus Christ and the Roman Catholic Church and welcomed as new members of Nativity Parish from Oct. 30 through December 20, 2011.

We welcome them and congratulate their families.

Charles Cilano

Sarah Cilano

Angelo Constanzo IV

Morgan Hubacher

Matthew LaDuca

Remington Myszka

Brianna Rustowicz

Jaxson Tagliarino



WELCOME NEWCOMERS

We are happy to welcome the following who joined our Nativity parish family in November through December 20.

Mrs. Lynette Batt

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Delisanti

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Dimichele, Jr.

Mr. John Driscoll

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Heblar

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Leonardis

Mr. Thomas Liberto

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Seguin

Mr. & Mrs. William Stearns

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Valenti

NOTE: If you registered in the parish during the indicated months and do not see your family name on this list, we apologize for the oversight. Please call Bonnie at the rectory (extension 4) and you will be included in the list next month.

NATIVITY PRAYING NEEDLES AND BEADS



Happy New Year! What a great resolution it would be to continue the acts of kindness and love toward others shown during Christmas preparation by joining us in making Rosaries for missions, prayer shawls for individuals in need of support on behalf of our parish community and leprosy bandages for mission clinics.

Our next gathering is January 10 at 9:30 AM in the Msgr. Paa Social Center.

As we continue to work on these projects at home, this is a great way to face the winter months relaxing in the warmth of our homes and doing something for others. Please come!

Any questions call Annette Youngs, 633-8639.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NOTES

Catholic Charities wishes you a blessed and Happy New Year! Resolve to make a difference in 2012 – for Jesus said, "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do it to me." We help tens of thousands of your brothers and sisters each year. A gift to the annual Appeal enables us to do that. For more about our work and the many ways your gifts strengthen our community, call Catholic Charities at 856-4494 or check out www.ccnny.org.

HOLD THIS DATE!

On Wed., Jan. 18, at 7 PM, we will have a very informative program offered, entitled **Better Understanding Islam from a Christian Perspective**. The program will be presented by parishioner, Bob Poczik. It will be jointly sponsored by the Parish Adult Education Committee and the Nativity Men's Group. This is a session you won't want to miss.



NATIVITY GIFT CARD PROGRAM—(No Sales New Years Day)

Gift Cards are available most weekends at the back of the church after Sunday morning Masses.

For more information please contact Mary Beth Cucinotta at sales@nativitygiftcards.com or 630-1677 before 9 PM.

We look forward to filling your orders! Thank you for supporting Nativity.

‘LOOK BOTH WAYS!’

Lectionary themes for January, 2012

by Patricia Datchuk Sánchez
& Rafael Sánchez Alonso

When children are in their formative years, most families have a litany of rules that are intended to help the young ones grow to well-balanced, happy, wholesome and holy maturity: “Wash your hands ... Brush your teeth ... Eat your vegetables ... Say ‘Please’ and ‘Thank you’ ... Don’t talk to strangers ... Tell the truth ... Don’t gossip ... Stand up straight ... Cover your mouth when you sneeze ... Say your prayers ... Be grateful ...” Along with these and many others that you might remember, most of us also heard “Look both ways” before we ventured out into the streets that would lead us from the warmth and safety of home.

At the outset of the year now beginning, the sacred texts, their authors and countless generations of believers who have gone before us offer similarly wise counsel: “Look both ways.” Look back with gratitude at the year now being committed to history, and look ahead with hope and trust to the future we have yet to experience.

Unfortunately, some of us come to this new year with the baggage of the past, with regret and guilt and remorse, and perhaps these emotions are warranted. Nevertheless, the gift of the new year invites us to surrender the past to the past so we can appreciate the grace of a fresh beginning.

Hannah Whitall Smith shares a thought that helped her to unload before walking into the new year: “Never indulge, at the close of any action, in any self-reflective acts of any kind, whether of self-congratulation or self-despair. Forget the things that are behind, the moment they are past, leaving them with God (quoted in *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants*, Upper Room Books, Nashville: 2008).

As we look both ways, we do not linger on the looking back. Rather, we press forward, as did former U.N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, who said, “For all that has been, thanks! For all that will be, Yes!” (*Markings*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York: 1964).

This year our “Yes!” will immediately be met by a blessing as the author of Numbers (Jan. 1) consecrates each of us and the year ahead, claiming us for God. On the strength of that blessing, we are able to go forth into 2012

fully confident that we are not alone or unequipped for whatever lies ahead. We can also become a source of blessing to others for whom a kind word, a shared meal, an attentive ear can truly mean the difference between feeling alone and knowing the warmth of community.

As the month unfolds, we will be reminded again and again that we possess a wondrous treasure in the living, breathing word of God, which calls us out of the darkness to live in the light of a new day, a new year (Jan. 8). As we struggle to maintain our focus and sustain our hope in a future yet to be revealed, we will become reacquainted with others who have been similarly challenged. We will meet the young Samuel, who, with the help of Eli, was able to discern that God was calling him. His “Here I am!” encourages our own eager willingness to walk into the future months with hope. That same eagerness on the part of Jesus’ disciples (Jan. 15) will earn for them the invitation from Jesus, “Come, see, stay,” and these words continue to invite Jesus’ followers to the communion with him that empowers their service.

In the ornery character of Jonah (Jan. 22) and in his reluctance to relinquish his bigotry, we will learn that God can communicate the good news even through the most unappealing and unsympathetic messengers. We, for our part, are to learn that looking both ways requires our willingness to look beyond cranky impatience that may be off-putting in order to appreciate the message being shared.

Jonah’s call to repentance will be echoed in that of the Marcan Jesus (Jan. 22), who paired his invitation to repent with a call to believe. Looking back may prompt repentance, but looking forward requires faith professed with one’s lips as well as one’s life.

January’s fifth Sunday will reveal God’s promise to send a prophet like Moses to speak in God’s name among us. This promise was, of course, fulfilled in Jesus. But it is also fulfilled in those who dare to speak for God when it would be safer or more politically correct to remain silent.

As we look both ways and plow ahead into 2012, we pray for the grace and the guts to do likewise.

Patricia Datchuk Sánchez and Rafael Sánchez Alonso have been collaborating to provide Lectionary commentaries and homilies for *Celebration* since 1979.

Reprinted with permission. *Celebration*. January, 2012.

ITEMS:

***CALIX:** Calix is a gathering of those who want to improve their spiritual program because they are afflicted or affected by the disease of alcoholism, putting together a spiritual program using the 12 step approach, bringing Step 11 into deeper and fuller meaning. They meet the last Sunday of the month at 3 PM in the undercroft of St. Michael's Rectory, 651 Washington St., Buffalo. For more info., call Fr. Richard Hoar, SJ, 854-6726, www.calixsociety.org.

***ANNULMENT WRITING WORKSHOP:** Get your annulment papers done in one weekend. The session will be held Fri., Jan. 27 from 7 to 9 PM and Sat., Jan. 28 from 8 AM to 3 PM in the UB Newman Center, 495 Skiddersville Rd (just past Sweet Home High School) in Amherst. The \$20 reg. fee includes snacks, lunch and supplies. To register, call Barbara Wyse at 633-7786.

***FLUTE CLUB RECITAL:** At Blessed Trinity Church, Sun., Jan 22 at 3 PM. As part of the Trinity Series of "beautiful music in a beautiful space," members will perform solo works and flute ensemble pieces from various musical periods. Post concert reception. The Landmark church is located at 317 Leroy Ave., Buffalo. There is off-street parking.

***REKINDLE THE SPARK IN YOUR MARRIAGE:** Catholic Charities' Marriage Counseling Center in Amherst is offering "10 Great Dates," a fun, romantic, relationship-enriching program, Jan. 6-March 15, beginning at 6 PM. This is appropriate for all ages and stages of marriage. It includes 10 classes and a copy of the book, "10 Great Dates." For more information or to register, call the Counseling Center, 839-4406 or visit www.ccwny.org, and click on "news," then "events."

ITEMS:

***RETRouvaille:** Retrouvaille (Ret-ro-vi) is a program for troubled marriages. A marriage is more than one that "works out" or one that just survives. If you feel that your marriage is sinking or needs a lifeline, let Retrouvaille help. The next weekend is Jan. 27-29. For a brochure or further information, call Family Life ministries, 847-2210 or visit www.marriagesaved.com. For reservations, call Patrick & Lauren, 822-5496. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

***SPAGHETTI DINNER:** St. Mary's High School, 142 Laverack Ave., Lancaster, Sun., Jan. 8, 1 to 5 PM. Cost is \$8 per person. Take outs available. Also Basket Raffles, Split Clubs and an I-Pad Raffle. Proceeds benefit the High School Basketball Team Spring Training Trip. For more information call the school, 683-4824 or go to smhlancers.org.

***HEALING MASS:** Blessed Sacrament Parish, 263 Claremont Ave., Tonawanda, Wed., Jan. 4, 7 PM. Mass for healing of memories. Info.: 834-4282 or www.bsacramentchurch.com.

***CONCERT WITH SUSAN & ANA:** International Recording Artist, Susan Hookong-Taylor and Ana DaCosta, at Blessed Sacrament Church-Cotter Hall, 263 Claremont Ave., Tonawanda, 7 PM, Sat., Jan. 21. Night of joy and entertainment. A \$10 donation at the door. More info.: 834-4282 or www.bsacramentchurch.com.

***SOUP-ER CHILI NITES:** Sat., Feb. 4, 4-8 PM, St. Luke's Mission of Mercy Soup-er Chili Nites at Blessed Sacrament Church Parish Center (blue building), 263 Claremont, Tonawanda. Admission, \$12 per person; children under 12, free. Includes all the soup or chili you can eat, dessert & beverage. Chinese Auction, 50/50 raffle. Take out available.