

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY



Merry Christmas



"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:11-12

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December 20, 2020
4th Sunday of Advent

Church of the Nativity
3800 W. 119th Street
Leawood, KS 66209
913.491.5017
www.kcnativity.org
info@kcnativity.org

Daily Mass Schedule
M-F: 6:45 a.m. | M-S: 8:15 a.m.

Weekend Masses
Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30, 9, 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Mass posted daily online at
www.kcnativity.org

Reconciliation
Saturdays 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
December 23, 6 - 7 p.m.

Parish Office Hours
M-F: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24
2:00 p.m. | 4:00 p.m. | 6:00 p.m. | 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25
7:30 a.m. | 9:00 a.m. | 11:00 a.m.
(outdoor Communion at 10 a.m.)

* Sign up for all Masses at www.kcnativity.org

* Masses for the Christmas season will be live-streamed at
www.kcnativity.org

* All Masses can be heard from your car radio in the church parking lot by tuning to FM 100.5, with Holy Communion brought outside during Communion time.

Please do not come prior to a half hour before start of Mass as we will be sanitizing the church in between Masses.

Pastor's Corner...

On behalf of Fr. Al, Fr. Gerard and all the staff of the Nativity Parish Church and School, we thank you for being the good faith-filled people that you are. Thanks for all you do to make Nativity the vibrant and dynamic parish we are. The Nativity Star shines brightly through our community. We wish you a Merry Christmas. May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph illumine you and your family with their love. Our best wishes for a Happy New Year too! We pray that you know the grace you need to sustain you throughout 2021.

About a month ago, we celebrated eternal life for Monsignor Charles McGlinn. Fr. Charles was the beloved pastor at Cure of Ars for more than 30 years. Charlie loved to write poetry and would often close his homily with one of his poems. The following is one of Charlie's Christmas poems. I think it speaks to the circumstances of the past year and the light of the Lord, illumining even the darkest of nights with the hope he brings for every time and circumstance. Let Msgr. Charles' poem be a beautiful prayer this week to lead you to the Feast.

Happy Feast Day, good people of Nativity!

Love,
Fr. Mike

Bethlehem Star by Msgr. Charles McGlinn

Bethlehem Star, shining so bright,
Pointing the way through darkest night,
A sign of hope, even today,
For travelers of faith, now on our way.

The pathway of faith is hard and long,
Doubts and temptations can be so strong.
The Magi brought the best that they could,
They never gave up, though some thought they would.

You are our light, Christ ever new,
Your love and your Gospel draw us to you.
You are the Way, the Truth, and the Light,
Jesus, O Lord, shine ever bright.

May we mirror your light in our land,
Giving support wherever we can,
Shining like stars to help guide the way,
By service and love given each day.

Lead us, O Lord, to your "House of Bread,"
The manger of life, so we may be fed
With heavenly food, in ritual,
Fed with the food of life spiritual.

Bethlehem Star, shine on us now,
With wisdom and faith, our lives endow.
Jesus, we bring you the gift of our hearts,
Be with us, Lord, never to part.

ONE FAITH. ONE FAMILY. ONE FUTURE... IN CHRIST.

This Christmas....

- give the gift of peace to our Archdiocesan priests by fully funding their retirement.
- give the gift of convenience and access to those using Savior Pastoral Center by renovating that facility.
- give the gift of rest and care to the residents of Villa St. Francis by renovating and upgrading that care center.
- give the gift of a home to our retired priests by building a retirement center.
- give the gift of spiritual growth and health to all those who use Savior Pastoral Center for retreats and sports through much needed improvements.
- give the gift of long term sustainability to our Nativity parish and school through the 25% of all gifts that return to our parish.

Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Archbishop's Capital Campaign One Faith, One Family, One Future in Christ. Nativity is 66% to its goal of \$3.9 million.

**To give, go to www.kcnativity.org,
or call the Parish
Office at 913-491-5017.**



Liturgy and Prayer

Mass Guidelines



- Please wear your masks.
- Please fill from the front.
- Please only sit in open pews or stand at a marked space.
- An usher will direct you to communion.
- Maintain proper social distance and limit movement.

Please continue to sign up for weekend Masses at www.kcnativity.org.



Advent Reconciliation Times

Wednesdays
6 - 7 p.m.
December 23

There are no large Advent Reconciliation services this year.

**Grant Them Eternal Life,
O Lord**

Esther Estrada,
mother of Martha Estrada-
Robinson and Aimee
Fitzgerald, grandmother of
William & Emma Fitzgerald

Patricia Dietz,
mother of Amy Vlasic

Mass Intentions Week of December 20

Monday, December 21 | St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

6:45 a.m. †Monica & Walter Rohrer
Spl - Jesus Arriola
8:15 a.m. †Barbara Daniels

Tuesday, December 22

6:45 a.m. †Mary Janet Gunter
8:15 a.m. †Patrick Carroll

Wednesday, December 23 | St. John of Kanty, Priest

6:45 a.m. †Dorothy Flake
8:15 a.m. †Frederick & Mary Erker

Thursday, December 24 | Christmas Eve

2 p.m.
4 p.m. No Intentions
6 p.m.
9 p.m.

Friday, December 25 | Nativity of the Lord

7:30 a.m.
9 a.m. No Intentions
11 a.m.

Saturday, December 26 | St. Stephen, the First Martyr

8:15 a.m. †Alfonso Randazzo
5 p.m. †Susan Rebello Black

Sunday, December 27 | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 a.m. †Angela Browne
9 a.m. †Dick Corrigan
11 a.m. †Margaret Steel Baker
5 p.m. *Spl - People of the parish*

Nativity offers Reconciliation each Saturday from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Anointing of the sick occurs on the 2nd Saturday of each month

Readings: December 20 - 26

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/
Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf.
Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and
29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Friday: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or
Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17
[6]/Mt 10:17-22

Parish Life

Women's Book Club

Nativity Book Club ladies will meet on January 12, 2021, 1-2 p.m., in the Parish Hall to discuss *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano. Wear your favorite mask. On February 9 our choice is *The Topeka School* by Ben Lerner. Contact Kathy Hintz Shriwise at kathleen.hintz@gmail.com with questions.



Knight Of The Quarter

Congratulations to Mike Kirby, center, for receiving the Knight of the Quarter award at the last Knights of Columbus meeting. Also pictured: Grand Knight Gene Zwolinski, left, and Michael Shirley.



What is the difference between the ONE FAITH CAMPAIGN and CALL TO SHARE?

Note: If you received a pledge reminder card in December for the ***One Faith, One Family, One Future in Christ Campaign***, it may reference *Call to Share* and ask you to make your pledge payment to *Call to Share*. The archdiocese is aware of the error and immediately sent replacement pledge reminders. We cannot thank you enough for your patience, and most of all, your willingness to make a sacrificial gift for the immediate and future needs of our Archdiocese.

Below are some key points to distinguish these two meaningful initiatives.:

Archbishop's Call to Share

- Occurs annually at the first of the year
- Funds are used to cover items approved in the archdiocesan annual operating budget, but not covered by other sources of funds.
- Donations processed through the Archdiocese
- Monthly reminders sent from the Archdiocese
- Tax statements provided by the Archdiocese
- Supports more than 40 ministries throughout northeastern Kansas

One Faith, One Family, One Future in Christ

- Occurs in a phased approach over three years
- The last diocesan capital campaign, Future Full of Hope, was 20 years ago
- 3-5-year pledge period
- Donations processed through the Archdiocese
- Monthly reminders sent from the Archdiocese
- Tax statements provided by the Archdiocese
- Provides significant resources to the 4 campaign pillars: strengthening parishes, schools and evangelization, caring for retired priests, caring for our elderly at Villa St. Francis, and updating Savior Pastoral Center

If you have not done so, we invite you to join Fr. Mike and other parishioners in making a gift to our historic *One Faith, One Family, One Future in Christ* campaign. For more information, go to www.kcnativity.org or call the Parish Office at 913-491-5017.

Nativity Parish School



NATIVITY
PARISH SCHOOL

Middle School

Students in our 7th-grade classes are busy learning about the five themes of geography: location, place, regions, movement, and human and environment interaction. They have daily geography warmups using maps and atlases.

Our 8th-grade students are focusing on United States history and the challenges the United States faced in the early republic. Currently, they are studying the events and effects of the War of 1812.



Christian Formation



NPS Librarian Jean Stump visits classrooms to share stories with the kiddos each day.

What's driving you?

Looking for faith?
Looking for fellowship?
Looking for friendship?

Men of Nativity
Wednesdays | Parish Hall
7:15 - 8 a.m.

Get Jesus in your driver's seat.

Catholic Charities Christmas Collection

When we feed the hungry and shelter the stranger, we are also serving Jesus himself. This past fiscal year we provided food and shelter to 57,573 people. We provided 88,613 summer meals to children during the Pandemic. Open your hands and hearts to embrace the poor through a gift to the Christmas 2nd Collection to support Catholic Charities.



| Week At A Glance | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| 21 Mass at 6:45 a.m.; 8:15 a.m. Online Mass posted at 8:15 a.m. at www.kcnativity.org A&E, 9:45 a.m. 4th Degree Knights, 6 p.m. | 22 Mass at 6:45 a.m.; 8:15 a.m. Online Mass posted at 8:15 a.m. at www.kcnativity.org Adoration, after 8:15 a.m. Mass - 7 p.m. A&E, 9:45 a.m. | 23 Mass at 6:45 a.m.; 8:15 a.m. Online Mass posted at 8:15 a.m. at www.kcnativity.org Men of Nativity, 7:15 a.m. St. Ann's Prayer Group, 9 a.m. A&E, 9:30 a.m. Parish Office Closes at 12:30 p.m. | 24 Christmas Eve Masses: 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 9 p.m. Parish Office Closed | 25 Christmas Masses: 7:30 a.m. 9 a.m. 11 a.m. Outdoor Communion only at 10 a.m. Parish Office Closed | 26 Mass at 8:15 a.m. Online Mass posted at 9:15 a.m. at www.kcnativity.org Reconciliation, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Mass at 5 p.m. | 27 Mass at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m. Online Mass posted at 7:30 a.m. at www.kcnativity.org Outdoor Communion 10 a.m. |

End Of Year

Ways to Give To Nativity and Special Tax Opportunities In 2020

As yearend approaches, we would like to remind you of various ways you can contribute to the parish, which may also benefit you for tax purposes. According to IRS guidelines **contributions must be received no later than December 31, 2020** to be included on your 2020 tax statement from the church.

Appreciated Stock

A transfer of appreciated stock whether publicly traded, mutual fund, ETF or privately-held, all which need to have been owned for longer than one year, is an efficient way to contribute. You may receive a tax deduction based on the value of the stock on the date transfer and avoid paying tax on the appreciation from your cost basis. Please contact the business office for stock transfer instructions for Nativity's brokerage account.

Qualified Charitable Contribution from your IRA

After age 70 ½ annual withdrawals from your IRA are required. You can avoid income tax on the portion of your required minimum distribution donated to Nativity. The distribution must come directly from your IRA to Nativity. Consult your financial advisor or broker to set up a distribution.

Online Giving

Nativity offers online giving by credit card or ACH on a one-time or scheduled basis. Please visit the Online Giving option on our website, www.kcnativity.org located under Stewardship at the bottom of the home page.

New Charitable Contribution Limits

For those individuals who itemize deductions, the CARES Act removes the 60% of AGI limitation for most gifts to public charities, such as Nativity. This means you can offset up to 100% of your 2020 income with cash contributions. Contributions more than this amount can be carried forward for five years subject to the 60% AGI limit. For corporate donations, the limit is increased to 25% of taxable income from 10% previously. For those who do not itemize deductions, for 2020 you may take a new "above the line" deduction of \$300 for cash contributions.

Unidentified Stock

The Parish Office received notice of a stock transfer to us from Johnson & Johnson on December 3 but the owner was not identified. Please contact Mark Hyde if it is you! 913.491.5017.

Good News

Have some news about all the good things happening around the parish? A great photo? If you have something you want to share, please email Susan Ackerman at sackerman@kcnativity.org.

Parish Office Holiday Schedule



Wed. December 23: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Thur - Fri, December 24-25: Closed

Mon.-Thur. December 28-31: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Friday, January 1: Closed

Resume regular schedule

Monday, January 4: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Christian Formation

PUZZLE

Complete the picture.



MISSION

Name three reasons you can always trust God.



GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE B

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



4th Sunday of Advent • Luke 1:26-38

Prayer Requests

Please pray for our parishioners: Joy Decoursey, Maggie Freeman, Dave Beall, Emma VanLieshout, Susie Haake, Claude Aldridge, Marty Murphy, Eula Fasone, Jeff Brockhaus

Please pray for our family and friends: Judy Clayes, Marilyn Mattione

As part of the Prayers of the Faithful for our Sunday liturgies, we always pray for the sick in our community. We only place names on the list if requested by family to avoid any confusion or misunderstandings. The name will be listed for one month. You may call to have them added again. If you would like a family member listed, please contact Tom Garbach, Director of Ministries, at 338.4367 or tom@kcnativity.org.

Our Tithes and Offerings

For Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/21

Annual Collection Income Needed
\$ 3,630,468

Collections Week Ended December 13

| | | |
|---------------|----|---------|
| Masses | \$ | 26,336 |
| Mail receipts | | 74,737 |
| Online giving | | 10,845 |
| Total | \$ | 111,918 |

Give electronically via the website at www.kcnativity.org

It is never too late to make stewardship a way of life.

Christian Formation

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 20, 2020

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

Christmas is almost here! Have you blessed your Christmas tree yet?

According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.

In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.

When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung.

The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply "Amen."

The leader may greet those present in the following words:

Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.

R/. Amen.

In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:

My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

"Mary said,
"Behold, I am
the handmaid of
the Lord. May
it be done to
me according to
your word."

—LK 1-38

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Titus 3:4 (lines 4-7) or Ezekiel 17:22 (lines 22-24 4; I will plant a tender shoot on the mountain heights of Israel.)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

The intercessions are then said. The leader says:

Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this

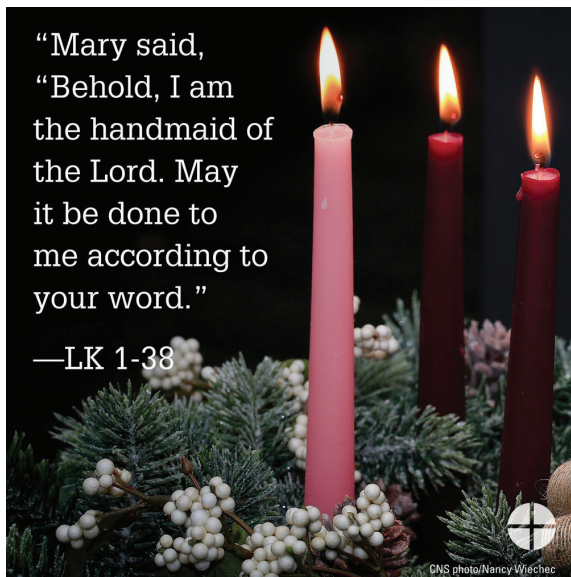
sign of our faith in the Lord.

R/. Lord, give light to our hearts.

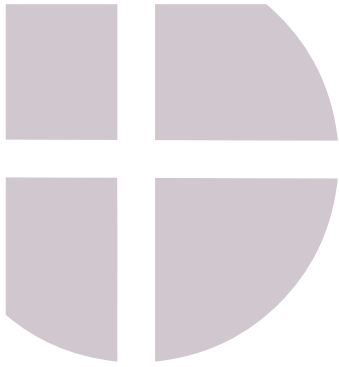
That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on

which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the

Lord. R/.



Christian Formation



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let

us pray to the Lord. **R/.**

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the

world, let us pray to the Lord. **R/.**

After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer.

The leader says the prayer with hands joined:

Lord our God,

we praise you for the light of creation:

the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel:

the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:

he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,

who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us

as we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives

be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree

come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The lights of the tree are then illuminated.

The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now

and forever.

R/. Amen.

The blessing concludes with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":

O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;

disperse the gloomy clouds of night

and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

—*From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*



Catholic
Current

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BULLETIN

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Parish Contact Information

Parish Staff

Pastor, Fr. Mike Hawken.....mhawken@kcnativity.org
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Associate Pastor, Fr. Gerard Alba.....galba@kcnativity.org
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Nativity Parish School

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Christian Formation (Religious Education)

Sacramental Preparation, Suzy Meinzenbach.....smeinzenbach@kcnativity.org
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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Sara Baker.....sara.baker@kcnativity.org
RE Coordinator, K-8, Suzy Meinzenbach.....smeinzenbach@kcnativity.org
Admin. Assistant, Karen O'Neil.....koneil@kcnativity.org

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism Class Scheduling, Karen McDonald.....491.5017
RCIA, Mary Lambrechts.....709.5032; mlambrechts@kcnativity.org
Reconciliation/1st Eucharist, Suzy Meinzenbach.....338.4367
Confirmation, Suzy Meinzenbach.....338.4367
Marriage Scheduling, Karen McDonald.....491.5017
Baptism Scheduling, Karen McDonald.....491.5017

Church Office

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Nativity School Office

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Fax: 913.338.2050

Christian Formation

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Phone: 913.338.4367

Liturgy Commission

Please use your church directory to find personal phone numbers.

Lectors

Teresa Mayor
Kathleen Saunders

A&E

Dana Mullin

Sacristans

Scott Tampke

Greeters

Denise Vedder

Ushers

Vito Carabetta

Altar Servers

David Pope

Ext. Min. of Holy Communion

Mike Bartkoski

Music

Vicky Neely 491.5017

Little Church

Suzy Meinzenbach 338.4367

5 p.m. Sunday Mass

Youth Ministers 338.4367

Ministry to Homebound/

Hospitals/Funerals

Tom Garbach 338.4367

Intercessory Prayers

Tom Garbach 338.4367

Pastoral Council Liaison

Ed Embree

Scheduling

Kathy Elson

Blessed Margaret of Castello Special Needs Ministry

Tom Racunas racunas@att.net

Please use your church directory to find personal phone numbers.

Parish Outreach Committee

Tom Arrowsmith (chair)
Mike Bartkoski
Leslie Chalmers
Jack Martinosky
Joel Voran
Tom Garbach
Deacon Ralph Schramp

Pastoral Council

Joan Roethle (chair)
Tracy Boschert
Mike Gates
Dan Heiman
Catherine Powers
Nancy Reazin
Randall Stevenson
Tami Titus
Denise Vedder
Tom Vopat
Jennifer Zielinski

Email the Council at
pastoralcouncil@kcnativity.org

Finance Council

Steve Clifford (chair)
David Caffrey
Mike Czinege
Elena Fallon
Andrew Gray
Reed Murphy
Maryanne Roepke
Dan Teahan
Jim Williams

Ignite Nativity Council

Cathy Anderson
Emily Gencarelli
Kerri George
Lee Hillestad
Mary Lambrechts
Jesdon McCowen
Kelly Mullinax
Marie Pal
Liz Pruett
Kelly Samuelson
Kathleen Saunders
Sharon Schrick
Christy Vopat