

NATIVITY NEWS



5900 McClellan *January 10, 2021* Detroit, MI 48213

PASTOR'S PEN

This has been quite a week as we have all watched the events in Washington DC. We have certainly been pulled apart as a nation, but I would hope we've all realized we have also come together this week. People of good will have come together to decry the violence and all of the chaos and all of the falsehoods that have been swirling around in these last months. At last, it seems that most people can, at least, come together to say, "this is not who we are called to be as a people. We are better than this!" And we are better than this! It seems ironic that we would have the baptism of the Lord on the Sunday after all this took place. Isaiah invites us to come to the water and quench our thirst. We have been parched by all the events of this last year: the pandemic and all the sickness and death, the racial injustice and all the struggles of so many to find equality before the law, and now, the storming of the Capitol and all of the horror that those mobs brought to all of us. Yes, we are weary and parched and we long for a time of healing and refreshment. We long for Isaiah's feast where we can all be together, without masks or social distance, with family we haven't seen for a year and a time of peace where "the scoundrel will forsake his ways and the wicked person their thoughts." Yes, we long for that feast and a time of calm and goodness.

Our Franciscan theology does give us some hope these days. Some theologians would say we are created in sin, but some of us Franciscans would say that we are created in the image of God, and therefore, created in goodness and love. Yes, the world is imperfect and sinful and evil in many ways, but there is an inherent goodness in all of us. It is that goodness, that spark of the Divine, that we need at this moment in our history. We need that inherent goodness that calls us to take the higher road when others are settling for the least common denominator, to find ways of peace and reconciliation between each other rather than animosity, to see each other beyond politics, religion, culture, ethnicity, and all of those superficial factors that keep us from seeing the beauty of the other. It is that Divine spark that calls us to deep courage when others settle for weakness and cowardice. Our own baptism reinforces the truth that we are the beloved of God. God loves us in our craziness, brokenness, sinfulness, fears, and all of the character defects we see so clearly in our lives. Yes, today we celebrate the baptism of the Lord, but we also celebrate the fact that at our baptism we were given the pledge from God that we have enough goodness in our hearts and souls to change the world. We were created in the image of God and have an abundance of grace to be a shining light on the hill, to be that beacon of hope and civility in this time of chaos, to be that spirit of calm when so many are running in all directions. Let's be those people who take the higher road of peace and reconciliation. It is the "better part" of who we are!

MISSION STATEMENT

Nativity is a diverse and inclusive Catholic Faith Community on Detroit's eastside dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel and sharing God's love through commitment to social justice, service to the neighborhood, the community and each other.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: 1-12: Jarel Adams
1-13: Geoff Shahady and Delores Susko

We pray for God's healing for:

Mary Jane Accavitti, Brenda Banks, Judy Bartnik, Hedwig Buczek, Frank Candela, Brian Cavanaugh, Frank Candela's brother-in-law, Ed, Randy Clarke, Gabriel Crowe, Tom Davis, John Deisinger, Bill Dietz, Diane Ferschneider, Karen Foy, Douglas Frattini, Rosa Gracey, Neidra Halthon, Bart Houston, Art Hill, Patrick Jansen, Journee Jones, Mia Halthon-Jones, Alex Kelly, Genevieve and Rosy Krembel, Mickala Lewis, Clarence Lewis, Deborah Marshall, Kathy McDonald's Granddaughter, Ryan, Traver Meathe, Andrea Milligan, Jennifer Mondalek, Allan Patterson, Helen Randall, Yvonne Rottach, Phil Scamihorn, Geoff & Joyce Shahady, Larry Shelton, Rose & Tom Sheehy, Jim & Marie Singer, Sheila Starke, John Stuart, Marianne Szymanski, Phyllis Treece, Sr. Jolene, Pat Wimble, Nikki Zapinski, Carolyn Sutton's friend, Molly, Barbara Gabriel's sister Pearl, Joni Scott's mom, Annie, Rosanne Schwartz's grandson, Gavin, Joanne Pierick's sister, Suzanne, The Benigni and Chida Families

MASS INTENTIONS BAPTISM OF OUR LORD SUNDAY, January 10, 2021

9:30 Theodore Ryan Treece
(Nancy Silveri & Tony Novara)

Greg McCaffrey (Friends)

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR SUNDAY, January 17, 2021

9:30 Jim Farrell
(Nancy Silveri & Tony Novara)

Michael Burns (Jerry Burns)

Joyce Berns
(The Vantiems &
the Antique Road Show)

PARISH DIRECTORY

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