



BIRTHDAYS



Drew Gulewicz	2-02	Sr. Ellen Burkhardt	2-09	Ewan Dombrowski	2-17
Frank Candela	2-03	Hugh Cairns	2-10	Carmen Patton	2-17
Tiffany Marshall	2-03	Kassidy Hurt	2-10	Sharon Estes	2-21
Thurman Bailey	2-05	Kyle Hurt	2-10	Adrian Gabriel	2-21
Pamela Ford	2-06	Jack Pierick	2-14	Giuseppina Darolfi	2-22
Mary Marshall	2-07	Helen Randall	2-14	Terell Halthon	2-24
Theresa McCoy	2-07	Jerry Susko	2-16	Carol Frattini	2-29

AND ANNIVERSARIES

Hugh Cairns & Lisa Bartnik 2-13 John & Sharon Estes 2-17

NATIVITY NEWS

5900 McClellan * **January 31, 2021** * Detroit, MI 48213



PASTOR'S PEN

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Responsorial Psalm for today is:

“If today you hear his voice, harden not your heart.”

Hard hearts come from many different experiences in life. They may be due to difficult childhoods, harsh relationships with parents, teasing and bullying when we were young, humiliation by teachers when we made mistakes in class, being betrayed by people who told us they were our friends, going through difficult marital relationships, going through bitter divorces, grieving the loss of people we have loved deeply, being the source of others' gossip, feeling neglected by children when we're older, etc., and we can add all types of reasons why our hearts become hardened. Life is not always easy and events in life can be heartbreaking, but it is in those heartbreaks that we have a choice. We can either allow them to harden our hearts in grief, bitterness, anger, self-pity, apathy, etc., or we can allow the heart breaks of life to open our hearts to hearing the voice of the God. It is the voice of God that calls us to a strength we never knew we had or a moment of healing where that perfect love casts out fear, bitterness, hatred, apathy and all the symptoms of a hard heart. I am always inspired by people who have not allowed the hardships of their lives to make them bitter, but they've become more compassionate, more loving, more courageous, and much wiser than the rest of us. I have seen people who have been through horrendous suffering refuse to allow that experience to define the rest of their lives. They continue to look for the beauty in the ordinary events of their days. When hearts become hardened, we no longer allow ourselves to be open to the wonder and spontaneity of life. We see relationships as burdens rather than invitations to new life. When this happens we begin to wither and die, but the voice of God calls us to a love greater than our hardest day!

Maybe this week is a good time to check our hearts. Have we become hardened by the struggles of life? Can we still laugh and find joy in the ordinary? I know God wants us to find joy in life and not allow our hearts to become hardened. God created us for love and beauty and we are at our best when our hearts are free to live in that love and joy. May the voice of God soothe our hardened hearts and allow them to bloom in the middle of winter!

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

SUNDAY, January 31, 2021

9:30 Kirtis III & Rose Thomas
(Family)

Dick Dietz

(Nancy Silveri & Tony Novara)

Mass In Thanksgiving &
For the Nativity Family
(A Parish Member)

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUNDAY, February 7, 2021

9:30 Joseph & Josephine Novara
(Nancy Silveri & Tony Novara)

Rose Jansen
(The Nativity Family)

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.