

# NATIVITY NEWS



5900 McClellan \*February 7, 2021\* Detroit, MI 48213

## PASTOR'S PEN

### *Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

For those who come to St. Charles, there are some wonderful banners on the columns of the church. They are 5 African American "Saints." They are all on their way to formal canonization in the Catholic Church but hearing their stories, we can already see their sanctity. During this moment in history, we need heroes who call us to our best selves. We have seen the power and horrendous sin of racism. These days have made me look deeper at my own implicit bias. I can look at some folks holding confederate flags and denounce their words and actions, but I am with the privileged part a country that has structured itself on that racial bias. The pandemic has shone a light on the disparity that has been there since the country began. We have only to look at the racial disparity of people who are not getting vaccinated as quickly as others. We have already seen the higher percentage of people of color who have died from COVID-19. Housing discrimination continues, schools are inferior, healthcare is not equal, our criminal justice system is unfair, our prisons have a much higher percentage of Black men and the list goes on. The fact that we even have to have a Black History month speaks volumes of the way African Americans have been left out of the whole story of America. The story of slavery is glossed over many times so as not to make the "rest of us" feel too uncomfortable. The story of slavery is a painful and heartbreaking story of a people who were taken from their homelands and put to work under the most egregious conditions. They were the laborers on the cottonfields, the help on wealthy farms and even on construction crews that built the White House. They were the strong arms and backs that worked so hard and made other people wealthy while they remained destitute. Yes, it should make us all feel uncomfortable to wonder how we can be so cruel and treat other human beings with so little respect.

I write this not to make anyone feel guilty but continue to push us (especially myself) to step up in this moment in history when injustices and racism have become so blatant. We see these injustices on TV each night. We have no more excuses to tell the next generation why we did nothing when people throughout our country were suffering. We don't all have to be the Saints we highlight this month, but we do have to stand up and do something. If Black History month is just a "nice" way of honoring the African American community and nothing changes, then we've missed the point. When future generations look back on our moment in history, I hope they can say that we were a brave generation, who took the Gospel seriously, and worked hard that all people might have a place at the Table! The Saints (Tolton, Bowman, Greeley, King, Romero, Lange, etc.) are counting on us and rooting us on!! May this month inspire us to do more to build the Beloved Community...the Reign of God!

### 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: 2-07:** Mary Marshall & Theresa McCoy,  
**2-09:** Sr. Ellen Burkhardt, **2-10:** Hugh Cairns, Kyle Hurt, Cassidy Hurt,  
**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: 2-13:** Hugh Cairns & Lisa Bartnik

### 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

#### FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

**SUNDAY, February 7, 2021**

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

Rose Jansen  
 (The Nativity Family)

#### SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

**SUNDAY, February 14, 2021**

**9:30** For those we love  
 and  
 For Those who need to be loved

### PARISH DIRECTORY

5900 McClellan, Detroit, MI 48213  
 Parish Phone: 313-922-0033  
 Website: nativitydetroit.org  
 Email: nativityol@sbcglobal.net

Raymond Stadmeier, OFM Cap-Pastor  
 Frances Carnaghi & Chris McLaughlin  
 Pastoral Ministers

Joni Scott Director of Faith Formation