

July 25, 2021

**17th Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

- Nativity:**
Sunday 9:30 AM
- St. Charles:**
Sunday 11:30 AM



PASTOR'S PEN

How do we respond when we're opposed? Whose example do we follow?

The great heroes of our tradition are not just opposed; they're almost always wanted dead by many people of their time. The prophet Elisha, from our first reading, is no different. How does Elisha respond to opposition? Before the story in our first reading, we hear a story of him defending himself. In that story, someone poisons his soup. He miraculously detects it, it's one of his wonders; he defends himself by diffusing the poison. That's one way he responds. He also respects the people and is very patient with them.

But this patience only goes so far. And I think some of the reason we don't hear so many stories of Elisha's life being in danger has to do with a story from early in his ministry. There's a story, maybe you've heard, where Elisha, right after he receives his double portion of Elijah's spirit, is mocked by a group of young men. A bear comes out of the forest to attack them, and Elisha doesn't use his power to save them. He has the power to do it, but he doesn't save them.

Now, let's not miss how the people of Jesus' time would have read that story: that's a key for us to know how to read it. They would have all seen what happens to these men as appropriate; that's the whole point of the story. They would have said, "Look, these people came out and mocked God's anointed, and there's a spiritual physics that comes with that. You get what you pay for." Even Jesus' own apostles, in another place, are very sympathetic to that reading; they would have gone further. Maybe you know this story; they're rejected in a town, and they all ask Jesus if he'll call down fire from heaven to consume those who mock and reject him. They get this idea because it's what another prophet did in the Book of Kings. But we don't hear stories of Jesus calling down fire. And I think there's something interesting for us about why that is.

I think that from a young age, Jesus would have heard from Mary and Joseph the stories of the prophets. Look with these eyes at the stories from our first reading and our gospel, because now maybe we can see the tie between Jesus' and Elisha's miracles. Mary might have bounced Jesus on her knee and told Him this exact story. She would have told the story because she loved the prophets, and wanted to help her little boy cultivate the same love.

And now look at what Jesus does in our Gospel: They bring to him less bread than Elisha was given, He's asked to feed more people . . . and he does it. And there's more left over. He brings this marvelous story to life, and he makes it even more marvelous. But I think the way Mary told the story of the barley loaves would have been different than how she presented the story of how Elisha treated those who mocked him. I think she especially, like us, would have had a sensibility that there's a much more appropriate way for God's anointed to respond to mockery than how Elisha did.

Because Jesus is mocked. God's anointed is mocked time and time again. And we see Jesus' response: turning the other cheek, not defending himself. So many of Jesus' miracles are taken straight from the great prophets: he raises a boy from the dead, like Elisha; he does this miracle of the barley loaves. But for his enemies on earth, there's not heavenly fire. Or wild beasts. Not even a miraculous escape.

Only a call to conversion, and a refusal to defend himself. Even if it means his own death.

So even though it's a tall order for us, as we strive to discern how to respond in this world where Christians are often mocked and marginalized for the things we believe, let's look at these stories, at these two great figures and remember that it's Jesus we're called to imitate. It's Jesus who calls us to share in his life, and who promises to give us all we need to do it. Let's ask, "Jesus, help me imitate you." And he'll give us what we need.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:
2 Kings 4:42-44

Responsorial Psalm
The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Second Reading:
Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading:
John 6:1-15

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:
Exodus [16:2-4, 12-15](#)

Responsorial Psalm
The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Second Reading:
Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading:
John 6:24-35

WELCOME NEW PARISH MEMBERS!



How Do I Join Nativity Parish?

If you are interested in becoming a member, please call the Parish Office at 313-922-0033 or complete a registration form available in the back of church and drop in the collection basket.

Want to learn more about the Catholic Faith or religious education programs?

Contact Joni Scott, Director of Formation at the Parish House at 313-922-0033.



**The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.**

CSA 2021

Many of you have received a mailing from the Archdiocese about the 2021 CSA. Our target for 2021 is \$18,236, which means if as many people give as are able to give, it would equal about \$200 per family. If we don't make our target, we have to pay the difference from parish funds. If we go over our target, the amount is returned to the parish. Anything you can do will be greatly appreciated. There are 3 ways to give: return what you received in the mail, go online at our website, nativitydetroit.org and choose CSA to give online or, if you don't want to do either of those, you can put your contribution in the regular collection basket. If you put it in the collection basket, please put it in a separate envelope and mark it CSA. Thanks for whatever you can do!

Severe Blood Shortage

The state's blood supply has dropped to a critically low level with less than a day's supply of life-saving blood on shelves to supply hospitals throughout the state. Ideally, a three-day supply of blood is what is needed to reduce shortages.

How can you support? Blood donors are needed immediately to help ensure that life-saving blood is available for those in need. One donation of blood, which takes less than one hour, can help save up to three lives. Contact the American Red Cross to make an appointment if you are able to donate. <https://www.redcross.org>

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Samaritan AA Meetings (in church basement)

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 7:00-9:00 PM

Friday, July 30, 2021 at 7:00-9:00 PM

Weekly Family Rosary: Wednesdays at 7 PM on Zoom. Email Joni Scott @ jlscott820@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

Weekly Friday Night Prayer Team: If you are able to commit to pray at home for one hour weekly between the hours of Friday 9 PM - 9 AM Saturday, you are welcome to join this ministry. Please contact Hermenia Adams at (313) 410-0871 for more information or to be added to the schedule.

The Nativity Parish Farewell Celebration for Br. Ray is Sunday, September 19th after the 9:30 Mass.

Food Pantry Items Needed This Week: The few things we need this week are soup, jelly, pancake mix and syrup, Many thanks for your generosity!

HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN

On the Rise Bakery:

<https://www.cskdetroit.org/bakery>

Open daily from 9 AM – 4 PM, closed Sundays & Mondays.

Dine-in allowed now. Let's support the Café and meet a friend for lunch there.

St. Augustine St. Monica First Saturdays Street Fair:

Come on by! From 9:30 until 11:30 am, on Saturdays: August 7th, September 4th and October 2nd.

Gratiot Woods Alive

At the Brighter Detroit Community Center

(Formerly known as the 4H Center & Nativity's Gym)

5710 McClellan

Friday, July 30 6:00pm - 8:30pm Kuumba "Creativity"

Night:FREE Food and Talent from the community

Friday, August 6 6:00pm - 8:30pm "Praise In the Park"

** Join community faith leaders for an evening of prayer, praise and worship as we pray for an end of violence and for the young people in the community and across the city.

Visit us online at: www.dcpasite.com



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, Gabriel Crowe, Tom Davis, John Deisinger, Bill Dietz, Diane Ferschneider, Douglas Frattini, Barbara Gabriel, Rosa Gracey, Neidra Halthon, Bart Houston, Art Hill, Linda, Joe and Patrick Jansen, Journee Jones, Mia Halthon-Jones, Alex Kelly, Genevieve and Rosy Krembel, Clarence Lewis, Deborah Marshall, Kathy McDonald's Granddaughter, Ryan, Jennifer Mondalek, Allan Patterson, Helen Randall, Yvonne Rottach, Phil Scamihorn, Geoff & Joyce Shahady, Larry Shelton, Rose & Tom Sheehy, Jim Singer, Sheila Starke, John Stuart, Marianne Szymanski, Phyllis Treece, Jim Turnbull, Sr. Jolene, Pat Wimble, Nikki Zapinski, Carolyn Sutton's friend, Molly, Barbara Gabriel's sister Pearl, Barron Scott's Mom, Vicki, Rosanne Schwartz's grandson, Gavin, Joanne Pierick's sister, Suzanne, The Benigni and Chida Families, Mia Halthon-Jones's mother-in-law, Victoria, and Judy & Bill Brooks' daughter-in-law, Kristen.

(Please notify Anne Crowe at the Parish Office when a name should be removed from this list.)



A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord, you are the source of health and healing. In you there is calm and true peace. In pain, anxiety or fear, teach us to yield ourselves to your care knowing that your love and power surround us to give us health and strength through Jesus Christ,



REMINDERS:

The link for the livestream Sunday Mass is on the parish web site: Nativity - 9:30 AM & St. Charles - 11:30 AM
Church Library: Feel free to take and use books and other resources available in the back of church.

Coins for Haiti Jug: Donations are welcome. Jug is located in front of the church altar.

Parish Website: <https://www.nativitydetroit.org/>

Parish Face Book Page: <https://www.facebook.com/NativityDetroit> (Mass is also livestreamed on this site.)

Parish Instagram Page: https://www.instagram.com/nativitycatholicchurch_detroit/



Online Giving

[DONATE HERE](#) or Go to giving site at: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/nativity>

MASS Intentions

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 25, 2021

Br. Ray (The Nativity Family)

Cathy O'Hara-Kidd (Bill & Mickey Dietz)

Dion Reddick (The Kulchy Family)

Ed Collins (Friends at On The Rise Bakery)

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 1, 2021

Sid Johnston (Family)

Jeff Gracey (The Kulchy Family)

Dion Reddick (Nancy Silveri & Tony Novara)

Jean Butina (Therese McGratty)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

7-25: Wendy Bryant

7-28: Wilma Wilmer

7-30: Amy Jo Lubig, Louise McKenzie & Christopher Scott Jr.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

If you are a registered member of the parish and your birthday or anniversary isn't listed, please let us know.

PARISH DIRECTORY

5900 McClellan, Detroit, MI 48213

Parish Phone: 313-922-0033

Email: nativityol@sbcglobal.net

Raymond Stadmeyer, OFM Cap-Pastor

Frances Carnaghi & Chris McLaughlin
Pastoral Ministers

Joni Scott, Director of Faith Formation

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Hermenia Adams

Sr. Marcia Haggins

Mashauna Adams

Michele Johnston

Wiley Adams

Kim Milligan

Michele Bezel

Mark Miller

Maura Corrigan

Denise Stambaugh

Judy Dupre

Charvala Wheeler

Deborah Fish