

**WE ARE BLESSED BY GOD AND CALLED TO BE HIS LIGHT**

A story is told of a church that was destroyed during the 1995 Rwandan genocide. As the parish sought to rebuild itself, it began by rebuilding the church, which once stood at the heart of the community. Unable to provide electricity, however, and with a residual fear of further violence, the scattered community would wait until dark to gather for Sunday Mass. Each week, with the ringing of a bell, a little miracle would happen.

As the people made their way to the shell of the church, they brought with them their lamps, using them to light the way and to light their parish church. When finished, they would return home the same way, taking with them their lamps. For anyone observing this, it was impossible not to see the connection between this miraculous event and today’s Gospel. For this broken and grieving community, it was a sign of God’s continuing presence in the life of their community, a sign that life was returning to normal – that God’s light was with them and in them. The only time that little church was lit up was when people were present. That was when they became truly the Church!

So it is for all believers as we gather on the Lord’s Day. We gather in the light of Christ, and we are challenged to be that same light in the world – to be Christ in the world and in the lives of others. Light is necessary; it brightens our vision of life and invites others to share in our vision.

So, the words of Jesus, *You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden*, are both challenging and consoling. Being a Christian is like that! Our lives should shine with Christ’s presence, compassion, care and love. And we must show this in practical ways, as Isaiah tells us in the first reading: sharing our bread, sheltering the oppressed and homeless, clothing the naked and fighting against oppression, lies and false accusation. Isaiah sets before us a vision or a road map for life according the will of God.

The images of light and salt are interesting and provoking ones. Neither can exist for its own sake. Light is no good if there is no one to use it or to bask in its glow. As the Gospel tells us, you do not light a lamp and then hide it. Light is meant to penetrate and overcome darkness; it does not make sense to hide it. Likewise, salt is no good unless it brings flavor to food.

So our faith is no good if it is all about us. As we deepen our relationship with God through prayer and the Eucharist, we will be strengthened to go out and share our faith with others. Only then will we be fulfilling the Gospel mandate to be Christ’s disciples, and to bring glory to God.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon	Feb 6	Gen 1:1-19, Mk 6:53-56
Tues	Feb 7	Gn 1:20-2:4a, Mk 7:1-13
Wed	Feb 8	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17, Mk 7:14-23
Thur	Feb 9	Gn 2:18-25, Mk 7:24-30
Fri	Feb 10	Gn 3:1-8, Mk 7:31-37, Lk 10:38-42
Sat	Feb 11	Gn 3:9-24, Mk 8:1-10
Sun	Feb 12	Sir 15:15-20, 1 Cor 2:6-10, Mt 5:17-37



**YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Regular Collections	\$ 11,986.26
Nativity Elem.	\$ 40.00
Nativity Maintence	\$ 760.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 497.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$ 13,283.26</b>
<b>CASH NEEDED</b>	<b>\$ 14,400.00</b>

**SPECIAL APPEAL – MAINTENANCE FUNDS**

Our original goal of \$150,000 has been met. However, payments, as scheduled on current pledges, will not be completed until the end of January, 2017. Please continue to use the orange envelopes for these payments. Likewise, many of you who did not pledge are participating by weekly or monthly gifts through the orange envelopes. Please continue your generosity. The response from you, our parishioners, has been extremely gratifying and will enable us to complete all the maintenance items delineated in our original appeal letter in January 2016. After our original survey of maintenance items, additional needs have developed. We assure you all funds received will be prudently expended.

<b>TOTAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES TO DATE</b>	<b>\$170,728</b>
<b>PAYMENTS TO DATE</b>	<b>\$163,508</b>
<b>BALANCE TO COMPLETE PLEDGES</b>	<b>\$ 7,220</b>

**CCD CLASS INFORMATION**

CCD classes are held on Wednesdays, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

**R.C.I.A.**

This week the RCIA class will be learning about the Eighth Commandment with Father Dennis, and Jennifer Scroggins will be leading our Prayer Service. Please pray for the Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors as we approach the Easter Sacraments and as they continue their journey of faith together. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Holy Hour will be on Thursday, February 9th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., with reflections with Father Dennis

**MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTION**

It is time to renew our Magnificat subscription for 2017. For those of you who subscribe through Nativity, please call or email Jackie Hewitt at the rectory to renew or cancel. [jhewitt@nativitybvm.org](mailto:jhewitt@nativitybvm.org).

## SCHEDULED LAY MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

<b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>
<b>Feb 11 4:00 pm</b> <b>1. Deacon Ben</b> 2. Mary Wimberly 3. Kalin Lloyd 4. Rhonda Clark 5. Gerri Weldon	<b>Feb 11 4:00 pm</b> Rose Anne Kimbell	<b>Feb 11 4:00 pm</b> Carlo Ashton Brinden Butterfield
<b>Feb 12 7:00 am</b> <b>1. Marcia Mayfield</b> 2. Colleen Kavanagh 3. Danny Kavanagh	<b>Feb 12 7:00am</b> Sr. Mary Jo Mike <b>9:00 am</b> Jim Compton <b>11:00 am</b> Michelle Sekul <b>5:30 pm</b> Maggie Landry	<b>Feb 12 7:00 am</b> Makayla Pfarrer Weyth Stewart <b>9:00 am</b> Justin Useforge Jamey Useforge Terren McDonnell Cameron McDonnell <b>11:00 am</b> Michael Pfarrer Clayton Stoddard Simon Randall Aidan Tarrant <b>5:30 pm</b> Annabelle Landry Veronika Landry Julia Landry
<b>9:00 am</b> <b>1. Bobby Weaver</b> 2. Belinda Corley 3. Linda Bourgeois 4. Judy Traham 5. Barry Gilmore	<b>CANTORS</b> <b>Feb 11 4:00 p.m.</b> <b>Phil Frisby</b> <b>Feb 12 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Nicholas Radolfich</b> <b>11:00 am</b> <b>Nate Hettinger</b>	
<b>11:00 am</b> <b>1. Johnny Williams</b> 2. Sondara Williams 3. Susan Toche 4. Rocky Greathouse 5. Edward Warner		
<b>5:30 pm</b> <b>1. Annette Luther</b> 2. Angela Cannon 3. Teresa Ballinger		

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 6 Men's Club Meeting at 6:00 p.m.  
 Feb 7 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC  
 - RCIA at 6:00 p.m., SHC  
 - BINGO Mania, 5:30 p.m. - Bingo Hall  
 Feb 8 - **Cleaning Team "A"**  
 Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.  
 CCD Classes at 5:30 p.m.  
 Feb 9 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.  
 Eucharistic Adoration, 6:00 p.m., in the Chapel

## BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for February 7th. Smith (Byron & Sarah), Snyder (Tommy & Alexandra), Butterfield (Brad Butterfield & Tami Maderira), Clayton (Jason & Regan), Cook (Clifford & Shannon), Dujmov (Patricia Zidek) and Mabary (Shawn & Kendra). **REMEMBER!** If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.

## WE ARE ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

As you all know, Bishop-elect, Louis Kihneman's ordination will be on February 17<sup>th</sup>, in our Cathedral. We will have rehearsal and additional masses during that week. This will bring a lot of people into the Cathedral and we will need to have it cleaned several times that week. Please consider helping with the additional cleaning that will be required to keep the Cathedral in beautiful condition. Please call the rectory to let us know when you can volunteer your time to help. 228-374-1717.

## Mass Intentions

		<b>6:30 a.m.</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
Mon	Feb 6	For all Souls	Dominic and Maria
Tue	Feb 7	Betty Lou Callegari	Dan Williams
Wed	Feb 8	Ray Yenewine	Boise Ray "Skip" Butterfield, Jr
Thur	Feb 9	Mary Collins Wilson	Collins-Sims Fly.
Fri	Feb 10	Glenn/Joyce Pisarich	Sonny Ross
Sat	Feb 11	<b>8</b> – Richard Wells	<b>4</b> Thomas Andrews
Sun	Feb 12	<b>7</b> – Sonny/Helen Ross.	<b>9</b> - For the Parishioners
		<b>11</b> – Boise Ray "Skip" Butterfield, Jr.	<b>5:30</b> - Dr. Jessica Crowde

## PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Anna Jo Wentzell, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Joe Powell, Patsy Smolcich, Danny Boney, Sr., Kathleen Hebert, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry and Gwen Gollotte.

## NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**\*Mark Your Calendars!** Nativity School will hold its annual Open House on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00-2:00 p.m. Come and see what the "Nativity Difference" is all about! Current, former and prospective families are welcome to enjoy the displays, the activities, the prizes, the refreshments and the great company!

\*Registration for the 2017-2018 school year will begin on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> for families with children currently enrolled in Nativity School. Registration for new families registered at Nativity, Blessed Seelos, Our Mother of Sorrows, St. Michael and Church of the Vietnamese Martyrs parishes will take place on March 6<sup>th</sup> through March 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-5:00. Open registration for all other new families begins on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> until all openings are filled. Nativity School provides a well rounded, Catholic education for children in prek 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

\*The Second Annual Disney Raffle is once again taking place. Tickets cost \$75 and provide the winner with a \$4,000 Disney gift card and \$1,000 spending money. Only 335 tickets will be sold with the drawing taking place on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

For more information please visit the school's website, [www.nativitybvm.org](http://www.nativitybvm.org), or call the school office, 432-2269.

\*Love that King Cake! Nativity School is taking orders for king cakes now, through February 7<sup>th</sup>. Cakes (baked by Cheeky Monkey) will be delivered to the school on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. For more information please visit the school's website, [www.nativitybvm.org](http://www.nativitybvm.org), or call the school office, 432-2269.

## NEPTUNE AT NATIVITY

Mark your calendar for our Third Annual *Neptune at Nativity* cathedral parish Mardi Gras celebration. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, after the 4:00 p.m. Mass, our parish family will gather in front of the cathedral and rectory to watch the Neptune Parade. Our Men's Club will serve hamburgers and hotdogs. There will be an open house in the rectory with bathrooms available. Be sure to bring your drinks and a chair!