

**LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

Saint Paul’s challenge to us to live as children of light is easier said than done. Witness our reading from the first Book of Samuel and what we just heard from the ninth chapter of John’s Gospel.

First, Samuel sets out to anoint god’s choice to replace Saul as king of Israel. Samuel gets caught up in judging Jesse’s sons by external appearances alone, and not by their hearts, as the Lord expects Samuel to do.

Beginning with Eliab, who Samuel believed to be the one, Jesse’s sons are paraded in front of Samuel and, one by one, they are rejected after being reminded by the Lord how to pick a worthy candidate. Finally, David, who is seen by his father as the youngest and therefore the least likely candidate to be a leader, is anointed by Samuel.

At the moment of his anointing, our first reading tells us, *The spirit of the Lord rushed upon David*. In a little less than two weeks at the Easter Vigil, our candidates for baptism and confirmation will feel that same spirit rushing upon them. This experience gives the rest of us the opportunity to reflect on whether or not we need to reawaken the spirit of God dwelling within us.

In the Gospel today, recall how the blind man cured by Jesus moves from seeing Jesus as a prophet to bantering with the Pharisees, to finally becoming a believer in Jesus as the Promised One. This conversion process is in stark contrast to the intransigence of the Pharisees, whose power and status were being undermined, they believed, by this itinerant preacher known as Jesus the Nazarene.

In the end, Jesus points to the blindness of the Pharisees. This sort of blindness, frankly, is much harder to cure than physical blindness. It can manifest itself as blindness to the needs of those around us, especially the most marginalized and powerless in our midst. It can be blindness toward a lonely neighbor or a struggling teenager or a stressed-out spouse. It is blindness to the need to see as God sees, and not as humankind sees.

Pope Francis is constantly challenging believers and nonbelievers alike to love and care for one another and to love and care for our earthly home. We are not called to like everybody, which is humanly impossible, but we are called to love everyone, which is possible, because God said it is our job to do so.

Too often today in our polarized world, we think that if we don’t like someone’s political affiliation, religious beliefs or moral standards, that means we don’t have to love them. Quite the contrary; it is our loving example, and not our brilliantly crafted rebuttals, that wins souls for Christ. That, after all, is what it means to be a good and faithful steward of the Lord. Our job therefore as children of light is to bring others to the Light of all Lights – Jesus Christ.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon	Mar 27	Is 65:17-21, Jn 4:43-54
Tues	Mar 28	Ez 47:1-9, 12, Jn 5:1-16
Wed	Mar 29	Is 49:8-15, Jn 5:17-30
Thur	Mar 30	Ex 32:7-14, Jn 5:31-47
Fri	Mar 31	Wis 2:1a, 12-22, Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Sat	Apr 1	Jer 11:18-20, Jn 7:40-53
Sun	Apr 2	Ez 37:12-14, Rom 8:8-11, Jn 11:1-45



**YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Regular Collections	\$	7,581.55
Nativity Maintenance	\$	987.75
Nativity Elem.	\$	187.00
Capital Improvement	\$	20.00
Miscellaneous	\$	679.25
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,455.55</b>
<b>CASH NEEDED</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,400.00</b>

**SPECIAL APPEAL – MAINTENANCE FUND**

<b>TOTAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES TO DATE</b>	<b>\$174,166</b>
<b>PAYMENTS TO DATE</b>	<b>\$167,941</b>
<b>BALANCE TO COMPLETE PLEDGES</b>	<b>\$ 6,225</b>

**THE EPISCOPAL ORDIANTION AND INSTALLATION OF BISHOP-ELECT LOUIS F. KIHNEMAN, III.**

The new date for Bishop-elect Louis F. Kihneman, III, is scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. here at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral. Vespers will be held on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

**PARISH LENTEN MISSION**

Nativity Cathedral’s annual Parish Lenten Mission will take place from April 1<sup>st</sup> until April 4<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Dan Estes, a priest working in the Diocese of Corpus Christi (the diocese from which our new Bishop Kihneman comes) will be leading our mission this year. Fr. Dan will introduce the Mission at all Masses on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and follow it with two evening presentations on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars for this refreshing Lenten spiritual time with Father Dan.

**LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE**

Lenten Penance Service will be on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. This year, due to a shortage of Priest, the penance service will be at Blessed Seelos.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated every Friday in Lent at 6:00 p.m., in the Chapel.

**CCD CLASS INFORMATION**

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

## SCHEDULED LAY MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

<b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>
<b>Apr 1 4:00 pm</b> <b>1. Helen Languirand</b> 2. Ann Kavanagh 3. Gayle Mavar 4. Liz Joachim 5. Andrea Gilich	<b>Apr 1 4:00 pm</b> Rhonda Clark	<b>Apr 1 4:00 pm</b> Keegan Cuevas McKinzy Mathis
<b>Apr 2 7:00 am</b> <b>1. Vicki Howard</b> 2. Coleen Kavanagh 3. Danny Kavanagh	<b>Apr 2 7:00 am</b> Marcia Mayfield	<b>Apr 2 7:00 am</b> Makayla Pfarrer Alec Ryan
<b>9:00 am</b> <b>1. Belinda Corley</b> 2. Judy Trahan 3. Barbara Ziz 4. Marianne Sherman 5. John Sherman	<b>9:00 am</b> Linda Bourgeois.	<b>9:00 am</b> Trent Fulton Brennan Tarrant Annabelle Tarrant
<b>11:00 am</b> <b>1. Deacon Ben</b> 2. Edward Warner 3. Susan Toche 4. Judy Steckler 5. Sandy Steckler	<b>11:00 am</b> Kristy Arguelles	<b>11:00 am</b> Michael Pfarrer Hadyn Hollis Greysen Ross McRae Ross
<b>5:30 pm</b> <b>1. Roland Creel</b> 2. Tricia Creel 3. Teresa Ballinger	<b>5:30 pm</b> Youth Ministry	<b>5:30 pm</b> Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles Sydni Wells
	<b>CANTORS</b> <b>Apr 1 4:00 pm</b> Nicholas Radolfich	
	<b>Apr 2 9:00 am</b> Phil Frisby	
	<b>11:00 am</b> Choir	

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 27 - Women of Mary, 5:30 p.m.  
 Mar 28 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC  
 Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.  
 Mar 29 - **Cleaning Team “D”**  
 Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.  
 Mar 30 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.  
 Mar 31 Station of the Cross at 6:00 p.m.

## COMMUNION VISITATION

Jesus says of you and me, “You are the salt of the earth”. No one should be deprived of the Most Holy Eucharist because they are homebound, elderly, have no means of getting to Mass and/or sick in their home. Sister Jackie Tarrant, RSM will gladly bring the Eucharist to you in your home. Together we can be “salt of the earth”. Sister can be reached at 228-223-8129 or the rectory at 228-374-1717.

## BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for March 28th. Baxter (Brandon/Nicole), McLoughlin (Michael/Lisa), Nguyen (Addis/Tai), Pritchard (Casey Reed), Stoddard (Clay/Jody) and Terry (George/Cheryl). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

## BAPTISMAL CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to baby Eloise Gale Lechner who was Baptized this weekend at our Cathedral Parish. Encouragement and thanks to Eloise’s parents Russel and Alisha Lechner for handling down the fait to their daughter.

## Mass Intentions

		<b>6:30 a.m.</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
Mon	Mar 27	Gary Michiel	Hedwig Marie Moyer
Tue	Mar 28	Meghan Guillary	Collins-Sims Fly.
Wed	Mar 29	Claire Sekul Hornsby	Ernest “Sonny” Ross
Thur	Mar 30	Dan Williams	Chester Balius Fly.
Fri	Mar 31	Gaspar/Mary Pisarich	Gary Michiel
Sat	Apr 1	<b>8</b> – Dr. Jessica Crowder	<b>4</b> Rose Marie Thornton
Sun	Apr 2	<b>7</b> – Anna Jo Wentzel	<b>9</b> - For the Parishioners
		<b>11</b> – Hedwig Marie Moyer	<b>5:30</b> Collins-Sims Fly.

## PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, 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, Patsy Smolcich, Danny Boney, Sr., Kathleen Hebert, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte and Greg Hotaling, Richard “Red” White, Jack Joachim, Jr. and Michael Zorich.

## NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

\*Registrations continue to be accepted for the 2017-2018 school year at Nativity BVM School. For more information about our Prek 3 through Grade 6 program, please visit our website at [www.nativitybvm.org](http://www.nativitybvm.org) or call the school office to set up an appointment to tour the school. (432-2269)

\*Congratulations to 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Ty Miller, who has qualified for the State Geography Bee. Ty will represent our school on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. We wish him well!

\*The Saints are coming! Once again, through the kindness of Mr. Johnny Fayard, Nativity Students will have the privilege of participating in the New Orleans Saints (Student) Training Camp. The Camp will be held at the school on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 p.m.

\*A Lenten Dinner will be held this Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Nativity School. Come and enjoy some great food—dine in or take out! All proceeds benefit the school.

\*Please don’t forget to save the following for Nativity School: Box Tops for Education (We have already earned over \$700 this year!), aluminum beverage cans, UPC codes from Community Coffee products.

## PRAYER FOR OUR R.C.I.A. CANDIDATES

On Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> our RCIA Elect Candidates will go into retreat for the upcoming celebration of the Easter Vigil. They are under the guidance of our own Sr. Jackie Tarrant, RSM Please keep our RCIA Candidates in your prayers.

## NATIVITY B.V.M. CATHEDRAL’S 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL UNCORKED AND UNCAPPED WINE AND BEER TASTING! APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2017.

Save the date! Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Exotic Wines – Craft Beers – Gourmet Food’s – Sumptuous Silent Auction and Live Entertainment. Tickets are \$50.00 per person, \$80.00 per couple and \$350.00 for a reserved table of 10.