

TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND BE REWARDED WITH TRUE LIFE.

One word seems to connect all of our readings today – reward. From the first reading from Second Kings to the words of Jesus in the Gospel, this word resonates throughout – not in the sense of earthly reward but rather a heavenly one.

Our reading from Kings opens with the prophet Elisha rewarding the woman of Shunem with her heart’s deepest desire and delight – a child. From what we know, this woman was generous in receiving the prophet. She even went so far as to provide permanent accommodations whenever he came to town. Yet there was equally emptiness in her life, for she and her husband were without children. What a great joy the promise of the prophet, whom she recognized as a holy man, must have meant to her! The promise of a child was the reward for her generosity.

Paul takes this reward to a new and deeper spiritual meaning by reminding us that it is in Christ and the Resurrection that we find the greatest of all rewards – a share in the newness of life. For Paul, the whole of the Gospel is built on the promise of the Resurrection. It is the Resurrection that defines the very heart of the believer. Writing to the Romans at a time of great persecution and martyrdom for the early Christian church, Paul reminds them that whatever may befall them, they will always have the promise of this great reward. Consequently, he challenges them and us to live in the hope of this great reward – to consider ourselves as dead to sin, and to live in Christ and the promise of new life.

This promise, too, is at the heart of today’s Gospel. Matthew shares with us some of Jesus’ teachings on the challenges of discipleship. But we also hear that for the one who is faithful to his or her vocation of disciple, there is the reward of new life. In many ways, discipleship becomes the lens through which all of life is viewed and understood.

Jesus knew that some of His disciples found it difficult to be faithful; they often misunderstood what it meant to be His follower, or indeed what it meant for Him to be the Messiah. Knowing what would befall Him, Jesus uses the symbol of the cross to describe true discipleship. It is not a one-time challenge, but a daily one: the faithful disciple must be ready to let go of all, to lose all so that he or she might receive all. Living out this discipleship on a daily basis calls for us to be generous even in the least of things, like the woman of Shunem welcoming the prophet.

BISHOP KIHNEMAN’S HOMILIES

Bishop Kihneman's homilies will be available each week in audio form on Nativity BVM Cathedral's website. To access these homilies, visit nativitybvm.podbean.com

READINGS FOR THE WEEK FAMILY	
Mon Jul 3	Eph. 2:19-22, Jn 20:24-29
Tues Jul 4	Gn 19:15-29, Mt 8:23-27
Wed Jul 5	Gn 21:5, 8-20a, Mt 8:28-34
Thur Jul 6	Gn 22:1b-19, Mt 9:1-8
Fri Jul 7	Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8,62-67, Mt 9:9-13
Sat Jul 8	Gn 27:1-5, 15-29, Mt 9:14-17
Sun Jul 9	Zec 9:9-10, Rom 8:9, 11-13, Mt 11:25-30



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Collections	\$	7,418.75
Nativity Maintenance	\$	1,305.01
Nativity Elem.	\$	79.00
A/C Maintenance	\$	134.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	8,936.76
CASH NEEDED	\$	14,400.00

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!



WE ARE NOW 241 YEARS OLD

NATIVITY’S RECTORY WILL BE CLOSED!

Nativity’s Rectory will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. We will reopen on Wednesday, July 5th at 9:00 a.m. We wish you all a wonderful and safe holiday.

RCIA.

The Rite of Christian Initiation is an invitation for adults to explore their interests, or to enhance their knowledge, in the Roman Catholic Church. The R.C.I.A. lays out a process in which men and women are guided and cared for as they awaken in faith and are gradually introduced to the Catholic way of life. The Nativity Parish will begin R.C.I.A. classes again in the Fall. Participants will meet weekly for nine months in the Sacred Heart Center. If you are interested, please contact Greg or Penny Payne at 228-365-6348.

NEW WINE DEADLINES EXTENDED:

Those interested in being part of our New Wine group that begins in the fall of 2017 have new extended deadlines: Deadline for submitting names and email addresses: Monday, July 17, 2017. Deadline for submitting completed applications: Monday, July 31, 2017. If you have any questions about the program, or if you need an application, please all Leo Trahan at the Office of Religious Education at 228-702-2131.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Jul 8 4:00 pm 1. Gerrie Weldon 2. Andrea Gilich 3. Ann Kavanagh 4. Dale Dorcik 5. Gayle Mavar Jul 9 7:00 am 1. Jim Shugart 2. Marcia Mayfield 3. Vicki Howard 9:00 am 1. Maggie Landry 2. Nanette Burke 3. Belinda Corley 4. John Brauchle 5. Barry Gilmore 11:00 am 1. Deacon Ben 2. Rhonda Clark 3. Rocky Greathouse 4. Judy Steckler 5. Sandy Steckler 5:30 pm 1. Annette Luther 2. Angela Cannon 3. Teresa Ballinger	Jul 8 4:00 pm Rose Anne Kimbell Jul 9 7:00 am Joe Koonce 9:00 am Jim Compton. 11:00 am Don Marie 5:30 pm Youth Ministry CANTORS Jul 8 4:00 pm William Endicott Jul 9 9:00 am Dennis Burke 11:00 am Nicholas Rodolfich	Jul 8 4:00 pm Simon Randall McKinzy Mathis Jul 9 7:00 am Wyeth Stewart Alec Ryan 9:00 am Annabelle Landry Veronika Landry Julie Landry Sofia Carreon 11:00 am Hadyn Hollis Aidan Tarrant 5:30 pm Samantha Sharplin Breanna Smith Taylor Yasar

		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Jul 3	Betty Lou Callegari	Anna Kate Woods
Tue	Jul 4	Rosella McAuliffe	Kathleen Hebert
Wed	Jul 5	Thomas Connell	Patsy Smolcich
Thur	Jul 6	Robert Emmett McAuliffe	Collins-Sims Fly.
Fri	Jul 7	Herbert/Bertha McDonnell	Patsy Smolcich
Sat	Jul 8	8 Thomas McAuliffe	4 Thomas Andrews
Sun	Jul 9	7 - Jerry O'Keefe	9 - F. T. P.
		11 - Monique Nguyen, (SI)	5:30 Mary Travers Mulvey

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Laura Weiher, Candy Widener, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Danny Boney, Sr., Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte, Greg Hotaling, Richard "Red" White, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Don Viator, Mabel Viator, George Krebs, Marian Semski and Michael Zorich.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week in memory of Pat Smolcich.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Nativity Summer Saints program continues to provide fun and exciting opportunities for children in prek through grade 6. The program will be closed on July 3, 4 and 5 in observance of the Fourth of July Holiday. For more information, please call the school at 432-2269 or visit the website at www.nativitybvm.org. *Registration for the 2017-2018 school year is now underway. Although several classes are filled, openings remain in other classes. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact the school at 432-2269 or visit the school's website at www.nativitybvm.org. *Tickets are now on sale for the Nativity School \$3,000 raffle. Each \$100 ticket entitles the purchaser to 10 chances to win \$3,000. The drawings are held on the first Thursday of the month from September through June. Tickets may be purchased from any Nativity School parent or through the school office. *Final Registration for families who will have children attending Nativity School will be held on Thursday, July 20th from 4:00-7:00 p.m., Friday, July 21st from 10:00-2:00 and Friday, July 28th from 10:00-2:00. *Do you like to fix things? Interested in some yard work? DO WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU! Nativity School's annual BYT (Bring Your Toolkit Day) will be held on Saturday, July 22nd from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. All sorts of jobs will be available JUST FOR YOU! Come and enjoy the fun!

JOB OPENING

Vacancy: Principal of Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary School - PreK3 - 6th Grade
 Requirements include: Being a practicing Catholic and holding a Master's Degree in Educational Administration. Complete application at www.biloxidiocese.org and send with a cover letter and resume to:

Dr. Rhonda Clark
 Assistant Superintendent of Education
 1790 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 39532
relark@biloxidiocese.org - (228)702-2130
 Deadline for application is Friday July 7, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 4 -Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. - SHC
- July 5 -**Cleaning Team "B"**
 - Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.
- July 6 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.

HOLY HOUR

With our Chapel renovations completed, we are anxious to resume Holy Hour. We will have Holy Hour on July 13th at 6:00 p.m., in the Marion Chapel. Please consider coming and spending an hour with our Lord.

NO BINGO ON TUESDAY JULY 4TH.

In observance of Independence Day, we will not have Bingo on Tuesday, July 4th.

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for July 11th. Robertson (Shawn & Mirna), Ross (Thomas & Julie), Tarrant (Gerald & Alicia), Wooden (Graham & Bianca), Burke (Sam & Sarah), Canon (Ryan & Summer) and Dagenais (Amanda). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM HURRICANES

Father, may all the elements of nature obey Your command. Calm the storms that threaten us and turn our fear of Your power into praise of Your goodness. Grant this, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS