

LET US BE PROPHETS FOR OUR TIME

As we always do in the first part of Advent, today we encounter John the Baptist in the town of Bethany, near the Jordan. In John’s Gospel, the Baptist is being confronted by religious officials: priests and Levites who have come from Jerusalem to question him. He readily admits that he is not the Christ, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. He insists, quoting Isaiah, that he is only the voice of one crying out in the desert, “make straight the way of the Lord.”

The religious leaders question him further, asking: Why then do you baptize? John answers, I baptize with water; but there is one....coming after me whose sandal strap I am not worth to untie.

Like all prophets, then, this was John’s calling – to prepare the world for Jesus, to announce his coming. Even in his mother Elizabeth’s womb, he had leapt for joy at the visit of Mary and his Lord. He was to confront the sins and sinners of this age, to encourage their repentance and to give them a ritual bath in the Jordan. John the Baptist brought to completion the work of the Old Testament prophets, and bore witness to the truth that Jesus is the Son of God.

How can we be more like John the Baptist? We can begin by better appreciating our own baptism, our own anointing, and our own call to holiness and mission. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, and the Lord has anointed us to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord.

Each of us can be the voice of one crying out in the desert. Strengthened by the word, graced by the sacraments, surrounded by our parish and fortified by a worldwide community of believers, we can truly live as followers of Jesus.

Let us pledge to stand together for the sake of the Gospel, and to raise our voices in defense of the truth. Speak up. That’s what prophets do best.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of Advent– 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
 Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel
 Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m. in the Cathedral
 Christmas Eve – 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral
 Christmas Eve – 11:00 p.m. in the Cathedral
 Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY AT NATIVITY BVM

What if you know where all of your money was going each month? What if you were debt-free investing and making wise spending decisions? With Dave Ramsey’s class Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future. If you’re interested in learning more about the class, contact Alicia Tarrant, at aliciasouth_tarrant@hotmail.com, or call/text 228-273-9026. The 9 week class starts Sunday, January 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the RCIA room in the SHC. Class materials are approximately \$100.00 and can be purchased by visiting the class like at <https://fpu.com1053404>. You may also visit daveramsey.com.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon Dec 18	Jer 23:5-8, Mt 1:18-25
Tues Dec 19	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a, Lk 1:5-25
Wed Dec 20	Is 7:10-14, Lk 1:26-28
Thur Dec 21	Sg 2:8-14, Lk 1:39-45
Fri Dec 22	1 Sm 1:24-28, 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abvd, Lk 1:46-56
Sat Dec 23	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24, Lk 1:57-66
Sun Dec 24	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16, Rom 16:25-27, Lk 1:26-38
CHRISTMAS	
Eve	Is 62:1-5, Acts 13:16-17, 22-25, Mt 1:1-25



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

<i>Regular Collections</i>	\$	20,456.84
<i>Immaculate Conception</i>	\$	1,394.68
<i>Maintenance</i>	\$	870.00
<i>Capital Improvement</i>	\$	82.00
<i>Nativity Elem.</i>	\$	753.00
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	\$	183.50
<i>Christmas Flowers</i>	\$	150.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	23,890.02

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

This weekend’s second collection is for Christmas Flowers. For those who have not sent your envelopes with names, please do so this weekend.

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES:

SPECIAL REHEARSALS: • The Children’s Choir will hold a special rehearsal on Wednesday, December 20th – 6:00 p.m. for their participation in the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. • The Sanctuary Choir will hold a special rehearsal on Wednesday, December 20th – 7:00 p.m. with our Guest String Quartet for their participation in the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR

CALENDARS: • Concert Series Concert V: “Magnolia Concert Society – Christmas Concert” – Sunday, December 17th – 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact: TERRY D. MADDOX: Office: 228 967-7230 Cell: 251 406-1454 E-Mail: terrydalemaddox@gmail.com

ONLINE GIVING SOON AVAILABLE AT NATIVITY

We are excited to announce that Nativity BVM Cathedral will soon be offering one-time and recurring donations conveniently from our website! You will be able to make your secure donations via electronic check or debit/credit card by simply visiting our website at www.nativitybvmcathedral.org. More information will soon be available on our website or by calling the parish at (228) 374-1717. This convenient new method of giving will be available in February 2018.

MUSIC FOR THIS WEEKEND

ENTRANCE HYMN	# 68
OFFERTORY	#706
COMMUNION	#840
SENDING	# 40

MASS INTENTIONS

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Dec 23 4:00 pm I. Jim Coskey 2. Kathleen Coskey 3. Liz Joachim 4. Gayle Mavar 5. Helen Languirand Dec 24 7:00 am 1. Vicki Howard 2. Jim Shugart 3. Linda Stewart <div style="text-align: right;">9:00 am</div> I. Belinda Corley 2. Linda Welter 3. Judy Trahan 4. Sharon Tash 5. Linda Bourgeois <div style="text-align: right;">11:00 am</div> I. John Sherman 2. Marianne Sherman 3. Susan Toche 4. Edith Richardson 5. Robert Moniot Christmas Eve Chapel 4:00 pm Jim Shugart Vicki Howard Nancy Powell Cathedral 4:00 pm Barbara Ziz Susan Toche Kristy Arguelles Rhonda Clark Andrea Giich Cathedral 7:00 pm We need 5 Patrick Hall Cathedral...11:00 pm Deacon Seminarian Seminarian Seminarian Linda Welter Christmas...10:00 am Greg Payne Penny Payne Traci Kessler Michael Kessler	Dec 23 4:00 pm Rhonda Clark Dec 24 7:00 am Marcia Mayfield <div style="text-align: right;">9:00 am</div> Michael Kessler <div style="text-align: right;">11:00 am</div> ? Dec 24th CHAPEL 4:00 pm Joe Powell CATHEDRAL 4:00 pm Kristy Arguelles <div style="text-align: right;">7:00 pm</div> Maggie Landry <div style="text-align: right;">11:00 pm</div> Mary Townsend CHRISTMAS DAY <div style="text-align: right;">10:00 am</div> Peter Abide CANTORS Dec 23 4:00 pm Sean Ross Dec 24 9:00 am Phil Frisby <div style="text-align: right;">11:00 am</div> Dennis Burke – Choir Christmas....10:00 a.m.	Dec 23 4:00 pm Simon Randall Sabree Sanders Dec 24 7:00 am Makayla Pfarrer Alec Ryan <div style="text-align: right;">9:00 am</div> Morgan Newman Rush Newman Rhys Newman McKinzy Mathis <div style="text-align: right;">11:00 am</div> Hadyn Hollis Greysen Ross McRae Ross

		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Dec 18	Clare Hornsby	Pat Smolcich
Tue	Dec 19	Walter Blessey	Deacon Ben Wimberly
Wed	Dec 20	Sonny Ross	Collins-Sims Fly.
Thur	Dec 21	Kathleen Hebert	Helen Ross
Fri	Dec 22	Herbert/Bertha McDonnell	Jean Kridle
Sat	Dec 23	8 Paul H. Boudreaux, Sr.	4 Norine/Jacinto Baltar
Sun	Dec 24	7 -Gerrie Weldon (SI)	- 9:00 F.T.P.
Dec 24th	4:00	June O'Gea	7:00 pm Sam/Mary Lou Ardoline
Dec 24th	11:00 pm	Annette Luther (SI)	
Mon	Dec 25	10:00 a.m. Deacon Ben Wimberly	

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS

Gerrie Weldon, Robert Moniot, Sister Jackie Tarrant, Lehmon Skrmetti, Annette Luther, Macklin Holloway, Mary Wimberly, Kim Wilkerson, Pete Skrmetta, Candy Widener, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Mary Lancaster, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte, Greg Hotaling, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Mabel Viator, Michael Zorich, and Karen Skremetta.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The annual Nativity School Christmas program, under the direction of Mrs. Colleen Kavanagh, will take place on Monday, December 18th at 9:00 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m. The original play, featuring the 6th grade class, will tell the Christmas story through the eyes of the Wise Men (since the entire 6th grade class is made up of boys!) All students in the school will join in singing several musical selections throughout the program. Our thanks to Mr. Terry Maddox and the faculty and staff of the school. All are welcome to attend. *Our Arts Alive group, under the direction of Mrs. Wanda Stewart and Mrs. Kelly Pennell will provide a prayerful experience on Tuesday, December 19th at 9:00 a.m. in the school gym. Using dance/movement, song and speech, the children will reflect on the Christmas story. All are welcome to attend.

*School will close at noon on December 19th and classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3rd.

*As faculty, staff, students and families of Nativity School, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Priests and parishioners of our parishes who so faithfully support our school with their prayer and financial support. You are remembered in our prayer each and every day.

RCIA.

Please continue to pray for our Catechumens, Candidates and their Sponsors during this Christmas Season. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

CCD

No CCD classes will be held on December 20 or 27. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3 for all students. The CCD teachers wish all of you a joyous, blessed Christmas!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 20** Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC BINGO at 5:30 p.m.
- Dec 21** Cleaning Team “B”
- Dec 22** Greenbriar Mass at 10:00 a.m.