

Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John The Baptist – June 24, 2018

WHO WILL THIS CHILD BE?

Today we celebrate the birth of John, cousin of Jesus. The Church only celebrates three births: the birth of Jesus, Mary and John. We celebrate the first two because they were conceived in grace, free from original sin, and we celebrate **John because he was sanctified in his mother's womb** in her sixth month, when Mary, already pregnant with Jesus, goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

1. The people were asking, "**Who will this child be?**" The Canticle of Zachariah is already an answer: "And you, child, you will go before the Lord, preparing his path." Every Christian, like John, has been called from his mother's womb to carry out **a mission in salvation history**. Let us renew our commitment as forerunners of the Messiah. Hopefully we can say as John did: "After me comes another whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

2. The birth of a child is always a reason for great joy. "**What shall we call him?**" the parents ask themselves. This name should reflect their dreams, satisfy their hopes, give voice to their desire of a great future for the newborn child. A child is not a nameless number. He doesn't get a name to distinguish him from others; rather we give a name to the project of God's love. Parents, ask yourselves: who will our child be? What do we see in them and in all the children in this world? How do we educate them? How do we treat them? Are we aware that we are holding their future in our hands?

3. **John is called to be a starting point in many processes of conversion.** "The hand of the Lord was with him," to lead him into the desert and prepare the way of the Lord. The conversion preached by John is a preparation for Baptism in the Spirit. Salvation comes from the desert where John was preaching. It is there that he will meet Jesus and there he will leave his post, showing him to the multitudes that were waiting. Salvation comes through Jesus, God made man.

4. We also should make the experience of John our own, **to point out Jesus who is present in the desert of our cities.** We are not going to save the world, but we can show where salvation can be found. Words are not enough; we must spend our lives giving the Lord the place he deserves, just as John did by his martyrdom: he diminished so Jesus would increase. He disappeared so that the Savior of the world would appear.

Will we be successful in having Christ received by our brothers and sisters? Will we be able to throw down the evil of the King Herod's that have taken up residence in the homes in our cities? Will we be able **to gather all the inhabitants of our towns around the Eucharistic table** to rejoice in the birth of a hope that is called Jesus? Yes, with the help of God!

Father Blake Evans, Pastor

Rest in peace



Fr. C. Donald Howard, 72. Ordained in 1959 for the Friars of the Atonement, he served throughout the DC., VA., and Baltimore region. Nativity mourns the lost of a good friend and colleague. Fr. Donald Howard served the people of Nativity for years especially at our Mass in Spanish. A great preacher, gentle shepherd and dedicated confessor, he will be missed. Nativity was informed on Thursday of his passing which was on Jan. 6th.

Deacon Richard J. Schopfer, 85. Died on June 10, 2018. Ordained to the permanent diaconate on July 3, 1982. He was assigned to the Church of the Little Flower Parish in Bethesda, Md., where he served until his retirement in October 2007

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them oh Lord!



A Celebration of Marriage – Nativity Church will be offering a special blessing to all married couples on **Sunday, June 24, 2018**, during the 10 am Mass. Couples will have the opportunity to renew their vows and receive a Rosary and Wedding Candle from the Knights of Columbus, Keane Council #353.

Peter's Pence Collection *Be a Witness of* **Charity**

Today is the Peter's Pence Collection, a worldwide collection that supports the charitable works of Pope Francis. Funds from this collection helps victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a witness of charity to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous today. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.

Departing parishioners: Farewell and Godspeed! Parishioners and newlyweds Matthew Tanski and his wife Zoe have relocated to Louisville, KY where she has been accepted into a Ph.D. program for psychology. Aaron Wilkinson and his wife Maggie bought a home in Germantown, she will continue her medical studies and he continues to work in finance at Marriott headquarters. Congratulations! We will miss you.



Mass Intentions

June 23 - 30, 2018

Sat. 6/23	8:00am	+Glyssa Diane Villacorta
	5:30pm	+Joseph Duncan
Sun. 6/24	8:00am	People of the Parish
	10:00am	"Project Rachel" Ministry
	1:00 pm	People of Puerto Rico
Mon. 6/25	Noon	All Fathers living & deceased
Tue. 6/26	Noon	+Cardinal Hans Urs von Balthasar
Wed. 6/27	Noon	Nativity: All marriage Anniversaries
Thu. 6/28	Noon	Doug Gates (graduation)
Fri. 6/29	Noon	All Fathers living & deceased
Sat. 6/30	8:00am	+Glyssa Diane Villacorta
	5:30pm	All Fathers living & deceased

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Alice R. Allen, *Regina Alvarez, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Ann Butler, *William Cammack, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Jeff Corry, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Dion A. Fortune, *Linda Foster, *Charlie Gick, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, *Francis Howard, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Geraldine Jones, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Keneddy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Evan Myers, *Maria Myers, *Patrick Myers, *Robert Myers, *Tom Myers, *Iris Newman, *Lukas Pastier, *D. Cynhia Peters, *James Pope, *Margaret Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Bonafacio Selayo, *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Alice Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Dorothy Waring, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta

Nativity 2025! Our parish will celebrate its 125th Anniversary of our founding in the year 2025. A planning committee, music/concert ideas and more will begin THIS year.

Statement on Cardinal McCarrick's suspension. Based on US and Church Law if any accusation is found to be credible regardless of how long ago it was, the Bishop or Priest is suspended until further proceedings.

We have no information on whether criminal charges will be involved or not. McCarrick is 87 and has served the Church his whole life. The charge is 47 years old and occurred in NYC. Please pray for any victims, for healing, and for The Church in this difficult situation.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

6/17/18

Attendance: 411 souls

Offerings & Tithes: \$5,693

Spanish Mass: \$291

Utility fund: \$611



Nice sunny day filled with activities of Faith, Fun, Teaching, Competition, Creativity, Singing, Mass, Playtime, and food
Thank you to everyone involved:

- The LC/RC Staff and Young Mentors.
- Ms. Carmen Rosales
- Ms. Tracey Alexander
- Ms. Christiane Rosamont
- Ms. Jocelyn Daughtry
- Ms. Laura Juarez
- Ms. Angelica Pires
- Ms. Odette Rickman
- Mr. Bonaventure Irika
- Ms. Evonne McDaniel (she was getting the place spic-and-span, always with such love and humility)
- Ms. Lorena Giron (who housed overnight all the food items in her spare refrigerator).
- Ms. Tolnay whom I know carries us in her Prayers
- To Nativity Parishioners for their kind donations

Praying and Working together to serve! GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME!