



Nativity Star Advent/Winter 2013

From Father Jack:



Nativity Parish: A Shortcut Home

Nativity's 50th Anniversary kick-off is fast approaching! Did you know a parish can never celebrate too much? It's important we 'make a little noise,' lest the Lord's presence be taken for granted--even during sacred times like Lent. Of all the people who cut through our lot, how many do you suppose notice our church and know why we're here?

- The Church exists to proclaim and explain the Word of God. We find answers to life's challenges in God's Word—plus strength, comfort, peace and much more.

- The church is the Body of Christ, in each other as community and also in the Eucharist. No amount of spirituality outside the church can fulfill the longing and fuel the spirit like the sacraments. Nothing else has the power to make God's presence *real*.
- With today's families scattered around the country, it's more important than ever to support one another as a community of believers.
- Faith is fostered among friends in Christ. Together, we live out that faith through works of charity: love in action.

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Mission Statement

Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Community welcomes all searching for God while growing together in faith by God's grace through prayer, service and sharing.

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Nativity: The Shortcut Home (Continued)

If Nativity's parking lot is a shortcut home, let's steer people toward the church and home to God by making our parish attractive and welcoming. How might you invite others to come and experience the joy we share in our Lord?

We're called to make such a joyful noise that, instead of being a community drive-through, Nativity of Our Lord Parish becomes a place where people want to stop, eat in, and experience our joy.



P.S. I am eager to see you at the Kick-off Masses January 25-26: On Saturday an intimate celebration and lasagna dinner at Nativity after the 5:00pm Mass. On Sunday, experience the nostalgic "Mass on the Ice" at the arena, just like Nativity's first Mass 50 years ago. Details in this newsletter and upcoming bulletins.



"How might you invite others to come and experience the joy we share in our Lord?"

Remember †he Past, Celebrate †he Present, Believe in †he Future

In 2014, October 15 will mark 50 years since Bishop Stanislaus V. Bona appointed Father Alfred M. Lison to start Nativity of Our Lord Parish. We have such a rich history and much to **Remember**.

Over the years, thousands of people have joyfully given of their time, talent and treasure to make Nativity of Our Lord Parish one of the largest and most vibrant parishes in the Diocese. We have much to *Celebrate*.

Built on the new Vatican II insight that the Church IS the people, Nativity's people have left an unstoppable legacy of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and the Paschal Mystery: You've passed on tremendous hope and faith in which Ashwaubenon's Catholic community of the future can **Believe!**

It's essential we make time to remember our past, celebrate the present and believe in our future in the spirit of Ecclesiastes' "*There is an appointed time for everything . . .*"

During our yearlong celebration, we:

- **Remember** our foundation: the 465 families whose hard work and dedication laid the foundation on which we built our traditions of faith.

- *Celebrate* the faith-filled community of Nativity Parish on October 15, 2014 and the joy of serving God by ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of one another.
- **Believe** in the future of our parish and help sustain the legacy entrusted to us for future generations.

Nothing would make me happier than to see droves of Nativity's members—regardless of the last time you attended Mass—sharing in the numerous events commemorating our 50th Anniversary throughout 2014. Round up your family and show them what Nativity was like 50 years ago. Too often, our children don't realize how important it is to know your story, your past—their heritage of faith—until it's too late to pass it on.

Nativity is blessed with a dedicated parish community. I deeply appreciate and thank you for the traditions of faith, past, present and future! I can't begin to express how much I look forward to celebrating our 50th Anniversary with *all* our members. Just as Nativity was a **new** parish after **new** Vatican II insights, Nativity Parish anticipates a **new** rebirth!



Welcome to a Year of Celebrations and Observances . . .

Mark your calendars and plan to participate in person or in spirit!

January:

19th: **Family Bingo** in Bona Hall

- 1:00-3:00 pm
- Free event



25th: **Family Lasagna Dinner**, Bona Hall

- 6:00 pm
- \$10/Adult; \$5/Children 4-10
- Free/Children under 3
- Tickets required



26th: **Mass on the Ice**, Brown County Arena

- 10:00 a.m.
- All four choirs
- Seating in chairs on arena floor available

26th: **Breakfast Buffet**, Stadium View:

- Following Mass on the Ice
- \$8/Adult; \$6/Children 4-10
- Free/Children under 3
- Tickets required



February:

16th: **Wedding Anniversary Celebration**

- 10:15 am Mass at Nativity
- Celebrating milestone anniversaries of our fellow parish members

16th-17th-18th: **Parish Mission**

- Special music at weekend Masses
- Mission on Sun, Mon and Tues
- Special message for High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers on Wed, February 19th

March:

1st & 2nd: **Stewardship & Volunteer Appreciation Brunch**, Bona Hall

- Free event
- Past, present and future volunteers invited



April:

6th: **Hispanic Mass**

- Details forthcoming



27th: **Divine Mercy Sunday**

- Dedication of Nativity's JPII (Youth) Room in conjunction with the canonization of Pope John Paul II

Stay posted for details about these ongoing, springtime events, too:

- **Habitat for Humanity Faith Build**
- **50th Anniversary Cookbook Sale**

May:

1st: **Women's Guild Mother-Daughter Event**

- Liturgy, Potluck and Program (1960's Style Show)
- Free event (dish to pass)
- Reservations required



June:

21st & 22nd: **Nativity Parish Picnic**

- Fellowship, festivities, games
- Your favorite foods, beverages



...Come Celebrate with Us!

July:

20th: **Golf Outing**, Mid-Vallee Golf Course

- Registration required
- Details forthcoming

August:

17th: **Ice Cream Social & Open House**

- Tasty, cool treats hosted by Youth Ministry
- Tour of Nativity's church and facilities



September:

21st: **Bunco Tournament & Sheep head Cards**



- Fun and games
- Snacks and prizes
- Family-friendly



October:

15th: **50th Anniversary Mass**

- 5:30 pm
- Celebrant, the Most Rev. David L. Ricken

15th: **Blessing of Bell Tower & Prayer Garden**

15th: **Reception and Dinner**

- Stadium View
- Details forthcoming

25th: **Parish Service Experience**



- Variety of projects available
- All parish members/families welcome
- Registration required

November:

8th & 9th: **Stewardship Ministry Fair**

- Ministry descriptions and opportunities



Stay tuned (pun intended) for an autumn date for an **Organ Concert** at Nativity!



December:

20th & 21st: **Nativity Scene Exhibit (Bona Hall)**

- Free event
- Featuring variety of crèche scenes on loan from parish members/friends



24th: **Children's Christmas Eve Mass**

- 4:00 pm
- Christmas pageant featuring children of Nativity



Nativity Nurses Screen Blood Pressure Sunday Mornings

One weekend a month, six Nativity Parish nurses will be available to take your blood pressure before and after Masses. Pooling together a combined total of over 200 years in nursing, these nurses say high blood pressure (a.k.a., hypertension) is a silent killer that should be monitored at every opportunity—and what better time than Mass for one-stop care for body and soul?

Just as in volunteering their time for this, the lives of these inspiring Nativity parishioners are the essence of Stewardship as a way of life through prayer, service and sharing:

Terry Maloney spent most of her 42 years as a nurse in the neo-natal ICU unit at St. Vincent's hospital, caring for the most helpless of all: babies too underdeveloped to make much noise. "I said many prayers for the babies and their families," she said.

All the nurses lived lives of service to others in need. Doris Vandermeulen was an LPN for 41 years, after which she volunteered for hospice for another seven years. "I think everyone should try hospice—it was such a privilege to be trusted" by people who put their lives in her hands.

JoAnn Euclide worked for years in the cardiac/critical care unit at Bellin hospital, then used her talents in insurance, and now retired, she serves as a patient advocate at Aurora. "Nursing is really a calling, not a job," JoAnn shared.



L-R Joan Ladwig, Terry Maloney and Doris Vandermeulen, nurses offering blood pressure screening at Nativity.

"As a nurse. . . you're given a unique perspective on the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional components, all at once. I feel tremendously blessed to be a nurse."

-Jeanae Behnke (right)



Jeanae Behnke, who also donated some of the equipment, worked in oncology, where she grew close to her patients. "As a nurse, you have a whole different vision and knowledge," Jeanae shared "You're given a unique perspective on the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional components, all at once. I feel tremendously blessed to be a nurse."

Joan Ladwig, who spent her nursing career at St. Vincent's in surgery and anesthesia, is on Nativity's Stewardship Committee where the idea came to her. Having your blood pressure screened at Nativity is a great opportunity to meet these joy-filled women of quiet faith, who share a special camaraderie with one another.

When you've inhaled the essence of a warm newborn, seen suffering and worked beside doctors, when you've held the hands of patients and heard what they've tearfully confided--who else but other faith-filled nurses can relate? Yet, despite the challenges, nursing for all these amazing women is an experience of reward and great joy. Nativity's stewardship nurses know no other way to live than to be God's hands, feet, eyes and ears—His very heart. How blessed we are to have them at Nativity Parish!

Nativity's sixth nurse volunteer is Mary Beth Fisher, who wasn't available for an interview or photos, but don't let that stop you from getting to know her and all the other wonderful nurses at Nativity! For the next screening times, watch the bulletin, website www.nativityparish.com or call Nativity at 499-5156.



Nativity Parish's Advent and Christmas Calendar

December 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 First Sunday of Advent	2	3	4 5:30pm Advent Family Gathering	5 6:30pm Penance Service w/ Confession@ St. Agnes	6	7 11:00am 1st Reconciliation 6:00pm Green Bay Girls Choir Concert 4:00-4:50pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
8 Second Sunday of Advent	9 Feast Day: Immaculate Conception Mass at 9:00am	10 1:30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation @ Nativity	11 6:30pm Penance Service w/ Confession@ St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 9:00am 2nd Friday for Seniors 6:00pm Baylander Chorus	14 4:00-4:50pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
15 Third Sunday of Advent 8:00am-Noon KC Santa Breakfast 11:30am Decorate Church for Christmas	16	17 7:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation @ Nativity	18 6:30pm Taize Prayer 6:30pm Penance Service w/ Confession@ St. John Baptist, Howard	19	20	21 4:00-4:50pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent 11:30am Decorate Church for Christmas	23	24 Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00, 6:30 & 9:00pm	25 Christmas Masses at 8:30 & 10:15 am	26	27	28 4:00-4:50pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
29 9:30am Anointing of the Sick	30	31 Eve: of Mary, Mother of God; Mass at 6:30pm	JANUARY 1 Feast Day: Mary, Mother of God; Mass at 9:00am	JANUARY 2	JANUARY 3	JANUARY 4 4:00-4:50pm Sacrament of Reconciliation



The ill person is able to bear suffering bravely, and fight against it.

The **whole** person is helped and saved, sustained by trust in God.

If beneficial to salvation, a return to physical health may follow.

Excerpted from The Church's Pastoral Care of the Sick

Who may receive Anointing?

- Anyone with health issues or sick
- All facing or recovering from surgery
- People with mental afflictions
- The elderly
- All seeking healing and positive life direction
- The spiritually down-trodden

All who need:

- peace of mind to quiet anxieties and fears.
- God's Spirit to conquer temptations to despair and doubt.
- increased confidence and faith in God.
- God's comfort and strength in a difficult situation.

How often may I receive Anointing?

As often as you feel is necessary.

Nativity invites all in the process of healing to receive **The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**

Conferring the Grace of the Holy Spirit for Healing

December 29, 2013 -- Immediately after 8:30 Mass

Is Anointing of the Sick offered at other times?

Yes, whenever there is a 5th Sunday in a month. The dates in 2014 are March 30, June 29, August 31 & November 30. When possible, the sacrament should be celebrated with members of the family.

What happens during anointing?

Using a generous amount of oil, a priest anoints the person on the forehead and hands, and says a short prayer of blessing and healing. The recipient holds his palms up, responds "Amen," and gently rubs in excess oil.

Other sacraments with healing effects:

Eucharist (a.k.a. Confession or Penance)

When? 4:00 Saturday or by Appointment

A contrite heart and a willingness to face one's negative feelings, in conjunction with the absolution and blessing of the priest, contribute to an intense inner healing wherein lightness of heart and the joy our Lord intends for us is often experienced soon after the sacrament.

Eucharist (that is, the Body and Blood of Christ)

When? During Communion at Mass

(Mass Times: Saturday, 5:00 pm; Sunday, 8:30 & 10:15 am)

In the intimate act of taking Christ within ourselves, our human weakness is re-energized and empowered with the loving spirit of Our Lord.

Do you need someone to talk to and walk with you in troubled times? Stephen Ministers are specially trained to walk with you on your journey toward healing. Call Laurie at 499-5156 or e-mail her at natlj@nativityparish.com (In subject line, please state that you're interested in meeting with a Stephen Minister.)



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*Nativity invites all
in the process of healing to receive
The Sacrament of the
Anointing of the Sick*

Conferring the Grace of the Holy Spirit for Healing

December 29, 2013 -- Immediately after 8:30 Mass



***Physical healing occurs when someone is
filled with peace, faith, hope and God's grace.***

Please turn to Page 7 for more about the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Thank you to Carol Fountain and Carolyn Steeno for all their hard work on this newsletter.

DO NOT PRINT THIS PAGE!!!

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You all are great and thanks so much :) Happy Thanksgiving!