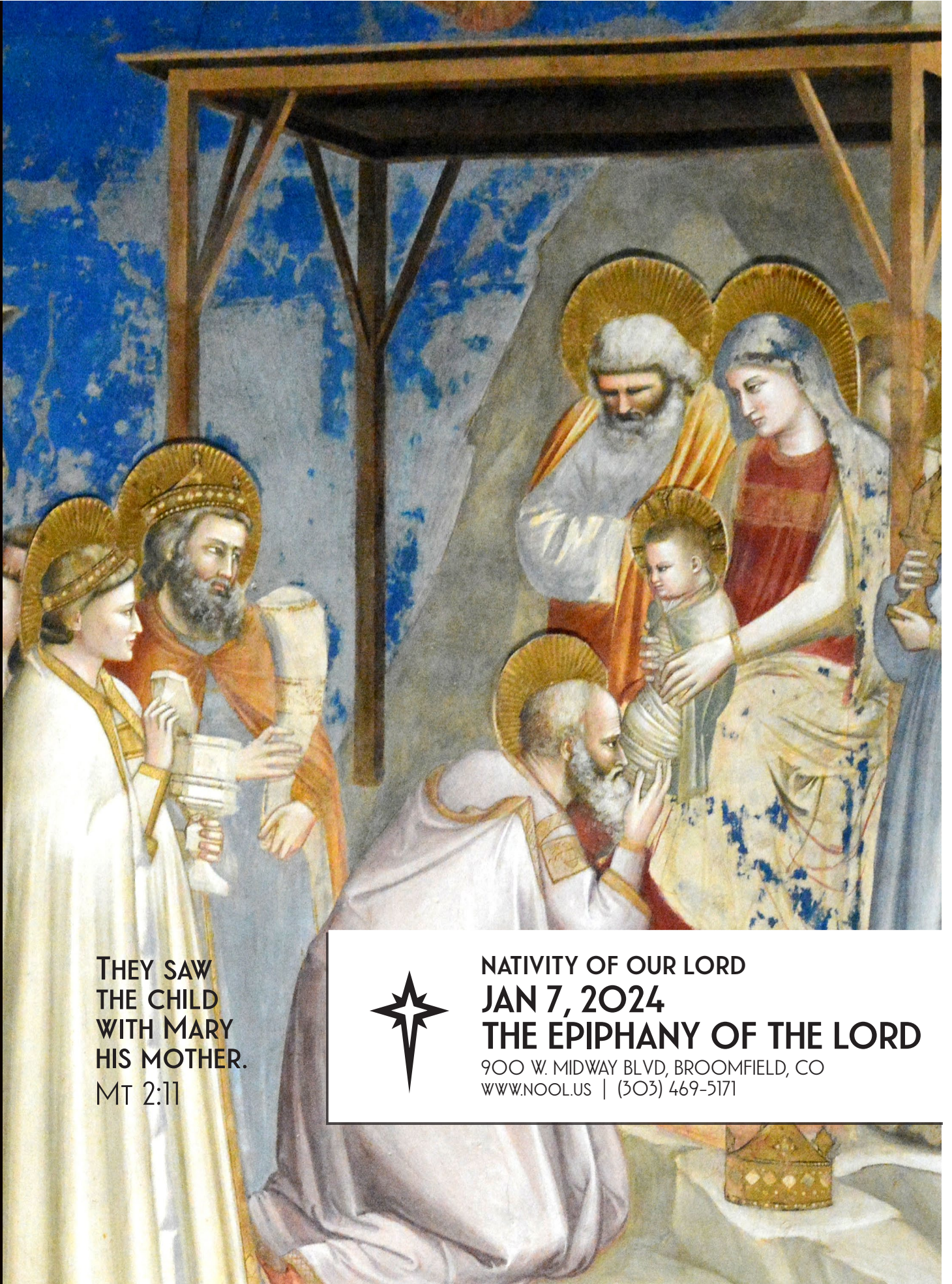


Giotto di Bondone, *Adoration of the Magi*, fresco, 1304–1306, detail, Scrovegni Chapel, Padua, Italy; USPD



THEY SAW
THE CHILD
WITH MARY
HIS MOTHER.
MT 2:11



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

JAN 7, 2024

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

900 W. MIDWAY BLVD, BROOMFIELD, CO
WWW.NOOL.US | (303) 469-5171

MASS TIMES

MONDAY-FRIDAY

7:00 am
9:30 am (livestreamed)
School Mass: Wednesdays, 8:15 am

SATURDAY

9:30 am (livestreamed)

VIGIL MASS

4:30 pm

SUNDAY

7:30 am
9:30 am (livestreamed)
11:30 am
5:00 pm

CONFESSION

THURSDAY

5:00-6:00 pm

SATURDAY

8:00-9:30 am
3:00-4:30 pm

SUNDAY

30 min before Masses

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 am-5 pm

FRONT DESK:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 am-8 pm

SATURDAY: 8 am-3:30 pm

SACRISTY LAUNDRY

Myra Aksamit

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Mon, Jan 8 | 10 am

Don Larson
Deb Mittleman
Steve Moser
Pat & Tom Green

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

IN THE CHURCH:

THURSDAY

12:00-6:00 pm

SOLEMN HOLY HOUR:

5:00-6:00 pm with *Confession* and *Vespers*

Benediction: 5:55 pm

IN THE CHAPEL:

FOR SCHEDULED ADORERS,

SEE AVAILABLE HOURS AND SIGN UP AT

www.nool.us/adoration

OR SCAN QR CODE



OPEN FOR WALK-INS

MONDAY-FRIDAY

8:00 am-5:00 pm

VISITING THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Do you know or do you have someone in your family who is sick or homebound, cannot attend Sunday Mass regularly, and desires to receive sacraments of penance and Eucharist? Please do not hesitate to contact Nativity to schedule a visit of a priest or Eucharistic minister at (303) 469-5171.

GOING TO THE HOSPITAL

If you are going to the hospital and need a visit from a priest or deacon, please call the front desk at (303) 469-5171.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Joanne Farver at (303) 466-8859 or at joannefarver@comcast.net.

PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

SATURDAY

8:50 am | Pro-Life Rosary

SUNDAY

11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

9:30 am † James Brown
by Jeff & Terri Brown
4:30 pm Intentions for Sharon Ramos
and Family by Kathleen

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

7:30 am † Fr. Roger Geditz
by Larry & Bev Grau
9:30 am People of the Parish
11:30 am Sandy Deedon
by Golden Family
5:00 pm Dustin Stanton by Family

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

7:00 am Fr. Emanuele
9:30 am † Gerald & Mary Coufal
by Larry and Bev Grau

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

7:00 am Souls in Purgatory
by Veronico J. Villaseñor
9:30 am Erika Gardner by Jane Gardner

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

7:00 am Ventura 30th Wedding
Anniversary
9:30 am † Sue Combs
by Terry & Glenn Smith

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

7:00 am Cameron Ernzen
by Ernzen Family
9:30 am Shanda & Bob Shunk
by Bette Dean

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

7:00 am † Brad Shunk by Mom & Dad
9:30 am Cindy & Dave Beckingham
50th Wedding Anniversary
by Bette & Al Dean

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

9:30 am † Linda Alandy
(sister of Maryann)
by Jeff & Terry Brown
4:30 pm † John Cserkuti
by Cserkuti Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

7:30 am † John Battista
by Battista Family
9:30 am People of the Parish
11:30 am Neil Boyle by Dan Wiffler
5:00 pm Begoya Family
by Allen Kassik & Ligia Villegas



900 W. MIDWAY BLVD.
BROOMFIELD, CO 80020

PH: (303) 469-5171
FAX: (303) 469-5172
SCHOOL: (303) 466-4177
WWW.NOOL.US



Dear Parishioner,

During the Christmas break, our GS-high school youth group held its winter “staycation.” The group has “GS” in its name because it is part of the high schoolers group of the Movement of Communion and Liberation, originally called Gioventù Studentesca. The tradition of staycation was started at Nativity by Fr. Accu. It has a similar program to the summer vacation in the mountains, but we spend our winter vacation at the parish to save money for time together in the mountains during the summer. Prayers, meals, games, and presentations took place here, and we also traveled outside the parish for our outdoor activities. So, it turned out to be four days of fully intense ecclesial life shaped around the Christian event.

Each day began with morning prayers, silent meditation, and Mass. When we were preparing for the staycation with some of the kids, I asked them what they wanted to retain from past vacations or staycations. The answer was to “start the day with prayer.” Not all the kids are used to praying habitually on their own in the

morning. However, they retained the morning prayer discovery from the past as a precious and true foundation of the intense life that happens during vacation days. Asking the kids to critically evaluate past experiences and what they would like to do again helps them to acquire for themselves the motivation of prayer and to make the sacrifice to pray when it is not immediately appealing and requires true effort to break through laziness and resistance. The fact that the kids themselves desire to be part of the staycation program reminds me that no matter what their background or their apparent “rebellion” to prayer life (at least for some), they truly thirst for God, for His silent peace and His Love, for His Word.

Four meditations of Pope Benedict XVI on Christmas accompanied the kids every morning. The Rosary enlightened each day: recited while driving back from the hike, another day from charitable work, and while kneeling in front of the Nativity Scene in the evening before the final party. Compline would close each day, as we usually conclude Sunday meetings, which strengthened the habit of ending the day in a peaceful and more human way in the kids. They welcomed

our invitation to go then directly to bed, leaving aside extra noise from technology and letting the heart rest on the fulfilling last words of God.

One day, we went on a hike to Emerald Lake. The snow and the



gorgeous landscape—from the cold and blue atmosphere in the shaded valleys to the warm and bright rocks, peaks, forests, and valleys lit by the sun—filled our hearts and minds with beauty and joy. Truly, among the fellowship, there was lighthearted joy for these gifts and a new way of treating each other as brothers and sisters of Christ, as children of God.

Another day, we did charitable work. We cooked about fifty burritos, and



we went to Boulder to share our time and meals with the homeless. The kids saw again firsthand the human misery generated by abandonment, rejection, and addictions. “We go to charitable work in order to live like Christ,” Fr Gussani states in *The Meaning of Charitable Work*, which we read before. As Christ shared his time and life with us to save us, while he could have simply attained this by “staying on his couch” beside the Father, so we share our time

with the people in need to imitate him and to learn from him “that Charity is the law of our being.”

During these days, we had three events specifically prepared to help us grow in faith. After the hike, we watched



the movie "Les Miserables" (1998), where the conversion of Jean Valjeant sparked in the kids the marvel of God's mercy and the liberation that mercy attains in the human person. Then, one of the kids gave a heartfelt presentation about a book she was suggested to read by an Italian exchange student last summer. *What Hell Is Not*, by A. D'Avenia, is about the life of Blessed Fr. Pino Puglisi, a martyr. "This book changed my life," the girl stated. The author of the novel demonstrates that heaven and hell also take place in the heart of each man and that Fr. Pino Puglisi's charity was able to bring heaven on earth for the children and the family of Palermo.

Then, one evening, a married couple (parishioners) gave us their personal and genuine testimony of their love and personal conversion to Catholicism within their marriage. Their personal journey and resilient love for each other moved the youth and helped them discover love in a new way.

competitive games, and lots of songs. Then, we concluded the staycation by praying with a Christmas carol in front of the Nativity Scene in our Church. During the final sharing, the kids told others about their personal growth and their desire to continue to accept Christ's daily invitation to receive his life to the full and to be part of the fellowship of the ones He had called.

We praise the Lord for the precious gifts of these youth, and I ask you to pray for them through Our

Lady. May she protect them and form them with her maternal care, that they may enrich the Kingdom of her Son with their sanctity!

Fr. Emanuele Fadini, FSCB



The final evening was well prepared by the youth. Skits (myself roasted, as usual, but this time I could finally share my portion with Sr. Teresa!), fun, (very

PARISH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

8:00 am | Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle
8:15 am | School of Community (CL)*
8:50 am | Pro Life Rosary
10:15 am | Altar Server Training

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

8:30 am | School of Community (CL)*
11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary
11:00 am | RCIA
6:00 pm | GS/High School Youth Group
6:15 pm | Catholic Young Adults Group

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

10:30 am | ENDOW
1:00 pm | CGS Level 1 & 2
4:00 pm | CGS Level 2
6:30 pm | Catechetical School Class
6:30 pm | New Springtime Charismatic Prayer Group
6:30 pm | Spanish Prayer Group
7:30 pm | St. Joseph Men's Prayer Group

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

10:00 am | CGS Level 1
4:00 pm | CGS Level 1 Session 2
4:00 pm | Children's Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm | RE Grades 1-5
6:30 pm | Adult Catechism Study
6:30 pm | Venturers of the Star

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

5:30 am | St. Joseph Men's Group
12:30 pm | *Adult Bible Study—The Gospel of Mark: Faith Not Fear*
4:00 pm | RE Grades 1-5
6:00 pm | Stephen Ministry Training
6:00 pm | Boy Scouts Troop 766
7:30 pm | University Students (CLU)*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

8:15 am | ENDOW
12:00 pm | Eucharistic Adoration begins in the church
12:30 pm | Nativity Staff School of Community (CL)*
4:30 pm | CGS Special Needs
5:00-6:00 pm | Holy Hour with Confession
6:00 pm | Sacrament Preparation with Deacon Huan
6:00 pm | Music Ministry Rehearsal
6:00 pm | Stephen Ministry Gathering
6:30 pm | *Adult Bible Study—The Gospel of Mark: Faith Not Fear*
7:30 pm | School of Community (CL)*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

7:30 am | Men of Emmaus
9:00 am | ENDOW
9:00 am | School Used Uniform Sale
10:00 am | School of Community (CL)*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

8:00 am | Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle
8:15 am | School of Community (CL)*
8:50 am | Pro Life Rosary
9:00 am | Stephen Ministry Training
10:15 am | Eucharistic Minister Training

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH /GS



9TH-12TH GRADERS SUNDAYS, 6-9 PM

REGISTER

www.nool.us/high-school

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

8:30 am | School of Community (CL)*
10:30 am | JP2 Families Secretary Meeting
11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary
11:00 am | RCIA
6:00 pm | GS/High School Youth Group
6:15 pm | Catholic Young Adults Group

*(CL) Communion & Liberation

RESTORED ORDER 2024

— RECONCILIATION
— CONFIRMATION
— EUCHARIST

REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY, JANUARY 8

The Restored Order is when a baptized child—after making his or her First Reconciliation—is confirmed and also receives First Communion at the Confirmation Mass.

REQUIREMENTS:

— Candidates seeking the Restored Order must be a baptized Catholic who is 7 years or older. She or he must have two years of Faith Formation (first grade or up) within two years of receiving the sacraments.

— Candidates solely seeking Confirmation need to have one year of Faith Formation (first grade or up) within two years of receiving the sacraments.

— Faith Formation includes Religious Education classes, Nativity (or other) Catholic schooling, homeschool Religious Education, and Venturers of the Star Middle School group.

RESTORED ORDER CLASSES

Thursdays, 6:15–7:15 pm
February 8 & 15, 2024
March 14, 2024
April 11, 2024

Registration will open on
Monday, January 8, 2024 at

www.nool.us/restored-order

DAILY READINGS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Reading 1: 1 Jn 5:5-13
Psalm: 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20
Gospel: Mk 1:7-11
OR: Lk 3:23-38
OR: Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Reading 1: Is 60:1-6
Psalm: 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Reading 2: Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel: Mt 2:1-12

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

The Baptism of the Lord

Reading 1: Is 42:1-4, 6-7
OR: Is 55:1-11
OR: Acts 10:34-38
OR: 1 Jn 5:1-9
Psalm: 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
OR: Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6
Gospel: Mk 1:7-11

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

Reading 1: 1 Sm 1:9-20
Psalm: 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd
Gospel: Mk 1:21-28

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Reading 1: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20
Psalm: 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10
Gospel: Mk 1:29-39

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Reading 1: 1 Sm 4:1-11
Psalm: 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25
Gospel: Mk 1:40-45

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Reading 1: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a
Psalm: 89:16-17, 18-19
Gospel: Mk 2:1-12

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Reading 1: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1
Psalm: 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
Gospel: Mk 2:13-17

ACCESS CATHOLIC PROGRAMMING DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Register for free at
nool.formed.org

to access faithful Catholic content: award-winning studies, lectures, documentaries, audiobooks, movies, and family-friendly kids' programming.

For programs, events, and faith formation at Nativity, please visit:

www.nool.us

ANNULMENT ADVOCATES NEEDED

Nativity Parish is seeking volunteers to act as advocates for those seeking annulments. An advocate in the annulment process is a person who assists the petitioner in putting together their application to consider an annulment of their marriage. The type of work involved is mainly legal in nature, and therefore, ideal candidates for this volunteer opportunity would be retired lawyers, paralegals, or anyone with legal training and time available. The Archdiocese of Denver provides adequate training, which would be offered by video to anyone who is interested in this position.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Fr. Emanuele Fadini, FSCB at e.fadini@nool.us or after Mass.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK: RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

JANUARY 6–7, 2024

This weekend, there is a special collection supporting Retirement Fund for Religious. The Fund helps religious communities care for senior members—today and in the future. Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members. Our parish will be giving to this collection as part of our tithe. Nativity contributes 10% of our offertory collection each year to support ministries, charities, and special needs. We are able to support these because of the generous stewardship of our parishioners.

SAVE THE DATE:

**NATIVITY MEN'S
LENTEN RETREAT
MARCH 15–17, 2024
FRIDAY–SUNDAY
YMCA OF THE ROCKIES
ESTES PARK**

QUESTIONS? Contact:
Bob Patton at 720-883-1893 or
catholicmensgroup@nool.us

More details and registration information are coming soon.



SAVE THE DATE:

MISSA DE ANGELIS WORKSHOP

SATURDAY

JANUARY 20, 2024

AFTER THE 9:30 AM MASS

Enjoy coffee and light refreshments as Fr. Emanuele and Frederick Proulx explore the Missa de Angelis.

Gain some practical experience as you rehearse the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei!

Please sign up, so we can make sure to prepare enough coffee and food for all the attendees.

You can sign up at:

- www.nool.us/upcoming-events or
- www.nool.us/music or
- by scanning QR code

SIGN UP



If you have difficulties signing up, please ask a friend for help or stop by or call the front desk at **303-469-5171**.

CHRISTMAS GIVING

At Christmas, many people give an additional gift to the parish. To do so use the QR code or link here or the envelope in the pew. Thank you for your generosity.

ppay.co/1MlvNF9HF0k



WELCOME TO NATIVITY!

26 NEW FAMILIES IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023

- Jeff
- Joy & Michael
- Rosalva & Miguel
- Jackie & Joe
- Felicia & Gumercindo
- Jamie & Olivia
- Kelly, Alexander, Elliette & Maeve
- Londis
- Connie
- Antonio
- Alexis & Daniel
- Jennifer, Matthew & Hudson
- Susie
- Alli, Harry, Millie & Ryland
- Concetta, Joann & Pinella
- Linda
- Mary Jane & Willie
- Alyssa
- Maria-Concetta
- Beverly
- John
- Douglas, Sarah, Hazel, Dean & Heidi
- Melody
- Brandon
- Evelyn & Danilo
- Heather & Delancy

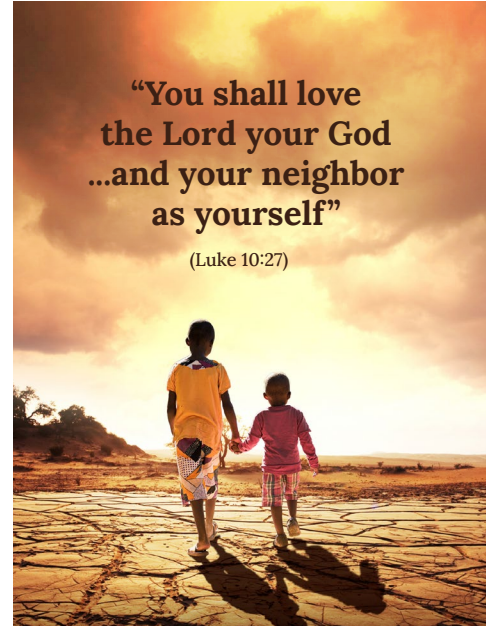
If you wish to register as a parishioner, go to:

www.nool.us
or scan the QR code



WHY BELONG TO A FAITH COMMUNITY?

"Our identity is one of belonging. To say 'I am Christian' means to say: 'I belong to the Church. I belong to this People with whom God established an ancient alliance that is always faithful.'" –Pope Francis



"You shall love the Lord your God ...and your neighbor as yourself"

(Luke 10:27)

A PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

**TUESDAY
JANUARY 16, 2024
7:00 PM**

**CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
12099 LOWELL BLVD
BROOMFIELD, CO**

All parishioners are invited to join in a prayer service for the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity! Nativity will be joining area churches, including Methodist, Anglican, Episcopal, United Church of Christ, and Lutheran, to celebrate our unity as Christians and to pray for still greater unity, "that all may be one" (John 17:21). The service will last approximately 45 minutes, and will be followed by a reception.

You are encouraged to bring a dessert pie to share, if able! No RSVP required.

QUESTIONS?
Please contact **Ilene DuBey** at i.dubey@nool.us.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE MOVEABLE FEASTS

After the Gospel at Masses this weekend, you will hear an interesting chant: the proclamation of the date of Easter and the other moveable feasts. This ancient practice dates from a time when calendars were not readily available. It was necessary to make known the date of Easter in advance, since many celebrations of the liturgical year depend on its date. The number of Sundays that follow Epiphany, the date of Ash Wednesday, and the number of Sundays that follow Pentecost are all computed in relation to Easter.

Although calendars now give the date of Easter and the other feasts in the liturgical year for many years in advance, the Epiphany proclamation still has value. It is a reminder of the centrality of the resurrection of the Lord in the liturgical year and the importance of the great mysteries of faith which are celebrated each year.

On the Epiphany of the Lord, after the singing of the Gospel, a Deacon or cantor, in keeping with an ancient practice of Holy Church, announces from the ambo the moveable feasts of the current year according to the following text. (The musical notation is found in Appendix I of the Roman Missal, Third Edition.)

"Know, dear brothers and sisters, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior.

On the 14th day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the 31st day of March you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 9th day of May will be the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 19th day May the Feast of Pentecost.

On the 2nd day of June, the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

On the 1st day of December, the First Sunday of the Advent of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory, forever and ever. Amen."



NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY THE GOSPEL OF MARK: FAITH NOT FEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 10/11, 2024

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four gospels, it is fast-moving, and action-packed. In the Gospel of Mark, we see Saint Peter's account of Christ's life and teaching because Saint Mark was the companion of Saint Peter. Because Mark's Gospel is read in the liturgy in 2024, this program will give you insights into the Sunday Gospel readings. Join us in this 14-part series led by Dr. Tim Gray on FORMED. The program includes weekly video presentation followed by small group discussion. We will finish this study the last week of April, 2024. You can sign up for one of the sessions below.

Wednesday Session, 1:00-2:30 pm
facilitated by Debbie Jones and Theresa Cooley OR

Thursday Session, 6:30-8:00 pm
facilitated by Steve Moser

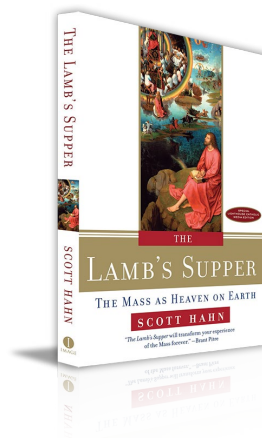
Register at:
www.nool.us/upcoming-events
or scan QR code.

Study guides are \$9 each,
payable upon registration.

REGISTER



LEARN HOW TO SING MISSA DE ANGELIS ON NATIVITY'S WEBSITE AT www.nool.us/music



TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

THE LAMB'S SUPPER: THE MASS AS HEAVEN ON EARTH

BEGINNING JANUARY 23, 2024 Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 pm

Beginning January 24, 2024, the Bible study group will discuss the book by Scott Hahn, *The Lamb's Supper—the Mass as Heaven on Earth*.

Of all things Catholic, there is nothing that is so familiar as the Mass. Yet most Catholics sitting in the pews on Sundays fail to see the powerful drama that unfolds in front of them. Pope John Paul II described the Mass as "Heaven on Earth," explaining that what "we celebrate on Earth is a mysterious participation in the heavenly liturgy." This new book will help readers see the Mass with new eyes, pray the liturgy with a renewed heart, and enter into the Mass more fully, enthusiastically, and intelligently.

Questions? Please email the facilitator, Cyndi Beckingham at dcbeckingham@msn.com.

Register at:
www.nool.us/upcoming-events
or scan QR code.

REGISTER



A SIMPLE WAY TO SUPPORT NATIVITY: FAITH & REASON LONGMONT MILK CAPS COLLECTION

The parish and school collect Longmont dairy milk caps as a fundraiser for the school. We get five cents for each milk cap. Please bring them to the school or parish office. Thank you!



BRING THEM HOME

THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF A PERSON IS A SACRED MATTER.

If you have a loved one's ashes that you've been meaning to bury but you cannot afford it, you can give them a dignified resting place at Mount Olivet Cemetery, free of charge. Families are invited to bring their loved ones and lay them in the *Crypt of All Souls*, with a special memorial Mass and committal service.

CALL 720-684-5270
www.cfscolorado.org

Below are the future dates for the committal service and interment in the Crypt of All Souls:

- January 17, 2024
- February 21, 2024
- March 20, 2024
- April 17, 2024
- May 15, 2024
- June 19, 2024
- July 17, 2024
- August 21, 2024
- September 18, 2024
- October 16, 2024
- November 20, 2024
- December 18, 2024



FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

This Sunday, we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord, which showcases the visit of the Magi. According to the gospel of Matthew, the Magi, or wise men, came from the East and brought gifts to honor the Christ child. These gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh showed reverence as the Magi humbly "prostrated" themselves before the great king. Later, the baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River and the miracle of Jesus changing the water into wine at Cana would also manifest the divinity of Christ. Reflecting on the feast of the Epiphany, what gifts can we bring in this New Year to honor the Christ child? What talents can we share to encourage our family, friends, and neighbors? Perhaps we can also seek the same light of wisdom that guided the Magi.

At this time, we would also like to celebrate the service of Deacon David Arling, who recently passed away. Deacon Dave used his talents wisely to build up our parish community. From the homilies he gave, the classes he taught, and the sharing of his deep love of Christ in his ministry as a deacon with our Nativity community, Deacon Dave encouraged our growth. We pray we will be inspired to honor Deacon Dave by radiating the same light of joy he gave to us all.

For more information on our local Nativity of Our Lord St. Vincent de Paul chapter and our mission to help the poor, see our Flocknote site at nool.flocknote.com/svdpvol.

FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY

Are You Experiencing a Winter in Your Life? Our Stephen Ministers Can Help!

The winter weather can be symbolic of what may sometimes happen in life. A crisis hits, and we feel like we're buried beneath a drift of snow. Relationships can become icy, or we can feel frozen by life circumstances. Little difficulties build up like slush, making us slip and slide, causing every decision to seem treacherous. Life seems dreary, and we begin to doubt that spring will ever come. We can wonder, "Is God even there?"

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential Christian care, giving you the emotional and spiritual support you need to make it through a winter in your life. To learn more about how a Stephen Minister can help you or someone you know, call our confidential hotline at 303-469-5171 x 113. One of our Stephen Leaders will respond within 24 hours. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you.



2024 SESSION FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 24 MARCH 2

If you have lost a spouse, a child, including pregnancy loss, a grandchild, a parent, another family member, or a friend, you are encouraged to attend Grieving with Great Hope. It is a grief support workshop series that offers a prayerful, practical, and personal approach for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one.

Video presenters include: Fr. Michael Suhy, Fr. John Ricardo, and John & Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry, a Catholic bereavement apostolate. Cost: \$10.00 for materials. Contact information: **Bridget Fross**, b.fross@nool.us. Register at:

www.nool.us/upcoming-events



THEY MARVELED

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
POPE FRANCIS | ANGELUS | SAINT PETER'S SQUARE
SUNDAY, DEC 31, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Gospel shows us the temple of Jerusalem, for the presentation of the Baby to the Lord (cf. *Lk* 2:22-40).

The Holy Family arrives in the temple bearing the humblest and simplest among the prescribed offerings as a gift, a testimony to their poverty. In the end, Mary receives a prophecy, “And a sword will pierce through your own soul” (v. 35). **They arrive in poverty, and set out again loaded with suffering.** This is surprising—but how is it that, the Family of Jesus, the only family in history who could boast of having God present in flesh and blood among them, instead of being rich, was poor! Instead of having things easy, it seems this family meets obstacles! Instead of being free from hardship, this family is immersed in tremendous sorrows!

What does this tell our families, the way the Holy Family lived their life, poor, facing obstacles, with such sorrow? It tells us something very beautiful: **God, whom we often imagine to be beyond problems, came to live our life with its problems.** He saved us in this way. **He did not come already an adult, but really little.** As the son of a mother and father, he lived in a family where he spent most of his time growing, learning, an everyday life, in hiddenness and silence. **And he did not avoid difficulties. Rather, in choosing a family, a family that was “expert in suffering,” he says this to our families, “If you are facing difficulties, I know what you are experiencing. I experienced it. I, my mother and my father, we experienced it so we can say to your family too: You are not alone!”**

Joseph and Mary “marveled at what was said about Jesus” (cf. *Lk* 2:33) because they

never would have thought that the elderly Simeon and the prophetess Anna would say these things. They marvel. I want to reflect on this today, on their ability to marvel. Being able to marvel is a secret for moving forward well as a family, not getting used to the ordinariness of things; knowing, instead how to marvel before God who accompanies us. And then marveling in our families. And I think it is good for couples to know how to marvel at one’s own spouse, taking him or her by the hand, for example, and looking the other tenderly in the eyes for a few seconds in the evening. Tenderly—marveling always brings us to tenderness. Tenderness is beautiful in a marriage. And then, to marvel at the miracle of life, of children, taking time to play with them and to listen to them. And I ask you, fathers and mothers: Do you find time to play with your children? To take them for a walk? Yesterday, I heard from someone on the telephone, and I asked her, “Where are you?” “Oh, I’m in the park. I brought my children for a walk.” This is a good parenting. And then, to marvel at the wisdom of grandparents: many times, we shut grandparents out of our lives. No, grandparents are a source of wisdom. Let us learn how to marvel at the wisdom of our grandparents, their stories. Grandparents bring us back to what is essential. Lastly, to marvel at our own story of love—each of us has our own, and the Lord made us walk in love—to marvel at this. And also, certainly, our lives have negative aspects. But marveling also at God’s goodness as he has walked with us, even though we are not such expert at it.



May Mary, Queen of the family, help us marvel. Today, let us ask for the grace of being able to marvel. May Our Lady help us marvel every day at what is good, and to know how to teach others the beauty of marveling.

Source: www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2023/documents/20231231-angelus.html

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MONDAY-FRIDAY | 8 AM-8 PM
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Recommended Christmas season readings:

- Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth. The Infancy Narratives* (Ignatius Press, 2012)
- Benedict XVI, *The Blessings of Christmas* (Ignatius Press, 2007)
- José Granados, *The Fifth Candle of Advent* (Disciples Books, 2012)
- Jean Daniélou, *The Infancy Narratives* (Cluny, 2022)
- John Henry Newman, *Waiting for Christ* (Augustine Institute, 2018)



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