



ST. JOSEPH PARISH & NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

PARISH NEWSLETTER

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St. Joseph Parish
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NOV 2021

Giving Trees Tradition to Continue, *Sharing the Love and Joy of Jesus with Our Community*

Pandemic restrictions or not, the Giving Trees at St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes will take place this year in the safest way possible.

Evelyn Caffarel of St. Joseph Parish and Diane Kirsch of Nativity are making plans to have the respective Giving Trees either traditionally, at the churches, virtually, or with some form of distancing. The decisions will be made as soon as it is known whether restrictions will continue. Evelyn and Diane ask their parishioners to refer to their Sunday bulletins for the announcements.

"I'm hoping that we can return to collecting needed items for each organization, but I'm betting on having a hybrid of both ways to offer for folks who may be more at risk for contracting the virus," Evelyn says. "We try to make it easy to participate in the ministry. Even children play a vital role in it."

"Last year, we held it, but I contacted people by phone I knew had donated, or others called me, and they dropped off items at the church hall," Diane says.

The Giving Tree traditionally is a Christmas tree placed in St. Joseph Church on the first Sunday of Advent, and in Nativity during Thanksgiving weekend. Ornaments are placed on the

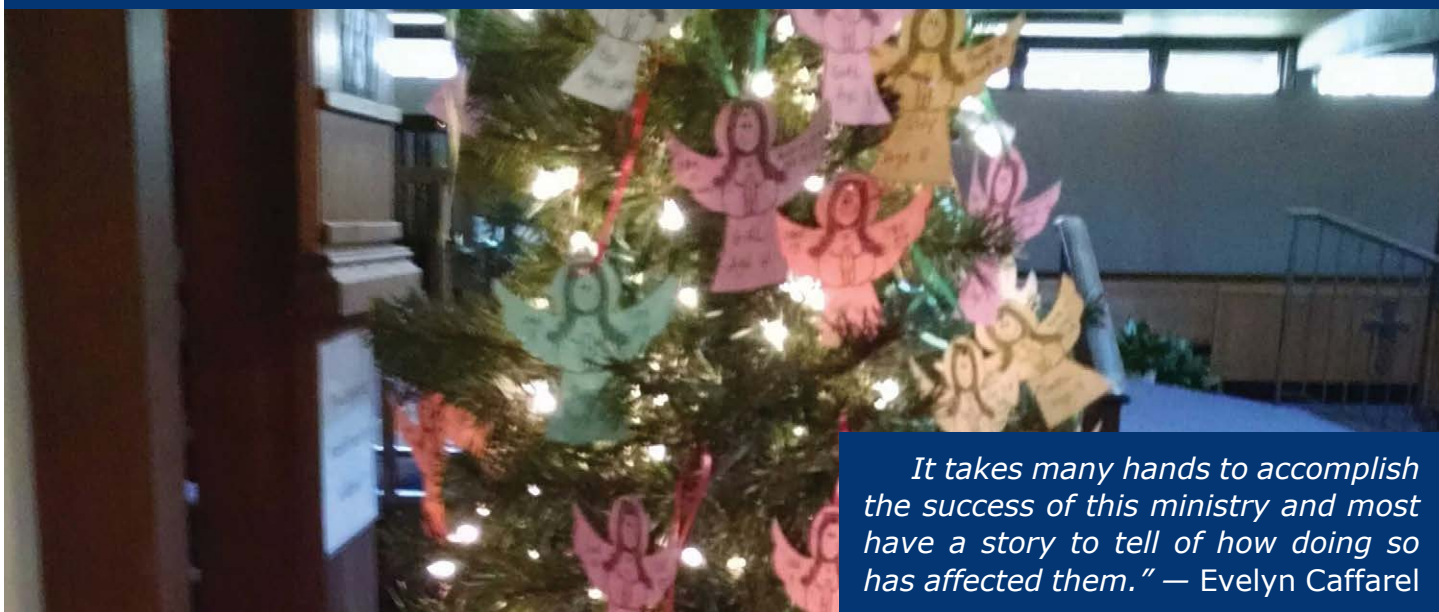


trees with gift requests. Parishioners take the ornaments from the trees, purchase the gifts, and return them in most cases to the church unwrapped.

St. Joseph Parish provides gifts to Birthright of Lorain County, Blessing House, Genesis House, Haven Center Homeless Shelter, and WIC of Lorain County. Nativity Parish provides gifts, typically toys and clothing, to St. Elizabeth Shelter in Lorain.

During last year's Giving Tree at St. Joseph, donors were asked to send checks or

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It takes many hands to accomplish the success of this ministry and most have a story to tell of how doing so has affected them.” — Evelyn Caffarel

Giving Trees Tradition *continued from front cover*

gift cards directly to the agencies. This prevented accounting difficulties for the parish office.

“It’s amazing to me, always how from the beginning, how generous people are and how much we can give to the service organizations and our whole county,” Evelyn says.

Under normal circumstances, Evelyn receives gift requests from each organization. The art teacher at St. Joseph School has the children make ornaments as an art project, and each organization is identified by a different color yarn on the ornaments. If a request is made to have the gifts on a particular ornament wrapped, Evelyn places a bead on the yarn.

“The little kids who do the ornaments will look for their ornaments on the tree,” Evelyn says. “We use them all.”

“We have the gifts boxed for each family,” Diane says of the Nativity donations. “I have plenty of help as our parish is very giving and willing to volunteer.”

The St. Joseph Giving Tree has been a tradition for 39 years, so it is important to keep the practice ongoing, despite any difficulties the pandemic might present.

“Members of our ministry often express how it affects them personally and are themselves grateful for the opportunity to help,” Evelyn says. “These include folks of all ages, from the little ones seeking out the ornament they colored for the tree, to those Confirmation students who help organize gifts for delivery, as well as the adults who supervise and pack and deliver gifts. It takes many hands to accomplish the success of this ministry and most have a story to tell of how doing so has affected them.”

As Evelyn and Diane note, this is a vibrant ministry in which many changes have occurred, but the mission has remained the same — to share the love and joy of Jesus with as many people as possible during the holiday season.

“The families are so appreciative,” Diane says. “They will write ‘thank you’ notes to us.”

Anyone with questions or who would like to volunteer may contact Evelyn Caffarel (St. Joseph) at 440-452-4361, and Diane Kirsch (Nativity) at 440-935-2301.

ST. JOSEPH & NATIVITY

A Letter from Our Pastor

GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR THE *Gift of Time*

Dear Members of St. Joseph and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes,

The next several weeks are certainly a busy time for us as Catholics, good stewards, good citizens, and faithful members of the Church and our parishes. There are celebrations and commemorations both inside and outside the Church that are momentous in terms of faith, citizenship, and living as people of thanksgiving and gratitude.

We celebrate Veterans Day on November 11 to honor and thank all those men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces in one capacity or another. Highlighting the importance of this day, every year at 11 A.M. Eastern, the President of the United States lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

We all understand that Americans celebrate a day of Thanksgiving on



Nov. 25. What more can we say about this? It is a day that was faith-based from its very beginnings, and it is an indication of how much we have to thank God for in terms of the gifts we have received — our lives, our families, our Church, our Lord and Savior — everything we are and everything we have.

No sooner are Thanksgiving Day celebrations concluded than we begin that glorious season called Advent on Sunday, Nov. 28. This prepares us for and leads to Christmas. Indeed, this is both a busy and extraordinary time of year! There is, of course, much more on which we could focus and about which we could think, meditate and pray, but this is more than enough for us to consider and absorb right now.

From a stewardship perspective, I would encourage you to not only par-

ticipate and focus on all the particular things that are about to happen, but also on one of our special gifts — the gift of time. The gift of time, which we all receive from God in an equal amount, is precious because it is a non-renewable resource. Although some of our time is committed because of family responsibilities, work and school responsibilities or simply personal needs, we have an element of freewill with how we spend a certain amount of it. We need to spend some of that time in prayer, in thanksgiving, in worship, and in works of mercy and ministry. Our time is perhaps more precious than any material gifts we receive from the Lord. How are we doing with that gift?

Gratefully in Christ,

Fr. Timothy J. O'Connor

Fr. Timothy J. O'Connor,
Pastor

Meet Ted and Kathy Litkovitz

Serving and Helping to Build a Strong Faith Community



Ted and Kathy Litkovitz have been members of the faith community for 55 years.

Ted and Kathy Litkovitz first met while bowling with a Catholic young adults group. They spent the evening with friends dancing by the jukebox and sharing Cokes. As Kathy puts it, “The rest was history.”

“We had a lot in common, and we were both Catholic and went to Catholic school,” Kathy says. “Our schools were less than a block away, and we never knew each other until that night. We were married a year later.”

Today, Ted and Kathy have been members of the faith community for 55 years. Their daughters attended the school as did their granddaughters, and one of their daughters

taught at the school for 14 years. In fact, Catholic school was always deeply important to them.

“We wanted to be in a younger parish with a school like the parishes we grew up in,” Kathy says. “They used to have Mass in the school gymnasium while building the new church, and I remember being pregnant and trying to walk across the ice in the parking lot alone. A man helped me in. We’ve just always felt at home here.”

While Kathy was expecting, she began teaching CCD classes, but she only taught for a year before their first daughter was born. Several years later, she taught in the preschool religious program when she had a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old, Rebecca and Amy, and then worked in the learning center while her daughters were at St. Joseph.

“Then they started these mini-classes for seventh and eighth-graders, so I taught cake decorating for years,” Kathy says. “All the students came to my home. Now they’re in their 40s and 50s, and they still tell me they’re decorating birthday cakes like we did.”

The most impactful experience for Kathy during her years of involvement with the parish came through her work with the Mary Stations, or the Stations of the Cross from the perspective of Mary. Together with a group of about 11 women, Kathy brought the Mary Stations to parishes all over the diocese and went to a nursing home and a county prison.

“It was an unbelievable experience and the pinnacle of my parish life,” Kathy says. “We stopped when the pandemic hit, and the group leader said we’ll see what happens during this coming Lent. In all the things I’ve ever volunteered in my life, this was the high point.”

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“Those who came before us created a beautiful school and a beautiful parish. Now we’re investing in the people coming after us, which is a responsibility that we all have.” — Kathy Litkovitz

Ted and Kathy Litkovitz *continued from page 4*

Ted's involvement in school and parish began in 1979 when he was asked by the school principal to help organize a parent's club with several other fathers.

"I was then elected president and held that position for three years," Ted says. "We organized fish fries, spaghetti dinners, and Las Vegas Nights. Las Vegas Nights were the biggest undertaking, and we even built felt tables. It made quite a bit of money for the school."

While his granddaughters were at the school, Ted volunteered in the library. In the parish, he is an active member of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Ted's biggest involvement with the parish was being a member of St. Joseph's Players for eight years.

"We hosted a variety show, built and painted backgrounds, and I performed on the stage," Ted says. "We had singing and skits. We also performed the Stations of the Cross during Lent in costume."

Over the years, Kathy and Ted have been models of stewardship for their children and grandchildren who have all been involved in different ways. Their grandsons, for example, are part of a group of boys in their parish who

act as pallbearers for community members who don't have anyone else.

"They have been involved in many things, and that's because they saw us doing that," Kathy says. "One daughter told me today that they were always proud of what we were doing at the church."

To take the first steps into a stewardship way of life, Ted recommends looking through the list of all the different opportunities there are for involvement. Then, choose just one thing and "jump in."

"It's an unexpected wonderful and spiritual experience doing these things with others," Ted says. "Take the plunge, and you'll get encouragement from other members of the group. Maybe visit with a friend who is involved and have a one-on-one conversation with them about possibilities."

Ted and Kathy believe that the future of the Catholic Church is in our young people, and investing in our church and school now is investing in the future of our parish.

"Those who came before us created a beautiful school and a beautiful parish," Kathy says. "Now we're investing in the people coming after us, which is a responsibility that we all have."

Bell Tower Rings out *Anew*



Our new bell tower was raised on the week of Sept. 27, and we were *blessed* to have the bells ringing again on Monday, Oct. 11.



ST. JOSEPH AMHERST FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Fund Balance Church, School & Cemetery

		Balance at June 30,	
		2021	2020
ASSETS			
CHECKING, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS			
Checking Account Balances	\$	171,725.59	\$ 289,756.72
Savings and Investment Account Balances		867,573.16	1,069,463.39
TOTAL CHECKING SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS		1,039,298.75	1,359,220.11
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		3,150.00	5,206.60
OTHER ASSETS		100.00	-
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	1,042,548.75	\$ 1,364,426.71
LIABILITIES			
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES			
Payable to Diocese of Cleveland	\$	-	\$ -
Other accounts payable and accrued expenses		2,197.49	199,214.64
TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES		2,197.49	199,214.64
INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCE		160,140.43	76,800.50
EMPLOYEE WITHHOLDING		(759.12)	902.88
DEFERRED RESTRICTED SUPPORT		6,123.27	6,123.27
LOANS, NOTES AND MORTGAGES PAYABLE		462,661.88	223,656.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES		630,363.95	506,697.29
FUND BALANCE			
FUND BALANCE BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR		857,729.42	1,161,510.05
Net Surplus (Deficit) for Fiscal Year			
Parish		(440,911.78)	(199,528.51)
School		(60,799.12)	(127,021.83)
Cemetery		56,166.28	22,769.71
Net surplus (deficit) for fiscal year		(445,544.62)	(303,780.63)
FUND BALANCE, END OF FISCAL YEAR		412,184.80	857,729.42
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$	1,042,548.75	\$ 1,364,426.71

Statement of Cemetery Revenue & Expenses

	Actual Year Ended June 30,		Budget
	2021	2020	Year Ending June 30, 2022
CEMETERY REVENUE	\$ 70,651.21	\$ 43,995.00	\$ 60,000.00
CEMETERY EXPENSE	14,484.93	21,225.29	20,000.00
NET CEMETERY SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ 56,166.28	\$ 22,769.71	\$ 40,000.00

ST. JOSEPH FINANCIAL REPORT continued from page 6

Statement of Church Revenue and Expenses

	Actual Year Ended June 30,		Budget Year Ending June 30,
	2021	2020	2022
CHURCH REVENUE			
Offertory Collections	\$ 818,321.14	\$ 806,653.48	\$ 835,000.00
Other Collections	6,069.94	7,350.35	6,200.00
Donations & Bequests	418,206.37	815,108.79	150,000.00
Net Bingo Proceeds	-	-	-
Net Fund Raising Income	-	-	-
Income from Parish Programs	17,584.15	14,313.81	19,000.00
Investment & Endowment Income (Loss)	108,326.29	36,959.35	110,000.00
Rental Receipts	-	3,230.00	-
Contributions from Parish Organizations	(8,572.01)	10,435.41	10,000.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	12,705.24	4,707.95	38,875.00
Designated Collections	15,495.53	7,732.58	16,000.00
Extraordinary Receipts	-	21,000.00	27,000.00
TOTAL CHURCH REVENUE	1,388,136.65	1,727,491.72	1,212,075.00
CHURCH EXPENSES			
Salaries, Benefits, & Taxes	350,979.09	392,180.42	399,602.00
Rectory & Household	3,492.58	4,179.41	4,000.00
Parish Office & Administration	68,274.19	43,366.08	55,500.00
Altar, Sanctuary, & Liturgical	14,899.22	10,215.31	35,000.00
Community Outreach	-	5,440.44	-
Religious Education	2,888.06	6,914.36	9,700.00
Stewardship & Evangelization	60,654.04	45,068.32	55,000.00
Utilities	43,988.87	41,845.48	42,000.00
Insurance & Property Taxes	15,911.59	38,640.28	16,311.00
Maintenance, Repairs, & Plant Operating	9,818.61	15,760.04	10,200.00
Diocesan Assessments	46,380.00	152,100.00	92,760.00
Payments to Other Schools	-	3,000.00	-
Designated Collections	15,495.53	7,732.58	16,000.00
Capital Expenditures	1,015,313.65	973,272.51	222,500.00
Intra Parish Transfers & School Support	180,953.00	187,305.00	185,000.00
Extraordinary Expenses	-	-	-
TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES	1,829,048.43	1,927,020.23	1,143,573.00
NET CHURCH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ (440,911.78)	\$ (199,528.51)	\$ 68,502.00

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ST. JOSEPH FINANCIAL REPORT continued from page 7

Statement of School Revenue & Expenses

	Actual Year Ended June 30,		Budget Year Ending June 30,
	2021	2020	2022
SCHOOL REVENUE			
Tuition & Fees (Includes Tuition Assistance)	\$ 524,044.11	\$ 537,124.46	\$ 542,000.00
Government Assistance	64,072.83	56,619.02	70,000.00
Donations & Bequests	46,493.83	24,147.50	20,000.00
Net Fund Raising	21,805.99	34,554.18	35,000.00
Net Pre-School & Latchkey	(29,781.05)	(33,023.58)	(26,795.00)
Other Student Receipts	64,043.13	35,271.79	67,000.00
School Support from Parish	180,953.00	187,305.00	185,000.00
Interest & Endowment Income	-	-	-
Other Income	1,311.75	315.54	3,000.00
TOTAL SCHOOL REVENUE	872,943.59	842,313.91	895,205.00
SCHOOL EXPENSES			
Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	758,770.89	737,961.35	775,360.00
Instructional	10,610.27	11,335.29	9,500.00
Library & Technology	1,043.31	2,338.18	500.00
Utilities	41,157.83	40,615.56	42,000.00
Maintenance, Repairs & Plant Operating	25,495.78	14,770.44	11,142.00
Insurance & Property Taxes	13,652.54	36,397.54	14,055.00
Student Services	39,650.00	23,730.89	35,500.00
Administration	34,208.17	33,381.74	29,000.00
Faculty Residence/Convent Costs	1,027.67	1,809.41	950.00
Capital Expenditures	8,126.25	66,995.34	11,600.00
Extraordinary Expenses	-	-	-
TOTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES	933,742.71	969,335.74	929,607.00
NET SCHOOL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ (60,799.12)	\$ (127,021.83)	\$ (34,402.00)



NATIVITY B.V.M. CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year — July 1 to June 30

Income and Expense Statement and Related Information

	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020		
Registered Households	303	325		
Registered Persons	943	986		
	This Year	This Year	Percent Diff	Budget
Revenue	2020-2021	2019-2020		2021-2022
Offertory Collections/Bequests	\$118,472	\$130,155	-8.98%	\$116,500
Designated Collections	3,113	2,916	6.76%	3,000
Interest & Investment Income	34,906	7,275	379.81%	9,000
Steak Fry/Dinners to go	18,217	13,360	36.35%	10,000
Rental Income	750	3,382	-77.82%	700
Other Donations & Misc. Income	2,856	2,125	34.40%	4,500
Maintenance and Upkeep Env	22,860	7,447	206.97%	15,000
Total Revenue	\$201,174	\$166,660	20.71%	\$158,700
Expenses:				
Salaries - Clergy	\$22,075	\$20,170	9.44%	\$22,970
Salaries - Lay	34,025	36,346	-6.39%	34,700
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	17,319	16,782	3.20%	16,895
Office Expense	5,173	7,280	-28.95%	6,275
Household		0		
Altar Supplies	4,837	7,426	-34.86%	3,950
Misc. Expense	5,172	7,324	-29.38%	2,414
Utilities	12,888	15,512	-16.92%	13,100
Maintenance & Supplies & Repairs	19,666	13,281	48.07%	10,366
Property Tax and Insurance	12,823	6,299	103.57%	9,300
Stewardship	14,554	11,057	31.63%	14,000
Diocesan Assessments	21,686	21,244	2.08%	21,000
Designated Collections	3,113	2,916	6.76%	3,000
Total Expenses	173,331	165,638	4.64%	157,970
Net from Normal Operating	\$27,843	\$1,022		\$730
Capital Expenses				
Kitchen Repairs/Replacement		4,403		
Roof Repairs		5,395		
Upper Church Roof Replacement				58,000
Total Capital Expenses	0	9,798	-100.00%	58,000
Total Expenses	\$173,331	\$175,436	-1.20%	\$215,970
Net Income over Expenses	\$27,843	(\$8,776)	-417.26%	(\$57,270)
Contributions to roof and HOS				\$57,270
Net				\$0
Year End Balances	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020		
Checking/Savings Account B	\$84,991	\$34,050		
Investments	\$123,757	\$146,855		
Total	\$208,748	\$180,905		

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This newsletter brought to you by the Catholic Communities of:

& ST. JOSEPH PARISH **NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH**

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200 Saint Joseph Drive, Amherst, OH 44001

Address Service Requested

Fr. Tim O'Connor Serving Both Parishes

Mass:

Monday, 9:00 a.m. - *St. Joseph*
Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. - *Nativity of the BVM*
Thursday, 7:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*
Friday, 9:00 a.m. - *St. Joseph*
Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*
5:30 p.m. - *Nativity of the BVM*
Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*

Confession at St. Joseph:

Thursday - Individual Reconciliation 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday - Individual Reconciliation 11:00 a.m. - noon

Eucharistic Adoration (Chapel) at Nativity of the BVM:

Monday-Friday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Upcoming Activities and Events

All Saints Day

Monday, Nov. 1 – Mass at 9 a.m.,
not a Holy Day of Obligation this year

All Souls Day

Tuesday, Nov. 2 – Mass at 8 a.m.,
not a Holy Day of Obligation

Altar and Rosary Society Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 2 – 6:30 p.m., Nativity Parish Hall

First Friday Rosary

Friday, Nov. 5 – 11 a.m., Nativity Parish

First Saturday Rosary

Saturday, Nov. 6 – 9 a.m., St. Joseph Church

Parent Club Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 9 – 7 p.m., School Gymnasium

Wonderful Women Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 9 – 7 p.m., St. Joseph Social Hall

Vincentians Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 11 – 9 a.m., Conference Room

Early Dismissal at School

Thursday, Nov. 11 – 1:15 p.m.,
Parent-Teacher Conferences

NO SCHOOL

Friday, Nov. 12 – Parent-Teacher Conferences

Immersion 7/8 meeting

Friday, Nov. 12 – 7 p.m., at the Convent

Immersion Nerf Gun Night

(For High School Immersion only)

Saturday, Nov. 13 – 7 p.m., at the Convent

Heart of the Shepard Campaign

Commitment weekend

Saturday, Nov. 20 and Sunday, Nov. 21

Immersion High School Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 21 – 12 p.m. at the Convent

Nurses Health and Wellness Lab Screening

Sunday, Nov. 21 – 8-11:30 a.m.,
St. Joseph Social Hall Lobby

NO SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING BREAK

Monday, Nov. 22 – Friday, Nov. 26

Knights of Columbus Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 23 – 7 p.m., Art Room

Parish Offices Closed

Wednesday Nov. 24 – Friday, Nov. 26

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, Nov. 28 – Mass at regular times

R.C.I.A. Meetings

Mondays, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – 7 p.m.,
Nativity Parish Hall

Dinners on the Go

Tuesday, Nov. 9 and 23 – 5 p.m. pick-up,
Nativity Parish

Men's Group Meetings

Tuesdays, Nov. 2, 16 – 7 p.m.,
St. Joseph Social Hall

PSR Classes

Wednesdays, Nov. 3, 10, 17 – 5:30 p.m.,
St. Joseph School (No class on Nov. 24)

Youth Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays, Nov. 3, 10, 17 – 6 p.m.,
St. Joseph Church (No rehearsal on Nov. 24)

Teen and Adult Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays, Nov. 3, 10, 17 – 7:15 p.m.,
St. Joseph Church (No rehearsal on Nov. 24)

Study Group for Consecration to St. Joseph

Wednesdays, Nov. 3, 10, 17 – 7 p.m.,
Nativity Parish Hall (No meeting on Nov. 24)