



# NATIVITY OF OUR LORD PARISH, DURYEA

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Nativity of Our Lord Duryea

Rev. Michael M. Bryant *Pastor*

Deacon André Kabacinski, *Parish Deacon*

Masses: Daily, M-T-W-F 7:00am Thursday 6:30pm • Saturday (Vigil)- 4:00 pm • Sunday- 8 & 11am, & 7pm

Confession: Daily, M-T-W-F~6:40-6:55am; Thur. - 6:10-6:25pm • Sat. 3:15-3:45pm, & anytime upon request.



❖ February 16, 2025

❖ THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

❖

*An Ordinary Reflection-*

## The Bridge to Blessed Hope

The refrain of this Sunday's Responsorial Psalm is "Blessed are they who hope in the Lord." The psalm we sing is made up of some initial verses of Psalm 1, which speak of the difference between *the wicked* and *the just*. The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah offers a contrast between *the cursed* and *the blessed*. We also have in St. Luke's Gospel a comparison of those who are *blessed* by God and those whose lives are filled with *woe*. Each of these sacred authors, as usual, do not take us far from the realities of the world we live in. Yet, even though our ancestor's worlds were very different then ours, they too felt the gaps we experience in today's society.



In particular, Jeremiah is concerned with how we live our lives spiritually in the midst of the cursedness of life. He envisions a spiritual life that could be filled with abundance and one that is filled with drought. The direction of how we live spiritually is guided by one single thing - our trust and hope in God. How can we possibly discover the path which God wants us to follow, if we don't allow ourselves to trust, even at times when it seems hopeless, that God's graces always can set us free?

St. Luke also wants us to be aware spiritually how God generously blesses us. He also takes it a step farther as he offers us Jesus' beatitudes or blessings. Luke places Jesus on a plain with our lives. Jesus not only touches our spiritual parts, he is also grounded very much in the worldly pieces of our daily lives. The way Luke presents Jesus' beatitudes is much more stark. He wants his listeners to be aware that in the midst of the sometimes woefulness of our economic and social realities - God's eyes are ever upon us!

There are many times in the messiness of our lives and the perceived wickedness of certain elements of our lives, that we become very negative about the possibility of change or finding a way to be just. Sometimes, it even seems a lot easier to "throw in the towel" than to be that blessed person we were

created to be. Maybe this is what Pope Francis means when he invites us in this Jubilee year to be "pilgrims of hope."

Pilgrims are searching disciples. Recognizing what is missing in their lives, pilgrims want to rebuild that which has been forgotten or lost. The inspiration of their search is hope. Hope is much bigger than optimism. Optimism easily gets minimalized. With the fracture of one more calculation we make about how life is supposed to be, we easily allow our woe to be absorbed by the cursed and the wicked.

As Tim Muldoon writes in the podcast [IgnatianSpirituality.com](http://IgnatianSpirituality.com) from Loyola Press, "Hope is neither optimism nor starry-eyed idealism. It is God's gift to us, that we might cooperate with God to make the world better. *It is God's heart speaking back to our own*, offering us new ways of imagining how to overcome evil with good (cf. Romans 12:21)." Let us then let our hearts become the bridges to blessed hope.

-Fr. Michael



Questions for reflection based on this Sunday's readings:

- ▶ Jeremiah 17:5-8 ~ Cursed are those whose hearts turn away from God.
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15: 12,16-20 ~ Christ has been raised from the dead.
- ▶ Luke 6:17,20-26 ~ The Beatitudes.

What about my life is Jesus calling me to change so that I may be blessed?  
If I have plenty of money, food and happiness, what can I do to be blessed??

LITURGICAL CALENDER, DEVOTIONS, AND INTENTIONS  
FOR FEB 17-23RD, 2025

Mon	17	<i>The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order</i>	7:00am	Richard Slatky ( by Joe & Susan Doxbeck)
Tue	18	<b>Weekday</b>	7:00am	Elizabeth & John Zujkowski (by Dolores Klink)
Wed	19	<b>Weekday</b>	7:00am	Sr. Stephanie Olek (by Romayne Schafka)
Thu	20	<b>Weekday</b>	6:30pm	Mary Ann Nese (by Stan & Dorice Oliveri)
Fri	21	<i>St. Peter Damian, Bp. &amp; Dr of the Church</i>	7:00am	Shirley Baldauff (by Diane Orlowski)
Sat	22	<i>The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle</i>	4:00pm	John, Theresa & John Jr. Adamiak (by Kim Adamiak)
Sun	23	<b>THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8:00am 11:00am 7:00pm	Annette & Chester Symosh (by Michelle & Barry Long) Dolores Lampman (by Sharri Dructor ) For the Intentions of the Parishioners
VOTIVE CANDLES OFFERINGS				
Sacred Heart of Jesus		Harry Berger (by family)		
Blessed Virgin Mary		Richard Slatky (by Joe & Susan Doxbeck)		
Saint Joseph		A Special Intention (by Fumanti family)		

Upcoming events...

F E B R U A R Y

**16 Sunday**

-9am Pierogi Making

**17 Monday - Presidents Day**

-office closed

**20 Thursday**

-Education Gift Cert., 8-10am

-Grief Support, 1:00pm; 7:00pm

**23 Sunday**

-Orders Due for Pre Lent pierogi sale

**26 Wednesday**

- Pre-Lent pierogi pick up from 3-6pm

M A R C H

**4 Tuesday-** Men's Society meeting @6:30pm

**5 ASH WEDNESDAY - Lent Begins**

**FINANCES AND ONGOING STEWARDSHIP:** For the period ending Feb 11: SUNDAY TOTAL \$4,997.00;  
Sunday \$3,527.00 (\$754.00 OL); Other Envelopes \$1,145.00 (\$240.00 OL); Loose \$325.00;

**This Sunday's Second Collection will be our parish response to the collection for the Church in Latin America.**

**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL: 2024 GOAL \$44,982.00 So Far: \$45,896.00 ... 102.03 %!**

**Thank You, and may God bless your wonderful generosity!**

## LENTEN PIEROGI

We are making Pierogi to help with your Lenten meatless meal plans. Pierogi will be available for **\$10.00 a dozen**, frozen and bagged. Orders are limited to **2-Dozen per customer**, and orders will be taken on a first come, first serve basis until Sunday, February 23rd, or until supplies run out. **Pick-up Date and Times:** Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at the Church Hall.

### LENTEN PIEROGI 2025 Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Pierogi:  1 Dozen  2 Dozen

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Nativity of Our Lord Parish.

Office use... Order # \_\_\_\_\_ LB: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ CASH or CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

## Save The Dates



### WE AWAIT THE BLESSED HOPE

Nativity of Our Lord Parish Retreat  
March 25-26-27

#### SOUP AND SPIRITUALITY

Beginning in Lent and ending in Easter time. Delicious Homemade Soups followed by a conversation around...

"Are You Good Enough Yet?"

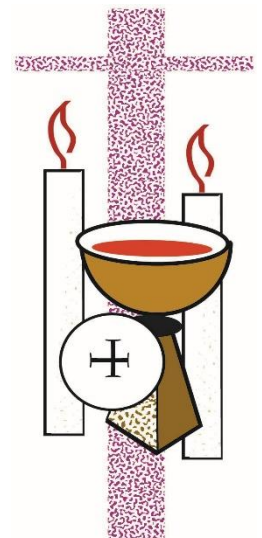
written by Fr. Joe Kempf - a book for Perfectionists and all who try too hard and worry too much, instead of believing that we are worthy of peace and are good enough just as we are.

Tuesdays 5:30-7:00 - March 11,18,

April 1, 29, May 6 & 13

Contact Parish Office (570-457-3502)

to make Reservations for 6 sessions.





**WITH PARISH SYMPATHY** Prayers are requested for William Lavelle whose funeral services were held this past week. And for Stanley Piontek whose funeral will take place on Monday. May the Holy Spirit give comfort to their families and friends, as we commend them to the care of our most merciful Savior in the house of our God.

COME TO ME,  
ALL WHO ARE  
*wearry &  
heavy-*  
*laden* AND I WILL  
GIVE YOU REST.  
MATTHEW 11:28

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION:** Sunday, February 16th, Morning classes 9:45-10:45am 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades. Evening Classes 5:15-6:45pm 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grades.



#### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

We invite any members of the community who may have experienced a loss to come on Thursday Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, either at 1:00pm or 7:00pm

depending on your schedule or preference. The gathering is open to all faiths, both parishioners and non-parishioners. If you or someone you know is experiencing grief, please come and find support in a compassionate, understanding environment. To reserve your spot, please call the rectory at 570-457-3502 with your time preference. We look forward to being a source of comfort and strength during this time of healing. To reserve your spot please call the rectory 570-457-3502 with your time preference.

**CEO FOOD PANTRY COMMUNITY SERVICE:** our next food pantry volunteer opportunity is Wednesday, February 19th, 5-7PM, at the CEO Food Pantry, 185 Research Drive, Pittston. Please call the rectory at 570-457-3502 for further information or to volunteer.

**NIGHT AT THE RACES** sponsored by the Holy Rosary School PTO, Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Doors open at 5, Races begin at 6. To sponsor a race (\$50.00), purchase a Horse (\$10.00), for other inquires or to reserve your spot, please call the school at 570-457-3502.



**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (I.S.L.I.) ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:** Do you want to grow deeper in your faith? Do you want to refine your leadership skills from a faith-based perspective? Do you want to form new friendships? Consider attending ISLI! The International Student Leadership Institute (ISLI) is a peer-facilitated, faith-based leadership retreat designed by Father Thomas Chambers C.S.C. at the University of Notre Dame. The organization was designed to help young people enhance and expand their leadership aptitude. The retreat will be held March 21st-23rd at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton, PA. The cost for first time participants is \$200.00, which includes meals, housing accommodation, and retreat materials. Nativity of our Lord Parish will assist with this

expense for our youth. Consider registering today at [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org) under the tab "International Student Leadership Institute 2025" by March 10th, 2025.

#### IN THE COMMUNITY:

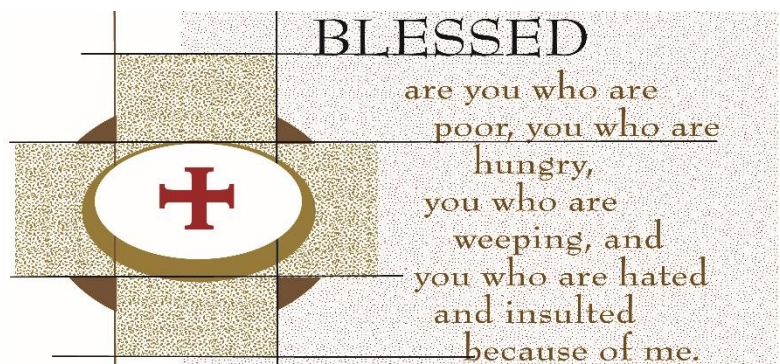
**AT GERMANIA HOSE COMPANY, DURYEA** ● take out Breakfast today (Sunday), from 8:00am to 12:00 pm. The cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children. Thank you for your support and hope to see you there.

**AT PRINCE OF PEACE, Old Forge** ● **CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS** on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Prayers for healing will be prayed over individuals after Mass. Everyone is invited and especially those who need prayers for both spiritual and physical healing. ● **MARDI GRAS:** Saturday March 1st 6:30 pm – 10pm at Arcaro & Genell Banquet Room Main St. Old Forge. Tickets are \$35 per person ADULTS ONLY Includes Hors Oeuvres and a Sit-Down Dinner with a choice of Beef, Chicken, or Fish, Beer, Wine and Soda Included, accepting reservations for tables of 8 or 10. Reserve your seats early Tickets go on sale Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup>. For reservations call the rectory 570-457-5900. Payment is due with reservation. Entertainment by "The Dynamic Duo"

**AT SACRED HEART, DUPONT** ● **A Polish Lenten Food Sale** will be held on Ash Wednesday, March 5, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the garage behind the Sacred Heart of Jesus Rectory, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont. Homemade foods include potato pancakes (*placki* - \$20 a dozen), fried cabbage and noodles (*haluski* - \$10 a quart, \$5 a pint) and homemade meatless soups (\$12 a quart). Our homemade fresh food will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Pierogi will also be available!

**AT ST. JOSEPH MARELLO, PITTSTON** ● **BIG PRIZE BINGO:** Sunday, March 30, with doors opening at 12:30pm; games beginning at 2pm. Prizes include home goods, outdoor items, purses and several CASH PRIZES. Tickets for this bingo will cost \$25 when purchased in advance or \$30 if purchased at the door (if tickets are still available). Bingo tickets include entrance and 20 regular games. Special games will be available for purchase, along with additional regular games, Bingo dabbers and other fun extras. Food and beverages will be available. For tickets or more info, please call the Parish Office at 570-654-6902.

**CATHOLIC CHORAL SOCIETY SCHEDULES LENTEN CONCERT** In a 75-year tradition of inspiring prayer and meditation through music, the CCS will present their annual Lenten Concert at St. Joseph Marelllo Church, 237 William Street, Pittston, PA, on Sunday, March 9th at 4PM. The concert will also feature the combined parish choirs of St. Joseph Marelllo and St. John the Evangelist. The concerts are open to the public free of charge. There will be a good will offering. Further information may be obtained by calling 570-575-1040 and also at [www.catholicchoralsociety.org](http://www.catholicchoralsociety.org).





*This Bulletin is printed in Loving Memory of...*



John A., Theresa and John Jr. Adamiak	Alfred and Judith Akulonis	Anthony and Helen Akulonis	Baranoski, Gregorczyk, Janczyk, Polukard and Negvesky Families	Peter and Victoria Biga Mary Soltysiak	Thomas and Stella Blasco
William, Ann, Gerard Brady Edward, Agnita, Claire Linskey	Ann Brudzinski	Frank & Regina Callis Zielinski and Callis Families	Chelland Family	Louis Robert Cremard Catherine and Louis Cremard	Irene DeAngelo Rev. Andrew J. Marcinko M/M Andrew Marcinko
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Olszewski, Skowronski and Zoltowski Families	Bernard J. and Theresa Ostrosky	Teresa Ramiza Pace Loretta, Steve & Michael Haluschak, Anthony Pace	Walter F. Perhalla	Micheline & Anthony Perkowski, Stella Hoffman A.Perkowski Family	Stanley A. and Mary Piontek Robert and Ruth Walsh
Stanley & Stella Rava and Family	Rincavage, Billick and Galinas Families	Anthony & Helen Rincavage and Anthony Singer	Michael and Irene Rostkowski Mark Rostkowski	Jess L. & Beatrice Rutkoski	Victor I. Salidas. Anna Salidas Victor J. Salidas
Thomas and Florence Skowronski Wascavage Family Edward A. Jones	Catherine and Bruno Smicherko	Mary and Joseph Solarchik	Margaret Stanavage and Son, Ronnie	George Strus	Joseph Sr., Bertha, Ronald, Francis and Joseph Swenton, Jr. & Michael Matiko
Dominic G. Toraldo	Jacob J. & Pauline M. Vitek and Theresa M. Vitek	Earl & Marion Vrabel and Michael & Grant Larronde	Michael and Jean Wasko	Don Wasta	Vincent & Mary Waszczak Marion and Cathy Bryk
Gertrude and Loretta Yachna & Deceased Yachna Family	<i>Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.</i>			Margaret Yauk and Romayne Solarchik	Zujkowski, Pribula, Klink and Nasiatka Families

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