

# *Nativity of Our Lady Catholic Church*

130 N. Richelieu Circle • New Iberia, LA 70560

Phone: (337) 364-8360 • Email: nativity@ni.brcoxmail.com

Website: www.nativityni.org

## **MASS SCHEDULE:**

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am

Weekdays:

5:30 pm (Tuesday and Thursday)

9:00 am (Wednesday) 6:30 am (Friday)

## **OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday: 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Wednesday: 9:30 am — 5:00 pm

Thursday: 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am — 12:00 pm

(Closed daily from 12:00 pm — 1:00 pm for Lunch)

## **PASTOR:**

*Rev. Msgr. J. Robert Romero*

## **SACRAMENTAL MINISTER:**

*Fr. Ed Degeyter*

## **SECRETARY:**

*Kimberly Richard*

## **BOOKKEEPER:**

*Polly Camacho*

## **RECEPTIONIST:**

*Sheryl S. Bourque*

## **DIRECTOR OF FAITH**

## **FORMATION:**

*Janet Viator — 337-365-3759*

## **YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT**

## **COORDINATOR:**

*Amber Salsman*

## **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**PRESIDENT:** *Barbara Breaux*

## **RECONCILIATION:**

Saturday: 3:00 pm — 3:45 pm and  
30 minutes before weekday Masses

## **ROSARY:**

Wednesday: 8:20 am (*Pro-Life*)

First Saturday: 8:20 am



## Mass Intentions for the Week

**Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

**5:30pm** Nicholas Viator (28<sup>th</sup> ann. of death)  
Landon Burton (liv)

**Wednesday, January 22 2025**

**9:00am** Ernest “Topper” Breaux, Patrick Richard  
Carrol Romero, Sr., Rudy Delcambre  
Joe & Pearl Jabbia

**Thursday, January 23, 2025**

**5:30pm** Larry Delcambre (ann. of death)  
Rudy Delcambre  
John & NeCole Babin (liv)

**Friday, January 24, 2025**

**6:30am** Special Intention, Larry Schmidt (bd)  
The Cloistered Heart Community (liv) & (dec)

**Saturday, January 25, 2025**

**4:00pm** Fr. Tom Finley, Judy Ramirez  
Rachel R. Romero, Peggy T. Lancon  
Jules & Leona Broussard

**Sunday, January 26, 2025**

**8:00am** Parishioners, Carroll Aucoin  
**10:00am** Msgr. H.J. Barsen, Fr. A.J. Boumans  
Harvey & Joyce DeCourt, Donna M. Lanza

### SANCTUARY LIGHT:

In Honor of:  
***The Bourque Family***



### WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED Holy Days

**Question:** Why do some dioceses move holy days, or not even celebrate them at all. Doesn't everyone do the same thing?

**Answer:** The short answer is no, not everyone does the same thing. Although the church is universal, there are many local customs and saints that each country, sometimes just a region, will honor. For example, feast days and patronal days may not be major feast days on the church's universal calendar, but are celebrated as such in one place. Holy days of obligation are the same way. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has a certain amount of discretion in choosing days which best reflect the local church's experience and history.

Another reason certain feasts are moved is a practical one. With limited clergy, or a great difficulty for people to get to Mass, the feast day may be transferred to a Sunday. The rationale is that if a significant feast should be part of the church's celebration, then better to do so on a Sunday when people and clergy are available, rather than try to fit it on a day when one or both cannot be there.

Christmas and Immaculate Conception are always observed as days of obligation. In the USA we celebrate six holy days of obligation. There are also other special days and they are ranked, in order of importance as solemnity, feast, memorial and optional memorial. ©LPi

**We are a sacrificial giving Parish,  
giving of our Time, Talent and Treasure:**

OUR GIFTS TO GOD	January 5, 2025
Loose .....	\$ 1,066.00
Envelopes .....	\$ 1,676.00
Total (collected) .....	\$ 2,742.00
Online Giving offertory .....	\$ 2,483.00
Mailed in offertory .....	\$ 1,370.00
Total offertory (week).....	\$ 6,595.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$ 3,168.00

**Thank you for your generosity!!!!**

Nativity of Our Lady is hosting a  
**RECEPTION FOR FR. ED IN HONOR OF  
HIS 55<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION**  
following the 9am Mass on Wed, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
Please bring your favorite continental breakfast  
items or finger foods. Please call Margo LeBlanc  
if you have any questions, 380-3319.

**Nativity of Our Lady Says - Thank You  
We Love Our Volunteers & Appreciate You**

### PRACTICING CATHOLIC RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman Do Whatever He Tells You

I once ran out of pizza at my kid's birthday party. Everyone told me it wasn't a big deal but come on. It was a disaster. I had invited all these people over. They showed up with presents and sang "Happy Birthday" and stood around patiently while my kid ripped through his cache of gifts. The very least they were expecting was to be fed sufficiently.

I'll tell you what, I sure could have used the Blessed Mother that night.

I love the story of the wedding at Cana because it's such a silly little miracle. I don't mean to be disrespectful — of course it's an incredibly important moment in Christ's public life. But it's not healing a leper. It's not raising the dead. It's not even walking on water. It's saving a young couple from embarrassment.

I think sometimes we forget, or even refuse, to bring small concerns and inconveniences to God because we think we should be able to handle them on our own. What a ridiculous attitude that is — as if we could handle anything on our own. It's so fitting that Mary, ever the observant Mother, is the one to bring the matter to Jesus' attention. He asks her what this problem has to do with him. She doesn't answer him, because, between you and me, I don't think he's asking her. I think he's asking us. All she does is tell the waiters what I consider to be the best piece of advice in all of Scripture: "Do whatever he tells you."

I'm so quick to throw up my hands and feel sorry for myself when I encounter a barrier in my life. What I should be doing is taking the matter to God, and then doing whatever He tells me. @LPi

**GROW AS A DISCIPLE  
PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE**

**GROW: Pop quiz:** What was the name of the bride and groom at the wedding in today's Gospel? If you're unsure, you're not alone; the bridegroom is mentioned only in passing and the names of the newlyweds are not recorded at all in Scripture. Instead, the most prominent man in the account is Jesus; the most prominent woman is his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. In light of today's first reading, this apparent omission begins to make sense. "As a young man marries a virgin," the prophet Isaiah writes, "your Builder shall marry you." Jesus is the "Builder" of the universe, the Word through whom all things were created. Mary, whom Jesus calls "Woman," stands as a representative of the Church. This image of God as Bridegroom of his people, common throughout the Old Testament, thus takes on its full significance in Christ. He is the Bridegroom who will "wed" himself to his Church irrevocably when he offers his life for her on the cross.

**GO EVANGELIZE  
PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

**GO:** It is clear that Scriptures give us many "stories behind the stories" – a sort of "visible invisible" as we see with today's Gospel of the Wedding at Cana. What we think is happening, and who we assume are the main characters, are important and yet also diminished beside the infinite and eternal, self-sacrificing love of God. How much of our own lives contains such stories of God's immense and great love for us, behind the scenes that play out day to day? The Lord gives us all good gifts, and he uses them to help us see, know, understand and love him. The smallest moment, or the most important detail, may not be recorded or remembered, but the generosity and irrevocable love of God will never fade and will always sustain us.

**JOURNAL:** Although God's love for *us* never diminishes, *we* sometimes struggle to maintain the enthusiasm of our earliest encounters with him. This week, create a spiritual "photo album" you can use to remind yourself of God's blessings in your life. Recall pivotal moments in your spiritual life, write them down in a notebook, and return to them with praise and thanksgiving whenever you feel your heart drifting from the Lord.



**PARISH VOCATION CROSS**

*The Vocation Cross is taken by:*

*Ellen Claudy  
(January 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>)*

Each week, a family or an individual from our parish receives the vocation cross. If you or your family would like to receive the vocation cross, please sign-up on the sign-up sheet near the tabernacle in church. We appreciate the prayers.

**DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED!  
The Angelus - January 19, 2025**

**Mini Explanation**

The Angelus is an ancient devotion whose practice developed over the course of several centuries. It is composed of three antiphons that tell the story of the annunciation, each followed by a Hail Mary. It is usually said daily at noon.

**The Angelus, Explained**

The incarnation of Christ changed the life of every Christian person who ever lived. Reflecting on that moment in salvation history is an opportunity for grace, growth and peace. Who wouldn't want that every day, or even three times every day?

The Angelus is composed of three antiphons which narrate the annunciation, each followed by the recitation of a Hail Mary (a prayer that itself contains the "angelic greeting" of the angel Gabriel). Its name is derived from the first words of the prayer in Latin.

This devotion was developed over the course of several centuries and is rooted in the ancient practice of saying three Hail Mary prayers in the evening. Historically, people were called to prayer by the ringing of church bells — "the Angelus bells." Most people who recite the Angelus do so daily at noon, though it is often said in the morning, at noon and in the evening.

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*"Take this all of you, and eat it, this is my body...take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood." Eucharistic Prayer*

To give the "Body and Blood of Jesus Christ" to our brothers and sisters in Christ is an awesome privilege. Are you worthy? No, none of us is worthy, but we are striving to grow in holiness. If you are being called to this ministry, call Msgr. Romero at the church office (364-8360). Thank you.

**2024 Contributions Statement**

If you would like to have a copy of your 2024 Statement of Contributions mailed to you, please call the office at (337)364-8360 to request one.

Nativity of Our Lady offers Online Giving, a web-based electronic contribution application. We are providing this service so that you have the option to manage your contributions online or with your offering envelopes. This service is safe and secure. And it is convenient for you and for our parish staff. You can use your checking account, saving account, Visa or MasterCard! Sign up for Online Giving by visiting our church website: [www.nativityni.org](http://www.nativityni.org) and selecting the Online Giving link on the right-hand side of the homepage. Your Contributions are greatly appreciated.



## PRAYER & SICK LIST



**The names on our prayer list will stay on for 90 days. If you want to add or delete a name, please call the office @ 337-364-8360:** Marnel Fremin, Yvonne Willis, Misty Geoffroy, Shirley Trahan, Brayson Willson, Lori Agiular, Elijah Hebert, Baby Guillory, Frank Onebane, Lena Lopez, Debbie Johnson & Fly, Cameron Alba, Mel & Stacey Boutte, Betty C. Champagne, Donna Francis, Farina Guidry, Betty Robichaux, Earline Estave, Chad Babineaux, Tammy Dore, Dylan Ducote, Judy Meyers, Garland Reed, Carly Tajmir, Diane & Ronald Broussard, Lance Castille, Grace Armendariz, Hardy Jenkins, Louis Boudreaux, Jr., Gloria Comeaux, Larry Romero, Scotty Champagne, Edward Simon, Sirena Rogers, Monica Harrington, Janis & Nathan Dugas, Billy Simon, Lynette Landry, Janet Viator, Ronnie Landry, Betty B. Leblanc, Christine Guidry & the Guidry Fly, Barbara Martin, Michael “Tee” Theriot, Elise C. Verret, Phyllis S. Bourque, Doris Sheldon, Ovide Buteaux, David Spelly, Ellen Guidry, Dean Delahoussaye, Patsy & Percy Barrilleaux, Patsy Thibodeaux, Tom Stowe, Tim & Staci Stowe, John & NeCole Babin, Fran Jackson, Reed Michael & Cody Lynn Romero, David & Robin Viator Fly, Sheryl S. Bourque, Mark Bourque, Michael & Claire Landry Fly, Dustin & Nicole V. Ortego Fly, Linda & Clint Trahan Fly, Ruth Bernard, Bridget Aitken, Norvelle Belaire, Caroline Dubois, Jarrod Lege, Josephine Delcambre. Please also pray for those individuals who, although they are in need of your prayers, have requested that their names not be publicized for privacy reasons.

### **LIVE THE LITURGY**

We are all the servants at Cana. Each of us, at various times, finds ourselves confused and unsure, empty where we should be full, unprepared where we should be ready. When we falter, Mary’s words give us direction: “Do whatever he tells you.”

@LPi

### **2025 Mass Intentions:**

The Mass Intention Book for the 2025 year is now open for parishioners to schedule Masses. Please allow 14 business days before the requested Mass. Come by the church office to schedule Masses. Call the church office with any questions, 364-8360.

### **GOSPEL MEDITATION**

**January 19, 2025**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**John 2:1-12**

A friend invited me to an invitation-only wine-tasting event. There were over two hundred varieties of wine. Having no idea how to approach such a massive selection, I wandered aimlessly among the tables, sipping this and that. At the end of the evening my friend asked if I had tried some of the exceptionally expensive wines. I hadn’t. “The really good stuff disappears first,” he said. “My man, you missed out on some amazing vino.” I was so disappointed. I wasted my chance for amazing once-in-a-lifetime wine. The wine I tasted was, well, *blah*.

Don’t we often feel a similar disappointment in life? I missed this or that opportunity. If only I had known. Optimism sputters and fades. The glory days are gone. The chances, it seems, for the really great things in life come and go so quickly. Then they are gone forever. The good stuff goes first. Then life is just *blah*.

Not so with the Lord Jesus. In Jesus’ miracle at the wedding at Cana, the steward of the feast says, “**Everyone serves good wine first, and then...an inferior one**” (John 2:10). That’s the natural downward progression of life. The good stuff disappears quickly. But he says of the groom (who symbolizes Jesus), “**But you have kept the good wine until now.**” This is the ever-improving trajectory of the realm of God’s grace. With Jesus, the “good wine” of divine love, hope and peace gets better as our journey of faith progresses. Where are your greatest disappointments? Don’t give in to the lie that the really good stuff is gone. Tell Jesus you’ve run out. Then learn how to taste *that* amazingly good wine, because he saves the best until now. — *Father John Muir*

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**REFLECTIONS** **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** - Paul reminds the Corinthians that while there are many gifts there is the same Spirit. Each of us has been given a gift - a manifestation of the Spirit - that has been entrusted to us to use for the common good. What gift have you been given? Your gifts may not be ones that are readily acknowledged by society, like being a great actor or teacher or athlete. They may be more “hidden” or unnamed. There is the gift of hospitality - making people feel at ease; the “confidant” who people can share their hopes and fears with; it may be a knack for cooking or sewing or working with children. Think about the things you are good at - things other people think you do well. These are your gifts. How are you using your gifts for the benefit of others?

*“You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem held by your God.” - Isaiah 62:3*

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## TODAY'S READINGS

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time - January 19, 2025**

**Reading I: Isaiah 62:1-5**

Isaiah spoke of God's delight in Jerusalem and desire to see Israel as His spouse. What married couples do you know who genuinely take delight in each other?

**Reading II: 1 Corinthians - 12:4-11**

Paul taught the Corinthians that the gifts of the Holy Spirit to individuals are meant to benefit and unify the community. What gifts do you have that you think benefit others?

**Gospel: John 2:1-11**

After all the wine was consumed, Jesus turned water into wine for the bride and groom at the wedding. When have you received an unexpected gift from someone?

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## CURRENT EVENTS

**Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

Mass at 5:30pm

**Wednesday, January 22, 2025**

Pro-Life Rosary - 8:20am - Mass - 9am

Fr. Ed's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination

Reception following 9am Mass - Parish Hall

**Thursday, January 23, 2025**

Mass at 5:30pm

O.C.I.A. Meeting - 6pm

**Friday, January 24, 2025**

Mass at 6:30am

**Saturday, January 25, 2025**

Mass at 4pm

**Sunday, January 26, 2025**

Masses at: **8am & 10am**

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection - New Iberia Poor & Needy

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18-25, 2025

Theme: "Do you believe this?"

(John 11:26)

For this year, 2025, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy. This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 AD. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the Creed formulated during this Council; a faith that remains alive and fruitful in our days. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 offers an invitation to draw on this shared heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

#### Prayer Used On The First Day

Father of compassion, renew our faith in you and bind us together through your love, so that we can recognize each other as your children, and come together as one. We praise you through Jesus Christ, your only - begotten Son, in the communion of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

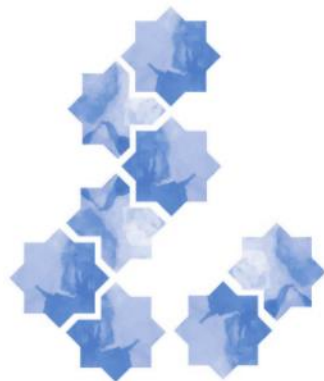
The theme comes from the gospel where Jesus returns to Martha and Mary following the death of their brother, Lazarus (John 11:17-27). Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again". Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day". Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world". Let all Christians respond with Martha, "Yes, Lord, I believe this."

MASS SERVERS January 21 - 26, 2025					
DAY DATE	TIME	CELEBRANT	READERS	LAY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
<b>Tuesday</b> 1/21/25	<b>5:30pm</b>	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	Kimberly Clay	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Sacristan
<b>Wednesday</b> 1/22/25	<b>9:00am</b>	Fr. Ed Degeyter	Ginger Comeaux	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Sacristan
<b>Thursday</b> 1/23/25	<b>5:30pm</b>	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	Jenny Gonsoulin	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Sacristan
<b>Friday</b> 1/24/25	<b>6:30am</b>	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	Keith Comeaux	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Sacristan
<b>Saturday</b> 1/25/25	<b>4:00pm</b>	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	Karl Boudreaux	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Serena Bedia Khoi Nguyen
<b>Sunday</b> 1/26/25	<b>8:00am</b>	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	Nena Suit	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Autum, Benjamin & Ephraim Trahan
	<b>10:00am</b>	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	Lloyd Verret	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Morgan Salsman Charlie Salsman

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