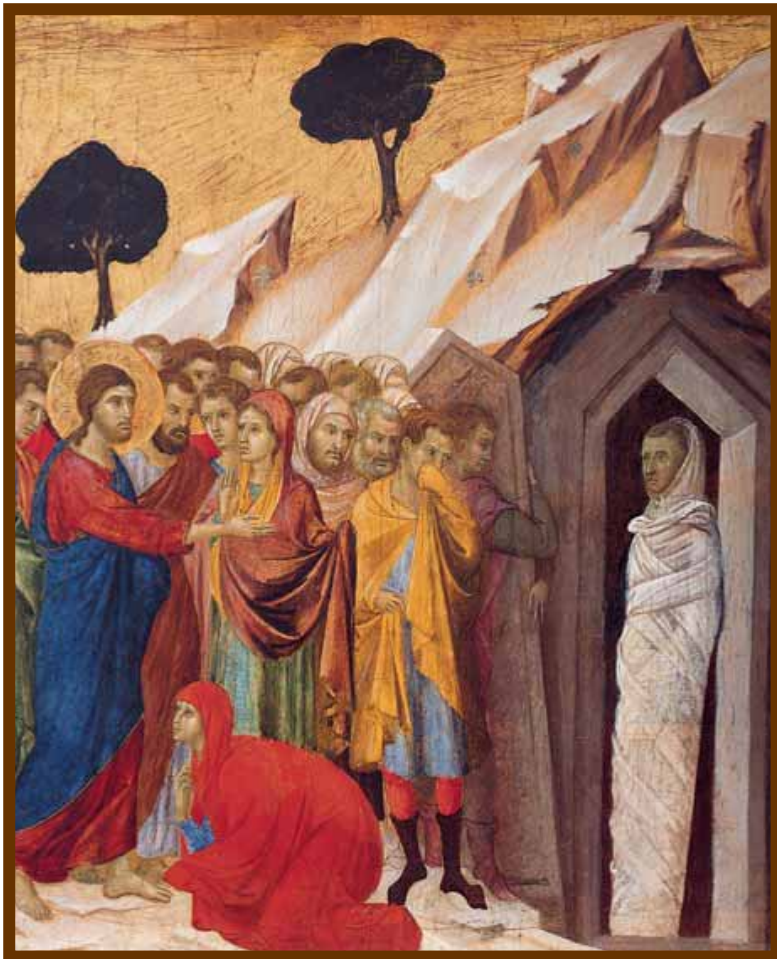


March 18, 2018 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

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We are a **praying, learning and caring** community fulfilling the mission
God gives us in baptism by our worship in faith,
by our witness in hope and by our service in love.



*Praying through
the Sacraments,*

*Learning through
Religious Education,*

*Caring through
Pastoral Care.*

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Richard F. Duncanson, Pastor**
(rfduncanson@nativitycatholic.org)
858.756.1911, ext. 4

**Parish Office
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Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

858.756.1911
www.nativitycatholic.org

Deacon Jim Walsh
(jwalsh@nativitycatholic.org)
858.367.0114

Church & School Location
6309 El Apajo Road
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

Mr. Paul Parker
Principal, The Nativity School
(pparker@nativitymail.org)
858.756.6763

**The Nativity School
Mailing Address**
Post Office Box 9180
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

858.756.6763
www.thenativityschool.org

MASS INTENTIONS
MARCH 17TH - 23RD

**SATURDAY**

5:00 PM **Norbert Verbeck, RIP**

SUNDAY

7:30 AM **Pam Mehdau, RIP**
9:00 AM **Joe Mark Davidson, RIP**
10:30 AM **For All Parishioners**

MONDAY

8:00 AM 2Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
William Clark, RIP

TUESDAY

8:00 AM Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
Joseph Busco, RIP

WEDNESDAY

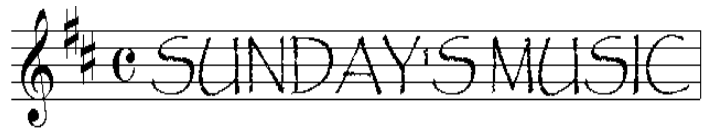
8:00 AM Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
Betty Broom, RIP

THURSDAY

8:00 AM Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
James McDermott, RIP

FRIDAY

8:00 AM Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
Todd Hardin, RIP



During Lent we begin with a procession, in which the congregation is asked to repeat the response *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned* between verses of Psalm 51, which begins: *Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness: in the greatness of your compassion, wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt, and of my sin cleanse me.*

The Offertory is John Rutter's setting of *A Prayer of St. Patrick*, one of the verses from a Fifth Century poem known as *St. Patrick's Breastplate*, written according to Irish legend, 'In the time of Loeghaire, son of Niall,' the latter the founder of the most powerful Irish royal dynasty. It was definitely not composed by St. Patrick, but it clearly shows his faith in a very ancient Irish dialect and extols God's strength, wisdom and protection against evil and cruel powers. The breastplate, or *Lorica*, was a mystical garment that was supposed to protect the wearer from danger and illness, and guarantee entry into heaven. In 1889, H. H. Dickinson, Dean of the Chapel Royal at Dublin Castle asked Cecil Frances Alexander to translate the poem for inclusion in a hymnbook: *Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me; Christ above me, Christ beneath me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

The Communion begins with a motet by Stanley Marchant (1883-1949): *The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die; but they are in peace.*

The second piece was written in 1990 by the Irish composer Colin Mawby, awarded the Knighthood of Saint Gregory by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006, 'In gratitude for past and continuing services to church music.' The anonymous text is from the collection of the early American poet Joshua Smith's *Divine Hymns, or Spiritual Songs* published in 1784 which describes Jesus as a Tree of Life, or in the words of one homilist preaching on Luke 13:6-9 'when good things happen to an unsuspecting fruit tree'. Smith's poem is: *The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green; the trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Jesus Christ, the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know, but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ, the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought; I missed of all, but now I see 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile; under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ, the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.* The opening melody is from the ancient hymn *Vexilla Regis*, first sung in 569 when a relic of the True Cross was carried from Tours to the monastery of Saint-Croix in Poitiers, France. Writing about his music, Mawby says 'My music is approachable. I make great use of sonority and have been much influenced by plainchant. I value the spiritual element in music and have a healthy contempt for musical fashion. I do my own thing.'

The third piece is An Irish Blessing: *May the road, may it rise to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the rain, may it softly fall upon your fields. And may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Clergy Schedule

Saturday, 5:00 pm Fr. Duncanson
Sunday, 7:30 am Fr. Timone
Sunday, 9:00 am Fr. Duncanson / Dcn. Walsh
Sunday, 10:30 am Fr. Duncanson

TODAY'S READINGS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading — Thus says the LORD GOD: I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and settle you on your land. (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

Psalm — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Psalm 130).

Second Reading — If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:8-11).

Gospel — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name. Many of those who had seen what had happened began to believe in Jesus (John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]).

The Woman at the Well, the Man Born Blind and the Raising of Lazarus from the Dead

On the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent this year, we have used the “Cycle A” readings because these are the Gospel passages that have traditionally been used to prepare new converts to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist) during the Easter Vigil. Here are some reflections on these three classic Gospel readings.

The Woman at the Well. Why did the Samaritan woman come to draw water at noon, the hottest time of the day? Did she want to avoid the times the other women in town came to the well? What are the places in my life where I am embarrassed, where I avoid interaction with others? What are the noon day wells of my life? Can I imagine Jesus approaching me there?

Jesus tries to reveal his thirst to her, but she puts him off. She’s not worthy. It won’t work. When he offers to satisfy her thirst, she puts him off. He can’t satisfy what she needs, at least with this well, and without a bucket. How do I put Jesus off, with excuses, with problems, with barriers? I don’t have time; I haven’t done this before; my stuff’s too complicated; I don’t know how to find you in this mess.



The Man Born Blind. The man born blind washed the mud from his eyes in the pool called, Siloam. How is Jesus a pool to wash the mud from my eyes, that I might see? As soon as he could see, his life became very difficult. People wondered if he was the same man, before they believed he could not see. Has the restoration of my sight so changed me that others are surprised at the transformation?

So much fear seems to surround the restoration of his sight. What fears do I now have to seeing clearly who Jesus is and what choices I must make to be with him? The grace will come when I acknowledge that my eyes have been opened. Others may not want to believe I can see, but I know I can only keep repeating it, to myself and to them. I may experience rejection by some for claiming this new vision, but in the Light I can see clearly one who has healed me, and I give him thanks and praise.

The Raising of Lazarus from the Dead. Martha speaks profound sorrow at the death of Lazarus, but it is tinged with a touch of blaming Jesus: “Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died.” Where do I resent the losses in my life and somehow blame God for them, rather than seeing them as places where God’s glory will be revealed?

Even when Jesus tells Martha, “I am the one who raises the dead to life!” she finds it hard to believe he means now, in the case of her dead brother. Where do I doubt that Jesus can bring life?

Jesus shouts the liberating words of life, “Lazarus, come forth!” How is he shouting that to me today?



God bless you!

Fr. Richard Duncanson, Pastor

(rfduncanson@nativitycatholic.org)



Next Nativity Men's Group
April 5
Speaker: Scott Weeman
Topic: *A Catholic Journey*
through Recovery

Scott Weeman is the founder and director of Catholic in Recovery, a nonprofit ministry that brings healing to those suffering from addiction and unhealthy attachment. In addition, he is the author of *The Twelve Steps and the Sacraments: A Catholic Journey through Recovery*, published by Ave Maria Press in 2017. Scott is studying and training to become a licensed marriage and family therapist and professional clinical counselor, enjoys playing golf and beach volleyball, and coordinates the young adult ministry at Saint Brigid Parish in Pacific Beach with his wife, Jacqueline.

In 2011, Scott was given a chance to find freedom from the chains of alcoholism, drug addiction, and other unhealthy attachments. He credits the sacramental life of the Catholic Church and grace made available in addiction recovery fellowships for his spiritual awakening. He has since been journeying to help others find recovery from the cunning, baffling, and powerful nature of addiction and other unhealthy attachments that keep us distant from God.

**Join us for a night of Faith, Fellowship,
 Food, and Inspiration**

Where: Church of the Nativity Chapel

When: Thursday, April 5, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Note: (Meeting begins in small chapel at back of the courtyard)

*Dinner deliciously prepared by Chef Hubert Lorenz
 Culinary Wizard (www.theculinarywizard.com)*

Contact: Tim Van Damm timvandamm@gmail.com,
 617.501.3950 or Scott Maxwell smaxwell@catholicextension.org

LOCAL LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

St. Elizabeth, Carlsbad

March 21st @7:00pm

NORTH COUNTY MAGNIFICAT

“A Ministry to Catholic Women”

Saturday, April 14th, 2018

8am Mass

9am-12 Breakfast at St. Mary's New
 Parish Hall,

1160 S. Broadway, Escondido CA 92025.

Our Speaker - Hannah Butler

For information and reservations

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www.nativitycatholic.org

The Church of the Nativity website has a wealth of information including Mass schedules, weekly bulletins, a list of ministries including contact information and even a recording of the homily from the previous Sunday! Why not visit us soon and bookmark the site for future use?



SAMARITANS CORNER

Thanks so much for your donations of beautiful dresses for the Military's Father/Daughter dance, they were most grateful!

On March 28th we have Student Service Day at The Nativity School. We are in need of donations of travel-sized toiletries for Catholic Charities' overnight bags for the homeless. We also need juice boxes, small packets of fruit and savory snacks and Granola bars for Bread of Life lunch bags for the homeless. Also small chocolate Easter eggs, plastic eggs, novelty toys, Easter baskets and grass packets for Easter baskets for homeless children at St. Vincent de Paul. Donations of gently used clothes of any size and unassembled bicycle kits (students assemble these), for refugees at Bridge of Hope. Each year school families provide all these items but as part of their family's Lenten almsgiving we thought other parishioners might like to contribute this year.

All donations may be left in the boxes outside the School office.

For further information please email:

stephaniekourie@cox.net



Fifth Sunday of Lent

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!

— Psalm 130:1

Please join us in singing the Psalm Response:



With the Lord there is mer - cy, and full - ness of re - demp - tion.

JESUS' MINISTRY SUMMARIZED



The story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead is the single longest story (apart from the Passion) in the Gospel of John. In it we find a summary of most of Jesus' ministry. We see his very human nature as he is moved by Martha and Mary's sorrows and as he himself weeps at the tomb of Lazarus. He is the wisdom of God's Word made flesh as he explains to his followers that the death of Lazarus will serve as a sign of the glory of God. He crowns the miracles he works in John's Gospel (which began with the most "human" miracle of making new wine at Cana's wedding) by raising Lazarus from the dead—a "preview," if you will, of his own death and resurrection to come. This portrait of Jesus reminds us, as we near the end of our Lenten journey, that he is with us, knows us, understands us in every moment of our lives. He knows the joy of our human feasting, he knows the sorrow of our weeping. As we prepare to walk with him through the days of Holy Week, we are filled with faith that—through Christ—God's glory will be with us in every moment of our lives and—with Christ—in our life everlasting.

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If you or a loved one is struggling, you are not alone. We are here to help. To talk to a caring member of our Mental Health Ministry, please call **858-367-0049**.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27



Time, Talent and Treasure...

Registered Households: **1,295**

Contributing Parishioners YTD: **372**

Our Parishioners contributed **\$18,199.00** in the weekly collection to further the Mission & Ministry provided by the Church of the Nativity.

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To get all future correspondence and to become involved please visit the **Ministries** page at www.nativitycatholic.org to be included in our emailing list!

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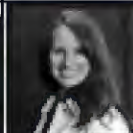
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LORD'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass: Monday – Friday – 8 am (Chapel)
Saturday Vigil: 5 pm; Sunday: 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am

RCIA and Youth Minister: Mike James,
mjames@nativitycatholic.org, 858-756-1911, ext. 5

Family Faith Formation Coordinators: Wendy Campbell &
 Sandra Escalante-Smith, faithformation@nativitymail.org

Music Director: Paul Batchelor,
pbachelor@nativitycatholic.org, 858-756-1911, ext. 102

The Nativity School: Paul Parker, Principal
pparker@nativitymail.org, 858-756-6763

Bookkeeper: Jackie Marin,
jmarin@nativitymail.org, 858-756-6763

Administrative Assistant: Jodee Moore,
jmoore@nativitycatholic.org, 858-756-1911

Office Hours: Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00pm to 3:30 pm

Pastoral Council: Carl Bobkoski, Jane Boler, Cindy Hesse,
 Mimi Johnson, Jodee Moore, Craig Ryall

Finance Council: Jeff Brandon, Chair
 Michael Conway, Jim LaGrossa, Byrnes Lambert, Mark Legg,
 Catherine Mowbray-Lorenz, Earl Parker, Carolyn Wilkinson,
 Joe Wilkinson

Safe Environment Coordinator: John Marin
 Call the Parish Office - 858-756-1911

PASTORAL CARE

Nativity Samaritans: Stephanie Kourie at
stephaniekourie@cox.net

Childcare: Attended care is provided in the play room off the
 Commons during 9 am and 10:30 am Sunday Masses.

Holy Communion for the sick: For the homebound upon
 request, 858-756-1911

Widows and Widowers: Pat Smart, thesmarts@aol.com
 Monthly Luncheons - September through June

Small Christian Communities - Faith Sharing Groups
 See Deacon Jim Walsh or contact Kathy Alameda at
 858-756-9755 or kathyalameda1@gmail.com

Altar Servers: Bill Hearne at bhearne@weoneil.com

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Mimi Johnson at
mimijohns78@gmail.com

Mental Health Ministry: Lisa James at 858-367-0049.

Ushers: Corbitt Kerr at ckerr@davlyninvestments.com

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Celebrated on the 4th Sunday, after 10:30 am Mass
 Please contact the Parish Office 858-756-1911 or
jmoore@nativitycatholic.org.

Marriage: Saturdays, 11:00 am or 2:00 pm
 Contact the parish office at 858-756-1911.

Anointing of the Sick: Encouraged for anyone critically ill,
 for the elderly, or prior to major surgery

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:15 pm in the Chapel

Eucharist:

Weekday Mass: Monday - Friday, 8 am in the Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration: Every Friday after 8 am Mass

Perpetual Help Novena: Tuesdays, after 8 am Mass

Rosary: Weekdays, after 8 am Mass in the Chapel

**FAMILY FAITH FORMATION**

Classes meet September through June

PRESCHOOL THROUGH 8TH GRADE**Preschool - 6th Grade:**

Sundays, 8:50 am - 10:05 am at The Nativity School

Junior High 7th /8th:

Sundays, 5pm - 6:15 pm in the Parish Commons

Dates to remember:**March**

NO class on 3/18

3/24 - Saturday - First Reconciliation Service 3pm

3/25 - Class 22

Email Wendy Campbell or Sandra Escalante-Smith
 at faithformation@nativitymail.org
 for more information.

HIGH SCHOOL: 9TH - 12TH GRADE

Contact: Mike James, 858-756-1911, ext. 5

Youth Group: Sundays, 5pm to 6:15pm

Topic Night is Sunday March 18 for all freshmen-
 seniors from 5-6:15 pm in the Commons.

There will be no class on Easter Sunday, April 1st.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Contact: Mike James, 858-756-1911, ext. 5

On March 18 we will attend the 10:30am Mass and
 have class from 10:50-11:50 am, after dismissal from
 Mass.

On March 25 we will hold a short Easter Vigil
 rehearsal in church at 11:30 am.

The Easter Vigil is March 31 at 8 pm. Candidates
 and Sponsors should arrive by 7:30 pm. There will
 be a short reception in the Commons after Mass.

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION

Contact: Mike James, 858-756-1911, ext. 5

Confirmation Immediate Preparation Class #5 is
 March 18 from 3:30-4:30 pm in the Commons. All
 missing paperwork is due at class to complete your
 files. Please also bring your personal calendar to
 class as we will be scheduling Final Interview
 appointments.

Our Confirmation Mass date is April 15 at 12 noon
 with Bishop McElroy. Teens should arrive at 11am
 with their Sponsors for a Final Rehearsal. There will
 be a short reception in the Commons after mass that
 will end by 2pm.