



# NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Proclaiming the Good News with great joy to all people

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent



CONNECT WITH US  
@NATIVITYBRANDON



## DAILY MASSES

7:00 a.m. (M, T, W & TH)

8:00 a.m. (M, T, TH & F)

8:15 a.m. (Wednesday)

7:00 p.m. Español (Viernes)

8:30 a.m. (Saturday)

## WEEKEND MASSES

### SATURDAY

4:00 p.m. (ASL) (Church)

4:00 p.m. Español (Capilla)

### SUNDAY

7:00 a.m. English (Church)

8:30 a.m. English (Church)

10:30 a.m. English (Church)

12:30 p.m. Español (Iglesia)

5:00 p.m. English - LifeTeen (Church)

## CONFESSIONS

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

SATURDAY

9:00-9:30 a.m. & 2:45-3:45 p.m.

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed from 12:00-1:00 p.m. for lunch

FRIDAY

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### Church Office

(813) 681-4608

### Nativity Catholic School

(813) 689-3395

### Faith Formation

(813) 689-9101

### Youth Ministry

(813) 689-4147

### Pastoral Care

(813) 413-8351

### Food Pantry

(813) 694-0541



## CLERGY OF NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Mike Smith, *Pastor*

Father Izzie Hernandez, *Parochial Vicar*

Father George Gyasi, *Assisting*

Deacon Joe Allison

Deacon Robert Harris

Deacon Dr. Mark Taylor

Deacon Rick Zeitler



Daily Mass

8:00 a.m.

Sunday Mass

10:30 a.m. (English)

12:30 p.m. (Español)

705 E Brandon Blvd., Brandon, FL 33511



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"*

In his Gospel narrative on the nativity of Jesus, St. Luke tells us about the angels announcing Our Savior's birth to the shepherd: "And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:13-14 NAB) As we celebrate Christmas, we are reminded of the glory of the angels' voices through seasonal hymns and carols. "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" was composed by Charles Wesley in 1739. Wesley was one of the founders of Methodism and requested a slow, somber melody for the hymn. It wasn't until 1840 that the hymn became more popular with a new melody adapted from a cantata by Felix Mendelssohn. One of over 6,000 hymns that Wesley wrote, this hymn is passed on to each generation keeping in mind the "reason for the season!"

As Catholics, we celebrate the Season of Christmas from Christmas Eve until the Baptism of Christ on January 11, 2026. After the octave (eight days) in which we celebrate the Masses as if it were Christmas Day itself, we'll still be singing Christmas hymns and carols until January 11. There's too much of God's glory to fit it all in a day, so we take our time to celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ!

As we celebrate Christmas this year, may God's blessings be with you and your families as we rejoice with the angels that Christ has been born into our world.

*Merry Christmas!*

Father Mike Smith, Father Israel "Izzie" Hernandez, and Father George Gyasi  
as well as the Deacons and Parish Staff of Nativity



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, December 22

7:00 a.m. Lelet & Archie Quevada  
8:00 a.m. Robert Jefferson

### Tuesday, December 23

7:00 a.m. Leticia Syquia  
8:00 a.m. Jim Newport

### Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

4:00 p.m. (Church) (English | ASL) NPF  
4:00 p.m. (SH) (English) NPF  
6:00 p.m. (Templo) (Español) NPF  
6:00 p.m. (SH) (English) NPF  
12:00 a.m. (Church) (Bilingual) NPF

### Thursday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

8:30 a.m. Nativity Parish Family  
10:30 a.m. Nativity Parish Family  
12:30 p.m. (Español) Nativity Parish Family

### Friday, December 26

8:00 a.m. Carl Redderson  
7:00 p.m. (Español) Manuel Limon

### Saturday, December 27

8:30 a.m. (Church) Mathew, Arun,  
Elizabeth  
4:00 p.m. (Church) Mary & Peter O'Neil  
4:00 p.m. (Español) Nativity Parish Family

### Sunday, December 28

7:00 a.m. (Church) Nativity Parish Family  
8:30 a.m. (Church) Evelyn Hamilton  
10:30 a.m. (Church) Nativity Men's Emmaus  
12:30 p.m. (Español | Templo)  
Fernando Rodriguez-Lamberty  
5:00 p.m. (Church) Jeffrey Charles Miltner

\* NPF - Nativity Parish Family

*A Mass may be offered for any person, living or deceased. A Mass Intention is requested usually for a specific date and time. Announcement of the intention may be made verbally, published in the bulletin, or posted on a notice board. Every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) one Mass Intention must be celebrated pro populo (for the people.) Please contact the Church Office at (813) 681-4608 for more information on scheduling a Mass Intention at Nativity.*



### INTO YOUR HANDS

Into your hands O Lord, we commend the souls of our recently departed. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

### PRAY FOR THE SICK, SUFFERING, AND SHUT-INS TO WELCOME THE STRENGTH OF GOD'S LOVE, ESPECIALLY:

Victoria Cruz, Susan Addisson, Monica Colon, Stephen Smaldone, Baby Joe Mestas, Liz Palmisano, Sam Kroll, Barbara Kroll, Georgette Nelson, Baby Joe Mestas, Alexander Brooks Petrilli, Joan Bartlett, Padre Gustavo Alejandro Cunill, Penka Gilart Marinova, Mara Luisa Rodriguez Sanchez del Rio, Michael Bateman, Florence Purse, Rafael Paneque Alvarez, Miriam de La Caridad Verdicia-Blanco, Leslie Lynn Irvin, Blanca Alionuska Barrios-Peregrin, Juan Thomas Sanchez, Linda Kalen, Angel Luis Domecq Moreno, Gordy Vrooman, Ed Epps, Debbie Console, Mary Restivo, Maribelis Lopez de Peralta, Armando de Armas, Tania Domecq Galano, Vanessa Hansen, Angel Luis Domecq Gilart, Mel Obasi, Joanna Barbolla, Lauren, Perfecto Arrocho, Andre Jr., Dajane Russell, Mary Keenan, Jack Clifton Elliott, Wanda Perez, Owen Bennett, Paula Fernandez de Garza, Danny Sodre, T.J. Parker, Michael Barrett, Irma Barrett, Angela Hall

*This bulletin was printed in advance.  
Updates to the Prayer List will be included  
in the next available bulletin.*



### CHRISTMAS EVE | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 p.m. English / ASL (Church)  
4:00 p.m. English (Social Hall)  
6:00 p.m. Spanish (Church)  
6:00 p.m. English (Social Hall)  
11:00 p.m. Christmas Carols and Instrumental Music  
12:00 Midnight Mass | Bilingual (Church)

### CHRISTMAS DAY | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:30 a.m., & 10:30 a.m. English (Church)  
12:30 p.m. Spanish (Church)



## CALENDAR | STEWARDSHIP

### Church Office Hours

**December 22–24:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. each day

**December 25 & 26:** Office will be closed

#### Sunday - 12/21/2025

Nativity Blood Drive	8:00AM-1:00PM	Parking Lot
Hispanic Legion of Mary meetings	10:00AM-11:30AM	Oakwood Room
African Mass	2:00PM-3:00PM	Church
African Mass reception	3:00PM-5:00PM	Social Hall
Chorale Christmas/Advent Cantata	3:00PM-4:00PM	Chapel
Life Teen	6:00PM-9:00PM	Youth Center

#### Monday - 12/22/2025

St Vincent de Paul	9:30AM-3:30PM	Pastoral Care Building
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#### Tuesday - 12/23/2025

Legion of Mary English	9:00AM-11:00AM	Pastoral Care Building
Millions of Monica's Prayer Group	10:00AM-11:00AM	Chapel
Catholic Men's Fellowship of Nativity	7:00PM-9:00PM	Oakwood Room

#### Wednesday - 12/24/2025 (Christmas Eve)

Christmas Carols and Instrumental Music	11:00PM-12:00PM	Church
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#### Thursday - 12/25/2025 (Christmas Day)

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

#### Friday - 12/26/2025

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Come as You Are Al-Anon Family Group	10:30AM-11:30AM	Adult Ed Building
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### A new 6-week session of the Bereavement Support Group

Will begin on

Friday, January 9th, At 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

201 South Oakwood (across from the Church)

The group is led by JoAnn Buffington, LMHC, LLC

And Howard Baum, LMHC

**For more information or to register**

**Contact the Pastoral Care Office at 813-413-8351**



## 5 REASONS TO USE ONLINE GIVING



### 1. Tailor your donations

You determine the amount of the gift, the schedule of donation, and from the source you choose.

### 2. You Chose

Give by credit card or by transferring from your bank. Your funds, your choice.



### 3. Consistent Support

Be assured that Nativity received continued support even with life's interruptions.

### 4. Safe and Secure

Your online giving and credit information is safe and secure. You are in control.



### 5. Faithful Stewardship

Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. *2 Cor 9:7*

*Learn More at*  
**NATIVITYCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG/GIVE**



## AROUND THE PARISH

# MARIAN SHRINES



WITH FR. NATHAN AND FR. IZZIE

**\$6,599 per person**  
**September 12-24, 2026**

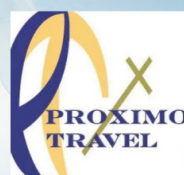
13 days in 5 countries: Ireland, Portugal, France, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina

## DESTINATION

Knock-Galway- Lourdes -  
Medjugorje - Fatima - Krakow -  
Our Lady of Czestochowa

Trip includes: flights from anywhere in the US, transfers as per itinerary, daily Mass, stays at 5 or 4-star hotels, all breakfast and dinners, all tips, guided tours and tour fees, luggage handling (1 suitcase & 1 carry-on)

SCAN TO BOOK OR  
FOR MORE INFO.



(855) 842-8001

[anthony@proximotravel.com](mailto:anthony@proximotravel.com)  
[www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com)

Find trip under "CLERGY Trips" tab.

## A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

BY THE INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

In today's Gospel we hear of the coming of Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." We celebrate three Advents: the birth of Christ, his Second Coming, and his presence in the world today. Our daily lives are attended by God's presence. Indeed, "God is with us." The Good News of Christ's Incarnation is that we are the sign, the "sacrament," of Christ's presence in the world. People are supposed to see us, see how we love one another, see how we treat the stranger among us, see how we give comfort to the poor and afflicted, and share the Good News with joy. They see how good stewards are the light of Christ. And there can be no possible response except to say: "God is here!"



## NOVEMBER ASSISTANCE REPORT



Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. In November we received 76 calls for assistance.

Through your gifts of love, SVdP responded to our neighbors by assisting 16 households with 49 family members: 71% of your support provided utility assistance, 25% housing assistance and 4% provided other financial support services. Additionally, we provided referrals to other agencies specific to our neighbors' needs. Our neighbors come to know "God is with us" as your gift placed in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box is multiplied in the sharing to others. Thank you for loving our neighbors..

Contact us at 813-376-8901 for assistance information.



## AROUND THE PARISH



# DONATE BLOOD

**Sunday, December 21****8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Appointments are encouraged, please visit  
[oneblood.org/donate-now](http://oneblood.org/donate-now) and use sponsor code 17409

**ID REQUIRED**

*\*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit [oneblood.org/details](http://oneblood.org/details).*

## an **EMMAUS** experience

Step away from the distractions  
of daily life and into a space of  
**spiritual renewal.**

**WALK WITH US**

Men of Nativity are invited to experience an Emmaus Retreat, a powerful opportunity to pause, reflect, and deepen your relationship with Christ through prayer, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. The retreat will be held January 16–18, 2026, at the Franciscan Retreat Center, with transportation, lodging, meals, and all materials included. Registration will be available after all Masses from December 21 through January 11. For details, contact John Mazuchowski at [jmazucho@gmail.com](mailto:jmazucho@gmail.com) or 813-927-0983, or Jonathan Lodrigues at [jrlodrigues@gmail.com](mailto:jrlodrigues@gmail.com) or 813-495-7272.



# “FOLLOW THE NEWS”

**STAY CONNECTED**

Get all the latest news, current events in and around the parish and stay informed on all that is happening here at Nativity.

**FACEBOOK:**[Facebook.com/NativityBrandon](https://Facebook.com/NativityBrandon)**INSTAGRAM:**[Instagram.com/NativityBrandon](https://Instagram.com/NativityBrandon)**YOUTUBE:**[YouTube.com/NativityBrandon](https://YouTube.com/NativityBrandon)**E-NEWSLETTER:**[NativityCatholicChurch.org/Newsletter](https://NativityCatholicChurch.org/Newsletter)**WEBSITE:**[NativityCatholicChurch.org](https://NativityCatholicChurch.org)



AROUND THE PARISH

# Advent Cantata

An Afternoon of Music and Reflection

**Nativity Chorale**

**Sunday, December 21 | 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel**

Nativity  
Women's  
Guild

Save the Date  
January 24, 2026

**The Women's Guild  
Presents:  
Annual Tea Party  
"Once Upon a Story"**

Tickets for the Women's Guild Annual Tea  
will be sold in the Social Hall  
on January 11 and 18  
from 7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



**Ignite Your Faith at the  
Catholic Women's Conference.**

On February 7, 2026, Join women from Tampa Bay for a day of faith, fellowship, and inspiration at the Spirit FM Catholic Women's Conference! Enjoy speakers, Mass, music, vendors, and meals.

Tickets: [MySpiritFM.com/WomensConference](https://www.myspiritfm.com/WomensConference)







## AROUND THE PARISH



THE CAST OF 2025 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, "THE HOLY STORY"

# Merry Christmas

MAY THE CHRISTMAS SEASON FILL YOUR HOME WITH JOY,  
YOUR HEART WITH LOVE, AND YOUR LIFE WITH LAUGHTER.  
AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU TODAY AND EVERY DAY.

NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL FAMILY