

The Church of the Nativity of Our Lord

Scranton, Pennsylvania



Closing Liturgy
Pentecost Sunday
The 8th of June 2025

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Principal Celebrant

Reverend Jonathan P. Kuhar, Pastor

Concelebrants

Reverend Jaime Pérez Restrepo, Parochial Vicar

Reverend Mark J. DeCelles, Parochial Vicar

Priests who are native sons of Nativity Church

Priests of the Diocese of Scranton who served at Nativity Church

Deacon of the Mass

Deacon Albert Giacometti

Master of Ceremonies

Esteban Marengo

Lectors

Cathy Best, Agnes Cummings, Ellen Eiden, and Norita Smith

Altar Servers

Laurelee Ayala, Victoria Ayala, Jonathan Cohen,
Simon Haw, Liliana Luongo, and Joseph Luongo, Jr.

Gift Bearers

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Rufino Cano, Christopher Haw, Diana Hoffman, Barbara Partyka,
Marge Riedmiller, George Schneider, and Ann Talarico

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Music Ministry

Ryan Caviston

Music Director

Judy White

Cantor

Robert Manento

Organist

Members of the Choir and Guest Musicians

Bill White

Highland Bagpipes

Sacristan for the Mass

Jesús Becerril

Liturgical Environment

Judy White, Mercedes Méndez, and Mark McGuire

Honor Guard

The Knights of Columbus

Closing Sacristans

Paul Bracey and Mary Joan Burns

Locking the Doors

Sue Gilday and Marita McGoff

Sealing the doors with ribbon

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

Michael Perry, 1942–1996

THAXTED
Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Setting by Richard Proulx, 1937–2010



All 1. O God be - yond all prais - ing, we
Choir 2. The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in
All 3. Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac -

wor - ship you to - day and sing the love a -
time must sure - ly die, its frag - ile bloom sur -
cept the love we bring, that we who know your

maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay; for
ren - der to you, the Lord most high; but
fa - vor may serve you as our King; and

we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you
hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is
wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or

send, at bless - ings with - out num - ber and
sown, though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to
ill, we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and

mer - cies with - out end. We lift our hearts be -
heav - en's gar - den grown. For Christ, the man from
rise to bless you still, to mar - vel at your

fore you and wait up - on your word; we
heav - en, from death has set us free, and
beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways, and

hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry!
make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 104

Psalm 104:30

James Chepponis

Refrain



Lord, send out your Spir - it, and re - new the face of the



earth, re - new the face of the earth.

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you. Consequently, brothers and sisters, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PENTECOST SEQUENCE

The Pentecost Sequence, *Veni Sancte Spiritus* ("Come, Holy Spirit") is one of the four medieval sequences incorporated into the modern Roman Rite. Sung before the proclamation of the Gospel, it asks the Spirit to come and refresh our weary hearts.

<i>Come, Holy Spirit, come!</i>	<i>O most blessed Light divine,</i>	<i>On the faithful, who adore</i>
<i>And from your celestial home</i>	<i>May that light within us shine</i>	<i>And confess you, evermore</i>
<i>Shed a ray of light divine!</i>	<i>And our inmost being fill!</i>	<i>In your sevenfold gift descend;</i>
<i>Come, Father of the poor!</i>	<i>Where you are not, we have naught,</i>	<i>Give them virtue's sure reward;</i>
<i>Come, source of all our store!</i>	<i>Nothing good in deed or thought,</i>	<i>Give them your salvation, Lord;</i>
<i>Come, within our bosoms shine.</i>	<i>Nothing free from taint and ill.</i>	<i>Give them joys that never end.</i>
<i>You, of comforters the best;</i>	<i>Heal our wounds, our strength renew;</i>	
<i>You, the soul's most welcome guest;</i>	<i>On our dryness pour your dew;</i>	<i>Amen. Alleluia.</i>
<i>Sweet refreshment here below;</i>	<i>Wash the stains of guilt away:</i>	
<i>In our labor, rest most sweet;</i>	<i>Bend the stubborn heart and will;</i>	
<i>Grateful coolness in the heat;</i>	<i>Melt the frozen, warm the chill;</i>	
<i>Solace in the midst of woe.</i>	<i>Guide the steps that go astray.</i>	

GOSPEL ACLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia



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GOSPEL

Mark 14: 12-16, 22-26

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY

Fr. Jonathan Kuhar

CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF ALTAR

Send Us Your Spirit

Dan Schutte



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Send us your spir - it, O Lord. | Eve - ning en - folds us and |
| 2. Hold us with mer - cy, O Lord. | Sor - row has spo - ken, has |
| 3. Teach us your wis - dom, O Lord. | Shad - ows have cloud - ed, have |
| 4. Send us good sum - mer, O Lord. | Win - ters have chilled us, and |



- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. holds us too near. | Wake the morn - ing light. | Make our liv - ing |
| 2. bro - ken our hearts. | Clothe us in your care. | Be the life we |
| 3. crowd - ed our sight. | Give us hearts that see. | Set our lov - ing |
| 4. stilled us too long. | Give us love's own fire. | Be our true de - |



- | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. bright. | Shine on our dark - ness, O Lord. |
| 2. bear. | Feed us and fill us, O Lord. |
| 3. free. | Hear us and help us, O Lord. |
| 4. sire. | Send us your spir - it, O Lord. |

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COMMUNION HYMNS

Spirit and Grace

Ricky Manalo, CSP



1. Spir - it and grace, here in this meal;
2. Spir - it and grace, here in this meal;
3. Spir - it and grace, here in this place;
4. Spir - it of God, send - ing us forth;



1. you are the wind that breathes through the field.
2. you are the life that flows through the vine.
3. you are the light that shines in this space.
4. we spread your wis-dom through-out all the earth.



1. Gath - er the wheat — and form us in Christ.
2. Gath - er this drink — and form us in Christ.
3. Gath - er your peo - ple and form us in Christ.
4. Gath - er the na - tions and form us in Christ.



1. Come, be our source and breath of life.
2. Come, be our source and blood of life.
3. Come, be the heart - beat of our lives.
4. Come, be the pres - ence in our lives.



In the bread, blessed, bro-ken and shared, Christ is our



life, whose presence we bear. Come, O Spir - it, make your



grace re - vealed in this ho - ly meal.

3 to Verses

COMMUNION HYMNS

One Love Released

Bob Frenzel and Kevin Keil

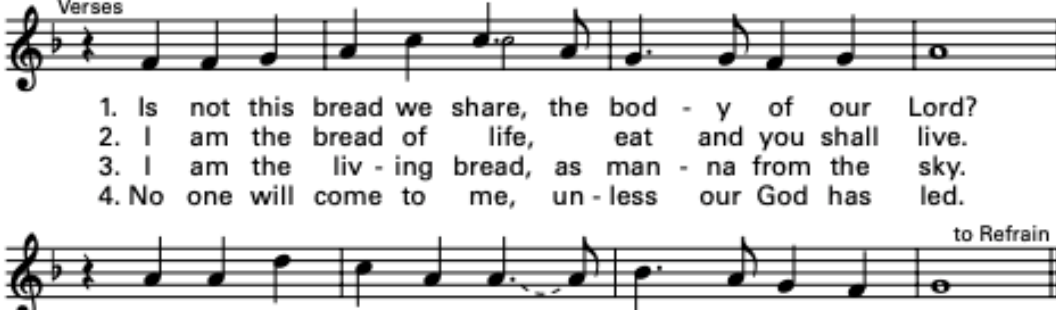
Refrain



One bread, one bod - y, one cup, one call,
one faith, one Spir - it pres-ent in us all.
One prayer, one bless - ing, one hope, one peace,
one church, one peo - ple, one love re-leased.

The Refrain is written on five staves of music in 4/4 time. The melody is in B-flat major (two flats). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The Refrain concludes with a double bar line.

Verses



1. Is not this bread we share, the bod - y of our Lord?
2. I am the bread of life, eat and you shall live.
3. I am the liv - ing bread, as man - na from the sky.
4. No one will come to me, un - less our God has led.

1. Is not this wine we drink, the blood of Christ out-poured?
2. To those who share this meal, my strength I'll al - ways give.
3. This bread I give to you, that you may nev - er die.
4. And I shall raise them up, — raise them from the dead!

The Verses are written on two staves of music. The first staff contains the first four verses, and the second staff contains the next four verses. The lyrics are written below the notes. The Verses conclude with a double bar line, followed by the text "to Refrain".

Text: Bob Frenzel and Kevin Keil (ASCAP). Music: Based on O WALY WALY.
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CLOSING RITUAL

PRAYER OVER THE BAPTISMAL FONT

Celebrant: As we prepare to leave our beloved Nativity Church, let us give thanks to God for the blessings we have found in this holy place.

Let us first give thanks to God, our almighty Father, for the gift of Baptism, our entrance into faith, into the life of the Church. (*silent pause*)

Msgr. Joseph G. Quinn: Father, we thank you for the gift of faith, which you have made possible to us through the grace of Baptism. We thank you for the gift of the Church, the Body of Christ, into which we have been baptized, and through which we find salvation. Bless all those who have received the gift of faith through this font with the grace of perseverance. With one voice, together we acclaim.

Assembly:

THE GOD OF ALL GRACE

Ricky Manalo, CSP

Refrain



The God of all grace has blessed us this day, all of crea -
a - tion joins us in praise; lift - ing our voic - es, lift - ing our
hearts to the glo - ry of God for - ev - er!

CLOSING RITUAL

PRAYER OVER THE STATUE OF MARY

Celebrant: Let us also give thanks to God, our almighty Father, for having given to us His own Mother as our Mother and the model of the Church. (*silent pause*)

Sister Suzie Armbruster: Father, we thank you that your Word became flesh through the Virgin Mary. May all those who look to her for protection, implore her help, and seek her intercession have their prayers answered by her Son. May the model of her perfect discipleship continue to inspire us to greater acts of charity, and may we follow her example as we walk with her toward the Kingdom of God. With one voice, together we pray.

Assembly:

Gentle Woman

5, A unis. D* G D

Hail Mar - y full of grace, the

5 G D G

Lord is with you. Bless-ed are you a-mong

10 D C G D

wom-en and blest is the fruit of your womb, Je - sus

16 D G D

Ho-ly Mar - y Moth-er of God,

T, B unis.

20 G D C G

pray for us sin - ners now and at the hour of

24 D

death. A - men.

CLOSING RITUAL

PRAYER OVER THE NATIVITY SCENE

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God, our almighty Father, for the gift of the Nativity of Our Lord, where the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. (*silent pause*)

Msgr. Patrick Pratico: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love. When our need for a Savior was great, you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. So great was our joy, that we built this holy church in honor of that most blessed miracle. May the joy of the Nativity of our Lord always remain in our hearts. With one voice, together we acclaim.

Assembly:

THE GOD OF ALL GRACE

Ricky Manalo, CSP

Refrain



The God of all grace has blessed us this day, all of crea -
a - tion joins us in praise; lift - ing our voic - es, lift - ing our
hearts to the glo - ry of God for - ev - er!

CLOSING RITUAL

PRAYER OVER THE AMBO

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God, our almighty Father for the gift of his Word to us, which revealed to us the face of God. (*silent pause*)

Mary Zelsnack: Father, we thank you for your Word to us, and for all those lectors, deacons, and priests who proclaimed it from this ambo. By sharing with us holy Scripture, we have been guided deeper into the mystery of your love, and been given joy and comfort, peace and grace. May that Word continue to enlighten our minds, fill our hearts with your love, and grant us the grace of your presence among us. With one voice, together we acclaim.

Assembly:

THE GOD OF ALL GRACE

Ricky Manalo, CSP

Refrain



The God of all grace has blessed us this day, all of crea -
a - tion joins us in praise; lift - ing our voic - es, lift - ing our
hearts to the glo - ry of God for - ev - er!

CLOSING RITUAL

PRAYER OVER THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God, our almighty Father, for the gift of the Passion and Death of His Son, through which we receive the promise of the resurrection. Let us join our Lord on that journey once again as we give thanks for the gift of the Way of the Cross (*silent pause*).

Fr. Cyril Edwards: The Twelfth Station, Jesus Dies Upon the Cross. Consider how your Jesus, after three hours of agony on the cross, is finally overwhelmed with suffering and, abandoning Himself to the weight of His body, bows His head and dies.

All kneel for a moment and silently pray.

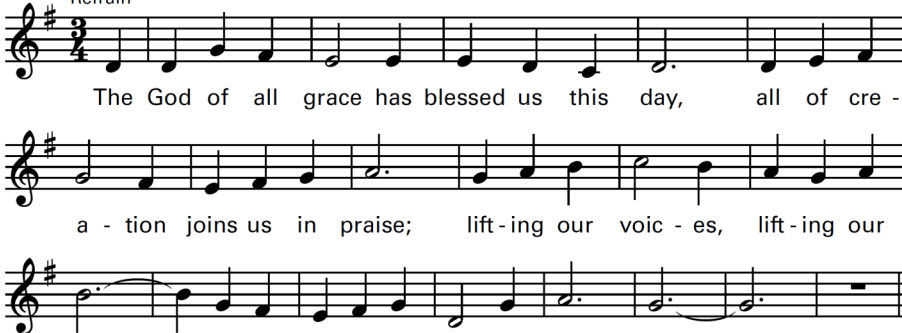
Oh my Jesus, you have given us a great gift when you invited us to pick up our crosses and follow you. To aid us on this journey you have granted us these fourteen beautiful Stations of the Cross which have adorned our beloved church. May the Way of the Cross always be our way of life, and may we joyfully rush out to greet you on the Day of the Resurrection. With one voice, together we acclaim.

Assembly:

THE GOD OF ALL GRACE

Ricky Manalo, CSP

Refrain



The God of all grace has blessed us this day, all of crea -
a - tion joins us in praise; lift - ing our voices, lift - ing our
hearts to the glo - ry of God for - ev - er!

CLOSING RITUAL

PRAYER OVER THE MUSIC MINISTRY

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God, our almighty Father, for the gift of sacred music which has revealed to us His beauty. *(silent pause)*

Ryan Caviston: Father, we thank you for the gift of the music which has lifted our hearts to you: for the instruments which ring out your praise, and the voices which sing of your glory. Bless all those who have shared their gifts with us: those who do so today, those who have done so in years past, and those who now sing joyful songs with the choirs of angels. By your grace may we always lift our voices in praise of you, and spread the message of your love through the beauty of song. With one voice, together we acclaim.

Assembly:

THE GOD OF ALL GRACE

Ricky Manalo, CSP

Refrain



The God of all grace has blessed us this day, all of crea -
a - tion joins us in praise; lift - ing our voic - es, lift - ing our
hearts to the glo - ry of God for - ev - er!

CLOSING RITUAL

PRAYER OVER THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God, our almighty Father, for the gift of the community that has gathered here, called together by the Lord's command to be his holy people in this world. (*silent pause*)

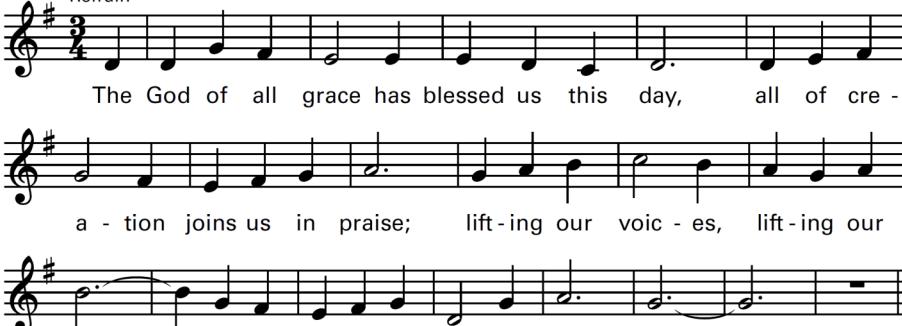
Fr. Michael Bryant: Father, we thank you for the gift of this community. For those who are with us today, for those who could not be, for those who have been called home by you. For our parents, grandparents, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, children, grandchildren, and friends. We have received your love through them. May we never be separated from you Lord, because even when we are far from those we love, even when time and distance and life separate us, when we are gathered around you, wherever we are, then we are still all gathered together. May we be bound together by your love forever. With one voice, together we acclaim.

Assembly:

THE GOD OF ALL GRACE

Ricky Manalo, CSP

Refrain



The God of all grace has blessed us this day, all of crea -
a - tion joins us in praise; lift - ing our voic - es, lift - ing our
hearts to the glo - ry of God for - ev - er!

CLOSING RITUAL

BLESSING OF THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God, our almighty Father, for the gift of his beauty which has shone through our stained glass windows. And may we also ask for God's blessings to rest upon the small stained glass window panels, on which we have etched an image of Nativity Church, so that in taking this small piece of the church with us, the grace which shines through it may always be in our hearts. (*silent pause*)

Fr. Pat Albert: Father, we thank you for the gift of our magnificent stained glass windows, which have enlightened us to the story of salvation. We thank you for the artisans who crafted them, the benefactors who made it possible for them to be installed, and for those who used them to tell your story. Through the light cast through them, you have shown us your love.

We also ask that you bestow your blessing ☩ upon these panes of stained glass which have hung in the sacristy of this church, upon which we have inscribed an image of this magnificent building, a monument to your glory. As those assembled here receive them, may the Church of the Nativity of Our Lord continue to dwell in their homes, their memories, and their hearts for the rest of their days. With one voice, together we acclaim.

Assembly:

THE GOD OF ALL GRACE

Ricky Manalo, CSP

Refrain



The God of all grace has blessed us this day, all of crea -
a - tion joins us in praise; lift - ing our voices, lift - ing our
hearts to the glo - ry of God for - ev - er!

CLOSING RITUAL

PRAYER OVER THE ALTAR

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of the Eucharist, your real and living presence among us. *(silent pause)*

Fr. Jonathan Kuhar: On the altar of this church you have us invited us to join you in this holy and perfect sacrifice of thanksgiving to God. You have handed over your life to us through your sacraments as we worshipped you at Sunday Mass, feast days, Confirmations and First Communions, celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, and funerals celebrated here in hope. As we prepare to leave this church, send us forth oh faithful God to be your messengers in the world. Be with us now, be with us always. Show us your love, and help us always to return to the Eucharist as the source and summit of our Christian life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

The Great Amen



VENERATION OF THE ALTAR

All are now invited to reverence the altar with a kiss or a touch as a symbol of taking leave. After you reverence the altar, please exit the church and gather in the front for the Locking and Sealing of the Doors and the beginning of the Eucharistic Procession.

CLOSING RITUAL

CLOSING HYMN

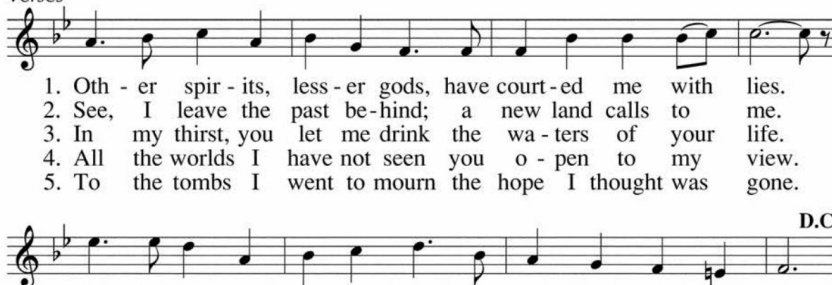
Jerusalem, My Destiny

Refrain



I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Je - ru - sa - lem, my
des - ti - ny! Though I can - not see the end for me, I
can - not turn a - way. We have set our hearts for the
way; this jour - ney is our des - ti - ny. Let
no-one walk a - lone. The jour - ney makes us one.

Verses



1. Oth - er spir - its, less - er gods, have court - ed me with lies.
2. See, I leave the past be - hind; a new land calls to me.
3. In my thirst, you let me drink the wa - ters of your life.
4. All the worlds I have not seen you o - pen to my view.
5. To the tombs I went to mourn the hope I thought was gone.

D.C.

Here a - mong you I have found a truth which bids me rise.
Here a - mong you now I find a glimpse of what might be.
Here a - mong you I have met the sav - ior, Je - sus Christ.
Here a - mong you I have found a vi - sion, bright and new.
Here a - mong you I a - woke to un - ex - pect - ed dawn.

ADDITIONAL CLOSING HYMNS:

Irish Blessing
On Eagles Wings

Here I Am, Lord
The Love of the Lord

CLOSING RITUAL

LOCKING OF THE DOORS

*Paul Bracey and
Mary Joan Burns*

SEALING THE DOORS WITH RIBBONS

*Susan Gilday and
Marita McGoff*

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION

After we lock the doors, we will sing the Salve Regina together. We will then walk together to Sacred Hearts Church for Benediction followed by a light reception in the auditorium. If you would prefer not to walk, you are invited to drive over and wait in the church for the procession to arrive.



v
S Alve Re-gí-na, * ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi-æ, Vi-ta, dul-
cé-do, et spes nostra, salve. Ad te clamá-mus, éxsu-
les, fí-li-i He-væ. Ad te suspi-rá-mus, geméntes et flen-
tes in hac lacrimá-rum valle. E-ia ergo, Advo-cá-ta
nostra, illos tu-os mi-se-ri-córdes ó-cu-los ad nos con-
vér-te. Et Je-sum, be-ne-díctum fructum ventris tu-i,
no-bis post hoc exsíl-li-um osténde. O cle-mens:
O pi-a: O dulcis Virgo Ma-rí-a.

Our Gratitude

We thank all those who helped make this a beautiful day. For Judy White and Mercedes Mendez who helped prepare the church, for Ryan Caviston and the entire choir and all the musicians who prepared so hard to lift our hearts with song. For Mark McGuire who donated and arranged our flowers. For the office staff and volunteers who put in so many hours out of love to make the final Mass a memorable and fitting tribute. For all those who said *yes* along the way, especially our liturgical ministers. For Bill White and Mike Melisky who took so many beautiful photographs and have made them available to everyone on our website. For the members of the Pastoral Council who helped plan the weekend's celebrations.

For everyone who donated baked goods for our reception, and for Sue Barry and Joanne Giacometti who helped coordinate them. For Nancy Cicerini, Mari King, John Guichay, Joanie Langan, and Judy White, who helped set up the auditorium. For Ed Koons, Dan Gallagher, and Eric Deabill from the diocesan Communications Office who helped us record and livestream the Mass. For Don McKeon and Thomas Price who conducted genealogical research in the search for Fr. O'Reilly's next-of-kin, and for Brendan Regan, John Pesavento, Bobby Evans, Kevin Beck, and many others who helped respectfully care for him. For many members of the diocesan Office of Parish Life who gave advice and help along the way, especially for Mary Clare Hallman. We give thanks to Bishop Joseph Bambera for being our shepherd, and for guiding us all through challenging times throughout his episcopate. For our Patroness, St. Teresa of Calcutta, who shows us how to care for the poor.

And most importantly, we give thanks for all of you. For many reasons the past few years have been long and difficult. So many of you have given your hearts over to God, and your faith, kindness, and love is an inspiration. May the Lord bless all of you, and may He continue to bestow His blessing on the Catholic community of South Side and East Mountain. May we all continue to do His work in this world, and may we all be forever united in the Kingdom of God!

HONORING OUR FOUNDER AND OUR HISTORY

The Church of the Nativity of Our Lord enjoys a long and remarkable history. This history was honored through two well written parish history books which celebrated the 50th and then the 100th anniversary. Both of those books have been digitized and are available for download on the parish website at www.stcparish.com/history. We are working on reprinting these books to make physical copies of them available once again. Please watch the bulletin and the website for more information.

On the website you can also find a collection of professional high resolution photos of Nativity Church. Our many thanks to Michael Melisky and Bill White for taking so many of these exceptional photographs!

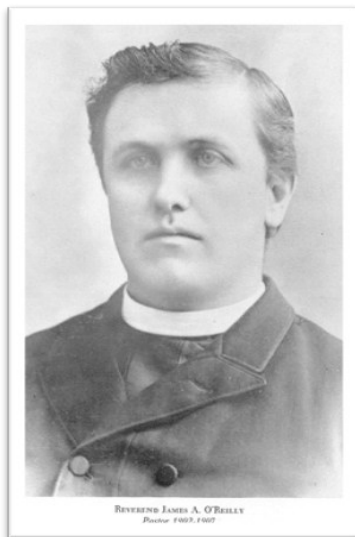
As a part of our closing weekend, on Saturday morning we honored the founding pastor of Nativity Church, Fr. James O'Reilly, by praying Morning Prayer together. After his death in 1907, he was interred in the lower chapel at his request so that he could remain with the community. In love for him, and to honor as best we can his final request, he now rests in our Sacred Hearts Cemetery, to remain with us in South Side until the Resurrection.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to Elizabeth "Betsy" Gerner and Louis Kelly, who are the closest living kin of Fr. O'Reilly. They gave their blessing for his disinterment from the lower church and for his reinternment at Sacred Hearts Cemetery.

We were able to contact them in part due to a coincidental connection that we share. Through exhaustive genealogical research conducted by Don McKeon and Thomas Price we were able to determine that Betsy and Louis are the closest living kin of Fr. O'Reilly. When we began looking for their contact information, we discovered that the Caviston and Gerner families were already friends. Betsy Gerner's son (and Fr. O'Reilly's great-great-grandnephew) GJ Gerner, and our own beloved parishioner Lexi Caviston-Ashmar both passed away from Glioblastoma. Lexi and GJ's families had become connected years ago through the network of good people working to raise funds to fight that horrible disease.

Please consider donating to the foundation established in memory of GJ - **StacheStrong** - which has raised over \$5,000,000 for brain cancer research. You can visit their website at stachestrong.org

THE LIFE OF OUR FOUNDER FR. JAMES O'REILLY



*"One of the most zealous and hard-working priests of the diocese
and a man deserving of the highest confidence and esteem."
Bishop Michael Hoban's description of Fr. James O'Reilly.*

Born February 3, 1860 in St. Joseph in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, he was one of eleven children born to Terrence O'Reilly and Anastasia O'Reilly née Donnelly. His father was the brother of the legendary Fr. John Vincent O'Reilly, the "Pioneer Priest". The list of accomplishments of Fr. John Vincent is too long to properly summarize here, but due to those efforts he was called "the founder of the Diocese of Scranton" by Fr. John Gallagher, the author of *A Century of History: The Diocese of Scranton 1868-1968*. With the exceptional example set by their uncle, four of the O'Reilly sons became priests, including Fr. James and his twin brother Fr. Edward.

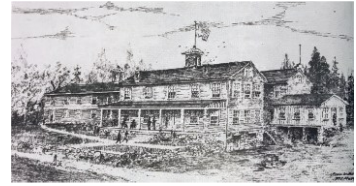


**His uncle, Father
John Vincent O'Reilly**

Fr. James O'Reilly received his early education at Saint Joseph's College near his home, an institution which had been founded by his uncle Fr. John Vincent. From there he attended Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts,

and received his seminary education at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland.

After completing his education, he was ordained in August, 1888 by Bishop William O'Hara, the first bishop of the Diocese of Scranton. He was assigned as the assistant pastor at Holy Rosary Parish in North Scranton. After two years he was transferred to Wilkes-Barre, but only a few months later he was named Rector of the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton.



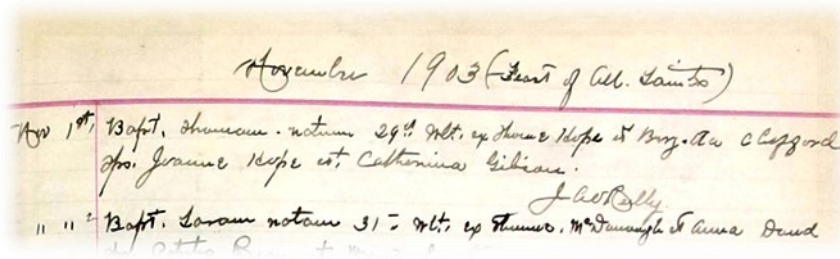
**Saint Joseph's College,
Susquehanna County**

The Cathedral parish which Fr. O'Reilly led had been established several decades before in the 1860s. The first parishioners of what would become the cathedral parish had initially worshiped in South Side at St. Bonaventure, a small church built in 1847. The combined Irish and German community outgrew the structure by the early 1850s. In 1853 it was decided that the German community would remain at St. Bonaventure (who would later build St. Mary of the Assumption Church in South Side) while the Irish community went across town to build a new church named for St. Vincent de Paul. That same congregation would later build a larger church, also named for St. Vincent de Paul, in 1867. This church became the cathedral in 1868 with the formation of the Diocese of Scranton. (It was later reconsecrated and renamed for St. Peter.)

Fr. O'Reilly led the Cathedral parish for 14 years. He certainly would have known of the long walk that many of his parishioners would take every week to attend Mass, and he certainly also would have known of the hardship of their lives due to harsh and dangerous labor conditions. It was then more than appropriate that when Bishop Michael Hoban announced in 1902 the formation of a new parish in South Side, that Bishop Hoban would choose as its first pastor Fr. O'Reilly. In his remaining time at the cathedral, Fr. O'Reilly began planning for the parish, and managed to raise \$15,000 before his assignment began.

Fr. O'Reilly first gathered the people of the new parish at St. John's Hall, which they modified to make appropriate for the celebration of the mass. The first mass was celebrated on November 1, 1903, and it was also on that day that

Fr. O'Reilly celebrated his first baptism at the parish, that of Thomas Hope.



Handwritten baptismal record from 1903, dated August 1903 (Start of Ab. Santos). The record lists two baptisms: one for Thomas Hope at 29th St. by Fr. O'Reilly, and another for Sarah Hope at 31st St. by Fr. O'Reilly. The names of the parents and godparents are also recorded.

(According to the parish records, Thomas remained a member of the parish until his death on October 5, 1973.)

On May 23, 1904, Fr. O'Reilly ceremoniously broke ground for the construction of Nativity Church and was present when the cornerstone was laid on July 31st. In reporting on the laying of the cornerstone, the *Scranton Times* stated that Fr. O'Reilly "is one of the most popular priests in the diocese and is dearly beloved by his parishioners. He has undertaken a large task in the building of a new church but is entering upon it cheerfully and willingly for the glory of God." The entire project was estimated to cost \$75,000.

A little over a year later, on July 17, 1905, with the structure complete, Fr. O'Reilly presided over the dedication of the lower church. Funds would still need to be raised to complete the work on the upper church, but while working toward that goal, the community could gather for worship in the new building. In reporting on the event, the *Scranton Times* stated that Fr. O'Reilly "is entitled unstinted praise for the great work and perseverance he has displayed in securing the erection of so magnificent an edifice in a remarkable short period of time."

Fr. O'Reilly would continue his work for about two more years, shepherding the community and raising the funds to complete the church. Unfortunately, and tragically, however, Fr. O'Reilly would not see the completion of that work.

News reports from the time implied that Fr. O'Reilly



long suffered from a variety of ills but did so in silence. He would never let on that he was ever sick and rarely visited the doctor. His final illness began a few weeks before his death. He “took a cold” one day and sent for a doctor to come to the parish house, then at 533 South Webster Avenue. The doctor advised him to rest. But a pastor to the end, one evening when he was feeling a little better, he walked the three blocks to the church to greet a group of children preparing to receive their First Communion. On the walk back to the residence he “took another cold”, was confined to bed, and called for the doctor.

His doctor recommended surgery to attempt to diagnose and correct the problem. Fr. O'Reilly was then carried from the residence to the hospital where the surgery was performed. It was discovered that his pancreas was the cause of his trouble, but that nothing could be done to save him. With his brothers at his side, they prayed together the prayers for the dying. With the end near, Fr. O'Reilly had the presence of mind to tell them goodbye. He then fell back in the bed and died in peace.

1907 - 8

NAME	RESIDENCE	AGE	State of Life	DATE OF DEATH
Nolan, Mrs Hannah	510 W. Downing	49	m	May 19
Craig, Robert	16 S. Melrose	34	s	" 22
Rev. J. R. O'Reilly - Founder of Nativity Parish	44	—	"	25
Nolan, Thomas	825 Birch	68	m	June 6

1907 - 8

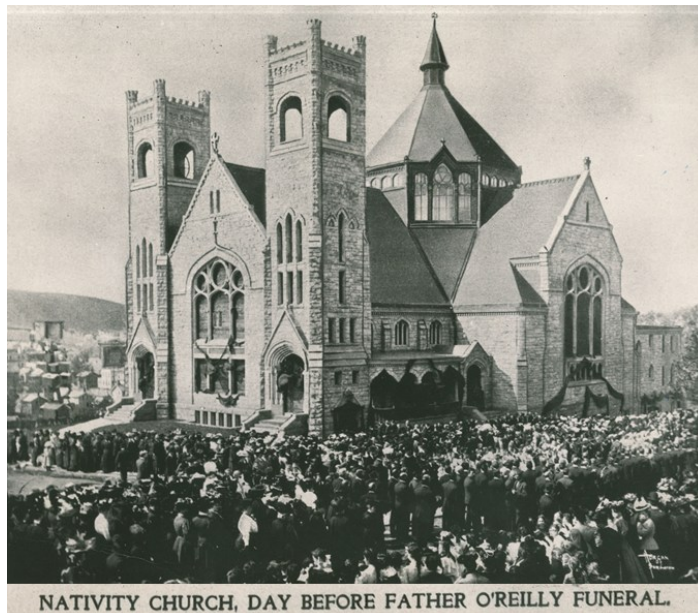
CAUSE OF DEATH	SACRAMENTS	DOCTOR	UNDERTAKER	CEMETERY	REMARKS
lung tr.	y es	Dr. McKee	P. K. Carrick	May 19th	
lung tr.	y es	Dr. Haggerty	" "	" "	
trachea tr.	y es	Dr. Lewis Foxey	" "	May 29 Interment in "Chapel"	
heart tr.	y es	Dr. Geo O'Malley	McC. Sullivan	June 10	

Bishop Hoban celebrated his funeral mass on May 29, 1907. In his eulogy for Fr. O'Reilly, Bishop Hoban began with a quote from the Book of Revelation: “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. From henceforth now, saith the spirit that they may rest from their labors and their good works may follow them.” He went to say that “words are not needed to tell you of his merits. It was not this church he wished to build up. What he wanted was to build you up. His works, indeed, do follow him. They

now unite with your prayers. The chief work he was engaged in was to build up your hearts and your souls that you would ascribe to him under God the betterment of your lives.” Bishop Hoban concluded with saying that “thanks to his family he is to be buried here. His heart was here. One of the last requests he made was that he might be buried here, and I gladly consented.”

A similar sentiment was expressed by Bishop Henry Klonowski, the longtime pastor of our Sacred Hearts Parish here in South Side. Bishop Klonowski, before he died in 1973, is reported to have asked to be buried on the hill of the parish cemetery on Davis Street. He asked for this so that from the hill he could “watch over the flock.”

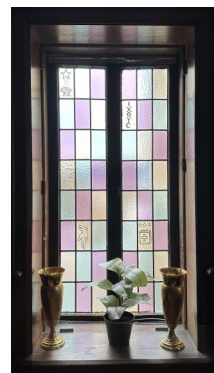
While it is with sadness that we had to move Fr. O'Reilly, it is fitting that we honor as best we can his final wishes. His last request to Bishop Hoban was to stay with us here in South Side. In honor of that request, yesterday morning, June 7th, after praying the Church's Morning Prayer for the Dead, we reinterred him at the Sacred Hearts Cemetery. We buried him in a place of honor on the hill next to Bishop Klonowski. From there may they both watch over the flock of our parish while we wait together for the Day of the Resurrection.



NATIVITY CHURCH, DAY BEFORE FATHER O'REILLY FUNERAL.

A GIFT AND A MEMORY

At the conclusion of Mass after the Veneration of the Altar as we process out of the church, we will be handing out a small gift. Over a period of several months, a team of more than 20 volunteers worked to remove the stained glass windows from the lefthand and upper sacristies and the sacristy hallway, separated the individual rectangular panels, and replaced the glass in the windows with clear glass. The edges of the individual panels were then ground smooth on glass grinders, and the panels were cleaned. They were then laser etched with an image of Nativity Church, and the etching was highlighted using a gilding wax.



Wooden stands were made out of Cherry wood, a slit was cut in each side (one side so that you can display the panel perpendicularly, the other so that you can display it diagonally), and the message “A piece of stained glass from the Church of the Nativity of our Lord” was laser etched on each side. The stands were then sanded. Custom gift boxes were designed and manufactured. Then that same team of volunteers met on a Saturday morning to form a



production line to package the gift. Well over a 1,000 hours of labor went into this project, and it was done by volunteers from the parish and paid for with donations. In total we were able to produce 568 gifts.

It is given to you as a gift and a memory.
May the Church of the Nativity of Our

Lord always remain in your heart, and may your cherished memories stand as a reminder that nothing we love is ever truly lost. The Lord holds them in His hands until it is time for us to receive them again, blessed and glorified. On the Day of the Resurrection - when the Lord fulfills His final and greatest promise to us - we will be gathered together once again. May that hope guide our lives.

*May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

