



the NATIVITY Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

April 2012
Volume 16, Issue 3



April 1st



Palm Sunday (*The service begins out-front.*)

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite One
9:15 am Christian Education for all ages
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite Two

April 2nd-4th
April 4th

Morning Prayer at 7:30 am

Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm

A devotion consisting of prayers and meditations observing the final hours and events of the Passion of Jesus.

April 5th

Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00 pm

This service of Holy Eucharist will commemorate the last supper that Jesus shared with His disciples. The service ends with the stripping of the altar.

April 6th

Good Friday Service at 12 noon

This is a solemn service to recall Christ's crucifixion.

Communion will be offered from reserved sacrament.

April 8th

Easter Sunday

8:00 am

Holy Eucharist Rite One

9:00 am

Easter Brunch/Parish House

(Bring a dish to share)

10:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt/Parish House

(By April 4th, please bring to the church office wrapped candy *no gum please* and plastic eggs)

10:30 am

Holy Eucharist Rite Two



The Ten Commandments

The following is an excerpt from Father Steve's sermon on Lent 3 about the Ten Commandments. This is being printed by request. The sermon (and all sermons) can be found in its entirety on our website.

Hear the ten commandments in a new way; in a way I believe they were intended.
 "I am the Lord, your God. Only me. Because I love you, I've given your freedom.
 The world, looking for meaning and substance has created a lot of other Gods.
 Don't worry about them. They're not real. They're just things. So don't worship them.
 You look silly doing that. And besides, it hurts my feelings.
 You don't need things to make me real. I'm not a place. I'm present for you because I love you and I'm loyal to those who keep my commandments.
 Try to make that enough.
 And if you would, show me some respect. Maybe that's how I know you're grateful.
 Don't take my name lightly and don't use my name when it's really not me doing the talking.
 And give yourself a break.
 Most of you work hard and need a little Sabbath.
 Set aside some time to remind yourself what it is you're working so hard for;
 your children, your family, your friends.
 And while you're at it, set aside some time for me.

Let's spend the day together. It helps put things in perspective. I promise.
 Take care of your mom and dad, just like they took care of you.
 It's part of the circle of life.
 Maybe they weren't perfect, but you aren't either.
 Honor them. It's just the right thing to do.
 And if you can't remember anything else, remember this.
 Don't steal.
 It's a biggie.
 When you kill a man, you steal a life.
 You steal his wife's right to a husband and rob his children of a father.
 When you tell a lie, you steal someone's right to the truth.
 When you cheat, you steal the right to fairness.
 Don't do it!
 Be loyal, not just to me but to all you make a covenant with.
 You humans are some of my very best ideas, so I bless you.
 Maybe you don't have everything you want.
 Maybe the guy down the street has it made; has all the toys you think important.
 But that was never part of the deal.
 Don't waste a minute focusing on what you don't have.
 Be thankful for what you do have.
 You'll be happier.
 I bless you with my presence; not matter what, no matter how hard.
 That's my promise and the truth is I don't ask for much in return."

Adult Christian Education: Father Tom

Having been back with you for three years now, I can say that It would be impossible to serve a parish more enjoyable and spiritually rewarding than Holy Nativity. The only thing I miss is the daily interaction with the students at Holy Nativity School, but I have served the school as Financial Aid Administrator for the past decade or more, a ministry of helping others that takes an enormous amount of time, especially this season of the year. And being on the board of the Holy Nativity School Foundation for the past dozen years or so also keeps me deeply involved with the school. Nothing compares, though, to walking down the hall and having beaming children shout, "Father Tom! What's for snack today?!" and then having them rush into my classroom as they never rushed into any other classes! Did they love me, or the snacks? No matter: I loved them dearly!!
 We aren't quite there yet, but with this April newsletter

we are nearing the end of another busy year of Christian Education activities. Sunday school, Tuesday Bible study. Lately, inquirers' seminar. This year, Adult Christian Education will have a special feature through the summer while Father Steve is away on sabbatical. General Convention of The Episcopal Church has authorized several new Rite Two type liturgies and published them in a red book called *Enriching Our Worship*. I have used them at other parishes I have served, and found that people really took to them. With Father Steve's OK, we are going to worship with some of it this summer at the ten-thirty service (eight o'clock worship will continue unchanged with Rite One). It's all good, and refreshing, and I believe folks will thoroughly enjoy it. Let's call it "Summer Worship." Look ahead, and when you are in town, be sure to join us!

Meantime, by the time you read this we will have finished our Inquirers' Seminar and Confirmation Classes, both Sunday morning and Tuesday morning.

PROM NIGHT

It brings back a lot of memories,
doesn't it?

The spring Supper Club mixer will be
a PROM!

So get your gowns & tuxes (suits will do)
out of mothballs and join in the fun.

As always, bring a dish to share and we'll
have music & dancing,
entertainment & fun, food & fellowship!!!

Sign up in the Parish Hall!

Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 6:00 pm
at

Chateau Nativite'
(The Parish House)

Backpack Buddies

Thanks to your generosity, our backpack ministry is still going strong and serving 53 children and their families. There are still opportunities to help by picking up, stuffing, and delivering backpacks, as well as by continuing to provide food and financial support to meet our need for 106 breakfasts, lunches and dinners, 212 snacks, and 318 juice boxes every week. Genevieve Smith recently reorganized the backpack area of the Food Bank, so things are running smoothly and it is easier than ever to join the team that has been loading backpacks week in, week out since January. Thanks again, and we'll look forward to seeing you soon down at the Food Bank.

Any high-schoolers needing service hours are welcome to participate in stuffing backpacks, which can be accomplished at a time convenient for you (and whoever is unlocking the door to the Food Bank) during the week.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact Fr. Steve (747-4000),
fr.steve@holy-nativity.org, or Mike Dickey at 867.2550
or mdickey@barronredding.com.



HAPPY APRIL! We kick off the month with Holy Week, which puts the "Stations of the Cross" service on our first Wednesday night. Please come to the church at 6pm to participate in this service, and afterwards we will head to the upstairs room to fill Easter eggs. I imagine we will have more candy than we can possibly fit into those little plastic eggs, if you know what I mean . . .

The rest of this month, we will be back to our traditional Wednesday-night format. We will meet from 6 to 8 pm in the upstairs room for dinner, activities, discussion, fellowship, and (hopefully) fun. Speaking of dinner:

PARENTS! I had a terrific response to my last request for dinners, and I am hoping you folks will take care of us again. If you are willing and able to bring dinner for about 10 hungry teenagers to one of our Wednesday night gatherings, please contact me.

We are having a great time in the upstairs room - if you haven't seen it lately, you might not recognize it.

Please join us on Wednesday nights. See you there!

Judy
248-6624
judydickey@gmail.com

Children's Ministry April 2012

April	Sunday School 9:15 In our Chapel Room in the two-story building	Children's Church 10:30 In Kids' Kingdom after the children's sermon at the beginning of the worship service. They return to "big church" for communion.	Nursery 10:15 Younger children enjoy being in the nursery with Megan or Molly Thompson and our wonderfully faithful nursery volunteers.
1 Palm Sunday	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"Jesus during Holy Week" Judy Bennett 215-1579 Jenny Collier 215-6554 Jo Bruhn 819-6667	Sandy Ciccarelli 265-9276
8 Easter Sunday	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Children stay in church for Easter!	Carolyn Cramer 769-6789
15	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Ashley Eaton 769-8533 Kathy Brust 814-8014	Nancy Reeder 596-9538
22	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Judy Bennett 215-1579 Sharon Carroll 784-6961	Pat Spangler 215-5247
29	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Judy Bennett 215-1579 Karen Shores 867-1084	Katy Bradford 234-7004



Often we have to adjust to the play between tradition and transition. At Holy Nativity we will continue with our traditions of Palm Sunday Children's Choir and procession, and we will not relinquish the Easter morning brunch and egg hunt, but we will need to change the sites this year. With the old cafeteria building gone and Battin Hall and the courtyard being renovated, we will sing and begin the Palm Sunday procession in front of the church. Please bring your bags of candy for the plastic eggs to the church office by April 4th or to church on Palm Sunday. The EYC "big kids" will fill the eggs on Wednesday and will hide them for us on Sunday morning.

On Easter Sunday, we will hunt eggs in the big back yard of the parish house following the brunch. Before the 10:30 service, the children will move to Kids' Kingdom to prepare to process into church for Flowering the Cross. Most of the children have picked up their mite boxes by now to collect their coins for Lenten giving. By attaching flowers to the boxes, we can present our offerings as we flower the cross. Please remind your children to bring their mite boxes and flowers that morning, however, we will have extra mite boxes and flowers ready for visitors and those who forget.

Thank you for your contributions to the Backpack Ministry. The children have had the opportunity to become active participants on Wednesday evenings by stuffing backpacks, fifty-three of them, in assembly line style. Working together, they are having fun while serving others in a way that they can fully understand. It is a joy to see that they care. We are blessed with wonderful children. Thank you so much.

Beverly McDaniel



By Marqua Brunette, Director of Choirs

The Rite One Choir

The Rite One Choir will be singing on Palm Sunday, April 1st and again on April 29th, a Sunday often referred to as “Good Shepherd Sunday”, when their anthem will be a contemporary setting of the 23rd Psalm. They have become a very dedicated group of individuals and get so enthused when they really ‘get it right’.

Weekly rehearsals are on Thursday from 5:30 – 6:30 PM and we generally sing once a month in church. New members are welcome anytime. What began with as only three voices two years ago is now a real choir! Praise God!

The Chancel Choir

April begins with Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. In the midst of Lent, I admit I was somewhat concerned about whether we would have the voices needed for Resurrection Sunday, but God provided and ailments are healing and travels ceased to allow for our full choir to be prepared. They truly view their ministry as their gift and are extremely committed to what they do.

The Chancel Choir has rehearsed diligently for Holy Week and we encourage you to attend Maundy Thursday service. Personally, I find the music very powerful and moving along with the service of the Last Supper and stripping of the altar. I am always gratified when choir members emotionally react to the music that they are singing, and this service’s chosen anthem is no exception.

We often find a slight relaxation after Easter but our focus

this year will be on Mother’s Day and The Bishop’s visit for confirmation. Perhaps you would like to join us at Thursday rehearsals from 6:30 – 8:30 and Sunday mornings at 9:30! We would love to have additional voices singing with us.

The Children’s Choir

Palm Sunday is a Children’s Choir highlight each year and this year is no exception. They will also be singing in early May before our summer break. While the children do not sing weekly, they rehearse weekly and manager to learn a great number of songs. Basic music skills are also learned and always a focus on prayer and why we sing what we sing.

I like to think that our Children’s Choir is building a choir for the future of Holy Nativity. Nearly every adult choir member started out singing in their choir as a child. It is part of our stewardship for our church to plan for the future. I assure you, based on what I see with these young voices, Holy Nativity is in good hands!

A Note from the Episcopal Church Women

The ECW would like to thank David Smith for his wonderful presentation last month. Our eyes were opened and questions answered about handling our financial matters for our family.

The ECW will not meet again until the Fall! Please check your newsletters and bulletins for information.



May 6th-Honoring our High School and EfM graduates!

May 13th-Bishop Duncan will be here for confirmations!

June 3rd-Shell Island Sunday!



Apr. 2 Anne Hawley, Duncan Scott
 Apr. 3 Kathy Stuart
 Apr. 4 Alyssa Shores
 Apr. 5 Mac Bonham
 Apr. 6 Clara Spaulding
 Apr. 8 Benjamin Stuart
 Apr. 9 Anna McCord
 Apr. 10 Sarah Dick
 Apr. 11 Deana Gailfoil
 Apr. 12 Callie Mills
 Apr. 13 Jewell Harding, Pam Hawley
 Apr. 15 Garrett Coley, Alden Davis, Tony Hill, Dan Smith
 Apr. 16 Rich Doran
 Apr. 18 Terry Collatz, Nelson Scott
 Apr. 19 Michael McLawhorn
 Apr. 22 Henry Breland, Carmen Camenzind, Byron Matthews, Steve McClain, Joseph Parell, Stephanie Pettis, Madilyn Steichert, James Thompson, Joseph Thompson
 Apr. 25 Ella Cole
 Apr. 26 David Fennell, Addison Pack
 Apr. 27 Benjamin Churchill, Alex Phillips, Faith Smith
 Apr. 29 Bailey Melzer, Madge Smith, Megan Thompson

Godspeed Deacon Bob!

The Rev. Bob Dean's last Sunday with us was March 25th. As you might know, deacons are assigned by the Bishop to their places of ministry and Bob will be serving in a new location. We give thanks for his ministry with us and wish him the best in his new ministry. God bless you, Deacon Bob and Godspeed.



Apr. 1 Jim and Florence Fortier
 Apr. 7 Bret and Katie Fisher
 Mark and Pam Hawley
 Apr. 8 Stephanie Pettis and Rusty Smith
 Apr. 9 David and Madge Smith
 Austin and Carolyn Roberts
 Apr. 15 James and Joyce Cospers
 Apr. 16 Bill and Sylvia Mormile
 Max and Joyce Dannecker
 Apr. 17 Heinz and Jaimie Camenzind
 Apr. 20 Jim and Kelly Roberson
 Apr. 21 Chris and Kathy Mills
 Hercules and Mary Ellen Pettis
 Apr. 22 Bruce and Phyllis McLawhorn
 Dan and Laura Johnson
 Apr. 29 Ray and Diane Wishart

Holy Nativity Book (Kindle) Club!



Everyone is invited to read along and join the Book Club every 4th Monday at 6:30 pm in the Parish House to discuss the book.



Here is the schedule for the coming months!

April: Hotel At The Corner Of Bitter Sweet
 May: Steve Jobs

For more information please call Betty Grammer at 763-5095.

Holy Nativity has a AED or Automated External Defibrillator located in the back of the Nave where the stairs are located.

In case of emergency, this is used to start the heart beating again. It is VERY EASY to use and anyone can do it. Just follow the vocal directions given. If anyone is interested in watching the 5 minute demonstration CD, please call Madge Smith at 747-4000. This is not required to use the machine though.



222 North Bonita Avenue
Panama City, FL 32401
(850) 747-4000

E-mail: info@holy-nativity.org
Website: www.holy-nativity.org



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*The Nativity Scene is the newsletter of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church.
The deadline for announcements and articles is the 15th each month prior to publication .*

DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST

*The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan II - Bishop
The Rev. Steven B. Bates - Rector
The Rev. Tom Weller, Associate*

CHURCH STAFF

*Youth Director - Judy Dickey
Children's CE Director - Beverly McDaniel
Administrative Assistant - Madge Smith
Director of Choirs - Marqua Brunette
Church Organist - John Durgan
Church Bookkeeper - Kathy Mills
Sexton - Lawrence Long
Weekend Sexton - James Rahn
Nursery Attendants - Megan Thompson, Molly Thompson*

THE VESTRY

<i>Fr. Steve Bates - Rector</i>	<i>Michele Hahn 12-15</i>
<i>Gayle Ahrens 10-13</i>	<i>Jim Hixson 11-14</i>
<i>Charles Bonham 10-13</i>	<i>Betty Grammer 12-15</i>
<i>Edyth Brown 12-15</i>	<i>Brian Leebrick 10-13</i>
<i>Carolyn Cramer 12-15</i>	<i>Mary Ellen Pettis 11-14</i>
<i>Mike Dickey 11-14</i>	<i>Madge Smith - Clerk</i>
<i>Richard Doran 11-14</i>	<i>John Thompson 10-13</i>
<i>Mark Godwin - Treasurer</i>	

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

*8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite I **
*9:15 a.m. - Adult and Youth CE, Children's
Chapel (Aug. - May)*
*10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II***

**Nursery Provided*

***Children's CE and Nursery Provided*