



the NATIVITY *Scene*

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

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Adult Christian Education: Father Tom

Everything is new and different, and I miss weekly meeting with folks for Sunday School. The give and take of discussion and fellowship. Questions, comments, going off the trail onto intriguing possibilities. I hope you have a feeling as I do, though, that we're continuing albeit in a different format. For anyone who checks out my blogposts on +Time. Daily or almost daily, or at least for The Duration I'm trying to post something daily. Sunday a Bible lesson of some sort except on the Sundays when I'm the designated preacher, on which days I post the transcript of my sermon.

Of printing sermons, one of my seminary professors, likely the homiletics professor (homiletics is preaching, or maybe homiletics are preaching, like grits are good, not grits is good) advised us Never print and distribute your sermons; but if pressed and you have no choice, at least make sure you print what you should have said instead of what you did say. So anyway, in my first parish where I preached some forty years ago, the rector printed his own sermons and put a half dozen copies weekly in a Sermon Rack in the narthex. When I came on staff, he required that I also print my sermons after preaching them, and put six copies in the Sermon Rack. Somewhere between modesty and pride, he kept track to see if people did indeed pick up his sermons and take them home to read again. To devil him, though he was a yankee who did not devil well at all, which of course made it all the more fun, I started taking out copies of my sermons, "disappearing them" while at the same time keeping his count up to six so it looked like people were taking my sermons but not his. Caused some stir, and I never told him what I was doing. I mean, don't mess with the Bubba, nomesane?

But my +Time blog filling in for Adult Christian Education for The Duration. Wednesday mornings I'm writing and posting some sort of Bible study or other. It's no substitute for the fun we have in our Sunday School class, but there it is, and if anyone is inclined to respond, I post it on my Facebook page as well, where there is space for comments and maybe get discussion going if it comes to that.

The other days, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday I still go my own way, but trying to keep it decent for linked on the parish web site, and leaning toward something from the lectionary readings for each upcoming Sunday.

No way to diminish the seriousness of Covid-19, though for my part I'm trying to approach this as fun, and actually making it so for myself; and I hope for some of you.

Blessings and love,

Tom+

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

Hello from afar! Please check-out our Facebook Group and Instagram Account for posts, including the D365 daily devotional.

Attention Graduates! If you are (or you know someone who is) graduating this year please see the attached letter from Bishop Russell Kendrick and let us know in the church office (747-4000 or madge@holy-nativity.org) or AJ (319-1953 or aussie_aj@holy-nativity.org).



The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

Dear Class of 2020: Graduating High School/College Senior and others,

I hate the reason I am writing you. Graduation is supposed to be one of the most joyful and meaningful rites of passage in life. And yet, this global pandemic has robbed you of the fullness of this experience.

This hit home for me recently during a Zoom meeting. Suddenly, a young adult I know dashed across the background of her mother's computer screen. She is graduating from high school. My mind raced and my heart filled with all she is missing: proms, college trips, ceremonies, parties. Again, the reality of this global disaster flooded over me.

However, I will not let this tragedy have the final word! I believe in God, and while I may not have been literally present, I made a promise to you at your baptism and confirmation—"to support you in your life with Christ." Thus, I am writing to you for two reasons.

First of all, with this note comes my prayer for you. Amid all that is being lost, I pray you will remember what is most important, and what is most important is you. Your life matters, and nothing in this world can snatch the eternal and absolute value of who you are and who you will be in the future. So do not lose heart, and when you do lose heart, know that I will believe for you. And I ask that you believe for me, too. This is what faith does; we find strength in each other.

This faith brings me to the second reason for this note. We want to celebrate your accomplishment. I know that any attempt to do so will fall short of what you had hoped for in the next month. Still, your life matters, and because of the promise of support we made for you, we are compelled to try.

So here is what we want to do. We want to celebrate the class of 2020, specifically all those in the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast who are graduating from high school, college, post-secondary educational institution, or basic military training. To do so, we ask you to send us via email two photos: 1] a "formal" picture of you; and 2] an "informal" pic that depicts who you are. Have some fun with the second one! With these photos send us: a] your name; b] the school/institution from which you are graduating; c] the name of your church; d] and a brief prayer request for you. Email this to Jennifer Johnson, Communications Missioner, at jenn@diocgc.org. Please do this by Monday, May 4, 2020.

We will distribute the finished "digital annual" to the entire diocese. It will be an important historical record of the class of 2020. Even more, it will be a visible sign today to the rest of us of our hope in the future that your life holds. We want to celebrate your life, please help us to do so.

Remember, God made you. God knows you by your name and loves you. And no matter where you go or what you go through, God will never lose you. Amen.

+Russell Kendrick
Bishop



May 1 Emerson Cantrell, Lou Churchill, Kat Hutt, Wes McClellan, Tim Pride, Larry Young
 May 3 Joseph Jansenius, D.W. Smith
 May 4 Barbara Knowles, Susan Messer
 May 6 Pat Clemons, Ina Joy Wicker
 May 9 Hayden Henneberg
 May 12 Carol Calton, Jimmy Calton, Natasha Lithway
 May 13 A.J. Jeffery, Grayson Williams
 May 14 Ella Ennis
 May 15 Camryn Commander, John Wambo
 May 18 Con Davidenko, David Hurst, Glenda Patterson, Marie Presser, Margot Provencher, Christy Smith
 May 19 Doug Smith
 May 20 Jacob Brock
 May 21 Bill Bradford, Alice Kinney, Walker Stamps, James Wattenbarger
 May 22 Ashley Shores
 May 24 Carl Harris, Kevin Healey
 May 27 Mary Riehle
 May 29 Kelly Roberson
 May 30 Dianna Hawthorne, Tim Phillips



May 4 Robert and Sharon Carroll
 May 5 Rich and Lenka Doran
 May 12 Denis and Lora Healey
 May 13 Larry and Kay Young
 May 14 Hansson and Melanie Henneberg
 May 16 Robert and Lucy Dozar
 May 17 Michael and Deana Gailfoil
 May 19 Tim and Monica Phillips
 May 24 John and Sarah Mason
 Alan and Jeannette Tremaine
 May 25 Bertram and Marla Churchill
 May 28 Ivan and Florencia Pereira
 Kevin and Maggie Wattenbarger
 May 29 Jason and Christy Smith

Church Donations

You can mail your
 donations to Holy Nativity
 Episcopal Church at
 1011 East Third Street
 Panama City, FL 32401
 Or



Pay online from our website, www.holy-nativity.org.
 Click the online donation tab.

Backpack Buddies *by Trey Hutt*

With schools closed, the Backpack Buddies program is on a break. We tried every way we knew how to continue to serve our students during the lockdown, but it just wasn't possible. After quite a bit of back-and-forth with the school and with the district, we finally had to admit that there wasn't much we could do in the current situation. We have to sit tight until the fall, and this left us with just over a week's worth of food that had nowhere to go. (Quite a bit of what we have will stale date before the fall semester begins.) Of course, God brought us an opportunity. Gulf Coast State College began their own food pantry for students following Hurricane Michael, and it has been under strain with so many students being out of work. Seeing this intersection between education and direct food aid, this felt very much "on mission" for our ministry. We opted to donate our remaining stock there so that it could be distributed directly to families.

In the fall, this ministry will be under new leadership. While I will remain involved, Jeff and Jackie Rahn will be taking the reins. BPB veterans, they were central to this ministry when it began several years ago. I don't think that they will change very much, and the food pantry has been completely redone since Hurricane Michael, anyway. Hopefully, they will make improvements where they see opportunities, and we will continue to see strong support from our parish family. Certainly, the need will not go away. Thank you to everyone that has supported us and our efforts, whether through donations, volunteer time, or prayer. We'll be back in August!

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During this time of social distancing due to the coronavirus, please check your email and/or your Facebook account for upcoming announcements and services online.

Please contact the church office if your contact information is incorrect, or if you need any help or if you have any questions.

We will all be back together soon!

Visit www.holy-nativity.org/echurch to find out everything that is going on at Holy Nativity for the week during this time of social distancing. View live Mid Week Manna and Sunday services. Visit a Children's and Youth Area for the week. Read Fr. Tom's Daily Blog and Forward Movement's Day by Day Devotional.

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. Russell Kendrick - Bishop
The Rev. Steven B. Bates - Rector
The Rev. Tom Weller, Associate

CHURCH STAFF

Youth Director - Andrew Jeffery
Director of Music - John Durgan
Administrative Assistant - Madge Smith
Children's CE Director - Beverly McDaniel
Church Bookkeeper - Kathy Mills
Sexton - Deana Gailfoil
Nursery Attendant - Kaew Sumpton

THE VESTRY

Fr. Steve Bates - Rector
Tricia Berry - 18-21
Beth Brock- 16-19
Ian Crelling 16-19
Tiffany Ennis 16-19
Mark Godwin - Treasurer
Mike Harding 17-20
Tom Ledman 17-20 Jr. Warden

Brian Leebrick 18-21
George McInnis 17-20 Sr. Warden
Ivan Pereira 18-21
Mary Ellen Pettis-18-21
Kelly Roberson 17-20
Madge Smith - Clerk
Joy Thompson 16-19

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

*Sunday 8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite I **
9:15 a.m. - Adult and Youth CE, Children's
Sunday School (Sept. - May)
*10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II***
*Wednesday 5:30 pm - five-thirty Eucharist **
and programs

**Nursery Provided*

***Children's Church and Nursery Provided*