



September 2020
Volume 24, Issue 9

the NATIVITY *Scene*

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

Mark Your Calendars! October Happenings

Beginning in October we will resume many of our programs and ministries that have been suspended since the pandemic began. All programs and ministries will practice social distancing protocols and masks when that is not possible. As we begin to resume, we ask your patience, understanding and support as we work through protocols that will make what we do as safe as possible for all involved. Look for additional news through the month of September.

Beginning Sunday, October 4th

- Children's Chapel
- Nursery
- Sunday School

Beginning Wednesday, October 7th

- The St. Francis Day Blessing of the Pets, 6:00 p.m.
 - o This will be an outdoor event with a pizza party to follow.
 - o Wednesday Program Preview
 - Club 456
 - Godly Play
 - Youth Group
- Regular Wednesday services and programs will resume October 14th
 - o 5:30 Eucharist
 - o Supper
 - o Programs



The Blessing of the Pets

Children's Ministry by Beverly McDaniel

Children's Ministry September 2020 No backpacks at the altar, no picnic dinner, no water slide, and no water bombings... Should we just cancel Rally Day and Blessing of the Backpacks this year? Fr. Steve said, "No way! Let's figure out how to make it great for our students and teachers". So, with the creativity and diligent work of our wonderful volunteers, chaired by Tricia Berry, I believe it turned out to be pretty great indeed. Tricia ordered the gift bags, lanyards and masks imprinted with our HNEC logo for all our "honorees". Also included in every bag were goodies such specially created bookmarks with Bible verses, Jesus pencils and bracelets, nice new toothbrushes and toothpaste, and of course, M and M's and Hershey Bars. Then, with five designated categories, six moms who could select with insider knowledge, ordered appropriate additions for each category. Florencia Pereira did pre-K and Kindergarten; Shani Lee – Elementary; and Krissy Oenbrink – Middle School. Karen Shores, Sharon Carroll, and Holly Melzer added to the bags for High School and Teachers with pretty clipboards, a rainbow of sticky notes, colorful markers and highlighters, stylish lidded insulated mugs containing (at the Rector's suggestion, and he was right!) gift cards for Starbucks. On the Saturday before the Blessing service, Tricia had the marvelous moms come to her house for lunch, a packing party, and fellowship. The gift bags were ready. The church and grounds were ready as well. Our youth director, the Awesome Aussie, A.J. Jeffery, had everything perfectly prepared: the parade route, the sound system, the appropriately-apart giftbag setup, the balloon decorations and Madge's banner, the platform for Fr. Steve on the grassy parking field where we gathered, in the heat and socially distanced, for the Blessings of the Backpacks and for Leigh Gladden to lead us in singing, "I Am a Promise". It was a festive occasion but also very spiritual, and for some of us it was emotional. An essen-

tial part of this tradition is sending the children and teachers back to school knowing that God cares for them and is with them everywhere. In a time of uncertainty and change, those blessed backpacks can be reminders of God's presence and love, and I believe the children felt that. Finally, with everyone back in cars, they drove by the front of the church where Fr. Steve gave individual blessings and sprinkled/splashed them with actual Jordan River holy water. They received the Liz-laminated tags noting that their backpacks had been blessed, while enthusiastic parishioners cheered. Why am I telling so much about this? Because it was such an unexpectedly spirit-filled affair. I knew that the Holy Spirit was among us. I was certain that we were doing the right thing, at the right time, and for the right reasons...and that God was pleased with our work. In addition, I felt the distinctly special spirit of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church. Many of you recognize exactly what I mean, with some examples being: the strength and support after Hurricane Michael and then our pride in having the Presiding Bishop visit; our outreach to the community through Backpack Buddies, Supper at Grace, Pajamas at Christmas, and other less visible kindnesses such as Laundry Love, Angel Tree, Youth Group's "Love Your Neighbor", Club 45's participation with Samaritan's Purse, and others projects; the spirit of sympathy and love during times of loss and grief; the joy we share for weddings and new babies and baptisms and confirmations; and the Holy Nativity spirit shows in our cherished traditions at All Saints, and Lessons and Carols, and at Christmas, and at Easter, and the soon-to-come Blessing of the Pets, and many more. We can be so thankful that our Rector values these traditions and encourages us to adapt to the mission. At least in this case, I believe that we can consider the mission accomplished.

Continued on next page

Children's Ministry continued

Moving ahead to plans for the next adaptations, we are looking to resuming Children's Chapel and reopening the nursery for the 10:30 Worship Service on October 4th. We will make adaptations for this following CDC protocol and let you know the guidelines in the October newsletter. The Blessing of the Pets will be at 6:00, Wednesday, October 7th in the Smith Pavilion with masks and social distancing for humans. There will not be programs for children or adults that evening, but the nursery will be open for infants and toddlers only. Children's programs resume on the following Wednesday from 6:30 – 7:30 after the 5:30 service and dinner. The nursery will be open for infants and toddlers. Holly Melzer will again lead the now expanded Club 456, who will meet in the two-story building in the room upstairs that they were working to decorate but never got to enjoy. Kindergarten and elementary programs will be designed and implemented according to attendance numbers and CDC recommendations.

We are hoping to be able to offer Godly Play on Sundays and Wednesdays at least twice a month. I will be calling on many of you to teach or assist or substitute or just stand-by to ensure we can adhere to proper procedures. This may be tedious, but we will grow accustomed to it, just as the children and their teachers are doing at school. Over everything, we love our children, and we will do whatever it takes to protect them and their families so that we can be together again at our church. Speaking of tedious, I realize that this is an exceptionally long newsletter article and not many of you will make it through to the end. However, for those of you who have gotten this far, please text (850-832-8324) or email (bmcdaniel@holy-nativity.org) your name to me and I will reward you and your child(ren) with a quarter each. I have used this tactic before and have never had to lower my standard of living because of it.

Adult Christian Education - Father Tom

Uncertainty and Caution continue unabated! Recently, maybe in our August Newsletter, I committed tentatively to staging myself in Smith Pavilion at 9:15 on September 13, the Sunday morning after Labor Day, to resume our Adult Sunday School class in the open air. However, we now have a break that looks like we'll be able to resume Sunday School on Sunday, October 4th with guidelines to keep everyone safe.

Continuing in the Meantime, I'll go on emailing the SS class on Sunday morning and Monday morning and Wednesday morning. Sometimes I miss, and when I miss, as a priest with power and authority to absolve sins in God's Name, I declare that God forgives my goof-up! Sunday's blogpost is usually a SS lesson of some sort. Monday's, the lectionary propers for the following Sunday. Wednesday's, a bible or other mid-week muse of some kind. All of it reachable via Facebook and via +Time, my daily blog that is linked on the parish web page. On the parish web page, click E-Church then go to the right side of the page and click Father Tom's Daily Blog to plusmoretime.blogspot.com. Bear in mind that it's my cross between personal and religious.

Prayers said and fingers crossed for seeing you soon!

Tom+



Hello Youth! We are looking for volunteers to be on the church's video crew. We have a great new video/livestream system that we will use to livestream the 10:30 am service.

~~~~~~  
 ~~~~~~ We are excited to be getting back together again in October!! ~~~~~~  
 ~~~~~~

Remember we are on social media or contact AJ via [aussie\\_aj@holy-nativity.org](mailto:aussie_aj@holy-nativity.org)

## Hurricane Laura Relief

If you're like me, watching the weather last Wednesday night brought back so many painful memories of our own experience as we saw Hurricane Laura rapidly strengthen as she approached the coast of Louisiana. I think part of the anxiety we felt was that we knew how those folks were feeling as the storm approached but we also knew too well how they were feeling the next day. During those days and weeks following the storm, I remember how much monetary gifts meant coming from people across the country, most of whom we had no connection to. The monetary gifts allowed us to maintain all our staff and ministries, purchase food and supplies to support our local economy, and most importantly were immediate and timely. I'd like for us to do that for those beginning their recovery from Hurricane Laura. We have adopted St. Michael's and All Angels in Lake Charles, Louisiana as the recipient of our gifts. St. Michael's and All Angels suffered significant damage to their facilities and as we know their recovery will be a lengthy and challenging process. From our experience, whatever we are able to give to them will make a difference in these early days. Checks can be put in the collection plate, sent to the church or be made using the online giving link on our website. Please notate "Hurricane Relief" on your method of payment.

Steve+

**“In person” Worship!**  
**8:00 am: Holy Eucharist Rite One**  
**10:30 am: Holy Eucharist Rite Two**

In order to create a safe environment during the Covid-19 pandemic, the following policies have been put into effect, as of May 31st. Please check your email and all church communication for changes in these policies. Thank you for your cooperation and your consideration for your fellow worshippers.

Services are limited to 50 people. Overflow can access the live feed and receive communion in Battin Hall.  
Social distancing (6'+) is required (Family groups can sit together)  
Masks are required entering and exiting the church and coming forward for communion.



**Making our Church  
Safe for All**

Don't feel comfortable coming to church yet? That is perfectly fine! We will continue our online Facebook Live 10:30 am service. You can go to our website ([www.holy-nativity.org](http://www.holy-nativity.org)) under the E-Church tab and click the tab to view the service on the church's Facebook page. Look for reminders in your email and on Facebook.



**Tune in to Fr. Steve online on Facebook Live every Wednesday in September at 6 pm for a devotional and Compline service.**

**You can join through Holy Nativity's Facebook page, or just go to our website and click on E-Church.**





Sept. 1

**John Durgan**

- Sept. 3 Jo Bruhn, Julia McLane
- Sept. 4 Liam Cramer
- Sept. 5 Phyllis Walker
- Sept. 6 Stevens Roberson, Shelby Roberson
- Sept. 7 Pat Spangler
- Sept. 8 Casey Cole, Susan Young
- Sept. 10 Bill Ethridge, Gene Wicker
- Sept. 11 Emma Crelling
- Sept. 12 Syndey Fuller
- Sept. 13 Grady Oenbrink
- Sept. 14 Tom Weller
- Sept. 16 Chad Barton
- Sept. 17 James Cosper
- Sept. 18 Richard Bruhn, Jennifer Gailfoil, Jackie Rahn, Victoria Williams
- Sept. 19 Rob Doll
- Sept. 20 Lucy Dozar, Anne Harris
- Sept. 22 Eric Berry
- Sept. 23 Powell Ennis
- Sept. 25 Donna Jangula, Eric Stewart
- Sept. 26 William Cantrell, Olivia Clemons, David Smith
- Sept. 28 Charles Coley
- Sept. 29 Mia Carroll, Denis Healey, Samuel Shores
- Sept. 30 Judi Lawrence



- Sept. 8 William and Monica Cramer
- Sept. 11 A.J. and Emma Jeffery
- Sept. 12 John and Susan Messer
- Sept. 14 Lou and Inge Churchill
- Sept. 16 Aaron and Karen Shores
- Sept. 17 Jeff and Jackie Rahn  
Greg and Amy Russell
- Sept. 27 Henry and Nancy Breland
- Sept. 29 Dan and Robin Finley  
Doug and Caroline Smith
- Sept. 30 Terry and Donna Jangula



There are so many families in our community struggling with hunger during this time.



Please bring your non-perishable food items and place them in the cart in the church foyer.

Beverly McDaniel and Tricia Berry making sure everything is set for the Backpack Blessing and Parade!

## Worship Lay Ministry Schedule for September

Sept. 6	Sept. 13	Sept. 20	Sept. 27
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Max and Joyce Dannecker, Gene and Kathleen Wicker	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Kaew Sumpton, Joanne MacPhee, Marla Churchill	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Nancy Breland, Victoria Williams, Rhonda Miller	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Mary Bonham, Lisa McLendon, Monica Phillips
<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Jim Hixson and Parker McClellan <b>10:30 am:</b>	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Bert Churchill and Jerry Darnell <b>10:30 am:</b> Max and Joyce Dannecker	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Tim Phillips and Dawn Johnson <b>10:30 am:</b> John Thompson and Chris Mills	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Dan and Laura Johnson <b>10:30 am:</b> Charles and Mary Bonham
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Greeters</b>
NOT ACTIVE DURING PANDEMIC			
<b>Chancel Ministers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Gene and Kathleen Wicker <b>10:30 am:</b> George McInnis	<b>Chancel Ministers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Theresa Townsend and Joanne McPhee <b>10:30 am:</b> Nancy Breland	<b>Chancel Ministers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Dan and Laura Johnson <b>10:30 am:</b> Lisa McLendon	<b>Chancel Ministers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Theresa Townsend and Inge Churchill <b>10:30 am:</b> Joe Ciccarelli
<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>
NOT ACTIVE DURING PANDEMIC			
<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Rich Doran	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Ivan Pereira	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Daniel Melzer	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Michael Lovchuk
<b>Tablecloth Ministry:</b>	<b>Tablecloth Ministry:</b>	<b>Tablecloth Ministry:</b>	<b>Tablecloth Ministry:</b>
NOT ACTIVE DURING PANDEMIC			

---

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church  
222 North Bonita Avenue  
Panama City, FL 32401  
**(850) 747-4000**  
E-mail: [info@holy-nativity.org](mailto:info@holy-nativity.org)  
Website: [www.holy-nativity.org](http://www.holy-nativity.org)



---

**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**

*Summer 2020 during Pandemic*

<i>Sunday 8:00 a.m. -</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist - Rite I</i>
<i>9:15 a.m. -</i>	<i>Casual Holy Eucharist - Rite II</i>
<i>10:30 a.m. -</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist - Rite II</i>
<i>Wednesday 6:00 pm -</i>	<i>Mid-Week Manna online only</i>

---