



the NATIVITY Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

November/December 2020
Volume 24, Issue 11

Advent and Christmas Season Schedule 2020

*Due to the Pandemic our services and events might be a little different.
We will follow the guidelines to be socially distanced and wearing masks.
Please be considerate of your fellow worshippers.*



- Dec. 2 A Festival of Lessons and Carols at 6 pm**
Join us for this very special service filled with the scriptural lessons and wonderful music of the season.
- Dec. 6 A Morning with St. Nicholas at the 10:30 am service**
Join us for this special Sunday to celebrate St. Nicholas Day! There will be activities and surprises for the children during Children's Church.
- Dec. 13 Children's Pajama Party at the 10:30 am service**
Wear your favorite pajamas to church and bring a new set of pajamas or a stuffed animal or a bedtime storybook to be presented at church at the 10:30 am service for those who need them.
- Dec. 16 Caroling in the Cove!**
Join us for our Casual Eucharist at 5:30 pm followed by supper. Then we will go caroling in our neighborhood of the Cove.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services**
- 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service with the Children's Christmas Pageant:
Join us this year at the Holy Nativity Episcopal School Pavilion.
We will be socially distanced, and everyone should wear their masks
when walking around. More information to come.
- 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Service at the church.
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Children's Ministry November and December 2020

As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, we are realizing how different our celebrations will have to be this year. However, we are determined to follow our M&M's to make Children's Ministry events "meaningful and memorable". Of course, we are being extremely careful to adhere to CDC guidelines and common sense to keep our children, and all of us, safe and healthy. With my own "underlying condition" of being old, I am having to call upon church staff and volunteers more than ever to make certain that our children have the best that we can give them in keeping our long-held traditions. I cannot thank you enough for your willingness to serve. I am so grateful for this church which cares so much for children.

On December 6th, Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (also called St. Nicholas...and known to some as Rich Doran) will be coming to the 10:30 worship service for the Children's Sermon and will be available for photos following the service. The following Sunday will still be Pajama Sunday when we can wear pajamas to church and bring pajamas (or bedtime books or stuffed animals) for children who really need them. Rather than process in a line into church, the children will sit with their parents. During the Children's Sermon, Fr. Steve will invite them to bring their gifts up to be placed before the altar. I am depending on someone with a big SUV to let me know that that they can load everything into their car for delivery the next day to Susan Bravo at Family Services downtown.

NOW, to the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. After much consideration, we believe our best option is to move the 4:30 service to the Holy Pavilion at Holy Nativity Episcopal School. We will try to keep the service as much as possible like the traditional one except for the location... and the fact that even the angels and the sheep and goats will be wearing masks. We will stick with the original script as written by Matthew, Mark, and Luke. We are working on the details and asking volunteers to sign up for specific duties such as transportation or maybe just help for a practice, or decorating, setting the stage for worship and for the pageant part of the service, costuming, etc., etc., etc.. The signup will go out soon on Signup Genius.

There will also be online signup for the pageant participants. If several children sign for the same part, they should also make a second choice marked with a 2. Names will be drawn on Pajama Sunday.

Although we will not have as many songs this year, I hope that you will pay particular attention to the words of "You Be an Angel". Even mask-muted, listen for:

"The world is needy, much is wrong.

But even more is right in Bethlehem tonight."

I sing it year-round and it gives me comfort. I believe that we will make this a meaningful Christmas for the children; and I am absolutely certain that it will be memorable. They will someday be showing their grandchildren pictures of the masked St. Nicholas and their masked and socially distanced Christmas Pageant in 2020.

Lord, please strengthen our faith, hope, and love for one another.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas, Beverly McDaniel

Adult Christian Education - Father Tom

Hello, folks, and happy holiday season! Thanksgiving is upon us, and behind that day of scrumptious delights that for me will include oyster dressing, comes Christmas, then New Years, and Epiphany. Wishing everyone a joyful season, with heart and mind especially on those for whom this year's Time of Celebration season brings grief, sadness, new loneliness without someone dear, beloved and special. May the Lord's presence bless you most of all, and even more so if this is your first time without someone, that empty chair.

For us in adult Sunday school, things are not "back to normal" and I don't expect us ever to go back, because that's not the way Time and Creation work. We keep moving. Still, we are settling in to something like good old feelings. Our Sunday school class has resumed meeting in the Library, where we are spread out and comfortable, masks coming and going, coffee and an individually wrapped nibble of some sort. Precautions include handouts that have not been handled before. Everyone is invited and welcome, 9:15 to 10:15 Sunday mornings, the Library is at the end of the yellowing brick road, the single story building with wide glass doors, just beyond Smith Pavilion. Come early, come on time, come late, come if you want to and are comfortable doing so. Otherwise, we are trying to succeed in live streaming the class on Holy Nativity Episcopal Church Facebook page. We don't have the Sound down pat, but maybe we can move the camera closer, and maybe I can talk even louder.

Starting Sunday, November 29, 2020 the church

moves into a new ecclesiastical year, Year B, in which our main focus will be on the Gospel according to Mark, a fun book to read, mark, learn, discuss and enjoy together. Though years later than the letters of Paul, the gospel of Mark seems to be the first and oldest of the four canonical gospels, written about 70 Anno Domini Common Era, and with it's own specific evangelical agenda, come enjoy with us if you are so inclined.

As well as Mark, we'll be reading and enjoying Old Testament stories and various epistles. And at first in the new church year we'll be talking about Advent itself.

I would say "I can't wait", but there's plenty of Time, and the wait itself is full of anticipation and adventures as we wrap up Year A and venture into Year B.

OH, one last thing. We have a Sunday school email list of folks who've said they want to receive the one or two Sunday school class emails that go out each week to class members and anyone else who's interested. An email goes out each Monday with the lectionary readings for the following Sunday, sometimes there's one on Wednesday, and then there's an email on Saturday or Sunday morning sending out the class Handouts for Sunday morning's class. IF YOU WANT TO BE INCLUDED IN THESE EMAILS, YOU ARE INVITED AND WELCOME TO TELL ME SO AT twellerpc@gmail.com AND I'LL ADD YOU. PRIVACY IS PROTECTED IN THE DISTRIBUTION, YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS SHIELDED.

Advent Outreach Family!



We look forward to providing another wonderful Christmas for a deserving family. Please consider making a monetary gift. Let's make this Christmas season another example of Holy Nativity generosity for those in need! Please note on your check "Advent Outreach".

Check out the Angel Tree in the church foyer starting Nov. 29th!

Pick a name and provide a wonderful Christmas surprise to someone at St. Andrew's Assisted Living. The Deadline to return your gifts is December 20th.



Youth Group News!

It's beginning to look alot like Christmas, well sort of.

With the beginning of another Festive Season I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy season of thanks and celebration with family and friends.

Are you available Monday 23rd to set-up the Christmas Trees in the church? Let AJ know.

Still want to learn the video live stream? Look out for the calendar that will be set-up with available dates.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR ministry has delivered over 250 parcels of supplies to help the SOAR Program (Street Outreach and Recovery) assist the hundreds of homeless and vulnerable youth of Bay County.

This year we are asking that you help us please view the wishlist of items and if able buy an extra with your shop or you can purchase all the items for one parcel. All is greatly appreciated.

Wet-wipes x 1 packet	Deodorant x 1 stick
Scarf, hat & gloves x 1 set	Toothbrush & paste x 1 set
Chapstick x 1 stick	Canned meals ring-pull x 4 cans
Emergency poncho x 1	Granola bars x 4 bars
Crackers x 4 packet	Fruit cups x 4
Candy bar x 2	Sunscreen
Bug Repellent	

We will be collecting from now till December 18th. please use the box in the Foyer.

Remember we are on social media or contact AJ via aussie_aj@holy-nativity.org

Greetings from Rev. Steven

Most of you have noticed that I (as well as every clergy person I know) are increasingly targets of email/text hacking and cloning. Most of these communications are clones, phishing, whaling, and smishing attacks by using impersonation tactics to take advantage of unsuspecting people which means we are not hacked but rather an email address is created similar to my own and sent to church members requesting assistance. Typically, the email says "I need a favor." If you respond, you'll be asked to do things like purchase gift cards. Do not click on any links or reply to the message if you have any suspicion the email is fraudulent.

This is incredibly frustrating for everyone and even more so when a parishioner or friend falls victim to the scam. Emails from Holy Nativity clergy will always include @holy-nativity.org. If you receive a suspicious email claiming to be from me or Father Tom or any other church staff and would like to report it, please send the email to info@holy-nativity.org or use one of the methods below.

What you can do about fraudulent emails:

- If you know the email to be fraudulent, label it as spam.
 - Visit www.us-cert.gov/report-phishing, the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team, or forward all emails to the [Anti Phishing Work Group](mailto:AntiPhishingWorkGroup@apwg.org) at reportphishing@apwg.org.
 - Report text scams: [Federal Trade Commission's Complaint Assistant](#).
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“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.

Social distancing (6'+) is required (Family groups can sit together)

Masks are required entering and exiting the church and coming forward for communion. Masks are also required for children during Children's Time and Children's Chapel.

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) 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.

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church
Presents

*A Festival of
Lessons and Carols*



Wednesday, December 2nd
6:00 PM

Please join us for this beautiful service of scripture and music for the season presented by soloists, string quartet, organ, piano.

Due to the pandemic, we will be practicing social distancing and we encourage wearing masks when not sitting down.

Thank You from Lake Charles,
Louisiana

Dear Steve,

Your letter and the generous donation from Holy Nativity brought our finance committee to tears. You so accurately described our experience - the wave and range of emotions. It is an unwanted brotherhood we have been initiated into. God is already at work, though. Through people like you and churches like Holy Nativity, we are being lifted up and being helped to understand that God will guide us and refine us in the months of work ahead. Thank you for reaching out. Thank you for understanding. You "get it."

In the risen, lifegiving Lord,
Seth+

The Rev. Seth Donald
St. Michaels and All Angels
Lake Charles, Louisiana

**Greetings & Best Wishes from the
Mary Martha Ministry**

The Mary Martha Ministry, of the Episcopal Community, has initiated a greeting card program aimed at bolstering the spirits of those in our congregation who are currently housebound due to illness or other physical impairment. If you know of anyone in our community who would enjoy receiving an uplifting, personal greeting from the Church, please email their name and address to the Mary Martha Ministry at: jomacocoms@gmail.com

The card program seeks to remind our fellow congregants that even though they cannot be with us in person, they are very much and always, in our thoughts and in our prayers.



Karen

Nov. 1 Shores
 Nov. 2 Wayne Lindsey, Kaew Sumpton
 Nov. 3 Elizabeth Stewart
 Nov. 4 Max McCord
 Nov. 5 Sandy Ciccarelli
 Nov. 6 Ann Leonard, Nathan Nowak,
 Egon Seubert
 Nov. 11 Carson Berry, Robert Carroll,
 Emma Jeffery, Ann Marie Shores
 Nov. 12 Catherine Shores
 Nov. 16 Mary Bonham
 Nov. 19 Stewart Sumpton
 Nov. 21 Patti Akst
 Nov. 22 Judy Bennett, Dawn Johnson,
 Joanne MacPhee
 Nov. 24 Amy Russell
 Nov. 25 Florencia Pereira
 Nov. 26 Robert Ice
 Nov. 28 Nancy Currie, Mimi Morrow, Joy
 Thompson
 Nov. 29 Kate Watson
 Dec. 1 Dunkin McLane, Alan Tremaine
 Dec. 2 Lee Gagnet, Lora Healey
 Dec. 5 Jennifer Ethridge, Isabella Smith
 Dec. 6 Terry Jangula, Will Melzer, Jim
 Roberson
 Dec. 7 Gayle Ahrens, Carolyn Cramer
 Dec. 10 Matt Cole, Greg Russell
 Dec. 11 Lara Provencher
 Dec. 14 Grace Ennis
 Dec. 15 Natalie Lathrop
 Dec. 16 Mark Brust, Marla Churchill
 Dec. 18 Edward Gagnet, Margaret Scott,
 Ashtyn Williams
 Dec. 21 Nancy Roupp, Evan Ward
 Dec. 23 David Landreth, Kathleen Wicker
 Dec. 25 John Clarey
 Dec. 26 Dianne Hodges, Jerry Shores
 Dec. 27 Lindsey Crelling
 Dec. 29 Anna Eberhard, Jim Fortier, John
 Moore
 Dec. 31 Michael Fuller, Victoria Lithway,
 Conor Morrow



Nov. 1 Matthew and Shana Duncan
 Nov. 4 Daniel and Holly Melzer
 Nov. 14 John and Mary Darrah
 Nov. 16 Ken and Hannah Davis
 Nov. 17 Ian and Lindsey Crelling
 Nov. 18 John and Michelle Niziol
 Nov. 29 David Burris and Mary Mittiga
 Dec. 2 Patrick and Cassie Casady
 Steven and Laura McClain
 Dec. 7 Terrella and Georgie Hartzog
 Dec. 9 Joseph and Carolyn Parell
 Dec. 10 Tom and Peggy Caldwell
 Dec. 18 Mike and Mimi Morrow
 Dec. 23 Chuck and Barbara Knowles
 Dec. 27 Bill and Jennifer Ethridge
 Dec. 28 Eric and Tricia Berry
 Dec. 29 Mike and Mary Ellen Harding
 Edwin and Elizabeth Stewart
 Dec. 30 Gene and Rhonda Miller

Not ready to return to in person church?

Online Offerings:

Sunday 9:15 am Adult Sunday School
 Sunday 10:30 am service
 Wednesday 5:30 pm service

You can go directly to our Facebook page or go to www.holy-nativity.org/echurch and click on the "view live services" tab. Look for reminder's in your email and on Facebook.



Go to www.diocgc.org
 to find out what's happening in the our diocese!

Worship Lay Ministry Schedule for December 2020

Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 27
Altar Guild: Nancy Roupp, Inge Churchill	Altar Guild: Max and Joyce Dannecker, Gene and Kathleen Wicker	Altar Guild: Kaew Sumpton, Joanne MacPhee, Marla Churchill	Altar Guild: Nancy Breland, Victoria Williams, Rhonda Miller
Ushers 8:00 am: Bert Churchill, Jerry Darnell 10:30 am: Max and Joyce Dannecker	Ushers 8:00 am: Dan and Laura Johnson 10:30 am: John Thompson and Chris Mills	Ushers 8:00 am: Tim Phillips, Dawn Johnson 10:30 am: Charles and Mary Bonham	Ushers 8:00 am: Jim Hixson and Parker McClellan 10:30 am: Linda Weller and Lori Bates
Greeters	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters
NOT ACTIVE DURING PANDEMIC			
Chancel Ministers 8:00 am: Gene Wicker 10:30 am: Scott Clemons	Chancel Ministers 8:00 am: Kathleen Wicker 10:30 am: Joyce Dannecker	Chancel Ministers 8:00 am: Dan Johnson 10:30 am: Kelly Roberson	Chancel Ministers 8:00 am: Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Nancy Breland
Acolytes for 10:30 Bailey Melzer	Acolytes for 10:30 Grady Oenbrink	Acolytes for 10:30 Stevens and Shelby Roberson	Acolytes for 10:30 John Moore
Lector at 10:30 am Holly Melzer	Lector at 10:30 am Tom Ledman	Lector at 10:30 am Mike Harding	Lector at 10:30 am Michael Lovchuk
Tablecloth Ministry:	Tablecloth Ministry:	Tablecloth Ministry:	Tablecloth Ministry:
NOT ACTIVE DURING PANDEMIC			

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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. 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 Attendants - Emily Brock & Kaew Sumpton

THE VESTRY

Fr. Steve Bates - Rector
Tricia Berry - 18-21
Ian Crelling 16-20
Tiffany Ennis 16-20
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 16-20
Gene Wicker 20-23

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

<i>Sunday 8:00 a.m. -</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist - Rite I</i>
<i>9:15 a.m. -</i>	<i>Adult Sunday School</i>
<i>10:30 a.m. -</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist - Rite II</i>

<i>Wednesday 5:30 pm -</i>	<i>five-thirty casual service fol-</i>
<i>lowed</i>	<i>by supper and programs</i>
