



November 2021  
Volume 25, Issue 11

# the NATIVITY *Scene*

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*Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida*



For the first time in almost two years, I feel comfortable saying “come back to Church!” It’s been a hell of a three years for us. From Hurricane Michael to this God-awful pandemic we have had to change literally everything. From the way we do church to what ministry means in these trying times. It’s no secret that during this season of Covid our attendance has taken a hit. Currently, attendance is a little over half of what it was prior to the storm. Yet, during this time you’ve been great! As the Bishop implemented protocols, you’ve been understanding. So many of you who haven’t felt comfortable returning to in-person worship have taken advantage of our online live feeds. You never wavered in your support of the ministries of this church. And it continues to be my prayer that we can finally reclaim our lives in this wonderful part of God’s kingdom called Holy Nativity.

The purpose of Church is to gather. Don’t forget the power in that gathering. And beginning in Advent each of us have an opportunity to reclaim that power. Elsewhere in this newsletter you’ll find a complete Advent/Christmas calendar. Beginning on Advent II (December 5), we’ll resume a fuller service than the abbreviated liturgy we’ve been using. Yet, during this time we’ve also learned a few things about our liturgy. So, beginning in December look for some changes that will be explained in full in December’s newsletter. (Don’t worry. Sermons will still be short!) For example, beginning in Advent, the wine will return as part of communion for intinction (dipping) only. But remember, receiving communion in one kind still counts. There will be more music. Especially music of the season which has been our tradition since the storm. Lessons and Carols is just a few weeks away. St. Nicholas will make his annual trip. There’s nothing more fun than the Advent pajama party. Wednesday nights have resumed. We’ll have Christmas caroling in the Cove again. Advent outreach opportunities are available for all ages. Christmas Eve services will be at the Church! Regardless of who you are or where you’ve been, there is an opportunity to come home for the holidays!

I’ve said this over and over again in the almost 16 years I’ve been your Rector and I repeat it because it’s true. God is present in this place called Holy Nativity and I believe with all my heart that God is pleased. It’s time to come home because your presence is missed. Of course, online offerings will continue but it’s my hope and prayer to see you home for the holidays! After all, it really is “the most wonderful time of the year.”

God love you, Steve+

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## HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



### *Advent and Christmas Season Schedule 2021*

#### *HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!*

- Dec. 1 (Wed)**      **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. 5 (Sun)**      **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.
- Dec. 12 (Sun)**      **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. 15 (Wed)**      **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 (Fri)**      **Christmas Eve Services**  
4:30 pm      Christmas Eve Service with the Children's Christmas Pageant  
10:30 pm      Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 26 (Sun)**      **Sunday Services**  
8:00 am      Holy Eucharist Rite One  
10:30 am      Holy Eucharist Rite Two

*FOR MORE INFO ON ALL THESE EVENTS PLEASE CALL  
THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 747-4000.*

*Look for Advent Outreach information coming out soon!*

## BACKPACK BUDDY MINISTRY

Thanks to everyone who participates in this vital ministry! We can always use more hands – there is an opportunity for everyone! No matter how much time you have to devote to our Backpack Buddies, there is a place for you in this ministry.

Unfortunately, we are being impacted by the “supply chain” issue. Currently, we are only able to purchase 3 cases of juice pouches/boxes per day from Sam’s and the same for water bottles. Some of the other items that have been impacted are: Chewy Granola Bars, Ramen Noodles, and Single-serve Mac and Cheese. Of course, all of the generous donations left in the grocery cart are appreciated and especially any of these items!

As the Christmas season approaches, we are planning an “extra” food bag to help feed the children during the school break. Look for updates in the December Newsletter and in What’s Happening This Week correspondence.

Want more information or have ideas for improvement? We would love to hear from you: Barbara Knowles ([baybrb@aol.com](mailto:baybrb@aol.com) or 850-832-2224) or Marla Churchill ([bmc5.marla@gmail.com](mailto:bmc5.marla@gmail.com) or 850-896-1474).

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## Christian Education: Fr Tom

This comes welcoming November and hoping the weather gives us a bit of mild and nice for a few weeks before turning cold. Chill, wet and rainy is worst, I’m not looking forward to that, but a bit of cool autumn could be refreshing as we finish up the last month of hurricane season.

HERE’S OUR BIG NEWS! For a number of reasons, we are relocating our adult Sunday School class from the Library to Battin Hall. Battin Hall is a much larger space than we need, but it’s not being used between Sunday morning services, and the convenience is irresistible. We began this new setting on October 31, and class members concurred that it can work well. Our exact setup in Battin Hall is in process, we’ll be trying various arrangements until we find what folks like best, and so everyone can see and hear everyone else with our seminar discussion style. The only obvious problem is the dim lighting, but we can deal with that and I’ll be working with parish staff on it. There are any number of reasons for this relocation, not just ongoing issues we’ve had with the Library building over the years, but the fact that Battin Hall is so convenient and so inside when weather is iffy.

Anyway, everyone is welcome and invited. As I say, come early and chat, come on time, or come in late and take a seat and join us. There’s always coffee in the room, and some sort of snack, sweet or salty. Every session stands on its own, so there’s never homework, and all material is provided - - handouts, Bibles, prayerbooks, whatever we are studying on the Sunday.

Battin Hall, 9:15 to 10:15 Sunday mornings, the most fun group in the parish, come join us!

Tom+

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## YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

### Wednesday are Back!

So good to be back for Wednesday nights and hear Fr Steve say, "come on up kids!" and the youth group is ready for a year of making a difference. Being fully aware of competing activities, overly scheduled youth and families, we will pursue authentic youth ministry together. Your youth are invited to join us as they are able, and to reach out in times of need. Below is a calendar of events "planned" please look through and see if anything you would like to be involved with and the youth are aware we need adults to help.

### This month's event is.....

**November** A Million Thanks - Letters of appreciation and support (and donations for the postage) for retired and present serving Military personnel. We will be asking for donations for postage, stamps and stationary to allow our youth and church community to provide personal thanks to active and retired military personnel. Donations can be left at the church office or at the collection box in the narthex.

### Events are coming up and we would love your help.

**December** Love Thy Neighbour - Our annual Christmas Outreach to support programs helping homeless youth in Bay County.

**January** Laundry Love and Wardrobe Reuse - Helping HNEC's Laundry Love ministry with games and fun to raise funds and support.

**February** Backpack Buddies Lock-in - Education and awareness on the issues faced by homeless and at risk youth on the streets of Bay County.

**March** Pre-Spring Clean-up Event - Spreading the message that spring is coming to our church and community through events and activities preparing for Easter.

**April** Support Camp Beckwith Summer program.

**May** Summer FUN-raiser- Collection of games and fun to help provide the Backpack Buddies with a summer fun pack.

As always please reach out if you have any questions or suggestions!

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**Happening is um.... happening** at Beckwith Camp and Conference Center!

**Nov 12th-14th 2021 for High School seniors only!**  
**OR**  
**Feb 4th-6th 2022 for grades 10-12th**



Happening is a Christian experience presented by teenagers, for teenagers with the help of clergy and lay adult leadership. The Happening program is meant to be one of the instruments within the Anglican Tradition of renewing the Christian church in the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the church may more readily respond to its call to spread the Kingdom of God throughout the world. It seeks to achieve this purpose by bringing young persons and adults to fuller personal knowledge of and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and to a deeper level of commitment and apostleship.

A.J. Jeffery, Youth Director  
 aussie\_aj@holy-nativity.org  
 850-319-1953

As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, many of us will greet these holidays with mixed emotions: a sadness as we miss those we have lost, yet a happiness in the sweet traditions of the seasons. Being around the children brings a joy just by seeing their excitement and delight. Again this year, I ask you to pay attention to the words of one of our pageant songs, "You Be an Angel".

"The world is needy, much is wrong. But even more is right in Bethlehem tonight."  
Let us keep remembering that and help our children gain that understanding and reassurance.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 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, 12/12, is 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 place before the altar. After church, please help us load them into a car so they can be delivered the next day to Susan Bravo at Family Services downtown.

In Children's Ministry, we want our children to have lessons and experiences that are both meaningful and memorable. Last year's Christmas Pageant on a windy, rainy, and cold Christmas Eve certainly fit with memorable, and being back together, inside our dear church this year is more meaningful, and appreciated now. Although we may have to make space adjustments, we will stick with the original script as written by Matthew and Luke. We are working on the details and asking volunteers to sign up for specific duties such as Costume Chair and costumers, set designers, etc., or help with cues and prompts. The signup will go out soon on Signup Genie. 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. If you have questions, ideas, or comments, please call or text me (850-832-8324). I welcome and appreciate your input.

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## **The Mary Martha Circle Donates to PC Mission**

The Panama City Women's Mission (formally Bethal Village) is a privately funded, Christ-centered facility offering rescue, recovery and restoration to some of Bay County's most vulnerable, often abused, women and their children.

The Mission's zero-tolerance drug policy creates a safe, and nurturing, half-way home for its clients. Offering a hand up and not just a hand out, the Mission provides its residents with a number of important, and often transformative, services. From assistance with job applications, to classes on finances, nutrition and health. All in an uplifting spiritual and Christian space.

The Mission's needs are great, and always ongoing. There is of course, an ever present need for funding, but there are also other ways you can help. Such as providing personal care products for the women, toys and new clothing for their young children and laundry and other cleaning supplies for the facility. *(Please note: The Mission's space is limited so they are not able to accept second-hand clothing donations at this time.)*

As part of our community outreach, the Mary Martha Circle contributes quarterly to the Mission. For more information on how you can help, please call Joanne MacPhee 850 247 2923 or email [jomaccoms@gmail.com](mailto:jomaccoms@gmail.com) or you may contact the Mission directly - 850 769 0783.





## Birthdays

Nov. 1 Karen Shores  
 Nov. 2 Wayne Lindsey, Kaew Sumpton  
 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 McPhee  
 Nov. 24 Amy Russell, Cecilia Shuler  
 Nov. 25 Presley Gladden, Florencia Pereira  
 Nov. 26 Robert Ice  
 Nov. 28 Mimi Morrow, Joy Thompson  
 Nov. 29 Kate Watson

## Anniversaries

Nov. 4 Daniel and Holly Melzer  
 Nov. 7 Wylie and Nancy Roupp  
 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



**A Note from Rev. Dr. Séamus P. Doyle**  
 Priest-in-charge, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
 11-1 Belle Alliance, La Place, LA 70068

Dear Steve,

Yesterday morning, Jeff Lind, our Jr. Warden, read your letter to the church and, needless to say, there was a communal gasp when he told us just how much your church had sent to us.

I don't know if Jeff told you we had four inches of rain in the church, a hole in the roof, the awning blown off and lots of tree limbs down. The city of La Place is on Lake Pontchartrain and took the brunt of Ida. It is devastating to see apartment buildings gutted, homes with all their furniture on the side of the road, and blue roofs all around. And yet, thanks be to God, no one was hurt.

The floor of our parish hall is about two foot higher than the church. Since its roof held, we are able to have church in the parish hall.

No words can express our sincerest thanks for the generosity of Holy Nativity. The gift will definitely be used for our recovery. In fact, a parishioner in my other church had recently started his own construction company so he got hired for immediate clean up.

Sadly, as you pointed out, we are now part of a Brotherhood no one wants to join. Unfortunately, our changing weather may make more of us part of this.

Our prayers of gratitude for you and your community.

Yours in Christ, Séamus

Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Nov. 28
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Tim and Monica Phillips, Mary Mittiga and David Burris	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Gene and Kathleen Wicker, Joanne MacPhee, Nancy Roupp	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Dan and Robin Finley, Max and Joyce Dannecker	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Joanne MacPhee and Kaew Sumptom
<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Tim Pride and Tim Phillips <b>10:30 am:</b> John Thompson and Chris Mills	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Jim Hixson and Parker McClellan <b>10:30 am:</b> Charles and Mary Bonham	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Bert Churchill and Jerry Darnell <b>10:30 am:</b> Linda Weller and Lori Bates	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Dan and Laura Johnson <b>10:30 am:</b> Russell and Beth Brock
<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Monica Phillips <b>10:30 am:</b> Jenny Collier	<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Ursula Hixson <b>10:30 am:</b> Mary Ellen Pettis	<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Marla Churchill <b>10:30 am:</b> Mary Ellen Pettis	<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Phyllis Hunt <b>10:30 am:</b> Jani Smith
<b>Chancel Ministers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Joanne MacPhee <b>10:30 am:</b> Kelly Roberson	<b>Chancel Ministers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Theresa Townsend <b>10:30 am:</b> Joyce Dannecker	<b>Chancel Ministers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Gene Wicker <b>10:30 am:</b> George McInnis	<b>Chancel Ministers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Kathleen Wicker <b>10:30 am:</b> Joe Ciccarelli
<b>Acolyte for 10:30</b> Shelby Roberson	<b>Acolyte for 10:30</b> Ashtyn Williams	<b>Acolytes for 10:30</b> Brody Fuller	<b>Acolytes for 10:30</b> Kate Leebrick
<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Jenny Collier	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Daniel Melzer	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Ivan Pereira	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Rich Doran
<b>Tablecloth Ministry:</b>	<b>Tablecloth Ministry:</b>	<b>Tablecloth Ministry:</b>	<b>Tablecloth Ministry:</b>
	Will Resume Soon!		

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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/Video Production- AJ Jeffery*  
*Director of Music - John Durgan*  
*Administrative Assistant - Madge Smith*  
*Children's CE Director - Beverly McDaniel*  
*Children's Choir Director - Leigh Gladden*  
*Church Bookkeeper – Kathy Mills*  
*Sexton - Deana Gailfoil*  
*Nursery Attendant - Kaew Sumpton*

## **THE VESTRY**

*Fr. Steve Bates - Rector*  
*Tricia Berry 2023*  
*Joe Ciccarelli 2024*  
*Ian Crelling 2022 Sr. Warden*  
*Anna Eberhard 2024*  
*Tiffany Ennis 2022*  
*Mark Godwin - Treasurer*  
*John Hutt 2024*

*Joanne MacPhee 2023*  
*Ivan Pereira 2022 Jr. Warden*  
*Kelly Roberson 2022*  
*Karen Shores 2023*  
*Madge Smith - Clerk*  
*John Thompson 2024*  
*Gene Wicker 2023*

## **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 with Children's Chapel</i>
<i>Wednesday 5:30 pm -</i>	<i>(Sept.-May) five-thirty casual service followed by supper and programs</i>

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