



the NATIVITY Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

November 2023
Volume 27, Issue 10

The Trunk N Treat was a blast! Thank you to A.J. Jeffery and the Youth Group for all their hard work! A lot more photos on Facebook!



HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Advent and Christmas Season Schedule 2023

- Dec. 3 (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. 6 (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. 10 (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. 13 (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 (Sun)** **Christmas Eve Services**
8:00 am Christmas Eve Rite One Service
10:30 am Christmas Eve Service Rite Two with the Children's Christmas Pageant
10:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

*FOR MORE INFO ON ALL THESE EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT
THE CHURCH OFFICE AT ADMIN@HOLY-NATIVITY.ORG OR 850-747-4000.*

A NOTE ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

This year our church calendar includes Advent 4 and Christmas Eve on the same day. Only this year our scheduled has changed to the times above. We will have three Christmas Eve services with the Children's Christmas at 10:30 am in the morning.

From Father Tom

Dearest friends and neighbors! A couple of years ago, Father Steve and I talked about my easing slowly into retirement of some sort. At the Time, I was teaching the adult Sunday school class every Sunday morning, attending both Sunday services 8:00 and 10:30 as assisting priest (usually the Celebrant at eight o'clock), preaching the sermon at both services about one Sunday in three or four, and filling in as what clergy call "Supply Priest" when Father Steve is away. He suggested that I begin easing off by first retiring from teaching the adult Sunday school class (which Doctor Dan has graciously taken on), and then by changing my Sunday schedule to stop coming to assist at 8:00 and only assist at 10:30. But that I continue in my primary ministry of Priest Associate by staying on the preaching schedule to continue preaching one Sunday in three or four; and also continue to fill in as Supply Priest when Father Steve is away. We worked into that change and it's been going well.

Several folks have asked me how Father Steve's upcoming retirement will affect me, and I want to answer that.

First, everyone on the parish staff works for the Rector and at the Rector's pleasure. In April 2009, when I was finishing up my five year stint as priest at St Thomas, Laguna Beach, Steve telephoned me and invited me to come back on staff at Holy Nativity. It would be my third Time back on staff as Priest Associate, and I happily accepted. We discussed and agreed what my responsibilities would be, and that's what I've been doing these years starting May 2009. My arrangement is with Father Steve, and when he retires (or before if he prefers), will be my last day on staff as Priest Associate. So, God, Rector, and my health willing, I intend and expect to be on HNEC staff until May 2024.

Second, Linda and I were part of the group of some ten founding families who, with the guidance of the bishop and our first priest, Fr David Damon, founded Holy Nativity Episcopal Church in 1955. We are founding members! This is our home parish. We don't intend to go anywhere, except that when Fr Steve retires I will retire to the pew with Linda - - I get the aisle seat in her pew. We are not making any plans beyond that; but in the possibility that our next rector may need help from Time to Time, maybe my health will still be such that I can still do that now and then. But as I say, we are not making any plans beyond my being in Linda's pew with her, as I continue to sing loud and off key.

Right Shoe First and Praise the Lord!

Tom+

Note from Madge

I am transitioning my email from madge@holy-nativity.org to admin@holy-nativity.org After I retire, AJ and Kathy will be checking and responding to emails. As of now, please send your emails to me at admin@holy-nativity.org. Thank you so much.

Wednesday are definitely 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.

Thank-you to all who enjoy our second Trunk N Treat, so much fun!!



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.

This month is.....BUSY!

During November

No Wednesday Night Nov 1st
 Search Committee Children and Youth session Nov 8th
 Planning Christmas!! Nov 15th
 Packing for Backpack Buddies Nov 8th and Nov 29th
 Thanksgiving Break No Wednesday 22nd

Check out the information on the notice boards and bulletins for latest info.

LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A STUDENT INTERESTED IN COMING TO YOUTH GROUP

Do you have a new driver in your family? As a church we would like to offer a blessing of the car keys to protect new drivers and all who travel with them. Please let the church office know.

Livestream Assistant

Everyone enjoys the livestream services, but help is needed maybe once a month. Training provided and recognition in the weekly bulletin!

Ideas for youth ministry?

Do you have an idea for youth ministry or a passion to lead an activity? Let us know.

Please contact A. J. Jeffery at aussie_aj@holy-nativity.org for more information about Youth Group!

Search Committee Update

We are progressing in the effort to call our next Rector and begin a new Chapter for Holy Nativity. We ask for your continuing prayers as we move forward and for your input. As you may know we are now in the process of establishing a parish profile. We will be conducting three facilitated meetings where we'll discuss our strengths, weaknesses and a vision for the future. Please join us either this Sunday Oct 29th at 9:15 or next Sunday November 5th after the 10:30 service. Let us know your plans to attend by signing up online or on the sign-up sheets outside Battin Hall. Parents please sign your children up and bring them to the meeting on November 8th at 6:30. We'll also ask you to participate in an individual survey which will be sent out soon after the meetings. Your input will play an important part in creating our parish profile.

Children's Ministry

By Liz Ward

October has been a month full of activity and learning in Children's Ministry! It's been a great month of Wonderful Wednesdays Children's Programs with games and Blessing of the Pets, Godly Play stories about Exodus, the Ten Commandments, and the Ark of the Covenant, and learning more by building their own edible Ark for our snack time. A terrific Trunk-or-Treat, hosted by the Youth, rounded out the October fun! Thank you to AJ and the Youth crew for putting on this event for us. I enjoyed seeing so many families there for the fellowship!

November is sure to be another great month as we think of all the things we are thankful for, including our Veterans. We will continue our Godly Play Old Testament series until Advent begins. It is a joy to serve in this Ministry and the children would love to have more grownups to share that with. Helpers are especially needed for the Nativity program at the 10:30am service on Christmas Eve. You read that right, Christmas Eve in the morning! This year we will have our Family Service and Nativity program at the 10:30am service, and there will be no 4:30pm service. There's even more coming during Advent with St. Nicholas Day (Dec 3) when we hear the story of St. Nicholas and decorate Christmas cookies, and then there's Pajama Sunday (Dec 10) when we all wear our pajamas to church and bring pajamas, a book, or a stuffed animal to donate. If you are interested in joining us or volunteering as a helper for any of our upcoming activities please let me know.

Nursery is still in need of some additional volunteers to help with coverage on the second Sunday of each month, and for Lessons and Carols on Wednesday, Dec 6. If you, or someone you know are interested please contact me at lizward@holy-nativity.org.

BACKPACK BUDDIES MINISTRY

November packing Schedule:

Oct 30 – Nov 3 TEAM MMC

Nov 6 – Nov 9 (THURS DELIVERY) DEPT OF YOUTH (1)

Nov 13 – Nov 17 TEAM TREY

Nov 27 – Dec 1 DEPT OF YOUTH (2)

We are grateful to all who are donating plastic bags to Backpack Buddies! We would like to offer some suggestions concerning the bags: We can only use the "standard size" bags that you get from Publix, Winn Dixie, Walmart, etc. Also kindly make sure that the bags are clean and dry. If possible, please double the bags, roll up a stack of 10 and secure with a rubber band. This is a HUGE help to the packers!

Our numbers continue to slowly climb so keep our BUDDIES in mind when shopping and writing checks!

We always welcome more volunteers! Contact us at backpackbuddieshnc@gmail.com for more information!

Birthdays

Nov. 1 Karen Shores
 Nov. 2 Tom Hightower, Wayne Lindsey,
 Kaew Sumpton
 Nov. 4 Max McCord
 Nov. 5 Sandy Ciccarelli
 Nov. 6 Ann Leonard, Nathan Nowak,
 Egon Seubert
 Nov. 10 Leland Choi, Scott Struebing
 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, Cecilia Shuler
 Nov. 25 Presley Gladden, Florencia Pereira
 Nov. 28 Mimi Morrow, Joy Thompson
 Nov. 29 Kate Watson

Our children learning new music!



Anniversaries

Nov. 4 Daniel and Holly Melzer
 Nov. 7 Wylie and Nancy Roupp
 Nov. 8 Tom and Vicki Hightower
 Nov. 14 John and Mary Darrah
 Nov. 16 Ken and Hannah Davis
 Nov. 17 Ian and Lindsey Crelling
 Jack and Joanne MacPhee
 Nov. 18 John and Michelle Niziol
 Nov. 29 David Burris and Mary Mittiga

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS!

5:30 PM: Worship

6:00 PM: Dinner is served

6:30 PM: Programs for
 Children and Youth
 Join us for the most
 fun night of the week!



NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES
 ON NOV. 1ST.

Operation Christmas Child

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church is again participating in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child program. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We have set up a Goal Page with the link below to Build a Box on-line. It is a simple process of selecting a gender, age, and gifts, then entering your payment method. Please join us in putting smiles on faces and offering the word of Jesus' love to children around the world this Christmas session.

Go to: <https://sampur.se/3RdRVJc>



November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
Altar Guild: Gene and Kathleen Wicker, Joyce Dannecker, Melanie Cox	Altar Guild: Joanne MacPhee, Kaew Sump-ton, Alice Allen	Altar Guild: Rhonda Miller, Victoria Wil- liams, Nancy Breland, Boopie McInnis	Altar Guild: Marla Churchill, Mary Bon- ham, Lisa McLendon
Ushers 8:00 am: Tim Pride and Tim Phillips 10:30 am: Linda Weller and Lori Bates	Ushers 8:00 am: Jim Hixson and Parker McClellan 10:30 am: Russell and Beth Brock	Ushers 8:00 am: Bert Churchill and Jerry Darnell 10:30 am: Al Tremaine and Trey Hutt	Ushers 8:00 am: Dan and Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Ian Crelling and Daniel Melzer
Greeters 8:00 am: Monica Phil- lips 10:30 am: Bert and Jo Munn	Greeters 8:00 am: Ursula Hixson 10:30 am: Lori Bates	Greeters 8:00 am: Marla Church- ill 10:30 am: Linda Weller	Greeters 8:00 am: Phylis Hunt 10:30 am: Jani Smith
Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Gene and Kathleen Wicker 10:30 am: Brian Lee- brick and Ian Crelling	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Dan and Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Lisa McLen- don and Joyce Dannecker	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Gene and Kathleen Wicker 10:30 am: Joe Ciccarelli and Scott Clemons	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Theresa and Cheryl Duffey 10:30 am: George McInnis and Brian Lee- brick
Acolytes for 10:30 Nicolas and Esteban Pe- reira, Alex and Tom Moore	Acolytes for 10:30 Jackson and Laney Lee, Isaac and Evan Ward	Acolytes for 10:30 Brody Fuller, Grady Oen- brink, Evan Ward, Scar- let Jernigan	Acolytes for 10:30 John, Alex, and Tom Moore, Will Melzer
Lector at 10:30 am Rich Doran	Lector at 10:30 am Michael Lovchuk	Lector at 10:30 am Ivan Pereira	Lector at 10:30 am Paula Hart

**HELLO DARKNESS MY OLD FRIEND
SOON YOU WILL BE HERE AT 4 PM**

Fall Back Sunday, Nov. 5th at 2 am!

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The Church Calendar is
always on the homepage
of the church's website.
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/Video Production- AJ Jeffery
Director of Music - John Durgan
Office Administrator - Madge Smith
Children's CE Director - Liz Ward
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
Beth Brock 2026
Joe Ciccarelli 2024
Anna Eberhard 2024
Mark Godwin - Treasurer
Jim Hixson 2026
John Hutt 2024

Terry Jangula 2026 Jr. Warden
Joanne MacPhee 2023
Ivan Pereira 2022 Sr. Warden
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>