



the NATIVITY Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

Dec. 2023/Jan. 2024
Volume 27, Issue 11

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.*

Save the Date!

Please join us on January 14th following the 10:30 service, for a reception honoring the ministry of Madge Smith on the occasion of her retirement. It will be an opportunity for the Church family to thank Madge for her 25+ years of dedicated service to our parish. While Madge will still be a part of the Holy Nativity family, let's celebrate her transition from a staff member to a member in the pews. It certainly won't be the same without her, but we know you'll want to join in the celebration. So put your party hats on and join us.



Reminder!

Our Wonderful Wednesdays will take our usual January break following the holidays and will resume on February 7th . You don't want to miss the best night of the week with your parish family!

Calling the Cookie Bakers of the Holy Nativity Church Ladies!

'Tis the season to indulge in the sweetest holiday tradition! Join us for a delightful Holiday Cookie Exchange and a dinner at Nativity Episcopal Church on Monday, **December 4th at 5:30 pm**. Each participant will bring 6 dozen cookies with 60 cookies packed three to a baggie and you will share these with other participants. The rest will be for tasting during the event. Bring a bottle of your favorite wine to share if you'd like and let's toast to the season of joy and merriment! RSVP by replying contacting Jennifer at 850-960-6050 (text) or Jennifer.ethridge@compass.com (email). Let's make this holiday season extra sweet together! We can't wait to see what you will be baking!

Your Merry Planners
Jennifer Ethridge
Nina Godwin
Mimi Morrow



1. Angel Tree: Check out the Angel Tree in the foyer. Pick an ornament and sign the sheet. Return all gifts by Dec. 13th. (We don't have much time this year.) All names are residents of St. Andrews Bay Nursing Home.

2. Family Services Family: Make your check out to Holy Nativity and note on your check, "Advent Outreach Family". You can also go to our website and give online. Pick the "other" tab and note what it is for.

The Festive Season is on its WAY!

December

Dec 6th NO Youth Program, but Lessons and Carols service.

Dec 10th Pajama Sunday

Sleep in and come to church in your Pajamas, bring a pair of pajamas, a book or cuddly toys to donate.

Dec 13th Christmas Caroling the Cove

Wear your Christmas Decorations and come sing out loud for all to hear as we walk the Cove!

January

January 24th First Aid and CPR course.

We will be offering a first aid and CPR course for students 6th grade through to 12th grade. Be on the lookout for registration information.

January NO Wednesday Nights

We have two people interested in learning the Livestream Cameras, great for service hours and new skills! Are you interested please let me know. Training is coming soon.

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.

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!



HNEC & The Dept of Youth
presents
Shae Cares CPR & FIRST AID

FIRST AID & CPR

Course for 6th-12th grade
5pm Wednesday 24th January 2024
@ HNEC 222 N Bonita Ave PC

Registration required by email
aussie_aj@holy-nativity.org
\$20pp Limited numbers.
For information call AJ 850 319 1953

First aid saves lives.

Backpack Buddy Ministry Newsletter Dec 2023/ Jan 2024

Packing and delivery schedule

Nov 27 - Dec 1 DEPT OF YOUTH (2)

Dec 4 - Dec 8 TEAM NINA

Dec 11 - Dec 15 TEAM ALICE

Dec 18 - Dec 21 TEAM MMC (Thursday delivery)

Jan 8 - Jan 12 TEAM TREY

Jan 15 - Jan 19 DEPT OF YOUTH (1)

Jan 22 - Jan 26 TEAM NINA

Jan 29 - Feb 2 TEAM ALICE

It is hard to believe that we are publishing the December/January packing schedule already! As we prepare for this busy, joyful Season, please keep our BUDDIES in your hearts and prayers. We will be packing an extra bag for each of our BUDDIES to take home over the Christmas holiday break, so please keep this vital ministry in mind when grocery shopping and making monetary donations. Questions or comments? backpackbuddieshnes@gmail.com

Children's Ministry

By Liz Ward

November was a month of thankfulness and I am truly thankful to God for each of the children who enter our church doors. Thank you to all the children and families who were able to come and participate in the Parrish Search Committee meeting for Children & Youth, your input was valuable to this process. Thank you to Hollye Melzer for organizing a shopping trip for Operation Christmas Child. The children were happy to participate in the shared joy of giving to others. An especially big Thank You goes out to all our Nursery volunteers who are keeping the Nursery open while our sweet Kaew Sumpton is taking time to care for her husband. We can still use additional volunteers to help with coverage. If you, or someone you know are interested please text, email, or just let me know when we see each other at church. Over the past two months, I've also loved watching the children preparing, with Mrs. Gladden, to sing at Lessons & Carols. We hope you will join us for that 6 pm service on Dec. 6. If you will need the Nursery for the Lessons & Carols service please email me at lizward@holy-nativity.org. Rounding out the month of November, our Old Testament Godly Play lessons have concluded with the Exile & Return. Since the Christmas season is fast approaching, we began learning about Advent just a little bit early. We will continue our Advent series throughout December.

There is SO much going on in December, it's sure to be the most wonderful time of the year! We don't want to miss out on feeling the mystery of Christmas in our hearts as things get busy this time of year. We hope you will join us Dec. 3 for St. Nicholas Day, when we will hear the story of St. Nicholas, decorate cookies, and take pictures after the service with our very own St. Nicholas. On Dec. 10 make sure to wear your best PJ's to church (grown ups too!) and bring pajamas, a book, or stuffed animal to donate. We will join the church to Carol the Cove with our families on Dec. 13, and there will not be a children's program that evening. Wagons and strollers are recommended for our little ones. On Dec. 20 there are no Wonderful Wednesday programs scheduled, but Children's Ministry would like to offer a Kids Christmas Fun Night from 5:30-7:30pm to all our children and their families! We will have pizza, popcorn, and hot chocolate, watch a Christmas movie, make crafts, and hear the Advent Godly Play story to help us prepare our hearts for Christmas. Youth are invited to come and help while enjoying the fun as well. Grown ups can stay and play or use this time to finish shopping or run other errands. In order to plan this event, please let me know if your child(ren) will attend on Dec. 20 by emailing lizward@holy-nativity.org. Watch for a sign up coming via email for children and youth to participate in the Nativity Pageant. QR codes will also be posted at church, to allow parents to click and sign their child up easily. If you or someone else needs to sign up and cannot access the email or QR code, please email or text me, (864) 420-5855. There will be a rehearsal for the Nativity Pageant on Dec. 23 (Saturday) from 5:30-6:30pm. On Dec. 24, helpers are especially needed for the Nativity pageant at the 10:30am service on Christmas Eve. This year only, we will have our Family Service and Nativity program at the 10:30am service, and there will be no 4:30pm service. Please reach out if you have any questions. If you are interested in joining us or volunteering as a helper for any of our upcoming activities please let me know. This is sure to be a December to remember as we prepare for the birth of our Savior together!



The Children's Choir will be performing "Hope For Resolution" at Lessons and Carols. We will continue to practice every other Sunday morning and will add an additional rehearsal if necessary. All are welcome and encouraged to join! Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or if your child would like to perform but is unable to attend the 10:30 Sunday morning service. It's going to be an absolutely gorgeous piece at our very special Lessons & Carols service.

Leigh Gladden
Lgladden@hnes.us
 763-354-9316



Birthdays

Dec. 1 Dunkin McLane, Al Tremaine
 Dec. 2 Lee Gagnet, Lora Healey
 Dec. 5 Jennifer Ethridge
 Dec. 6 Terry Jangula, Will Melzer, Jim Roberson
 Dec. 7 Carolyn Cramer
 Dec. 10 Kay Jackson, Greg Russell
 Dec. 11 Lara Provencher
 Dec. 14 Grace Ennis, Drew Jernigan
 Dec. 17 John Niziol
 Dec. 18 Ted Gagnet, Ashtyn Williams
 Dec. 21 Nancy Roupp, Evan Ward
 Dec. 23 David Landreth, Kathleen Wicker
 Dec. 26 Dianne Hodges, Jerry Shores
 Dec. 27 Lindsey Crelling
 Dec. 29 Anna Eberhard, John Moore
 Dec. 31 Michael Fuller, Victoria Lithway

 Jan. 1 Sylvia Mormile, Rylan Wattenbarger
 Jan. 2 Julia McArthur, Edwina McLane
 Jan. 4 Beth Brock, Cynthia Fuller
 Jan. 5 Juliette Josten, Roy Kregelka, P.D. Landreth
 Jan. 7 Doug Messer
 Jan. 8 Mitch Leonard, Carolyn Parell
 Jan. 11 Nina Godwin
 Jan. 13 Thelma Bowen, Stacy Herring, Michelle Niziol, Katie Wattenbarger
 Jan. 14 Jeffrey Ice, Karen Seubert
 Jan. 16 John Darrah, Kristina Dick
 Jan. 18 Liz Ward
 Jan. 19 Brody Fuller
 Jan. 22 Jo Munn
 Jan. 23 Kathy Brust
 Jan. 24 Peter Choi
 Jan. 27 Robin Finley, Bob McLendon
 Jan. 28 Rhonda Miller, Beatrice Provencher, Austin Syfrett
 Jan. 30 Janae Syfrett

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.



Anniversaries

Dec. 2 Patrick and Cassie Casady
 Steven and Laura McClain
 Dec. 9 Ryan and Melanie Cox
 Joe and Carolyn Parell
 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
 Dec. 30 Gene and Rhonda Miller
 Dec. 31 Gene and Paula Weaver

 Jan. 1 Max and Kirsten McCord
 Jan. 2 John and Peggy Vasta
 Jan. 9 Johnny and Elizabeth Moore
 Jan. 12 Alvin Peters and Cecile Scoon
 Jan. 16 Bud and Maggie Shuler
 Jan. 22 Wes and Anna Eberhard
 Jan. 23 Edward and Mary Kathryn San Juan
 Jan. 28 Stewart and Kaew Sumpton

ALTAR GUILD TRAINING/GET TOGETHER

All existing and new Altar Guild members or anyone interested in joining our fun, interesting ministry are invited to attend a refresher course/ social get together on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 9 AM in Battin Hall.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to this wonderful ministry.
Mary Bonham



DECEMBER 2023 LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE**December 3**

Altar Guild: Marla Churchill, Amy Russell, Barbara Knowles

Ushers: 8am: Tim Phillips and Tim Pride 10:30 am: John Thompson and Chris Mills

Greeters: 8am: Monica Phillips 10:30 am: Michael Fuller

Chalice Bearers: 8am: Dan and Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Joyce Dannecker and Joe Ciccarelli

Acolytes for 10:30 am: Grady Oenbrink, Wyatt Syfrett, Alex and Tom Moore

Lector: Rich Doran

December 10

Altar Guild: Tim and Monica Phillips, Mary Mittiga and David Burris, Katy Bradford

Ushers: 8am: Jim Hixson and Parker McClellan 10:30 am: Charles and Mary Bonham

Greeters: 8am: Ursula Hixson 10:30 am: Mike and Mimi Morrow

Chalice Bearers: 8am: Gene and Kathleen Wicker 10:30 am: Kelly Roberson and Scott Clemons

Acolytes for 10:30 am: Nicolas and Esteban Pereira, Finn Oenbrink, Carson Berry

Lector: Michael Lovchuk

December 17

Altar Guild: Dan and Robin Finley, Joanne MacPhee, Nancy Roupp, Tricia Berry

Ushers: 8am: Bert Churchill and Jerry Darnell 10:30 am: Linda Weller and Lori Bates

Greeters: 8am: Marla Churchill 10:30 am: Bert and Jo Munn

Chalice Bearers: 8am: Theresa Townsend and Cheryl Duffey

10:30 am: Lisa McLendon and George McInnis

Acolytes for 10:30 am: Jackson and Laney Lee, Isaac and Evan Ward

Lector: Ivan Pereira

December 24 Christmas Eve 3 services

Altar Guild: Gene and Kathleen Wicker, Joyce Dannecker, Melanie Cox

Ushers: 8am: Tim Pride and Tim Phillips 10:30 am: Russell and Beth Brock

10:30 pm: Terry and Donna Jangula

Greeters: 8am: Monica Phillips 10:30 am: Lori Bates

Chalice Bearers: 8am: Laura Johnson and Joanne MacPhee

10:30am: Brian Leebrick and Ian Crelling

10:30 pm: Joe Ciccarelli and Scott Clemons

Acolytes for 10:30 am: Brody Fuller, Grady Oenbrink, Wyatt Syfrett, Scarlet Jernigan

Lector: None

December 31

Altar Guild: Joanne MacPhee, Kaew Sumpton, Alice Allen

Ushers: 8am: Dan and Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Al Tremaine and Trey Hutt

Greeters: 8am: Phyllis Hunt 10:30 am: Linda Weller

Chalice Bearers: 8am: Gene and Kathleen Wicker 10:30 am: Nancy Breland and Lisa McLendon

Acolytes for 10:30 am: John, Alex, and Tom Moore

Lector: Ivan Pereria

JANUARY 2024 LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE**January 7**

Altar Guild: Rhonda Miller, Victoria Williams, Nancy Breland, Boopie McInnis
Ushers: 8am: Jim Hixson and Parker McClellan 10:30 am: Ian Crelling and Daniel Melzer
Greeters: 8am: Ursula Hixson 10:30 am: Jani Smith
Chalice Bearers: 8am: Joanne MacPhee and Cheryl Duffey
10:30 am: Kelly Roberson and Brian Leebrick
Acolytes for 10:30 am: Jackson and Laney Lee, Isaac and Evan Ward
Lector: Holly Melzer

January 14

Altar Guild: Marla Churchill, Mary Bonham, Lisa McLendon
Ushers: 8am: Bert Churchill and Jerry Darnell 10:30 am: John Thompson and Chris Mills
Greeters: 8am: Marla Churchill 10:30 am: Michael Fuller
Chalice Bearers: 8am: Dan and Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Scott Clemons and Joyce Dannecker
Acolytes for 10:30 am: Brody Fuller, Emma and Matheson Crelling, Wyatt Syfrett
Lector: Daniel Melzer

January 21

Altar Guild: Marla Churchill, Amy Russell, Barbara Knowles
Ushers: 8am: Tim Pride and Tim Phillips 10:30 am: Charles and Mary Bonham
Greeters: 8am: Monica Phillips 10:30 am: Bert and Jo Munn
Chalice Bearers: 8am: Dan and Laura Johnson 10:30 am: George McInnis and Joe Ciccarelli
Acolytes for 10:30 am: Nicolas and Esteban Pereira, Scarlet Jernigan, Carson Berry
Lector: Rich Doran

January 28

Altar Guild: Tim and Monica Phillips, Mary Mittiga and David Burris, Katy Bradford
Ushers: 8am: Dan and Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Linda Weller and Lori Bates
Greeters: 8am: Phyllis Hunt 10:30 am: Lori Bates
Chalice Bearers: 8am: Theresa Townsend and Cheryl Duffey
10:30 am: Lisa McLendon and Nancy Breland
Acolytes for 10:30 am: John, Alex, and Tom Moore, Will Melzer
Lector: Ivan Pereira

Announcement from the Search Committee

The Parish Profile Survey has been emailed to every member with email. It's important that everyone fills it out. If you didn't receive the email, you can click on the link on the home page of Holy Nativity's website. Or using your camera app, open the QR code.



Holy Nativity Episcopal Church
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Website: www.holy-nativity.org



The Church Calendar is
always on the homepage
of the church's website.

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

Sunday 8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite I
9:15 a.m. - Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II with Children's Chapel

Wednesday 5:30 pm - (Sept.-May) five-thirty casual service followed by supper and programs
