



February 2024
Volume 28, Issue 1

the NATIVITY Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

Wednesday's Resume!

Join us for the best night of the week!

Our Wednesday programs resume February 7th.

Worship 5:30 Supper 6:00

Programs and Fellowship 6:30



Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Supper

February 13th at 5:30 pm

We will feast on pancakes, sausages, and gumbo before Lent begins!

Find the baby in the King's Cake and you will win reserved seating and parking on Easter Sunday!

Donations will be accepted.

We need volunteers to help in the kitchen and to clean up afterwards.

A sign up sheet is in the foyer.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

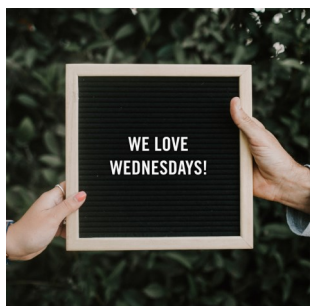
FEBRUARY 24, 2024

7:30 AM AND 6 PM

WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER OR ACTIVITIES)

**Wonderful Wednesdays
will resume Feb. 7, 2024!**



You don't want to miss the most fun
night of the week!

5:30 pm: Worship

6:00 pm: Supper is served

6:30 pm: Programs for all ages/
Adult Choir Practice



**Souper Bowl Sunday
is Feb. 11!**

Bring your soup for the
Backpack Ministry and wear
your team colors for your
favorite team, what ever the
sport! Baskets will be set up in
the foyer February 4th
through Sunday February 11th.
The Backpack Ministry is
always the winner!



Spring 2024 Confirmation Class. Our diocesan bishop will be here Sunday, May 12, 2024 for his annual visit, including Confirmation, our rite of welcoming folks who want to be Christians in the Episcopal Church. Our prayerbook (page 860) says "Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" and goes on to say "It is required of those to be confirmed that they have been baptized, are sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith, are penitent for their sins, and are ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord."

We offer two one-hour Sunday morning classes - - which we call "Episcopal 101" - - for those who may wish to be confirmed that day. The classes will be **Sunday morning, April 14** and **Sunday morning, April 21**, between Sunday morning services, 9:15 to 10:15. I will be conducting the classes. If you want to be confirmed, or are thinking about being confirmed, or just would enjoy learning more about being a Christian in the Episcopal Church, you are invited. [You will need to sign up ahead of time by emailing admin@holy-nativity.org](mailto:admin@holy-nativity.org)

Father Tom

Thank you from Fr. Tom

Dearest friends and members of Holy Nativity,

Thank you so much for the gift at Christmas. Your generosity and lovingkindness always tug at our hearts, and again seal the bond of love between us. With our families, Linda and I were charter members of Holy Nativity in 1955, and have been involved with this parish all these years, including our memories of being the first couple married at Holy Nativity, in 1957. Our relationship with you is one of the greatest treasures of our lives, and, as 2024 brings a Time of change, we intend to be present and hope to be of service as long as we are able!

*With blessings and love,
Fr Tom & Linda*



Lenten Program 2024

The Gospel According to Ted Lasso

Beginning Wednesday, February 21

Worship 5:30 p.m.

Supper 6:00 p.m.

Even if you haven't seen this award-winning Apple TV series, you'll enjoy getting to know Ted Lasso whose views on faith, integrity, compassion, and hope are things each of us can learn from as part of our Lenten journeys.

Note: There will be no Wednesday services or programs on March 20th due to Spring Break.

New Year and New Adventures

Firstly I hope everyone had a happy, safe and relaxing festive season and a positive return to school, work and routine!

The first Wednesday night program is February 7th, we will celebrate this with an opportunity to remember 2023 and be open to all that awaits us in 2024.

If you haven't been or it has been awhile since you attended a Wednesday night please come along. Youth Group is a space where students can meet and chat with others from different school and friend groups. This is a great opportunity for networks outside of school friends.

**YOUTH
GROUP**



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

BLESSING OF THE CAR KEYS

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.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Youth Confirmation Classes start the 10th March, this will be an informal information session and provide some insight into the process. Just let myself or the church office know if you want to attend.

Dates:

Sunday March 10th, April 14 & 21st

Classes at 9:30am.

Instructed Eucharist with Fr Steve, DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

LIVESTREAM ASSISTANT

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

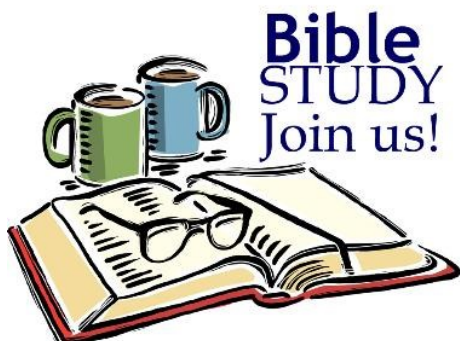
Ideas for youth ministry?

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

Hope to see you Wednesdays.

A.J. Jeffery, Youth Director

850-319-1953/ aussie_aj@holy-nativity.org



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

Are you looking for a mid-week Bible study? Come join us on Wednesdays at noon in the library as we dive into the Acts of the Apostles. This will be led by Melanie Cox and will begin February 7.

Bring your Bible and your lunch if you like.

Children's Ministry February 2024 Liz Ward

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and participated in our Nativity Pageant. It wouldn't be possible to tell the story of Jesus' birth in this delightful way without the adult and youth volunteers, and of course the children. Everyone did a lovely job and helped make it a memorable Christmas Eve! In our December Godly Play lessons we learned about Advent and Christmas, and how we are carrying the light of Christ in our hearts all year. Our January lessons have included Epiphany, Jesus Baptism, and The Good Shepherd. The children and Mrs. Gladden did a wonderful job singing at Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve, and Mrs. Madge Smith's retirement party. There are more opportunities to come! Did you know we alternate Sunday Godly Play lessons and Children's Choir every other week during Children's Church? All children PreK through Teens are invited to join us each Sunday as we pray, learn, and sing together.

In Nursery news, you may have noticed we have added a new Nursery worker, Mrs. Taylor Hall. She also works at Holy Nativity Episcopal School. She and her husband, Travis, are expecting a little one in February. Please join me in welcoming her. We can still use additional volunteers to help with coverage while Taylor is out on maternity leave. If you, or someone you know is interested please text, email, or just let me know when we see each other at church.

February is always a short but busy month, and the best part is Wonderful Wednesdays are back Feb. 7! Pancake supper will be a fun way to fellowship and celebrate Mardi Gras together on Feb. 13. Nursery will be provided for the Ash Wednesday 6:00pm service. Then the season of Lent begins and we will start the Godly Play, Faces of Easter series. These lessons teach the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We will continue with these lessons through Easter.

Holy Nativity Community Park

An Outreach Opportunity for our Neighborhood



For many years, we shared a vision of making good use
of the property behind the two-story building.
Help us make this dream a reality.

Birthdays

Feb. 1 John
Morrow
Feb. 2 Monica Phillips
Feb. 3 Lenka Doran
Feb. 4 Wes Eberhard, Shani Lee, Daniel
Melzer
Feb. 5 Mary Mittiga
Feb. 6 Isaac Ward
Feb. 7 Everett Gladden
Feb. 9 Samantha Smith
Feb. 10 Brian Leebrick
Feb. 11 Hannah Davis, Gene Miller,
Hercules Pettis, Jeannette
Tremaine
Feb. 13 Levi Barton, Scott Clemons
Feb. 15 Connie McClellan
Feb. 16 Kate Smith
Feb. 18 Charlotte Eberhard
Feb. 19 Jackson Lee
Feb. 21 Martin Brust, Bert Churchill
Feb. 22 Allen Nease, Mario San
Juan
Feb. 24 Hansson Henneberg
Feb. 25 Lori Faison, Nancy Pride, Kevin
Wattenbarger, Sue White
Feb. 26 Edyth Brown, David Burris
Feb. 27 David Lithway

Anniversaries

Feb. 5 Ted and Ina Joy Conrad
Feb 11 Lisa Walters, and Scott Struebing
Feb 15 Frank and Nancy Wall
Feb.16 Martin and Kathy Brust
Feb. 20 Robert and Lyn Weick
Feb. 24 Dunkin and Edwina McLane

Altar Flower Price Increase

An adjustment has been made to the cost to donate Altar flowers. Hallmark Flowers has upped the cost per vase, and so we have to do the same. Some of the price increase comes from the rising cost of everything, and also we now have larger vases which require larger arrangements. Each arrangement will be \$50. We have two arrangements on the Altar each Sunday.

If one person signs up for a Sunday, you are only responsible for \$50.

Mark Your Calendars!

Parish Retreat at Camp Beckwith



You won't want to miss this incredible opportunity to gather in God's front yard at beautiful Camp Beckwith. Lots of great fun, fellowship, and relaxation. Just ask anyone who attended last year's retreat. Look for the display in the lobby for information and sign-up.

Many Thanks!

Thanks to you all for your most generous gifts and kindnesses to us over the holiday season. Your graciousness to us over the past 18 years is something we will forever cherish and never forget. We are so grateful to have been a part of the Holy Nativity family and look forward to our next few months together. Your thoughtfulness humbles us and makes us so grateful for each of you.

God love you,
Lori and Steve+

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

February Schedule

February 4th

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

Ushers: Jim Hixson & Parker McClellan/Russell & Beth Brock

Greeters: Ursula Hixson/Linda Weller

Chalice Bearers: Joanne MacPhee & Laura Johnson/Joyce Dannecker & George McInnis

Lector: Rich Doran

Acolytes: Jackson Lee, Issac & Evan Ward & Laney Lee

February 11th

Altar Guild: Joyce Dannecker, Melanie Cox & Madge Smith

Ushers: Bert Churchill & Jerry Darnell/Al Tremaine & Trey Hutt

Greeters: Marla Churchill / Jani Smith

Chalice Bearers: Theresa Townsend & Cheryl Duffey/Kelly Roberson & Lisa McLendon

Lector: Paula Hart

Acolytes: Brody Fuller, Emma & Matheson Crelling & Wyatt Syfrett

February 14th Ash Wednesday

Ushers: Terry & Donna Jangula

Chalice Bearers: Lisa McClendon & Ian Crelling

February 18th

Altar Guild: Joanne MacPhee, Kaew Sumpton, Alice Allen & Vicki Hightower

Ushers: Dan & Laura Johnson/Ian Crelling & Daniel Melzer

Greeters: Phyllis Hunt/Michael Fuller

Chalice Bearers: Joanne MacPhee & Theresa Townsend/Joe Ciccarella & Ian Crelling

Lector: Rich Doran

Acolytes: Nicolas & Esteban Pereira, Scarlet Jernigan & Carson Berry

February 25th

Altar Guild: Rhonda Miller, Victoria Williams & Boopie McInnis

Ushers: Tim Phillips & Tim Pride/John Thompson & Chris Mills

Greeters: Monica Phillips / Bert & Jo Munn

Chalice Bearers: Gene & Kathleen Wicker/Scott Clemons & Brian Leebrick

Lector: Ivan Pereira

Acolytes: John Moore, Will Melzer, Alex & Tom Moore



An Update from the Mary Martha Circle

2023 was a great year of growth and activity for the Mary Martha Circle Ministry. In September Cheryl Duffey was officially welcomed into The Episcopal Community and Vicki Hightower, Phyllis Hunt and Mary Ellen Pettis, all joined us, and began their process of discernment. Vicki and Phyllis have completed their studies and we are looking forward to their induction the first Sunday in March. Meanwhile, Mary Ellen has had to put her studies on pause, as she seeks to serve the greater Church, as a member of the invaluable Search Committee. God's speed and our prayers to you all!

The Circle continued to support the Woman's Mission during 2023, with various donations throughout the year, culminating in Christmas gifts for each of the 12 women currently housed at the Mission. In 2024 we plan to turn our attention to the needs of Bay County's Family Services Agency. In November we once again helped 'deck the halls', trimming the wonderful new Church tree. Our thanks as always to AJ for aiding us in this project!

And to start this new year off right, we committed during January (Human Trafficking Prevention & Awareness Month), to help raise funds for Lavished Ministries, a local charity dedicated to helping woman caught up in the sex trade here in Bay County. Many thanks to all who donated!!!

And as always, we continue to offer up prayers to anyone seeking a little extra help through difficult times.

If you would like to know more about the Mary Martha Circle, or broader The Episcopal Community, please free to reach out to any one of us: Cheryl Duffey, Phyllis Hunt, Donna Jangula; Vicki Hightower, Laura Johnson, Joanne MacPhee, Mary Ellen Pettis, Monica Phillips or Theresa Townsend.

And in closing, please join us, as we continue to pray collectively, for the full recovery for our 'Sister in Christ', Edyth Brown.

The Mary Martha Circle is the local chapter of The Episcopal Community - a group of Episcopal women who are committed to living out our baptismal covenants. Using the Rule of St. Benedict as a guide, we nurture and support each other as we walk our spiritual journeys. We are a welcoming, loving fellowship which offers Episcopal women a unique opportunity for personal spiritual growth while serving our church and all of God's people.

Souper Bowl Sunday is right around the corner and **BACKPACK BUDDIES** are counting on you to fill our shelves with soup as you vote for your favorite team! One can per vote, so "stuff the ballot box" with lots of soup for our BUDDIES.



Packing schedule:

Jan 29-Feb 2	TEAM ALICE
Feb 5-Feb 9	DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH (2)
Feb 12-Feb 16	TEAM MARY MARTHA CIRCLE
Feb 19-Feb 23	TEAM TREY
Feb 26-Mar 1	DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH (1)
Mar 4-Mar 8	TEAM NINA

If you are not receiving our weekly e-mails, please contact us at backpackbuddiesh-nes@gmail.com Don't be left out of all the fun! Join a team or just show up! Our BUDDIES need us more than ever!

Dear Fr. Steve and the people of Holy Nativity,

A few thank-yous need to be given.

I cannot express in words how much Sunday, January 14th meant to me. Every one of the Celebration Ladies truly out did themselves. Thank you, Nina Godwin, Jennifer Ethridge and Mimi Morrow, for heading up the group. I can't believe how many people signed up to bring chili, cornbread, and cookies and let's not forget the Leche Cheesecake! We have so many wonderful chefs in our church, and we really know how to party! Anthony Peeples was awesome!

Thank you, Fr. Steve and all members of the church, for my very generous retirement bonus. It will certainly add to our vacation fund. I am so grateful.

Thank you Leigh Gladden and the Children's Choir for singing my favorite Beatle's song, "Here Comes The Sun". It touched my heart and soul and it meant so much to me.

Thank you for all the cards, gifts, and well wishes from everyone.

I would like to say thank you very very much to Fr. Steve, A. J. Jeffery, Kathy Mills, John Durgan, and Joanne MacPhee for filling in and working overtime on my duties until a new priest arrives.

Lastly, I would like to say that Holy Nativity has been my life and my love for almost 25 years. I truly believe God's presence is in our midst and great things are happening through every ministry at our church. I look forward to what will come next for Holy Nativity in the future.

Love you all and I'll see you at church,

Madge

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 -

Children's CE Director -Liz Ward

Children's Choir Director - Leigh Gladden

Church Bookkeeper - Kathy Mills

Sexton - Deana Gailfoil

Nursery Attendant - Kaew Sumpton & Taylor Hall

THE VESTRY

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. -

9:15 a.m. -

10:30 a.m. -

Holy Eucharist - Rite I

Adult Sunday School

*Holy Eucharist - Rite II with
Children's Chapel*

Wednesday 5:30 pm -

*(Sept.-May) five-thirty casual
service followed by supper and
programs*