



the NATIVITY Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

March 2024
Volume 28, Issue 3

Please communicate with the Church office via email admin@holy-nativity.org

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE 2024



- March 24 **Palm Sunday** (*service begins in the courtyard*)
8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite One
9:15 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Children's Chapel
(Live on Facebook)
- March 25-27 **Morning Prayer** at 7:30 am
Join us in the church Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning for Morning Prayer. A great way to start your day during Holy Week.
- March 27 **Stations of the Cross** at 6:00 pm
A devotion consisting of prayers and meditations observing the final hours and events of the Passion of Jesus.
- March 28 **Maundy Thursday Service** at 6:00 pm (**Live on Facebook**)
This service of Holy Eucharist will commemorate the last supper that Jesus shared with His disciples. The service ends with the stripping of the altar.
- March 29 **Good Friday Service** at 12 noon (**Live on Facebook**)
This is a solemn service to recall Christ's crucifixion. Communion will be offered from reserved sacrament.
- March 31 **Easter Sunday**
8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite One
9:15 am Easter Brunch (Bring your favorite Easter Brunch Dish!)
9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite Two (Live on Facebook)



Lenten Program 2024

The Gospel According to Ted Lasso

Beginning Wednesday, February 21

Worship 5:30 p.m.

Supper 6:00 p.m.

Program 6:30 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.

Packing Schedule:

March 4 – 8 TEAM NINA

March 11 – 15 TEAM ALICE

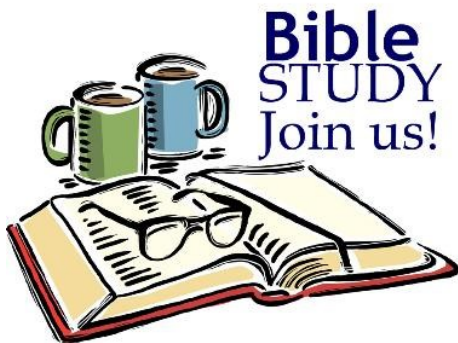
March 18 – 22 SPRING BREAK

March 25 – 28 DEPT OF YOUTH (2) THURSDAY DELIVERY

April 1 – 5 TEAM MARY MARTHA CIRCLE



Feel free to join us anytime! Packing, shopping, delivering, stocking, praying and writing checks! There is something for everyone in the Backpack Buddy Ministry!



New Christian Education Offering

Mid-Week Bible Study

Wednesdays at Noon in the Church Library

Led by Melanie Cox, the group will begin with a look at the book of Acts. Participants are welcome to bring their own lunch and/or refreshments and are encouraged to BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible). Mark your calendars!

Books for the Incarcerated Mission

If you would like to join the Books for the Incarcerated, a new Holy Nativity mission outreach, please know it is simple, requiring you to buy a book or two, as often as you'd like, and be part of a small mission that could have a big impact on people's lives. Due to drug dealers now able to smuggle drugs into the spines and pages of books, our jails and prisons have thrown away all their books, and there is no money in their budgets to replace them. We have worked on replacing their books but so far they will only allow brand-new paperbacks only, and mailed from an approved source (Amazon, Religious book stores, etc....). Amazon has great paperbacks for \$4.00 and they mail for free. We believe many of the incarcerated are desperate to keep their minds occupied and be offered something we all take for granted, expanding our minds and souls. Books must have no hard covers, metal binders, porn, nude pictures, graphic details, racism, suicides, child sex or pedophilia. Since we cannot mail them ourselves (we're working on changing that), they must be mailed to jails by the vendor.



If you would like to be a part of this compassionate mission, please contact Nina Godwin (nwgodwin@gmail.com or text *850-814-9282) for more information.

Dear Church Family,

Exciting news is on the horizon! Sunny and Chad Barton are eagerly anticipating the arrival of their fourth baby boy, and we couldn't be happier for them! To celebrate this joyous occasion, we're hosting a Jungle Themed Diaper Shower, and you're all invited!

Date: Sunday, March 3rd, 2024
Time: After the 10:30 AM service

We're asking each attendee to bring diapers of any size, wrapped or unwrapped, to help Sunny and Chad prepare for the newest addition to their family. After showering them with diapers, let's stay to enjoy some delicious cake and punch!

In order to make this event a success, we need a little assistance from our church community. We're looking for two volunteers to bring ingredients for and serve punch, as well as donations toward the cake. Cassidy Bland has been baking our cakes, and by contributing to this cause, we're also supporting her and her children during this time.

Additionally, we'll be setting up for the shower on Saturday, March 2nd, at 10:00 AM if you'd like to join us. With everyone's help, clean up will be a breeze after the shower.

Your presence and participation in this celebration mean the world to us. Let's come together to shower Sunny, Chad, and their growing family with love and support.

Please RSVP whether or not you will be there, bring diapers, help with punch, set up, or contribute to cake and we will remind you before the event. We can't wait to see you there!

Warm regards,

Nina Godwin, Mimi Morrow & Jennifer Ethridge hchurchladies@gmail.com
The Celebration Committee AKA The Church Ladies of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church



Shop BOGO...*think* Food Pantry!

Our Food Pantry is in need of provisions! So, we are asking you to please consider donating your extra, non-perishable, BOGO family food items to the pantry. Items you may consider donating include dried pasta, pasta sauces, rice, beans, family size boxes of cereal and cookies. Anything your family likes, you can be assured, another underserved family will love!

When the pantry is full, all donate items will delivered to the Family Service Agency of Panama City.

A timely shopping reminder from the Mary Martha Circle.

The March is on!

As we rapidly move forward through another season, Lent is upon us! Below is a link and QR code to a YouTube video that is guiding the Department of Youth this Lenten season to adopt something rather than give something up. Prayer! The Daily Replay is an easy way to reflect and focus on yourself and how you navigate your day.



The Daily Replay



YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Youth Confirmation Classes start the 14th & 21st April, this will be an informal information session and provide some insight into the process. Open to 6-12 graders. Just let myself or the church office know if you want to attend.

14th & 21st April

Classes Sunday 9:30 am

Instructed Eucharist with Fr Steve, DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

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.

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.

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.

--Andrew Jeffery (Youth Director)

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church

222 North Bonita Ave, Panama City,
Florida, 32401. USA.

Ph. 850 747 4000

SAVE THE DATE!

Dear Holy Nativity Family:

The retirement of Father Steve is a scary and emotional time for all of us as he has had so much impact on our lives over the past 18 years. And because of those impacts, the blessings he has provided and the incredible journey he has directed Holy Nativity on, he deserves to be celebrated. His retirement marks a momentous milestone in his and our lives and it is time to bid farewell to his years of dedication and hard work and help him embrace a well-deserved permanent vacation.

Three parties are planned in hopes of giving everyone an opportunity to attend at least one.

Party #1:

"Even Legends Must Retire" Dinner, Dancing and Celebrating

Friday, APRIL 19th, 4:00- 7:30pm

The Bonham's Barn located at 3900 W. 16th Street in St Andrews

Sonny's BBQ with all the fixins

Entertainment by DJ John Cannon and a few surprises

So don your bibs and boots and get ready to chow down and kick up your heels.

Party #2:

Celebration/ Farewell Brunch

Sunday TBD, 9:30 - 10:15am

Battin Hall

Brunch and mimosas

Hosted by Mary Martha's Circle

Party # 3:

Wonderful Wednesday end of the school year and send off celebration

Wednesday, MAY 8th, 5:30 - 7:30

Service, dinner and festivities

Hosted by the Youth Group

A sign up form will be sent out in the near future. Please RSVP for the event/events in which you'll attend.

Thank you so much!

Mary Bonham and Lisa McLendon

confirmation class



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

Birthdays

Mar. 5 Inge Churchill, Jerry Darnell
 Mar. 8 Terrell Hartzog
 Mar. 9 Cassie Casady, Alexander Lovchuk
 Mar. 10 Cole Jansenius,
 Mar. 12 Oliver Provencher
 Mar. 14 Russell Brock,
 Mar. 19 Boyd Faison
 Mar. 21 Laney Lee
 Mar. 23 Ryan Cox
 Mar. 24 Nancy Breland,
 Scarlett Jernigan
 Mar. 25 Michael Hauser
 Mar. 26 Teresa Durgan
 Mar. 27 Anda Gagnet, Paul Hunt,
 Nicolas Pereira, John Vasta
 Mar. 28 George McInnis

Anniversaries

Mar. 4 David and Natasha Lithway
 Mar. 8 Jerry and Catherine Shores
 Mar. 11 Nathan and Bethany Nowak
 Mar. 15 Jimmy and Sue White
 Mar. 22 Gene and Kathleen Wicker
 Mar. 23 Brent and Lori Faison
 Mar. 27 Bob and Lisa McLendon

Mark Your Calendars!

Parish Retreat at Camp Beckwith

April 5th, 6th and 7th



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

www.holy-nativity.org

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.





St. Andrew's Community Suppers, SACS

Holy Nativity participates in several community outreach programs that we all hear about, make donations to, and get involved in throughout the year. However, there is one that you may not be familiar with today, even though it touches many people in our area. This particular ministry is St. Andrew's Community Suppers, or SACS. SACS is a continuation of Suppers at Grace, a program that we became involved in nearly 15 years ago. That ministry was suspended in the Summer of 2021 as a result of lack of participants due to COVID and lost leadership at Grace Episcopal Church. A group of St. Andrews Episcopal Church parishioners felt the need to reconvene in the Fall of 2022, but with plans to move it to their location. I was contacted and jumped at the opportunity to serve again, as were several of our previous "Grace workers".

Suppers are provided by different church affiliates each Thursday evening from 6-7:00 in the St Andrews' parish hall, which is adjacent to a wonderful commercial kitchen where the meals are prepared. The dinners are served from a buffet line, and then the guests sit at nicely set tables, offering nutrition and dignity to each. Along with the hot dinners served in house, the guests are also given to-go meals, sack lunches, and water. On many occasions we offer free clothing, hygiene packs, shoes, and such.

Holy Nativity serves to members of our food insecure community on the second Thursday of each month. Typically our team of 12 serves about 75 people, 100 plates, because many come back for seconds and thirds, 80 -100 to-go dinners, and 48 sack lunches... you do the math!!! Big Mama's on the Bayou, Dan-D-Donuts, Pier Park Panera Bread, and Back Beach Publix donate their leftovers to our mission, but the majority of the funding comes from the HNEC outreach program reserve. On average it takes \$375 each month to provide wholesome, healthy meals for our guests. In addition, we also pay \$45 to St Andrews to cover supplies. This all adds up, and my hopes are to build a fund to offset the expenses of this very needed and heartwarming ministry. This is where you come in! Please prayerfully consider adding this mission to your one time, monthly, or annual pledge, specifying "SACS" on the memo line of your check or online donation. Every little bit will help and will be greatly appreciated.

If you're interested in becoming involved in this ministry or have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you,
Mary Bonham
850 527-0984
marybonham56@gmail.com

Children's Ministry March 2024

February has been a short but busy month! Wonderful Wednesdays are back and we have enjoyed some child driven storytelling in the Godly Play room, where the children selected a story they'd never heard and we explored and told it together. The story they chose was The Prophets, that included the dessert box which is always a favorite. In Children's Church we heard the Parable of the Good Samaritan and started our Lenten story series The Faces of Easter. These lessons teach the story of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. We will continue with these lessons through Easter.

In Nursery news, our new Nursery worker, Mrs. Taylor Hall and her husband Travis have joyfully welcomed their new baby girl, on Feb. 24. We can still use additional volunteers to help with coverage while Taylor is out on maternity leave and we will definitely need some extra volunteers for Easter Sunday as well. If you, or someone you know is interested please text, email, or just let me know when we see each other at church. Thank you to all our current Nursery volunteers for your willingness to serve in this special ministry. The Nursery will be open for the Wednesday, March 27 Stations of the Cross service at 6pm. If you will need Nursery for your child so you can attend the Maundy Thursday evening service or Good Friday afternoon service please text or call Liz Ward at (864) 420-5855 in advance.

Mrs. Gladden has been practicing with the children to sing on Palm Sunday, as well as working on another special piece with them at Children's Choir every other week during Children's Church time. All children PreK through Teens are invited to join us each Sunday as we pray, learn, and sing together.

In March we will continue our Lenten learning about Jesus' life and ministry as we explore the season of Lent and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter. We will hold our annual church Easter Egg Hunt between services on Easter Sunday, come early so you don't miss it! In order to have a fun-filled egg hunt we need your help. We kindly ask all of our church members who would like to help us make sure every child at our church has a basket filled with joy on Easter, to please donate plastic eggs and candy, or donate pre-filled eggs. These can be dropped off in the Kids Kingdom area on Sundays/Wednesdays. If you can't donate but would like to volunteer to help with the Easter Egg Hunt in other ways, please contact Liz Ward. Thank you for helping spread the joy of Easter!

Worship Lay Ministry Schedule for March 2024

March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24 Palm Sun	March 31 Easter
Altar Guild: Kathleen & Gene Wicker Mary Bonham Lisa McLendon	Altar Guild: Cherly Duffey Marla Churchill Amy Russell Barbara Knowles	Altar Guild: Tim & Monica Phillips David Burris Katy Bradford Mary Mittga	Altar Guild: Dan Finely Robin Finely Joanne MacPhee Nancy Roupp Tricia Berry	Altar Guild: Gene Wicker Kathleen Wicker Joyce Dannecker Melanie Cox Madge Smith
Ushers 8:00 am: Jim Hixson Parker McClellan 10:30 am: John Thompson Chris Mills	Ushers 8:00 am: Bert Churchill Jerry Darnell 10:30 am: Lori Bates Linda Weller	Ushers 8:00 am: Tim Phillips Tim Pride 10:30 am: Russell Brock Beth Brock	Ushers 8:00 am: Dan and Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Al Tremaine Trey Hutt	Ushers 8:00 am: Jim Hixson Parker McClellan 10:30 am: Ian Crelling Daniel Melzer
Greeters 8:00 am: Ursula Hixson 10:30 am: Lori Bates	Greeters 8:00 am: Marla Churchill 10:30 am: Linda Weller	Greeters 8:00 am: Monica Phillips 10:30 am: Jani Smith	Greeters 8:00 am: Phyllis Walker 10:30 am: Michael Fuller	Greeters 8:00 am: Ursula Hixson 10:30 am: Bert Munn Jo Munn
Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Laura Johnson Cheryl Duffey 10:30 am: Ian Crelling George McInnis	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Gene Wicker Kathleen Wicker 10:30 am: Joyce Dannecker Kelly Roberson	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Dan Johnson Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Lisa McLendon Brian Leebrick	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Gene Wicker Kathleen Wicker 10:30 am: Scott Clemons Joe Ciccarelli	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Joanne MacPhee Theresa Townsend 10:30 am: Kelly Roberson George McInnis
Acolytes for 10:30 Brody Fuller Emma Crelling Matheson Crelling Wyatt Syfrett	Acolytes for 10:30 Nicolas and Esteban Pereira, Scarlet Jernigan Carson Berry	Acolytes for 10:30	Acolytes for 10:30	Acolytes for 10:30 Estaban Pereira, Scarlet Jernigan Wyatt Syfrett John Moore
Lector at 10:30 am Paula Hart	Lector at 10:30 am Holly Melzer	Lector at 10:30 am Daniel Melzer	Lector at 10:30 am Rich Doran	Lector at 10:30 am Michael Lovchuk

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.

Look for the display in the lobby for information.

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 & Taylor Hall

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*