



the NATIVITY

April 2024

Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

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

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- 7:00pm

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 April 28th , 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

Thank you so much!

Mary Bonham and Lisa McLendon



THANK YOU to Chuck and Barbara Knowles for the new addition to our stocking events! The

conveyor works great and makes short order of a pallet full of food for our BUDDIES. Watch your email

for news of the last big stocking event of the year!

Packing schedule:

April 1 – 5 MARY MARTH CIRCLE

April 8-12 TEAM TREY

April 15-19 TEAM DEPT OF YOUTH (1)

April 22-26 TEAM NINA

April 29-May 3 TEAM ALICE

May 6-10 TEAM DEPT OF YOUTH (2)

May 13-17 MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

FINAL PACKING TBA ALL TEAMS

followed by our annual wrap up happy hour!



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!

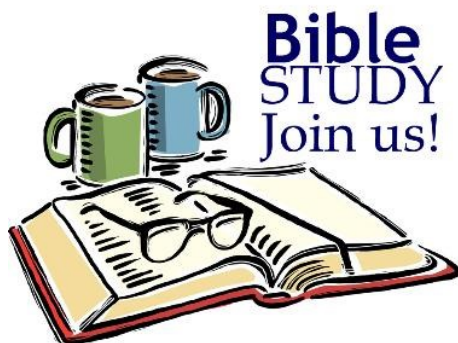
When the pantry is full, all donate items will delivered to the Family Service Agency of Panama City. *A timely shopping reminder from the Mary Martha Circle.*

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!



FRIENDS

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



CELEBRATING THE GRADUATES

Do you have a High School GRADUATE in your house? We want to celebrate their achievement Sunday May 12th, please let us know at the church office asap.

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

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.

Hope to see you over the next few weeks!

Andrew Jeffery (Youth Director)

850/747-4000

Aussie_aj@holy-nativity.org



St. Andrew's Community Suppers,
SACS

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 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

Father Tom - -

the Bishop is coming, the Bishop is coming!



“Episcopal” is a New Testament Greek word that means overseer or “bishop” and we are called The Episcopal Church because the chief pastoral and administrative leadership in our church is through clergy ordained as bishops, who head geographical areas called “dioceses”. Holy Nativity Episcopal Church is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, with the bishop’s headquarters office in Pensacola. It’s the custom of the church for the bishop to come to each parish congregation each year for an annual pastoral visit, which includes time with the congregation, checking over official records including the attendance record book and the Parish Register of members and services, and meeting with clergy and vestry. The main event of this “Episcopal visit” is usually a worship service that includes the Rite of Confirmation. Here’s what the Catechism says about that:

Q. What is Confirmation?

A. 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.

Q. What is required of those to be confirmed?

A. It is required of those to be confirmed they 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.

On our parish calendar for 2024, coming up this Spring on Sunday, May 12th, Holy Nativity will have our annual episcopal visit, with service of Confirmation for members who would like to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church by the bishop. Each year before the bishop comes, we have an “Inquirers’ Class” or “Confirmation Class” (which we like to call Episcopal-101), to offer instruction in the Christian Faith, and about Holy Nativity and the Episcopal Church as our branch of the Body of Christ.

The class is offered by Father Tom during the hour between services, 9:15 to 10:15. This year we plan two one-hour sessions, Sunday April 14 and Sunday April 21. Please email the office and let us know. admin@holy-nativity.org).

Everyone is invited, by the way! Not only folks interested in being confirmed, but anyone who would like to know more, or enjoy a refresher course, about the Episcopal Church.

Tom Weller+



Save the Date!

Mother’s Day is May 12th! Along will celebrating our mothers, we will honor our graduates . Look for more information soon.

Birthdays

- Apr. 2 Duncan Scott, Chris Stamps
Apr. 3 Avery Wattenbarger
Apr. 4 Alyssa Shores
Apr. 5 Mac Bonham, Mason Wattenbarger
Apr. 9 Anna McCord
Apr. 11 Dean Gailfoil, Bert Munn
Apr. 13 Parker McClellan
Apr. 16 Rich Doran, Wylie Roupp
Apr. 18 Gideon Lipscomb
Apr. 19 Bethany Nowak, Esteban Pereira
Apr. 20 Ben Lee
Apr. 21 Patrick Casady, Bowen Steiner
Apr. 22 Henry Breland, Steve McClain,
Joseph Parell, Stephanie Pettis,
Joseph Thompson, James
Thompson
Apr. 23 Lilly Grace Casady, Wyatt Syfrett
Apr. 25 Robert Dozar,
Apr. 26 Addison Pack
Apr. 27 Faith Smith
Apr. 28 Abram Jeffery
Apr. 29 Bailey Melzer, Madge Smith
Apr. 30 Alvin Peters

Anniversaries

- Apr. 8 Joseph and Cristina Jansenius
Apr. 9 David and Madge Smith
Apr. 10 John and Kelsey Lipscomp
Apr. 16 Max and Joyce Dannecker
Paul and Phyllis Hunt
Apr. 17 Chad and Sunny Barton
Apr. 20 Jim and Kelly Roberson
Apr. 21 Chris and Kathy Mills
Hercules and Mary Ellen Pettis
Apr. 22 Dan and Laura Johnson
Apr. 30 Jeff and Kate Watson

Children's Ministry

Liz Ward

Lizward@holy-nativity.org



Jesus is Risen! Spring has arrived and everything is made new. March was a wonderful month preparing for Easter with the children! Thank you to everyone who donated eggs and volunteered to help with the Easter Egg Hunt. Special thanks to the Youth Group for their help with all the Easter fun! During our Wonderful Wednesday Lent lessons we explored the Godly Play story the Mystery of Easter, enjoyed some evening play and fellowship, and made an edible object lesson as we learned about Jesus' death and resurrection while making "Resurrection Rolls". The children enjoyed making these treats together and the recipe is shared on our Facebook page if you'd like to try making them at home. Thanks to Scott Clemmons for the suggestion! On Sundays, during Children's Church, we completed The Faces of Easter Godly Play series that teaches the story of Jesus' birth, life, work, death, and resurrection. It is always an interesting story to "wonder" with the children about. Their insights and perspectives show developing theological thinking in the youngest children and deepening thinking with the older children.

In Nursery news, our Nursery worker, Mrs. Taylor Hall continues to recover from the birth of her new baby girl. She experienced additional complications two weeks after the birth and had to undergo additional surgery. Please join me in praying for her as she recovers and hopes to join us back in the Nursery in mid to late April. We can still use additional volunteers to help with coverage while Taylor is out on maternity leave. Thank you to all our current Nursery volunteers for your willingness to serve in this special ministry!

Mrs. Gladden and the Children's Choir did a wonderful job on Palm Sunday and made us all feel joyful with their song at Easter! She will continue working on another special piece with them during 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, laugh, learn, wonder, and sing together.

In April we will look forward to continuing our Wonderful Wednesday programs where we will explore lessons about Holy Communion together. In Children's Church every other Sunday, we will continue to grow our understanding of the Easter season through Godly Play stories. I hope you will join us!

Worship Lay Ministry Schedule for April 2024

April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Altar Guild: Joanne MacPhee Kaew Sumpton Alice Allen Vicki Hightower	Altar Guild: Rhonda Miller Victoria Williams Nancy Breland Boopie McInnis	Altar Guild: Marla Churchill, Mary Bonham, Lisa McLendon	Altar Guild: Cheryl Duffey Marla Churchill Amy Russell Barbara Knowles
Ushers 8:00 am: Bert Churchill Jerry Darnell 10:30 am: Chris Mills John Thompson	Ushers 8:00 am: Dan Johnson Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Charles Bonham Mary Bonham	Ushers 8:00 am: Tim Phillips Tim Pride 10:30 am: Russell Brock Beth Brock	Ushers 8:00 am: Jim Hixson Parker McClellan 10:30 am: Al Tremaine Trey Hutt
Greeters 8:00 am: Marla Churchill 10:30 am: Lori Bates	Greeters 8:00 am: Phyllis Walker 10:30 am: Linda Weller	Greeters 8:00 am: Monica Phillips 10:30 am: Jani Smith	Greeters 8:00 am: Donna Jangula 10:30 am: Michael Fuller
Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Cheryl Duffey Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Joyce Dannecker Brian Leebrick	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Gene Wicker Kathleen Wicker 10:30 am: Lisa McLendon Kelly Roberson	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Theresa Townsend Joanne MacPhee 10:30 am: Joe Ciccarelli George McInnis	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Cheryl Duffey Joanne MacPhee 10:30 am: Scott Clemons Joyce Dannecker
Acolytes for 10:30 Brody Fuller Issac Ward Evan Ward Will Melzer	Acolytes for 10:30 Jackson Lee Carson Berry Laney Lee Lillian McKinney	Acolytes for 10:30 John Moore Tom Moore Alex Moore Scarlet Jernigan	Acolytes for 10:30 Nicolas Pereira Will Melzer Esteban Pereira Wyatt Syfrett
Lector at 10:30 am Ivan Pereria	Lector at 10:30 am Paula Hart	Lector at 10:30 am Daneil Melzer	Lector at 10:30 am Rich Doran

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*