



the NATIVITY

May 2024

Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

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

SAVE THE DATE

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

Dear Ones,

It's hard for me to believe that my retirement date is here. My last Sunday at Holy Nativity will be May 19th. Being the Rector of Holy Nativity for these past 18+ years has been one of the great joys of my life. I will forever cherish this time. I don't know of any priest who has had to opportunity to work with and serve such wonderful people. You are a unique parish in the very best sense, and Lori and I will miss you deeply.

But as I told you in my retirement announcement, while I knew this day would come, it doesn't make it any easier. I came here all those years ago, even when I wasn't sure it made sense personally, because I believed I was called to be here. And now I will leave you feeling that same sense of call. As the writer of Ecclesiastes tells us, "For everything there is a season." I believe I'm being called not only to a new season in my own life but that, you too, are being called to a new season in the life of this beloved parish.

Thank you seems so inadequate. But those are the words I want to leave you with that come from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you for being such a receptive place; receptive to new ideas, new ways, new facilities, and a new sense of just what a special place this is. Thank you for holding onto all the things that are a part of what makes that place so special. You care for, love, and enjoy each other in such wonderful and meaningful ways. And I have no doubt in my mind that ethos will never change. Thank you for believing it could be done even when it didn't seem like it. Thank you for your commitment to worship and our gatherings that make us a community of faith. Thank you for always coming together when there has been a need and responding in such gracious ways. Thank you for the care and love you've given to both Lori and me that was never taken for granted and always appreciated. Thank you for our going-away celebrations (with one still to come). They truly have been celebrations, and this wonderful parish has so much to celebrate. Thank you for all the gifts, notes, cards and well wishes over the years. They've all been so thoughtful. And, finally, thank you for being you. You are some of God's very best ideas and we are grateful to have been a part.

While we won't be present among you, please know that our gratitude, our prayers, and our love will never leave. And thanks be to God and to you for the honor of being your Rector. You will never fully know what it has meant in our lives.

God love you,
Steve+ and Lori

Note from Fr. Tom

Dear beloved Holy Nativity folks,

As I was wrapping up things to retire from my last church fifteen years ago, Father Steve phoned me and invited me to return to Holy Nativity as Priest Associate on staff part time, and I accepted happily, starting May 2009. It would be my third Time on staff here, working with three rectors, Without diminishing my enjoyment of the other churches I have served as priest, this Time back at HNEC, working with Father Steve, the folks on our church staff, and you, has been best of all, ranking up there with my years as Chaplain and religion teacher at Holy Nativity Episcopal School before Father Steve came!

My Time has come to retire, and my last Sunday will be May 19th, same as Steve's last day. I thank you for having me, and for welcoming me back each Time! You are a joy to serve with. I have loved being here, sharing pastoral ministries with Fr Steve, filling in as supply priest when he was away, serving as "summer priest" while he was on sabbatical, preaching regularly, and frequently standing behind the altar as celebrant. Officially, I retired as a parish priest in 1998, but since retiring, I have put in more Time serving here and there as a part Time priest and pastor. It has been wonderful, marvelous, a highlight of my life!

As from May 20th I will be on personal retreat for an extended Time, at least the biblical Forty Days into July. Soon after that, Linda and I plan and expect to return, because Holy Nativity has been our parish since it was established in 1955. This is home to us and, though I'll not be on staff again, we'll be back in due course.

This comes with more love than you can imagine.

Tom Weller+



Packing schedule:

April 29-May 3 TEAM ALICE

May 6-10 TEAM DEPT OF YOUTH (2)

May 13-17 MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

May 20 – May 22 ALL TEAMS (Team Trey Thursday delivery) HAPPY HOUR TO FOLLOW

It is hard to believe that another school year is coming to an end! Thank you to all who have participated in this vital ministry – packers, stockers, shoppers, double baggers, check writers, and praying folks. We could not continue to serve our Buddies without each and every one of you!

Again this year your faithful "cat herders", Barbara and Marla are hosting Happy Hour after the final packing of the year on May 22. Come at 5 pm to help pack and load and then enjoy some snacks and cold Episcopal beverages!



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!





Graduates, Graduations and Good Times!

It seems every year the end of the school year gets busier! Take time to enjoy and reflect on how we have made it to this point.

With Graduations and events please check "What's Happening" and the bulletin for the latest info.

Sunday May 12th Mother's Day and Honoring the Graduates! Come and bring your Mum! Celebrate all these special ladies do for us all! Also acknowledge the success of our graduates and their next life adventure.

Thank-you for another adventurous season of Youth Ministry.

Andrew Jeffery (Youth Director)

850/747-4000

Aussie_aj@holy-nativity.org



St. Andrew's Community Suppers,
SACS

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.

Tom Weller+

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Rev. Ashley Freeman, our Diocesan Canon to the Ordinary (responsible for transition ministry) will be with us for both services on May 26th. He will be preaching at both services and will be available for any questions you might have regarding the transition process.

Please join us in welcoming Ashley.



Save the Date!

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

Birthdays

- May 1 Kat Hutt, Tim, Pride,
Scott Thompson
- May 3 Robert Jansenius
- May 4 Leigh Gladden, Barbara
Knowles, Susan Messer
- May 6 Pat Clemons
- May 7 Laurel Choi
- May 9 Hayden Henneberg
- May 12 Jimmy Calton, Natasha Lithway,
Gene Weaver
- May 13 A. J. Jeffery
- May 14 Ella Ennis
- May 15 Chole Bennett,
Camryn Commander
- May 18 Con Davidenko, David Hurst,
Margot Provencher,
Christy Smith, Frank Wall
- May 19 Doug Smith
- May 20 Ellis Barton, Jacob Brock
- May 21 Bill Bradford, Alice Kinney,
Walker Stamps,
Scott Wattenbarger
- May 22 Ashley Shores
- May 24 Elizabeth Bonham,
- May 26 Kelsey Lipscomb
- May 27 Mary Riehle
- May 29 Kelly Roberson
- May 30 Dianna Hawthorne, Tom Phillips

Anniversaries

- May 2 Mac and Garrett Bonham
- May 4 Robert and Sharon Carroll
- May 5 Rich and Lenka Doran
- May 12 Denis and Lora Healey
- May 14 Hansson Henneberg and
Melanie Coulliette
- May 16 Robert and Lucy Dozar
- May 17 Michael and Deana Gailfoil
- May 18 Alan and Paula Hart
- May 19 Tim and Monica Philips
- May 24 Al and Jeannette Tremaine
- May 25 Bert and Marla Churchill
- May 28 Ivan and Florencia Pereira
Kevin and Maggie
Wattenbarger
- May 29 Jason and Christy Smith

Children's Ministry

Liz Ward

Lizward@holy-nativity.org



This April, we have enjoyed celebrating the Easter season, including stories about the Risen Savior. We created an art response to what we have learned, displayed outside the Nursery. The children have enjoyed playing outside during the longer evening hours and had a fun game night during our Wonderful Wednesdays.

In Nursery news, our Nursery worker, Mrs. Taylor Hall will be returning to the nursery in the coming weeks. Please join me in welcoming her back! We are also pleased for Sunny Barton on the birth of her baby boy. We can still use additional volunteers to help with coverage in the Nursery. Thank you to all our current Nursery volunteers for your willingness to serve in this special ministry!

Mrs. Gladden and the Children's Choir are practicing for some upcoming special pieces of music during Children's Choir, including one for Mother's Day. They practice every other week during Children's Church time. Children's Choir is open to children PreK through Teens.

In Children's Church we continue to learn through Godly Play stories and lessons. The children are invited to join us each Sunday as we pray, laugh, learn, wonder, and sing together. Teen helpers are also welcome to join us.

In May we will enjoy the last of our Wonderful Wednesday programs for the school year, including our Blowout Bash with Fr. Steve! During Children's Church we will prepare for the celebration of Pentecost. I hope you will join us!



Worship Lay Ministry Schedule for May 2024

May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Altar Guild: Tim Phillips Monica Phillips Mary Mittiga David Burris Katy Bradford Mimi Morrow	Altar Guild: Dan Finely Robin Finely Joanne MacPhee Nancy Roupp Tricia Berry	Altar Guild: Gene Wicker Kathleen Wicker Joyce Dannecker Melanie Cox Madge Smith	Altar Guild: Joanne MacPhee Kaew Sumpton Alice Allen Vicki Hightower
Ushers 8:00 am: Bert Churchill Jerry Darnell 10:30 am: Chris Mills John Thompson	Ushers 8:00 am: Tim Phillips Tim Pride 10:30 am: Ian Crelling Daniel Melzwer	Ushers 8:00 am: Dan Johnson Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Charles Bonham Mary Bonham	Ushers 8:00 am: Jim Hixson Parker McClellan 10:30 am: Russell Brock Beth Brock
Greeters 8:00 am: Marla Churchill 10:30 am: Bert & Jo Munn	Greeters 8:00 am: Monica Phillips 10:30 am: Lori Bates	Greeters 8:00 am: Phyllis Walker 10:30 am: Linda Weller	Greeters 8:00 am: Donna Jangula 10:30 am: Jani Smith
Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Gene Wicker Kathleen Wicker 10:30 am: Lisa McLendon George McInnis	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Laura Johnson Joanne MacPhee 10:30 am: Joyce Dannecker Brian Leebrick	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Theresa Townsend Cheryl Duffey 10:30 am: Joe Ciccarelli Scott Clemons	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Dan Johnson Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Lisa McLendon Ian Crelling
Acolytes for 10:30 John Moore Tom Moore Alex Moore Lillian McKinney	Acolytes for 10:30 Brody Fuller Emma Crelling Scarlet Jernigan Matheson Crelling	Acolytes for 10:30 Jackson Lee Carson Berry Laney Lee Wyatt Syfrett	Acolytes for 10:30 Nicolas Pereira Issac Ward Esteban Pereira Evan Ward
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

Retirement Party



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. - 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
