



the NATIVITY

December 2024 Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

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

Dear Holy Nativity Family—

We're approaching my favorite holiday of the year: Thanksgiving. I like it better than Christmas or the 4th of July, or even my birthday. It's not because of the turkey legs or green bean casserole or pumpkin pie. Rather, it's because it's the day that reminds us of the thing to be thankful of all the blessings of our lives. It's something that I often struggle to remember to do daily, even though I should. At least once a year we're reminded in our civic life to be thankful for all the blessings of our lives.



In the psalm appointed for Thanksgiving, we hear that Israel "said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed." (Ps. 126, vs 3 & 4)

At the school, my exercise for my religion classes this week has been to list 100 things they're thankful for. Some kids sat down and started writing. Some kids struggled all through class. But eventually they all came up with a healthy list.

This year I'm thankful that Amy is healthy and (I think) happy, and that we have a cool or warm house to live in. I'm thankful that the rest of our families are doing as well as they are. And I'm happy that we have a welcoming community like Holy Nativity to be a part of, for as long as we're here.

My hope for you as we enter into the holiday season is that you, likewise, are thankful for all your blessings, and that God continues to bless you today and always. "The Lord has done great things for us and we are glad indeed."

With many blessings,

John+



HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Advent and Christmas Season Schedule 2024

- Dec. 1 (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. 4 (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. 8 (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. 11 (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 (Tue) Christmas Eve Services**
4:30 pm 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*

Holy Nativity invites you to

Lessons and Carols

A special program celebrating the festive season
and the musical talents from our community.

The first Wednesday in December.

222 N Bonita Avenue, Panama City.

Program begins promptly at 6pm

All are welcome!



BACKPACK BUDDY MINISTRY

Packing Schedule

Dec 2 - Dec 6 TEAM MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

Dec 9 – Dec 13 TEAM TREY

Dec 16 – Dec 20 DEPT OF YOUTH (1)

Jan 6 – Jan 10 TEAM ALICE

Jan 13 – Jan 17 DEPT OF YOUTH (2)

Jan 20 – Jan 24 TEAM NINA

Jan 27 – Jan 31 TEAM MARY MARTHA CIRCLE



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



Directed by Leigh Gladden

Children's Choir will be singing 12/4 st the Lessons and Carols service and at the 4:30PM Christmas Eve service.

If they'd like to sing, please encourage attendance on Sunday morning at 1030 when we rehearse during children's church. If you are unable to make that time, please send an email to Leigh Gladden directly at lgladden@hnes.us. A separate rehearsal time can be created to make sure all children interested can join the choir.



Love Thy Neighbor is our way of supporting the Street Outreach And Recovery Program from Anchorage Children's Home. The SOAR program provides direct assistance to youth in Bay County who are displaced, homeless and at risk.

We will be kicking this drive off with a small delivery to our church neighbors and leaving flyers out on Sundays.

For the last 10 years the Dept of Youth have collected and donated items from SOAR's wishlist. This year we will once again fill this need. If you are to offer items from the wishlist below, thank-you. We will be collecting items until Sunday December 22nd.

- Shelf stable microwavable meals
- Clothing (L-XL)
- Underwear
- T-shirts
- Socks
- Department store gift cards
- Personal Hygiene Items

This collection culminates with a youth lock-in event Dec 21st which will include a special service conducted by Ginny Leebrick.

Please welcome Jason Tucker to the livestream team! Thank-you Jason. If you are interested in learning the Livestream Cameras, great for service hours and new skills! Are you interested please let me know.

Blessing of the Car Keys Does your household have a new driver? Let the church office know and we will hold a blessing of the car keys, maybe not just for new drivers I think we all need this blessing!

Longest Night Service & Lock-in, 6pm Saturday Dec 21st till Sunday 8am service. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to chaperone for this type of event to happen. Games, Youth lead service and FUN! Let AJ or the church office know if you are interested in helping out.

Nov 20th Love Thy Neighbor Kick-Off - A presentation on the SOAR Program through Anchorage Children Home and our 10yrs of supporting them!

Nov 27th Thanks Giving Break - No Program

Dec 4th Lessons and Carols - No Youth Program

Dec 11th Caroling the Cove - Potluck Dinner! Come and help decorate the Dept Of Youth tree!!

Dec 21st Longest Night Service and Youth Overnight Lock-in. Volunteers needed.

The Pick An Angel Tree will be set up in the Foyer Sunday, November 24th thru Sunday December 15th. Each "ornament" has a name and the wish list for residents at St Andrews Skilled Nursing Facility. Please take an ornament or two, to fulfill a resident's dreams



Children's Ministry

Liz Ward

Lizward@holy-nativity.org



November was a month of thankfulness and I am truly thankful to God for each of the children who enter our church doors. 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. The children did a lovely job singing with Children's Choir Nov 17, reminding us of our thankfulness to God during this time of year. Over the past months, I've also loved watching the children preparing, with Mrs. Gladden, to sing at Lessons & Carols as well as our annual Nativity Pageant. We hope you will join us for that 6 pm service on Dec. 4. Nursery will be provided for the Lessons & Carols service. Rounding out the month of November, our Old Testament Godly Play lessons have concluded with the Ten Best Ways. With the Christmas season fast approaching, we will begin learning about Advent and will continue our Advent series throughout December, alternating with Children's Choir each week. In our 9:15 Children's Sunday School we have continued with our classes for K-2nd & 3rd-5th graders. We will begin meeting in Battin Hall for our snack fellowship time before going to our classes. Thank you to AJ Jeffrey for preparing an upstairs classroom for the 3rd-5th grade class' use. We have focused on thankfulness to God, for our church, for our friends, and for our families. On Wonderful Wednesdays we have learned about the Fruit of the Spirit and made "fruit pizzas", enjoyed going a shopping trip to the Dollar Tree for Operation Christmas Child, and created a Thankfulness Tree outside the Nursery for our whole church family (we hope you added a leaf with what you are thankful for).

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. 1 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. 8 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. 11, and there will not be a children's program that evening. Nursery will be provided if you'd like to let the littlest ones stay and play while we Carol. Wagons and strollers are recommended for our younger ones. On Dec. 20 Children's Ministry would like to once again 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. 22 (Sunday) following the 10:30am service, which should last no more than an hour. On Dec. 24, helpers are especially needed for the Nativity pageant at the 4:30pm service on Christmas Eve. 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 and celebrate the birth of our Savior!

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. 16 Mark Brust, Marla Churchill, Jo Collins
 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 John Moore
 Dec. 31 Michael Fuller, Victoria Lithway

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



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

www.holy-nativity.org

Worship Lay Ministry Schedule for December 2024

Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 29
Altar Guild: Gene Wicker Kathleen Wicker Melanie Cox Madge Smith	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 Any Russell Barbara Knowles
Ushers 8:00 am: Tim Phillips and Tim Pride 10:30 am: Ian Crelling Daniel Melzer	Ushers 8:00 am: Jim Hixson and Parker McClellan 10:30 am: Al Tremaine Trey Hutt	Ushers 8:00 am: Bert Churchill and Jerry Darnell 10:30 am: John Thompson Chris Mills	Ushers 8:00 am: Dan Johnson and Lara Johnson 10:30 am: Charles Bonham Mary Bonham	Ushers 8:00 am: Bert Churchill Jerry Darnell 10:30 am: Ian Crelling Daniel Melzer
Greeters 8:00 am: Monica Phillips 10:30 am: Lindsey Crelling	Greeters 8:00 am: Donna Jangula 10:30 am: Angie Hutt	Greeters 8:00 am: Marla Churchill 10:30 am: Kathy Mills	Greeters 8:00 am: Phyllis Hunt 10:30 am: Jani Smith	Greeters 8:00 am: Monica Phillips 10:30 am: Lindsey Crelling
Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: 10:30 am:	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: 10:30 am:	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: 10:30 am:	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: 10:30 am:	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: 10:30 am:
Acolytes for 10:30 Brody Fuller Isaac Ward Evan Ward Lillian McKinney	Acolytes for 10:30 Issac Ward Emma Crelling Matheson Crelling Scarlet Jernigan	Acolytes for 10:30 Nicolas Pereira Will Melzer Esteban Pereira Carson Berry	Acolytes for 10:30 Jackson Lee Isaac Ward Evan Ward Laney Lee	Acolytes for 10:30 John Moore Alex Moore Tom Moore Wyatt Syfrett
Lector at 10:30 am	Lector at 10:30 am	Lector at 10:30 am	Lector at 10:30 am	Lector at 10:30 am



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 Very Rev. John M. Tober - Interim Rector

CHURCH STAFF

Youth Director/Video Production- AJ Jeffery
Director of Music - John Durgan
Office Administrator - AJ Jeffery
Children's CE Director - Liz Ward
Children's Choir Director - Leigh Gladden
Church Bookkeeper – Kathy Mills
Nursery Attendant - Taylor Hall

THE VESTRY

Tricia Berry 2023
Beth Brock 2026
Joe Ciccarelli 2024
Lenka Doran 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

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

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