

HOLY HAPPENINGS

January 2024

From the Desk of Rev. Diana

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Epiphany means “a moment of sudden insight”. The symbol for Epiphany is a star; a light that shines in the darkness. We hear the story of the wise-men who left their homes to go and be where God was. For the wise men, the response was dropping what they were doing to follow the invitation and to bring with them the very best of what they had. They brought gold, frankincense, myrrh, and a fourth thing: presence. They brought themselves. They chose to journey toward God, to leave behind the things that were easy and comfortable. On their journey they encounter Herod, the powerful, the rich, the oppressor. Herod asks the wisemen in private to come back and “tell me where the baby is so that I may pay him homage”. The kind of homage Herod wants to pay is death. This double-speak is the world of occupation from an authority that does not care about anything but power and money. We encounter this kind of authority everywhere in our world. This is the kind of authority that makes war and sends millions of parents and children fleeing for their lives. This is the kind of authority that keeps women from owning property or getting educations.



Church of the Holy Nativity

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. thru Fri.

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Parish Office 781-335-2030

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Priest

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Ron Russo, Warden

Jim Kimball, Treasurer

Maryann Gurney

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Shirley Devore, Assist. Teacher

Marie-Elise Boyer

Organist & Choirmaster

Michael McGlynn, Sexton

Deb Robie, Secretary

WEBSITE:

www.holynativityweymouth.org

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/326275852157](https://www.facebook.com/groups/326275852157)

This is the kind of authority that kills our LGBTQ siblings in the streets and lynches people who are brown or black.

We are called by our God to arise and to shine. To be the light in the darkness. To journey as the wise-men did to be with our God, to be present and to bring the very best that we have. We are called to let the light shine in our hearts. This past year as Ukrainian mothers and babies fled to Poland, they were greeted at the railway station by baby buggies filled with supplies and food left by Polish people, who had raided their garages and attics to find something to give to the newborn babies of Ukraine who had to flee for their lives. The light of the Christmas star continues to shine God's love into the lives of the poor and oppressed right on the border between Poland and Ukraine. Your coats and scarves and cookies and snacks shine a light in the lives of our siblings who live unhoused all around us. Our Christmas presents and gifts of cereal and food to the food bank shine God's light and love all over Weymouth. I wonder how the Star of Christmas is whispering in our hearts to give us a sudden insight, an Epiphany! How will we shine the light of Christ into the darkness around us?



SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Please save your Christmas cards for Maryann Gurney. They may be used in a future Sunday school activity.

In the month of January, the younger kids will learn about the visit of the Wisemen while the older kids will help make sandwiches for the homeless in Boston.

There will be no class on MLK weekend Sunday, January 13th



**Next Vestry Meeting
Tuesday, January 16th**

Treasurer's Note

Thank you for your continued support for our Church of the Holy Nativity

Please remember to send in your pledge cards for 2023!

Jim Kimball

Warden's Report

I don't know where this month went, it seems like I was just talking about Advent and Christmas and now it's Epiphany. Speaking of Christmas, thanks to all who helped support our outreach ministry to the Weymouth Youth and Family Services (WY&FS). Through your generosity we were able to provide six families in need with Christmas gifts. Looking into the new year to explore other areas of outreach with WY&FS. Another of our outreach programs is contributing shoeboxes with gifts for children around the world in conjunction with Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, Holy Nativity contributed almost fifty shoeboxes and was informed that our shoeboxes ended up with children in South Africa and the Dominican Republic.

Spearheaded by Paula Maxwell with assistance from Bob Maxwell, Ron Russo and myself a top to bottom reorganization of the storage closet on the right side of the Asher-Stoddard Hall was completed on December 28th and on the following day the first steps in reorganizing the kitchen began. Again thanks to Paula for getting this started and a crew is in place to complete the kitchen reorganization on January 20th.

Again, thanks to all of you for supporting this cause. Looking forward to all the new year brings to help spread the Gospel here in our little corner of the world.

This comes with best wishes for a Joyous New Year.

Peace & Blessings to all,
Ed Muller

Ron Russo's last words as Warden

As a co-warden of the Church of the Holy Nativity, the following will be my last notes for the Holy Happening.

After 6 years of active participation, and in line with the laws of the Diocese, I will be stepping down as a co-warden of the church. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served this beautiful parish.

In 2018, I had no idea that I would be on a roller coaster ride of events. My goal and purpose for the parish had been to ensure the safety of all parishioners attending our services and our events.

I have been blessed to have made many acquaintances and friends. It is my opinion that the love and dedication of the parishioners in this parish cannot be matched.

The tireless work by leadership as well as the diligence of many church members to maintain an open door parish has been and continues to be commendable. I want to thank Ed and Jim for their support.

Looking back over the past few years, not only am I amazed at the events that took place, but also the speed in which they happened. To name just a few, our rector retired, we formed a Search Committee and just as this committee began their search an interim priest was assigned. Unfortunately, the interim had to retire due to illness. So the Executive Committee had to come up with a solution to continue service. This was followed the mass COVID outbreak followed by the closing of our doors. But thanks to technological events were able to continue our services via technology.

After several months of ZOOM Morning Prayer (Thank You Ed and Jim), Reverend Laurie Rofinot was assigned to our parish as an interim priest.

In preparation for reopening our doors, we had to clean all the rooms in the buildings in order for parishioners to remain safe when we were finally able to open our doors. During this long awaited reopening all of the rooms were cleaned and painted in all of the buildings.

During my tenure as co-warden, both myself and others within the parish worked diligently to maintain the Holy Nativity Campus.

Both the Rectory Bathroom as well as the Kitchen were renovated, a new driveway to the rectory was installed, and the shed wash re-shingled. All of the hall and administrative rooms were painted. UV lights were installed in all of our ductwork in order to counter the COVID virus.

Additionally, this past year we had to repaint all of the rooms in the rectory and install a chair lift for the physically challenged parishioners.

Your generosity and support for this parish is what keeps the doors open, we continue to work hard to provide outreach programs to those in need.

Our Church Sunday School programs are wonderful. They have and continue to draw in new children to the parish family.

Our finances are on target, and we have not had to apply for any loans. Again, this is due to your generosity as well as maintaining a strict budget.

Special thanks to Reverend Diana on accepting the role of our new rector.

While, I may be stepping down as a co-warden, I will continue to serve the church in other capacities.

I am full of emotion and have difficulty putting pen to paper but what I can say with all of my heart is that I love this church and all of you.

With love and blessings,
Ron Russo.

Open House

Please join Rev. Diana for a Twelfth Night celebration Open House at the rectory on Friday, January 5th from 2-6pm.

20 Nevin Road - Next to the Church

Inquiries Class

Please join us for the Inquires class (how to be an Episcopalian 101) for the next 6 Sundays starting Jan 7 from 11:30-12:15 in the Sunday school room. If you are thinking about confirmation of reception into the Episcopal Church this is the class for you. Please feel free to join us for individual classes if there is a subject that interests you.

- Jan. 7 - Covenants and What's in the Bible
- Jan. 14 - History of Christianity and the Episcopal Church
- Jan. 21 - Faith and creeds
- Jan. 28 - What is the Episcopal Church: Becoming the beloved Community
- Feb. 4 - Spiritual gifts, Ministry and Mission
- Feb. 11 - Prayer, Worship and Sacraments

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast

Rev Diana is looking for company at the 54th annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast** in Boston, this year focused on the theme "Keeping the Promise of Democracy," takes place on Monday, Jan. 15 at 9 a.m. at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. The keynote speaker will be Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Ph.D., Ford Foundation Professor of History, Race and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. Find more information and purchase tickets here. The breakfast represents over 50 years of commemoration and collaboration between St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church and Union United Methodist Church to present this annual event dedicated to Dr. King's life and legacy. Tickets are \$50. Please contact Rev Diana via email or phone if you are interested in going.

WANTED

Holy Nativity Historian. Please consider working with Rev Diana to ensure our history is recorded for future generations. The job includes organizing existing pictures and documents.

Collecting new items to be organized.
Please contact Rev. Diana for more details.

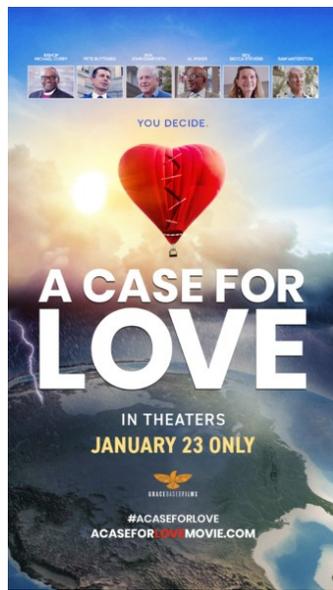
Lay Eucharistic visitor

Anyone interested in joining the **Lay Eucharistic visitor team** there is a training being offered in January. Please let Rev Diana or Father Brad know that you are interested.

Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training will be offered via Zoom on two consecutive weeknights (you must attend both): Tuesday, Jan. 16 and Wednesday, Jan. 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Register here. To be licensed by the bishop as a lay eucharistic visitor, one must complete training, be up to date with Safe Church training and have signed authorization from their congregation's clergy person. The application for licensing is online here. FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

Comcast email users: Important announcement

If you use comcast as your email account you may not be receiving the group emails being sent from church. You can try to fix this by adding our email to your address book. If you cannot find our emails in your spam folder there may be filters in place that prevent us from reaching you. If you have another email address you use like "gmail" please give us your new address so that we can get information to you.



Our society is more divided than ever. Many have moved into tribal corners, seeing the world from an “us versus them” point of view. The teachings and writings of Bishop Michael Curry, most well-known for his passionate sermon about “The Power of Love” at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, inspire **A CASE FOR LOVE**. This feature-length documentary examines the question of whether or not love, specifically—unselfish—love, is the solution to the extreme societal and political divide facing the world. Please join Rev Diana at the 4pm showing of A CASE FOR LOVE on January 23 at the Hanover Showcase Cinema DeLux at 1775 Washington St in Hanover. We will stop at the 110Grill Hanover after the film for a brief repast and conversation about the movie. Come see our beloved Presiding Bishop call us to radical love.

There is a 7pm showing that day as well if the 4pm showing doesn’t work in your schedule.

If you were able to see “**A Case for Love**” at a theater on January 23, join on-line to discuss the documentary, including ideas of how to use it in the Diocese of Massachusetts. Contact Martha Gardner at mgardner@diomass.org to register.



As a Parish, We pray for:

Abraham
 Anne and Ed
 Andrew Bober
 Aurora
 Bertha
 Bill Lucier
 Brian
 Carolyn Butterfield
 Cathy
 Charlie
 Chris
 Corinne
 Debbie Y.
 Deborah
 Ed Walsh
 Freddy
 Ginny
 Herb
 Janice
 Jeffrey Gray
 Jim Murphy
 Joan D.
 Joe Kimball
 Judith Fenton
 Kathryn
 Kendall Demore
 Laurie Hasty
 Linda
 Linda Cardillo
 Linda Chadbourne
 Mallory J.
 Marilyn & Matt J.
 Matt
 Paige
 Pam Walston
 Patty Sewell
 Peggy Cinotto
 Robert Vinton
 Rohana
 Rose
 Sargent Mike
 Shannon
 Sophia
 Terri Crowley
 Tom Grono



Turkey Biscuit Stew

Total Time Prep: 15 min.

Bake: 20 min.

8 Serving

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup butter, cubed
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can (10-1/2 ounces) condensed chicken broth, undiluted
- 3/4 cup 2% milk
- 2 cups cubed cooked turkey
- 1 cup cooked peas
- 1 cup cooked whole baby carrots
- 1 tube (16.3 ounces) large refrigerated buttermilk biscuits

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°. In a 10-in. cast-iron or other ovenproof skillet, saute onion in butter until tender. Stir in the flour, salt and pepper until blended. Gradually add broth and milk. Bring to a boil. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly, about 2 minutes. Add the turkey, peas and carrots; heat through. Separate biscuits and arrange over the stew.
2. Bake until biscuits are golden brown, 20-25 mins.

Nutrition Facts

3/4 cup stew with 1 biscuit: 345 calories, 15g fat (7g saturated fat), 53mg cholesterol, 960mg sodium, 36g carbohydrate (7g sugars, 2g fiber), 18g protein.

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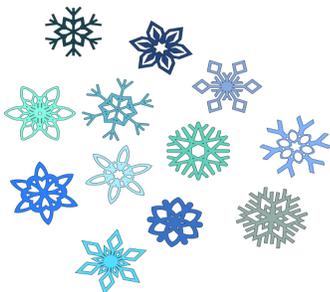
**Church of the Holy Nativity
8 Nevin Road
South Weymouth, MA 02190**

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Important Dates

- **Friday, Jan. 5th
Open House 2-6pm**
- **Jan. 7th - Feb. 11th
Inquiries Class**
- **Monday, Jan. 15th 9 a.m.
Martin Luther King Jr.
Memorial Breakfast**



Mission Statement

The family of the Church of the Holy Nativity is called to be a caring community, committed to spiritual development; encouraging growth in each member’s personal relationship with God, through Christ; by providing educational opportunities for youth and adults as well as Christian Formation for all, going forth to share God’s message of love and forgiveness.



Important Dates

- **Jan. 16th & Jan. 17th
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Lay Eucharistic
visitor training**
- **Tues., Jan.23rd
“A Case for Love”
Movie**

