

HOLY HAPPENINGS

March 2024

From the Desk of Rev. Diana

Do you own a cross? Maybe I should ask how many crosses do you own? Maybe you wear a cross around your neck. Is there one on your wall or over your bed? Crosses come in a multitude of colors and designs. Some are simple and some are very fancy. Crosses might be wood or metal or ceramic. The cross of ash you received on your forehead on Ash Wednesday was made from the burning of Holy Palms. If you walk into most Christian churches in the world, you will find a cross or two or twenty. You will find them over the altar, lovingly embroidered on linens and vestments, in hallways and in the stained-glass windows. Some might find it strange that we surround ourselves with the image of an instrument of torture and death. Crucifixion was intended to provide a death that was slow, painful, gruesome, humiliating, and public. The term excruciating literally means "out of crucifying". It is the one we follow, Jesus, who experienced this kind of excruciating cruelty. Our God and the life that God calls us to is filled with paradox. One of the collects in



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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Cell-717-870-7874

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Donna Lucier, Warden

Ed Muller, Warden

Jim Kimball, Treasurer

Maryann Gurney

Director of Christian Education

Shirley Devore, Assist. Teacher

Michael McGlynn, Sexton

Deb Robie, Secretary

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/326275852157>

Morning Prayer starts Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. When we look at the cross we see the self-sacrificing, all encompassing, death defying love of God in Jesus that comes right through the suffering, torture, and humiliation

Jesus tells us that if we want to follow him, to go on a lifelong journey as a disciple of Jesus we must take up our cross and follow him. As followers of Jesus, we are called to enter into a new life, a life filled with paradox, a life that is contrary to our human nature. We don't hate those who hate us, we love them and pray for them. We know that the least become the most important in God's eyes. The last go first and the first have the lesser place. It is in giving that we receive. It is because we forgive that we are able to receive the grace of forgiveness. Jesus tells us we must lose our life to save it. It's not that we cannot strive, and work, and use all our God given talents to succeed and do well in the world. We remember that it is not because of our accomplishments and successes that God loves us. God simply loves us. It is in

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response to this all-encompassing love that we take up our crosses, our sufferings, and we give up our self-centered lives to allow God's loving, lifegiving spirit to live in us and through us.

J. Philip Newell write in his book *Christ of the Celts*: One of the great teachers in the Celtic world was Aelred of Rievaulx, who was born in Northern England in the twelfth century. He taught that God is not our Judge but our Lover. Judgement in and by itself, has no power to profoundly change us. It can frighten or inhibit us, but it cannot transform us. Only love can transform us, for only love has the power to change our hearts.

In this season of Lent and Easter let us welcome the saving embrace of Christ on the cross as he transforms us with his life saving love.

Warden's Report

On February 2nd, our local groundhog came out of his home and did not see his shadow, so according to legend, we will have an early Spring, which will seem like a continuation of our winter, which has been unseasonable.

Speaking of weather, the weather forecast for Shrove Tuesday predicted several inches of snow, which, as we now know, didn't happen. However, we did cancel the pancake supper and will now serve pancakes at our First Saturday dinner on April 6th. But before that comes our St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner on March 2nd. As I have mentioned, the First Saturday dinners have established themselves with the Chili cook-off on February 3rd drawing in fifty-six people. Our folks do enjoy a good meal.

Welcome to our new Vestry members, Daniel Shin, Heather Kasday, and Ron Russo. Heather has previously served on the Vestry, and Ron joins us, having served as co-warden for the past six years. Changing as well is Donna Lucier from a member of the Vestry to the position of co-warden. I am looking forward to working with them all over the next few years.

This past month, we welcomed our intern, James Olson, as he began his ministry with us. I have enjoyed getting to know him and hearing his first sermon with us on February 25th. If you missed it, I believe he said he still has another four more to preach, so there will be plenty of time to hear him in the future.

The Adult Christian Education program got off to a good start on February 18th with eleven attendees. The program continues through Lent and wraps up on March 24th.

Some much-needed electrical work has been completed at the church with the installation/replacement of nine lighted exit signs, the replacement of three tandem outlets, one tandem switch, and a new lamp on the lamppost by the entry to the church. Thanks to those who have contributed to cover this work's cost.

I close and wish you a contemplative season of Lent as we journey towards Easter.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Ed Muller

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love in honor of giving preference to one another.
Romans 12:10





SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

During the season of Lent, the children will hear the story of Jesus in the Wilderness and the temptations he overcame. We will have an object lesson where they will experience temptation themselves.

On Palm Sunday, the kids will be making palm crosses for anyone who might like to take one home. They will be available in the church hall after the 10:00 service.

On Easter Sunday, after the 10:00 service, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn. Kids can bring their own baskets, and baskets will also be available to those who need one.

From your new Warden

We certainly are being tempted with glimpses of spring. I can't wait for the earth to come back to life after this dreary winter. We continue to bring our wonderful church community back to life after Covid scattered us about.

My questions to you to think about over the next few months:

- What are we doing right?
- What could we be doing better?
- What would you like to see us undertake?
- I look forward to serving you.

Blessings,

Donna Lucier





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
 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 Sewall
 Peggy Cinotto
 Robert Vinton
 Rohana
 Rose
 Sargent Mike
 Shannon
 Sophia
 Terri Crowley
 Tom Grono
 William Terry, Jr.

Congratulations to Paula Avitabile for making the winning Chili in our First Saturday Supper in Feb. Paula won a \$25 gift card to LaPaloma restaurant!

RED BEAN CHILI

Recipe by Chili Cook-off winner, Paula Avitabile

1 Tbsp olive oil
 2 tsp Goya Adobo seasoning with pepper
 1lb. Ground beef
 1 medium onion, chopped
 ½ cup green pepper, chopped
 2 cloves garlic, chopped
 2 Tbsp tomato paste
 1Tbsp chili powder
 1tsp cumin
 1 Tbsp fresh cilantro, chopped
 2 -15.5oz can Goya small red beans drained
 (option 1 red and 1 black)
 1 -28 oz can whole peeled tomatoes
 1- 15oz can petite diced tomatoes
 Jalapenos sliced peppers (jar)
 Shredded cheddar cheese

Directions

Add the olive oil to a large pot.
 Combine beef, onion, pepper, garlic, adobo seasoning and tomato paste.
 Cook over medium high heat until meat is browned.
 Stir in remaining ingredients.
 Add in desired amount of jalapeno peppers for extra heat, 3-6 slices.
 Reduce heat and simmer uncovered about 25 mins.
 Top off with shredded cheddar cheese to serve.

**Big Thanks to
 LaPaloma Mexican
 Restaurant!
 If you go in to eat
 be sure to thank
 them!**





Stations of the Cross Wednesdays in Lent at 12:15 starting Wednesday Feb. 21st thru Wednesday, March 20th.

Lenten Quiet Day Saturday, March 9th Please join Rev. Diana from 1-3PM for a time of reflection and quiet, to prepare our hearts for the mystery of Easter that is coming.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday - March 24th Services 8 am and 10am

Holy Tuesday - March 26th Morning Prayer at 11:30am

Maundy Thursday - March 28th Service at 7:00pm

Good Friday - March 29th Meditation on Cross 12:00 –3:00pm
(meditation ends at 2:30 with Stations of the Cross)
Evening Service at 7:00pm

Confirmation at the Easter Vigil, March 30th at 7:00pm at The Cathedral Church of St. Paul 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA

Easter Day - March 31st Services 8am and 10:00am



**You're Invited
to Join Us on
March 7, 2024**

The Pocasset Wampanoag Reservation

Thursday, March 7, 2024

**Gathering Place: St. Peter's Dartmouth
351 Elm Street Dartmouth, Massachusetts**

We travel by bus together from St. Peter's to The Pocasset Wampanoag Land, incorporated within the Freetown-Fall River State Forest, to walk their paths and engage in conversation. Then we will return to St. Peter's Dartmouth for lunch, reflection, and worship.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

10 AM – 3:30 PM (Lunch is included)

Cost: \$10 **if this is a hardship, scholarships are available

There WILL be MUD. We will be outside. Please dress accordingly!

If you would like to carpool to Dartmouth: *please let Jocelyn (jcollen@diomass.org) know.*

Registration is online!

Organizer: Jocelyn Collen, (617) 482-5800, jcollen@diomass.org

I will attend and welcome anyone interested in attend this pilgrimage with me. Please reach out by phone or email if you would like to car pool. It's new history for me so I'm glad to have this opportunity.

Thanks,
Diana

Saturday Studios

We hope you can join us for a fun filled creative morning!



Rock Painting Event

Saturday, April 13, 2024
9-11 am

All ages and skill levels welcome!

Bring your own rock and we will supply the rest.....even some expert instruction!
Advanced sign-up is encouraged but you can also just show up!

Sign up in the Asher Stoddard Hall or email

Paula Maxwell at pbcmaxwell@gmail.com

\$5.00 donation is welcomed!

Sponsored by the Enrichment Committee
The Church of the Holy Nativity | 8 Nevin Road | South Weymouth, MA

Mark your Calendars

Lent in Plain Sight

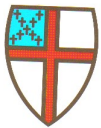
Adult Christian Education program will continue at 11:45 in the Common Room with **“Lent in Plain Sight”**: A Devotion through Ten Objects". This is a six-week study designed to facilitate conversation as we journey through our Lenten pilgrimage. Copies of the book "Lent in Plain Sight" are available. Please contact Ed Muller:

edthedetective@comcast.net or
(c) 781-422-4135 with questions.



Saturday, March 2nd Dinner and No-Talent Show

Annual St. Paddy’s 1st Saturday Supper. Corned Beef Dinner will be featured, and a No-Talent Show promises to be a lot of fun. Talent Show participants are encouraged to register with the office by email or phone. Last-minute participants will be accepted. Anyone who doesn’t have a talent and would like to participate please let Rev. Diana know.



Confirmation and reception into the Episcopal Church

Confirmation and Reception will be March 30th at 7pm at the
The Cathedral Church of St. Paul
138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA

Sunday, March 3rd
Last Confirmation Class



The 2024 Bishops’ Annual Appeal

Next week is our “Ingathering Sunday” for the 2024 Bishops’ Annual Appeal

Please place your gift in the Offering on **“Ingathering Sunday,” March 10th.** You may also mail it back directly to the diocesan office. The appeal newsletter and donation envelope are available at church or by contacting the parish office. Thank you for your generous support.

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



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Important Dates

Wednesdays, Feb. 21st thru March 20th. Stations of the Cross at 12:15

March 2nd Saturday Dinner and No-Talent Show at 4:30pm

March 7th -Thursday
The Pocasset Wampanoag Reservation

March 9th -Saturday
Lenten Quiet Day

March 24th Palm Sunday
Services 8 am and 10am

March 26th Holy Tuesday
Morning Prayer at 11:30am

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

March 28th Maundy Thursday
Service at 7:00pm

March 29th Good Friday - Meditation on Cross 12:00 -3:00pm (meditation ends at 2:30 with Stations of the Cross)
Evening Service at 7:00pm

Saturday, March 30th
Confirmation and Reception

March 31st Easter Day Services
8am and 10:00am

Saturday, April 13th
Rock Painting Event 9-11 am