

# HOLY HAPPENINGS

Volume 26 Issue 4

April 2018

## IT'S EASTER

### **It's Easter, so let it snow, let it snow, let it snow**

It seems as if the topic of conversation this past month has been on the weather and presently as I sit gazing upon the snow mounds, the church is preparing for a Four-easter, the fourth Nor-easter in almost as many weeks. However I am determined to look beyond these frigid temperatures and between the many snowflakes and envision the Real-Easter, the Sunday when we will all celebrate and enjoy the pleasantries and celebration of new life in the risen Lord.

I'd like to envision a sunny, bright and beautiful Easter morning when over 200 people will arrive at the door of our lovely church to bring forth the light and warmth of Christ. People dressed in their finest apparel, in their best frame of mind and ready to hear and experience the 'Good News' from the altar declaring that, 'Alleluia, Christ has risen! To which we all reply, 'O yes, He has risen indeed' Alleluia! There will be the trumpeting sound of fellowship, singing, laughter and the adornment of Easter Lilies aerating the church with the fragrance of the impending spring. But most of all,



### **CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

*Sunday*  
*Holy Eucharist - 8 & 10 a.m.*  
*Tuesday, 11:30*  
*Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.*

**NURSERY AVAILABLE**  
*9:30 - 11:30 a.m.*

**OFFICE HOURS**  
*Mon. thru Fri. - 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*

Parish Office 781-335-2030  
Rector 781-974-7392

E- Mail:  
office@holynativityweymouth.org

WEBSITE:  
www.holynativityweymouth.org

The Rev. Harold G. Birkenhead, Rector  
The Rev. Brad Hultman, Asst. Priest  
Casey Hannan, Organist & Choirmaster  
Peg Driscoll, Secretary  
Bob Thomas, Sexton  
Brian Smith, Warden  
Steve Williams, Warden

I envision the continuation of our joy in knowing we are and have been so much a part of this day in our life with of our God and his son Jesus Christ.

I don't have to envision because I know how truly blest we have all been in the past and deeply know how God's blessing will continue in this happy and wonderful place.

Yeh, the snow is falling and the temperatures are a bit chilly for this time of year but we all know this won't last. Like the early morning hours of the first Easter morning which may from the outset seemed to have been a dark and chilly reflection of Good Friday, God's light shone forth, breaking away the darkness that covered the disciples like a pall and bringing forth a new day, a new life and a new beginning. It will be the same with all of us as we celebrate on our sunny, bright and beautiful Easter Morning the resurrection of our Lord, we too will be filled by his presence, we too will be warmed by his Easter light and we too will feel the splendor of being part of this Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, here in this Church of the Holy Nativity. So, Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow because it won't last for as our Lord Jesus comes forth with a new life so too will this world, so too will you and me. 'Alleluia, Christ has risen! The Lord has risen indeed' Alleluia!

Blessings,  
Fr. Harry

## Wardens' Report

As it is now being called: March is the new February. Hope that you made it through all these Nor-Easter's without much damage. Many of us has endured no power, tree damage, property damage etc. The church did sustain some minor tree and fence damage but it was minimal in scope and cost compared to many others. Many thanks to John Swift for stopping by with his trusty chainsaw to cut up and move the tree that had fallen over the fence next to the Rectory into the parking lot. It's hard to believe that as we write this article we are expecting our 4th storm to reach us in the next couple of days. As soon as the weather breaks we hope to do our spring property walk around survey and report back to you and the Vestry on the status of this beautiful property.

Thanks again to Fr. Harry and Fr. Brad for the Adult Ed and Lenten programs that have been conducted here at the Church of the Holy Nativity over the past few months. Well attended and well planned. We look forward to more in the future.

Just a few days ago the church held the annual Corned Beef Dinner and Non-Talent Talent Show. Thanks to Jim Kimball for another great job in the kitchen all day that day cooking up a delicious meal featuring not only corned beef but cabbage, carrots and potatoes. Still walking off the meal. There was also a great variety of talent and a wide age range. We heard and saw some dancing, singing, various instruments, readings and The Gathering Of The Nuts. You had to be there! Great job done by all.

## RUMMAGE SALE

**Rummage Sale**  
Saturday, May 5

A Rummage sale will be held May 5th from 9am to 2pm. Donations of clean clothes and linens will be appreciated. Small knick-knacks also sell well. Pockets books are popular. However, shoes do not sell well.

Set up will be Thursday, May 3rd, and Friday, May 4th, from 9-12. Please contact Charlene with any questions at charbirk@aol.com.



## Vestry

Next Vestry meeting is Wednesday, **April 18**, at 7:30 in the Asher Stoddard Hall, following a service of compline at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

### *Wardens' Report con't*

We are looking forward to another great year. Check out the calendar in this edition of Holy Happenings to keep up with everything here and remember that Holy Week and Easter are just around the corner. See you in church and may you have a very happy and joyous Easter.

Peace from your Wardens,

Steve Williams and Ron Russo



We are delighted to welcome Liz Good and her Sweet Adeline group, "Lashes", on Saturday 28 April 2018 at 3pm. Reception to follow.

This free concert is brought to you in part by the Weymouth Cultural Council. Free will offerings are graciously accepted to help underwrite the cost of bringing and diverse entertainment to our wonderful church.

## Recipe Corner

### *CRABMEAT QUICHE*

Uncooked 9 inch pie crust  
1 c. flaked crabmeat  
4 oz. cut up Swiss cheese  
3 eggs  
1 can cream of celery soup undiluted  
3/4 tsp. c. milk  
1 tbsp. flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
Paprika

Chill pie shell for 1 hour. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Fill crust with crabmeat and top with cheese. Combine eggs and remaining ingredients and beat well. Pour over crab and cheese. Dust lightly with paprika and bake 40-50 minutes until knife inserted comes out clean. Use as main dish. Serves 6.

*From Favorite Recipes Cookbook  
Submitted by Loretta Benham*



**Sunday School**

I would like to thank everyone for their support of our Lenten outreach projects. Many of you donated fleece blanket kits for the pediatric unit at South Shore Hospital and have dropped off worn blankets, sheets and towels to donate to the Veterinary Animal Hospital. We are hoping to bring the blankets over to the hospital on Sunday April 8th during the Sunday school lesson time.

Our bake sale was a huge success with delicious treats from many of you and you were all very generous in your donations for the purchase of the baked goods. We raised approximately \$350.00. Some of that money was used to buy fleece blanket kits, donations for the Wildlife Center and a portion is being sent to the school in South Africa we helped to support last year.

There will be an Easter egg hunt immediately after the 10:00 service On Easter Sunday, April 1. Baskets will be provided or you may bring your own.

There will be Sunday school class on Sunday April 15th. We will deliver the blankets to South Shore Hospital.

Maryann Gurney

**Hypnosis for the Creative Spirit**

Tuesday April 24  
6:30 - 8:00pm

How can you break through limitations, enhance your natural abilities and remove self-limiting fear?

During an enjoyable group hypnosis session, learn how to access the power of your inner mentor and gain inspiration from the well-spring of creativity inside yourself.

Seminar is designed for anyone in the creative arts such as dance, art, theater, music, writing, etc. All are welcome.

**BONUS:** Free hypnosis CD included (\$20 value)

**Location:**

The Tam Center for Healing  
15 Cottage Ave—5th Floor  
Quincy, MA

Seating is limited. Preregistration and prepayment are required.

Tickets are \$35. Early bird pricing is \$30 if payment is received by April 18.

Contact your facilitator  
Kathryn McGlynn  
, Certified Hypnotist at  
781.340.2146 or  
ybglum@juno.com



**As a Parish,  
We pray for:**

- Bobby & Tommy Chadbourne
- Christine
- Corinne
- David Lang
- Donna
- Douglas Galvin
- Ellie Gowen
- Ewen
- Garrett
- George W.
- Ginny Blanchette
- Hazel Brunelle
- Joe Hayes
- John
- John & Billie Greene
- Kasday Family
- Katie Westhaver
- Kerry Kelleher
- Liz
- Madelyn Ward
- Marilyn J.
- Matt Janeway
- Myrtle Perkins
- Nick
- Paige
- Pat
- Patrick Leahy
- Phil Stephan
- Ray Thorne
- Rick
- Rocky
- Sheila
- Sophia
- Thomas MacPherson
- Tim

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## **Fr. Brad's Sermon from the Fourth Sunday of Lent**

*Readings for Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B  
Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10 and John 3:14-21*

When I saw today's readings, I had mixed emotions because as I've never liked this Old Testament lesson on the snake talisman and its being support and justified by images of Christ on the cross.

To start with the Old Testament lesson is a fragment added into scripture and doesn't tie into anything. Second, it attempts to circumvent the second commandment to make no idols or graven images endowed with spiritual power.

By the law, Israelites could not make images of God, for fear that people will (over time) associate God or God-like spiritual power to inanimate or man-made objects. So, the Israelites make an image of a snake which when looked at reminds them of God and cures the sickness of snake bite. In the Wisdom school of Old Testament Studies, this is the doorway to idolatry., i. e., making and/or attributing spiritual saving power to an image. (Note: today in Judaism and Islam, there are few images of God.)

Explained in this passage from wisdom of Solomon. "People are mortal and what they make with their hands is mortal. For they are better than the objects they worship. For they have life, but their idols have not life." (Full discussion in Wisdom of Solomon, chapters 13-17.)

The Gospel attempts to explain this Old Testament lesson by associating it with the cross and by extension, the holy life of Christ, which we identify with the cross. Ignoring the fact that an image of the cross does not save. It is the spirit behind the sacrifice that saves.

In one respect, a cross is a cross. A snake on a stick just that – a snake on a stick. Whereas God is God; immeasurable, infinite, everywhere uncontained. This is God's – glory and power and grace. That "All things live more and have their being in God."

This leads naturally into a discussion of "American Idols", worldly things we identify as the source of goodness and happiness. Inanimate objects which we attach immortal and intangible (spiritual) benefits.

How much unhappiness arises from identifying happiness with the career, the house, the toys and "having it all". Remember the 80s bumper sticker, "He who dies with the most toys wins"? This is symbolic of the spiritual desert arising from idolatry, materialism, consumerism and pleasure in being "entertained", of living a life collecting objects (no worshipping) and not developing internal insight into the purposes and power of life, that bring true happiness, holiness and godliness.

Yet there exists an opposite view that the cross is a sign of Christ and viewing that reminds one to remember the holiness behind it. I question this. Knowing how humans, over time, (especially when confused fearful or panicked), easily resort to magical thinking. Then the sign morphs into a symbol from which emerges an idol. All of which is the valuing of earthly man-made things as the source of living/spiritual benefit and giving birth to mindsets that enslave us – materialism, consumerism, nationalism and hedonism. I could beat this subject to death, but it boils down to one thing. Be careful what we look up to. Remember when we see a worldly object as a source of other worldly benefits, it is a false point of view and inevitably leads to disappointment and a misdirected life.

*Continued page 5*

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## Fr. Brad's Sermon

*Continued from page 5*

In summary, “Be careful what we look up to” implies be careful what we love. For it is what we love that defines us. It is human to live in this world and to love it. There’s much beauty and mystery here. Also, in life, with its struggles and suffering, it is good to love others and to share life with someone.

Let’s face it, to preach “Live a life in the world, but love nothing in it” is a foolish thing. Yet, we must be careful about what we love.

Always remind ourselves, that in this world, here all things are conditional. So much sorrow and anger arise when we put infinite value on finite and conditional people and things.

Lent is a time to renew our practice of holy living. To examine our heart and to modify our minds, directing our souls towards holiness/living care-fully and being are full of what we love, what we love, what we look up to and what we live for.

### Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Please consider hosting a Sunday coffee hours. Coffee supplies are provided. All you need to bring is some light refreshments to share. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Asher-Stoddard Hall.



## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for MAY Holy Happenings will be Thursday, April 19. Articles may be submitted via snail mail, dropped off in the bin on the office door or sent by email to the church office. Thank you.



## Home Communion

If you or a loved one is unable to get to church to celebrate the Eucharist at any time during the year, please call the office at 781-335-2030 to schedule a Home Communion with Fr. Harry or Fr. Brad. The visit will be arranged at your convenience.

## Food First Sunday

Food First Sunday will be Sunday, April 8. The Weymouth Food Pantry would appreciate donations of brown rice or whole wheat pasta.

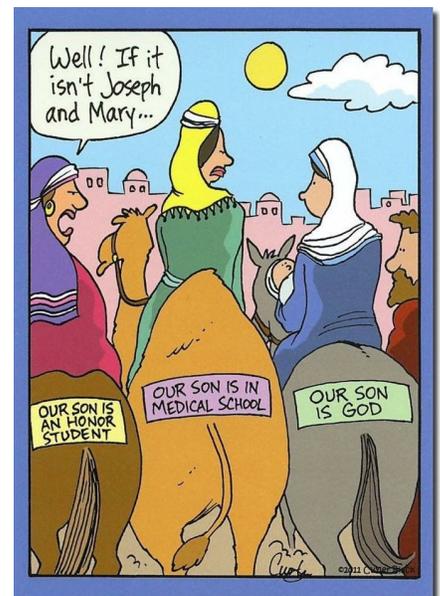
Thank you for your continued generosity of the Weymouth Food Pantry.

## Tuesday Morning Eucharist and Luncheon

Mid-week Eucharist and luncheon continues weekly on Tuesdays at 11:30. Come and enjoy quiet worship, followed by a light lunch with fellowship and good conversation.

## Words

- The six most important words in the English language:  
I admit I made a mistake.
- The fir stmost important words:  
You did a good job.
- The four most important words:  
What is your opinion?
- The three most important words: If you please.
- The two most important words:  
Thanks you.
- The one most important word:  
We.
- The one least important words:  
I.



# HOLY HAPPENINGS

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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<p><b>MAILED</b> March 26, 2018</p>
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<p align="center"><b>Important Dates</b></p> <p><b>April 1</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b></p> <p><b>April 7</b> <b>Knit Wits</b></p> <p><b>April 14</b> <b>Weymouth Garden Club</b></p> <p><b>April 16</b> <b>Patriots Day. Office closed</b></p> <p><b>April 18</b> <b>Compline and Vestry Meeting</b></p>
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<p align="center"><b>Mission Statement</b></p> <p>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.</p>
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<p align="center"><b>Important Dates</b></p> <p><b>April 19</b> <b>Women's Evening Group</b></p> <p><b>Holy Happenings</b> <b>May articles due</b></p> <p><b>April 28</b> <b>Concert by 'Lashes'</b></p> <p><b>April 29</b> <b>Book Sale</b></p>
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