

# HOLY HAPPENINGS

Volume 26 Issue 10

December 2018

## Christmas Message

My Dear Parishioners,

By the time you receive this Holy Happenings, we will most likely be beginning our Advent season and heading headlong into our Christmas celebrations. I do hope your Advent/Christmas season will be beautiful, white and filled with a spirit soaring from the beauty and splendor, the music and laughs, the glory and the peace our Parish has brought you and your loved ones.

As you can well tell by the sermons both Fr. Brad and I have been preaching this Advent/Christmas season, we have invited everyone to reflect, first, on the aspects of each Sunday in Advent (Joy, Peace, Hope and Love) with the understanding that nothing is begotten by what we do ourselves, but by what God has so lovingly given to all of us; to reflect upon giving back to God so that His Christmas joy can be shared by all.

Holy Nativity is a very special place in all of our hearts and each and every one of you has been an important part in assuring that the word of God continues to be spread from the from our Altar to the hearts of the lonely and those who especially



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### CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

*Holy Eucharist*  
*Sunday - 8 & 10 a.m.*  
*Most Tuesdays - 11:30*

**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  
Maryann Gurney, Director of Christian Ed  
Peg Driscoll, Secretary  
Tim Birkenhead, Sexton  
Ron Russo, Warden  
Steve Williams, Warden

God's love and care during this Christmas season. This parish is especially known as one of the most generous if not the most generous in Weymouth.

And so this is why we ask, especially as our Christmas celebration is beginning, to please remember we are in the season of giving and the season of giving means that the best and easiest way to is to remember Christmas is to remember that giving doesn't end with the last Christmas Carol, nor does it end with the last opened gift. After all, it was after Christmas and well into Epiphany when three kings arrived with gifts to place before our Lord. And so, in the same context, I would like to remind everyone that it is also a time when our parish asks for Stewardship in order to establish a budget for this up and coming year.

Please remember our parish in all that we do not only during this season of Christmas but throughout the year. If you haven't pledged, won't you please think of doing so? Do it as a Christmas or Epiphany or even more, a birthday gift to your parish. This is truly a wonderful way of thanking our Lord Jesus for the beauty and splendor as well as the wonderful ministries we provide and it would be especially meaningful seeing that this is a parish which was also born on

*Continued on page 2*

## Stewardship

Dear Holy Nativity Parishioner,

Our 2019 Stewardship Theme for this year is “The Season of Giving”. With each new year, as we witness how the Church of the Holy Nativity is growing and the enthusiasm of its parishioners from the very old to the youngest members, it is a true statement of the Hand of God at work amongst us.

“The Season of Giving” is reflected through the fellowship, dedication, ministries and commitments that we demonstrate throughout each year. Christian Spirituality is the life-long journey when each of us comes to discover our relationship with God and to God’s creation. It is the quest of Christians taking the beliefs and value of Christianity and weaving them into the fabric of our lives and Christian Stewardship is the paying forward of everything that God has done and continues to do for us.

Simply stated, God made us stewards of everything that we possess. Life is a gift from God. All that we have in this life is part of that gift. Stewardship reinforces this belief and reminds us that our time, talents and resources are the gifts through which we show our love and appreciation of God.

A 2019 Commitment Card has been sent for your careful consideration. We ask that you place it in the Sunday offering plate, drop it by the church office or simply mail it back. We would greatly appreciate a return of the card by Sunday, December 9th. We plan to have the blessings of the pledges on Sunday, December 30th.

Thank you for the many



### Christmas Services

**Monday,  
December 24, 2018**

**12:15  
Holy Eucharist  
With Music**

**4:30  
Children’s Service**

**8:00  
Holy Eucharist  
With Music**

commitments you have already made to Holy Nativity and for your careful consideration in your decision of accepting and returning your pledge card. Your pledge and contributions enable our church to continue the process of spreading God’s word through our continuing “The Season of Giving” and “Working Our Faith Through God’s hands”.

May God guide you in your decisions and bless you in your continued relationship with our Holy Nativity Family.

In His Name,  
Paul McPhee and  
Carol Ann Ruggiero

*Rector’s letter continued*

Christmas day and has continued spreading God’s Word for over 100 years.

With Christmas Blessings  
Father Harry

### A Christmas Poem Wonder

By Nancy Buckley

There is faint music in the night,  
And pale wings fanned by silver  
flight;

A frosty hill with tender glow  
Of countless stars that shine on  
snow.

A shelter from the winter storm,  
A straw-lined manger, safe and  
warm,

And Mary crooning lullabies,  
To hush her Baby’s sleepy sighs.

Her eyes are rapt upon His Face,  
Unheeded here is time and  
space;

Her heart filled with blinding joy,  
For God’s own Son—her little Boy!





I would like to thank the members of the congregation for their support of the Scratch Ticket raffle for the Holly Fair. We had approximately 120 scratch tickets donated from all of you and the board was a great success!!

The Sunday school children will be presenting their Christmas pageant on Sunday December 9th at the 10:00 service. This pageant will be different from years past as we explain and present the meaning behind Christmas decorations.

The children will be making an Advent wreath that we will light each Sunday during Advent. We will talk about the meaning of Advent and we will also have a birthday party for Jesus! Everyone is invited! Details to follow.

There will be no Sunday school on December 30th.

Maryann Gurney

**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.



**Past Life Regression Hypnosis Seminar**

**Date: Tues Dec. 4, 2018  
6:30 - 8:30pm**

**Common Room**

How would your life be different if you experienced a past life regression? Hypnotically discover your past life memories. You'll better understand and accept yourself and your current life's challenges, relationships and soul lessons.

Kathryn McGlynn, certified hypnotist, presents a seminar to help you manage holiday challenges and stay true to yourself.

For more information, please visit Kathryn's website:

[www.hypnosis.ws](http://www.hypnosis.ws)

or call her to reserve your spot.

Tickets \$35.00 or early bird for \$30.00 (by 11/28/18).



**Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for **JANUARY** Holy Happenings will be **Thursday, December 20**. Articles may be submitted via snail mail, dropped off in the bin on the office door or sent by email to the church office.

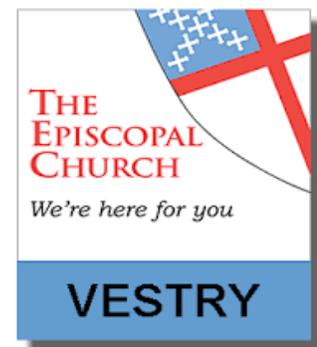
**Update on Rocky**

As many of you know, Rocky has been suffering with Alzheimer's disease for several years and for nearly two years now has been a patient at the VA Hospital. Although his condition has continued to decline over the past year, he still enjoys music, playing ball and watching funny u-tube videos, as well as receiving mail. Thank you for your continued prayers, love and compassion over the past two years for both of us. It has surely provided me with additional strength. For anyone interested in sending Rocky a card, his address is:

Domenic (Rocky) Ruggiero  
Edith Nourse Rogers Veteran's Hospital  
200 Springs Road, Bldg. 62 A-1,  
Bedford, MA 01730.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas.

Carol Ruggiero



**Vestry**

Next Vestry meeting will be Wednesday, **December 12** at 7:30 in the Asher Stoddard Hall, following a service of compline at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

## Holly Fair 2018

Thank you all for a very successful, our best so far, Holly Fair, we made \$15,764.00 and the money is still coming in from after fair sales. This year's raffle, a board of scratch tickets, was won by Ed Fitzgerald!

I would like to thank the tireless efforts of the table chairpersons:

Baked Goods-Terry Asher-\$3,169.00  
Christmas –Shirley DeVore & Judy Ward-\$490.00  
Handmade Crafts-Paula Avitabile-\$490.00  
Country Corner-Charlene Birkenhead-\$1,986.00  
Fudge Table-Linda Muller-\$786.50  
Grandma's Attic-Denise West & family-\$381.00  
Jewelry-Lori Butler & Joyce MacPhee-\$680.00  
Knit Items-Peg Driscoll-\$969.00  
Silent Auction-Teri Williams -\$3,3675.00  
Snack Bar- Ken Diehl & Jay Asher-\$1,170.00  
Dinner- Pat & Bob Demore-\$750.00  
Instant ticket raffle-Maryanne Gurney-\$1,145.00

Also, a big thanks to the youth of our parish, Billy & Dan MacPhee, Carolyn & Sara Butler, Ella & Patrick Demore, and Isaac & Asher Miller! Thank you to our face painter, Alana Brewster! I apologize if I missed anyone, the youth effort this year was spectacular!

Thank you, Charlene, Ken Diehl, and Sully, for your help in the kitchen serving dinner!

Thank you to Jay Asher for your assistance putting up signs, shopping, setting up, and all you do behind the scenes!

Once again, we were fortunate to have all the food for both the snack bar and the dinner donated!!

So, that means that every item sold at the fair was donated!

I would like to also thank all the folks that assisted at the tables, I wish I could name you all, but it would take up the whole Holly happenings! Also, thanks to all that baked, crafted, knitted, cooked, to all those that helped to set-up, break-down the fair, as well as set-up and break down of the dinner and a thanks to all the parish that supported the fair. Thank you Peg for all you do behind the scenes, like contacting the newspapers and making labels!

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,

as good stewards of God's varied grace” 1 Peter 4:10

For the Holly Fair Committee:

Jim Kimball, Chairperson.



**Weymouth Youth & Family Services**

Once again, the parish of the Holy Nativity will be assisting the Weymouth Youth & Family Services in providing Christmas gifts to families in need in Weymouth. We are planning to adopt four families and will start this year's drive on November 25, 2018, Ed Muller will be at both services that day and will have a list of the gifts the families are looking for. Donations of both cash and gifts are welcome. Ed may also be reached at 781-337-7165 or by e-mail at ecm323@comcast.net with any questions.

**Dickens Caroling**

Save Saturday evening, December 15! We will be celebrate the Christmas season by singing many traditional Christmas Carols that would have been familiar to Charles Dickens. Many people dress as they did in the Victorian era, sporting top hats or bonnets, capes or waist coats. Who knows? We may even have a visit from a man in a red suit! Caroling will be followed by light refreshments in the Asher-Stoddard Hall.



**Adult Study:  
The Book of Joy**

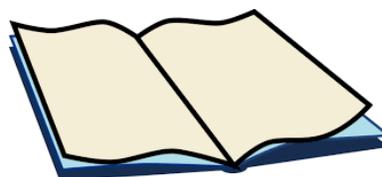
I am reading a book that, I believe, will be a good resource for an Adult Study. The book is "The Book of Joy". The book consists of conversations between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dali Lama on how to maintain a warm heart and inward peace amidst life's suffering and struggles.

The conversation between Archbishop Tutu and the Dali Lama covers questions such as what differs the "pursuit of happiness" from the attainment of inner joy. Also, what is the difference between pain and suffering: Do we have control over pain and suffering of life.

As people who suffered under political and social injustice, both the Archbishop and Dali Lama devote significant discussion on how the spiritual life can assist people to engage in justice and not be overwhelmed by anger, frustration or despair.

These are some of the question discussed in this book. If anyone is interested in discussing this book and its implications for the spiritual life, please let me know.

Fr. Brad



**The Southeastern  
Philharmonic Orchestra  
presents  
A POPS Holiday Concert  
on Saturday, December 1  
at 7:30 pm  
Quincy Sons of Italy Hall,  
120 Quarry St, Quincy, MA  
Tickets: Adults - \$15.00,  
Seniors - \$10.00  
Children under 10 - free  
To learn more, visit:  
<https://southeasternphil.org/>**

## Recipe Corner

From "Bountiful New Beginnings"

### CARAMEL FILLED CHOCOLATE COOKIES

1 c. butter softened  
1 c. white sugar  
1 c. packed brown sugar  
2 eggs  
2 tsp. vanilla  
1 tsp baking soda  
3/4 c. unsweetened cocoa powder  
1 tbsp white sugar  
48 Rolos (candy)  
2 1/4 c all-purpose flour

Beat butter until creamy. Gradually add sugars; beat well. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well. Combine flour, baking soda and cocoa. Gradually add to butter mixture, beating well. Cover and chill at least 2 hours.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Divide dough into 4 parts. Work with one part at a time, leaving the rest of the dough in the refrigerator. Divide each part into 12 pieces. Quickly press each piece of dough around a Rolo and roll into a ball. Dip one side into sugar. Place each ball, sugar side up, 2 inches apart on a baking sheet. Bake for 8 minutes, let cool one minute, then remove to wire rack and cool completely.



Thanks to all who contributed to Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child by either packing a shoe box or contributing to the postage cost of shipping the shoe boxes. This year the parish of the Holy Nativity has contributed thirty-five shoe boxes. These shoeboxes are headed out from Weymouth and many of them will be sent to places of unimaginable poverty and darkness. Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers as these shoe boxes are transported around the world to be delivered to communities to share the love of Jesus. We are able to track the shoe boxes to see what country they are being delivered to and will notify you when we learn of their destination.

### Tuesday Morning Eucharist and Luncheon

Mid-week eucharist and luncheon are back! Please join us on Tuesdays at 11:30. This quiet service has become a favorite with many people, even if they are only able to attend occasionally. There's always good conversation to go with luncheon



### As a Parish, We pray for:

Anne  
Andrew  
Bill  
Brooke  
Casey K.  
Connie Ibbotson  
Cora Leonard  
Corinne  
Cornel Sampson, Jr.  
Devin  
Donna  
Ellen  
Ewen  
Ginny Blanchette  
Hazel Brunelle  
Jackie  
Jerry  
Jim Murphy  
John & Billie Greene & family  
John  
Madelyn Ward  
Marcia  
Mike  
Myrtle Perkins  
Paige  
Peggy Cinotto  
Phil Stephan  
Ray Thorne  
Rick  
Rocky  
Sophia  
Terri  
Tommy Chadbourne  
Trea

## Wardens' Report

Thank You – Thank You – Thank You!!!!!!!

There aren't enough thanks for what you have contributed to the Holly Fair, young and old all participated in the biggest event of the church year. The Turkey dinner was delicious and a blast as well. A hearty meal with some music provided by Casey our Choir Director/Organist.

Every year the Holly Fair continues to amaze with great attendance from the community and to the amount of food and merchandise purchased. hats off again too Jim Kimball for his leadership and to all of the Holly Fair committee for a job well done. To all the volunteers and old friends who helped out as well, many thanks. To all the table captains, cooks, ticket sellers, the Youth of our church and Peg our parish secretary, your help was and is most appreciated. As we put together this article, the fair is approaching the \$16,000 mark....all we can say is WOW!!

All Saints service was great, the teachers, assistance and children did a great job with their representation of what all saints mean.

We are constantly working on the buildings to ensure that they are kept up, winter is creeping in and snow removal will be a big factor as it has been in the past. We may need volunteers to help with the snow removal of the ramp, back stairs and the front of the church. So anyone that can

## Wardens' Report continued

assist we would please let the office know so we can start a list of helpers.

WE have also been able to strengthen our Wi-fi signal strength in the Asher-Stoddard Hall and the Common Room but are still working to make it even better. There are low profile extenders plugged into those areas so please do not remove them as that will disrupt the signal.

Busy time of year as we now get ready for the Advent season and Christmas services that we so much look forward to as well and yet another year added to our church history with the founding of Holy Nativity on Christmas Eve over 100 years ago. With that we look forward to seeing you in church and want to wish you and your family a blessed and joyous—"Merry Christmas

God's Peace from your Wardens,

Ron Russo & Steve Williams



## 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.

## Food First Sundays

Food First Sunday is December 2. The Weymouth Food Pantry would appreciate donations of canned fish or meat.



**HOLY HAPPENINGS**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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MAILED  
November 26, 2018

**Important Dates**

**December 1**  
**Gardens Aglow trip**

**December 9**  
**Christmas Pageant**

**December 15**  
**Dickens Caroling**

**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**

**December 20**  
**Holy Happenings**  
**articles due**

**December 24**  
**Christmas Services**

**December 25**  
**Christmas**

**December 24-25**  
**Office closed**