
HOLY HAPPENINGS

December 2023

From the Desk of Rev. Diana

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Advent is the time of the year when we are invited to enter into the mystery of the Incarnation. To explore what it might mean that Jesus came to live on this earth and show us in word and action how to be God's beloved family. And to delve into the mystery of the gift of the Emmanuel, the God who is with us and in us. In Advent we are called to see the coming of God. It is not just something that happened a long time ago in a little town called Bethlehem and it is not just the coming that is promised in some distant future. It is a coming that is here and now among us. Henri Nowen writes: "We are called to be contemplatives. That is seers, people who see the coming of God. To become a contemplative, therefore, means to throw off--- or better peel off---the blindfolds that prevent us from seeing his coming in the midst of our own world, and prevent us from hearing his invitation for us to purify our hearts so that we might indeed recognize him as our Lord." This is the time to be mindful and to take time to prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the mystery of Christmas. The lovely hymn written by Christina Rossetti says *Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas; Star and angel gave the sign.* Open our eyes and our hearts Lord to see your love and all the signs of your love around us and within us. Amen



Church of the Holy Nativity

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. thru Fri.

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Parish Office 781-335-2030

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office@holynativityweymouth.org

Priest

The Reverend Diana Scheide

Cell-717-870-7874

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RectorHolyNativity@gmail.com

Ed Muller, Warden

Ron Russo, Warden

Jim Kimball, Treasurer

Maryann Gurney, Director of
Christian Education

Shirley Devore,
Assistant Teacher

Organist & Choirmaster
Marie-Elise Boyer

Michael McGlynn, Sexton

Deb Robie, Secretary

WEBSITE:

www.holynativityweymouth.org

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

Blue Christmas Service
Thursday, December 21 at
7pm.

“Comfort, comfort my
people, says God.”

There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. There are tough times when we yearn for consolation. The suffering people who looked for the long-awaited Messiah were given a hope-filled image of God in the writings of Isaiah. It expresses the belief that no matter what happens to us, God will be there to comfort and support us. Christmas can be a time for many when we are in need of that reassurance and comfort. Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or have experienced the loss of a job. We wonder how we will get through the holidays. If you are looking for comfort, hope, wholeness, and renewal please join us for a time of quiet reflection and meaningful words and music. All shared in the good news that “God with us: Immanuel!”



Warden's Report

Well, here we are heading to Advent and then it's to Christmas. The year seems to have flown by and the leaves from my trees keep coming down.

Looking back over the past month, our Holly Fair was very successful and brought several new visitors to our beloved parish.

Thanks to all who helped support Operation Christmas Child and their shoebox ministry. Holy Nativity contributed almost fifty boxes and there were over four thousand shoeboxes brought to the regional collection point at the Crossroads Church.

Another nice turnout for our First Saturday dinner and December's on the second looks to be special as Rev. Diana will help us celebrate the end of the church year.

Our outreach continues in December assisting Weymouth Youth and Family Services in providing Christmas gifts to those in need. See elsewhere in this newsletter for information on ways to help.

On December third our Adult Christian Education program continues with lessons from the book, *Advent In Plain Sight*. Please see me for a copy of the book and lesson plans.

In closing I am thankful for all who contribute to Holy Nativity in making it a very special place to worship.

This comes with best wishes for a Joyous Christmas.

Peace & Blessings to all,

Ed Muller

Mark your Calendars the six week Inquires Class starts Jan 7.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Episcopal Church or want to explore confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church this is the class for you.



A Quick Note from the Stewardship Committee

Dear fellow parishioners,

We are pleased to announce that the 2024 Stewardship campaign has begun! Our theme this year is "Rooted in Abundance". Our kick-off letter has been mailed out, and by now you should have received yours. Please watch your mailboxes in the coming days, as pledge cards will be coming soon. It is our sincere hope that you will take some time to reflect on what our beloved church means to you, and your place in its continuing mission.

May God bless you all,

The Holy Nativity Stewardship Committee

Sunday School News

During the month of December, the Sunday school kids will be talking about Advent and preparing for the coming of Jesus.

On December 17th, we will have our annual Christmas Pageant at the 10:00 Family Service. This year's pageant is titled "Not A Very Silent Night". Children of all ages are invited to join in the fun! We hope you will join us in celebrating Jesus' Birthday!

Looking for Brownies!! Please bring some brownies to church on Sunday, December 3rd. They will be brought into Boston that afternoon along with hotdogs and applesauce cups. If you could put 2 brownies into a snack bag, that would be helpful, or we can do it for you that morning at church.

Thank you as always for your support!

There will be no Sunday school class on Sunday, December 31st.

Happy New Year!

Mittens, Hats, Boots

We are looking for mittens, hats, shoes & boots for the people of **Billy's Caring Hands**.

As you pull out your cold weather clothes, please keep these people in mind for any unwanted shoes and warm clothing you may have.

All donations can be left in the church hall or in the Sunday school room. Consider a trip to your local thrift shop to look for warm clothing for our neighbors who live unhoused.



Make it a toast with the most with this
Christmas-inspired cranberry & pomegranate
cocktail.

8 Ingredients

2 cups cranberry and pomegranate juice

1 tbsp caster sugar

1/3 cup orange liqueur

750ml bottle sparkling white wine, chilled

8 cups ice cubes

1 small orange, cut into 8 thin slices

2/3 cup frozen pomegranate seeds

Fresh mint leaves, to serve

Step 1

Place juice and sugar in a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring, for 2 to 3 minutes or until sugar has dissolved. Set aside to cool completely.

Step 2

Combine juice mixture, liqueur and sparkling wine in a large jug. Divide ice cubes and orange slices among 8 x 470ml-capacity glasses. Pour juice mixture into glasses. Top with pomegranate seeds

Activities at Holy Nativity



Saturday, December 2nd at 4:30
The First Saturday Dinner
in Asher-Stoddard Hall

Ham and Potato
Dinner will be served!
All are welcome
Free will donation

This is a great opportunity to bring a friend to introduce to our Church family!

Children's Concert

(and for all those who are young at heart!)
Saturday, December 2nd at 11am
 Church of the Holy Nativity

Join Marie-Elise and Judy as they present
 Children's Music, Poetry and Readings
 Free will offering in aid of HN's stair-lift project

Sunday, Dec 3rd, we will make our own
Advent Wreaths.

Bring greens to share and clippers.
 Wreath forms and candles will be provided.

Sunday, Dec. 3rd

After 10:00 AM service
 we will be making hot dogs to go with the brownies
 for lunch for our homeless friends in Boston.
 Help is welcome!



Children's Ornament making

Sat., Dec. 9th 12-1PM
in the Church Hall.
 Sign up sheet is in the Hall

Please help!

We are confirming everyone's contact
 information, please fill out a **Church**
Directory Information Sheet, found at the back
 of the church and in your
 bulletin.

We appreciate your cooperation with this.

First Food Sunday Dec. 3rd

. Here's a list of items the Pantry needs most:

Non-Perishables:

- Jam and/or jelly
- Hearty soups (i.e. Progresso, Chunky)
- Ready to Eat (canned pasta, chili, hash)
- Jarred Pasta sauce
- Side dishes (seasoned rice, Knorr's, Zatarans etc.)
- Cereal
- Ground coffee and tea
- Condiments (dressing, bbq sauce, ketchup, mayonnaise etc)
- White tuna
- Crispy Onions (for green bean casserole)



Thank you for making sure our shelves are stocked.

We are here to help, thanks to you.

The Weymouth Food Pantry receives over 1,400 visits per month from economically-distressed families in our community looking for help, and we are funded mostly by Weymouth residents and neighbors (#WeymouthProud).

Thank you for your help!

Please drop off your non-perishable items at church on Sunday, Dec. 3rd.

Saturday, December 9th,
Advent Quiet Day 9AM -1PM.

Come spend time in quiet reflection preparing your heart to enter into the mystery of the Incarnation at Christmas.

Sign up sheet in parish hall.

Blue Christmas Service
Thursday, December 21 at 7pm.
Information on page 1

Christmas Eve Services
8:00 AM Advent Service
2:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
4:00 PM Children's Service
7:00 PM Candle Light Service





Holly Fair 2023

Thank you all for a very successful Holly Fair, we made \$14,822.00, and the money is still coming in from after fair sales. This year's raffle, a board of scratch tickets, was won by Susanne Walsh!

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

Baked Goods-Donna Lucier-2727.00

Country Corner, Knit & Handmade-Patty Donovan & Paula Avitabile \$1,680.00

Fudge Table-Linda Muller-\$901.00

Jewelry-Lori Butler & Joyce MacPhee-\$591.00

Silent Auction-Laura Kintz \$3823.00

Snack Bar- Patrick, Shelia, & Bob DeMore-\$1,601.00

Dinner ticket sales-Ron Russo-\$628.00

Instant ticket raffle-Maryanne Gurney-\$1,310.00

Donations-\$500.00

Sale of Craft tables-\$675.00

I received many compliments from parishioners and customers for having the Fair and opening our church to the community! It is amazing the number of familiar faces we see year after year!

Thank you to Jay Asher for your assistance putting up signs, shopping, to Ron Russo in assisting me, setting up, and all you do behind the scenes! Thank you also to Joyce MacPhee for your assistance, and all you did behind the scenes! Can't forget our Sexton, Mike McGlynn, thank you for all you did behind the scenes, he just quietly got things done!

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 parishioners that supported the fair!

The crafters that rent tables downstairs always comment we have one of the best fairs that they attend! The proof is that 90% of the tables rented are from crafters that have rented since 2021!

Also, a big thanks to our next generation of Holly Fair workers, Reese, Mason, Ella, & Patrick!

All in all, the best part of the Fair for me was hearing all the laughter and conversions happening at the dinner! It was truly a great night!

"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.

Joyce MacPhee, Co, Chairperson



Tuesday Morning Eucharist and Luncheon

Mid-week eucharist and luncheon will continue weekly at 11:30. This quiet service has become a favorite with many people, even if they are only able to attend occasionally.

The conversation is lively as old and new friends catch up from the week over lunch.

Weymouth Youth & Family Services Gift Drive 2023

The parish of Holy Nativity again is assisting the Weymouth Youth & Family Services (WY&FS) in providing Christmas gifts for needy families in Weymouth. This year we have adopted five families and received their wish lists from the WY&FS. The wish lists have been assembled and may be accessed at Myregistry.com after November 12th. For those who prefer not to shop, cash donations for gifts may be contributed through the registry or given to Ed Muller. If you can't shop online, please contact Ed for a copy of the wish lists. Gifts purchased from the registry may be delivered to Ed or the donor. Gifts sent to the donor should be brought to the church no later than **December 17, 2023**. A "Wrapping Party" is scheduled for **Sunday, December 17th**, after the 10am service.

Here is the information for the gift registry: Online Registry: Myregistry.com

Wish List Name: Holy Nativity Church
Password: HolyNativity2023

Thanks to all who can assist in this ministry and please contact Ed Muller with any questions or concerns at 781-422-4135 or via e-mail at: edthedetective@comcast.net

Next Vestry Meeting

The next Vestry meeting will be
Tuesday, December 5th

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the **January Holy Happenings** will be
Monday, December 18th

Articles may be submitted via snail mail, dropped off in the bin on the office door or sent by email to the church office:

office@holynativityweymouth.org



As a Parish, We pray for:

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

HOLY HAPPENINGS

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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MAILED

Important Dates

Saturday, Dec. 2 4:30pm
Free Dinner Saturday
Ham and Potatoes

Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 11am
A Children's Concert
at The Church of the
Holy Nativity

Sunday, Dec. 3rd

- **First food Sunday**
- **Advent wreath making**
- **Hot Dog making**

Saturday, Dec. 9th

- **Advent Quiet Day 9-1**
- **Children's Ornament making 12-1**

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

Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7:00
Blue Christmas
Service

Sunday, Dec. 24th
Christmas Eve Services

- **8:00 am Advent Service**
- **2:00 pm Christmas Eve Service**
- **4:00 pm Children's Service**
- **7:00 pm Candle Light Service**