

HOLY HAPPENINGS

Volume 24 Issue 1

March 2016

The Desert of our Hearts

Almost like a thief in the night Lent has arrived and for most people snuck up suddenly. With Lent's arrival came some most unusual wintry weather with temperature well below freezing which of course kept many away on the first Sunday in Lent. One of the purposes of the First Sunday in Lent is to set the stage and the theme for our 40 day journey toward Easter and this year's theme was clearly described in the Gospel of Luke where our Lord ventures in the desert to pray and while there he is being tempted, in every way as we are, by the devil. The lesson taught to us in the Gospel lesson is depicted in the way our Lord responds using Holy Scripture, in particular the Book of Deuteronomy, and being faithful to his original intent of remaining in the desert where he could become one with his Father.

Based upon the Gospel for this year's First Sunday in Lent, we are taught a lesson that whatever the temptations may be in our life or to our Christian mission, Jesus is not asking us to spend time wrestling with Satan nor asking us to be quoting Holy Scripture to drive the temptations of the Devil away, Jesus has already done that for us, but that we bring a little bit of the desert into our own lives in spending time listening and praying with Jesus. Our Lord sets the tone, and presents an example of making some space and taking the time for solitude where the decibels of this world are muted so we will all



CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Holy Eucharist - 8 & 10 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:30 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

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office@holynativityweymouth.org

WEBSITE:

www.holynativityweymouth.org

The Rev. Harold G. Birkenhead, Rector

The Rev. Brad Hultman, Asst. Priest

Casey Hannan, Organist & Choirmaster

Lizzi Campbell, Secretary

Bob Thomas, Sexton

Brian Smith, Warden

Steve Williams, Warden

be able to hear Jesus when he speaks to us.

Lent indeed has always been a difficult time for Christians being it is a time when we really find out just exactly how close we are to our Lord Jesus. Jesus reminds all of us that no matter where we are he is always with us. Now this can be a frightening experience especially to those who are trying to flee Jesus but it is a shot of adrenaline for those of us attempting to flee this world in order to find a little bit of the desert in our hearts.

This year's Lenten program is going to help you to do just that. Entitled "The Desert of your Heart", Fr. Brad and I will present to you how past history has taught humanity the importance of finding that very special place from where we can search and find our Lord.

The lessons will be on Mondays at 6:30 pm with a light Lenten dinner. The schedule is as follows:

February 29 @ 6:30 pm – THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Tonight we watch a film called 'The enigma of the Dead Sea Scrolls.' Discovered in 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls is one of the most magnificent archeological and religious finds in modern history. The Scroll amazingly are preserved containing Holy Scriptures and religious prophecy as well as the daily life and worship of the Essene community of Wadi Qumran.

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March 7 @6:30 pm – THE DESSERT FATHERS

In the early years of Christianity a group of religious known as the Desert Fathers removed themselves from the cacophony of city life and entered into a prayerful life of solitude in the surrounding desert, much like the Essenes. Who were these religious people? What influence did they have upon Christianity and our prayer life? Is it true that even the Book of Common Prayer has been influenced by the Desert Fathers?

March 14 @ ROAD TO EMMAUS

We all know the story of the two disciples traveling upon the road to Emmaus when they are joined in their journey by an unrecognized stranger who is actually our Lord Jesus. Tonight we watch a learning and powerful movie the *Road to Emmaus* follows the story of Luke 24:13-49 and imagines what the conversation between Jesus and the two disciples might have been. It Helps us to understand how many times we too may have spoken to our Lord without knowing.

March 21 @ JESUS BLOOD NEVER FAILS ME

Tonight we offer you a time to sit, pray and meditate while listening to a most unusual but powerful CD entitled "Jesus Blood Never Failed. Some years ago in 1971 a producer in London by the name of Gavin Bryars was making a film about homeless people living in and around Waterloo Station in London. Bryars came across this one old man and when asked about his plight responded by singing, "Jesus blood never failed me". Bryars eventually used the tune sung by this old man adding orchestration and voices building up to a wonderfully and spiritually lifting crescendo . When Bryars returned to Waterloo in search of the old man, he totally had disappeared. Leaving the crew scratching their heads, could it be? Maybe an Angel sending a message?

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

During the season of Lent the Sunday school children have decided to provide outreach within our community. **On March 6th the children will be hosting a Book Drive during coffee hour.** We will have tables set up with Scholastic Books Club brochures for you to browse. Scholastic Books Club offers new books *starting* at \$1.00 per book. You may choose a book or books to order and pay by cash or check. Books can be ordered for children of all ages, Preschool to young adult. All books ordered will be delivered with the Sunday school children to the Pediatric Ward at South Shore Hospital.

The following **Sunday, March 13, the Sunday school children will have a food drive for the Weymouth Food Pantry.** We have decorated boxes for food donations and will place them in the upstairs hall. Please leave any donations in these boxes. Thank you!!

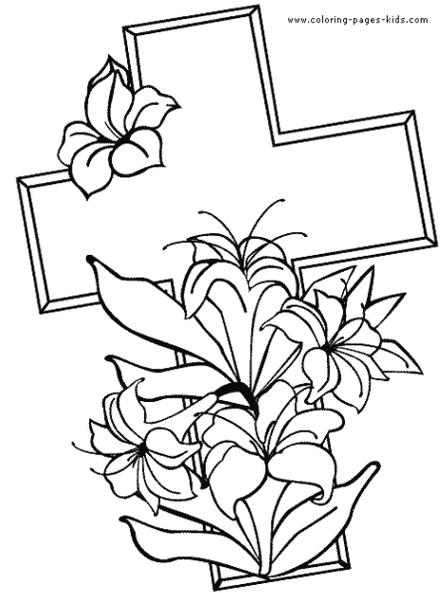
There will be no Sunday school on March 27th, Easter Sunday.

EASTER FLOWERS

Be looking for the Altar Guild letter regarding Easter Memorial flowers. Please list the names of any loved ones you want included in the Easter bulletin on the envelope enclosed in the letter and include the contribution you wish to make. Your envelope can be placed in the collection plate or sent to the church office.

If writing a check (rather than cash), be sure to make it out to "Holy Nativity Altar Guild". We don't want any names omitted on Easter, so if you cannot get the envelope in by Palm Sunday, please contact me and provide the names you want listed.

Kathy Midi, Altar Guild Treasurer
781-424-0803
(akwmidi@comcast.net)



www.coloring-pages-kids.com

**Newsletter
Deadline**

The deadline for the **APRIL 2016** Holy Happenings will be **Thursday, March 17**. Articles may be submitted via snail mail, dropped off in the bin on the office door or sent to email office@holynativityweymouth.org. Thank you.

**FOOD FIRST
SUNDAY**

Food First Sunday will be **Sunday, March 6**. The pantry would appreciate any canned goods. Thank you.

**Coffee Hour Hosts
Needed**

Please sign up on the Coffee Hour sheet in the Asher-Stoddard Hall. If you have any questions, please call Ed Muller at 781-337-7165.

Home Communion

If you or a relative are 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, days or evenings.

VESTRY

The next Vestry meeting will be **Wednesday, April 20, 2015** at 7:30 pm following a service of Compline at 7:00 pm.

**Tuesday Morning Eucharist
and Luncheon**

Did you miss Sunday's service? Are you hungry for the word of God? Would you enjoy relaxing during a Eucharist and then enjoy a light lunch and some great conversation? Then Holy Nativity offers you a wonderfully quiet but spiritual Eucharist followed by a light luncheon and conversation every Tuesday at 11:30 am. If you know someone who wishes to come along then remind them they don't have to be a church member or even an Episcopalian. Just come along and pray, be fed by the Lord and then enjoy a luncheon of fellowship and good cheer.

**AS A PARISH,
WE PRAY FOR:**

- ABBY C.
- ASHLEY & MIA EISSANTI
- ASHLEY SMITH
- BILL GARRITY
- BILLIE-JO ROGERS
- CAROL CONNOLLOY
- CECILY
- DANIELLE
- DIANE ORRICO
- EDWINA WOOL
- EWEN MCDONALD
- FATHER STEVE
- GERI
- JOHN GREENE
- JOHN HODSON, SR.
- JOHN HODSON, JR.
- JOSEPH MICHAEL
- KYLE & MEREDITH LEAHY
- LAURA
- LUCILLE OLSON
- MARILYN
- MYRTLE PERKINS
- NIC SORRENTINO
- PAIGE
- PHIL STEPHAN
- RAY THORNE
- RAYMOND GAGNON
- RICK
- RITA, PAUL & EVAN REDMOND
- ROCKY
- ROSE
- STEPHEN CONNOLLOY
- STEVE
- TERRI WILLIAMS
- THOM & MAUREEN SHORTT
- TIM
- VAL AND HER FAMILY



Holy Week Services

Sunday, March 20
Palm Sunday
8:00 am & 10:00 am

Tuesday, March 22
Mid-Week Eucharist and Luncheon
11:30 am

Thursday, March 24
Maundy Thursday
7:30 pm Eucharist followed by
The Altar of Repose beginning at 9:00 pm

Friday, March 25
Good Friday
12:15 pm Eucharist
7:30 pm Eucharist

Sunday, March 27
EASTER SUNDAY
8:00 am & 10:00 am

MYSTICAL THEMES IN HOLY SCRIPTURE

Sundays, February 14—March 6

There are teachings, parables and scripture lessons common to all religions, philosophies and cultures. These common elements are most prevalent in the wisdom teachings and mysticism.

For four Sundays in Lent we will review and reflect on these 'universals' and use them in prayer and meditation as part of our daily Lenten spiritual discipline. Spiritual teachings that are common to all people and cultures are most often a powerful point of departure for developing spiritual insight and devotion.

Please note, this spiritual study is separate from the Lenten forum being held Monday evenings during Lent. All people are welcome to attend. Please let me know if you intend to participate. A syllabus will be provided prior to February 14.

Yours,
 Fr. Brad

Wardens Report

It's hard to believe that our Centennial year has come and gone and now we're looking forward to a new church year. On Sunday February 7th, we held our annual meeting. The meeting was well attended and together we reviewed what was a great year for our church.

We are honored to continue serving as your Wardens in 2016. We are also looking forward to working with our newly elected Vestry members. We welcome Sheila Demore, Christina Butler and Lori Butler. We look forward to working with them and the rest of the Vestry and thank them all for volunteering.

As we head through Lent onto Easter, please check the monthly calendar for programs and events taking place here at the church.

Your Wardens have set a few goals for 2016:

- Continue to facilitate the completion of our "You Don't Look 100" maintenance and repair list.

- Work with Beryl McFadden (thanks, Beryl!) to update the Church's website.

- Explore opportunities to grow our parish.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Wardens. And we're always open to your questions, comments and thoughts.

Peace,

Steve & Brian, your Wardens

HOLY HAPPENINGS

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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MAILED
February 29, 2016

Important Dates

March 6
Sunday School
Book Sale

March 7, 14, 21
Lenten Dinner
& Program

March 12
Corned Beef &
Cabbage dinner
with Ramshackle

March 13
Daylight Savings
Time begins

March 16
Vestry

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 17
HH articles due

March 20
Palm Sunday

March 24
Maundy Thursday
Altar of Repose

March 25
Good Friday

March 27
Easter Sunday