
HOLY HAPPENINGS

November 2022

**Greetings from
Rev. Laurie Rofinot, our
Interim Priest**

From the Desk of Rev. Laurie

Dear Friends in Christ -
*"For everything there is a
season, and a time for every
matter under heaven." Eccl.
3:1*

This is to let everyone in the parish know that my last Sunday at Holy Nativity will be on January 8th, 2023, Epiphany Sunday. In some ways that is a sad thing, because of the bonds of friendships we have built over the past 2+ years, praying, working, singing and playing together, building up the Body of Christ during this time of transition. It will be hard to break those bonds and say goodbye. In other ways, we all knew that my arrival as your interim priest would be temporary and time-limited, that I was "doomed" from the start...!

I always said I would stay until you called a new rector, but things have changed in the meantime. Now it is clear that I'm privileged to accompany you during the earlier part of the interim period, that time of wandering in the wilderness together. In January, it seems likely that another priest will be hired to accompany you the rest of the way,

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Church of the Holy Nativity

OFFICE HOURS

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

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Interim Priest 617-776-5604

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WEBSITE:
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The Rev. Laurie Rofinot, Interim
Organist & Choirmaster
Marie-Elise Boyer -Brown

Ed Muller, Warden
Ron Russo, Warden
Jim Kimball, Treasurer

Michael McGlynn, Sexton
Deb Robie, Secretary

FACEBOOK GROUP PAGE
[https://www.facebook.com/
Church/Weymouth/](https://www.facebook.com/Church/Weymouth/)

WARDEN'S REPORT

I am not sure what happened, but this past month seemed to fly by, and the Holly Fair is now in sight.

The initial First Saturday of the month dinner on October 1st was enjoyed by thirty people with several non-parishioners as well enjoying the ham and scalloped potatoes dinner. Thanks to all who assisted in the setup and preparation of the meal.

Looking forward to the next one on December 3rd. The Adult Religious Education program, a discussion of Mitch Albom's book, the Stranger in the Lifeboat has been well received and we have had some lively conversations in our study of the book.

I am looking forward to our Thanksgiving Eve service at 7pm on November 23rd.

There is now a signup sheet in the Asher-Stoddard for coffee hour host and hostesses as we continue to resume some of the pre-pandemic happenings.

Contact me or Charlie Cardillo with any questions about this ministry.

Please continue your prayers for the parish as we endeavor to spread the word of the Gospel.

Peace & Blessings to all,

Ed Muller

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to the “promised land,” as it were.

And this is just as it should be. All through this process, we are following the lead and call of our Lord, to be faithful followers of God in Jesus Christ no matter what, wherever He leads, and for however long it takes. I’ll have more to say on this later, but Ed, Ron and I thought it was important to get this news to you all sooner rather than later. We’ll enjoy the Holly Fair, Thanksgiving and the Advent and Christmas seasons together, with our last Sunday on the Feast of the Epiphany, the Manifestation of Christ to the Nations of the World, a great day for a send-off.

Blessings to all!

Rev. Laurie

Note from the Wardens

This is an addendum to my previous Warden's Report that was submitted to Deb Robie for Holy Happenings. This is also, in consultation with Ron Russo. By now you may be aware that effective January 8, 2023, Rev. Laurie has indicated she will be leaving us as our Interim Priest. As Laurie stated in her message, her intention was to serve as our Interim Priest until our new Rector was called. However, circumstances have changed. We are grateful not only for her ongoing presence, but also for the support and leadership she has displayed during the challenging times over the past two plus years.

In consultation with our Diocese Canon, Kelly O'Connell, we have been assured that there will be clergy in place (either an Interim or supply clergy beginning January 15, 2023). As we move forward in this new transition period at Holy Nativity, we ask for your continued prayers. Additionally, we are working on a celebration of gratitude for Laurie's ministry with us, and as these plans develop we will keep you informed. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Peace & Blessings to all,
Ron Russo & Ed Muller

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

**AJ, Anne and Ed,
Bill Lucier, Brian,
Claire Saulnier,
Corinne, Ed Walsh,
Ewen & Pat MacDonald, Helen
Holbrook, Herb, John Murphy,
Judith Fenton,
Kendall Demore, Marilyn, Matt,
Paige, Pam Walston,
Pat P., Patty Sewell,
Rick M., Sophia,
Steven M. Haley.**

It's getting to be time to “fall back.” Daylight saving time will end this year on **Sunday, Nov. 6, at 2 a.m.** That's the night to turn clocks back an hour (to 1 a.m. if you're staying up until the changing point) to capture an extra hour of daylight in the morning and lose an hour of daylight in the evening.



Sunday School News

In October, 12 children and 10 adults from Holy Nativity had a wonderful visit to the New England Wildlife Center. We started our tour with the two goats we met outside and met some interesting animals inside. We saw a Hawk with only half a wing, tortoises and turtles from South Africa, a very long snake and a Gecko that was scaly to the touch. In the "Hands-On" area, we looked at specimens through microscopes, examined shells, feathers, and bones, etc. and asked lots of questions. Exclamations of, "I LOVE this place!" were heard during our two hour visit.

The staff at the Wildlife Center were VERY appreciative of the donations from the parishioners and asked us to extend their gratitude to all. THANK YOU!

Last year the congregation baked over 200 brownies as a dessert for Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless in Boston! Although there is some controversy surrounding the area where many of these people are, but there is still a plan to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for them. The brownies will need to be brought to the church on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 20th. Look for more information in the Sunday Bulletin.

There will be no Sunday school class on Sunday November 27th.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for December Holy Happenings will be **Thurs. Nov. 17th**

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

A Note from the Stewardship Committee

Dear Holy Nativity friends and family,

Autumn is upon us. Along with apple cider donuts, pumpkin spice everything, and raking leaves, the season lends itself to reflection. Reflections on a year ending, and the promise of a new one around the corner. Reflections on the harvest, and God's bounty which it represents. We will soon be sitting around an overflowing Thanksgiving table, with prayers of gratitude to God for the blessings which He has bestowed upon us in the past year and asking for His continued blessings in the year to come, and beyond.

It is in this spirit of gratitude, and reflection that we look inwardly, and contemplate how we might be of service to Him and His Church. Therefore, it is a fitting time of year to begin our stewardship campaign for the coming year. The theme for 2023 is "More Than Enough", and we are excited to be kicking this campaign off! You will soon be receiving a letter explaining the details, so please watch your mail. We hope you will take the time to prayerfully reflect on what The Church of the Holy Nativity means to you, and how you might help its continuing mission. It is important that we, the parish provide for the needs of the church, so that Holy Nativity will be here, and continue to thrive, for generations to come!

Thank you, and God bless you all!

Your Stewardship Committee,

Heather Kasday
Paul MacPhee



The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. This is done by preparing shoe boxes filled with gifts for these children. The Parish is once again participating in Operation Christmas Child by preparing shoe boxes to be distributed by Samaritan's Purse.



Shoe boxes are available in the parish hall; each box has a peel on label inside with gift suggestions.

If you aren't able to fill a box but would like to buy items for the boxes and for those who have already picked up boxes there is a link in this article for gift suggestions.

Please contact Ed Muller at edthedetective@comcast.com by phone at 781-422-4135 or Maryann Gurney at 1019Gurney@comcast.net with any questions. Thanks to all who can participate in this outreach program of Holy Nativity.

SHOEBOX GIFT SUGGESTIONS



"WOW" ITEM

- soccer ball with pump
- doll
- stuffed animal
- shoes

TOYS

- toy cars
- jump ropes
- yo-yos
- toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

ACCESSORIES

- socks
- sunglasses
- jewelry and watches
- flashlights (with extra batteries)

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- notebooks and paper
- coloring and picture books
- solar calculators

NON-LIQUID HYGIENE ITEMS

- toothbrushes
- bar soap
- washcloths
- combs



Do Not Include: candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans

For additional gift suggestions and more, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ



Rev. Laurie's Sermon excerpts/Report on Diocesan Convention

I've just spent two days at our Diocesan Convention, Friday and Saturday, October 28 and 29. The overall theme was, "By this they will know you: the call of love in our time and place." Our bishop, Alan Gates... noted a phenomenon that was happening in Boston in September, something that seems to roll around every fall as the students return. It's called "getting Storrowed." He said: "You know the scene: a U-Haul or delivery truck gets onto Storrow Drive and in short order the top has been ripped off the truck, or it is wedged hopelessly under a 10-foot overpass, scores of furiously honking cars lined up behind. So common is it, that "Storrowing" has entered our common vocabulary – even when it happens somewhere else around the country...Locals hoot derisively when this happens to a newcomer, a deep *lack* of compassion in their response. By this they will know you, Boston! By *this*? Let's hope not," says the bishop.

Then Bishop Alan spun out this great metaphor of appreciation for those gathered, but especially for you all! He said, "Here we are, friends – gathered in person for Diocesan Convention for the first time since November 2019. Thirty-one months ago, we were wending along the river of life when we all got Storrowed! We got our tops knocked off by the pandemic. For two years the box trucks of our lives were slammed, and stuck! And people were short-tempered all around us. And some of the decisions we made were derided as stupid or unnecessary. And we had to back up. Or we let the air out of our tires and kept going. Or we found a new route. Or maybe we still haven't found it ...and are seriously questioning our own navigational skills.

"But here in the Diocese of Massachusetts, you all have navigated this pandemic in ways that have been careful, and creative, and faithful. In the midst of our human foibles and frustration, there have been flashes of Storrow-esque derision or impatience. We have not always agreed about the best way forward. But worship has been led, and sacraments offered, and prayers raised, and pledges paid, and commitments kept, and the dead have been buried, and lonely people have been called upon, and hungry people fed, and missions budgets honored, and even new initiatives undertaken. In this altogether unprecedented time, you have been the Church...By this they will know you: by your Christian love and hopeful endurance. God bless you."

Bishop Gates noted that around our diocese he is seeing a renewed sense of energy – right alongside continued uncertainties. Attendance is crawling back up – though for most it's not yet at its pre-pandemic levels. The use of zoom and other virtual platforms for worship and formation is a blessing for many – but still inadequate for ministries that need that embodied presence at the heart of an Incarnational faith.

He said, "With many vestries I have discussed how we move forward from this pandemic. For the things we've had to adapt or set aside, we ask: Keep it up? Change it up? Bring it back? Or let it go? In the wake of Covid-19, "reimagining church" is no longer an abstract goal; it is an urgent calling. In each and every decision in our congregations, the "Call of Love in our Time and Place" is the ultimate criterion by which we are guided. 'By this they will know us.' "

In addition to gathering to select and thank leaders, approve a budget, celebrate milestones, and respond to various proposals, the Convention focused a good chunk time on one significant resolution that will have an impact on our life together as Episcopalians. Presented by our Racial Justice Commission, it is the establishment of a Reparations Fund. Bishop Alan noted that, in the context of our larger community and culture, "reparations are being recognized by institutions across the country – religious and secular – as one way to confront and redress the history of white supremacy, which not only traces its historic path through transatlantic slavery, Jim Crow laws, segregation, and red-lining, but also remains a current reality in efforts at voter suppression, banning books on anti-racism in schools and libraries, and a whole host of deep and abiding economic and social inequities." In our churches the House of Bishops is calling us to acknowledge and confess and grieve how through the generations we, good people that we are, have benefited from slavery and racism

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- directly or indirectly, knowingly or unwittingly - and to offer repentance, a new way of doing things, that redresses that injustice. So our Diocese voted yesterday to set aside \$3 million in next year's budget, to establish a Reparations Fund, and also is working on the criteria and guiding principles through which the funds will be disbursed.

Bishop Alan cited our Gospel for October 30th, Jesus' calling of the rich tax collector Zaccheus, as our primary guiding principle. Zaccheus had benefited from the unjust and corrupt tax system that the Romans had set up, and when he was singled out by Jesus himself, he had what is now known as a real "Come to Jesus" moment, when he realized how his wealth had piled up at the expense of everyone else:

"Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost." Zaccheus is a shining example of offering Reparations, repairing the damage that he had done to his fellow human beings.

So this is our Zaccheus moment as Episcopalians in the Diocese of Massachusetts, when we are also called to help repair the damage done to our fellow human beings for many generations. It requires significant changes to our diocesan budget. This year a good chunk of those funds will come from the money we will save after Bishop Gayle Harris retires. Bishop Alan will hire an assisting bishop, someone who is already a bishop has served elsewhere, rather than go through the lengthy and expensive process of calling and consecrating a brand-new bishop. The budgets for future years hasn't been set, but will also require changes in our diocesan priorities.

There is much more information on our Diocesan website. Please visit it at www.diomass.org for a fuller picture.

Blessings, Rev. Laurie

Upcoming Events

Every Tuesday: 11:30 am Holy Eucharist and Luncheon

Every Tuesday: South Shore Deanery: 7:30 pm - Prayers and Compline on Zoom

Sundays- "Operation Christmas Child" shoeboxes available for pick-up

Saturday, November 5th: Remember to turn clocks back to Eastern Standard Time!

Sunday, November 6th - All Saints' Sunday

Sunday, November 6th - Food First Sunday

Sunday, November 6th - Deadline for Holly Fair fudge contributions

November 11th and 12th - The 2022 Holly Fair

Hours ~ Friday 11/11, from 3:00 to 8:00PM ~ Saturday 11/12, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Thursday, November 17th, 2:00pm - Book Group at Judy Leamy's house

Sunday, November 20, at 11:30am in the Common Room, The Adult Religious Education Forum will reconvene

Wednesday, November 23rd, 7:00pm: Thanksgiving Eve service

Saturday, December 3rd, TBD: 1st Saturday of the Month Dinner

Sunday, December 4th Stewardship Sunday (collection of the pledges)

Sunday, December 11th commitment cards follow-up collection

Sunday, December 18th Victory Sunday (blessing of the pledges)

Sunday, January 1st offering envelope distribution begins

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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MAILED
November 2022

Important Dates

HOLLY FAIR
Nov. 11
3:00- 8:00PM
Nov. 12th
9:00AM -3:00PM

Nov. 11th
Office Closed
Veterans Day

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

Nov. 17th
Holy Happenings
articles due

Nov. 24th & 25th
Office will be closed
for Thanksgiving