

# HOLY HAPPENINGS

October 2020

## FROM THE DESK OF THE REV. LAURIE ROFINOT

### From the Desk of Rev. Laurie, Interim Priest

Greetings and blessings to all at Holy Nativity! I have now been with you about a month, and am humbled by the warm welcome and generous spirit of the parishioners I've met so far. My work as your interim priest will extend until you all are successful in calling your next rector. However long that takes, we will have one another as Christian companions and fellow ministers along the way.

In the first part of my interim training in August (by zoom, of course), we learned about the differences between "change" and "transition." The parish went through a significant change when, first, Fr. Harry left in January, then the COVID pandemic shut-down began in March, and then Fr. Brad left in April. Any ONE of those events would have been a big enough change for the parish to absorb, but you all have experienced three major changes in less than a year. What happens in the aftermath of your significant changes is a transition period, sometimes called the Neutral Zone, or for a more biblical flavor, with Moses in the Book of Exodus, Moving Through the Wilderness Together. This time lasts until the parish calls a new



### CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY

#### SCHEDULE OF SERVICE

*Sunday Morning Prayer*  
*Sunday 10 a.m.*

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

Parish Office 781-335-2030  
Rector 617-776-5604

E- Mail:  
office@holynativityweymouth.org

WEBSITE:  
www.holynativityweymouth.org

The Rev. Laurie Rofinot  
Organist & Choirmaster

Ed Muller, Warden  
Ron Russo, Warden  
Jim Kimball, Treasurer  
Maryann Gurney, Director of Christian Ed

Michael McGlynn, Sexton

Deb Robie, Secretary

rector and you move into a time of New Beginnings.

I'll address this more later, but we are now in this Wilderness time together, and it is a time to look at where you have been, where you are now, and where you would like to go, with God as your guide in all things. It can be a time of quiet, meditative thinking and praying, a time of "trying things out," a time of fruitfulness and creativity. It can be a time of grieving loss and a time of celebrating what continues. In my first month here, you have treated me to a taste of all of those things already, even with that necessary evil of social distancing! I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you better, as Companions on the Way.

"To all else you have given us, O Lord, we ask for but one thing more. Give us grateful hearts."

*George Herbert, 17th c.*  
*English poet and priest*



**Wardens Report 9/18/2020****Ron Russo**

Hello, and peace be with everyone. It has been approximately 6 months since we last reported on the health of our parish. So let's get started with an update. In March, Covid19 put us in a difficult and unexpected position. We had to close our beloved church and hall. We also lost our interim priest. Our search for an interim took a great deal of time and effort, but certainly well worth it as we finally have a wonderful bridge priest and soon to be our interim priest, Reverend Laurie Rofinot. Laurie is settling in and is already getting involved with our parish business. Thanks be to God. We also had a revolving door situation with our organist, but have now hired Marie-Elise Boyer. Marie-Elise is a resident of Paris, France. We have all had an opportunity to hear Marie play at Sunday prayer service, and well I certainly was very moved by Marie's piano playing. Marie will officially start on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. It has been very difficult to encapsulate what has transpired since Covid19 started. The executive committee is hard at work keeping prayer service available with ZOOM. So much of this is new to all of us, but we have persevered and I believe we now have it down. Additionally, we must acknowledge the Organist Search Committee. Our Chairperson, Judy Leamy, along with Beryl McFadden, Andrea Ross, and Bruce Blackly Smith, working together as a team have certainly made a very good selec-

tion.

We also must acknowledge Ed Muller and his outstanding work on providing us with prayer services, music and his thoughts on current and past affairs. Ed's pastoral leadership has been an asset to our parish (THANK YOU ED SOOOO MUCH).

Also, a big shout out to our Treasurer, Jim Kimball, for applying his magic and financial wizardry to keep the parish afloat. Jim has provided the finances we needed to accomplish all work that we have done. (THANK YOU SOOOO MUCH JIM !!!)

The Executive Committee decided to take advantage of the building closures and make some renovation and cleaning. Some of the updates include, emptying all the storage rooms in the lower level of the hall, cleaning and disinfecting the rugs and replacing the lower level forier floor as well as the back hall entrance floor. With one exception, all of the rooms have been painted including the administrative areas along with the foyers. The meeting hall and kitchen have also been painted. There remains some minor work that needs to be addressed. As the project manager for the painting of the parish buildings, I must acknowledge all the folks that have contributed to our success during this time.

Jim Kimball for his financial wizardry-painting-cleaning  
Mike McGlynn our Sexton-painting and building maintenance

Malcom Gurney-staging and painting of the hall light fixtures

Judy Leamy-cleaning

Rick Lang-painting

Bob Maxwell-painting-cleaning

Currently, we are slowly begin-

ning to see a return to some forms of normalcy. For instance, our Search Committee is now meeting on a weekly basis, the Vestry has established two new committees for our church regathering, and the formation of our new technology committees is just beginning. More details will soon be forthcoming  
Ron Russo.



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

Anne, Carly, Carol, Claire S., Corinne, Denise, Dennis Clifford, Dot, Ed, Eleanor, Eliza and Family, Ernie, Ewen & Pat MacDonald, Frank, George & family, Ginny, Hazel Brunelle, Helen Holbrook, Helen, James Schofield, John Murphy, John, Joan, Billie Greene & family, Judy Ridge, Julie, Katie, Kate McCarthy, Kathleen, Kelly M., Liz, Liz C., Marcia, Matt, Maureen, Maureen Doyle, Merieme, Myrtle Perkins, Nancy Mermet, Nate, Paige, Pat and her family, Phyllis Collari, Ray Clark, Rick, Roberta, Rocky, Shirley, Sophia, Tim, Thom and Maureen Shortt and Tommy L.

**Warden’s Report**

**Ed Muller**

Well a lot has happened since the last edition of Holy Happenings. I do not recall when the last newsletter went out, but here we are, and it is already Fall, and we have a new beginning in several aspects of our ministry here at Holy Nativity. First, I want to thank all who assisted in the online Sunday Morning Prayer service. To Fr. Brad who helped me become more aware of what it means to lead a service as a lay person. To Jim Kimball who provided the technical expertise and equipment to air the Sunday service. To Diana Blakely-Smith who ably assisted me in the worship service. To our musicians, Sasha, Elias and Jacob who provided their fine talents to compliment our service. I want to share my reflections on what leading the service meant. For those along on this journey you may recall, as I mentioned above, that Fr. Brad wanted to me feel comfortable and familiar with the service. Even though I try to read Morning Prayer daily it is different when leading the service for others. What I was not prepared for however, was how to prepare and deliver a message. I originally thought that I would just read a prepared or canned message. But after my first message which was the story of the Gospel song “Turn Your Radio On”, I gained a little confidence and was able with a lot and prayer and guidance from my brother-in-law David Green, a Pastor with the Covenant Church in Illinois, to prepare and deliver a message each week. I had the luxury of selecting the hymns which were mostly old familiar and favorite songs which some of us had not heard in quite a while. These hymns then became part of my musing for the week.

What probably surprised me most was the response from the parishioners and how the hymns and message struck a chord with them. So, I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity to worship with you in this way. And to think that if not for the pandemic I may not have had such an opportunity. So, thank you all who were a support on this aspect of my ministry here at Holy Nativity.

I mentioned above the new beginnings and I welcome the Rev. Laurie Rofinot as she joins us on our journey here along with Marie-Elise Boyer, who will be joining us as our new Organist/Choir Director and not to forget Maryann Gurney who returns as our Church School Director. So, although we will be worshipping in different ways for a while, I am excited that we are able to continue to worship together and carry on Jesus’ work here in Weymouth’

In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Ed Muller

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**PARISH OUTREACH  
REACHOUT**

**National Make A  
Difference Day**

**Saturday  
October 24, 2020**

Make A Difference Day is an unofficial secular holiday or observance that emphasizes community service and volunteerism. It has been celebrated on the

fourth Saturday of October since 1992. Every year, millions of people across the United States volunteer and perform projects for their community, for individuals in need and for charitable organizations.

How can YOU make a difference...? REACH OUT TO OTHERS!! Pick up the phone and call someone. Maybe a parishioner, friend, neighbor, or family member. We all send lots of texts, emails, and cards. But let’s get personal by making a phone call. It’s wonderful to hear someone’s voice on the other end of the phone. Many people are housebound and would love to hear from you!

Not sure what to say? Prior to calling make a list of what you might talk about. Something interesting you read or perhaps you saw on TV. (NOT POLITICS!) Are they an Alex Trebek Jeopardy Fan? Sports fan? Talk about your pet or their pet. Read any good books lately? Watched a good movie? How about a recipe you’ve tried or a restaurant that has great pizza for delivery! Talk about the beautiful foliage.

It is a *small gesture* on your part, but may make a BIG DIFFERENCE to someone else. So REACHOUT and call someone on NATIONAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY!

If you need phone numbers of a parishioner, please email Maryann Gurney or Deb in the office. We can get you those phone numbers.

## Search Committee News

Greetings from your Search Committee. We know that it has been a long while since we have seen each other in and around the church grounds but we wanted you to know that the work of the committee has been going on for a little while now and we have been able to do it in person at the church using all of the Covid-19 protocols to stay safe. Before we go any further here again are the members of the Search Committee:

Steve Williams (Chair), Jim Kimball (Co-Chair), Beryl McFadden (Corresponding Secretary), Mar-yann Gurney, Linda Muller, Shirley Devore, Paul MacPhee, Bob Maxwell and Rebecca Riley. Our Search Consultant is Elinor Horner. We are already having some great and meaningful discussions as we begin this ministry and it is a very dedicated group of people to boot.

We are excited about the journey we (as a committee) have started and you as the parish are taking with us as well, because very soon the first step in our search process, the Holy Nativity All Parish Survey, will be released on or around October 1st. This is a very important survey as your answers will help guide the direction of the search using our Parish Profile that will be written by the committee based on all of our responses. This time of discernment is critical and each of our voices (yours and mine) are very critical to having a successful search. We hope that everyone will respond to the survey and answer all the questions honestly. The survey will be **mailed out** to everyone including a Children & Teens Survey to those families that have

children and teens attending Holy Nativity as their voices must be heard as well.

**A letter of explanation will be included** with the survey to instruct you on what to do and how to get the survey back to us. The deadline is October 17, 2020. If you need extra copies of the survey you can pick them up at the office Mon-Fri from 9am-1pm. If for some reason you are unable to fill out the survey form, please leave a message with Deb Robie at the church office (781-335-2030) and a member of the Search Committee will contact you by phone to get your responses to the survey.

We look forward to your participation and will continue to update everyone at virtual coffee hours, via email and through postings in future Holy Happenings as the process continue to progress. Thank you for all your support and prayers. Feel free to reach out to a committee member with any other questions once you have received the survey.

On behalf of the Search Committee, Steve Williams, Chair

### Church of the Holy Nativity Kitchen Garden 2020

2020 brought new challenges not only to the world but to our tiny vegetable garden tucked away next to the church. Gone was the expertise of Father Harry's wife Charlene who, over the years, had watered and kept a close eye on the veggie patches while nurturing plants and producing wonderful produce for our parishioners.

A new team with little experience of working the garden was now in charge.

Everything came to an abrupt halt in March due to Covid 19. The church closed and the usual hustle bustle stopped, but there was gardening to be done!

During the spring the raised beds were turned over, pots were readied for planting and donated compost supplemented the gardens. The soil seemed healthy with plenty of worm activity and ready for planting in late May.

As the months moved along and the church was quiet the garden began to come alive. Out went a call for vegetable seedlings and mulch and it was answered. Tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, cucumbers, beans, squashes, scallions and herbs were all planted with the goal to donate produce to our local healthcare workers and parishioners.

Everything was going well until the local animal population discovered gourmet dining. Not to be deterred the gardens were netted off and the crops started to flourish. Little by little produce was picked and given away, and thanks to a small group of parishioners, the gardens were kept watered.

The unrelenting summer heat slowed down growth, drying out the soil and some plants withered despite daily watering.

Despite the extreme challenges this year we have learned from mother nature, donated fresh produce to healthcare workers, parishioners and local residents and last but not least had fun!

To quote May Sarton "*A garden is always a series of losses set against a few triumphs, like life itself*".

Judy Leamy

**Treasurer's Report August 2020**

INCOME	Aug	YTD	Budget 2020
PLATE OFFERING	-	1,168.00	10,000.00
PLEDGE	6,606.00	73,210.00	100,000.00
OUTREACH	3,995.00	22,790.00	32,000.00
SPECIAL DAYS & OFFERING	-	762.00	4,000.00
SPECIAL EVENTS		372.00	1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,601.00</b>	<b>98,302.00</b>	<b>147,500.00</b>
MUSIC FUND	-	97.00	
INT. & DIV. INCOME	40.59	1,106.10	
SPECIAL PURPOSE		15,949.00	
<b>totals</b>	<b>10,641.59</b>	<b>115,454.10</b>	
DISBURSEMENTS	Aug	YTD	Budget 2020
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	-	-	200.00
CLERGY PENSION POOL	-	1,371.55	4,129.63
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT	-	-	13,323.00
ELECTRICITY	773.01	3,927.55	6,000.00
EQUITY ACCOUNT	-	-	809.00
GAS	118.09	5,485.55	7,000.00
GEN. PARISH	-	692.72	800.00
GENERAL INSURANCE	-	6,616.75	9,000.00
GENERAL MAINT.	-	1,364.03	750.00
HEALTH INSURANCE	-	251.50	3,563.50
HOUSING ALLOWANCE	-	-	1,500.00
MAINT. CONTRACTS	-	-	-
MUSIC SUP. SUB ORGANIST	375.00	1,275.00	500.00
MUSIC SUPPLIES	-	133.00	250.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	3.08	666.12	4,000.00
OUTREACH	-	-	200.00
PRINTING & BULLETINS	149.59	1,196.72	2,000.00
SALARY: CLERGY	-	-	13,822.67
SALARY: ASSIST. CLERGY	-	1,500.00	1,500.00
SALARY: DIR. OF MUSIC	-	3,000.00	12,000.00
SALARY: SECRETARY	850.00	6,800.00	10,200.00
SALARY: SEXTON	624.00	4,992.00	7,488.00
SALARY: DIR. OF CHRISTIAN ED	888.92	3,333.45	4,000.00
SEARCH COMMITTEE	750.00	750.00	2,000.00
SPECIAL EVENT EXP.	-	-	-
STEWARDSHIP	-	398.13	400.00
STOKES LOAN	207.65	1,453.55	2,491.80
TAXES	414.40	5,673.96	2,000.00
(less withheld taxes)	(337.66)	(3,717.79)	
TEL. TV & INTERNET	200.02	1,576.79	2,500.00
TRASH	158.00	914.00	1,380.00
TRAVEL	-	2,500.00	3,000.00
WATER	-	845.62	1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,174.10</b>	<b>53,000.20</b>	<b>118,307.60</b>
SPECIAL OFF. UTOW		-	
SPECIAL PURPOSE	4,141.74	14,177.03	
<b>totals</b>	<b>9,315.84</b>	<b>67,177.23</b>	

**Note from Jim Kimball....**

Thank you for your continued pledge commitment during these most trying times of COVID19. We are so grateful for your generous giving to support Holy Nativity. Your pledge is most important now with the addition of new expenses now that we have an interim priest that started September first and an organist starting October first. Your pledge is a tangible expression of a strengthened commitment and connection to God, to one another and our church.

Stay Well

**Vestry**

Next Vestry meeting is  
 Wednesday, October 21st, at 7:30 in the  
 Asher Stoddard Hall



**HOLLY FAIR 2020**

Sadly, due to the Corona Virus, the Church of the Holy Nativity will not hold the annual Holly Fair.



The Holy Nativity book club started this past summer. We have 8 members and are now reading our second book.

We started with the book “Jimmy Bluefeather” by author, Kim Heacox. It is a well-written, heart-warming, and suspenseful story of Old Keb, a part-Tlingit Indian who lives in a small village in Alaska. Part quest, part rebirth, the novel spins a story of Alaska’s Tlingit people and the land, an old man dying, and a young man learning to live. It’s a story of adventure, love, and reconciliation.

We are currently reading “The Art of Racing In The Rain” A story about a Formula One race car driver who understands that the techniques needed on the racetrack can also be used to successfully navigate everyday life. Besides his career, Denny has three loves of his life -- his beautiful wife, their young daughter and his best friend, which is a dog that wants to be reincarnated into a human.



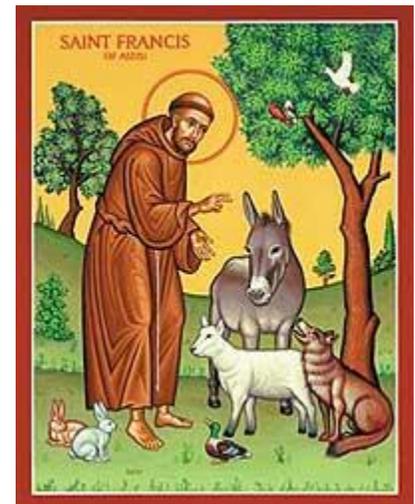
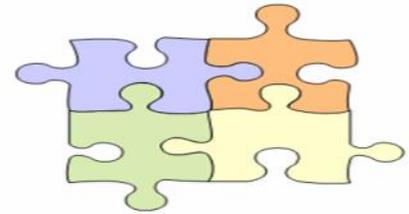
### Sunday School

Sunday school will be starting up virtually on Sunday, September 27. We will meet on Zoom at 11:15 (after coffee hour) for approximately 30 minutes. We’ll see how it goes and make adjustments as we go along. I welcome any suggestions you may have. If anyone wants to occasionally teach a class that would be greatly appreciated!

On Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> we will Celebrate Saint Francis Day. If you would like to email me a picture of you and your pet, someone else’s pet or a favorite stuffed animal I will be making a slide show to share with the children. Please include the animal’s name, age and any other information you would like to share. I would love to have pictures from many members of the congregation!

We will not have Sunday school October 11, Columbus Day weekend.

Hi everyone! Fall and winter are coming. If you are interested in putting together some puzzles this winter, I have a friend who has some 1,000 piece puzzles. They are Buffalo puzzles with big pieces. She is the only one who has done these puzzles and so they are in excellent shape! If you're interested contact Maryann Gurney at [gurney1019@comcast.net](mailto:gurney1019@comcast.net).



**HOLY HAPPENINGS**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**MAILED**  
September 29, 2020

**Important Dates**

**October 1st  
Search Committee  
Survey sent out**

**October 4th  
Blessing of Animals &  
Barn babies**

**October 12th  
Columbus Day  
Office Closed**

**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**

**October 17th  
Survey return dead-  
line**

**October 15th  
Holy Happenings  
articles due**

**October 24th  
Make a Difference  
Day**