

HOLY HAPPENINGS

March, 2021

**From the desk of the Rev.
Laurie Rofinot**

These days there is a phrase, “Spiritual, But Not Religious,” which some non-church-going people have adopted to define not only their relationship with organized religion, but also their relationship with God. I hope that definition doesn’t exclude those of us who ARE religious from being counted as spiritual as well...! Because the season of Lent is designed to help us focus on just that - our spirituality and our relationship with God.

We may think that being “religious” has more to do with things that may set us apart, like belonging to one church denomination or another, reciting the Creed or using the Book of Common Prayer (or not). Spirituality, on the other hand, is more about *experiences* of self-transcendence, belonging, connection, and relationship. One of my colleagues in preaching, the Rev. Jocelyn Ogden Schaefer (Sermons that Work, March 7, 2021) writes: “Among all of our liturgical seasons, Lent may be the most focused on personal *experiences*. We aim to



LENT

**Church of the
Holy Nativity**

OFFICE HOURS

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

Parish Office 781-335-2030
Interim Priest 617-776-5604

E- Mail:
office@holynativityweymouth.org

WEBSITE:
www.holynativityweymouth.org

The Rev. Laurie Rofinot, Interim

Organist & Choirmaster
Marie-Elise Boyer

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

Maryann Gurney, Director of
Christian Education
Shirley Devore, Assistant Teacher

Michael McGlynn, Sexton
Deb Robie, Secretary

clear away debris that blocks loving connection with God and one another and open ourselves to encounters with the Divine through prayer and saturation in Scripture. Lenten “disciplines,” despite their stern-sounding name, are more about spirituality than religion... Self-examination and repentance; prayer and fasting; reading and meditating on God’s Word—all of these are pathways toward a relationship with the liberating, loving, and life-giving God, and friendships with those on a similar pilgrimage.”

This Lent we at Holy Nativity have included at the beginning of worship the Ten Commandments, which may seem like putting a harsh focus on “God’s laws.” But they are actually an invitation to “...lay a foundation for spirituality to blossom out of religion, for encounter to emerge from rules, for transcendence to arise from tradition. These teachings provide a foundation for spirituality in at least three ways.”

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Upcoming Events at Holy Nativity

- ◆ Saturdays in Lent, 11:00AM: Lenten Bible Study on Zoom, March 6, 13, 20 and 27. Contact The Rev. Laurie at LARofinot@aol.com to sign up.
- ◆ Sunday, March 14th between 12:00 and 1:00 The Sunday School Lenten outreach for March is a St. Patrick's Day Drive By - Food Drive!
- ◆ Next Sunday, March 14th: Daylight Savings Time Returns
- ◆ Luminary display scheduled for Sunday, March 21, the day after the first day of Spring.
- ◆ Next Fireside Chat is scheduled for Saturday, March 27th at 5:00-note your calendars!

Holy Week Services:

- ◆ Palm Sunday, March 28th: Zoom Holy Eucharist followed by in-person Communion with distribution of Palms.
- ◆ Maundy Thursday, April 1st and Good Friday, April 2nd at 7:00PM via Zoom.

Word from the Wardens

Without the normal hustle and bustle of the pre-pandemic times it seems as though your wardens might not have much to report on and that it is true to an extent. Things are happening at Holy Nativity, just not in the same way. Our worship services are now virtual and as are most committee meetings. Coffee hour seems a thing of the past. Through it all we continue to strive for the prize. In thinking of the contemplative and meditative season of Lent, we are sure many are thinking, I do not need any more quiet time, the quarantining has taken care of that. So, as your wardens be assured that we are with the during your Lenten journey no matter how it is manifested in your life. As we look towards Easter, we are working with Rev. Laurie and the Regathering Committee about the possibility of having an in-person Celebration whether on the lawn or in the Sanctuary. We both look to a brighter day when we will be able to worship and enjoy fellowship with all from Holy Nativity.

In the Love of Christ, Ron Russo & Ed Muller



LENT

First, we realize that we worship a God whose desire for our wellbeing *transcends* our small-mindedness, resistance, and selfishness, as shown in the very first Commandment: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. You shall have no other gods before me.” This is the God who heard our cry in Egypt and is committed to liberating us from every kind of captivity, who provides for us, and is eager to encounter us in love. Next, the second through fifth teachings are all about *connection*: rejecting the idols that keep us from the nourishing, life-giving flow of God’s love; resting on the sabbath to enjoy what God has given us and connect with loved ones; honoring those who have prepared the way for us. And thirdly, the final five teachings are all about *belonging* and finding safety and trust in our communities: refraining (at the very least!) from murder, theft, lying, unfaithfulness, and envy.

During Lent, let us remember that the purpose of focusing on the Ten Commandments “isn’t to induce guilt or serve as a litmus test for the true Christians; rather, to guide us into a genuine spirituality that God wants for us and with us: self-transcendence, connection, and belonging.” AMEN!

Search Committee News

The Search Committee continues to move forward steadily in the Zoom world of meetings these days. At the writing of this update we are starting to look at a rough draft of the Parish Profile. It is in the early stages and will be fine tuned during this month, along with preparing two important Diocesan forms necessary to post the opening for rector here at Holy Nativity.

The committee hopes to post the opening and go "live" with the Parish Profile shortly after Easter, so please continue to send your prayers. We work closely with our consultant and Regional Canon when needed and also appreciate the support and input from Rev. Laurie and the vestry.

This last month we had a great meeting with the vestry as the Search Committee sat in to clarify some items and make sure we are all on the same page moving forward with the process. Once the profile has been approved copies will be made available to the parish so that you will know what has been written.

We thank you all once again for your important input. As always, should you have any

Search committee update continued:

questions about the search process, please contact a committee member.

On behalf of the Search Committee,

Steve Williams

I  Book Club

The Book club is reading “*Oona Out of Order*” by Margarita Montimore.

It is an innovative story of time travel and self discovery about a woman who lives her life in a non-linear manner and grapples with all the things she loses and gains from that.

Sunday, March 14th





SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

During Lent, the **Sunday school** children will be learning about the 12 Apostles and Jesus' life while here on earth. We will learn through multi sensory activities such as cutting paper doll chains (spreading the good news starts with one person and multiplies to many more), puppets and some month end outdoor activities.

Luminary Update

As you know, the luminary display was cancelled for Valentine's Day due to predicted wet weather. Names of loved ones have been written on the luminary bags and they are filled and ready to go! A small group of parents and their children met at the church and filled the 200 bags with sand and readied the electric votive candles. The new date for the luminary display is Sunday March 21st. Hopefully the ground will be dry and we will be able to display all 200 bags on the front lawn of the church!

Food Drive for the Weymouth Food Pantry

The Sunday school Lenten outreach for March is a St. Patrick's Day is a Drive By - Food Drive!

Come to the church with a bag full 'o food on Sunday March 14th between 12:00 and 1:00 for some St. Patrick's Day shenanigans! We will have some leapin' leprechauns, Irish music, decorations and more for you to and enjoy. The children will be havin' a grand time takin' the food from yer car as you drive by and we'll all be keepin' a safe distance from one another. It'll be grand!

There's an old Irish saying that translated into English goes like this, "**GLADNESS OF HEART IS THE VERY LIFE OF MAN, CHEERFULNESS PROLONGS HIS DAY.**"



As a Parish, We pray for:

Anne, Aaron, Brian, Bertha, Breda O., Carly, Carol, Carol O., Cheryl T., Claire S., Corinne, Denise, Dot, Dot D., Ed, Eleanor, Ellie, Eliza and Family, Ernie, Ewen & Pat MacDonald, Frank, Fredrick, Grover, Hazel Brunelle, Helen Holbrook, Helen, Steven M. Haley, James Schofield, Jessica, Jim, John Murphy, John, Joan, Billie Greene & family, Judy Ridge, Julie, Kathleen, Katie, Kelly M., Liz, Marcia, Matt, Maureen, Maureen Doyle, Merieme, Mim, Myrtle Perkins, Nancy Crosby, Nancy Mermet, Nate, Paige, Pat and her family, Patty, Phyllis Collari, Ray Clark, Roberta, Rocky, Ruth K., Shirley, Sophia, Susan, Tim, and Tommy L.

Easter Memorial Flowers

Due to the COVID pandemic, Altar Guild will not be listing loved ones' names for Easter Memorial flowers this April. Please remember all deceased members of our church family in your prayers

As always, requested monthly flowers will continue to be placed on the altar and Altar Guild appreciates your generous donations to help defray our costs.

***Kathy Midi
Altar Guild Treasurer***

Grieving Support

For those who are still grieving, and those who have recently lost a loved one; please know the church is here for you even though COVID-19 has closed the doors... Temporarily!! Hopefully, our grieving group meetings will be able to continue where we left off when this is over. However, if you are lonely or discouraged please call Shirley Hayes and she can put you in contact with one of our grieving group friends. You will become engaged in a conversation that will help your loneliness and bring happiness to the caller on the other end. If you know of someone you would like to chat with, please contact: Shirley at 781-335-9145.

Treasurer's Report

INCOME	Jan.	YTD	Budget 2021
PLATE OFFERING	100.00	100.00	5,000.00
PLEDGE	8,371.00	8,371.00	100,000.00
PROPERTY USAGE	5,005.00	5,005.00	30,000.00
SPECIAL DAYS & OFFERING	25.00	25.00	2,500.00
SPECIAL EVENTS	-	-	16,000.00
Total	13,501.00	13,501.00	153,500.00
MUSIC FUND	97.00	97.00	
INT. & DIV. INCOME	312.37	312.37	
SPECIAL PURPOSE	15,730.00	15,730.00	
totals	29,640.37	29,640.37	
DISBURSEMENTS	Jan	YTD	Budget 2021
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	-	-	200.00
CLERGY PENSION POOL	3,447.60	3,447.60	8,274.24
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT	-	-	13,034.00
ELECTRICITY	542.77	542.77	6,000.00
EQUITY ACCOUNT	-	-	-
GAS	-	-	7,000.00
GEN. PARISH	-	-	700.00
GENERAL INSURANCE	2,232.50	2,232.50	9,500.00
GENERAL MAINT.	55.97	55.97	750.00
HEALTH INSURANCE	35.00	35.00	3,734.52
HOUSING ALLOWANCE	500.00	500.00	6,000.00
MAINT. CONTRACTS	-	-	-
MUSIC SUP: SUB ORGANIST	75.00	75.00	500.00
MUSIC SUPPLIES	-	-	300.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	-	-	2,000.00
OUTREACH	-	-	200.00
PRINTING & BULLETINS	177.59	177.59	2,000.00
SALARY: CLERGY	3,330.66	3,330.66	39,968.00
SALARY: ASSIST. CLERGY	-	-	-
SALARY: DIR. OF MUSIC	1,000.00	1,000.00	12,000.00
SALARY: SECRETARY	890.00	890.00	11,160.00
SALARY: SEXTON	720.00	720.00	8,640.00
SALARY: DIR. OF CHRISTIAN ED	444.46	444.46	4,000.00
SEARCH COMMITTEE	-	-	2,000.00
SPECIAL EVENT EXP.	-	-	-
STEWARDSHIP	-	-	400.00
STOKES LOAN	207.65	207.65	2,491.80
TAXES	773.03	773.03	2,500.00
(less withheld taxes)	(417.81)	(417.81)	
TEL. TV & INTERNET	264.64	264.64	2,500.00
TRASH	119.00	119.00	1,400.00
TRAVEL	-	-	1,000.00
WATER	-	-	1,500.00
Sub Totals	14,398.06	14,398.06	149,752.56
SPECIAL OFF. UTOW	-	-	
SPECIAL PURPOSE	2,369.04	2,369.04	
Totals	16,767.10	16,767.10	

HOLY HAPPENINGS

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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<p>MAILED</p> <p>March 5, 2021</p>

<p>Important Dates</p> <p>Saturdays March 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 11:00AM: Lenten Bible Study on Zoom</p> <p>Sunday, March 14th: Daylight Savings Time Returns</p> <p>Sunday, March 14th 12:00 till 1:00 St. Patrick's Day Drive By - Food Drive!</p>

<p>Mission Statement</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p>Important Dates</p> <p>Luminary display rescheduled for Sunday, March 21, the first day of Spring!</p> <p>Second Fireside Chat Saturday, March 27th</p> <p>Palm Sunday, March 28th</p>
