

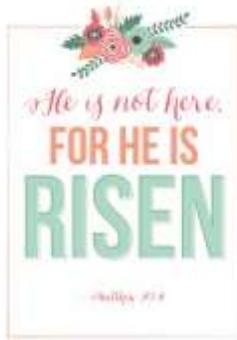


OUR WORSHIP SERVICES

Weekly

Sundays
 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Sunday School and Nursery Care

Wednesdays
 12pm Noonday Prayer and Holy Eucharist



“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song”

Pope John Paul II



*Embraced
 Equipped
 Empowered*

FROM PASTOR CHAD'S DESK

Dear Family of God,

Folks, if this Lenten Season has taught me anything it is that when we call Lent a journey in the desert, it can really be that. This month, we have seen and experienced much more intimately the feelings of isolation and temptation that Christ did during his time in the desert, as we stay home and practice social distancing in order to help prevent the spread of this pandemic. During this time things have changed in the world as we know it, we can't gather together, we can't shake hands, we can't go about our daily "normal" routine, and we have been forced to slow down in our lives. But rather than dwell on the things we cannot do, I would encourage you to **rejoice and be thankful in the things we can do**. We can still engage as a community of faith, we can still gather through the use of technology, we can still enjoy the wonderful world God has created, and we can slow down our lives.

For far too long we have been moving at breakneck speed of work, social obligations, and many diverse distractions and demands upon our lives. While we may be practicing social distancing, we have also in many ways reengaged with what is to be in community. As I look out my front porch, I see many more of our neighbors than I have before as they take walks as couples and families in the great outdoors. Many of my friends on social media are posting about family hikes, baking meals and desserts, building forts out of blankets and chairs in their home and they are even engaging with their faith in ways they haven't done before.

Is it that perhaps we are relearning what it means to be community again?

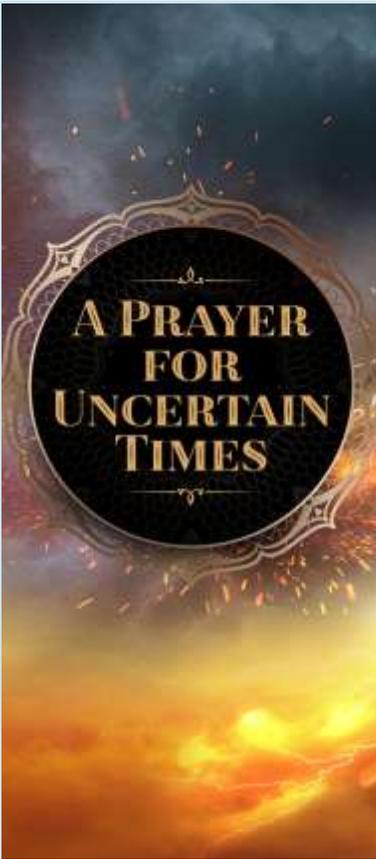
Here at Nativity, we to are relearning many great things as well, namely that the church is more than a building with beautiful stained-glass windows, **it is us!**

We are **learning!** Aided by Facebook Live & Zoom we are gathering on Sunday Mornings and Noonday Wednesday to worship as the Body of Christ. The J.A.M. Club led by Jenny Otto is still happening on Sundays using Zoom at 9a.m. and our Godly Play leaders like Deb Heseck are including Godly Play in the packets we send out.

We are **caring** for one another! During this time, I, the Vestry, and Ministry Leaders have been reaching out to the congregation through phone calls and notes. Additionally, many of you have been calling each other and especially our most vulnerable who have been kept inside and away from human interaction. Keep it up!

We are **connecting** with one another! Again, through Facebook Live & Zoom, we are still gathering together to worship, and with the help of a few devoted volunteers we are getting the sacraments and worship packets delivered in a safe and sacred way.

(continued on page 6)



Prayer of the Month

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Our minds are consumed by a virus that threatens our bodies

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Our band-width is stretched thin as we try to gain control

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Our minds are filled with fear about how we will pay the bills

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Our brains are tired of seeking answers to unknown scientific solutions

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Our attention is devoted to 24-hour news cycles while our families still need us to see them

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Our minds are overcome with worry about

how bad things may get

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Melt our fear
Mold our faith
Fill us with hope
Use us to share the good news that you are the source of life and peace.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Draw our attention to new life budding in the trees and flowers outside our windows

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Focus our minds on gratitude for breath that sustains us

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Shape our instinct to find you in everyone we see in a Zoom meeting

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Set our thoughts on what is pleasing and good

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Cultivate our creativity to find new ways to connect with our community

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
Make space in our brains for meditation on your presence in us

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us
May it be so

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

*“Jesus said to her,
“I am the resurrection and the
life.
Whoever believes in me,
though he die, yet shall he live.”
John 11:25*



UTO BOXES

The blue UTO boxes will be collected on April 25. Please return to the church office. If the circumstances do not permit in-person return, please mail a check with “UTO” in the memo.



The building may be closed but we still have to pay the bills and prepare for the return of our ministries!

Please keep up with your pledges and donations. There are several ways you can still contribute during these uncertain times:

- Send a check
- Call our pledge treasurer to set up EFTs
- Go to our website, click on the “Give” menu item (top right of your screen) and choose the Paypal button. You can then give via your bank account or a major credit card.

By Rev. Erica Robinson-Johnson



*Catherine Rossetti
(Mary Frances Rozak's mother)*



**She walks in beauty,
like the night
Of cloudless climes
and starry skies**

♥ LORD BYRON

Extraordinary People

This month our #Extraordinary life of the month is Kevan Flanagan. Kevan has served as an acolyte for many years quietly helping on the worship team. Please give him a BIG THANK YOU when you see him next!



IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

MATTHEW 5:16





*St. Patrick's Day Senior Luncheon
with an Irish Jig demonstration by Ainsleigh Flanagan!*

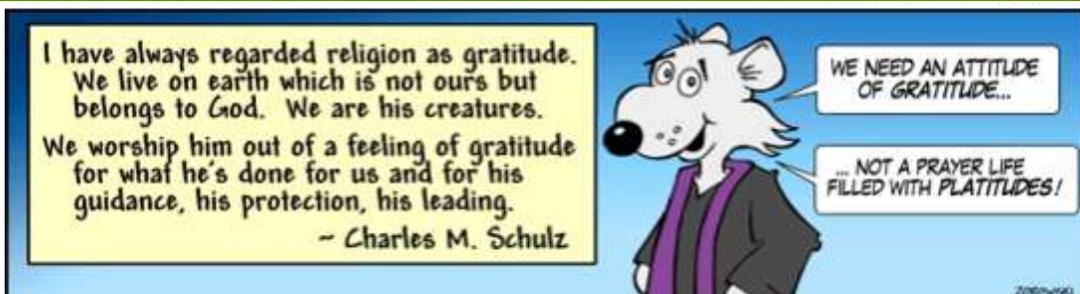


Nativity Preschool joins the Northborough Bear Hunt!! What a great way to keep our little ones busy and about in a safe manner! "Bear hunts" are being set up by neighbors and businesses everywhere in a bid to keep kids – and parents – busy during self-isolation, while also adhering to social distancing.

The activity, which is based on the award-winning children's book "Going on a Bear Hunt," involves placing a stuffed bear in the windows of residences or businesses. As kids are out with parents, either driving or walking (while maintaining six feet of distance from others), they "hunt" for the bears. The quarantine-approved scavenger hunt has gained popularity around the world, and parents have shared how grateful they have been for the show.



Register on our website, churchofthenativity.org/mensministry





Young life Events

Young Life is a kick back of high school students who want to have fun, eat, and get to know each other. But it's even more. You talk about important things and hear how they relate to your faith. Some of the kids go to church, some don't, but each one wants to be in a place where they talk freely and not be judged.

Upcoming Dates (to be confirmed):

April 4 and 18

May 2 and 16

Club Times:

Wyldlife (Middle School) 5:45-7PM

Young Life (High School) 7:20-9PM

Club Location:

189 Stow Rd. Marlborough

Any questions? Call Dianne Vanacore: 508-667-7660



“When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me

Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.”

John 13:12-16

From Pastor Chad's Desk

(conclusion)

While these don't replace gathering together physically, they continue connecting us and keep learning moving along.

Beloved, the building may be closed, but the church never stops because we are the church. Stay encouraged, family! This time will pass and soon we will gather together again. Our God is a Mighty Fortress and still is in our midst. Stay

Holy, Stay Blessed, and Stay Safe.

In Christ,



2019 Easter at Nativity

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.”

Pope John Paul II





“If man had his way, the plan of redemption would be an endless and bloody conflict. In reality, salvation was bought not by Jesus' fist, but by His nail-pierced hands; not by muscle but by love; not by vengeance but by forgiveness; not by force but by sacrifice. Jesus Christ our Lord surrendered in order that He might win; He destroyed His enemies by dying for them and conquered death by allowing death to conquer Him.”

A.W. Tozer
 “Preparing for Jesus' Return:
 Daily Live the Blessed Hope”



“Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.”

HOLY WEEK



Palm
 Sunday

April 5 10am



Maundy
 Thursday

April 9 7pm



Good
 Friday

April 10 7pm



Easter
 Vigil

April 11 7pm



Easter
 Sunday

April 12 10am

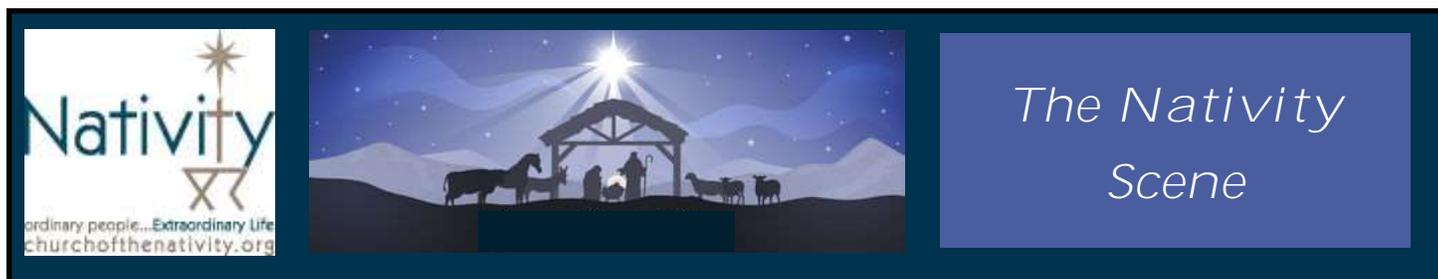
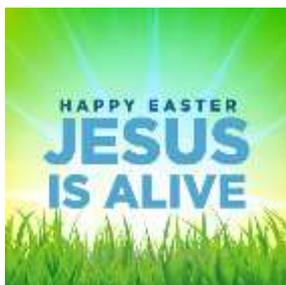
JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AND ZOOM!!



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www.churchofthenativity.org

*We have been called
together by God
to be and to make
faithful followers
of our Lord Jesus Christ*

Check out our weekly News
and Notes listing of announce-
ments and events.



April 2020

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 04/05: | 10am: Palm Sunday Service |
| 04/09: | 7pm: Maundy Thursday Service |
| 04/10: | 9am: Good Friday Men's Hike |
| | 7pm: Good Friday Service |
| 04/11: | 7pm: Easter Vigil Service |
| 04/12: | 10am: Easter Sunday Service |