



December
2019

THE NATIVITY SCENE



ADVENT QUIET DAY & CHRISTMAS SERVICES



As we begin Advent and the new church liturgical year, this is a good time to think and pray about new ways we can enhance our spiritual life as we prepare for the birth of our Lord. This time of year can be a crazy one with lots of things that can distract us from an intentional and deliberate time as we enter Advent in a time of waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

In order to assist with an Advent intentional spiritual practice, I invite you to set aside some time and attend a Quiet Day on Saturday morning December 14 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Margaret Cohea and I will co-facilitate this mini-retreat and I will offer suggestions on how to simplify one's life during this busy time of year. We will conclude the Quiet Day with the Holy Eucharist in the Chapel.

We look forward to our Christmas services. Please invite a friend or neighbor to church for one of our following Christmas services:

Tuesday, December 24 at 4 pm	Family Pageant Service with Christmas Carols
Tuesday, December 24 at 6 pm	Traditional Candlelight Service with Full Choir and Incense
Wednesday, December 25 at 10 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I with Christmas Carols

All services will have Holy Communion. If you are not able to make any of the Christmas services, the clergy will be glad to bring Christmas Holy Communion to you at your home, retirement home or nursing home. Please contact Fr. Scot or Deacon Martha if you would like to schedule this.

EPISCOPAL 101 CLASSES

I am excited to offer two Episcopal 101 classes for the Nativity community to learn or relearn about our denomination's faith including Anglican theology; the history of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion; the Book of Common Prayer; the sacraments of the church; the orders of deacon, priest, and bishop; the governance of The Episcopal Church; a general overview of world religions; and why people go to church and what brings them to church.

Please join me for Episcopal 101 classes on either of the following days:

Tuesdays	3:00 - 4:30 pm	beginning December 10
Thursdays	6:00 - 7:30 pm	beginning December 12

We will meet for about 9 weeks December through February. This is in preparation for the March 1, 2020 visit of our Bishop Jennifer Reddall, where she will confirm new Episcopalians as they officially join The Episcopal Church of the Nativity. Please attend these classes at your convenience. No need to RSVP. Bring a friend!

Faithfully in Christ,
The Reverend Scot McComas
Rector



Nativity Schedule

22405 N. Miller Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85255
Telephone:
480-307-9216
nativityscottsdale.org

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 Holy Eucharist Rite I
**10:00 Holy Eucharist Rite II
with Children's Chapel**
11:00 Hospitality - All Are Welcome
11:15 Youth & Children Gather
11:20 Power Bible Study

Tuesday Schedule

6:00 pm Centering Prayer



Wednesday Schedule

10:00 am Centering Prayer
6:00 pm Evening Prayer with
Holy Communion
6:30 pm Bible Study

Nativity Staff

The Rev. Scot McComas, Rector
scotmccomas@thenativity.net
704-779-6113

The Rev. Dr. Wayne V. Whitney, Associate Rector
waynewhitney@thenativity.net

The Rev. Martha Durham, Deacon
marthadurham@thenativity.net

Juliana Witt, Music Director
julianawitt@thenativity.net

Mandy Hodges,
Director of Youth, Children & Family Ministries
mandyhodges@thenativity.net

Mina Rafferty
Parish Administrator
minarafferty@thenativity.net

Ernesto Escamilla, Sexton

Nativity Vestry

Senior Warden: Suzanne Cohen 480-586-6625
secohenjd@yahoo.com

Junior Warden: Warren Sambach 480-451-6995
nywarren@cox.net

Treasurer Art Graf 602-695-3400
mxgk25a@aol.com

Sarah Banks 480-204-1732
sdwnaz@yahoo.com

Jon Bost 602-618-6781
jonrbost@yahoo.com

Margaret Cohea 703-717-1877
mvcohea246@gmail.com

Bill Deihl 480-223-7796
bjdeihl@aol.com

Norma Hyatt 623-516-9346
nvhyatt@gmail.com

Paul Rank 513-300-3729
paulrank1@mac.com

On November 17, The Feast Day of Endicott Peabody, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Tombstone, AZ celebrated their Founder's Day. Bishop Jennifer Reddall made her first outing after her son's stroke and she was in great form.

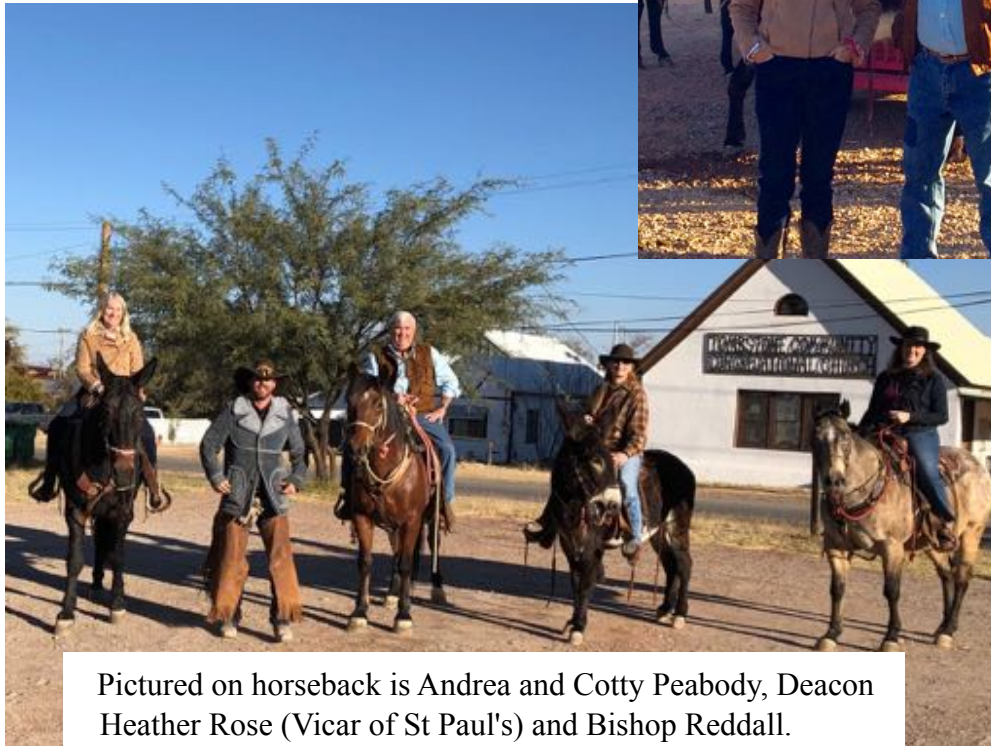
Founded in 1882, St. Paul's is the oldest Protestant church in Arizona and the first Episcopal mission established in Arizona. The Founding Vicar was Endicott Peabody, Cotty Peabody's great-grandfather.

The Bishop, Andrea and Cotty as well as Deacon Heather Rose rode through Tombstone much the way it might have been done in 1882.

Following that there was a breakfast for the parish, a service of Confirmation and the Blessing of a new altar followed by yet another wonderful meal.



St Paul's at Sunrise



Pictured on horseback is Andrea and Cotty Peabody, Deacon Heather Rose (Vicar of St Paul's) and Bishop Reddall.

The next time you are in Tombstone stop by St. Paul's Episcopal Church and check out the historic church and the connection to the Peabody family!





Anytime you are waiting for a big event that is most certainly going to happen, you are experiencing a time of advent. The Church has named a season “Advent” to describe the time we prepare for The Nativity of Our Lord.

Fortunately for us, this date is a fixed one on the calendar so we can always plan on it; even organize our life around it. Business as usual cannot simply be “busy”-ness as usual during our church season of Advent.

Our lives get so inundated with forces outside ourselves that we can become numb to what we truly need to survive and even thrive as a human being. Nativity offers a place for people who truly want to re-center themselves and reconnect to the source of our true power and energy.

This year we only get 24 days of this season—it’s relatively short—but the things going on around us, and challenges we face in the world make it pass super fast. It’s possible to have this

be a season of just one thing after another and before you know it you find yourself at church on a Christmas Eve service frantic about what’s still not done.

Prayer is the pause button on all this “stuff” that interrupts the connection between our true power center, God, and us. Prayer re-engages the flow with the kind of energy that is life giving and life sustaining. During Advent Wednesday nights Nativity is offering Holy Communion with Evening Prayer to help you in your preparation for the coming of Our Lord. Maybe you’ve failed in the past on getting yourself properly in the right space for Christmas.

Do take advantage of this wonderful opportunity of a middle-of-the-week reconnection to the energy that truly saves and refreshes. Wednesday Holy Communion happens on December 4, 11 and 18 at 6:00 pm. As we invite the coming of our Lord, let us be prepared to receive Him.

See you in Church.

—The Rev. Dr. Wayne V. Whitney +



Adult Christian Education



Sunday Morning Power Bible Study

The Sunday morning lectionary texts are all fair game for Power Bible Study. Grab your coffee and snack and join in the exciting journey of enlightenment in the Scriptures—and maybe even learn a new word for your vocabulary! Class is in the Music Classroom and starts around 11:20 and is guaranteed to finish by Noon.

Advent Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

Advent Wednesdays feature Evening Prayer with Holy Communion on December 4, 11, and 18 at 6:00 pm in the Chapel. Come prepare yourself spiritually for the holy season of The Nativity of Our Lord.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is in full swing as we meet on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm and Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the youth room for prayer, fellowship and thought provoking discussions. We are continuing our study of Cynthia Bourgeault’s book, *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening*, a primer on how to do centering prayer. All are welcome. No experience required. Contact mvcohea246@gmail.com if you have any questions.



MUSIC NOTES

FROM THE NATIVITY MUSIC DIRECTOR'S DESK

Advent Calendar

1 December 2019
Folk Advent Music

8 December 2019
Baroque Advent Music

15 December 2019
Celtic Advent Music

22 December 2019
15th-Century English Advent Music

24 December 2019
Christmas Eve Services;
Choir @ 6pm



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 2PM

Join Solis Camerata as they bring nostalgic melodies of Celtic Christmas's and toe-tapping dances of the holiday season to you!

Bring your family and friends to this lively event to sing along, enjoy some nibbles, and fill your holiday spirit with tunes from the old country. A special sing along surprise from Mr. Handel will be included!

**EMERGING ARTIST:
FRIDAY, JAN. 10TH, 7PM**

Music in the Face of Oppression is a program of music by German and Austrian composers who were forced to immigrate during the Nazi Regime. This program, which will explore the variety of styles that emerged from this moment in history, will be present by Sarah Welden with Nathan Arch, our second Emerging Artist of the season.

SAVE THE DATE!

Still Giving Thanks



Our first ever Giving Thanks Potluck was simply wonderful. Thank you to everyone who brought food. This time of fellowship with our church family was a blessing.











ADVENT

* **PREPARING TOGETHER** *
4 SUNDAYS OF FUN & FELLOWSHIP
11:00AM

Dec 1



Dec 8



Dec 15



Dec 22



ADVENT 1 - DEC 1 - MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH
ADVENT 2 - DEC 8 - COOKIES WITH SANTA PARTY!
ADVENT 3 - DEC 15 - CHRISTMAS CAROL FUN
ADVENT 4 - DEC 22 - CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PRACTICE & GREENING OF THE CHURCH

December 2019

Happy Holiday Season!

This month is a full one! We kick off our Advent Series for all ages this Sunday, December 1st, with an Advent Wreath workshop. Each week will bring a different activity for the church family to participate in together... you can find out all the details below.



On Christmas Eve we have the Annual Christmas Pageant at 4PM. This year we are trying out a new, earlier service time that will hopefully work better for our busy families! Keep reading to find out how our pageant works and how children of all ages can participate.

We are looking forward to all that this season holds.

♥ *Love and Blessings,
Mandy*



More Info

The Advent Series is a church-wide weekly gathering through Advent. Here's a little more info on what's happening each week...

Week 1 - Dec 1

All greens & materials provided. Optional donation of \$20 suggested to help cover costs.

Week 2 - Dec 8

We've got a special guest coming from the North Pole and lots of fun activities for children. This is a great day to invite a friend!

Week 3 - Dec 15

Lead by Juliana and Mandy, we will gather in Christopher Hall after the 10AM service for some singing, games, and hot chocolate.

Week 4 - Dec 22

Students who would like a lead role in the pageant will get a chance to rehearse their parts & all the grown-ups will "green the church" for Christmas services.

Christmas Eve Pageant

On Christmas Eve all children are invited to participate in the annual Christmas Pageant at the 4:00PM service. Our Pageant is a drop-in, everyone-can-participate sort of production. This is how it works, depending on your age group:



For younger children (age 2 through 2nd grade), please report to Christopher Hall no later than 3:30PM to pick up a costume and a program. Costumes fit right over church clothes and children will participate by walking up to join the nativity at the moment noted in the bulletin.

For the 3rd grade & older cast, we will meet on Sunday, December 22nd during the 11:00 hour to prepare for the pageant and practice roles. Your report time for Christmas Eve is 3:15PM. Following the pageant, there will be refreshments for all in Christopher Hall.

Diocesan Winter Family Camp

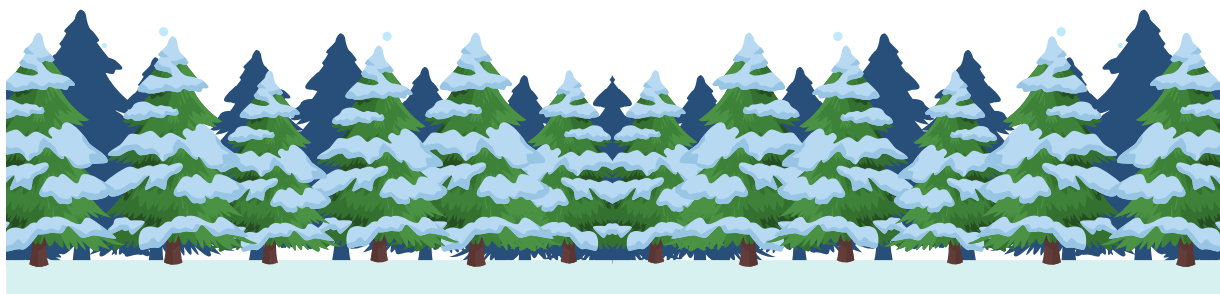


The Diocese is hosting a Winter Family Camp and we wanted to pass along the news! You can find all the info here: https://azdiocese.org/digital_faith/events ... but here's the scoop!

When: Friday, January 3 - Sunday, January 5, 2020

Where: Chapel Rock Camp, Prescott, AZ

Cost: Varies based on size of family & chosen accommodations.





Nativity Book Club Meeting

Nativity Book Club has started up again for the season. We meet at 10 am on the 3rd Wednesday of each month except December.

The book for January is “Dragonfly” by Leila Meacham and is 559 pages, so start reading in December. The author has written several wonderful books. Our next meeting will be January 15th in Christopher Hall at 10 am. All are welcome to join our group.

—Candy Wagner
434-466-6790



Women’s Luncheon

In December we usually meet for a pot-luck lunch in a parishioners home. This year our lunch will be at Candy Wagner’s home.

Where: 17564 E Blaze Lane
Verde River Golf Club
Rio Verde, AZ

When: Wednesday, December 18
12 noon

We hope you will take a breather from all your Christmas planning. Please RSVP to Candy at 435-466-6790 or candywags@me.com.

Women’s Wine Night

The First Thursday of the month the Women of Nativity partake in Happy Hour starting at 5 pm. Since the annual ADVENTure Outreach Fundraiser is the first Friday of the month we will forgo the gathering in December. We will meet again on January 2. For more details, contact Kathy Graf at kgraf518@aol.com.

Men’s Pub Fellowship

The Men of Nativity normally gather the First Thursday of the month at 5 pm. This month we will not be meeting. The next gathering will be January 2. Bring a friend or meet and make new ones! Questions, contact Art Graf at mxgk25a@aol.com.



Nativity Film Club

Nativity’s Film Club is open to everyone and works much like a book club. This month see KNIVES OUT (a murder mystery) before a potluck meal and discussion on December 14. Fr. Scot and Dennis will be hosting at their home: 21596 N. 59th Lane, Glendale, AZ 85308. Cocktails at 6 pm & dinner at 6:30. Film Club is the second Saturday of the month. The next film is AERONAUTS on January 11. To RSVP for December’s dinner please email Fr. Scot at scotmccomas@thenativity.net. Questions contact darrellwspencer@yahoo.com.



Jewelry Class at Nativity

All are invited to a class at Nativity led by Mary Longley-Cook. Mary will have a couple of helpers with extra tools to assist in the “finishing off” stages of making a piece of jewelry. We all have jewelry that we no longer wear, but that brings back good memories. Maybe it was from a Grandma, Mom, or Auntie. Let’s think about updating and/or redesigning that lovely old piece of jewelry. Its next incarnation might be a totally different item... a bracelet, necklace, keychain, or even a rosary. Mary will share her extensive expertise with the group, and guide us in the options available to redesign our pieces. She will also share lots of gorgeous beads that she has accumulated through the years as a beader. In December we will be meeting on Tuesday the 10th at 10 am in the Youth Room. Allergies are an issue in any group setting. Please remember to respect scent-free requests. Email or phone to RSVP or with questions: Mary: stgermain47@cox.net or 480-272-2053 or Dawn Kast: dawnkast@live.com.

The Knitting Group

The Knitting Group will meet on December 19 and January 16 during the holiday season. If you need help with a project in the meantime feel free to contact Deacon Martha Durham. If you’re interested in joining us we would love to have you! Meetings are the first and third Thursday mornings every month at 10 am in the Youth Room. Contact Deacon Martha with questions or for encouragement: marthadurham@thenativity.net.



From the Flower Guild

The new flower donation chart for 2020 is next to the office door and you will be able to get first choice for your special dates. As a reminder, sign up for a week and then...

- * Full out an envelope with your dedication which will be included in the Sunday bulletin. (Needed by Tuesday at noon)
- * Enclose cash/check in the envelope and place on Mina's desk in the office. (\$50.00 suggested donation). Mina will make sure the money gets to the flower fund.

If you sign up for more than one week, please use an envelope for each week requested.

If you would like to make a Christmas poinsettia donation in honor of, or in memory of, someone a donation of \$20 is suggested. After Christmas, we encourage people to take the poinsettias home to beautify your house or the clergy can take them to nursing homes in the area. Poinsettias do not last long at the church and are happier in people's homes. The forms to fill out for the Poinsettias are in the church office and in Christopher Hall. Thank you for your support with ensuring we have beautiful flowers adorning our church throughout the year.





ADVENTure 2019 is almost here.....

So many hands are involved with months of planning and work to make ADVENTure a success. The baskets are draped and bows attached; tables are placed and decorated; auction items displayed; choir voices warmed up and cookies baked.

On Friday, December 6 at 6 pm the FUN begins - a prayer for a successful event, the bell rung, the ribbon cut, and the silent auction begins. As people filter around the room bidding on items, delicious catered food and a good-will-offering bar are provided. YOU create the conversation and FUN with friends.



This year we have 160+ auction items and the silent auction will be spread into both Christopher Hall and the Longley-Cook Children's Center. We will have both outside patio seating (with a heater) and the church nave as spaces for rest and relaxation during the event.

Our live auction will be led by three auctioneers: Cotty Peabody, Ron Kupinski and Father Scot McComas. The raffle winners will be drawn and the ever-popular audience-participation concert and dessert will follow.

Enjoy the evening with friends, bid often and help make ADVENTure 2019 a success. Our goal of \$27,000 will fund the Outreach Budget for 2019, providing for our many Outreach ministries. Your generosity makes this evening a success; your friendship makes it fun. A very big "Thank You" to each and every one of you that helped to make this night happen.

Feed the Hungry



Nativity's newest outreach ministry has made a great start this year. For next year we have expanded the number of trips to the East Valley Men's Center to 15 dinners for 2020. We have also expanded the leadership team for this ministry with the addition of Ron and Ramona Rusinak, and Carrie Wagner. This will bring better organization and service as well as new ideas to this wonderful ministry. Next summer we are going to try a Bar-B-Que dinner.

We finish out 2019 with a MEATLOAF dinner on December 15th and start out the new year on January 4th with a CHILI dinner. Both of these are great cold weather meals. If you haven't experienced the warm feeling that comes with serving a hot meal to a bunch of hungry men who are working to get back on their feet again, by all means sign up for the next meal. You won't be disappointed.

And speaking of cold weather, the men loved, and I suspect have started using, the hats that the knitting ministry made for them. Since the residents are allowed only 90 days at the Center, next winter will bring new men and a new opportunity for the knitting ministry (hint, hint).

The director of the Shelter suggested a new idea to help support the men and that is with toiletry products. Next year we will set up a drop-off collection bin for soap, shampoo, etc., that we will take to the shelter on a monthly basis. So, when you are travelling, don't be afraid to pick up those unused bars of soap and shampoo from the hotel rooms. The men of the East Valley Men's Center will be grateful.

Thank you for your support in helping these men to regain their place in the world, or as the Lord told us, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." —Matthew 25:40

CASA Weekend Food Packs

Please join us in packing weekend food packs for food insecure K-2nd grade students from Casa Academy. All ages are welcome and encouraged to participate! Upcoming dates: December 7 & January 4. If you have any questions please contact Laura Dobbins lauradobbins01@gmail.com.



Pack-A-Meal: Sandwiches for the Homeless Volunteers Needed !

Tuesday, December 3 at 10 am. Join us at Nativity for Pack-A-Meal for Phoenix Rescue Mission! Help us make 400 sandwiches, pack 200 lunch bags and get to know your fellow parishioners!

Contact Kathy Graf: kgraf518@aol.com for details.



General Information

Calling All Nativity Tables!

Please kindly return your borrowed Nativity tables to the table closet in Christopher Hall no later than December 3! Thank you.

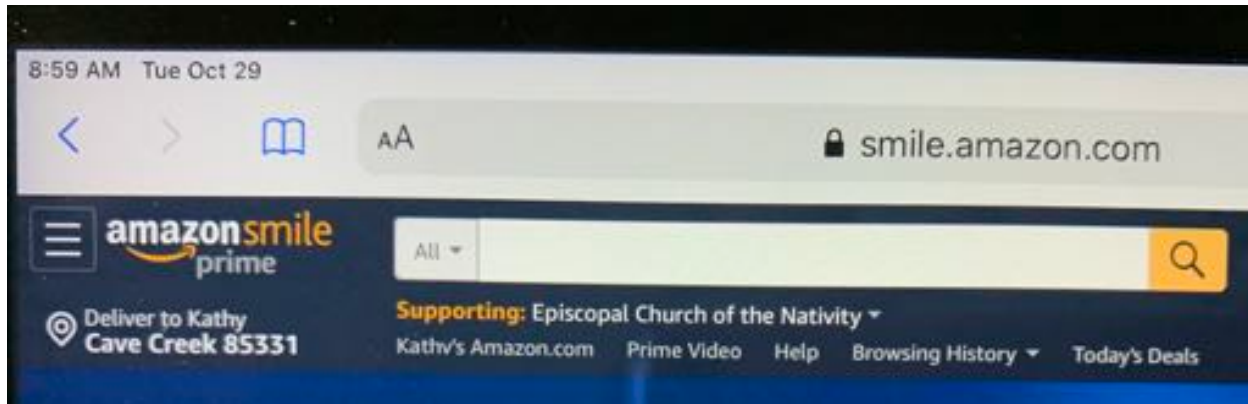


AmazonSmile - Funds for Nativity

Another contribution Nativity parishioners can make without costing you more money is Smile.Amazon.com! Contact Kathy Graf (kgraf518@aol.com) for more info Use our unique link - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-5599218>.

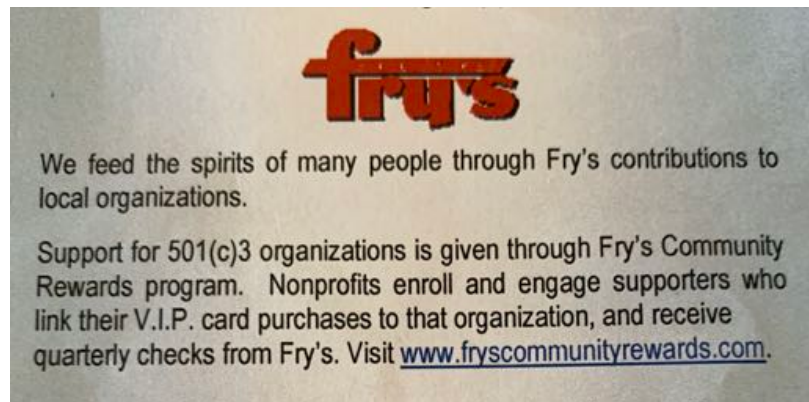
When first visiting AmazonSmile, you are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.

Nativity will receive a portion of your purchase. How does Nativity receive the donations? Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations to eligible charitable organizations by electronic funds transfer.



Fry's

Nativity would like you to sign up for the Fry's Community Rewards Program! Contact Kathy Graf (kgraf518@aol.com) or Kay Blinn (Kayblinn@gmail.com) for more info. Thank you to anyone who is interested in participating!



General Information

Shawls for all who might be chilly

Debbie Myrick has gathered and laundered the shawls for your use if you find the air-conditioning a bit much. Simply return them after the service.

Scent-Free Seating in the Nave

Because some folks have allergy issues, we have created a scent-free seating area in the west section of the sanctuary near the chapel. Please sit in that section only if you are free of scented items such as perfume, after-shave, body spray, hand lotion, etc. It's an act of hospitality.

The Sunday Coffee & Treats Ministry

The hospitality ministry appreciates BOTH your baked goods and your cash donations! Please continue to contribute to this ministry! If you have any questions about donating treats, call Joan at 610-291-4262 or Dawn at 218-252-3092.

Prayer Team

If you or someone special to you are in need of prayers you have several options to let the prayer team know of the request. Please let one of the clergy know. There also is a book for prayer requests on the table by the entrance to Christopher Hall, or you may email Joyce Graves at jbjlgraves@cox.net or call 602-885-8828. All prayers are kept confidential within the prayer team. We also ask that you give us an update preferably every month or so about the person or persons you have asked us to pray for.

Deadline Changes

All announcements that you would like to see in the Sunday bulletins and the weekly email blasts should be emailed to Mina at minarafferty@thenativity.net by noon on Mondays. Submittals for the monthly newsletters will be the 23rd of the month. If you have any questions, please contact Mina at 480-307-9216 or minarafferty@thenativity.net.

Special Moments

Sharing the special moments of our lives strengthens the bonds of our community. We'd love to send each of you a messages of joy and happiness on your special day. Won't you please help us by emailing your birthday and anniversary to Mina Rafferty (minarafferty@thenativity.net) or dropping off a note in the church office.

Month and day are perfect –
no year is necessary!





The Episcopal Church of the Nativity
Mailing Address:
22405 North Miller Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85255

Worship Sundays

8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

www.nativityscottsdale.org



Upcoming Events

12/1	Advent Folk Music	P5	12/18	Women's Luncheon	P14
12/3	Pack-A-Meal	P17	12/19	Knitting Group	P15
12/6	ADVENTure	P16	12/21	Celtic Holiday Music	P5
12/7	CASA food packing	P17	12/22	English Advent Music	P5
12/8	Baroque Music	P5	12/24	Family Pageant Service	P1
12/10	Episcopal 101	P 1	12/24	Traditional Candlelight	P1
12/10	Jewelry Class	P15	12/25	Holy Eucharist Rite I	P1
12/12	Episcopal 101	P 1	1/3	Diocesan Winter Camp	P13
12/14	Film Club	P14	1/2	Women's Wine Night	P14
12/14	Advent Quiet Day	P1	1/2	Men's Pub Fellowship	P14
12/15	Feed the Hungry	P17	1/10	Emerging Artist	P5
12/15	Celtic Advent Music	P 5	1/15	Book Club Meeting	P14
12/18	Poinsettia Dedications	P15			



www.nativityscottsdale.org