

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

NATIVITYSCOTTSDALE.ORG



THE NATIVITY SCENE
November
2020

*All are welcome!
No exceptions.*



On All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1, we blessed the 2021 financial pledge cards on the altar before the Holy Eucharist. We thank all of you who have pledged to the mission and ministry of The Episcopal Church of the Nativity so that we can continue the good ministries of our parish.

We do move Forward in Faith, which is the title of the pledge campaign, as we continue to live in this new world of the pandemic. Speaking of this new world and a “new normal,” the other day I came across a prayer written by a Canadian Presbyterian pastor that I want to share with you. It is the following:

A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing of this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love. In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.

--The Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Canada

As we moved through the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, it became clear that face masks could save lives. I pray that we will continue to follow the advice of doctors and scientists and not let our guard down but remain aware that this pandemic will be around for quite a while.

We are extremely lucky at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity that our parishioners are Covid-free and that nobody, to my knowledge, has contracted Covid-19. Let us keep it that way.

We live day-by-day in a world where the news changes almost minute-by-minute. Please continue to pray for the world, our nation and government, medical personnel and scientists, all first responders who put their lives on the line, for all grocery workers, truckers, people who work in restaurants, those in the gig-economy and those who continue to risk their health to take care of the rest of us and to keep the economy going.

Finally, may we remember our connection to one another as followers of Jesus the Christ and be united in heart, mind and soul as we seek to follow the greatest commandment, "to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves."

Faithfully in Christ,

The Reverend Scot McComas
Rector



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1st Tuesdays 6:00 pm
Outreach Meeting

Tuesdays, 6:00 pm
Centering Prayer

Wednesdays, 10:30 am
Fr. Scot's Book Group

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm
Evening Prayer

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm
Bible Study with Dr. Wayne

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm
Virtual Choir Meeting

Thursdays, 10:00 am
Knitting Group

Sundays, 9:30 am
Children's Chapel Live

Sundays, 10:00 am
Sunday Service

Sundays, 11:00 am
Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays, 11:00 am
Middle School Zoom

Sundays, 11:20 am
Power Bible Study

Sundays, 11:30 am
High School Zoom

If you would information on the meeting or would like to join, please contact Fr. Scot at scotmccomas@thenativity.net.





Emergency Response

Would you know what to do if the person sitting next to you in church suddenly collapsed or became very ill? We try not to think about such things but they do happen and it is important to know how to react. A person's life may be at stake. After things get back to normal at church and large group meetings can once again occur, we are going to start a series of professionally conducted CPR courses that may just help us to save a life someday. The courses will be conducted at the church and will first be scheduled for the clergy, staff, vestry, ushers, greeters and teachers. They will then be opened for anyone else who wishes to attend. Watch for notices once we are back to regular schedules. In the meantime, pray for an end to this COVID virus.



Our New Service Schedule:

8 am In-Person Outdoor Service (no registration required)

10 am In-Person In Sanctuary Service (online registration opens Mondays at 9 am)

10 am Online Service



Wayne's World November 2020

Story arcs are a tried and true way of continuing a single story over multiple episodes of narrative. They are used in television series, comic books, and movies, just to name a few. The lectionary readings have their own story arc. So, this is November; and November always marks the end of the liturgical calendar and it builds to the climax of the last Sunday of Pentecost which we celebrate as “Christ the King.” This year Advent begins on November 29 and the entire cycle starts again.

The first lesson has been following a story arc for months and months of the people of Israel. The promise to Abraham to be the father of a great nation and to inhabit a strange land has taken many twists and turns, not the least of which was becoming enslaved in Egypt followed by their manumission into the wilderness.

In the month of November we will complete this story arc as they enter the land of promise, renew their covenant with God and then, over the next 700 years or so, fall flat on their faces. Spoiler alert: It doesn't end well. They will be exiled from the land and find themselves once again in a place where they have few rights and privileges—sound familiar?

Israel's story is our story. It is my story. It is your story—if you choose to own it. Nobody has a relationship with God that doesn't have a few bumps on the road. The bumps are only temporary though. God is always reaching toward us even in our failure—this is the nature of Love. Tune in to Sunday Morning Power Bible Study anytime that's convenient for you. It premieres at 11:20 Sunday mornings on Nativity's Facebook page and at 11:30 on the Nativity General Channel on YouTube.

See y'all in church and online.

Dr. W+

The Rev Wayne V Whitney, PhD
Associate Rector



Sunday Morning Power Bible Study

Power Bible Study with Dr. Wayne continues on Nativity's Facebook feed at 11:20 Sunday mornings AND 11:30 on Nativity's YouTube channel. Click here to see all of Dr. Wayne's Bible studies on the Nativity YouTube channel.

Bible Study Wednesday

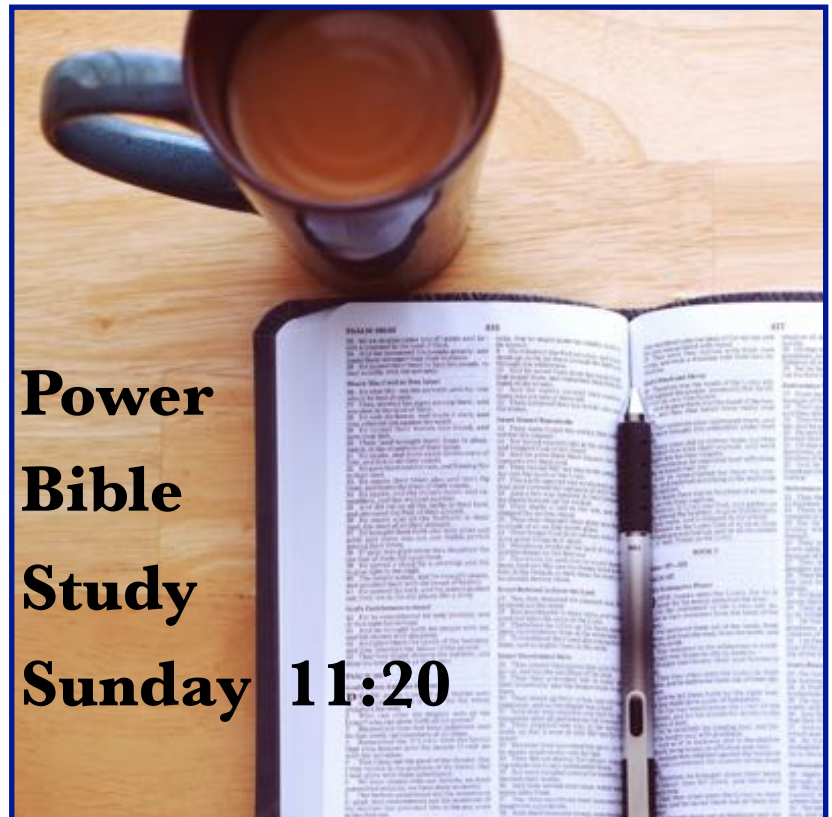
Bible Study Wednesday is in the midst of trekking through the entire biblical narrative--currently working through the books of I and II Kings. Tune in to the Facebook feed or the Nativity General YouTube Channel at 6 pm Wednesday nights. Each night Dr. Wayne closes with the prayers of Compline.

Wednesday Evening Prayer

Tune in to Nativity's Facebook page for live Evening Prayer Rite II every Wednesday at 5:30 pm. This lay-led service features a weekly commemoration of Christian witness. Email waynewhitney@thenativity.net or text or call Dr. Wayne at 303-809-1458 to get primed in how you can participate as a lay leader of this historic liturgy of prayer in the church.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer meets Tuesday evenings at 6 pm via Zoom. Contact Margaret Cohea for a zoom invitation. Contact mvcohea246@gmail.com for further details or questions.



Common Earth, Common Prayer The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona at work!

Convention Business Diocesan Results:

The following people were elected to these positions:

Secretary to Convention (1 year term):

Susan McCann (All Saints' Church and Day School, Phoenix)

Standing Committee (Clerical) (3 year term):

Rev. Canon David Hedges (St. Michael & All Angels, Tucson),

Rev. Scott Deasy (Church of the Epiphany, Flagstaff)

Standing Committee (Lay) (3 year term):

Canon Lisa Derrick (Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix),

Canon Clyde Kunz (Church of St. Matthew, Tucson)

Disciplinary Board (Clerical):

Rev. Gary Nicolosi (Church of the Advent, Sun City West),

Rev. Taylor Devine (St. Philip's In The Hills, Tucson)

Disciplinary Board (Lay): Douglas Cole (St. Stephen's, Phoenix)

These decisions were made during the business meeting:

Article Change: Article VI (The Standing Committee), passed for the required second year and will now take effect.

Resolutions: #2020-1 (Companion Diocese with Diocese of Western Mexico), passed.

2021 Financial Statement of Mission: The proposed 2021 Financial Statement of Mission was approved by a majority vote. The finalized statement will be available to be viewed on the diocesan website.

Reports to Convention: The reports were not distributed at Convention. Written reports are available to be viewed and downloaded at the diocesan website. A few video reports that were submitted may be viewed via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/azdiocese1>.

Eucharist Sermon: The video of Bishop Reddall's sermon is available via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/azdiocese1>



SAVE THE DATE!

61st Diocesan Convention

Oct. 15-16, 2021

**Location TBA
Phoenix, AZ**



Nativity Greeters

Do you remember your first visit to Nativity? I do! I was greeted at the door by Jennie Dobbins and again

after the service. The positive impression Jennie made is a large part of the reason why I chose Nativity as my church home. First impressions are critical and I'd like to see Nativity continue making great impressions even during these difficult times. We could use more greeters, so if you're interested in showing your passion for Nativity, please let me know.

I'd love to add you to the team!

Thomasina Tafur at thomasinatafur@hotmail.com



AmazonSmile - Funds for Nativity

You can contribute without costing you more money via Smile.Amazon.com! Contact Mina Rafferty (minarafferty@thenativity.net) 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. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations to eligible charitable organizations by electronic funds transfer.

Birthdays & Anniversary Blessings

We would like to know when your birthday and/or anniversary is coming up so we can pray for you by name during the birthday and anniversary prayers and blessings each week. If you would like your name mentioned, please email the dates and information to Fr. Scot at scotmccomas@thenativity.net or call him at 704-779-6113. Or maybe you have a family member or friend you'd like us to pray for. Please let us know.

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 jbilgraves@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.



Veteran's Day Concert

NOVEMBER 11, 2020 •
5PM ONLINE

featuring

NATIVITY CHOIR

GRAND CANYON
UNIVERSITY'S
CRITICAL MASS

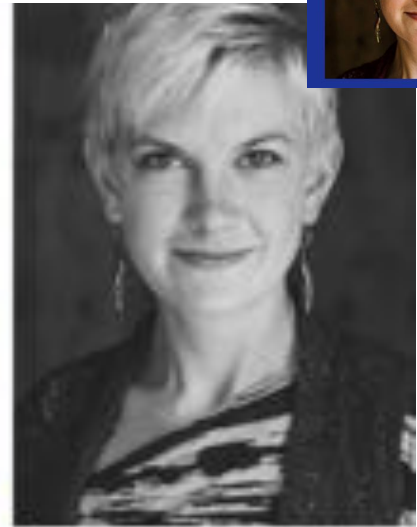
ARIZONA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY'S
FIRESTORM CHORALE



During this free online concert, we take a few moments to thank the people who have served our country, with the nostalgic music and sing-alongs that lead us all to remember and honor their service.

Donations welcome!
Give at:
ArtsatNativity.org





Arts AT
NATIVITY



Third Stream

Clarinetist Dominique Holley with pianist Juliana Witt will explore how various composers from the jazz and classical worlds have sought to bridge the gap between two seemingly distant musical traditions, using "Third Stream," which is an umbrella term for unique composition techniques.

**NOVEMBER 21, 2020 •
7 PM**

Tickets at ArtsatNativity.org



FALL FESTIVAL FUN!





November Update



After a wonderful Fall Festival (see photos on previous page), we are getting back to our "normal" Sunday morning online gatherings for youth and children. Zoom links for our meetings go out in each Friday's Youth & Children's Ministry email blast.

(Email MandyHodges@thenativity.net if you need to sign up!)

This month we are focusing on thanks *and* giving!

Here's the schedule:

Children's Chapel 9:30 - 9:55AM

Middle School Youth 11:00 - 11:25AM

High School Youth 11:30 - 11:55AM

This holiday season is shaping up to be quite unique! We aren't planning to let all the changes and cancellations get us down... we are gonna get creative!

Save this date! →

We'll send you some fun supplies in advance.





CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
ADVENTure
 FUN DRAISER FOR OUTREACH



ADVENTure 2020
Friday, December 4
6 - 8 PM

ADVENTure 2020 is in the works. Mark your calendar now for the First-Ever Nativity Zoom Extravaganza! We will have a silent Auction, a special Raffle and opportunities for Give From The Heart are being planned. There will be Musical Entertainment and Videos about the many Ministries our Nativity Family so generously supports.

Stay tuned! Instructions about how to participate will be coming you way soon.

Want to help with this event or have questions? Please contact Cindy Cohen at scohense@bellsouth.net or text 423-316-0872.



CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
ADVENTTure
FUNdraiser FOR OUTREACH
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

Are you ready for ADVENTure? This year, you can join us from the comfort of your own home for our ADVENTure FUNdraiser for our Outreach Ministries. We will be offering a Zoom conference featuring videos from our many outreach programs, musical performances by our church members and special guests along with our two great hosts, Jeff Jameson and Ron Kupinski, who will be navigating it all. At the same time, we will be holding our silent auction online through Auctria.

How can you join in all the fun?

Here is a timeline of when and how to participate:

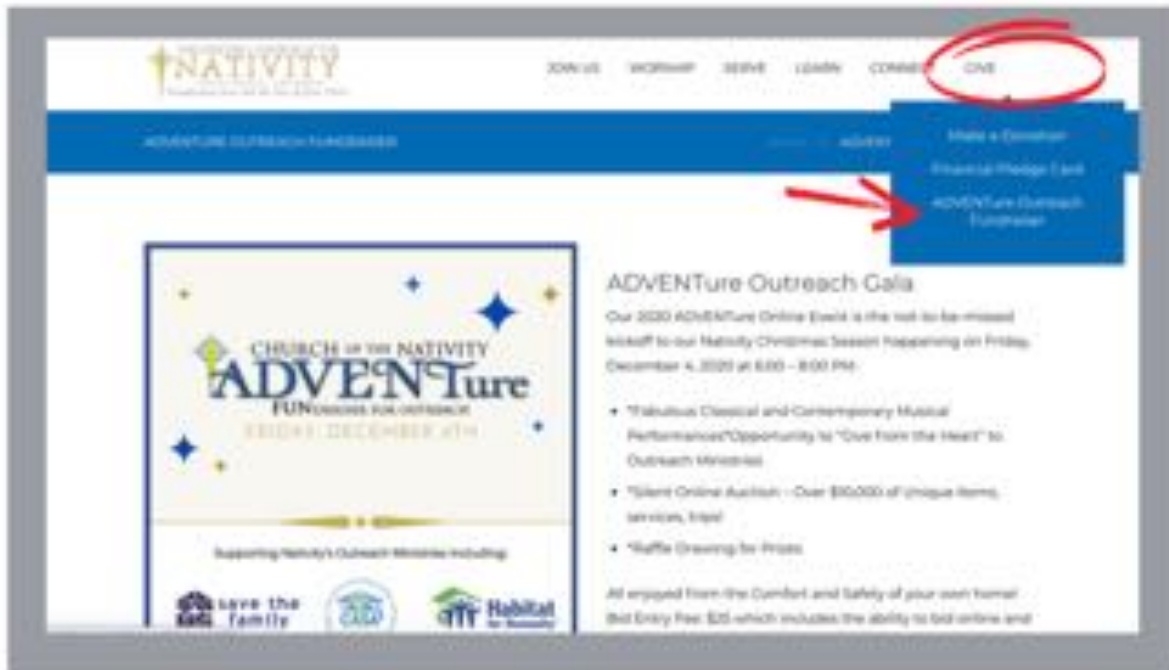
- November 1 - You can begin to purchase raffle tickets each Sunday
- November 1 - Purchase your family bidding ticket for the Silent Auction
- November 1 - People will be available after services to assist with your registration
- November 8 - Hard Copies of the Auction Catalog will be available to view at church
- November 15 - Purchase items in advance, ie. Bread, beer, Limoncello, etc.
- November 29 - Goody Bags will available for pick up as well as Mon--Wed, Nov 30 to Dec 2 from 10 am to 12 pm
- December 1 - Auction Items go live in honor of "Giving Tuesday" (start the bidding)
- December 4 ADVENTure FUNdraiser 6 pm - 8 pm

We want this to be fun and simple so we are attaching screen shot images of how to navigate the Auctria sight for bidding and making a "Give from the Heart" donation. You can access all of this via a smartphone, tablet or computer. (See the next page!)

We are so excited for the opportunity to do God's work through our fundraising for our Outreach Ministries. See you there!!!

How-to Access ADVENTure Online

Visit to the Nativity website: NativityScottsdale.org and click on the Give tab. Choose *Adventure Outreach Fundraiser from that menu and you will arrive at this page.



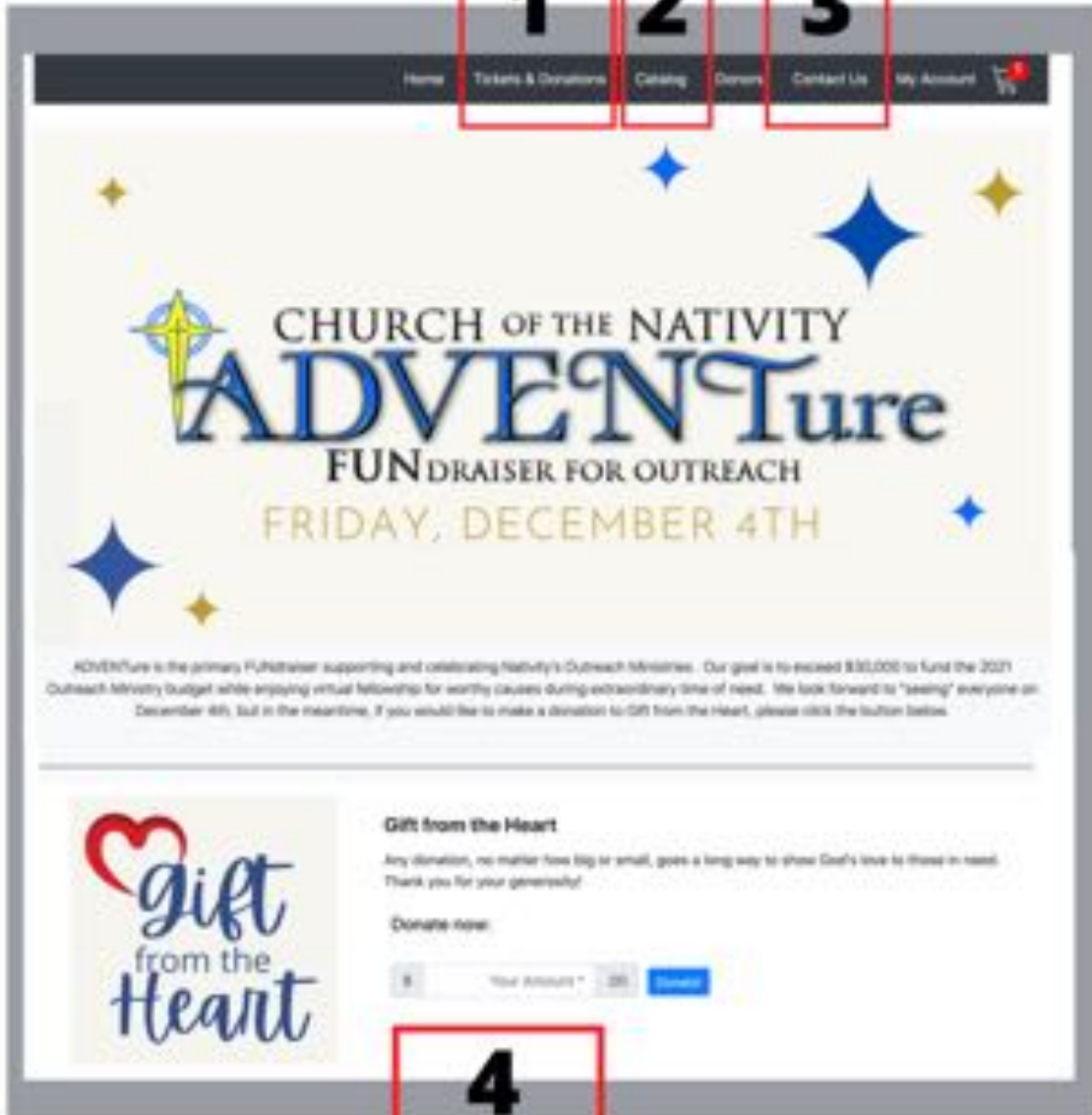
Scroll down the page to see more options:



How to Use the Auction Website

There are 4 major functions of the website to know about to get registered and start supporting ADVENTure.

- Buy Tickets & Register
1
- View Catalogue
2
- Need help online?
3



- 4**
Make a donation of any amount to Gift from the Heart.



**save the
family**
FOUNDATION OF ARIZONA



November Updates:

I just want to send a big Thank YOU to everyone for all your wonderful donations for canned food drive last month. Save the Family was so grateful to receive these donations. It is such a wonderful ministry and helps so many families in Phoenix area. Thank you so much for your support.

This month I am sponsoring 5 families and giving them a Thanksgiving meal from all of us at Nativity. Thank you for your donations from Adventure last year, it allows us to support our ministries and give families a wonderful thanksgiving meal from us.

Blessings

Carrie Wagner



CASA Academy

For over 4 years, Nativity has supported the scholars of CASA Academy with weekend nutrition. We are holding a sponsorship drive from November 1-15 offering the opportunity to support the ministry which provides weekend food packs for food-insecure kindergarten to third grade children.



CASA Academy serves socioeconomically disadvantaged children in Phoenix and 96% of their students receive free or reduced lunch. Staff have identified 40 children who are food insecure, meaning there's not a guarantee that there will be any food in their cupboard when they go home on Friday and they are at risk of having nothing to eat until they return on Monday. In these especially uncertain times, economic and food security are even more tenuous as the community that CASA serves has been hit hard by the wave of recent job loss.

Sponsorships are \$200 and will pay to feed one child every weekend for the academic year. Sponsorships can be made by mailing a check to the church office with CASA in the memo or by credit card through our secure website via FaithStreet. <https://www.faithstreet.com/church/episcopal-church-of-the-nativity-scottsdale-az/giving>

If paying by FaithStreet, electing to pay the service fee will allow the ministry to receive the full sponsorship amount. Sponsorships may be divided among friends or fellowship groups and any amount is always welcomed and appreciated.

For those unfamiliar with CASA Academy, the school's mission is to close the achievement gap between their students and their wealthier peers. Statistically in a traditional school setting these students would be two academic years behind by the 3rd grade. The students at CASA are at or above grade level and are taught personal accountability, life skills, manners and that success is not only expected, it is achievable. To learn more please visit www.casaacademy.org.



By supporting the weekend food pack program, Nativity as a whole is contributing to the success of CASA Academy scholars. Thank you for your consideration and support. If you have any questions please reach out to Laura Dobbins lauradobbins01@gmail.com.

Outreach at East Valley Men's Shelter

Every Thursday morning a small but dedicated group gathers on Zoom and lives out caring for our neighbor by knitting hats for the men at East Valley Men's Shelter. As these men regain the skills to live independently they work at jobs outside the shelter. Many of them bike to work and even in Arizona it is cold in the winter, especially at night. Nativity knitters provide hats for each resident (over 100) to keep them warm. The hats are made with love, care and prayers. Each stitch knit holds a prayer that goes with the men in their daily life. Jon Bost leads a Nativity group that helps feed them a homemade, warm, nutritious dinner once a month. Nativity parishioners cook and serve when able, and now during Covid time, the meals are delivered and the men serve themselves. We are looking forward to a time when we are once again able to share a table for conversation and dinner.

“Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord and our neighbor”

Deacon Martha Durham



Feeding the Homeless

During the COVID pandemic, we have stopped preparing meals at the East Valley Men’s Center. Unfortunately, homelessness has not taken time out for the pandemic so the Church of Nativity has continued to support the Center monetarily so their staff can buy the food and prepare the dinners themselves. Last month we did drop off the food ourselves and hopefully in November we can do likewise. We are praying that we can soon get back to preparing the meals at the Center and serving these men as we have done in the past. The residents there are always so grateful for any help they can get.

On a different front, the Nativity knitters have been busy this year and in addition to their other projects knitted 100 very colorful ski caps for the men at the Center. Fr. Scot recently blessed them at church and we have delivered them to the Men’s Center. While they don’t exactly need them right now, they will appreciate them in a couple months as they bike to and from their jobs. The knitters did this last year as well and they were much appreciated. A wonderful tradition has been started.

-Jon Bost



The Episcopal Church of the Nativity
Mailing Address:
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WELCOME!

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

All are welcome.
No exceptions.



Worship Sundays

8 am In Person Outside - 10 am In Person in the Sanctuary - 10 am OnLine

www.nativityscottsdale.org/

Join us

www.nativityscottsdale.org