

*The Episcopal
Church of the Nativity*

NATIVITYSCOTTSDALE.ORG



THE NATIVITY SCENE
February
2021

Everyone is Welcome!



Lent: A Time for Self-Reflection

We just finished celebrating the Season of Epiphany and now it is time to think about Lent. Easter comes early this year, April 4, and so that means Lent begins early as well, since Easter is a moveable feast. On the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, February 17, we will have one service outdoors at 12 pm. We also will have a pre-recorded service at 12 pm which will be rebroadcast at 7 pm.

The holiest time in the Christian year is Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. There are 40 days in Lent, not counting Sundays. As we enter Lent consider what God is calling you to do or to be during Lent. We have had plenty of time to reflect on our lives during the Covid pandemic, which is not over, and there are plenty of ways to enrich your experience during this holy season.

Generally, on Ash Wednesday the priest would impose ashes on the forehead of each person at church. However, the rubrics (rules) of the Book of Common Prayer indicates that "if ashes are to be imposed..." meaning ashes are optional and not required.

Although there is evidence of penitents preparing for Easter during Lent in the fifth century in Rome, there is no historical evidence of the imposition of ashes at that time. It was not until 500 years later in Germany in the tenth century that ashes were introduced. At that time, ashes were sprinkled on the head of the penitent. This practice migrated to England 100 years later and by the end of the eleventh century, Pope Urban II

approved the sprinkling of ashes on the heads of all Christians in the western church.

Due to the Covid pandemic, the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church has been advised by medical authorities to tell their clergy they may not impose ashes on the foreheads of their parishioners because the proximity of priest and parishioner would be less than six feet.

Because the imposition of ashes is a reminder of our mortality and a sign of repentance and is what many of us expect on Ash Wednesday, thus the name, we will offer an alternative this year to the priest imposing ashes on your forehead.

At the Ash Wednesday service, you will be invited to come forward and impose ashes on yourself with a Q-tip, which will be coated in olive oil, as you dip the Q-tip into a bowl of ashes. Each person will have their own Q-tip.

We also will provide ashes to those who would like to do this at home. Stay tuned to our weekly church emails for more information regarding this or call me to prepare ashes for you if you do not read our church emails. My cell phone is: 704-779-6113.

May each of you have a safe, healthy, and holy Lent as we reflect on our lives during this holy season.

Faithfully in Christ,
The Reverend Scot McComas
Rector



Nativity's Contacts



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Sundays, 9:00 am
Power Bible Study

Sundays, 9:30 am
Children's Chapel Live

Sundays, 10:00 am
Sunday Service



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

Sundays, 11:00 am
Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays, 11:00 am
Middle School Zoom

Sundays, 11:30 am
High School Zoom

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





Wayne's World February 2021

February is a transition month. We finish out the season of Epiphany in the first two Sundays and conclude the month in Lent for the final two Sundays. The end of the season of God's manifestation to the world in Jesus concludes with more emphasis on how God's people reveal God as the body of Christ. This transition is appropriate because when we enter the season of Lent by February 17 we will delve into a "we're not worthy" time—a time of self-reflection and clarification. Truly, how CAN we be the continuing revelation of God without some serious introspection? There's way too much self-assuredness going on in the world today—way too much "only my way is the right way."

The transition into Lent should be a time of all of us uniting in our humanity at its nadir. "Remember that you are but dust, and to dust you shall return." Indeed unity exists only when we fully submit to our common status before the Lord our God. Let weekly Bible Study be a part of your growth in Christ—for this is the key to our unity. See you online and in church.

Pax et Lux,
Dr. W+

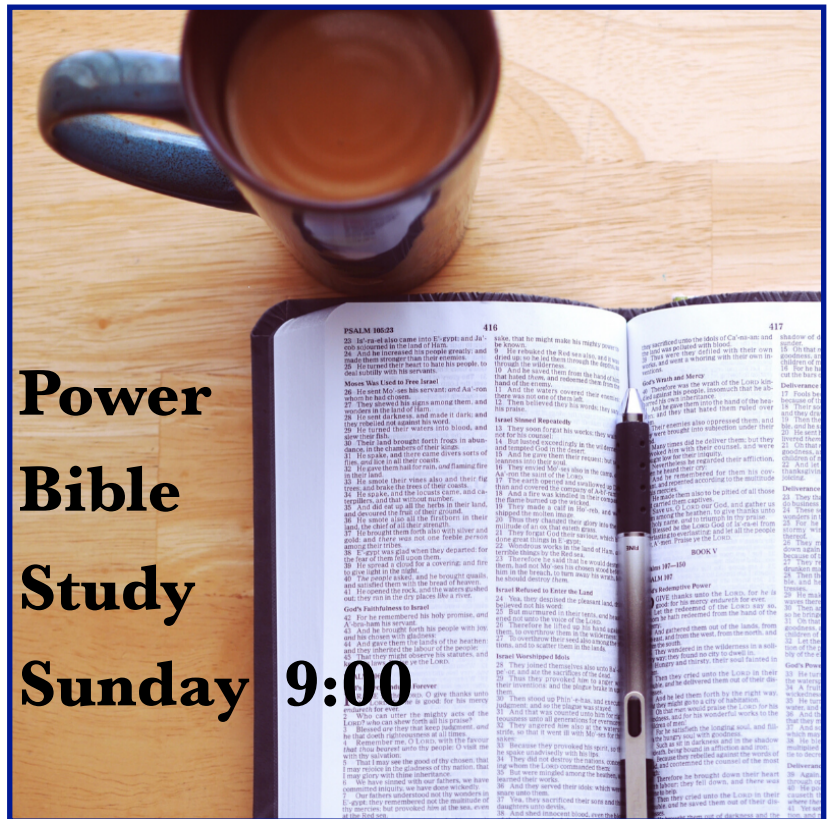
The Rev Wayne V Whitney, PhD
Associate Rector

Sunday Morning Power Bible Study

Sunday Power Bible Study with Dr. Wayne features the lectionary texts for the week. Join Dr. Wayne online at 9:00 am on Nativity's Facebook page or the Nativity General 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 Bill Bailey for a zoom invitation. Contact williambailey70@yahoo.com for further details or questions.





For Everyone!

Shrove Tuesday

ZOOM PARTY!



Grab your pancake mix and your Mardi Gras beads and join your Nativity family online for a Shrove Tuesday Zoom Party! It will be short and sweet but packed full of fun!

Tuesday, February 16 at 6:15pm

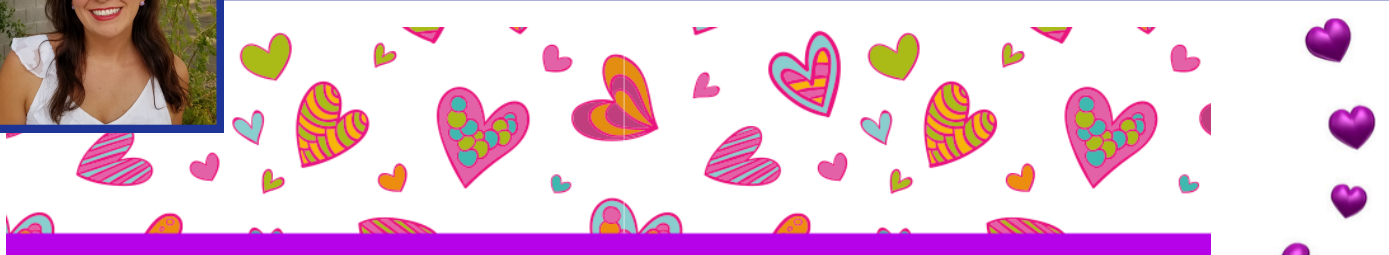
There will be...

Jazz Music

A pancake photo contest

A special blessing from Father Scot

Zoom link will be available on the church website the day-of.



Children & Youth Ministry Update

February 2021

We continue meeting online each Sunday with our children & youth. Links on the website!



Children's Chapel for All Ages - 9:30am
Middle School Youth Group - 11:00am
High School Youth Group - 11:30am

Here are the details for February...

Sunday, February 7

We wrap up our *Doing Good Together* series this Sunday with part 2 of our conversation on hunger.



Sunday, February 14

We love a holiday! This Sunday's gatherings will be super fun and Valentine-y. Plus! A special delivery coming your way... check your mail this week!

Tuesday, February 16

Join us for an ONLINE Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party!
See the next page for details.



Sunday, February 21

Week 1 of our annual Lenten Series for Families

Sunday, February 28

Week 2 of the Lenten Series for Families



Lent Madness began in 2010 as the brainchild of the Rev. Tim Schenck. In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church's Calendar of Saints, Tim came up with this unique Lenten devotion. Combining his love of sports with his passion for the lives of the saints, Lent Madness was born on his blog "Clergy Family Confidential" which has subsequently moved locations and become "Clergy Confidential."

The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch. If you're not sure about terminology, check out our glossary. It's free!

The major change from 2010 to 2011 was the introduction of four "celebrity bloggers" to champion particular saints through the Faithful Four. In 2012 we partnered with Forward Movement and Executive Director Scott Gunn to create our own website and broaden the number of people involved in the writing process, with Tim and Scott serving as the self-appointed Supreme Executive Committee.

Along the way we've added more celebrity bloggers, a poster-sized bracket, weekly Monday Madness videos, and the Saintly Scorecard, an annual publication containing all 32 first round bios, information about how to participate in Lent Madness as a congregation, and an essential Vocabulary List to decipher all things Lent Madness.

We've also inspired thousands of people along the way by forming an online community of people who are passionate about taking their faith but not themselves too seriously. Articles and spots about Lent Madness have appeared in the Washington Post, NPR, Huffington Post, FOXNews, NBC, USAToday, and even Sports Illustrated.

Tim and Scott discussing the relative merits and saintliness of Athanasius vs. Florence Nightingale. As Lent Madness continues to grow and evolve, what won't change is the essence of Lent Madness: allowing people to get to know some amazing people who have come before us in the faith and reminding one another that there's no reason for a dreary Lenten discipline. If this helps people connect with the risen Christ during this season of penitence and renewal, and have a bit of fun in the process, then it continues to be worthwhile.

We hope you'll participate fully this Lent and vote with reckless abandon!



This article was taken from Fr. Scot's address sent to the parish on January 29, 2021

Thank you for joining us this past Sunday for our 2020 Annual Meeting. Congratulations to the following newly elected vestry members: Diana Fitzgerald, Jim Graves, James Newhouse and Darrell Spencer. Ron Kupinski has been reelected Junior Warden and Paul Rank has been appointed Senior Warden for a second year. Cheryle Dunkelberg has offered to serve as the Vestry Clerk and will be elected by the Vestry at the next meeting on February 18, 2021.

Art Graf retired this week as Treasurer after over a decade of service to The Episcopal Church of the Nativity. Thank you Art and everyone who has served, including Norma Hyatt, whose term ended last Sunday. Norma has served on the Vestry for four years. Thank you Norma for your wisdom and steadfastness on the Vestry.

I gave my report during the sermon time which can be found at this link in case you missed it: <https://www.nativityscottsdale.org/sermons/>. The video is of the service and the audio link is the rector's report.

Senior Warden Paul Rank also gave his report to the parish. The entire Annual Meeting online video can be found on our website. Click here: <https://www.nativityscottsdale.org/> and then click the Annual Meeting slider as it moves from right to left.

Treasurer Art Graf gave the 2020 Financial Report and the 2021 Mission and Ministry Budget. If you have any financial questions, please contact Art: mxgk25a@aol.com. Our new Treasurer will be Andrea Peabody. She will be elected by the Vestry at the February meeting. Thank you Andrea for agreeing to serve!

We also elected five delegates to the Diocese of Arizona's Annual Convention, held in October. Our convention delegates are the following: Bob Blinn, Donna Hartz, George Hartz, Janyce Schneider and Darrell Spencer. We also elected three alternate delegates: Debbie Myrick, Marty Treinen and Joyce Graves. Thank you to all our delegates who have offered to serve our diocese and to represent Nativity.



Last year was a year most will never forget. I'm grateful to the church staff, the church officers, the vestry, our numerous volunteers and for each of you as we stayed faithful to The Episcopal Church of the Nativity community. We thank you for your financial contributions in 2020 and in 2021. We look forward to a much better year in 2021 as we safely continue to navigate the Covid pandemic, while at the same time being faithful to our call as Christians at Nativity and beyond.

Faithfully in Christ,
The Reverend Scot McComas
Rector

Nativity's Film Club



Film Club will be celebrating Black History with two critically acclaimed films: *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *One Night in Miami*. On Saturday 6th at 6:00 pm will be meeting over ZOOM to discuss *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* available on Netflix and Amazon. It is based on the August Wilson's play of the same name. It tells a story about jazz singer, Ma Rainey, and stars Viola Davis and Chadwick Boseman.

Then on Saturday 20th at 6:00 pm via ZOOM we will see Academy Award winning *One Night in Miami*. It stars Mahershala Ali and looks at three defining periods in an African American man's life.



Everyone is welcome. Watch the movies first then join in the ZOOM meeting at 6 pm. For more information, contact Darrell Spencer at darrellwspencer@yahoo.com.





Arts at Nativity

SUN | FEB 14 | 6 PM

Valentine's Day with We3

What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than with a nostalgic, all-jazz program? The trio We3, named after one of their favorite songs by the Ink Spots, is comprised of vocalist Renee Grant Patrick, violinist Suzanne Lansford, and pianist Nicole Pesce.

For more information visit:
<https://artsatnativity.org>



Meet Our Interim Music Director!



Charles Cornner is originally from Manhattan Beach, California and was baptized and confirmed at St. Cross by the Sea in Hermosa Beach. He holds a BM in Vocal Performance from California State University, Northridge and an MM in Choral Music Education from Arizona State. He has served as Director of Music and Adult Chour Director at Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church in Scottsdale and Choir Director at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Anthem. He currently is a Financial Advisor at a major financial services company.

Flower Guild News

We know that in these difficult times we find comfort in remembering the special people and events in our lives. Those who would like to dedicate a flower arrangement to a special person or event can either sign- up on the calendar on the wall between the office and kitchen if you are at church or if you would like to email Mina Rafferty at minarafferty@thenativity.net and Joyce Graves at jbilgraves@cox.net the date(s) you would like to have the arrangement done. Your name will be put on the calendar.



Name: _____
Phone: _____
Date: _____
Dedication: _____

Please have the dedication in to Mina by noon on Wednesday:
Suggested donation is \$50.00

The flowers will be arranged in time for the online taping so if you are watching online you can see the flowers. Weather permitting the flowers will be outside (or inside when that option is again available) by the altar during the Sunday services. If you want to pick up the flowers after the services to enjoy let us know.

Joyce Graves,
Flower Guild chairperson
602-885-8828



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.

Name Tags

Name Tags - If you are attending the Church of the Nativity but do not have a name tag at present, please stop by the Welcome Counter and give us your name so we can have one made for you. You can also contact Mina Rafferty at the church office, 480-307-9216 or via email at minarafferty@thenativity.net with your information.

Forward Day by Day

Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer. The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experiences. Each month's meditation is written by a different author. These booklets in both regular and large print are available on the Welcome desk or if you would like one mailed to you, send Mina Rafferty an email at minarafferty@thenativity.net.



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

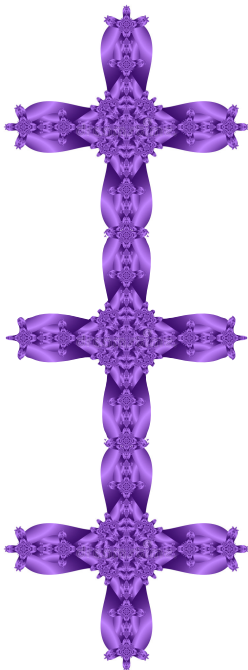
1125 Emergency Food Boxes Packed at St. Mary's Food Bank!

Yay Nativity Outreach.

Here we are festooned in our volunteer garb.

Thanks to everyone who came out on Saturday, January 23: Ron, Ramona, Edward, Sharon, Janyce, Kathy, Carrie and Gayle.

We'll do it again at the end of February – updates to follow.



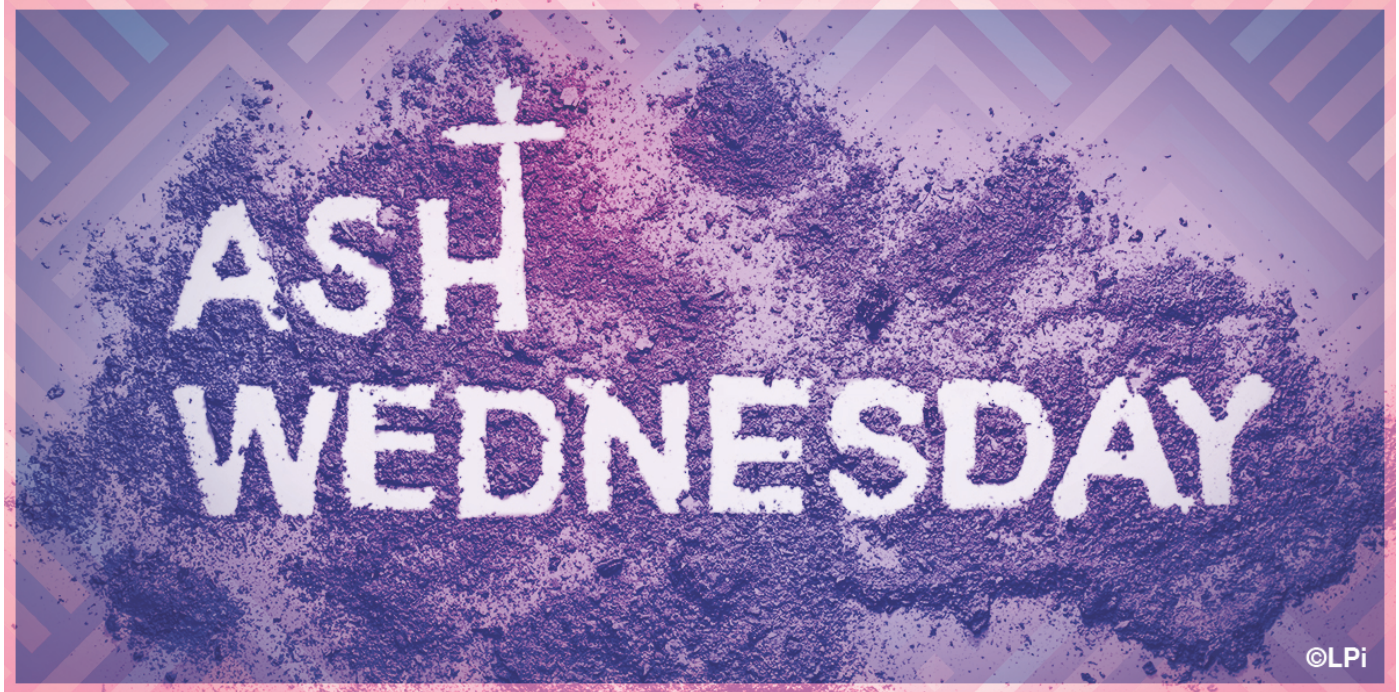
Last year I attended my first Heard Museum Indian Fair & Market event. I had a blast! The events were fun, the jewelry was gorgeous, and I learned a lot about both the museum and our Native American sisters and brothers. The annual event is celebrating its 63rd year in 2021 and will be held March 4th to the 7th. I highly recommend this event.

For more details, go to www.heard.org/event/fair-2021/.

“Nwadohiyada” (Cherokee) or Peace!

Thomasina Tafur





February 17, 2021, noon

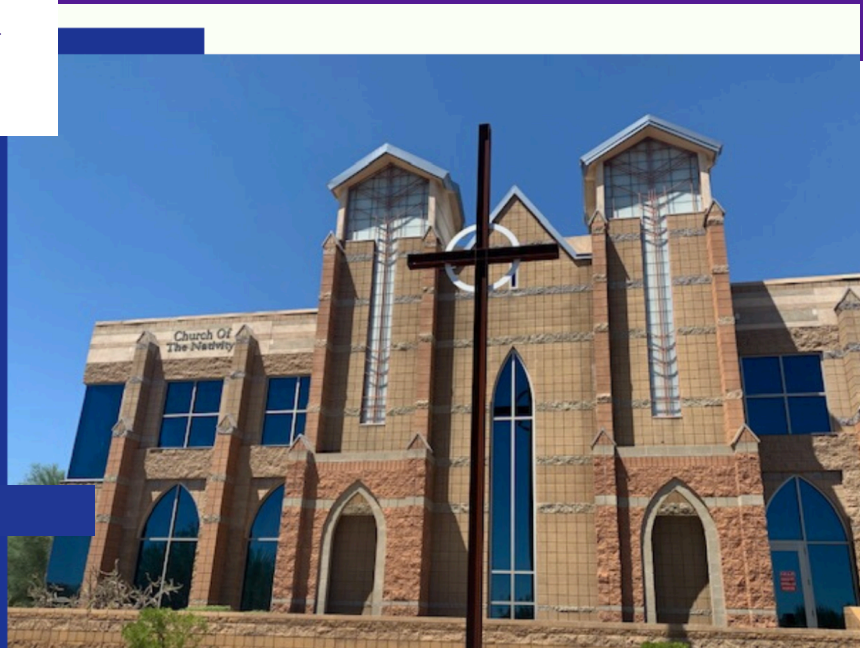


The Episcopal Church of the Nativity
Mailing Address:
22405 North Miller Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85255

WELCOME!

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE NATIVITY

Everyone Is Welcome



Worship Sundays

10 am In Person and Online

www.nativityscottsdale.org/

Join us

www.nativityscottsdale.org