The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

NATIVITYSCOTTSDALE.ORG

THE NATIVITY SCENE
April
2021



Everyone is Welcome!

No Exceptions



Easter 2021

Dear Church of the Nativity Community:

I hope you are well and are excited that we are in 2021! I imagine we all are glad to say goodbye to 2020! What a year it has been. Despite the pain and sorrow of 2020, we are finally at a place in 2021 where we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Now it is time to celebrate together and welcome each other back to church, whenever you feel comfortable to return. I hope that you have received your vaccination by now or at least have one scheduled

We are opening our church building for worship on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 11, 2021. In preparation for reopening, we are having the entire church building thoroughly cleaned so that you may have the confidence that we continue to put health and safety first and foremost. The service on April 11 will be our first church service inside the building since December. As you might recall, we returned to church holding indoor and outdoor services on September 13, 2020. Then in mid-December with the rise of Covid cases after Thanksgiving, we moved outdoors where it was safer to gather for church services.

Ever since we regathered as a church community in September 2020, we have never canceled any in-person worship services. Unlike several other Episcopal churches in Phoenix, we also have never had an outbreak of Covid at church. Thank you for wearing your mask, for washing your hands, and for practicing social distancing.

Additionally, since March 2020 we have been able to provide church services online as the church staff quickly learned how to create a meaningful online worship service. I want to thank the church staff, Associate Rector Fr. Wayne Whitney; Deacon Martha Durham; former Music Director Juliana Witt; Interim Music Director Charles Cornner; Youth, Children and Family Minister Mandy Hodges; Parish Administrator Mina Rafferty; and our Video Editor Diego Miranda for their countless hours and work above and beyond the norm during the last year.

I also would like to thank our Church Officers Senior Warden Paul Rank, Junior Warden Ron Kupinski, Treasurer Art Graf, and Vestry Clerk Cheryle Dunkelberg, along with the entire vestry who helped us navigate an unexpected new world during the pandemic. In addition, I want to thank our Regathering Committee who met weekly during much of the Fall of 2020 as we digested the guidelines from the Diocese of Arizona in preparation to resume worship in a safe manner.

Finally, I would like to THANK YOU! Thank you for being at Nativity; for standing by us during a time of extreme uncertainty and stress during a global pandemic; for keeping us in your prayers; for your financial contributions; and for remaining connected to your church community.

May you have a prayerful and blessed Holy Week as well as a joyful and happy Easter full of Christ's love,

The Reverend Scot McComas Rector

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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 Sundays, 11:00 am Middle School Zoom

Sundays, 11:30 am High School Zoom

1st Tuesdays 6:00 pm Outreach Meeting

<u>Tuesdays</u>, 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



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

From our Associate Rector

Wayne's World April 2021

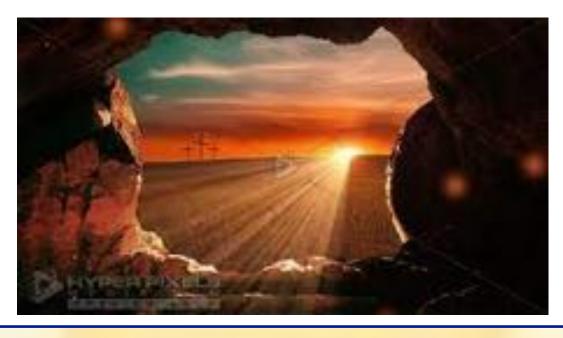
Easter Sunday is the first day of a 50-day season of Eastertide. Why 50? If you do the math of Jesus' 40 days of post-resurrection appearances up to the Ascension and then the 10 days after that to the day of Pentecost, boom, you have it—50 days. But, you might ask, 50 days of what? Celebration! Feasting! This was the custom of the early church and we continue that tradition in the calendar of our liturgical year.

We know there's a lot in our global pandemic world that isn't so wonderful, but we know there is hope for the end. There is light at the end of the tunnel. This hope is sure. This hope is secure. All hope is rooted in the activity of God to cancel the culture surrounding death—this is what the resurrection of Christ is all about. Death no longer wins. Love wins.

The Great Fifty Days is a time of looking toward the eternal celebration in heaven with our Lord and all the saints of God. On this terrestrial plane we are rehearsing for that time when all the bad and evil and death are no more. Rehearsals can be mind-numbing and spirit-breaking; but not this one!! This rehearsal is a festival of hope and joy and all the good things that God is giving us—all the hope that we can generate despite the havoc we see. Celebrate well in Eastertide.

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 all 4 of the week's lectionary texts in about a half-hour's time. Tune in before Sunday worship to get related to God's word for the week. Join Dr. Wayne online at 9:00 am on Nativity's Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/episcopalchurchofthenativity or the Nativity General YouTube channel.

Bible Study Wednesday

Eastertide Bible Study Wednesday resumes the narratives of the kings of Israel and Judah. These kings were emblematic of the people--as the king goes, so do the people. The study picks up in I Kings 14 with the reign of Jereboam I of the



northern kingdom of Israel. Dr. Wayne leads these studies on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm on the Nativity Facebook page and also the **Nativity General channel on YouTube**.

Wednesday Evening Prayer

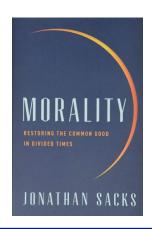
The ancient and venerable rite of Evening Prayer is streamed every Wednesday at 5:30 pm on Nativity's Facebook page. This service features a weekly commemoration of a historical Christian witness. If you would like to participate in the rotation of leaders for this ministry contact Dr. Wayne at waynewhitney@thenativity.net. Be sure to set yourself a 'reminder' by clicking on the event on the Nativity Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/episcopalchurchofthenativity.

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.

Fr. Scot's Wednesday Book Group

Please join us Wednesday mornings from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm on Zoom. We will be delving into Ethics, also known as Moral Theology, and reading the following book, which you can order at https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-5599218.



Deacon's Beacon

Here it is, just as I promised: The Straight and Simple on the Rosary:

The Anglican Rosary, simple and plain. A circlet of small beads in groups of 7 called Weeks, separated by 4 Cruciform beads. A Cross and Invitatory bead - lead into the circle - A simple form of the ancient Catholic Rosary. A simple form of prayer beads from ancient civilizations before Christianity.



The rosary, a simple prayer aid that opens a path to the Divine. Any number of simple prayers can be used. Episcopalians find this form familiar:

Cross: Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,

The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Invitatory: O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

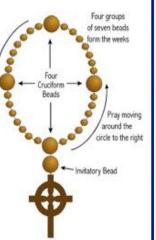
Cruciform Beads: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

world without end.

Week Beads: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work,

or watch or weep this night.



It's not important which prayers you use. Try different ones. Keep them simple so you don't have to try to memorize them. When I change prayers I write them on a card that is easily held. There are many prayers in our tradition that work well in this format. Find ones you like.

Here's the thing: Just say the words. I Repeat: Just say the words. You don't have to think about it or understand anything. Say it in the evening or morning. Say it aloud or silently. Say it while walking or sitting. Your prayers are heard. What is not clear to you is heard by God. God wants to hear our innermost needs and desires, even when we don't recognize them ourselves. By "Just saying the words" a space is created for you to know yourself better and for God to know you more. It's a portal to a rose garden of prayer. A Rosary, a circle of prayer woven of roses and given to the Virgin Mary. The Anglican Rosary, a prayer garden.

The Rev. Martha Durham Deacon

Join Us!



Maundy Thursday, April 1

12 pm in-person, outside Bishop Reddall will celebrate & preach 12 pm and 7 pm online



Good Friday, April 2

12 pm in-person, outside 12 pm and 7 pm online



Easter Morning, April 4

10 am in-person, outside 10 am online

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

The flower guild invites you and your family to honor loved ones in thanksgiving or to memorialize those we have lost by providing flowers for our Easter Sunday worship service. These dedications will be included in our Easter celebration and will help to beautify our worship space. Please provide the following information to Mina Rafferty via email at minarafferty@thenativity.net by April 1 at noon.

Given By ______
Contribution amount _____

The flowers will be available for you to take home following the service on Easter Sunday.

You may also sign up for flower dedications through the year. Days available are on the flower chart located in Christopher Hall.



CAMP KINDNESS

Vacation Bible School



JUNE 21-25

Students of all ages are welcome to join us for Camp Kindness, the summer VBS program at Nativity!

Ages 4 through 4th Grade - Sign up to participate!

Ages 5th Grade & Up - Sign up to be a counselor!

Registration & more info online: NativityScottsdale.org/

Games Art

Explore Nature

Music **Service Project** S'mores

Fun Friends

Science Experiments



Youth & Children's Ministry UPDATE by Mandy Hodges

After a whole year apart, it's finally time for some togetherness! This Easter feels especially celebratory. We have missed out on so much, yet God's spirit of hope and love feels stronger than ever with our Nativity family. I am so excited to see you all in these coming weeks!

Check out the details for spring gatherings coming up soon...



"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."
- William Shakespeare



Easter Morning Fun!

We hope to see all of our kiddos and families for our in-person, outdoor Easter service on Sunday, **April 4th** at 10:00am. Following the service, there will be activity stations for games, crafts, and family photos. Masks required.



Children's Chapel - Back In Person!!

Sunday morning Children's Chapel is back IN PERSON on **April 11th!!** Children of all ages are welcome to participate each Sunday morning at 10:00am on the front porch of the church. We will end at 10:30 and join the service (or kids can go home, whichever is best for your family). Masks required.



Youth Group - Back In Person!

We CANNOT WAIT to see all of our middle & high school students for the first in-person Youth Group gathering in over a year. Youth Group starts back on Sunday, **April 11th** at 11:00am (immediately following the 10am service). Our gathering will be held on the front porch of the church. Masks required.

Children & Youth Formation



Family Education Tour







On Saturday, March 27, two of our Nativity families met at St. Mary's Food Bank in downtown Phoenix to participate in their first-ever family-friendly tour. It was fun, educational, and inspirational to see the amazing facility and learn about the important work they do in the community. We look forward to joining in on their Family Volunteer Day this summer!



Mark your calendars...



Muffins with Mom

Attention: Moms of Nativity! We will host a Muffins with Mom gathering before the 10:00am service on Mother's Day, **May 9th**. All are welcome to gather on the front porch of the church at 9:30 for baked goods and coffee. We love and cherish you all!



Youth Confirmation Service Announced

After a year of waiting, we finally have a date to celebrate Nativity's Youth Confirmation Class of 2020/2021! Four amazing students will be confirmed in the diocesan confirmation service on Saturday, **May 15th** at 10am. The service will be held at Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix. All are welcome to attend!

We are excited to welcome Ron Rusinak as the new Chair of the Finance Committee at Nativity. We meet every month a few days before the Vestry meeting. We are glad to welcome Andrea Peabody as the new Treasurer of Nativity, who also will be a member of the Finance Committee. Ron and Andrea will guide us in 2021 and into 2022 with our church finances as they bring years of financial expertise to their respective positions.

In addition, Cotty Peabody was elected by the Vestry to replace Margaret Cohea, and will fulfill the final year of Margaret's term. We are grateful for the vigor and vision Cotty brings to the Vestry. I also would like to thank the teams of counters, who are returning to church as we reopen, as they count the Sunday financial offerings and prepare the deposit for the bank.

Art Graf used to do all of this by himself; now we have spread the work around a bit. I would like to thank Art for his over ten years of serving as Treasurer at Nativity. Now Art can focus on his golf game 100%. Thank you Art for your years of service to our church community!

--The Rev. Scot McComas Rector

Ron Rusinak

In 2017, I ended a 30-year career at HonorHealth. Half of those years I was a manager and then Director of Financial Services. The other half was as Director of Health System Planning, where among other things we planned and built HonorHealth's Thompson Peak Hospital.

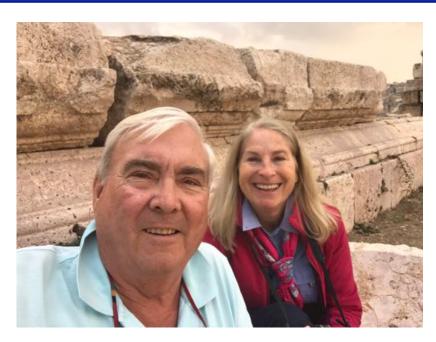
My wife, Ramona and I moved to Arizona in 1987 where a new position at the then "Scottsdale Memorial Hospital System" awaited me and where Ramona pursued graduate education. Our children attended K-12 school in Arizona yet, as young adults, moved back to Minnesota for graduate studies.

Prior to 1987 our family lived in Minneapolis where our two children were born. Our son, Jason lives in Minnesota with his wife, Jenny and their two daughters. Our daughter, Elizabeth and



Dave (the Reverend David Mowers), along with their three young children currently serve two Episcopal parishes in Baraboo and Portage Wisconsin.

Vestry and Finance News



Andrea Peabody

I am a military brat (my father was West Point, Air Force), growing up in the US and Europe with my family. I graduated from Wellesley College with a degree in Biology, and worked for 20 years in Corporate Banking, in NYC and Boston. During and after my work years I served on Non Profit boards in the Boston area and here in Phoenix. Most recently I spent 8 years on the Bishop's Finance Committee here in Arizona, working first with Bishop Smith and then briefly with Bishop Reddall. And I was the elected Treasurer of our HOA here in Scottsdale and served for 3 years.

Cotty & I were married at Christ Church in Cambridge, Ma. 40 years ago and lived most of our years in the Boston area. We have been coming to the Phoenix area since 1993 and in 2011 retired to our home here in Scottsdale. We joined Nativity when the Church was still housed in the office building. We have generally attended the 8 o'clock service, and during Covid have enjoyed being regular attendees on line.

Cotty Peabody

Cotty Peabody has been a member of the Nativity family for over ten years. He and Andrea joined in 2011 when Nativity was still in the office building location. Prior to moving here in 2011, they were active members of The Church of The Redeemer in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts for over 25 years.

Since coming to Arizona, Cotty has served the Diocese as a member of the Congregational Support Committee, helping other parishes sort out internal problems and is a board member of The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. He and Andrea led a Nativity pilgrimage to The Holy Land in 2017 and hope to lead another in 2022. He served one three

year term on the Nativity Vestry ending in 2018. Cotty has agreed to fill the final

year of Margaret Cohea's term on the vestry.

While we still operate under Covid restrictions, we will emerge from this a stronger parish family. We all eagerly look forward to congregating again in person and rededicating ourselves and our commitments to our neighbors and to Jesus Christ.

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 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.

Name Tags

Name Tags - It 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.

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 the church office, 480-307-9216 or minarafferty@thenativity.net.

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.

Arts at Nativity/Fellowship

Arts at Nativity!

Welcome to Arts at Nativity! We host great concerts – featuring the finest regional talent – at The Episcopal Church of the Nativity. Presented by 3rd Ave. Arts.

<u>Our mission statement:</u> 3rd Ave. Arts presents artistic and cultural events and arts education opportunities that enrich the fabric of our community.

3rd Ave. Arts, a 501(c)3 non-profit, has its roots in Durango, Colorado, where Executive Director C. Scott Hagler moved in 2004. He began creating festivals and events, with the idea of supporting local musicians, artists and arts educators by providing space for performances, education opportunities and display of visual arts. Hospitality is an important aspect of the work of 3rd Ave. Arts: all events provide opportunities for artists and attendees to mix and mingle. Collaboration between artists and organizations is also highly valued.



SUN I APR 25 I 3 PM

The Art of the Telephone

From opera to Broadway
to chamber music,
this humorous program
explores how one technological device changed our lives over the past
century.

Featured works include Menotti's operetta, The Telephone, and Torke's chamber work, Telephone Book.

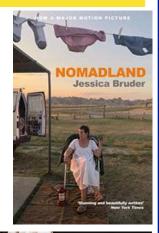
Nativity's Film Club

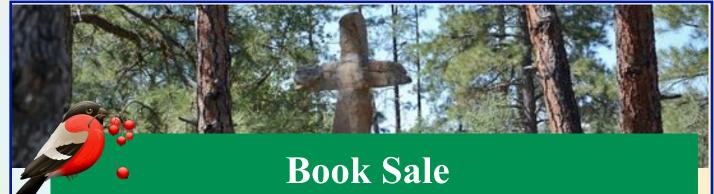
The film club is an open group of people who come together two times a month and discuss a film. You see the film in advance and then join in the discussion and community on the first and third Saturdays via ZOOM at 6 pm. We see a wide variety of films and all are available through streaming services such as Amazon or Netflix. You are welcome to come as often as you would like or just join in for films that are interesting to you. Contact Darrell Spencer at darrellwspencer@yahoo.com for more information or the ZOOM link. Pop some popcorn, catch a movie, and join in some fellowship in addition to some great conversation about the film.



April 17: THE UNITED STATES VS. BILLIE HOLIDAY

(some adult content)





The Christopher family generously donated Bob and Marty's book collection to Nativity. There are lots of fiction and even more nonfiction. There are thousands of books for your consideration.

Free Will Offering

To Benefit the Summer Camp Youth Scholarships at Chapel Rock Camp and Conference Center.

The funds will provide a wonderful summer camp experience for underprivileged children in Arizona.





The Foothills Caring Corps helps older adults remain living independently in their own homes as long as possible. They provide in-home services, transportation services, community services and support. They call the individuals they serve "neighbors".

During the COVID pandemic, they have organized drive-by caravans for the neighbors. These caravans serve to decrease isolation and show these people that they have not been forgotten. The theme of the April caravan is Spring Joy Convoy. Treats are given to each neighbor visited on the convoy. If you would be interested in baking treats (cookies, brownies, etc.) for the neighbors, please wrap or bag them in 2 or 3 piece individual servings and drop them off at the Foothills Caring Corps on either April 12 or April 19 between 8:30 and 4.

The Foothills Caring Corps is located in Carefree in the Sundial Shopping Center. Their address is 7275 Easy St. #103, Carefree 85377. Phone number is 480-488-1105.

You can learn more about how to volunteer with the Foothills Caring Corps by visiting their website **foothillscaringcorps.com**.



Hugs & Help Happen Here

Staff, Volunteers and Generous Supporters coming together to help our older and physically challenged Neighbors stay well and remain connected.

FEED THE HUNGRY



The Episcopal Church of The Nativity has served the men of the East Valley Men's Center in many ways. Before the pandemic, Nativity members gathered to prepare and serve healthy, balanced and delicious meals.

When we shut things down last spring, we sent them money for the dinners leaving them to go out and purchase the food and prepare it. More recently, we have bought the food and left it on their doorstep, leaving them to prepare and serve it.

For our April dinner, we are "breaking out" and going back to the way we did things a year ago. On Monday, April 26th, we will buy, prepare, and serve a ham dinner, with all the trimmings, to the men of the East Valley Men's Center.

A sign-up sheet would be difficult to manage so we are asking volunteers to contact us if you would be willing to help. We will be wearing masks and hopefully those participating will be vaccinated by then. What we need for the dinner is the following:

HAM: Mary Anne and Jon Bost will get this.

POTATOES:

BEANS:

ROLLS

SALAD

SODAS

DESSERT: Carrie Wagner is making brownies.

We will leave from the church at 4:30 pm on Monday, April 26th, and will be



done serving at the Men's Center by 7:00 pm. If you can help, or wish more information, please contact Jon Bost at jonrbost@yahoo.com or 602-618-6781. Hope to see you then.

Outreach



Save-The-Family Foundation of Arizona offers a variety of programs designed to empower families to conquer homelessness and achieve life-long independence.

April Purse & Career Clothing Drive for Mother's Day.

This is an annual event we have always done for the Mother's at Save-The-Family. If you would like to donate new or gently used purses, scarves, jewelry and toiletries. Donation boxes are at the church until April 18th.

They are also in need of career clothing for the women. If you have any you would like to donate, please reach out to Carrie Wagner. Phone 714-785-9821 or email me at carriemwagner@gmail.com.

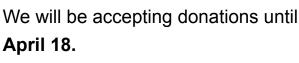


Items Needed:



- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotion
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- · Costume jewelry
- Scarves









Outreach Page 19

Lolma! (Hello in Hopi)

Recently I attended the annual Heard Museum Indian Fair & Market event with two other parishioners, Dawn Kast and Joan Harris. We had a wonderful time! Although the event was not as grand as years past due to Covid, the jewelry, art work and historical pieces were just as lovely. Below are only a few of the pictures I took of my favorite pieces. I can't say enough good things about the art work and the Heard Museum's importance. Please try to support their efforts in raising awareness of Native American life, past, present and future.

On another note, the Native American Ministry Council has decided to Zoom monthly until we are able to meet face to face. There are many challenges and projects that need to be addressed more frequently than on



a quarterly basis. Nativity Church is not currently aligned with a tribe; however, I am working diligently with other members of the Council on a variety of upcoming projects. I'm also very grateful Gayle Jameson has stepped up and asked how she can become more involved in the Outreach Project for Native Americans. As Covid starts to lift, there should be plenty to do. So, stayed tuned. I hope to announce more details regarding projects in which YOU too can participate. — Thomasina Tafur













Thank You!



We have much to be thankful for this Eastertide. Many of us are being vaccinated, but there are others waiting. Until the diocesan office issues an update we will require everyone at the church to continue wearing masks.

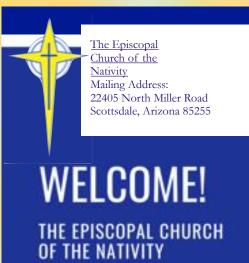
These good pups show how to properly wear a mask!











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