



# Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity

JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

# Bishop’s Visit

Sunday, February 2, 2025



## The Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity

828 W. Cherry Lane  
Meridian, Idaho 83642-1619  
(208) 888-4342

Sunday Services 10:00am

## Monthly Message

from Father Shibu, Priest-in-Charge



*“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

– *Philippians 3:14*

Dear Beloved Holy Nativity family,

Happy New Year! I can hardly believe that I am writing this article to welcome 2025. As we step into this new year together, I greet you with heartfelt joy and deep gratitude for all the blessings of the past year. I am filled with excitement for what lies ahead for our parish as we continue to grow in faith, fellowship, and service.

Reflecting on the concept of new beginnings, I am reminded of Janus, the Roman god of doorways, gates, and time. Janus, depicted with two faces, one looking back at the past and the other looking forward to the future, symbolizes transitions and change. Like Janus, we are called to reflect on the lessons of the past year while looking forward with hope and determination to the opportunities of this new year. As we pass through this threshold, let us remember the valuable experiences we have gained and carry those lessons forward.

The apostle Paul’s words in Philippians resonate deeply as we begin this new chapter. Paul encourages us to forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead, pressing on toward the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. This message is one of profound hope. No matter what challenges or failures we faced in the past year, we are called to let go of lost dreams and embrace the new year with renewed faith and purpose. Paul’s unwavering belief in Christ’s resurrection inspired him to rejoice, regardless of his circumstances, and he repeatedly reminds us to “rejoice in the Lord always.” This hope is our anchor as we step forward into 2025.

As we enter this new year, let us resolve to press on with hearts filled with gratitude,

*Continued on page 2*

# THE GIVING TREE

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY OUTREACH



Once again, Holy Nativity spread Christmas joy to a family in need. All of the beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts were collected, tagged and delivered to the Meridian Elementary School on Thursday, December 19th by Carrie Magette, Holly Vondemfange, and Darwin and Mary Buchanan. Additionally, several Christmas bags of food were donated by the Be Our Guest team. Those bags loaded with food were also delivered so that the School Counselor can hand them out to families in need.

But wait....there's more! Linda Morris and Janine Helms donated Walmart gift cards so that they can be handed out to families with food insecurities.

What a wonderful feeling to know that we've done our part to spread Christmas joy to children and helping families in need.

*Thank you to everyone who contributed!*



## Monthly Message

from Father Shibu, Priest-in-Charge • *continued*

hope, and faith. Together, let us strive to do great things for God and for one another. May our lives be a testimony to the goodness and grace of Christ, as we rejoice always in His unfailing love. I look forward to journeying with you in faith and service throughout this year.

Blessings+

*Fr. Shibu Reginold Pananchikkal*

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY GIVING TREE

### *The Giving Continues into 2025!*

*by Carrie Magette & Holly Vondemfange*

I wanted to share this sweet email from the MES Counselor with you. Some of the extra Walmart gift cards donated by Linda & Janine have already been put to good use!

*"I just wanted to thank you again for blessing our Meridian Elementary families this year. I wish you could have seen the parent's face light up when they saw the gifts!! It was truly incredible, and we are so thankful for your support of our school. We have already used some of the gift cards to provide multiple families with extra support this holiday season as well. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year!"*

*Lexi Ward, School Counselor*

There is still quite a balance in the 2-Cents-A-Meal Fund. Therefore, at the suggestion of Carrie Magette, some of the remaining funds will be used to purchase \$50 Winco "Family Friendly" gift cards and given to the MES, MMS, and MHS counselors to hand out to families who come to them with such a need. Holly Vondemfange also suggested we could offer to pay off hot lunch balances with some of those funds. Both options would be quite impactful.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this worthwhile outreach effort. We are making a meaningful impact and spreading the message of hope to area families.

# Annual Meeting & Potluck Meal

Join us! Please bring a side dish or dessert to share for our feast.

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 12th. Everyone is encouraged to join in the feast and participate in the annual meeting where we will review and approve the budget for 2025, elect new Vestry members and vote on Convention Delegates....among other things.



## LADIES TIME OUT ★ CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

The ladies of the church joined together for a wonderful Christmas Brunch and gift exchange which was organized by Sue Pahlas. They had a great turnout and a fabulous time together.

*We do wish to recognize Sue Pahlas for her efforts in pulling these fabulous events together. This is a wonderful ministry that creates lasting friendships and builds meaningful connections.*

# BAPTISMS • Sunday, December 22nd • Owen and Amelia



# 2024 Christmas Children's Pageant

Photos by Marc Fox, Sr.

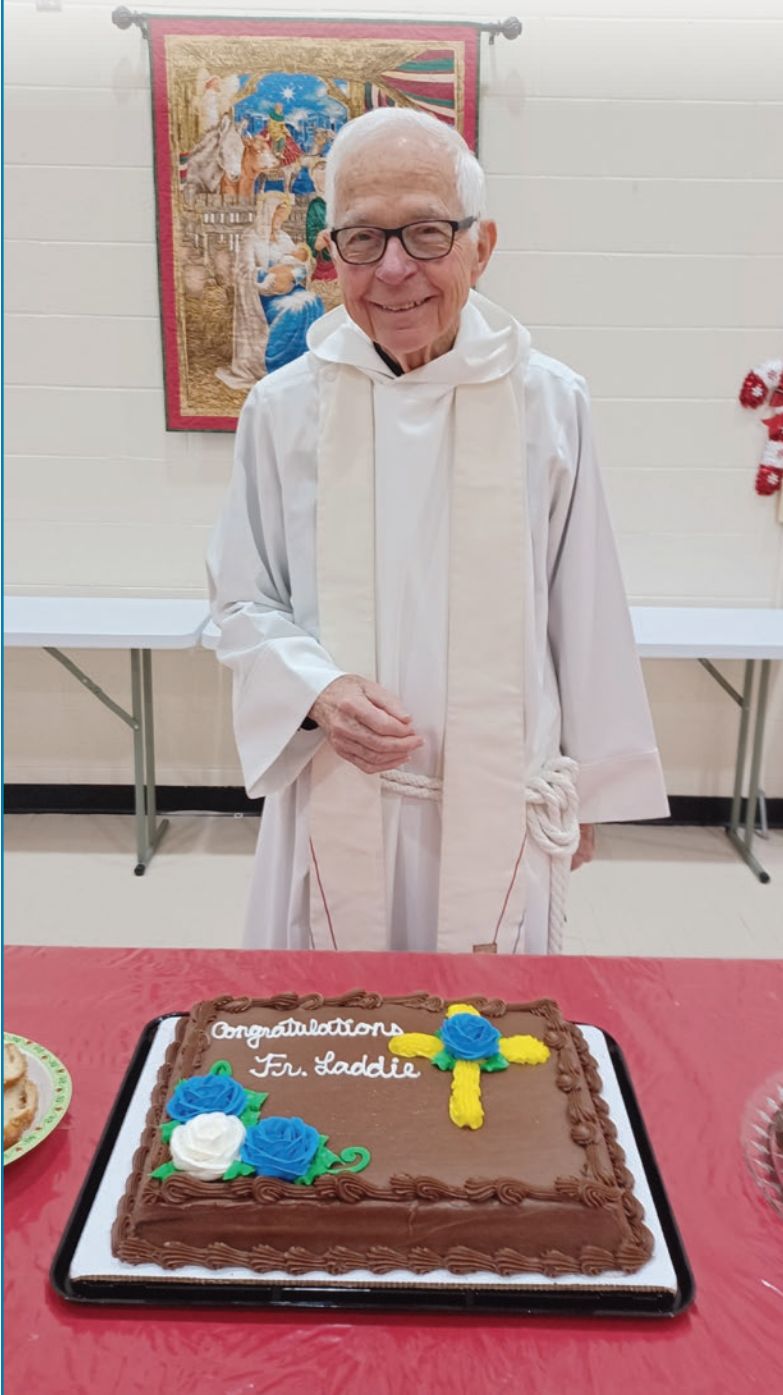




**Marc Fox, Sr.** our photographer, was on hand for the Children's Christmas Eve Pageant. Marc is highly skilled and able to produce some wonderful results. He took multiple photos of the children in the Pageant, the Readers and then the Eucharist. These photos are being added to our website for all to enjoy. They're amazing and we are so very blessed to have someone like Marc who is so talented. When asked to take photos, he never hesitates, he's always very gracious and willing to be there for us. **What a blessing he is!**

# Celebrating Father Laddie's 53<sup>rd</sup> Year as an ordained Episcopal Priest

*We are so fortunate to have him.*



Carol Tracy	1/1
Jennifer Anttonen	1/2
Juanita Garza	1/2
Alice Farquhar-Mayes	1/3
Tamara Bradley	1/4
Jim Grooms	1/6
Dennis Feeney	1/10
Ferb Tracy	1/12
Jeff Spurlock	1/14
Dawn Yadao	1/16
Gil Walker	1/17
Tristan Mayer	1/19
Linda Czarkowski	1/20
Carl Pierce	1/20
Jerrod Horn	1/21
Mary Kay Martin	1/21
Jamie Sterbis	1/23
Al Gunther	1/24
Carla Bulen	1/26
Jane Garza	1/30
Cydnee McVay	1/30



Joshua and Judy Dollins..... 1/27