



Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity

MARCH 2025 Newsletter

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Monthly Message

from Father Shibu, Priest-in-Charge

“Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning”

– Joel 2:12

Dear Holy Nativity Family,

As we step into another Lenten season, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5th, we are reminded that this is a time of deep reflection, repentance, and renewal. Lent is not merely about giving up something but about drawing closer to God by meditating on His Word, committing to regular prayer, and examining our hearts. It is a journey that leads us to the cross, reminding us of Christ's ultimate sacrifice and love for us. Let us use this sacred time to seek spiritual growth, strengthen our faith, and open our hearts to God's transformative grace.

I am also excited to share that we will soon be organizing a new fellowship group for middle-aged members, including young couples and singles, called R.I.S.E (Reflecting In Service and Encouragement). This group will provide a space for fellowship, faith discussions, and service opportunities within our church and the broader community. We are blessed with so many young people in our congregation, and I look forward to meeting with them to hear their ideas for fun activities and meaningful outreach programs. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and talents are valuable gifts, and I encourage them to be a part of something that will not only enrich their lives but also uplift our church and those in need.

As we journey through Lent together, may we grow in faith, love, and service to one another. May this season prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter and the hope of resurrection.

Blessings to you all,

Fr. Shibu Reginold Pananchikkal

Fr. Shibu Reginold Pananchikkal

Priest-in-Charge • Episcopal Church of Holy Nativity



Ash
Wednesday
Service
March 5
12 Noon

The Episcopal Church
of the Holy Nativity

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

Sunday Services 10:00am



Shrove Tuesday!

Tuesday, March 4th

5:00PM - 6:30PM

Join us for hot pancakes, sausages, bacon, eggs, coffee and juice. Come enjoy these familiar favorites in celebration of Shrove Tuesday - prepared and served by the fabulous men of Holy Nativity.



Mark your calendar for the
Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 5
12:00 noon

During the service we impose ashes as a sign of penitence and as a reminder of our mortality.

Easter will be just around the corner, but until then, we have the Season of Lent through which to journey – a time for self-evaluation and reflection, and a time to ponder, pray, and discern what God is calling us to do next.

What is the Spirit whispering to you?





Newcomer Ministry • Help Needed

Do you know about the Holy Nativity Newcomer Ministry? This important ministry actively welcomes new visitors each Sunday.

When new people arrive they should feel embraced and valued from the very start. A warm greeting and friendly faces can make a significant difference in their experience. This welcoming atmosphere encourages newcomers to return and become part of the Holy Nativity community.

Would you be willing to serve in this capacity on a rotating basis? Gift bags with informational materials are ready to be handed out. Additionally, we have a team of dedicated bakers who routinely bake miniature loaves of bread that are placed into each gift bag what a great touch!

If you would be willing to help serve in this ministry that fosters connections and helps build lasting relationships, we would love to add your name to the team.

Please join us and help us to warmly welcome all who come through our doors!

**If you are interested or have questions, please contact Karen Ryker at (208) 599-5894
klyker@msn.com**





Meridian Middle School

Outreach Project

Holy Nativity has in years past, worked with the Meridian Middle School Counselor to help provide items that families are in need of.

Recently, our MMS Outreach Representative, Holly Vondemfange, was contacted with a request from the Meridian Middle School, asking for help with collecting household items for these families during a time when colds and flu are prevalent in the schools. They have been receiving many requests for the items listed below and they are currently out of stock:

- Laundry Detergent
- Paper Towels
- Clorox Wipes
- Trash Bags
- Disinfectant Spray
- Rags/hand towels/etc

If you are willing to shop for these items, a **basket will be placed in the Parish Hall**, ready for any donations you would be willing to make.

If you would prefer to **donate monetarily** towards this effort, that is great too! Just place your donation in an envelope that is marked **“Meridian Middle School Outreach”**. Holly has stated she is willing to do the shopping for you and deliver the items to the Middle School.

We thank you in advance for your contribution.

Questions? Contact Holly Vondemfange at (408) 310-2456 or holly@meta.com

Ladies Time Out
Idaho City
HOT SPRINGS
Friday, April 4th
The Springs at Idaho City 10:30 AM
Cost for 2 1/2 hours is \$25 per person
 Come enjoy a hot spring soak;
 relax and rejuvenate!

 We will carpool from church
 meeting at 9:30 AM.
 Eat lunch in the yurt if you like.

 To reserve a spot or for any questions text
Sue Pahlas at 208-891-3258.
 A sign-up sheet will be in the Parish Hall



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday | 10:00 AM

*we will gather in the Parish Hall where
there will be the blessing of the palms and
then we will process into the sanctuary*

Thursday, April 17

Seder Soup Supper | 5:30 PM

in the Parish Hall

Maundy Thursday | 7:00 PM

in the Sanctuary

Friday, April 18

Stations of the Cross | 12 Noon

in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 20

Easter Eucharist | 10:00 AM

in the Sanctuary



New Sound System

... and ...

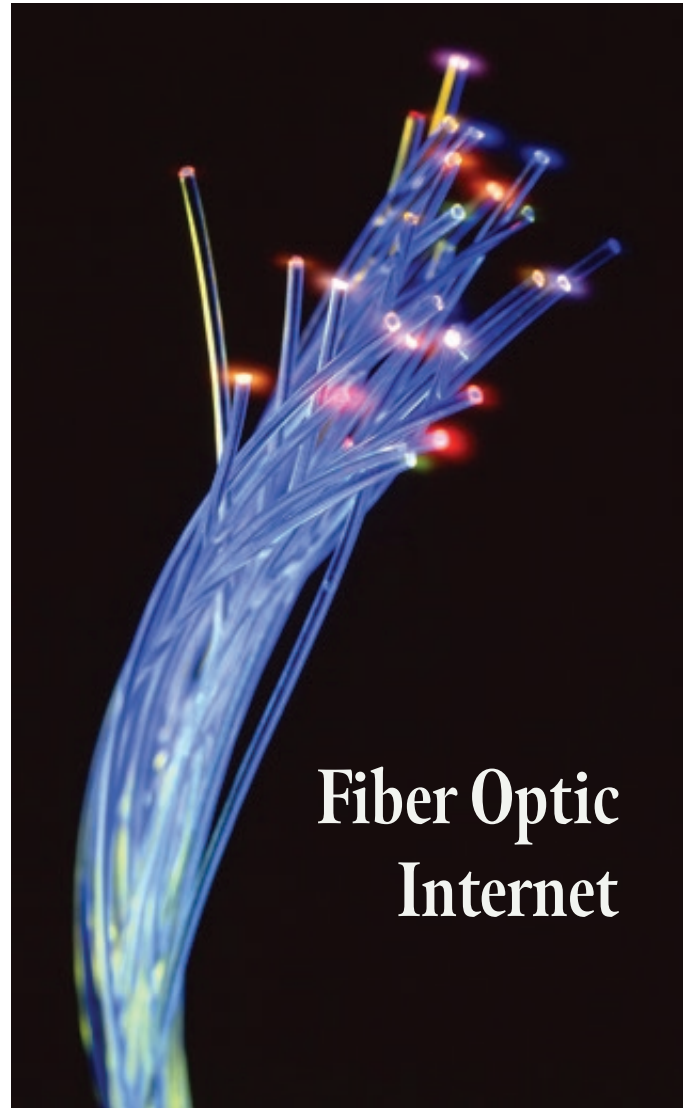


Thanks to the wonderful generosity of Rev. Laddie and Andrea Tluczek, Holy Nativity has a new sound system that was installed on February 26th. Their donation made it possible for this greatly needed upgrade.

When you attend church services, we believe you'll notice a significant improvement!

We cannot thank them enough for their support and dedication to Holy Nativity. We are so blessed to have them with us, not only for this, but for also for Rev. Laddie's devoted service as our Assisting Priest.

What a marvelous blessing!



Fiber Optic Internet

Additionally, Holy Nativity recently updated our internet service so that we are now receiving service through Fat Beam. This company installed fiber optic cables, which are made of glass. These cables transmit data using light beams, which travel at the speed of light, delivering far better High-speed internet connections. In addition to being faster, fiber is widely considered to be more reliable, thanks to fewer outages and electrical interferences. So individuals attending our church service online should see and hear a noticeable improvement.

We're very excited to have fiber internet.



Paradise Point 2025 CAMP DATES

Work Camps (All Ages)

May 23-25 • Opening Camp
October 10-13 • Closing Camp

Adult Camps (Ages 18+)

August 15-18 • Women's Camp
September 12-14 • Adult Camp
September 26-28 • Way of the Spirit Pilgrimage

Family Camps (All Ages)

August 8-10 • Fat Goose Family Camp
August 29-September 1 • Labor Day Family Camp

Youth/ Teen Camps (Ages 5-17)

June 16-21 • Teen Camp 1 (Ages 13-17)
June 23-28 • Youth Camp 1 (Ages 7-12)
June 30-July 5 • Youth Camp 2 (Ages 7-12)
July 7-12 • Teen Camp 2 (Ages 13-17)
July 14-19 • Youth Camp 3 (Ages 7-12)
July 21-26 • Youth Camp 4 (Ages 7-12)
July 31-August 3 • Beginner's Camp (Ages 5-8 plus 1 adult)

Leadership Development Camps (Ages 13-17)

June 23-28 • Leader In Training Session 1 (Ages 13-14)
June 23-July 5 • Junior Staff Session 1 (Ages 15-17)
June 30-July 5 • Leader In Training Session 2 (Ages 13-14)
July 14-26 • Staff In Training (Ages 14-17)
July 14-28 • Junior Staff Session 2 (Ages 15-17)



New Camper Special!

Invite your friends to Paradise Point! Returning campers can refer a new camper to join us for just \$200 and you'll receive a free 2025 hoodie!

Offer ends March 16, 2025

Email:
registrar@episcopalidaho.org
for details and to claim your discount!

NEW CAMPERS ONLY \$200!

PARADISEPOINTCAMP.ORG



Holy Nativity has scholarships to assist with camp fee expenses. Application forms are in the Parish Hall. Contact Mary Buchanan if you have any questions (208) 371-0590 • mkbdesigninc@gmail.com



SCAN THE QR CODE
or visit the website to
book your spot:
www.paradisepoint.org





FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Reserve Fund	13,344.71
Be Our Guest	5,134.84
Caring Closet	2,162.83
Children's Ministry	555.08
2 Cents-a-Meal	3,458.11
Building Fund	66,056.88
Memorial Fund	8,375.84
Paradise Point	4,081.20
Kitchen Improvements	8,808.56
Kitchen Improvements: New Dishwasher	1,146.76
Youth Ministry	3,695.11
Altar Guild Donation	1,661.58
Music	95.00
Landscaping	(500.00)
Sound System	3,081.72
Discretionary Fund	3,739.60
Full Time Priest Fund	67,678.06
Thanksgiving Baskets	160.00
Nampa and Meridian Irrigation	200.00
Christmas Families	661.56
Convention Donation	2,719.77
Poinsettias	124.22
Anglican Church of Kenya	600.00



MARCH Birthdays

- Gladys Clymens 3/1
- Sophia Horn 3/6
- Liz Carlson 3/9
- Marian Hendrix 3/10
- Amanda Derzay 3/12
- Lucy Gray 3/18
- Scott Erickson 3/19
- Connie Donaldson 3/20
- Michelle Smith 3/20
- Amy Spurlock 3/27
- Jerry Lofton 3/29
- Quinn Vondemfange 3/29
- Stephany Galbreath 3/30

MARCH Anniversaries



- Ken and Nancy Reglin 3/11
- Max and Sandra Long 3/17
- Rob and Melissa Burnz 3/25
- Craig and Holly Vondemfange 3/27

Episcopal Church of the Holy Nativity

Vestry Meeting • February 19, 2025



Minutes of January meetings were approved by e-mail.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm with Linda Czarkowski reading the Prayer for Vestries.

Finance Chair Report:

Quickbooks Software: Jerrod Horn informed the Vestry that the QuickBooks On-Line program we recently purchased has been more complicated than anticipated and much more than we need. We feel that overall, the original version serves us well and is a better program for us. We can transfer the information back to our laptop version that we had been using. Then as a precautionary measure, we will use an external storage device to keep a backup, just in case of computer malfunction. This will allow for two other parishioners to fill in when Sue is away.

Finance Report: Jerrod did not bring his laptop to the meeting, so we were unable to see financial statements. He will e-mail those to the Vestry. Income was 140% above budget, expenses were 190% over because the donation for the sound system was not included in the budget yet. There was about \$1,000.00 in other maintenance and miscellaneous expenses. Ken Reglin asked if there was a way to track pledge versus plate offerings.

Jerrod told the Vestry that so far pledges amounted to \$18,915 and plate offerings were \$1,400. There were also \$2,400 donations to designated funds.

Security Cameras: Security cameras have not been installed yet as there was a problem with some parts. The camera in the Narthex is working and Fr. Shibu has it on his phone. He can even communicate with someone in the Narthex.

Priest's Report • Fr. Shibu Reginold:

R.I.S.E. Group: Father Shibu is anxious to proceed with forming a fellowship group for those who are between the ages of 35 to 55. This group can schedule a "fun" get together one month, and then have an "outreach" activity on the following month. A listing of parishioners in this age group was provided to the Vestry.

Additionally, possible names for this group were provided by Fr. Shibu. Out of the names/ideas provided, the Vestry chose R.I.S.E. (Reflecting in Service and Encouragement).

Sr. Warden • Mary Buchanan::

Shrove Tuesday: Mary reminded us that the Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner will be held on March 4th from 5:00 to 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Jon Anson, who is in charge again this year reported that the bacon and sausage have been donated. Curtis Lee has said that he may be able to donate about 5 dozen eggs. Jon needs help and there will be a signup sheet for the men to volunteer that evening.

Background Checks: The Diocese is requesting background checks on those people involved with children. The Diocese will pay for these checks this time, but others added later will be paid for by the church. The background checks are good for 5 years.

Jr. Warden • Phil Street:

Janitorial Service: Phil Street had a meeting scheduled with a potential cleaning contractor today, but they did not show up. Mary has a meeting scheduled Tuesday with another cleaning

contractor. It will be good to know what others would charge us.

Bathroom Renovation: Phil will obtain bids for the renovation of the bathrooms. This will be an expensive project so a Capital Campaign will be needed to cover the costs.

Outreach • Linda Czarkowski:

Be Our Guest: Linda Czarkowski asked about the procedure to purchase additional pans for the kitchen and which fund will be used to pay for them. Jerrod let Linda know that the funds in the “Be Our Guest” Kitchen Dedicated Fund will be used. A tax-exempt Costo card will not be applied for. The BOG crew are busy making glass ornaments to be sold at the Be Our Guest booth at the Holiday Bazaar. Darlene Stattner is supplying the glass.

No Parking Signs • Jon Anson:

Jon reported that the parking signs will be installed soon now that the weather has improved.

Newcomer’s Bread Ministry • Karen Ryker:

Karen asked if this ministry could be expanded to include long-time members who would be better able to recognize visitors. Team members would be assigned to serve in this capacity on a rotating basis, similar to other ministries. Karen would continue monitoring the bread supply. The Vestry felt that this would be a good idea.

Meeting adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 7:56PM with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen

Karen Ryker, Vestry Clerk



“May you live a long life full of gladness and health, with a pocket full of gold as the least of your wealth.”



May the dreams you hold dearest be those which come true, and the kindness you spread keep returning to you.”



LEADERSHIP TEAM

- | | |
|--|---|
| Bishop of Idaho:
The Rt. Rev. Jos Tharakan | Fellowship:
Sandra Koerner |
| Priest-in-Charge:
Rev. Shibu Pananchikkal | Sunday School:
Robin Horn |
| Senior Warden
Mary Buchanan | Altar Guild:
Clare Barrett |
| Junior Warden
Phil Street | Middle School Outreach:
Holly Vondemfange |
| Finance Chairman
Jerrod Horn | Meridian Food Bank:
Craig Vondemfange |
| Treasurer
Sue Pahlas | Ministry Schedule
Mary Buchanan |
| Pledge Secretary
Bob Burnz | Prayer Shawl Ministry:
Cindy Wolfenbarger |
| Church Musician:
Heidi Roberts | Women’s Group:
Sue Pahlas |
| Office Manager:
Cindy Wolfenbarger | Worship:
Rev. Shibu Pananchikkal |
| | Website:
Mary Buchanan |