

Church of the Holy Nativity

South Weymouth, Massachusetts 02190



Parish Profile 2021

Table of Contents

Holy Nativity Mission Statement	1
Diocese of Massachusetts Mission Statement	1
A Word about Covid 19	1
Who We Are	2
How We Worship	3
Christian Education	4
Groups, Events, and Activities	5
How We Serve Others	8
Opportunities for Change	9
Building, Grounds, and Rectory	10
History of the Church of the Holy Nativity	11
Our Community, The Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts	12
Average Sunday Attendance	14
Our New Rector	14
Finances	15
Staff, Vestry, Search Committee	15

Addendum

Contact Information	i
Photo Gallery	i-v

Holy Nativity Mission Statement

The family of the Church of the Holy Nativity is called to be a caring community, committed to spiritual development; encouraging growth in each member's personal relationship with God, through Christ; by providing educational opportunities for youth and adults as well as Christian Formation for all, going forth to share God's message of love and forgiveness.

Diocese of Massachusetts Mission Vision Statement

We, the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, are living members of the Body of Jesus Christ.

As Jesus gathered his disciples, took bread and blessed it, and then offered his body for us in order to bring reconciliation, forgiveness, and healing, so may we offer ourselves in Christ's name.

EMBRACING BRAVE CHANGE

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. (I Corinthians 16:13-14)

God is calling to us to look ahead and to embrace brave change. As fewer people turn to the church as a source of solace and strength, more than ever we yearn to know and be known by God and one another. In a world plagued by grievous conflict, injustice, and poverty, God gives us the courage to be agents of reconciliation, justice, and abundance. There will be difficult choices for us as followers of Jesus. It is only through ongoing, prayerful discernment together that we will find a path to a faithful future.

A Word about Covid 19

The global pandemic has brought a new reality to all of us, and Holy Nativity is no exception. We began our search for a new rector before the outbreak of the Covid 19 virus. What was already going to be a time of transition has been exacerbated by a new set of fears, uncertainties, and for too many of us, isolation. However, the community we have built, and continue to nurture at Holy Nativity is strong, and we have endeavored to meet these challenges head on.



With the safety of the parish always our top priority, we continue to worship, have Christian education for both children and adults, as well as other programs and activities, all online. The business of running the church continues, safely, and remotely, whenever possible. Throughout this profile, we have tried to point out the activities the church continues to engage in, during these trying times. With God's help, we hope to return to our beautiful church building and enjoy each other's fellowship soon!

How We Worship

At Holy Nativity Holy Eucharist is celebrated at both Sunday services following Rite II of the Book of Common Prayer. During the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic Zoom services were held, first following Morning Prayer Rite II, then moving to Holy Eucharist Rite II with our interim priest. When the weather permitted the services were held outside on the lawn. During Covid times there is only one Sunday service, at 10:00 AM. With the help and hard work of our Regathering Committee we joyfully celebrated Easter at three in-person services Easter morning, following Diocesan guidelines for safe gathering.

The 8:00 AM service is usually a complete liturgy without music for the early risers. The 10:00 AM service features organ and piano music by our organist choir director, along with our choir. Our current organist, Marie-Elise Boyer, is an award-winning pianist and vocal coach, who has accompanied soloists in competitions and recitals. She recently moved to the U.S. from France to continue her studies at the New England Conservatory. During the coronavirus pandemic she plays the Sunday service music for our Zoom services and works with and encourages choir members who are singing solos or duets. The choir is looking forward to returning to regular services, singing together under Marie-Elise's guidance, and listening to her amazing playing in person when the pandemic is over.

"Sunday services ground me for the next week."

Special services occur throughout the year for such events as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, and Thanksgiving Eve. There are three Christmas Eve services offered: at 12:15 with Holy Eucharist, at 4:00 with the Nativity Story and Christmas carols that is geared toward families with children, and at 7:30 with Holy Eucharist and music. A mid-week Eucharist service, followed by a light lunch and conversation, is held most weeks.

Prayers are offered at the Healing Station at the Saint Luke's altar in response to individual parishioner's requests during communion at both the 8:00 and 10:00 AM services. Their requests may be as specific or general as feels comfortable. The Healing Ministers will lay their hands on and pray with the person, and anoint their forehead with oil.



Nursery care is provided for our youngest members during the 10:00 AM service. Children ages pre-school through 7th grade participate in Sunday School during the 10:00 AM service and join their parents in the service following the sermon. During the time of Covid-19 these classes are being held in unique ways, including the use of Zoom.

Our worship services are supported and enhanced by the following ministries: Acolytes, Altar Guild, Choir, Lay Readers, and Ushers. Our Pastoral Care Team members visit and bring communion to those who are not able to worship in person.

Christian Education

Adult Christian Education - The Adult Christian Education programs at Holy Nativity are facilitated by the Priest or the Interim Priest as is the current situation. In the past, Sunday mornings after church were often set aside for studying books of the Bible, learning about the Anglican Church, or discussing contemporary books such as *The Book of Joy* written by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. A quiet midweek Eucharist and luncheon is a favorite with many people as is the midweek Lenten Study supper series.

Currently, our Interim Minister has introduced Zoom study sessions during our Covid shutdown. Both an Advent and Lenten series were held and upcoming programs are being planned.



Children's Christian Education - The Sunday school program is based on a one room classroom format. Themes are based around the church seasons, church holidays and current events. Children are engaged in learning through object lessons, power point presentations, and on-line Bible based activities and games. Older children often help with the teaching of the younger ones. Confirmation and First Communion classes are taught by the Rector.

During the season of Lent, one or more outreach projects are completed by the Sunday school children with the abundant support of the parish as a whole.

During the Covid shutdown, we have been blessed to be able to continue to have a very well attended children's program! This has consisted of an 8-week Bible summer program, held via Zoom and Sunday morning Zoom classes.

"God shows up everywhere, but I believe he shines most in our Sunday School children."

Groups, Events and Activities

Holy Nativity is a very active parish. Some of our special events are enjoyed by and enrich the lives mainly of our parishioners, and others also involve friends and members of our community. The latter events are part of our outreach, where we are making connections with members of the local community, giving them a chance to experience the warm welcome and caring acceptance of our parish family.

Parish and Community Events:

Holly Fair & Dinner - This is a “signature event” in our parish and is a tremendous weekend of fellowship and community. It has been a staple in the Weymouth community for decades, and is also our biggest fundraiser of the year. The Holly Fair takes place in November on the closest weekend to Veteran’s Day.



The fair features an impressive variety of handcrafted items and homemade foods that have been made and donated by parishioners. People from our Holy Nativity family plus friends and other visitors enjoy browsing and shopping in the Jewelry room, the Silent Auction room, Grandma’s attic, and Country Corner, and Fudge Table, as well as at tables filled with baked goods, knitted items, Christmas treasures, and hand-made crafts.

The snack bar with café tables is a popular spot for hungry fair goers to sit, eat, and visit. Once the fair ends the parish hall is transformed so we can hold a sit-down turkey dinner that the public is also invited to attend.

Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner (aka Non-Talent Show Night)



Another tradition of Holy Nativity is held near St. Patrick's Day in March, where corned beef is not the only star. Along with a delicious meal, the various talents of the parishioners both young and old are on display for all to enjoy. We think that the phrase, "it was enjoyed by all" was coined here. This event is also opened to the community at large.

Cultural Council Music Programs - Using grant money applied for and received from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the church has been able to present a variety of concerts to

the community at no charge. The programs have been vocal and instrumental, involving many different vocal styles and instruments and covering many genres of music.

Yoga classes meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in the Asher Stoddard Hall, led by a parishioner who is a trained yoga teacher.

Parish Events:



Homecoming Sunday- Usually held the third Sunday in September, this event signifies the start-up of all ministries along with Sunday school after the conclusion of summer. The congregation has the opportunity to learn more about and sign up for the many ministries here at Holy Nativity. It also features a "Welcome Back Brunch" provided by the parish and vestry.

Barn Babies/Blessing of the Pets - A favorite tradition at Holy Nativity in October is the visit of the Barn Babies. On St. Francis Sunday and the day of the Blessing of the Pets, Barn Babies come to Holy Nativity after the 10:00 service. Parishioners young and old have a chance to hold and touch a bunny, kitten, puppy, chicken, potbellied pig, or goat! In addition, parishioners are encouraged to bring their pets (or photos of them) to the blessing at this time held on the grounds of the church.

Christmas Pageant - The annual Christmas pageant is held on the fourth Sunday in Advent during the 10:00 service. The younger children play the roles of Mary & Joseph, Angels, Wise Men, Shepherds, and animals and the older children narrate the story of the birth of Jesus. During Covid, we had our traditional pageant, but it was prerecorded and filmed safely outdoors with small groups of children over a period of two days. The pageant was then shared with the congregation through Zoom and a link sent out to all parish members. Many people said it was the best pageant they had ever seen!

Sunday Coffee Hour- Every Sunday after the 10am service, the Asher-Stoddard Hall at the church is filled with laughter and great conversation. It is a great time to catch up with fellow parishioners and enjoy coffee, tea, or



juice and a snack. Each Sunday a person or group will “take charge of” the Coffee Hour, serving the coffee and setting up the table with the delicious foods and baked goods that either they or other parishioners have donated. Coffee Hour is also a time to recognize and celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.

Travel Group - A group of parishioners have traveled together every three years for guided tours. Anyone is welcome to join in the travels that have taken them to England (in 2012 and 2015) and the Netherlands (in 2018) and, hopefully, to Ireland in 2021.

Ministry Year-End Cookout - As the church year winds down in June and ministries slow to prepare for summer and Sunday School gets set to dismiss, we hold a farewell cookout featuring the traditional fare of hot dogs and hamburgers. You can also usually find a good-looking cake to share with everyone as well, helping us celebrate another year of faith, fellowship, and friendship.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Originally sponsored by a men’s group in the church, the pancake supper has become a regular tradition at Holy Nativity. Attendees enjoy a generous helping of pancakes and sausages the night before Lent begins. During the Covid-19 pandemic this year, when we couldn’t meet in person for pancakes, a virtual Mardi Gras celebration was held via Zoom. Sunday School kids made pancakes “together” on Zoom before the celebration, and then parishioners of all ages dressed up in masks, crowns, hats, and beads and enjoyed a trivia game, live piano jazz music and singing, and a Mardi Gras scavenger hunt.

Book Club – Every month a book is chosen by the leader, with input from the members, and a meeting is held near the end of the month with a guided discussion. Eight to ten parishioners usually participate and have enjoyed reading a variety of books, from challenging to entertaining.

Garden Angels – Members of this group tend to the needs of flowers, bushes, trees, and other beautiful outside adornments of Holy Nativity. With the help of the Sexton, volunteers weed, water, trim, and take other necessary measures to keep our church looking its best.

Some other events include a Valentine’s Day Dinner, Christmas Trip to Heritage Gardens in Sandwich on Cape Cod, Family Movie Nights, and a Maypole Dance

How We Serve Others

Christ taught us to serve others, and at Holy Nativity, we take that commitment seriously! From our own community in Weymouth, Massachusetts to South Africa, and beyond, we work with several organizations to share our many blessings and help spread God's love beyond the church walls. These efforts are frequently led by our Sunday school children, with the help of our amazing teachers, and the support of the parish.

Locally, we do a lot of work with **Weymouth Food Pantry**. We have Food First Sundays, on the first Sunday of each month, when the congregation bring in donations for the pantry. We have also created "birthday boxes" for people who rely on the services of the pantry, filled with all the supplies needed for a party for that special day. Every Christmas, we "adopt" several local families from **Weymouth Youth and Family Services**, buying gifts for the entire family (including mom and dad.) We have also done Easter baskets for the families they serve. The parish has also collected donations for local homeless shelters, including **Father Bill's Homeless Shelter**, in nearby Quincy, and the **Pine Street Inn**, in Boston.

Some of our members maintain a community garden on the grounds of the church, filled with fruits and vegetables made available freely to the parish, and local community members.

The Holy Nativity Sunday School does a lot of outreach! For nearby **South Shore Hospital**, they have collected many donations from the congregation of books, crayons, coloring books, and playing cards, and even made fleece blankets for children staying at the **South Shore Pediatric Unit**. They have created beautiful "kindness rocks" with messages of love, hope, and inspiration for patients at the **Dana Farber Cancer Center** affiliated with the hospital. The Sunday school has collected donations from the parish for the animals at the **New England Wildlife Center**, and the **VCA Animal Hospital**. The children also love to make Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving cards, both for veterans at the **Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veteran's Hospital**, and overseas, active-duty troops.

We love to support the Paradases, a family from our church, who are Missionaries with **YWAM (Youth with a Mission)** in South Africa.



Our outreach activities have not stopped because of the pandemic! We continued to collect Christmas gifts for **Weymouth Youth and Family Services**, shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child**, and donations for the **Weymouth Food Pantry**. We have made cards for the patients at the **Veteran's Hospital** in Bedford, Massachusetts, as well as members of the parish who have felt isolated during the lockdown. We have organized a sock and mitten drive to help keep the local homeless community warm, and in these times when there can be too much darkness around us, created a beautiful display of 200 luminaries called "A Night of Light and Love" to send God's light into the community.

Opportunities for Change

The creation of the parish profile has provided the Holy Nativity community with an opportunity for self-reflection. This process has revealed challenges that we, as a church, look forward to addressing. Some potential solutions have come up in our discussions. The concerns of the parishioners, and their ideas about how we might best take positive action, have been brought to the attention of the Vestry.

Encouraging lay leadership to assume tasks that have, in the past, been done by our full-time rector:

In recent years, Holy Nativity has been blessed to have a full-time rector, assisted by a part-time priest. As we make the transition to a half time rector, we understand that the parish will be called upon to perform many of the duties that had, in the past, been the responsibility of the rector. To this end, the Vestry has been asked to set priorities, to clarify what may reasonably be expected of a half-time rector, and to identify how the parish can come together to support our current level of services, as we are able.

The need to increase our visibility in the local community:

Some parishioners have said that we are the best kept secret on the South Shore; that we are “hiding in plain sight;” that we are “that nice small church” that people may drive by, but not really know who we are. Ideas to address this include:

- A series of church open houses when it is safe to do so.
- Promote the church at Union Point, a large, new neighborhood close to the church through ads, bulletin boards, and presentations, if possible.
- Create a stronger social media presence, possibly including blog posts from our new rector.

Encouraging more parishioner involvement in leadership/ministries:

It has been pointed out that 20% of the parish does 80% of the work. We are an aging parish, and some in leadership are looking to “pass the torch” to the younger members, so to speak. We are looking at preparing a list of ministries with a description of their duties and commitment for everyone to read. Then, through the Stewardship Committee, actively recruit younger parishioners, and match them with a mentor to learn the ministry of their choice. This could be accomplished at our “Homecoming Sunday”, when we have traditionally had sign-ups for ministries and also by highlighting a different ministry each week at Sunday services, and in our parish newsletter, “Holy Happenings.” We have also discussed moving our coffee hour, perhaps once a month, to between services, not only to encourage the attendees of the two services to get to know each other better, but also to reach out to the entire Holy Nativity community personally to get more people involved.

Growing the church with new members/families/children:

Many parishioners expressed the desire to see the church grow, especially to include more young families. We love our small, close knit community, but we always love the opportunity to welcome new members! Suggestions include:

- Continuing to reinforce our strong Sunday school program.
- Having the new rector get involved in the broader community to expose the church to potential members.
- Reinstigate “Greeters” to identify newcomers and make sure they are welcomed and invited to coffee hour.

Better communication with church members:

Covid 19 has further isolated some of our elderly and infirm members, and it has been brought to the attention of church leadership that some may need to be checked in upon, on a regular basis. This need for outreach to our own members is not limited to the elderly. The point has been made that we need to do a better job reaching out to our high schoolers and college students, or we may be in danger of losing them after confirmation.

We have discussed the following solutions:

- Continue recording Zoom services, and making them available online, even after Covid 19, to enable parishioners, old and young to attend services they may not be able to get to physically.
- Have lay leadership set up a calling system to check in regularly on our elderly and infirm parishioners.
- We have concluded that we need to do more to communicate what the church, and individuals in the church, are currently doing for outreach, and what groups, activities, and events the church continues to make available to our parishioners.

Building, Grounds, and Rectory

The church sanctuary has a capacity of ~220 people, not including choir and altar. We have a spacious hall that has a 100-person occupancy, and an adjacent meeting room that holds 15-20 people. The choir has their own changing room with closets and storage for music. Also off the hall is the large kitchen with a commercial gas range and ovens. One Sunday School room is on this upper level, and there are an additional 5 Sunday School rooms in the lower level.

The Rectory, located just steps from the hall is a handsome center-entrance colonial with a fenced yard and detached garage. The house has four bedrooms, 1½ baths, a front-to-back living room with a gas fireplace, and an adjacent screened porch, a dining room, and partially finished basement with laundry area.

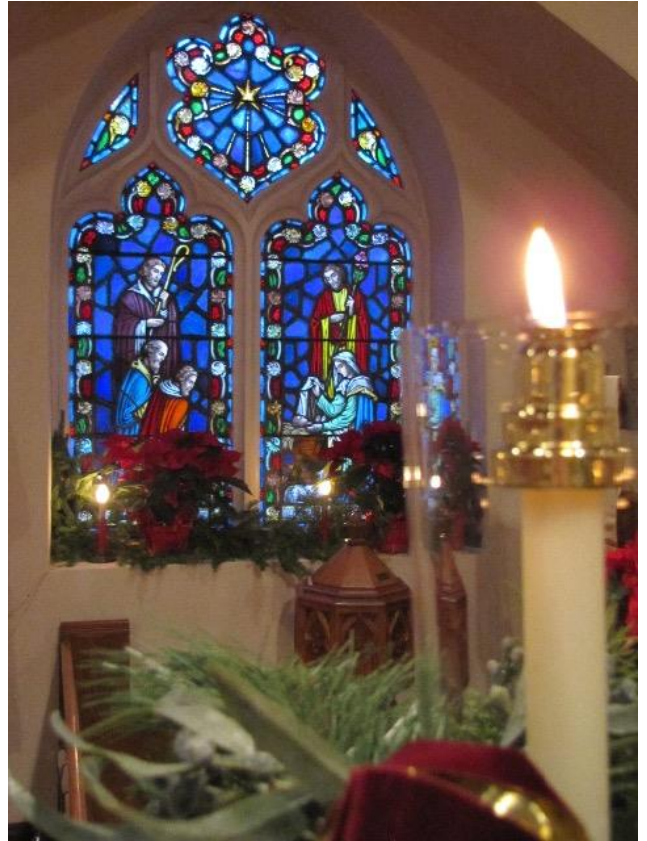
The church has made a number of capital improvements in recent years, including a newer more efficient natural gas unit for both heating and air-conditioning the whole building, energy-conserving windows and a newly paved parking lot with 36 marked spaces that are currently being used by medical personnel who work at South Shore Hospital.



In 2017 after a close inspection of all our stained-glass windows, it was determined that they needed restoration work. \$48K was raised and restoration was completed in late spring of 2018.

During the months of Covid, the church has had a complete painting of the interior of the church hall and a deep clean of the church. A UV system has been installed in the ventilation system to sanitize the sanctuary and Asher-Stoddard Hall before, during, and after all indoor activities.

The Holy Nativity Window



History of the Church of the Holy Nativity

In 1915, Mr. Robert Pierce Casey of Boston, a Harvard ministry student, and Robert P. Polson, Jr. polled the South Weymouth area and found there were at least twenty-three families that were interested in founding an Episcopal Church. The first service was held on Christmas Day, 1915. This small group named the church



Mission of the Holy Nativity in commemoration of the first service. Informal services continued to be held in the home of Col. and Mrs. Daniel Cornman. Later that year, the Rt. Rev. Samuel G. Babcock, bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, assigned a Priest-in-Charge to the mission.

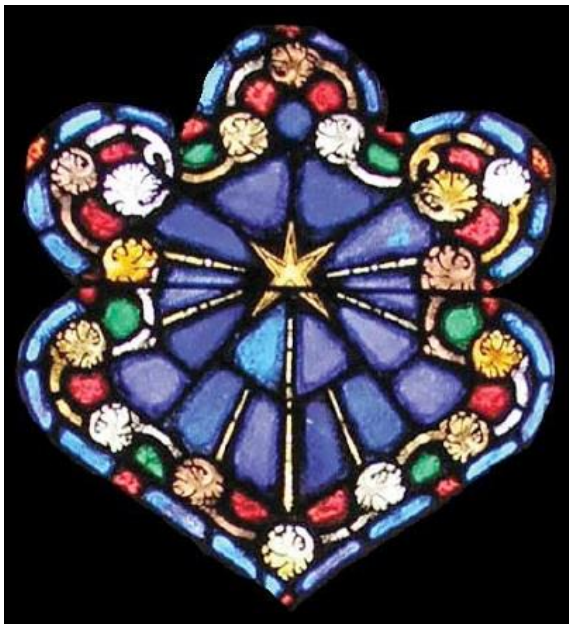
By 1916, plans were made to build a church and by 1918, capital for a church building had been raised. In 1919, Mrs. Edward B. Nevin gave a lot from her estate on Columbian

Street upon which to build the church. The building was formally dedicated by Bishop Babcock on Easter Sunday, April 4, 1920. In 1927 the mortgage was burned. Later that year the parish began making plans to build a Rectory, which was completed in 1928.



Webb State Park, overlooking Massachusetts Bay

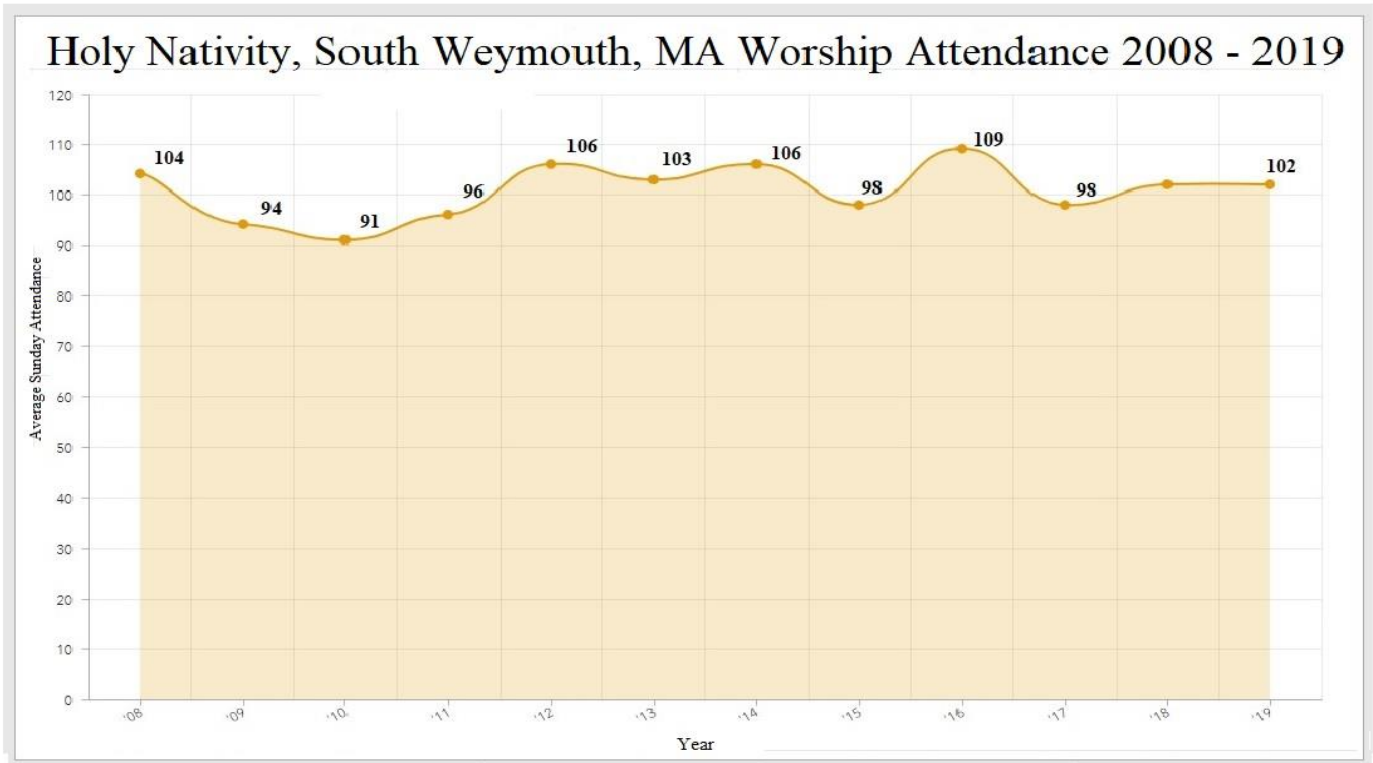
Multiple nearby private and religious school options are also available. The Greater Boston area is home to many fine colleges and universities. The town is well served by public transportation, with several routes, and three commuter rail stations, one of which is only 2 miles from the Rectory. The capital city of Boston, and all it has to offer, is a short twenty-minute train ride away. With over 700 acres of parks and recreational fields, and two town beaches, the outdoor enthusiast will find plenty to do!



“Holy Nativity has given me friends who I can be myself with and who I share church experiences and Christian values with.”

Average Sunday Attendance

We are very grateful that the attendance at Holy Nativity has remained steady throughout a variety of changes and challenges. We are especially pleased that during the Covid-19 pandemic, our attendance at Zoom services is consistently between forty and fifty, and we have twelve children each week at Zoom Sunday School. We feel privileged to be part of a loving, Godly, and hard-working group of people and we appreciate the commitment of everyone in the parish family to keep taking care of our church, its members, and its programs. We see this stable attendance and participation as evidence of how important Holy Nativity is to its parishioners.



Our New Rector

The ideal candidate for rector of Holy Nativity would be an enthusiastic, passionate spiritual leader with a sense of humor; someone who is relatable, and inclusive, with a talent for making people feel at home. As a preacher, we would be delighted to find a rector with an ability to teach the Gospel in a way that emphasizes how it relates to our lives today, while also providing kind, compassionate pastoral care to parishioners in spiritual need.

Administratively, we hope to find a strong leader who listens and communicates effectively. Some social media skills would be helpful, to reach out to both the parish, and the community at large. We seek someone who is attentive to the challenges and opportunities for change in the church and will address them with parish leadership. We hope to find someone who is excited to make connections with the larger community, and through those connections, and the expansion of our youth ministry and Sunday school, help us grow our church.

The parish leadership at Holy Nativity understands that the level of service a half-time rector will be able to provide will be different from what we are used to. We look forward, therefore, to partnering with our new rector to determine how the lay community can best support them in their duties.

Lastly, being situated in a high cost-of-living area, we very much hope our new rector will enjoy living in our beautiful rectory, which is adjacent to the church.

Finances

INCOME	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pledges, Plate, & Special Days Offering	130,743.00	125,681.00	126,978.00	111,194.00
Fund Raisers	17,569.00	18,843.00	17,503.00	6,963.00
Property Usage	31,110.00	31,125.00	31,530.00	30,410.00
Other Income	60,370.00	18,561.00	3,570.00	23,640.00
Total Income	239,792.00	194,210.00	179,581.00	172,207.00

EXPENSES				
Salaries	77,922.00	75,783.00	74,809.00	43,621.00
Diocesan Assessment	14,378.00	11,771.00	12,627.00	13,116.00
Gas & Electric	12,872.00	16,167.00	15,500.00	12,501.00
All other expenses	102,066.00	144,531.00	88,166.00	63,627.00
	207,238.00	248,252.00	191,102.00	132,865.00

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pledge Cards Received	75	64	66	53
	105,642.00	94,328.00	92,715.00	94,727.00
Pledges Received	135	126	131	130
	119,605.00	109,967.00	112,115.00	107,304.00
Plate	8,207.00	10,465.00	10,731.00	1,440.00

Church Leadership

Staff

Clergy	The Rev. Laurie Rofinot, Interim Priest
Organist	Marie-Elise Boyer
Sunday School Dir.	Maryann Gurney
Parish Secretary	Deb Robie
Sexton	Michael McGlynn

Vestry

Co-Warden	Ron Russo
Co-Warden	Edwin Muller
Treasurer	Jim Kimball
Ass't. Treasurer	Satyen Patel
Clerk of the Vestry	Beryl McFadden

Search Committee

Chair	Stephen Williams
Co-Chair	Jim Kimball
Clerk	Beryl McFadden
Members	Rebecca Cavanaugh, Shirley Devore Maryann Gurney, Paul MacPhee Linda Muller
Search Consultant	Elinor Horner

Vestry Members

Jay Asher
Sharon Baxter
Bill Butler
Patrick Demore
Heather Kasday
Rick Lang
Donna Lucier
George Ward
Terri Williams

Parish Profile Prepared by Paul MacPhee, Beryl McFadden, and Linda Muller.

Cover and Nativity Window photos courtesy of Jim Kimball.

Photo Gallery pictures courtesy of Maryann Gurney and Linda Muller.

Contact Information

We would be delighted to hear from you. Please send your Ministry Portfolio, CV or resumé, links to sermons, and any other material you would like to share with to HNrectorsearch@gmail.com or via US mail to:

Steve Williams, Chairperson

Search Committee

206 Standpipe Drive

Rockland, MA 02370

Phone: 781-405-3647

You can also find us [on the web](#), or on our [Facebook Group](#) page. Thank you very much for your interest in Holy Nativity.

Addendum - Photo Gallery



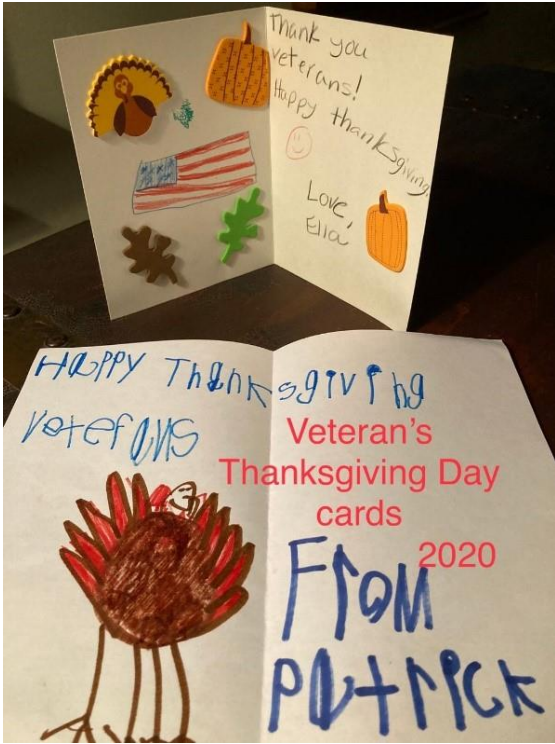
Live Nativity Scene

We take Christmas seriously at Church of the Holy Nativity

Outdoor crèche



Operation Christmas Child



“I love that my kids are able to help others.”



Valentine's Day Dinner and Dancing



Easter 2018



Sunday School Helpers with the Garden Angels



Chalking the Walk



Easter Baskets



“We love singing *“Happy Birthday”* at coffee hour.”



Fresh Vegetables



All Saints Day



Saint Patrick's Drive-by Food Drive



Baptism



Confirmation



The oil painting that was done by Dianne Panarelli Miller, a local painter from Abington, for the church's 100th Anniversary in December, 2015