



The Herald

March 2026



From the Rector ...

BE RESURRECTED

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It's been fun celebrating the major holidays early in my role: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and soon Resurrection Day. These high holy days take a lot more work because the services are unique and more frequent, but figuring these out now means we can cruise the rest of the year with "normal" time on the church calendar.

Speaking of cruising ... you know me well enough by now to know that cruising is the last thing I want us to do with our faith walk. I try to balance my serious faith with jokes and funny faces to keep it light, but you know that I want to push you a bit this Easter season.

I want to encourage you to look afresh upon your need for a Savior. Lent reminds us of our sin, as if we needed any reminder. When you confess, recognize that you are integrating your day-to-day life with your spiritual walk. This is a healthy way to 'keep it real' - neither seeing your faith as pie in the sky nor totally irrelevant.

I want to encourage you to read and study the concepts of sin, righteousness, forgiveness, reconciliation, resurrection, etc. The better you understand biblical terms, the better you'll be able to incorporate truth into your life.

I want to encourage you to pray and draw near to God during Lent and Holy Week. My experience is that God works in different ways at different times in my life. Being devoted to him this month may be just the thing you need to move your life in the right direction and enable a blessed 2026.

I want to encourage you to participate in the Holy Week services. Once we publish the schedule, set aside as much time as you can to be a part of these services: as a worshiper and as a server. As a newer Episcopalian, I've been

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning

8:00 a.m.

and

10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Holy Eucharist & Healing

10:00 a.m.

Join us Online!

facebook.com/nativitypsl

or

youtube.com/nativitypsl

or

Instagram.com/Nativitypsl

Continued next page ...

From the Rector continued ...

astounded with encouragement the last few years by being able to participate in the whole week. The liturgy is designed to take you on a journey, and the more of it you can take, the greater sense of anticipation you'll have for God's work in your life. So yes, ask for time off from work. Set aside your normal routine. Make Holy Week special and see how God blesses you.

I want to encourage you to pursue resurrection. Often, I call Easter Day, Resurrection Day, as a reminder that it's the Savior of the world we are celebrating and not a season of spring. In fact, I checked with the Easter Bunny recently, and she is all booked up for 2026 > no Easter Bunny this year at Nativity! Instead, the greatest story ever told is brewing. God becomes man to invade your heart and turn your destiny from sadness to joy. I believe all Christ followers will be resurrected one day, and the more we pursue Christ in this life, the more we will experience a resurrected life on earth. A resurrected family life. A resurrected career. A resurrected day-to-day Holy Spirit enabled appreciation of your previous breath, and your next one. As we worship the Resurrection of Christ, we too will begin to feel the coming resurrection in our own lives.

The deeper the sorrow, the greater the joy. The more time and effort you put into Lent and your need for Jesus, the greater will be your ability to celebrate Resurrection Day, and the more beneficial your sense of God's involvement and blessing will be in your life. It may even feel like resurrection. Be resurrected!

Lenten Soup & Studies

Join us for Lenten Soup & Studies led by Fr. Brian!

"Right on Time:

The Coming and Going of Life and Death"

Wednesdays in Lent, immediately following Holy Eucharist and Healing, in Wolfe Hall

The Daughters of the King (DOK) will be preparing the simple lunch of soup and bread. If you have a special soup recipe or you would like to help with the preparation or serving, please email Karen Schlitt at mschl94933@aol.com. Volunteers are welcome!



Youth & Families Ministry Corner

Upcoming Dates & Events:

- Friday, March 6th from 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM
- Friday, April 10th from 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM
- Friday, May 1st from 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM
- Friday, June 5th from 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Please contact Elaine Clem or the church office for additional information.



Outreach Ministry

Over the years Outreach has been able to help families in need of kitchen appliances, washers, dryers, motorized scooters, wheelchairs and walkers. We received donations of these gently used items and or monetary donations to purchase them. If you are remodeling or updating your kitchen and have workable appliances in good condition please think of our Outreach Ministry.

We currently deliver food to 6 families monthly. We are always in need of canned vegetables, canned tuna, canned fruits, packages of instant potatoes, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, chicken noodle soup and boxed milk. Monetary donations or Aldi gift cards are gratefully accepted.

We are especially in need of:

- 21 Family size boxes of Cereal for Children
- 13 Large Peanut Butter
- 30 boxes of milk
- Easter Napkins and packaged cookies.

*If able, please consider a \$50 food card
from Aldi's or Publix
to help provide the Easter Meal to families.*

If you enjoy helping people and want to make a positive difference in their lives please think about working with our Outreach Ministry.

Blessings,
Outreach Ministry



3: Robert Young
3: Fr. Brian Stankich
6: Myrna Bridges
10: Larry Hardie
12: Francine Cadet
13: Judy Klimczak
13: Floret Strachan
20: Ruth McFarlane
20: Norma Mesias
20: Deborah Benway
22: Lorna Chang
25: Leslie Lafferandre
26: Brenda Perry
27: William Siekierka
31: Nancy Landry



4: Stanley & Jean Abrahams
17: William & Janet Smartt
17: Fr. Brian and Dona Stankich
20: Richard & Karen Dowling
24: Paul & Lorna Chang

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?

Help us update our records!

Please contact the church office at 772.343.0401

or office@nativitypsl.com

Junior Warden's Report: Campus Beautification

As discussed at the annual meeting, I'm happy to report that Venice Commercial Services completed the sidewalk to the outdoor chapel on February 11th! We decided to go 4 feet wide for easier access and have included a nice area at the end where people with mobility challenges can sit. The project turned out better than expected and I encourage you to have a look – this will get use during stations of the cross, sunrise service, and daily visitation!



Second, our paver walkway back to the outdoor chapel is in rough shape. The church installed this walkway extension and many of the stones have shifted. We also need maintenance on the rest of the paver patio. Ron Herman is getting proposals to replace the walkway from the main patio to the chapel with matching pavers and possibly install pavers around the altar to dress up our outdoor chapel. Unfortunately, our plants in the garden suffered a lot of frost damage! We're giving it some time, then we will have to cull out and replace plants accordingly before Easter. Volunteers will be needed for this work!



Lastly, our asphalt driveway is original and needs maintenance. We are getting quotes to make spot repairs, reseal the asphalt, and repaint the lines and parking blocks. We will also look at a project to upgrade our flag garden. We need a more robust border around the garden (thinking railroad ties to withstand vehicle bumps). These upgrades will improve our campus curb appeal.

Looking back three years, we've made huge improvements! Thank you for your feedback and support for campus beautification! We will discuss these projects with Vestry this month and I'll provide an update next month.

The Daughters of the King

The St. Lucia Daughters of the King were well represented at the New Year's Assembly in January held at St. Luke's Cathedral in Orlando where we learned how our diocesan daughters are applying the mission of the order to pray, serve and evangelize in Jesus' name.



Picture Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper ...



Picture Children's Church ...



Help us stay connected!

We're updating our church directory and want to make sure we have your current contact information. Please share your address, phone number, and email address with us. We'd also love to know your birthday and wedding anniversary so we can celebrate these special occasions with you!

How to update your information:

- Contact the church office directly
- Complete a data form available in the Narthex

If you prefer not to be included in the directory, simply let the church office know. Thank you for helping us stay connected as a church family!



Would you like to make a donation using a credit card? Please scan the QR Code to donate online!

OUR MISSION:
UNITED BY GOD'S GRACE
Loving and Serving ALL People in Christ's Name

OUR VISION:

As a Christ-centered oasis, the Church of the Nativity will be a place to experience acceptance and love. We will invite ALL people to come, be spiritually replenished, and leave eager to do the work God has called each of us to do. We will reflect God's love and limitless possibilities through our commitment to meaningful worship, spiritual formation, sweeping outreach, and robust growth.

Church Leadership

Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb,
Bishop of Central Florida
The People of the Church of the Nativity,
Ministers
The Rev. Brian Stankich, *Rector*
Mrs. Hazel Graham, *Minister of Music*
Mrs. Melissa Lewis,
Bookkeeper & Communications

Vestry Members

Deborah Benway, *Sr. Warden*
Pete Szelwach, *Jr. Warden*
Wendy Chadbourne, *Treasurer*
Starr Coulter, *Secretary*

Audrey Coombs
Neville Lake
Darcy Miller
Mary Mosley
Adela Sanabria
Robert Smith
Bob Villa



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