

Letters From St. Nicholas'



St. Nick's Blessing
of the Animals

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Vestry

Dr. Will Morris, Sr. Warden
Christian Ed Committee Liaison
Mr. Will Porter, Jr. Warden
Physical Plant Committee Liaison
Ms Mary Rogers, Clerk
Fellowship Committee Liaison
Ms Marilyn Bassinger
Worship Committee Liaison
Mr. Jim Brown
Finance Committee Liaison
Dr. Michael Jordan
Outreach Committee Liaison
Mr. Scot Marter
Fellowship Committee Liaison
Mr. Pool Webb
Publicity Committee Liaison
Mr. Nathan Williams
Emergency Preparedness Liaison

Deacon

Deacon Tom Burns

Parish Staff

The Rev. Dr. Bob Bonnington
The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Slayter

Pastoral Associates

Mr. Bob Poer

Parish Administrator

Mr. Darryl Knapp

Organist / Choirmaster

Lay Ministries Coordinator

Mr. Bobby J. Crues

Treasurer

Mr. Corby Considine

Chancellor

Ms Elvira Sebian

Sexton

Top Ten Reasons for Bringing Your Kids to Sunday School

(This list from Deacon Pam Dunbar is a powerful and perennial reminder of the importance of parents' responsibilities for the conversion and Christian Education of their children. There are only two reliable sources for the Christian formation of people in our culture—the home and the Church. No one else 'out there' is going to do it for us. Our responsibility is a solemn vow made at Baptism, and it is never to be taken lightly.)

10. It gives them roots and wings at the same time.
9. It gives them an extended family experience with other caring adults after whom they can model Christian behavior.
8. It's more important than any sports event. Later in life when they face crises, remembering how many goals they scored will not be anywhere near as important or as comforting as remembering the lessons they learned about Jesus Christ and His love for them.
7. It's more important than a few extra hours of sleep. They aren't allowed to miss secular school in order to sleep in after a late night, why should they miss Sunday School for this reason?
6. Children will value what their parents value. There is a serious problem with priorities in today's culture. Attending to matters of faith and religious education is a top priority.
5. Intentional and genuine religious education feeds souls. The religious hodgepodge on television and in the movies is meant to make us feel good, but in reality it is seductive and empty—Jesus Christ is our Lord and King, not Luke Skywalker or Batman.
4. It strengthens the whole Christian community. Christian values cannot be effectively nurtured except within the Christian community.
3. Children will worship what their parents worship. What do you worship?
2. You promised, in front of God and everybody, at their baptisms that you would take responsibility for seeing that they would be brought up in the Christian faith and life and to grow into the full stature of Christ.
1. They're not your kids - they're God's, who has entrusted them to you. How else should you handle His Creation?



Here's an idea from *Episcopal Life*, our National Church's online magazine. (There's a link to it on the parish web site, www.stnicksmt.org.) It's called ***the three minute rule***, and the idea is that for three minutes, every Sunday after the Dismissal, everyone commits to talking only to people they do not know.

Our natural inclination is to focus our attention on our friends, especially those we haven't seen for a while—and that's great. It's one of the reasons we're here. But to try to set aside just a bit of time every Sunday morning for the other, for the folks we don't know yet, can be a powerful form of outreach.

There is an article about this elsewhere in *Letters From St. Nicholas*, and I commend it to you. But let's not just read about it, let's try it. The three minute rule will start this Sunday—and we can give it a try.



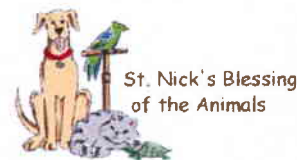
All Saints' Sunday is November 2nd. As part of our remembrance on this special Sunday, we will read from the Altar a list of the departed from the Parish Register and from parishioners who submit names. The list will be on the table in the entryway beginning this Sunday, and you are encouraged to add names of the departed whom you would like to have remembered.



On Saturday, October 11th at 2 PM, there will be a training class for all who are interested in serving as Lay Eucharist Ministers, those who administer the Chalice during our Sunday Eucharist. All members of the parish 16 years old or older who would like to explore this ministry are encouraged to attend.



St. Francis' Day is this Saturday, October 4th, and our all parish blessing of animals, pets, and stuffed animal pets will be at 11:00 AM in the Courtyard. All critters, properly leashed, boxed, or otherwise enclosed are welcome; and stuffed animals don't need a leash. Please join us for this celebration of creation and of our call to be good stewards of all of God's gifts.



Remember the Church in your will.

Our Bishop Search Committee has announced five Nominees for the next Bishop of the Diocese of Northwest Texas. The Nominees are:



- The Rev. J. Scott Mayer, Rector, Church of the Heavenly Rest, Abilene, Texas;
- The Rev. Ronald D. Pogue, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Galveston, Texas;
- The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson, Rector, Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church, Virginia Beach, VA;
- The Rev. J. Christopher Roberts, Rector, St. Martha's Episcopal Church, Papillion, Nebraska;
- The Rev. Stephen F. Zimmerman, Rector, The Chapel of Saint Andrew, Boca Raton, Florida.

Considerable information about the Nominees is available on the diocesan web site, www.nwt.org. The schedule for the election process is as follows:

- November 10-14—The Nominees will be in the Diocese for a walk-about, visiting each of the four Deaneries.
- Tuesday, November 11th—The Nominees will be at St. Nicholas' for an evening reception and opportunity to meet the delegates and people of the Permian Basin Deanery.
- Saturday, November 22nd—the Electing Convention will convene at 10:00 AM at St. Paul's Church, Lubbock.
- Saturday, March 21st, 2009—our new Bishop will be Consecrated at First United Methodist Church in Lubbock.



Remember that Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 2nd. Set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night November 1st in order to get on the new time schedule and to make it to the Church on time.



Our Adult classes are off to a good start. On Sunday mornings we are looking at a brief overview of the Christian life as our church has received and offers it. On Wednesdays, after the parish supper, we are in the midst of a video series on comparative world religions. Everyone is invited to join us.

