

Letters From St. Nicholas'

HOLY WEEK



2009

Palm Sunday, April 5th

9:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Palm Liturgy (*Gather in the Parish Hall*)

Monday and Tuesday In Holy Week, April 6th and 7th

5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Wednesday In Holy Week, April 8th

5:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Healing Service in the Chapel

Parish supper and Wednesday program follow

Maundy Thursday, April 9th

8:00 PM Maundy Thursday Liturgy

9:00 PM - Noon Friday The Watch in the Chapel

Good Friday, April 10th

12:05 PM Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Eve, April 11th

9:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter and Baptisms

Easter Day, April 12th

9:00 AM Festive Easter Communion Service

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer, Bishop of Northwest Texas
The Rev. James E. Liggett, Jr., Rector

St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church

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The Bishop of Northwest Texas
The Rt. Rev. Scott Mayer, Bishop
Web: <http://www.nwt.org>

Rector

The Rev. James E. Liggett, Jr.

Vestry

Mr. Jim Brown, Sr. Warden
Finance Committee Liaison
Mr. Nathan Williams, Jr. Warden
Physical Plant Committee Liaison
Emergency Preparedness Liaison
Dr. Michael Jordan, Clerk
Outreach Committee Liaison
Ms Beverly Alstrin
Ms Marilyn Bassinger
Worship Committee Liaison
Mr. Scot Marter
Fellowship Committee Liaison
Ms Mary Rogers
Fellowship Committee Liaison
Mr. Pool Webb
Publicity Committee Liaison
Ms Joan Whitt

Deacon

Deacon Tom Burns

Parish Staff

The Rev. Dr. Bob Bonnington
Pastoral Associate
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

A Way To See

Here is a suggestion for moving deeper into Holy Week and Easter this year: Just look. We have to look before we can see.

Don't try to figure anything out, don't try to understand what's going on or why it's going on. Watch. Behold. Rest in the presence of the mystery.

Find something that gives you an image for Maundy Thursday, for the Watch, for Good Friday, for the Easter Vigil, and for Easter: Perhaps an icon, or a painting, or a picture from a book, or a scene from a movie, or an image from your own imagination. Look at the image, and rest in it. Gaze at it, not trying to bring your ideas and understandings to it, but waiting for it to give something to you. If you choose to pray, try a simple, "Show me, Lord."

Great mysteries like the events of our salvation have layer upon layer of meaning and depth; and only a very few of these layers can be analyzed or figured out. The rest, perhaps the most profound, lie in wait for us if we take the time and the faith to look, to gaze, and to wait.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

The Lord is Risen Indeed!

Fr. Jim



HOLY WEEK

The Holy Week Schedule of services is on the cover of *Letters From St. Nicholas*; and I want to call your attention to this wonderful round of services. Easter Sunday is deepened, enriched, and given power and significance when it is preceded by this intense time of commemoration preparation. All of Holy Week is important, and a few highlights of these services are listed below.

First, for Palm Sunday we will gather in the Parish Hall to begin the 9:00 AM service. We will do the Service of the Palms in the Parish Hall and process into the Church for the Service of the Passion and the Eucharist.



The Maundy Thursday service will begin at 8:00 PM, and following the service we will begin the Watch in the Chapel. There is a sign-up sheet for those who wish to commit an hour to watch and pray with our Lord between 9:00 PM on Maundy Thursday until the Good Friday Service begins at 12:05 on Friday.

Our Good Friday service will be at 12:05 PM on Friday the 10th. The Watch will conclude with the beginning of this solemn commemoration of our Lord's suffering and death. We will use the ancient service of readings and prayers from our Prayer Book to mark this special moment in the story of our salvation.



The Easter Vigil will begin in darkness at 9:00 PM on the 11th. This ancient service of lights, Vigil, and Eucharist will include the Baptisms of Emily English and Ellis Pena and is my favorite service of the year. Do plan to be with us for this wonderful beginning of our Easter celebration.



Easter Morning will be a glorious service with all sorts of special music and activities. These will include:



Flowering of the Cross as a sign of the triumph of the Resurrection over the worst the world can do to God's love.

An Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the parish and their guests.



Finally, I have written a short booklet about the Holy Week services, and it will be mailed out this week and can also be found in the Newsletters section of the parish website, or at this url:

<http://www.stnicksmt.org/newsletters/Holy%20Week%20Triduum%20Booklet%204.pdf>

Midland College's Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series does a truly excellent job of bringing first-rate speakers to the Midland area. The next speaker is author Bill Bryson, who will be at the Chaparral Center on April 16th at 7:30 PM. Bryson is a delightful writer, and I am a fan of his. I encourage everyone to try to attend. Also, there was an excellent review of Bryson's book *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by our own Dr. Pamela Howell in the March 24th issue of the *Reporter Telegram*, and more reviews of his books should be coming soon.



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Happy Camp, a program our Diocese sponsors for non-Episcopalians who would otherwise not have an opportunity for this sort of experience, will again be held this summer. On Sunday, April 19th, there will be a special presentation on Happy Camp during both worship and the Adult Sunday School time. Please plan to stay and learn more about this wonderful ministry.

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At its March meeting, our Vestry voted to begin the process toward establishing a companion parish relationship with a congregation in the Dominican Republic. We will be doing this in cooperation with Santa Maria parish.



This new outreach of St. Nicholas' is rich with possibilities. Our next step here is to set up a group of people who would like to help with this new relationship. There will be ways that everyone who wishes can be involved, and details will be developing soon. If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please contact Fr. Jim or Deacon Tom.

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Pastor's Blog

As a further venture into the world of cyberspace, St. Nicholas' is setting up a Blog. Blogs are intended to be conversations around ideas, and our blog, titled "Faith Seeking Understanding" is a place for news, discussion of topics of interests, and other communications that might matter to members and friends of St. Nicholas'. Anyone who wishes can register and post, and anyone can comment on a post by simply filling in your name and e-mail. However, I will moderate a bit if things get inappropriate.

There should be a link on the home page of our website (www.stnicksmt.org) soon, but you can visit the blog now at <http://stnicksmt.org/blog/>.



On Wednesday in Easter Week, April 15th, the program after the Parish Supper will be an All-Parish Games night. Bring board games that you like, and we'll have another opportunity to spend some time together and have a good time doing it.

**GAME TIME
for
EVERYONE**

I know we have some chess mavens amongst us, and there are all sorts of interesting games from last time involving bananas and pigs and a variety of other interesting flora and fauna.



St. Nicholas' Education for Ministry group will have an open meeting on Monday, April 27th for anyone interested in learning more about EFM, or finding out what the program is like. EFM is, I'm convinced, the best lay education and formation program in the Episcopal Church, and I highly recommend it for anyone interested in making a commitment to go deeper into both the content and the living of their faith.



I would like to introduce St. Nicholas' to Ms Nancy Springer, who is a temporary member here. Nancy is a Postulant for the Priesthood from the Diocese of West Texas, (that means that she has been accepted by their Bishop and Commission on Ministry) and will be attending Wycliff Seminary in Toronto, Canada, this fall. During her time with us, she will be involved in several aspects of parish life; and I ask that you get to know her and make her welcome among us.



The Diocese of Northwest Texas will be sponsoring a Stewardship Conference on May 9th at 10 AM at St. Paul's Church in Lubbock. The leaders of the conference are nationally-known leaders in Stewardship education and planning, and there is much to be learned from them. The conference is open to anyone, and I encourage you to attend if you can. Contact the Parish Office for more information.



Dear All,

Thank you to the choirs for their continued dedication and diligent rehearsing of Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter music. It has been another wonderful month of music in our services of worship as well as participating at Bishop Mayer's Ordination in Lubbock. Many thanks to the choir and JoAnne Bonnington for their musical contribution in presenting the prayerful TAIZE service in our Nave during March.

April will be filled with beautiful music during Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Musical gems you will not want to miss!

Below is the current schedule of choir dates:

Palm Sunday, April 5th

Choristers "Libera me, Domine"

Maundy Thursday, April 9th

Choristers "In Remembrance"

Good Friday, April 10th No Choir

Saturday, Easter Vigil, April 11th

Choristers: "This our Feast, this our Joy" with Chris Chance, clarinet

Sunday, Easter Morning, April 12th

Choristers & Adult Handbells:

"Resurrection Dance", Mozart's "ALLELUIA", and Handel's "I know that my Redeemer liveth" with JoAnne Bonnington on 'cello.

Coming up Sunday, May 3rd will be Adult Handbells, Youth Handbells and Youth Choir participating.

With great anticipation of the Joy of the Resurrection,
Darryl Knapp, Organist/Choirmaster



APRIL

- 6 Emily Avery
- 6 Samuel Jobe
- 8 Jacob Skyles
- 18 Haley Avery
- 19 Corby Considine
- 20 Robert Grace
- 25 Erin Thomas
- 25 Will Porter

Jerry's Kids and MDA

From Randy Dandry.....I'm proud to tell you that I'm being locked up....that's right, I am going behind bars to help Jerry's Kids and MDA. To be released on good behavior, I have to raise bail and I need your help! All you have to do is make an online donation before May 14th. Your donation will help families living in our community and help guarantee me an early release.

Thanks in advance for you help. Don't hesitate to call or email me with any questions.

Together we will make a difference,
Randy Dandry—call me at 262-5506

Or Go to this website:

www.joinmda.org/09midland/affordableleatherwtx/

CONCERT

The Allegro Chorale will be presenting a **free** concert here at St. Nicholas' on Friday, April 24th, at 8:00pm in our Nave.

Episcopal Church Women *ECW*

We would like to remind everyone that we have "On Our Way Rejoicing" Cookbooks that would make great graduation, shower, teacher, first apartment, house warming, Inquirers' Class, etc., gifts. The price is just \$10 and they are available from the Parish Office!

Another reminder as travel season gears up, please remember to bring your travel size soaps and lotions for Safe Place. They can be placed in the baskets by the Parish Hall door. The residents really appreciated them. Thank you.

GRADUATIONS

Please let the Parish Office know of any graduates during the months of May or June. We would like to announce them in the May newsletter. Thank you.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorial gifts have been received by St. Nicholas' Parish during the last several months in memory of The Rev. James Considine, Jane Garlitz, Pete Camp, Laura Manulik, William Kerr, John Chambers, and Douglas Wilmut for the St. Nicholas' Endowment Fund, the Memorial Fund, and the Music Fund.

BISHOP QUARTERMAN CONFERENCE CENTER

SUMMER 2009 CAMP DATES

June 9-13	Counselor Training
June 14-20	High School Camp
	Quarterman (Completed grades 9-12)
June 21-27	Primary Camp
	Quarterman (Completed grades 2-4)
June 29-July 3	Promise Camp
July 6-10	Happy Camp
July 12-18	Middle School Camp
	Quarterman (Completed grades 5-8)

EYC WILL MEET

The 3rd Sunday of April! Please talk to Marihya Houck for more details.



EASTER LILIES

For St. Nicholas' Altar

If you would like to give an Easter Lily for our Altar, please complete the card in the pew rack and place it in the Offering Plate or return it to the Parish Office.

The Lilies are \$10.00 each. You may request a Lily to be "Given in Memory" or "Given in Thanksgiving" for someone.

Order as many Lilies as you wish. Please have your request in by Monday, April 6th. Thank you.

SAVE the DATE!

Author **Phyllis Tickle** will be here at St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church Saturday and Sunday, October 17-18, 2009. Her latest book is "The Great Emergence, How Christianity is Changing and Why".

Midland Association of Churches
MAC will have its regularly scheduled monthly meeting Tuesday, April 21st at First Presbyterian Church, Koinonia Room at 12 noon. Lunch is provided for a nominal fee. The Samaritan Counseling Center will be the program.