

NATIVITY OF

OUR LORD



St. Monica's Episcopal Church

7070 Immokalee Rd Naples, FL 34119 | 239.591.4550

Welcome to Saint Monica's Episcopal Church. We rejoice that you came to our church today, and we hope that you feel at home here.

As you consider what brought you here, perhaps seeking spiritual growth, looking for community, or responding to a simple invitation, please take a moment to look at the opportunities listed in the announcements included with this bulletin to find ways to grow in your faith and find a place of welcome. If you have any questions about how you can take part in the community of St. Monica's or about the Episcopal Church, please feel free to contact Fr. Jonathan Evans.

Again, we are glad you are here at Saint Monica's Episcopal Church where all are welcome.

CHRISTMAS EVE – FAMILY SERVICE AN ORDER FOR THE HOLY EUCHARIST CELEBRATION Sunday, December 24, 2023 4:30 pm

Rector

The Rev. Jonathan W. Evans

Assisting Priest

The Rev. Sylvia R. Czarnetzky

Lector

Cindy Gault

Greeter

Linda Flores-Rumpf

Ushers

Scott McCurdy
Jeff Gaul

Acolyte

Beau Crevier

Altar Guild Members

Lorraine Ciano, Linda Duffy, Linda Freund, Mary Gentzle, Sandra Kilmon,
Donna Janosec-Luzzi, Stacey McCurdy, Theresa Miller, JoAnn Sarconi,
Charles Shaw, Lisa Shaw, Ruthann Turley, Heather Williamson

Camera Operator

Tom Cotè

Flower Team

Debbie Corey
Sharon Lapierre

**** Please remember to silence your electronic devices during the service. ****

*Service begins with the lighting of the candles and the organ voluntary.
Please use this time for silent prayer and meditation.*

Voluntary

A Shepherd's Christmas

Benton Price

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able

Hymn in Procession

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(Stanzas 1 & 3)

Hymn 83

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness~ on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Psalm

Psalm 96



- 1 Sing to the LORD a / new song;*
Sing to the LORD, / all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and / bless his Name;*'
proclaim the good news of his salva/tion from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the / nations*
and his wonders a/mong all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be / praised.
he is more to be / feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but / idols;*
but it is the LORD who / made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his / presence!*
Oh, the power and the splendor of his / sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the / peoples;*
ascribe to the LORD ho/nor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his / Name;*
bring offerings and / come into his courts.

- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of / holiness;*
 let the whole earth trem/ble before him.
- 10 Tell it among the nations: "The / LORD is King!"*
 he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peo/ples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is / in it;*
 let the field be joyful and / all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD / when he comes,*
 when he / comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with / righteousness*
 and the / peoples with his truth.

Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see~ I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

A Christmas Story Retold with Song

The Rev. Jonathan W. Evans

Long, long ago-at the start of our story, long before the coming of Christ in His Glory,
 there were many wise people, prophets of Old, who had messages from God-some told, some untold.
 These people, the prophets, had a whole lot to say about the coming of Jesus- `bout His birth Christmas Day!

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Stanzas 1, 7 and 8)

Hymn 56

Then, when the world would least expect- when nobody knew whom God would select,
 a young girl, so faithful, brave and mild was chosen by God to give birth to The Child.
 The air was still; the stars were bright. The world was at peace, on that Holy Night.

Away in a Manger
(Stanzas 1 and 2)

Hymn 101

There in a stable, with animals all `round, with birds in the rafters and straw on the ground -
 Mary had her baby, with Joseph standing by. They wrapped Him in a blanket, so He'd be warm and wouldn't cry.
 They put Him in a manger, the cow's eating place, And the Love that they felt shone on each happy face!

What Child is This?
(Stanzas 1 and 2)

Hymn 115

Meanwhile, in a field not too far away, 'mong the rolling green hills and the rocks brown and gray,
the trees were all resting their heads in their hands, in the still of the evening throughout all the lands.
Then, all of a sudden without any warning, the sky was ablaze just like it was morning.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
(Stanzas 1 and 2)

Hymn 89

There were angels, LOTS of angels! There were angels all 'round- in bunches and clusters, in the air, on the ground!
They sang out the news of this glorious event. They told of Christ's birth with great Joy-and then went.
Their voices rang out over all of the earth- to spread to God's people the news of His birth!

Angels We Have Heard on High
(Stanzas 1 and 4)

Hymn 96

The shepherds who watched their flocks on that night were astonished, overwhelmed, and they quivered with fright.
When the angels first came to tell them the news, they stumbled and fell and shook in their shoes!
But the angels said, "Shepherds, do not be afraid. We bring you good news of the birth of a babe.
Go see for yourselves, His home is a stable. You'll find Him asleep, a manger, His cradle.

Angels We Have Heard on High
(Stanzas 2 and 3)

Hymn 96

While the shepherds adored the babe in the manger, out in the desert three wise men faced danger.
They followed a star which would lead to the place where lay the new King of the whole human race.
We now all stand to worship Christ the new born King!

Joy to the World
(Stanzas 1, 2 and 4)

Hymn 100

God loves us so much that Jesus is born, And the world was changed on that Christmas morn'
We are grateful you are here and played your part. But before we depart,
Our worship continues with prayers anew, let us pray together, me and you.

Prayers of the People

Page 387, BCP

Celebrant	Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People	That we all may be one.
Celebrant	Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People	That your Name may be glorified by all people.
Celebrant	We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People	That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.
Celebrant	We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People	That there may be justice and peace on the earth.
Celebrant	Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People	That our works may find favor in your sight.
Celebrant	Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People	That they may be delivered from their distress.
Celebrant	Give to the departed eternal rest.
People	Let light perpetual shine upon them.
Celebrant	We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People	May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.
Celebrant	Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions, and the Celebrant offers a concluding collect.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

During the Offering

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Hymn 81

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory Hymn

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Hymn 107

(Verses 1 & 2)

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

William Matthias, S-128

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Great Amen

Amen

McNeil Robinson, Hymn S-147

Amen, Amen, Amen

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Christ Our Passover

David Hurd, S-154

You are invited and encouraged to come to God's table. The communion bread is received on an outstretched palm.

If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, please cross your arms over your chest.

Communion

Pastorale

David Schack

Please stand as you are able.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please have one adult family member hold the lighted candle.

During the Lighting of the Candles

Silent Night, Holy Night

Hymn 111

The Blessing

Celebrant May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you God's peace and favor.

People *Amen.*

Celebrant And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People *Amen.*

At this time, please exextinguish your candles.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

The Heavens Are Telling

Josef Haydn, arr. Lani Smith

*You are invited to remain seated and listen to the final
 Voluntary or leave quietly to greet and converse with one another outside.*

Parish Staff

239.591.4550

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Vestry

Scott McCurdy – Sr. Warden Ryan Smith–Landwehr – Jr. Warden
 Margaret Holt, Jenny Wise, Dick Rumpf, Kathy Connelly, Beth Moss, and JoAnn Sarconi