



# *Glad Tidings*

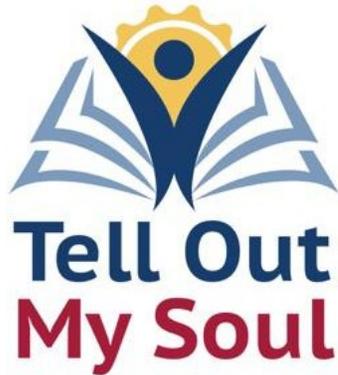
December 18, 2025



Visit the website for a full list of [upcoming events](#), [upcoming services](#), and [current signups](#).

Parish Life

## Tell Out Your Soul: Stewardship 2026



Approaching the New Year, we are grateful that so many have chosen to make financial pledges. We will celebrate all of those pledges to support our church and outreach this Sunday with a formal ingathering and blessing. This will wrap up the active portion of the 2026 pledge campaign, though pledges can be made at any time. As of **December 15**, we had received total pledges of \$424,057 from 118 families and individuals. The average pledge is \$3594. This represents 84.8% of our goal. If you have not pledged yet, please prayerfully consider and make your pledge by the end of the year. [You can pledge on the website](#) or by turning in a pledge card in the offering plate at any church service. Every pledge, in any amount, strengthens our shared ministry.



## Nativity's Christmas Pageant

Join us as our youth and children present the annual Christmas Pageant during the 10:30 am service on **Sunday, December 21**. This year, they'll share the Nativity story through the lens of Howard Thurman's poem "The Work of Christmas," which reminds us that the story doesn't end at the manger; instead the work of Christmas begins as we seek the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry, and bring hope into the world.



## Senior Luncheon Potluck

Let's come together this December for our next Potluck Senior Luncheon in Corlett Hall, hosted by Jo Dykes. We'll gather this **Sunday, December 21**, following the 10:30 am service for a heartwarming gathering filled with delicious food and good company. Bring a favorite dish to share and enjoy good food and fellowship. To RSVP or coordinate your contribution, please call or text [Jo Dykes](#) or contact her via [email](#). We look forward to seeing you there!



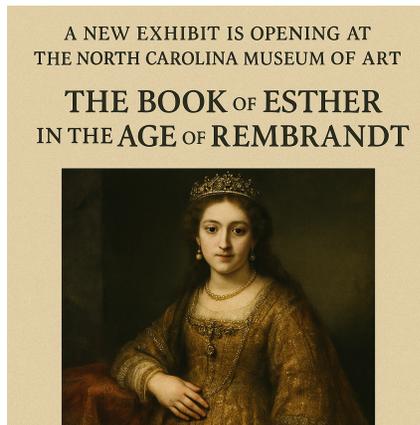
## Meal Support Captains Needed

Nativity offers care to parishioners in times of need by coordinating meal deliveries through [TakeThemAMeal](#). Each month, a volunteer "captain" receives details from the pastoral care team, checks in with the family, and sends out the requested meal schedule. It's a simple but meaningful way to serve, and some months have few or no requests. If you'd like to help support this ministry, please contact [Ailsa Tessier](#) for more information or to volunteer as a monthly captain.



## Looking For Greens Donations

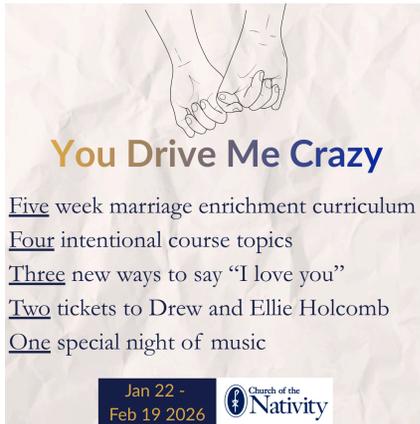
If you're planning to clip or prune shrubs or trees, please consider donating your greens to the Flower Guild. We're looking for cedar, magnolia, juniper, boxwood, holly (with or without berries), and similar cuttings to help decorate the church for Christmas. Your donations reduce the amount we need to purchase and make our Christmas greenery more special. Questions? Contact [Ailsa Tessier](#).



## The Book of Esther in the Age of Rembrandt Ladies Day Together

On **Saturday, January 10** at 10am, all ladies of Nativity are invited to meet at the North Carolina Museum of Art to view the exhibit highlighting the biblical woman Esther. Our own Marcia Perry will be there as a docent to help interpret the exhibit. We will follow with lunch together.

To participate, first get tickets from the North Carolina Museum of Art for January 10 (members free; non-members \$23.60–\$20.38 using code **QUEEN20**). Go to “Tickets” at [ncartmuseum.org](http://ncartmuseum.org). Then email [Gail Till](#) or [Tivey Clark](#) to reserve your place for lunch.



## You Drive Me Crazy: Marriage Enrichment with Music and Scripture

Inspired by Drew & Ellie Holcomb's new album celebrating the beauty and challenges of marriage, join us for a five-week Prepare/Enrich Marriage Enrichment program from **January 22 to February 19**. We'll explore communication, family of origin, conflict, and creating space to celebrate your relationship. The series culminates with a group outing to Drew & Ellie's concert at the Carolina Theatre on **February 19** at 8 pm. Cost is \$150 per couple (includes assessment exam, results, and two concert tickets). Please [sign up](#) early as space is limited.



## Update to Our Contribution Payment System

Nativity is rolling out a new contribution payment system with improved capabilities, enhanced security, and greater efficiency. The new system supports bank transfers and credit card payments. You can make one-time contributions or set up recurring contributions, which is a convenient way to fulfill your pledge. The initial focus will be on migrating WeShare users, PayPal users, and bank or credit union bill-pay users to the new system. More details about how to use the new payment system will be available on [Nativity's website](#).

# Adult Formation



## The Nativity Bowl: Help Choose Church of the Nativity's Favorite Carol

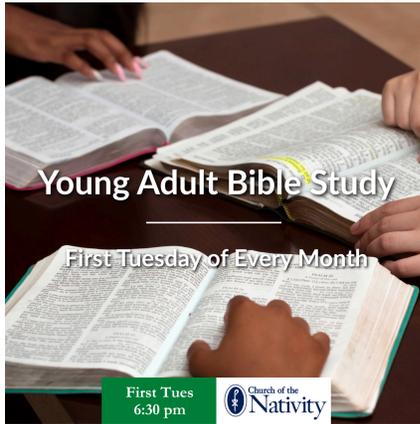
Voting opens this afternoon in the final head-to-head matchup of The Nativity Bowl. Will your favorite make it to reign supreme as Nativity's favorite Christmas Carol?

Watch your inbox today for the ballot, and make your selection to help decide which carol comes out on top.



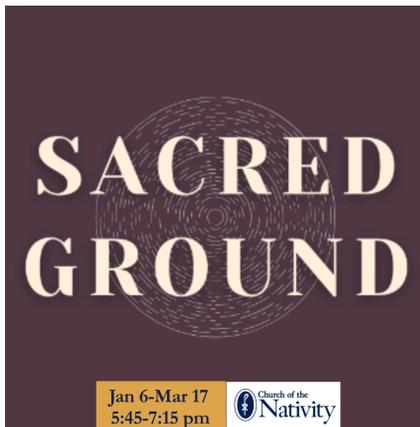
## The Songs We Sing: Four Carols of Christmas

This last session of our four-week formation series will meet on Sunday, **December 21** to explore the history and theology of the beloved Christmas carol *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. Together we'll reflect on its biblical roots and enduring messages of hope, joy, and faith. The class meets in Curry Hall 204 from 9:30–10:20 am, and you're welcome to drop by even if this is your first time!



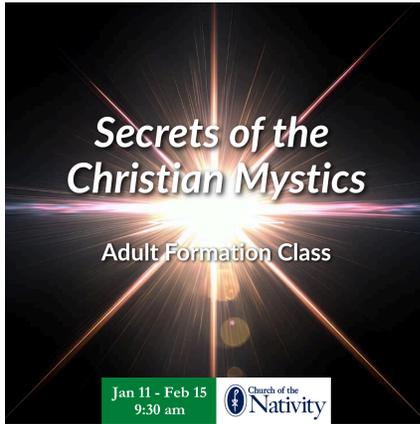
## Young Adult Bible Study

Young Adult Bible Study meets on Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30–8 pm, led by The Rev. George Black. Our next gathering is on **January 6**. This is a relaxed, welcoming space to explore scripture, ask questions, and grow in community. Whether you're new to Bible study or have lots of experience, you're invited. And who counts as a "young adult"? That's up to you.



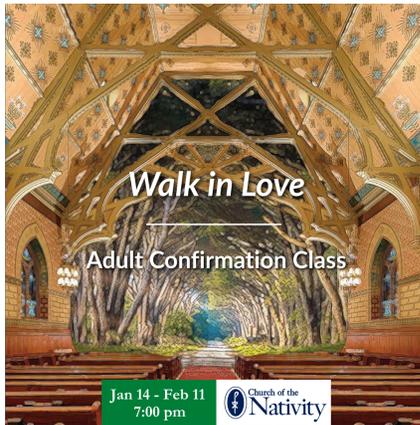
## *Sacred Ground*

This winter, Nativity will offer *Sacred Ground*, a dialogue series from The Episcopal Church on race, faith, and history, in partnership with Christ Church, Raleigh. Through films, readings, and prayerful small-group conversation, participants will explore the story of race in America and its ongoing impact. A group will meet at Nativity on Tuesday evenings from **January 6** to **March 17** and conclude with a retreat on March 21. Nativity members may also join one of three additional Christ Church circles—two in person (at Christ Church) and one virtual. Each group follows the same curriculum, is limited to 15 participants, and [requires registration](#).



## Secrets of the Christian Mystics

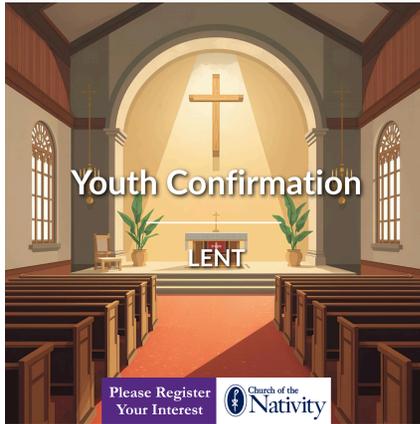
Discover the depth and beauty of Christian mysticism in a new six-week adult formation class meeting Sundays 9:30–10:20 am in Curry Hall, Room 204, from January 11–February 15. The class will offer an engaging introduction to the mystical tradition through the lives and writings of Hildegard von Bingen, Meister Eckhart, Julian of Norwich, Thomas Merton, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, and Cynthia Bourgeault. [Please register](#) so that we will have enough materials for everyone. All are welcome!



## Adult Confirmation Class: *Walk in Love*

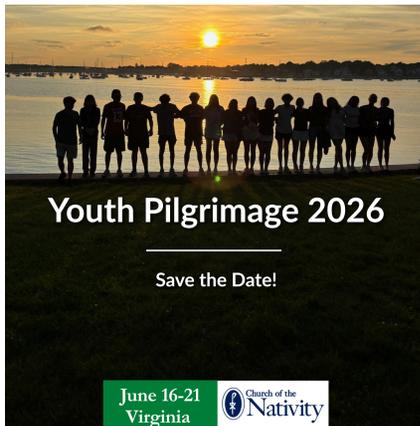
This spring, the Bishop will visit Nativity for the Rites of Confirmation and Reception on May 10. To prepare, we'll read *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices* by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. This five-week class meets Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 pm, beginning **January 14**. Open to all adults 16 and up, the study will explore Episcopal beliefs, sacraments, the liturgical year, prayer, and more. Whether you're seeking Confirmation, Reception, want to learn more, or even have a review, you're welcome. [Register by Thursday, January 8](#), to take part.

# Youth and Children



## Youth Confirmation

Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson will visit Nativity on **Sunday, May 10** to celebrate the Rite of Confirmation and Reception. Youth who will be at least 13 years old by that date are invited to prepare for the sacrament during Lent (following the ancient Christian tradition). We are hoping to create a preparation schedule that accommodates youth and families while encouraging full participation. [Please register your interest](#) and let us know which program format(s) work best for your household so we can design the most effective and meaningful formation plan.



## Youth Pilgrimage 2026

From **June 16–21** our high school youth will travel to Richmond and Williamsburg, Virginia, to explore the deep roots of our Episcopal tradition. We will listen to the stories these places hold and reflect on how our faith has shaped, and been shaped, by history. We will worship alongside the communities who welcome us, lend our hands in service, and find joy and renewal in shared play and rest. Together we will travel with open hearts and thoughtful attention, seeking connection with the people and communities who host us along the way. Registration opens just after the holidays.

# Outreach



## Pride Packs Program: Special Thanksgiving Request

Help make students' holidays brighter by donating to the Leesville Elementary Backpack Program on **Sunday, January 4**. Donations of shelf-ready milk, snacks, and protein items are greatly needed. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Thank you for sharing your generosity and ensuring students have enough food as we conclude this holiday season.

## Nativity Prayer List

Please click here for the prayer list: [Nativity Prayer List](#)

To add someone to the list, please [email the office](#).

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## Nativity Staff

[The Rev. Grey Maggiano](#)

Rector

[The Rev. George Black](#)

Curate

[The Rev. Ryan Parker](#)

[Christian Schoen](#)

Organist and Choirmaster

[Monique Holmes](#)

Business Manager

**Kate Mohan**

Priest Associate

[Jeremy Clos](#)

Lay Associate for Christian Formation

[Josh Anderson](#)

Lay Associate for  
Communications and Administration

Diaconate Discernment Intern

**Robert Krahel**

Sexton

**Eva Warren**

Nursery Attendant

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[View this email in your browser.](#)



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