



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 19, 2025)

Church of the Nativity, Central Florida

1151 Southwest Del Rio Boulevard, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34953, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 04/30/25.

SeniorWarden@nativitypsl.com

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) 104	Number of Weekend Worship Services 125	Number of Weekday Worship Services 8	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation \$81050	Cash Stipend \$36650	Housing / Rectory Detail \$44400	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position \$100000	Housing Available for	Pension Plan We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Full family	Dental Yes	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks Other	Vacation Weeks Details 2	Continuing Education Weeks 2 (standard)	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget up to/including \$500/year	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account No	Other Professional Account Yes

• Annual compensation, cash stipend include SECA • Rector Housing Allowance approved by Vestry

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Nativity is blessed to have ministries that are formed by identifying a need, shortcoming, or opportunity. The Communication Committee is an extension of a greeting card ministry that was established within our Daughters' of the King Chapter. The committee contacts parishioners who may feel lonely or simply needing a friendly word - a simple gesture creating a meaningful connection. The full positive impact was recognized when we received a card from a parishioner stating, "You have no idea how amazing you are." This response reminded all that ministry is always personal and about building relationships with God and others. The feedback fueled our desire to share God's love in ways that bring the Lord's healing and comfort those in need.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

One of the greatest assets the Church of the Nativity has in preparing for our future is something we already possess - 5 acres of land and excellent facilities. Nestled on a corner lot among family homes in the rapidly growing city of Port Saint Lucie, the Church of the Nativity is actively preparing for the future through expansion plans and innovative ideas for utilizing our buildings and grounds for mission and ministry. We are a parish with arms wide open, ready to welcome new parishioners, serve our neighbors, and be a valuable resource to our community. We seek a visionary and courageous priest to help us grow both spiritually and numerically. We are eager for a leader to guide us on our journey into the future, helping us transition from a pastoral congregation to one that reaches its full growth potential and embraces the endless opportunities ahead.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

strong leader, biblical preaching, visionary leader, Attentive listener

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Nativity offers two services on Sunday - 8:00 AM (Rite I, no music), and 10:30 AM (Rite II with music). The 8:00 AM service tends to minister to our more traditional parishioners who like the quiet nature before enjoying the rest of their day in Florida. Our 10:30 AM service is awash in the lively activity of families and the rich diversity of our city. We also offer a Wednesday service at 10:00 AM. In recent months, when a supply priest was sometimes unavailable, parishioners lead Morning Prayer. We seek a priest who will bring fresh eyes and vision to all our worship. While we are trying to make the services more welcoming, we know we can grow in our worship offerings, including music of a livelier and more upbeat tempo!

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

A significant challenge we face is the average age of our parishioners who are now in the season of life to receive caring ministry versus participating in other kinds of ministry. This means ministry leaders and staff must be clear in communicating the need for all parishioners to serve in some way. Personal testimonies provide an effective tool to guide parishioners into ministry, and as we share ministry experiences, we build relationships and invite people into their calling in the life of the parish. Communicating how the ministry aligns with the mission of the church enables parishioners to understand the value they add through participation in the full life of the parish. We seek a priest who will equip, motivate, and support us as we stay faithful to existing ministries and grow in our mission.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Church of the Nativity knows that caring for one another is not just the job of the priest, but of every member. We have developed a strong internal caring ministry by working on informal and formal connection points. We genuinely enjoy one another, and this joy has taught us to care for one another in the ups and downs of life - to share a cup of coffee together, listen to children describe their latest LEGO creations, or visit one another in homes, hospitals, or care facilities. We seek a priest who will invite us to engage even more fully with one another, physically, spiritually, and emotionally - and help us form a stronger community of faith.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Church of the Nativity, like all congregations, is called to care for those inside their church, and consistently reach those outside walls with the love of Jesus Christ. We want a caring leader who will provide guidance as to how we can best serve each other as well as those outside of our worshipping community. We are aware of and work to be responsive to the needs of our local community. We have, for many years, run a food pantry, provided school supplies, and made food baskets for families in need; however, there is so much more serving to be done. We seek a priest to more deeply, consistently, creatively, and compassionately care for and serve others, regardless of where they spend their Sunday mornings.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

The neighborhood surrounding Nativity is filled with young families, and we know that serving them is a way of showing the love of Jesus to their families. We offer Parents Night Out on the first Friday of the month as a time when free, fun, and safe childcare is provided. Feedback from parents and caregivers has been very positive, as hiring a babysitter can be cost-prohibitive. Nativity believes that respite from time to time is important - particularly for parents of young children. In addition to Parents Night Out, our Vacation Bible School reaches many children outside our church - most students having no formal connection to Nativity. VBS is offered in the afternoons for a week each June, using inclusive resources from Illustrated Ministries. We support the Acton Learning Center children's business expo that invites young entrepreneurs to our campus with their wares to share/sell within the community. All funds raised are given back to the community through scholarships to assist children to start their own business. These types of outreach efforts foster our mission and bring young families and children into our fold.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Post-pandemic, Nativity has had the unique opportunity to open our doors to the local community. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts hold weekly meetings in our parish hall. Additionally, a local non-profit, Helping People Succeed, utilizes our facility for weekly camps to teach young teens how to succeed in today's business environment. We host Toastmasters to teach teens the importance of public speaking, how to interview, and communicate with confidence. In 2023, Nativity contracted with Acton Learning Academy to rent classrooms for their learner-driven micro-school. This has been an effective way to bring new faces onto our campus, share our mission, and learn about upcoming parish and community events. We pray for a leader to spark our imaginations for new and expanded ministry opportunities. Contact Deborah Benway, Senior Warden, at Warden@nativitypsl.com for additional information.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Stewardship at Nativity begins with our Annual Pledge Campaign in the Fall, following the Diocesan initiative identified on the website. We have found that personal testimonies are not as successful as asking, informing and challenging parishioners to give to meet the financial needs to continue God's plan for all of us to spread His kingdom. The Vestry has much steady planning after five years of flat or declining revenue, coupled with double-digit increases in salaries and operating expenses. In 2023 the Vestry initiated the Narrative Budget to provide our members with a transparent view of our mission, vision, ministries, and the current year. Historically, only 25% of annual revenue comes via pledges, but God provides, and the church makes ends meet. Church of the Nativity needs energetic pastoral leadership to instill confidence and create a spiritual and financial vision for the future. Such leadership will teach us to truly be disciples and good stewards of the gifts that we have been afforded. We seek a priest with the experience and skills to train and develop a congregation committed to growth and stability through an effective stewardship campaign.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

A recent Vestry decision to transform our Memorial Garden for safety and aesthetic beauty, created conflict with some parishioners. Phase I cleared invasive pepper bushes to create a blank canvas. Despite positive landscape transformation, a few people took offense that the Vestry "cut down the trees" and invited the community into this space. To address concerns, the Vestry chose to step up efforts and over-communicate about the garden work. We will hold another town hall to review progress and solicit ideas for future enhancements (prayer labyrinth, ADA-friendly sidewalk, additional plantings, etc.). We are hopeful that as we work together as a congregation, we will agree to disagree on some things and move forward to make Nativity a place of comfort and peace for all who visit our campus. We have learned that conflict is not always about the issue raised but an internal struggle that has not been resolved. While we have not been completely successful with the resolution for this conflict, we are committed to open communication, transparency, and feedback from the congregation before making decisions about move-forward planning.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Most people struggle with change but eventually come around through good communication. Years ago, we learned this lesson when the Vestry voted to place two monitors in the church to be used during a Contemporary Family service. As word about the monitors spread, a "rumor" started that people would leave the church if the monitors were placed up on the walls. Lesson learned: no one left Nativity because monitors were hanging on the wall. Today, four monitors help the congregation and clergy worship during all services; everyone loves them, and the church no longer prints paper programs, allowing us to save money and resources. We believe that this kind of mission-focused change helps people understand and eventually accept change.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Tracy Dugger	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2018-09	2023-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Mary Rosendahl	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2008-08	2018-10

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev. Paul D. Wolfe	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1996-01	2018-10

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	2	3

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School



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Worshipping Community Web site: <https://nativitypsl.com/>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/nativitypsl/>

> <https://www.youtube.com/NativityPSL>

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb

Diocesan Transition Minister

The. Rev. Canon Ellis Brust

Email: ebrust@cfdiocese.org Phone: (772) 302-9661

Current Warden/Board Chair

Deborah Benway

Email: SeniorWarden@nativitypsl.com Phone: (772) 353-0232

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader