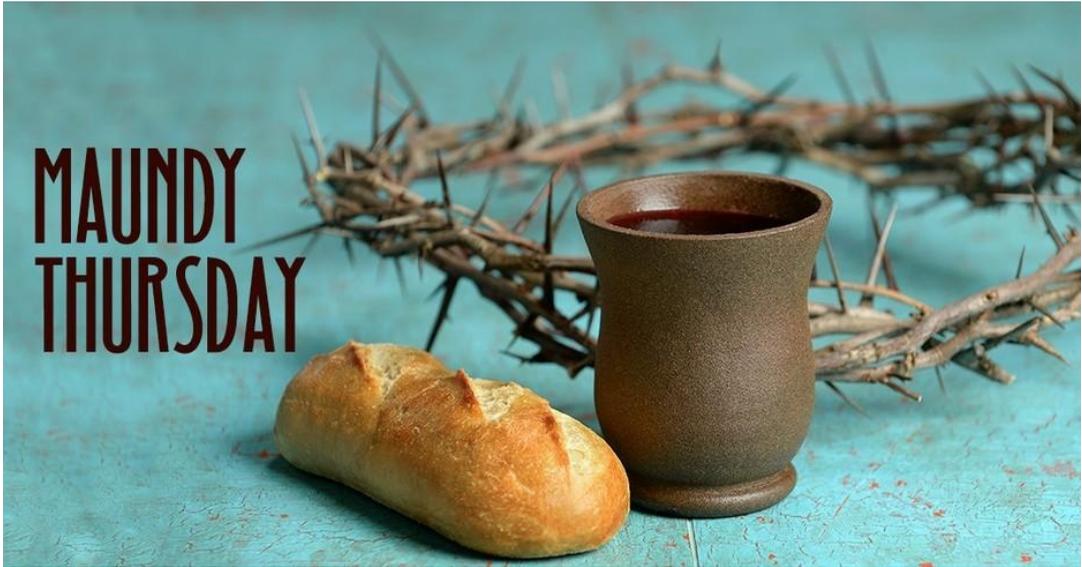


The Church of the Nativity & St. Stephen  
Maundy Thursday in an Agape Meal April 2, 2026  
Gather in the Lord's Name



**Mission of Nativity and St. Stephen**

To seek and serve Christ through service to others.

To manage responsibly the financial resources of our parish as loving and caring stewards.

To welcome and involve all persons into our parish family valuing both diversity and unity.

To enable nurture and learning in the Episcopal heritage of Scripture, tradition and reason.

To foster a community of faith for worship, spiritual growth, ministry and mission.

We invite your prayers before our mass begins. Please be reminded of the importance of Holy silence that prepares us to listen to God. Conversation, food, and fellowship following worship. All are welcome.

**The Rev. Ryan M. Tobin**

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 717-216-0148, [ryan@tobin.church](mailto:ryan@tobin.church)

Michele Neibert - Parish Administrator

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<https://nativityandststephen.org>

159 South Second Street, Newport, PA 17074

*Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day are three episodes in one great celebration by which we die and rise to new life with Christ. This evening brings us to the supper table – the night of betrayal.*

### *† The Meal †*

*Our Parish begins its celebration of Maundy Thursday with an Agape Meal. The meal begins with the Celebrant offering three blessings: a blessing for the wine, a blessing for the bread, and a blessing for the other foods to be shared. After these blessings, we share in this communal meal as a Christian community. As the meal comes to its end, the following passage from the Gospel of John is read aloud:*

The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, "Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done." Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you. I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you. By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

*After the reading, please go up to the Sanctuary in silence.*

## Processional Psalm

*This Psalm is recited as during the opening procession.*

### Psalm 84 *Quam dilecta!*

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*

they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, \*

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*

hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; \*

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; \*  
he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the LORD withhold \*  
from those who walk with integrity.

12 O LORD of hosts, \*  
happy are they who put their trust in you!

### **Opening Salutation**

Celebrant: Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.

*People: His mercy endures forever.*

**The Collect of the Day**                      insert

### **First Readings:**

Exodus 12:1-14                                      insert

**Psalm 116:1, 10 – 17**                                      insert

### **Second Reading:**

1 Corinthians 11:23 – 26                                      insert

**Gradual Hymn**    *What wondrous love is this*                      Hymnal 439

### **Gospel:**

John 13:1 - 17, 31b – 35                                      insert

**Sermon**                      The Rev. Ryan M. Tobin

**Footwashing** - *Persons wishing to participate in footwashing should proceed to the front of the church at invitation of rector.*

**Prayers of the People and Confession of Sin**      BCP 392

*The Prayers of the People follow Form VI on page 392 of the Book of Common Prayer.  
Please stand or kneel.*

**Offertory Hymn**    “*Now, my tongue, the mystery telling*”      Hymnal 329

**The Doxology**    Hymnal 380, v.3

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!*

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Eucharistic Prayer D**      BCP 372

**The Lord’s Prayer**      BCP 364

**The Breaking of the Bread**      BCP 364

**Ministration of Communion**

After Communion, the Celebrant says: Let us pray.

**Post Communion Prayer**      BCP 365

***Celebrant and People:** Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **Stripping of the Altar**

**Psalm 22**

BCP 610

Please remain seated as we recite the Psalm and members of the Altar Guild remove all items from the Sanctuary. This practice symbolizes the emptying of Jesus' soul as he prepares for death. We, too, strip ourselves of the attachments that draw us from a pure love of God and neighbor as we recognize our own capacity for self-sacrifice and the generous offering of our lives to God.

The Maundy Thursday service has no dismissal. Instead, the church keeps a holy vigil in remembrance of Christ's betrayal, suffering, and death, as we await the joyful celebration of the Resurrection at Easter.

Please remain as long as you wish for meditation and silent prayer, and then depart the church in silence.



**Good Friday, April 3, 12:30pm, Nativity**  
**Easter Sunday, April 5, 9:30am, Nativity**



**Service Participants**

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

Lector: Wendy Day

Prayers of the People: Rick Rasmussen

Eucharistic Minister and Acolyte: Shannon Burns

Organist: Andrea Jezewski

Tech Assistant: Aiden Shiffer

**Vestry**

Bill Day, Sr. Warden

Jill Hoover, Jr. Warden

Wendy Day

Mary Price

Rick Rasmussen

Charlene Robbins

Terry Stanton

Rebecca Gephart-Crup, Treasurer