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## TODAY AT EPIPHANY - 12/1/24

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### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | **Appleton Ministries Offering**

12/1—The Thanksgiving Offering for Appleton Ministries is collected the Sunday following Thanksgiving and designated for Appleton Episcopal Ministries. This Diocesan ministry funds food pantries, community feeding programs, tutoring programs and community ministry programs throughout the Middle GA Convocation. All cash offerings will be designated to them that day. You can also give online at [www.epiphany.org/ways-to-give](http://www.epiphany.org/ways-to-give) or via check, marking “Appleton Ministries” in the memo field.

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL WILL NOT TAKE PLACE TODAY due to the Thanksgiving break.

FORMATION WILL NOT TAKE PLACE TODAY: Advent Wreath Making is taking place in the parish hall for those who reserved a kit and children are invited to color in the parish hall during this time.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | **Art Ministry**—*now showing until December 18*

Epiphany’s Art Ministry welcomes paintings and small works by Sherry Cook. Her show in the gallery features Angels from her “Growing Toward God” series. Items from the tables may be taken home when purchased. Hanging items need to remain in place until the close of the show on December 18. Remember, 25% of all sales benefit Epiphany. *The artist is visiting us today—please greet Sherry in the Gallery.*

### FORMATION | **Contemplative Practice**—*will meet the FIRST Sunday of December*

12/1—Come gather with us at 4:00 p.m. for a time of reflection, meditation instruction, and gathering with others seeking a more grounded way of being in the world. Led by Bobbi Patterson, Elizabeth Ura and Amy Dills-Wright. Contact the Rev. Amy Dills-Wright at [adillswright@epiphany.org](mailto:adillswright@epiphany.org) if you have any questions.

YOUTH GROUP WILL NOT TAKE PLACE TODAY due to the Thanksgiving break.

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THE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE ALTAR AND THE SANCTUARY LIGHT ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

**Altar Arrangements & the Sanctuary Light** can be given in honor of an anniversary, birthday, or in memory of a loved one. Visit [epiphany.org/rsvp](http://epiphany.org/rsvp) to reserve dates that have meaning for you.

NOTICE: *The sign up is empty through the end of the year, except for one Sunday for the Sanctuary Light.*

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## THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

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### WORSHIP | **Weekday Services**—*visit [epiphany.org/worship-services](http://epiphany.org/worship-services) for details*

- Weekday Morning Prayer—9:00 a.m. online
- Tuesday Morning Prayer (Holy Eucharist 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays)—7:00 a.m. in the side chapel
- Wednesday Noonday Prayer—12:00 p.m. in the side chapel, a Healing Eucharist follows at 12:15 p.m.

### PARISH GROUP | **Men’s Breakfast Group**—*Tuesdays following the 7:00 a.m. service*

12/3—The Men’s Breakfast Group gathers for breakfast and discussion following the 7:00 a.m. Tuesday service and are typically on their way by 8:00 a.m. Log into Realm to contact John Yntema with any questions.

### PARISH LIFE | **The Nativities Display**—*help set up our annual display*

12/3 - 5—This year, in addition to the main exhibit in the narthex and gallery of the stories of Luke and Matthew, we will be setting up a smaller curated selection of the rest of our collection in the parish hall. We are looking for volunteers to help set up the display the first week of December. Then we’ll need folks to help pack it all back up on January 6 and 7. If you would like to sign up for a shift, please sign up at [epiphany.org/rsvp](http://epiphany.org/rsvp).

### MUSIC | **Choirs for Children & Youth**—*Tuesdays • Music Suite upstairs*

- 12/3—Beginning Choristers (pre-K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade) meet from 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
- 12/3—Junior Choir (3<sup>rd</sup> grade-unchanged voices) meet from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

### MUSIC | **Choirs for Adults & Youth**—*Wednesdays • music suite*

- 12/4—The Epiphany Ringers rehearse from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Loft.
- 12/4—Our all-volunteer Epiphany Choir rehearses from 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. in the Music Suite.

PARISH GROUPS | **Trivia Group**—*Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. • Wild Heaven in Avondale Estates*

12/4—All are invited to join the Epiphany Trivia Group on Tuesdays at Wild Heaven in Avondale. Trivia begins at 7:00 p.m. and ends by 9:00 p.m. Questions? Log into Realm to contact Edie Brush or Jacob.

FORMATION | **Contemplative Book Group: A Fresh Look at the Hope of Advent**—*Room 201*

12/5—The Contemplative Book Group is studying the book *The First Advent in Palestine* by Kelley Nikondeha, led by Paul Hinson and Suzanne Yoder. Nikondeha puts the story of *God-with-us* into its original embodied context, provoking comparisons to our own, in a beautiful narrative spanning scripture and experience.

PASTORAL CARE | **The Grief Pastoral Care Group**—*1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays at 12:00 p.m. • Zoom*

12/5—The group meets online each month for a healing and faith-based conversation around grief and loss. It is led by parishioner and trained psychotherapist, Nancy Thompson. Please log into Realm to contact Nancy before attending for the first time.

PARISH GROUPS | **Fireside Sit & Sip**—*Thursday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. • courtyard*

12/5—The Fireside Sit and Sip at Epiphany is for women primarily in their 40s, 50s, and 60s to come together just as you are. Bring a camp chair and join us around the fire pit in the courtyard to sit, sip, and enjoy conversation with other women on the journey. Please RSVP at [epiphany.org/rsvp](http://epiphany.org/rsvp) and sign up to bring drinks or snacks. Questions? Use Realm to contact Kathy Corcoran or the Rev. Carmie McDonald.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES | **Cookie Baking**—*Saturday 12/7 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. • parish hall*

12/7—Children and youth and their parents are invited to join us Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Epiphany to bake cookies and talk about Advent together! We will decorate the cookies the following evening after Lessons & Carols. Please RSVP for this advent at [epiphany.org/rsvp](http://epiphany.org/rsvp).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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PARISH GROUPS | **ECW Christmas Craft & Bake Sale**—*purchase homemade goodies and crafts*

12/8—The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will hold their annual Christmas Craft & Bake Sale Sunday December 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please stop by the parish hall before or after the 10:00 a.m. service. The proceeds from our bake/craft sale support our service projects during the year. Log into Realm to contact Kathleen Rinehart if you would like to contribute an item to this event.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES | **Feast of St. Nicholas**—*Sunday, 12/8 at 11:30 a.m. • Room 203*

12/8—On Sunday, December 8, our children's formation classes will celebrate the feast of St Nicholas! Children ages 3 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join this event taking place in 203. Youth are invited to attend and to help stuff children's shoes with clementines and chocolate coins.

WORSHIP | **Advent Lessons & Carols**—*5:00 p.m. with a reception following • cookie decorating will be happening!*

12/8—The Epiphany Choir, Beginning Choristers, Junior Choir, and Epiphany Ringers will present Advent Lessons & Carols on Sunday at 5:00 p.m. in a liturgy much like Christmas Lessons & Carols made popular in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by Kings College, Cambridge. The promise of the coming Messiah is told in lessons from the Old and New Testaments interspersed with Advent carols, hymns, and choir anthems. The service takes place in the nave followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

WORSHIP | **Family Eucharist Service & Service Project**—*all activities in the parish hall*

12/10—Join us for a Family Eucharist (6:15 p.m.) after choir practice or the Family Service project. Arrive by 6:00 p.m. if you'd like to eat pizza together, or come at 5:00 p.m. to take part in the Family Service Project. RSVP for the pizza at [epiphany.org/rsvp](http://epiphany.org/rsvp).

YOUTH MINISTRIES | **Youth Group**—*worship at Common Ground from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

12/15—The youth group will be attending worship at the church of the Common Ground. This "church without walls" is located downtown and focuses on ministry to unhoused individuals. We will gather after the 10:00 a.m. service at Epiphany to ride together. Worship is at 1:00 p.m., followed by lunch. Please note this is an outdoor event so dress warmly!

GIVING | **Christmas Flowers & Music**—*submit names by Monday, December 16*

Deadline by 12/16—If you would like to make an offering in thanksgiving or memory of someone for Christmas, please fill out the form at [epiphany.org/Christmas-flowers-music](http://epiphany.org/Christmas-flowers-music). From there you can choose to

make your donation via online giving, or if you can also mail a check payable to Church of the Epiphany noting Christmas Flowers and/or Christmas Music in the memo line. To be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins, submissions must be received in the parish office by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 16.

**PASTORAL CARE | The Community of Hope's Circle of Care**—*3<sup>rd</sup> Monday for December at 6:00 p.m. • parish hall*  
12/16—Members gather to pray, learn, and provide each other with mutual support as they reflect on their emotional and spiritual responses to pastoral encounters. If you or a loved one would like to receive a pastoral visit or home communion by one of the trained caregivers, please login to Realm to contact Ann Fowler.

**PARISH GROUPS | Emmaus House Seniors Luncheon**—*hosted by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW)*  
12/19—The ECW we will host a luncheon for the Emmaus House Seniors. This is an annual event and a lot of fun for the seniors and the ECW Members. Login to Realm to contact Kathleen Rinehart if you would like to help with this event.

**LITURGY | Service of Light**—*Sunday, December 22 at 6:00 p.m. • in-person & live-streamed*  
12/22—The Christmas season is a time of joy and expectation but it can also deepen the pain and isolation experienced by those who are grieving. The Service of Light is a worship service with Holy Eucharist meant to speak to the needs of those experiencing grief and loss. It offers a time of prayer and meditation and a reminder that we are not alone. This service is hosted by the Grief Group, the Pastoral Care Committee and Community of Hope, all of whom provide care to Epiphany parishioners who would like pastoral support. The service will also be live-streamed.

#### **ADMINISTRATION | Office & Building Closure**

12/24-1/2/25—The Parish Office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and open again on Wednesday, January 2. Outside of worship services, no other services or programs will take place during that time.

#### **LITURGY | Epiphany Pageant**—*for all ages*

1/5/25—The Annual Epiphany Pageant will take place on Sunday, January 5 during the 10:00 a.m. service. Children, youth, and adults are invited to participate in the retelling of our Feast Day! Rehearsal will be January 5 at 8:30 a.m. Please sign up at [epiphany.org/rsvp](http://epiphany.org/rsvp). Contact Taylor Irwin at [tirwin@epiphany.org](mailto:tirwin@epiphany.org) with any questions.

#### **LITURGY | Sacrament of Holy Baptism**—*for all ages*

1/12/25—The sacrament of Holy Baptism for adults, infants and children will be administered during the service on Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Contact the parish office ([parishadmin@epiphany.org](mailto:parishadmin@epiphany.org)) by Monday, December 23 if you or a member of your family desires to be baptized.

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## **UPCOMING MEETINGS & ONGOING PROGRAMS**

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#### **PARISH GROUPS | Epiphany Book Group**—*2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays at 7:00 p.m. • location varies*

12/9—The Epiphany Book meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. See listing below for location. All are welcome. Log into Realm to Linda Ryder-Wolf if you have any questions.

- **December 9:** Appetizers & Dessert at 5:30 p.m. and pick books for 2025 (Epiphany)
- **January 13:** *Still Fooling 'Em*, by Billy Crystal (Zoom)

#### **PARISH GROUPS | The Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**—*2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays at 9:30/11:00 a.m. • parish hall*

12/10—No regular meeting because of the Bake Sale and Emmaus House Senior luncheon. We will meet at 10:30 am to make sandwiches for Emmaus House. Afterwards, we will adjourn to Melton's App & Tap for lunch. All women of Epiphany are invited to attend.

#### **PASTORAL CARE | Caregiver Group**—*2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays at 11:45 p.m. • Zoom*

12/13—Epiphany's Caregiver Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Zoom. Parish members who are caring for a loved one, or who are anticipating caring for a loved one, gather to talk about their experience and support one another. The group is facilitated by Epiphany parishioner Nancy Thompson, a Georgia-licensed psychologist, and is co-facilitated by parishioner Anne Bucey, who is trained as a spiritual advisor. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Nancy Thompson to express your interest. You can find her contact information in the Epiphany directory in Realm.

PARISH GROUPS | **The Munch Bunch**—3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. • *Thinking Man Tavern*

12/18—Give yourself a mid-week-treat and join friends and friends-to-be for lunch at 1:00 p.m. at the Thinking Man Tavern on Howard Avenue in Decatur. No agenda. No reservation needed. Just fun. Log into Realm to contact Laura Keys if you have any questions.

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## HOLIDAY GIVING & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | **Gateway Center Meal Ministry**—*meals served 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays of the month*

12/11-13—Volunteers cook in the Epiphany kitchen and then serve the meal at Gateway Shelter on 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays. To help prepare, cook, or serve the meal, visit [epiphany.org/rsvp](http://epiphany.org/rsvp).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | **Toy Drive for Emmaus House**—*bring unwrapped gifts by December 15*

12/15—This Christmas, we have the opportunity to share God’s love with the children and families of Peoplestown. Our donations of unwrapped gifts or gift cards for infants through teenagers can help bring joy to the over 500 children served by Emmaus House. Click the “Toy Drive” button on the home page for the complete list of gifts by ages. Bring unwrapped gifts to Epiphany by December 15.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | **Gifts for Life**—*give a gift with lasting impact*

Through Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD), *Gifts for Life* gives communities all over the world the chance to transform lives. Empower a community in need while honoring a cherished loved one with a gift today. To see all the *Gifts for Life* options, please visit: [episcopalrelief.org/gifts](http://episcopalrelief.org/gifts). Your gifts are fully tax deductible.

**NOTICE: Our Annual Shoe Drive for the Church of the Common Ground will take place after the first of the year.**

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## CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT EPIPHANY

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WORSHIP | **Christmas Eve Services**—*all liturgies will be live-streamed*

12/24—Childcare will be provided in the nursery for children ages 4 and under for the 4:00 p.m. service.

- **4:00 p.m.**—The Celebration of the Nativity of Jesus with a moment for children, music of the season by the Epiphany Children & Youth choirs, and Holy Eucharist.
- **7:30 p.m.**—An extended prelude begins at 7:30 p.m. and will feature the Epiphany Choir, Epiphany Ringers, strings, and congregational carols.
- **8:00 p.m.**—The Celebration of the Nativity of Jesus with incense, music of the season, and Festival Eucharist.

12/25—WORSHIP | **Christmas Day Service**

Join us at 10:00 a.m. for a quieter celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas morning. Take a moment to pause this day and give thanks for the glorious arrival of the Word incarnate among us.

WORSHIP | **Christmas Lessons & Carols—Christmas 1: The First Sunday of Christmas**

12/29—On this festive day, we continue to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas with Christmas Lessons & Carols. Come and continue our gratitude for the birth of Christ in word, music, and Eucharist.

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## YEAR END GIFTS, REIMBURSEMENTS & PLEDGING

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GIVING | **Staff Christmas Gifts**

Parishioners are invited to express their gratitude to clergy and staff for their work this year by making an offering online or by check. Give through Realm and be sure to select the Staff Christmas option from the pull-down menu, or you can give by check, and list “Staff Christmas” in the memo line.

FINANCE | **Submit Reimbursements**—*submit by Monday, December 16*

12/16—If you have expenses that should be reimbursed in this fiscal year, they must be submitted and approved by Monday, December 16. Any expenses submitted after the December 16 will be applied to the 2025 budget.

## FINANCE | Year End Gifts & Pledges for 2024

Deadline 12/31—Pledges and contributions need to be received at the church or postmarked by December 31, 2024 and stock contributions must be delivered to the church brokerage account by December 31, 2024 to be recorded for 2024.

**REMINDER:** For those of you who schedule online giving, be sure to check your realm account to be sure that your online giving is set up to continue in the new year, and that the amount adds up to the amount of your annual pledge for the coming year.

## STEWARDSHIP | Make a Pledge for 2025

If you have not already done so, please make a pledge of support to our operating budget—without which we would not be able to worship, find respite, and serve one another and all those in our community we touch through our ministries. Pledge cards are available in the narthex and gallery, or you can make your pledge online at [www.epiphany.org/stewardship](http://www.epiphany.org/stewardship).

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**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS** — 40 words or less — are due by NOON on Wednesdays. Longer versions may run in the *Friday eNews*. Email submissions to [parishadmin@epiphany.org](mailto:parishadmin@epiphany.org).

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## ADVENT • CHRISTMAS • EPIPHANY

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- 12/1    **Advent 1**  
Holy Eucharist • 10:00 a.m.  
Advent Wreath-Making (RSVP)
- 12/6    Nativities Collection goes on display
- 12/7    Advent Cookie Event • 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- 12/8    **Advent 2**  
ECW Bake Sale • 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Holy Eucharist • 10:00 a.m.  
St. Nicholas Event • 11:30 a.m.  
Formation for all ages • 11:30 a.m.  
Advent Lessons & Carols • 5:00 p.m.  
Lessons & Carols Reception • 6:00 p.m.
- 12/10   Family Dinner & Holy Eucharist (dinner RSVP) • 6:15 p.m.
- 12/15   **Advent 3**  
Holy Eucharist • 10:00 a.m.  
Formation for all ages • 11:30 a.m.
- 12/19   ECW Luncheon for the Emmaus House Seniors • 12:00 p.m.
- 12/22   **Advent 4**  
Holy Eucharist • 10:00 a.m.  
Formation for all ages • 11:30 a.m.  
Service of Light • 6:00 p.m.
- 12/24   **Christmas Eve Services**  
Festival Eucharist • 4:00 p.m.  
Preservice Music • 7:30 p.m.  
Festival Eucharist • 8:00 p.m. (incense will be used)
- 12/25   **The Nativity of Our Lord** • 10:00 a.m.
- 12/29   **Christmas Lessons and Carols** • 10:00 a.m.
- 1/5    **Feast of the Epiphany**  
Holy Eucharist & Epiphany Pageant • 10:00 a.m.  
Feast Day Feast • 11:30 a.m.