
TODAY AT EPIPHANY - WEEK OF 12/16/24

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES | **Children's Chapel**—*during the service*

Children up to 3rd grade are invited to gather at the cross by the Choir Loft during the last verse of the Sequence Hymn and follow the cross to chapel after the reading of the Gospel. They return at the Peace. Parents are welcome to join them.

FORMATION | **Adults**—*join us from 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. • Choir Loft in the Nave*

The Weary World Rejoices – Sundays December 15 & 22: In this season of Advent, you are invited to join us in silent reflection as we sit together in the complexities of life, embracing both joy and sorrow, light and shadows. In these shared moments, we will pray with Scripture, images, and creation as we look for God's promises already being fulfilled, and anticipate Christ's coming into the world.

FORMATION | **Children & Youth**—*11:30 a.m. • location varies*

- Searching the Scriptures class will meet downstairs in the donut den to watch and discuss the Bible Project's Advent Word Study.
- Godly play continues as normal in room 203 with the story of Mary.
- The youth group will gather after the 10:00 a.m. service to ride together to attend worship at the Church of the Common Ground. This "church without walls" is located downtown and focuses on ministry to unhoused individuals. Worship begins at 1:00 p.m. Please note this is an outdoor event so dress warmly!

PARISH LIFE | **The Nativities Display**—*now on view in the Narthex and Gallery through Sunday, January 5*

In our narthex, 23 nativities are arranged to illustrate the birth story in Luke and in our gallery, 35 nativities are arranged to illustrate the birth story in Matthew. There are scripture and hymn texts that accompany the crèche scenes. This is part of a larger collection that began with a bequest of a collection that was bequeathed to Epiphany in 1995 by Dr. William Lemonds in loving memory of James Lattimer Anderson Belcher.

NEW THIS YEAR: A curated selection of an additional 100 nativities from the larger collection have been put on display in the parish hall, including a small selection that children are invited to touch. If you'd like to help with taking them down on Monday, January 6, please sign up at epiphany.org/rsvp.

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

LAST SUNDAY OF THE EXHIBIT. 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.

PARISH GROUPS | **Young Adults**—*Christmas Gathering at 7:00 p.m. • parish hall*

Join us for the Young Adults Christmas Gathering on December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall; please bring a white elephant gift valued at \$25 or less for a fun gift exchange as we enjoy fellowship and holiday cheer. Contact Edie Brush for details.

THE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE ALTAR ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD with appreciation to her new church home by Lynda Smith and in memory of Kitty O'Shea, mother of Kathleen Rinehart, by Eric & Ruth Olson.

THE SANCTUARY LIGHT IS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD with deep gratitude for Amy and Carmie's warm guidance, by Katie Pedersen.

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 to reserve dates that have meaning for you.

NOTICE: DATES FOR ALL OF 2025 ARE NOW POSTED ON THE SIGNUP.

ADVENT • CHRISTMAS • EPIPHANY

- 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. (Zoom only)
- 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.

THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

WORSHIP | **Weekday Services**—visit epiphany.org/worship-services for details

- Weekday Morning Prayer—9:00 a.m. online, request the login link from the parish office.
- Tuesday Morning Prayer (Holy Eucharist 1st 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.

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. 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.

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

12/17—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.

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

- 12/17—Beginning Choristers (pre-K - 2nd grade) meet from 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
- 12/17—Junior Choir (3rd grade-unchanged voices) meet from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

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

12/17—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.

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

- 12/18—The Epiphany Ringers rehearse from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Loft.
- 12/18—Our all-volunteer Epiphany Choir rehearses from 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. in the Music Suite.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | **Gift Drop-Off and Wrapping Party** 12/17—Do you love being Santa's Helper? Join us to transport gifts to Emmaus House and participate in their "wrapping party." We'll meet at Epiphany at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday December 17, to gather the presents and then stay for an hour or two to help wrap! Donations of gift wrap are welcome. To sign up, contact Suzanne Yoder or Marion Curry.

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 at noon on Thursday December 19 in the parish hall. 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.

PASTORAL CARE | **The Community of Hope's Circle of Care**—Third Monday for December at 6:00 p.m.
12/16—Members gather in the parish hall 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 | **The Munch Bunch**—3rd 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

LITURGY | **Sacrament of Holy Baptism**—for all ages • *notify the office by Monday, December 23*
1/12—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) by **MONDAY, DECEMBER 23** if you or a member of your family desires to be baptized.

ADMINISTRATION | **Office & Building Closure**
12/24-1/2—The Parish Office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and open again on Thursday, January 2. With the exception of the Sunday Morning Eucharist on 12/29 and Tuesday Morning Prayer on 12/31, no other services, programs or meetings will take place during that time.

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

YEAR END GIFTS, REIMBURSEMENTS & PLEDGING

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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT EPIPHANY

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, flute, and strings.
- **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**—*ZOOM ONLY*

Join us at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom to celebrate 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.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

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

1/2/25—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.

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. Contact Taylor Irwin at tirwin@epiphany.org with any questions.

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

1/8-10—Volunteers cook in the Epiphany kitchen and then serve the meal at Gateway Shelter on 2nd Fridays. To help prepare, cook, or serve the meal, visit epiphany.org/rsvp.

PASTORAL CARE | **Caregiver Group**—*2nd Fridays at 11:45 p.m.* • Zoom

1/10—Epiphany's Caregiver Group meets on the 2nd 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.

FORMATION | **Contemplative Practice**—*join us in the Choir Loft at 4:00 p.m.*

1/12—Come gather with us on 2nd Sundays 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 if you have any questions.

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

1/13—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. **January 13: Still Fooling 'Em**, by Billy Crystal (Zoom)

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

1/14— The ECW meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. to make sandwiches for Emmaus House. The meeting and program begins at 11:00 a.m. in the parish hall. Afterwards, we will adjourn to Melton's App & Tap (2500 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur) for lunch. All women of Epiphany are invited to attend.

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

1/14—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.

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.