

The Church of the Epiphany

The Feast of St. Francis with the
Blessing of the Animals
October 15, 2023
10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist

according to
THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 1979 and the
BOOK OF OCCASIONAL SERVICES
Rite II

Welcome to the Church of the Epiphany. The Anglican tradition values common prayer. Praying together shapes our faith, binds us together, and helps us grow closer to God. We pray with our hearts, minds, and spoken and singing voices. We invite you to pray with us today. Page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 (the red book), or the Book of Occasional Services.

Please silence or turn off your electronic devices.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

PREPARATION RITES

BCP 355

All stand for the entrance procession

The people standing, the Celebrant joins the people in facing the altar and says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **Who brings all things into being and calls them good.**

The Praises of God's Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi is said by all, standing

Most high, all-powerful, all good, Lord!

**All praise is yours, all glory, all honor
And all blessing.**

To you, alone, Most High, do they belong.

No mortal lips are worthy
To pronounce your name.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through all that you have made,
And first my lord Brother Sun,
Who brings the day; and light you give to us through him.
How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars;
In the heavens you have made them, bright
And precious and fair.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
And fair and stormy, all the weather's moods,
By which you cherish all that you have made.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water,
So useful, lowly, precious, and pure.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
Through whom you brighten up the night.
How beautiful is he, how gay! Full of power and strength.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our mother,
Who feeds us in her sovereignty and produces
Various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through those who grant pardon
For love of you; through those who endure
Sickness and trial.
Happy those who endure in peace,
By you, Most High, they will be crowned.

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Death,
From whose embrace no mortal can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin!
Happy those She finds doing your will!
The second death can do no harm to them.
Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks,
And serve him with great humility.

Celebrant Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, BOS 102

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

People **Have mercy upon us.**

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebrant faces the altar and says the Collect of the Day BCP 232

Celebrant Let us pray.

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD BCP 357

All sit for the Readings.

Reader A Reading from Job [12:7-10a]

But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish
of the sea will declare to you.

Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this? In
his hand is the life of every living thing.

Reader Here ends the Reading.

Silence is observed

Directions for Reciting the Psalter

*The Psalm is read Responsively, the minister alternating with the congregation, verse by verse. An asterisk divides each verse into two parts. In reading, a **distinct pause should be made at the asterisk**. The pause is long enough to take a breath as one silently says the Name of Jesus. Commas in Psalms are not observed with a pause; a pause is observed at semi-colons. The Psalms are best able to be said when the readers both lower the pitch and volume of their voice.*

BCP 583

Reader The Psalm for today is a portion of
Psalm 104, *Qui regis Israel* [104:24-31]
We will read responsively by whole verse,
pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 735

24 Man goes forth to his work * *(pause)*
and to his labor until the evening.

**25 O LORD, how manifold are your works! * *(pause)*
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, * *(pause)*
creatures both small and great.

**27 There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan, * *(pause)*
which you have made for the sport of it.**

28 All of them look to you * *(pause)*
to give them their food in due season.

**29 You give it to them; they gather it; * *(pause)*
you open your hand, and they are filled with good
things.**

30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; * *(pause)*
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.

**31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
(pause)
and so you renew the face of the earth.**

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said by All

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Reader A Reading adapted from St. Isaac the Syrian

This is a charitable heart: It is a heart burning with love for the whole creation, for humans, for the birds, for the beasts, for the demons—for all creatures. One who has such a heart cannot see or call to mind a creature without having eyes being filled with tears by reason of the immense compassion which seizes the heart; a heart which is softened and can no longer bear to see or learn from others of any suffering, even the smallest pain, being inflicted on a creature. That is why such a person never ceases to pray also for the animals, that they may be preserved and purified. This person will even pray for the reptiles, moved by the infinite pity which reigns in the hearts of those who are becoming united with God.

Reader Here ends the Reading.

Silence.

The people stand for the Gospel procession

Laudate Dominum

Songs from Taizé

The people and choir sing, repeating three times.

**Laudate Dominum,
Laudate Dominum
Omnes gentes, alleluia!
Laudate Dominum,
Laudate Dominum
Omnes gentes, alleluia!**

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Luke [12:22-32].

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you— you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev’d Kristin P. R. Wickersham

Silence.

On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing, said by all

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITANY FOR ALL CREATION

BOS 102

Subdeacon Call out the names of those animals for whom we care.
Call out the names of those animals who are no longer
with us.

Names of pets are offered.

The Celebrant may introduce the Prayers with a sentence of invitation related to the occasion, or the season, or the Proper of the Day.

Holy God. Holy and Mighty. Holy Immortal One.
Creator of the Universe, of all that is, seen and unseen,
we beseech you to hear our prayers.

Silence.

Deacon or other leader

Grant that all your creatures may serve you with thanksgiving;

People **We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Grant favorable weather, temperate rain, and fruitful seasons, providing food and drink for all your creatures;

People **We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Open our eyes to the wonder of creation, that we may see you in all your works;

People **We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Stir in us the desire to care for your creation;

People **We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Make us wise and faithful stewards of creation, caring for the earth, the waters, the air, and all that live therein;

People **We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Forgive us who waste and pollute your creation and strengthen us to restore what we have disregarded;

People **We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Look with compassion on those that are abused and mistreated, show us their dignity in your creation;

People **We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor Remember those creatures that have died yet remain dear to us that, that they may rejoice in your new creation;

People **We beseech you to hear us, good Lord**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Omnipotent God: No sparrow falls without your knowing it; nothing dies but is remembered by you; nothing comes into

being that you do not see. Give us courage and resolve to build up the common good, holding fast to the hope of a new creation in which all shall dwell eternally, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 359

A Confession of Sin is said here if it has not been said earlier. On occasion, the Confession may be omitted.

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and pronounces absolution.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

BOS 105

Celebrant

God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them rely on his blessing to sustain and preserve us. We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings. Remembering Francis' love for all God's creatures, bring forward the animals entrusted to your care that we may bless them.

Those who bring animals for blessing hold or place their hands on their animals as they are blessed by name by the Priest, using these or other words. If animals are not present, the Priest joins in prayer with those who come to remember them.

Priest

N., May God who created and preserves you bless, defend, heal, and keep you, this day and always. *Amen.*

When all have been blessed, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and Everlasting God, Creator of all things and Giver of all life: we give you thanks and praise. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in all creation. Strengthen us to love and care for all you have made, following the good example of Francis of Assisi, through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with some sentence of Scripture. During the Offertory, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.

BCP 361

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically in the Bread and Wine and in the money we give. An offering is received to support Epiphany's ministry of sharing God's love. All are invited to make a thank offering as the plate is passed. The offerings are then brought to the altar to be blessed by the priest.

The people sit

Anthem:

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings to the deacon or celebrant.
The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

BCP 361

Hymn 424. For the fruit of all creation (v. 3)

**For the harvests of the Spirit,
Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

*The people remain standing.
The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Because you are greatly glorified in the assembly of your saints.
All your creatures praise you, and your faithful servants bless you, confessing before the rulers of this world the great Name of your only Son.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

All remain standing as the Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

BCP 364

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. *Amen.***

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

In place of, or in addition to, the preceding, some other suitable anthem may be used.

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People **have mercy on us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People **have mercy on us.**

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People **grant us thy peace.**

THE PEACE

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Celebrant and people may greet those nearest to them in the name of the Lord.

THE INVITATION

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians who come seeking the Body and Blood of Christ, who earnestly repent of their sins, are in love and charity with their neighbors, and intend to lead a new life following the commandments of God are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

All are welcome to come to the altar rail and receive a blessing from the priest. Indicate this at the rail by crossing both arms over your chest.

The Sacrament is celebrated using wheat bread and fermented grape wine.

We do not permit the practice of intincting the Holy Sacrament, or dipping the bread into the consecrated wine. If, for any reason, you do not wish to receive the bread or the wine, please cross your arms as the minister approaches. Although we encourage reception in both kinds, the grace of God present in the Holy Sacrament is fully available in the Body or Blood alone.

You may stand or kneel to receive Communion. The consecrated Bread is received in the hand, the right hand laid flat and placed on top of the left. To receive the consecrated Wine, grasp only the base of the chalice and guide it to your lips.

If you would like Communion brought to you in your pew, please inform an usher.

If you have not been baptized and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about baptism or answer any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

BCP 365

Celebrant **The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.**

Communicant ***Amen.***

Celebrant **The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.**

Communicant ***Amen.***

During the ministration of Communion, hymns, psalms, or anthems are sung by all.

Taizé Chant. Come and fill

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!

CONCLUDING RITES

After Communion, the people stand and Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

BCP 366

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food**

of the most precious **Body and Blood**
of your **Son our Savior Jesus Christ**;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the **Body of your Son**,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, **Father**, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of **Christ our Lord**.
To him, to you, and to the **Holy Spirit**,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep
your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of
God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
upon you, and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses the people with these words

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude.

An Outline of the Faith
commonly called the Catechism

Human Nature

Q. What are we by nature?

A. We are part of God's creation, made in the image of
God.

Q. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

A. It means that we are free to make choices: to love, to create, to reason, and to live in harmony with creation and with God.

Q. Why then do we live apart from God and out of harmony with creation?

A. From the beginning, human beings have misused their freedom and made wrong choices.

Q. Why do we not use our freedom as we should?

A. Because we rebel against God, and we put ourselves in the place of God.

Q. What help is there for us?

A. Our help is in God.

Q. How did God first help us?

A. God first helped us by revealing himself and his will, through nature and history, through many seers and saints, and especially the prophets of Israel.

Church of the Epiphany

An Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of Virginia
and part of the worldwide Anglican Communion

8000 Hermitage Road
Richmond, Virginia 23228
(804) 266-2503

Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson, D. Min. *h.c.*, Bishop Diocesan
The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham, Priest-in-Charge
Mr. Florian Jones-Stamm, Deacon Intern
Mrs. Anita Williams, Director of Music Ministries
Mrs. Lucy Whitlock, Parish Administrator
Mrs. Crystal Sarvay, R.N., Parish Nurse
Mr. Timon Kenyi, Sexton
Marty Shephard, Treasurer

Vestry

John Sarvay (Sr. Warden)
Randy Holden (Jr. Warden)
Jeri Townley (Register)
Scott Blackwell, Gray Corbett, John Norris,
Mirendy Smith, Billy Tucker

Ministers of the Church

The ministers of the Church are all lay people, bishops, priests, and
deacons.

COMMUNICATION CARD
 October 15, 2023
 Welcome! You have blessed us with your presence. Please tell us how we can best serve you by completing the Communication Card.
Please place in the offering basket, hand it to an usher, or place on the table in the vestibule.

I'm looking for a church home
 I'd like to speak with a clergy member
 I'm ready to become a member
 I'm just visiting today

Name & Address Please update

Phone _____

Email _____

Children's names and ages


Please give me more information about:

Children's / Youth Programs
 Social events
 Outreach opportunities
 Classes and Small Group Studies
 Baptism or Confirmation
 How I can get involved

How did you hear about Epiphany?

(over)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

New to the Prayer List: For the family of Emma Greenman—friends of Kim & Dwight Ludwig, 

Parishioners: Ray Hampton, Dot Hudson, Martha & Milton Jenkins, Fran LaVigne, Marion Magruder, Joyce Melton, Ina Stickel, Irene Morris, Mike Young, Bob Jimerson, Timon Kenyi, Shirley Hughson, Chris Tignor, Jeannie Riddick, Chuck & Dottie Strabley

Family & Friends: Ed Morrow—friend of Bob & Kathy Jimerson, Dave & Melanie Erwin—friends of Dwight & Kim Ludwig, Karen Rood—sister of Jeri Townley, John Henry Rice—son of Fr. John & Mackie Rice, Johnny Jorstad—Martha Jenkins son & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's brother, Judy Watson—Martha Jenkins niece & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's cousin, Karen Tatti—friend of Jennifer Tucker, Pamela Carr—Nancy Sonne's niece, Marie Patterson—Crystal Sarvary's mother, Jean Stone—John Stone's mother, Sebastian Strong—Jennifer Whitlock's grandson, Keri Roberts—friend of Becky Card, Caitlin & Dcn. Kyle Bomare & their family, For all those called up to Military Service in Israel, especially Adam, Ethan, Evan, Jared, Omri—nephews of Joy Baynes son-in-law, Brian

Prayers for the departed:

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Today's Ministers

Weekly Worship


Sundays at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Contact info:
The Rev. Kristin P. R. Wickersham, SOSc
Priest in Charge
Cell Phone: 804-502-1891

8000 Hermitage Road
 804-266-2503

Office hours:
 Tuesday—Thursday 9am-12noon
 www.epiphanyepiscopal.com


Acolytes: Avery Craver, Faith Bingat
Lessons: Jennifer Jefcoats
Prayers of the People: Jennifer Jefcoats
Chalice: Crystal Sarvary
Sun. School Helper: Mary Kenyi
Altar Guild: Karen & Randy Holden
Coffee Hour: Crystal & John Sarvary
Counters: Gray Corbett



The Church of the Epiphany
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Feast of St. Francis
October 15, 2023

Welcome—we are glad you are here! Know that whoever you are, and where ever you are in your spiritual journey, you have a place here. If you are new, or haven't yet given us your contact information, please complete the attached communication card and place it in the plate so that you can learn more about Epiphany's community.

Blessing of the Animals



On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. Oct. 15th

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite One
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

Pet Blessing

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Tue. Oct. 17th

6:00 pm—Vestry Meeting

Wed. Oct. 18th

6:00 pm — Bible Study

Thur. Oct. 19th

6:15 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm—Handbell Rehearsal

Fri. Oct. 20th

7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sat. Oct. 21st

10-12 noon—Diaper Ministry

Sun. Oct. 22nd

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite One
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Chris & Sandy Tignor in loving memory of his parents, Henry & Joyce Tignor.

Stewardship: In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive". (Acts 20:35)

Adult Christian Formation meets on Wednesdays. This small group meets after work, at 6:00 pm in the parlor. We will continue our focus on the Gospel According to John. Send an email to Mtr. Kristin if you would like to be included in this small group.

2nd Sunday Lunch Today! These lunches are free to all who would like to join us. We welcome guests to any and all lunches! Mark your calendars thru December:
Nov. 12 — Chicken & mashed potatoes
Dec. 17 — Soup & Bread Lunch

The menu is subject to change, and meals will have a vegetarian option.

Attendance: October 8, 2023
8:15 am 4
10:30 am 54

Outreach Opportunities


The **diaper ministry** continues to hold diaper distribution on the third Saturday of every month from 10 am to 12 noon. This inspirational ministry has been touching families lives in our community since 2018 and continues to welcome new families each month. This ministry offers the parish an outreach opportunity to share God's love and develop relationships within our community and this past month we have met several new families. The most recent diaper distribution was held Saturday, September 21st. The next diaper distribution will be on October 16th. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!

A copy of the **2023 homeless lunch schedule** is available on the bulletin board in the parish hallway if anyone would like a copy. If anyone is interested in taking part in this ministry, ALL are welcome! Contact Mary Sam Abernathy (msabernathy88@gmail.com) or the team lead, for the team you are interested in helping. **The next lunches are scheduled to be prepared and delivered by Chapter 11 on November 4th.** Thank you to the green team who prepared and delivered lunches on October 7th. This ministry is currently in its 24th year! **Donations of paper lunch bags, sandwich bags and napkins** are always welcome as well and can be dropped at the church office. Additionally, if you have further questions or concerns, I am always available to answer any questions. Crystal Sarvay, Outreach Coordinator (crystalsarvay@gmail.com).

Join us for our first annual Trunk or Treat and Fall Festival on Saturday, October 28th starting at 2 pm. Come out and join the fun by decorating your car and filling your trunk with candy and /or goodies to hand out to the community children. For those who don't know what a trunk or treat is...We will have individuals park their cars on the grass in front of the church and all children can go car to car or "trunk to trunk" for candy/treats, in a safe and fun community atmosphere, rather than going door to door. There is a sign up sheet on the outreach board. Sign up if you want to be one of the "cars" supplying treats or volunteer to run a game!. ALL are welcome! There will also be games, face painting, crafts, and prizes. Volunteer to run one of the games! If you cannot attend, you could donate some candy, prizes or treats. Don't miss this fun community event! It will be held on the front lawn & driveway in front of the church. If you need further information, please contact Crystal Sarvay.

Lambs Basket continues to need donations of food items, particularly cereals, peanut butter, jams, jellies, and canned foods. Please, bring in your donations and leave them in the parish hallway in the red wagon. Thank you for your continued support of this project.

The love and kindness that our parish shares is beyond amazing!

Love lives here! 

COMMUNICATION CARD

October 15, 2023

Our Communication Card is for **all people at The Church of the Epiphany** so that you can share your thoughts and prayers, and request information.

If you are new, please complete the opposite side so we also have your contact information.

I'd like more information about an upcoming event or program

I am RSVPing or signing up for:

I am interested in learning more about how to be part of the following ministries or programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office help | <input type="checkbox"/> Readers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Ed | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalice Bearer | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Prayer Requests / Comments