



FEBRUARY 2026



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
OF THE EPIPHANY

*The mission of the Church of the Epiphany is to offer a home to all  
those who are seeking God's unconditional love.*



## ***From the Vicar***

The month of January begins each year, and with this new beginning, we attempt to put all of the troubling memories from the previous twelve months away and make resolutions as to how we will change ourselves for the better.

The origin of the month's name is derived from the ancient Roman god Janus, who was said to have two faces, one turned to the past, one turned to the future. The Romans apparently felt this was appropriate for the first month of their calendar. The website etymonline.com has this to say about Janus:

[An] ancient Italic deity, to the Romans the guardian god of portals, doors, and gates; patron of beginnings and endings, c. 1500, from Latin *Ianus*, literally "gate, arched passageway," perhaps from PIE root \*ei- "to go" (cognates: Sanskrit *yanah* "path," Old Church Slavonic *jado* "to travel"). He is shown as having two faces, one in front the other in back (they may represent sunrise and sunset and reflect an original role as a solar deity). His temple in Rome was closed only in times of peace. Related: *Janian*.

(Etymology is the study of word origins.)

The year 2025 was a difficult year for many of us, although every year has its difficulties. With each year, we get older, which can offer its own difficulties. That is just a fact of life. Each year we suffer losses. For some, these may include loved ones, jobs, things we treasure that wear out or are broken.

The changing of the calendar doesn't change this. We can move forward, but that doesn't mean we forget.

This new year we have entered will undoubtedly bring both good and bad times to each of us in equal measure. Of course, this change in the calendar is arbitrary. Every day, every hour, every moment brings with it new opportunities and new challenges.

If you are one to make resolutions and set goals at the start of the new year, keep in mind that they are not set in stone. Not keeping those resolutions or reaching those goals is not a issue of failure but an opportunity to learn.

Also remember that resolutions and goals can be amended to fit circumstances. What you might want for yourself in January may not be the same later.

I pray that each of you have an opportunity to grow this year. Yes, your never too old to grow... emotionally, intellectually, and most importantly, spiritually.

Keep in mind what has been called the Serenity Prayer, a version of which reads: “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can (and should), and the wisdom to know the difference.”

Never forget that whatever happens in 2026 and beyond, both the good and the bad, God is always present. God has broad shoulders that can be leaned upon in times of stress and loving arms that will wrap around you when you need comforting.

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind; and may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Father David+

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



Enjoy a Valentine's Day dining experience at Eagle's Nest while browsing a selection of local artisan vendors; finding a meaningful gift for your Valentine or treat yourselves to something special.

### Friends of the Crestview Library Book Sale

Crestview Community Center  
Friday, February 20, 2026 (2–6 PM)  
— get first pick of all the best finds for just a \$2 admission!  
Saturday, February 21 (10 AM–4 PM)  
for free admission!



**Sat, 28 Feb, 2026 at 12:00 pm 130 W Oakdale, Crestview**

Join us for the Kids Entrepreneur Market on February 28 and come shop the fantastic creations made by our incredible young business owners!

From homemade crafts to baked goods to unique products dreamed up entirely by kids, this market is full of talent and creativity. Every booth is run by a young entrepreneur who has worked hard to plan, design, create, and proudly share what they have made.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy an afternoon of community, creativity, and fun!

## UPCOMING EVENTS In The DIOCESE

**St. Christopher's**  
**3200 N 12th Ave,**  
**Pensacola**

A weekend event designed  
 for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.  
 This event is a

### **Christian experience**

presented by teens for teens,  
 featuring videos, skits,  
 talks, and activities aimed at  
 helping youth feel the love of God and grow in their faith community.  
 The event is full of fun, games, and spiritual renewal, designed to foster  
 relationships among participants.

  
**HAPPENING**  
 A CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE  
 FOR 9TH, 10TH, 11TH & 12TH GRADERS

FEBRUARY 6-8, 2026  
 [STAFF TRAINING JANUARY 23-25, 2026]



## Becoming Beloved Community

### Racial Reconciliation Sacred Conversations



**Saturday, February 14, 7:30  
 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT**  
**Grace Episcopal Church, 9101  
 Panama City Beach Pkwy**  
 Join us for a workshop that will  
 provide insights into the causes  
 and effects of racism. We  
 explore ways to work together.  
 Limited to 28 participants.  
 Registration closes February 9.

## 2026 Men's Conference

Feb 27 - Mar 1, 2026 | Beckwith

*Exploring the Way of Love  
 with the Rev. Scott Gunn*



Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast



Rev. Scott Gunn is the Director of Forward Movement, whose  
 mission is to “inspire disciples and empower evangelists.”

Come and see and be with Scott and your fellow men of the Central Gulf  
 Coast. For the 2026 conference registration and payment must be  
 received no later than February 21, 2026.



# *Parish News*

## *Epiphany at Epiphany*



Our Bishop's visit this year was Wednesday evening January seventh. We celebrated the Day of Epiphany and he confirmed one person, received one, and reaffirmed another. Before the service he lead a forum for those present. The event was a joyous occasion and it is always a pleasure to hear the bishop preach. A reception with the bishop, hot cocoa and cookies followed the service.



*From left to right:* Father David, Monica Black who was confirmed, Bishop Kendrick, Kat Ivanov who was reaffirmed, and Carolina Samples who was received . Congratulations and *WELCOME* to all of them!

## ***Pass the syrup — it's Shrove Tuesday!***

**Coming this February 17th**

Celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday (also called “Pancake Tuesday” or “Pancake Day”) is the final day before the 40 day period of Lent begins. This year it falls on February 17 starting at 5:30.

Its name comes from the Germanic-Old English word “shrive,” meaning absolve, and it is the last day of the liturgical season historically known as Shrovetide. Because it comes directly before Lent, a season of fasting and penitence, this was the day that Christians would go to be “shriven” by their confessor.

Shrove Tuesday also became a day for pre-fasting indulgence. In particular, the need to use up rich ingredients such as butter, milk, sugar and eggs before Lent gave rise to the tradition of eating pancakes on this day. [www.episcopalchurch.org/dfms/pass-the-syrup-its-shrove-tuesday/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/dfms/pass-the-syrup-its-shrove-tuesday/)



Photos  
from  
last  
year  
2025



### ***Come and Fellowship with the Choir***



The Epiphany choir meets on Friday mornings at 11:00 am, and Sunday mornings at 9:30 am before the service.

An additional day and/or time is being considered as I am aware some may not be able to meet during the work day. Please let me or the office know if you are interested, I would be happy to meet an afternoon or evening.

No experience is necessary to join the choir. Requirements: (1) a desire to sing praises to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and (2) demonstrated respect for the Episcopal Church's form of worship and people.

Come join our fun and fellowship!!

*Pat Shew* - Organist & Choir Director



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 1 - The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch

February 8 - The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Vestry Meeting

February 15 - The Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Service

February 18 - Ash Wednesday  
5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer and the Imposition of Ashes

February 22 - The First Sunday in Lent  
10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Sounds, St Joseph Hall

March 1 - The Second Sunday in Lent  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch



## LECTOR SCHEDULE

February 1 - The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
1st Reading - Megan Belliveau  
2nd Reading - Melanie East

February 8 - The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
1st Reading - Ginny Bauer  
2nd Reading - Kat Ivanov

February 15 - The Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
1st Reading - Cathy Clothier  
2nd Reading - Michele Dennis

February 18 - Ash Wednesday  
1st Reading - Melanie East  
2nd Reading - Tracy Kueczynski

February 22 - The First Sunday in Lent  
1st Reading - Sharon Lundy  
2nd Reading - Kat Ivanov



# ***Ash Wednesday***



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent in the Episcopal Church, characterized by the imposition of ashes as a sign of penitence and mortality.

## **Significance of Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a 40-day period of reflection, penitence, and preparation for Easter. It is observed by many Christians, including Episcopalians, who participate in the ritual of receiving ashes on their foreheads. This practice serves as a reminder of human mortality and the need for repentance. Ash Wednesday is observed as a fast in the church year of the Episcopal Church. The Ash Wednesday service is one of the Proper Liturgies for Special Days in the Book of Common Prayer (p. 264). The ashes, typically made from burning the previous year's Palm Sunday fronds, are applied in the shape of a cross while the words, **"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,"** are spoken.

## **Observance and Rituals**

During Ash Wednesday services, worshipers gather for a liturgy that includes prayers, readings, and the imposition of ashes. The ashes symbolize both penitence and the acknowledgement of one's mortality, linking participants to generations of Christians who have engaged in this ancient ritual.

## **Conclusion**

Ash Wednesday serves as a profound reminder of the themes of mortality and repentance, inviting Episcopalians and other Christians to enter the Lenten season with a spirit of reflection and renewal. It is a time to prepare for the celebration of Easter through acts of self-denial, prayer, and community engagement. [www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/ash-wednesday/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/ash-wednesday/)

# January Property & Maintenance Report

## ***Projects Completed***

- ◆ The new additional handicap pad has been constructed.
- ◆ The faulty light fixtures have been replaced in the Garage Shed and St. Joseph's utility closet.
- ◆ Failed batteries have been replaced in three emergency exit lights.

## ***In Work***

- ◆ The handrails on the handicap ramp and front steps still need to be replaced with sturdier handrails.
- ◆ The new doors on St. Joseph Hall and the Garage Shed still need to be painted.
- ◆ The kneelers in the choir pews need repair.
- ◆ Three church pews need the seats reupholstered.
- ◆ Handicap signs for the new pad need to be installed.
- ◆ The new handicap pad will need to have the lines painted after it cures.
- ◆ Awaiting a quote for a chain link fence on the northwest corner of the property.

If you would like to assist on a project, or know of something else that needs attention, please let me know.

- Maurice Phillips, Property Chair

## **BIRTHDAYS      EPIPHANY's and      ANNIVERSARIES**



Clyde Fahie Feb 1<sup>st</sup>  
Jeff Evans Feb 4<sup>th</sup>  
Carolina Samples Feb 5<sup>th</sup>  
Pat Shew Feb 8<sup>th</sup>  
Dennis Jackson Feb 12<sup>th</sup>  
Sheila Duman Fahie Feb 21<sup>st</sup>



None reported this month



## ***EPIPHANY'S FAVORITE RECIPES***

### **Creamy Wild Rice Soup** *Contributed by Ginny Bauer*

#### ***Ingredients:***

1 package Shore Lunch Premium Soup Mix Creamy Wild Rice  
4 cups Whole Milk  
5 cups Chicken Stock  
2 tbsp Oil  
1 cup Onions, chopped  
½ cup Celery, finely chopped  
1 ½ cups Mushrooms, chopped  
3 cups Ground Turkey  
¼ tsp ground Thyme  
Salt and Pepper to taste



#### ***Directions:***

- 1) In a medium non-stick skillet, heat vegetable oil and brown the turkey. Set aside.
- 2) Add the vegetables to the skillet and lightly brown.
- 3) In a large saucepot over medium heat add the milk, chicken stock and thyme. Bring to a boil.
- 4) Stir in the soup mix, turkey, and cooked vegetables.
- 5) Simmer uncovered until done, about 25 minutes, stirring occasionally.

#### ***Notes:***

- ◆ Shredded Turkey or Chicken or almost any meat can be substituted for the ground turkey.
- ◆ You can add your favorite vegetables (carrots, potatoes, greens).
- ◆ You can also add any seasonings you like to go with the meat you choose.

***Please remember in your prayers:***

Addice Thomas, Addison Hendrix, Amelia Gorman,  
Amy & Anthony Lehatto, Barbara Procino, Betty Schwartzkopf,  
Bill Jones, Brenda Faulkner, Buni O'Brien, Carol McCartney,  
Charlotte Green, Debbie Evans, Debbie and Jim Larson, Dennis Jackson,  
Donna Andrews, Eddie Stevens, Florie Angelini, Herselie Hendrix,  
Janice Tyler, Jeff Evans, Jerry Giles, Judy Tinsley, Karen Traggorth,  
Kerrie Schwartzkopf, Lester Taylor, Lynn Smith, Mary Meehan,  
Michael Mazzerat, Michele Dennis. Mindy Post, Mitzi Purvis,  
Nancy Delierre, Nick Humeston, Nikole Webb, Phyllis Alles,  
Rocky Robinson, Sharon Lundy, Stacy Burleson, Susan Cole,  
Sybil King, Terry Algood, Thomas Giles, Tom Holmes,  
Ward Hendrix and Yisrael Goldman

**The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany**

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