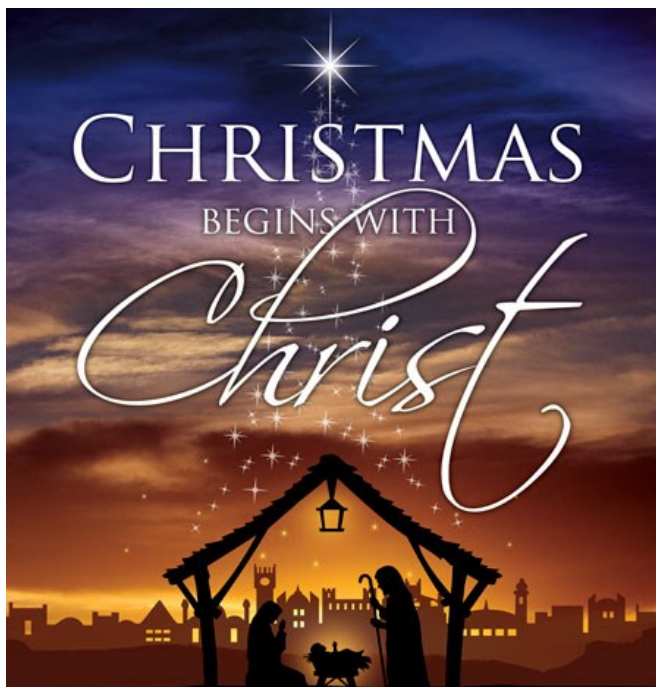




DECEMBER 2025



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

This is my annual reminder that Christmas starts on December 25, regardless of the TV commercials, store displays and around-the-clock holiday music on the radio that say otherwise. It seems the “world” begins to observe Christmas earlier and earlier every year.

It wasn't that long ago that most businesses waited at least until “black Friday” to put up Christmas displays and begin playing holiday music through store PA systems. By the way, did you know that the term “black Friday” originated to describe the day retail stores hoped to register enough sales to be “in the black” (meaning profitable) for the year? It is this commercializing and secularizing of Christmas that is the most distracting.

I know, this sounds more like a rant than a reminder, but I believe it needs to be said. With all the early hoopla, the importance of the Advent season gets lost. The glossary found on the official website of the Episcopal Church defines the season this way:

The first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for “coming.” The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ “in power and glory.”

“...a time of preparation and expectation...”

Advent is not a gloomy season. It may seem that way, because preparation and expectation can seem like tiring work. As I write this, Cathy and I are preparing our house for Thanksgiving, with two of our daughters and their husbands and children soon arriving. We have spent hours making spare beds, sprucing up the yard, grocery shopping and cleaning the house in expectation of their arrival. And we're still not done!

Preparation and expectation can be hard work, but we are glad to do it to make our home feel like their home as well.

That is what Advent is all about. Preparing ourselves to welcome Christ Jesus into our lives, to make him feel at home.

In the Episcopal Church, like most liturgical churches, we measure time cyclically, not in linearly. In this way, we can relive the events of Christ's earthly life every year. This is known theologically as "anamnesis," a Greek word roughly meaning "remembrance" in English, but it's more than just remembering, more like reliving.

During Advent, we are to relive the experience of the Jewish people who were awaiting the coming of the long-awaited Messiah, the One anointed by God to lead the people into the Kingdom of God, which we observe every December with the reliving of the Nativity. At Christmas (and the twelve days that follow, we relive what Mary and Joseph, and the shepherds experienced on that glorious night two millennia ago.

I would be remiss if I didn't point out that elsewhere in this newsletter there are notices about Christmas-related events in and around Crestview well before Christmas Day -- the annual Christmas Parade, Christmas at the Bush House and others. It would seem my efforts to stave off celebrating the holiday are futile. However, we can enjoy these precursors of Christmas and still observe a holy Advent. Just don't expect Christmas at the Church of the Epiphany until the 25th (well, actually after the sun does down on December 24, because we will have a traditional Christmas Eve service).

Just don't rush the moment, enjoy the preparation and expectation. And when the moment comes, have a very Merry Christmas!

Peace be with you,

Father David+

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



DOWNTOWN CRESTVIEW'S
Christmas PARADE
 & CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th
 TREE LIGHTING AT 5:00PM

Downtown Crestview LOCATED ON MAIN STREET
 HOSTED BY MAIN STREET CRESTVIEW ASSOCIATION


Questions? email director@downtowncrestview.org



Cookie Crawl
Crumbs of Joy

Thursday, December 11th
 4:30 PM-7:30 PM
 Warrior's Hall
 201 Stillwell Blvd., Crestview

December 11th 4:30pm to 7:30pm
 Warriors Hall in Crestview
 201 Stillwell Blvd.
SEE BULLETIN BOARD
For details



Twin Hills Park
 Walking Track
 December 13, 2025
 4:00-8:00 PM

CRESTVIEW'S CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Christmas Village
 Holiday Lights
 Christmas Market
 Food Trucks

Choose The View

December 13, 4 to 8 pm
 Twin Hills Park Crestview
 Experience the magic of Christmas at
 Twin Hills Park! Stroll the village,
 shop the holiday market, and enjoy
 carols by the pond.

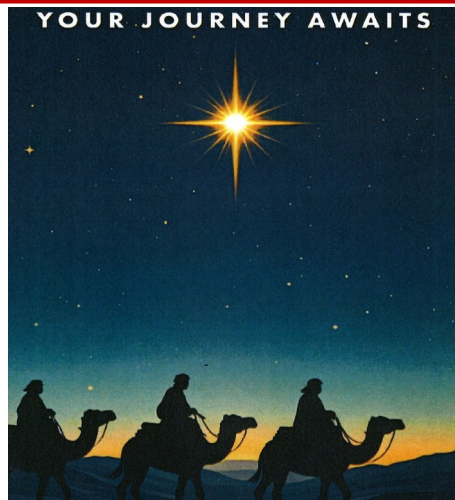


Christmas
at the
BUSH HOUSE

9am to 2pm Saturday Dec. 13
 Beautiful Christmas decorations
 One-of-a-Kind Gifts for sale
 Food and Craft Market
 Meet Storybook Characters

The Laurel Hill and Crestview
 Presbyterian Churches
 Present

THE LIVING NATIVITY
 Saturday December 13 5:30-8pm
 Free Admission - Refreshments
 8115 4th Street, Laurel Hill





UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS

WINTER FEST

at St. Mary's



ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Friday, Dec. 5 11:00am to 5:00pm

Saturday, Dec 6 9:00am to 2:00pm

- Gifts - "A Festival of Vendors" *Jewelry, candles, handcrafted items, woodcrafts, Direct sales, holiday gifts & much more!*
- Bake Sale
- Vendors inside the parish hall & on the lawn
- Lunch sold - burgers (Men's Grill) & Food Trucks

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 6849 Oak Street, Milton, FL
850-623-2905 stmarysmiltonflorida@gmail.com



Dec 07, 2025, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM CST

Christ Church Parish, 18 W Wright St, Pensacola, FL

Freewill donation. A festive reception will follow.

Christ Church Parish Choir will offer an Advent Service of Lessons and Carols based on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols service sung Christmas Eve at King's College, Cambridge for over one hundred years.



Property Report for November

The following are the projects that we have been working on and are still in work, as well as some new projects requiring attention.

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 will be painted soon.
- ♦ The additional handicap pad is still being researched and bids requested to determine the cost and acquire the funding needed to complete it.
- ♦ The kneelers in the choir pews need repair.
- ♦ Three church pews need the seats reupholstered.
- ♦ We are researching to build a chain link fence on north west side of the property.

New Project

- ♦ Another light fixture in the garage shed needs to be replaced.

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

- *Maurice Phillips, Junior Warden*

Harvest Festival



On November twenty-third Epiphany returned to it's traditional Harvest Festival, which was curtailed during the Covid 19 pandemic. The last time Epiphany celebrated this festival was 2019.

This was a Church of England Mass for the Harvest, accompanied by the tradition of offering the fruits of the harvest. In the English Church the celebration dates back to 1843 and was first recognized by the Church of England in 1862.

There was a very good turn out for this service and even better donations of food which was delivered to Helping Hands Home homeless shelter, and received with much appreciation.



Angel Tree for Advent 2025

Epiphany is offering the opportunity to partner with the Hope House during Advent this year. The Hope House is temporary shelter for homeless, runaways and abused children in our area. The Home allows for 30 day stays. The Hope House is a non-profit under the Lutheran Services of Florida, Family First Network and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

The Angels on the tree indicate the child's name, age, and a gift they would like to receive. We have 20 children names on the tree as well as the needs of the Hope House on other Angels. The parents of these children work for the Hope House. They are all single parents in need of support for their children.

The Angel Tree will be available through Advent. We will collect all items on the last Sunday of Advent (December 21st) and deliver to the Hope House on Monday, December 22.

All gifts should be in a separate bag with the Angel taped to it so we know which child it belongs. Please do **NOT** wrap the gifts. Bags will be available for the gifts.

Thank you for your generous support!

Advent

The first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for "coming." The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ "in power and glory."

Advent Wreath

A circle of greenery, marked by four candles that represent the four Sundays of the season of Advent. An additional candle is lit as each new Sunday is celebrated in Advent. Advent wreaths are used both in churches and in homes for devotional purposes. The candles may be blue, purple, or lavender, depending on local custom. Some Advent wreaths include a white candle in the center known as the "Christ Candle," which is lit on Christmas Eve.



stjohns-episcopalchurch.org/advent



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 7 — The Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch

December 14 — The Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Vestry Meeting

December 21 — The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Service

December 24 — Christmas Eve

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

December 25 — Christmas Day

10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

December 28 — The First Sunday after Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Healing Sounds, St Joseph Hall

January 4 — The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by Potluck Lunch



LECTOR SCHEDULE

December 7 — The Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading - Melanie East

2nd Reading - Michele Dennis

December 14 — The Third Sunday of Advent

1st Reading -

2nd Reading - Tracy Kueczynski

December 21 — The Fourth Sunday of Advent

1st Reading -

2nd Reading -

December 24 — Christmas Eve

1st Reading - Ginny Bauer

2nd Reading - Christine Wakayama

December 25 — Christmas Day

1st Reading - Sharon Lundy

2nd Reading -

December 28 — The First Sunday after Christmas Day

1st Reading - Missy Jones

2nd Reading -

Christmas, or Christ's Mass



Christmas (in old English, Cristes maesse) is a festival celebrated on Dec. 25, commemorating the Incarnation of the Word of God in the birth of Jesus Christ. In the Book of Common Prayer it is also called The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. In the United States it is also a popular secular holiday.

According to the Philocalian calendar, Christmas was first celebrated in Rome in the year 336. It gradually spread to the churches of the east, which already had a festival on Jan. 6 commemorating the manifestation of God in both the birth and baptism of Jesus. The date, Dec. 25, rests on no historical foundation. It was probably chosen to oppose the feast Natalis Solis Invicti, the birthday of the "Unconquerable Sun God" (Saturn), which took place at the winter solstice to celebrate the birth of "the Sun of Righteousness."

The customs associated with Christmas have developed from many sources. From early days the popular observance of Christmas was marked by the joy and celebration characteristic of the Roman Saturnalia and the pagan festivals which it replaced. It came to include the decoration of houses with greenery and the giving of gifts to children and the poor. In Britain other observances were added including the Yule log and Yule cakes, fir trees, gifts, and greetings. Fires and lights (symbols of warmth and lasting life) and evergreens (symbols of survival) were

traditionally associated with both pagan and Christian festivals. Their use developed considerably in England with the importation of German customs and through the influence of the writings of Charles Dickens

In the Book of Common Prayer, Christmas Day is one of the seven principal feasts. The Christmas season lasts twelve days, from Christmas Day until Jan. 5, the day before the Epiphany. The season includes Christmas Day, the First Sunday after Christmas Day, the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and may include the Second Sunday after Christmas Day. In many parishes, the main liturgical celebrations of Christmas take place on Christmas Eve. The Book of Occasional Services includes a variety of resources for use during Christmas, including a form for a Station at a Christmas Crèche, a form for a Christmas Festival of Lessons and Music, and seasonal blessings for use during the Christmas season.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/christmas-or-christs-mass/>

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



Sam Sewell Dec 7th
Hugh Kent Dec 9th
Elaine Mantle Dec 9th
Nancy Delierre Dec 21st
Charlotte Boutwell Dec 28th



Tracy and Jerry Kueczynski Dec 3rd
Melanie and Chip East Dec 5th
Randy and Ginny Bauer Dec 14th
James and Sharon Lundy Dec 15th
Wayne and Kathleen Ansley Dec 24th
Dan and Michele Miheich Dec 27th



EPIPHANY'S FAVORITE RECIPES

Vegetable (Vegan) Soup

*Contributed by **Melanie East***

Ingredients:

- ½ cup Olive Oil + 2 tbsp, divided
- 1 large Red Onion
- 2 cloves Garlic
- 2 Celery sticks
- 1 Carrot
- 1 Sweet Potato
- ½ of a roasted Acorn Squash
- 8 small Yukon Gold Potatoes
- 2 tbsp Oregano
- 1 sprig Rosemary, needles only, minced
- 1 Bay Leaf
- 2 cans Northern Beans
- 2 14oz. cans Chickpeas
- 6 cups Vegetable broth
- 3 Lemons, Juiced
- Fresh Parsley, optional



Directions:

1. Heat the olive oil in a large pot and sauté the onion over medium heat for about 1 to 2 minutes until softened. Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds until fragrant.
2. Add the carrot, celery, potatoes, and squash to the pot with the oregano, rosemary and bay leaf. Stir well and the chickpeas, beans and vegetable broth. (Add your favorite veggies and beans to make a hearty soup that freezes well.) (You can also add almond or coconut milk for a creamer soup, or if you don't need it to be vegan regular milk.)
3. Stir well. Season to taste and mash a small amount to thicken the soup and bring to a simmer.
4. Lower the heat and cook for 25 to 30 minutes with the lid on.
5. When the soup is done, turn off the heat and add two extra tablespoons olive oil, lemon juice and chopped parsley and stir well. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground pepper and serve with crusty bread.

Please remember in your prayers:

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

The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

424 Garden Street

Crestview, Florida 32536