



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

...Where God is seen, love is felt and lives are changed!

January 8, 2021

1 Epiphany

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

SUNDAY WORSHIP

It's Epiphany! This Sunday, we will celebrate the baptism of our Lord with **ONE** service of **Holy Eucharist** for the First Sunday after The Epiphany, **January 10, 2021, at 9 a.m.**

Our livestream is at 9 a.m. on our [YouTube Channel](#). Call 865-498-6483 to listen to the service, if you do not have a computer.

EPIPHANY

The Magi, drawn by the light of a star, lived like us in an "in between" time. They were drawn by the promise and potential of a new day. This new day had its birth in the child of Bethlehem, the one who had "been born king of the Jews." What the Magi did not know, we do: this child is a king like no other, for his reign is justice, his sword is peace, and his law is love.



~ Br. James Koester,
Society of St. John the Evangelist

SUNDAY SOCIAL TIME

Join us on Sunday mornings and evenings on Zoom, for some virtual visiting!

[Morning Coffee Hour](#) is at **10 a.m.** between our livestream and in-person worship services, for a brief bit of fellowship.

Morning Meeting ID: 848 0379 6165
Password: 609987

[Evening Social Hour](#) is at **5 p.m.**, and will be available for about an hour.

Evening Meeting ID: 816 4332 4827
Password: 999944

PASTORAL CARE

JOIN US AS WE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR:

Jim & Nancy Anderson; Rhonda Ashburn;
Matt & Leah Bailey;
Derek, Liz & Noah Baker, Jacob Anthony,
Gabe Ledford; Jo Ann Baker

Please include these people in your prayers.

STAFF DEPARTURE - CAROLINE WOOD

It is bittersweet to announce the departure of our youth coordinator, Caroline Wood, effective at the end of February 2021. Caroline has served with us for 2 ½ years, bringing her creativity, energy, and passion for our youth not just into the lives of our families but to our whole parish. While we hate to lose her, the consolation is that she has accepted the position of Diocesan Youth Coordinator. In this role, she will be working for the bishop in supporting and networking youth ministry among local parishes, taking increased leadership with summer camp at Grace Point, and creating and supervising all diocesan youth programming. While we will not have her ministry all to ourselves, she will remain deeply connected to St. Stephen's and all the parishes in our diocese through this role. Her last day in her role here will be Sunday, February 28. We will host a farewell "reception" (in whatever form that takes!) for her close to that date. If you know Caroline, please reach out to her and express your congratulations. We are immensely proud of her for the work she has done here and the work she will now be doing for the diocese.



Caroline's ministry entails more than simply EYF, but EYF is the central point from which much of our other youth programming originates. As such, we are moving pretty rapidly in identifying potential leaders to succeed Caroline in leading EYF. We are hoping an announcement of new leader(s) may be made as early as next week!

EYF: MOVIE TIME ON SUNDAY

On Sunday, we will watch the movie *Soul*! Craig has been raving about it, so I am very excited to finally watch it. We will meet from 12:00-3:00pm. For lunch we are having chicken pot pie. Let me know if your kiddo needs a different meal. Please send your kiddos with a chair or blanket, unless they are fine on the floor or a pew.

Caroline Wood, Youth Minister
youthminister@ststephens.org



FEAST OF LIGHTS

Caroline Wood and the Youth of St. Stephen's have prepared a video for the Feast of Lights. You can watch it on our YouTube Channel.



2021 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

2021 Pledge envelopes have arrived and are available in the Hospitality area. If you requested envelopes, you'll find your name on the list next to the box of envelopes. Simply check off your name, and collect the appropriate numbered set. Please contact the Parish Office (secretary@ststephens.org) if you would like your envelopes mailed to you. Thanks!





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EPIPHANY HOMEWORK

Please be on the lookout for a video from me (Fr. Bailey) detailing more specifics about your Epiphany "homework". In the meantime, the preview I have for you is this:

- First, if you haven't already, please **request communion** for this Sunday by completing the [Google Form](#) or emailing me at revnorman1011@gmail.com. Included with communion will be a special "Epiphany pack". Even if you don't want communion, I want everyone to have an opportunity to pick up their "Epiphany pack" which consists of the following:
 - **Blessed or holy water** – You will be given some instructions in your pack, but there will be some suggested uses you will receive regarding the water. Keep in mind it is not "magic" water but is to be used to give you a physical reminder of God's blessing upon you and your home
 - **Chalk** – There is an ancient tradition which has been revived recently concerning "chalking" the lintel or eave over your front door as a sign of God's blessing upon your house. Again, notice the theme of blessing. You will receive instructions in your pack on how to do and why we do it, but it is a great way to involve the entire family in an Epiphany ritual.
 - **House blessing prayers** – With or without your blessed water, you will be given a copy of the liturgy for blessings of homes at Epiphany. Ordinarily I would be making myself available to come and do these blessings for you during Epiphany. But since I doubt you want anyone but family coming into your homes right now, I will provide this resource and instructions for how you can do it.
- Last, but certainly not least, **please watch this Sunday's service at 9 AM**. It is a significant feast day in our liturgical year – the baptism of Jesus. The whole service, and the sermon in particular, will give context to all of these tools I am sending home with you. Epiphany is the season of making God's light and promise known to the world, but we must first proclaim them to ourselves.



Don't forget to sign up for communion – and your special pack – if you have not yet done so!

INQUIRER'S CLASS

Are you thinking about joining St. Stephen's? Are you new to the church and just want to learn more? Have you been around St. Stephen's and/or the Episcopal Church for a long time and would like a refresher? Do you want to meet and connect more deeply with some new people within the parish? Then you've come to the right place! Beginning late this month, Fr. Bailey will be offering inquirers classes via Zoom to any and all who are interested. For those of you who are interested in joining the church, I do want this to be a preparation for you to be confirmed, received, or welcomed by the bishop when he comes for his annual visitation on **Sunday, April 11, 2021**. For the rest, come learn and engage in conversation with me. Your only requirement at this point is to let me know that you are interested no later than **Friday, January 15, 2021**. Please contact Fr. Bailey at 251-604-1705 or revnorman1011@gmail.com.

