

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

THE STAR

Official Newsletter of Church of the Epiphany-Tempe

Pictured above: Tamara's Ordination 1/24/2026

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & POTLUCK

Join your parish for the Annual Meeting & Potluck! We'll be reviewing the Treasurer's Report for FY2025, the proposed budget and mission plan for FY2026, and voting on Vestry and Jr. Warden candidates.



Sunday, February 1
11:30am

In the parish hall following the 10:00am service.
Bring your favorite dish to share!



Also on Sunday, we will be holding a Budget & Mission Plan Forum at 9am in the parish hall. This is a time for an in-depth and detailed review of the approved budget and mission plan, as well as a time dedicated to ask and answer any questions you may have about it.

This forum will be held in-person only.

The latest annual meeting resources and slate of candidates [can found on our website by clicking here.](#)

Sunday at Epiphany

The Fourth Sunday
after the Epiphany

Celebrant:

The Rev. Hunter Ruffin

Lay Ministers 8:00AM

Greeter:

Andrea Stewart

Reader:

Stanlie James

Acolyte:

Joe Moritz

Eucharistic Ministers:

Stanlie James

Lay Ministers 10:00AM

Greeters:

Cece Wilhite, Dylan Westbrook

Readers:

Barbara Acker, Rich Van Slyke

Acolyte:

Curtis Wood

Eucharistic Ministers:

Ann Tebo, Jane Konrad

Music:

Dr. Miriam Hickman, Matt Fora,
Choir

A/V Ministers:

Cassandra Kariuki

Join us in-person at 8:00 or 10:00, or
[online at 10:00](#)

**Click here
for tickets!**

Church OF THE Epiphany

MARDI GRAS PARTY

Saturday

FEBRUARY 7, 2026

6pm - 8pm

Red beans & rice with sausage (vegan option available), dessert, wine & soft drinks, raffle baskets, music, fellowship

\$20 per adult

(includes 2 drink tickets)

\$10 per child under 12

(childcare for 5 and under available)

More info at: epiphanytempe.org/mardigras

Scan here for tickets



Worship | Serve | Love



Epiphany Sock Drive Underway!

This week, Margaret and George Harris delivered 182 pairs of socks to

Paz de Cristo for distribution to those who need them. Thank you for your generous support of this project. Providing clean, dry, hole-less socks to Paz during our sock drive is a manifestation of our Christian care for those in the community who are homeless. Men's new white tube socks are the most requested, but all are welcome. Please place your gift of socks in the grocery cart near the west Parish Hall doors where food items are collected for Matthew's Crossing. Thank you.



PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

The Property Management Committee team meeting is next Sunday, February 8, at 6pm in the education building. They meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month to discuss current and future projects around the parish. Many of these projects are taken on by the Saturday Sod Squad, which is open to all who would like to spiff up the Epiphany Campus. They clean-up the Courtyard and entryways for Sunday mornings and sometimes do minor repairs to save on costs of the pros. If you're interested in giving your talent to this ministry, the team meeting next Sunday is a great way to learn more and get involved!

First Sunday Offering Rector's Discretionary Fund Monthly Update: December-January

Leading up to the holidays we received more assistance requests than we anticipated.

Over 20 individuals and families knocked on our door asking for help with groceries for the table and gas to help them get around. We were able to help one person and their pet with a room to stay in on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

They had been sleeping in their car with no heat.

4 families needed help with utilities payments, and one woman needed help catching up on car payments. One gentleman had just moved to the valley and was looking for help to get on his feet. He needed boots so he could start applying for construction jobs, and was saving up for a bike to make commuting faster.

Each month on the first Sunday, the loose plate offerings go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Your gifts help us be the merciful hands of Christ.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Come and enjoy breakfast for dinner and fellowship on **Shrove Tuesday, February 17**, with the annual Pancake Supper! Join us in the Parish Hall at 6pm for pancakes and other breakfast accompaniments cooked up by the Men of Epiphany. Eating pancakes is a pre-Lent tradition to rid one's home of rich ingredients like sugar and syrup. A donation of \$5 per person over the age of 10 is suggested to cover costs but all are



welcome regardless! To help us plan for food [RSVP by clicking here.](#)

Worship | Serve | Love

Wednesdays in Lent February 25 - April 1

Evening Prayer 5:30pm

You are invited to leave the constant chatter of the world at the door and gather with us for a Lenten prayer service in the chapel.

Meatless Potluck 6:00pm

Bring your favorite meatless dish to share and join us in the parish hall to share a meatless potluck-style meal and fellowship time!

Lenten Formation Series 6:30pm

Encountering Faith Through Women in Scripture

Join us in this exploration of alternative bible lessons through stories of women in the Bible.

More info & "Lent at Home" resources are [found on our website](#)

Capital Project Update: Foam Roofs Completed!

The Church, Nursery, Education Building, and Parish Hall roofs have all received their final touch-ups on replacements and repairs!

The Farmhouse roofing work is scheduled to begin on Monday, February 16. Church of the Epiphany's office will be closed that day, in observance of the President's Day holiday, but upon return on the following day we will be relocating office operations to the Education Building. The Wednesday Discipleship group, and other meetings regularly scheduled to meet in the Farmhouse, will also be relocated to the Ed. Bldg. or Parish Hall for that week.



As many of you know, the roof replacement was made possible through support of the Diocese. Thanks to your generosity, we have raised over \$15,000 so far! [Every contribution—large or small](#)—helps us to continue our ministry in the City of Tempe, and celebrates our shared mission and ministry.

Thank you for your continued generosity, understanding, and care for Epiphany. Please keep the workers, our campus, and one another in your prayers.

Exploring Life and Faith together

Being With is for anyone who's curious about faith—or wondering if the Christian faith has something meaningful to offer.

No special knowledge needed.
Just what you have learned in life so far.



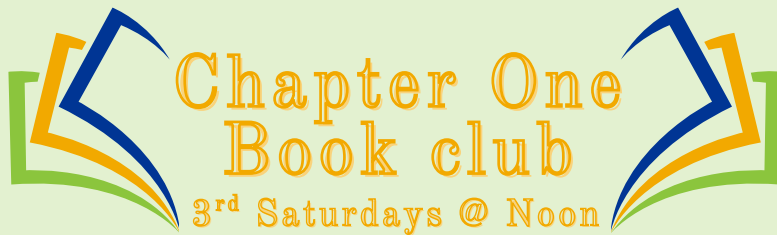
Church OF THE
Epiphany

Wednesday Evenings
April 8 - June 10, 2026
6:00PM-7:30PM

Church of the Epiphany-Tempe
2222 S Price Rd., Tempe, AZ
<https://www.epiphanytempe.org/BeingWith>

Being
With

Worship | Serve | Love



Start the new year with these book club picks to get ready for the monthly discussions! **February pick is Olive Kitteridge** by Elizabeth Stout. Meeting February 21st at noon on Zoom.

March pick is A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving. Meeting March 21st at noon on Zoom. If you would like to join the book club, need the Zoom link, or have any questions, contact Gillian Murphy at: (480)907-4933 or gillian@kirkyhomes.com.

Worship Ministry Training

**Continues Sunday, February 8
@ 11:15am in the Ed. Bldg**

Whether you're interested in serving in worship ministry, or want to learn more about the theology and practice of the Book of Common Prayer, you're invited to join us! The class will explore the Daily Office, Holy Eucharist, Holy Baptism, and pastoral offices as the prayer that forms us in Word and Sacrament.

On Sunday, February 15, we will have a practicum at 2pm in the church. If you already serve at the altar on Sundays, you are encouraged to join the practicum session as it is a good way to keep up to date with worship practices.

Hospitality Committee 2026 Planning Meeting NEW DATE/TIME

The Hospitality Committee will hold a 2026 Planning Committee Meeting on Saturday, February 21 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME). Beverages and dessert will be provided. Location: Pam Waterman's house - 2531 S Saratoga, Mesa 85202 (Price/Guadalupe). We will be figuring out details for the Ladies Tea (May 9) and many other events. All are welcome. (Contact Pam Waterman 602-686-1249 watermanpj28@gmail.com)



On Mondays at the Food Bank, the volunteers face a tsunami of donations of meat, fruit & veggies, dairy products, and baked goods from local grocery stores. These fresh items are paired with staple foods (like we donate—canned stuff, rice & beans, cereal) which go out to waiting families. It takes the combined efforts of the community to help those facing food insecurity. Join the effort—donate staple foods, paper products and personal care items. The grocery cart is outside the west Parish Hall doors on Sundays. Thanks!

Book your appointment today!

Tax services provided by appointment only.



480-858-2300



tempecommunitycouncil.org



FREE Tax Preparation & E-File

Get your taxes prepared for free by IRS-certified volunteers. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free, reliable tax preparation services to individuals and families with low to moderate income across the country.



To Qualify for Free Tax Preparation, You Must

- Have earned less than \$69,000 in 2025.

OR

- Be 65 years or older.
- Be a veteran or an individual with a disability.

What to Bring to Your VITA Appointment

Make sure to bring the relevant paperwork to your appointment. This includes photo identification (ID), Social Security Card or ITIN Letter for everyone on the return, proof of all income (W-2, 1099, etc.). Required Intake and Consent Forms are available online or at the VITA tax site.

Visit our website for a complete list of required documents.

Tax Site Open: January 27 – April 15

- Tuesday 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm



TEMPE
Community
Council



Reasonable accommodations offered for those with disabilities or who need language assistance. Requests are to be made at time of appointment or at least two weeks in advance.

2026 YOUTH RETREAT

Who and Whose We Are

What is the true self? Do you know who you are and who you want to be? What does it mean to belong to God and each other?

Join the fun as we explore our true selves and discover God with games, prayer, and activity in the beautiful pines at Chapel Rock!

Friday, Feb. 13 - Sunday, Feb 15
\$200 per person

 **REGISTER NOW**

SPRING 2026 AGENCY REVIEW

Help Shape Tempe Funding Decisions

Volunteer with TCC

Make an impact by recommending how your tax dollars are spent for human services in Tempe.

Connect with people who care, work alongside friends, dive into causes you're passionate about, and make a real impact in Tempe.



REVIEW FUNDING REQUESTS



INTERVIEW NONPROFIT LEADERS



GUIDE CITY COUNCIL ON WHERE RESOURCES ARE NEEDED MOST

Decide Where the Money Goes



tempecommunitycouncil.org/agency-review



Volunteer Time Commitment

November & December

Volunteer Recruitment Begins (must live or work in Tempe)

January

Volunteer Orientation & Training

February

Volunteers review funding requests

March

Volunteer-led funding recommendations via Zoom

Approximately 20-30 hours mostly on your own schedule from home.

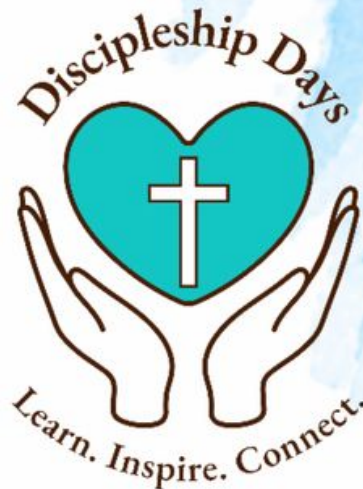


TEMPE
Community Council

TELLING OUR STORIES

WITH THE REV.
ANDREW
STRAVITZ

**Register 3
Get 1 Free!**



AZDIOCESE.ORG

DAY 1 - FEBRUARY 21

**St. Anthony on the Desert,
Scottsdale**

DAY 2 - MARCH 14

**St. Michael & All Angels
Tucson**

DAY 3 - APRIL 25

**St. Luke's Church
Prescott**

Registration for the 2026 Discipleship Days is NOW OPEN!

2026 Discipleship Days are 1-day, in-person gatherings to help you learn, inspire, and connect. The Diocese is hosting 3 days: one in Scottsdale, one in Tucson, and one in Prescott. You can attend one day, or all three days, as the programming is catered to each specific region of the diocese.

Each session is \$30 per person, and lunch will be provided. Childcare is available upon request.

Who should come to the Discipleship Days?

Anyone who wants to grow in their faith and learn. That includes clergy, vestry/bishop committee members, parishioners, church staff and more! Even if you are new to the Episcopal faith, these 1 day sessions are great for you to get to know how our church works, and how to deepen your connection and discipleship with Christ.

What can I expect to learn?

Each day will begin with an opening prayer, followed by Bible study and reflection, then breakout workshops, and finally lunch. During lunch, there will be open tables with Diocesan Staff so you can ask questions and get to know the different ministries of our diocese. In the afternoon, we will gather together to hear from our keynote speaker, Andrew Stravitz, on "Telling our Stories" of faith and love. Following the keynote will be time with Bishop Reddall and a closing prayer.

For more information and to register, visit our website at azdiocese.org/discipleship.

Scholarships are available. Contact the church office if you need one.

This Week's Prayers

We are all invited to pray for these people in our personal prayers throughout the week.

- **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Church of England
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Church of the Advent – Sun City
- **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Teri Jacobs, Barbara Hanas
- **Parish Prayer List:** Belinda & family, Beth, Carol & Walt, Connie & Kathy, Cooper, David, Dwight, Fifi, Frances, Jenn, Kathi, Katie, Levi & family, Melinda, Michael, Patrick, Rene & family, Rob, Sara, Spencer, Stuart & family, Susan, Tony, Wanda

This Week at Epiphany

- **Sunday, February 1-** ~Annual Meeting Q&A Forum at 9am in the Parish Hall. ~Annual Parish Meeting & Potluck at 11:15am in the Parish Hall. ~A.A. at 4pm in the Parish Hall. ~Al-Anon at 5:15pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Monday, February 2-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Tuesday, February 3-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall. ~Men's A.A. at 6pm in the Church.
- **Wednesday, February 4-** ~Eucharist at 10am in the Chapel. ~Discipleship Group at 11am in the Farmhouse. ~Men's A.A. at 6:30pm in the Ed. Bldg.
- **Thursday, February 5-** ~Morning Prayer at 9pm in the Chapel. ~Business Networking International Meeting at 9am in the Parish Hall. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall. ~Choir Rehearsal at 7pm in the Church.
- **Friday, February 6-** ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Saturday, February 7-** ~A.A. at 9:30am in the Ed. Bldg. ~Mardi Gras Party at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

Vestry Leadership

Jan Wagner – Senior Warden
Senior_Warden@epiphanytempe.org

Curtis Wood – Junior Warden
Junior_Warden@epiphanytempe.org

Ann Neal – Treasurer

Andrea Stewart – Clerk

Aaron Van Briesen

Heidi Thomas

Pat Blackman

Kathy Carney

Beth Hunt

Kim Stone

Alex Mather-Charles

Floyce Chavez

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Hunter Ruffin – Rector
hunter@epiphanytempe.org

The Rev. Martha Seaman – Deacon

The Rev. Tamara Noel – Deacon

The Rev. Canon Steve Schaitberger –
Seasonal Assisting Priest

The Rev. Dr. Corey Meier – Assisting Priest

Dr. Miriam Hickman – Organist, Pianist

Matthew Flora – Choir Director

Jeanne Trembeth – Sexton

Nellie Lichtenstein – Nursery Attendant

Christian Rodriguez-Ortiz – Parish
Administrator & Assistant to the Rector
christian@epiphanytempe.org

Contact the office: 480-968-4111 or
office@epiphanytempe.org