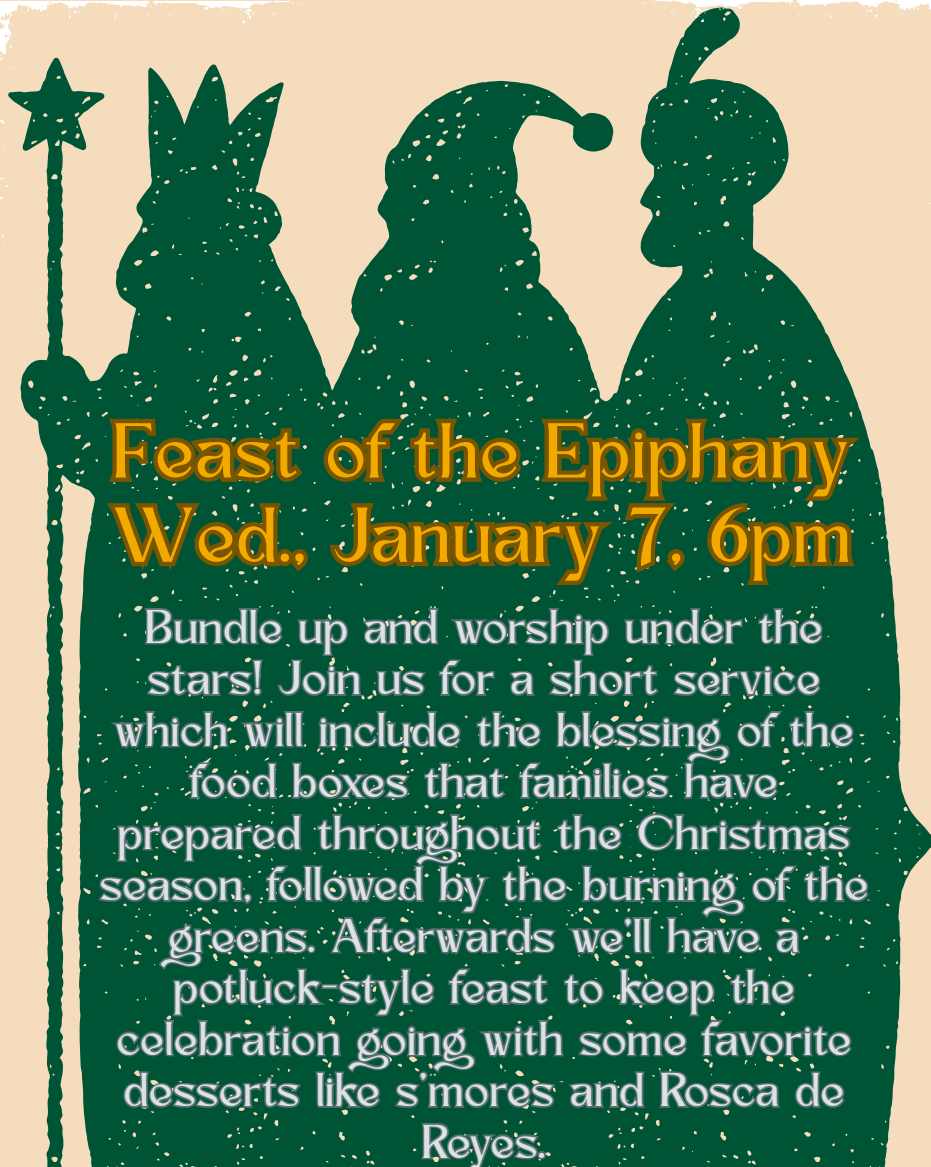


WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

THE STAR

Official Newsletter of Church of the Epiphany-Tempe

Pictured above: Narthex Christmas Tree & Food Boxes



Feast of the Epiphany Wed., January 7. 6pm

Bundle up and worship under the stars! Join us for a short service which will include the blessing of the food boxes that families have prepared throughout the Christmas season, followed by the burning of the greens. Afterwards we'll have a potluck-style feast to keep the celebration going with some favorite desserts like s'mores and Rosca de Reyes.

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY'S OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THROUGH THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 IN OBSERVATION OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY.
IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL (480)968-4111
AND CHOOSE OPTION 9.

Sunday at Epiphany

The Second Sunday after
Christmas

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:

Peter Crane, Barbara Acker

Acolyte:

Curtis Wood

Eucharistic Ministers:

Diane Spillum, Nancy Keith

Music:

Dr. Miriam Hickman

A/V Ministers:

Cassandra Kariuki

Join us in-person at 8:00 or 10:00, or
online at 10:00

2025 Holiday Flower Memorials

Many thanks to everyone who gave towards Christmas greens and holiday flowers this year!

Barbara Acker	<i>In celebration of the potted plant I took home; with thanksgiving for Nancy and all who serve in this church.</i>
Dave & Anne Bennett	<i>In thanksgiving for family & friends this Christmas season</i>
The Bowman Family	<i>In memory of Gail Paige-Bowman</i>
Yvonne Breslin	<i>In memory of Davis & Louise</i>
John & Susan Burger	<i>With thanksgiving for family and friends</i>
Kathy Carney	<i>In memory of Clarence & Jacque Carney</i>
June & Peter Crane	<i>With thanksgiving for our children & grandson</i>
Alex & Michelle Davis	<i>In honor of all grandparents, past and present</i>
Kathy DeLaune	<i>In memory of Jon DeLaune; with thanksgiving for friends & my son Chris</i>
Priscilla DeMoss	<i>In memory of family and friends</i>
Amy Douglass	<i>In loving memory of my sister, Nancy Martin, and my mother Juanita Douglass</i>
Debbie Duncan	<i>In memory of my mom, grandmother, and uncle</i>
The Flores Family	
Karen Ford	<i>In loving memory of Vince Anderson</i>
Lynne Gleason	<i>With thanksgiving for Church of the Epiphany</i>
George & Margaret Harris	<i>With thanksgiving for family, friends, and Epiphany</i>
Mary & Jack Harthun	<i>With thanksgiving for family and friends</i>
Michelle Helm	<i>In honor of Cynthia, my sister</i>
Stanlie James	<i>In memory of Lewis & Barbara James; with thanksgiving for family</i>
The Keith Family	<i>In memory of John D. Keith Jr.</i>
Chris Leonard	<i>In memory of Maria Amparo-Romero, James Nickel and Colin Nickel</i>
Rita & Gerry Liddy	<i>In memory of Ron Hamm</i>
Rupert Loza	<i>In loving memory of Lorraine Loza; with thanksgiving for strength and courage in mourning</i>
Valli & Dave Mittner Ripley	
Judy & Eric Nichols	<i>With thanksgiving for our years at Epiphany</i>
Lynda Odell	<i>In loving memory of Jean, Mike, John, and Mark</i>
Rod & Mariane Owan & Family	<i>In loving memory of Christopher Owan & Rowan Hansen</i>
Steve Schaitberger	
John & Jane Slaughter	<i>With thanksgiving for family and friends</i>
Kim Stone	<i>In loving memory of Pita Sunia & Jude Wickelgren</i>
Ann Tebo	<i>In memory of Joyce Anderson</i>
Susan & Boyd Tong	<i>In thanksgiving for our family</i>
Jeanne Trembeth	<i>In loving memory of parents, Jane & Howard, and brother, Douglas</i>
Jan Wagner	<i>In loving memory of my parents, Jane & Ernest Wagner</i>
Jack & Pam Waterman	<i>In memory of Roy & Velma Waterman and Rudie & Janice Robinson</i>
Cece Wilhite	<i>In loving memory of Bill & Bernice, brother Bill, and dear friend Pat</i>

Worship | Serve | Love

Epiphany Dinner Groups Last Chance to Sign Up!

The sign up process for Epiphany Dinner Groups is coming to a close! This is the last week to enroll if you want to participate. Here's how it works:

- Once everyone who wants to participate has signed up online, groups of approximately eight will be formed.
- Each group will have a leader who will reach out to find a date that will work for everyone to meet for the first meal. At that time schedules will be determined for each group.
- Gatherings can be in homes (preferable for at least the first time), or in restaurants.

Group leaders will be made aware of the members in their groups and will get the first gathering scheduled for sometime in January, 2026.

If you have any questions about this fun opportunity to get to know fellow parishioners in a fun, informal setting, don't hesitate to reach out to Ann Tebo at aetebo@gmail.com!

[Click here to sign up online.](#)

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

January 5-March 23, 2026
6:00PM-7:30PM

Being
With

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



Worship Ministry Training

January 11, 18, 25 after the 10am Service, and January 31

Interested in serving in our worship ministry? Join us this January for a four-session introduction to the theology and practice of the Book of Common Prayer. Rooted in our sacramental life, the class will explore the Daily Office, Holy Eucharist, Holy Baptism, and pastoral offices as the prayer that forms us in Word and Sacrament. Sessions meet after worship on Sundays. On Saturday, January 31st, we will have a practicum at 9am. All are welcome. [Click here to let us know you're interested!](#)

Worship | Serve | Love



Tell Out My Soul

2026 Estimates of Giving

Many thanks to everyone that has submitted a 2026 estimate of giving! If you did not receive one in the mail, or need assistance filling one out, please contact the church office. You can mail yours back to the office, drop it in the offering plate on a Sunday morning, or [fill yours out online by clicking here.](#)



Community of Hope Training Begins January

Community of Hope ministers volunteer to assist our clergy in the pastoral needs of our parish by serving as companions to members who are going through a difficult moment in life. There is no cost for the class, but we ask that people miss no more than 2 of the 14 classes. There will also be a practicum period after the class in which people get to learn on the job by partnering with a seasoned ministry member. We'll meet on Sundays in the Farmhouse at Noon on: Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8, 22, Mar. 1, 8, 22, 29, Apr. 12, 26, May 3, 10, 31, & June 7. Please contact Fr. Hunter or the church office if you are feeling called to this ministry.

New Women's Ministry at Epiphany starting on January 20th

Epiphany is starting a new Women's Ministry on the evening of January 20th at 7pm (location to be announced)! We plan to start meeting monthly on Tuesday evenings. During this first meeting, we will decide what our meetings will look like and what biblical and spiritual topics we want to discuss together. If you are a woman or identify as a woman, we would love you to join us and help to shape this new ministry!



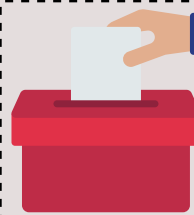
2025 Annual Reports

Ministry leaders, please begin to consider compiling annual reports for your ministry team! You can email your completed reports to office@epiphanytempe.org. We would like to have them by the third week of January.



In this season of joy and thanksgiving for the Incarnation let us share that joy by helping our neighbors in need.

Staple food, paper products, and personal care items are always welcome in the grocery cart that is outside the west Parish Hall doors every Sunday. Thanks!



Vestry Nominations Are Open!

Are you interested in standing for election to the vestry, junior warden, or convention delegate in the new year? Click and fill out the form below for the position you are feeling called to, or share this with a member of the parish that you think would be a good candidate!

[Vestry nominations](#)

[Jr. Warden nominations](#)

[Convention delegate nominations](#)



By the Grace of God

*The Rt. Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall
Bishop of the Diocese of Arizona*

Will Ordain

Elizabeth Hazel Clarke

Barbara Lopes

James Baldwin Graves

Jennifer Renee Lopez

Kym J. Kennedy

Tamara Nicole Noel

*To the Sacred Order of Deacons
In the Episcopal Church*

*Saturday, January 24th, 2026
at 10 o'clock in the morning*

*Trinity Cathedral
100 West Roosevelt Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85003*

Your Prayers and Presence are Requested

Clergy - Only presenters and altar party will vest

*To view the service online, visit Trinity Cathedral's YouTube channel at
<https://www.youtube.com/@azcathedral>*



Updates from your Vestry From the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2025

Welcoming the United Christ Church of India

For the past year, we have been discerning whether it would be meet and right for us to welcome the United Christ Church of India (UCCI) to our campus as their new worship home. This journey began in prayer and has continued through thoughtful conversation and deep listening among leaders of both congregations.

We are delighted to share that beginning on Christmas Day, UCCI will hold their regular worship services in our church at 12:00 Noon each Sunday. UCCI is currently affiliated with the Church of South India, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion, and we are glad to extend to them the hospitality that has long shaped our life at Epiphany.

Their Sunday service time allows for our morning worship, formation programs, and fellowship to continue unaffected. In gratitude for the shared use of our space, UCCI will be making a monthly contribution to our general fund.

Like any new relationship, this partnership will grow and deepen over time. Leaders from both congregations will meet monthly to support clear communication and to explore opportunities for shared ministry as the Spirit leads us.

Please join us in offering a warm welcome to the United Christ Church of India when you see them on campus.

Roofing & Campus Improvements

Many of you are aware that several of our buildings are in need of new roofs or significant repairs. Over the past 90 days, your vestry has received bids, reviewed proposals, and formally approved moving forward with ProWest Roofing for all roofing work.

ProWest is scheduled to begin on January 12, 2026, with the goal of completing all repairs by the end of that month.

Thanks to responsible stewardship over many years, and to an insurance claim settlement, more than half of the project cost is already funded. We have requested a \$50,365 loan from the Diocese of Arizona to cover the remaining amount, giving us time to raise funds intentionally and sustainably. We await final approval from the Standing Committee.

These repairs are essential for our long-term ministry. Safe, well-maintained buildings allow us to teach, worship, serve, welcome new partners like UCCI, and host community events that embody Christ's love.

An Invitation to a Year-End Gift

As we approach the year's end, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a special gift to Epiphany's Capital Projects Fund.

A year-end contribution helps us:

protect and preserve our sacred spaces,

strengthen our ability to welcome new ministry partners,

and ensure that our campus remains a place where people can encounter Christ in worship, service, and love.

Your generosity—at any level—directly fuels our mission:

United in Christ: Worship. Serve. Love.

You can [make a gift online](#), by placing a special offering in the plate on Sunday, or by mailing a contribution postmarked on or before December 31 to be included in this year's giving statement.

Make a Year-end Gift

Good things are happening at Epiphany, and the Holy Spirit continues to draw us deeper into God's work in this place. Thank you for your prayers, your presence, and your generosity. Together we are growing the presence of the Gospel in this community and living ever more fully into the mission God has entrusted to us.

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 the Province of Central Africa
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Saint Stephen's – Sierra Vista
- **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Wanda Easley-Small, Lyn Jensen, Rich Van Slyke, Greg McAlpin
- **Parish Prayer List:** The Amparo-Romero family, Armendilla, Barbara, Beth, Bill, Carol & Walt, Connie & Kathy, Cooper, Cynthia, David, Fifi, Frances, Jeanne, Jenn, Joe & Kathi, Joseph, Kathy & Chris, Marsha's family, Martha, Mary, Matt, the Nickel family, Patrick, Rob, Stuart & family, Susan, Tina & family, Tony, Wanda

This Week at Epiphany

- **Sunday, January 4-** ~A.A. at 4pm in the Parish Hall. ~Al-Anon at 5:15pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Monday, January 5-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~Being With Class at 6pm in the Farmhouse. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Tuesday, January 6-** ~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, January 7-** ~Eucharist at 10am in the Chapel. ~Discipleship Group at 11am in the Farmhouse. ~Feast of the Epiphany at 6pm in the Church. Potluck & Burning of the Greens to follow in the Courtyard and Parish Hall. ~Men's A.A. at 6:30pm in the Ed. Bldg.
- **Thursday, January 8-** ~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.
- **Saturday, January 10-** ~PCI Workshop at 8am in the Ed. Bldg. ~A.A. at 7pm in the Church.

****Church of the Epiphany's office will be closed from December 25 through January 1 in observation of Christmas and New Year's Day. In case of a pastoral emergency please call (480)968-4111 and choose option 9.**

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. Canon Steve Schaitberger –
Seasonal Assisting Priest

The Rev. Dr. Corey Meier – Assisting Priest

Dr. Miriam Hickman – Organist, Pianist

Matthew Flora – Choir Director

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