

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

THE STAR

Official Newsletter of Church of the Epiphany-Tempe

Pictured above: Shrove Tuesday 2025

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 17 @ 6pm

Come and enjoy breakfast for dinner and fellowship on **Shrove Tuesday, February 17**, at 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.](#)**

Want to volunteer to help

MoE set up, cook, and clean? Contact Billy at **billywalters51@gmail.com**

Sunday at Epiphany

The Last Sunday
after the Epiphany

Celebrant:

The Rev. Hunter Ruffin

Lay Ministers 8:00AM

Greeter:

Andrea Stewart

Reader:

Carol Dalton

Acolyte:

Joe Moritz

Eucharistic Ministers:

Rita Liddy

Lay Ministers 10:00AM

Greeters:

Barbara Behrens, David Dean

Readers:

Mary Harthun, Peter Crane

Acolyte:

Diane Spillum

Eucharistic Ministers:

Dave Bauer, Ann Tebo

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

Worship | Serve | Love



Lenten Cereal Drive Starting Soon!

Epiphany's annual Cereal Drive will **June Crane** begin on the first Sunday of Lent, February 22. We will be asking for boxes and bags of cereal which will benefit the food banks at Matthews Crossing and Paz de Cristo. Start shopping for those cereal bargains now so you will be ready to help. Of course, other donations of staple food, paper products, and personal care items for Matthews Crossing are always welcome. The grocery cart will be outside the west Parish Hall doors every Sunday for donations, and starting on the 22nd, there will be a special box for cereal. Thanks!

Join the Altar Guild!

Curious about what happens behind the scenes on Sunday mornings? The Altar Guild is a welcoming, hands-on ministry—open to everyone—that prepares the altar for worship and keeps the Sacristy organized and cared for.

Each team serves just one weekend a month, and all training is provided. No prior experience is needed. This is a simple, meaningful way to deepen your spiritual connection at Epiphany. Long-time members have even created a beautifully detailed how-to binder with photos, step-by-step instructions, and a helpful vocabulary guide for those new to Episcopal traditions. Our ministry is aging, and we're especially hopeful for younger members who can help keep this important work vibrant and strong.

If you'd like to see what we do before committing, feel free to join a team after worship and observe. If you feel called to this ministry, we would love to welcome you. For more information, contact Pat at (480)322-7359

The Season of Lent

February 18 - April 2

Sundays: Formation @ 11:15am

Wednesdays: Prayer, potluck, formation, starts @ 5:30pm



Church of the Epiphany

www.epiphanytempe.org/lent

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18 | 12pm & 7pm



Get your ashes in church! Join us for Ash Wednesday worship services: 12pm for a spoken-word worship service, or at

7pm for a choral worship service featuring the voices of our choir accompanied by organ and piano.

Worship Ministry Training

Practicum this Sunday, February 15

@ 2pm in the Church

The Worship Ministry Training concludes this afternoon with a hands-on practice session. If you already serve at the altar on Sundays as an Acolyte or Eucharistic Minister, you are asked to please join the practicum session as it is a good way to keep up to date with worship practices.

A Sometimes Overlooked Mission

—Anonymous Author

There is a mission our parish has championed for a number of years that truly supports our core values of Service, Justice and Inclusivity. Here's some background: In February of 2017 a group of folks from the Sunset Alcoholics Anonymous group contacted Epiphany about the possibility of renting space here for their meetings. By the end of the month, they began holding two meetings a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and are still doing so to this day. They really liked Epiphany's facilities but mostly they appreciated the way they were made to feel welcome. Other AA groups learned that Epiphany was a welcoming place and now, nine years later, 12 AA and Al-Anon groups regularly meet here on our campus. Several of those meetings attract hundreds of attendees and the Church Bldg., Ed. Bldg. and the Parish Hall are often full of folks who have come to share their recovery stories and hear speakers discuss recovery and sobriety. Those meetings, by the way, are open to anyone who is interested in checking them out.

Alcoholics Anonymous has a 90-year record of providing excellent support for those seeking help in their struggles with substance abuse and addiction. The program works. It is life changing and life saving. The secret sauce is the fellowship – the sharing of experiences and hope at meetings. And of course, one fundamental ingredient to good meetings is a safe, reliable, welcoming meeting space. Our parish has provided this in spades! It's a quiet but super important way Church of the Epiphany has provided service and done justice for those who are often stigmatized and marginalized because of their challenges with alcohol.

AA groups often meet in churches, so Epiphany's willingness to host is not unique but what is remarkable is the commitment and effort our parish leadership has made to be a faithful host for AA gatherings. As more groups have expressed interest in meeting here over the years, Fr. Hunter, Pastor Carmen (retired), and now, Christian, have worked hard to figure out ways to accommodate their needs. This commitment became even more evident during the COVID pandemic when many churches in the valley, and all over the country for that matter, restricted or prohibited meetings of any kind at their locations. This left many recovering alcoholics without a place to meet and deprived them of the fellowship that is so important to their sobriety. Epiphany was unique in that AA groups were permitted to continue to meet here at Epiphany during the pandemic, provided they observed recommendations regarding masks, social distancing and so on. A seemingly small gesture on the part of the leadership of our parish that was a really big deal for those impacted by it.

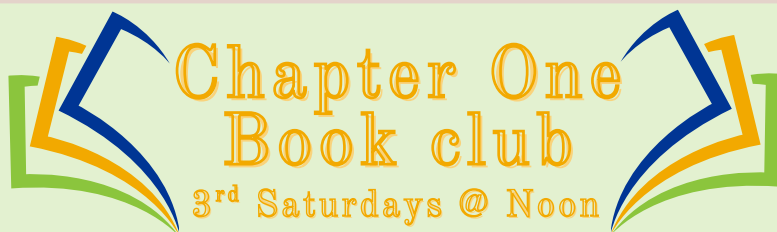
Fr. Hunter was overheard saying "Sometimes doing justice and providing service is as simple as offering hospitality." Our friends in AA would heartily agree!

Worship | Serve | Love



**Successful
Sock Drive
Ends! Wow!**

Thank you, Epiphany, for donating 478 pairs of socks during our January / February collection for clients at Paz de Cristo. It's an outstanding number and your generosity makes a big difference!



Chapter One Book club

3rd Saturdays @ Noon

Start the new year with these book club picks to get ready for the monthly discussions! **February pick is Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Stout.** Meets February 21 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.



• HAPPY •

Presidents
DAY



Church of the Epiphany's office will be closed on Monday, February 16, in observance of the President's Day holiday. In case of a pastoral emergency please call (480)968-4111 and choose option 9.

Small Group Conversation Series:



**Following the Call
to Be Prophetic**



The Epiphany VIP Team is launching a monthly house meeting series to help our parish live into its prophetic vocation of working for justice, equity, and love. Inspired by the biblical prophets who acted as "listening posts" for their communities, these small group conversations are designed to help us better understand the challenges facing our members and neighbors in maintaining their health, economic security, safety and well-being.

- **Dates:** Sunday, February 22, with subsequent meetings on March 22, and April 26. Dates for subsequent months to be determined.
- **Time:** 12:15 PM.
- **Campus Location:** Education Building, Room 3

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)

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: Farmhouse Roofing to Begin

The Farmhouse roofing work is confirmed to begin this 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. If you need to meet with someone from the office, please use the south (courtyard-facing) doors of the education building to enter. 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 next week.

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

Being
With

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



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.

GET LUCKY
CHANCE TO WIN
\$10,000



Be Someone's Lucky Charm and You Could Win BIG!

Donate March 1-April 5 and you'll be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$10,000 gift card.* Your donation is a lucky charm for patients in need. Schedule today.

Make an appointment at vitalant.org or call 877-25-VITAL

Use blood drive code: **churche**

Church of the Epiphany Episcopal BLOOD DRIVE

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST, 2026

8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

LOCATED IN ROOMS 7 & 8

2222 S PRICE RD ~ TEMPE

To schedule an appointment, visit vitalant.org (Enter Blood Drive Code: churche) or scan the QR code. For questions, contact Andrea Stewart at (480) 577-2949.



*Terms and condition apply; see vitalant.org/LuckyGiveaway.

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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 the Province of the Indian Ocean
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** The Episcopal Campus Ministry at ASU - Tempe
- **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Judy Johnson, Jane Adams-Wahlgren, Gary D'Oria, Shari Westbrook, Valli Mittner Ripley
- **Parish Prayer List:** April, Belinda & family, Beth, Carol & Walt, Connie & Kathy, Cooper, David, Dwight, Fifi, Jenn, Jillian, Kathi, Katie, Levi & family, Linda & John & family, Melinda, Michael, Patrick, Robin, Sara, Spencer, Stuart & family, Susan, Tony, Wanda

This Week at Epiphany

- **Sunday, February 15-** ~Worship Ministry Practicum at 2pm in the Church. ~A.A. at 4pm in the Parish Hall. ~Al-Anon at 5:15pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Monday, February 16- ***Office Closed** ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Tuesday, February 17-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Ed. Bldg. ~Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 6pm in the Parish Hall. ~Men's A.A. at 6pm in the Church.
- **Wednesday, February 18-** ~Ash Wednesday Spoken Service at Noon. ~Men's A.A. at 6:30pm in the Ed. Bldg. ~Ash Wednesday Choral Worship at 7pm in the Church.
- **Thursday, February 19-** ~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 20-** ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Saturday, February 21-** ~Chapter One Book Club at 12pm via Zoom.

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Vestry Leadership

Jan Wagner – Senior Warden
Senior_Warden@epiphanytempe.org

Jerry Adwell – Junior Warden
Junior_Warden@epiphanytempe.org

Ann Neal – Treasurer

Andrea Stewart – Clerk

Aaron Van Briesen

Heidi Thomas

Pat Blackman

Kathy Carney

Beth Hunt

Johnny Sullivan

Barbara Peterson

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