



WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

THE STAR

Official Newsletter of Church of the Epiphany-Tempe

Pictured above: Men of Epiphany cooking up Pancakes, Shrove Tuesday 2025

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.



PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM MEETING THIS SUNDAY

The next Property Management Committee team meeting is this Sunday, February 8, at 9am 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 this Sunday is a great way to learn more and get involved!

Sunday at Epiphany

The Fifth Sunday
after the Epiphany

Celebrant:

The Rev. Hunter Ruffin

Lay Ministers 8:00AM

Greeter:

Rita Liddy

Reader:

Patricia Young

Acolyte:

Dave Young

Eucharistic Ministers:

John Slaughter

Lay Ministers 10:00AM

Greeters:

Diane Spillum, Heidi Thomas

Readers:

Lynda Woodson, Karen Ford

Acolyte:

Nancy Keith

Eucharistic Ministers:

Ann Tebo, Jane Konrad

Music:

Dr. Miriam Hickman, Matt Fora,
Choir

A/V Ministers:

Alex Mather-Charles

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

FOOD BOXES FOR THE HUNGRY: HUGE SUCCESS!

Members of Epiphany embraced our cause once again when asked to help provide food for the hungry. Forty boxes wrapped in holiday paper were placed on either side of the Christmas tree in the narthex on Christmas Eve. Members of the congregation were asked to take one of the boxes containing a set of prayer cards home. At the end of the two Christmas Eve services, all boxes were gone.

Each day, after reading and meditating on the prayer on one side of a card, the food item listed on the opposite side was to be placed in the wrapped box. More than forty boxes of food were returned.

On Wednesday, January 28 the food boxes were delivered to Thew Elementary School. Thirty-four boxes were given to parents picking up their children from school that day. The Social Worker for Thew was confident the remaining boxes would be given out by the end of the next week.

The Serve Council greatly appreciates the love the members of Epiphany have shown in support of this ministry. Special thanks go to Lynn Adwell, Yvonne Breslin, Cami Quintana, Kim Stone, Pat Blackman, and Cece Wilhite for gift wrapping the food boxes, and Jerry Adwell, Val Bauer, Carol Dalton, Karen Ford and Kim Stone for delivering the food boxes to Thew Elementary. A special shout out to Pat Young for bringing the idea of putting food boxes together to the Serve Council. The Serve Council and clergy of Epiphany consider this outreach ministry a great success. **THANK YOU, EPIPHANY!**



Worship | Serve | Love



Epiphany Sock Drive Ending Soon!

On Sunday, Feb 8, our annual Epiphany Sock Drive comes to a close. Please take

this final opportunity to donate new socks (men's white tube socks preferred, but all are welcome) to be given out at Paz de Cristo to those who need them. Clean, dry socks are truly a blessing to the people whom Paz serves, and they are so grateful when they receive them. Place socks in the grocery cart near the west Parish Hall doors where food for Matthew's Crossing is collected. We appreciate the 308 total pairs of socks that have already been donated as of this past Sunday. We're shooting for 400 pairs and we can do it! Many thanks for your generosity.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



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**](mailto:billywalters51@gmail.com)

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

Women's Ministry Meeting: Next Tuesday, February 10 @ 7pm in the Ed. Bldg.

Our first women's ministry gathering was a success! Fellow women enjoyed getting to know one another and sharing ideas for what we could discuss and share with each other. Our next meeting will be next Tuesday, February 10th at 7pm in the Education Building. We'll be discussing some short passages and scriptures shared by the group - we hope you'll join us!

Worship | Serve | Love

MEN OF EPIPHANY

(MORE FAMOUSLY KNOWN AS "MOE")

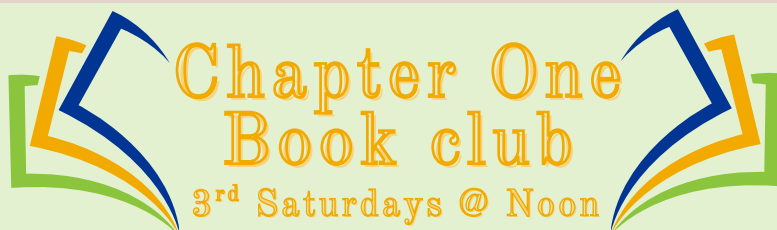
THE MEN OF EPIPHANY GROUP MEETS
EVERY OTHER MONDAY AT 7PM IN THE ED
BUILDING FOR BIBLE STUDY AND
FELLOWSHIP.

THEIR NEXT MEETING IS:
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 @ 7:00PM!
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
BILLYWALTERS51@GMAIL.COM



Attention Thew Note-Writers!

This month's notes to the
teachers and staff of Thew
elementary are due this
Sunday, February 8



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.

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)



At the Food Bank
over 100 people
come in for food
assistance every
day; some are
American citizens and some are
not. Carts loaded with fresh meat,
fruit & veggies, eggs & dairy along
with staple food go to every family
in line. We just see and help
hungry people. Please donate to
assist all our neighbors who need
help. The grocery cart is outside
the west Parish Hall doors every
Sunday for your donations of
staple food, paper products, and
personal care items. Thank you.

A Note of Thanks from Tamara Noel

Dear Epiphany Family,

My heart is full of gratitude when I think of the many ways you have surrounded me with love and prayers over these past four years. My ordination day was truly special, and whether you were there in person or joined us online, your presence, encouragement, and faithful prayers have truly blessed me.

Thank you also for the beautiful receptions the following day and for the thoughtful gifts, especially the home communion kit that I will faithfully carry when I bring Communion to those who cannot be with us in person. I am so grateful for your generosity and for the donations made to the Clergy Discretionary Fund. Every kind word and generous gesture reflects the caring community we share, and I feel truly blessed to walk this journey of ministry alongside you.

With love and gratitude, Deacon Tamara



Photos courtesy of [Grace Avery Designs](#)

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

Being
With

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

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.

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.*

Find us @vitalant:     

vitalant 

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:** Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Church of the Epiphany - Tempe (woohoo!)
- **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** Sylvia Kevlin, Joe Moritz, Amy Douglass
- **Parish Prayer List:** Belinda & family, Beth, Carol & Walt, Connie & Kathy, Cooper, David, Dwight, Fifi, Jenn, Kathi, Katie, Levi & family, Melinda, Michael, Patrick, Sara, Spencer, Stuart & family, Susan, Tony, Wanda

This Week at Epiphany

- **Sunday, February 8-** ~Property Ministry Team Meeting at 9am in the Ed. Bldg. ~Worship Ministry Training at 11:15am in the Ed. Bldg. ~A.A. at 4pm in the Parish Hall. ~Young Adults Hangout at 5pm in the Courtyard. ~Al-Anon at 5:15pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Monday, February 9-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall. ~Men of Epiphany at 7pm in the Ed. Bldg.
- **Tuesday, February 10-** ~Morning Prayer at 9am in the Chapel. ~A.A. at 6pm in the Parish Hall. ~Pastoral Care Committee Meeting at 5:30pm in the Farmhouse/Google Meet. ~Men's A.A. at 6pm in the Church.
- **Wednesday, February 11-** ~Eucharist at 10am in the Chapel. ~Discipleship Group at 11am in the Farmhouse. ~A.A. at 5:30pm in the Ed. Bldg. ~Men's A.A. at 6:30pm in the Ed. Bldg.
- **Thursday, February 12-** ~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.
- **Saturday, February 14-** ~A.A. at 7pm in the Church.

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

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