



**12-31-2017**

# Announcements

Church of the Epiphany  
209 S. Third Avenue, Royersford, PA 19468  
610-948-9655  
[www.Epiphanystar.net](http://www.Epiphanystar.net)

**THE REV. BETH W. HIXON, RECTOR**  
215-896-0828 OR [RECTOR@EPIPHANYSTAR.NET](mailto:RECTOR@EPIPHANYSTAR.NET)

**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY HOSTS THE DEANERY Saturday, January 6 at 2pm:** The Feast of the Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>) falls on a Saturday this year. Once again, we will host deanery parishes as together we celebrate our namesake feast day. The Three Kings will process, the Bell Choir will ring, and The Rev. Stephen Moore, Priest-in-Charge, Trinity Gulph Mills will preach. Mark your calendars and make this a joyous time of worship and fellowship. Plan to bring your favorite sweets from the holidays to add to a festive reception table following the service. Mary Martin and Kitty DiBattista are coordinating the reception... **please sign up to bring holiday goodies as well as help them with set up and clean up.**

**“SOUPER BOWL” Coffee Hour!!** We will again hold our annual “Souper Bowl” Coffee Hour on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, following the 10:00 service. All are invited to attend this time of fun and fellowship! There are several ways we can use your help. With your help, we will serve soup and bread as well as a light dessert, as the fare of the day, instead of the usual coffee hour fare. We ask anyone who wishes to contribute a pot of soup or one of the other items mentioned, to please sign up on the sheet provided in the undercroft. (Available in January.) We also ask EVERYONE to bring a can or more of canned soup to be donated to Project Outreach. Some of the cans will serve as our centerpieces for the tables!! Everyone will be invited to dress in their team clothes, even if their team is not playing. (I’d like to say, “Go, Eagles!” but it would be a dream!) After a bit of soup and great fellowship, everyone can be off to their own Super Bowl event! We are looking forward to a fun time, as it was last year! Any questions, please see Betsy Dell.

**EPIPHANY PARTY: FAMILY POTLUCK & GAME NIGHT:** An intergenerational great time is in the works! Pencil-in “Epiphany Party” for Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> (and a Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> snow date). Mary Martin, thank you for this great idea. Contact Mary if you’d like help plan and stay tuned for more information.

**SCRIP:** January's dates will be the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for your ongoing support. Susan

**LET'S READ THE WHOLE BIBLE TOGETHER THIS YEAR!** This week's readings:

- Jan 1 Day 365 – Malachi 4, Psalm 149-150, Luke 9  
Jan 1 2018 Day 1 – Genesis 1-3; Psalm 1; Matthew 1  
Jan 2 Day 2 – Genesis 4-6; Psalm 2; Matthew 2  
Jan 3 Day 3 – Genesis 7-9; Psalm 3; Matthew 3  
Jan 4 Day 4 – Genesis 10-12; Psalm 4; Matthew 4  
Jan 5 Day 5 – Genesis 13-15; Psalm 5; Matthew 5  
Jan 6 Day 6 – Genesis 16-18; Psalm 6; Matthew 6  
1/7 Day 7 – Enjoy hearing the Scriptures read aloud in church

OR... go to [www.epiphanystar.net](http://www.epiphanystar.net) and... Scroll down to Bishop's Bible Challenge, click day or week of your choice, find the red link: click & read

**SAVE THE DATE**

- |               |                        |  |
|---------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>1/6</b>    | Sat. 2 pm              | The Feast of the Epiphany (Deanery Service @ Epiphany)                                 |
| <b>1/21</b>   | after 10am serv.       | The Annual Meeting of the "Household" (please plan to attend; your voice is important) |
| <b>1/27</b>   | Sat evening (time TBA) | Epiphany Party: Family Potluck and Game Night  |
| <b>2/4</b>    | after 10am serv.       | "Souper" Bowl Lunch (Undercroft)   |
| <b>[2/10]</b> | Sat. evening           | Epiphany Party <u>Snow Date</u>  |
| <b>2/14</b>   | Noon and 7 pm          | Ash Wednesday Services   |

**FINANCIAL UPDATE / as of November 30<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Pledges to Support the 2018 Budget:** 30 pledges totaling \$87,390 (reflects corrected Oct. report)

**2017 Pledge Income Receipts** continue at about 85% of expected income

*To all who are holding the space for our mission and ministry in the world by submitting a pledge and staying current with pledge contributions... Thank you!! Pledging can take place at any time of the year though it is helpful for budgeting to have pledges by year's end.*

**Fundraising in 2017:** We anticipate \$5,000 from pot pie, chili, Rada, Scrip, WAWA, Thanksgiving bake sale, Cookie Cavalcade sales. *Thank you for all your amazing efforts!! What ideas might you have for future fundraisers? Those that bring us together as a community or open our doors to the larger community are especially desirable.*

**Endowment Withdrawal:** \$21,000 from the Endowment Fund has been withdrawn and deposited into the operating account.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding financial matters, please speak to Paul Atlee or Susan Garone.

**ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP, Christian Formation, and Fellowship**

**10am**

Eucharistic Minister: Tanya Millet  
Lectors: Ben & Tanya Millet  
Acolyte: TBD  
Greeter: Kitty DiBattista  
Usher: Cindy Lind & Mary Thompson  
Counters: Charles Dell & Volunteer  
Altar Guild: Julie Dattilo, Joanne Arnold,  
Cathy Bailey, Tanya Millet

**OUR PARISH LIFE AND WORK THIS WEEK**

Monday	7:30pm	N.A. (Undercroft)
Tuesday	8:00pm	A.A. (Undercroft)
Wednesday	10:15am	Holy Eucharist with Healing and Short Bible Study
	6:00pm	TBMP Weight Loss Program (Office)
	7:00pm	Daisy Troop 7390 (Undercroft)
Thursday	6:30pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday 1/7	8:00am	Holy Eucharist Rite I (Spoken)
	10:00am	Holy Eucharist Rite II (Music)

**ASSISTING IN NEXT Sunday's Worship, Formation & Fellowship (1/7 10 am)**

**10am**

Eucharistic Minister: Kitty DiBattista  
Lectors: Paul Atlee & Joanne Arnold  
Acolyte: William Hummer  
Greeter: Cindy Lind  
Usher: Frank Borst & The DiBattista's  
Counters: Tom Bailey & Frank Borst  
Altar Guild: Julie Dattilo, Joanne Arnold,  
Cathy Bailey, Tanya Millet  
Godly Play Greeter: Atlee's  
Godly Play Teacher: Liz Leary

## WORTHY WORDS

### All Things New

*A Meditation by The Rev. Richard Rohr published by The Center for Action and Contemplation  
on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2017*

*Yearning for a new way will not produce it. Only ending the old way can do that.  
You cannot hold onto the old, all the while declaring that you want something new.  
The old will defy the new;  
The old will deny the new;  
The old will decry the new.  
There is only one way to bring in the new. You must make room for it.  
—Neale Donald Walsch [1]*

My spiritual father, Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), was a master of making room for the new and letting go of that which was tired or empty. He was ready for absolute newness from God and therefore could also trust fresh and new attitudes in himself. His God was not tired, and so he was never tired. His God was not old, so Francis remained forever young.

Francis was the first to create a living nativity scene, bringing to life the revolutionary new way God revealed God's self in the vulnerability of a baby in a manger. The Incarnation of God in Jesus was foundational to Francis, and he wanted others to experience its life-changing power.

Francis was at once very traditional and entirely new in the ways of holiness. Franciscanism is not an iconoclastic dismissal of traditional Christian images, history, or culture, but a positive choosing of the deep, shining, and enduring divine images that are hidden beneath the too-easy formulas. It is no fast-food religion, but slow and healthy nutrition.

Both Jesus and Francis did not let the old get in the way of the new, but like all religious geniuses, revealed what the old was saying all along. Francis both named and exemplified that “first, churchless incarnation in the human heart.” [2] But somehow he also knew that it was the half-knowing, organized Church that passed this shared mystery on to him and preserved it for future generations. He had the humility and patience to know that whatever is true is always a shared truth; and only institutions, for all their weaknesses, make this widely shareable, historical, and communal.

Both Jesus and Francis were “conservatives” in the true sense of the term: they conserved what was worth conserving—the core, the transformative life of the Gospel—and did not let accidentals get in the way. They then ended up looking quite “progressive,” radical, and even dangerous to the status quo. This is the biblical pattern, from Abraham to Moses, to Jeremiah, Job, John the Baptist, Mary, and Joseph.

## References:

[1] Neale Donald Walsch, Facebook post, July 22, 2014. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/NealeDonaldWalsch/photos/a.400017592343.181782.40638047343/10152199231662344/?type=3&theater>.

[2] Christian Wiman, *My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux: 2013), 92.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Eager to Love: The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi* (Franciscan Media: 2014), xiii-xiv, xvii, xix-xxi.

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**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**SUNDAY**

8AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I (SPOKEN)

10AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II (MUSIC)

**MIDWEEK HOLY EUCHARIST WITH HEALING LITANY**

10:15AM WEDNESDAYS

**PAUL EXLEY, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR**

[churchoffice@epiphanystar.net](mailto:churchoffice@epiphanystar.net)

**ELIZABETH FRANCISCO, SUPPLY PIANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR**

**THE REV. BETH W. HIXON, RECTOR**

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