



## THE THREE CROWNS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISH OF THE EPIPHANY

December 4, 2017

70 Church Street  
Winchester, Massachusetts  
781.729.1922

### Advent: A Time to Think and Prepare



Over the years, I have learned that I am a person who likes to prepare. Sure, I can be spontaneous at times, but I am much more comfortable when I have time to think about and plan for the task at hand. As a child, I would dutifully study for tests, and spend hours practicing because I learned very quickly that the outcome is better if I take time to prepare. As an adult, a significant portion of my week is spent planning and practicing for rehearsals and services so that others will feel more confident as they sing and have a better experience as they worship.

It should come as no surprise to learn that I love the times of the church year that are set apart for us to think and prepare. Advent and Lent both give us the chance to take a step back and do things that will help us prepare for the celebrations to come. For some reason, Advent has come to be my favorite. I'm sure that part of that is because music is such an integral part of the Advent and Christmas seasons. I can't hear the readings for Advent without having melodies go through my head. "Sleepers wake!", "Comfort, comfort ye my people", "And the glory of the Lord", "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry", and "My soul doth magnify the Lord" are just a few of my favorites. I also think that during such a short and busy season, I appreciate being asked to take a step back and reflect.

Each Advent I try to choose something a little different that will guide my thoughts, prayers, and meditations that I try to squeeze in at some point during very busy days. This year, I have decided to take a closer look at the texts that go with the melodies that I love. I find that I often don't really think about texts that I have known for a long time. I am hoping that spending time with these words will reveal something new to me this year about an incredible story that happened so long ago.

One of the texts I plan to spend some time with comes from 16th century Germany. The choir will sing this text during Lessons and Carols this year as it has been

beautifully set by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. The text as it appears in the anthem was translated by the British hymn translator Catherine Winkworth.

A Spotless Rose is growing,  
Sprung from a tender root,  
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,  
Of Jesse promised fruit;  
Its fairest bud unfolds to light  
Amid the cold, cold winter,  
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,  
Whereof Isaiah said,  
Is from its sweet root springing  
In Mary, purest Maid;  
Through God's great love and might  
The Blessed Babe she bare us  
In a cold, cold winter's night.

*Craig*



WORSHIP  
&  
MUSIC

**Advent Quiet Day**



*This Saturday, 9 December from 9:00am – 12:00pm*  
Once again the Reverend Martin Smith will lead the prayers.  
In the midst of the busy Advent season, all are invited to enjoy quiet time with prayers.



## **Advent Service of Remembrance and Hope**



*Wednesday, 6 December at 7:00pm*  
Christmas can be a difficult time for some of us. We offer a way to express your feelings within the context of a prayer service. Please join us for prayer, scripture, poetry, and music.



## **2017 Advent Calendar**



Merry Watters and Tom Mousin are delighted to share with you this year's Advent Devotional Calendar. [Click here.](#)

This calendar follows the liturgical calendar for Advent. This year's calendar begins on the First Sunday of Advent, 3 December, in the upper left corner, and then moves down through the days of the week. The last devotion, on December 24, is found at the bottom of the calendar. For each day there is a scripture reading with a corresponding activity.



## Service of Lessons and Carols

*Sunday, 17 December at 5:00pm*



The Parish Choir, Choristers, and Triton Brass present a traditional, candlelit Lessons and Carols service. A reception follows the service in Hadley Hall. It is truly a special way to start your Christmas journey.



# Children's Christmas Pageant



*Presented on 24 December at 4:00pm*

In preparation for the pageant, all children who are interested in participating are invited to come up to the front of the church after the 10:00am service on 11 December to learn and practice Christmas carols with Craig. The children will sing the carols in the pageant. Practice will be fifteen minutes long. All children up to grade 6 are welcome to participate.

Coffee, juice, and a light snack will be available while parents wait.

Please [contact Carolyn](#) if your child has an interest in a reading part, or a major role, or if you can volunteer. This is a lot of fun and a great opportunity to meet other families!



*Pageant Rehearsal Schedule*

Dec 10th: Pageant carol rehearsal/ costume fitting at 11:15am

Dec 17th: Pageant dress rehearsal in the Church at 11:15 am

Dec 24th: Call time is 3:00pm and Pageant begins at 4:00 pm



MISSION  
&  
OUTREACH

## Parents Night Out this Saturday



*Saturday, 6 December from 6:00 - 9:00pm*

Advent is a busy time of year so parents are invited to take some time out to enjoy an evening to yourselves.

YPF high school youth group is offering to babysit your children while you relax, prepare for Christmas, or just sleep.

Drop your children off at Epiphany and YPF will provide them with dinner, movies, and games. It will be a fun night for them and for you!

Suggested donations are \$25/child or \$45/family. All proceeds will be donated to Rosie's Place.



## Advent Giving Tree



Advent is a time when we prepare for the mystery of the incarnation of God who came to Earth and became one of us. It is in this spirit that we invite everyone to participate in our annual Advent Service Project, the Advent Giving Tree.

Parishioners choose ornaments from the tree in Hadley Hall or in the Church. On each ornament is a specific Christmas gift request. These gifts help those in need and who come to us through the many organizations with which Epiphany is involved. Please be mindful of the various instructions and due dates of each gift. If you have any questions, please contact [Celia Ceruolo](#) at 781.729.6209.



PARISH LIFE  
&  
EVANGELISM

## Parish Advent Event

*Sunday, 10 December at 11:15am in Hadley Hall*



Join us for Parish fellowship that includes coffee, hot chocolate with marshmallows, donuts, and card making. Materials will be available to create Christmas cards to send to those members who can't be with us at Christmastime.

This is an opportunity to gather, connect, relax, and savor a nibble or beverage.



**Memorial Donations for** Christmas Flowers and Music



If you would like to donate to the Christmas flowers and greens decorating the Church, and to the music during our services, please complete the form that is available in the Parish Office or at the back of the Church. Donations can be made in memory of loved ones or in gratitude for blessings received.

Please make checks payable to the Parish of the Epiphany and write Christmas flowers/music in the memo line. Return your form and your donation to the office before Monday, 18 December, so that your memorial can be included in the Christmas bulletins.



## ***Neighbor to Neighbor Update***



With 221 pledges for \$677,000 in, we are well on our way to our goal of 275 pledges for \$860,000. But we want to be sure every pledge is counted before the budget is finalized later this month.

We would be grateful if you would review your pledge packet and complete your pledge form. Annual commitments support everything we do at Epiphany and allow us to budget carefully annual expenses such as salaries, building maintenance, pastoral care, formation, and local and global outreach. In addition, we are hopeful that 2018 pledge receipts will enable us to enhance our outreach to the growing number of those among us in need of pastoral care, and increase our communications capabilities to parishioners both current and new. We hope you will consider a 4% increase in your pledge in support of these growing ministries.

If you need another pledge packet, please contact the [Parish Office](#) at 781.729.1922. You can also download a pledge packet here or pledge directly online by [clicking here](#). The Stewardship Committee thanks you and wishes you a peaceful and Holy Advent.



## Epiphany Elders Group

*Sunday, 10 December at 12:15 in the Suter Room. [Note change from Dec. 17.]*

Join us for Advent eggnog or cider and enjoy completing a survey on attitudes toward aging. Do you, for example, avoid old people because they are cranky? We've been laughing—we hope you will too. All are welcome. Questions, contact [Cindy Neels](#) or [Jane Sherwin](#).



## Epiphany Women's Spirituality Group

*Wednesday, 6 December at 12:30pm in the Sproat Room*



The women's group meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 12:30 to 2:00pm in the Sproat Room at Epiphany. Everyone brings luncheon nibbles to share. Some months we read and discuss, and some months we creatively exercise the right side of our brain. On December 6th, we will continue inventing our personal mandalas. It is not too late to start yours. If you haven't come before, come now. We welcome you.



## Have You Heard

Congratulations to Fran Elliott on the birth of her first great-grandchild, Henry John Elliott. Henry is the son of Fran's grandson LTJG Matthew Elliott and his wife Jessye, who live in Seattle, WA.



## Sanctuary in the City

*Sanctuary In The City* is a group of Parishioners who work in the Boston/Cambridge area who get together the first Wednesday of each month for lunch, prayer, and fellowship. For those who work in the city and are interested in this "sanctuary in the city" and want to learn more, please contact [James Wagner](#) or [Solomon Owayda](#). The group's next meeting is December 6th.



## From Bethany House of Prayer

*181 Appleton Street in Arlington*

### **Keeping Watch: An Evening of Stillness and Prayer**

12 December from 7:00-8:30 pm

led by Bethany Colleagues: Christina Leano and Christi Humphrey

Each Advent we are invited to watch and wait for the coming of Christ. In these uncertain times, what does it take to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus? The evening will offer time for reflection, meditation, and conversation for those seeking to nourish awareness and exercise hope.

Registration required: [click here](#). Suggested donation: \$15 although any amount is welcome.

### **Contemplative Evening Eucharist**

Wednesday, 20 December at 7:00 pm in the Chapel of St. Anne.

Enter into the quiet stillness and beauty of the chapel. A service of readings, silence, chanting, prayer, and Eucharist.

### **Contemplative Prayer: a circle of encouragement for the practice of prayer**

Thursday Mornings from 10:00-11:30 am in the Chapel of St. Anne.

Led by Bethany Facilitators, a morning of prayer, silence, and reflection for those seeking to attend in heart and action to the present moment. Newcomers always welcome.



## This Week at Epiphany

<b>Monday, 4 December</b>	
6:00pm & 7:30pm	AA
<b>Tuesday, 5 December</b>	
7:15am	Men's Group
6:00pm	Pray the Parish Prayer List
7:00pm	Prayer Team Meeting
<b>Wednesday, 6 December</b>	
7:30am	Holy Eucharist in the Chapel
12:30pm	Women's Spirituality Group
7:00pm	Service of Remembrance
7:30pm	Property Committee
7:30pm	Finance Committee
<b>Thursday, 7 December</b>	
9:00am	Contemplative Prayer
9:30am	Thursday with the Gospels: Bible Study
5:30pm	Junior Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
<b>Friday, 8 December</b>	
9:30am	Parent/Child Playgroup Group

<b>Saturday, 9 December</b>	
9:00am	Advent Quiet Day
6:00pm	Parents' Night Out
<b>Sunday, 10 December</b>	
8:00am	Holy Eucharist
8:45am	Fellowship
9:00am	The Word Today Lectionary Discussion
9:45am	Children's Formation
10:00am	Holy Eucharist
11:15am	Adult Formation
11:15am	Children's Pageant Rehearsal
11:30am	Genesis Youth Group
6:00pm	YPF Youth Group

### For more information

Our website can be [found here](#)

Information on our [Worship Services](#) can be found here

If you are [new to Epiphany](#), click here

Our complete [Parish calendar](#) can be found here

Sign-up for [on line pledge payments](#) here

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