



## THE THREE CROWNS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISH OF THE EPIPHANY

December 25, 2017

70 Church Street  
Winchester, Massachusetts  
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**Now may the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and Peace**

*Romans 15:13*

**Sharing with you the Glory, the Wonder, and the Miracle  
of this Holy Season.**



### Raising Our Standards



The moment I mention the true meaning of Christmas to our youth, their eyes roll. The fact is, they've heard it all before. The story of consumerism vs. the Christian spirit is an easy debate to have because it's a tale everyone who's watched any Christmas movie ever knows. See?! You're already picturing the uncaring, greedy, miserly (most often) man at the beginning of the story who goes on a remarkable journey and at the end understands the "true meaning of Christmas."

He understands the importance of choosing to sacrifice something instead of holding onto it, choosing kindness over indifference, etc.

But the fact is, this is an easy debate to wage. No grey hairs have been dealt to heads pondering the better decision between good vs. bad. And if anything, we as a community have moved past this level of reasoning.

This is the reasoning we don when we defend our silence around misdeeds by pointing out we never stood with the deed. This is the reasoning through which we remain indifferent to the plight of those suffering while claiming we did nothing to cause it.

Good vs. bad is an easy distinction to claim, but it is also a lazy one. If we are to embrace the true Christmas spirit and stand in union with what we believe is best, leaving what's good behind, that may very well be what Jesus had in mind.

So this Christmas let's look at the different situations in our lives, seeing what good decisions we can make and raising our standards. Let's roll up our sleeves and make not just the right decision but the best decision.

It's the day of the birth of our Savior and he demands this of us.



WORSHIP  
&  
MUSIC

## Christmas Service Schedule

Reminder for First Sunday after Christmas Day, 31 December, there is only one service at 10:00am. There is not a an 8:00am service on this day. Childcare will be available.

The Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated on Sunday, 7 January at 8:00am and 10:00am. Holy Baptism will be included in the 10:00am service followed by fellowship in Hadley Hall.



PARISH LIFE  
&  
EVANGELISM

## Women's Spirituality Group



The Women's Spirituality group will meet Wednesday, January 3rd. We will savor Psalms in Nan C. Merrill's *Psalms for Praying: An invitation to Wholeness*. Along with something edible to share, women should bring copies of their favorite psalms to compare and contrast with Merrill's beautifully imagined renditions.



FAITH  
FORMATION

## Epiphany Minicourses

### **Adult Formation Minicourses for the season of Epiphany.**

Classes meet for four weeks and you are invited to attend a different class each week or select a topic of interest to you and stay with it for the session. More detailed descriptions of each class will follow in the coming weeks.

*Class dates are:*

Sundays at 11:15am; 14 January, 21 January, 4 February, and 11 February

*Classes are*

1. *The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus*, facilitated by Gabrielle Stott

Discover what the Bible and tradition tell us about the men who broke bread with Christ. What were the personalities and motivations of the men who took up the cross and followed Him?

2. *From the Back Bay to the Suburbs: A Christ-centered Spirituality for Right Now*, facilitated by Thomas Brown

This survey course will review the history of American Anglicanism that led to what is known as Broad Church spirituality. We will look briefly at its English roots, and delve deeply into the writings of its American successors, including Theodore Parker Ferris and John Suter (first rector of the Parish of the Epiphany). Each session will incorporate interactive exercises designed to give participants practical tools to equip them for their daily life with Christ.

3. *Salem 1692: Challenges for Discipleship*, facilitated by Michael Chesson

The tiny community of Salem Village long struggled with problems unusual for a Puritan community, most of which were bound in a sacred covenant. It was fertile ground for evil, which challenged the Village's first four ministers, each of whom failed to achieve unity and love. This mini-course will focus on the Salem witchcraft crisis and what it might teach us about the perils of leadership, the pain of Christian witness, and the promise of salvation.

4. *Abraham and a Life of Faith*, facilitated by John Jenke

This minicourse will test our understanding of faith by evaluating three episodes in the life of the Biblical patriarch Abraham, acclaimed by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as the father of monotheism. Beginning with a look at God's "Call" to Abraham, the course will proceed to consider Abraham's haggling with God over the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah and then assess the implications of Abraham's binding of his son Isaac (the Akedah). How do these three events inform our views of faith today?

Readings from Genesis 11 – 22 as well as chapters from Bruce Feiler's short book *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* will inform in-class discussion. Copies of Feiler's book will be available at the beginning of the first class.

5. *Bringing God Home, Simple spiritual Practices for Families* facilitated by Thea Keith-Lucas

How can your family spend more time with God? In this course designed for kids and adults to attend together, we'll explore who God is, what the Bible means, how to pray for other people, and how to live a Christian life. Each week will introduce an accessible, engaging activity that is easy to do at home.





## Cluster Accompaniment Training

Wednesday, 10 January from 7:00-9:00pm at First Parish Church in Concord

The training is sponsored by the Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugees Advocacy Network. Please contact [Roz Nazzaro](#) for more information.



## This Week at Epiphany

<b>Monday, 25 December</b>	
10:00am	Holy Eucharist
6:00pm & 7:30pm	AA
<b>Tuesday, 26 December</b>	<i>Parish Office is Closed 25 December through 1 January</i>
7:15am	Men's Group
6:00pm	Pray the Parish Prayer List
<b>Sunday, 31 December</b>	
10:00am	Holy Eucharist

### 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