



The Parish of the Epiphany

Family Newsletter: Fall Signups are Live! **September 6 2020** **The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**



Dear friends,

Happy Labor Day weekend!

As the historian in me was thinking about the history and meaning behind this holiday, I was struck anew by its emphasis on the importance of both work and rest. Work is valuable, and rest is equally so.

This holiday also brings home how very much parents need rest, and how very little we're likely to get in the new school year unless we recognize our own needs, prioritize rest, and (maybe hardest) *allow* it. Resting. Sitting. Praying. *These are not luxuries*. I pray we will all stop for things more important than our constant labors.

As we gear up for our new ministry year at Parish of the Epiphany, please take a few minutes to read about our children's and youth offerings, and to quickly sign-up your children.

Finally, I will be on vacation Sept 7-14 and not checking email during that time (speaking of rest!). Please call the church office or email our wonderful [Sarah Twiss](#) if you need help with signups or have any questions.

Peace and love,

Bryn



Children and Youth 2020-2021

Loving, Connecting, Healing

Loving God, ourselves, and neighbors near and far

Connecting deeply with God and our communities

Healing people, injustice, and the earth

Epiphany Youth in Community (EYC)

[Click Here](#) to sign up your 6th-12th grader for our EYC Youth Ministry program.

This year's Youth Ministry programming has four key components:

- Short (two-month long) courses for 6th-12th graders on the topics of "Dismantling Racism," "Compassion: World Poverty," and "Wild Faith: Creation Care." In these classes we'll learn more about God, God's Kingdom, and the beloved people of this world, and also about what we can do to love and serve both God and our neighbors.
- Weekly Check-In Time (CIT), a short zoom on Wednesday evenings from 8:00-8:20pm. Youth leaders will be there to chat, and we'll end each gathering with a very brief meditation and blessing. We will pilot this during the month of October.

- Zoom-based social time, where we play games and just have fun. Look for our Virtual Escape Room coming this fall.
- Faith-at-Home Youth Edition off-screen boxes full of things to support youths' spiritual journeys and faith at home.

We invite all youth in grades six through twelve to take part in these many new offerings.

Signing up does not commit you to all or any specific part of the youth program. These online and off-screen components are intended to help families find what works best for them. Each piece can stand independently.



Love First Faith at Home: Our '20-21 Children's Ministry

[Click Here](#) to sign-up your pre-K through 6th grade children.

Sign-ups are especially important this year so we can get you the Faith-at-Home box and classroom website access. Signing up does not commit you to anything.

This month we jump excitedly into *Love First*, an approach to children's faith formation that focuses on the great love God has for us, how very lovable we all are, and our own great capacity to love and serve others.

Our new children's program has three key pieces:

- A Faith-at-Home box full of easy-to-follow family lesson guides, activities, everything-you-need crafts, and other surprises. These boxes will be delivered to your doorstep in the days leading up to Rally Day (Sept 20).
- Zoom Meetings on Sunday mornings where children can see and talk to their teachers and friends. We'll grow our friendships, share ideas, hear stories, and do activities together. We begin September 27 at 9:30am.
- An online classroom page where we gather resources (like our schedule, announcements, and zoom links) as well as videos of your teachers reading stories, "Dive Deeper" bible studies, and other resources that you can use anytime.

These online synchronous, online asynchronous, and off-screen components are intended to help families find what works best for them. Each piece can stand independently, or take part in all three components. Please join us!



FAQ

When will the Off-Screen Faith-at-Home boxes arrive?

Children's boxes will be delivered sometime the week of September 14, but most likely Friday the 18th and Saturday the 19th. Youth boxes will be delivered the following week.

Are you hand delivering all those boxes? Do you need help?

Yes and yes! Bryn will be asking for volunteer delivery people next week. Deliveries will be NO CONTACT, both for those picking up boxes from a table outside the church to leave on people's doorsteps, and for those receiving the boxes.

Should I sign my 6th grader up for the Children's Ministry or the Epiphany Youth in Community program?

This overlap is intentional and allows families to choose the best place for their child this year. Maybe you have younger children and would like your family to participate in Children's Faith at Home together. Maybe you feel it's a little soon to include your 6th grader in a group with older youth, which will tackle big issues in-depth in the coming year. If so, he or she is very much welcome to continue in the Children's Program. 6th graders are also welcome to try both and see which is most comfortable for them, or to pick and choose the pieces that best suit them. If you'd like to chat about the options, please email [Bryn](#).



Parents In Community: Coming this Fall

Parents, you need love, support, hope, and connection just as much as your children do. This fall parents are invited to join with Bryn and My Linh for a series of low-key Zoom get-togethers. During these short (less than one hour) gatherings, we'll encourage one another while we share the joys and

difficulties of parenting during the pandemic. Please join with us as we raise faithful families in community.

Dates and times are TBD based on the availability of those interested in joining. Please email Bryn to let us know that you'd like to be part of this new group. This invitation is for all parents of babies, children and youth. We would love for you to join us.



In the Parish

Every Monday Parish of the Epiphany sends out a parish-wide newsletter, called *The Three Crowns*. You can find issues [here](#).

Join us for Noonday Prayer, a short and lovely service from the Book of Common Prayer, on Tuesdays at noon. Join us via zoom [here](#).

There is a Bible Study for grown-ups (and teens) at 9am each Sunday via Zoom. Click [here](#) to join.



Summer Blessing

Beach Days. Thank you Rutman Family!



A Welcoming Episcopal Community

70 Church Street, Winchester, MA 01890

781-729-1922

[Unsubscribe](#)