



The Parish of the Epiphany

Family Newsletter **September 13 2020** **The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**



May we pray together for the start of school.

God of grace, bless our first days of school.

Lord, comfort us when we grieve for the schools we used to have. Help us feel the joy in a new kind of "first day."

Jesus, fill our loneliness when we can't hug, or play, or see each other's smiles as we did last year. Help us all to feel connection through our screens. Help us to make new friends in new ways.

Please protect our children and teachers. Grant us a peace that transcends understanding.

Holy Spirit, please give our children patience. Sooth any discomfort, anger, or fear. Help draw all our hearts toward gratitude and fill us with joy and hope.

Please grant parents patience and rest. Help parents to feel joy in our children and in teaching them.

May we sing Your praises, see Your light, and find joy in every day. Amen

Would you like to share your children's first day of school pictures with our community? We would love to share this year's "first day" photos in the newsletter and in our YouTube Worship and Zoom Rally Day events. If so, please email a photo or two to [Bryn](#) (seen here on her first day of preschool).



We Need Volunteers to Deliver Boxes

We are looking for several volunteers to help deliver Faith-at-Home boxes to our Sunday School children on Sept 18 & 19. These boxes are the "off-screen" component to our Children's Ministry for September-January. It's a big job, and we need many hands to make light work.

We're doing these drop-offs with "no contact" -- you can pick up the boxes and a short list of addresses from a table in Epiphany's breezeway (Bryn will be there to answer questions). We'll be dropping off the boxes on our families' doorsteps.

You can choose your location: Winchester, Arlington, Wakefield/N.Reading, or Bedford/Lexington.

Please [Click Here](#) to help with these deliveries. Thank you!



Children and Youth Programming Begins Soon: Have you signed up?

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

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

Why are sign-ups important this year?

Most years, parishioners and visitors are able to "drop in" to our children and youth ministries. This year you'll need zoom links, website access (which is password projected), and a Faith-at-Home Off-Screen box. Despite these new steps, we want to be as accessible as possible. *Please help us make sure you have access to these options and resources by clicking the Children or Youth link.* Signups take under two minutes and are super simple.

Even if you think you'll only drop in occasionally, or even if you're not sure you'll really use a "faith-at-home" box, please sign up so that we make these resources available to you. There is no commitment. There is no expectation. Whether you were a Sunday School or Genesis regular, more of a once-in-awhile participant, or are new to these ministries, you are welcome and wanted.

For details on our Children's Ministry and Youth Programs, please see the [Family Newsletters](#) from September 6 and August 30.



FAQ

When will the Youth mini-courses be held?

Dates and times are TBD. We are still figuring out the availability of guest speakers and teachers, and then we will poll those who have signed up to figure out what works for the most people. The two most likely times are Sundays after church (11:15) or Sunday evenings.

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.

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.



A Welcoming Episcopal Community

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