

THE STAR

SEPTEMBER 2023



Church of the epiphany

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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

* * *

Parish Office

247-4190

Tue.–Fri.

8:30am–12:30pm

* * *

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 A.M. HE

10:00 A.M. HE

STAR Deadlines

For October- September 19

For November- October 17

BULLETIN PRAYER LIST

Parish Office 247-4190

*Prayer requests remain for
6 weeks unless notified*

VESTRY VIEWS

I recently celebrated my 83rd birthday and thanked the Lord for all my blessings. One blessing stands out above others; In 1970 my husband accepted a position with Eastman Kodak, and we were going to move from Massachusetts to Rochester, New York. The transition went very smoothly, and we settled in Chili. The next few weeks we attended area Episcopal churches. After visiting three Episcopal churches we held a family meeting and chose the church we would attend and share our time, talent, and financial support. Epiphany was our choice. It has been fifty-three years; our spiritual journey at Epiphany continues through worship and fellowship.

Helen Bennett



THE PROVISIONAL BISHOP

The Rt. Rev'd Stephen Lane

THE MINISTERS

The Congregation

THE VESTRY

Jack Merrick, Warden	Helen Bennett	Lisa Steubing
Don Metzinger, Warden	Kim Hyde	Mike Grasso
Deb Grasso, Treasurer	Kathie Entress	Nick Parisi
Pat Leshner, Clerk	Kristen Smith	Susan Gaskill
		Donna Perry

THE STAFF

Rector: Rev. Gregory Kremer	Organist: Gail Hyde
Parish Secretary: Maureen Durie	Church School Coordinator: Don Metzinger

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace; strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

September 1 Birdie Ames Marsha Pulhamus	September 6 Emily Klinzing	September 19 Judith Longhouse
September 2 Amanda Steubing	September 9 Mike Parisi	September 20 Emily Van Scooter
September 4 Ann Pillman Jack Phillips Mark D'Anunzio	September 14 Meg Smith	September 22 Jim VanBrederode
	September 15 Mike Grasso	September 24 Doug Craig Jodi Strong
	September 17 Rachel Steubing Ryan Steubing	September 26 Dotty Stotts
	September 18 Camaria Long	September 30 Cyn Parisi

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church. Send your blessing upon these your servants that they may so love, honor and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and godliness, that their homes may be havens of blessing and peace. Amen.

September 3 Mike & Jody Parisi	September 15 Mike & Deb Grasso
September 8 Bill & Pat Leshner	September 16 Jim & Laurie Zaso
September 9 Bill & Marian Chapman	September 26 Pat & Heidi McGrath
	September 28 Joe & Barb Woo

CHANGES & ADDITIONS

If you have changes to your contact information, please notify Maureen Durie in the Parish Office: 247-4190 or coeoffice@frontier.com. Office hours: Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm



Dear Epiphany parishioners,

I am very happy and feel blessed to have been called to serve here at the Church of the Epiphany. From the very first interview, I had a strong feeling of welcome, like I was coming home.

In this first star article, I thought I would share a little bit about me.

My wife, Kate, and I have been married now for 37 years and we have three adult children in their late 20s. Kate is a Labor Attorney and works for a firm in Seattle, WA. I have worked for the church for about 40 years. I am a late vocation and was called to the priesthood and ordained about three years ago.

I know as clergy there's a certain amount of respect and authority given to me when I comes to running the church, but I believe that this is fundamentally your church, and it will take some time for it to become mine as well. As a pastor, I have a good sense of the Holy Spirit and a strong desire to follow where the Spirit leads. I come to you with few preconceived notions as to how things should be here at Epiphany. My initial goal is to get to know you, and learn your ways.

A few years back, in a previous job, I took one of those personality tests designed to articulate my key strengths, and here are the top five strengths out of which I operate most of the time.

First, Connectedness is the strength of seeing the fundamental unity in all things. For me, there are no coincidences, there's meaning in those experiences. That's one of the ways I believe God communicates with us and directs our lives. I believe we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, because we are all connected. I also believe we are not just living on the earth, but we are part of the earths body, literally earth – lings. What we do to the earth we do to ourselves. Empathy is my second strength. I generally read people quite well, and my heart goes out to all who are hurting or troubled.

My third strength is Communication. I have the ability to express Myself well and to communicate complicated ideas in ways that people can understand.

Adaptability would be my fourth strength. I'm pretty good in emergencies, able to respond to the immediacy of the situation. Being adaptable, I'm able to shift gears readily, and, when called for, change directions entirely. Because of this strength I tend to be practical. I value and appreciate past experiences and traditions, but I don't cling to them.

My last strength is Responsibility. I appreciate closure. I believe if the job is worth doing, it's worth doing well. And if I say I'm going to do something, I will do my best to make it happen.

That's a little bit about me. I look forward to getting to know each of you in the weeks and months ahead. To this end, I would appreciate an invitation from each of you to dinner or coffee.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr Greg



Vestry Highlights

AUGUST 15, 2023

PRESENT: Don Metzinger, Jack Merrick, Susan Gaskill, Lisa Steubing, Donna Perry, Kim Hyde, Helen Bennett, Kristen Smith, Nick Parisi, Mike Grasso, Treasurer Deb Grasso and “fill in clerk” Kathie Entress.

ABSENT: Pat Leshner

OPENING PRAYER: The Tuesday, August 15, 2023 meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Nick opened with a prayer.

BUSINESS:

Approve June 20, 2023 Vestry Minutes with one change. It was noted that during Covid there were no funerals, this is accurate, and however it was because the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester did not allow funerals during that time not because we were unwilling to hold funerals.

Finance Report and motion to approve. Deb reported that pledges are down but it is because it is summer. Extra donations have been coming in. Utilities cost are down for the summer. She has been entering expenses under the category of “Repairs” instead of “Maintenance” as before because the expenses are truly repair expenses. For the 2024 budget we should budget for repairs.

Nick and Deb have gone through the old files and with the help of Marsha Pulhamus the old records have been securely shredded at the Town of Ogden and at Eco Park. There is now more storage space.

Safe Church Training. Donna, Kim and Helen have completed the required classes. Several people reported that they did not get the email with the sign in information. Kathie will try to get the information out this week so people can complete the training. Internet update/Spectrum. Mike reports that we are waiting for the proper permits. He will let us know when he hears something definitive.

Discussion Items:

1. Mom’s Ministries. The office received an email from this organization looking for space donated or to rent. We wait hold on that decision until Father Greg arrives.
2. Update Plaques. Jack, Deb and Birdie are checking dates; they know who the Wardens are. This is an ongoing project.
3. Delegates to Convention. We are trying to figure out how the diocese is notified of who our delegate, Emily C., is.
4. Karen Marr Scholarship. Amy Marr and her brother will look at the information about the scholarship and possibly make some adjustments to the rules so that more people could benefit from the scholarship.
5. Vestry Views for November. A vestry member is needed to write the views for November. Lisa volunteered.
6. Tom Cleveland/Bill Wynchell Golf Tournament. The tournament, held for the last 16 years, had 77 people for dinner and 51 golfers, a great turn out! Nick thanked Carol Haase for her donation of \$100.00 towards prizes. Also Nick thanked Dave Ploetner, Bob Renehan and Jack for helping with the organizing. 2024 information will be available when decided upon.

8:33pm meeting adjourned with a prayer from Nick.

Next meeting is September 19, 2023 at 7pm.

Prayers: Lisa

Vestry Views: Helen

Respectfully Submitted, Kathie Entress for Pat Leshner

Service Ministry September Update

The Service Ministry Team would like to thank the parishioners of Epiphany for their generous donation of school supplies to Hope Hall School. The staff of Hope Hall expressed their appreciation of all the supplies that were dropped off and the students will benefit with these supplies as they begin their next school year.

Our next Service Ministry project will be an underwear and sock drive for Cameron Ministries. The collection will be from **September 17th- October 1st**. Cameron Ministries is an Urban Outreach Community Center in the Lyell-Otis neighborhood of Rochester which delivers basic needs and emergency services to families and individual in this area. More details will be forthcoming in the bulletins in September.

Save the date for a fall Potluck dinner on **Saturday, October 14th at 5pm**. Free-will monetary donations will go to Foster Hope, NY, Inc. For the past 20 years, “Fostering Hope” has provided every child entering Foster Care with a backpack packed with age appropriate toiletries, stuffed animal, book, note book or coloring book and writing utensils. These supplies are needed since often the children are removed from their home with only the clothes on their backs. Please join us on the evening of October 15th for a wonderful social gathering, delicious food and to help the children entering Foster Care.

The Service Ministry Team is very grateful for the support of the parishioners of Epiphany as we help others in need. Please feel free to stop any members of the Service Team if you have any suggestions for future projects or would like to join our team.

Marsha Pulhamus, Birdie Ames, Nancy Mancini and Donna Perry

July 2023 Financial Summary

Income	July YTD	2023 Budget YTD
Pledge & Plate	\$62,954.89	\$65,333.33
Investment Income	12,000.00	14,000.00
Diocesan Grant	-	-
Flowers	945.00	1,108.33
Special Offerings	1,529.00	1,400.00
Building Use	-	29.17
Other	2,146.01	2,391.67
Total Income	\$79,574.90	\$84,262.50
Expenses		
Worship	8,951.13	5,664.17
Formation	409.71	554.17
Diocesan Apportionment	12,207.56	12,257.58
Stewardship	5,379.13	5,425.00
Other Action	-	587.50
Youth	-	-
Evangelism	576.19	714.58
Oversight	18,156.40	19,471.23
Salaries & Benefits	13,563.91	49,379.17
Total Expenses	\$59,244.03	\$94,053.39
Surplus/(Deficit)	20,331	(9,791)

Submitted by Deb Grasso, Treasurer



Annual Giving/Stewardship

The Stewardship theme for this year is, “Be the seed that will help our parish grow” and using the sunflower as a symbol of unwavering hope, strength, and lasting happiness.

The program will start on September 10 and conclude on Commitment Sunday on October 1.

During the 4 weeks we invite you to reflect on the following questions and share your thoughts on the poster in the hallway.

- What is important to you about Epiphany?
- How can you be the seed to help Epiphany Grow?
- How are you committing yourself to Epiphany?

Commitment Sunday

There will be **ONE** Service on Sunday October 1st at **9:30** followed by a parish brunch. We hope to see you there as we come together in thanksgiving for the blessings both ourselves and Epiphany have received.



SUMMER COFFEE HOUR

Thank you to those who provided coffee & cool drinks during July & August. We are always appreciative to those who sign up to help. Thank you to: Kim Hyde, Cat Engert, Marsha Pulhamus, Metzinger family, Evie Gargan, Barb D’Anunzio & family, Nancy Mancini, Linda & Pete Bonneau & Donna Perry.

SUNDAY ACOLYTES NEEDED

We are in need of acolytes for our 10am services. Anyone who would like to volunteer, young or old to help out and be a part of this vital ministry, please contact Pam Metzinger or Adam Metzinger. We will be holding a training/refresher for acolytes in the near future. Please consider this! Thank you.

WEDNESDAY CAFE ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

There will be a Wednesday Cafe on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 7pm, the topics will be Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia and Effective Communication Strategies. Epiphany's own Deb Grasso will be presenting. She will be able to offer resources to help and answer any questions you might have. If you have any questions please see Deb Grasso or Kathie Entress

FINAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee is pleased to introduce our new rector who will be starting at Epiphany on September 1st. His name is Rev. Gregory Kremer and is currently the rector at St. George's Church in Hilton, New York. Fr. Greg started at St George's in 2019 as a Lay Pastoral Leader. He became an ordained priest in January 2021 after completing a degree in Anglican Studies at Colgate Rochester Crosier Divinity School. Fr. Greg also has extensive experience in Pastoral consulting, which included experience with youth ministry, prior to his ordination in the Episcopal Church.

Fr. Greg priorities as a rector are pastoral care, preaching that is relevant and concise, along with adult and youth formation. He has a history of commitment to youth ministry and feels that it is "critical for growth of the church". His leadership style is described as collaborative, an excellent facilitator and he wants to be involved with various committees but doesn't want to take over the team. Fr Greg enjoys involvement in the community and loves music and is currently in a band.

Fr. Greg is described by our committee and his references as a very genuine, empathic, mature, and energetic that is very pastoral with deep religious faith. He is very family oriented and connects well with youth and "loves people". His initial plans are to get know Epiphany and "build relationships".

Please join us on Sunday, September 3rd at either the 8 or 10 am service to welcome Rev. Kremer to Epiphany. Please stop by at the coffee hours either before the 8am or after the 10 am services to introduce yourself to our new rector.

The Search Committee- Marsha Pulhamus, Birdie Ames, Kat Englert, Sue Greenauer, Cassie Magiera, Tome Seils, Emily VanScooter and Laurie Zaso.



St. Francis Sunday

On Sunday, September 24th we will celebrate the feast of St. Francis to honor all God's creatures and creation. Children (and adults) are invited to bring their favorite stuffed animals to get a blessing during the service, and to be part of the procession at the 10am service either dressed as a favorite creature or with their stuffed animal.

Some Background:

The Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi occurs on October 4th. He is considered the patron saint of animals because he loved all of God's creatures, and allegedly, even preached to the birds. At Epiphany, we will celebrate his life and love for the natural world by including animals in our procession on Sunday, September 24th. How?

Kids (of any age) are invited to wear an animal costume in our procession that Sunday. We have a variety of animal headpieces and small animal figures from Noah's Ark on hand for families that would like to use them.

We will have children and/or adults join the procession, in costume or not; with 1 of their favorite stuffed animals to bring up to place in front of the altar for a blessing. The blessing of 1 favorite stuffed animal will occur at both the 8:00am and 10:00am church services.

To go along with that, on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5th at 6:00pm**, Father Greg will be blessing our beloved animals at church outside on the front lawn.
Come and join the FUN!!

CHURCH SCHOOL KICK-OFF

Sunday, September 10

Church School will begin their new year on Sunday, Sept 10.

Church School Registration forms & photo release forms are found at the end of this STAR. Please fill out one registration per child; additional forms are on the table in the main hallway. Completed forms can go into Don Metzinger's mailbox or mail to the church office.

As a special activity, at the end of both services on Sept 10, we will be Blessing backpacks for school, daycare, homecare, dance, etc. So come with you backpacks & start your new school year on the right track! Any questions please see Don or Pam Metzinger.



Church School Schedule

(classes begin at: 9:45am)

Sunday, September 3.....No Church School
Sunday, September 10.....Church School
Sunday, September 17.....Church School
Sunday, September 24.....Church School

Sunday, October 1.....No Church School
Sunday, October 8Church School
Sunday, October 15.....Church School
Sunday, October 22.....Church School
Sunday, October 29.....No Church School

MOE UPDATE

Please come join us for breakfast at Jonny D's at 8:30 September 20th in Spencerport.

Widows Group

Please mark your calendar for our next lunch Wednesday, September 27th @ 11:00 am.

REDWINGS CONCESSIONS

We have one more Redwings game to man in September. The summer has been going great for this fundraiser. Totals for 2023 and thank you's will be in the October Star. Comments.....See Don Metzinger.

2023-2024 Church of the Epiphany

CHILDREN & YOUTH PHOTO RELEASE FORM

The undersigned parent or legal guardian of _____, a minor child, does hereby grant permission for said child’s pictures to be taken at Children, J2A and Youth Group and/or Church of the Epiphany sponsored events on or outside of church property, which can be used on the church website (www.epiphany-gatesny.org), social media accounts, and promotional materials.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Parent or Legal Guardian

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____



2023-2024 Church of the Epiphany

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Dated this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Parent or Legal Guardian

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

The Church of the Epiphany
Church School/J2A Registration Form 2023-2024

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Baptized: Yes No

Confirmed: Yes No

Special needs/Allergies/Other Concerns: _____

Is it permissible for your child to receive communion with her/his Church School class?

Yes No

I have signed the Children & Youth Photo Release Form:

Yes No

Does your child play a musical instrument?

Yes No

If so, what instrument? _____

For Office & J2A use only:

Parent's email address _____

Student's email address _____

Spruce up day

Our next spruce up Day Scheduled for **Saturday, September 9th at 9 am.** We will be cleaning the classrooms, nursery & whatever else needs it. Many hands make light work. Questions..... See Pam Metzinger or any Property Committee member

WOE

September Potluck Dinner – Thursday, Sept. 14th. 6:30pm – wine & cheese 7:00pm – Dinner. Please bring a dish to pass. Signup sheet is up and any questions.....see Pam Metzinger.

Call for Nominations

Yes, it is the time of year to prayerfully consider serving Epiphany on the Vestry, as a Warden, or as a Diocesan Convention Delegate. How does one get nominated for an office or nominate a friend or acquaintance for an office?

Two of the objectives of the Nominating Policy are:

- (1) To identify candidates whose unique strengths and gifts are most needed by the parish at a particular point in its life.
- (2) To provide sufficient time to check and ensure that potential nominees meet canonical and Epiphany's qualifications for the office for which they are nominated. If not, the policy provides time for them to meet the qualifications.

As you consider who to nominate, please think first of people whose unique strengths and gifts are most needed by the parish at this time. Then, please remember that all people nominated must meet the qualifications to vote at parish meetings, and eligibility requirements for the office for which they are nominated.

Qualifications to Vote at Parish Meetings

All of the following:

- 18 years old or older.
- Belong to the parish (baptized, confirmed, received or transferred in from an Episcopal Church, as recorded in the parish records).
- Regularly attend the parish's worship.
- Contribute to the parish's financial support for at least the 12 months preceding the Annual Meeting or a special parish meeting.

Eligibility for Offices

- Delegate to Diocesan Convention: Be a Qualified Voter, and on parish rolls for past 12 months.
- Vestry: the above and pledger and giver of record.
- Warden: all of the above plus a confirmed Communicant of the Episcopal Church with at least 3 years' experience, 2 years of which are on Epiphany's Vestry with at least 1 additional year on a Vestry.

If you have questions about the nominations process or are considering being nominated, please contact a member of the Vestry. Many perspectives bring vitality to our parish.

In Christ,
Margaret Schweizer

SAVE THE DATES !!

SATURDAY, October 28, 2023 Halloween / Trunk or Treat Party

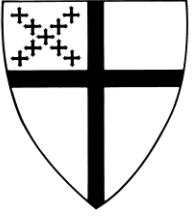
This will be a parish-wide Fellowship event. Come and have fun. Bring a hot or cold hor'dorves or a dessert to pass. There will be games for the kids & of course, trunk or treating in the church parking lot and lots of socializing. Costumes are optional. More information as we get closer, plus a signup sheet will be posted.

Trip to The Windmill – Saturday, October 21st

All are welcome!!! Family, Friends and kids for a trip to the WINDMILL FARM and CRAFT MARKET!
www.thewindmill.com **Saturday, October 21st**, leaving the Epiphany parking lot at 9:00am (carpools meet at 8:45 am), returning about 3:00pm (or whenever your carpool feels like heading back). The cost is “everything is on your own” (plus please help out your driver with gas money!) Sign-up sheets will be posted in the hall for anyone who wishes to drive or would like to ride. If your carpool is so inclined, add an optional stop at Oak Hill Bulk Foods, oakhillbulkfoods.com It’s about 3 miles north of the Windmill and you will pass it to/from the Windmill. Questions? Contact Nancy Mancini or Cassie Magiera.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Red Wing Concession	2
3	4	5	6	7 Finance Meeting 7:pm	8	9 Spruce Up day 9AM
10 Stewardship Sunday Church School Kick-off. Blessing of the Backpacks Annual Giving wk 1	11	12	13	14 WOE Pot Luck Dinner 6:30 Wine & Cheese 7:00 Dinner	15 Red Wing Last Concession of the season	16
17 8:00am HE 10:00am HE Church School Annual Giving wk 2	18	19 7:00pm Vestry	20 Moe breakfast 8 AM Wednesday Café 7 PM Alzheimer’s & Dementia	21	22	23
24 St. Francis Day Service 8:00am HE 10:00am HE Church School Annual Giving wk 3	25	26	27 Widows Lunch 11 AM	28	29	30



CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
3285 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, NY 14624-2413
O: 585-247-4190 F: 585-247-0631
coeoffice@frontier.com
www.epiphany-gatesny.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



[We are on Facebook & Instagram at:](#)
www.instagram.com/epiphanygatesny
www.facebook.com/Church-of-The-Epiphany-113892385309226

EPIPHANY HIGHLIGHTS

Redwings... Sept 15th
Blessing of Backpacks... Sept. 10th
St. Francis Day Service...Sept. 24th