

THE STAR

NOVEMBER 2023



Church of the epiphany

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...and more!

OCTOBER CALENDAR

* * *

Parish Office

247-4190

Tue.–Fri.

8:30am–12:30pm

* * *

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 A.M. HE

10:00 A.M. HE

BULLETIN PRAYER LIST

Parish Office 247-4190

*Prayer requests remain for
6 weeks unless notified*

VESTRY VIEWS

November is a time for me of reflection on how much to be thankful for in the past year. I am truly thankful for all of you, my church family. It never ceases to amaze me how everyone comes together for our church community and the greater community of Gates and Rochester. We all bring our gifts and talents forward to share with one another and it turns out to be beautiful. This past year we have become stronger and more united and because of that we now have a new Priest, Father Greg. The search committee did a fantastic job with their search and now we can look to the future with a peace of mind that Epiphany will continue to strive and be a place for all who would like to join us. Our door is always open to you and we are thankful to have you join us whether it be in person or online through our online streaming through Facebook Live.

~Kristen Smith

THE PROVISIONAL BISHOP

The Rt. Rev'd Stephen Lane

THE MINISTERS

The Congregation

THE VESTRY

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

THE STAFF

Rector: Father Greg Kremer	Organist: Gail Hyde
Parish Secretary: Maureen Durie	Church School Coordinator: Don Metzinger



FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

NOVEMBER 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.

Nov. 2 Karen Cunningham McKanna Morien	Nov. 12 Pat Leshner	Nov. 21 Jim McGrath
Nov. 3 Florence Townsend	Nov. 16 Bruce Pillman Gladys VanBrederode	Nov. 23 Donna Waterman
	Nov. 19 Carol Kohan Lisa Steubing	Nov. 24 Lisa Durkin
Nov. 6 Bill Chapman Betty Frisch	Nov. 20 Dakota VanBrederode	Nov. 25 Judy Ploettner
		Nov. 28 Kathie Entress

NOVEMBER 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.

November 20 Robert & Margaret Schweizer

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 COE family,

Let me start by saying a hearty thank you for the warm welcome I have received here at Epiphany. I very much appreciate the invitations to connect with you over coffee or dinner. Your comments after the Sunday services, even the somewhat challenging ones, tell me you take your faith seriously and are engaged.

I am impressed with your level of commitment to the church. Both in the degree to which you give of your time and talent as well as your gifts through the recent pledge campaign. I appreciate all of those who serve in the various Worship Leader roles, the Vestry, Building and Grounds Committee, Service Committee, Sunday School, the Altar Guild, as well as the WOE and MOE groups, and more. You're all a tremendous blessing to the church and the world.

In the two months since I've arrived, we have been able to provide for Sunday worship services and Sunday School for our children. We ran an effective stewardship campaign that looks like it might be one of the best we've had in recent years. We have had several adult formation events and meals together. We've provided a blessing of backpacks, a blessing of teachers, and a blessing of animals. We ran a successful Trunk or Treat celebration. Plans are in the works for celebrating All Saints Day, Advent and Christmas services.

As I have mentioned, I'm trying to take Fridays and Saturdays off when I can, which means I will generally be at church Sunday through Thursday. Please feel free to call and set up an appointment to meet if you'd like to talk.

In case of any emergency, please don't hesitate to call me on my cell phone at 585-662-8410.

It is good to be here with you.

May God bless and keep you,

Yours in Christ,

Fr Greg

ALL ARE INVITED

Father Greg will be providing the invocation and closing prayers for the Gates Town Veteran's Day festivities at the Town Hall on Friday November 10th at 10:30 am.





November Service Ministry Updates

The sock and underwear drive for Cameron Ministries was a big success. The picture included in this article shows the generosity of the parishioners at Epiphany for this service project. 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. The donations were delivered the first week of October and Cameron was very grateful for Epiphany's support of their urban ministry.



The fall Potluck dinner on Saturday, October 14th was very enjoyable. It was wonderful to have so many parishioner come for dinner. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and fellowship. The dinner also included a public thank you to the supply priests that attended the dinner who were so supportive to Epiphany during our transition period between rectors. The free-will monetary donations collected at the dinner totaled \$369 and was donated to Fostering Hope NY, Inc. The monies will be used to buy supplies for the backpacks given to children entering Foster Care. The backpacks are filled with age appropriate toiletries, stuffed animal, book, note book or coloring book and writing utensils. The Board of Fostering Hope NY, Inc. was very appreciative of the monetary donation.

The Christmas Holidays will be here in no time, and the Service Ministry holiday projects will be very familiar to you. We will be adopting a family from Family Promise of Greater Rochester for Christmas and will be supplying Christmas gifts for the family members. We also will be participating in the Christmas Bag Project which is coordinated by "A Meal & More, Inc. which is housed at Christ Church downtown. We will be again collecting donations of hot cocoa packets and individual packets of facial tissue for the guests that are served

by “A Meal & More, Inc.” More specifics regarding the timing of these projects will be put in the church bulletin in early November.

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 Ministry Team if you have any suggestions for future projects or would like to join our team. Our next Service Ministry meeting is Monday, November 13th at 6:30pm in the Auxiliary room at church and everyone is welcome.

Marsha Pulhamus, Birdie Ames, Nancy Mancini and Donna Perry

FAMILY PROMISE CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Once again, Epiphany will be sponsoring a Family Promise (formerly RAIHN) family this Christmas. Starting Sunday, November 12, a small tree will be in the back of the sanctuary, containing paper tag “ornaments” that contain wish list items for a local family of 4. If you’d like to help, please take a tag (or tags), purchase the gift, wrap it and ATTACH THE TAG TO THE GIFT! We have to keep track of which gifts come in, so if any gift does not have a tag, we have to unwrap it, see what it is and hopefully identify who it’s for, then re-wrap it. The tags will be replaced with family names by the folks at Family Promise. Please bring in all gifts NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3. Thank you once again for your generosity!

The Service Committee

Seniors may have the option to make their Epiphany pledge a tax-free donation.

IRA owners age 70 ½ or over are eligible to transfer up to \$100,000 to charities tax-free, each year, as what the IRS defines as a “**Qualified Charitable Distribution**” or QCD.

A QCD is a nontaxable distribution made directly by the trustee (the fund that holds the IRA) to an eligible organization, such as Epiphany!

Making a QCD to Epiphany can be of benefit by reducing your taxable income while supporting the Church. You don’t have to worry about meeting the standard deduction or itemizing deductions with a QCD.

Any IRA owner who wishes to make a QCD for 2023 should contact their IRA trustee soon so the trustee will have time to complete the transaction before the end of the year. For the distribution to be tax-free it must be paid directly from the IRA to an eligible charitable organization. You cannot withdraw the money and then write a check to the charity!

These are general rules. **Always talk to your tax and/or financial advisor before making any decisions on a QCD.**

Vestry Committee

Vestry Highlights

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

BUSINESS:

1. Approve August 15. 2023 Vestry Minutes. M-S-A
2. Finance Report and Motion to approve. Deb reported pledges are down but it’s August, expenses have been low. For a \$20,000 expense, all of our investment accounts had to be hit. Question, what growth is the Endowment Account, it’s 7%; we take an 8% draw. Question asked pertaining to Tithely, how many people use it? 6 to 7 have used it even though some don’t come to Church. * Nick offered that people who are retired can have money taken out of their IRA and have it sent directly to the Church for their pledge. When it’s sent directly from the fund, it’s not taxable and fulfills the requirement of draw.* General questions from Father Greg regarding explanation of columns General Plate vs Non- pledge, with i.d.(check) can be given a statement. Also asked what is avg annual pledge. Deb/Mike would have to look up a definite amount. An estimate is \$1200. Has Family Promise a pledge of \$500 been done yet? We check with them to see when

they would like to receive it. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report M-S-A *Possible presentation for Wed. Night Cafe.*

3. Safe Church training and Church Sexual harassment. Kathie reported info sent to newest members of the Vestry. Some are still working on it. Some comments: faster listening rather than reading. The videos give hints on getting through. Don requested to try and finish by October 19, Meeting.
4. Internet/Spectrum updates. Mike spoke with a representative from Spectrum. State approved. Waiting for Telephone and Electric to see if there is enough spare room to mount their equipment. They don't seem to have a schedule to follow. Discussion started about the need to update the phone system. Will talk about next month. Father Greg will be setting up a new email. For now he will use the old Frontier coerector1 and continue to monitor once he has a new email address.
5. Stewardship: Deb reported we're in the middle of Stewardship. Still need some help with it. Some envelopes have been picked up; possibly mail others. Video presentations by Jessica and Evie and a live presentation by Birdie on 9/24. There will be a Parish Brunch, Sunflower themed on October 1, Commitment Sunday, following one service which is at 9:30. Question asked if we had a way of keeping pledges up to date. Mike answered that quarterly pledge statements are sent out.
6. Father Greg Housing Allocation. 2023 Rector's Housing Resolution. The Vestry of the Church of the Epiphany, on the 19th day of September 2023, after reviewing the amount to be paid to the Rev. Gregory Kremer as housing allowance, one motion duly made and seconded, adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Rev. Gregory Kremer is employed as a minister of the Church of the Epiphany, Gates, New York, which does not provide a residence for him, The Vestry of the CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY resolves that of his total compensation in 2023 \$28,420 be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986 and this designated amount be assumed to be the amount in future years, as long as REV. GREGORY KREMER is employed at CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY unless amended.

Motion formally made by Mike, seconded by Jack and carried.

7. Laptop and Printer for Father Greg. Deb reported funds have been set aside from the Search Committee Account for Father Greg. To purchase a laptop, insurance, docking station, speakers and monitor of his preference with installation. Also, a printer of his choice. A motion to purchase the aforementioned laptop, etc. and printer at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 was made, seconded and carried. It was also noted there is a credit card for Epiphany use in the office.
8. Cloud Access/Google Drive. Father Greg asked if Jimmie Sue had anything setup in Cloud to access - google drive to take to cloud. As far as Mike or Deb know we don't have anything in the Cloud. Church finances kept on tower as far they know for backup. Discussion followed that Epiphany to keep all our data current and accessible this should be addressed. Nick suggested we clean up our files, keep all info until we are into the Spectrum system. In the meantime, there is time to think on it.
9. Facebook live and documentation: Deb commented on how many are viewing it and if it counts on Parochial Report. It's not updated each week on paper either in person or live. Attendance in person has jumped. We don't know how many are watching live or on computer later. Is there a viewing history? We need to talk to Cassie, Kim or Emily for more viewer info. Father Greg suggested the paper tally the ushers

keep could be updated. He didn't know the lower portion of the tally which he was handed by usher with offering was for number of people taking communion; i.e., a slip of communication.

Discussion Items:

1. Mom's Ministries: We received an email a few months ago from the organization looking for space donated or to rent. This matter was discussed at previous vestry meeting and tabled until we had a rector. Gave info to Father Greg and will get back to him about discussion for the next meeting.
2. Small group updates. Father Greg will talk to small groups, where the group is going if it should be on going. There has not been much activity in last 8 months with most of the groups. Only Adult formation and Service Ministry along with our Social Media have been active. Father Greg also plans on meeting with Altar Guild, Pastoral Care, Liturgy Planning. He is meeting with Devon Hubert, Sr. Life Communities to talk about more interaction with Seabury. One project in the past involved the Sunday school kids making angel ornaments to take to Seabury residents. Could talk with teachers to see if this is viable again. Within the community, Father Greg has been in contact with Trinity Lutheran pastor about doing something together. Also, he has via Suburban News extended an invitation to the community to come out on Sun, September 24 at Noon on the front lawn for the blessing of animals. Talked about Trunk or Treat opening to the Community. Might hold back this year until we see what kind of turn out we'll have.
3. Update plaques- wardens, Columbarium: Work still in progress.
4. Delegates to Convention. The Diocese says we have 3 people listed as representatives /Emily, Bruce and Bo. If we haven't updated our list, the Diocese is going from old records. We will look at past Annual reports and update representatives with the Diocese.
5. Seabury Woods- using planters for smoke butts and benches. Don will continue to try and follow up with Jen to see if anything has been done about putting ashtrays near benches. Since we installed the original benches which are beginning to break down, see if Seabury would finance and install new ones.
6. Karen Marr Scholarship: Amy Marr and her brother are still working on trying to make adjustments to the rules for scholarship funds so it could be used for more people besides disabled.
7. Parish Directory: Helen reported names in Parish Directory are the same as pledging list. Donations familiar with pledging updated to work with parochial report if haven't contributed in 5 years. Mike reiterated we're streamlining the system.
8. Nominating Committee: Don reported that Nick, Sue, Kim and Jack will be going off Vestry. Have to find out if there is interest in continuing for another term. Some people have expressed interest in being nominees. 3 Vestry positions, 1 Warden and delegates. Work in progress.
9. Parish Grants. Father Greg is the secretary of the Diocesan Council and says there are \$30,000 unassigned available for CDP grants. Now that Epiphany has a priest, we can apply for grants. Applications were due in May but once we have a priest we can still apply. Maybe we can revisit the former committee if interested in continuing a real plan for growth. Pull up some info and a fresh face. On the Diocese's Website there might be other grants available that apply to us.
10. RIT Youth Campus ministry meal on Sundays: Father Greg discussed a program that Virginia Tyler Smith is promoting for Episcopal/Lutheran student meals on Sundays at RIT Campus where Epiphany would

prepare a meal one Sunday a month to aid in this RIT Campus Ministry. Approach Marsha to see if this is something Service Comm. might be interested in.

11. Due to Pinewood not wanting our business for next year, the Epiphany golf tournament will be held at Morgan's Crossing, Chili on August 4, 2024. Still 9 holes, starting at 2 p.m. cost \$52/golf and dinner, dinner only \$25. More info to follow. Nick suggested we find a nice place to display the golf club plaque for all to see.
12. Our organist, Gail is arranging for a 12 person Hammered Dulcimer service w/Father Greg as backup on 12/10 or 17, 2023 at 2 p.m.
13. Father Greg recommended the term unvaccinated people and 6 ft. distance be removed from the bulletin. There was general agreement.
14. There will be a special church dinner on October 14, 2023 to which the Search Committee will be recognized and invitations extended to our 5 supply priests that helped hold us together during the past 10 months.

Vestry Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. with closing prayer by Lisa.

Next meeting is October 17, 2023 at [7 p.m.](#) in person

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Leshner, Clerk of the Vestry



WOE UPDATE

Rummage Sale 2024

** Just a reminder that the WOE Rummage Sale is being held in April 2024

Keep saving your items to donate !

There will be NO donation trailer !

It is again, a scaled down sale.

The following donations WILL be accepted:

Books, toys, holiday décor & nic-nac items, housewares(kitchen items), linens(sheets, blankets,etc), small table-top appliances, miscellaneous items, sporting goods, sneakers & boots only, youth & adult coats ONLY, notions/crafts(yarn, material, sewing items, purses), CD's, jewelry

NOT accepted:

Baby items, stuffed animals, shoes, furniture, lamps, large art work, large appliances, clothes of any kind-excepts coats, VHS tapes, large power tools, TV's

As always, we will be looking for lots of help with unloading, sorting, pricing & on our 2 sale days, plus clean up.

Any questions, concerns or clarification of donations – feel free to contact me thru email, text or phone call.

Thank you..... Pam Metzinger

PEANUT CLUSTERS ARE BACK

Just a note that the youth will be selling them at both services beginning December 3rd until they sell out!

Thank you for your support in advance.

Sunday Acolytes Needed

We are in need of acolytes for our 10am services.

Anyone who would like to volunteer and be a part of this vital ministry, you are welcome we are looking for youth- 5th grade or older, or adults.

Please contact Pam or Adam Metzinger.

We will be holding a training/refresher for acolytes in the near future.

Please consider this prayerfully !

Thank you

September 2023 Financial Summary

Income	Sept. YTD	2023 Budget
Pledge & Plate	\$76,379.89	\$84,000.00
Investment Income	18,000.00	18,000.00
Diocesan Grant	-	-
Flowers	1,095.00	1,425.00
Special Offerings	1,529.00	1,800.00
Building Use	-	37.50
Other	3,815.59	3,075.00
Total Income	\$100,819.48	\$108,337.50
Expenses		
Worship	9,690.47	7,282.50
Formation	470.29	787.50
Diocesan Apportionment	15,759.72	15,759.72
Stewardship	6,667.60	6,975.00
Other Action	-	-
Youth	-	-
Evangelism	576.19	918.75
Oversight	22,427.43	24,893.25
Salaries & Benefits	28,430.19	60,949.67
Total Expenses	\$84,021.89	\$117,566.39
Surplus/(Deficit)	20,630.	(9,290)

Submitted by Deb Grasso, Treasurer



Greening of the Church

The Greening of the Church has again planned to spread our Christmas decorating out during a 4-week period. This will spread out our joyous celebration throughout the Advent season. So mark your calendar and see if you can help out on the dates below beginning at or around 11:15am.

Dec 3 – Hang large wreath on back wall, hang Christmas quilt, & hang greens on the Rood beam, hang Christmas banner ** need brave soul to climb ladder

Dec 10 - display Nativity needlepoint, assemble small tree in Auxiliary room, hang outside wreath, hang wreaths in Chancel

Dec 17 – Assemble & decorate artificial tree in front of church, display crèche by railing, decorate window sills & change advent wreath to white.

Dec 23– Arrange fresh poinsettia plants

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.
Thank you – 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



Church School Schedule

(classes begin at: 9:45am)

Sunday, November 5.....Church School
 Sunday, November 12.....Church School
 Sunday, November 19.....Church School
 Sunday, November 26.....NO Church School

Sunday, December 3.....Church School
 Sunday, December 10.....Church School
 Sunday, December 17.....Church School
 Sunday, December 24.....NO Church School
 Sunday, December 31.....NO Church School



Widows – Lunch

Please mark your calendar for our next lunch on **Wednesday, DECEMBER 6, @11:00. No meeting in Nov.**



MOE UPDATE

Please come join us for breakfast at Jonny D’s at 8:30 on November 15th.

You are invited to LUNCH!
Family and Friends are Welcome!
Sunday, November 5th, 12:00 Noon at
Five Sons Winery
1360 West Sweden Rd
Brockport, NY 14420



The Church of Epiphany is having lunch at the Five Son's Winery and RG Brewery in Brockport, NY, November 5th at Noon after church. Please bring family and friends with you to encourage new members and fellowship. This is a great place to go for lunch and dinner including burgers, wraps, salads and more. It is a family friendly establishment with plenty of room for kids to run around outside. They have non-alcoholic options as well as hard cider, wines, and beer. There is a menu posted and sign-up sheet in the hall just to let me know how many people are coming, though not required. I have reserved the entire tasting room for our group, so please come and have some fun with us. Contact: Kim Hyde 585-820-2007, khyde521@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY CAFÉ SAVE THE DATE

We will have a "Get to know Father Greg" Wednesday Café, November 15th @ 7pm. We will also offer a Zoom link for people who cannot be to church that night. Look for the link closer to the November 15th.

If you have any questions please contact Kathie Entress at ent1@frontiernet.net. We look forward to seeing you there!

SAVE THE DATE



Free Holiday Concert



Striking Strings Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble

Sunday, December 10, 2:00 pm



Church of the Epiphany
3285 Buffalo Road, Rochester NY 14624

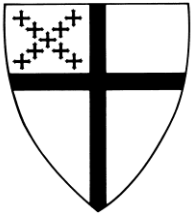


MORE DETAILS WILL FOLLOW AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE EVENT.

November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Set Clocks Back All Saint's Sunday Five Sons Winery 12:00 Lunch	6	7	8	9	10	11 
12	13	14	15 Wednesday Café 7:00 pm Get to know Father Greg	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23  Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25
26	27	28	29	30		



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



EPIPHANY HIGHLIGHTS

November 5 - Five Sons Winery
November 11 - Veterans Day
November 15 - Wednesday Cafe
November 23 - Thanksgiving