

# THE STAR

DECEMBER 2023



# Church of the epiphany

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*...and more!*

## DECEMBER 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

### Stewardship Prayer

Author unknown



**December**

Dear Heavenly Father,  
My parish is composed of people like me;  
I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.  
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.  
It will do great work, if I work.  
It will make generous gifts to many causes,  
if I am a generous giver.  
It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship,  
if I invite and bring them.

It will be a parish of loyalty and love,  
of fearlessness and faith,  
and a parish with a noble spirit,  
if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with Your help, O God,  
I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all things  
that I want my parish to be.

Amen.

I found this Stewardship prayer in a newspaper a few years ago. It really hit home with me as it simply states exactly what we are tasked to do as parishioners of Epiphany. Please consider inviting people to church and spread God's word to those around you. Join us at our events and lend a helping hand. Epiphany is in a great place now for growth and we need your help. I could not be any prouder to be a part of this church family. Merry Christmas and God Bless to you all.

Kim Hyde

## 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

### DECEMBER 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.*

<b>Dec. 1</b> Nicholas Grasso Braylon Grasso	<b>Dec. 17</b> Diane Moffatt	<b>Dec. 24</b> Elaine Bagley Dan Pulhamus
<b>Dec. 5</b> Lill Poppleton	<b>Dec. 18</b> Daniel Resch	<b>Dec. 26</b> Crystal D'Anunzio
<b>Dec. 8</b> Danielle D'Anunzio	<b>Dec. 19</b> Mike Moffatt	<b>Dec. 28</b> Macguire Morien
<b>Dec. 10</b> Terry Barker	<b>Dec. 21</b> Larry Burling Doug Collinge	<b>Dec. 29</b> Zachary Durkin
<b>Dec. 16</b> Donna Craig	<b>Dec. 22</b> Joe Woo	

### DECEMBER 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.*

**December 3** Gretchen Murray & Fredrick Larham

**December 18** Carol & David Kohen

## CHANGES & ADDITIONS

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



As the days and weeks pass, I am feeling ever more grateful to be here with you. This transition has truly felt divinely inspired.

This is an exciting time for us as a parish. We're seeing signs of growth. A few new faces have joined us on Sunday and some old familiar faces have returned. The numbers of kids in Sunday School having increased. And, we had a very successful stewardship campaign resulting in a healthy increase in pledges over the last few years.

Thank you to all who have reached out and invited me to dinner or coffee or lunch so that we could get to know one another better. That has been wonderful. If we haven't had a chance to meet one-on-one yet, please reach out and let's schedule a time to get

together.

The last month has been busy. We had a wonderful Halloween celebration with the kids and a large number of our neighbors stopped by for trick-or-treating. We had a lovely All Saints Day celebration on the following Sunday.

We've reached out to the broader community in several ways. I hosted a meeting at church with the Gates Town Supervisor, Historian, Chief of Police and Funeral Director and was invited to lead the invocation and final blessing at the Gates Veterans Day celebration. We've had two meetings with the Episcopal Senior Life Communities central office and the staff at Seabury Woods and are re-invigorating our relationship. I've met with the local Lutheran pastor over coffee, and we are talking about a pulpit swap in the spring. Finally, I had an opportunity to visit the lovely Aurora house hospice facility in Spencerport.

On the Diocesan level, I continue to serve as Secretary to the Diocesan Council which provides us with some valuable insight into the functioning of the diocese. I also served as Chair of Credentials and Timekeeper at our Diocesan Convention. In addition, we had three parish delegates participate.

We recently completed an application for a Congregational Development Partnership Grant to help us with our operating expenses as we attempt to grow in outreach and in number.

Looking ahead, we have begun an Advent Evening Reflection Series on Monday nights at 7 PM. We're looking forward to a Christmas concert on Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 pm given by 'Striking Strings' a hammered dulcimer group. Our Christmas services will be at 4:30 pm and 10:30 pm on the 24th. Our services will begin at 4 PM with caroling and our youth will be featured at the 430 service.

Thank you again for your warm welcome and your whole-hearted engagement in parish life. It is truly a blessing to be with you.

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Greg





## Small Group Updates

### Youth of Epiphany Update

The Youth of Epiphany continue to be active members of our church community. The Sunday school program has been up and running since early September. All the Sunday school students meet as a group for a short Children's worship service complete with an altar and candles. During the service, we sing, pray and read stories from the bible. The children take turn helping out at the services. After the Children's service, we break into two classrooms for age appropriate discussions and activities. Starting in January, the oldest students (6<sup>th</sup> graders) will meet monthly and start the Rite 13 program which will assist in their spiritual growth and has they begin their independence from their families.

The youth have also been involved in Service related projects. The fundraising the youth have been involved in which includes serving the Shove Tuesday Pancake dinner and making peanut clusters is going toward various Service Ministry projects. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, the youth and their parents went shopping at Aldi's, Dollar Tree and Big Lots to buy non-perishable food and personal hygiene products for the Epiphany Red Pantry Box. Please take a look at Epiphany's Facebook pages for photos of the Event. The Youth also participated in stocking the Red Pantry box on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Our next project is making our annual Peanut Clusters on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The peanut clusters will be going on sale after both the 8 and 10 am services on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the peanut cluster are \$3/bag or 2 bags for \$5. The proceeds from the Peanut Cluster sale will benefit Water for Southern Sudan which was started in Rochester 20 years ago. More information about Water for Southern Sudan will be located at our sale table.

The youth will be participating in the 4:30 pm Christmas Eve service again this year. They will be in the opening procession bringing up the figure for the Crèche scene in the front of the church. They will be singing a Christmas song and some will be playing Christmas music on their musical instruments.

Thank you again for your support of the Youth of Epiphany.

### December Service Ministry Update

The Christmas Holiday is here and Epiphany is busy helping others have a nicer holiday season. Epiphany has adopted a family from Family Promise of Greater Rochester (FPGROC) for Christmas and the donated gifts for the family are piling up around the small Christmas tree in the back of the sanctuary. We will be collecting the requested gifts until December 3<sup>rd</sup> and Nancy Mancini will be delivering the gifts to the FPGROC day center later that week.

Boxes of hot chocolate and facial tissues are piling up in the main hallway for the Christmas Bag Project which is coordinated by "A Meal & More, Inc". which is housed at Christ Church downtown. A final count will be forthcoming when the collection is completed on December 10<sup>th</sup>. We will certainly be able to give the needed supplies to help fill 150 Christmas stockings for the guests who receives services at the Meal and More soup kitchen.

We will start our next service ministry project with our annual "Souper" Bowl Collection of soups, chili and canned pasta for St. Theodore's Food Pantry. The collection will start in mid-January and end on Super Bowl Sunday on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Our Goal is 365 cans, one can for each day of the year. Since next year is a Leap Year, we will need to push our Goal to **366 cans**.

For all the creative parishioners at Epiphany, please remember the Fiber Ministry collection will be during Lent (2/14-3/31/24). It's time to start making blankets, prayer shawls, hats, stockings and mittens. Our Goal is to have at least 40 fiber projects for the 40 days of Lent.

Thank you Epiphany for making Christmas special for many of the underserved individuals in the Rochester area. Best wishes from the Service Ministry team for a blessed Christmas season and a happy, healthy 2024.

Marsha Pulhamus, Birdie Ames, Nancy Mancini and Donna Perry

## **FIBER MINISTRY NEWS**

It is dark and cold this time of year. Wanting to stay inside and hibernate, as many of us do, let's think of those less fortunate than ourselves. Making a quilt, prayer shawl, baby blanket, mittens or any other warm object will keep our hands busy between now and Easter. Once again, we are hoping to provide 40 Items for 40 Days of Lent. What we do for the rest of these, we do for Christ, as we hear in the scriptures. All the wonderful gifts will be collected the end of Lent, blessed by the congregation and distributed to those in need. God Bless your willing hands!

Service Ministry Team

## **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

**Vestry Highlights**  
**OCTOBER 17, 2022**

**BUSINESS:**

1. Approve September 19, 2023 Minutes. M-S-A
2. Finance Report and motion to approve.
  - a. Deb reported pledges are down, income down ytd and expenses are down ytd.. Our investments took a big hit this past quarter.
  - b. Maureen received a phone call on the Xerox copier. Our contract is per copy. Church has \$20-\$30 per month in overage. Father Greg will look at the copier contract.
  - c. Discussion about Paychex and ADP for Church payroll. Epiphany uses ADP, some input possible online as far relaying info for payroll, most seems to involve phone calls. There's a possibility of a discount through the Diocese if we use Paychex. Deb and Nick will look into which is the better choice for Epiphany.
  - d. The Finance Committee will get together soon to talk about the 2024 Budget.
  - e. Deb received an email from the Diocese recently regarding an audit that takes place when a rector leaves (which happened 10 months ago). She is gathering information for the audit.
  - f. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report. M-S-A
3. Safe Church training-Church sexual harassment. Kathie reported that several Vestry members have completed the training. Some are having trouble with the program; one couldn't get into the program. Sue offered some suggestions for finishing up the program. An email from Kathie is sufficient when vestry member has completed the course.
4. Internet update/Spectrum - updates. There isn't anything new to report.
5. Stewardship. Deb reported as of this date \$98,000. in pledges for 2024. 13 pledges are still out. Reminder letters will be sent out. Deb will be giving a verbal quarterly report to Parish at both services.
6. Laptop for Fr Greg. Fr Greg reported he had acquired a laptop and printer at a cost of \$1700, which didn't include a screen. Credit card receipts will be sent to the office.
7. Facebook live and documentation. We should know the number watching Facebook Live. Kim reported it's between 1 - 5 watching, but not necessarily the entire service. We can't tell who they are unless they make a comment. We need to capture these numbers for the Parochial Report Kim will request the person recording the service to give that number to the usher. There will be a new line on the Ushers' tab sheet to record Facebook viewers. One Facebook listener said he has a problem hearing Fr Greg. A suggestion was made to move the monitor up two rows closer

to the sermon podium. Chancel Earbuds and loops are available for use in the Church (in the desk under TV).

8. Christmas Eve Services. After much discussion about the Christmas Eve Service, which falls on a Sunday and is also the 4th Sunday in Advent, it was decided there wouldn't be morning services. There would be 2 Christmas Eve Services: one at 4:30 p.m., the second at 10:30 p.m. There is a possibility of hammered dulcimer music for the 4:30 service. Because of our recent history of no attendees at the Christmas Day service, a service will not be held this year.
9. Christmas Concert. The Christmas Concert will be at 2 p.m. on December 10, 2024. A free will donation of money, food or personal products was suggested. Discussion ensued about combining the Christmas Concert with the lighting of the outside Christmas tree after the concert. The tree lighting committee will be approached with this proposal.
10. Annual meeting date discussion. The date has been set for the last Sunday in January - January 28, 2024. M-S-A
11. Fr Greg's Installation. February 10, 2024, has been set for Fr Greg's installation. Pam will be contacted about putting together dinner arrangements. Fr. Greg will plan out hymns and talk to Gail about more music. There will be symbolic gifts from ministries. The Diocese has a schedule to follow.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Mom's Ministries. Fr. Greg tried to contact them without success. Will wait to see if we hear from them again.
2. QCD - Qualified Charitable Distribution. A discussion followed on how to introduce this method of giving to the Church. Nick will write an article for the October Star (deadline 10/27).
3. Small group updates.
  - a. Adult formation: will host a Meet Fr Greg gathering on November 15, 2023, at the Church. It will also go out on Zoom.
  - b. Social media: doesn't meet but they update what's happening, i.e., Day at the Windmill, tree lighting, lunch at 5 Sons Winery (bring friends and family).
  - c. Sunday School: Sue talked about kids doing some projects for Seabury Woods and making peanut clusters. Also, making Christmas ornaments to hang on doorknobs of residents' rooms.
  - d. Pastoral Care: Fr. Greg has met with Gladys, Birdie, Juanita and Sue to discuss needs of parishioners for visits and communion. Fr Greg will be meeting with leadership at Seabury Woods and the Rev Deven Hubert of ESLC to discuss developing a relationship between Epiphany and Seabury Woods. Since Juanita is a resident in one of the patio homes, maybe she would consider being our point person.
4. Update plaques - wardens, columbarium - Warden plaques haven't been updated in 10 years. This is being addressed. Urns/ashes that were stored in a closet have been dispersed.
5. Seabury Woods - using planters for smoke butts & benches. Don says this issue still has not been addressed by Seabury Woods personnel. When Fr Greg meets with leadership at Seabury Woods, he will bring up this issue.
6. Karen Marr Scholarship. This Scholarship has only been used once in its 13 years because of its limitations, which is to people with disabilities. Presently, Amy is updating policy to broaden the category.
7. Parish Directory - print updated one. The Directory has been updated. It will be sent in an email to parishioners as an attachment. Printed copies will also be available.

8. Nominating Committee. The Committee consisting of members going off the Vestry; Jack, Kim, Nick and Sue will meet in 2 weeks. Don has been approached by a couple of people who are interested in being nominees. Also, Nick and Jack said they would consider running again.
9. Parish Grants. Since Epiphany has a new rector, we are eligible to apply for a CDP grant. A team had been working on a grant for 2023 and had to stop work since our previous rector left in 2022. A suggestion was made that some of the previous work could be reworked to apply for a grant for 2024. Committee members that prepared the past grant will be contacted to see if they would be willing to put forth that effort again. The Diocese should be contacted to see what the deadline is for 2024, and if the grant will be a renewal or new grant application.
10. Vestry meeting time for the winter. Zoom will be used for December, January, February and March. It will be decided later if a Zoom April meeting is necessary. Fr Greg will conduct Zoom meetings from a location that has better internet service than church. The Church does have a Zoom account which needs to be updated.
11. Organist. By the end of the year 2023 Gail will be leaving. A new organist may be difficult to find. Options are to look for a pianist that also plays the organ or engage in other types of music, other possibilities to have a service with guitar or a group of people within the Church who play instruments. Discussion followed about what kind of music we could have. Right now, we don't have a director for Bell Choir. A flyer will be put together what we are looking for and will be posted at Roberts Wesleyan and Eastman School of Music.
12. Fr Greg installed a new wireless doorbell w/white button at the front door. Can be heard in the office now.

Vestry meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with closing prayer by Fr. Greg.

Next meeting is November 21st at 7:00 p.m. in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Leshner, Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry Views for STAR - November, Kristen  
 December, Kim  
 January, Jack

Prayers - November, Donna  
 December, Kathie  
 January, Jack



**December Service Ministry Update**

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Marsha Pulhamus, Birdie Ames, Nancy Mancini and Donna Perry

### Thank You

The blessing box committee would like to thank our church family for all their generosity in keeping our box filled throughout the year.

With donation of cash, weekly drop offs, maintaining and moving our stand has Truly been a blessing.

An extra shout out to our youth. They raised money through projects, went shopping with their teachers and parents and filled the blessing box for our less fortunate families.

We thank you all.

### Spruce Up Day Dec. 2nd

Thank you to those who came out to help clean/spruce up our sanctuary, chancel, front foyer, main hallway, choir, acolyte & sacristy areas.

All is ready for Christmas & Epiphany seasons.

Big thanks to Steve Entress for cleaning up some of our front gardens & blowing leaves in the memorial garden, out in the drizzle, way to go Steve.

Also, thank you to: Marsha Pulhamus, Kathie Entress, Kim Hyde, Bonnie Ayers, Pam Metzinger & Terry Barker.



### Widows Group

Please mark your calendar for our next lunch on **Wednesday, December 6th @ 11:00** weather permitting.



### MOE UPDATE

Please come join us for breakfast at Jonny D's at 8:30 on December 20th.

### Church De-Decorating & Spruce Up Day:

Our next Spruce Up Day will be Saturday, January 6 at 9:00 am-noon

We will first de-decorate the Christmas decorations & get the church ready for Epiphany Sunday. So cleaning up the church will be essential, then we can vacuum, see how the auxiliary room looks & foyer area. Also, mop some floors.

Many hands make light work, so please consider helping out for a bit.

Thank you

Any questions, see Pam Metzinger.

### **FIBER MINISTRY NEWS**

It is dark and cold this time of year. Wanting to stay inside and hibernate, as many of us do, let's think of those less fortunate than ourselves. Making a quilt, prayer shawl, baby blanket, mittens or any other warm object will keep our hands busy between now and Easter. Once again, we are hoping to provide 40 Items for 40 Days of Lent. What we do for the rest of these, we do for Christ, as we hear in the scriptures. All the wonderful gifts will be collected the end of Lent, blessed by the congregation and distributed to those in need. God Bless your willing hands!

Service Ministry Team

### **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

Please make a note on your calendars that we are having two Services on Christmas Eve and NONE on Christmas Day. We will have a 4:30 and a 10:30 Service on Christmas Eve.

### **EVENING OF REFLECTIONS**

All are encouraged to join with Fr. Greg in an Advent series of evening reflections on Monday nights from 7-8 pm in the church auxiliary room. We will read, reflect and share on the Sunday Gospel reading for the four weeks of Advent using a resource called *Advent: The Lord is Near*. All are welcome to join any time.

### **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

### **PEANUT CLUSTERS ARE BACK**

#### **Youth Group Fundraiser**

The youth will be selling peanut clusters after both 8 am & 10 am services, beginning on Sunday, December 4th until they sell out. Cost: \$3.00 per bag or \$5.00 for 2 bags. Your support is always appreciated.

# Christmas Flowers

Please share in making the church beautiful for Christmas. You may wish to offer a gift in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for a particular blessing in your life.

Please use Christian names (John & Mary Doe, not Mr. & Mrs. John Doe), **printing clearly with only one name per line**; use additional sheets if necessary. Bring your form with your check, payable to "Church of the Epiphany, Memo: Christmas Flowers," to the office, or mail it to the Parish Office, by Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

In memory of:	In thanksgiving for:

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Check: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Church School Schedule**

(classes begin at: 9:45am)

**CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE:**

(classes begin at: 9:45am)

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

Sunday, January 7.....Church School  
 Sunday, January 14 .....Church School  
 Sunday, January 21.....Church School  
 Sunday, January 28.....Church School

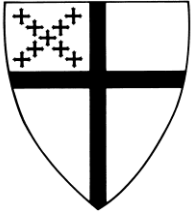
**October 2023 Financial Summary**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Oct YTD</b>	<b>2022 Budget YTD</b>
Pledge & Plate	\$87,561.56	93,333.33
Investment Income	18,000	20,000
Diocesan Grant		
Flowers	1,425	1,735
Special Offerings	1,529	2,000
Building Use		42
Other	4,830	3,417
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$113,346</b>	<b>\$120,527</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Worship	9,704	8,092
Formation	600	875
Diocesan Apportionment	17,511	17,511
Stewardship	7,239	7,750
Other Action		
Youth	-	
Evangelism	616	1,021
Oversight	22,813	27,659
Salaries & Benefits	39,205	66,735
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$97,689</b>	<b>\$129,642</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>15,657</b>	<b>(9,116)</b>

*Submitted by Deb Grasso, Treasurer*



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Spruce up Day 9:00 am – Noon Tree Lighting at Church 4:30 PM
3	4 Advent Reflection 7-8 pm	5	6 Widows Lunch 11:00	7	8	9
10 <b>Christmas Concert 2:00 pm</b>	11 Advent Reflection 7-8 pm	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Advent Reflection 7-8 pm	19	20 MOE Breakfast 8:30	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	<b>28</b>	29	30
31						



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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

