



THE BREASTPLATE

The Newsletter of Saint Patricks Episcopal Church

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St Nicholas Day

DECEMBER 6TH 3PM

Come join us! We will be celebrating St Nicholas Day with crafts, popcorn and a screening of "The Star" to get us in the holiday spirit! We will also use this time to kick off the Christmas Eve Pageant prep! We will get the kids excited for the upcoming pageant and use the movie time to meet with parents about rehearsals, costumes and any other questions. We are so excited to kick off the Christmas season with you and your family!!



RSVP HERE



Calling all kids! The **Christmas Pageant** will take place during the **Christmas Eve Service at 3:00pm**. We are planning to have dress rehearsals 12/14 and 12/21 following the 9:30 service. Reach out to Terri Glisson with any questions or come to our St Nicholas Day event and kickoff on 12/6 at 3:00 to learn more!



Christmas at St. Patrick's

Christmas Eve Worship

- 3:00 PM Pageant with Eucharist
- 5:00 PM Eucharist (music begins at 4:45 PM)
- 8:00 PM Eucharist (music begins at 7:45 PM)

Christmas Day Worship

10:00 AM Eucharist

December 28th - One Worship Service

9:00 AM Eucharist



From the Rector's Desk

Anglican Identity Series: Being in Community with God and One Another

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To say that community is central to Anglican identity may sound obvious. From chatting in the narthex before the service (just don't block the doors!) to gathering at coffee hour, and from praying for one another in illness to celebrating births, baptisms, and weddings—we love being in community.

And if I mention Christian community, I'd be surprised if your mind didn't immediately go to food. Food sits at the heart of our life together and our worship. As far back as the second chapter of Acts, Christians have been known for two primary behaviors: eating together and praying together. This rhythm is so essential to our life that it's embedded directly in our Baptismal Covenant. We publicly vow to "continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers."

While fellowship and social connection may come to mind first, our worship also expresses our communal identity. When I first began attending Episcopal churches, I was struck by the fact that everyone said the confession and everyone came forward to receive communion. In the Southern Baptist church of my childhood, these actions were far more individualized. But in the Episcopal Church, our shared confession and shared approach to God's table reflect the primacy of community in our tradition.

My sister—still technically a Baptist—loves the Episcopal liturgy for this very reason. There isn't just one leader. Worship isn't centered on a single personality. Instead, we have lay readers, acolytes, singers, and chalice bearers. The one who preaches may not be the one who presides at the Eucharist. Leadership is shared because our worship reflects a shared life. It expresses the communal nature of our Anglican identity.

So come—let us eat together, and even more importantly, let us pray together.

God's Peace,
Father Jason+
Rector

Landscape & Grounds

December greetings! Gardening has definitely come to a close for the season. Time for plants, trees, and shrubs to quiet down and do all their work below the surface. Always fun to see what pops up in the spring.

Unfortunately, the time has come for me to step away as coordinator of the Landscape and Gardens at St Patrick's. Family obligations have increased and I no longer have the time to devote to the task. The garden work is rewarding, and the volunteers we have are so wonderful.

If you or anyone you know is interested in stepping into this role, please contact me.

Peace and Merry Christmas,

Cindy Doan

Mother Catherine's Corner

In last month's Breastplate article, I reflected on the meaning and importance of All Souls' Day, the day of the church year where we remember those who have passed on before us into eternal life. It occurs to me, especially for those who were very close to us or for people who we have lost recently, the sense of "missing" what is not there can be especially strong during the Christmas season.

As Advent starts this year, we begin again the ancient, steady work of expecting Emmanuel—"God with us." The season asks us to attend not merely to preparations for celebration but to a deeper, patient learning: how to live amid absence while trusting that presence is nearer than it seems. We both miss and expect at the same time.

In practical terms, the work of "expecting Emmanuel" and spiritually preparing for God's incarnation in the world means cultivating habits that allow the holy nearness of God into our ordinary moments. The Eucharist is the most common and regular acceptance of God's dwelling among us. However, regular pauses for prayer, engaging in the Daily Office, and even taking time to lament the ways in which the world is not in God's image and inviting God into that space—these can all be powerful ways to expectantly await the coming of Christ into the world.

And, the season of Advent is also an opportunity to be the Emmanuel that someone else may be expectantly waiting for. Intentional space for others through visits and phone calls, extra invitations to those who may be lonely, or even an acknowledgement that someone may be feeling especially isolated this season can be powerful witnesses to Christ's love. Even the smallest acts can be sacramental when done in Jesus' name; they demonstrate that God's nearness is mediated through our hands.

Advent's waiting, paradoxically, is an active one. We prepare by both being the expectant Emmanuel for others and also by cultivating our own attentive listening. Both to us and through us, Emmanuel arrives quietly yet persistently and often unexpectedly. I invite you to consider the ways you can both notice and embody holiness this season. May our eyes be opened to—and our bodies be—the presence of God in plain sight.

Blessings,
Mo. Catherine+



Congratulations to Kelsey Sicker for graduating from the Lay Preachers program. May their ministry be blessed.

C.A.T.C.H.- Freedom Ministry

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church ECM Update

Our St. Patrick's Episcopal Church CATCH-Freedom Ministry is grateful for our ECM Grant awarded for \$3500. As a Beloved Community, we care about women caught in the web of sex trafficking and our goal is to show love and support to these women in CATCH Court, Freedom a la Cart, and the Butterfly programs.

CATCH (Creating Autonomy Through Collaborative Healing) is a special, 2-year supportive, caring alternative to incarceration court docket where women transform from victim to survivor. We provide lunch to CATCH Court the 2nd Thursday of each month. Freedom a la Cart supports CATCH graduates with workforce training as they gain personal independence and reintegrate into the community. Our CATCH-Freedom Ministry sent \$2500 on 6/9/25 to Freedom a la Cart for the specific use for utilities and apartment deposits for the CATCH graduates (Butterflies) starting out in their first apartments. Our CATCH-Freedom Ministry invited the Butterflies to shop at our St. Pat's presale 9/3/25 Garage Sale where the women could choose items to help furnish their apartments with kitchen items, linens, household needs. Three women came to shop, and a Freedom employee came with a list of items for others moving into first apartments.

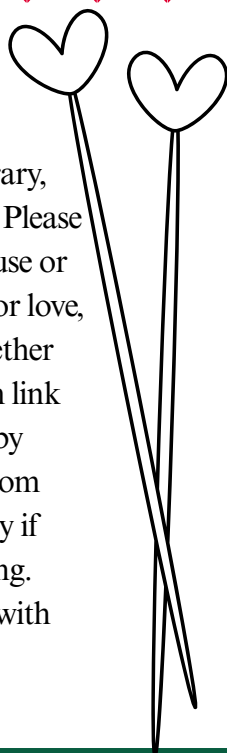
We designated \$1000 of our ECM Grant to be used for reimbursement for our CATCH lunches. Each month 4-5 ministry members take the lunch downtown to the Courthouse to set up and serve lunch. Other members donate food, paper products, the monthly birthday cake, bottled water and table decorations. We also ask the congregation to donate \$25 Kroger gift cards given to the women at Thanksgiving and Christmas through Freedom a la Cart holiday gift bags. We commit to giving 100 \$25 Kroger cards. We will spend our remaining \$1000 for 40 gift cards.

Our Knitting Nexus Ministry makes hats, scarves, mittens, and baby hats for the women that will be donated this fall. The opportunity to serve women who have been traumatized by abuse, broken relationships, drug and alcohol addiction, and the lack of hope reminds us of the healing power of God's Grace. The gift of this service deepens our faith and changes our hearts.

Fran Montgomery and Mary Kay Arbogast

Grief Support

Grief Support gathering will be Monday, December 15th at 6:30PM in St. Patrick's library, facilitated by Angel Cinco and Becky Stains. Please consider joining us if you have lost your spouse or another significant member of your family for love, support, and understanding as we travel together this road called grief. We have added a zoom link and will use the OWL if you wish to join us by zoom. Please let Becky know you want to zoom and she will send the link. Also contact Becky if you would like transportation to our gathering. Please contact Angel Cinco or Becky Stains with questions.



Knitting Nexus Ministry

Thank you to all the contributors of winter hats and mittens for the children of Daniel Wright School and for the ladies of the CATCH/ Freedom program! In November, 27 pairs of mittens and forty (40) hats were delivered to the thankful hands of the school's office staff. Additionally, we were able to provide CATCH/Freedom with 25 warm hats/headbands plus adorable baby hats which are always a hit! Looking forward to 2026, we know the need will still be present, perhaps even greater. Your continued support of this ministry is vital to our ability to help meet the needs for warm outerwear in our community during the cold months. Thanks for what you do!

Endowment Committee Update

The Endowment Committee meets quarterly to review the investment results, asset allocations, and on an annual basis, determines the draw rate (spend level) from which St. Patrick's can utilize, which is based on Endowment Fund's bylaws. The money in the endowment represents the only funds St. Patrick's invests in the open market.

About a year ago, the committee elected to change wealth advisors for several reasons including access to a greater investment options, to foster greater communication, and to aspire to greater performance.

At that time, the committee elected the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) as its wealth advisor. ECF serves all things Episcopal—parishes, seminaries, and individual diocese. ECF invests a cumulative \$750 million dollars on the behalf of their clients.

St. Patrick's Endowment Fund was created to enhance outreach and education, over and above what the annual operating budget affords. Since the fund was created, it has received approximately \$80,000 in donations. On January 1, 2025, the fund was worth \$115K; at the end of September, \$133K. The asset allocation is consistent with our peer clients. We are neither more nor less aggressive than our peer group. The market changes and while the performance this year has been strong, that may not always be the case. Endowment funds are created to secure intergenerational wealth with a long term time horizon.

In 2024, the Endowment Committee found it timely to make its first withdrawal from the fund. The Endowment Committee authorizes the draw rate (level of spend), but the Vestry decides how to spend the money, consistent with the mission of the fund. At the October 29th meeting, the Committee agreed to a spend level for 2026, consistent with the bylaws, totaling \$5,500. The Vestry will determine how that money will be spent in the near future.

Finally, as we approach year end, many of us begin to think about tax planning. The Committee asks your consideration if this might be the right time for you to make a donation. Please consult Mark Hanes, Treasurer, with any questions you may have.

At the end of October, the committee consisted of voting members Peter O'Neill and Ed Yuhas, with one voting member vacancy, and advisors Rev. Jason Emerson, Alex Carter (Senior Warden), and Mark Hanes (Treasurer).

Thank You for a Great Harvest

The St. Patrick's congregation has once again generously supported the Harvest of Hope special food collection at the Dublin Food Pantry. Our assigned targets again this year were Jiffy Cornbread Mix and canned cranberry sauce, and you hit the bullseye! We recently delivered 396 boxes of cornbread mix and 180 cans of cranberry sauce to the DFP where it was received with excitement by Jim Wilson, Director of Operations. THANK YOU to all those who donated to this annual endeavor that supports our neighbors at Thanksgiving. As DFP clients come to the pantry for their November visits, they are provided with all of the fixings for a wonderful and traditional Thanksgiving meal. More clients than ever before are having to rely on the food pantry to relieve food insecurity, so please know that this exercise in giving is appreciated beyond measure.

In addition, please remember to regularly donate certain non-perishable food items to the red wagon at the church entrance. You can find a list of most needed items in Friday Happenings, your weekly service bulletin, and the Breastplate. Pre-COVID, the Dublin Food Pantry was serving an average of about 25-30 clients on any given day. However, the number of those served almost every day reaches into the mid-70's. The need is real, and it feels so good to give. Again, thank you for helping. As a reminder, the DFP serves those folks who reside within the boundaries of the Dublin City Schools, our neighbors. Thank you very much.

John and Fran Montgomery

The Advent of the Messiah: Mary's Song

And Mary said,
 “My soul magnifies the Lord,
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
 Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name;
 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
 He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
 and lifted up the lowly;
 he has filled the hungry with good things
 and sent the rich away empty.
 He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Luke 1:46–55



Luke's Gospel begins with the birth stories of John the Baptist and Jesus. Mary, pregnant with Jesus, traveled “with haste” to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was awaiting the birth of her long-awaited child, John. The two women greeted each other in joy, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, recognized Mary as the mother of her Lord. Mary responded to Elizabeth's greeting with her song.

Mary's great Advent hymn begins with joy, in “God my Savior”. It is a “messianic joy”, one that is “aware of the struggle unto death yet hopeful that the great “nevertheless” of God leads to life.”. So why, then, did Mary described her state as “lowly” in the midst of her rejoicing? The theologian Elizabeth Johnson explains that the Greek word *tapeinōsis* that is translated to “lowly” does not reflect a “spiritual humility”, but instead Mary's real-life social position as a poor woman living in Galilee under Roman occupation. Lowliness in this context describes pain, persecution, and oppression. God has shared God's divine love and life to Mary in her lowliness, and Mary rejoices.

In the second part of Mary's song, the reign of God turns the world upside down. God lifts up all the “lowly”, the powerless, the poor, and the hungry, and anyone whose dignity needs to be restored from the human structures that create inequality. The words of this song are a blessing to the “lowly” and disturbing and challenging to those who are satisfied with the way things are, and also to affluent people of good will.

I experience the joy, hope, and challenge of Mary's song. What is your experience? During this Advent and Christmas, how might we rejoice, hope, and trust in the life-giving, loving presence of God in the midst of the suffering and “lowliness” of this life? How might we allow ourselves to be disturbed and challenged by the upside-down kingdom of God? May your Advent and Christmas be filled with blessing of all kinds,

Kim Nelson

Franklin County Children's Services Holiday Wish Program



Franklin County Children's Services' Holiday Wish program will be providing Christmas for several thousand children under their care. St. Patrick's members have generously supported these children in many ways over the years. This year we will be sponsoring a Toy Drive. Please see the list below for the most requested items and gift cards. Please return your unwrapped gift in the designated boxes on the hallway by Smith Hall. **Drop offs begin November 16th** and end on **December 7th!** Thank you for making a child's wish come true this season.

Barbie Dolls and Baby Dolls (multicultural)

Basketballs/Footballs/Soccer Balls/Sports Equipment

Gloves/Hats/Scarves/Socks (decorative)

Science Activity Sets

Toy Cars/Dump Trucks/Fire Trucks

Action Figures/Dinosaurs

Nail Polish

Drones

Slime Kits

Walkie Talkies

Gift Cards from businesses including Walmart, Target, Amazon.com, Aldi, Kroger and Fast Food restaurants

Bath Sets

Batteries

Books

Building blocks

Jewelry-making kits

Lego sets

Markers

Puzzles

Tea Sets



Busy days ahead. Not just busy, but activities are often at odds with each other: Advent versus more time shopping; hanging stockings with care while getting up other decorations inside and out; finding the perfect Christmas tree (more and more it might be safely packed in the basement and saved from last year). The Thanksgiving turkey and leftovers are gone and ideas for Christmas dinner menu start. More importantly spiritual reflections about the Christmas story and celebratory activities begin.

I have, on occasion, fallen back on the 12 days of Christmas philosophy for gift giving. Family members are used to hearing "there are 12 days of Christmas" from me. Actually it can be kind of fun. There can be a conflict between goals and reality as we "get ready" for the Christmas holidays.

Goal

- Intentional thoughts and prayers
- Decorating the house inside, maybe outside too.
- Chopping down or finding the perfect Christmas tree
- Decorate the tree. Lights on first.
- Attend Christmas Eve service
- Christmas Day gift exchange; often a present or two received earlier for the children among us
- Three Kings visit
- New Year's Eve. Remembrance of the year passing. Hopefully more happy memories than not.

Reality

- Shopping for gifts and wrapping them.
- Hunting for a decoration that got misplaced
- It might be artificial and carefully packed in the basement
- Maybe a few conversations of what goes where
- Pray last-minute projects are done. Try not to arrive breathless.
- Same, unless someone went hunting early and found some of the presents and knows already.
- Family and friends share in the festivities
- New Year's Eve. Remembrance of the year passing. Hopefully more happy memories than not.

New Year's Day-another start on those pesky resolutions. New Year's resolutions can bring a fresh slate: the trick is to make the resolutions specific, realistic, and measurable, and also recognize that we human beings are not always perfect. We can't be too hard on ourselves. It is "OK" to "start over" with resolutions when needed. We are all doing it.

Happy 12 days of Christmas.

Rose and Lissa



THE RECTOR, VESTRY & WARDENS OF ST. PATRICK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Jason Emerson Rector	Leif Carlson	Kim Nelson
Alex Carter, Senior Warden	Angel Cinco	Jan Redman
Blair McGinnis, Junior Warden	Randy Edwards	Kelsey Sicker
Vicky Bratton	Nick Machesky	Ben Trotter

Summary of the Vestry of St. Patrick's Meeting - November 12, 2025

- **Opening:** Angel Cinco led prayer and a Mission Vision Reflection
- **Budget Discussion :** Mark Hanes reviewed the draft 2026 budget. Ministry leaders are asking for appropriate funding, but costs are rising due to utilities, insurance and cleaning. The church expects a surplus despite a current net negative in the budget that is less than in previous years.
- **Worship feedback:** Kelsey Sicker reported positive feedback was received from the 4:00 service attendees, especially regarding time, music, discussion and reflection. The Holden Service was especially popular. Attendance averages about 15-20 people.
- **Capital Campaign :** Discussion continued about roof maintenance and church accessibility. Alternative sources to fund these needs were raised and will be explored. No final decisions yet.
- **Rector's Report :** Highlighted gratitude to our pledge team and the culmination of our In-gathering and Anniversary Celebration on All Saint's Sunday. An Explorer's Retreat will be held in February which will include two of our parishioners discerning calls to ordained ministry.
- **Mother Catherine's Report :** Documented successes with the Way of Love Dinners and the Newcomer's Team ready to welcome several new members on December 7th. Pastorally, she continues with regular visits with Parishioners, one of her greatest joys.
- **Junior Warden :** reported no major issues.
- **Senior Warden:** Vestry nominating team has begun preparing a list of possible nominees. Alex has also accepted a two-year term on the Commission on Congressional Life.
- **Senior Warden :** shared a drafted letter thanking Bill and Brenda for their years of service and dedication to their ministries along with our great sadness with their leaving. We wish them well and welcome them anytime at St. Patrick's. We will also be putting in place monitors to support our ministry leaders to make sure they are receiving the help and support they need.
- **Job description for Assistant Rector :** The job description was accepted with the advisory team ready to move forward after the job description has been circulated in the spring.
- **Proposal by Treasurer :** pledges received before the 2026 year will be placed in a restricted account to avoid confusion. This will be lifted in the 2026 pledge year. Mark reported a good month and the Huntington Bank change is going well.
- **Proposal by Treasurer :** the roles of approvers and signers will be split, and an increase in the use of ACH payments will tighten our bank account controls, align with recommended practices with external third parties, and decrease the likelihood of fraud.
- The Meeting ended in prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Redman,

Clerk of the Vestry

Mary Kay Arbogast
 Greg Bell
 Jennifer Bell
 Carol Bensing
 Mary Bradley
 Ryan Brunswick
 Jeff Buroff
 Evan Cline
 Lynne Colcombe
 Barbara Davis
 Cindy Doan
 Mary Edwards

Ginny Engel
 Vicki Guinther
 Emma Hull
 Red Hummel
 Kevin Johnsen
 Linda Lakemacher
 Andy Landers
 Riley McGinnis
 Eleanor McIntosh
 Quinn Montgomery

Ellis Righter
 Dan Rogowski
 Carol Ross
 John Rucker
 Roger Sell
 Bobbi Shipley
 Bob Straley
 Pam Straley
 Maja Wernekinck
 Steven Whitman

Greg & Jennifer Bell
 William & Liz Gunthorp
 Steve & Jenelle Hoseus
 Bob & Linda Lakemacher
 Mark & Dana Peacock
 Nick & Jessica Randolph



Troop 299

Troop 299 has had a busy fall and is gearing up for an exciting 2026. This past month, the troop held its annual "Shot-o-ree" weekend which is always a favorite outing. The boys camped overnight at Camp High Taylor Birch near Yellow Springs, OH. After a hearty breakfast of pancakes and sausages, the boys took part in a thorough training session with certified adult instructors. The rest of the day was spent on the ranges practicing archery and small-bore rifle shooting at stationary targets and learning how to hit stationary and moving targets with shotguns.



The weather was perfect and all of the boys enjoyed a fun day of shooting and learning about gun safety. Saturday night, the boys cooked dinner together by patrols and then held a dessert competition judged by the leadership of the troop. The winning entry was cinnamon monkey bread presented by the Evergreen patrol.

In December, the troop will have a lock-in at Urban Air, then in January, they will travel to Seven Springs, PA for a ski and snow sports weekend.



The troop meets regularly at 7pm on Tuesday evenings. If you are interested in learning more about the troop and how boys age 11 and older can join, reach out to Jim Bratton.



December Calendar



Monday, December 1st

9:30AM EfM Extension
6PM AA Meeting
7PM EfM Survivors

Tuesday, December 2nd

7AM Men's Group
1PM Newcomers Team Meeting
7PM Boy Scouts Troop 299

Wednesday, December 3rd

10AM St. Arbuck's
10AM Staff Meeting
10AM Men's Group
10:30AM Spiritual Direction
12PM Holy Eucharist & Sacrament
of Healing
12:30PM Chicken Soup For the Soul
6:30PM Way of Love Dinner

Thursday, December 4th

10AM LITDS
10AM Purls of Wisdom
6:30PM Handbell Practice
7:30PM Choir Practice

Saturday, December 6th

3PM St. Nicholas Event

Sunday, December 7th

8AM Holy Eucharist
8:30AM Coffee Hour
9:30AM Holy Eucharist
11AM Advent Formation:
The Light of the World
11:30AM Sacred Circle
4PM Holy Eucharist
5PM Youth Group

Monday, December 8th

9:30AM EfM Extension
6PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, December 9th

7AM Men's Group
7PM Boy Scouts Troop 299
7:30PM Sacred Circle

Wednesday, December 10th

10AM St. Arbuck's
10AM Staff Meeting
10AM Men's Group
10:30AM Spiritual Direction
12PM Holy Eucharist
7PM Vestry Meeting

Thursday, December 11th

10AM CATCH Court
10AM LITDS
10AM Purls of Wisdom
6:30PM Handbell Practice
7:30PM Choir Practice

Sunday, December 14th

8AM Holy Eucharist
9:30AM Holy Eucharist
11AM Advent Formation:
The Light of the World
11AM Pageant Rehearsal
4PM Holy Eucharist
5PM Youth Group

Monday, December 15th

9:30AM EFM Extension
6PM AA Meeting
6:30PM Grief Support

Tuesday, December 16th

7AM Men's Group
1PM Sacred Circle
7PM Boy Scouts Troop 299

Wednesday, December 17th

10AM St. Arbuck's
10AM Staff Meeting
10AM Men's Group
10:30AM Spiritual Direction
12PM Holy Eucharist
6:30PM Social Justice Team Meeting

Thursday, December 18th

10AM LITDS
10AM Purls of Wisdom
3:30PM Friends of the Homeless
6:30PM Handbell Practice
7:30PM Choir Practice

Sunday, November 21st

8AM Holy Eucharist
9:30AM Holy Eucharist
11AM Advent Formation:
The Light of the World
11AM Pageant Rehearsal
11AM Stephen Ministry
11:30AM Sacred Circle
4PM Holy Eucharist
5PM Youth Group

Monday, December 22nd

9:30AM EFM Extension
6PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, December 23rd

7AM Men's Group
1PM Sacred Circle

Wednesday, December 24th

NO NOON EUCHARIST
OFFICE CLOSED
CHRISTMAS EVE
3pm Christmas Pageant
5pm Christmas Eve Service
8pm Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25th

Merry Christmas!
10AM Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 28th

9AM Holy Eucharist
ONE SERVICE ONLY

OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER
24TH - JANUARY 5TH

MAY THE
SPIRIT OF
Christmas
BE WITH YOU



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