



THE BREASTPLATE

The Newsletter of Saint Patricks Episcopal Church

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O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

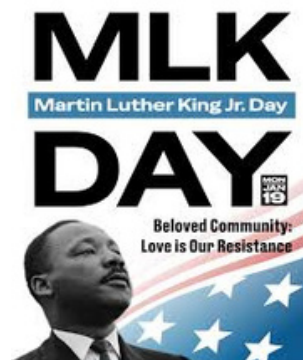
Calling all Ministry Leaders!

Save the date for the next ministry collaboration meeting on Tuesday, January 13th via Zoom starting at 6:30pm. The link will be sent out prior to the meeting. Join us as we explore new ways to collaborate within our ministries and of course make sure everything is on the calendar for the first half of 2026. Hope to see you there!

January Office Closures

The church office will be closed Monday January 19th 2026 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day!

Also, as we move into winter months please be aware that any time Dublin City Schools are closed, the church office will be closed.



Vestry Nominees

The vestry nominees for this year are Caroline Wagner, Tom Jones, and Eryn Kindelin. The diocesan convention delegate nominees are Sandy Wilson, Ginny Engel, Mary Edwards, and Randy Edwards. Full bios will be released the first week of January.

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Beginning the Search for Our Next Associate

Greetings,

As we step into a new year and turn our hearts toward the promises and possibilities of 2026, I am grateful for the remarkable season of ministry we continue to share at St. Patrick's. God has blessed this parish with vibrant worship, deepening formation, and a growing sense of mission. With that growth comes an exciting new chapter: the search for our next **Associate Rector**.

As you know, Mo. Catherine will be moving on at the end of her curacy in June. We are deeply grateful for her faithful ministry with us over these past two years and trust that God has something wonderful in store for her next. We will celebrate her ministry with a big party in June—so stay tuned for more details.

The Associate Rector position is an important one for our parish's future. An associate rector will help expand our pastoral capacity, strengthen our ministries with children, youth, and families, support adult formation, and share in preaching, teaching, and sacramental leadership. This search is not simply about filling a role—it is about discerning with care whom God is calling to join us in this next season of ministry.

I want to share with you a **rough timeline** for the search process so you know what to expect in the coming months:

Associate Rector Search Timeline*

Form Advisory Team: January 1–13

Post the Position: January 13

Posted well before Lent on the Diocesan website, social media, and sent directly to seminaries by St. Patrick's.

Receive Applications: January 19–March 26

(The Thursday before Holy Week)

Interview Candidates (rolling basis): February 1–May 1

Make a Call: By June 1

Public Announcements: June 4

New Associate Begins: July 1

First Sunday would be July 5 or 12.

**Timeline subject to change.*

In January, I will form a small **Advisory Team**—representing a range of parish ministries—to assist me throughout the search. This team will not choose the associate but will help with screening materials, conducting initial interviews, and providing key feedback during the discernment process. I invite your prayers for them, for the candidates who will apply, and for the person God is even now preparing to join our staff and community.

As always, I will keep the parish updated as the process moves forward. If you have questions along the way, please reach out. This is an exciting moment for our parish, and I look forward to discerning God's future with you.

Grace and peace,

Father Jason+

Rector



The Ministry of Welcome: Beginning the Year with Open Heart and Doors

Each new year seems to come more quickly than the last. Advent and Christmas have passed, and we step into a new year hopefully and with anticipation. The turning of the calendar page invites reflection—on who we have been and who we are becoming, as well as the ways we are called to live together as a community of faith. At St. Patrick's, where we embrace our charism of welcome, one of the clearest expressions of who we strive to be was embodied in our recent Welcome Liturgy. Receiving new members into our parish family was a moment of joy, and also a moment of purpose.

Welcome, after all, is not simply a warm greeting or a friendly smile and handshake. In Christian community, welcome is a ministry—an ongoing practice rooted in the Gospel. It asks something of us. True welcome asks us to be attentive to the individual qualities of those who join us and generous with our presence. It asks us to soften any impulse toward assumption or asking others to change in order to be with us and to be courageous in the ways we embrace the holy possibility that each new person brings gifts, insights, and experiences that enrich the whole community of St. Patrick's.

Our Welcome Liturgy reminds us that belonging to the church—and belonging to Christ—is not passive. It is something we do together, as a body. When we promised to support and uphold our new members, we were committing ourselves to a way of life shaped by hospitality, curiosity, and care. We were pledging to continue to be a community where people can bring their whole selves—questions, wounds, joys, and hopes—and know they will not be turned away.

Epiphany offers us a fitting lens to see the ministry of welcome. We all arrive at January with mixed stories: the things we carry quietly, the changes we anticipate, and the prayers we do not yet have words for. An inclusive church is one that opens its doors and opens its heart to make space for this complexity, recognizing that God meets each of us where we are.

Similarly, The Magi found Christ not through sameness, not by staying bound to the familiar, but through openness—by following a light that led them beyond the borders of what they knew. In our own time, we too are invited to follow the light of Christ into deeper hospitality, noticing where God is revealed in those who join us and in those we have not yet met.

As we embark on this new year, may St. Patrick's continue to be a place where welcome is not a moment, but a practice—and where every person who walks through our doors encounters the grace of belonging. I invite you to pray for the church, that we may be led by Christ in this new year, and that we continue to invite each person who joins our community to be the star that leads us to new places.

Blessings,

Mo. Catherine+

*January Birthdays
and Anniversaries*

Jeff & Phyllis Beuter
Amy VanDyke & Michael Dietz

Andy Bethune
John Bowers
Eileen Bowling
Leon Breece
Gunnar Carlson
Debbie Cline
Rich Colvin

Christopher Emory
Lisa Emory
Fred Graff
Neil Greenfield
Mary Horton
Mim Jester
Terry Jones
Aaron Jordan
Michael Kennedy

Ann King
Casey Landers
Drew Landers
William Lewis
Bill Loveland
Mike Machesky
Grace Mayo
Damon McGinnis
Devin McGinnis

Katie Rich
Evan Richard
Theo Righter
Carolyn Shubert
Janet Snapp
Ayla Stains

Epiphany

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Ephesians 3:5-6)



A childhood friend of mine, Joan, always celebrated Christmas with the Epiphany on January 6th. Hers was the only family I knew of who did this, and I didn't know at the time that their way of celebrating was an ancient tradition. Epiphany was celebrated in the Eastern Church as early as the 3rd century, before Christmas was even on the church calendars. In the early church, Epiphany celebrated the manifestation of Christ in the world, including his birth, the visit from the Magi, his baptism, and Jesus's first miracle at the wedding at Cana. Later, Christians began to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a separate feast on December 25th. Now, Epiphany marks the end of the twelve days of Christmas, there are still many ways the world celebrates, and our lectionary gives us much to ponder on this feast day. Perhaps you might spend some time with the readings and reflect on what Epiphany means to you:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

At Epiphany, we celebrate Christ manifested to all the world when the Magi, guided by a star, sought and found him. Who is guiding you on your journey towards Christ, and how might you help to guide others on their journey? God became Incarnate out of love for everyone. How might you be receiving and returning God's love for you? How are we, as the body of Christ, manifesting Christ's love to the world?

May you experience Christ's love and presence in the midst of your everyday life on Epiphany and always,

Kim Nelson



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

Thank you to everyone who donated Kroger gift cards to our Ministry for the C.A.T.C.H Court and Butterfly women to make their holiday a little happier! We donated 129 Kroger cards, with 40 being supplied by our Grant money and 89 given by the congregation! We also donated 35 hand knit hats to the women from Deanna Douglas and Maria Baker! Thank you! During last year, we also supplied lunch monthly January through November with donations of food from the congregation! We hosted a few Butterfly gals for the Garage Sales for needed supplies as they were able to enter independent housing. We appreciate all the support in items and prayers for this Ministry!

Several months ago, St. Patrick's sent a team to Procter to participate in the first week-long intensive training in the College of Congregational Development (CCD) put on by the Diocese. The College is a two year training designed to equip people with knowledge and skills in "organizational and church development theory and practice, focusing on developing healthy and responsive leadership, facilitation skills, and teamwork" - all with the intention to maximize our impact as a congregation who spreads the love and light of God.

As a way of introducing some of the skills we are learning, the St. Patrick's CCD team recently conducted a survey of people who attend or have attended the Sunday evening, 4pm, service. The goal was to better understand how this particular service is being experienced within the context of the church's overall mission. As some background, the Sunday evening service has been through multiple iterations and changes over the last several years. The service completely stopped during the COVID pandemic and then resumed anew two years ago. Within these last two years, the service has existed with some experimentation in the service structure and programming.

The survey intervention took place throughout the month of October and involved 1:1 interviews with people who currently attend and some who have history of attendance to this service. We interviewed at least 15 people, most were long time members (10+ years), and most have attended or primarily attend morning services but experience the 4pm service at least on occasion.

The questions discussed in the interview focused on the effectiveness of the 4pm service to gather (attract and maintain attendance), transform (have some tangible impact on people), and send (influence how people exist in the world).

We found that the main aspects that attracted people to the service included Holden prayer, convenience (especially the time), curiosity, timing with youth group for families, and casual environment. People continued to attend for the value of built in discussion and enjoying the music at the service.

People felt most transformed by connection with the music and discussions with other people. They generally described a unique ability to reflect and gain new perspectives of others and of scripture, especially applying concepts to current life, through these components of the service.

Finally, people reported being sent into the world better able to connect with themselves and others, both inside and outside of church as a result of their experience attending the 4pm service.

During the discussions with congregants, there were several opportunities for growth that were also identified. People expressed that there might be a desire for more privacy for people who are not as interested or comfortable with discussion. There was also desire for transparency on where and what to expect from the service as a way of balancing stability with flexibility and to attract more visitors to the service. It was also noted that the service often serves as a back up or alternative from a primary preference for a morning service.

The summarized results of these interviews were shared back with the people who were interviewed at one of the Sunday evening services recently and there was camaraderie around the responses and excitement around sharing with the rest of the congregation. Special thank you to Alex Carter, Mike Kennedy, Fr Jason Emerson, and everyone who participated in the interviews!

Kelsey Sicker (they/them)

Epiphany comes at the beginning of January and reminds us of the visit of the Three Kings- thus bringing home the realization that Jesus was born for all people, not just a “chosen few”. On the lighter side of this amazing event, Lissa has a coffee mug that says that if three Wise Women had been there, they would have arrived on time (after asking directions), cleaned the stable and brought a casserole to make sure Mary and Joseph had something to eat. It seems that both visits would be great to remember. The practical caring for someone who needs help and a celebration of a transformative life.

Speaking of transforming, the new year often brings the pressure of social media to make resolutions to get you to lose weight, have amazing skin, manage your fiber intake, and other magic solutions to better your life. Many of us spend a lot of time scrolling through various “follows” and other social media sites to “keep up “ and sometimes even to find companionship. Some of this is helpful in our busy lives, but research has indicated that there is a dark side to over-dependence on our phones.

In a recent study published in JAMA, researchers found that it nearly impossible to go “cold turkey” on the use of our phones. Meetings, using maps, and keeping track of family members were the major blocks of phone abstinence. What they did find was that 91% of the participants reported feeling better, improved sustained attention, improved mental health and feeling less anxious after blocking the internet from their smart phones for two weeks.

So, what are some helpful tips for all of us who overuse our smart phones and want to change this habit:

- Take short breaks- say 30 minutes and then increase the time as your comfort level increases
- Consider a family “detox” where everyone in the family agrees to have a phone free time- like at a meal or before bed
- Try a “dumb phone” where you have calls and texting but no internet
- Find a new phone free activity like walking with a friend without your phone

All of these can help transform the pressure of smart phone dependence into using it as a helpful tool, but not an essential appendage. Lissa tried it and it works!

Happy New Year!

Lissa and Rose

Grief Support

Grief Support gathering will be Monday, January 19th at 6:30PM in St. Patricks 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. If Dublin schools are closed because of weather or if there is 4 inches of snow or more, we will not meet. Please contact Angel Cinco or Becky Stains with questions.

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 Vestry of St. Patrick's Meeting - December 10, 2025

- **Opening:** Kim Nelson led us in prayer and a discussion of two chapters of the book *Wearing God* by Lauren Winner
- **Fish Fries:** Father Jason led us in a discussion of future fish fries. We brainstormed reasons to continue them (outreach, camaraderie, money raised for Habitat for Humanity) and reasons to discontinue them (work, leadership needed, expense - cost going up). Conversation will continue. No decision was made.
- **Rector's Report:** Father Jason reported Peter O'Neill has trained 7 people for Sunday Streaming. Eryn Kyndelin is working in Children's Chapel teaching carols for the Christmas Pageant. Terri Glisson is our hard working pageant director. Jessica and Nick Randolph hosted this year's St. Nicholas event complete with popcorn, cocoa, a movie and, of course, St. Nick. Father Jason also shared the Associate Rector Search Timeline beginning with an Advisory Team Formation in January and ending July 1 with the new Associate starting at St. Patrick's.
- **Associate Priest's Report:** Mother Catherine emphasized her hope for all of us to experience spiritual grounding in the season of Advent. She particularly highlighted the Way of Love dinners and the Advent book series as meaningful ways to come out of Advent a different Christian than how we entered it. She also shared we welcomed several new members into our St. Patrick's family this month.
- **Senior Warden's Report:** Alex reported the nominating committee is hard at work developing a strong list of Vestry and Convention delegates. She shared our Stewardship Team is working to contact members, and they continue to see pledges come in. We are still shy of our goal, so it is the hope all parishioners will get their pledges in by the end of December, so we can reach our goal and call an Associate Rector.
- **Junior Warden's Report:** Blair reported that although it was a fairly quiet month, our roof inspector confirmed we have a deteriorating roof; however, the hail damage is not significant enough to justify insurance covering the cost. A new leak appeared above Lucas's desk and will be repaired as soon as the snow cover melts.
- **Endowment Draw Proposal:** Father Jason shared information and success on our Joint Evangelism project with St. Mark's to increase attendance through mailings. He proposed we continue three mailings in 2026 using part of our Endowment Draw to support these efforts. The motion passed.
- **2026 Budget:** Mark shared the proposed budget for 2026. After a lot of discussion, the Vestry chose to wait until January to pass it after more anticipated pledges come in. The Vestry did pass a 2.8% Cola increase for the staff and the Rector's Housing Allowance.
- November Treasurer's Report and Minutes were accepted with no changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Redman,

Clerk of the Vestry

In his Nov. 7, 2024 statement on the U.S. Presidential Election, Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe called on Episcopalians to “remember that God has called us in The Episcopal Church to seek and serve Christ in all persons. No matter the party in power, we are one church, and we will continue to fulfill our baptismal covenant by proclaiming in word and example the Good News of God in Christ, striving for justice and peace among all people, and protecting the dignity of every human being.”

Therefore St. Patrick's Social Justice Committee is inviting all congregants and their friends to participate in two Listening Sessions that will identify ways in which we can live out Presiding Bishop Rowe's imperative right here in Dublin and the surrounding area. Broad themes were identified through discernment at our parish-wide and vestry retreats earlier this year. They are:

- Immigration
- LGBTQ+ Inclusion
- Meeting Neighborhood Needs
- People with Disabilities Inclusion
- Racial Reconciliation

The first session will occur on Monday, January 19th, from 6:30 – 8:30pm at St. Patrick's. The second session will be the following Monday, January 26th at the same time and place as the previous meeting. It is strongly recommended that interested parties attend both sessions, however, please attend even if for only one of the two. We will call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us to areas of collective energy in living out Christ's love in the world.

Advent at St. Patrick's



**FCCS Holiday
Wish Program**



St. Nicholas Day



January Calendar



Thursday, January 1st

Happy New Year
Office Closed

Friday, January 2nd

Office Closed

Sunday, January 4th

8AM Holy Eucharist
8:30AM Coffee Hour
9:30AM Holy Eucharist
11:30AM Sacred Circle

Monday, January 5th

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

Tuesday, January 6th

7AM Men's Group
At Fresh Start
1PM Newcomers Team Meeting
7PM Boy Scouts Troop 299
7:30PM Sacred Circle

Wednesday, January 7th

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, January 8th

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

Sunday, January 11th

8AM Holy Eucharist
9:30AM Holy Eucharist
4PM Holy Eucharist
5PM Youth Group

Monday, January 12th

9:30AM EfM Extension
6PM AA Meeting

Tuesday, January 13th

7AM Men's Group
6:30PM Ministry Collaborative Meeting
7PM Boy Scouts Troop 299
7:30PM Sacred Circle

Wednesday, January 14th

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

Thursday, January 15th

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

Sunday, January 18th

8AM Holy Eucharist
9:30AM Holy Eucharist
11AM Stephen Ministry
11:30AM Sacred Circle
4PM Holy Eucharist
5PM Youth Group

Monday, January 19th

Office Closed
9:30AM EfM Extension
6PM AA Meeting
6:30PM Social Justice Listening Session
6:30PM Grief Support

Tuesday, January 20th

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

Wednesday, January 21st

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, January 22nd

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

Sunday, January 25th

8AM Holy Eucharist
9:30AM Holy Eucharist
4PM Holy Eucharist
5PM Youth Group

Monday, January 26th

9:30AM EFM Extension
6PM AA Meeting
6:30PM Social Justice Listening Session

Tuesday, January 27th

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

Wednesday, January 28th

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

Thursday, December 25th

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

