

# The First Sunday after Epiphany

The Baptism of Our Lord

Holy Eucharist Rite I

*January 12, 2025 8 a.m.*



*Epiphany*, also known as "Theophany" in Eastern Christian tradition, is a Christian feast day commemorating the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the wedding at Cana.

In Western Christianity, the feast commemorates principally (but not solely) the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child, and thus Jesus Christ's physical manifestation to the Gentiles. It is sometimes called Three Kings' Day, and in some traditions celebrated as Little Christmas. Moreover, the feast of the Epiphany, in some denominations, also initiates the liturgical season of Epiphanytide.

Popular Epiphany customs include Epiphany hymns, chalking the door, having one's house blessed and eating Three Kings Cake. It is customary for Christians in many localities to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve (Twelfth Night).

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 323

*Presider* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

## GLORIA

BCP 324

**Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*The Collect of the Day, Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel readings can be found in the insert.*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

**A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH**

**ISAIAH 43:1-7**

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 29 (said in unison)**

**INSERT**

**A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

**ACTS 8:14-17**

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        Thanks be to God.

*Gospeller*    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People*        **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL**

**LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22**

*Gospeller*    The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*        **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

**FR. BAILEY NORMAN**

**THE NICENE CREED**

**BCP 326**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. *Amen.***

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**BCP 328**

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Stephen, the Archbishop of York; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Brian, our Bishop; Jonathan, Bishop of our companion diocese of South Dakota; Bailey, Steve and Laura, our clergy; and Adam, our seminarian, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joe our President, Donald our President-elect, and Bill our Governor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

In The Diocese of East Tennessee we pray for St. James, Greeneville.

In The Diocese of South Dakota we pray for St. John's, Deadwood, our sister parish and for St. Thomas, Sturgis, South Dakota and St. James, Belle Fourche, South Dakota.

In The Diocese of Haiti, we pray for St. John the Evangelist Church and Medical Clinic.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church of the Province of West Africa.

We pray for those in assisted living and rehab: Jo Ann Baker, Dianne Davis, Roger Derby, Tony McFarland, Allan Reiss, Mary Rhoades.

We pray for the following parish members: Rhonda Ashburn, Beth Bailey, Matt & Leah Bailey, Liz Baker, Noah Baker, Jacob Anthony, Gabe Ledford.

We pray for the women and men who are currently serving in the armed forces at home and abroad, especially Brian Bustle, Courtenay Clary, Nick Corrigan, Reid Hartman, Seth Kosko, Alex Mol, Kyle Zirkel.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Stephen, St. Alban, and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

*Presider* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 331

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

*The Presider, stands and says*

## ABSOLUTION

BCP 332

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

*The Presider will then say one or more of the following sentences*

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*  
God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe  
in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the  
world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the  
perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

## **BLESSINGS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

### **THE PEACE**

**BCP 332**

*All stand. The Presider says to the people*

*Presider*      The peace of the Lord be always with you  
*People*        **And with thy spirit.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### **OFFERTORY**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II**

**BCP 340**

*The people remain standing. The Presider, faces them and says*

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*        **And with thy spirit.**

*Presider*      Lift up your hearts.  
*People*        **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Presider*      Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*People*        **It is meet and right so to do.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places,  
give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

*A Proper preface is said*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and  
magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

### **SANCTUS**

**BCP 341**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory, Glory be to thee, O  
Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people kneel or stand. Then the Presider continues*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Presider is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BCP 336**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. *Amen.***

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said*

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.*

**FRACTION ANTHEM**

**BCP 337**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.**

**PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

**BCP 337**

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.***

*Facing the people, the Presider says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



*All baptized are welcome to receive communion. All are welcome to come forward to the rail to receive a blessing from the priest.*

## **THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*After communion, the Presider says*

Let us pray.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BCP 339**

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.***

## **SENDING FORTH THE EUCHARISTIC VISITOR**

*Presider*      In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go, may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

*People*        **Though we are many, we are one, because we share one bread and one cup.**

## **THE BLESSING**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*Presider*      Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Doug Goode  
by Mary Kay Polo, Anne Louise Coryelle and Anna Fraser.*

*The Amby Candle is given to the glory of God by Mary Kay Polo.*



# THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY - JANUARY 12, 2025

	8:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
<b>CRUCIFER</b>		Cyril Meredith, IV
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Jack Lee	Chi Kirk, Arwyn Welch
<b>LECTORS</b>	Mary Shepard	Betsy Ellis
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	Jack Lee	Goldie Kennedy, Cameron Ellis
<b>USHERS</b>	Jack and Mary Nell Campbell	Tom Clary, Cameron Ellis
<b>GREETERS</b>	Jim Rousey	Barbara Neill, Carol Ann Lane
<b>COUNTERS</b>	Carol Gardner, Roger Johnson	
<b>EUCCHARISTIC VISITOR</b>	Katherine & Gary Grubb	
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Judith Delaney, Jo Kelley, Ruth Prince, Julie Webber	
<b>AV TECH</b>	Chuck Kirk	
<b>SOURCE MATERIAL</b>	The source material for this service is the Book of Common Prayer, Year C	
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS - SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024

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Please send any upcoming weekly bulletin, e-news or calendar announcements by noon, Wednesday, January 15. Fully edited pertinent information, including dates, times, location(s) should be sent to editor@ststephensor.org. This email goes to both the Parish Office, and Rob Steele III, our E-News editor. Final content is at the discretion of clergy and staff.

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS - JANUARY 13 - JANUARY 18

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday.

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DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sunday, January 12	5:00 p.m.	Celtic Service
Monday, January 13	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Tuesday, January 14	10:00 a.m.	Tuesday Bible Study
	11:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Meeting
Wednesday, January 15	8:30 a.m.	Men's Group
	9:00 a.m.	WOW
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, January 16	4:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)
Friday, January 17	8:30 a.m.	Wardens Meeting
		Office Closed

### ST. STEPHEN'S FINANCIAL STATUS UPDATE

AS OF JANUARY 5, 2025

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These numbers reflect the change to track our actual giving vs budgeted expenses. Scan the QR code for online pledging!



Last Week's Offering

\$1,615

### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

TODAY

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Join us for Coffee and Conversation today after both services.

### CELTIC SERVICE

TODAY

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Join us in the nave at 5:00 p.m. for our Celtic service, hosted in collaboration with First United Methodist Church. Music will be provided by Cathy Whitten, Lisa Muci Eckhoff and Ashton Arndt.

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**BLESSING BOX IN ACTION!****ITEMS NEEDED THIS WEEK**

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Thank you to everyone who is supporting the Blessing Box! Please remember the Blessing Box when you shop. This week, we are requesting donations of instant oatmeal, canned soup and Ramen noodles. Many of those in need do not have access to a can opener. If you are purchasing **canned items**, please check to see if your item can be bought with a pop-off lid. They can be placed in the little red wagon in the narthex.

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**FEAST OF THE THREE KINGS****TODAY**

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Today we will celebrate the Feast of the Three Kings in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service. We will be serving the traditional New Orleans' style Kings Cake, a French Galette des Rois and a Mexican Rosca de Reyes. Come and join us!

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**LOOSE PLATE OFFERING****THIS MONTH**

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The loose plate offering for the rest of the month of January will be designated for Brysonn's Closet. Please see the E-News and the January Evangel for more detailed information about this worthy non-profit.

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**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Lectionary class at St. Stephen's is unique in that it is a discussion each Sunday about the Gospel that is in that Sunday's bulletin insert. It is also unique in that the class is led each Sunday by a member of the class. Recent leaders have been Roger Johnson, Steve Damos, Emily Doane, Gary Dreier, Mary Ellen Klots, Joseph Womble and Father Bailey. If you'd like a better understanding of the Bible (who doesn't), come to a Lectionary class on Sundays at 9:30 am in the Pollard library.

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**NEW ADULT ED - INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST CLASS TO BEGIN TODAY**

We will continue our wonderful Lectionary Study each Sunday! As an alternative, Fr. Bailey will be offering an extended Instructed Eucharist class beginning this Sunday at 9:30 in the chapel. What is an Instructed Eucharist? In years past, St. Stephen's has offered an "extended" Eucharist during regular service in which the priest pauses to teach and explain certain parts of the service and why we do things the way we do. In this class, we will take a piece of the Eucharist service each week, carry it out together, and then talk about the origins and meaning behind each part. Toward the end of the class (closer to Lent), we will host a Eucharist one evening with a dinner following that will emphasize what we have learned.

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This class is open to everyone, especially to those newer to the Episcopal tradition. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Fr. Bailey at [rector@ststephensor.org](mailto:rector@ststephensor.org).

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**ECUMENICAL STOREHOUSE****JANUARY**

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It is St. Stephen's time again to volunteer at the Ecumenical Storehouse. We will return to the Storehouse to volunteer again after the reopening on January 14, 16, 18, 21, 23 and 25. We have most shifts covered but always need reserve volunteers for service when someone is ill or otherwise unable to make their sign up date. If you would like to volunteer on any of these dates, please contact Kathie Shearer at 865-660-0861.

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**FLOWER AND AMBRY CANDLE CHARTS****THIS MONTH**

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The 2025 flower and ambry candle charts are now posted on the bulletin board outside of the parish office. You may now sign up for the new year. Flower cost for two arrangements is \$85.00. The cost for ambry candle is \$5.00. This is a lovely way to contribute to our worship services.

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**MONTHLY PARISH POTLUCK****JANUARY 26**

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Our first monthly potluck of the year will take place on Sunday, January 26 after the 10:30 a.m. service. Please bring one or two of your favorite potluck dishes to share with your parish family. Come and be a part of this wonderful monthly tradition!

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**HOUSE BLESSINGS FOR EPIPHANY**

During the season of Epiphany, it is very appropriate for the church to offer house blessings. House blessings go back to the ancient church in which the church actually met in people's homes before special places were consecrated for worship. Fr Bailey is delighted to come out and offer this blessing, both for the blessing itself and the opportunity to have fellowship with you in your home. It is appropriate for anyone, but it is especially fun for families with kids as we can include them in part of the service. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Fr Bailey directly at [rector@ststephens.org](mailto:rector@ststephens.org) to schedule a time for the blessing.

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**DAUGHTERS OF THE KING****TODAY**

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The Daughters of the King (DOK) will be meeting Sunday, Jan 12, from 12-1 pm in the Pollard Library. We will be focusing on the Spiritual Gifts we will strengthen for 2025 and celebrating the Feast of St. Agnes. All Daughters are encouraged wear blue and sit in one of the reserved pews in the front of the nave. All women are invited to be involved with the Daughters and meetings are open to all. If you would like to learn more about the ministry of DOK or consider becoming a part of the order, please contact either of their co-chairs - Rebecca Cavender ([rebecca.m.cavender@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.m.cavender@gmail.com)) or Beth Reed ([brussellreed@yahoo.com](mailto:brussellreed@yahoo.com))

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**COMING IN FEBRUARY****FEBRUARY 8**

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Please join us for a Free Parish Pool Party on Saturday, February 8th at the Civic Center Pool. We will gather in the Parish Hall at 5:00 for pizza and then head over to the pool to swim from 6:00-8:00. While only 50 can be in the water at a time, all are welcome! Lifeguards will be provided..

**MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATIONS**

**JANUARY 19 & 20**

On Sunday, January 19:

**Persisting in Unity and Respect - The Legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
4:00 pm Oak Valley Baptist Church - 194 Hampton Rd., Oak Ridge**

On Monday, January 20:

**MLK celebration and awards, 9:45 a.m., Historic Grove Theater, 123 Randolph Rd.**

## STAFF

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## VESTRY

SENIOR WARDEN - LEAH BAILEY (2025) JUNIOR WARDEN - BEN SHASSERE (2026)  
BETSY ELLIS - SECRETARY ALAN LIBY - TREASURER (2026)

CLEON HARTMAN, ASHLEY HILLIS, COURTNEY MANROD (2025)  
CRAIG BRENT, TYLER WALKER (2026)  
BETH BAILEY, RAY EVANS, CAROL KING, JULIE WEBBER(2027)



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