



## The Angelus

January 2025

### From the Rector's Desk

January 6....

Such a big day! Right?

Yeah.

The visit of the Three Kings to Our Lord. The Epiphany. God showing the gentiles, the nations, that Jesus is the Messiah. (You thought I was talking about a certain conflagration in DC a little while back, didn't you!)

It's interesting that January 6, the Epiphany, is a much older celebration of God becoming human in Jesus than Christmas Day is. In fact, in a lot of countries, including some Latin countries where some of our newest members come from, it's still a bigger feast of the Incarnation than Christmas.

I remember spending some time with friends in Puerto Rico, visiting the villages they were from and seeing the sights. We were in an important regional city on January 6. The whole city shut down, with parades, music, vendors, and a religious/liturgical drama in the town square. The characters in the drama included the prophets that foretold of the Messiah, His Mother, etc. And the Three Kings rode on horseback into the town square in full regalia. The crowds cheered, choirs sang, bands played, priests and bishops blessed and sprinkled the people in their most festive clothing. Glory to God in the highest!

I got inspired and wrote a poem about the Three Kings, Epiphany, and Puerto Rico. I got it published somewhere years ago, but I don't remember where. I've included it for you to read here, if you feel like it. In the poem, I've incorporated things like the ocean around Puerto Rico, the Kings, Spanish colonial history, indigenous history, thoughts about who we are and belong to as Christians. This, of course, is only to ponder more deeply who Jesus is and to worship Him.

Enjoy!

## Epiphany Eve, Puerto Rico

These winter surfs  
crush with the stars  
that Herod searched  
and feared. Here is a water

fragrant with justice.

Here is an unction so terrible  
that los tres reyes  
will gallop and kneel

richly with it. Here their horses'  
hooves under their burden  
will trample other stars  
on sodden banners.

Here will Isabella be dark  
and cold with the weight  
of a sun in water.

Now will the magi find

the mother bright  
with their pondering East.  
Now will they humbly find  
beyond Juana Diaz.

Now to give to the infant  
who can speak the sea  
for a promised land.

Now to the Taino baby.

Peace,  
WLB+

## Epiphany Open House at the Rectory

Please join Fr William and Tomomi Kanemaru for  
Epiphany Eve/Twelfth Night of Christmas at the  
Rectory, Friday, January 10, 5 pm-Whenever.

Some food and drinks will be provided, but please bring  
something to eat, drink, and share, potluck style, to close out  
the Twelve Days of Christmas and usher in the showing of  
Christ to the nations of the world, the Epiphany. There will be  
a brief seasonal blessing of Tomomi and Fr William's home  
along with an evening of friendship and warm belonging.

No need to RSVP. And bring a friend or two who don't yet know our delightful congregation or might be nervous  
about approaching Church otherwise. Questions? Contact Fr William: [wbulson@gracesheboygan](mailto:wbulson@gracesheboygan); 920.452.9659





## Christmas Joy

On December 17 many elves gathered in the church kitchen to package dozens of delicious Christmas cookies which, with small poinsettias {many thanks to Pat and Tim Miller for this contribution}, were delivered to our shuts in, elderly, and refugee families. The many volunteers who made this special event possible by baking and delivering included: Pat Ford Smith, Deb Gagin, Pat Miller, Bob and Anne Hanlon, Mary Snyder and Tom Wright, Jean-Margret Merrell-Beech, Martha Shad, Andrea and



Leona Aparicio, Jessica Ambelang, Claudia Fischer, Polly Schmeiser, Shannon Luckey Mueller, Mary Clabots, Addison Spray. In addition we were able to give each refugee family a \$40 gift certificate made possible by Dianna Keller, Nancy Imig, Pat Sather, Mia McMillan Pat Ford Smith, Sue and Dennis Miller, Mary Snyder, Fr. William Bulson, Laura Zindler, Bill Reiss, Clayton Logue, Jack Britton, Doug and Kathy Jenkins, Addison Spray and Bob and Barb MacEwen. Christmas Joy was much appreciated by all the recipients.



## Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 19, 2025. A single combined worship service will be held at 9 am, followed by coffee hour and Annual Meeting in St. Nicholas Hall. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who wish to contribute food for the coffee hour.



## Are you a candidate for the Vestry?

There are four openings for the upcoming 2025 vestry year:

Three - 3 years terms

One - 1 year term

Qualifications for a vestry position include: regular Sunday attendance and giving of time, talent, and money for the spread of God's kingdom.

What's in it for you and for the church? You will be sharing your vision, knowledge, talent, and leadership. This will enrich yourself and the vestry by sharing your skills.

If you are interested, please contact Fr. William Bulson or Mary Snyder – Sr. Warden.

## Here is the Love INC update

This Christmas season, Love INC incredible volunteers came together to wrap gifts and prepare special gift baskets for the 21 refugee families we've had the honor of welcoming over the past year. Love INC is deeply grateful to our church support teams @crossroadssheboygan Grace Episcopal Church, Sheboygan WI First United Lutheran Church - ELCA @frcoostburg with Sheboygan Hispanic Seventh Day Adventist Church and St. Luke's United Methodist Church for your unwavering dedication in helping these families adjust and settle into their new lives. Your kindness and generosity truly reflect the hope we shared this Christmas season.



New Way Classes will begin on February 6 and end May 1, 2025. Classes offered this term are: Beginning Bible Study, Affirming Potential, Financial Future, Boundaries and Successful Living. Classes will again be held at Calvin Christian Reformed Church at 2313 Saemann Ave. in Sheboygan, WI, from 5 til 7PM. A meal will be served from 5 to

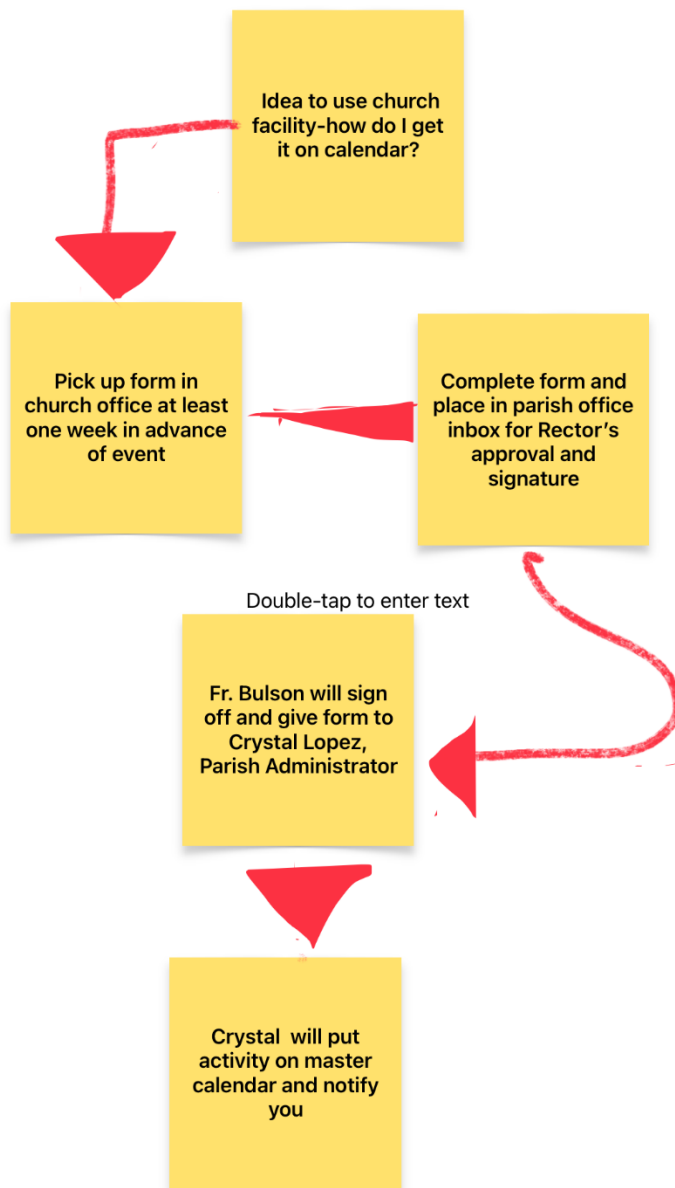


5:30 before classes begin. Personal and household items are available after class, and a food box from the Sheboygan County Food Pantry can be arranged to be delivered to the church.

Future plans for the celebration of Love INC of Sheboygan County's 10th anniversary on February 15, 2025 will be announced when available

Blessings of the Season.

Constance Schneider



## Did you know?

How to get an event /activity scheduled on the church calendar.  
(This is an updated reminder.)

This procedure is for all vestry, ministry leaders, or anyone who wants to use the church facilities for any activity. Our parish administrator, Crystal Lopez, coordinates use of the facilities at Grace, through our master calendar. (Calendar on reception desk IS NOT THE MASTER CALENDAR.) When requesting space for meetings or events there is a process that everyone is asked to follow:

1. The event request must be made at least one week in advance so that if there is a scheduling conflict it may be resolved in a timely manner. Please be aware there are ongoing meetings that are already in place on the calendar. You are welcome to call the Parish Administrator to check availability for your upcoming event, before requesting event form.
2. Event request/building usage forms are located on the parish office desk for completion. Forms should be completed by the requesting individual, and then returned to the parish office inbox.  
Requests will be submitted to the Rector for his approval, and then Crystal will put it on the master calendar and notify you.

Thank you for adhering to these steps. If you have questions or need further clarification, Crystal can assist you.

## November Vestry highlights:

The Vestry commissioned the Oblates of the Guardians of the Shrine to present designs for new exterior signage for Grace Episcopal Church that will include the presence of the proto-type of Our Lady of Walsingham shrine.

- The Vestry Retreat and first meeting of new Vestry will be held on February 22, 2025.

## November Financial Focus

<u>November Income</u>	<u>YTD Income</u>	<u>Annual Budget 2024</u>
\$ 33,673	\$ 300,646	\$ 309,921
<u>November Expenses</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>	<u>Annual Budget 2024</u>
\$ 33,407	\$ 290,037	\$ 332,29

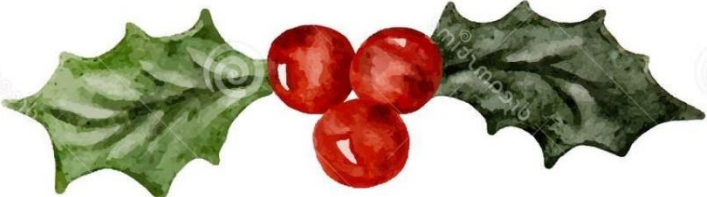
### Mark Your Calendars

- January 5<sup>th</sup> Organ Recital featuring Caleb Klinzing – 12 noon
- January 6<sup>th</sup> The Feast of the Epiphany Mass – 6pm
- January 10<sup>th</sup> Epiphany Open House at Rectory– 5pm
- January 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at St. Nicholas Hall, One MASS at 9am





December's Grace highlights:



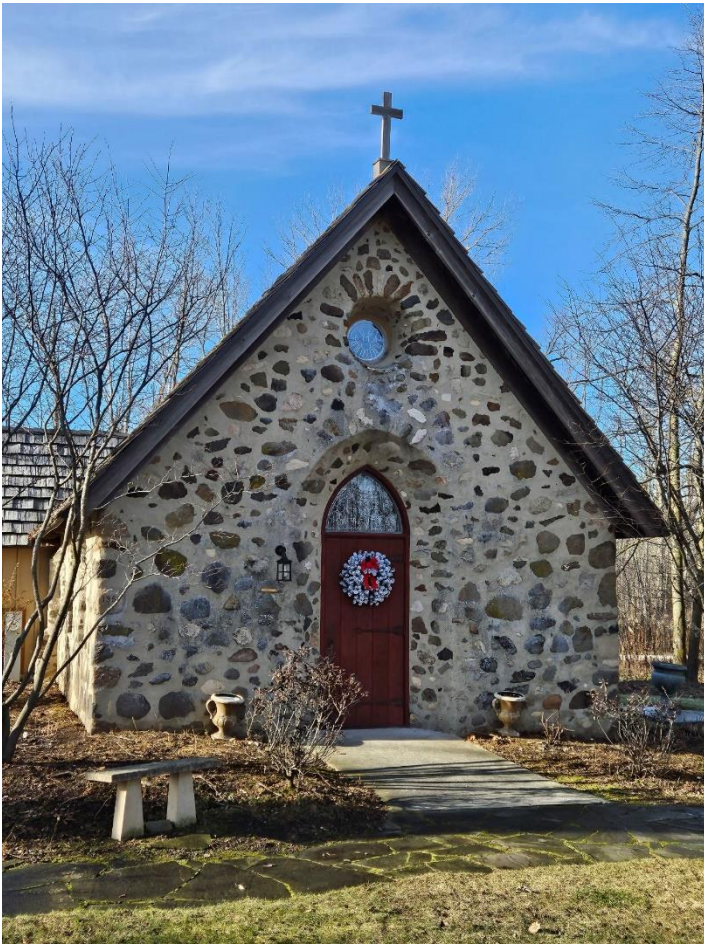












**January Birthdays**

Bob MacEwen 1/8  
 Bob Hanlon 1/10  
 Brian Heck 1/13  
 SJ Schmeiser 1/18  
 William Bulson 1/22  
 Anne Hanlon 1/24  
 Barb MacEwen 1/28  
 Steve Schmeiser 1/28

**January Anniversary**

Dale & Mary Massey 1/9

**Parish Staff**

The Rt. Rev. Matthew A Gunter, *Bishop*  
 The Reverend William L. Bulson, *Rector*  
 The Reverend Paul D. Aparicio, *Deacon*  
 Clayton Logue, *Organist-Choirmaster*  
 Crystal Lopez, *Parish Administrator*  
 Javier Delgado, *Sexton*

**The Vestry**

The Reverend William L. Bulson, *Chair*  
 Mary Snyder, *Senior Warden*  
 John Davis, *Junior Warden*  
 Brian Heck, *Treasurer*  
 Helen Mullison, *Chancellor*  
*Vestry:* Jean-Margret Merrell-Beech,  
 Jack Britton, Fr. Jack Connelly, Tasha  
 Crouse, Jane Hanson, Mary Gallimore,  
 Shannon Luckey-Mueller,  
 Connie Schneider, and Steve Weinert





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