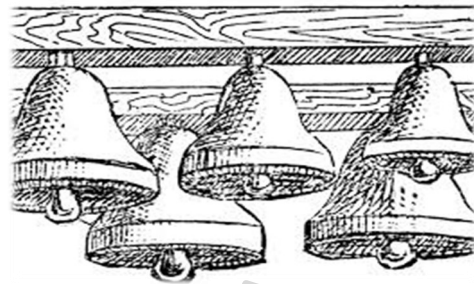


Christ Church

Serving Harford County Since 1805

Rock Spring Parish

December 2020



"Chimes"



Santa Larrie Smith and Leslie Amtmann at Lunch with Santa 2018

Christ Church Rock Spring Parish

2100 Rock Spring Road

P.O. Box 215

Forest Hill, MD 21050

Phone: 410-838-6606

Email: ChristChrsp@gmail.com

Website: www.ChristChurchForestHill.org

Office Hours: Tues—Thurs 10am-2pm

Other Hours by Appointment

Priest-In-Charge: Fr. Kirk Kubicek

Parish Administrator: Marianne Kidd

Sexton: John Tipton

Vestry Officers: Molly Neal, Senior Warden

Leslie Amtmann, Treasurer

Dave Martell, Junior Warden

Music Team Leaders:

Marianne Kidd—Choir Director

Lyn Edmunds—Song Leader

Robert Hitz—Music Consultant

Letter from the Pastor

**And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall ?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me ?**

**And is it true ? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,**

**No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine**

-Excerpt from Christmas, by Sir John Betjeman

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Christmas 2020 is going to be like no other in the history of our historic 1805 Christ Church, Rock Spring Parish. As we witness a surge in the novel Covid-19 Coronavirus, we will be decorating our church and celebrating the Holy Eucharist of Christmas Eve, but with not one person in the pews. Hopefully our prudence will enable us to make it to the time, coming soon but not soon enough, when a vaccine will be available to all of us. As humans in a culture of immediate gratification, we do not like to wait, despite the verifiable fact that one of the consistent Biblical virtues calls us "to wait upon the Lord." After all, Adventus Rex, the Latin name of the current season that leads up to Christmas, means "the Coming of the King." It is that season that precedes our celebration of the Christ's first coming in a manger in the small town of Bethlehem which literally means "House of Bread." Advent reminds us that we are those people who believe he will come again, and that we are waiting for that day in prayerful confidence. In the meantime, we experience the Christ's presence in the Bread and Wine of Holy Communion, as onetime Poet Laureate of Great Britain Sir John Betjeman declares in his marvelous poem, Christmas. You can hear Sir John read Christmas at this link (https://youtu.be/AyZL9_To0_A).

As we wait for our Lord's return, as we wait for Christmas to come, as we wait for that day it will be safe for us to return to worship in our beloved Christ Church Rock Spring Parish, we can listen to Sir John Betjeman read his poem, inspired by the truth that "The Maker of the stars and sea/Became a child on Earth for [you] and me!" And we can continue to come together Christmas Eve, every Sunday, and Monday through Friday as a Live Stream community. Is it perfect? Not at all. But neither was the world into which Jesus came to be with us, Emmanuel, "God with us." The Christ is with us still, in the Bread and the Wine. And for this we give thanks to Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Merry Christmas. God bless us, every one,
Fr. Kirk Kubicek, Priest in Charge

Stewardship Pledge Card

2021



Christ Church, Rock Spring Parish
P.O. Box 215
Forest Hill, MD 21050

In prayerful consideration of my/our stewardship of God's resources, responsibility to Christ Church, and the desire to take the next step in my/our journey of faith,

I/we pledge the following financial support to Christ Church for the 2021 church year:

Weekly \$ _____

Quarterly \$ _____

Monthly \$ _____

For a total of \$ _____ per year

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to receive envelopes (circle one): Yes No

Signature _____ Date _____

**Please return to Christ Church by mail.
Thank You and God Bless!**

Episcopal Church Women



HARFORD FAMILY HOUSE CHRISTMAS GIVING

The ECW is grateful for every monetary contribution made, making it possible to continue our tradition of providing Christmas gifts to residents of **Harford Family House**. Every single year, the families are very thankful for the gifts from the Christ Church congregation, and Harford Family house appreciates being remembered by us so they can continue to provide support and holiday cheer. This year, you might have missed choosing a tag and putting thought and care into the gifts you gave, but the ECW Elves worked their magic and say **THANK YOU!**

MONDAY November 30—VIRTUAL ECW Meeting 7PM

Our first attempt at a ZOOM meeting in early November had a few hiccups but we are committed to gathering, even if virtually! Molly & Kate did a great job with the technical details.

We tentatively plan to meet again in January; all women of Christ Church are members of ECW and are **INVITED & ENCOURAGED** to join us! If you would like to receive a link to our ZOOM meetings, please send an email to Molly at rosie4us2@yahoo.com.



December 4—Delivery of Christmas Gifts to Harford Family House



CHRISTMAS CHEER BASKETS—December 19

Our Cheer Baskets may be a little different this year, but we will still be delivering good wishes, and a few surprises, to those who have been unable to attend services. We hope those receiving them know they are remembered with love by their Christ Church family!

**All women of Christ Church
are automatically
members of ECW**

**ECW is currently conducting
meetings virtually.**

**Please contact Molly Neal
to receive an email link.**

rosie4us2@yahoo.com.

BRING YOUR IDEAS!



ECW Officers 2018-2019

President

Colleen Murphy 410-925-5875

Vice-President

Leigh Spicer 410-838-5922

Corresponding Secretary

Janet Clifton 410-838-5072

Recording Secretary

MaryJane Parrish 410-456-7931

Treasurer

Melinda Chase 443-866-1134

Know your Vestry

Christ Church, Rock Spring



Lynn Klein

Just a quick congratulations to Lynn who has just finished her last chemotherapy treatment this Fall! It has been a long hard couple of years for her but our prayers were answered and Lynn is cancer free! Lynn and Phil are wonderful additions to our church family. Lynn is on the Cemetery Committee, Altar Guild and on Vestry, as well as helping out wherever needed, such as being a past Junior Warden. And this is where Phil, a custom home builder for 40 plus years, came into help us here at Christ Church. Phil is Catholic but has been a pretty good attendee here also - we all know Phil! He has fixed our sacristy steps, replaced the high sacristy lights as well as many other projects around our property.

Lynn and Phil were married in 1994. Each has children from previous marriages. Lynn was an only child who was born in Baltimore City and attended Parkville High. She worked with the Baltimore County Public Schools for twenty-five years. Lynn has three children, 2 sons and a daughter, 4 grandchildren and 7 step grandchildren. Phil has a son and a daughter, 2 grandchildren and 7 step grandchildren. Phil attended Calvert Hall and the MD Institute for Architectural Design. His favorite memories would include building houses, garages and decks for his family, as well as completing their own lovely custom log home. Some of us were able to attend their Open House last year and were amazed at the detail and love put not only into the home but that dining room table was beautiful and so useful as well!

Now that Lynn and Phil are past some health scares they are able to enjoy gardening, observing nature and travelling together. A big thank you to you both.

Written by MJ & Lynn

PS: As a side note and for it's a small world - I met Lynn before I knew she went to Christ Church. Years ago we had 3 services on Sundays and we went to different ones. I met Lynn at the Forest Hill Rehab and Assisted Living (behind Ronnie's) when she was visiting her mother (I think she was there every day). I went to visit my father who was in rehab and met her as she was outside sitting with her mother. It was a beautiful sunny day and they were so enjoying the outside that we started talking about the weather and other things. Also, Lynn recognized my then daughter-in-law at the Christmas services and they knew they had worked together in Baltimore County for a while together. Small world.

MJ

Merry Christmas!



Season's greetings to our friends and family at Christ Church! This year has been a roller coaster for many and certainly for the Morris family, too! My retirement from civilian service with the Dept. of the Army coincided with the availability of our rental home in NC. We buckled up and hopped on board for a quick ride! This would not have gone as smoothly without the love and support from our friends at Christ Church, especially members of the choir and vestry.

Thank you and have a wonderful Holiday! Better times will come, as the song says!

Love,
Laurie

Thank you Altar Guild for the beautifully decorated church!

Thank you Fr. Kirk for your spiritual leadership throughout 2020.

Thank you Dave Martell for cleaning up the gardens and debris to make Christ Church shine all year round!

As our 2020 comes to a close, please check to ensure your financial pledge is up to date! You will receive a pledge update from our Treasurer, Leslie Amtmann. Please contact her with any questions regarding your 2020 pledge.

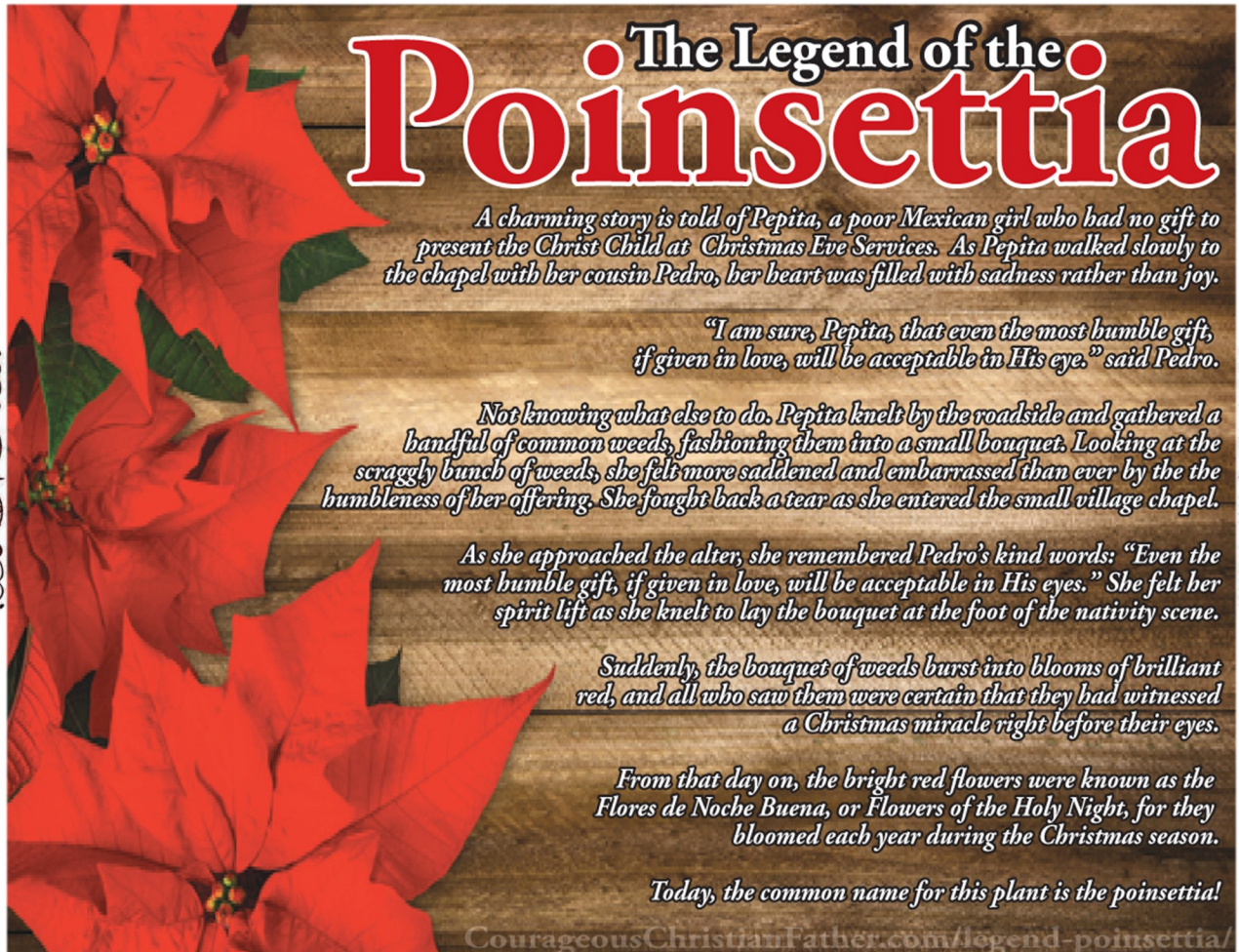
Hollis celebrated her second birthday, is getting excited for Santa Claus and misses seeing you all in person very much.



Lots of Holiday Love
From The Kidds!



“Even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes.”



The Legend of the Poinsettia

A charming story is told of Pepita, a poor Mexican girl who had no gift to present the Christ Child at Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked slowly to the chapel with her cousin Pedro, her heart was filled with sadness rather than joy.

“I am sure, Pepita, that even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eye.” said Pedro.

Not knowing what else to do, Pepita knelt by the roadside and gathered a handful of common weeds, fashioning them into a small bouquet. Looking at the scraggly bunch of weeds, she felt more saddened and embarrassed than ever by the humbleness of her offering. She fought back a tear as she entered the small village chapel.

As she approached the alter, she remembered Pedro’s kind words: “Even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes.” She felt her spirit lift as she knelt to lay the bouquet at the foot of the nativity scene.

Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into blooms of brilliant red, and all who saw them were certain that they had witnessed a Christmas miracle right before their eyes.

From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the Flores de Noche Buena, or Flowers of the Holy Night, for they bloomed each year during the Christmas season.

Today, the common name for this plant is the poinsettia!

CourageousChristianFather.com/legend-poinsettia/

Christmas Poinsettia Contribution 2020

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please accept this contribution of \$ _____ toward the cost of decorating Christ Church at Christmas.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

Please return by mail to: Christ Church



P.O. Box 215, Forest Hill, MD 21050

Online Diocesan Youth Group



Thursdays 4:30pm – 6:00pm
Grades 6th-12th

Every week from September 17 – May 2021 there will be a gaggle of youth from across the Diocese. Our time together will include check ins, prayers, and a rotation of games or Bible study using the Bible Project at Home.

[HTTPS://EPISCOPALMARYLAND.ORG](https://episcopalmaryland.org)

Christ Church does not have a drop box for Toys For Tots this year. Please go to WWW.TOYSFORTOTS.ORG

Donations can be made virtually or click the “Ways to Donate” tab to search for drop off locations in Harford County.



WAYS TO REACH OUT OR SPREAD CHEER THIS YEAR!

ECW is collecting SOCKS & SNACKS to assist DSS bringing cheer to the Foster Youth of Harford County. Please contact Molly to coordinate dropping off your donation before Dec. 18th.

Centre United Methodist Church’s food pantry remains open distributing food on Wednesday evenings 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Donations of non-perishables can be dropped off on the outdoor picnic tables all day on Wednesday prior to 6 pm.



God Provides
Food Pantry
Centre United Methodist Church
2409 Rocks Road
Forest Hill, Maryland 21050
410-838-4207

Help our Local Food Pantry

Hand Me Down Hub, Inc.

The Hand Me Down Hub closet is overflowing! Clothes of all sizes from infant to teen available -coats and shoes too! Send in a request for yourself or someone you know.



Marianne Kidd
410-937-0865
HMDHub@gmail.com
www.Facebook.com/HMDHub



Harford County Public Library is holding a Virtual Library Series!

Check out the Virtual Story Times at HCPLonline.org. New videos will continue to be added through the end of the year.

You may even see a familiar Christ Church face!

New!

Virtual Story Time

with Harford County Public Library



Join Us Live

www.Facebook.com/ChristChurchForestHill/

Or on our website:

www.ChristChurchForestHill.org



**WEEKDAYS
MONDAY-
FRIDAY
12 pm**

Prayers
for the Socially
Isolated

Join us at
4:45 pm for
Caroling!



**EVERY
SUNDAY
9:45 am**

Morning
Prayer
Service

Christmas Eve



4:45 pm

**Live Streamed
Spiritual Communion Service**



**There will be no In Person Services until further
notice. Please stay tuned for updates.
Live Stream still available every Sunday at 10 am.**



The Greatest Gift of All.....



The Baby Jesus and Santa



Christmas Word Search



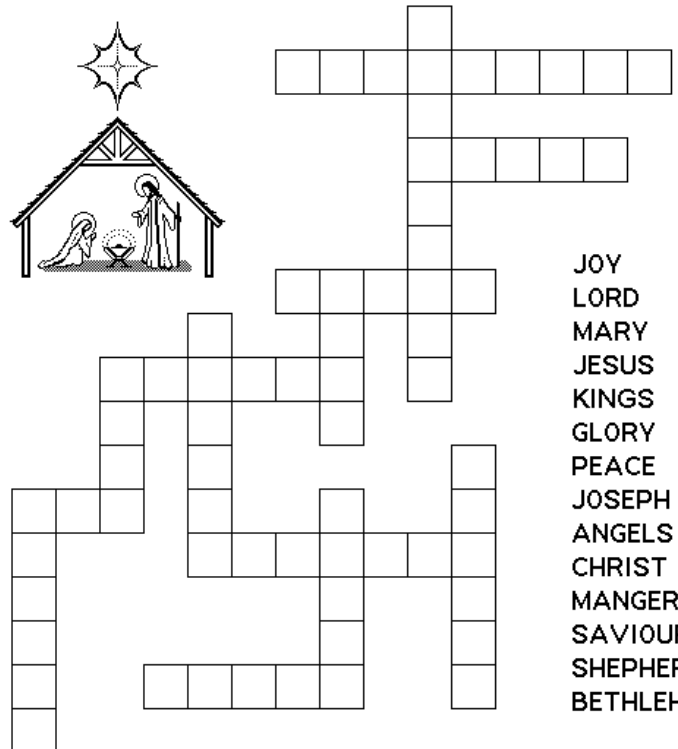
G L E T W C R S T O C K I N G
 Y I P I D A E R B R E G N I G
 A C O V T R P Y A E C E F F U
 R E A S L E Q I X O C T A P Z
 E M I R Y H A U D P S A J O N
 S E A P O B E T H L E H E M I
 N R U L O L D O N T F O S P U
 A R L S L E I G H A A S U D O
 M Y N O K L T T O Y S I S H R
 W C E N E M E S I W F E T A N
 O B M K A J L O Z Y E G V M A
 N E R N O L U H M G O T E L M
 S O G I E O Y D N A C X O N E
 V E R B I J O T H U W B K A N
 R E E D N I E R Q C A E E R T
 L O O C H R I S T M A S T I



- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Bells | 9. Holly | 17. Sleigh |
| 2. Bethlehem | 10. Jesus | 18. Snowman |
| 3. Candy | 11. Manger | 19. Star |
| 4. Carol | 12. Merry | 20. Stocking |
| 5. Christmas | 13. Ornament | 21. Toys |
| 6. Elves | 14. Peace | 22. Tree |
| 7. Gifts | 15. Reindeer | 23. Wisemen |
| 8. Gingerbread | 16. Santa | 24. Yuletide |

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.



- JOY
- LORD
- MARY
- JESUS
- KINGS
- GLORY
- PEACE
- JOSEPH
- ANGELS
- CHRIST
- MANGER
- SAVIOUR
- SHEPHERDS
- BETHLEHEM

December Feast Days

21 Saint Thomas the Apostle

Habakkuk 2:1-4
Psalm 126
Hebrews 10:35-11:1
John 20:24-29

25 Christmas Day I

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

27 Saint Stephen, Deacon & Martyr

Jeremiah 26:1-9,12-15
Psalm 31
Act 6:8-7:2a,51c-60
Matthew 23:34-39

28 St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

Exodus 33:18-23
Psalm 92
1 John 1:1-9
John 21:19b-24

29 The Holy Innocents

Jeremiah 31:15-17
Psalm 124
Revelation 21:1-7



December Anniversaries

29 Becky Borkowski Doug Johnson

Blessings Report:

November 1&8: \$4,170
November 15: \$1,170
November 22: \$1,005
November 29: \$825

Please remember to mail
your offering to:

December Birthdays

1 Gabrielle H.
2 Tyler D.
4 Fr. Kirk K.
11 Marianne K.
15 Debbie S.
31 Pam C.

Christ Church
P.O. Box 215
Forest Hill, MD 21050

Please PRAY for those who are sick, or in any kind of need or difficulty, especially:

For the residents of Harford Family House;
For peace and understanding in Baltimore;
For all the victims of recent terror attacks throughout the world, especially Brussels, Nice, Syria, and Orlando;
For the refugees leaving Syria in desperation;
For those who suffer because of the extreme humanitarian crises in Central African Republic; Yemen; Horn of Africa; Guinea; Sierra Leone; Liberia; Pacific Islands; South Sudan; Middle East; Serbia; Macedonia; Greece; Burundi; Nigeria
For all the people in the Middle East, that they can experience peace and stability in their lands
For the victims of natural disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey and Irma
For the families affected by gang and cartel violence in Central America.
For the communities that have experienced Mass Shootings in the United States
For families struggling with the health and economic side effects of the Corona Virus



For those on our prayer list: For Sue Tressler, Lynn Klein, Kevin & Linda, Anna Humphreys, Phil Klein, Betty Parker, Beverly Gomez, Tara Schatzel, Dan Moss, Charles Getscher, Ken Edmunds Jr, Robin, Keith Hamilton, Sharon Selke, Sharon Slausenhoup, Joan Flatt, Lois Flatt, Caroline, Donald Heddy, Karen Fulcomer, Art Smith, Eliot, Rebecca, Louise, Carole, Becky, Ingrid Page, Lael, Jacqueline, Roland, Hollis, Mike Yates, Sue Sampson.

For our Missionary: Jean M. Baumbach

For these parishioners who are unable to be with us every Sunday:

George Rigdon; Vera Dalby; Glassell & Betty Parker; Anna Humphreys; Beth Hauser; Lyndon



Christ Church Rock Spring Parish
In the Episcopal Diocese
of Maryland
2100 Rock Spring Road
P.O. Box 215
Forest Hill, MD 21050

December 2020

Office Phone #: 410-838-6606
Email: ChristChrsp@gmail.com
Office Hours:
Tuesday—Thursday
10 am-2pm
Other times by Appointment

| Sunday 9am Bible Study 9am Choir Practice 10am Eucharist | Monday 9:30am Jazzercise 7pm AA | Tuesday 10am Quilters 7pm Aerobics 8:30pm AA | Wednesday 9:30am Jazzercise | Thursday 7pm Aerobics 8:30pm AA | Friday 9:30am Jazzercise 7 pm AA | Saturday 9am AA |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 2nd Sunday Of Advent 9:45 am Live Streamed Service AG– Kate D. | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 3rd Sunday Of Advent 9:45 am Live Streamed Service AG– Molly N. | 13 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 4th Sunday Of Advent 9:45 am Live Streamed Service AG– Mary Jane P. | 21  St. Thomas the Apostle | 22 | 23 | 24  5 pm Live Streamed Service | 25   | 26 St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr |
| 27 1st Sunday After Christmas 9:45 am Live Streamed Service AG– Debbie S. | 28  St. John, Apostle & Evangelist | 29 The Holy Innocents | 30 Vestry Zoom Meeting 7 pm | 31 AG 24/25: Melinda C. & Janet C. | | |
| | | | | | | |

January 2021

| Sunday 9am Bible Study 9am Choir Practice 10am Eucharist | Monday 9:30am Jazzercise 7pm AA | Tuesday 10am Quilters 7pm Aerobics 8:30pm AA | Wednesday 9:30am Jazzercise | Thursday 7pm Aerobics 8:30pm AA | Friday 9:30am Jazzercise 7 pm AA | Saturday 9am AA |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---------------------------|
| | | | | | 1  The Holy Name of our Lord | 2 |
| 3 2nd Sunday Of Christmas 9:45 am Live Streamed Service AG– Hazel B. | 4 | 5 | 6  The Epiphany | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 1st Sunday After the Epiphany 9:45 am Live Streamed Service AG– Melinda C. | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 2nd Sunday After the Epiphany 9:45 am Live Streamed Service AG– Molly N. | 18  Confession of St. Peter the Apostle | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 3rd Sunday After the Epiphany 9:45 am Live Streamed Service AG– Mary Jane P. | 25 Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 4th Sunday After the Epiphany 9:45 am Live Streamed Service AG– Kate D. | | | | | | |