

January 2026

Rector's Corner

*It might have been just someone else's story,
Some chosen people get a special king.
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him,
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In temples they found those who sold and bought
him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.*

Malcolm Guite, "Epiphany"



"Epiphany" comes from a Greek word meaning manifestation or appearance. Our Feast of Epiphany on January 6 marks the arrival of the Magi, wise men who made their way to Bethlehem to worship the Christ Child. It's a major feast day and a time of celebration; but I think it's important to remember that our rejoicing involves more than a well-loved song, some symbol-rich gifts and a King's Cake (as much as we might enjoy good cake!).

Until now the story of the coming Messiah has been confined to Israel and God's covenanted people.

From the angel's first appearance to Zechariah, and all the events that follow, exclusively involved faithful Jews hearing and responding to God. Now suddenly, miraculously, we learn of Gentile foreigners who were summoned by the appearance of a star, and traveled many miles until they found the One they sought.

This is the special mystery and joy of Epiphany: that the appearance of Christ is not limited to or intended for only one small, oppressed group of people. Rather, the glory of "the Word made flesh" - God's love in all its fullness dwelling among us- is for all humanity.

May our questing hearts know this love, and find ways to give it a voice.

God's peace,
Jane+

Building Bridges Between Believers: B4

Building Bridges Between Believers continues! "B4" is a year-long program seeking to combine monthly opportunities for learning and spiritual practice with small group reflections and prayer. We hope to develop connections with one another as we learn to recognize the connections between our lives and work and the roots of our faith.

In January, our theological focus will be "Sacraments & Sacramental Rites," and we'll look at the Daily Office & ancient habits of daily prayer. Please join us on **Tuesday, January 13 at 6pm** for dinner. We'd love to see you there!



Adult Formation

On Sunday, January 4, we'll mark the Feast of the Epiphany with a variety of customs and traditions for all ages. We'll hear the Godly Play story and wonder together; use frankincense throughout the church to ask God's blessing on All Saints' for another year; and we'll even share a "King's cake" together.



For the rest of January we'll focus on one of the questions in our Baptismal Covenant: "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?" When we say "I will, with God's help," we are committing ourselves to seek God's justice in our own lives and in our world. But what does that mean, exactly? We'll spend some time "Seeking God's Justice Together," by exploring the teachings of scripture to learn more about biblical justice and wholeness.

Jan 4: *Combined Epiphany*

Jan 11, 18, 25: *"Seeking God's Justice Together"*

Grab your cup of coffee or tea and join us each Sunday between services!

Children and Youth Ministries— January 2026

Godly Play in January. Sunday school classes resume at 9 AM on January 4 with a combined Epiphany lesson for all ages in the multi-purpose room. This is a great time to join in on the Godly Play experience! Regular classes are for children age 3 through 5th graders, meeting in the education wing on Sunday mornings. Visitors are always welcome!

Godly Play stories for the month are:

January 4 – The Epiphany, for all ages.

January 11– Holy Baptism

January 18 – Parable of the Good Shepherd

January 25 – Parable of the Good Samaritan

Godly Play Epiphany story: Combined class, January 4. The Story of Epiphany will be held in the multi-purpose room for all ages, including adults, with the story beginning at 9:10. We will be demonstrating the thurible, burning real incense, censuring the church building, making crowns, and eating a King's Cake. Will you find the Baby?

Youth Class. The youth return to discussing the Acts of the Apostles in January. All middle and high school youth are invited to come up to the loft from 9 to 10 AM on Sundays for Donuts with Jesus, and learn more about the early church.

Donations needed for Blessing Bags. The Youth will be packing the Blessing Bags with food, toiletries, and warm clothing for the homeless on January 11. The complete list of what we put in the bags can be found on pg. 3; ***especially needed are canned meals with pop top lids, foil pouches or small cans of tuna or chicken, fruit cups, Band-aids, small shampoos, lip balm, feminine hygiene products, and warm gloves.*** Your donations are very much appreciated!

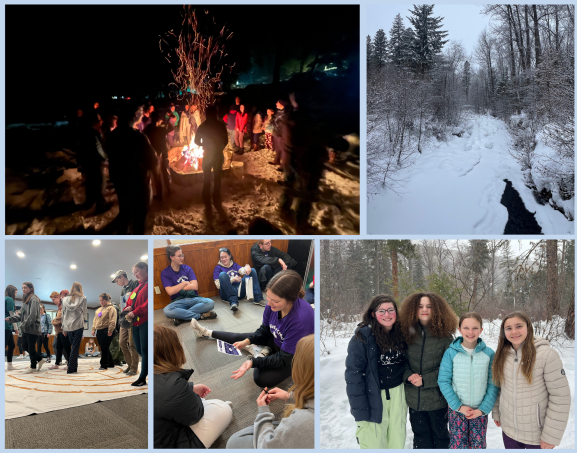
Please bring any donations to the church by **Jan. 8** so we can purchase what else is needed; our goal is to pack between 60 and 70 bags. After January 11, the bags will be available for parishioners to pick up and keep in their cars to distribute as they see need.

Youth Group, January 11, 5 to 7 PM. We will be back to a two-hour youth group gathering at All Saints' this month, with our service project being packing the Blessing Bags. Youth group is for middle and high school students. Dinner is included, and we end with Compline. Friends are welcome.



Winter Cross February 13-15

Winter Cross, February 13-15, 2026, will be back at Lazy F Retreat Center in Ellensburg! This retreat weekend is a fun Camp Cross-like experience in the wintertime for youth in middle and high school from around the diocese. There will be large and small group time, arts and crafts, tubing in the snow (if there is snow!), ice skating, prayer stations, a camp fire and s'mores.

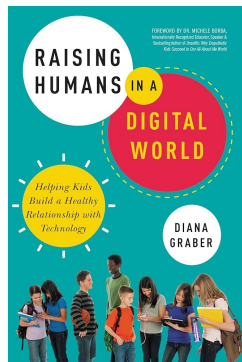


Cost is \$150 per camper (All Saints' has scholarship money if you need it). Please contact Theresa if you want to carpool—we anticipate having a bunch of All Saints' teens going. Registration is now open at <https://campcross.campbrainregistration.com/?returnUrl=%2FLanding>

Parenting Workshop

Our parenting workshop continues to meet about once per month to give time for participants to read our selected book sections. We have finished reading and discussing *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk*. This book by Faber & Mazlish covered some basic but highly successful parenting skills.

Our next book is *Raising Humans in a Digital World* by Diana Graber. We will be discussing the introduction through Chapter 2 of this book on **Sunday, January 11** at noon in the church library. Please join us if interested.



Outreach Focus for January: Blessing Bags

For January, Outreach is collecting items for the Blessing Bags that the youth will be packing for parishioners to hand out to people they see in need. The contents list is printed here, but most needed are the *canned meals with pop top lids, foil pouches or small cans of tuna or chicken, fruit cups, Band-aids, small shampoos, lip balm, feminine hygiene products (we will break down large packages into smaller portions), and warm gloves*. Please bring in your donations by **January 8**, so we can purchase what else is needed to fill 60-70 bags. Thank you!

Blessing Bag Checklist

A donation box is located in the entryway of the church; any donations of these are appreciated.

Basics:

- ☐ warm beanie hat
- ☐ warm gloves
- ☐ handwarmer packs
- ☐ warm socks

Toiletries:

- ☐ toothbrush and toothpaste
- ☐ deodorant
- ☐ bar soap (mild or non-scented)
- ☐ wash cloth
- ☐ small shampoo and conditioner
- ☐ comb
- ☐ razor
- ☐ nail clippers
- ☐ Band-aids
- ☐ lip balm (plain, non-medicated)
- ☐ package of wet wipes
- ☐ feminine hygiene products

Food:

- ☐ canned ready-to-eat meal with pop top
- ☐ ready-to-eat tuna or chicken
- ☐ crackers with peanut butter or cheese
- ☐ granola or protein bars
- ☐ trail mix or nuts
- ☐ fruit cups
- ☐ individual juice or water bottles
- ☐ hot chocolate pouches
- ☐ hard candies or gum

Please bring your donations by Jan. 8, 2026

All Saints' Book Group

Our next book to read is *The Book of Longings: A Novel*, by Sue Monk Kidd. This 2020 work of fiction is written as “a feminist reimagining of the New Testament” with a “reverential approach to Jesus’ life that focuses on his humanity” (i.e. Jesus is married). But it is mostly the story of Ana, a rebellious and brilliant woman living in a time, place, and culture designed to silence her, trapped by both religion and society.



We will discuss this book on **Thursday, January 22**, beginning at 6 PM with a potluck dinner. If the weather is bad, we will hold a Zoom discussion instead. Hope to see you there!

Behind the Scenes: Flowers

Today we’re going to pull back the curtain so anyone can see how the magic happens - this time, with flowers on the altar. Every week, there are two beautiful bouquets (except during Advent and Lent, when only greens are used), one on each side of the altar. They are picked up from Fred Meyers on Saturday, brought to the church, and stored in the refrigerator in the vesting room. On Sunday morning, the flowers are placed in vases on either side of the altar.

After the 10:15 service ends, the flowers are transferred to white plastic vases and taken by flower delivery folks to parishioners who are either unwell, homebound, or who have helped with a parish program like Vacation Bible School or maintenance on the building. The folks who receive these beautiful bouquets are usually delighted; they are often



very fragrant and last for several days with adequate water. It is a wonderful way for those in our parish who are ill or homebound to feel included in community life.

The cost for 2 large bouquets is \$85/week. The price is the same whether it’s flowers or greens, as the arranging of the greens takes time. At Christmas and Easter, we do large purchases of poinsettias and lilies. If you have a special occasion that you want to commemorate, or make a memorial to someone who has passed, you can make a donation to the office with a dedication for the bulletin. Ideally, the donation would cover the cost of both bouquets, but any amount is appreciated.

Donations for flowers will be included on your giving statement at the end of the year so you can include them in your tax deductions. A line item for flowers is included in the annual budget, but donations are appreciated to keep the costs down. Celebrating birthdays, graduations, or anniversaries, or memorializing a loved one are all good reasons to donate! Donations and memorials are included in each weekly bulletin, as well as the major holidays.



If you have questions or wish to help with the flower ministry (including delivery of flowers to parish members), you can contact Rick Walling.

Spring Classes with Iona

New Iona courses are starting up in January! These courses are free to all and taught by our Diocese’s own Rev. Katy Shedlock. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about worship and liturgical leadership or preaching, consider taking a closer look at this semester’s offerings. No prior background is required. Two classes will be offered through Google Classroom starting in January:

Preaching

Preaching is a unique spiritual practice - one that invites you to engage deeply with Scripture, listen for God's voice, and share a message that can shape and encourage others. As our diocese prepares to "sing to the Lord a new song" in 2026, consider adding your voice. Preach for the good of your own faith journey, for your home congregation, and even as a licensed preacher within our diocese. This year's course offers both a beginner and advanced track.

Classes meet on Google Classroom on **Thursdays from 7:00–8:30pm from Jan. 8 - Apr. 30, with a concluding in-person retreat May 1-3.**

Register and read more here: <https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3308925>

Worship & Liturgical Leadership

This class is designed for anyone who serves (or hopes to serve) in worship leadership: lectors, Eucharistic ministers, musicians, worship planners, assisting ministers, and others who help guide the gathered community in prayer and praise. Leading worship is sacred, vulnerable, and powerful work; this class will support you with fresh insight, renewed energy, and joy for the work.

Classes meet on Google Classroom one Thursday a month from 7:00–8:30pm on the following dates: **Jan. 22, Feb. 19, Mar. 19, Apr. 23, May 7, with a concluding in-person retreat May 1-3.**

Register and learn more here: <https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3308967>

If you have any questions, please direct them to Iona Program Administrator Bethany Hyndman by email at bethany.hyndman@iona.ssw.edu.

Thanks to our Artists!

For Christmas services this year, we once again asked the congregation to help us create cover artwork for the bulletins, and you came through! Thank you to Joyce McClanahan, Breanne O'Hare,

and Chris Walling for your lovely submissions. In case you missed them, here are all the art pieces that helped make the Christmas bulletins so special.



We Give Thanks...

- to everyone who helped make our worship space beautiful for Advent and Christmas at the Advent Prep Day and Greening of the Church.
- to so many parishioners for all the generous donations to the Outreach Angel Tree and Christmas card! Thanks also to those who graciously helped with being at the donation table between services, including Ann Barry, Jamie Withem, Steve and Diane Goheen, Athena Pelly, Rachael Black, and Cheryl Smith.
- to Jay Grate, Katy O'Callaghan, and Joyce McClanahan for the beautiful greens for our Advent wreaths. They smelled so good!
- to Jay Grate for hanging up the new bottle cap murals! These are on French cleat hangers, which will allow them to be moved to the pavilion for outdoor worship services.
- to Katy O'Callaghan, Diane Goheen, Katie Maikis, EJ Wallace, Lilly Wallace, and Bethany Riedinger for helping with the Christmas cookies, and to all the people who brought in dough! So many delicious sugar cookies were made, decorated, and eaten! It was wonderful to have this tradition back again.
- to Elizabeth Arnold, John Spencer, Teri Bartol, and Theresa Grate, along with many Youth, for making the Parents' Night Out possible!
- to Marjie Mack, Jill Gilbert, and Chelee Ellis for covering the office during the very busy season of Advent! The admin greatly appreciates it.

