

# EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

January 10 – 16, 2025

Church of the Epiphany ~ 85 Larch St. Sudbury, Ontario ~ P3E 1B8

[www.epiphanysudbury.org](http://www.epiphanysudbury.org) 705-675-2279 [info@epiphanysudbury.org](mailto:info@epiphanysudbury.org)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday – Thursday 9:30 – 12:00. You can reach Carrie, our Parish Administrator at the phone number or e-mail address above. If you need to speak with Rev. Elizabeth or schedule a visit for any reason, you can contact Carrie, or you can email Rev. Elizabeth directly at [greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com](mailto:greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com). Thank You.

## *The Baptism of the Lord*



## WORSHIP FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD ~ SUNDAY, JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup> 2025 ~

**8:30am** - Said service of Holy Communion (BCP).

**10:30am** - Main Worship with music and Holy Eucharist (BAS)

**READINGS FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD:** Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**SUMMARY OF THE READINGS:** This Sunday the Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord. It is when we acknowledge the manifestation of Jesus' divine identity and mission, marking the beginning of his public ministry. The baptism of Jesus calls us to remember our own baptism, which unites us with Christ and calls us to live as beloved children of God. Isaiah emphasizes God's personal claim over God's people, assuring them of God's divine redemption and love. Psalm 29 celebrates the majesty and power of God, depicted through a mighty storm that showcases God's authority over creation. The story from Acts tells of the apostles'

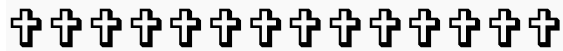
mission to Samaria to ensure that others receive the Holy Spirit, that will enable the expansion of God's work. The gospel story describes John the Baptizer preparing the way for Jesus, calling people to repentance and prophesying about the coming of one greater than himself. The story highlights the moment when Jesus is baptized, and the Holy Spirit descends on him, affirming his identity as God's beloved Son.

**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:** In Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan, we see the awesome and most beautiful moment when Jesus is baptized. Jesus comes to be baptized, not because he needed to repent, but to show the importance of humbling ourselves before God. As Jesus is baptized, the Holy Spirit descends upon him, and God announces God's love and approval. This moment reminds us that baptism is not just a tradition; it is a powerful act where we are claimed by God, marked as God's own beloved children. The baptism of Jesus calls us to reflect on our own baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us to live out our faith. It challenges us to consider how we are living as God's children in the world today. How are we allowing the Holy Spirit to shape our lives and actions? How can we more fully embrace our baptismal call to live out God's love and truth in every part of our lives?

**AT HOME PRAYERS: Morning** – Creator God, thank you for calling me by name and claiming me as your own. As I begin this new day, remind me of your constant love and presence, and help me walk confidently in your promises, knowing that I am precious in your sight. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

**Evening** – Holy God, thank you for being with me throughout this day. As I reflect on your love and the gift of the Holy Spirit, help me live tomorrow more fully as your beloved child, guided by your truth, your presence and your grace. In the peace of Christ I pray. Amen.

**PLEASE REMEMBER**, if you are not feeling well, or have any ill symptoms such as coughing, fever, fatigue, or a sore throat, please stay home and join us for the worship services that will be offered online. We are delighted to welcome you online if you are not able to join us in person.



**FELLOWSHIP TIME FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY 10:30 SERVICE:** Huge thanks to Christine Osmond who has offered to coordinate and schedule our fellowship time following our Sunday morning service. She now needs volunteers to coordinate. It is important to keep this community building activity going.

She is proposing that there be two (2) schedules:

+ One schedule would be for hosts, whose primary responsibilities would include setup and cleanup, making coffee and tea, as well as putting out juice, water and any treats. It would be great to have a core group of at least 6 pairs, but, as with most things, more is better. Hosts may opt to provide treats, but hosting should never have to be an overwhelming expectation.

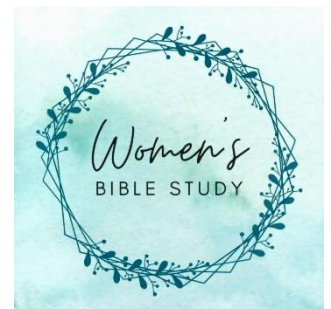
+ The second schedule would be for treats to be served. Home baking is wonderful and appreciated, but store-bought baked goods go over very well too. There have been many compliments on packaged cookies, and banana loaf that everyone thought must be homemade. Further store-bought baked goods keep well and can be brought to the church ahead of time.

If you're interested in helping out, please speak to Christine or give her a call at home at 705-855-5377.



**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – The Women's Bible Study Group will resume their get-togethers on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. We meet at 12 noon for an hour. Some bring their lunch. Tea and coffee are provided. We are a warm, welcoming group. If you are interested in taking part, please call the church office for more information or email Mary at [emer79@hotmail.com](mailto:emer79@hotmail.com).

Thank You.



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP OUT AT THE ELGIN STREET MISSION ON AN OCCASIONAL BASIS?**

The Outreach Group for Epiphany is compiling a list of people who might be willing and able to help out with occasionally serving meals at the Elgin Street Mission. The time period is from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. There is good supervision and instruction. However, it is a busy 3 hours and people have to be on their feet for the full length of time. Helpers are also needed for breakfast which begins at 7:30am. There are opportunities for people to help out with food preparation during the day.

If you and/or your friends are interested, please email your name and phone number to the church office. Right now, we are compiling a list of people who might be able to help out with other teams. If we had enough people committed, we would look at doing our own team of 10 people. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the church office or speak to Mary Hopkins or Mary Donato. Thank You.

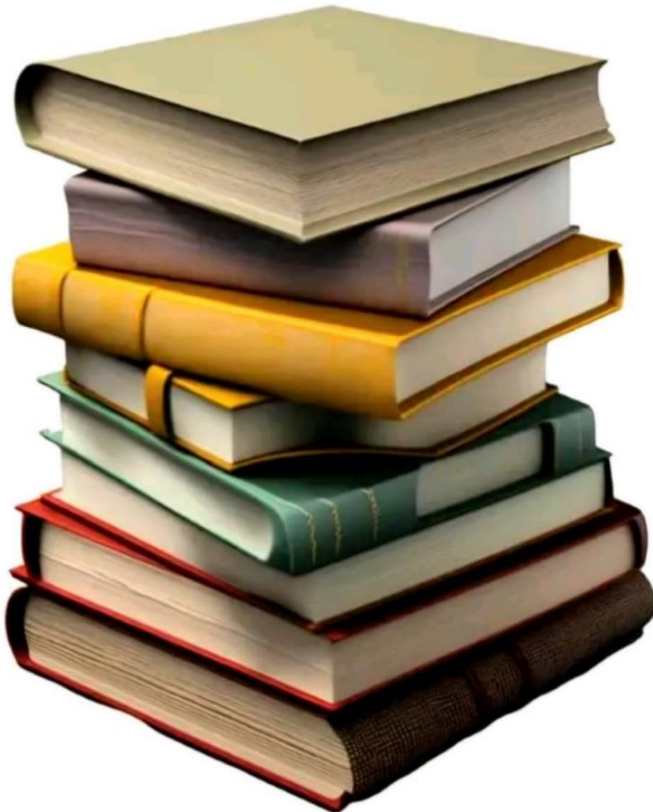


**READING BOOKS IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL**  
**EPIPHANY'S GIGANTIC BOOK SALE**

In a world increasingly illuminated by screens, the timeless treasure of books offers a quieter, more sacred light. Each page turned is an invitation to journey inward, to pause and connect with the wisdom of those who came before us and to engage in stories that speak to our hearts and minds.

Unlike the fleeting glow of digital devices, a book carries the weight of intention, patience, and presence. Its touch grounds us, its words resonate in the depths of our soul. In books, we find not just knowledge but the whispered echo of eternity—a reminder that the most profound truths often require time, stillness, and the turning of a physical page to unfold.

**Please mark your calendars and tell your friends! Everyone is welcome and encouraged to visit Epiphany's Annual Gigantic Book Sale!**



**GIGANTIC  
BOOK SALE**

Friday, January 24, 2025 3pm – 6pm  
Saturday, January 25, 2025 9am – 3pm  
Sunday, January 26, 2025 9am – 3pm

Church of the Epiphany  
85 Larch Street  
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 THE ANGLICAN CHURCH  
OF THE EPIPHANY



**THANK YOU FROM THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM:** On behalf of Barb and myself, I would like to thank Rev. Elizabeth for blessing the shawls this past Sunday, it was very moving. In addition to this I would like to acknowledge and thank all the dedicated women who take the time to either knit or crochet these shawls for the Pastoral Concerns Team. The Pastoral Team does its best to learn of those who are experiencing difficult or challenging times and make sure they get a prayer shawl which we know is so very meaningful to them. Without our prayer shawl ladies, it would be impossible to provide the number of prayer shawls that we currently distribute. Prayer shawls are not limited to those of the Epiphany but to anyone in need, in fact our shawls have gone as far as California. So, to our prayer shawl ladies please know that our hearts are full knowing that we have you committed to such a meaningful ministry."

God bless each and everyone of you for your goodness,  
Barb & Lorraine





**PRAYER SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY ~ CALLED TO UNITY THROUGH FAITH IN ACTION**

Hosted by the Anglican Church of the Ascension - 1476 Sparks Street in New Sudbury

Wednesday January 22 @ 6:30 pm

Sponsored by the Northeast Ministerial Association: Anglican Church of the Ascension, St. Stephen's on the Hill United Church, Restoration Church, St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, Grace United Church and Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Church

Questions? Contact [holyredeemer@ssmd.ca](mailto:holyredeemer@ssmd.ca)



**A NOTE FROM REV. ELIZABETH**

**Books in the Grapevine**

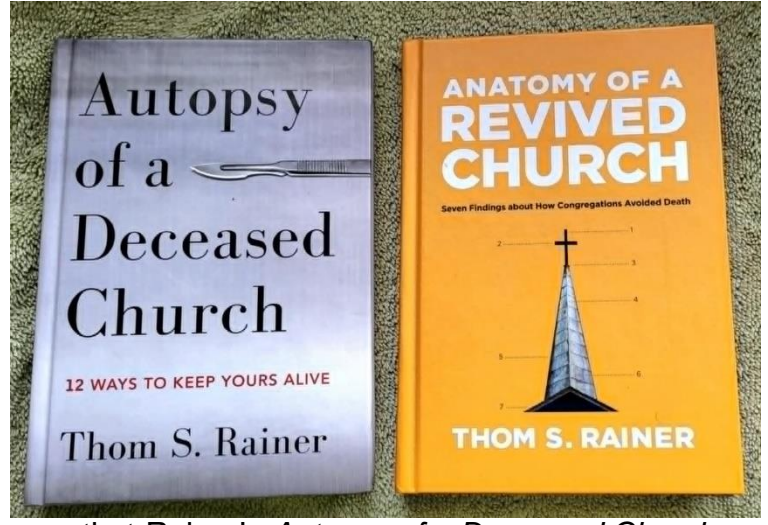
Dear Friends in Christ,

Last summer I compiled a number of books from my own personal library and made them available to members of our Parish Council.

These books centred on Discernment, Congregational Growth and Development and Ministry and Mission. Two books in particular, caught the attention of Dr. Andrew Adegbite, who now serves as the Rector's Warden. The two books by the same author are entitled, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive* and *Anatomy of a Revived Church: Seven Findings about How Congregations Avoided Death*, by Thom S. Rainer. With titles like that, it is no wonder that they caught the eye of a retired brain surgeon!

Thankfully, they did.

Last fall Dr. Andrew spoke about these two books to the members of Parish Council. He said, "these books are sobering and they are a real eye-opener for where we are, and where we hope to be." Dr. Andrew urgently recommended that all members of our Parish Council read these two little books. He went on to say "how wonderful it would be if everyone in our church took the time to read these books!" A few members of our Parish Council ordered their own copies and now these books are being read and circulated. These books have also caught the attention of some of the members who serve in Epiphany's Outreach Group. In light of all this, it is fair to assume that Rainer's *Autopsy of a Deceased Church* and *Anatomy of a Revived Church* are in "the grapevine" of Epiphany. People have begun to read and to discuss the matters that are raised in both these books. Neither book guarantees any quick fixes or instant solutions to the challenges we face; they simply invite prayerful reflection and discussion. Both books can be purchased through Amazon. Some people have decided to team up, to split the cost of both books and to share them that way.



This week we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. Because both of these books tie in to our baptismal covenant, and the reaffirmation of our baptismal promises, this is a good time for these books to be introduced more broadly through our newsletter.

The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan marks a pivotal moment in salvation history. As Jesus descends into the waters, he identifies fully with humanity, embracing his mission of redemption. In that sacred moment, the heavens open, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the voice of God declares, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." This divine affirmation is not merely an announcement of Jesus' identity, it is a commissioning for his ministry to bring light, healing, and renewal to the world.

In our own baptism, we share in Christ's sacred moment of revelation and renewal. Baptism is not just a ritual. It is a profound covenant in which we are claimed as God's beloved children and commissioned to live out the promises of faith, service, and discipleship. These promises—to resist evil, proclaim the Good News, to serve Christ in others, and strive for justice and peace—are the foundation of our Christian life and the health of our church community.

Rainer's books provide a lens through which to evaluate how faithfully we are living out these promises, both as individuals and as a congregation. In *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*, Rainer offers a sobering reminder of what can happen when churches lose sight of their mission. He describes communities that became inward-focused, resistant to change, and disconnected from the transformative grace of God. These churches serve as cautionary tales, reminding us that spiritual stagnation occurs when we neglect our baptismal call to actively engage with the world in love and service.

Yet, Rainer's *Anatomy of a Revived Church* offers a message of hope and renewal. Just as Jesus' baptism marked the beginning of his public ministry, so too can struggling churches experience revival by returning to their foundational call: to love God, serve others, and make disciples. Renewal often requires humility, repentance, and a willingness to let go of practices that hinder the Spirit's work—a reflection of our baptismal promise to “die to sin” and “rise to newness of life” in Christ. As we consider these themes, I invite us to examine our collective and individual faith journeys. Are we stepping boldly into the mission God has entrusted to us, or have we become complacent? Are we open to the Spirit's leading, or are we clinging to traditions or comfort zones that may hinder growth and renewal?

The story of Jesus' baptism reminds us that God's Spirit is always at work, calling us to deeper faithfulness and empowering us to live as God's beloved children. Likewise, Rainer's works inspire us to recommit to the promises made at our baptism, trusting that through faithful obedience, God can work through us to bring new life to our church and to our community.

In this spirit, let us pray together for guidance, courage, and renewal. May we embrace our identity as children of God, surrender to God's will, and step boldly into the mission of love, service, and the way that leads to new life. Let us be a church that embodies the vibrancy of our baptismal promises, living as a beacon of hope and light in the world.

If you decide to read these books and to perhaps take part in any future discussions, please let me or Dr. Andrew know.

Yours Faithfully,  
Rev. Elizabeth+



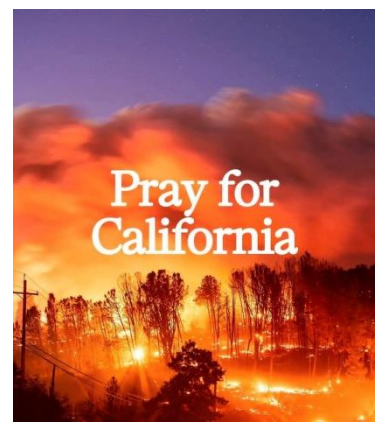
**LET US PRAY**

**FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY:** Bill and Darlene McKetsy; Tom and Sue Moland; Craig and Shanice Walters; Katherine Quesnel; Ruth Corston; Dave Tate.

**FOR THOSE IN NEED:** Sheila; William; Joy; Penny; Myrna; Maybourne; Karen and Corrine; Joanne; Frances; Pat; Terry; Carol, Bob and Riley; Nick and Ellen; Marg; Carol Ann.

**LET US PRAY FOR ALL THOSE SUFFERING FROM EXTREME WILDFIRES IN CALIFORNIA:**

Merciful God,  
we come before you with heavy hearts for all those suffering from the extreme wildfires in Los Angeles and in other parts of California. We pray for comfort and strength for those who have lost homes, loved ones, and pets. We pray for healing for the loss of wildlife and natural forests. Surround them with your love, bring protection to those still in danger, and guide the efforts of all those working to bring relief. May your peace and hope shine through in this time of great sorrow and hardship. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



**Watch us LIVE** on Sunday Mornings at 10:30 at [www.epiphanysudbury.org/our-services](http://www.epiphanysudbury.org/our-services)

**Announcements for ETW** should be sent to [etw@epiphanysudbury.org](mailto:etw@epiphanysudbury.org) by NOON each Thursday.

**Donate Online:** You can make a donation to the Epiphany, via PayPal, by clicking the “Donate Now” button at the top or bottom of each page on our website.

The logo for 'Scent Free Zone' features the word 'Scent' in a red, cursive script font at the top. Below it, the word 'Free' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the word 'Zone' is written in a red, cursive script font, similar to 'Scent'. The words are arranged in a slightly overlapping, vertical stack.

Help us keep the air we share  
healthy and fragrance-free

**PLEASE REMEMBER:** The Church of the Epiphany strives to be Fragrance Free, or Fragrance Reduced.

Please refrain from wearing or using strong fragrances, things such as cologne/perfume, scented lotion, fabric softener etc. while in our building.

Those with breathing issues and fragrance sensitivities will be grateful.

Thank You!