

EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

January 31 – February 6, 2025

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

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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. **Please note** that every Monday an overview of Rev. Elizabeth's weekly schedule will be posted in the window of the Church Office. If you need to speak with Rev. Elizabeth or schedule a visit for any reason, you can call the church office or email her directly at greenepiphanypriest@gmail.com. Thank You.



WORSHIP FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE ~ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 2025 ~

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

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

READINGS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40.

SUMMARY OF THE READINGS: This Sunday the Church celebrates the Presentation of the Lord to honour Christ's first entry into the Temple, where he is recognized as the promised Messiah and light to the nations. This feast day invites us to offer our lives to God, just as Mary and Joseph presented Jesus, and to embrace the light of Christ in faith and devotion. Malachi tells of the coming of God's

messenger, who will prepare the way for the Lord's arrival at his Temple. This passage is often understood as a reference to both John the Baptist and to Christ Jesus. The imagery of purification, like a refiner's fire and fuller's soap, depicts how the Lord will cleanse God's people and restore them for true worship. Psalm 84 expresses deep longing for God's presence, portraying the Temple as a place of joy, refuge, and blessing, where those who trust in the Lord find strength and ultimate fulfillment. The letter to the Hebrews teaches that Jesus took on human flesh to defeat the power of sin and death, freeing humanity from fear and bondage. As a merciful and faithful high priest, Christ fully understands human suffering and temptation, making him the perfect source of help and salvation. The presentation of Jesus in the Temple as told in Luke, reveals God's fulfillment of God's promises, as Simeon and Anna recognize Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Spiritually, this passage calls us to trust in God's timing and to embrace Jesus as the light of salvation for all people, offering peace and hope to those who await his coming.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: Malachi 3:1-4 invites us to reflect on the refining presence of Christ in our lives. Just as a refiner's fire purifies gold, Jesus purifies our hearts, removing impurities and making us fit for true worship. This passage challenges us to welcome God's refining work, even when it feels uncomfortable, knowing that it leads to spiritual growth and transformation. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we are called to open ourselves to his cleansing, trusting that through his grace, we can offer lives of righteousness and devotion that bring glory to God. What areas of your life need the purifying touch of God's refining fire? How can you open your heart more fully to God's presence, allowing God to shape you for God's holy purposes?

AT HOME PRAYERS: *Morning* – Lord God, as I begin this new day, I thank you for the light of Christ, revealed in the Presentation of the Lord. May his presence guide my steps, purify my heart, and help me offer all that I am in service to you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Evening – Lord God, as this day ends, I thank You for Your refining presence that purifies my heart. Cleanse me from all that distracts me from Your will, and help me rest in Your grace, trusting in Your work of transformation. 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.



THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING: for the Church of the Epiphany will be held on Sunday, February 23rd, following our 10:30am worship. Those responsible for reports are asked to have them submitted to Marion Collinson, ready for publication please, **NO LATER** than Friday February 14th. Thank You.



IN PREPARATION FOR OUR ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING: Serving as a Lay Synod Delegate in the Diocese of Algoma

This year at our Annual Vestry Meeting we are hoping to elect one or two new Lay Delegates to Synod who will represent the Church of the Epiphany at our upcoming Diocesan Synod in Sault Ste. Marie from May 7th -May 10th. Serving as a Lay Delegate is a very worthwhile ministry that offers both spiritual and social benefits. It is a ministry that offers to deepening one's faith while strengthening connections within the Diocesan Anglican Faith Community. Here are some key benefits to serving as a Lay Delegate to Synod:



Spiritual Benefits

1. **Deepened Faith and Understanding** – Engaging with church governance and theological discussions helps you to grow spiritually and to understand the broader mission of the church.
2. **Active Participation in God's Work** – You contribute to decision-making that affects the diocese's mission, ministries, and outreach.
3. **Strengthened Prayer Life** – Being part of Synod encourages a more intentional prayer life, as you intercede for the church and its future.
4. **Discerning God's Will for the Church** – Participating at Synod helps you to reflect on where God is leading our diocese and our parish Church of the Epiphany.
5. **Encouragement from Other Faithful Servants** – Witnessing the passion of clergy and lay leaders inspires and renews personal commitment.
6. **Greater Sense of Vocation** – Attending Synod reinforces the call to serve in a lay capacity and discern further ministry opportunities.

Social Benefits

1. **Building Stronger Church Relationships** – You will be able to connect with clergy and laypeople from across the diocese, forming lasting friendships.
2. **Networking with Church Leaders** – Being at Synod will help you to gain insight from our Archbishop, clergy, and experienced lay leaders and to learn from their wisdom.
3. **Sense of Community and Belonging** – Being part of Synod fosters a greater connection to the wider Anglican Church.
4. **Opportunity for Leadership Growth** – Participating at Synod helps to develop leadership and communication skills as you participate in discussions and voting.

5. **Engagement in Meaningful Discussions** – Address important social, theological, and administrative issues that are now impacting our diocese and the Anglican Church of Canada.
6. **Encouragement to Bring Ideas Back to Your Parish** – Be a bridge between the diocese and our Epiphany Church congregation, and help to foster fresh growth and renewal.

In the **Diocese of Algoma**, the qualifications and election procedures for **Lay Delegates to Synod** are outlined in the diocesan **Constitution** and **Canon J-1: Vestries**. Key points include:

Qualifications of Lay Delegates

According to the Constitution, Article 3, Section 1(a), a Lay Delegate must:

1. **Communicant Status:** Be a communicant at the time of election.
2. **Age:** Be at least 18 years old.
3. **Clerical Status:** Not hold the Bishop's license as a deacon or priest.

Additionally, nominees must indicate their willingness to attend the Synod if elected.

Election of Lay Delegates

Lay Delegates are elected at the annual vestry meeting or any vestry meeting called for that purpose in the same year as a regularly scheduled Synod. The number of delegates a parish can elect is based on the number of canonical voters:

- **1 Delegate:** For parishes with up to 100 canonical voters.
- **2 Delegates:** For parishes with more than 100 but not exceeding 200 canonical voters.
- **3 Delegates:** For parishes with more than 200 canonical voters.

No more than one delegate in each parish shall be a non-resident of that parish. In cases where more than one delegate is elected, the chair of the vestry must sign a certificate stating the number of canonical voters and forward it to the Secretary of the Synod along with the certificate of election.

Qualifications of Canonical Voters

Per Canon J-1, Section 2(a), a canonical voter is someone who:

1. Is baptized.
2. Is at least 16 years old.
3. Is a habitual attendant at Divine Service in the congregation.
4. Has contributed during the year immediately preceding to the working expenses of the church.

These provisions ensure that Lay Delegates are active and committed members of their congregations, representing their parishes in the governance of the diocese.

For a comprehensive understanding, you can refer to the **Diocese of Algoma's Canons** available on their official website. dioceseofalgoma.com

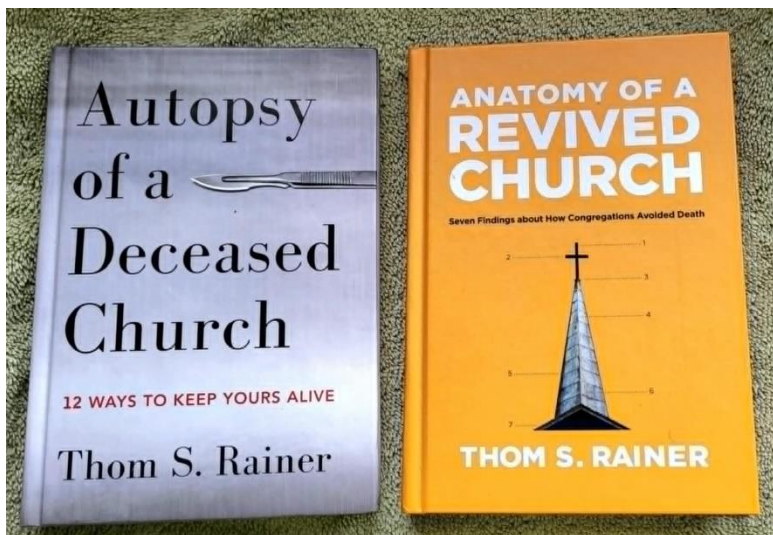


UPCOMING LENTEN BOOK STUDY: Members of our Parish Council have put their hearts and heads together and are now preparing to offer a new Lenten Book Study. Our book study will include two books, both by Thom Rainer. The first is, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive*, and the second book is, *Anatomy of a Revived Church: Seven Findings about How Congregations Avoided Death*. Please watch our ETW for further details. In the meantime, here is a sample of some of the thoughts and questions that participants will be invited to consider and to discuss.

Autopsy of a Deceased Church explores the reasons churches decline and die, offering practical insights for renewal.

"A church without a gospel-centered purpose is no longer a church at all."
- *Are we willing to make difficult changes to bring new life into our church?*

"Vibrant churches look outward. Dying churches focus inward."
- *Are we more concerned with our personal preferences or with reaching new people?*



Anatomy of a Revived Church explores how dying churches can experience renewal and transformation. It shares insights from churches that turned around and thrived again.

“Revived churches abandoned the attitude of ‘we’ve always done it this way.’”

- *Are we truly willing to make the necessary changes to experience revival?*

“The greatest hindrance to church revitalization is fear—fear of change, fear of failure, fear of discomfort.”

-*Are we willing to measure success not by numbers but by transformed lives?*

We hope that as many of you as possible will join us in this Book Study.



THANK YOU! to all those who, with loving hearts and helpful hands came together and made this year’s Gigantic Booksale a meaningful and worthwhile success for the Ministry of Outreach at Epiphany!

The total raised from the book sale and the sale of the one-of-a-kind bookmarks painted by Marg. Loney, was just shy of \$3000. Book sale 2026 is set to take place January 23rd. - 25th.

Thank You and Thanks be to God!



PALM CROSS MAKING: If you are interested in gathering together to make Palm Crosses for our Palm Sunday Worship, please call or email Carrie in the church office and let her know. The first Sunday in the season of Lent is March 9th. We have some time to plan and prepare. Thanks very much.



A NOTE FROM REV. ELIZABETH
Reflecting on the Significance of Honouring Black History Month

Dear Friends in Christ,

As most of know, February is Black History Month both in Canada and in the United States. It is a month when we are called to reflect deeply on the history of slavery, racism, and resilience that has shaped both Canada and the wider world. This is not merely an exercise in remembering the past, rather it is a call to discipleship through our renewed commitment to justice, love, and reconciliation in our present time.

Too often, we have viewed the history of chattel slavery as a distant reality, something confined to the United States, with Canada portrayed solely as a place of



refuge through the Underground Railroad. However, our own history reveals a more complex truth. Enslaved Black and Indigenous people were present in New France and British North America until slavery was abolished in 1834. Even after abolition, the same ideologies that justified slavery continued in the form of segregation, economic exclusion, and systemic discrimination. Those who sought freedom in Canada still faced barriers to full inclusion, challenging the notion that our nation was free from racial injustice. The destruction of Africville in Nova Scotia, a once vibrant Black community that was forcibly dismantled in the 1960s, is a painful reminder of how systemic racism continued long after the abolition of slavery. To acknowledge this history is not to dwell on guilt but to take seriously our calling as Anglican Christians to seek truth and reconciliation.

In his renowned book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Howard Thurman reminds us that Jesus' ministry was particularly directed toward those who lived under oppression, those "whose backs were against the wall". Jesus stood with the poor, the marginalized, and the outcast, offering a message of hope that was also a call to resist injustice with love and courage. As we reflect on Black history, we recognize that the legacy of slavery did not end with its abolition but continued through systems of economic and social exclusion. Even today, the inequalities that stem from that history persist, disproportionately affecting Black communities in both Canada and the U.S.

Yet in the face of oppression, Black communities have demonstrated remarkable resilience, faith, and hope—qualities that echo the very heart of the Gospel. The Civil Rights Movement in the U.S., led by figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. and inspired by spiritual traditions of resistance, deeply influenced Canadian activists like Viola Desmond and Rosemary Brown. Viola Desmond's courageous stand against segregation in a Nova Scotia movie theatre in 1946 was a landmark moment in Canadian civil rights, while Rosemary Brown broke barriers as the first Black woman elected to a Canadian provincial legislature. Their courage reminds us that faith must be lived out through action, that the love of Christ calls us to challenge systems that oppress and exclude. We also celebrate the contributions of Black Canadians in the performing arts and culture, such as the legendary jazz musician Oscar Peterson, whose music carried themes of dignity, struggle, and hope; thus echoing the deep resilience of Black communities.

As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to stand in solidarity with those who continue to face racial injustice. This means not only acknowledging our shared history but also committing ourselves to work toward racial equity in Sudbury and within our church. The economic structures built on the legacy of slavery continue to shape disparities today. We must ask: How can we, as a Church, embody the radical love of Christ in ways that uplift and restore? How can we be agents of justice and healing in our own place and time?

Black History Month is a time of remembrance, but it is also a time of action. As we reflect on the past, may we also look forward with hope and a renewed commitment to living out the Gospel call to love, justice, and reconciliation. Let us take inspiration from the faith and perseverance of those who have gone before us, and let us, as the Church, be a beacon of truth, justice, and grace in Sudbury, in Canada and throughout the world.

Yours Faithfully,
Elizabeth+



CONGRATULATIONS MAYBOURNE! In December of 2024 Maybourne celebrated her 100th Birthday. Due to the postal strike, her certificate from Archbishop Anne was a bit late in arriving. It arrived in January and was presented to her by our Pastoral Care team.





LET US PRAY

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY: Carrie Leatherdale; Eileen Thom; Gerry Lougheed; Marylin Young; Sandra Senuik; Brandon Lai; Nancy Maley.

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

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Let us pray. God of justice and liberation, we give thanks during this Black History Month for the rich heritage, culture, and contributions of Black communities in Sudbury and around the world. We remember and honour those who have fought for freedom, equality, and dignity in the face of oppression. Inspire us to continue the work of dismantling racism, prejudice, and injustice in all its forms. Strengthen us to be your agents of reconciliation, building communities where all your children are treated with respect and equity. Help us to celebrate diversity as a reflection of your image in all people, and to work tirelessly for a world where love and justice prevail. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



Watch us LIVE on Sunday Mornings at 10:30 at www.epiphanysudbury.org/our-services

Announcements for ETW should be sent to 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.



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!