

EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

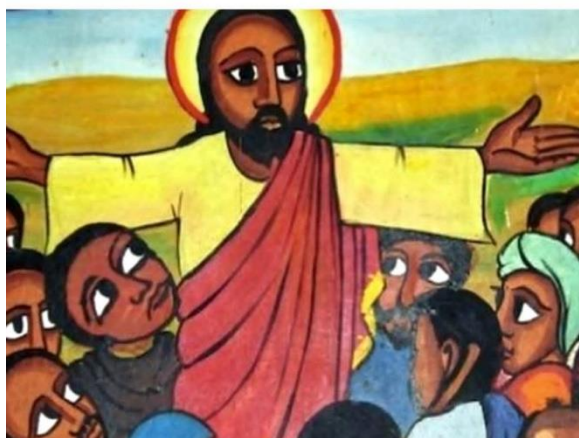
February 14 - 20, 2025

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

www.epiphanysudbury.org 705-675-2279 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. **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.

**"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the Kingdom of God."**



WORSHIP FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY ~ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 2025 ~

8:30am - Please note there will not be an 8:30am service on Sunday February 16th.

10:30am - Main Worship with music, with a Service of the Word

**READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE
EPIPHANY:** Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-10; Luke 6:17-26.

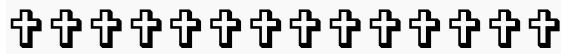
SUMMARY OF THE READINGS: The passage from Jeremiah warns that those who trust in human strength are

cursed and barren, while those who trust in the Lord are blessed and flourishing, emphasizing that the human heart is deceitful and only God truly knows and judges its depths. The 1st Psalm contrasts the righteous, who delight in God's law and thrive like a well-watered tree, with the wicked, who are unstable and doomed to perish, highlighting that true blessing comes from faithful obedience to God. In his first letter to the Church in Corinth, Paul argues that the resurrection of Christ is essential to the Christian faith, asserting that without it, faith is meaningless, because sin remains undefeated, and so we have no hope. But Christ's resurrection assures us of the future resurrection of all who belong to Christ Jesus our Lord. The Gospel story tells of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain, when he declares blessings on the poor, hungry, grieving, and persecuted. Jesus assures them of God's coming kingdom, while cautioning the rich, well-fed, joyful, and admired that their current ease is fleeting and will lead to hardship, overturning conventional views of prosperity and suffering.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: The prophet Jeremiah challenges us to examine where we place our trust. Whether it be in human strength, wealth, influence, or in God alone. Jeremiah warns that relying on worldly security leads to spiritual dryness, like a shrub in the desert, while trust in God brings deep-rooted stability and flourishing, like a tree planted by water. The prophet also reminds us that the human heart is deceitful, often leading us astray. However, it is God who sees and knows us fully, judging with perfect wisdom. This calls us to surrender our illusions of control and open our hearts to God's refining truth. Where do you find yourself placing your trust in times of uncertainty? How might you cultivate deeper reliance on God in your daily life?

AT HOME PRAYERS: *Morning* – Holy God, as I begin this new day, I pray you help me to place my trust in you alone, like a tree planted by water, drawing strength from your endless grace. Guard my heart from relying on fleeting comforts, and turn my eyes toward your kingdom, where true blessing is found. May I walk in your ways that are rooted in love and find joy in serving others as you have called me to do. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Evening – Loving God, as this day comes to a close, I surrender my worries, and trust in your faithful care. I pray you search my heart and guide me in your truth, so that I may grow like a tree rooted in your love. Where I have sought comfort in the wrong places, draw me back to you. Help me rest in the blessing of your presence, knowing that true abundance is found in you alone. 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.



THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING: for the Church of the Epiphany will be held on Sunday, February 23rd, following our 10:30am worship. Our Communications Chair and Deputy Warden, Marion, hopes to have the Vestry report book completed this weekend. Those on the ETW e-mail list will receive it by e-mail and **LIMITED** printed copies, hopefully, will be available Sunday morning. You are encouraged to print your own, or bring your tablet etc. if you wish to view the reports during the meeting.



UPDATE ABOUT THE MENTORING/COACHING PROCESS FROM CANON CHRISTYN: For those who don't know, Archbishop Anne has engaged me to do clergy coaching with Rev. Elizabeth. The Diocese of Niagara (my home diocese) has a commitment to providing coaching to clergy and the experience is rewarding for the cleric, the parish and the coach.

I'm pleased to report that Rev. Elizabeth and I have been meeting on zoom regularly since the beginning of January. My role is to support her in moving forward with the benchmarks that were developed from my interviews with many of you and from the sharing of the town hall meeting in October 2024.

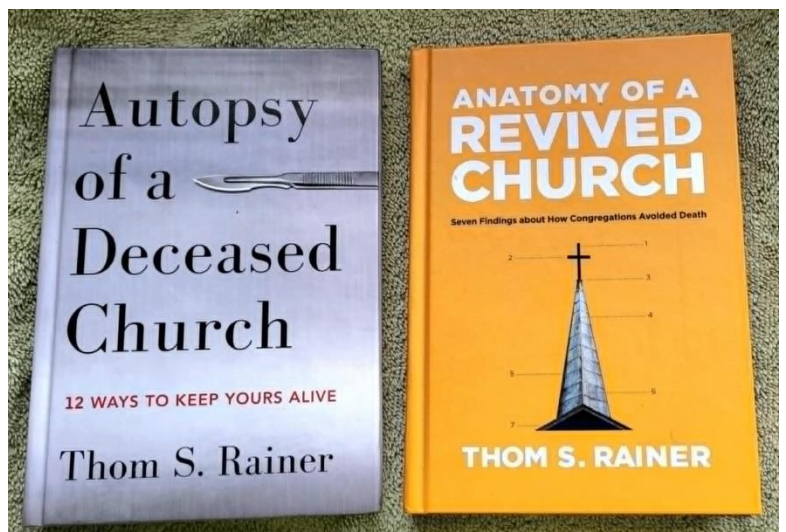
We began with things that were relatively simple to change or tweak, and of course, the more complex issues will take some time and focus. I'm also happy to report that I have recruited three people for a team whose purpose is to support Rev. Elizabeth in this process by offering a parish perspective and voice into the process. Dr. Andrew Adegbite, Ms. Christine Osmond and Ms. Barb Bolton have kindly agreed to engage in this new ministry experience, and I am so appreciative of their willingness to provide their perspectives and their feedback monthly to both me and Rev. Elizabeth.

I have confidence in their prayerful objectivity, their honesty, and their sense of call to this process both for the sake of the parish and to support their incumbent. While I'm sure it will be tempting to ask the three of them questions, I want to be clear that their work with Rev. Elizabeth is confidential. There is no expectation of reporting in their role...only that they share the congregational experience through their own particular lenses. I'll be commenting regularly in future issues of ETW.

Blessings,
Canon Christyn Perkons



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*. If you need any help with going about sharing books or purchasing your own copies, please speak with Dr. Andrew Adegbite. We hope that as many of you as possible will join us in this Book Study.



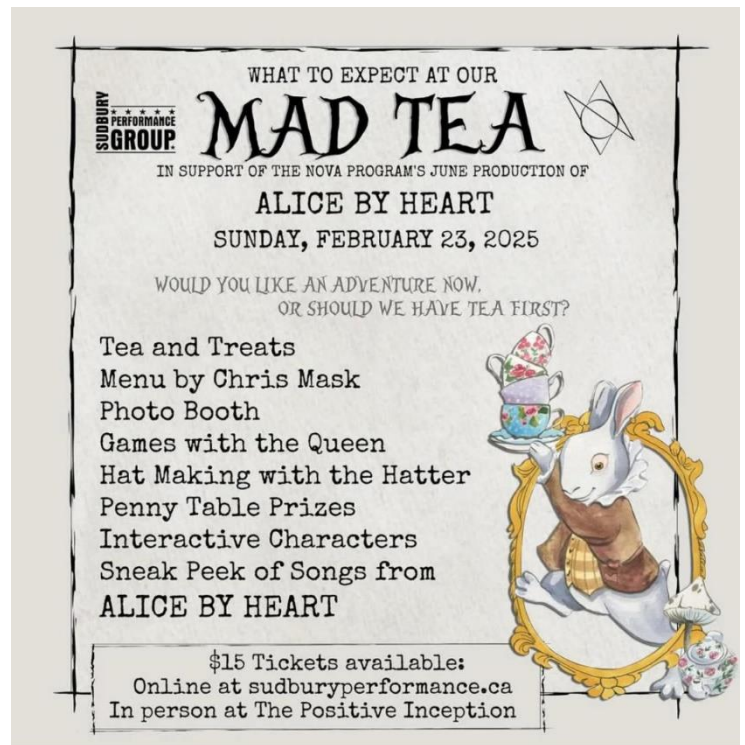
DON'T BE LATE FOR A VERY IMPORTANT DATE!

An afternoon filled with your favourite Wonderland characters and activities. Entertainment for guests of all ages, from crafts to croquet!

Come when you can, leave when you must.
66 Edison Rd, Falconbridge

Get your tickets on our website or in person at The Positive Inception.

<https://www.showpass.com/mad-tea-fundraiser>



A NOTE FROM THE OUTREACH GROUP:

An outreach opportunity for the month of February comes through requests from two of the Downtown support groups who look after our most vulnerable neighbours. If you are able, please support these special agencies.

Sudbury Outreach Support (SOS) writes that it "is in need of blankets, comforters, and sleeping bags. We also need gloves and mitts. We have purchased many boxes of hand warmers and we are currently out of them. A tent gives someone shelter, we currently don't have any, also candles provide some warmth, suitcases on wheels are always needed. We open every Sunday directly across from the Sudbury Arena, beside Via Rail from 11:00 until 2:00 for donations. Thank you for your support"

The Elgin Street Mission requests through a Facebook post that they looking for long underwear and sweatpants, both men's and women's in sizes med to XL. (these items only, as this is the only clothing need). Drop off is at the kitchen door (ring the bell) off the back lane between 8 am and 1 pm only.



SPRING IS COMING, EVEN IF WIARTON WILLIE DIDN'T THINK SO!

The Women's Bible Study Group has decided to repeat the Balcony Garden Project in 2025. All net proceeds again going to the Sudbury Food Bank. However, we are an aging group so we are hoping we can find a couple of others to help us with summer oversight of the garden. In the heat of the summer we have discovered that we must water daily. We have decided that the best way to be sure the garden gets the needed care is to have a team of 7 people who will commit to be available for the same day each week during the growing season. We will also need one or two others who can be

available to fill in for the "regulars" when they will not be available. If you might be interested in helping with this project in any way more information is available by calling Barbara Bolton at 705-674-1691.



A NOTE FROM REV. ELIZABETH

Celebrating Family Day

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy Family Day Weekend! As we approach Family Day on Monday February 17th, I invite you to take a moment to reflect on the gift and sacredness of family. Whether our families are bound by blood, by love, or by shared experiences, they are places where we learn the deepest truths about love, forgiveness, and grace. In family life, we encounter both joy and challenge, but through it all, God calls us to nurture and cherish these relationships.

In Scripture, we see time and again the significance of family. From the creation of Adam and Eve to the holy family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, God’s love is revealed through the bonds of kinship and community. The Apostle Paul reminds us, “Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive” (Colossians 3:13). These words guide us in our family life, teaching us that patience, kindness, and reconciliation are central to living in harmony with one another.



Family Day is not only a time to rest from our labours, it is an opportunity to be intentional in celebrating the people God has placed in our lives. It is a moment to express gratitude, to reach out in love, and to strengthen the bonds of connection that sustain us. Whether through shared meals, meaningful conversations, or simple acts of kindness, let us take this day to honour the love that holds us together.

For those who may find Family Day difficult—those who grieve, feel isolated, or experience strained relationships—know that you are not alone. Our family of faith at the Church of the Epiphany embraces you; and God’s love surrounds you

always. As a church community, we are called to be a family for one another, extending compassion, support, and hospitality to all.

May this Family Day be a time of blessing for you and those you love. May it remind us of the gift of one another and the presence of God in all our relationships.

Yours Faithfully,

Elizabeth+

A Prayer for Family Day

Loving God,
On this Family Day Weekend, we give thanks for the gift of family—those bound to us by birth, by choice, and by love. Bless our homes with peace, understanding, and joy. Heal divisions, strengthen relationships, and help us to be present to one another with kindness and grace. We remember those who feel lonely or estranged, and we ask that your love surround them. May we extend our care beyond our own families to create communities of compassion and belonging. Bless all families with your presence, O God, and guide us in love, today and always. In the love of Christ we pray. Amen.



COME AND ENJOY A DAY OF PAMPERING: and try some wonderful products that were created by a woman who had a dream. Mary Kay Ash started this wonderful company in 1963, with \$5,000, 9 consultants, and a dream. Now, 60 years later, the company is run by her grandson and is in over 35 countries all over the world. Mary Kay also started the charity Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation that raises money for cancer research and

to help stop domestic violence against women. If you would like to experience these wonderful products, please give Margaret Kamerman a call at 705 774 0987 to schedule your pampering session.



LET US PRAY

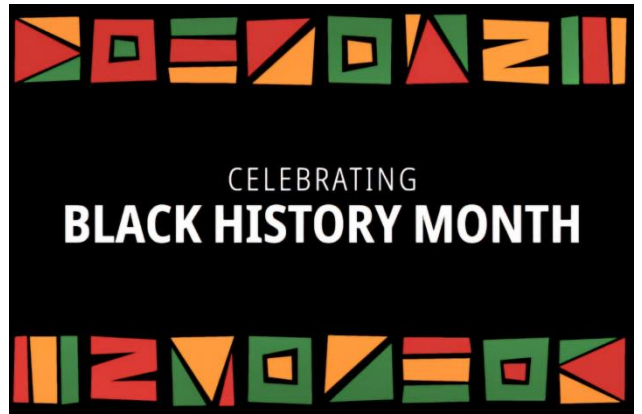
FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY: Kevin Doonan; Barb Bolton; Marion Collinson; Robert Nanka-Bruce; Randy and Colleen Hill; Phyllis Griffith; Sarah Harrison.

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.

PRAYER FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN SUDBURY:

Let us pray.

God of justice and grace, we give thanks for the rich history, culture, and contributions of African-Canadian people in Sudbury, and beyond. We remember and honour those who have paved the way, who have fought for equality, and who continue to inspire everyone with their resilience. Help us to recognize the beauty of diversity in our community so that we may work toward greater unity, understanding, and respect for all people. May we listen, learn, and stand together in the fight against injustice. Guide our hearts to celebrate, support, and uplift our Black neighbours, today and always. In Jesus' name we pray. 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!