

EPIPHANY THIS WEEK

February 7 - 13, 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.



WORSHIP FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY ~ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, 2025 ~

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

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

READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

SUMMARY OF THE READINGS: The passage from Isaiah tells of the prophet's awe-inspiring vision of God's holiness, his own unworthiness, and his subsequent purification, culminating in the prophet's willing response to God's call: "Here am I; send me." Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving in which the psalmist praises God's steadfast love and faithfulness. The psalmist celebrates God's responsiveness to prayer and unwavering support in times of trouble. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul calls the church to hold firm to the gospel, highlighting the transformative power of Christ's resurrection and God's grace, which not only validates faith but also humbles and empowers those who are called to proclaim it. The Gospel story illustrates how an encounter with Jesus reveals both human inadequacy and divine abundance. Jesus calls us to leave behind our fears and former ways and to follow him in faith and true discipleship.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: The story of Jesus calling his first disciples reminds us that Jesus often calls us to trust him beyond our own understanding and experience. Simon Peter, weary from failure, obeyed Jesus' command to cast his nets again and was met with overwhelming abundance. This moment of grace revealed both Peter's unworthiness and God's deep invitation, not to shame, but to transformation. Jesus calls us not for what we can offer, but for what he can do through us when we surrender in faith. Like Peter, we are invited to leave behind our fears and follow Jesus into a deeper purpose. Where in your life is Jesus calling you to trust him beyond your comfort zone? How might God be inviting you to let go of fear and step into deeper discipleship?

AT HOME PRAYERS: *Morning* – God of Wonder, as I step into this new day, I open my heart to your unexpected presence. Let your grace lead me in ways I cannot predict so that it may transform my thoughts, my actions, and my spirit. Help me to embrace the unknown, trusting that even in unanticipated events, you are guiding me. May your love shape every moment of my day, and in ways I never imagined. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

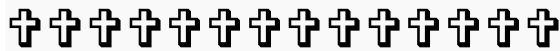
Evening – Lord God, as I prepare to take my rest, I give thanks for the grace you've given me today, even in ways I didn't notice. As I enter into sleep this night, I pray you calm my heart with your love, so that I may be strengthened and renewed in your sustaining grace tomorrow. In the peace of Christ, 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. Those responsible for reports are asked to have them submitted to Marion Collinson, ready for publication please, **NO LATER** than THIS 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:



**ANNUAL
VESTRY
MEETING**

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:

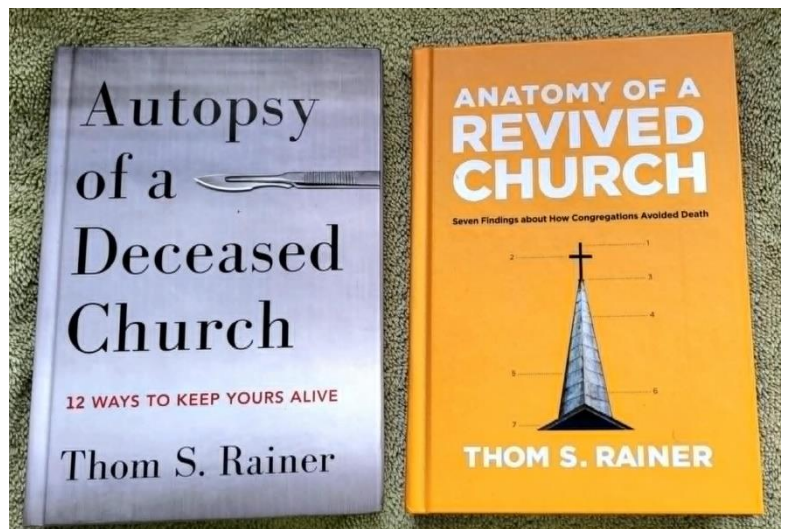
1. Is baptized.
2. Is at least 16 years old.
3. Is a habitual attendant at Divine Service in the congregation.
4. Has contributed during the year immediately preceding to the working expenses of the church.

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*. If you need any help with going about sharing books or purchasing your own copies, please speak with Dr. Andrew Adegbite. Below are a few samples of some of the thoughts and questions that participants will be invited to pray, consider and to discuss.



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

"The most common thread in declining churches is that they stop reaching and caring for people outside the church. When a church turns inward, it begins its slow decline."

If our church closed its doors tomorrow, would anyone in the community notice?

"A church can die even while its doors are still open. Physical existence does not mean spiritual health."

What are some common areas where church members insist or demand their own preferences?

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.

"Churches don't have to die. They can choose to live. But it is a choice. Renewal is possible, but it requires intentional effort."

How do traditions become traps that lead a church to decline?

"Prayer was not an afterthought in these revived churches. It was the first and most important step.

Revival starts with deep, committed prayer."

How much time does our church spend praying for renewal?

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



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.



COFFEE HOUR: Christine Osmond has graciously agreed to help coordinate Coffee Hours volunteers because she knows how important it is for us to keep our coffee hour ministry going. Christine 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. **Please speak to Christine BEFORE bringing items in on a Sunday morning** so there is not an overabundance of supplies.

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



A NOTE FROM REV. ELIZABETH

A Call to Engage in Reflection and Renewal

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last Sunday during the time of the announcements Dr. Andrew Adegbite spoke to us about two books that he boldly stated are “vitally important for every member of the Church of the Epiphany to read” – *Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive* and *Anatomy of a Revived Church: Seven Findings about How Congregations Avoided Death*; both by Thom Rainer.

In case you missed Dr. Andrew’s address to our congregation, I would like to echo some of what he said to us, and why.



As we continue to navigate the challenges and opportunities that are ever present before us, it is crucial that we come together in a spirit of prayer, discernment, discussion and action. In that light, both Dr. Andrew and I eagerly encourage everyone to read and reflect on these two little thought-provoking books. Why? Because these books serve as a mirror, offering us an opportunity to look honestly at where we have been, and where God may be calling us to go.

Autopsy of a Deceased Church challenges us to examine the signs of spiritual decline, both individually and as a community. Rainer highlights key factors that lead churches into decline, including loss of vision, the absence of outreach, and an inward focus. While these reflections may be difficult, they are essential for our growth because they allow us to understand what we must avoid in order to keep the flame of faith alive. Our doing so together, means there is hope!

Anatomy of a Revived Church provides us with a roadmap for transformation and renewal. It reminds us that even in the face of decline, revitalization is possible through God's grace and by committing to practices of prayer, mission, and community engagement. Rainer offers insights into what revived churches look like: a deep commitment to prayer, a clear sense of mission, and a willingness to adapt and embrace change in the name of God’s kingdom on earth.

As a parish, we must take these reflections seriously. It is why it is vital that every member of our church participate in reading, reflecting, and discussing. Whether you have been a member of the Epiphany for decades, or you are new to this faith community, your participation is essential. Each one of us has a role to play in reflecting on where we are while engaging in the practices that, with God’s help, will lead to a revived, life-giving church.

In this season of Lent and beyond, let us challenge ourselves to think critically about our life together and be open to the changes God may be calling us to embrace through actively participating in this “book club”.

I pray that through this process, our hearts will be stirred to greater faithfulness and our parish be renewed in spirit, vision, and mission. Together, with God’s help, we can move forward in hope and strength, prepared to fulfill the calling God has placed on us in this time and place.

Yours Faithfully,

Elizabeth+



LET US PRAY

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY: Bill Heathcote; Carol Bohren; Gwen Chmilar; Peter and Nancy Williams; Sandra Mark; Paulette Sage; Linda Goodale.

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!