

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,

EPIPHANY, THE FEAST OF THE THREE KINGS

Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas on 6th January (or January 19th for some Orthodox Church who have Christmas on 7th January) and is the time when Christians remember the Wise Men (also sometimes called the Three Kings) who visited Jesus.

Epiphany is also when some Churches remember when Jesus was Baptized, when he was about 30, and started to teach people about God. Epiphany means 'revelation' and both the visit of the Wise Men and his Baptism are important times when Jesus was 'revealed' to be very important.

Some Churches celebrate use Epiphany to celebrate and remember both the visit of the Wise Men and Jesus's Baptism! Epiphany is mainly celebrated by Catholics and Orthodox Christians.

In Orthodox churches, Epiphany is also known as 'The Feast of the Holy Theophany' and it is as important as Christmas. During the services to celebrate Epiphany, on the eve of the feast and on the feast day, water is blessed (some churches only bless water at one service). This is to remember Jesus's baptism.

In Spain, Epiphany is an important festival, where it's also known as 'The festival of the three Magic Kings' - 'Fiesta de Los tres Reyes Mages', and is when Spanish and some other Catholic children receive their presents - as they are delivered by the Three Kings!

In Spain on Epiphany morning you might go to the local bakers and buy a special cake/pastry called a 'Roscón' (meaning a ring shaped roll; sounds a lot like our "monkey bread!"). They are normally filled with cream or chocolate and are decorated with a paper crown.

There is normally a figure of a king (if you find that you can wear the crown) and a dried bean (if you find that you're meant to pay for the cake!). In Catalonia it's known as a Tortell or Gâteau des Rois and is stuffed with marzipan.

In France you might eat a 'Galette des Rois', a type of flat almond cake. It has a toy crown cooked inside it and is decorated on top with a gold paper crown.

There are similar traditions in Mexico where Epiphany is known as 'El Dia de los Reyes' (the day of The Three Kings). It's traditional to eat a special cake called 'Rosca de Reyes' (Three Kings Cake). A figure of Baby Jesus is hidden inside the cake. Whoever has the baby Jesus in

their piece of cake is the 'Godparent' of Jesus for that year.

In Portugal, people take part in Epiphany carol singing known as the 'Janeiras' (January songs). On the Island of Maderia they're known as the 'Cantar os Reis' (singing the kings).

In Italy, some children also get their presents on Epiphany. But they believe that an old lady called 'Befana' brings them. Children put stockings up by the fireplace for Befana to fill.

In Austria, at Epiphany, some people write a special sign in chalk over their front door. It's a reminder of the Wise Men that visited the baby Jesus. The sign is meant to protect the house for the coming year. Some parts of Germany also have the tradition of marking over doors.

At Epiphany in Belgium, children dress up as the three wise men and go from door to door to sing songs and people give them money or sweets, kind of like Trick or Treating on Halloween.

In Ireland, Epiphany is also sometimes called 'Nollaig na mBean' or Women's Christmas. Traditionally the women get the day off and men do the housework and cooking!

In the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (which celebrates Christmas on 7th January), twelve days after Christmas, on 19th January, the three day celebration of Ethiopians Timkat starts. This celebrates Jesus's baptism.

In New Orleans, Louisiana, in the USA, on Epiphany/King's Day, the Christmas Tree is either taken down or the ornaments are replaced with Purple, Gold and Green ones and it's then called a 'Mardi Gras Tree'!

Epiphany Eve (also known as Twelfth Night) marks the end of the traditional Christmas celebrations and is the time when you were meant to take Christmas decorations down.

There is also a custom that when you receive your first Christmas card with the Three Kings on it, you put it over the front door (on the inside) and will bring you good luck for the following year.

Source: excerpt; "Epiphany, The Feast of the Three Kings", Why Christmas.com/customs/epiphany, 2023 © James Cooper.

To share an article for publication in THE HERALD, please send it to the church email: office@gregorymemorial.org or drop it off in the church office door mailbox.

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER, 2022

Sunday, 1 January 2023

“1st Sunday of Christmas" - Liturgical Color: White
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips

Thursday, January 6, 2023

“Epiphany of the Lord” – Liturgical Color: White

Sunday, 8 January 2023

“Baptism of the Lord" - Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: TBA

Sunday, 15 January 2023

“2nd Sunday after Epiphany" - Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Safwat Marzouk

Sunday, 22 January 2023

“3rd Sunday after Epiphany" - Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 29 January 2023

“4th Sunday after Epiphany" - Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel



OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN...One of our great joys and responsibilities to each other and to God here at Gregory Memorial is the regular practice of praying for each other and our community. Please let the church office know if any updates to this list are needed.

<p>Families, persons, entities impacted by Hurricane Ian People of Ukraine Those in our community suffering from mental/physical illness, loss, grief or hardship Amy Townson, Josh Ingram’s sister Becky Scott Smith Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix’s grandson (health issues) Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother Verne & Clara Smith Peggy & Dennis Allen Eddie Frankenstein Grace Cibula Etta Holc Jerry & Ruby Hasky (health issues) Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue) Jennifer Caldwell, friend of Grace Cibula (health issue) Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue) Dana Etheridge, Wayne Powers' cousin (health issue) Randy Warthan (health issue) Traci Wells, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issue)</p>	<p>Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue) Billy Hudson, friend of Dianna Lykins Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue) Emily Henry, Mary Holc’s sister (health issue) Charlie Perkins (health issue) Chris Ashby, Wayne Powers' granddaughter Brittney's husband (health issues) Judy Recher (problem with knee) Barbara Taliaferro Ruth Figg (Petersburg Home for Ladies) Billy Robertson (recent health issue) Shirley MacNeill (recent health issue) Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (rehab., Riverview on the Appomattox) Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue) Family/friends of James T. (“Tommy”) Buren (d. 12/13) Family/friends of Eleanor M. Jones, wife of Ligon “Lucky” Jones (d. 12/18)</p>
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CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

Our 2023 schedule for Holy Communion provides that we celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday in even-numbered months.

We will celebrate our next Holy Communion on **Sunday, February 5.**
We are continuing with the practice of passing the communion elements among the pews.

HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2023

February 5, 2023	June 4, 2023	October 1, 2023
April 2, 2023	August 6, 2023	December 3, 2023

HOLY HUMOR

THEOLOGY.... As explained by children

The first book of the Bible is Guinnessis, in which Adam & Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

Unleavened bread is bread made without ingredients.

Moses went to the top of Mt. Cyanide to get the 10 commandments.

The 7th commandment is 'Thou shalt not admit adultery.'

Joshua led the Hebrew in the battle of Geritol.

David fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

The people who followed Jesus were called the 12 decibels.

The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.

One of the opossums was St. Matthew.

Paul preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

A Godly person should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

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GO TO CHURCH, Marshall!!!

On a sunny morning, Marshall's mother came into her son's room and said, "Marshall, it's Sunday. Time to get up! Time to get up and go to church! Get up!"

From under the covers came mumbles, "I don't want to go!"

"What do you mean?" she said. "That's silly! Now get up and get dressed and go to church!"

"No!" he shot back. "I'll give you two reasons. I don't like them and they don't like me!"

"Nonsense," she told him. "I'll give **YOU** two reasons to go. First, you are 42 years old, and second, **you are the PASTOR!!!**"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jan. Guest Preachers:

- Jan. 1: Rev. Charles Philips
- Jan. 8: Pastor Gibby Elder
- Jan. 15: Rev. Safwat Marzouk
- Jan. 22: Rev. Marvin Daniel
- Jan. 29: Rev. Marvin Daniel; Moderator of Annual
Congregational Meeting

Stated Session Meeting – at 12 p.m. (est.) after worship service on Sunday, January 15, 2023.

Annual Congregational Meeting – at 12 p.m. (est.) after worship service on Sunday, January 29, 2023 (This date is weather-permitting and unless otherwise announced).

PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

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God's most perfect love,
 there is nothing better
 to help us with our ties . . .
 to the world to sever.
 It takes our worst fears,
 casts them away
 fills us with confidence
 for judgment day.
 God's most perfect love,
 brings eternal elation
 gives us the faultless joy
 of everlasting salvation.
 For without it we'd be,
 bound straight for hell
 where for all eternity
 our souls would dwell.
 God's perfect love,
 took away our punishment
 renders us before Him . . .
 blameless and innocent!

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“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because  
 fear hath torment.

He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” ~ 1 John 4:18, King  
*James Version, Public Domain*

# JANUARY, 2023

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Mon                                                                                                          | Tue                                                                                                                                                              | Wed       | Thu                                                                                                     | Fri                                                     | Sat                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1 New Year's Day</b><br><br><b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b><br><br><b>9:30a</b> Sunday School<br><br><b>11a</b> Worship service<br><br>Guest preacher:<br>Charles Philips                                | <b>2</b><br><b>1p</b> Worship Cmte                                                                           | <b>3</b><br><b>6p</b> GSA Tr5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm)<br><br><b>7p</b> Cong. Care Cmte<br><br><b>7p</b> Facilities Cmte | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br><b>6a</b> Church cleaning                                                                   | <b>6</b><br><b>EPIPHANY</b>                             | <b>7</b><br><b>9a – 1p</b><br><br>Undecorate the church (Worship Cmte) |
| <b>8 BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b><br><br><b>9:30</b> Sunday School<br><br><b>11a</b> Worship service<br><br>➤ Installation of Elders<br><br>Guest preacher:<br>Pastor Gibby Elder                                          | <b>9</b><br><b>6p</b> BSA Crater Ord. of Arrow (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm) | <b>10</b><br><b>1p</b> Circle (GMPC)                                                                                                                             | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br><b>6a</b> Church cleaning<br><br><b>7p</b> Faith Cmte                                      | <b>13</b>                                               | <b>14</b>                                                              |
| <b>15 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany</b><br><br><b>9:30a</b> Sunday School<br><br><b>11a</b> Worship service<br><br>Guest preacher:<br>Rev. Safwat Marzouk                                                      | <b>16</b><br><b>ML King's Birthday</b>                                                                       | <b>17</b><br><b>6p</b> GSA Tr5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm)                                                                  | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b><br><b>6a</b> Church Cleaning<br><br><b>2p</b> News articles due<br><br><b>7p</b> Finance Cmte | <b>20</b><br>Fellowship Hall reserved (set-up for 1/21) | <b>21</b><br><b>2-7p</b> Fellowship Hall reserved                      |
| <b>22</b><br><b>9:45a</b> Sunday School<br><br><b>11a</b> Worship service<br><br>➤ 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering<br><br>Guest preacher:<br>Rev. Marvin Daniel                                                               | <b>23</b>                                                                                                    | <b>24</b>                                                                                                                                                        | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br><b>6a</b> Church cleaning<br><br><b>2p</b> Newsletter out                                  | <b>27</b>                                               | <b>28</b>                                                              |
| <b>29</b><br><b>9:45a</b> Sunday School<br><br><b>11a</b> Worship service<br><br>➤ Local Emer. Aid Offering<br><br>Guest preacher:<br>Rev. Marvin Daniel<br><br><b>12p</b> Session Mtg.<br><br>Moderator: Rev. Daniel | <b>30</b>                                                                                                    | <b>31</b><br><b>2p</b> Committee reports due<br><br><b>6p</b> GSA Tr5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm)                           |           |                                                                                                         |                                                         |                                                                        |

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***JANUARY NEWSLETTER***



***COME AND JOIN US!***  
***Sunday School 9:30 A.M.***

***We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)***  
***Worship 11:00 A.M.***