

THE VALLEY BULLETIN

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (OBSERVED)



January 4th, 2026

WELCOME

If you are visiting, we welcome you into our midst.
Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey in faith, you are welcome.
It is a blessing to have you worship with us today!
The Parish of the Valley respectfully acknowledges that we gather for worship
on traditional Anishinaabe Algonquin territory.

CHALKING THE DOORS FOR EPIPHANY

What Is Chalking the Door?

During Epiphany-tide (the church season following 6th January) the faithful and friends gather at the main entrances to homes, places of work, and places of worship to ask God's blessing on their dwellings and on all who live or visit there.

In Deuteronomy 6:9 God tells the people of Israel: "These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house... You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

In this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our homes

What Do the Numbers and Letters Mean?

The first and last numbers simply refer to the current year. The letters C M B come from the traditional names for the three kings: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Some also suggest it stands for "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means, "May Christ bless this dwelling!"

How To Do It

Any time on or after Epiphany, find some chalk and gather everyone around the door. Pray together using the following liturgy and use the chalk, taking turns if you'd like, to make the inscription above your door.

CHALKING THE DOOR

Leader Peace be to this house and to all who enter here. A reading from Proverbs: "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."

Let us pray.

Gracious God, as a shining star once guided the magi to the birthplace of the infant Jesus, so enable those who meet here to be your light in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray.

All **Amen.**

Using chalk, we are invited to inscribe the lintel of the church and our homes with the inscription shown below.

20 + C + M + B + 26

The three Wise Men, [C] Caspar, [M] Melchior, and [B] Balthasar followed the star to Bethlehem and the child Jesus [20] two thousand and [26] twenty-six years ago. [+ +] May Christ bless this place [+ +] and remain with us throughout the new year. **Amen.**

Leader A reading from Isaiah: "The effect of righteousness is peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and quiet places."

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, we pray that you will bless this place, and all who abide here, with your gracious presence; that your love may be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Jesus Christ we pray.

All **Amen.**

Leader May the Lord watch over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

All **Amen.**

At the church, the priest may conclude with a blessing and dismissal.

Priest Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Priest Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

All **Thanks be to God.**

LET'S PRAY

In the Anglican Communion, this week we pray for Sarah Mullally, Archbishop-Designate of Canterbury. We pray for The Church of the Province of Central Africa. We pray for our Companion Diocese of Jerusalem.

In the Anglican Church of Canada, we pray for Shane Parker, our Primate. We pray for Anne Germond, our Metropolitan. We pray for Christopher Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop. We pray for The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

In our Diocese of Ottawa we pray: “Gracious God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified, send your guidance upon us as we prepare to elect a bishop for our diocese. Grant wisdom to those discerning a call, to those who are candidates, to Members of Synod, and to our diocesan administrator, Bishop Michael Bird; through Jesus Christ our Lord.” We pray for our Diocesan Partners: Anglican Communion Forest and Compass Rose, and we pray for the Parish of Huntley.

In our Deanery of the Northwest, we pray for the Church of the Epiphany, Barry's Bay, part of the Parish of the Valley.

In our Parish of the Valley, we pray for Matthew Brown our Incumbent; and for Gillian Hoyer, Nicholas Forte, and Christine Muise our Associate Incumbents. And for the life and members of our Parish of the Valley Community, this week we pray for: Laura & George Griffith, Paula & Blair Griffith, DeNiece Griffith, Jennifer Griffith & Richard & Axel Laframboise, William Grubb.

For the sick, those who have asked for our prayers, and all others who are on our hearts...

Alice & Petawawa: Lynn, Ralph, Bill, Issy, Nora, Marion, Lynn, Wanda, Rose, Laurie, Lois, Gloria, Patricia, Sammy, Chandra, Shane, Michael, Larry, Trent, Minnie, Scarlett, Brittany, Donna, Shawn, Gerry.

Barry's Bay & Whitney: Mary Ann, George, Poppy Joe & Penny Jane, Fred, Blake, Cathy, Susan, Patricia, Elspeth, Debra, Mary-Jayne, Fern, Shirley, Marilyn, David, Susie, Sharon, Bob.

Killaloe/Tramore & Eganville: Marg, Joan, James, Hilary, Heather, Jan, Harold, Richard, Dorothy, Betty, Ann, Sheila, Andrea, Sharon, Junior, Peter, Richard, Pauline, Phyllis, Ethel, Anice, Paula, Rosemary.

Pembroke: Diane, Jolene, Loreen, Heather, Tristan, Iris, Bill, Bob, Jo, Connie, June, Lawrence, Lomie, Bea.

Stafford/Beachburg/Cobden: Gwen, Elmor, John, Jean, Margaret, Denver, Brian, Ruby, Janice, Susan, Ryan, Haley, Ruth, James, Sharon, Dave, Nicholas, Carolyn, Hillary, Ralph, Thyra, Sandra.

TODAY'S READINGS

JANUARY 4, 2026 - The Epiphany of the Lord (Observed)
Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

UPCOMING READINGS

January 11, 2026 - The Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 42.1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-17

January 18, 2026 - The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 49.1-7; Psalm 40.1-12; Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42

OFFERINGS

We are grateful for your ongoing support of our parish's congregations. Donations can always be placed on the offering plates located at the back of the church, or can be given during the offertory in congregations where an offering plate is passed. To learn more about Pre-Authorized Remittances (PAR), options for e-transfer, or how to donate online with credit card through *Canada Helps* or [Tithe.ly](https://www.ValleyAnglicans.ca), please visit our website: www.ValleyAnglicans.ca

Call Gail at the Aborn House office (613-732-4658) to sponsor a Valley Bulletin.

SERVICES IN THE PARISH OF THE VALLEY

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 11

8 & 10am - Holy Trinity Pembroke
9am - St Stephen's Micksburg
9am - Ascension Killaloe
9:30am - St George's South Alice
11am - St Paul's Cobden
11am - St John's Eganville
11am - Epiphany Barry's Bay (Morning Prayer)
11:15am - All Saints Petawawa

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Thursday, January 8th at 10.15am - Valley Manor, Barry's Bay
Thursday, January 15th at 10.00 am - Pinewood, Pembroke

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas & New Year Office Closure: The Office at Aborn House will reopen tomorrow at 9am.

Christmas Pastoral On-Call: In case of a pastoral emergency over the holidays, from December 29th to January 4th, please call Rev. Matthew or Rev. Gillian (613-687-9123).

Join Ottawa Valley Lutheran and Anglican churches for **Starry, Starry Night**, a shared service to celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. This afternoon, at 4pm at Zion Lutheran Church (454 Miller Street) in Pembroke. All are welcome!

The midweek Eucharist at Holy Trinity Pembroke will resume this week, at 10am on Wednesday, January 7th. All are welcome.

CLERGY TEAM

Contact Information

The Rev. Matthew Brown (613-732-4658)

The Rev. Gillian Hoyer (613-687-9123)

The Rev. Nicholas Forte (613-629-9498)

The Rev. Christine Muise (613-883-8402)

Cover: *Epiphany*, Janet McKenzie

Vermont artist Janet McKenzie pays homage to the feminine figure through sacred and secular imagery. Ms. McKenzie's paintings depict an inner strength that often challenge and comfort the viewer. Using a variety of female forms including African American, Asian, and Caucasian women Ms. McKenzie is able create empowering images of women that are beautiful, thought provoking, and often haunting. Through her paintings Ms. McKenzie strives to convey the heart of the feminine being as a universal symbol of hope. "Women are for me sacred beings that are the foundation of life, subjects that have the power to captivate my imagination and inform my expression."

www.valleyanglicans.ca



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