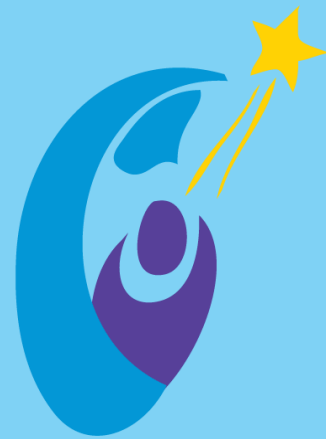




Happy New Year!

When I think of Advent, I remember a few years ago being caught off guard by a friend's greeting of "Happy New Year" on an early December Sunday. I thought he turned too many pages of the calendar. When I inquired to his greeting, he explained to me that the first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the Church year. As I reflected on this new beginning, my mind was flooded with images of how I can use this new beginning to make this New Year more special than the previous year.

Since that moment years ago, at the beginning of each Advent I intentionally take time to reflect on my faith journey over the past year. I think of the areas of my faith life in which I have grown and instances when I failed to grow or do the right thing. This includes times when I was proud of the service that I provided to others. It also encompasses the times when I failed to serve others as Jesus calls all Christians to do. I use these times of failure to identify and create improvement goals for the upcoming year.

Advent also conjures warm feelings of preparing for Christmas. I remember as a child being excited to open the boxes on the Advent calendar and making an Advent wreath. These activities created excitement and anticipation of Christmas day coming soon. Advent also reminds me of my now grown children being small and excited, as they knew Christmas day was coming soon. They now have 5 children of their own and will be experiencing that same excitement with them.

These warm feelings of Advent from years past, inspire me to reflect on what does Advent preparation mean for me today? I know that Christmas is coming, but how can I make this Christmas better than all others? If Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of our Savior, how do I prepare? I first reflect on times when I have failed to be the person God wants me to be, the times that I have allowed sin to creep in. I then make plans to celebrate the Holy Sacrament of Reconciliation and ask God for forgiveness. This is an extremely freeing experience for me. Additionally, I use Advent as a time to strive to show my loved ones and those with whom I encounter daily that the Savior is alive in me through the love that I show them. I firmly believe that we were all created out of God's love and showing love in return is what would please God the most.

I wish a peaceful Advent to everyone!

Doug Wolz
 Business Manager



LEADERSHIP UPDATE FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Communication is a critical part of a relationship-any relationship- even the relationship we all have as a faith community. In response to concerns for better communication raised at our Community Forum, specifically between the Parish Pastoral Council and our community, the PPC has taken action. An ad hoc committee of the PPC now exists to address ways toward better communication between the community and the PPC. The members of this committee are Allison Colson, Sharon Davis, and Carol Harris.

You have probably noticed several ways this is beginning to happen. There is now an area of the Connector designated for conversation. This allows you the opportunity to sit and chat with a PPC member about your questions or concerns. Please be patient as we experiment with the best location for you to locate and meet with PPC members after Mass. You can identify a PPC member by their white name badge, which will now include a red ribbon.

Where the PPC members are located, there will also be a "communication box" in the Connector. A PPC member will check it weekly to gather any questions raised about the parish. These questions will be addressed at the next PPC meeting. By submitting your contact information, it allows a council member to send a response directly to you, but you can choose to submit anonymously. The "communication box" will supplement the ppc-feedback@ECCLou.org email if you prefer email rather than paper.

For years, members of the community requested that the agenda for the upcoming PPC meeting be published in the bulletin, Epiphany Happenings, and on the website.

For the September and October meetings, the new business and old business to be discussed at the meetings was published in the bulletin the weekend before and in Epiphany Happenings the Wednesday prior to the monthly meeting. Monthly meetings are the fourth Thursday of the month with a few exceptions throughout the year due to holidays and retreat weekends. Parishioners are welcome to attend these meetings as guests. If you would like to be on the agenda to speak, please contact the Chairperson, Jay Stuart.

The minutes of the previous PPC meeting are public after approval by the council at the monthly meeting. The approved minutes are posted on the website and printed copies are available in the Connector.

With time, we hope these strategies will help us grow more understanding and loving as a faith community.



CHRISTMAS & FEAST OF EPIPHANY MASS TIMES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 p.m. Christmas Vigil
 7:00 p.m. Christmas Spanish Mass
 11:00 p.m. Christmas Midnight Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS

10:00 a.m. Christmas Mass

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4—FEAST OF EPIPHANY

4:00 p.m. Mass
 5:30 p.m. Celebration

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 - FEAST OF EPIPHANY

9:00 a.m. Mass
 10:15 a.m. Coffee with the Kings
 11:30 a.m. Mass
 2:30 p.m. Mass - Spanish

A REFLECTION ON DEACON FORMATION BY COLLEEN PERKINS

“We committed to one weekend a month, it’s like National Guard for the church.” That’s what I would lightheartedly say when asked about the diaconate formation program. I participated alongside my husband, Randy, one weekend a month for five years. Those weekends were spent at the Flaget Center learning, reading, praying, laughing, and connecting with our program leaders, professors, and our beloved classmates. “Deacon weekends” were filled with thoughtful, spirited, meaningful discussions about life, faith, church doctrine, hopes, fears, and life experiences; and I soaked it all in. It was a privilege to learn about events in my classmates’ lives that shaped who they are today. Listening to Randy discuss his faith and life experiences in a group setting also provided a new perspective on past events, despite having shared many of those moments together.



One of the highlights was our annual retreat weekend at Saint Meinrad Seminary. Randy and I lead full, highly scheduled lives; therefore, we cherished retreat weekends. Having dedicated time to unwind, reflect, and recharge sparked growth in my faith and how I connect with God. For example, I will never forget the first time I stepped into the Archabbey for Vespers (Liturgy of the Hours Evening Prayer). The ornate, beautiful Archabbey, coupled with the sounds of chanting from the resident monks, created a spiritual atmosphere that spoke to my heart. God reveals himself in many ways, but one I connect with the most is through nature. I felt God’s presence while exploring the grounds of Saint Meinrad’s campus, which included sandstone buildings, wooded trails, religious sculptures, and a serene lake that invited moments of prayer and contemplation.



It has been over two months since ordination day. Randy’s had a solid start and continues to be of service in big and small ways. For me, the role of supporting Randy and serving the domestic church remain priority. When I think of statues of Jesus, I think of him with his arms wide open, a gesture of welcome, an invitation. It is a reminder for me to stay open to God’s movement and follow where my journey with God takes me.

Peace and Love,
Colleen



MY TIME AT EPIPHANY CATHOLIC CHURCH – A REFLECTION BY DICK BOWLES

In the spring of 1971 my uncle, Father Dick Fowler, called me to announce he was to establish a new community with Father Jim Flynn. He asked me, as a 19-year old, to play guitar there. My parents and two brothers also joined. He introduced me to Mary Schulz who was to cantor and also lead the music ministry. We prepared and practiced for the first weekend in June. Then we played the second weekend, again the third, and so forth for the first couple of years. Others eventually joined the music ministry.



Father Fowler was reassigned after five years, and I asked to go with him to his new parish, but he wisely told me no.... that he thought I needed the excitement of a Vatican II parish to continue my faith journey. He was right. Epiphany’s pillars of excellent liturgy and social responsibility formed much of my life, and that of my family. We all got involved.



It has s been 53 years now that I have played guitar at Epiphany. In that space I matured, married, fathered children, worked in my engineering career, traveled all over the world, and retired. I became involved in Habitat for Humanity.



The vibrancy of Epiphany is important to me. When “life” finally allowed, I became involved in the Worship Committee (chair for 10 years), Tech Committee (on going), and Financial Advisory Committee (6 years). I have completed carpentry work for the parish as an extension of my hobby.



What have I learned? God calls at unusual times, almost never convenient. God has been so generous to me in the people He placed in my life, the things He has given me, and the things He has entrusted to me. When I become disillusioned or frustrated, I receive a whisper, “It’s not about you. Feed the hungry, shelter the homeless....”

DID YOU KNOW? EPIPHANY WILL CELEBRATE 50 YEARS IN THE WORSHIP CENTER ON JANUARY 5, 2025.



ALMOST READY! – DECEMBER 1974



GROUND BREAKING – AUGUST 19, 1973



EPIPHANY CENTER DEDICATION
JANUARY 5, 1975

Confirmation Reflection - by Jose Trujillo

Confirmation was a lot better than I expected, the classmates I've bonded with regardless of how different we all are will always be a special thing for me, but the most important thing was how much more connected I feel towards my religion and how much I learned about my faith. The confirmation teachers were a big part of our journey and I'm grateful for every moment with them. They made sure we learned more about our faith while also having fun. This experience will always be in my heart and I know the confirmation classes after us will love it too. Although it took a while for me to open up, I cherished very moment.

Another important event was the retreat, I felt like it helped us bond with each other and our religion. After the retreat, the environment of each class felt amazing. But in all this journey was the best experience and I can't wait to start my new life as a confirmed Catholic.

Thank you to every teacher, my experience was amazing because of you, each second we spent together will always hold a special place in my heart and Erin I'm so sad that you're leaving, you were an inspiration for me and I hope you know we are all grateful for you and what you've done for us. I hope you don't forget about us.



Confirmation Reflection - by Isabelle

My experience throughout Confirmation was very touching to me because my first thought of Confirmation wasn't exciting. There were many questions that I had as in, why do I even have to do this, or what's so important about it. But now that I have experienced what Confirmation is like makes me think more about God throughout my day. Maybe even more than usual because in Sunday Confirmation Classes we talk about God always being there so I take that to school as a thought to get me through the day. Spreading Christ is another thing I've took to do more of in my school life. Just to be more kind as in making kids comfortable and to connect them with other friends.



The biggest impact on me throughout Confirmation would be the retreat. Not having any devices and just being with people you didn't think you'll find a kind of good connection with really was a good experience. To get close to our Confirmation classmates and discuss things together. The retreat also gave me the feeling of what it would be like to just have a whole day with just you and God and God's creations with no distractions, devices. Being able to see what's more to than just being on your phone all day. I enjoyed this time at Confirmation it has helped grow my faith a bit more. Thanks to Erin.



PLANTS INSIDE EPIPHANY
BY LOUISE MICHALCZYK

The first act of awe, when man was struck with the beauty or wonder of nature, was the first spiritual experience.
Henryk Skolimowski

With arrival of the light-filled days of fall, it is impossible to overlook the beauty of the trees around Epiphany. Have you also noticed the 37 plants inside our worship space, wondered where they came from, or why they change positions? Over the years, parishioners have gifted our inside plants, sometimes simply because they outgrew their homes, sometimes to celebrate a challenge overcome, and sometimes to commemorate a loss.

The average life span of a houseplant is three to five years. Amazingly, it was forty-five years ago that Jeanna and Phil Danhauer purchased the ficus holding center stage in the sunniest window in the connector. When it outgrew their home, they donated the ficus to Epiphany. Thirty-two years



ago, Sharon Wuorenmaa, who tended our plants for many years, faced a health crisis and was gifted a bird of paradise plant by a friend. Just last year, Joe and Namok Petrosko brought us the bleeding heart plant in full bloom. Joe has since passed away. But we remember him in every bloom and we will for many years to come.

Following guidelines for art and environment to be noble and simple, Deb Sachs chooses banners and plants to illustrate the liturgical seasons. Our pines echo the Christmas season. The yuccas and palms suggest the desert-like reality of Lent, while the philodendrons and ferns suggest the abundant greenness of ordinary time.

If one day you notice sunlight streaming through a leaf or touch the soft needles of a pine or admire a delicate color of a bleeding heart bloom, offer a prayer of thanks for such beauty and for the parishioner who gifted it to us. Stop for just a moment to meditate on the liturgical symbolism hidden in the choice of a particular plant.



EUCHARIST TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND
BY RICK JAMES

Our mission statement is: Celebrating the Eucharist. Living the Gospel. Loving God and Loving our neighbor. Most of us celebrate the Eucharist at least weekly in our beautiful worship center. But the faithful that are ill, they are deprived of their place in our worship center and our community is incomplete without them.



Our Eucharist to the Sick and Homebound ministry helps bring Christ to our ill members. Our ministers of care are ordinary people called to minister to ordinary people in Extraordinary circumstances. Currently 35 ministers are offering the Eucharist to those parishioners unable to be with us in person.

Some ministers visit from Sunday liturgy. You may have noticed Father blessing them and sending them forth from Mass.

However we visit any day and any time the Chapel is open, on a long-term or short-term basis, depending upon the needs of our parishioner.

Every week, we visit about 15 parishioners in their homes, and an additional 45 parishioners at 4 senior living facilities. Note: hospitals and rehab facilities do not notify Epiphany of the admission of any of our parishioners. If you personally know of someone we can serve, please encourage them or their family member to call the Epiphany office and request a visit.

Our ministers of care are required to a have a Cup & Plate mandate, homebound specific training, and Safety Environment Training, provided by the Archdiocese.

It is a privilege to be able to offer the Blessed Sacrament to those we visit. We are blessed and humbled by the courage, gratitude, and deep love of our faith shown by those we serve in this ministry. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Rick James, ministry chair at email: bst5941@gmail.com.

DO I HAVE TO USE GMAIL TO ACCESS EPIPHANY’S GOOGLE DRIVES?
(spoiler: nope!)

We use Google’s services a *lot* here at Epiphany. For example, it is quite common for ministries to save all their files in Google Drive, which allows all ministry members to access these files on their own laptops, tables, and phones. However, ministries do keep these files secure, meaning that only the people in those ministries are allowed to access that ministry’s files in Google Drive.

New members to ministries typically ask: how do I get access to these ministry Google Drives?

There are generally 3 steps.

GET A GOOGLE ACCOUNT *WITH YOUR EXISTING EMAIL ADDRESS*
Most people fall into one of the following categories:

- 1. You have an @gmail.com email address
- 2. You have a different email address, but it uses Gmail (e.g., a work email account)
- 3. You have a non-Gmail email address

If you’re in category 1 or 2, you’re already set!

If you’re in category 3, **do not sign up for a new gmail.com account!** Instead, go to accounts.google.com/SignUpWithoutGmail and **sign up with your existing email address**. That’s right: you can sign up for a Google account with your existing email address. This means you get access to all of Google’s services -- including Google Drive -- except Gmail.

ENSURE THAT EPIPHANY HAS YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS
Make sure that Epiphany has the email address from the first step.

Note that Epiphany can really only have one email address per person. Hence, if you want to use your work email address, that’s fine, but be aware that any email Epiphany sends will go to that email address.

ASK YOUR MINISTRY LEADER FOR ACCESS
Once you’ve completed steps 1 and 2, let your Ministry leader know. They should be able to send you instructions on how to access the ministry resources in Google Drive.

That’s all there is to it!



THANK YOU, EPIPHANY!
BY TERI HOLLAND

Thank you, Epiphany, for joining with Merriment on its journey and supporting them along their way!

The Merriment Thrift Store, a subsidiary of Love City, is a nonprofit thrift store located in the Portland Neighborhood of Louisville. As many of you are aware, the Merriment Thrift Store applied for Epiphany’s Annual Grant last January and was thrilled to be one of the two recipients of the grant.

In less than 6 months’ time, what was once an empty building on Portland Ave has been transformed into a beautiful and thriving business. Working side by side with the men and women of Portland, you have painted walls, built shelving units, and then installed those shelves in the shop. On “Collection Weekend,” held here in Epiphany’s parking lot, your generous donations filled, top to bottom, a 15-foot U-Haul truck, 2 pick-up trucks, and several other cars with clothing, house hold goods, appliances, and toys to be sold. What a beautiful display of your kindness and love!



With great excitement, the Portland community and many friends gathered to celebrate Merriment’s grand opening. Held at the end of May, the launch was remarkable! It was a great success, exceeding all expectations with all proceeds going to tuition assistance at the Mighty Oak Academy, also a subsidiary of Love City.

Since May many of you have continued to assist Merriment. Whether shopping at the store for an unusual treasure or spending time by sorting, folding, and pricing goods to be sold, your support is appreciated!

Merriment’s impact on the Portland community and beyond has been impressive. Yes, area neighbors enjoy a beautiful store filled with both fun and useful items right in their own neighborhood, but it is so much more than just that. Merriment offers the opportunity for relationships, both old and new, to be forged, nurtured and grown. For community to be built ... not just with neighbors within Portland, but with the neighbors that live across town, as well. That is us, Epiphany!

“Neighbors loving neighbors” is their mission. *“Seeking to empower neighbors to build community and to create a beautiful and vibrant community”* is their goal.

Thank you, Epiphany, for uniting with Merriment! Come! You are welcome to join in this wonderful opportunity of showering our neighbors across town with your love as they, in turn, do the very same for us!

God bless you all!

