

# The Parish Paper

OF

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Vol. 57 No. 7

The First Sunday after Epiphany

January 11, 2026

## EPIPHANY

Epiphany means manifestation, or appearing—specifically the manifestation of deity. Scripture records many epiphanies: God descending upon Sinai in cloud and fire; even the created order itself is theophanic, revealing the hand of its Maker. Yet these are manifestations of God *to* human nature. The Epiphany celebrated by the Church is something more radical: the manifestation of God *in* the flesh. “The Word was made flesh ... and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father.”

Christ is himself the unique epiphany of divine glory embodied in humanity, and therefore there are multiple moments of epiphany in his earthly life, multiple moments what the glory of the Word shone forth from his flesh. By ancient tradition, the Church commemorates three of these on the feast of Epiphany (with several more in the Sundays following): his Baptism in the Jordan, when he was “made manifest to Israel” as the Lamb of God and Spirit-bearing Son (John 1:29–34), and his first miracle at Cana, when he “manifested forth his glory” (John 2:11). In the Western Church, however, the dominant focus of Epiphany is the Adoration of the Magi (Matthew 2:1–12).

The story of the wise men has often invited romantic embellishment, yet its contours fit plausibly within its known historical setting. Magi were a recognized class of eastern wisdom-seekers in Mesopotamia and Persia, known for celestial observation, diplomatic engagement, and exposure to Jewish messianic expectation, and its implications for non-Jews. So it is entirely credible that some should have been prompted by astronomical phenomena to seek a newborn Messiah.

Matthew’s concern, however, is not historical curiosity but theological meaning. The arrival of Gentile Magi signifies the maturation of God’s purposes for Israel: the people chosen to be a “light to the Gentiles” (Isaiah 42:6). Precisely as Israel’s Messiah, Jesus is the Savior of the world. “The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”

This is universalism that is not cheap sentiment or empty inclusion. No one is left without some measure of light, however distant or obscured their starting point may be. Faithful Jews had every reason to distrust Mesopotamian astrology, yet God is willing to use a star to draw the Magi toward his Son. What matters is not the adequacy of the initial gleam of light, but the willingness to follow that gleam into the larger truth.

In response to that star, the Magi seek the new born king in the obvious place, the place which reason and common sense indicate—Jerusalem, the city of the Jewish kings. They don’t find the newborn Messiah in Jerusalem, but they do find the Scriptures, to complete reason’s quest. Reason leads us to the obvious place, Jerusalem; only revelation can lead us to Bethlehem. Their humble submission to that revelation is then confirmed by the reappearance of the star, and they recognize God’s king not in power or splendor, but in a child born in obscurity, in a town ignored by history and elites alike. Through obedience first to reason and finally to revelation, they behold God made manifest in Mary’s son.

That the Western Church places the Adoration of the Magi at the heart of Epiphany is suggestive of the entire direction of western theology. This is not merely an epiphany of

*Continued on back page*

Church Office: 1 West Macon St, 31401 .....(912) 232-1251

Bishop of GA.....The Rt. Rev. Frank Logue  
Rector ..... The Rev. Gavin G. Dunbar  
Associate Rector ..... The Rev. Jonathan Jameson  
The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert [Retired].....(931) 327-5489  
Hon. Assisting Priest ..... Rev. J. Patrick Hunt  
Hon. Assisting Priest .....Rev. David Thurlow  
Organist and Choirmaster..... Mr. William Douglas  
Verger ..... Mr. B. Ray Summerell  
Verger .....Mr. James E. Morris  
Acolyte Director/Master of Ceremonies....Mr. Carter C. Hubbard

Sr. Warden: Mrs. James F. Holtzclaw (Sherry); Jr. Warden:  
Mr. Douglas P. McManamy; Treasurer: Mr. Floyd Whittington,  
Jr; Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. Stuart C. Clifford (Susan);  
Clerk of Vestry: Mrs. Elizabeth H. Schubert; Chancellor: Dolly  
Chisholm

The Vestry: Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara), Mrs. L.  
Allan Reynolds, Jr. (Beverly), Mr. Charles B. Compton, Jr.  
(Chip), Mrs. Jonathan D. Sprague (Mary), Mr. Patrick Worsham,  
Dr. Janet S. Morris, Mr. R. Scott Howard, Mr. Wiley A. Wasden  
III, Mr. Charles J. Ezelle, Mr. Graham P. Sadler, and Mrs.  
Duncan Pindar (Terry); Chancellor Emeritus & Vestryman  
Emeritus: M. Tyus Butler, Jr., Esq.; Vestry Emeriti: Mr. George  
Fawcett, Mr. Edwin H. Culver, Mr. J. Earl Gilbreath, Jr.

President, Women of St. John's: Mrs. Clarkson C. Logan (Meta),  
Chancel Society: Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan and Mrs. Linda H.  
Pounds; President, Men of St. John's: Mr. Benjamin W. Baxter

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Jan. 18-23:** Volunteers needed for Nashotah House Seminar at St. John's Church.
- **Jan. 20, 10:45 a.m.:** Hope Haven's Dementia Caregiver Support Group, Cranmer Hall
- **Jan. 21, 4:30 p.m.:** PACK, 4 Mall Terrace
- **Jan. 25, 12:30 p.m.:** Coffee Hour
- **Feb. 12-13:** Prayer Book Society/Anglican Way Conference at St. John's Church. More details at [AnglicanWay.org/2026-conference](http://AnglicanWay.org/2026-conference)
- **Feb. 15, 5 p.m.:** Music on Madison Square: The St. James' Compline Choir, works by Tallis, Shaw, Rimkus, and others at St. John's More details at [StJohnsSav.org/MMS](http://StJohnsSav.org/MMS).
- **Feb. 18:** Ash Wednesday: Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion at 7 a.m. in the Chapel and Noon and 5:30 p.m. in the Church

## UPCOMING WORSHIP WEEK OF EPIPHANY 1

### Monday to Friday:

8:15 a.m. *Online Morning Prayer*

### Monday, January 12

*No in-person services*

### Tuesday, January 13

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

### Wednesday, January 14

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

9 p.m. *Sung Compline*, Church

### Thursday, January 15

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*

*with Holy Communion*, Chapel

### Friday, January 16

Noon *Holy Communion*, Chapel

### Sunday, January 18:

#### The Second Sunday after Epiphany

8 a.m. *Holy Communion*, Church

8:45 a.m. *Nursery*, Cranmer Hall

9 a.m. *Family Morning Prayer*, Church

10 a.m. *All Ages Sunday School*,

Cranmer Hall & Chapel

11 a.m. *Sung Eucharist*, Church/Online

### Monday, January 19: MLK Holiday

*Church office is closed.*

8:30 a.m. *Morning Prayer*, Chapel

Noon *Holy Communion*, Church

5 p.m. *Evening Prayer*, Chapel

## STEPHEN MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

### *New training class starts this spring*

Consider being part of Stephen Ministry. After 50 hours of training, you will be prepared to care for someone in need. Walk alongside with them, pray with them, care for them during their crisis. In order to begin a new class this Spring we need 10 students to enroll. The class time and date is to be determined depending upon our enrollment. For more information, email [info@stjohnssav.org](mailto:info@stjohnssav.org) or call the Church office at 912-232-1251.

## NEW SEASON OF FAITH + FICTION

**The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**  
*Wednesday, Jan. 14, 5:30–7 p.m., Green-Meldrim*

The next Faith + Fiction is Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 5:30 p.m. in Green-Meldrim House. Plan to read the book and discuss Robert Lewis Stevenson's novella *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. For those who never read the story, the real work is much richer than what we've come to think of it from popular culture. Explore the theological implications for what happens to a person when a perfect disguise offers unchecked license. Please come and bring friends. Delicious snacks will be provided.

### Upcoming Faith + Fiction Dates/Titles:

- **February 4:** *Wise Blood*, Flannery O'Connor
- **March 4:** *Lying Awake*, Mark Salzman
- **April 8:** *Four Quartets*, T. S. Elliot
- **May 6:** *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, Walter Miller, Jr.
- **June 3:** *The Last Battle*, C. S. Lewis

### Volunteer as a Church Tour Docent

Visitors to Savannah enjoy learning about our historic church, but we can't keep these tours open without volunteer docents. Consider offering a few hours each month to share the beauty, the history, and the holiness of St. John's. Tours are Tuesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call the church office at 912-232-1251 if interested.

### Commemoration of Gen. Sherman Meeting with 20 African American Ministers

*Monday, January 12, 5–7 p.m., Green-Meldrim*

Mark the 161<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the historic 1865 meeting between General Sherman, Secretary Stanton, and twenty African American pastors, laying the groundwork for Sherman's Field Order No. 15, issued just four days later.

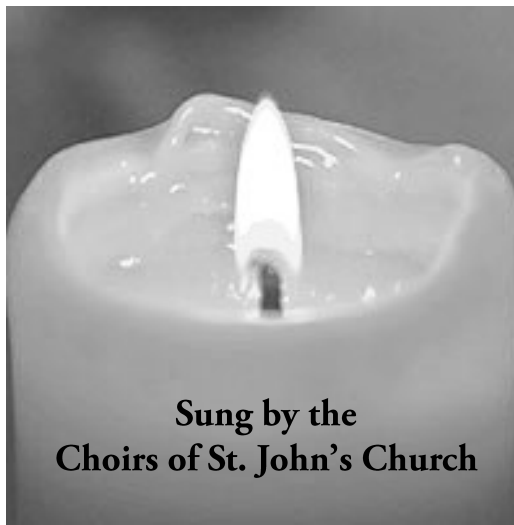
Explore Sherman's former headquarters, hear the story from knowledgeable docents, and experience this powerful moment in Savannah's history. This event is free and open to all.

# Candlemas Evensong

A Service of Music by Candlelight

Sunday, Feb. 1 at 5 p.m.

*A beautiful, music-filled service based on the classical Anglican Prayer Book*



Sung by the  
Choirs of St. John's Church

A black and white photograph of several oysters on a wooden cutting board. The oysters are arranged in a row, with some showing their shells and others with their meat exposed.

Men of St. John's  
**Annual Oyster Roast & BBQ**  
SATURDAY, FEB. 7 • 11AM – 3PM  
Oysters served at 11:30AM  
Camp Villa Marie, Savannah



Adults: \$40; Guests: \$30  
Youth: \$10; 5 & Under: Free  
All prices \$5 higher after Feb. 1

## THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

*The nursery (infants to four-year-olds)  
is available from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Cranmer Hall.*

**8 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION**, Church  
*Breakfast is available in Cranmer Hall following  
the 8 & 9 a.m. services this Sunday.*

Introit: Psalm 100, BCP p. 463  
The Collects, BCP pp. 109, 107  
The Epistle and Gospel, BCP pp. 110–111

**9 A.M. FAMILY HOLY COMMUNION**, Church

**10 A.M. ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL**,  
Cranmer Hall & St. Mary's Chapel

**11 A.M. PROCESSION, SERVICE OF LIGHT, AND  
SOLEMN EUCHARIST**, Church & Online

**12:30 P.M. COFFEE HOUR**, Green-Meldrim House

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

#### VESTRY OFFERING CHAIR

8 a.m. Mr. Arthur D. Weed  
11 a.m. Mrs. Graham P. Sadler (Dolly)

#### USHERS

Mr. Joseph R. Ross (Rusty)  
Mr. Frank Somoskey

#### CHOIR

Choir of Adults

#### COFFEE HOUR

Mrs. Mark D. Stevens (Chambliss)

#### CHANCEL SOCIETY

Mrs. Jayne G. Holland  
Mrs. Carter C. Hubbard, Sr. (Barbara)  
Mrs. John G. Bradshaw (Sally)  
Mrs. David A. Young (Pam)  
Mrs. Martin R. Sullivan (Martha)  
Mrs. Nohl A. Braun, Jr. (Alyce)  
Mrs. Jeanne H. McMillan  
Ms. Linda H. Pounds  
Mrs. I. David Futrell, Jr. (Penny)  
Dr. and Mrs. Jonathan Glen (Jon & Marilyn)

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Christ to the Magi, but an epiphany *in* them. Their journey is interior as well as physical: from curiosity to faith, from reason to revelation, from faith to worship. There is a focus on the development in the soul by which it becomes capable of receiving what is manifested to it. The western theological tradition would take this ball and run with it, but already the practical implications are already manifest.

Jerusalem lies only a few miles from Bethlehem. Herod and the religious authorities possess the same information as the Magi. Yet only the Magi follow truth in humility. Only they allow reason to lead them on, only they allow Scripture to correct them, and worship to claim them. Only they offer gifts that confess Christ's kingship, divinity, and suffering humanity. And only they possess the wisdom to return home by another way, refusing further traffic with Herod's guile.

The Magi's quest is therefore a profoundly hopeful account of divine triumph: superstition transcended, malice frustrated, cunning overruled, providence vindicated, truth obeyed, humility exalted, glory revealed. In a world where such outcomes seem improbable, Epiphany bears enduring witness to this truth: humble obedience to the truth God manifests is never in vain. — GGD

### FLOWERS THIS SUNDAY

The flowers in church this Sunday are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Logan McCay on the occasion of his birthday by grandparents, Mick and Connie McCay, and father and brother, Clay and Si McCay.

The Epiphany Candle is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of J. Robert Logan, Jr. and Virginia Bryan Connerat Logan by Dr. J. Robert Logan.

*To offer flowers for the altar, please call the Church office. After Sunday, the flowers are delivered to the sick, sorrowing, and shut-ins.*