

Epiphany

What is Epiphany and when do we celebrate it?

Observed on January 6, the Epiphany celebration remembers the three miracles that manifest the divinity of Christ. The name "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word *Epiphania*, and means "to show, make known, or reveal." The celebration originated in the Eastern Church in AD 361, beginning as a commemoration of the birth of Christ. Later, additional meanings were added - the visit of the three Magi, Christ's baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. These three events are central to the definition of Epiphany, and its meaning is drawn from these occurrences.

<http://www.sharefaith.com/guide/Christian-Holidays/definition-of-epiphany.html>



Interviews by Paige Toth

Vince Gallagher: Jacob's Ladder and family/helping the sick, needy and those known only to God.

Connie Barfield: celebrates the church.

Lila Campanelli-Purifoy: "Since coming to Florida in 1972, I have had the pleasure to participate as a spectator in Tarpon Springs Celebration of the Epiphany. It is a sight to see. All of the community runs down to the docks to the water and jumps in. They swim to the boats in anticipation of diving for the cross, which the Bishop throws into the water. I have seen the delight and disappointment of the youth who retrieve the cross; it is a very enlightening experience."

Beth Johnson: keeps their Christmas decorations up.

Joe Pergola: has no traditions, but has always wanted to go to Tarpon Springs.

Pete Soto: gets together with family.

Rachel Schnabel: celebrates with the Lebanese tradition of going to church in the morning and then coming home to lots of homemade food.



ISSUE

07

Nov/Dec
2014

Holy
Innocents'
Episcopal
Church

The Defender

Beth Latshaw-Foti,
Editor

Important Dates thru December:

November 30

**Advent Wreath-
Making**

9:15 a.m.

Parish Hall; Cost is
\$10 /wreath & candles,
\$5 /candles

December 17

**Christmas
Gathering**

6:00 p.m. - Dinner

7:00 p.m. - Program

December 21

Longest Night

4:00 p.m.

Service in church for
those needing hope

December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. - Family svc.

10:30 p.m. - Choral
Eucharist

December 25

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m.

Service in the church

December 28

**Feast of the Holy
Innocents**

10:00 a.m.

One combined worship
service in the church



in this issue

Message from Rector P.1

Advent Traditions P.2

Christmas Traditions P.3

Epiphany Traditions P.4

From the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.*

The season of Advent is upon us, which means that we once again face the challenge of observing this time of quiet waiting in the midst of a world filled with the chaos and stress of the secular holiday season. One of the ways we overcome this challenge is by participating in certain traditions and practices that help to focus our hearts and minds on the true meaning of Advent. These traditions and practices include the use of the Advent wreath to mark the weeks of the season. Adding a dedicated time for daily prayer and contemplation can also be a helpful practice during Advent as we seek to find peace and spiritual rest.

I would like to encourage you to consider what specific traditions or practices you will include as part of your Advent observance this year. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us be mindful of the fact that the season of Advent is also a time in which we eagerly await the coming of Christ in power and great glory. Our traditions and practices should always point us to the saving actions of God in the past, while also directing our attention to the future hope we share as inheritors of the Kingdom of God. May God bless you during this Advent season and always!

In Christ,

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

604 N. Valrico Road
Valrico, FL 33594

www.hiepiscopeal.org
office@hiepiscopeal.org

Ph: 813.689.3130
Fax: 813.689.9483



Advent

Traditions

Christmas



Interviews by Ceci and Luci Hardin

Rachel Schnabel: family would sing “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” before bed at night and add a verse each week.

Connie Barfield: She reads an advent devotional and before going to bed reads short Christmas stories and Christmas eve. She watches *The Nativity Story*.

Bill Cox: does an Advent wreath every year. When his children were younger, he would get and use an Advent calendar so they would get a treat and a lesson each day during Advent.

Michelle Ortiz: When she was younger, her family would use an Advent calendar and have a treat and a lesson daily.

Pat Magnant: Enjoys the music, the Christmas program, and the Saints.

Dale Vona: Watches a bowl game

Pergola Family: Each kid has his/her own Advent calendar with candy and puts a picture together.

Advent & Christmas Service Schedule

Christmas “Gathering” – Wednesday, December 17

A church-wide soup, salad, and dessert dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. The children’s choir will provide the musical program, which will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

The Longest Night Service – Sunday, December 21

A service for those who are struggling with loss this holiday season. It will provide participants with a space to quietly contemplate and reflect. Service begins at 4:00 p.m. in the church, with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

Christmas Eve Services – Wednesday, December 24

- 5:00 p.m. - Family Service
- 10:30 p.m. - Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25

Service begins at 10:00 a.m. in the church. Come and worship Christ the newborn King!

Feast of the Holy Innocents – Sunday, December 28

One combined worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Interviews by Edwin Rudacille

As the holidays approach, we look forward to Christmas traditions. I interviewed some of the congregation to ask their favorite traditions for Christmas. I have learned that all of these traditions all have something in common - family, friends and FOOD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I hope everyone enjoys their own family traditions this year!!

Joe Pergola: opens presents at home, then goes to his parents’ house and opens presents again, and his favorite part is the time to talk and be with family. Then they return home and have an early dinner with Italian foods.

Shannon Sharf: reads The Night Before Christmas every Christmas Eve and gets new Christmas pajamas every year. In the morning they must have a hot breakfast with bacon.

Lila Campanelli-Purifoy: celebrates Christmas with the traditions of her Italian grandparents. They have a feast of the seven fishes, an Italian seaside food like calamari, and other foods. Her sister, Mary Ellen, makes a cooked dough desert filled with honey.

Rachel Schnabel: goes to the midnight service and waits afterwards for her parents to get her. One time when she walked out, it was snowing!

Joe Hardin: goes to the family service at 5:00 on Christmas Eve. In the morning, they open presents and have a big breakfast with monkey bread (it’s really good). Later in the day around 3:00, they have a late lunch and it is a very special meal.

Julie Thomas: goes to her sister-in-law’s house and has a big family birthday party since a lot of them have birthdays in December. Then they go to church for the family service and afterwards they have a Christmas dinner. She also does an Advent calendar.

Melinda Carr: decorates her tree with new and old Christmas decorations - some are from 1940. She has an angel collection to go on the tree, and Star Trek and Star Wars ornaments. They have a wreath on their door. They go to the family service Christmas Eve.

Myrna Younglove: goes to church with her family and friends, then she comes home to a Christmas dinner.

Matt Woods: puts up a Christmas tree, has a Christmas dinner, and on Christmas morning they make Christina’s Kringle - a pastry from Holland (yum)!!

Edwin: goes to the family service on Christmas Eve, then goes to my grandparents’ house to eat lasagna. On Christmas morning, opens presents then goes to St. Petersburg for a party at my second cousin’s house (there are at least 10 kids but even more adults)!

