

THE ANGELUS

Volume 73 Number 4

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

December 2022

Dear People of Christ Church,

From my perspective as clergy in the diocese and in the parish, I find it helpful to be moving into the new church year during this season of Advent with the ordination and installation of a new diocesan bishop. If we ever wanted a reminder that we are in a season of change, a new diocesan bishop after four years without one is about as clear as we can get. The change in leadership of the diocese reminds me that we also have change in what we are doing at the parish. Because of that, it becomes extremely important that parishioners keep alert to what is going on around the parish.

We have some events that will seem the same with outreach projects, youth and OWLs events, and children Sunday School guests. We are even having Wednesday noonday Eucharist in the Pilgrims chapel once again for December 7 and 14 for anyone who is around town. Those are the easy ones.

Now for the challenges of change, Number 1: The children's Christmas Pageant this year will be on Sunday, December 18 at the 10:30am service. Let me repeat that. The children's Christmas Pageant this year will be on Sunday, December 18 at the 10:30am service. With so many families traveling at Christmas Eve time, this is the best way to involve more of our Sunday School children in the pageant.

Change Number 2: Christmas Eve services will be at 4:30pm and 10:00 pm. The 4:30 pm service will have a special Christmas offertory parade for children to help bring food donations forward. The children are invite to be dressed up as their favorite Christmas character. As there is so much need for food in our world, we ask anyone coming to the 4:30 service to bring canned or dried goods and set them in baskets in the back of the church. The children will bring the food up at the offertory, probably with some help from older children.

The 10:00 pm service of Holy Eucharist will not have the children's parade, but there will still be plenty of carols to sing during the service as we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity.

Change Number 3: Since Christmas Eve is on a Saturday, we have Christmas Day on a Sunday! This is a year when we have that opportunity to celebrate the nativity on the first day of the week which is associated with the resurrection. A nice collision of themes including the theme of our normal Sunday service schedule of 8:00 am and 10:30 am services. Both services will have Holy Eucharist like normal. However, we will not have Sunday School that day.

December will quickly move to our own Sunday New Year's Day party with Eucharist at 8:00 am and 10:30 am once again. The following week celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord and we are on our way into 2023!

The month of December will have somethings as we would expect. At the same time, we will also have some significant changes. I ask that you keep alert to the church schedule. Also, I encourage you to invite neighbors and friends who may want to join a church family at this wonderful season of light breaking through the darkness as we prepare ourselves to welcome God's love in Christ into our lives. So keep awake!

Faithfully,



The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
rector@christchurchwinchester.org
540-662-5843, Ext 1 or 540-773-5562



From the Clergy

This December, as we keep the season of Advent, and get ready to celebrate Christmas, I've been thinking about giving. Most of us do a lot of giving during this season - we buy presents for family and friends; we give of our time to help family gatherings happen. We might give to causes or organizations we care about, or respond to a food drive at church or elsewhere. We have a very deep impulse that this time of year is a good time to be generous with what we have. Even one of my favorite Christmas stories, Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol, is about that impulse that Christmas is a time to give of ourselves to others.

For us as Christians, I think the impulse is rooted in what Christmas really is. At Christmas, we celebrate God's own act of giving, God's willingness to give us God's own life and presence in Jesus. Jesus's whole life and ministry among us really is a gift, something God freely offers us, not because we have done anything to earn it, but because of God's overflowing love for us. Jesus's presence with us, his willingness to share our life, is a sign that points us back to the One who sent him, and shows us how deeply God cares for us. Like any good gift, it teaches us about the giver, and about our relationship with the giver.

And that gift we are offered at Christmas is meant to change us, to give us the chance to become more like God in return. We respond to God's gift with our own gift, of our whole selves and lives, what the Rite I Eucharistic Prayer calls "our selves, our souls, and bodies." We offer what we have, and who we are, back to God, in thanksgiving for what God has given us. And one of the best ways we can make that offering is through living generous lives to others. Our instinct that Christmas is a time to serve others, to give of our time and talents and money so that everyone has a chance to celebrate the season, is a way of witnessing to God's love and generosity to us.

The challenge for us, as we prepare and celebrate this December, is how we remember this impulse throughout the year, not just at the end. What we remember in Christmas about God's love, and God's giving, isn't just true during this season, but all year long. And our call as Christians, to live lives of generosity and thanksgiving, isn't just a way to celebrate the holidays, but the heart of our relationship with God. So when Christmas is over, and we clear away the presents and the decorations, let's remember God's gift to us, and be ready always to give in return.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Martin Geiger, Assistant Rector
mgeiger@christchurchwinchester.org
540-662-5843, Ext. 2, or direct 540-773-5564

Did you know that Parishioner Cheryl Crowell has crafted Christmas wreaths, magnolia swags, the advent wreath in the church, and other greenery at Christ Church for more than thirty years? Toni Sloan honors her parents with four of Cheryl's wreaths each year placed on the church doors, and Cheryl and her family remember family members as well with wreaths. See the Christmas Flower insert on Christmas Eve for details on all the remembrances, and please thank Cheryl for her many years of work in this ministry as you enjoy her wreaths this month.



Christian Formation

Upcoming Events for Sunday School

During Advent, our children have many opportunities to learn about the season and to prepare for Christmas in addition to their Sunday School classes.

If your family is planning to take part in the brunch and gingerbread house activity on December 11, you can still sign up on the church website by December 5. We will meet in the Tilford Room at 10:00 am and all supplies will be provided.

St. Nicholas will make his yearly visit to Sunday School on December 4, and as always, bring gold foil covered chocolate coins as he shares his story. St. Lucy will then visit on December 11, telling her story and sharing sweet rolls.

Our Christmas schedule this year has changed in order to offer more opportunities to include families with busy schedules. The Christmas pageant will take place on December 18 during the 10:30 service, and on Christmas Eve, children are invited to be part of a Nativity Procession at the beginning of the 4:30 pm service and at the offertory. All costumes are provided. On the 18th, setup and costuming will take place from 9:30 - 10:15 am in the Fairfax Room. On the 24th, we'll begin to costume at 3:45 pm. Please sign up on the church website by December 8th. Roles and practice time will be decided as soon as we have an idea of how many children and youth plan to be in the cast. Again all children are invited to be part of either or both services to celebrate the Nativity.

Sunday School classes will not meet on December 25 or January 1.



Adult Forum

Gospels and Ordinations: Our 9:30 am Sunday Adult Forum will meet Sunday, December 4, to discuss the bishop ordination, and then on Sunday, December 11, to discuss the Gospel of Matthew in the seasons of the church year. We will not have Adult Forum on Sunday, December 18 or Sunday, December 25.

Faith Study Group

The Monday morning Faith Study Group began a new Bible study on the Gospel of Mark in November. If you would like to see what that study is like, we encourage you to join us for the December 12 meeting, either in person or on Zoom at 10:00 am. That will be our only meeting in December. In January, we will return to our normal schedule of the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.

This study on the Gospel of Mark uses Marcus Borg's study on Mark from the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars program, "Conversations with Scripture." This can be found on Amazon or other sources online. If you would like to participate via Zoom, please email rector@christchurchwinchester.org for the link.

Pastoral Care

Vaccines for the Home Bound

The Lord Fairfax Health District provides many services to protect and promote the health and well-being of individuals in Winchester and five area counties. They asked us to share that they provide vaccines for home-bound individuals in the district. You can request a nurse vaccinators to visit your home to provide seasonal influenza or Covid vaccines when you cannot travel to the doctor or pharmacy. Contact nurse Alana Burdick at 540-722-3470 or 540-743-6528, or contact one of our parish nurses, Helen Zebarth or Rosalie Lewis, for assistance.



Not Joyful at Christmas?

During the holidays, many of us spend time remembering the past and wondering about the future. If you are missing a loved one, feelings of isolation and loneliness magnify when it seems like everyone around you is joyful. This takes a toll on physical health, as well as emotional. Rest assured, there are many who feel sadness and loss during the holidays, and there are a few strategies that may help:

- Acknowledge that this year is a NEW holiday for you, unlike holidays in the past.
- Acknowledge the absence of your loved one by talking about them, having their favorite dinner, or have a toast in their honor at a gathering.
- Engage in spiritual activities that are comforting for you.
- Do things because you want to do them, not because you feel pressured to because your loved one would have wanted it that way, or out of a sense of duty for your family.
- Initiate activities yourself! Plan your own holiday outings. Time spent by yourself can be rewarding and fun. Or, invite friends to come along.
- Spend time helping others and brightening their day, which always boosts one's sense of purpose.
- Make phone calls to your friends and relatives. Calls to people in similar situations as you can be worthwhile!
- Take time to take care of yourself. Get adequate rest and exercise. Enjoy sunshine when you can.
- Try to look at the holiday season as the beginning of a new year with new experiences!
- Enjoy the gifts of the season found both in special memories and new traditions.

Merry Christmas from your Parish Nurses!

Parish Life

What's Happening

Since the start of the church year this fall, the Parish Life committee has been busy both behind the scenes and in the forefront of church activities providing opportunities for fellowship and fun for the parishioners of Christ Church. We're really pleased with the response of the congregation and happy that so many are willing and able to gather together again!

The traditional Parish Picnic in early September kicked off the fall activities and was a huge success with great attendance! The Parish Picnic and Coffee Hour have been revamped to simplify the process which has been well-received by both hosts and attendees. The response to hosting coffee hour has been great! Many thanks to those who have hosted this fall. We invite everyone to consider hosting after the first of the year so we can keep the momentum going! The January calendar is available on Signup Genius and can be accessed from the home page of the church website. Additionally, a Coffee Hour Host cheat sheet is available so that you can see how easy it is to be a host!

Other upcoming activities include a December 17 supper for families with young children and a gathering of OWLS on December 4. We plan to host an event for new members of the congregation to welcome them and help them to get to know each other and what ministries and opportunities to serve Christ Church offers. We are hopeful that these gatherings will be welcomed and well-attended.

Behind the scenes, the Parish Life committee oversees the kitchen, keeping it clean, well-stocked and organized. We've been hard at work within the past few months doing inventory and preparing for future activities. If you have ideas for parish events or would like to be a member of the Parish Life committee, please let us know! Email Jody Wall at jody_wall@yahoo.com.

Christmas Flowers

We are looking forward to a Christmas Sanctuary adorned with poinsettias. If you would like to make a donation to the Altar Guild in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one this Christmas, the suggested donation is \$15-20 per remembrance. Christmas Flower envelopes are in the back of the church. Please return them in the offering or to the Church Office. The last day to return an envelope is Monday, December 12.

You may also email Noelle at communications@christchurchwinchester.org and send donations separately (with a note that says Christmas flowers).



Church Calendar

Services at Christ Church

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
in the Sanctuary

Holy Eucharist at Westminster-Canterbury
Every 1st & 3rd Thursday at 10:30 am



Find us on
Facebook

Look for
Christ Episcopal Church Winchester
and like us to stay up-to-date on the latest news!

The Church Office is open Tuesday—Thursday
from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Call ahead before you visit!

Committee & Group Meetings

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Adult Forum | Sun: 9:30 am |
| Choir Rehearsal | Wed: 7:00 pm |
| Bible Study | Wed: 10:30 am |
| Outreach Committee | 4th Tues: 7:00 pm |
| Knit Unto Others | 3rd Tues: 2:00 pm |
| Properties Committee | 3rd Tues: 7:00 pm |
| Vestry | 2nd Tues: 7:00 pm |
| Daytime Faith Study | 2nd & 4th Mon: 10:00 am |
| Treasure Box | Wed & Fri: 10 am—4 pm Sat: 10 am—1 pm |
| Women's Book Studies | Tues: 10:30 am Thurs: 5:30 pm Parlors |



CHRIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

December Birthdays

- 1 Mary Margaret Applin, Jamie Eppes
- 4 Betty Futral
- 5 Bill Armstrong
- 6 Pam Friestad, Peggy Dowd
- 7 Harry Poling
- 8 Lelia Wingenbach
- 10 Rob Ross, Gary Sheppard
- 12 Linda Gibson
- 14 Penny Byler
- 17 Terri Cluss
- 19 Eleanor Thomson
- 21 Bill Pifer
- 26 Christopher Turnbull
- 27 Charles Casey
- 28 Ashley Futral, Jr.
- 29 Carole Ann King
- 30 Sarah Roberson, Sam Worsley
- 31 Rob Boyd



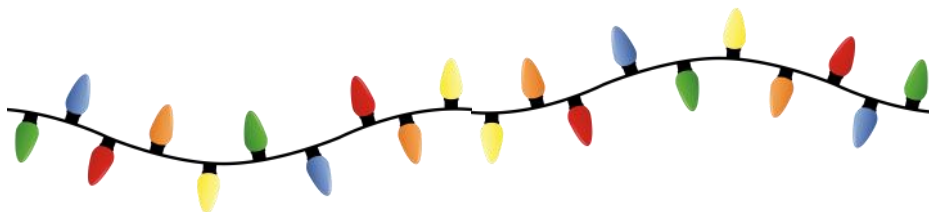
December Anniversaries

- 4 James & Marsha Baden
- 5 Jeremy & Katy Schain
- 8 Stephen & Suzanne Pettit
- 18 Bill & Gail Walsh
- 18 Steve & Ashley Haines
- 21 Kevin & Pam Kennedy

celebrate!

Please Note:

We will publish birthday and anniversary information only with explicit permission. Please contact the Church Office if you wish to be added to or deleted from these lists. Please keep the Church Office informed of any changes to your address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.



Shop at the Treasure Box Thrift Shop!
Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10—4 and
Saturdays 10-1 at 114 W. Boscawen St.

**Last day to shop before Christmas is
Wednesday, Dec 21.
Re-opening January 4, 2023.**



From the Finance Committee

Wrapping up the Year

The end of 2022 will soon be upon us. This is a report for the first ten months of 2022 through October. Collecting November financial data happens after the publication deadlines for the Angelus. The table to the right shows the summary of budgeted and actual revenues and expenses. The graph below the table shows the cumulative surplus/deficit over the year by month.

There are several important points to highlight.

- Both the revenues and expenses have exceeded the budgeted amounts.
- The projected deficit was not as large as expected but is still significant.
- The utilities and property maintenance expenses exceeded expectations for a variety of reasons, including new HVAC systems and inflation. These will continue to increase in the future.
- The final months of November and December show a steep increase in projected revenues over expenses, thus decreasing the size of the deficit (black line). This is normal as we enter the holiday season. This does not, however, eliminate the deficit.

The financial status reflects the effects of inflation and lingering recovery from the pandemic. Sunday attendance has declined and with it, consequential financial impact. Expenses have already been trimmed over the pandemic years so there is nothing to be gained there. So, what can we do about it?

First, let's all make sure that we are up to date on our pledges. It is easy to fall behind during the summer months. Now is the time to catch up. Second, let's see if we can dig a little deeper to help address the deficit. Inflation drives the cost of goods and services up making it harder on all of us. It also makes it harder for the church to fulfil its ministries just when those ministries are needed more. There is no automatic control that will increase our revenues. Only we can do that. Thirdly, let us reach out to our fellow parishioners and neighbors to rebuild the spirit of the church. The more we build the spirit of loving our neighbors as ourselves, the more the finances will take care of themselves.



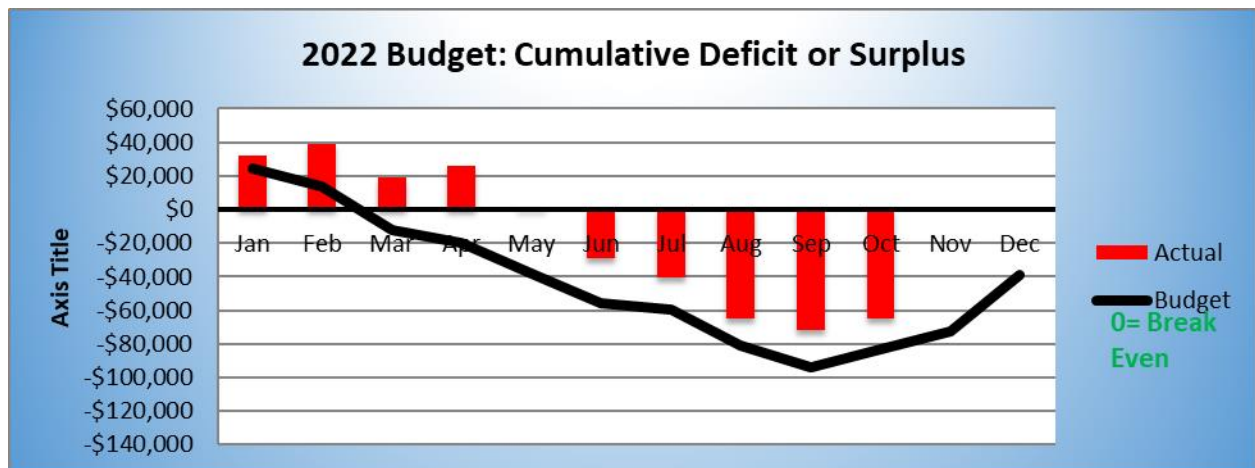
Notes from the Bookkeeper:

2022 Year-End Contribution Statements will be mailed the first part of January 2023. If you are unsure of your current contribution unpaid balance, please [contact our Bookkeeper, Theresa Seitz](#) at 540-773-5566. She can provide you with this information and/or a copy of your current statement.

2023 Pledge Envelopes will be available for pick up in the back of the church Sunday December 4th, 11th and 18th. Thereafter, please [contact our Bookkeeper, Theresa Seitz](#) at 540-773-5566 to arrange to pick up your envelopes. Sorry, envelope sets CANNOT be mailed to your residence. Also, if you did not request a set of envelopes at the time you made your pledge, but would like a set, please contact Theresa.

From the Finance Committee

| Year-to-Date Through October 2022 | Actual | Budget | Difference |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Revenues | | | |
| Contributions - Pledged | \$369,151 | \$346,000 | \$23,151 |
| Contributions - Unpledged | \$49,466 | \$40,800 | \$8,666 |
| All Other Revenues | \$19,952 | \$20,710 | \$758 |
| Total Revenues | \$438,568 | \$407,510 | \$31,058 |
| | | | |
| Expenses | | | |
| Total Personnel | \$357,399 | \$361,680 | \$4,281 |
| Total Utilities | \$25,420 | \$21,815 | \$3,605 |
| Total Property/Maintenance | \$41,761 | \$36,970 | \$4,791 |
| Total Office Expenses | \$18,867 | \$17,933 | \$934 |
| Total Christian Education Expenses | \$795 | \$1,291 | \$496 |
| Total Music Expenses | \$3,984 | \$3,275 | \$709 |
| Total Worship | \$523 | \$885 | \$362 |
| Total Stewardship | \$569 | \$700 | \$131 |
| Total Outreach | \$52,200 | \$42,450 | \$9,750 |
| Total Pastoral Care | \$271 | \$300 | \$30 |
| Total Parish Life | \$278 | \$840 | \$562 |
| Total Communications | \$1,568 | \$2,000 | \$432 |
| Total Expenses | \$503,635 | \$490,139 | \$13,496 |
| | | | |
| Net Total (Deficit/Surplus) | \$65,067 | \$82,629 | \$17,562 |



Outreach Committee

Focus on WATTS

The Outreach Committee continues its work with WATTS this winter. Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS) is a program conducted by congregations in Frederick and Clarke Counties and Winchester to provide warm, safe shelter and nourishment to homeless members of our community during the winter months. WATTS has been very successful. Since its inception, WATTS has grown from eight to 18 host congregations, which significantly increases support to the most vulnerable members of our local homeless community.



The 2023 Christ Church WATTS Host Week will be February 4 to 11, 2023.

There will be a meeting on Sunday, January 15, 2023, after the 10:30am service to discuss 2023 WATTS procedures & changes, volunteer opportunities, and to provide a WATTS Ministry overview for those new to it. (We do this at the end of the meeting so those who are already familiar can leave.)

The SignUp Genius will be published on January 15, 2023; it will list WATTS tasks, dates & times; Parishioners can review it & sign up to volunteer.

Volunteer Opportunities include:

- o **Registration** (6 to 8 pm, Feb. 4 to 10, 2023) Register guests into the Christ Church WATTS shelter. Inspect the smoking area for contraband, meet with the Night Manager at 6:00 pm; at 7 pm, admit guests in accordance with Night Manager's guidance.
- o **Manage Floor** (7 to 10:30 pm, Feb. 4 to 10, 2023) Manage the WATTS site to ensure guests comply with WATTS rules, and monitor two evening smoke breaks (approximately from 8:15 to 8:30 pm and 10:00 to 10:15 pm) in the designated smoke break area.
- o **Breakfast Duty** (5 to 8 am, Feb. 5 to 11, 2023) Prepare and serve breakfast to guests and provide bag lunches (prepared by Youth Group) to guests..
- o **Sunday Breakdown** ((7 to 9 am, Feb. 5, 2023) Rearrange WATTS site to accommodate Coffee Hour.
- o **Sunday Reset** (12:30 to 2:30 pm, Feb. 5, 2023) Reset the Christ Church Parish Hall for WATTS after the Sunday Coffee Hour, i.e. arrange cots, tables, chairs etc.; use site configuration diagram.
- o **Site Breakdown** (7 am to noon Feb. 11, 2023) Take down and load WATTS cots and equipment into the Mover Dudes Van for movement to the next host church and clean up the Parish Hall.
- o **Setup Dinner** (6 to 8 pm, Feb. 4 to 10, 2023) Work with the cooking team to set up the dining area for dinner.
- o **Serve Dinner** (7 to 8:30 pm, Feb. 4 to 10, 2023) Work with the cooking team to serve dinner to the guests
- o **Dinner Cleanup** (7:30 to 9:30 pm, Feb 4 to 10, 2023) Work with the cooking team to clean up after dinner.
- o **Site Cleanup & Resupply** (Feb 5 to 10, 2023 – time is flexible) Work with Tuffy to clean up the WATTS area and buy supplies listed by the Lead Volunteer(s).

Outreach Committee

Angel Tree Thanks

Christmastime is a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community, and this is what many of you did by participating in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. Thanks to the participants who took an angel, or a few, this year, or donated money. Christ Church reached our goal of adopting 110 angels. A big thank you to the volunteers whose generosity and support in set up and angel selection helped Christ Church meet our commitment. We can all know that at least 110 children in the community will be blessed with gifts this Christmas morning. What a joyful way to kick off the season!



Donations for CCAP in December

During the month of December, we will be collecting cans of soup, beans, and meat, but as always, any items will be deeply appreciated! Please bring items to church on Sunday or to the Church Office on Wednesdays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

From the Vestry

Vestry Meeting Highlights from November 8, 2022

- From the Treasurer: The budget reflects a surplus in October, which will also be the case in December due to unpledged giving; however, we expect to show a deficit for the year. Bob expressed concern that we will not be able to sustain this indefinitely. We need to generate more revenue to sustain the budget.
- The Outreach Committee presented a \$7000 check to the Salvation Army on October 26, 2022 for building renovations to assist families with children.
- From the Worship Committee: There are 23 chalicers and 20 lay readers signed up. A joint meeting of ushers and greeters is scheduled for November to review the tasks of each group and how they can help each other. We could use more people to help in both these areas.
- From Properties: We don't expect to have heat in the Tilford Room until March as we won't have replacement equipment until then. The handicap ramp project is on hold.
- Webster reminded the vestry that there will be three vacancies that need to be filled on the vestry for next year and that those who are rotating off will be considered the nominating committee. Those are Joan Bronson, Steve Martin, and Jody Wall. The Outreach Committee is looking for three people as well. Names of prospective members should be given to the respective committee.
- Next meeting is December 13, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Merry Christmas



Sundays of Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Wednesday Noonday Advent Services

December 7 & 14 in the Pilgrim's Chapel

Children's Christmas Pageant during the 10:30 am service on Sunday, December 18

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

4:30 pm Family Eucharist

10:00 pm Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Choir

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Feast of the Holy Name, Sunday, January 1

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II