



**Meet Christ.**  
**Be Christ.**

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### **Hello, St. Christopher's Community!**

Please enjoy this week's "Early Edition" of the Weekly e-Blast. We'll get back to the usual Thursday edition next week.

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### **The Waiting Game** *by Fr. Randy+*

The kitchen was well-lit and warm and filled with excited voices. This was not any ordinary day in the Johnson home. It was the day that Grammie and granddaughters anxiously anticipate every year as we count the days down to Christmas. The luscious scents of cinnamon, vanilla, peanut butter, and chocolate wafted throughout the house. Bowls filled with a kaleidoscope of brightly-colored butter cream frosting awaited the *"fresh from the oven"* sugar cookies. Hershey kisses (those not already sampled by the girls) were at the

ready for precise placement on top of the peanut-blossoms.

Holy Scripture speaks many times about baking and bakers. *“When you present a grain offering baked in the oven, it shall be of choice flour: unleavened cakes mixed with oil or unleavened wafers spread with oil.”* (Leviticus 2:4) Baking is a source of life-giving sustenance, the thing of which we need to nourish us every day—*“Give us this day our daily bread.”* The building block of our prayers of thankfulness and the elemental focus of our Eucharistic meal.

But, for the time being, there was the waiting. The waiting for all of the components of the cookie baking process to be gathered, measured, mixed, rolled, and baked. And...the cascading event process of all of the wash-up and clean-up duty. All of this us needing to be done in order to fully enjoy the fruits of the baking labor. The younger girls, tired of the waiting, stepped away from the kitchen to temporarily immerse themselves in a Christmas movie.

Waiting. Personally, this is the most difficult fruit of the Spirit for me to cultivate and harvest. As I observed the *“Johnson girls”* doing their Christmas baking extravaganza, I quickly determined that this Advent watchword of waiting that convicts me every year, also impacts the girls. They, like me, are poor *“waiters.”* The science of baking is one of precision measuring and timing. There is an optimum time one must wait for the baking process to be completed. But, this anticipatory waiting is hard to swallow.

Biblical waiting makes me deeply impatient because it feels so open-ended. Yes, it is true that Advent waiting anticipates the birth of the Messiah. That waiting is finite; that is, we can calculate the arrival of the One for whom we have been longing. Yet Advent waiting can also be a corollary to waiting for an anticipated renewal and restoration.

In our own parish, I find I am a pastoral accompanist with those doing their own waiting: for their return to health or awaiting the recovery of a loved one, for reconciliation between family members, for the salvation of friends. We are waiting for Emmanuel to come, but that coming is rarely on our own terms.

Advent invites us to lean into this truth: the day and the hour of Christ’s second coming and his coming into our lives with his touch of goodness is not known to us, yet we can wait with confidence that when he does come, it will be at just the right time. And it will be our delight.

The cookies are done baking and the festive decorating is completed. The cookie platters are full and packaged. Now, it is just the right time to end the waiting. The time is now to share the baked good delights along with Christ’s presence in the everyday and everywhere. Alleluia! Amen.



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## Thank You!

Many thanks to all the folks who worked so hard to make the church so beautiful during the Greening of the Church! You made the saying, "Many hands make light work" a reality. I really appreciate all of you.

Kathy Ackerman

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## A Christmas Prayer for St. Christopher's

Heavenly Father, we gather here,  
Hearts full of gratitude, joy, and cheer.  
For the gift of Your Son, so pure and bright,  
Who brings us hope, peace, and light.

Bless St. Christopher's, our sacred space,  
Guide us to share Your boundless grace.  
May we reach out, kind and true,  
To neighbors, strangers, and friends too.

We lift to You those who are in need,  
In body, mind, or spirit's creed.  
May Your presence be a gentle flame,  
A comfort, a balm, a sweet refrain.

Teach us to live as You've shown,  
Seeking justice, mercy, hearts that've grown.  
May this season see our faith take flight,  
Connections strong, love shining bright.

Together, may we shine Your light,  
Spreading hope through darkest night.  
All this we ask in Jesus' name,  
Who came to save, to heal, to claim.

Amen.

Written by James Erickson

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## We Get By with A Little Help from Our Friends

I am here again to ask all of you to volunteer for a week of snow shoveling for the church!

Shoveling weeks are Monday-to-Sunday (because no one wants to wake up to snow on Sunday and not remember that it's the START of your week). \*\*When you sign up, please mark your calendar so you remember which week you "took." Thanks!

Anything over **1.5** inches is covered by our plowing service *when they plow*, BUT, we do need help sometimes mid-day to keep things safe before they arrive. Sand and salt are in (or near) the entries. Call the office if you have questions!

THANK YOU to each and every person and family who has signed up!

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## Event Fair Continues

Don't miss your chance to sign up for 2025 activities at the Event Fair in the Parish Hall! Registrations will stay open until Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall. If you cannot stop by in person, please ask a friend to sign you up in your absence, or, let Ann ([mntrappers@gmail.com](mailto:mntrappers@gmail.com)) or Kim ([kimmersue58@hotmail.com](mailto:kimmersue58@hotmail.com)) know your choices. A BIG THANK YOU to all our event donors for donating their time, talent, and treasure to bring us this fun schedule of events!!! We hope everyone will engage and enjoy our fun-loving church community!

## Afghan Dinner Event Date Change

Surprise!!! Due to an unexpected family wedding, we need to change the date of the Afghani dinner from 1/11/2025 to 1/25/2025. Time of the event will not change (6:30 PM). Attendees, please remove your name from the sign up sheet in the Parish Hall if this change is not something you are able to accommodate. Also, if you are helpers please notify Becky if you can not attend on the new date, so she can get a replacement.

Question? Please contact Becky at [lucasmonahan@gmail.com](mailto:lucasmonahan@gmail.com)

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## Greetings and Blessings Book Group,

The Book Group, proposed name: **St. Christopher's Crossings**. Please let us know what you might suggest for our book group name.

*We will be meeting on **January 23rd 2025** in the **Gathering Room at 6:00 PM**. It is a hybrid meeting.*

*We are reading **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants** by **Robin Wall Kimmerer**.*

There is an audiobook version on YouTube, **Braiding Sweetgrass**. Enjoy!

## January Book

### Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer

*As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In Braiding Sweetgrass, Kimmerer brings these lenses of knowledge together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings are we capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learning to give our own gifts in return.*

There are several copies spread out among the library systems. Also try Half Price Books, Alibris, or anywhere you can get an inexpensive copy because the library copy is unavailable.

Are you interested in joining us? You will need to contact Angela Robinson, [angela.robinson.elohim@gmail.com](mailto:angela.robinson.elohim@gmail.com) or Rev. Marilyn, so we can send the details of the meeting information for those who wish to join online.

Also, we look forward to hearing from you about any suggestions you may have as to specific books or genres.

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## Prayer List Requests

Have you noticed a “Prayer Requests” button on our website? This is a very short form to add a name to our prayer list! Requests will be monitored Monday through Friday and added to the list published on Fridays. You may, of course, still call the office to add or remove a name from the list. AND, you can use this QR Code to go right to the website!



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## Upcoming Lectionary Readings

### December 29: **Christmas 1**, Year C

Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 147; Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7; John 1:1-18.

### January 5: **Epiphany (Celebrated)**

Our Epiphany Pageant includes today's readings.

## Sunday Ministries December 29

### 8:00 AM

Lectors - Bruce W, Mary P

Intercessor - Bruce W

LEM - Mary P

Usher - Karen & Chris H

Altar Guild - Robert Williams

Coffee Host: open

**10:30 AM**

Nursery: Connie H, Rich P  
Lectors - Lyn L, Pat A  
Intercessor - Katherine J  
LEM - Lyn L, Ella S  
Crucifer - Alexander K  
Ushers - Carol K, Bill H  
Altar Guild - Jill Eischens  
Coffee Hosts - Becky L & Robin M

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*Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date.*

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