

The Lamplighter

January 2026



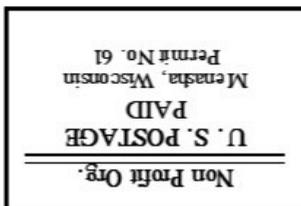
St. Thomas Church Anglican - Episcopal

226 Washington Street, Menasha, WI 54952

Tel: 920-725-5601. Fax: 920-725-5602. Website: stthomaswi.com

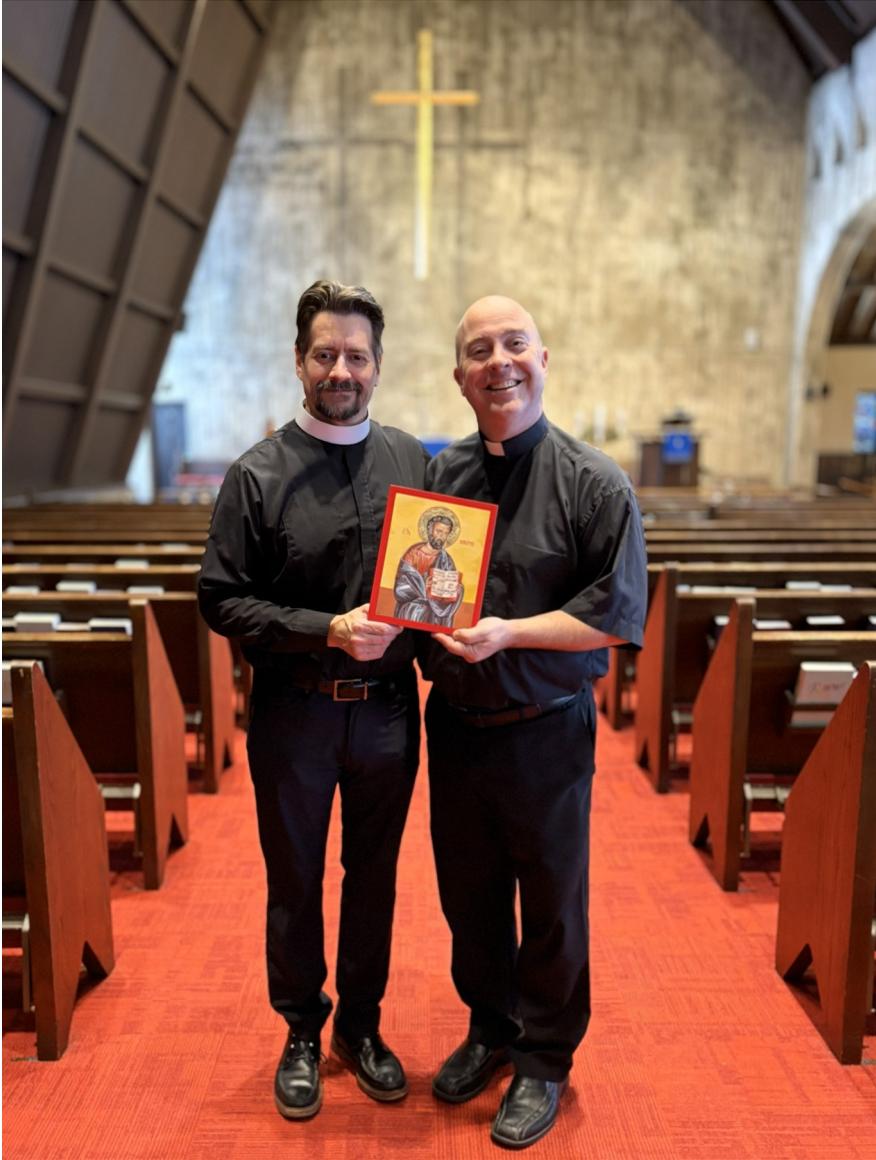
Our Vision: We are a Jesus-centered, Spirit-filled community
of diverse followers working to transform the world.

Our Mission: To know Christ: To make Christ known: To serve others
in Christ's name.



Address Service Requested
Time Value

St. Thomas Church
226 Washington St.
Menasha, WI 54952



Your Servant in Christ,
Fr. Andy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. J.', located at the bottom right of the page.

Associate/Youth *Ministers Musings*

Hello friends . . . grace and peace,

With a New Year comes the annual reminder of how truly blessed I am to be loved and supported by all of you. In case you were unaware, January 1 is my work anniversary as it was my first day of employment at St. Thomas . . . way back, last century, in the late 1900s!

1998 to be exact

A few things about the world at that time:

The US population was 268 million

The first ever online hand of poker was dealt

Michigan beat Washington State in the Rose Bowl

The film “Titanic” was in theaters as the number 1 movie

Gas was about \$1.13 per gallon on average (far less in Wisconsin)

And I . . . was 25 years old, wasn’t ordained, had been married to Shannon for 2 ½ years, and John was less than a year old.

I was full of energy, thought I knew everything there was to know about youth ministry, and ready to watch God’s Love change the lives of dozens if not hundreds or even thousands of students.

Well, I’m not QUITE as energetic as I used to be – 53-year-olds can’t keep up with most 25-year-olds. I shudder at my haughtiness because, even though I had just earned a master’s degree in youth ministry, I probably knew less than 40% of what I do now.

But one thing hasn’t changed in all this time:

God’s Love continues to impact the lives of students – one at a time, moment by moment. I have a database of literally hundreds and hundreds of students going back to that first senior class of ’98 – and not only did every one of them encounter God’s Love through this ministry of St. Thomas, but they also affected me, and my family, and by extension this St. Thomas family.

God’s Love does things – good things. And I can’t wait to see what happens next.

Thank you, as always, for all your love and support.

peace to you,

Fr. Aran





Sunday Youth Group Events

Games, events, fun 6th -12th graders

www.styg.com/youthgroup

01/28/2026 Mosaic Party 6pm-8pm

EpiscoWisco Camp

www.episowisco.camp

Mexico 2026 Love Journey July 18-25, 2026

6th graders up through young adults

www.styg.com/lovejourney

FILM SCHOOL

Film School

Our **Sunday** morning spiritual formation class. We gather at **9am** in the basement of St. Thomas Church. All **7th – 12th** graders are welcome to join us. And yes, parents can come and see what it's all about too! Film School gathers from mid-September thru mid-May. www.styg.com/filmschool

D GROUPS

D-Groups

“Accept one another just as God has accepted you.” (Romans 15:7) D-Groups are open to all **7th – 12th** graders and their friends on **Wednesdays at St. Thomas 6:15 – 8:00pm**. We play, hang out, learn, eat, During the summer We meet at people's houses. D-Groups are **ALL** about **Community, Scripture, Playing, Growing, and Jesus**. www.styg.com/d-groups



Contagion 2026—a weekend event in Door County for all 7th-12th graders who are interesting in diving deep into what it means to live their lives according to the teachings of a Jewish rabbi.

When? March 13, 4:30pm—March 15, 12pm

Where? The Lakefront Cabin, Sturgeon Bay

Contagion is a weekend experience where students meet at St. Thomas, head up to Door County together (in vehicles driven by our adult leaders), and we spend time in community together. We cook together. We laugh together. We eat together. We learn together. We pray together. We spend time at the cabin, we go get coffee at a local coffee shop, we check out some places around Door County, and we dive deep into what it means to live our lives well with God and well with others. It's a wonderfully intense time together and it's amazing.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



St. Thomas Kid's Club is for children in K- 6th grades. We meet **Wednesday evenings in the parish hall at 6:30-8pm. September 17th- May**. We utilize the "Weaving God's Promises" curriculum.



Children's Sunday School is for kids 3 years through 6th grade. We meet **Sunday mornings 9-9:50 in the downstairs classrooms from September 21st - May**.



Thank You to Everyone who came and helped out at the Games!

CONVERSATIONS ON SCRIPTURE

Each Sunday, at 9-9:50am we gather in the library (lounge) and online via zoom, to reflect together on the week's Bible lessons, exploring not only the text itself but also the ways that gospel artwork, music, poetry, and other readings or videos can help us go deeper in our understanding of God's Word and in our life together as people of faith. This year we are excited to add the practice of simple contemplative prayer, offering us a new way to listen, rest, and dwell in God's presence as part of our shared journey. Everyone is welcome—your presence, your questions, and your perspective are all gifts to the conversation. Come as you are able, and join us in this joyful and prayerful exploration of scripture and community. Your facilitators for this class are Dr. Brad Lauderdale and Jill Beverlin.

For More Information Contact Jill Beverlin: jilljbeverlin@gmail.com



St. Thomas Acolyte Opportunity

If you or one of your children have an interest in serving St. Thomas as an Acolyte, we would love to have you. As you know, Acolytes serve as an important part of the 10:00 service every Sunday. It is very rewarding and is a great way to serve God and our St. Thomas family. If you or a family member have an interest in serving in this ministry, please reach out to Wade, Decon Lisa, Martina or contact the church office. Thank you!

Chosen Bible Study Group

The Chosen is a drama video series about the life of Jesus. It currently has 5 seasons.

This group gathers for Morning Prayer in the chapel on Thursdays at 9:30.

Afterwards we move to the lounge where we alternate each week with either watching an episode of The Chosen; or discussing our assigned reading from The One Year Chronological Bible. **Come join us Thursdays from 9:30 to 11.**

If you have questions, please contact Mary Kay Hietpas at 920-740-5737 or marykayhietpas@gmail.com.



Ladies of St. Thomas (All ages)

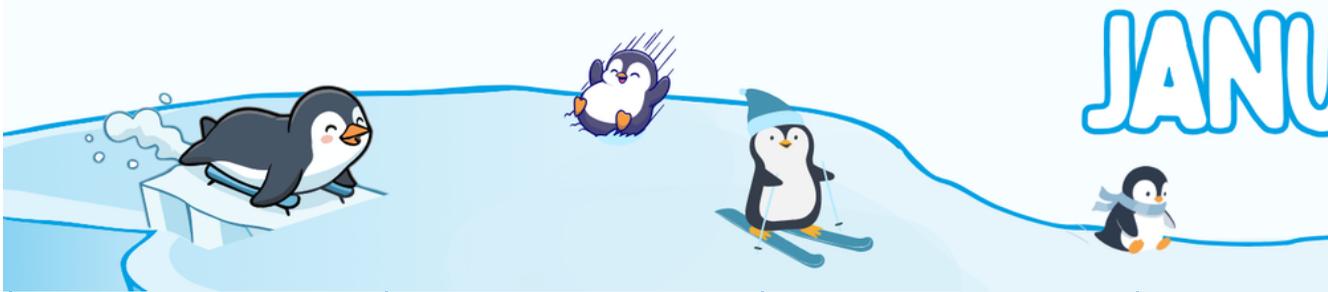
You are invited to the St. Margarita Society gathering on

January 26th at Solea's Mexican Grill, 1350 Gillingham Rd., Neenah beginning at **6PM**

It is an informal gathering with no agenda other than to spend time with each other in a relaxed and fun manner. Come for just a short while or stay as long as you like. No RSVP necessary. Invite a friend to come along. Wonderful time sharing a meal and fellowship with your friends of St. Thomas.

MOTHERS' MERCY HOME NEWS—

No updates from December



SUN	MON	TUE	WED
<p>Rector's Discretionary Fund 4 2nd Sunday after Christmas 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9-9:50 Sun School/ Film School 9-9:50 Conversations on Scripture</p>	<p><i>Sarah, Theodora, and Syncretica of Egypt</i> 5 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)</p>	<p>The Epiphany 6 7am Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:30pm-8pm BSA Troop #3</p>	<p>8:30am Holy Eucharist 9:30am Women's Bible Study 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:15pm-8pm D G 6:30pm-8pm Kid</p>
<p>1st Sunday After Epiphany, The Baptism of Our Lord 11 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9-9:50 Sun School/ Film School 9-9:50 Conversations on Scripture 11am Removal of Greens</p>	<p><i>Aelred of Rievaulx</i> 12 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:00pm - Vestry Meeting</p>	<p><i>Hilary of Poitiers</i> 13 7am Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:30pm-8pm BSA Troop #3</p>	<p>8:30am Holy Eucharist 9:30am Women's Bible Study 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 5:30pm - Spaghetti Dinner 6:15pm-8pm D G 6:30pm-8pm Kid</p>
<p>2nd Sunday after Epiphany 18 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9-9:50 Sun School/ Film School 9-9:50 Conversations on Scripture</p>	<p>Confession of St Peter 19 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)</p>	<p><i>Fabian</i> 20 7am Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:30pm-8pm BSA Troop #3</p>	<p><i>Agnes and Cecilia</i> 8:30am Holy Eucharist 9:30am Women's Bible Study 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:15pm-8pm D G 6:30pm-8pm Kid</p>
<p>3rd Sunday after Epiphany 25 8 & 10am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9-9:50 Sun/ Film Schools 9-9:50 Conversations on Scripture</p>	<p>Conversion of St Paul 26 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6pm St. Margarita Society</p>	<p><i>John Chrysostom</i> 27 7am Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:30pm-8pm BSA Troop #3</p>	<p><i>Thomas Aquinas</i> 8:30am Holy Eucharist 9:30am Women's Bible Study 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP) 6:15pm-8pm D G 6:30pm-8pm Kid</p>

JANUARY 2026



WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<p><i>The Holy Name</i> 1</p> <p>6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)</p>	<p>8am Men's Bible Study 2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Charist 's Bible Study e Portion g Prayer (EP) Groups s Club</p> <p>7</p>	<p><i>Harriet Bedell</i> 8</p> <p>6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)</p>	<p><i>Julia Chester Emery</i> 9</p> <p>8am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p><i>William Laud</i> 10</p>
<p>Charist 's Bible Study e Portion g Prayer (EP) etti Supper Groups s Club</p> <p>14</p> 	<p>6:30am Men's Bible Study 15 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)</p>	<p><i>Richard Meux Benson</i> 16</p> <p>8am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p><i>Antony of Egypt</i> 17</p>
<p><i>Ma of Rome</i> 21</p> <p>Charist 's Bible Study e Portion g Prayer (EP) Groups s Club</p>	<p><i>Vincent of Saragossa</i> 22</p> <p>6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)</p>	<p><i>Phillips Brooks</i> 23</p> <p>8am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p><i>Florence Li Tim-Oi</i> 24</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Charist 's Bible Study e Portion g Prayer (EP) Groups s Club</p>	<p>6:30am Men's Bible Study 29 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am - Morning Prayer (MP) 11:30am Double Portion 4:00pm - Evening Prayer (EP)</p>	<p>8am Men's Bible Study 30</p>	<p><i>Marcella of Rome</i> 31</p>

CHRISTIAN WRITERS GROUP

If you enter the church building from the side door you may have noticed on the bulletin board that a Christian Writers group meets at St. Thomas on the first Monday of the month from 7-9 pm. The group of 16-18 members come for a variety of reasons. Some publish books that sold nationwide. Some of us self-publish, usually on Amazon, and find the monthly training in improving writing skills stimulating. Others come for training in writing family stories, newspaper articles, letters, or just for the fellowship. Members come from a variety of communities and the meetings have been held at St. Thomas for many years because of its central location. You are welcome to attend a meeting if you are interested in upgrading your writing skills. For more information contact Jim Dickson at Jimdick777@aol.com or 920-725-8237.

St Thomas Housing Committee -

The Fox Valley Faith Community Housing Summit was held in Appleton last October to address housing insecurity. About 150 faith communities in Appleton and Neenah/Menasha were invited, and 35 attended. The summit's mission is to build relationships between congregations and those facing housing insecurity, with a vision of showing God's love by working together for adequate, affordable housing. Five "Levers" (sub-groups) were formed to tackle different aspects of homelessness: Affordable Housing, Legislation, and Emergency Shelter are three of the key focus areas. In response, the St. Thomas Vestry created a Housing Committee to explore how our faith community can support this work. This committee grew out of the St. Thomas Evicted book study group and now meets regularly. We invite all members to join this effort. **Meeting: First Monday of every month, 5:30 PM, St. Thomas Lounge.**



DOUBLE PORTION SOUP KITCHEN AND PANTRY

This holiday season, Double Portion is thankful for the volunteers and sponsors who give their valuable time and treasure to serve warm meals to guests every week. As the season of giving is upon us, note that tax laws have changed and, for the first time in several years, those who take the standard deduction may be able to claim a charitable deduction in 2025 for up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for couples filing jointly). **Founded in 2003, Double Portion is 100% supported by private donations and volunteers. This means that your financial contributions go directly toward food purchases to support our local community.**

We would like to extend a special thank you for all the wonderful pantry donations that we have received from friends of Double Portion and from recent food drives conducted by various organizations around the Fox Cities. **This includes the Menasha Public Library, St. Mary's Catholic Middle School, Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region, Salon Di Amici, and many generous individuals who brought in donations to help us resupply our shelves.**

The pantry plays a crucial role in helping our guests prepare meals at home between meal service hours and manage hunger over the long weekends. Please consider contributing non-perishable food items to the Double Portion Pantry this year as you shop for your holiday meals. Donations may be dropped off on the island of the St. Thomas kitchen and labeled for Double Portion.

If you would like to join our volunteers at Double Portion or participate in our new

Sous Chef Program, and you want to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need, please contact Melanie Miller at doubleportionsoupkitchen@gmail.com. There are many ways to participate, and your time and talents are greatly appreciated.

We are blessed to be a part of such a compassionate and generous community. Thank you for your support and prayers as our dedicated volunteers continue to serve over 275 warm meals a week to grateful guests.

Merry Christmas to all!

DOUBLE PORTION SOUP KITCHEN AND PANTRY

“Sous Chef Program” (*Sous Chef: the top assistant in a professional kitchen*)

Double Portion Soup Kitchen is launching a flexible Sous Chef Program for volunteers aged 17+. No cooking experience is needed—just the ability to stand for two hours, lift pots, and enjoy teamwork. Volunteers assist chefs Sally (Mon), Joe (Wed), or Dean (Thu) in preparing about 100 meals per 10am–1pm shift. Sign up once or as often as you’d like. Located at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Menasha. Contact

doubleportionsoupkitchen@gmail.com.



Vestry Highlights–

December 2025

By Martina Mims

The December Vestry meeting opened with prayer led by Fr. Andy, followed by reflection on the Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent. Vestry members discussed the call to recognize we as God’s prophets, emphasizing a message of hope rooted in repentance.

Anne presented preliminary figures for the proposed 2026 budget, which will continue to be reviewed in the coming months.

Resolutions to adopt the 2026 Housing Allowances for Fr. Andy and Fr. Aran were presented and approved by the Vestry.

John Phillip shared an update on the committee exploring a homelessness initiative. At this time, the funds previously designated for this effort will be placed into a discretionary fund to be administered by Fr. Andy.

Vestry also discussed upcoming leadership opportunities. Five individuals are discerning a call to serve on Vestry in 2025; two have agreed to be placed on the ballot, while three continue in prayerful consideration.

The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for February 1 at 9:00 a.m. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

A Message from you Wardens

St Thomas Faithfull,

Your Vestry is excited and enthused by **Laura's Music Ministry Leadership**. We are supportive of Laura and Fr Andy's idea of music scholarships for local college students to enhance our worship. We plan to offer three scholarships to students. (I am sure you have noticed over the past few weeks, what a joy!)

Your Vestry has set up a separate account to fund these scholarships. If you would like to contribute, please do so. Any size donation would help and show our support for our Music Ministry. Please mark any contribution: "Music Scholarship."

Thank you for your prayerful consideration in growing our Ministry.

Blessings, David Morton, Anne Peterson & Laura Rothe.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Are you interested in the Holy Land?? Have you ever thought about a pilgrimage that would let you walk in the steps of Jesus? Fr. Ralph will be doing another pilgrimage to the Holy Land **Oct 20– Nov 4, 2026**. If you are interested in joining or would like more information please contact Fr. Ralph or the St. Thomas Office.

Treasurer's Report As of *September 2025*

Pledge Receipts **2025** **2024**

January	\$81,168	\$76,967
February	\$21,648	\$24,136
March	\$23,861	\$51,802
April	\$34,163	\$35,377
May	\$17,524	\$20,113
June	\$67,100	\$29,778
July	\$25,822	\$47,108
August	\$40,390	\$22,766
September	\$25,163	\$
October	\$73,606	\$
November	\$	\$

2025 YTD income \$511,365 vs. expense
\$520,238= \$-8,873



Morning Prayer—M, T, Th 9:30am

Evening Prayer—M, T, W, Th 4pm

Holy Eucharist—W 8:30am



The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for **February 1 at 9:00 a.m.** All parishioners are encouraged to attend.



Ladies Christmas Tea 2025

**Thank you to everyone who joined
and all the helping hands!**

Lay Ministries for January**Eucharistic Ministers**

- Jan 4 Sandie Umland/ Dan Werbeckes
 Jan 11 Carol Hert/ Bill Barry
 Jan 18 Val Phillip
 Jan 25 Dave Morton

Lectors for 8:00am

- Jan 4 Jeff Hill
 Jan 11 Tim Skowronski
 Jan 18 Larry Langohr
 Jan 25 Jeff Hill

Readers for 10:00am

- Jan 4 Karen Powers
 Jan 11 Jon Phillip
 Jan 18 Barbara Hampton
 Jan 25 Wade Lindholm

Ushers (Greeters and Ushers)

- Jan 4 Fritz Kromenaker and Keith Umland
 Jan 11 Gordon Stillings and Steve Krautsch
 Jan 18 Bill and Barb Barry
 Jan 25 Pete and Jessica Zaborski

Prayer Ministers

- Jan 4 Val Phillip/ Fr. John Peterson
 Jan 11 Anne Peterson/ Fr. John Peterson
 Jan 18 Kathy and Fr. John Peterson
 Jan 25 Jill Beverlin/ Fr. John Peterson

Altar Guild

- Jan 4 Barb Barry, Peggy Langkau,
Nancy Dombeck
 Jan 11 Joanne Siracusa, Sherry Morton,
Kathy Peterson
 Jan 18 Jennie Land, Linda Smith,
Karen Powers, Beverly Johnston,
Sandie Umland
 Jan 25 Laura Lindstrom, Shari Lloyd
Theresa Cruz Lillegard, Jazmine Sweet

Acolytes

- Jan 4 Julie Spanbauer / Hazel Zaborski
 Jan 11 Wade Lindholm / E & E Kopczynski
 Jan 18 No Acolyte on schedule
 Jan 25 Shari Lloyd and James Miles

Vestry Announcement Reading 8am/ 10am

- Jan 4 Martina Mims/ Dave Morton
 Jan 11 Martina Mims/ Jeanna Werbeckes
 Jan 18 Martina Mims/ Jill Beverlin
 Jan 25 Martina Mims/ Gordon Stillings

Preaching for January

- Jan 4 Fr. Aran Walter
 Jan 11 Deacon Lisa Ueda
 Jan 18 Fr. Andy Cruz Lillegard
 Jan 25 Fr. Andy Cruz Lillegard