



# The Courier

Christ the King Episcopal Church

1224 North Jefferson Street

Huntington, Indiana 46750

**DECEMBER, 2025**

## **A Few Words from Fr. Ted**

### **NATIVITY, INCARNATION, CHRISTMAS**

*The Book of Common Prayer* uses three different terms to refer to the celebration of Jesus' birth each December 25<sup>th</sup>. In the calendar of observances near the front of the book, the feast is called "The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ." The Proper Preface to be used in the Great Thanksgiving at the Eucharist is simply titled "Incarnation." Elsewhere the word "Christmas" is used. It is tempting to say they are just three different words for the same thing, and that they are. Yet, each denotes this blessed event with its own meaning and emphasis.

Nativity per Miriam-Webster is "the process or circumstances of being born." As such we have all experienced our own unique nativity. We were born in a certain place, with certain people in attendance and with certain possibilities for the life we might lead. The professor in a developmental psychology course I took in college claimed that the single most traumatic event in every life was to be born. Having been accustomed to a warm, safe environment where our every need was accommodated, safe within our mother's womb and provided with the nourishment and hydration needed to survive, we really had no cares in the world. And then through a violent process of pushing and shoving and being forced through a narrow passage we came into a world of light and darkness, warmth and cold, hunger and thirst. That is being born; that is a nativity and Jesus experienced it just as we did.

We say that Jesus became incarnate. This was not something that happened all at once in a stable in Bethlehem of Judea. Incarnation means to take on flesh. While other New Testament texts hint at a pre-existent Son of God, the Gospel According to John makes explicit, especially in its Prologue, that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1:1, 10a). With that flesh he took on all of our weakness, all of our fears and the certainty of some day giving it up. Jesus' Incarnation did not happen in the brief time of being born. His taking on flesh, his becoming human, was the culmination of God's love for his creation, his determination to do whatever it took for us to be reconciled with him and the obedience of the Son to become Incarnate for our sakes. In the lyrics to a famous Christmas hymn, Christina



Rosetti wrote that “Love came down, love all lovely, love divine.” Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God, was the God’s love enfleshed.

And finally, we all know December 25th as Christmas Day. Records indicate some celebrations of the Lord’s birth as early as the second century, CE. It seems that it was some time in the fourth century when the date of those celebrations was fixed on December the 25<sup>th</sup>, which corresponds with the winter solstice occurring three or four days earlier. Naming this date as “Christmas” came at a much later time. Coming from Old and Middle English, it means “Christ’s Mass or the Mass of Christ.” It is literally the Mass commemorating Jesus’ Nativity and Incarnation. In this sense, it says more about us than about Jesus. Christmas is our response of thanksgiving for love that is great enough to take on flesh, to live and die, for each of us.

Let us celebrate Jesus’ birth and becoming one of us with the Christ Mass on Wednesday, December 24, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Fr. Ted+



## *CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST THE KING*

THE CHRIST MASS  
Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS  
Thursday, December 25, 2025  
9:00 am

CHRISTMAS LESSON AND CAROLS  
Sunday, January 4, 2026  
9:00 am



**FROM FR. TED AND DIANNE  
MAY EACH OF YOU HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS FILLED WITH  
PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE.**

### **CALL FOR ANNUAL MEETING**

The 2026 Annual Meeting of Christ the King Episcopal Church will be held on January 18, 2026, immediately following the regular Sunday Worship and a parish brunch. The main business will be to receive reports of various parish activities and to elect a Senior Warden, Junior Warden and two Vestrypersons.

All members in good standing who are sixteen years of age or older are entitled to participate in and vote at the Annual Meeting. As the parish prepares to enter into a period of transition in leadership, the involvement of everyone is vital.

### **FUNDRAISING**

Judy Frischman reports that our Community Rewards with Kroger earned \$46.56 for the July through September period. Seventeen households are participating in this program. If you aren't and would like to, talk to Judy or Sue Jepsen.

## Choir News

The tentative date for the Advent anthem is December 14th. We will have guest musicians from College Park United Brethren Church that day. We continue to rehearse on Tuesdays at 4:30.

**The 70th annual performance of Messiah** will be on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church. Admission is free, however, if you feel moved to help underwrite the cost of the professional musicians, please contact Sue Nunemaker for information on how to do that. Donations are tax-deductible. Many members of Christ the King supported last year's performance, and everyone associated with Messiah is grateful. Lynn Roberts sings in the chorus, and Sue is the keyboardist. (This is Sue's 40th year as the accompanist!)

**ALZHEIMER'S and DEMENTIA  
CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP**  
Will meet Thursday, December 4  
at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

*Questions?*

Call Nancy Heasley

260-450-7077

## BOOK CLUB

We had to cancel our meeting in November, so Book Club will meet on Monday, December 15 to discuss *James* by Percival Everett. It won the Pulitzer Prize in 2024 and spent time on the Bestseller list. One reviewer called it "... a profound reimagining of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, told from the perspective of Jim, offering a nuanced exploration of race identity, and survival in America."



Linda Beatty will lead the discussion and Sue Jepsen will host.

Feel free to join us – even if you haven't read the book!

We meet at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11 Fred Heasley



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

17 Ted & Dianne Neidlinger

## SERVICE ROSTER    DECEMBER 2025

	7-Dec	14-Dec	21-Dec	24 Dc	25-Dec	28-Dec
	Advent Lessons & Carols	Love INC Ingathering		Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	
<b>Reader</b>	Sue Jepsen	Linda Beatty	Marguerite Wire	Meg Moss		Sue Jepsen
<b>Intercessor</b>	Bill Oswalt	Gary Beatty	Sue Jepsen	Bill Oswalt		
<b>Server 1</b>	Dixie Harrold	Dixie Harrold	Marguerite Wire		Carmen Oswalt	Jeff Roberts
<b>Server 2/Crucifer</b>	Jeff Robets	Jeff Roberts	Jeff Roberts			Meg Moss
<b>Counter</b>	Sue Jepsen			n/a	n/a	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Linda Beatty	Sue Jepsen	Dixie Harrold	Carmen Oswalt		Linda Beatty
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Jepsen	Heasley	Neidlinger	n/a	n/a	



## CHRIST THE KING December, 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	01	02	03	04 5:00 Caregivers' Support Group 5:30 Evening Prayer	05	06
07 9 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:30 Adult Study re: Marriage Policy	08	09 4:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. AA	10	11 5:30 Holy Communion	12	13
14 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 Adult Study	15 7:00 p.m. Book Club in the Parish Hall <i>James</i>	16 4:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. AA	17	18 5:30 Evening Prayer 6:00 Vestry	19	20
21 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 Adult Study	22	23 4:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. AA	24 7:00 Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist	25 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Eucharist	26	27
28 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 Adult Study	29	30 4:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. AA	31	01	02	03 0

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1224 North Jefferson Street  
Huntington IN 46750  
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#### **VESTRY**

Sue Jepsen 2025  
Nancy Heasley 2025

John Jepsen 2026  
Paul Wilson 2026

Carmen Oswalt 2027  
Sue Nunemaker 2027

#### **PHONE NUMBERS**

Church:  
260-356- 3570

Sr. Warden:  
260-224-3835

#### **SERVICES at CHRIST the KING**

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.: Holy Communion  
Thursday, 9:00 a.m.: Morning Prayer  
Thursday, 5:30 p.m.: Evening Prayer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday/month, 5:30: Communion

#### **WEB PAGE:**

[www.episcopalchurch-huntington.org](http://www.episcopalchurch-huntington.org)

#### **FACEBOOK Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/ctkhuntington>

#### **EMAILS :**

Treasurer:  
[markpark823@gmail.com](mailto:markpark823@gmail.com)

Newsletter:  
[sljepsen@yahoo.com](mailto:sljepsen@yahoo.com)

#### **PERSONNEL**

**Priest-in-Charge:** Fr.  
Theodore Neidlinger

**Bishop/Rector:** The Rt. Rev.  
Douglas Sparks

**Sr. Warden:**  
Marguerite Wire

**Jr. Warden:**  
John Jepsen

**Treasurer:**  
Mark Parker

**Music Director:** Sue  
Nunemaker

