

CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY at St. Stephen's Church

Live Nativity | Thursday, December 19 | 5 to 6 p.m.

Children of the parish don costumes and stage the Christmas story outdoors, accompanied by live sheep and a donkey, as passages from the Gospels are read aloud. At the conclusion of your journey, stop by the Cafe @ St. Stephen's for a complimentary cup of hot chocolate. Rain date: Friday, December 20



Christmas Pageant | Sunday, December 22 | 11:15 a.m.

Young people of the parish continue a decades-long tradition of presenting tableaux of the various parts of the Gospel telling the story of Jesus' birth, as part of the 11:15 a.m. service. This year, kindergarteners will participate costumed as animals for the closing scene, and St. Stephen's Choristers and members of St. Stephen's Choir will lead the music.

Christmas Eve services | Tuesday, December 24



Please note:

- All services take place in the main church and will be livestreamed at ststephensRVA.org/watch-live.
- Overflow seating will be available in Palmer Hall and the fellowship hall; Palmer Hall features a "soft space" where younger children can move freely or sit on floor cushions (parents must accompany children to the soft space).
- Childcare is offered during services with an asterisk.*
- All Christmas Eve services are preceded by a half-hour of music.
- Each service includes a sermon or homily.
- Please plan for your family or group to arrive early; seat-saving is not permitted.

2 p.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two*

Music includes traditional carols and other music led by St. Stephen's Choristers, members of St. Stephen's Choir, and a string quartet.

5 p.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two*

Music includes traditional carols and music led by St. Stephen's Choir and a string quartet.

8 p.m., Celtic Christmas Service with Communion

Music will be led by three cantors, violin, cello and oboe; they will perform selections from Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* during the musical prelude and will lead traditional carols and play seasonal instrumental music during the service.

11 p.m., Traditional Christ Mass | Choral Eucharist: Rite One

St. Stephen's Choir and orchestra will perform selections from Part I of Handel's *Messiah* during the musical prelude. The choral Eucharist setting is by Giovanni Pierluigi Palestrina (*Missa brevis*), and the choir will sing pieces by John Rutter and Healey Willan and lead traditional carols and hymns sung by the congregation.

Christmas Day Service | Wednesday, December 25 | 10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, with sermon and music led by Sanctuary, the Compline choir, including traditional carols and pieces by Eleanor Daley and David Willcocks.

Christmas I | Sunday, December 29

8 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite One
10 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two*
5:30 p.m., Celtic Evensong and Communion*

No Sunday morning formation, Sunday supper or Compline December 29.

Christmas II | Sunday, January 5, 2025

8 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite One
9 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two in main church and Palmer Hall*
10:10 a.m., Sunday Forum (other Sunday formation resumes January 12)
11:15 a.m., Holy Eucharist: Rite Two*
5:30 p.m., Celtic Evensong and Communion*
6:30 p.m., Sunday Community Supper
8 p.m., Compline



Epiphany Lessons and Carols | Wednesday, January 8, 2025 | 6 p.m.



Similar to the beloved service of Christmas Lessons and Carols made famous by King's College, Cambridge, this candlelit service features choral and organ music for Epiphany, including anthems by Andrew Carter, Herbert Howells, Philip Stopford, Eric Whitacre, Alison Willis, and Jonathan Dove. Bring trimmings of your Christmas greenery to burn at the conclusion of the service.

Immediately after the service, we'll gather in the fellowship hall for supper afterwards and a chili cook-off. Tasters will vote for their favorites with donations that will provide additional funding for our music program. To enter the chili cook-off, scan the QR code. (The menu for the supper will be published soon, and will not be limited to chili.)



Holiday schedule notes

- Sunday morning formation has concluded for 2024 and resumes in January. (The Forum returns January 5; other offerings resume January 12.)
- The parish office is closed December 25 and 26, and January 1, 2025.
- May Fair House closes at 1 p.m. on Sunday, December 22, and re-opens Tuesday, January 14, at 10 a.m.
- The Café @ St. Stephen's will be closed December 25-29, and January 1, 2025.
- Wednesday parish suppers have concluded for 2024 and resume January 15, 2025.
- The Sunday Community Supper will continue EXCEPT December 29.
- The Farmers Market @ St. Stephen's is open Saturday, December 21, 9 a.m.-noon, and closed the Saturday after Christmas Day, December 28. When the market reopens January 4, some vendors will be set up indoors in the fellowship hall, and some will remain outdoors.
- When the parish office is closed, there is no weekday Morning Prayer service.
- A priest is on call for pastoral emergencies; call the parish office at 804.288.2867 and follow the prompts.