

SAINT PHILIP'S
IN THE HILLS

CHILDREN
YOUTH &
FAMILY
MINISTRY

2025|26



Dear Friends & Families,



At Saint Philip's we are embraced by the reality—**already, but not yet**—all the time. The work of Jesus is accomplished, and not yet fulfilled; the work of growing into his likeness is our life's work, and hasn't yet been perfected; figuring out how to be a Christian in the world is our daily practice, and our continual calling. The church is glorious, ultimate, and still made up of broken people doing their best and receiving grace. This reality enlivens our community's life at every stage, but this booklet is focused on our mutual support of

the “already, but not yet” nature of life in Christ for the children, youth, and families of this parish.

Thanks to flexible, creative, and generous youth, lay leaders, staff, and clergy, we have a healthy program to support the spiritual lives of children, youth, and families (CYFM). It's layered with 25 weeks of Sunday School/Christian Formation throughout the year, based in relationship, developmentally-attentive discipleship, service, learning, and focused on belonging and identity here. Marking the liturgical year provides the highlights of our cross-generational work—opportunities for all ages to work and celebrate together. Please see page 6 for details about our church year cycle of events and page 12 for our program year cycle of community building, service, and learning.

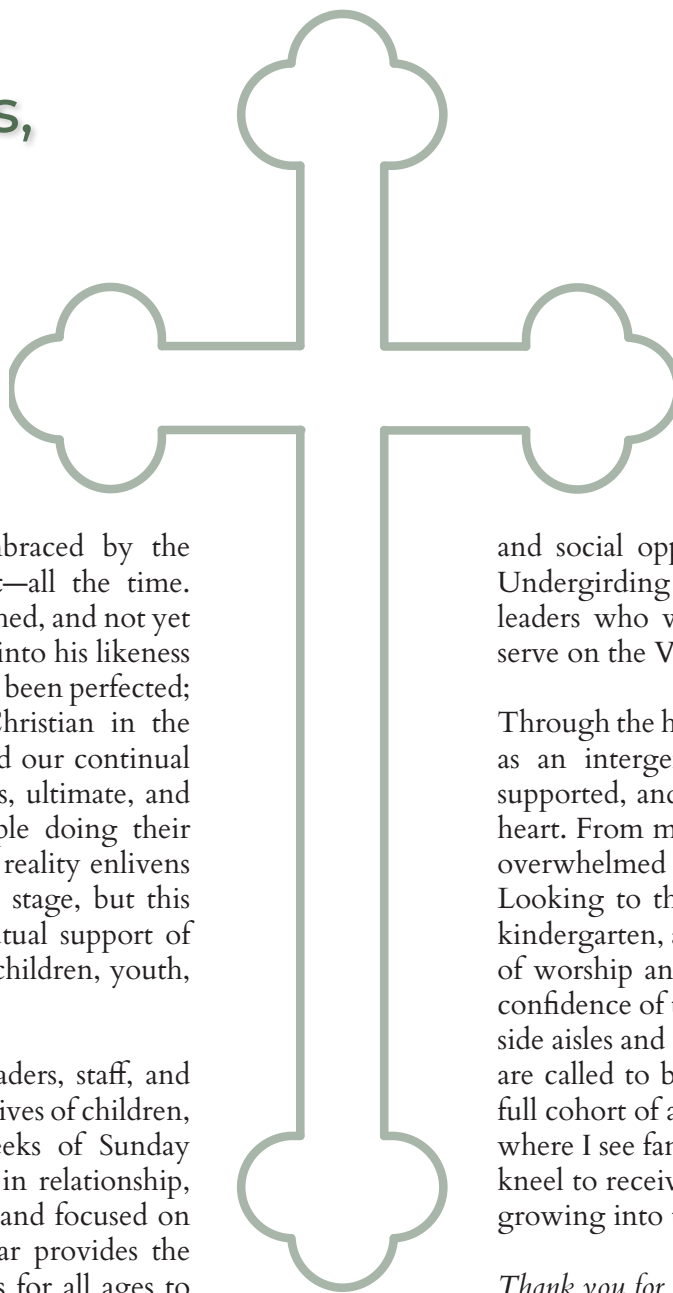
Throughout this booklet you will notice ways of meeting the needs of families at different stages—Rhythm & Rhyme, Rites of Passage, service

and social opportunities, and events where the gifts of families shine. Undergirding these opportunities is the discipleship of parents and lay leaders who who participate in our robust Parents' Formation Group, serve on the Vestry and as Commission members.

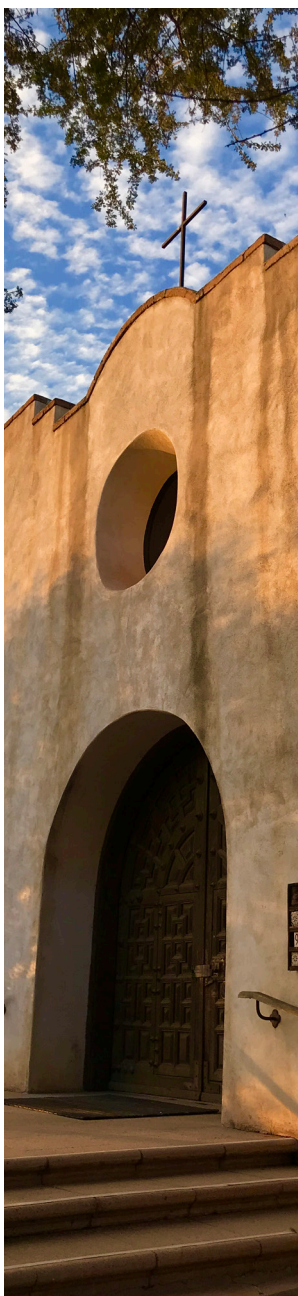
Through the human connections developed in all of these spaces, we grow as an intergenerational community—invitations into service, families supported, and a shared history widened to include the present, heart to heart. From my perch when I am preaching or assisting, I am frequently overwhelmed by the visuals of the kingdom of God I get to take in. Looking to the West Transept overflowing with children up to about kindergarten, and the hard work their families undertake to build patterns of worship and community, looking to the Choir stalls at the growing confidence of the young choristers who lead us in worship, looking to the side aisles and the back aisles where teens shuffle and adjust into who they are called to be, and looking to the East Transept at communion at the full cohort of acolytes of almost all ages working together, to the altar rail where I see families of all shapes, sizes, connections, challenges, and hopes kneel to receive who they are—God's own children, already, but not yet, growing into the full stature of Christ.

Thank you for your prayerful, relational, financial, and energetic support of families seeking Christ in this place, and for the examples we give one another of living in his light through the seasons of the year and the seasons of our lives.

In Christ,
Mtr Taylor



Worship at Saint Philip's



HOW WE WORSHIP

The worship at Saint Philip's is an ancient practice for the modern day. We worship according to Rite I (7:45am) and Rite II (10:00am) Eucharistic services and Evensong (4:30pm) found in the Book of Common Prayer. All are welcome.

WORSHIP AS A FAMILY

Most families with small children attend the 10:00am service. Many families of those before school age find the West Transept a great home base for their pews—with an easy exit for a wiggle break and a close-up view of the Clergy and Lay Ministers, along with some hands-on tools for engagement kept in the area with the child-sized pews. Some families of infants and toddlers prefer to use the nursery for some or all of the service. It is staffed throughout the year to support you by vetted and trained, staff and volunteers. Children may serve as Lectors/Readers, Acolytes, and in the choir beginning when they are developmentally ready, typically around age 8 or 9. Adults are welcome to serve in these roles as well, and we treasure getting to worship together across all ages. Practicing worship, reading and reflecting on scripture, and praying together as a family are all simple but not easy components of building up your family's experience of the resources of the Christian life and practice. Many families swap stories—happy, sad, or just plain true, in Parents' Formation about their efforts as the key faith examples in their children's lives.

Following worship there is coffee hour indoors or outdoors, depending on the weather, and healthier convenience snacks are available outside each door to the Formation/Sunday School Rooms.

Core Rites of Passage

BAPTISM & COMMUNION

Offered on holy days throughout the year, this Sacrament of grace is available to infants or anyone who desires to be baptized. Preparation varies based on age.



SOLEMN COMMUNION

A 6-week curriculum in addition to Formation, this opportunity is for those in grades 3-4 who have participated in the Catechesis Atriums to deepen their experience of the Eucharist.



SERVICE

There are many opportunities to serve our neighbors in the name of Christ. Many children and youth have a keen desire to serve, and we offer age-appropriate service opportunities within and beyond our community.



CONFIRMATION

A mature affirmation of Christian faith, we offer youth confirmation in cohorts for those 14+ in conversation with parents. The next opportunity for Confirmation will be Sunday, May 3, 2026.



PILGRIMAGE

Every three years, youth in grades 10-12 are invited to participate in a multi-day pilgrimage to the United Kingdom for an intentional time of learning about our faith and our Anglican heritage.

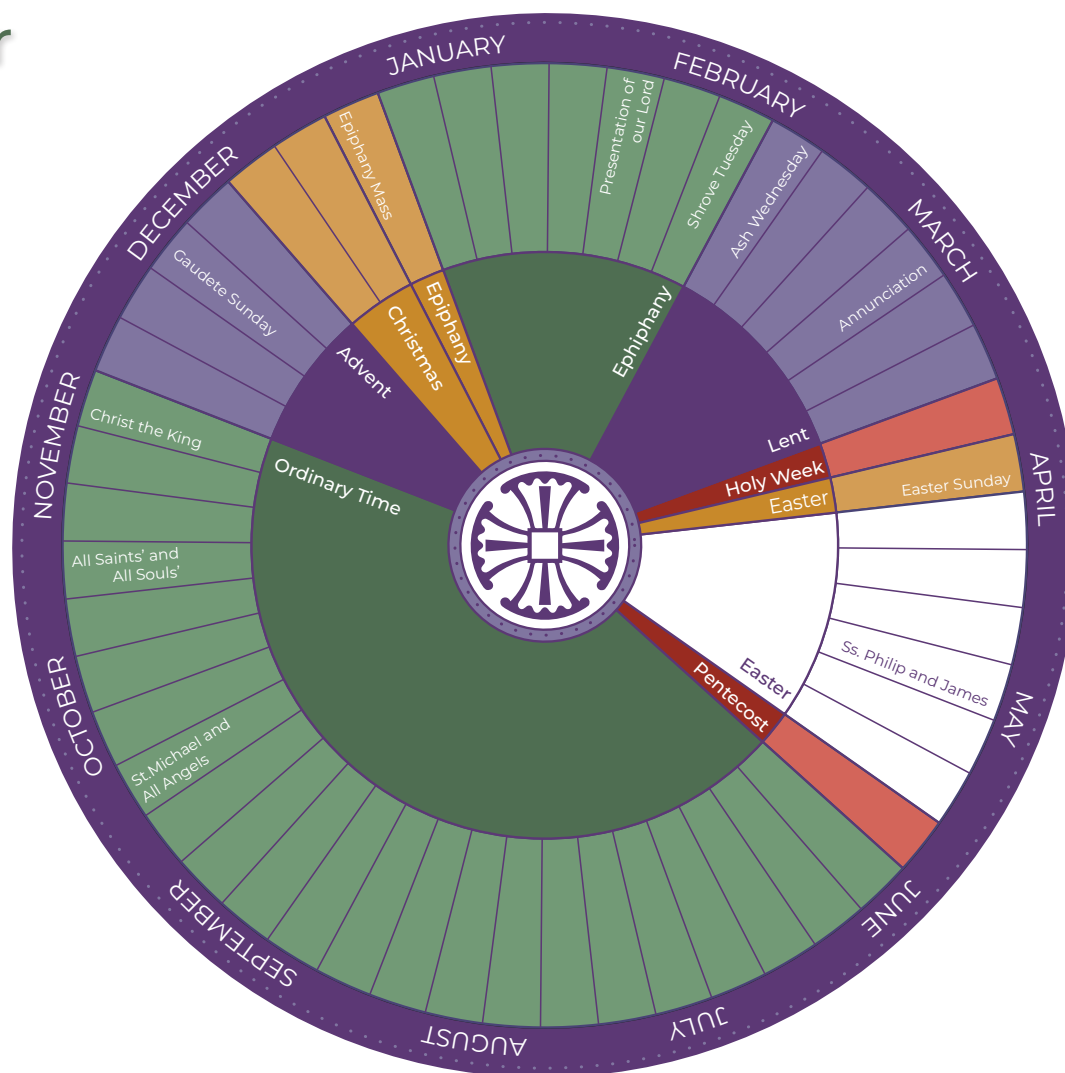


SENIOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Discernment, Service, and Discipleship: There is ongoing behind-the-scenes work to further support our emerging and young adults.



Liturgical Calendar



Liturgical Colors

GREEN—the color of growth, renewal, and the Holy Spirit. It is used during Epiphany and Ordinary Time.

PURPLE—the color of preparation and repentance. It is used during Advent and Lent.

RED—the color of God’s love, fire, and sacrifice. It is used during Holy Week and Pentecost.

GOLD/WHITE—the colors of light, triumph, and glory. They are used during Christmas and Easter seasons.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

REHEARSAL DECEMBER 23, 2025

9:00 AM- 2:00 PM

PAGEANT SERVICE DECEMBER 24, 2025

3:00 PM

A dramatic presentation of the Nativity story with children of all ages and their adults with narration, costumes, and carols.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

FEBRUARY 17, 2026 5:00 PM

A fun and festive church dinner followed by pancake races, burying the alleluias, and the burning of the palms.

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026 7:00 PM

This day begins the journey of Lent as we prepare for Easter and the resurrection. The service includes the imposition of ashes and a beautiful set of prayers.

HOLY WEEK

MARCH 29-APRIL 4, 2026

Beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding with the Easter Vigil, this week is filled with many services each telling the story of Jesus’ passion. Hands and Feet Holy Week is a special Wednesday offering for young children.

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2026 9:00 AM

The high point of the church year celebrated with music, flowers, incense, and the annual Easter egg hunt.

SAINT PHILIP’S DAY

MAY 3, 2026 10:00 AM

A celebration of our patronal feast with regal music, confirmations, and a visit from the bishop.



Forming Families for Lifelong Faith

NURSERY

Ages 0-5
Sundays 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Nursery care for infants and toddlers with trained and vetted, paid and parent volunteer attendants. Located in the Ferguson Room (next to the church's side entrance).



STORYMAKERS

Grades 4-5
Sundays 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Children deepen their understanding of Jesus' teachings by hands-on exploration of the stories of the Bible. They begin to grasp the "big picture" of God at work in the universe.



JR. YOUTH

Grades 6-8
Sundays 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Jr. youth engage the faith through Bible study, prayer practices, service projects, and fellowship. They build relationships and explore themes of faith, society, ethics, spirituality, and mission.



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD ATRIUM LEVEL 1

Ages 3-6
Sundays 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Montessori-based Christian formation that helps children to further develop their relationship with God through Scripture, Liturgy, and holy work.



SR. YOUTH

Grades 9-12
Sundays 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

New opportunities for servant leadership emerge for this age group—senior choir and acolyte leadership, assisting with regional retreats and VBS, participating in fundraising and fellowship events, and linking one's faith life with their vocation and next steps start to percolate in community.



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD ATRIUM LEVEL 2

Grades 1-3
Sundays 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Montessori-based Christian formation that helps children to further develop their relationship with God through Scripture, Liturgy, questions, and wonder.



PARENT FORMATION

All Caregivers: parents, grandparents, and guardians
Sundays 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Spend an hour discussing Episcopal traditions, sharing parenting joys and challenges, and enjoying camaraderie.



CYFM Throughout the Year



RHYTHM & RHYME
 SECOND SATURDAYS 10:00 AM
 SEPT-MAY

Especially for 0-5 and their adults. Each session includes singing, dancing, and playing together in a faith-based context. Gatherings are led by Chelsea Shepherd of Sound Sparks.

CYFM FAMILY RETREAT
 FRI-SUN NOVEMBER 7-9, 2025

A chance for our parish families to disconnect from everyday distractions in order to connect with God, ourselves, each other, and nature. It includes hikes, prayer, arts and crafts, games, star-gazing, s'mores, and time set apart—together!



JR. & SR. YOUTH SERVE & SOCIALIZE
 FIRST FRIDAYS & SECOND SATURDAYS
 SEPT-MAY

These monthly events focus on social or service events especially for youth in grades 6-12. They provide opportunities for fun, fellowship, and action as an expression of our communal faith.

RODEO BREAK DIOCESAN RETREAT
 THURS-SAT FEBRUARY 26-29, 2026

Held at Chapel Rock campground, this weekend will be a special chance to gather with fellow youth from Arizona to pray, have s'mores, and make friends.



MOSAIC PRAYER, TEA & FORUM
 WEDNESDAYS 5:30 PM
 SEPT-MAY

A pattern of prayer, tea and coffee, and learning together around a focused topic shape the Wednesday Mosaic pattern. This intergenerational offering is open to all.

SPRING HOLY HIKE
 MARCH, 2026

A hike in our beautiful surrounding mountains will incorporate the ancient words of the Compline prayer service. Open to all ages.



CHORAL EVENSONG
 SUNDAYS 4:30 PM
 OCT-MAY

Choral Evensong is a shorter service of Psalms, hymns, anthems, and prayers. The Saint Nicholas Youth Choir sings at this service regularly and families are welcome.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP
 MID-JUNE, 2026

Youth, grades 7-12, are encouraged to travel with youth leaders and the Diocesan youth ministry team to California in June 2026. This will be an opportunity to learn and serve with the Sierra Service Project who hosted a great trip last year!



Get Involved



USHERS

Ushers welcome all who come to services by handing out bulletins, answering questions, presenting the gifts, and gathering the offering. Children, youth, and parents are all invited to participate in this ministry.

ACOLYTES & LECTORS

Acolytes are children, youth, and adults who serve God in the church and share in all the ceremonial aspects of Holy Communion on Sundays and Holy Days. Training opportunities are held throughout the year.

Lectors are lay readers who share the scripture with the congregation at Sunday Eucharist, Evensong, and special services. We love to have all ages of parishioners represented.



SAINT NICHOLAS YOUTH CHOIR

Youth choir for ages 9-18. The choir rehearses weekly and regularly sings both morning and Evensong services. The Royal School of Church Music's *Voice for Life* program is used to provide indepth training in all aspects of sacred choral music with the opportunity to attend summer choir camps and study for examinations. This choir travels to the UK every three years to sing in a cathedral for a week.

SERVICE

Primavera Men's Shelter: Monthly meal preparation on third Sundays. Parish events: Luminarias, Greening of the Church, Shrove Tuesday, the Easter egg hunt, manna bags, cards and placemats for incarcerated people, Angel Tree, and others throughout the year.



Contact Us



REGISTER TO PARTICIPATE HERE



MORE INFORMATION

www.stphilipstucson.org/cyfm

SAINT PHILIP'S IN THE HILLS

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CYFM Commission

A team of lay members who
support the work of CYFM

PHOTO CREDITS

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Saint Philip's IN THE HILLS

GATHERED IN LOVE
TRANSFORMED BY GRACE
SENT TO SERVE