

# The Parish Guide.

VOL. I.

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, JANUARY, 1894.

NO. 1

## The Calendar.

### JANUARY.

1. The Circumcision of our Lord.
6. The Epiphany of our Lord.
7. 1st Sunday after Epiphany.
14. 2nd Sunday after Epiphany.
21. Septuagesima.
25. Conversion of St. Paul.
28. Sexagesima.

**T**HE first article in the first number of a new parish paper is generally an attempt to prove that no really alive parish can exist long without such a medium of intercourse between clergy and people. We do not intend to assert this. We are sure there are strong and healthy parishes in which, for various reasons, it would be difficult to start and successfully carry on a magazine, even of the unpretentious style of the one which we commence to-day. We do take this ground, however, that next to the direct and seasonable intercourse which ministers have with their people in their pastoral work, should come the monthly visit of the parochial paper. In a large parish, like our own, it is impossible for your ministers to visit you as often as they would like. This little paper, while not intended to act as our deputy, should come to you as a real and living means of communication. We want it to take even a higher place than that; for while

your clergy may speak to every parishioner every month in its pages, there should also be the cultivation of a spirit of intercommunication, too. We would venture, therefore, to hope that through this paper's influence there may be cultivated a deeper interest in everything connected with our church and the work of God among us, as well as in each other's welfare. We should all be anxious to see the apostolic assertion, "We are members one of another," emphasized and practically illustrated. May the PARISH GUIDE help to unite our parishioners in all brotherly and sympathetic feeling. As this first number is published on New Year's Day, we would offer our earnest wishes that the year 1894 may be one of great blessing and prosperity to every family and individual in the parish.

### Confirmation.

In view of the solemnities which gather round a confirmation service, and the lasting consequences which result from it, too much care cannot be bestowed by the pastor and parents upon the proper training of those who are thus to become members of the church by their own act and profession. No friend of the young would willingly hold them back from any spiritual benefits—and certainly confirmation, when rightfully received, brings many