



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent

Year C

December 9, 2018 10:15 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Whether this is your first visit or you have been a member for years, we're glad you're here! This bulletin is designed to guide you through the service. Hymnals, Bibles and the Book of Common Prayer are in the pews and available for your use as well.

Our youngest guests are welcome to attend services or may join Miss Wendy in the nursery (room 2) where we have toys, Bible Stories, music and art projects available.

Our Sunday school program (K-grade 5) begins at 10am on the Labyrinth. After joining the procession in the church, our program continues in room 14 where they participate in Children's Chapel, hear a Bible story, and enjoy fun and engaging activities related to that story. Children return to the church to join their families for Eucharist.

Youth Group (grades 6-12) meets in the Youth Center at 10am for the opportunity to explore the Bible, build their faith through art and discuss important questions. They join us for Eucharist.

Again, welcome and please let us know if there's anything we can do to make your time with us more enriching and enjoyable.

Holy Eucharist *Liturgy of the Word*

Prelude

*Watchman Tell Us of the Night
Veni Emmanuel*

*James Mansfield
Calvin Hampton*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Please remain seated.

Celebrant Our King and Savior now draws near:
People **Come let us adore him.**

Lord, grant us your light, that being rid of the darkness of our hearts, we may come to the true light which is Christ.

Please stand as you are able at the sound of the bell

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
 in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny;
 that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Opening Salutation

Book of Common Prayer p. 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Kyrie from St. Paul's Mass

Felix Eisenhauer

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son

Chri - ste e - le - i - son

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Translation: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

As Episcopalians, our custom is to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest Holy Scripture. You are invited to do so right here in your bulletin.

First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

A Reading from the Book of Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 16 The Song of Zechariah

- 1 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
- 4 He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

- 9 In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
- 11 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

A Reading from the letter to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn **There is a voice in the wilderness crying**

Hymnal 75

Please stand as you are able and face the Gospel.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3: 1-6

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Reverend Ed Steever

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Nicene Creed

All stand and together say

Book of Common Prayer p. 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Please stand or kneel as is your custom.

Deacon

Wherever we are, in the wilderness, the countryside, or the city, God, you are there. That our hearts may be stirred up in thanksgiving for the life you have given us, let us pray to the Lord saying: Lord, have mercy.

Leader

For our community, and for solace and security for all its people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this assembly, and for our growth in grace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, and for prisoners, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who suffer, for the sick and infirm especially (*the People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud*), and for those affected by the recent violence or recovering from fires and floods, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For all who have died in the faith of Christ, especially (*The People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud*), and for the promise of resurrection to be fulfilled, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon

Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place, and as you prepare the way, making every valley filled and every mountain brought low in blessing and adoration, guide us to Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

A period of silence is observed.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand as they are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Prayers for birthdays and anniversaries.

For other prayer requests, trained lay prayer ministers will be available in the chapel during Eucharist to pray with you. Briefly state the particular concern, burden, thanksgiving, or transition you bring for yourself or someone else. Confidentiality is observed.

Liturgy of the Table

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory

Carol of the Advent

Philip R. Dietterich

Presentation Hymn

Prepare the way, O Zion

Hymnal 65

Please stand.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Please stand or kneel as is your custom.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at communion. Our custom is to receive the bread in your open palm. Please tell the priest if you prefer a gluten-free wafer or sulfate-free juice. Sip the wine, if you wish it, from the common cup, guiding the chalice gently with your hand or the Eucharistic Minister will dip the bread for you. Otherwise, cross your arms over your chest as a sign you wish a blessing from the priest.

Trained lay prayer ministers are stationed in the chapel to pray with you. Briefly state the particular concern, burden, thanksgiving, or transition you bring for yourself or someone else. Confidentiality is observed. Rejoin the other worshipers for the post communion prayer.

Communion Music

*Make Straight the Crooked Places
Come Thou, Long Expected Jesus*

*Colin Curtis
Edward Broughton*

Prepare the Way of the Lord

My Heart Sings Out 61

Canon

1 Pre - pare the way of the Lord. 2 Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and

3 all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. 4

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff is a canon with two parts. Part 1 starts with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G, then a half note A-B, and a quarter note C. Part 2 starts with a quarter note G, then a half note A-B, and a quarter note C. The second staff continues the canon with part 3 starting on a quarter note G and part 4 starting on a quarter note G. The lyrics are: 'Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.' There is a blank line after 'God.'.

Post Communion Prayer:

Please stand or kneel as you prefer.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

When the Eucharist is being taken out to those who are sick or shut-in, we will pray together.

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we share one bread, one cup. Amen.

Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent receive unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Please stand.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Hymnal 76

Announcements

Please be seated

Dismissal

Please stand

Deacon Alleluia, Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

Postlude

O Word, That Goest Forth on High

Robert J. Powell

Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

Prayers of the People: *Intercessions for the Christian People*, Pueblo Publishing Company, 1988

Blessings: *The Book of Occasional Services 2003*, Church Pension Fund 2004

Communion: Prepare the Way of the Lord, Music: Jacques Berthier and the Taize Community, © 1984 Les Presses de Taize;
All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-719533

Welcome! We're so glad you're here.

- Our ushers welcome your inquiries. They can provide assisted listening devices, information about our ministries, as well as directions to the restrooms, nursery, and classrooms.
- Please take the brochure from the pew and learn more about St. Paul's and our traditional worship, dynamic preaching and a call to serve.
- You are invited to join us for coffee and refreshments following the service and we hope you will stay for Fellowship and Formation from 11:30-noon.
- Infants and children are welcome here. Children under five years old may receive care in the nursery (room 2) from 10-noon. Parents are also welcome to bring their children to worship with them, and may have access to the nursery for their convenience. The service can be heard from the narthex (lobby) and activity bags for children can be found there. Our side chapel can be used as a quiet play space during services. You will find lots of stuffed animals and books there.

Check out next Sunday's readings at www.lectionarypage.net



St. Paul's GO

This Sunday's Worship Bulletin with Announcements is now available online.

Here's How:

1. Login into our wi-fi network: user name is St. Paul's Guest
password is 8056435033
2. Download a QR Code Reader app: Google Play [Android]App Store [iPhone]
3. Open the app and scan the QR Code.

Digital Disciples are in The House!

If you see someone typing on their phone or iPad, know that they are serving as E-vangelists, spreading the Good News far and wide through social media. You too can be a Digital Disciple -

Follow & Post to Twitter: @stpaulsventura

Like & Post on Facebook Group Page: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ventura, California

Like & Share Facebook Page: St. Paul's Ventura

St. Paul's is learning Sign Language.

Why? Because all are welcome here!



*This sign means,
"I love you."*

We are committed to welcoming all, even if that means that we need to change and adapt in order to become more accessible.

A portion of each of our services is presented in ASL (American Sign Language). As we learn more, more signing will be included.

Classes in ASL are offered at St. Paul's. Please contact us for upcoming opportunities. Past classes have included: Introduction to ASL (fingerspelling, vocabulary and deaf culture), Song Signing for Children, Song Signing Christmas Hymns, and Signing the Lord's Prayer.

A current feature of our weekly announcements includes the "ASL Minute" – an opportunity to learn a few signs. Please let us know if there are specific signs you'd like to learn.

Serving This Week 12/9/18

Acolytes	Charlotte Bretz, Marina Bretz, Ti Nahabedian
Chalice	Roger Crow, Drew Darby
Psalm	Drew Darby
Lay Readers	Judy Wareham, Maggie Kennedy
Prayers of the People	Roger Crow
Pastoral Care Team	Ruth McCool, Connie Baer
Eucharistic Prayer Minister	Kathleen Crookston
Ushers	Elizabeth Rose, Julie Braithwaite
Welcome Ministry	Rob Butler, Jennifer Golland
Sunday School Leaders	Heidi Trevisan, Valerie Ortiz
Hospitality	David & RoseAnn Hill, Ralph & Kay Armstrong, Janalee Young
Altar Guild	Dela Parker, Carole Nelson, Susan Talmadge
Flower Guild	Grace & Rosie Dunlevy, Anna & Pippa Darby, Laura Andrews
Counters	Marilyn Angelo, Susan Talmadge
Facility Lock Up	Larry Myers

Highlights of This Week at St. Paul's

Today 12/9	8:00 am	Rite I Sunday Service
	9:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
	10:30 am	Rite II Sunday Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship & Formation (Kahler Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
Mon. 12/10	11:30 am	Tai Chi – Beginning (Kahler Hall)
	1:00 pm	Tai Chi – Intermediate (Kahler Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
Tues. 12/11	10:00 am	Pastoral Care Team (Library)
	6:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #179 (Community Room, Kahler Hall)
Wed. 12/12	9:00 am	Healing Service (Chapel)
	10:30 am	Bible Study (Library)
	11:30 am	Tai Chi – Beginning (Kahler Hall)
	1:00 pm	Tai Chi – Intermediate (Kahler Hall)
	6:30 pm	AA Meeting (Community Room)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Community Room)
Thurs. 12/13	8:30 am	Building and Grounds Meeting (Community Room)
	5:30 pm	Meditation Workshop (Library)
	6:00 pm	Kindermusik Recital (Kahler Hall)
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Fri. 12/14	6:30 am	Men's Bible Study (Main Street Steakhouse Restaurant)
	9:15 am	Women's Bible Study (Library)
Sat. 12/15	6:45 pm	AA Meeting (Community Room)
Sun. 12/16	8:00 am	Rite I Sunday Service
	9:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
	10:30 am	Rite II Sunday Service, Bishop's Visit and Confirmations
	11:45 am	Parish Sing-Along Christmas Party 11:45 (Kahler Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)

Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 9, 2018

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
John Taylor, Bishop Diocesan
Diane Jardine Bruce, Bishop Suffragan

Our clergy: Susan Bek, Ed Steever, Dick Swanson
Samuel Azariah, Assisting Bishop
President Donald Trump, Congress, Federal Courts
Governor Jerry Brown, Legislature, Federal Courts

FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:

- + The ministry of prayer, study and service of St. Paul's Men's Group, the Daughters of the King, Bible & study groups
- + U.S. Armed forces personnel serving around the world and wounded warriors cared for in medical centers and those returned home

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- + Our partners in the Diocese of Los Angeles, Deanery One in Santa Barbara County: *St. Mary's, Lompoc; St. Mark's, Los Olivos; All Saints; Christ the King, Trinity, Santa Barbara; St. Peter's, Santa Maria; St. Michael's Mission & campus ministry at UCSB in Isla Vista, Mount Calvary Monastery & Retreat House, Santa Barbara*
- + World Mission Companions: *Ankwanda Village in the Diocese of Cape Coast, and the Dioceses of Sunyani & Wiawso, Ghana*
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Church of the Foothills, First Christian Church, Church of Christ*

HEALING IN BODY, MIND & SPIRIT:

Lillian, Wayne, Adele, Babs, Brenda, Grace, James, Jacob, Carolyn, Barbara, Jan, Priscilla, Duncan, Frank, Julie, Liz, Bruce, Charly, Paul, Carol, Stacy, Mary, Kathie, Tom

THOSE ENDURING A LONG TERM ILLNESS:

Virginia, Margery, Sheila, Carrie, Linda, Judy, Michelle, Kevin, Mary, Kathy, Doug, Rob, Rachel, Kim

Parish prayers for healing are listed for one calendar month. Contact the office with your request which may be added at any time. If you prefer your prayers to remain confidential, the Daughters of the King will add them to their daily prayer list for one month. They may be requested and/or renewed by using the prayer cards in the pews.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff

The Rev. Susan Bek, Rector; The Rev. Ed Steever, Deacon
The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting
Felix Eisenhauer, Music Minister; Tara Eisenhauer, Assistant Music Minister
Sara Edwards, Organist
Paula Robertson, Parish Administrator
Kathleen Jensen, Assistant Administrator
Lisa Devine, Minister for Family Faith Formation
Heidi Trevisan, Sunday School Director; Wendy Olivier, Nursery Caregiver
3290 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 643-5033 e-mail: office@saintpaulsventura.org
Website: www.saintpaulsventura.org Twitter: @stpaulsventura Facebook: St. Paul's Ventura

Announcements

*Thank you for joining us today!
As Ventura works to recover and find the way forward after fire and flood,
St. Paul's is here to help.
We're praying for you every day.
Please let us know what else you need. God bless you!*



Please help us thank the following people
for our refreshments this morning:
8:00 am **Carl Helms**
10:15 am **David & RoseAnn Hill, Ralph & Kay Armstrong,
Janalee Young**
*(Next week for hospitality: 8am – Peter & Sharon Bowers
10:15 am – Ruth McCool, Rob & Susan Talmadge, Bert & Ernie
Fickerson)*
If you would like to serve on our hospitality team, please let us know.

Please join us again next Sunday!

 <p style="text-align: center;">MUSIC at ST. PAUL'S</p>	<p>TODAY: In addition to all our inspiring Advent music, today's anthem at 10:15 will be the beautiful <i>Carol of Advent!</i></p> <p>NEXT SUNDAY: Local musician and St. Paul's favorite Nick Akdag will join us on bassoon! He will be playing at both services.</p>
	<p>FAIR TRADE STOCKING STUFFERS – TODAY! After Sunday services buy a taste of fine chocolates, tea, coffee and baskets that are from businesses committed to providing fair wages and good employment opportunities to economically disadvantaged artisans and farmers. For more information speak with Joanne at joannewakelee@yahoo.com</p> <p>Thank you for helping abolish the scourge of modern-day slavery!</p>
	<p>ANNUAL BISHOP'S VISIT AND CONFIRMATION SERVICE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 The Right Rev. Samuel Azariah will be with us for the 10:15am service next Sunday, December 16. Please join us to welcome confirmands Duffy Anderson, Amanda Avila, Sharon Bowers, Daniel Campbell, Tara Eisenhauer, and Joseph Wareham. Plan to stay after the service to meet the Bishop at our annual Parish Christmas Party!</p>
	<p>DIOCESE FIRE AND MUDSLIDE RELIEF FUND – Donations may be made online at www.edlagives.org to provide aid to the region's low-income and otherwise most vulnerable who might not otherwise receive relief amid the disaster of the recent fires.</p>
	<p>FIRST MONDAY BOOK CLUB – January 7, 2019 The December selection is <u>French Exit</u> by Patrick deWitt. In this comedy, Frances, “a moneyed, striking woman of 65 years” flees Manhattan for Paris after using up all of her cash. Meet at Panera Bread on Telephone Rd at 5pm for food and 5:30pm for discussion. All women are welcome! <i>Sponsored by Daughters of the King.</i></p>



YOUR DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Your generous donations help in so many ways and we are very grateful.

Please consider making a monetary gift for 2018.

Sunday Plate Offering – Keep the lights on and provide for other essential operations.

Christmas Flowers & Music – Bring beauty to your sanctuary both in sight and in sound.

Christmas Offerings & End of Year Gifts – Further the mission and ministry of your church home.

Food Pantry – Support your Sack Lunch Program that provides 2 sandwiches, canned goods, granola bars, fresh bananas, hard boiled eggs, socks, toiletries and more every week.

Family to Family – Feed our hungry neighbors and serve 240+ lunch plates once a month.

Sunday School & Youth Group – Provide an engaging Christian education to our children and teens.

St. Paul's Abolitionist Committee – Help educate others and abolish the scourge of modern day slavery.

***New* Text StPaulsVentura to 73256 to give.** (Standard text message rates do apply.) Or... Donate through our website www.saintpaulsventura.org , provide a check, place cash in the Offering Plate.

Your gifts and those received before you continue to keep our mission and ministry thriving for over 129 years. Thank you so much!



Advent Season

Events



PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY: December 16 Bring your friends and neighbors and join us on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. in Kahler Hall for a Christmas Carol Sing-along & Cookie Decorating Party. All are welcome!



**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT SERVICE:
December 23, One Service Only at 9am**

Join us in the church this morning before the great celebration begins.

Greening of the Church

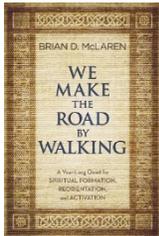


GREENING OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: December 23 Help us transform the church in preparation for Christmas. The Greening takes place Sunday after the 9am service from **10:30am – 1:30pm**. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and in Kahler Hall. **We need your help!**



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE: December 23 Come and enjoy the peace and beauty of the church on the night before Christmas Eve. We will gather **at 7 pm** for quiet music, bedtime stories and prayers. Children are invited to come in their jammies and bring pillows and blankets. Come get centered and connect with the spirit of Christmas before the festivities begin.

Opportunities



ADVENT REFLECTION AND GROUP STUDY:

Wednesday Mornings 10:30am Library

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will be meeting weekly using the book We Make the Road by Walking by Brian McLaren. This book offers everything you need to explore what a difference an honest, living, growing faith can make in our world today. All are welcome to join us. Those who are interested are also invited to join us for the Healing Service offered at 9am on Wednesday mornings. Together or separately, these are wonderful spiritual practices, and we would love to have you join us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC: If you would like to contribute to the flowers and music for our Christmas Eve services, please place your donation in the offering plate with 'Flowers & Music' noted in the memo line of your check or offering envelope. You may also send it to the office or donate via the website/PayPal/Text **no later than December 17**. Be sure to note whether the donation is in memory or honor of a loved one and whether you would like it included in the service bulletins.



COATS FOR ALL We are collecting new or gently used coats and jackets of all sizes **now through the end of the year!** The drive is sponsored by the Downtown Chapter of the Rotary Club. The donation box is located in the church lobby. **SOCK DRIVE** Socks are in high demand at this time of year for the men and women served by the Sack Lunch Program and Family to Family ministries. Drop off your sock donations any time before the 17th to distribute to Family to Family and throughout the winter season for our Sack Lunch recipients. (Please no dress socks or children's sizes.)

Christmas Services



Christmas Eve at St. Paul's

4:00 p.m. Family Service

This is a friendly service that is especially appropriate for families and children of all ages.

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Carols begin at 10 p.m., the service begins at 10:30 p.m. This service includes: traditional Christmas lessons, candlelight, choir and Eucharist.

Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Join us for a beautiful service on this holy day.

Your Advent & Christmas Calendar

December

9th	Sunday, Advent 2	Fair Trade Chocolate Stocking Stuffers Sale- Kahler Hall
15th	Saturday	Community Christmas Shoppe by Action-8:30am Community Orchard Church
16th	Sunday, Advent 3	Bishop Azariah visit. Confirmations (10:15am) Parish Christmas Party-11:45am Kahler Hall
17th	Monday	Family to Family-9:30am, 303 N. Ventura Ave. Deadline for Music & Flower Donations
23rd	Sunday, Advent 4	Service with Eucharist-9am Greening of the Church, 10:30am The Night Before Christmas Eve, 7pm
24th	Christmas Eve	Family Service-4pm Candlelight Service-10pm Carols & Music, 10:30pm Service with Eucharist
25th	Christmas Day	Service with Eucharist-9am Sanctuary
30th	Sunday, Christmas 1	Services-8am, 10:15am