



# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

*We follow Jesus, welcome all and nurture ministries.*



*Online Bulletin*

## **Third Sunday of Advent, Year C Bishop's Visit and Confirmations December 16, 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**

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

*Edward Broughton*

**The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*Please remain seated.*

*Awaiting*

*Felix Eisenhauer*

*Celebrant*  
**People**

Our King and Savior now draws near:  
**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, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**Opening Salutation**

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 413

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

*Bishop* There is one Body and one Spirit;  
*People* **There is one Hope in God's call to us;**  
*Bishop* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism.  
*People* **One God and Father of all.**

**Collect of the Day**

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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, 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**

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A Reading from the Book of Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

## **Canticle 9 The First Song of Isaiah**

- 1 Surely, it is God who saves me; \*  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
- 2 For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.
- 3 Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.
- 4 And on that day you shall say, \*  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
- 5 Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
- 6 Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.
- 7 Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.
- 8 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 4:4-7

### **A Reading from the letter to the Philippians**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

***People***            **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual Hymn**

**Lord, make us servants of your peace (v.1-3)**

**Hymnal 593**

*Please stand as you are able and face the Gospel.*

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

**Sermon**

The Right Reverend Samuel Azariah

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

**Presentation and Examination of Candidates**

BCP p. 415

*The Candidates and their presenters stand. The congregation remains seated.*

*Bishop* The Candidates will now be presented.  
*Presenters* We present these persons for Confirmation.

*Bishop* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?  
*Candidates* I do.

*Bishop* Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?  
*Candidates* I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

*The Congregations stands as they are able.*  
*The Bishop addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

**People** **We will.**

*Bishop* Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## The Baptismal Covenant

*Bishop*  
*People*

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**I will, with God's help.**

## Prayers for the Candidates

BCP. p. 305

*Deacon*

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

*Leader*

Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*People*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Send them into the world in witness to your love.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving over the Water**

*The congregation may be seated. Children are invited to gather at the altar to stir the water of Baptism.*

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Bishop* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We thank you Almighty God for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Confirmation**

*A period of silence follows.*

*Then the Bishop says*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says*

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *Duffy* with your Holy Spirit; empower him for your service; and sustain him all the days of his life. **Amen.**

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *Amanda* with your Holy Spirit; empower her for your service; and sustain her all the days of her life. **Amen.**

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *Joseph* with your Holy Spirit; empower him for your service; and sustain him all the days of his life. **Amen.**

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *Daniel* with your Holy Spirit; empower him for your service; and sustain him all the days of his life. **Amen.**

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *Tara* with your Holy Spirit; empower her for your service; and sustain her all the days of her life. **Amen.**

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *Sharon* with your Holy Spirit; empower her for your service; and sustain her all the days of her life. **Amen.**

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer*

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*All stand as they are able.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**People** **And also with you.**

### **Announcements**

*Please be seated*

### **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** *Soon and very soon* *Lift Every Voice and Sing 14*

**Presentation Hymn** **Rejoice! rejoice believers** **Hymnal 68**  
*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.

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 in 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

*Bassoon Solo*

*Praise Him, All Ye That in His House Attend*

*G.F. Händel*

**Prepare the Way of the Lord**

**My Heart Sings Out 61**

Canon

1 2

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

3 4

all pco-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our 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.**

## Recessional Hymn

## Comfort, comfort ye my people

## Hymnal 67

*Please stand.*

*Sprinkling with holy water. If you prefer not to get sprinkled with holy water, please move to the outer aisle for a moment.*

## Dismissal

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

## Postlude

*Freu dich Sehr*

*Gerald Near*

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## Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

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

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## *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.

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*Check out next Sunday's readings at [www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)  
Follow us on Facebook: St. Paul's Ventura*

## ***Serving This Week***

<b>Acolytes</b>	Gabe Lamola, Judy Wareham
<b>Chalice</b>	John Borneman, Kay Armstrong
<b>Psalm</b>	John Borneman
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Ralph Armstrong, Ted Andrews
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	Roger Crow
<b>Eucharistic Prayer Minister</b>	Margie & Chuck Cole
<b>Pastoral Care Team</b>	Kathleen Crookston, Pam Owens
<b>Ushers</b>	Larry & Shirley Myers, Joseph Wareham, Amanda Avila
<b>Welcome Ministry</b>	Julie Braithwaite
<b>Sunday School Leaders</b>	Elena Kennedy, Bridget Wareham
<b>Hospitality</b>	Ruth McCool, Rob & Susan Talmadge, Bert & Ernie Fickerson
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pauli Powers, Ruth McCool, Rose Hayden Smith, Rob Butler
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Carole Nelson, Rev. Susan & Teddy Bek, Sarah & Gabe Lamola, Renee Bower
<b>Counters</b>	Pam Owens
<b>Facility Lock Up</b>	Miles Sexton

<b>Highlights of This Week at St. Paul's</b>
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<b>Today</b> <b>12/16</b>	8:00 am	Rite I Sunday Service
	9:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
	10:30 am	Rite II Sunday Service, Bishop's Visit & Confirmations
	11:45 am	Parish Sing-Along Christmas Party (Kahler Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
<b>Mon.</b> <b>12/17</b>	9:30 am	Family to Family (303 N. Ventura Ave.)
	11:30 am	Tai Chi – Beginning (Kahler Hall)
	1:00 pm	Tai Chi – Intermediate (Kahler Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
<b>Tues.</b> <b>12/18</b>	6:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #179 (Community Room, Kahler Hall)
<b>Wed.</b> <b>12/19</b>	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)
<b>Thurs.</b> <b>12/20</b>	5:30 pm	Meditation Workshop (Library)
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
<b>Fri.</b> <b>12/21</b>	6:30 am	Men's Bible Study (Main Street Steakhouse Restaurant)
<b>Sat.</b> <b>12/22</b>	10:00	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	6:45 pm	AA Meeting (Community Room)
<b>Sun.</b> <b>12/23</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Rite II Sunday Service</b>
	10:30 am	Greening of the Church
	4:30pm	Abundant Table Farm Church (Chapel, Kahler Hall)
	7:00 pm	Night Before Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)

## ***Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 16, 2018***

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

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

### ***FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:***

- + The ministry of Family to Family; all who volunteer and/or give financially to feed Ventura's hungry
- + U.S. Armed services 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: *Hillsides-the Episcopal Home for Children, Pasadena; Neighborhood Youth Association, West LA.; Holy Family Services, Ventura County*
- + Our World Mission Companions: *Ankwanda Village in the Diocese of Cape Coast, and the Dioceses of Sunyani & Wiawso, Ghana*
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *First United Methodist, Trinity Lutheran, Our Lady of the Assumption churches and the Salvation Army*

### ***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](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)  
Website: [www.saintpaulsventura.org](http://www.saintpaulsventura.org) Twitter: @stpaulsventura Facebook: St. Paul's Ventura

## Announcements

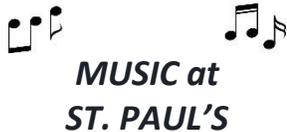
*Thank you for joining us today!  
As Ventura works to recover and find the way forward after fire and flood,  
St. Paul's is here to help.  
We're praying for you every day.  
Please let us know what else you need. God bless you!*



Please help us thank the following people  
for our refreshments this morning:  
8:00 am **Peter & Sharon Bowers**  
10:15 am **Ruth McCool, Rob & Susan Talmadge,  
Bert & Ernie Fickerson**  
*(Next week for hospitality: 8am – Peter & Sharon Bowers  
10:15 am – Miles & Cathy Sexton, Larry & Shirley Myers,  
Laura & Teddy Andrews)*  
*If you would like to serve on our hospitality team, please let us know.*



**PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY TODAY!**  
Join us at 11:30 in Kahler Hall for a  
**Christmas Carol Sing-Along & Cookie Decorating Party.**  
All are welcome!



**TODAY:** Many thanks to guest musician, Nick Akdag on bassoon!

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Allison McKay will join us on oboe for both services. Felix and Tara join together for a beautiful tribute to Mary.



**WELCOME THE NEWLY CONFIRMED**

Congratulations to Duffy Anderson, Amanda Avila, Sharon Bowers, Daniel Campbell, Tara Eisenhauer, and Joseph Wareham. Plan to stay after the service to greet them and meet the Bishop at our annual Parish Christmas Party! The plate offering today will be given to the Bishop's discretionary fund.



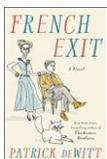
**MONDAY DECEMBER 17— FAMILY TO FAMILY**

Come serve lunch tomorrow at 303 N. Ventura Avenue. Elena is our volunteer coordinator. Preparation and set up begin at 9:30 am; servers are needed between 11:30 and 12:30 pm. Clean up 12:30-1pm.



**PLEDGE ENVELOPES AVAILABLE**

Pick up your 2019 weekly or monthly pledge envelopes in the narthex. If you can't find them, please contact the office.



**FIRST MONDAY BOOK CLUB – January 7, 2019**

The December selection is French Exit 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 5 pm for food and 5:30 pm for discussion. All women are welcome! *Sponsored by Daughters of the King.*



## Please Join Us Next Week:



### 4<sup>th</sup> 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



**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 of 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.)



**DIOCESE FIRE AND MUDSLIDE RELIEF FUND** – Donations may be made online at [www.edlagives.org](http://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.



*We invite you to bring your family, friends and neighbors and join us this Christmas for inspiring worship, beautiful music, friendly fellowship, and the opportunity to be filled with the true message of Christmas.*

## **Night Before Christmas Eve**

Sunday, December 23

### **7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Come enjoy the peace of the beautifully decorated church before the celebration. We'll light candles, lift prayers, sing carols and tell the Christmas story.

This is a wonderful event for people of all ages.

Children are invited to come in their jammies and bring blankets.



### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – December 23<sup>rd</sup> ONE service ONLY**

Join us at 9am for a wonderful service and stay to help us with the Greening of the Church.



## **Christmas Eve Services**

Monday, December 24

### **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 at 10 p.m., service begins at 10:30 p.m.  
Service includes: lessons, candlelight, choir and Eucharist.

## **Christmas Day**

Tuesday, December 25

### **9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

A beautiful service with Eucharist and music.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 3290 LOMA VISTA ROAD, VENTURA, CA 93004  
(805) 643-5033 [www.saintpaulsventura.org](http://www.saintpaulsventura.org) OFFICE@SAINTPAULSVENTURA.ORG