



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent

Year A

November 27, 2022 10:15 a.m.

Service offered both in-person and online

Welcome! Sunday Services are offered each week at 10:15am. You have the option of attending in-person or online at: www.StPaulsVentura.org/live, www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura, www.Facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura.

We ask your patience and thank you for your understanding - Masks are still required in the church at this time. As of December 1st, masks will become optional. For now, we thank you for your cooperation. You are a living example of what LOVE looks like, and we appreciate your kindness.

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. We invite you to sing, pray and read along with us through the service. The words in bold are the ones we'll all say together.

Our Sunday School program (for children ages 2 years-grade 5) begins at 10am. Children are invited to join Miss Bailey and Miss Wendy to 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.

The best way to keep up with our upcoming events and latest protocols is to subscribe to our Email Newsletter. If you don't receive it and would like to be added to the list, please come see us at the Welcome Table or contact the church office.

Once again, welcome! We're glad that you're worshipping with us. Let us know if you have any questions, prayer requests or need the services of a priest. We are always glad to hear from you. Meanwhile, know that you are in our prayers. We wish you all a very safe and blessed week.

Today's flowers were given through the generosity of your pledge.

If you'd like to arrange for flowers given in memory or thanksgiving, please contact the church office. Thank you!

Holy Eucharist Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Canticle

Franklin Ashdown

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Please remain seated.

Awaiting

*Felix Eisenhower
Oboe – Allison McKay*

Celebrant Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning.
This first candle is HOPE.

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.

Processional

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers

Hymnal 68

Cantor: Reid Edwards

Opening Salutation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. 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 eleison

Hymnal S86*

Hymns numbers that begin with "S" are designated as Service Music and found at the beginning of the Hymnal.

**Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison. Christe eleison. Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

(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.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the reading of scripture.

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

Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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

Psalm 122

Today we will read Psalm 122. We will read it responsively breaking at the asterisk.

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

Second Reading

Romans 13: 11-14

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Gradual Hymn **O come, O come, Emmanuel, v. 1-2**

All are invited to stand as you are able and join in singing.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

Please remain standing and face the Gospel.

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson

Please be seated.

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

All stand as able and together say

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 catholic¹ and apostolic² 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.

¹ universal; all embracing ² relating to the Apostles; following their teachings

Server

My brothers and sisters, may God strengthen your hearts in holiness. Trusting in God, let us pray, O come, o come, Emmanuel; be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety. O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. Give us the eyes to see, the wisdom to prepare, and the faith to trust in you. O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people of the world together in a spirit of love and respect and bless us all in this time of global pandemic.

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving. *(The congregation is invited to add their petitions silently or aloud.)*

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, keep us blameless before you, that we may meet the coming of our Lord, Jesus with joy. May we and all who have died, rise to life immortal with all your saints. O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

Celebrant

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

BCP p. 360

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, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

All are invited to 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.

Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Sentence

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



*Thank you for your donation, and for your pledge.
Your generosity is appreciated!
We look forward to doing great things in the name of Christ
with whatever you are able to give.*

Offertory Anthem

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

*African American Spiritual
Arr. Lloyd Larson*

Presentation Hymn

Soon and very soon

Andraé Crouch

Please stand as you are able.

1. Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!
2. No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!
3. No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!
4. Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King;
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Please stand as you are able.

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. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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, sit 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 hath 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.

Spiritual Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving it.

Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot all be together in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

The Invitation

This is the Banquet of the Lord.

It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.

So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow, and you who fear you have failed.

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.

It is his will that those who want him should meet him in this holy way.

For in-person worshipers: 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 gluten-free.

Once you have the bread, you may choose any of the following options:

- 1. Return to your seat without receiving the wine.** *Be assured that this is a sufficient experience of communion.*
- 2. Sip the wine, from the common cup,** *guiding the chalice gently with your hand. (This meets the current safety standards set by the Diocese of Los Angeles and our bishop because the wine contains alcohol, the chalice is silver or similar metal, and the surface is wiped and turned between communicants.)*
- 3. Receive by intinction** (dipping) – *the Eucharistic Minister will dip your wafer into the wine for you. We must place it in your hand at this time and cannot place it in your mouth.*

***The Common Cup will be offered on the right side of the altar rail.
Intinction (dipping) will be offered on the left (Loma Vista) side.***

*If you'd like to come forward but would prefer not to receive,
please cross your arms over your chest and the priest will offer you a blessing.*

Suggestion: Before or after Communion, see the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) pp. 833-834. You'll find some wonderful prayers there. It can be found online at www.bcponline.org

Communion Music

From Fragments: 7 Improvisation Sketches

Felix Eisenhauer

*An Advent Round of Anticipation
(see next page)*

Felix Eisenhauer

Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

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Please join us in thanking those serving this week:

Server:	Roger Crow	Lector:	Bridget Wareham and Ralph Armstrong
Chalice:	Kay Armstrong	Ushers:	Steve Jones, Judy Gold & David Hill
Altar Guild:	Louise Bretz & Pam Klebaum	Flower Guild:	Lisa Cross
Cantor:	Reid Edwards	Welcome Greeter:	
Video Production:	Patrick Van Horn	Lock-up Team:	Greg Jackson



Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent
After Church: Meeting about Decorating the Church for Christmas

Friday, December 9 – Kid’s Shop at St. Paul’s 6-8pm

Saturday, December 10 – Holiday Market Rummage Sale Fundraiser
at St. Paul’s 8am – 1pm

Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent
Parish Christmas Party – 11:30am in Kahler Hall
and Final Sales for Holiday Market Fundraiser

Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 19
Feeding the Hungry at Family to Family

Friday, December 23
Greening of the Church – 9am in Sanctuary
Night Before Christmas Eve Service – 7pm in Sanctuary

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve
Family Service with Christmas Pageant - 4pm
Carols - 10pm
Candlelight Service - 10:30pm

Sunday, December 25
Christmas Day Service – 10:15am

Sunday, January 1st
New Year’s Day and 10:15am Service

Sunday, January 8 – Baptism of Our Lord
10:15am service with baptisms

Sunday, February 5 – Annual Meeting of St. Paul’s Parish

Prayer Intentions for the Week of November 27, 2022

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury	Our Clergy: Susan Bek, Dick Swanson
Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop	President Joseph Biden, Congress, Federal Courts
John Taylor, Bishop Diocesan	Governor Gavin Newsom, Legislature, State Courts

HEALING IN BODY, MIND & SPIRIT:

Leta, Christian, Christina, Nathan and his family, Bryant, Ed, Barb, Mary, Matthew, Thomas, Vivian, Lorraine, Bill, Susan, Jon, Jeff, Spencer and her family, Nadia, Tracy, Rebecca, Jane, Janet, Kim, Seve, Jackie, Joe, Dulce, Victor, Patrick, Charlie, all refugees and everyone affected by COVID-19, gun violence, natural disaster, poverty, and injustice.

THOSE ENDURING A LONG-TERM ILLNESS:

Penny, Phil, Lynn, Audrey, Dennis, Maria, Baby Z, Amelia, Rachel, Dave, Kim, Linda, Virginia, Michelle, Sheila, Jeanice, Kevin, Susan, Ed, Debbie, Carol and Ron.

IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY:

Drew and Anna Darby, and their family.

FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:

- + The spiritual, physical and moral development of our children and youth; the children, youth, and adult leaders of our Sunday School, Youth Group, Boy Scout Troop 179, Girl Scout Daisy Troop 65014, La Famiglia Preschool, and VCSAGE
- + The Vestry's leadership that our parish's mission may be accomplished. Our 2022 vestry members and officers are Grace Dunlevy (Senior Warden), Jordan Daniels (Junior Warden), Peter Anderson (Treasurer), Lori Burke (Clerk), Dan Campbell, Kathleen Crookston, Steve Jones, Sarah Lamola, Kathy Loest, Marcia Semple, Daniel Smithson, Wendy VanHorn, Bridget Wareham, and the Rev. Susan Bek (Rector).
- + 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: *the Cathedral Church of the Ascension, in the Diocese of Wiawso*, Ghana
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Unitarian/Universalist, Center for Spiritual Living, An Lac Mission (Buddhist), Mormon Church*

IN MEMORIAM

Marcia Wakelee, Pat Minick and all those we love and see no longer.

Parish prayers for healing are listed for one calendar month but can be renewed if needed. Please contact the church office to add or extend a prayer request and to let us know how things are going.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff

The Rev. Susan Bek, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting
Kara Craven, Parish Administrator
Dr. Felix Eisenhower, Music Minister
Tara Eisenhower, Choir Director
Sara Edwards, Organist
Nadia Becker, ASL Interpreter
Amy Schaffer, Director of Communications
Joseph Wareham, Sexton

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St. Paul's Announcements November 27, 2022

Thank you for joining us today! Please contact the church office for more information. God bless you!

We invite you to join us again next Sunday.



Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

Whether you're new, visiting or have been a member for years, we're so glad you joined us today. **A warm welcome to you!** Our Sunday services are available online and in-person. Please let us know if we can do anything to support you on your spiritual journey this week. We're always happy to hear from you!
We invite you to come back soon.



ST. PAUL'S Enews

announcements,
enrichment, encouragement

Because faith isn't just for Sundays!

This is a brief overview of our weekly announcements. To learn about everything going on at St. Paul's and to receive weekly encouragement and ways to build up spiritual strength, please see our E-newsletter. If you don't receive it, please let us know. We'd be happy to add you to the list!
You can reach us by emailing office@saintpaulsventura.org



Today
at

ST. PAUL'S



First Sunday of Advent - 11/27 at 10:15am

Be with us online or in-person as we light the first candle on our Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE. Let's come together as we worship and wait, holding on to the hope that Christ has instilled in us. Join us as we prepare the way of the Lord, lift our prayers, and receive communion. Come get inspired! Invite a friend and join us. We look forward to seeing you there!

and after church today...



You are Invited to Coffee Hour

We invite you to join us in Kahler Hall (just down the stairs) for a cup of coffee, tea, or water and the chance to sit and chat with one another. In the church, we call this fellowship. It's one of our favorite parts of being on this journey of faith together. So, when you're available, please plan to join us.



Are you new to St. Paul's or visiting us?

A warm welcome to you! We are so glad you joined us today. We are a friendly and welcoming congregation. Our ushers and greeters and production team will be happy to do anything they can to make your time with us more comfortable and meaningful. If you view the services online, please complete the newcomer card linked in the description. If you attend in-person, please introduce yourself to our clergy, they're looking forward to meeting you.
We invite you to come back soon.



Family to Family

Thank you for helping feed the hungry!

LAST MONDAY, Nov. 21st

Because of the generosity of this congregation, and the willing hands of all our volunteers, we were able to serve about 100 lunches. Thank you so much!



Lots of hands make light work...

Want to Help Prepare the Church for Christmas?

If so, you're invited to a meeting next Sunday, December 4th at 11:45am. Together with the Altar Guild and Flower Guild, we'll be making plans to decorate the sanctuary, and we could use your help. Join us for this planning meeting and mark your calendar for the Greening of the Church on Dec. 23rd from 9am – Noon. Bring a friend, it's fun and rewarding!

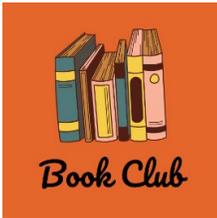


Family Christmas Pageant

Calling all Families...

Family Christmas Pageant – at 4pm Christmas Eve Service

We're so excited to invite you and your family to join in the fun! No rehearsals are required, but there's an optional one – and it would be great if you could attend, especially the adults with speaking roles. Join us on Saturday, 12/10, from 10:30 to noon. Everyone is asked to arrive by 3pm on Christmas Eve for a brief rehearsal in the sanctuary and then we'll send you over for costuming, caroling and fun while we wait for the service to begin. All are welcome! We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Club – Dec. 5 at 5:30pm

Our next selection is *A Lovely Girl* by Deborah Holt Larkin. This is the incredible story of a 1958 murder that took place in Santa Barbara from the perspective of the ten year old daughter of Bob Holt, for the Ventura Star Free Press. The author is reflecting on what she experienced and tells what she knows to be true. The narrative combines fear, humor, drama and tenderness. You will recognize the descriptions of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and travels on the 101 which adds to the intrigue and makes it a perfect book choice for us. All are welcome!
Meeting ID: 751 8208 5503 Passcode: 1stmonday



Do you find God in nature?
Spirituality in Nature Group – Dec. 21 Evening Event

Our new Spirituality in Nature Group will be hosting an evening event on Dec. 21st, here at St. Paul's. Join us on the longest night of the year as we reflect on and observe the miracles of the universe through a telescope and have a fire to bring light to the earth. Snacks provided. Our activities are appropriate for all ages and friends are always welcome. If you'd like to get involved in this new group, please let us know.



Change is coming...
As of 12/1, Masks will become Optional in Church

Due to recent changes in CDC guidelines, the Vestry is preparing to change our masking protocols. Beginning December 1st, masks will no longer be required, but still strongly encouraged. Please carefully consider what is best for you and your family. During Sunday services we are indoors for longer than one hour with 70-100 people and we sing together. While singing, droplets are known to travel 50 feet or more. **Because of this, we ask that everyone please wear a mask while singing.** Also, because some among us are at higher risk and continue to need some additional distance, we ask that those who prefer not to wear a mask, please sit on the Loma Vista side of the sanctuary. The chapel side of the sanctuary will be reserved for those with masks. We hope this will make it possible for everyone find a place in the church where they can feel safe and comfortable. Thank you for your understanding. You are a shining example of what LOVE looks like.



We're so excited to be able to offer baptisms again!
UPCOMING BAPTISM OPPORTUNITY – 1/8/23

We become members of the body of Christ through the sacrament of baptism. If you have not been baptized, and would like to be, please speak with Rev. Susan to make arrangements. *About Baptism: Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble. Through Baptism and the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven of our sins and raised to the new life of grace. We are also formally initiated into the fellowship of Christian community.* This is a very important and moving occasion. The prayers and presence of the community are requested.



Want to help needy families feel the love of Christ this Christmas?
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SHOPPE TOY COLLECTION – through December 11

We are collecting new, unwrapped toys to help make Christmas a little brighter for some families who are finding things challenging. Take an ornament off the Christmas Tree in the Narthex. Shop for the child described on the ornament, and bring your new, unwrapped gift(s) to add to our toybox. You can make a difference! Thanks for helping us share the love of Christ this season. Last day for giving: Sunday, Dec. 11th.



Want to help our warm the hearts and bodies of our neighbors in need?
COATS FOR ALL and REACH for Socks

- 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 also in high demand at this time of year for the men and women served by the Family to Family ministry. Drop of your sock donations in the basket on the REACH table. We'll distribute them throughout the winter season. (Please no dress socks or children's sizes.)



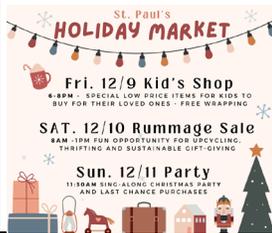
WISH LIST

Please consider the church this Christmas...
WISH LIST SUGGESTIONS for End-of-Year Donations
 Gifts and donations may be made at any time, for any purpose. In case you're interested in making an end-of year donation, the items currently on our wish list include: new flooring for the sanctuary, new chairs for Kahler Hall (a simple \$25 donation buys a chair), new counters are needed in Kahler Hall kitchen, new counters and sinks are needed in the sacristy (where the Altar Guild and Flower Guild do their work), and Kahler Hall needs exterior painting. If you are able to help make a wish come true, we appreciate your support! If you'd like more information, please contact Rev. Susan. Thank you!



This QR Code takes you straight to Giving Page

"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7
Thank you for your generosity!
 Donations may be made by cash, check, PayPal, or Text StPaulsVentura to 73256. You can also arrange online payments, click the "Give" button at www.saintpaulsventura.org or use this QR code. We look forward to doing great things with whatever you are able to give.
Thank you so much!



Please invite your friends and plan to join us...
St. Paul's Holiday Market Fundraiser – Dec. 9, 10, & 11
Volunteers and Donations Needed
 Please mark your calendars and help us spread the word. Volunteers are needed. Please see sign up sheet at the Welcome Table or check out your Enews. Donations needed: Rummage Sale items and Kids shop items can be dropped off before and after church each Sunday beginning Nov. 6; Baked Goods can be dropped off on 12/10 and 12/11. **Thank you so much!**



We appreciate your Rummage Sale Donations:

Rummage Sale and Kids Shop Donations may be dropped off

Starting November 1st

**at the St. Paul's Library
 (just off the parking lot)**

- Before and After Sunday Services

**- AND By appointment with the church office 805 643-5033
office@saintpaulsventura.org**

Bake Sale donations can be dropped off on Friday 12/10 or Saturday 12/11



Christmas Eve at St. Paul's

4:00 p.m. Family Service

This is a beautiful service that is especially appropriate for families and children of all ages. All are welcome!

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Carols begin at 10 p.m.,

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.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC

We'd love to have especially beautiful flowers and music this Christmas.

If you'd like to contribute, please mark your donation "Flowers & Music" and place in offering plate, send it in, or donate via the website, PayPal, or Text. Be sure to note whether the donation is in memory or honor of a loved one and whether you would like it listed in the Christmas bulletins.

Donations accepted any time.

Deadline to be recognized in the bulletin is 12/15.

Thank You!



GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Thurs., Dec. 23 at 9am

Help us transform the church in preparation for Christmas.

Bring your friends and join us. Many hands make light work.

We appreciate your help!



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE

December 23 at 7pm

Come and enjoy the peace and beauty of the church on the night before Christmas Eve. Quiet music, bedtime stories and prayers.

This event is great for all ages. Children are invited to come in their jammies.

Come get centered and connect with the spirit of Christmas before the festivities begin.



St Paul's, Ventura

Your Church Home for the Holidays

We invite you to bring your family, friends and neighbors and join us this Christmas for inspiring worship, beautiful music, an uplifting message of hope and love, and the opportunity to be filled with the true Christmas spirit.

3290 Loma Vista Road, Ventura
office@saintpaulsventura.org
(805) 643-5033
www.saintpaulsventura.org

Sunday Services

online and in-person at 10:15am
Wednesday Healing Service at 9am on Zoom