



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

November 19, 2023

10:15 a.m.

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

Safety Protocols –Because some among us are at higher risk and continue to want some additional distance, we've reserved several pews in the front on the chapel side of the sanctuary for those with masks. Masks are optional on the Loma Vista side. We hope this will make it possible for everyone to 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.

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. The best way to keep up with everything that's going on at St. Paul's 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 office.

By tradition, The Episcopal Church offers Holy Communion to all baptized persons. If you are not baptized, but wish to receive, we invite you to participate fully in the opening part of the service, called the Ministry of the Word, hearing God's word and reflecting on your life, enabling you to come to the table for communion, if you so choose, with a heart prepared to receive. We hope that if you feel touched by the word and sacrament and wish to learn more about the life-giving power of the Spirit of the Risen Christ, you will contact the church office to inquire about participating in Holy Baptism.

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

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.



The angels are dancing again...

Listen carefully, you just might hear the angels dancing on the roof!

As things heat up, the beams in our beautiful church ceiling expand and creak. No worries! It's just part of this wonderful building's charm. For years, some of our members have said to each other, "Listen, the angels are dancing on the roof again!"

Today's flowers are 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!

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Meditation: Now Thank We All
We Gather Together

*Rachel Laurin
Arr. Franklin Ashdown*

Processional

Not here for high and holy things

Hymnal 9

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

Cantor: Sophia Cotsis

Opening Salutation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

*Celebrant
People*

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

Praise our great and gracious Lord

Hymnal 393

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 90:1-8, 12

The response appointed for this morning is a portion of Psalm 90. We will read it responsively, breaking at the asterisk.

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."

- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
- 8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- 12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Gradual Hymn

All stand as able to sing.

O day of peace that dimly shines

Hymnal 597

Holy Gospel

Remain standing and face the Gospel.

Matthew 25:14-30

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

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master

said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

The Sermon

Drew Darby

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, sit or kneel as is your custom.

¹ universal; all embracing

² Relating to the Apostles, following their teachings

Server

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying: Lord, have mercy.

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 and refugees, 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*), let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died, 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.

Celebrant

Into your mercy we commend ourselves, and for peace at the last we pray, that all your creation may give you praise and worship, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession

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 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.**

Announcements

Please be seated.

Blessings for Birthdays, Anniversaries and Other Special Occasions

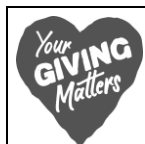
Liturgy of the Table

Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:15,16



*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

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

Presentation Hymn

Please stand as you are able.

Holy God, we praise thy Name, v. 1-3

H366

The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

Eucharistic Prayer A

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:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymnal S129

The service music can be found in the front of the hymnal.

**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 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.

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 Holy Communion.

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 are not all 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 stand or kneel at the altar rail to receive the Eucharist. If you are unable to come forward but would like to receive, please let an usher know and we will bring communion to you.

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.

Regardless of which side you are sitting on, when you come forward, please go to whichever side is offering the wine in the way you prefer to receive it.

Those receiving by intinction are asked to help themselves to a small paper cup.

Please tell the priest if you prefer a gluten-free wafer.

You may also choose to return to your seat without receiving the wine.

Be assured that it is a sufficient experience of communion.

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. Online worshipers can find it at www.bcponline.org

Communion Music

Improvisation on the day's Hymns

Felix Eisenhauer

It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord

Words and Music by Albert A. Goodson

Arr. Richard Smallwood

It's me, it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of prayer;

It's me, it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of prayer.

- 1 Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer, **Refrain**
- 2 Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer, **Refrain**
- 3 Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer, **Refrain**
- 4 Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer, **Refrain**

Post Communion Prayer:

Please stand or kneel as you prefer.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. 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 the peace which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest upon you and remain with you this day and forever more. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Before they throne, O God, we kneel

Hymnal 574

Please stand as you are able and turn to face the cross as it passes by.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Improvisation on Wir Pflügen/We Plow the Fields

Edward Kerr

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

Please join us in thanking those who served today, including:

Servers:	Drew Darby & Kara Craven	Lectors:	Judy Gold & Judy Drew
Chalice:	Christopher Craven	Ushers:	Wendy VanHorn & Eric Craven
Acolyte:	Cora Shanahan	Acolyte:	William Shanahan
Altar Guild:	Grace Dunlevy & Anna Darby	Flower Guild:	Grace Dunlevy, Anna Darby & Kate Shanahan
Cantor:	Sophia Cotsis	Welcome Greeter:	Pat Malchak
Video Production:	Patrick VanHorn	Lock-up Team:	Kara Craven

Prayer Intentions for the Week of November 19, 2023

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:

Bert, Mary Morgan, Virginia, Tegan, Eric, Charlotte, Lou, all refugees, first responders, and everyone affected by COVID-19, gun violence, natural disaster, poverty, and injustice.

THOSE ENDURING A LONG-TERM ILLNESS:

Phil, Lynn, Audrey, Dennis, Maria, Baby Z, Carol, Rachel, Dave, Linda, Virginia, Michelle, Kevin, Susan, Debbie, Vivian, Ulrich, Christian, Kristi, Helen and Mary.

IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY:

Drew Darby, his wife Anna, and their family.

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
- + All who work, educate others, and pray to abolish the scourge of present-day slavery.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- + Our partners in the Diocese of Los Angeles Deanery One in Ventura County: *St. Columba's*, Camarillo; *Trinity*, Fillmore; *St. Andrew's*, Ojai; *All Saints'*, Oxnard; *St. Paul's/Emmanuel*, Santa Paula; *St. Francis'*, Simi Valley; *St. Patrick's*, Thousand Oaks
- + Our World Mission Companions: *the Cathedral Church of the Ascension, in the Diocese of Wiawso, Ghana*
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *First United Methodist, Trinity Lutheran, Our Lady of the Assumption churches and the Salvation Army*

IN MEMORIAM

James Hathaway, Sheila Fattarelli, Mercy Trinkkeller and all those we love but 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 Eisenhauer, Music Minister
Tara Eisenhauer, Choir Director
Sara Edwards, Organist
Joseph Wareham, Sexton

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 Ventur

St. Paul's Announcements November 19, 2023

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.
We're always happy to hear from you!
We invite you to come back soon.



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



and after church today...

Please join us in welcoming our guest priest today, the Reverend Alene Campbell-Langdell



Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

This Sunday we will continue working our way toward the end of the Book of Matthew. This time, we'll hear Jesus teaching through the Parable of the Tenants (Coins). When given talents (coins), two of the servants put the money to work and increased the investment of the manager, but one of the servants was overcome with fear and, instead of using it to make more, buried the coin where it wouldn't be lost, but it couldn't do any good, either. What do you do with the talents, the abilities and things of value, that God has given you? Come to church and learn with us. We'll enjoy amazingly beautiful music, inspiring scripture, and an uplifting message of hope, love, and inclusion. All are welcome here! Online, we offer Spiritual Communion. In-person, we offer Eucharist, the bread and wine made holy. Come get inspired!

Join us for Coffee Hour and Much More Today!

In-person worshippers are invited to join us in Kahler Hall (just down the stairs) for a cup of coffee, or tea and some refreshments. This gives us 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. We will also be packing toiletries for the homeless, as tomorrow is our day with Family to Family.



Fair Trade Sales – Sunday, Today!

St. Paul's is an Abolitionist Congregation, committed to ending the scourge of modern-day slavery. We sell fair trade products through the Equal Exchange to support farm cooperatives around the world giving farmers a fair price and a better future. Locally our sales support ending human trafficking through the Abolitionist Committee. Please stop by our table outside near the fountain to check out delicious chocolate, coffee and tea! Cash and checks accepted. Please see Joanne Wakelee if you have questions.



Join us after today's service to help prepare for Family to Family. Although we are no longer distributing lunch bags at Family to Family (we are serving a sit down lunch), we will be distributing a bag with donated toiletries for our lunch guests. Join us during coffee hour to help package these items.

	<p>Family to Family on Monday, November 20th.</p> <p>This year marks 40 years that Family to Family has been feeding hungry people in Ventura. Since the beginning St. Paul's has participated in in this effort to care for our neighbors one day each month. Our next opportunity to serve lunch at Family to Family is Monday November 20. We need additional people to help serve lunch. If you can assist please meet at the Family to Family kitchen (303 North Ventura Avenue) at 10:30 am. Please contact Dan Wakelee (dan.wakelee@att.net) if you have questions or want more information.</p>
	<p><i>Want to help needy families feel the love of Christ this Christmas?</i></p> <p>COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SHOPPE TOY COLLECTION – through December 7th</p> <p>We are collecting new, unwrapped toys to help make Christmas a little brighter for some families who are finding things challenging. We have a large collection box in the Narthex as well as a list of gift ideas; bring your donations and leave them in the box. Presents for teens are especially needed! You can make a difference! Thanks for helping us share the love of Christ this season. Last day for giving: Thursday, Dec. 7th.</p>
	<p>Children's Christmas Shoppe!</p> <p>It's coming on December 15th and we are seeking donations of gently used trinkets/jewelry/décor, etc... for children to purchase and gift to their parents, grandparents and siblings. See Grace Dunlevy or contact the church office: (805) 643-5033 or office@saintpaulsventura.org. Thank you!</p>
	<p>Memorial Service</p> <p>A service celebrating the life of Sheila Fattarelli will be held at St. Paul's on Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 10am <i>May she rest in peace and rise in glory.</i> <i>And may God bless those who mourn with a sense of peace and delight at the wonderful memories they have to treasure. Amen.</i></p>
	<p>Book Club – Monday, December 4th at 5:30pm on Zoom</p> <p>The First Monday Book Club is open to all.</p> <p>Our next selection is <i>A Land Twice Promised: An Israeli Woman's Quest for Peace</i> by Noa Baum. This is a deeply personal memoir of an Israeli storyteller who grew up in Jerusalem and formed an unlikely friendship in America with a Palestinian woman. Noa Baum writes with honesty, compassion, and humor, as she captures the drama of a nation at war and her discovery of humanity in the enemy.</p> <p>Zoom Information – Meeting ID: 751 8208 5503 Passcode: 1stmonday</p>
	<p><i>Do you enjoy experiencing God in nature?</i></p> <p>Spirituality in Nature Group – Thursday, December 21st at 6 pm</p> <p>Do you find God in nature? The goals of the Spirituality in Nature Groups are to explore nature to better understand what it means to be stewards of God's creation, and to strengthen our connection with the amazing natural world around us. Join us on the longest night of the year as we reflect and observe the miracles of the universe through a telescope and have a fire to bring light to the earth. Potluck in Kahler Hall – soup provided so bring something to share that goes along! Our activities are appropriate for all ages and friends are always welcome.</p>
	<p>Giving Flowers in Memory or in Thanksgiving</p> <p>Donating the flowers for a Sunday service is a lovely way to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. It's quick and easy to arrange, and really helps the church too! Use an envelope from the pew rack in front of your seat or email us the information. Enclose a donation, (\$65-\$100 is suggested), or go to our website and click "Giving". Be sure to mention that it's a Flower Donation. We look forward to remembering or celebrating with you, and we appreciate your support!</p>
	<p>2024 Choir Pilgrimage Tour</p> <p>St. Paul's Choir is embarking on an adventure, a life-changing journey and YOU are invited! Learn about the choir tour and pilgrimage to Italy in 2024, why we are doing this, and how to support us to make this dream a reality go to https://sites.google.com/view/choirtour/home</p>



A friend of Fr. Anthony, the Rev. John Watson and his family, have accepted a call to the US from the Diocese of Southwark in England. John will be serving 2 congregations in Los Angeles, but he and his family are settling in Ventura. They are now in Ventura and are seeking furniture to set up their household. If you have any furniture that you could provide it would be greatly appreciated. You may contact John directly at 805-799-6997. Thank you in advance.



Lots of hands make light work...

Want to Help Prepare the Church for Christmas?

If so, you're invited to a meeting on Sunday, December 3rd 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!



This QR Code takes you straight to our 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 office www.saintpaulsventura.org or use this QR code. Members give of their time through many ministries and share their talents through lots of volunteer opportunities. Please contact our clergy if you'd like to get involved in something new. Generosity involves the giving of time, talent and treasure. Thank you for all the ways you give of yourself! We look forward to doing great things with whatever you are able to share. Thank you!



GiftItForward.com

2023 FUNDRAISING SEASON

PRODUCT PRICING



Classic Wreath
\$52.00



Victorian Wreath
\$56.00



Cranberry Splash Wreath
\$57.00



Table Top Tree
\$55.00



Wintergreen Wreath
\$57.00



Elfin Delight Wreath
\$61.00



Santa's Sleigh Bells Wreath
\$61.00



Winter Woods Wreath
\$61.00



Ciana Centerpiece
\$55.00



Living Christmas Tree
\$70.00



Classic Spray
\$48.00



Victorian Spray
\$49.50



Cranberry Splash Spray
\$49.50



Wintergreen Spray
\$49.50



Elfin Delight Swag
\$51.00



Santa's Sleigh Bells Swag
\$52.00



Winter Woods Swag
\$51.00

25¢

This pricing includes all costs including processing, packaging, FedEx delivery AND \$8.00 PROFIT FOR EACH ITEM PURCHASED

Fall & Holiday Wreath Sale Fundraiser

Orders Placed Online and Shipped Directly

Order by Dec. 7th. Thank you!

Our End-of-Year Fundraiser is a Wreath Sale. We've opted to keep things simple by doing this sale online. Anyone who is interested will be able to order the wreaths and greens of their choice delivered to their own home, or to the homes of family and friends.

To learn more about it, go to:

www.GiftItForward.com

Use the Fundraising Code:

StPaulCA003

Thank you!