



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

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.

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.

Today's flowers were given in loving memory of Sheila Fattarelli by her family.

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

I Wait for God at Break of Day, a Psalm Prelude
Arioso on Helmsley

*Carl Hagen
Dennis Janzer*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Please remain seated.

Instrumental

Felix Eisenhower

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

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

Hymnal 57

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 64:1-9

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you

are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Today we will read a portion of Psalm 80. We will read it responsively breaking at the asterisk.

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Mark 13:24-37

Please remain standing and face the Gospel.

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Susan Bek

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.

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. 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.

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

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, Anniversaries and Other Special Occasions

Year of Prayer to End Racism

The Diocese of West Virginia has released an inspiring and motivating series of prayers to be used throughout the year as we work and pray for an end to racism. We encourage you to use these prayers in your personal prayer life, and make the commitment to become more and more, day by day the people God is calling you to be.

O giver of all good gifts, you have differently blessed and differently challenged your children. Some of us have handicaps for which we need the aid of social services, and some of us find our quest for such aid hindered by the complication of racial discrimination. Help us to overcome barriers of all kinds that prevent your people from functioning fully and freely, and let us never tolerate the denial of equal services to anyone because of their race. **Amen.**

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

Thou Shalt Know Him

Mark Sirett

Presentation Hymn

Please stand as you are able.

Soon and Very Soon

Andraé Crouch

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

Please stand as you are able.

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

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

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymnal S124

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 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 worshippers: 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. It can be found online at www.bcponline.org

Communion Music

Improvisation on the Day's Hymns

Felix Eisenhauer

An Advent Round of Preparation

Felix Eisenhauer

I
Pre - pare your - self the Lord will come Pre

II
Pre - pare, pre - pare, pre - pare Pre

III
To be a light, a - light_____

IV
Pre-prepare

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.

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**Hosanna to the living Lord!****Hymnal 486**

Please stand as you are able and face the cross.

Dismissal

Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

setting by Robert J. Powell

Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

Prayers of the People from Intercessions for Year C by Geralyn Wolf, Church Publishing

Unless otherwise noted, permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-719533. All rights reserved

Please join us in thanking those serving this week:

Server:	Drew Darby & Kara Craven	Lector:	Tim & Kathy Helms
Chalice:	Miles Sexton	Ushers:	Dan Wakelee & Sally Weimer
Acolyte:	Pippa Darby	Acolyte:	Rosie Dunlevy
Altar Guild:	Louise Bretz & Pam Klebaum	Flower Guild:	Tegan Jones & Sarah Lamola
Cantor:	Reid Edwards	Welcome Greeter:	Joanne Wakelee
Video Production:	Patrick VanHorn	Lock-up Team:	Miles Sexton



Sunday, December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent
Eucharistic Prayer Ministry Training – 11:45 in the Sanctuary

Friday, December 15 – Kid's Shop at St. Paul's 6-8pm

Sunday, December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent
Parish Christmas Party – 11:30am in Kahler Hall
Fair Trade Sales

Monday, December 18
Feeding the Hungry at Family to Family

Saturday, December 23
Greening of the Church – 9am in Sanctuary (childcare available)
Pageant Rehearsal – 11am
Night Before Christmas Eve Service – 7pm in Sanctuary

Sunday, December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent – Kahler Hall 9am – Morning Prayer Service
Christmas Eve
Family Service with Christmas Pageant - 4pm
Carols - 10pm
Candlelight Service - 10:30pm

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

Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 3, 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, James, Pat, 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:

- + Twelve step programs of recovery and healing; especially Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at St. Paul's
- + Our local public and private hospitals, and the health care professionals who serve us
- + 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 Wiaaso*, Ghana
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Temple Beth Torah, the Islamic Center of Oxnard, Ventura Seventh Day Adventist Church*

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
Drew Darby, Seminary Intern
Dr. Felix Eisenhower, Music Minister
Tara Eisenhower, 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 Ventura

St. Paul's Announcements December 3, 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.



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



**and after
church
today...**



First Sunday of Advent

This week we begin the season of Advent, a four-week time of preparation before we celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus at Christmas. Join us as we reflect, pray, and prepare. The Christ-child longs to be born anew in each of us this year. Be with us 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, lifting our prayers and singing our praises. Online, we offer Spiritual Communion. In-person, we offer Eucharist, the body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Come to church and 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.



Want to Help Prepare the Church for Christmas?

You're invited to a meeting today 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 in the sanctuary.



Want to help needy families feel the love of Christ this Christmas?



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SHOPPE TOY COLLECTION – through December 7th

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.



Children's Christmas Shoppe!

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>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>Eucharistic Prayer Ministry is Coming Back! Special Training on Dec. 10th!</p> <p>Eucharistic Prayer Ministry is a special ministry that takes place during the Sunday Eucharist in the Side Chapel and is available for anyone who needs prayer for whatever reason. After a hiatus, this beloved ministry will be starting up again soon, and we will have a special training after church on Sunday, December 10th for anyone who would like to be a Eucharistic Prayer Minister. Please plan on joining us in the church if you are interested, or even if you just want to learn more about this wonderful ministry.</p>
	<p><i>Calling all Worship Ministers...</i></p> <p>Ministry Volunteers Needed for Christmas Eve – 4pm and 10pm Services</p> <p>If you're an acolyte, usher, chalice bearer, reader, or welcome minister, we could use your help for Christmas Eve. Please contact the church office to volunteer. We really appreciate your assistance!</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><i>Calling all Families...</i></p> <p>Family Christmas Pageant – at 4pm Christmas Eve Service</p> <p>We're so excited to invite you and your family to join in the fun again this year! No rehearsals are required and the format will be similar to last year, but there's an optional rehearsal – and it would be great if you could attend, especially the adults with speaking roles. Join us on Saturday, 12/23, from 11:00 to noon, following Greening of the Church. 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! If anyone would like to volunteer for a speaking part, please see Kara or email the church office at: office@saintpaulsventura.org.</p>
	<p><i>Please consider the church this Christmas...</i></p> <p>WISH LIST SUGGESTIONS for End-of-Year Donations</p> <p>Perhaps you can help make a wish come true this Christmas. Gifts and donations may be made at any time, for any purpose, and 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 counters are needed in the 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. We appreciate your support! If you'd like more information, please contact Rev. Susan. Thank you!</p>
 <p>This QR Code takes you straight to our Giving Page</p>	<p><i>"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7</i></p> <p>Thank you for your generosity!</p> <p>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!</p>



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 12/17.

Thank You!



GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Saturday, 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!



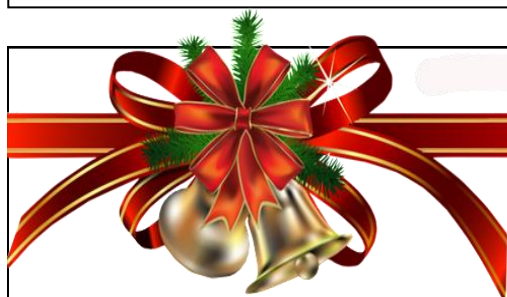
THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE

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.



Christmas Eve at St. Paul's

4:00 p.m. Family Service

This is a friendly service that is especially appropriate for families and children of all ages. It includes a "no rehearsal required" Christmas Pageant. Those who wish to be in the pageant are asked to arrive by 3pm on Christmas Eve for a quick run-through in the Sanctuary then off for costuming and caroling while waiting for the service to begin. Please help us spread the word, because 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.



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, friendly fellowship, and the opportunity to be filled with the true message of Christmas.

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

Sunday Services
online and in-person at 10:15am



*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.*

Saturday 12/23 Greening of the Church at 9am
You're invited to help us transform the church in preparation for
Christmas. It's great fun and many hands make light work.

Night Before Christmas Eve

In-Person Service - Saturday, 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, 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.



Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Family Service

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

It includes a "no rehearsal required" Christmas Pageant.

Those who wish to be in the pageant are asked to arrive by 3pm on Christmas Eve
for a quick run-through in the Sanctuary then off for costuming and caroling
while waiting for the service to begin. Please help us spread the word that all are welcome.

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

In-Person on Monday, December 25

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Join us for this beautiful service with Eucharist and music.

View Online Services at:
www.Facebook.com/saintpaulsventura
www.YouTube.com/stpaulsventura
www.saintpaulsventura.org/live

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 3290 LOMA VISTA ROAD, VENTURA, CA 93004
(805) 643-5033 WWW.SAINTPAULSVENTURA.ORG OFFICE@SAINTPAULSVENTURA.ORG