



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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 worshiping 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 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

Make Straight the Way
Das Marienbild

Colin Curtis
Franz Schubert

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Please remain seated.

Instrumental

Felix Eisenhauer

Celebrant Today we light the first, second and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a special meaning. This first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE and the third candle is JOY.

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

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Hymnal 59

Cantor: Daniel Smithson

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.

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

Please be seated 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 61:1-4, 8-11

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with

the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

Psalm 126

Today we will read Psalm 126. We will read it responsively breaking at the asterisk.

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
 then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
 and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
 "The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
 and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
 like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
 will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
 will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

Gradual Hymn O come, O come, Emmanuel, v. 5-6

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

**O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

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

Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Please remain standing and face the Gospel.

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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.

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

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 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, Anniversaries and Other Special Occasions

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

In Silence We Wait

Words by John Parker, Music by Lloyd Larson

Presentation Hymn

Please stand as you are able.

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Hymnal 265

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 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 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 Anticipation

Felix Eisenhauer

Meditatively

I 
O come, ye, come. O

II 
The Prince of Peace, The

III 
A Mi - ra - cle! A

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 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

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Hymnal 437

Please stand as you are able and face the cross.

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

The Advent of Our God is Nigh

David Lasky

Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

Prayers of the People from Intercessions for Year C by GERALYN WOLF, Church Publishing

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Please join us in thanking those serving this week:

Server:	Drew Darby	Lector:	Judy Gold & Judy Drew
Chalice:	Kara Craven	Ushers:	Eric Craven & Wendy VanHorn
Acolytes:	Cora Shanahan & William Shanahan	Cantor:	Daniel Smithson
Altar Guild:	Grace Dunlevy & Anna Darby	Flower Guild:	Anna Darby, Grace Dunlevy & Kate Shanahan
Welcome Greeter:	Pat Malchak	Video Production:	Woody Bretz
Coffee Hour:	Susan & Jon Bek	Lock-up Team:	Rev. Susan

Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 17, 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, James, Pat, Kathy, Kiyomi, 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 Wiaaso*, Ghana
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *First United Methodist, Trinity Lutheran, Our Lady of the Assumption churches and the Salvation Army*

IN MEMORIAM

Lou Matthews, Thomas Lamasney 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

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St. Paul's Announcements December 17, 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...**



Third Sunday of Advent

This week we gather to worship and praise the Lord on the Third Sunday of Advent. Be with us as we light the first, second, and third candles on our Advent wreath. Each has a special meaning. The first candle is HOPE. The second candle is PEACE. The third candle is JOY. Let's come together as we worship and wait, holding on to the HOPE that Christ has instilled in us, enjoying the PEACE that is beyond understanding and delighting in the JOY that comes as we lift our thanks and praise. 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 our Parish Christmas Party!

Bring your friends and neighbors and join us for a wonderful Sing-Along Christmas Party. Join in the fun singing carols, enjoying hot chocolate, decorating cookies. Invite your friends, all are welcome!



Family to Family

Our next opportunity to serve lunch at Family to Family is tomorrow, December 18th. 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.



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.)



Lots of hands make light work...

Want to Help Prepare the Church for Christmas?

Greening of the Church – Sat. 12/23 9am-Noon

Mark your calendar for the Greening of the Church on Dec. 23rd from 9am – Noon. Bring a friend; it's fun and rewarding! Child care available upon request.

	<p>Book Club – Monday, January 8th at 5:30pm on Zoom</p> <p>The First Monday Book Club is open to all. Our next read is <i>Preparing for Christmas: Daily Reflections for Advent</i> by Richard Rohr. Drawing on selections from his best selling inspirational lecture, <i>Preparing for Christmas</i> with Richard Rohr, this booklet provides daily reflections and prayers for the Advent season, along with each day's Scripture readings and questions for reflection. It's not too late to start! Our next meeting will be held on the second Monday - January 8. Have a lovely Advent and a very merry Christmas. 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><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 sanctuary. 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>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT SERVICE: December 23, One Service Only at 9am</p> <p>Join us in Kahler Hall this morning before the great celebration begins.</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><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>"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!



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.



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.



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

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