



# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

## Baptism of Our Lord

**Rite II, Year A**

**January 7, 2024 at 10:15 a.m.**

**Service offered both in-person and online**



*Online Bulletin*

Using any QR Reader,  
scan this image and it  
will open on your device.

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**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](http://www.StPaulsVentura.org/live), [www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura](http://www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura), [www.Facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura](http://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 our volunteers 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.

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**Today's flowers were given in loving memory of Lou Matthews.**

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

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## Holy Eucharist *Liturgy of the Word*

**Prelude**

Shall We Gather at the River

*arr. Dale Wood*

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

**Entrance Hymn**

**On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry**

**Hymnal 76**

*Cantor: Sophia Cotsis*

**Opening Salutation**

*Book of Common Prayer p. 299*

*Celebrant*  
**People**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**  
There is one Body and one Spirit;  
**There is one hope in God's call to us;**  
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
**One God and Father of all.**

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **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

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm 29

The Psalm appointed for today is Psalm 29. We will read it responsively, breaking at the asterisk.

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, \*

**ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; \*

**worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; \*

**the Lord is upon the mighty waters.**

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \*

**the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \*

**the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*

**and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \*

**the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe \*

**and strips the forests bare.**

9 And in the temple of the Lord \*  
**all are crying, "Glory!"**

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
**the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.**

11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; \*  
**the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

## Second Reading

Acts 19:1-7

A reading from the Book of Acts.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

## Gradual Hymn

**O Love of God, how strong and true**

**Hymnal 455**

## Holy Gospel

**Mark 1:4-11**

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

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

## The Sermon

The Reverend Susan Bek

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## ***The Renewal of Baptismal Vows***

*Please stand as you are able.*

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced evil and promised to serve God.

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?  
*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

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

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic<sup>1</sup> Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?  
**I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
**I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
**I will, with God's help.**

### **Thanksgiving Over the Water**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant pours water into the font.*

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<sup>1</sup> universal; all embracing

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

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Hymn

## There's a sweet, sweet Spirit

L120

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

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.  
There are sweet expressions on each face,  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

**Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove,  
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love.  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
when we shall leave this place.**

## Prayers of the People

*Please stand, sit, or kneel as is your custom.*

*Server*

Let us pray for the church and the world, saying, Lord, have mercy.

Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne. For this we pray to you, O Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lift from all people the burdens of poverty, war and injustice. Break every rod of oppression throughout the earth. For this we pray to you, O Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Guide those who bear the authority of government in this and every land that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. For this we pray to you, O Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Strengthen us to care for the sick, the poor, the imprisoned, and all who suffer. Open our hands and our hearts to embrace all who are in need especially *(The people may add their petitions either silently or aloud.)* For this we pray to you, O Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

We remember before you all whom we love but see no longer, especially...*(the people may add their petitions either silently or aloud)*. Give them peace and eternal rest. For this we pray to you, O Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

*Celebrant*

O God, you revealed your will through prophets and sages. By your Holy Spirit, lead us in faith, inspire us in love and bring us together in peace with all people from every race, nation, tribe, and language. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People**

**And also with you.**

## **Announcements**

**Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries.**

## ***Liturgy of the Table***

### **Offertory Sentence**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Ephesians 5:2*



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

### **Offertory**

Gather by the River

*Susan LaBarr*

### **Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer B

*The people remain standing.*

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

**People**

**And also with you.**

*Celebrant*

Lift up your hearts.

**People**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People**

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin and receive power to become your children.

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**

**Hymnal S125**

*Service music is found at the beginning of the hymnal*

**Holy, holy, holy  
Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please stand or kneel as is your custom.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, Joseph, Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever. **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.**

### **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 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.

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*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.*

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*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](http://www.bcponline.org)*

## Communion Music

Preludes No. 15, Op. 11 and No.3, Op. 13

Alexander Scriabin



## Wade in the Water

*Traditional Spiritual, arr. Carl Haywood*

Wade\_\_\_ in the wa - ter,\_\_\_ wade\_\_\_ in the wa - ter, chil-dren, Wade\_\_\_

\_\_\_ in the wa - ter,\_\_\_ God's a - gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter.---

1. See\_\_\_ that\_\_\_ host all dressed in\_\_\_ white,\_\_\_ God's a gon-na trou-ble the  
 2. See\_\_\_ that\_\_\_ band all dressed in\_\_\_ red,\_\_\_  
 3. Look\_\_\_ o - ver yon - der, what do I see?\_\_\_  
 4. If you don't be-lieve I've been re-re-deemed,

wa - ter,\_\_\_ 1. The lead - er\_\_\_ looks like the Is - ra - elite,\_\_\_  
 2. Looks like\_\_\_ the\_\_\_ band that\_\_\_ Mo - ses led,\_\_\_  
 3. The Ho - ly\_\_\_ Ghost a - com-in on me,\_\_\_  
 4. Just fol - low me down to\_\_\_ Jor - dan's stream,---

God's a - gon - na trou - be the wa - ter.---

## Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Blessing

May Almighty God,  
 who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find Christ,  
 the Light from Light,  
 lead you also, in your pilgrimage to find the Lord this Epiphany Season;  
 And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
 rest upon you and remain with you this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

## Hail to the Lord's Anointed

## Hymnal 616

## Dismissal

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

**Acknowledgements and Copyright Information**

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***Please join us in thanking those serving this week:***

<b>Server:</b>	Kara Craven	<b>Lector:</b>	Tim & Kathy Helms
<b>Chalice:</b>	Miles Sexton	<b>Ushers:</b>	Dan Wakelee & Sally Weimer
<b>Acolytes:</b>		<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Judy Strommen & Bridget Wareham
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Louise Bretz & Pam Klebaum	<b>Flower Guild:</b>	Sarah Lamola & Tegan Jones
<b>Cantor:</b>	Sophia Cotsis	<b>Welcome Greeter:</b>	Joanne Wakelee
<b>Video Production:</b>	Patrick VanHorn	<b>Lock-up Team:</b>	Miles Sexton

# Pizza Night! Family Fundraiser

Benefiting  
**St. Paul's Ventura**

**Where:** Toppers Pizza Place  
1076 E. Front St.  
Ventura  
(805)385•4444 or 495•4444



**When:** Wednesday, January 10, 2024  
3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**What:** Toppers Pizza will donate back 20% of pre-tax sales generated by our group!

**How to Help:** Just follow these steps to help raise funds!

- 1) Bring the whole family to Toppers during the above period for a great pizza!
- 2) Show this flyer to the cashier **when you place your order** (or tell operator for phone orders).
- 3) No coupons or other discounts will be honored in conjunction with this fundraiser.
- 4) No flyers may be handed out in or around the restaurant during the event.
- 5) **ONLINE ORDERS ARE NOT INCLUDED.**



Proud to be part of the community!

## ***Prayer Intentions for the Week of January 7, 2024***

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, Pat, Kathy, all refugees, first responders, 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 and Anna Darby, 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***

For Wes Cullins, Pauli Powers, Lou Matthews, Thomas Lamasney and all those we love and see no longer.

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



## **St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff**

The Rev. Susan Bek, Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting  
Kara Craven, Parish Administrator  
Drew Darby, Seminary Intern  
Dr. Felix Eisenhauer, Music Minister  
Tara Eisenhauer, Choir Director  
Sara Edwards, Organist  
Joseph Wareham, Sexton  
Cassidy Cross, Sunday School Teacher

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

## St. Paul's Announcements January 7, 2024

*Thank you for joining us today! We'll continue to hold you in our prayers.*

*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! [office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)



*Will you strive for justice and respect the dignity of every human being?*

### BAPTISM OF OUR LORD - Sunday, January 7

On this first Sunday after the Epiphany, we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. We'll enjoy a wonderful service that including baptism, renewal of our baptismal vows, inspiring scripture, beautiful music and an uplifting message of hope and love. Thank you for joining us as we offer our prayers and sing joyful 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!

***and after church today...***



### You are Invited to Coffee Hour

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



*Please join us in offering...*

### A GREAT BIG THANK YOU

**To Everyone Who Helped to Make  
Advent and Christmas so beautiful and inspiring!**

*We are especially grateful for the work of the Altar Guild, the Flower Guild, the Men's Group, the Ushers, Sunday School and Welcome Committee as well as all the wonderful volunteers who pitched in and helped. Thank you so much! We are most grateful.*



*The next outreach project we'll take on is...*

### FEEDING OUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

We're raising the funds to purchase the food and paper goods used for when we take our turn once a month at the Family to Family lunch ministry. We serve over one hundred lunches each third Monday of the month. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 to carry us through until Fall. *Donate in person, on the website, use PayPal or send in a check. It all is appreciated!*



## Memorial Services

A service celebrating the life of Lou Matthews  
will be held at St. Paul's on  
Monday, January 8th at 10:30am

A graveside service honoring the life of Wes Cullins  
will be held at Santa Paula Cemetery on  
Monday, January 8th at 2pm

A service celebrating the life of Pauli Powers  
will be held at St. Paul's on  
Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory. And may God bless those who mourn with a sense of peace and delight at the wonderful memories they have to treasure. Amen.*



Our next opportunity to serve lunch at Family to Family is Monday, January 15th. 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](mailto:dan.wakelee@att.net)) if you have questions or want more information.



## Book Club – Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm on Zoom

The First Monday Book Club is open to all. Our next read is *Preparing for Christmas: Daily Reflections for Advent* by Richard Rohr. Drawing on selections from his best selling inspirational lecture, *Preparing for Christmas* 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: 1<sup>st</sup>monday

*Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this very important meeting...*

## Annual Meeting



**Please Join Us**  
**Sun. February**  
**4<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 11:30am**  
**in Kahler Hall**

## Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Parish – Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am

Once a year we gather to do the business of the church. Please mark your calendar and join us. The meeting will be held in Kahler Hall AND also available on Zoom (see below for Zoom information). All members of the church are encouraged to attend. We need enough members in attendance to have a quorum. At this important meeting we will elect new Vestry members and Representatives to Diocesan Convention as well as receive reports from groups and committees and review the finances and budget for the coming year.

**To connect on Zoom: Meeting ID 830 1249 3862**  
**Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83012493862>**

The Parish Rolls have been published and the list of qualified electors is available for your review in the church office upon request. You can also check whether you are listed as a qualified elector by contacting us at 805 643-5033 or [office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)

We are asking that nominations be made in advance for this meeting. For information about how to make a nomination, please see the end of this bulletin or your email newsletter. Thank you!



*Since we walk this journey of faith together...*

**WE'D LIKE TO STAY IN TOUCH – Here are some suggestions:**

Be sure we have accurate contact information for you  
 Check out our website. New things are posted every week. [www.saintpaulsventura.org](http://www.saintpaulsventura.org)  
 Read our weekly E-Newsletter. If you aren't receiving it, please provide your email address in the Guest Book at the Welcome Table or send a note to the office. [office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)  
 Share your prayer requests with us and remember us in your prayers too.  
 Comment, share, like or post on Social Media.

**Website:** [www.saintpaulsventura.org](http://www.saintpaulsventura.org) **Email:** [office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)

**Call:** 805 643-5033 **Facebook:** St. Paul's Ventura **Twitter:** @StPaulsVentura



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 [www.saintpaulsventura.org](http://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 so much!**

## Preparing for the Annual Meeting

**Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am**

**in Kahler Hall and on also available on Zoom**

### **Why have an Annual Meeting?**

To conduct the business of the church.

### **Who needs to attend?**

All members of the church are encouraged to attend. We need enough members in attendance so that we will have a **quorum of 50 members**.

### **What happens at the Annual Meeting?**

We vote for new Vestry members and elect our delegates to Diocesan Convention.

We receive reports from the groups and committees of the church  
and review our finances and the budget for the coming year.

### **Who can Vote at this Meeting?**

Though everyone is encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting, in order to vote, one must be a qualified elector. According to the Constitution and Canons of the Church in the Diocese of Los Angeles, Canon IV 4.04 The following shall be qualified electors: Any person sixteen years of age or over and attendant upon the services of the Parish, who for the previous twelve (12) months have been registered upon the Parish Rolls as a baptized communicant in good standing of that parish;  
the list of qualified electors shall be published by the Vestry  
no less than 30 days prior to any special or annual meeting of the Parish.

The Parish Rolls have been published and the list of qualified electors is available for your review in the church office upon request. You can also check whether you are listed as a qualified elector by contacting us at 805 643-5033 or [office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)

***Please mark it on your calendar and arrange to be with us. Thank you!***





## Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Ventura

Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 11:30am

in Kahler Hall and also on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82593281236>

## Nominations

*Rather than accepting nominations from the floor, we ask you submit nominations in advance.*

*You may nominate yourself or another person.*

*Each nominee must meet the qualifications and be willing to serve.*

### Delegates to Convention

The Diocese of Los Angeles meets in once a year for the Diocesan Convention. Number of delegates is determined by size of the church. St. Paul's gets four delegates. Our clergy also get voice and vote at convention.

Our time together during convention is woven into a context of worship and prayer following a theme. In 2023 that theme was *Love in Action: For Healing, Housing & Hope*. This was a hybrid convention with some delegates attending in-person and others attending online. Over 700 hundred attended in all.

While gathered as the people of God in the Diocese of Los Angeles, we do the work of the church electing officers and representatives to various Diocesan positions and to General Convention. We also hear wonderful speakers and are presented with lots of updates and information about the broader church. To top it all off, there's a great exhibit hall to peruse, lots of interesting people to meet and a great time to be had.

**Diocesan Convention 2024  
will be hosted at the Riverside Convention Center  
on Friday and Saturday, November 9 and 10, 2024.**

**We are looking for nominations for the position of Delegate to Convention.** Each nominee must be a member of the church and be willing to attend convention. Typically, delegates stay in a hotel for one or two nights that weekend at their own cost. Funds are available from the Rector's Discretionary Fund for anyone for whom that presents a financial burden.

### **To make a nomination:**

1. *Be sure the person being nominated (yourself or another) is qualified.*
2. *Be sure the person being nominated (yourself or another) is willing to serve.*
3. *Email the church office to let us know who you're nominating.*

***office@saintpaulsventura.org***

**All Nominations Must be Received  
by 5pm on Sunday, January 21, 2024**

## Vestry

St. Paul's Vestry is made up of 12 members plus the Rector; each member is elected to serve a 3-year term and 4 members of the Vestry retire each year. So, we will be thanking 4 members for their service and electing 4 to replace them.

**Slate of Nominees** - Each year, a Nominating Committee, made up of each of the retiring Vestry Members, the Senior Warden, and the Rector. Together, they recruit qualified members to run for a position on the vestry. That Slate of Nominees is presented for election.

As you can see, we will have a wonderful Slate of Nominees for Vestry Positions and don't need any further volunteers. However, nominations may be submitted by any member of the congregation following the procedure described below.

### Requirements to Serve on the Vestry

- A. **Vestry Members must meet same requirements as qualified electors** – Any person sixteen years of age or over and attendant upon the services of the Parish, who for the previous twelve (12) months shall have been registered upon the parish rolls as a baptized communicant in good standing of that parish
- B. **And be able to carry out the responsibilities of a Vestry Member** – Intend to serve the entire three-year term to which they are elected
  - Be a pledged or regular contributor to the support of the Parish
  - Attend monthly meetings (currently they are on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:30 pm)
  - Attend additional meetings and retreats as needed
  - Attend subcommittee meetings which vary as to day and time
  - Oversee and communicate regularly with the committees you represent to the Vestry.
- C. **Retiring vestry members must wait one year before they can run for the Vestry again unless they were originally called to replace someone and served a term of 2 years or less.**
  - **Paid Staff at St. Paul's and their spouses may not serve on the Vestry** [St. Paul's Bylaws Article IV. Section 2. ...Salaried employees of the corporation and their spouses are deemed ineligible for election to the Vestry.]

### To make a nomination:

1. *Be sure the person being nominated (yourself or another) is qualified.*
2. *Be sure the person being nominated (yourself or another) is willing to serve.*
3. *Call or email the church office to let us know who you're nominating.*

[office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)

805 643-5033

**All Nominations Must be Received  
by 5pm on Sunday, January 21, 2024**





**February 4, 2024**  
**February 11, 2024**

**February 14, 2024**  
**March 24, 2024**  
**March 28, 2024**  
**March 29, 2024**  
**March 31, 2024**

**Annual Meeting – 11:30am**  
**Last Sunday after the Epiphany –**  
**Transfiguration of our Lord**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**Maundy Thursday**  
**Good Friday**  
**Easter Sunday**

And while you have your calendar open,  
please consider adding Sunday mornings at 10:15am.  
We'd love to have you join us as we worship and praise the Lord.