



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
McHenry, IL



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Weekly ePistle ~ December 23, 2020

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A red banner with white snowflakes and the text "Christmas Day Service" in a white cursive font.

*Christmas Day Service*

***Join St. Paul's for our Christmas Day Virtual Service!  
December 25 at 10:00 am***

To join by computer, click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/95490761045>

To participate by phone, dial 312-626-6799 and be prepared to enter the ID below.

Our meeting ID is **954 9076 1045**

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### ***Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities***

#### **St. Mary's in Crystal Lake**

A pre-recorded Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be made available on their [YouTube](#) channel, which may be watched anytime after **3:00 p.m.**

#### **St. Ann's in Woodstock**

4 p.m. Virtual Christmas Eve Mass (on their [YouTube](#) & [Facebook](#) channels)

#### **Episcopal Church / National Cathedral**

Join in the celebration of Christ's birth with virtual worship services from St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City. Services will premiere on The Episcopal Church's [Facebook page](#), as well as the St. Bart's [website](#), and [YouTube channel](#).

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## ***St. Paul's Online Worship for Sunday, December 27th***

Join us at **8:30 am** for Morning Prayer led by Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts. Even if you don't have a computer, you can join by phone!

To join by computer, click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/95751784278>

To participate by phone, dial 312-626-6799 and be prepared to enter the ID below.

Our meeting ID is **957 5178 4278**.

All participants will be muted upon entry to the service. If you are a reader, please be aware that you will have to unmute yourself in order to be heard. You do not necessarily have to have the video enabled if you do not wish to be seen.

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### ***From Deacon Deb***

Friends,

We will not be the first or last to say this year has been a year like no other. We have come through many trials and very little has been the way we would have wanted it. Yet, we have come through. As trying as the year has been, we have surely been blessed by the grace of God. There is so much to be grateful for. We can look forward to the coming year with hope and the expectation of the blessings of God.

*Merry Christmas to All*

*"And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans--and all that lives and moves upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused--and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself."*

*— Sigrid Undset*

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### ***Words from Wardens***

Merry Christmas to you all!

This time of year is one for reflection, rejoicing, and fellowship. While we cannot be together in person, we should recognize through our faith that the Holy Spirit is front and center during the times we are living in today. This week St. Paul's will join billions of Christians around the world on Christmas to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This year, in light of the pandemic, we will be observing safe protocols to ensure the safety of you, our staff, and volunteers. Join us online to celebrate the coming of Christ and this wonderful occasion! We look forward to seeing you and don't forget to invite your family and friends to join us!

Ask yourself, what is the meaning of Christmas in your life? How do you keep the "main thing" in Christmas the main thing? What can we do to bring the spirit of Christ to others in our world?

*"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "move from here to there" and it will move. Nothing is impossible for you."*

*Matthew 17:20*

Prayerfully, Jeffrey Zabor, Junior Warden

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### ***Advent Outreach Ministry***

A big THANK YOU to all who contributed to our outreach ministries! Your giving, along with \$300 from St. Paul's, came to almost \$1200! Food for Thought and 1st Way Life are most grateful for our generosity!

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### ***2020 Pledges - Are you caught up?***

The end of 2020 is approaching soon and now is the time to catch up on balances for 2020. If you're not sure where you are with your 2020 pledges, just call the church office and we can let you know. Statements will go out after December 31.

### ***Speaking of pledges...***

The 2021 pledge envelopes are here and ready to be picked up. If you would like them mailed to you, please let the office know.

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### ***Mark your calendars - Annual Meeting***

Our Annual Meeting will be coming up on January 31st, via Zoom. The annual report will be available as a link for you to see prior to the meeting. We'll be reviewing 2020 and vote in the new vestry members: Heather Dodge, Jeff Lynaugh, and Al Robel.

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### ***January/February issues of the Upper Room are now available!***

Please let the office know if you'd like to stop by and pick one up or if you'd like one mailed to you.

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### ***Presiding Bishop Curry's Christmas Message 2020***

*"Joy to the world! The Lord is come. In your hearts, in your homes, in your lives, prepare him room,"* Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry said in his Christmas Message 2020.

The recording of the Presiding Bishop's message is available by clicking [here](#).

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**St. Paul's Prayer List**  
**Week of December 27 - January 2**

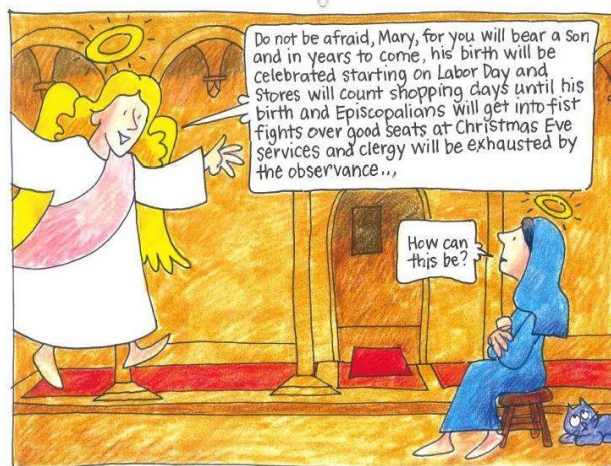
Please keep those on our prayer list in your thoughts during this time. If you wish to add to the list, please contact the church office.

**Ongoing prayers:** Yasmin, Kay, Edna, Amy, Tim, Marty, Barb, Marianne, Jim, Lucy, Vic, and Eleanor

**Current prayers:** Jenn, Stacy, Jeff, Keith, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Shirley-Patricia, Sheila, Colton, Shannon, Terry, Isabella, Sophia, Joy, Christine, Jeff, Todd, Justine, Frank, and June

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Michael Bell (Dec. 28)

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*Cartoon by Rev. Jay Sidebotham*

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**Questions or concerns?**

Please contact our Wardens - Beth Lukas (Senior Warden)  
or Jeffrey Zabor (Junior Warden).

**In need of pastoral care?**

Please contact Deborah Lang, our Deacon: [DeaconDeb@stpaulmchenry.com](mailto:DeaconDeb@stpaulmchenry.com)

**Office Hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
8:30 am - 1:30 pm

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Fax - 815-385-3936  
St. Paul's Email - [stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net)

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