



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ December 9, 2020

St. Paul's Online Worship Opportunity for December 13th

At this time, we cannot meet in person, but we can still meet virtually! We will be hosting our third service via Zoom this Sunday! 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.

We hope you will be able to join us (virtually!) for this third Sunday in Advent!

From Deacon Deb

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is taken from the Gospel of John. The priests and Levites have come to John the Baptist to discover who this man, to whom the crowds are flocking, might be. They ask him "Who are you?" John denies being anyone of importance. He is not the Messiah; he is not a great prophet. He says, "I am the voice..." John claims no identity apart from the will of God. John then tells them "Among you stands one whom you do not know." *John 1:26b*

This reading is all about identity. Who are we? Who is Jesus?

These are deeply important questions; it may be a mistake to think we know the answers. One drawback of familiarity with church and scripture is that we can fall into the malaise of hearing it all before; we know how the story goes and ends. This is literally a spiritual dead end. Do we really know Jesus? We know of him and we know about him but

is this enough? I believe that one of the great tasks of Advent is to stop us in our tracks and confront us with the truth that among us stands one whom we do *not* know.

By the grace of God, this truth is not cause for dismay. The good news is Jesus IS *among us*. Jesus is ever among us with a heart flung wide open to receive and love us. Jesus stands among us, ever present, just waiting to be known. The invitation to know our Lord Jesus is always always there. All we need do is let go of all that we think we know, make time each day to sit in silence and welcome Jesus with our hearts flung wide open.

In Christ,
Deacon Deborah

Words from Wardens

Good day to all!

I hope you have taken the opportunity to worship with us virtually, although it isn't the same as being in person, the Holy Spirit is present. Remember if you don't have a computer you can call in by telephone and still attend the service.

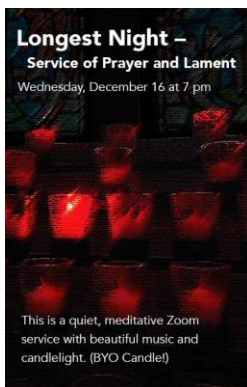
Recently you should have received a letter asking for a donation toward St. Paul's adopted ministries. This is in lieu of physical items typically placed in our advent baskets. The donations collected will go toward our Advent outreach. Please be generous as we reach out to those in need this holiday season. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

I wanted to echo words from Beth spoken many weeks ago to remind everyone that while it might not always be apparent, the Diocese has been a tremendous support to us, and as we walk this new path right now, they are with us. Andrea Mysen, who has been our liaison to the Diocese, is in contact with the Vestry and wardens assisting us in finalizing all aspects of our recent transition. Deb, Beth, and I are also in contact with Courtney Reid, who is the Director of Operations for the Diocese, regarding the Columbarium.

Stay safe and warm!

Prayerfully,

Jeff Zabor, Junior Warden



The Rev. Anne B Jolly, Rector at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Deerfield, has invited us to a special Zoom Advent prayer service. To join, please see the information below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82343361815?pwd=aDNwbDJZMjN1QzJ6WU5GSXIxVUIxQT09>

Meeting ID: 823 4336 1815

Passcode: 551239

One tap mobile 1-312-626-6799



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](#).

Advent Giving

One of St. Paul's most beloved traditions has been our Advent tradition of filling Moses Baskets. While so much has changed with the way we do things today, we have not lost sight of Outreach and the impact it makes on our community, especially in these times of great need.

We will not be able to fill our Moses Baskets and Food for Thought shopping cart in person, but our Advent Outreach **will** go on! Instead of filling our baskets with clothing and food, we have decided to ask for monetary contributions which will, in turn, be donated to First Way Pregnancy and District 155. A letter has been sent giving you the option to donate to these St. Paul's adopted ministries. Please be generous as we reach out to those in our community who are in need during this holiday season.

Advent Resources

Episcopal Relief & Development Advent Toolkit

This year Episcopal Relief & Development offers new Advent resources from **ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE** along with the **2020 Gifts for Life Advent Calendar** and **Christmas catalog**.

Preaching Palestine on the First Sunday of Advent

The Peace and Justice Committee of the Diocese of Chicago invites congregations to answer the call of **Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)** to teach and preach Palestine this year on the First Sunday in Advent. **Learn more.**

Prophetic Voices: Preaching and Teaching Beloved Community Podcast

Prophetic Voices: Preaching and Teaching Beloved Community explores readings for each week of Advent and Christmas Day through the lens of social justice.

Waiting with Expectation and Hope Playlist

Download an **Advent playlist** curated by the **Lifelong Learning team** at Virginia Theological Seminary.

St. Paul's Prayer List
Week of December 13 - December 19

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, and Terry



Cartoon by Rev. Jay Sidebotham

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

Office Hours

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

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Phone Number - 815-385-0390
Fax - 815-385-3936
St. Paul's Email - stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net

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