



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ February 24, 2021

St. Paul's At Home Worship for Sunday, February 28th

Join us at **8:30 am** for Morning Prayer led by the 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. You do not necessarily have to have the video enabled if you do not wish to be seen.

From Deacon Deb

Each of our readings this Sunday speak to the subject of Faith. The Old Testament and the Epistle tell us the story of old Abraham and God's promise to make him the father of nations. Abraham's righteous faith gave him the wisdom to see far beyond appearances. He did not consider himself, his own limitations, but rather looked only to God for whom there are no limitations. Abraham trusted in God and God alone.

In the gospel reading, Jesus rebukes Peter with the words, "You are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Jesus goes so far as to liken Peter's lack of faith as evil. Unlike Abraham, Peter considered only himself and his limited insight. He thought in human terms and left no room for God.

Jesus tells us that to follow him we must have the faith to deny ourselves. We must deny, let go, our limited view, abilities, and opinions. When we feel overwhelmed, anxious or frightened, it is surely because we are relying on ourselves. When we trust, as Abraham did, the one who calls into existence things that do not exist, the burden is lifted and there is no room for fear.

Faith is not a sometimes thing; something we turn to on Sunday mornings or when things go wrong. Faith is a way of life. Every day, sometimes every moment, we must ask ourselves, who do I trust? What do I have faith in right now? Everything depends upon our answer.

Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing upset you. Everything changes. God alone is unchanging. With patience all things are possible. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone is enough. Saint Teresa of Avila

In Christ,
Deacon Deborah



Living Well Through Lent 2021
A Personal Devotional and Lenten Program

Listening With All Your
Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

Soul Wrestling

by Dawna Wall

The Wilderness holds answers to more questions than we have yet learned to ask.

—Nancy Wynne Newhall

It is often unsettling to realize anew that the distance from joy in our wrestling places we might ask for a sign, a promise, some hint that the anguish of this present moment is not all there is. Mark's Gospel shrinks the story of Jesus' wilderness time to a few sentences, but between the lines there is a world of experience.

As there is with ours too. "It's a long story," we might say, without telling it. That's where Jesus is—coming to terms with the hunger of body, mind, and spirit and, as he wrestles, reciting to himself the promises of Scripture that he knows by heart. All while listening deeply to what God is revealing to him in the wilderness.

As we seek to live well through Lent, we too will need to confront our wilderness places—wrestling again and again with the insecurities, the frustrations, the hungers that leave us feeling less than and not enough. Like Jesus we listen and watch for signs, in glimpses of rainbows, in refrains of Psalms—words and images to help us remember the way from despair to hope.

Poet and theologian, Pádraig Ó Tuama writes, "To engage with the text this way requires careful and heartfelt reading, noticing the nooks and crannies where the imagination can lodge, paying attention to the curiosities that emerge and creating a stopping-point there" (Daily Prayer with the Corrymeala Community, p. 61).

Honoring the stopping points, the rest areas, and the lookouts are all opportunities to assess where we are on our faith journeys. How we live well in the midst of deep sorrow and unexpected joy. Making space where our "imagination can lodge" and engaging in

curiosity as we look around and listen for where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going, are all ways that we honor those angular parts of our stories, the wrestling and the resolution.

The Ven. Dr. Dawna Wall is priest at St. Michael and All Angels' Anglican Church in the Diocese of Islands and Inlets in British Columbia, Canada, and an adjunct professor at Vancouver School of Theology. She loves helping people connect to God, one another, and their gifts in vibrant and diverse ways. Dawna learns, grows, and prays with her husband, Ron, their two daughters, and a playful whippet who keeps them on their toes.

For daily reflections to follow up on this article [click here](#)

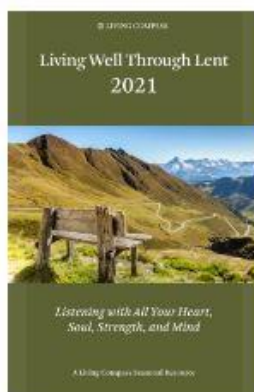
Submitted by Beth Lukas, Senior Warden

St. Paul's Online Giving

We are now able to take electronic payments via our website! Pledges and other donations can be made through PayPal or with a debit or credit card. Non-pledge donations can be directed to "Outreach", "Food Ministry", or any other designation that you'd like. The GIVE TODAY button is right on the home screen. Questions? Just call the office for more information.



Living Well Lenten Devotional Resources



Lent begins today, and the Living Well Through Lent 2021 resources are now available on the **Living Compass website**. There you will also find the annual Lenten Devotional, which you may download at no cost. (An e-book version is available through Amazon for 99 cents, or free if you have a Kindle Unlimited membership.) You may also sign up to receive daily readings via email, join the Facebook discussion group, and access all past daily readings.

St. Paul's has also downloaded a copy and we would be happy to **email** one to you. Just let the office know.

Servants for Sunday, February 28th

Reader – Jim Lukas
Intercessor – Barb Moriarty
Cantor - Judy Robel

Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Information

The McHenry County Department of Health has opened a call center to enroll residents without internet access, for the COVID-19 vaccine, and to streamline residents' access to accurate information. You can reach the call center between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 815-334-4045.

MCDH has also launched a COVID-19 **vaccine locator page** to help residents become aware of vaccine opportunities in McHenry County. The State of Illinois is also partnering with retail pharmacies such as Walgreens and Jewel-Osco, to provide COVID-19 vaccinations. Information about where and how to schedule an appointment with these pharmacies is available at **coronavirus.Illinois.gov**.

Regional hospitals are inviting patients who are 65 and older to receive the vaccine. Please look for these direct communications from your healthcare provider's health system about the option to receive the vaccine at their clinics.

St. Paul's Prayer List

Week of February 28 - March 6

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, Eleanor, and Erin

Current prayers: Jenn, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Shirley-Patricia, Colton, Shannon, Frank, June, Doris, Peter, Terry, Samantha, Debbie, and Shawn



Questions or concerns?

Please contact our Senior Warden - Beth Lukas: Gramlukas2@gmail.com

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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Contact us

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

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