



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



February 15, 2023

**Sunday Worship with St. Paul's
In-person and on Zoom
10:30 am**

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/98034316249>

Meeting ID: 980 3431 6249
To dial in: 312-626-6799

Coffee and Conversation

Beginning with the first Sunday in Lent, **February 26**, we will resume an old custom of St. Paul's commonly known as Coffee and Conversation. We will use our coffee time together to discuss the lectionary readings for that Sunday. Each week, as we bring our insights, thoughts, and questions to the table, we will go deeper into what the readings have to offer. No worries! No prior theological study is required. God speaks to us all.



Last Friday, Kathy Biggerstaff and I had the opportunity to attend a breakfast at MCC that was held to recognize the MCC scholarship donors and recipients for the 2022-2023 school year. As a bonus, we were seated at a table with one of St. Paul's First Generation

Scholarship recipients, Ciara. Ciara is a lovely young lady who is attending her final semester at MCC. At the start of her college journey, she was uncertain as to what she wanted to do, but has now decided to pursue a career in textiles and design. Without the benefit of our scholarship, Ciara might not have been able to attend college at all. It was very humbling to hear so many stories from her, other students, and from the McHenry County College Scholarship Foundation as to how these scholarships change lives. All of us at St. Paul's can be very proud of our commitment to education, especially for our First Generation students who might not otherwise have the means to pursue a college degree. Once again, we might be small, but we are mighty and we truly make a difference!

Beth Lukas, Senior Warden



For all the Saints

Friends, starting with this edition of our Epistle, I would like to bring to our attention a saint that is remembered during the week. As a rule, we hardly ever talk about those who have gone before who hold the designation of “saint”. We tend to think of them as quite other worldly or belonging to another time and place. The fact is, saints were those among us who knew the great love of God and how far they were from perfection. They lived with courage, facing the complexities of life with purpose. Purpose, not perfection, was their hallmark. Many saints were failures in the eyes of the world. What made them saints was their love and faithfulness.

February 13 – Blessed Absalom Jones (1746-1818)

- Born into slavery in Sussex, Delaware.
- Taught himself to read and write; and with the permission of his owner, attended a Quaker school.
- He married a slave woman named Mary and bought her freedom in 1768.
- He bought his own freedom in 1784 after several failed attempts.
- During the Revolutionary War became a lay preacher at St. George’s Methodist Church.
- In 1787 founded the Free African Society to support woman and children in need.
- After the Methodist church separated from the Anglican Church, St. Thomas Episcopal Church became the first black church in America.
- Was ordained in 1802 although the Diocesan Convention ruled that neither Jones or lay representatives of St. Thomas Church would be allowed to participate in the convention.
- Parish records show a total of 246 members at its organization and grew to 427 within a year. During 23 years as rector, Jones baptized 1195 people.
- He was greatly loved by his people and affectionately called “the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church.”
- Died peacefully in his home in 1818 at the age of 71.

Deacon Deborah Lang

Lent / Holy Week Information

Compline – On Tuesday nights in Lent, please join St. Mary’s for Compline. Compline is descended from the night prayers said before bed at the end of the monastic round of daily prayer. During this beautiful nightly prayer service, we thank God for the gifts of the day and ask for God's protection during the night to come. Compline will last around 10 to 15 minutes *Details: Tuesday nights (beginning February 28), 8:00 pm on Zoom. Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85315442428>, phone number: 1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 853 1544 2428*

Midweek Mass (Rite 1) at St. Mary’s Crystal Lake starting March 1

On Wednesdays in Lent, take time out of your day to celebrate Holy Eucharist. This service will be a simple, spoken service using traditional language (also known as Rite 1). The service will begin promptly at noon and will last around 30 minutes. This is an excellent, simple Lenten discipline to help you pause midweek and remember God's work in your life. This service is a good way to experience a new type of Eucharist if you've never heard a traditional language Mass, or to revisit the traditional-language Eucharists of earlier years if you are a long-time Episcopalian. *Details: Wednesdays (beginning March 1), noon, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Crystal Lake.*

Simple Supper and Stations of the Cross at St. Ann’s, Woodstock, starting March 2

On Thursdays in Lent join us for a simple supper (usually salad and soup) at 6 pm, followed by Stations of the Cross at 6:30. Stations will end by 7. You can come for supper and stay for stations, or just come for one of the two. Over the course of Lent we will use traditional Stations of the Cross, but will also pray using some variations of the traditional stations, so try coming for several weeks in a row! This ancient practice has a way of working on your soul, and is a meaningful Lenten discipline. *Details: Thursdays (beginning March 2), 6 pm, St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Woodstock*

Maundy Thursday, April 6

St. Ann’s, Woodstock
Agape Meal 6:00 pm, Service 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 7

Stations of the Cross and Good Friday Liturgy
St. Paul’s, 12:00 pm

Good Friday Service at FUMC, 7:00 pm

Stations of the Cross and Good Friday Liturgy
St. Mary’s, Crystal Lake at 6:30 pm

Saturday, April 8

Easter Vigil at St. Ann’s, Woodstock, 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday at St. Paul’s

10:30 am



St. Paul's Annual Meeting and Potluck February 5, 2023

Thank you to everyone for attending the Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch last Sunday. It was so good to be able to gather and share a meal together! A special thank you to you, Jeff, for making your fabulous chili. Thanks to everyone else for the great side dishes and desserts. Everything was delicious!

Once again, as we reviewed the past year, I am so amazed at all that our small parish has accomplished and all of the people we have touched. As we work together to discern our next steps, I am encouraged by all of you and your commitment to St. Paul's.

I asked everyone to think about how they would answer the question: What are you looking for? As you reflect on this question, I would also ask each of you to ask how you can help St. Paul's accomplish our future path. We have proven that once we set our minds to doing something, there is nothing that we can't do with God's help!

Beth

If you were unable to attend and would like to check out the annual report, please [click here](#).

Ash Wednesday is next week!

St. Paul's Ash Wednesday service will be Wednesday, February 22 at 11:00 am. Please join us!

Living Well through Lent

There are a few Lenten devotionals left and are available in the basket with Sunday bulletins.

Upper Room

The March/April Upper Room Devotionals are also available, either in the basket or on the table in the Narthex. Large print editions are on the table as well.

On St. Paul's Calendar

February 22 - Ash Wednesday, 11:00 am
Sunday, February 26 - Vestry Meeting on Zoom
Thursday, March 2 - Ladies Lunch, 11:30 am
Sunday, April 2 - Troop 131 Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction

St. Paul's Prayer List

Week of February 19 - 25

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, and Jerry

Current prayers: Rory, Bonnie, Jane, Jimmy, Cindy, Todd, Justine, Bobbi, and Glenn

For our MCC scholarship recipients: Ashley, Ciara, Julia, Yaksi, and Gavin

For those celebrating birthdays: Kathy Biggerstaff (Feb 22)

Questions or concerns?

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

In need of pastoral care?

Please contact Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts: shanleyroberts@gmail.com

or

Deborah Lang, our Deacon: DeaconDeb@stpaulmchenry.com

Office Hours

Tuesday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Thursday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

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