



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Sacred Space for Your Busy Life

Sunday, December 20, 2015, the Fourth Sunday in Advent

We especially welcome visitors and newcomers today. Please fill out the newcomer card in the pew and place it in the collection plate or give it to a member of the clergy. Following the service, the clergy will be standing near the doors to greet you. We encourage you to join us for coffee hour in Duncan Hall. For more information about St. Paul's, please visit www.StPaulsSanRafael.org or call our office at 415.456.4842.

At St. Paul's we are all called to follow Jesus together in worship, prayer and service.

WORSHIP

The service begins on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP)

Prelude	Prelude	Modeste Moussorgsky
Opening Hymn	267	Hymnal
Kyrie	S-86 <i>(Service music found in front of hymnal)</i>	Hymnal
Psalm	80:1-7	BCP p. 702
Gradual	S-247	Hymnal
Prayers of the People	Form VI	BCP p. 392
Offertory Anthem	Missus est angelus	Juan Frances de Iribarren

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome to receive initiation into the church through the sacrament of baptism.

Eucharistic Prayer B		BCP p. 367
Sanctus	S-124	Hymnal
Fraction Anthem	S-161	Hymnal
Communion Hymns	266, 265	Hymnal
Closing Hymn	67	Hymnal
Postlude	Promenade	Modeste Moussorgsky

The Altar Flowers are given by Wanda Rice to the glory of God
and in loving memory of her husband, Robert Rice.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas on Death Row. St. Paul's Death Row Ministry is in contact with seven inmates, many of whom have been "on the row" for more than 25 years and have very limited contact with the outside world. In 2014 a number of church members sent Christmas cards to some of these men and each of those receiving these holiday greetings were deeply moved and extremely grateful. Once again, the congregation is invited to send Christmas cards to one or more of the "San Quentin Seven." If you are feel called to participate in this aspect of St. Paul's ministry, feel free to use the church as your return address as follows: Name, c/o Christopher Martin, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1123 Court Street, San Rafael, CA, 94901.

Young Moms Marin Christmas. An annual tradition is to support the women and children of Young Moms Marin by purchasing gift cards which are then distributed to the appropriate families. Please see the box in Duncan Hall. In addition, on the table in the vestibule is a lovely letter by Teresa, the leader, summarizing the way many lives have changed for the better thanks to this critical ministry.

O Antiphons. In each of the six Sundays leading up to Christmas we say a different O Antiphon. O Antiphons are based on verses from the Old Testament book of Isaiah that foreshadow Jesus. They may be familiar to you from the hymn 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel.'

Children's Choir. We're starting a children's choir with a first musical offering to be in December. Rehearsals are Friday afternoon and Sunday. Contact Alison Blume at alisonblume@comcast.net.

Vinnie's in desperate need of Turkeys and Hams for the holidays. The St. Vincent dePaul Free Dining Room does Jesus' work of feeding the hungry in Marin, and this year, their donations of turkeys and hams are way down this holiday season compared to previous years. Please help if you can by donating a turkey or ham. Food donations can be dropped off at the dining room, 820 B St. between 2nd and 3rd, from 6:30AM and 2:00PM any day of the week. Or, you may send a monetary donation to: St. Vincent dePaul Society of Marin County, P.O. Box 150527, San Rafael, CA 94915 or go to vinnies.org and click "Donate." Thank you!

Your Next Spiritual Step? There are seven weekly or biweekly ways you can learn, pray and grow spiritually at St. Paul's beyond weekly worship and regular service of the poor:

- Sunday Forum every week from 9:00am to 9:40am. We're currently exploring the nature of our souls.
- Morning Prayer every Tuesday at 7:30am.
- Bible Studies on Tuesdays (12:30pm), Wednesdays (10am) and, starting after the beginning of the year, on Thursday evenings (6:15pm).
- Christian meditation on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month at 7pm.
- Discipleship Groups, which are small groups with a longer term commitment focused on spiritual maturity and loving community with the poor.

Talk to Christopher to find out more about any of these.

SERVING TODAY

Preacher & Celebrant:	The Rev. Christopher Martin
Choirmaster/Organist:	Michael Struck
Acolytes:	Michael Green, Eric Guastavino, Chris Olson
Readers:	Michael Green, Eric Guastavino, Judy Rowcliffe
Altar Guild:	Katie Taggart, Joy Moss, Al Petrie, Steve Avanzino, Pamela Barnes
Hospitality:	Katie Taggart, Alice and Bob King

CHRISTOPHER'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

In the weeks ahead St. Paul's offers a rich array of experiences to help you follow Jesus in prayer, worship and service.

- This Sunday is the debut of **our new Children's Choir**. They've been practicing every Friday afternoon and will even practice twice this week to prepare. Come and rejoice in this new ministry!
- We offer two invitations to Christmas Generosity.

One is to purchase a **gift card** from a place like Target for the women and children of **Young Moms Marin**. Bring it in and place it in the basket in Duncan Hall. It will be distributed to those most in need. There is a beautiful short letter by Teresa, the leader of YMM, describing many of the wonderful transitions these little families have experienced during the 4 years we've been hosting them. Pick one up at the table in the vestibule or email me and I'll send it to you.

The other is to write a Christmas card to each of our **'North Seg Seven,'** our seven Christian brothers on San Quentin's Death Row. We did this for the first time last year and it was surprising how deeply touched each one of them was. Yesterday, a remarkable thing happened. As you may know, three of our seven are on the south side of North Seg and four are on the north side. This means they very rarely have even the possibility of all seven gathering. Yesterday, a razor went missing so all 68 people on North Seg were together while all the cells were searched. Joseph, the man we've been visiting for nearly 20 years, reported that all seven of our brothers peacefully gathered together and talked of their shared appreciation of what we do. God is good!

- Our SPRIF III campaign is now at \$180,000! We're getting close. Plus, today we have two surveyors coming to survey our courtyard, which is the first necessary step to replacing our concrete mess with a courtyard that's safe, accessible and beautiful- The Rev. Hugh Hardin Courtyard. We hope to have the new courtyard in place by the end of the summer. Please keep your generous gifts coming!
- Our Christmas Service times are the same as always: 5pm Family Service, 10:30pm Solemn Eucharist preceded by music and 10am Eucharist followed by a pot luck feast in Duncan Hall hosted by my family.

While I have your attention, three more things...

- Make your New Years resolution a deeper commitment to the life of prayer with scripture. We have 7 weekly or bi-weekly ways to support you. Three new ones are:

The Forum meets every Sunday from 9:00 to 9:40. We are playing together with the ancient understanding of spiritual growth as like a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

A Newcomer class will begin on Sunday, January 3rd in the Upper Room and will continue as long as there's interest.

A new Bible Study will start on Thursday, January 7th at 6:15pm. We begin with an overview of the Bible and tips on how to read it. We will then start moving through the rich, poetical and short books of the 12 minor prophets.

- The Priests in charge of all 12 of Marin's Episcopal Churches, after months of careful and prayerful conversation, have created three short statements of common ministry. They have to do with God's word in times of change, our deep roots in Jesus and our common love of the poor. You'll be hearing more in the new year. In the meantime, they're posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule.
- Finally, please keep in mind two things. On Sunday, February 7th, Superbowl Sunday, we have our Annual Meeting. Finally, keep your eye out for another Open House at our home in San Anselmo.

Blessings,
Christopher

PRAYER

Alice	Gerry O	Kevin, Yvonne & Kendrick	Robyne Talley
Charlotte & Peter	Helenclare Cox	Lisa Rose	Sally Ettling
Chloe H	Holly Pritchard	Lokita	San Bernardino victims
Craig Family	Jay Taggart	Mika Kappen & Family	and town
Dan Pollart & Family	Jennifer Fritz	Monique Unger & Family	Stephen Topol
Felicia Demann	Jim & Jane Passman	Norman Rosenstein	Syrian Refugees
Fire Victims	Jonathan B	People of Paris	Walter Dods
Gael Shumway	Jonathan Smith	Rachel Wilde	
Gary Pennington	Kathy G	Rainie Joses	

SERVICE

Teen Success Breakfast: Serve hot breakfast to at-risk youth. Contact Beverly Armstrong at 415.454.4015 or nevbev@sbcglobal.net.

San Rafael Health Care: Services 1st and 3rd Sundays, 11:00 – 11:25. Help us with the simple service. Children are welcome. Contact Sue Adamson at 415.461.1798.

Prison Ministry: St. Paul's has been engaged in regular visitations and correspondence for 17 years with Joseph Cook, a death row inmate at San Quentin who was confirmed by Bishop Swing as a member of our Church. The prison ministry has grown and the rector and four other parishioners are now visiting Joe and three other inmates. In the coming weeks there will be more information about this growing ministry, including opportunities for everyone to be involved in an action heralded by Christ in Matthew 25:36: "I was in prison and you came to visit me." Are you being called to this ministry, perhaps by corresponding with one of the four inmates we've been visiting? For further info contact Richard Olive (415.259.9198 or ollipops@comcast.net).

Young Moms Marin: On Fridays, St. Paul's is now hosting Young Moms Marin, a group for mostly teen moms and their children led by our friend Teresa Ashby. The group meets from 3pm to 5:30pm in Duncan Hall. Contact Carolyn Eitel at 415.214.2560 or ceitel@mvmgmt.com.

ONGOING

Plate Cash: 1st Sunday of the month goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund; 3rd Sunday goes to Outreach.

Childcare: Sundays from 9:30 to 11:00am, childcare is available in the Basement Level classroom.

Marin Episcopal Youth Group: Sundays from 5-6:30pm at Church of the Nativity in San Rafael. Middle and high school students from 5 Marin churches. Daniel London, youth minister, daniel.london@gmail.com.

Centering Prayer: Meditation in the Christian tradition. Join us in Duncan Hall on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 7:00-8:30 pm. Leave a message for Chris Olson at the parish office at 415.456.4842.

Our Spiritual Core: Discipleship Groups are the spiritual core of St. Paul's because they are where we encourage one another to follow Jesus in worship, prayer, and service. Contact Judy Rowcliffe at 415.606.4355 or jlrowcliffe@comcast.net.

Altar Flower Dedications: Looking for a way to honor a loved one, give thanks or remember a special occasion? You can by dedicating the flowers at the altar. A donation of \$40 is suggested. Contact Alex Elliot at 415.488.7930.

Memorial Wall Plaques: Contact the office if you would like to purchase a plaque to be inscribed with the name of a loved one who has died.

St. Anne's Guild: St. Anne's Guild meets Thursdays at 11:00am. All are invited - bring a bag lunch.

Facebook & Twitter. Please like and follow us to join the fun!

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulssanrafael>, <https://twitter.com/StPaulsSR>