



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Sacred Space for Your Busy Life

Sunday, December 17, 2017, the Third 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 prayer, worship, and service.

WORSHIP

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

Prelude	Trio	J. S. Bach
Opening Hymn	59	Hymnal
Kyrie	S-86	Hymnal
Psalm	126	BCP p. 782
Gradual	S-247	Hymnal
Te Deum	S-286	Hymnal
Prayers of the People	Form VI	BCP p. 392
Offertory Anthem	Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies Sake	Richard Farrant
Doxology	<i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen</i>	

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	73, 72	Hymnal
Closing Hymn	75	Hymnal
Postlude	Concerto	G. F. Handel

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

O Antiphons continue. These short, ancient prayers, which are texts from Isaiah that foreshadow Jesus, mark the Sundays leading up to Christmas. Today we recognize Jesus as the key that unlocks our prisons.

Christmas Flowers. The beauty of our Church at Christmas time is legendary! But only if you help. If you would like to have flowers given in memory of someone you love, please contact Alex Elliot at isaiah24257@gmail.com or call him at 415 488 7930. There is no specific dollar amount required for the flowers. If paying by check, please either send your check by mail or bring it in on a Sunday and put in the offering plate. Please specifically note what it is for and have all Christmas Flower donations in by today.

Christmas Cards to Death Row. Addresses and Christmas Cards are available in Duncan Hall to create cards to send to the men we are in relationship with in Death Row.

Christmas Caroling at San Rafael Healthcare. This Sunday, after the 10am service all are invited to come sing carols a few blocks away at this convalescent home. This is an annual tradition.

Matching Fund. We are \$7,725 towards matching a \$10,000 gift that enables us to completely pay for the additional work on the Hardin Courtyard. Please give before the end of the year and help us meet our goal!

Greeting Cards. We have created high quality greeting cards with a warm and beautiful image of the inside of our church, perfect for Christmas. They sell for \$20 for a pack of 8 and are available in Duncan Hall.

The Annual Stewardship Campaign has begun. Please fill out a pledge card with the amount of money you plan to give St. Paul's in 2018 so we can create an accurate budget. Cards can be found in the pews.

Sunday Spiritual Forum is at 9:00 am in Duncan Hall. We are reading aloud poems by George Herbert and John Donne, two seventeenth century English Christian poets.

SERVING TODAY

Preacher & Celebrant:	The Rev. Christopher Martin
Choirmaster/Organist:	Michael Struck
Acolytes:	Michael Green, Eric Guastavino, Pamela Barnes
Readers:	Michael Green, Eric Guastavino, John Dury
Altar Guild:	Michael Green, Judy Rowcliffe, Joy Moss, Al Petrie, Pamela Barnes

CHRISTOPHER'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

HELPING THE POOR

Helping the poor is a year round value at St. Paul's. Our mission statement is "Following Jesus together in prayer, worship and service." By service we mean serving the least among us in a spirit of friendship.

In this Advent season, there are two ways we invite you to help the poor:

- **Caroling at San Rafael Health Care.** This Sunday, after the 10am service, we will head over a few blocks to the San Rafael Health Care Center and sing Christmas Carols. A bi-weekly service we lead there is one of our five main Outreach opportunities through the year. Our children have been learning carols and will be leading us. They learned Little Drummer Boy this past Sunday.

- **Christmas Cards to Death Row.** We started this tradition three years ago and the men were just blown away. Several said they had never received so many cards in their whole life. There's a station in Duncan Hall with cards and addresses. Or you can email me at c.h.mrtn@gmail.com and I'll send you their addresses and brief description of each of the nine men we visit.

Two final notes. First, we have gorgeous cards with a lush picture of the inside of our church. Packs of 8 are available for \$20.

Second, Christmas Eve is on a Sunday. This means that we will only have one Sunday morning service that day, at 8am.

The evening services are at 5pm and 11pm. Children are welcome at 4:30pm to help decorate the creche scene. All are welcome at 10:30pm for a choir concert before the later service.

Christmas Day the service is at 10am followed by the pot luck feast. Chloe and I always host in Duncan Hall.

Blessings,
Christopher

PRAYER

Alex	Dawn Rice	Kevin & Tara	Mark Hardin
Arty	Della Holloway	Laurel	Mika Kappen & Family
Bill Donnelly	Grace Michael	Laurie Hubbard	Nancy S
Cathy Westover	Jennifer Fritz	Lisa R	Richard F
Dan Pollart & Family	Jim	Marcella Hermstad	Stephanie

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 20 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 other parishioners are now visiting Joe and six other inmates. For further info contact Richard Olive (415.259.9198 or ollipops@comcast.net).

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 Redeemer 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 Christopher Martin at 415.456.4842 or cmartin@stpaulssanrafael.org.

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>