



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Sacred Space for Your Busy Life

Sunday, December 23, 2018, 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	Prepare Thyself, Zion	J. S. Bach
Opening Hymn	56	Hymnal
Kyrie	S-91 <i>(Service music found in front of hymnal)</i>	Hymnal
Canticle 15	The Song of Mary	BCP p. 91
Gradual	S-247	Hymnal
Prayers of the People	Form VI	BCP p. 392
Offertory Hymn	68	Hymnal
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. If you would like to receive a blessing, cross your arms across your chest when you are at the altar rail. 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-114	Hymnal
Fraction Anthem	S-158	Hymnal
Closing Hymn	66	Hymnal
Postlude	Hold Now Forever this Blessing	J. S. Bach

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 Morning Star.

Living Buddha, Living Christ. Peace, love, compassion and mindfulness are some of the themes we're exploring in a book discussion of the classic bestseller by Vietnamese poet, Zen master and mystic, Thích Nhất Hạnh. All are invited to join us in the Upper Room of Duncan Hall, Sundays between 11:30 and 12:30 as we seek to understand the common denominators between two great spiritual paths..

Christmas Services are 5pm and 10:30pm on Christmas Eve and 10am on Christmas morning. The service is followed by a pot luck Feast in Duncan Hall hosted but the Martins, who provide a ham.

St. Paul's 101 is a class that answers your questions about St. Paul's, the Episcopal Church and the Christian faith. The class will meet weekly starting on Sunday, January 13th at 11:30am in the Downing Library.

New College of Christian Practice Winter Session begins of Saturday, January 19th at 8:30am. The focus will be on doing the work God has given you to do with gladness and singleness heart.

Kairos 52 in San Quentin. Tom Witt will be leading an ecumenical team of 50 Catholic and Protestant volunteers into San Quentin this coming President's Day weekend (Feb. 15-18). We would certainly welcome St. Paul's prayers of support as we share the message of Christ's agape love with those doing "hard time" behind bars.

Annual Stewardship Campaign. Stewardship pledge cards have been sent to all homes and are available at church. Please fill one out with the amount you intend to give to St. Paul's in 2019 so that the Vestry can create an accurate budget. You can mail the card in or put it in the offering plate.

SERVING TODAY

Preacher & Celebrant:	The Rev. Christopher Martin
Choirmaster/Organist:	Michael Struck
Acolytes:	Brigitte McCulloch, Dawn Rice, Demelza Rice
Readers:	Brigitte McCulloch, Dawn Rice, Jack Beggs
Ushers:	Larry Santucci, Larry Van Note
Altar Guild:	Brigitte McCulloch, Kathleen Minor, Judy Rowcliffe, Alex Elliot

CHRISTOPHER'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We have worship services for three days in a row this year:

Sunday is the 4th Sunday of Advent with our usual services at 8am and 10am. Immediately after the 10am service we begin the greening of the church. All are welcome to come help in this community building event.

Monday is Christmas Eve with two services. The earlier service is at 5pm and the later service is at 10:30pm.

Tuesday is Christmas Day with one service at 10am followed by a Potluck Feast in Duncan Hall hosted by the Martins. We're bringing the ham, let us know what you'd like to bring by emailing Chloe at chloeadmartin@comcast.net.

Also, remember the two things that start right after the new year. **St. Paul's 101** begins on Sunday, January 13th at 11:30am and on Saturday, January 19th at 8:30am I offer, for an hour, a series of guided meditations that help you make the following prayer your own: **O God, send me to do the work you have given me to do with gladness and singleness of heart.**

Merry Christmas,
Christopher

Thou, O Mary, hast perfectly fulfilled the will of the heavenly Father; thy greatest honor and blessedness is not to have been the mother only, but also the disciple of Christ. Blessed art thou to have heard the Word of God and to have kept it within thy heart. Thou didst harbor the truth of Christ in thine understanding, even more than his human flesh in thy womb. Thou art the beauty and the dignity of earth, O Blessed Virgin Mary. *Amen*

- *Attributed to St. Augustine*

REGULAR PRAYER AND STUDY - OPEN TO ALL

Spiritual Forum	Sundays at 9am in Duncan Hall
Book Group	Sundays at 11:30am in the Upper Room
Centering Prayer Group	2nd and 4th Sundays at 7pm in Duncan Hall
Morning Prayer	Tuesdays at 7:30am in the Church
Bible Study	Wednesdays at 10am in Duncan Hall

WHO'S WHO AT ST. PAUL'S

The Governing Board (called the Vestry)

Pierce Gore (Senior Warden), Walter Tanner (Junior Warden), Ginny Horton, Janie Burtch (Secretary), Buzz Wollam, Libby Silvestri, John Schaver, Alison Blume, Meg Gorman, Tom Witt and Michael Welcome

Campus Care Steve Avanzino, Keatin Holly, Pat Curtis, David Hardin, Eric Guastavino and Larry Santucci

Finances Holly Pritchard, Lorrie Buggatto and John McDermott

Music Michael Struck

Acolytes and Readers	Dawn Rice
Ushers	Gary Towery and Larry Santucci
Altar Guild	Judy Rowcliffe
Altar Flowers	Alex Elliot

Children's Ministry	Kati Dombrosky
Youth Group	David Hardin

Downing Library	Tom Witt
Epistle (Monthly Newsletter)	Chloe Martin
Service Bulletins and Centering Prayer	Chris Olson
St. Anne's	Alice King
Monthly Book Group and St. Paul's History	Joy Moss

Death Row Ministry	Richard Olive
Teen Success Breakfast	Ginny Horton
San Rafael Health Care Worship	Sue Adamson
St. Monnica's Mutual Housing Community	Jacob Moody and Kati Dombrosky

PRAYER LIST

Abby	Gabriella Montes	Mark Hardin	Sandy & Herbert
Andrey	Jayne F	Mary Lou	Tara
Anna, Marie & Donnie	Kappen Family	Mike R	Wendy & Family
Beverly B	Kevin Sobalvarro	Miriam	William Olive
Caravan in Mexico	Larry W & Family	Olivia Monforte	
Cathy Westover	Laura Gordon	Paradise Survivors	