

THE EPISTLE



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Following Jesus together in prayer, worship and service.

From the Senior Warden

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

St. Paul's Finance Committee selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for their own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, November 3, we will ask our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend even if they feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if they choose not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader, Reverend Molly Haws, will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

The Consecration Sunday Team and Vestry encourage your participation in Consecration Sunday events. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Senior Warden

St Paul's Book Club will meet on Oct. 18th at 4 p.m. in Duncan Hall. The book we will be discussing is A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles. This story is about a Russian Count who is under house arrest in the Metropole Hotel after the Russian Revolution. He and a young girl explore and eavesdrop on the guests making the most of their confinement to the hotel. All are welcome. Contact Joy Moss (415)479-6930.

St. Anne's Guild weekly lunch
St. Anne's would be delighted to have anyone who would be interested in our group. Join us on Thursdays. We start at 11:00 in Duncan Hall and some of us knit. Bring your sandwich and we'll have tea and cookies. We have good conversation and enjoy one another.



How can I Serve the Least of These?

Teen Success Breakfast: Four days a week, volunteers prepare and serve a hot breakfast to at-risk youth at the County Community School. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, please contact Ginny Horton: 415.785.7011 or hornlocker@comcast.net.

San Rafael Health Care: On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, a small group of parishioners slips out of church early and heads down the street to lead a simple worship service with prayers and songs for the residents at the 5th Ave. Health Care center. 11:00 – 11:25. Children are welcome. Contact Sue Adamson at 415.461.1798.

Death Row Ministry: Members of our congregation have committed themselves to a range of service associated with St. Paul's Death Row Ministry, including correspondence and visitation with inmates and hosting family members of inmates coming from out of town for visits. If you have any questions about Death Row Ministry, feel free to contact Brigitte McCulloch (415) 497-5469, Richard Olive (415) 259-9198 or Christopher Martin (415)456-4842.

What is Your Next Spiritual Step?

- **Morning Prayer:** every Tuesday at 7:30am in the church.
- **Bible Studies:** Wednesdays 10-11am
Thursday 6:20-7:20pm
- **Spiritual Forum:** Sundays 9-9:40am Duncan Hall.
- **Christian meditation:** 2nd & 4th Sunday at 7pm in the Upper Room.
- **Discipleship Groups:** small groups with a longer term commitment focused on spiritual maturity and loving community with the poor

St. Paul's offers many ways for you to learn, pray and grow spiritually

Nourished by the Presence

Reflections with Fr. Terry Ryan

What is contemplative poverty? It is a prayer that has the absence of focus on self—a desire for Holy Mystery, the Divine, but a desire that does not dictate the terms. It is a prayer that does not so much seek security or good feelings, but seeks to be led into interior silence.

The silence is a longing response to love, rather than a search for peace and quiet. In the interior dialogue there are no negotiations for personal agenda. The prayer strips attention from the self in order to be more open to the Presence.

Saturday, October 26, 2019

9:00 AM to Noon

Duncan Hall

Refreshments and coffee. The event is free, but a free-will offering is appreciated. Twenty minute meditation will be included. For more information: Richard Olive, ollipops@comcast.net.

Father Terry, a Paulist priest, spends much of his time at St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, Colo., where the late Thomas Keating, founder of the Centering Prayer Movement, was abbot for many years. Father Terry comes to the Bay Area regularly to present workshops on centering prayer.

Children and Youth at St. Paul's

Greetings St. Paul's families,

Here are the Sunday Schools planned for October during the 10am services:

This Sunday the 6th: Godly Play (Kati will be telling the story of the Flood)

Sunday the 13th: Music Sunday with Libby

Sunday the 20th: Godly Play (Karin will be telling the story of the "Great Family" (Abraham and Sarah))

Sunday the 27th: Family Sunday. Children are invited to participate in the service—let me know if your child would like to read, greet, or carry the gifts!

For questions please contact Karin karina.holsinger@gmail.com



You're invited to Breakfast
(catered by Chef Cynthia)

Please join your friends from St. Paul's and St. John's for breakfast this **Saturday, October 12th** in Duncan Hall to learn more about **Mutual Housing Marin**, aka **St. Monnica's**, and our efforts to create an affordable housing community in Marin. We have been moved by our relationships with Giload House and Young Moms Marin and know that our congregations can help in the next steps. Please email Kati at kdombrosky@gmail.com before Wednesday if you are interested in learning more.

Dedicate our Host Box
to a Loved One

We need a new Host Box (box that holds bread/wafers) for the 8am service and want to offer you the opportunity to purchase this in honor of a loved one. The box is silver plate (so much easier to keep shiny than sterling!) is \$300 - \$450 and there are several choices. Engraving is \$4/letter. If this interests you, please reach out to Judy Rowcliffe, jrowcliffe@comcast.net or 415-456-4131 to discuss.



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1123 Court St.
San Rafael, CA 94901