

**Mission Statement for St. Paul's: To proclaim God's love
by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801

Office 570-278-2954, Mon. to Thu. 8:15am to 1:00pm

stpaulsmontrose@epix.net

<http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose>

Dec 23 – Dec 29, 2018 Upcoming Events

(Events are at St. Paul's unless specified otherwise)

- Coats for the Community Dec 20
9:00am to 1:00pm
- Holy Eucharist Sun. Dec. 23 at 10:00am
with Rev. John Wagner
- Christmas Eve Mon. Dec. 24 at 5:00pm
with Rev. John Wagner –St. Paul's
welcomes St. Mark's Parishioners this
will be a Joint Service
- **Merry Christmas! Tue. Dec. 25 the
office will be closed.**

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Carol Lasher, Carol Marker, Betty
Smith & Barb Undercoffler

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Camera & Broadcast: Al Leigh & Andrew
Wurth

Acolyte: Benjamin Zalewski or Sean Eckert

Counters: Dan Graham & Steve Kupscznk

Chalice Bearer: Vickie Calby 23rd / Jerry Sock
24th

Lector: Nancy Dooling 23rd / Vicki Calby 24th

Intercessor: Esther Welden

Greeter/Usher: Sandy Seeger & Marsha Jones

Readings for this week

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm: Canticle 15

Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

**Altar Flowers on Dec 23 are In Memory of
Loved Ones.**



Christmas Flowers

Poinsettias are 20.00 per flower. Envelopes
are available at the back of the church. You
may designate in memory of or in honor of
someone. **Sun. Dec. 23** is the last day.

Christmas Eve Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: 96

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

St. Paul's Christmas Service



If you cannot make the Christmas Eve 5:00pm
Service at St. Paul's this year, it will be live-
streamed, as are all our services, and available
on the internet. Just go to St. Paul's website,
<http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>, and click on
YouTube

The holidays are sometimes difficult and lonely for some people.

The Church of the Epiphany is pleased to offer a short prayer service to honor the difficulties of this time of the year, particularly for those who have lost a loved one, had a difficult life change, or just feel blue amid all the tinsel and lights.

All are welcome to attend a 'Longest Night' gathering to bless the blues and sadness on Saturday, December 22 2018 at 6:00 pm. Please come and light a candle in honor of your loss or transition. If you wish, please join us for Communion at 5:00 pm.

The Church of the Epiphany is located on 25 Church Hill, Glenburn Township. Please call 570-563-1564 or send an email to: COTE@epix.net and let us know you are coming, or for more information. The Episcopal Church is a spiritual home free of judgment and inclusive for all.

The struggle with darkness and grief is difficult at this time of the year. We all have losses that need to heal. Come, light a candle for your loved one or yourself.

Church Closures please turn your radio dial to WPEL 96.5 FM. We will announce any closure of our church service on that station.

Thanksgivings: *Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us, especially during this past week. Amen.*

St. Paul's Cycle of Prayer: Robert & Betty Smith; Jerry & Maggie Sock; Edward Stark; Thomas & Brenda Syle

For those who are ill or have requested our prayers: Margaret Burgh, Brad Darde, Kathy Warriner, Joe & Esther Welden, Charlotte Eckert, Alice Wood, Jean Williams, Charlotte Ellis, Esther McLaughlin, Jeanette, Jeanne & Bart Conklin, Steve & Martha Kupscznk, Kristina, Richard Marker & Jane Chandler.

Pastoral Emergency: call the parish office during office hours. After hours, you may call Lynne Graham at her home 570-934-1160.

TREK TO THE CRECHE, 2018

This is a program to help folks get out and about and enjoy just a bit of easy exercise this December. It is loosely based upon a program initially developed by Episcopal Health Ministries. As with all such programs, please speak with your physician prior to beginning any exercise regimen.

That which we'll be attempting to accomplish is walking the equivalent distance that Mary and Joseph travelled from Nazareth of Galilee to Bethlehem of Judea. Scholars deduce that they made this trip in about four days. Keep in mind, however, that the primary means of travel in that society was walking, so not even an advanced pregnancy would have slowed them too much. We will be taking 23 days (1st Sunday in Advent through Christmas Eve) to complete our trek and, since none of us is likely to be avid walkers like Mary and Joseph, we'll be working in teams of 2 or 3. Working in small teams will not only permit us to ease into a walking routine, but will also provide the opportunity for some meaningful conversation while we're "on the road". The distance to be walked is roughly eighty (80) miles. For teams of 2, that would require an average of 1.75 miles per day per member while, for teams of 3, 1.16 miles per day per team would be needed.

Please appoint one member of your team as "captain" to record and give the weekly team mileage to me. You can certainly give me that mileage each Sunday during Advent, or you can e-mail it to me on Sundays (frjohn@ptd.net).

The climatological data for Montrose show that the average high for December is 35°, while the average low is 17°. Average snowfall for the month is 15". In consideration of that historical data, as well as to protect your health, please make sure that you speak with your physician prior to undertaking any exercise regimen.

I mentioned earlier about “easing into” a walking routine. Here’s what’s on the horizon...

During Lent of 2019, in teams, we’ll be walking the equivalent distance from Montrose, PA to Jerusalem, Israel, in time to arrive for the Resurrection. That likely seems like an insurmountable task but, having worked with this program at previous parishes, it is most definitely doable! Not only that, the weather in spring is far more conducive to being outside...

☺ (and, for spring, we’ll permit rowing, weight-lifting, Zumba Dancing, or other forms of exercise)

So, pick your teams, select your captains, and do let me know if you have any questions.

Please also know that Lynne will be contacting other Montrose Churches and inviting them to join us this Advent as well as next Lent. So, you might just have an opportunity to greet others of God’s Kids out and about!!

Fr. John

Sleeping Bag Ministry Requests:

NEEDED items are: warm hats, gloves and scarves. Fabric yardage, 1 yard minimum blankets and flat sheets (no fitted sheets please) sample size soaps, shampoo, tooth paste mini size tissues Items need not be perfect, only Clean. We are OVER STOCKED with toothbrushes, socks, and neckties. Thank you to everyone who works to make this ministry possible and all are welcome to join us on the second Wednesday and second Saturday of each month downstairs in Rm. #1. No sewing, ' only need to tie a knot !!!!!

The 2019 Pledge Books will be available at the back of the church for those that have pledged. If you want a book but did not pledge, please let the office know.

Our collections for the Trehab Food Bank & Women’s Resource Center are the first Sunday of every month. Blessings and thanks for your support and participation.



Bread Collection Update

As you know, St. Paul's started a second collection on Sundays to provide money to buy bread for the Montrose Mobile Food Pantry once a month. We expected the cost to be about \$250 a month and that has been our goal. The monthly distribution takes place on the second Friday of each month. Thank you for your generosity. The recipients of the Food Pantry services are depending on us.

Our thanksgivings: We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week and next. *O God, look with favor, we pray, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life. Amen.*

We give thanks for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week. *Grant o God, in your compassion, that those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week may live out the covenant they have made. May they grow in forgiveness, loyalty and love, and come at last to the eternal joys which you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with them this day and forever. Amen.*

St. Paul’s Altar Flowers: If you wish to reserve, a Sunday please sign-up on the sheet at the back of the church. Then fill out an Altar Flower Card. Please use one card for each request, enclose your check for \$36.00 with the card in the envelope provided, and place it in the offering plate or send it to the parish office prior to the week that you are doing flowers. For those wishing to supply your own flowers please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church and fill out an altar flower card indicating you will do your own flowers. Thank you!

Send Communications: minutes, special events etc. to the office, for the parish office to disperse.

4 Photos this week.

Morning Prayer

Due to inclement weather last Sunday, Father John did not make his hour and a half ride to St. Paul's. But we had Morning Prayer led by Vicki Calby and Nancy Dooling. Cathy and Sean rounded out our team.



Third Advent Candle Lit

Last Sunday was Gaudete Sunday, also known as Rose Sunday. Gaudete in Latin means Rejoice. It is taken from Philippians 4:4-5 -- The coming Joy! During Advent, we use the penitential color of purple but on the third Sunday in Advent, we use the color of Joy which is Rose. The rose candle was the one lit. *Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again. Rejoice!*



St. Paul's on WBRE, Channel 28



Anja Whitehead from WBRE, Channel 28 out of Wilkes-Barre did a live story on Monday, December 17th at St. Paul's about the coat distribution we had this Wednesday and Thursday. John Finlon, Dan Graham, Vicki and Stephanie Calby, Maggie Sock and Steve Kupscznk participated in the interviews. That hearty group had to show up at 4:30 a.m. but it was fun and exciting. The story was aired live four times that morning again on the 5:00 Eyewitness News. Our guys also got to talk about our sleeping bag ministry.