



276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801
Office 570-278-2954, Mon. to Thu. 8:15am to 1:00pm
Click on link to email St. Paul's: stpaulsmontrose@epix.net
Click on link to go to our Website: <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>
Click on link to go to our Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose>

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

Nov. 15 - 21, 2020

Morning Prayer Sun. Nov 15 at 10:00am

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: May & Ben Zalewski
Announcements: Lynne Graham
Officiant: Carol Marker
Counters: Steve Kupscznk & Richard Marker

Readings for this week

First Reading: Judges 4:1-7
Psalm: 123
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Altar Flowers this week are from Fr. Arthur Jones, III In Honor of Mr. Arthur Jones, Jr. and Dr. Hazel T. Jones.

To say this has been a difficult year would be an understatement. COVID being at the top of the stress list. Politics keeping neck in neck. No matter which party you support, the lack of listening and allowing others to have opinions different from our own has reached levels of disagreement beyond anything most of us could have imagined. Hate, and discord, seem to be the order of the day in these and many other prominent issues.

Last week's Epistle reading was from Wisdom. I had not read this before, or if I did it was not at a time when my ears and mind were open to hear its message. It goes like this:

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to

make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the people of the world woke up every morning and read this before starting their day? I have set this goal for myself and I challenge you to try it. And, if it makes your day a bit better, please share the idea with your friends...

The words in the story below burst with wisdom. I read this years ago and it has stayed with me. I never tire of re-reading it.

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two "wolves" inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith." The grandson thought about it for minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee simply replied. "The one you feed."

I feel something different every time I read this. Each time there is one more piece of 'Good,' I really need to concentrate on.

May God bring wisdom to those who seek it and compassion, faith, and kindness, to those who are in need of it. Meaning all of us. Amen

Vickie



We again need to thank John Finlon for helping with our Corona Virus safety measures. To go along with our hand sanitizer and masks at the doors, he put in new soap dispensers in the bathrooms.

Coats for the Community

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Montrose
Dec. 16-17 from 9am to 1pm

Check your closets for any warm, gently used coats you no longer need. Ask your grandchildren for their outgrown coats, too. We are accepting donations. Just leave them at church. Talk to John or Dan if you can help with the distribution at St. Paul's Church.

Interfaith Christmas Dinner



We will be collecting 50 boxes of Stuffing Mix for the Christmas Dinner. We need all stuffing donations no later than **Dec. 3rd**.



Trehab Thanksgiving Feed A Friend

Due to the Covid pandemic, the program is still going on but being totally restructured without the food drives. They are taking monetary donations. They will not have a designated giveaway day. Their staff will hand out Thanksgiving Food throughout the month of November and recipients will utilize vouchers at the local grocery stores to pick up their turkeys.

Trehab/Feed a Friend
PO Box 366
Montrose, PA 18801



Christmas Toy Tags

Toy tags are available. We have 20 tags. Gifts should be valued at \$30. Gifts are to be unwrapped with the tag securely attached. If batteries are required, please include them with the gift. All Gifts must be brought to the Church by **Dec 6th**.

Donate Diapers for Mary's Baby by December 13

Luke's Gospel tells us that Mary "gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." This nativity story tells of a young mother striving to care for her baby under tough conditions. It may also remind us of the challenges faced in 2020 by some young mothers in Susquehanna County.

To connect personally with the struggles of many young mothers today, parishioners of our three Upper Susquehanna County congregations are asked to donate a package of diapers and/or wipes by December 13th. (For

shopping comparison purposes, a package of 31 new-born diapers appears to cost in the range of \$10-15.) Bring them to church by Sunday, December 13. The wardens will deliver our donations to different organizations that have agreed to distribute them to mothers in need. The Women's Resource Center and CareNet in Montrose especially need larger size diapers. Christ Church will deliver to the Trehab Food Bank in Susquehanna.

This Advent project will help us focus on preparing for baby Jesus in our lives.

An Advent of Anticipation

Advent is the season that begins the new church year. This year Advent begins on Sunday, November 29 and continues through Christmas Eve. Advent is an anticipatory season as we prepare for Christmas by readying our hearts for the newborn Jesus. During this time of expectancy, we not only remember the birth of Jesus, we call to mind the promise of the second coming.

Along with Christ Church, Susquehanna, and St. Mark's, New Milford, I invite us to consider several components that will help us focus on the season: our spiritual development, community involvement, pastoral care for shut-ins, and, finally, our Christmas Eve service.

On the first Sunday of Advent, each parishioner will be offered a devotional booklet that will include the Collect for the week, a scripture reading for each day taken from the Daily Office in the BCP, a meditation which uses Lectio Divina (which will be explained in the booklet), and a time for silence and personal prayer.

Because baby Jesus is the reason for the season, we will respond to a need in the community by donating baby clothes, diapers, formula, and baby food to Interfaith and the

Women's Resource Center. These items will be collected during Advent and blessed in a liturgy on Sunday, December 13.

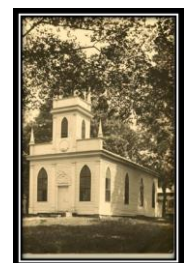
We will reach out to our shut-ins in a way that allows them to feel included and special. Please give some thought as to what this might be for our parish.

On Sunday, December 20, the three churches and anyone who cares to join us are invited to gather at 3:30 p.m. at St. Mark's for an outside caroling service. We will light candles and have a good old-fashioned sing-a-long with accompaniment.

Finally, we are delighted that Fr. Charles will officiate at our Christmas Eve services. Because of Covid restrictions and probable larger attendance at each church, we will hold services at Christ Church at 4 p.m.; St Mark's at 6 p.m.; and at St. Paul's at 8 p.m.

We hope that the season of Advent will be what each of us needs, not only to wait patiently for Christmas, but to use the four weeks to ponder the gift of the Christ child and how we can respond in love. Lynne

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact: you can call the parish office during office hours. After hours call Lynne Graham 570-934-1160.



Church Histories on Sale

Betty still has some St. Paul's histories for sale in the office. They are now \$15 for St. Paul's parishioners. Just contact her if you want one. Additionally, during lockdown, Dan has written another book, this time on St. Mark's in New Milford. Entitled *St. Mark's Episcopal Church*,

New Milford, Pennsylvania 1817-2020, it also provides a history of Grace Episcopal Church that was located in Great Bend from 1852 to 1954. It will be printed in November. St. Mark's was one of the first Episcopal churches in Northeast Pennsylvania.

For those who are ill or have requested our prayers: Margaret Burgh, Kathy Warriner, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Fr. Arthur, Charlotte Ellis, Cathy Hammons, Charlotte Eckert, Nancy Finlon & Patrick Gallagher.

Birthdays for November: Matthew 11/18 & Brenda Syle 11/23.

Our thanksgivings: We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week. 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.

13 Photos this week.

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, All Saints Sunday

November 8, 2020

The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids^l took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. (*Matthew 25:1-13*)

Fr. Bill's Morning Prayer



Fr. William McGinty (Fr. Bill) of Christ Church, Forest City, writes a daily Prayer that he sends out in Email. If you would like to be on Fr. Bill's list just let Dan know.

We have received several requests for a picture of what Fr. Bill looks like. Here is one from Christ Church's Newsletter.

It is a blustery day, not cold or even grey, but definitely windy. We rise, we, to you O Lord, and how we need you in our lives at this time. All the ghosts of our past have come to haunt us, though Halloween is now far behind. All those things that divide us, raise their heads in this week of weeks. We pray today, for unity and friendship, we pray for harmony and peace, we pray for the spirit that once united us all--that in God, we may once more trust.

For Lord, it was not two parties who held the high ground at 'Bunker Hill', waiting fire till they saw 'the whites of their eyes'! Rather it was one United band of men. Nor did we on that day bury our death in separate graves, but buried all under a star stripped flag. We did not ask which party or the politics of any, when that thin long line of Minutemen stood shoulder to shoulder at Lexington. We did not ask, who fired the 'shot heard around the world'. No, together we listened to the eerie silence, as 'Old Glory flapped in the wind that day. For them we pray.

We pray on this day of days, and in this important week, that American will love American and the future that we seek. An end to hate and bitterness and unchristian words, uttered by the baptized, that was never your teaching Lord. Instead we look to your Gospel and the Beatitudes you taught, in Chapter 5 of Matthew, where you told us what we should be. "Blessed are the Peacemakers; Blessed too the Meek; Blessed are those who are Merciful and Blessed those who strive for Justice and Righteousness....." O Lord you made it plain in John Chapter 15: "One commandment do I give you that you love one another...."

For they died on the Beaches of Normandy and at Midway and Coral Sea. They perished crossing the great Rhine to set holocaust victims free. They did not stop to count the cost or wonder who was right or left, they fought and died for Liberty, forgetting all the rest. Their crosses stand row by row, white in the Sun. They give a name and rank and tell where that boy came from. But nowhere does it ever say 'liberal or conservative'; nowhere does it give a hint of where his politics leaned. For he was just a soldier, sailor, airman or marine. His proudest boast an 'American' from the United States.

Unite us Lord in this week, one nation under God. Let love reign, take away all pain, that we may be one again. Amen. Fr. Bill.

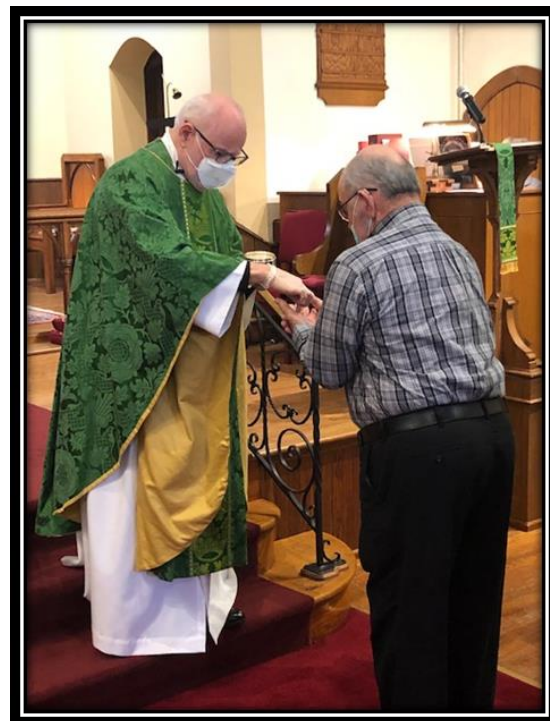
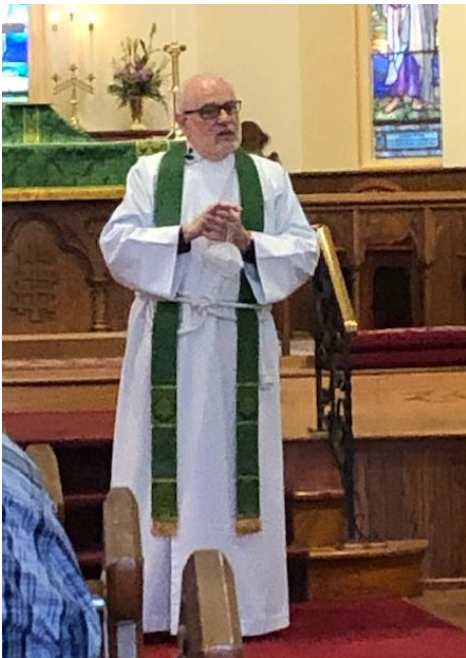
Look Who's Back!

Welcome back Cathy Hammons. Cathy joined us for the first time this Sunday after a long illness. God is good, prayer works!



Fr. Charles Celebrates His 55th Year of Ordination

On Sunday, November 8th, Fr. Charles Cesaretti celebrated the 55th Anniversary of his Ordination with us. (No that wasn't his 55th birthday, it was his 55th Anniversary!) We were delighted to have Charles celebrate the Eucharist with us.





Retreat on Saturday

On Saturday, November 7th, the Rev. Melinda Artman led a retreat of the vestries of St. Paul's, St. Mark's and Christ Church at the Montrose American Legion. The vestries worked through exercises and Bible study to provide a foundation for future conversations about our partnership.





Christmas Decorations for Montrose Put Up



Remember when you were little and your parents complained about Christmas decorations going up before Thanksgiving? Well, it's lucky they weren't in town this week. The Montrose CommUNITY volunteers begin putting up Montrose's Christmas decorations on Friday the 6th. Volunteers from St. Paul's included Dave and Vickie, Lynne, and John and Gaby. Last year they did it in mittens and coats but this year it was beautiful and they took advantage of the good weather.

Remember When?

Coffee Hour, November 2017

No wonder we miss it, what a spread!



St. Paul's New Sign Arrives, November 2016

