



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](mailto: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.

**Dec 13 – 19, 2020**

**Morning Prayer Sun. Dec 13 at 10:00am**  
online <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

**This Week's Lay Ministers:**

Altar Guild: Carol Lasher, Barb Undercoffler & Carol Marker  
Announcements & Lector: Vickie Calby  
Officiant: Tom Undercoffler

**Readings for this week**

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm: Canticle 15  
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Altar Flowers this week are from John & Nancy Finlon & Vida Ann Kiefer In Memory of Vida Finlon.**

**"VIEW FROM THE PEW" -- Christmas Traditions**

Lynne and I were discussing last week, whether or not we were going to put a tree up this year – and really, if we were going to decorate at all. Covid has been a downer and has weaseled its way into dampening our Christmas spirits. I halfheartedly went with Lynne over to the garage and looked at the boxes of Christmas stuff to decide what, if anything, would make the cut. The boxes were marked as wreaths, decorations, lights, candles, ornaments, etc. But there was one that caught my eye – manger. With it, came a flood of Christmas memories.



When I was about eight, we were at the Ben Franklin 5 and 10 store in my town right before Christmas and they had manger sets for sale. They included a cardboard manger, and in addition to the three main players, had a donkey, a camel, a shepherd, and the Wise Men. You could even buy extras for .25 cents. Mom bought it. When we got home, I set it up on the end table near where we would put the tree. It must have been a good location as it was set up on that same table every Christmas after that.

The set saw some changes over the years. Dad and I built a more substantial structure out of wood and glued straw on the roof. Somewhere along the line, I added popsicle sticks; a hole was drilled in the back for a light. Some of the players left – my dog Dusty ate one of the shepherds – but new ones were added. After Christmas, when we were putting stuff away, all the little figures got rolled up in tissue paper and put inside the manger for safe keeping. There they languished in our cubby with the other decorations waiting patiently for another year.

When we had little ones, Mom and Dad gave us the manger so we ended up with it. Every Christmas since, it has been set up in our home, initially by our kids, and later by us when they left and then by our grandchildren. I often wondered if the little people get lonely during the year waiting to be unwrapped and set up. They are faded now and dinged from years of faithful service. The manger has lost most of its straw and there are only traces of the fake snow sprayed on years ago when that was cool. But that manger and its figures have come for me to represent Christmas, and all it has meant. Not only for the obvious reason, that's what it's about of course, but for all the multi-generational warm family memories associated with that wooden box and its inhabitants.

Many of our Christmas traditions are under siege this year and many will be abandoned. But, don't let Covid ruin the specialness of this season; keep your spirits bright. Don't bemoan lost traditions; embrace new ones. Christmas in 2020 will be different in many ways but it will still be Christmas. While not all our decorations will go up this year, the manger will be set up. With it, the reminiscences of sixty-plus years of Christmas' past. Dan Graham

### New Snow Removal Person Hired



Greg Garnett of Garnett Excavation and Snow has been hired of the 2020-2021 Winter to remove snow from our sidewalks and plow the parking lot. If you see him or one of his guys working, say hello!

**American Legion Gardner Warner Post 154,**  
4515 State Route 3001 Montrose PA Hosting  
USDA Farmers to Family Program FREE  
FOOD GIVEAWAY Saturday December 12,  
2020 Noon 'til ?? Supported by  
[#DownToEarthRentals](#) & [Andre & Son Inc.](#)  
Montrose PA.



**Coats for the Community.** St. Paul's will be distributing coats on Dec. 16-17 from 9am to 1pm. This will be the last coat give away of the year. This final distribution is coordinated to match Inter-faith's Christmas food basket and toy ministry. We need help with distribution at St. Paul's on either Wed. or Thu. If you can help either day, it would be appreciated. Let Dan or John know. Thanks.



### Necessary and Expensive

We are still collecting diapers and wipes during Advent to help us focus on the baby Jesus. The larger size diapers are especially needed. These will be delivered to the Women's Resource Center and CareNet. Diapers are expensive and we hope to lighten the burden of some young mothers.

### No Silent Night

Please join us next Sunday, December 20 for an old fashioned Christmas carol sing-a-long. We'll gather OUTSIDE at St. Mark's at 3:30. Invite a friend. The more the merrier! We plan to have an outside fire pit and music on the keyboard. Bring candles if you wish although some will be provided. Dress warmly and come make a joyful noise.



### **Reminder - Winter is Coming**

And with winter comes winter weather!. While we will not get back into the church until the end of December, this is just the annual reminder to say: if there is ice or snow and there is a question about church being canceled, listen to WPEL at 96.5 FM.

**For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:** Margaret Burgh, Kathy Warriner, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Charlotte Ellis, Charlotte Eckert, Nancy Finlon, Patrick Gallagher, Johanna Masters & Jeannine Ball.

**Birthdays for December:** Peter Maxey 12/20 & John Warriner 12/31.

**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.*

**Your tithes and pledges** can be mailed to the church office at 276 Church St., Montrose, PA 18801.

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

**10 Photos this week.**

## **Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2020**

### **As it is written in the prophet Isaiah**

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (*Mark 1:1-8*)

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:**

Prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where the God, our God, may go!

### **Fr. Bill's Morning Prayer**

Good morning! Even though it is raining, rained all night, will for most of the day. Our prayer on this gloomy morning is still speckled with the good things that you, Lord, have done for us. We thank you for your grace, the kindnesses of others, the optimism of youth and the gift of children. They light up our days despite this isolation and separation. Bless grandparents everywhere, the cards they send, the presents they wrap, the calls they make, even in this 'time of plague'.

December is the month of lights, bouncing off the wet roads and sidewalks of New York City and old London Town. Lights in windows, displays for the season, lampposts wreathed, and strung on 5th Avenue and Oxford Street. Christmas Trees decorated with thousands of lights, Carol Singers singing to the children's' delight. Church Bells ringing, shoppers hurrying, parcels, and packed bags from stores full of seekers.

T'is the way it was Lord, year after year. Yet this year we must fall back on our homestead resources. We'll put out some lights on the porch and the deck; with red bright ribbons on the posts and the mailbox; Angels flying and choir with their candles, all lit and glowing; around that Nativity Scene. O there will be that old Christmas Tree, the cats love to climb, the tinsel, the garland and other stuff that we find. We said ten long years ago, we would not decorate, now the children were gone and it was just her, me and the dog.---Well, this year is different, like Scrooge has reappeared, Oliver is back in the Orphanage and the dark of the War Years has dimmed our celebration. We need to be cheered!!!

No, we will not let that happen Lord, not this year. Advent has opened all our minds and hearts to begin each day with prayer. "In this time of preparation, we pause to reflect and pray about the mystery of your coming among us and what it means to us each day. The Advent Wreath is on the Dining Table, with every kind of Evergreen, to remind us of your steadfast love and of another tree. The ribbons hang in purple flow, the candles tall and straight, purple-lilac, except the pink and the white waiting for your birth."

The cards are sent, with pictures telling, the story winging around the world. We have Fed-Ex Vans and UPS trucks delivering gifts, wrapped up with the best Christmas paper. We spared no expense, they were stored in the Attic, along with old bells and Christmas Tree Ornaments. There is an Old Railroad Track now running round the train, the old engine is puffing not sure he can make it. The cat is crutched looking, not sure if he can eat it, and the dog, too old to see all the fuss they are making.

We found the old Gramophone and put on some records, carols mostly, sung by Rosemary Clooney. "We didn't know George had a daughter!" the grandkids said, on the phone! But they don't even know about Bing or a Cowboy who wrote about Rudolph, a Red Nose Reindeer. ---So you see Lord, we are ready, for your Birthday to come. We hope we will be present gathered around your Stable, in our old cozy church, if we are able. Otherwise



here we'll be, alone in the house, just her and me, one dog, two cats and a mouse! Bless us this Advent, and all who we love, keep us all safe, till you come with your love. Amen.

*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.*

## **Go Tell It on the Mountain**

The December 6<sup>th</sup> live-streamed Morning Prayer service was led by Karen Blye-McAbee. It was the second Sunday of Advent and the second Advent candle was lit. Readings were done by Lynne, and Mary Ann played the Prelude, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, the Organ Meditation, *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*, and Postlude, Andrew, all by himself in the back, taped the service and it is available on YouTube. Live-streaming will continue at least through December 20th. We hope to be back at church by Christmas but will wait to hear from the Bishop. Bulletins for the service, which let you participate, are sent on Wednesday by email. If you want a paper one mailed to you, or know somebody that does, please call the office. Similarly, if you know someone that would like to get this Weekly Update, let us know.

## **December 6, 2020 Service**



## No Country Store This Year



During this year, because of Covid, we missed a lot of things. Add to that now the Country Store. St. Paul's has had one every year since 1998. It was initially created to raise money to repair our organ, but became a yearly tradition joined early on by the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. It eventually was incorporated into the Christmas in Montrose event. Although it evolved through the years, the Country Store was a combination craft show and flea market, which also served food. It was a lot of work and a lot of fun and created a lot of parish comradery.





