



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>

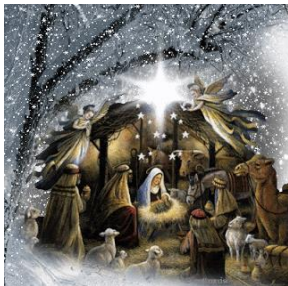
Mission Statement for St. Paul's: To proclaim God's love by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.

Dec 27 – Jan 2, 2021

Christmas Eve Service Online Thu. Dec 24 at 6:00pm with The Rev Charles Cesaretti

Morning Prayer Sun. Dec 27 at 10:00am online <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

The Office will be closed on Mon. Dec. 28



Christmas Blessings!

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Carol Lasher, Barb Undercoffler & Carol Marker

Announcements & Lector: Lynne Graham, Dec 24 & 27

Officiant: Tom Undercoffler Dec 27

Readings for Dec 24

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: 96

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

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

Readings for this week Dec 27

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm: 147:13-21

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Gospel: John 1:1-18

"VIEW FROM THE PEW"



The Nativity picture that Dan posted in the weekly news grabbed my interest immediately. If you compare the picture of his to the picture of mine, you will see why.

My Grandpa Baer gave mine to me when I was about 5 or 6 years old, so you understand that it too has lived a long and historic life. Mine took a bit of a side trip when my dad, who worked for the government repairing gyroscopes for airplanes, was transferred to Oklahoma in 1965, the year Bill and I were married. Since this Nativity was packed with their Christmas decorations, it too went to OK, while Bill and I began our married life in PA.

My sister remembers putting it out on the mantle there. A year later, Daddy transferred to Ohio, and Janice placed the Nativity on the mantle in their new home and for many years until she married.

Upon retirement in 1977, my folks moved back to the Harrisburg area, and the Nativity was given back to me. In the years since, it has lived at Heart Lake (Montrose), Fulton Co., Elk

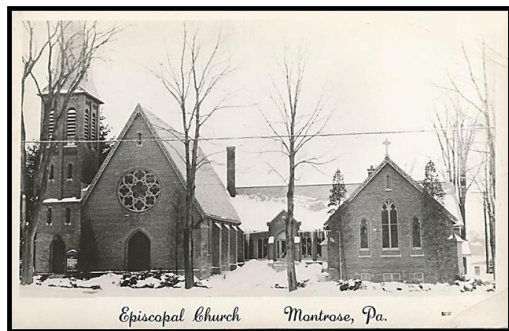
Co., and back here to Susquehanna Co., but no matter under what roof, it's place has been very special – on the piano where many students have admired it and remembered the significance of this all important Christmas story told by these little simple figures. And, since my grandfather was very special to me, it holds a special place in my heart.

Joyce Printz

Snow Storm Hits St. Paul's



On Wednesday Night and Thursday Morning December 16th and 17th, Montrose got about 21 inches of snow. We didn't get shoveled out until Thursday evening. Wow, that's a lot of snow!



The Episcopal Church in Upper Susquehanna County Invites You to Celebrate Christmas Eve.

You are invited to attend a warm, meaningful, and traditional Christmas Eve worship service with us online on December 24th. Organ music will begin at 5:30 and the service will begin at 6pm. Just log onto the St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Montrose) website at <https://stpaulschurchmontrose.org/wp/> and

click on "Live Stream." A service bulletin is available from the website homepage under "Recent Posts".

The service will be conducted by Father Charles Cesaretti. MaryAnn DeWitt will be at the organ. And, a soloist from the Tri-Cities Opera will sing the hymns.

If you prefer to listen to the service, call in at 570-266-4915, and enter passcode 202195# or visit www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose to get details on how to listen in.

Earlier on December 24th, we invite all community members to drop by in-person from 4-5:45pm at one of our churches for private prayer and meditation. Although we will not worship in person, our churches will be decorated for Christmas. Visit us at St. Paul's (276 Church Street, Montrose), St. Mark's (115 Main Street, New Milford), and Christ Church (1107 West Main Street, Susquehanna). Celebrate the joy of Christmas with us!

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Reminder with winter comes winter weather!. 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.

Birthday for December: John Warriner 12/31.

Our thanksgivings: We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week. *O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on your servants 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 lives. 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.

15 Photos this week.

ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Christmas Get Together 2019

The Gospel

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

(Luke 1:26-38)



Silent Night 1017

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o're the plains
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this Jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song

Fr. Bill's Morning Prayer

In this cold early morning, we pray to you Lord Jesus Christ, our hopes for Christmas worship gathered around your altar have vanished, beneath the snow and this Pandemic Storm that has swept across our nation and our world. ---Huddled, isolated, locked, we shall be behind these doors, with only the sparkle of the Christmas tree reminding us of you.

'Ring the Church Bells! Ring them loud! Let them sound over fields and trees. Let them not be silent on that Midnight moment, when we celebrate our Christ coming into the world. So we cannot travel, or walk to church through the snow; homeward in the dark, holding each linked arm. Gathering in the kitchen with warm mugs of chocolate, hot Mince Pies, and red rosy nose and cheeks, gloves and scarves hanging by the fire! ----Not this year! So let the church bells ring, at Midnight and in the morning, over buttered toast and bacon too, let it ring out over village and town. And when we hear, we will stop a while, and say a silent prayer---' Jesus Christ was born and laid in a manger, and I wish I could be there.'

There is a lantern hanging on my back porch Lord, just in front of the door. It shines real bright all through the night, like that old lantern in your Stable. I put it there for a reason, so everyone will know, we are expecting company this year, despite the Pandemic and the snow.

We are expecting you Lord, there will be hot chocolate in a mug; the logs are blazing on the fire, Mince Pies in the Oven and lots and lots of love. We will leave a place around the table, not hard to do this year and a candle for the ones we lost, in this grim and cheerless year.

There will be presents around the tree-----mostly gift tokens for you! We promise love and understanding, kindness and grace, and that difficult gift we searched for so hard, 'Forgiveness'--for all the pain we faced. Those who hurt us the most, we pray for them the best, then the 'Sound of Bells' will mean much more, when we hear them this year at last. 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.

Christmas 2019



December 20th Service



The December 20th live-streamed Morning Prayer service was led by Vickie Calby. It was the last Sunday of Advent and the fourth Advent candle was lit. Announcements and Readings were done by Lynne. Joyce on organ and Cathy on piano played the Prelude, *Angles We Have Heard on High*, the Organ Meditation, *Gesu Bambino*, and Postlude, *Sing We Now of Christmas*. We are just delighted to welcome Cathy back to the keyboard after a long absence. The service is available on YouTube. Our Christmas Eve service will be officiated by Fr. Cesaretti and Live-streamed. Organ music will begin at 5:30 and the service at 6:00. The church will be opened from 4:00 to 5:45 for private prayer and meditation. Bulletins for the service, which let you participate in the live-streaming, will be sent out on Wednesday by email.

Christmas Pasts



Holy Night



