



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 6 – 12, 2020

Morning Prayer Sun. Dec 6 at 10:00am
online <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Carol Lasher, Barb Undercoffler & Carol Marker

Announcements & Lector: Lynne Graham

Officiant: Karen Blye-McAbee

Readings for this week

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms: 85:1-2, 8-13

Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Altar Flowers this week are from Barb & Tom Undercoffler In Memory of their mothers Mary & Katherine and In Memory of their nephew Michael.

"VIEW FROM THE PEW"

A Parable. A young man lived in the poorest side of a large city. He walked to work every day to the better part of town passing through the worst part. The sights, smells and noise during the walk were overpowering and reflective of the area where he lived. Always, there were the smells of sewerage and garbage. He smelled it every day and it never changed, it was a reminder of where he was. He saw the run-down buildings, the homeless, the needy, the poorly clad people, the drugs, the trash strewn everywhere. From the windows of the tenements, he could hear the sounds that came from within -- the cries of

hungry, cold children, the coughing of the sick and elderly and his heart went out to them. Each day, when he was almost at his destination, he would pass a large set of marble steps, the top of which had well-dressed people eating and laughing and being served by impeccably dressed waiters. He always looked up but they never looked down. He longed to be there.

One day, as he was looking up while passing the stairs, the Devil appeared and asked if he would like to go to the top? Without thinking for a moment, he said, "Yes." "I would trade my soul for that!" But the Devil was coy that day and he smiled. Surprisingly, he said that he did not want the boy's soul. But, the boy could go up some of the way if he would trade his nose for a new one. "Yes" the boy, "I will do it." And he did. The Devil replaced the boy's nose with one that would not remind him when he was in a poor area. The Devil smiled and said, "Would you like to go higher?" "Oh yes," the boy said, "Yes I would." "You can," said the Devil, but I would have to give you a new set of ears. And he did. These new ears did not hear the cries of the cold, hungry children.

The boy was now half way up the stairs and wanted to go higher. "Can I keep going?" he asked. The Devil smiled and said "Yes, but I would need to give you a new set of eyes." And he did. These eyes couldn't see hunger, poverty or suffering. The boy was now almost at the top and wanted to keep going. "How do I get all the way up," the boy asked, now

excited. The Devil smiled and said, "To get all the way to the top, I would have to give you a new heart. But it would come with new clothes and money." And the boy readily agreed, and it was so. With his new nose, ears, eyes, and heart the boy climbed to the top and walked in, sat down and was served by impeccably dressed waiters. He turned and looked down the stairs for a moment and laughed. And he never looked down the stairs again.
Dan Graham



Christmas Toy Tags

All Gifts must be brought to Church by Dec 6 or to Interfaith by Dec 9.



Coats for the Community. Paul's Episcopal Church, Montrose Dec. 16-17 from 9am to 1pm. This will be the last coat giver away of the year. St. Paul's always coordinates the final distribution in Dec. to match Inter-faith's Christmas food basket and toy distribution days. If you can help with the distribution on either Wed. or Thu. it would be appreciated. Let Dan or John know. Thanks.

ANOTHER ADVENT OPPORTUNITY

Many of us have curtailed family visits or discontinued them completely during this Covid19 pandemic. The residents at Meadow View have not had visitors since the pandemic began. The staff realizes how important it is for the residents to maintain contact with their family members. In preparation for Christmas, the staff is requesting **NEW, UNUSED Christmas cards** that they might send out for their residents to family members. If you have a collection of unused cards left

from previous Christmases, please contact Lynne or Joyce Printz (her phone number is in the church directory), and we will see that the cards are delivered to Meadow View. Thank you for helping to make this a season of caring.



Donate Diapers for Mary's Baby by Dec. 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.

Wanted Snow Shoveler at St. Paul's Church in Montrose for the 2020-2021 year. Call Dan Graham at 570-396-7611

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.

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

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: Dan Graham 12/4, Steve Kupscznk 12/6, James Cain 12/9, 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.



COVID-19 MASS TESTING

OPEN TO GREATER NEPA COMMUNITY

In collaboration with the PA Department of Health & Susquehanna County Emergency Management Agency, drive-thru COVID-19 mass testing will be conducted:

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

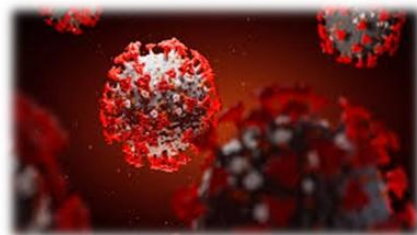
Saturday, December 5th
EMHS PARKING LOT (MONTROSE)

Saturday, December 12th
CLIFFORD TWP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Saturday, December 19th
SUSQUEHANNA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- ✓ Testing is provided at no cost to any resident of our service area (within 50-mile radius of testing site)
- ✓ Insurance cards are not needed
- ✓ Patients will remain in vehicle to reduce risk of transmission
- ✓ Official form of identification + contact information are required for communication of test results
- ✓ Results expected within 48-72 hours
- ✓ All ages welcome

For more information, please call (570) 278-5156.



9 Photos this week.

First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020

Keep Awake!

But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake. (*Mark 13, 32-37*)

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Fr. Bill's Morning Prayer

In this early morning our prayer turns to you, once more on this the very eve of Advent.
The colors have changed all around us, as winter wraps her cloak across the

landscape. Here, now, in the very eye of the storm, we pray for all suffering in this 'time of plague'. Death has crept across the land, touching families old and young. T'is a 'Passover' we need, huddled as we are, behind heavy doors and shuttered windows. We pray today for salvation that we may exit safe on the other side of this sea of grief and desperation.

"We pray for all who are suffering loss on this day and the two hundred thousand new cases that will manifest themselves today. We pray for the Nurses and Caregivers overwhelmed by this world tragedy. Give them strength, skill, courage and endurance." -
-- This is our prayer on this November Saturday in November.

Put a new Spirit within us Lord. Teach us again your ways and your commandments. Wrestle from us the greed and selfish pursuit of things, ----that we may cherish what you love, and love what you cherish. ----Let not this Exile from the normal, be wasted, but walk us through this Wilderness that we may emerge renewed in heart and spirit on the other side. -----For we need to challenge the better half of who we are, and let go of the darkness where we too often wallow. Give us hearts that love, minds that seek understanding, and a spirit of hope and faith. 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.

Live Streamed Service, November 29, 2020



The November 29th live-streamed Morning Prayer service was led by John Warriner. It was the first Sunday of Advent and there was the traditional lighting of the first Advent candle. Readings were done by Lynne and Mary Ann DeWitt played the Prelude, Organ Meditation, and Postlude. Andrew, all by himself in the back, taped the service. It was our second live-streamed only service, which will continue through December 20. We hope to be back at church by Christmas. Bulletins for the service are sent on Wednesday by email. If you want one mailed to you, or know somebody that does, please call the office.



Montrose at Night - Tis the Season

It looks like putting up the Christmas decorations in Montrose that the St. Paul's parishioners helped with last week paid off. If you haven't been to town at night lately you may want to go in and have a look. St. Paul's looks pretty good at night also.

Remember When – St. Paul's Traditions

Advent wreaths on doors and Ben lighting the Advent Candles. Traditions!



Montrose Yesterday - Church Street Looking East – c1918



Here's an early photograph of Church Street looking east before 1918. Public Ave. and Church St. weren't paved yet and speed limit signs hung above the street. The post in the lower right corner says "Go Right". The old barbershop next to the current Ho-Mart actually looks level. Cars had arrived, but still shared the road with wagons. St. Paul's steeple can be seen above the trees.

Curb Side Pick-Up Soup Night A Success

St. Paul's Curb Side Pick-Up Soup night was a success. Several hardy St. Paul's parishioners cooked a free dinner for our neighbors on Wednesday. The dinner consisted of either homemade Cream of Broccoli or Chicken Noodle Soup, roll, apple sauce, and two cookies. Cars pulled up on Chestnut Street and received their bagged meal. Coordinating dates with the Community Church in South Montrose, St. Paul's will serve the first Wednesday of the Month. If you can help make soup for the January 6th distribution please contact one of the vestry. Thanks to Debbie Crisman for directing traffic.

