



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.

Jan 10 - 16, 2021

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



This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Mary & Ben Zalewski
Announcements & Lector: Lynne Graham
Officiant: Cathy Hammons

Readings for this week

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm: 29
Epistle: Acts 19:1-7
Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

"VIEW FROM THE PEW"

We got about ten inches of snow last night. A blanket of white to start the New Year fresh and clean. I find myself drawn to the window just to stare at the beauty of it. I'm afraid I did a lot of that in 2020, figuratively speaking—just staring. I'm usually a person of pretty high energy, but 2020 was a challenge. Sure, we took frequent hikes at Salt Springs with Sophie, our three-year-old Springer Spaniel, and I managed to cook dinner *every night* (which I haven't had to do since we had three little ones at home.) But I often found myself filling up the hours with insignificant busywork. I had no

desire to start any projects or finish any that I'd started earlier. Boxes of photos that I wanted to divide for our boys remain boxes of photos. Other than making masks, I hardly used my sewing machine.

So I needed a fresh start as I imagine many of us do. It occurred to me while reading Morning Prayer on Sunday, that Jesus offers us just what we need. The divine became human to show us how to live into our calling. Jesus came to earth to show us, as a human, so we could relate to his humanity. I'm reminded of a particular Christmas card that made this point. The All Saints Sisters of the Poor in Catonsville, MD near our home in Ellicott City had, at their convent, a scriptorium that was open to the public. I would quietly creep in the front door of the convent and down the dimly lit hall so as not to disturb whatever the nuns were doing. In a large, library type room, they displayed for sale the hundreds of note cards, enclosure cards, sayings, and Christmas cards that had been beautifully hand scripted and illustrated. They were not your typical cards. I remember one card about a nun finding birds stuck in a barn and trying to get out by flying into closed windows and nothing she tried would shoe them out the open door. She was frantic to help them and thought to herself, "if only I could become a bird and show them the way as Jesus became human for us." Unusual card, right? But spot-on sentiment.

Jesus' nativity is my reminder that we are to follow his way regardless of circumstances or

viruses. Many inspirational people have overcome obstacles far greater than my inconvenience of having to postpone my normal life style until the Coronavirus is under control. In fact, these trying times offer wonderful opportunities to respond to the needs of others. I'm not very good about sticking to New Year's resolutions, but I can start over fresh and clean. I will try in 2021 to relate to Jesus' teachings in a way that gives me energy and hope and allows me to lighten the burden of someone else. How awesome is it that God became human to show us how?

Lynne

P.S. The cards for sale by the Sisters are viewable on their website allsaintssisters.org

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.

Birthdays for January: Molly Brunner 1/16, Anne Shafer 1/16, Bill Rathbone 1/18, Nathaniel Syle 1/20, David Calby 1/24 & Marsha Jones 1/26.

2nd Sunday After Christmas

The Gospel

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his

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.

9 Photos this week.

father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarean." (*Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23*)

Hark! the herald angels sing:

"Glory to the newborn King!

Peace on earth and mercy mild

God and sinners reconciled"

Joyful, all ye nations rise

Join the triumph of the skies

With angelic hosts proclaim:

"Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Hark! the herald angels sing:

"Glory to the newborn King!"



Fr. Bill's Christmas Morning Prayer

In this early morning, on the first day of a new year our prayers arise to you. Thank you Lord for bringing us safe to this time and place. We pray this 'Te Deum' for the year that has gone and the year that we have begun. May it bring us good things, happy days, the company of good friends and safe passage through the months ahead and the dangers we may face.

Here we bring new water---from the well so clear.
For to worship God with,---This happy New Year.
Sing levy-dew, sing levy-dew, the water and the wine
The seven bright gold wires---and the bugles they do shine.

Sing reign of fair maid,---with gold upon her toe--
open you the West door,--and turn the old year go:
Sing reign of fair maid,---with gold upon her chin--
Open you the East door,---And let the New year in.

New Year, new beginnings, books to read, pictures to paint, walks to take, children to teach and so the cycle begins. We pray this morning for the year ahead. Give us all that sense of adventure that all beginnings call for. To see all as opportunity, to embrace change, to cut our ties with the past, make new friends, and build something new. Who knows Lord what this year will bring? There are horizons we have yet to explore, roads we have not yet traveled, hills that we have not climbed. It is a new year.

Lord, how can we live out your Gospel in this New Year? Can we mend the fences that divided us in 2020? Can we repent of the feelings we had for those who disagreed with us?-- Could we even attempt to bring those Beatitudes to life? Can we make the 'Sermon On The Mount' apply to us rather than to everyone else? ---Will we go the extra mile like the Good Samaritan? For all those are but words till we take them to heart. It is a new year, a new gospel, a new opportunity--thank your for this New Year

Lord: "Go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and I will be with you always till the end of the age."

For Carol, Shirley, Fred, Tony and Laura and Jim, Eddie, Margaret, Alfie, David and many many more. Old friends, we said goodbye to in 2020. How we will miss them, the conversations we had, the laughter we enjoyed, the prayers we shared, the times we had, the songs we sang! Goodbye dear friends, stay close to our hearts. Amen. Fr. Bill

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.

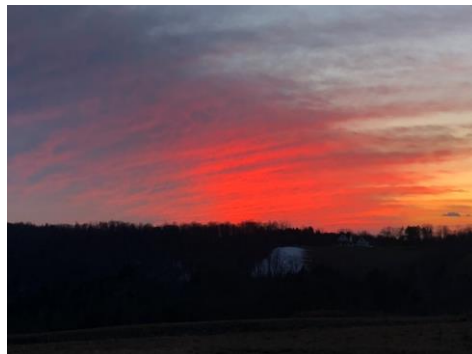
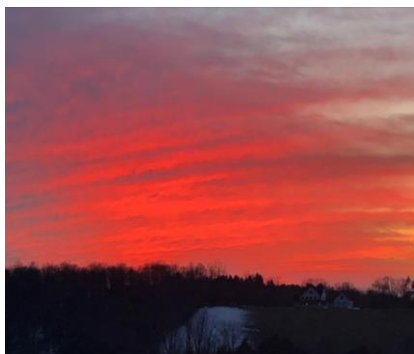


January 3rd Service

The January 3rd live-streamed Morning Prayer service was led by Lynne Graham. It was the second Sunday after Christmas. The Advent candles replaced with white for Christmas, were lit. The readings were done by Dan. Mary Ann played the organ Prelude, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, the Organ Meditation, *To Follow a Star*, and Postlude, *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*. As with all our live-streamed services, you can watch it any time on YouTube.

December 31, 2020 Sunset – Shout for Joy

They who dwell in the ends of the earth stand in awe of Your signs; You make the dawn and the sunset shout for joy.



It was a beautiful ending to a trying year. For those who saw it, the sunset on New Year's Eve was just stunning. That brief instant between when the sun dropped below the cloud cover and before it disappeared behind the skyline was a magical moment. Time stopped ever so briefly to remind us of just how amazing this world is. This one was extra special; it didn't reflect the ending of last year, it was prescient of what was to come. It was as if the Lord was saying to us at that moment: "Just hold on!" "That year is over!" "Put it behind you!" "A better one is coming." We won't forget 2020 but let's all hope 2021 will be better. We are all ready for new dawns and sunsets and when we see them, let's all shout for joy.

Christmas Past



We Three Kings - A St. Paul's Tradition

Following the Christmas Star these last two weeks, the Wise Men have slowly made their annual trip up from the back of the church on the various window sills. When church ended on this Sunday, they had made it to the heat blower next to the organ. The creche is in sight!



Sunday Snow

Shortly after the Sunday Live-Streamed service this week, it started to snow. Those big flakes were coming down at a good clip. When it was done, we had about eight inches of snow. The Memorial Garden, like the rest of Montrose, looked beautiful. Greg Garnett and his guys from Garnett Excavation and Snow Removal plowed, shoveled and salted. The photo below was taken Sunday night on South Main Street by Edward Luecke.

