

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.

**Jan 3 - 9, 2021**

**Morning Prayer Sun. Jan 3 at 10:00am**  
online <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>



***Have a Good New Year!***

**This Week's Lay Ministers:**

Altar Guild:

Announcements & Lector: Dan Graham

Officiant: Lynne Graham

**Readings for this week**

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm: 84

Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

**"VIEW FROM THE PEW"**

Christmas break. This article will resume next week. Remember that we are always looking for views to be submitted for the weekly update. Please send any articles to Lynne by Tuesday evening for publication on Thursday. Thank you to everyone who wrote an article this year and have a safe and celebratory New Year's Eve! 2021 has got to be better!!



**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.

**Birthdays for January:** Charles Cesaretti 1/2  
Karen Blye-McAbee 1/4, Molly Brunner 1/16,  
Anne Shafer 1/16, Bill Rathbone 1/18,  
Nathaniel Syle 1/20, David Calby 1/24 &  
Marsha Jones 1/26.

**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.

**7 Photos this week.**

## **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas**

### **The Gospel**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:1-14)



O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
 It is the night of our dear Savior's birth  
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
 'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth  
 A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
 For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn  
 Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!  
 O night divine, O night when Christ was born  
 O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

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

Early in the morning before any parents are up, there was the sound of tiny feet thumbing on the stairs! Christmas morning in your home, all those years ago, Christmas tree and Holly and sprigs of mistletoe. Dressing Gowns over PJ's and mugs of coffee too, no time yet for breakfast, open one gift and get ready for church.

Soon Lord, there is Mom and Dad and the wrapping paper begins to fly. Dad wondering why he gets socks and 'pullies' way too bright! There is way too many girls here, all under one roof. They have emptied half of Oxford Street, Liberty's and Macey's too. There are books to read, and boots to wear and lots of things to do with hair! Dad decides to take the dog for that Christmas long long walk. It will end at the Walker's Arms, where the men will greet each other, the dogs will sniff each others nose and settle by the log fire.

So this today Lord is our prayer, remembering 'Christmas Past'. We can't help it. We miss them, because we thought it would last and last. Now the Old House belongs to someone else and Mom and Dad have some heavenly home, the Golf Course is still there, but the trees are bare and no one can remember a 'White Christmas.' ---

Generations have arrived on top of generation, but they don't walk or see the birds, or the Christmas trees that twinkle.

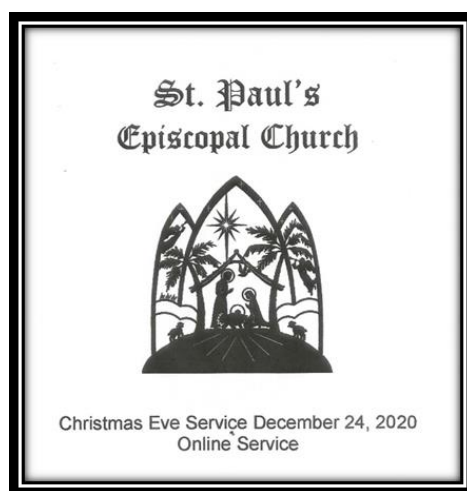
We can't complain Lord, yet we do! --- It is just a little whine. This year we leave it up to you to sort everything out in time! --- Someone is buying me colored socks, when I only ever wear white, and that sweater is for a XXXL man, I'm sure that isn't right! So time to take the dog for that walk, before the grandkids arrive. The Pub is closed in lockdown so we will have to walk in the Park. There is sure to be some guys there with lots of brand new sweaters, that arrived from Amazon last week. ---"Thank God, they don't make me wear one!" said that little dog of mine. Looking up at me with pity, in his laughing eyes.

"Merry Christmas, Jesus" Thank you for Coming into our lives. May we strive to deserve you, each and every day. 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.*

### **December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve Service Virtual This Year**

Christmas Eve's special 6:00 service was live-streamed. The presider and preacher was the Rev. Charles A. Cesaretti, Ben Zalewski served as acolyte, and Lynne Graham did the readings. Mary Ann Dewitt played the organ and Kevin Bryant of the Tri-Cities Opera, tenor soloist, sang *O Holy Night*, *O Come O Come Emmanuel*, and *Silent Night*. We initiated a process where you could call in on a telephone and listen to the service. The live-streamed service was well watched and is available on YouTube. It has been viewed by over 90 people at last count.





### **December 27<sup>th</sup> Service, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Christmas**

The December 27<sup>th</sup> live-streamed Morning Prayer service was led by Tom Undercoffler. It was the first Sunday after Christmas. The Advent candles, replaced with white for Christmas, were lit. Announcements and Readings were done by Lynne. Mary Ann played the organ Prelude, *How Great Our Joy*, the Organ Meditation, *We Three Kings*, and Postlude, *Adeste Fideles*. As with all our live-streamed services, you can watch it any time on YouTube.

### **The Gospel**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out,



"This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. ( *John 1:1-18*)

### Picture from Christmas at St. Paul's, 1936



This picture was photographed in 1936 -- eighty-four years ago. The church was about 80 years old and the parish hall next door was just seven years old. It was taken at Christmas. There were some differences then. The choir was still on the altar stage and the altar itself was set against the back wall so that the Priest's back was to the congregation. You can see the big grate in the middle of the aisle which let the coal-fired heat up. There was an electric light at the peak of the arch which is no longer there. Garlands were tied to it and hung from the sides. Live evergreens were placed at the front of the church. What's neat is, Joe Welden was age 11 then and probably attended Christmas service that week.

### Next St. Pauls Soup Night December 6th

St. Paul's next Curb Side Pick-Up Soup night will be January 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6:00. If you would like to help bag the dinners, please call Karen or Lynne.

