




276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801  
 Office 570-278-2954, Mon., Wed. & Thu. 8:10am to 2:30pm  
 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. 12 - 18, 2021

In person worship or you can watch live streamed on YouTube. Go to St. Paul's website <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org> and click this red button  on the front page, which takes you to our YouTube page.



### Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 5:00.

All are welcome. Ask your friends and neighbors to join us for this beautiful, moving remembrance of Jesus' birth.

Christ Church at 4:30 and St Marks at 6:30.

Our **Annual Memory Luncheon** takes place on Sunday, December 12 at noon following the service. A free lunch sponsored by Stop the Stigma gathers friends to remember and honor any loved ones in recovery or lost to addiction and those grieving any loss during the holidays. Come be with those who understand what you feel. No registration required. If St. Paul's parishioners will each bring a "brunchy" potluck dish for the meal, we will have a feast.

### This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Carol Lasher, Barb Undercoffler & Carol Marker  
 Officiant: Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski  
 Announcements: Lynne Graham  
 Camera & Broadcast: Andrew Wurth  
 Lector: Lynne Graham

### Readings for this week

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm: Canticle 9

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

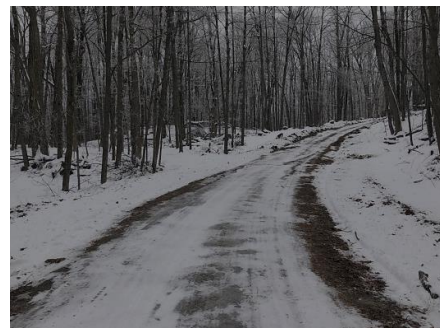
**Altar Flowers this week are from Carol & Richard Marker given for the Blessings of Advent.**



### Christmas Flowers

The altar always looks so beautiful decorated for Christmas Eve with the poinsettias, and then they are available to be taken home to enjoy. This year, we plan to order the flowers based on the number given in memory or honor of someone. Flower envelopes will be provided in church on Sunday. If you wish to contribute towards the Christmas flowers, please indicate the name of the person(s) you want to memorialize or honor and include a check. We expect the cost per poinsettia to be around \$30.

### View from the Pew



*Whose woods these are, I think I  
 know....Robert Frost's famous poem.*

Everyone knows it – we learned it in 11<sup>th</sup> grade American Literature I believe. It's about a cold snowy evening, woods, and obligations. We had our first snow here last week. First snows for the previous three years were earlier in November but this year ours finally came with two inches of big, slow-falling flakes. November is our waiting month. One that gets dark at 4:30 and one in which we wait for snow (and winter). We know it's coming, we just aren't sure when. As with all first snows here, the one that came didn't stick. The ground was still too warm to keep it around. But, it clung to trees and provided a winter vista that we here take for granted and we know other bigger storms will follow.

On the surface, Frost's poem is simplicity itself. The speaker is stopping by some woods on a snowy evening. He takes in the lovely scene in near-silence, is tempted to stay longer, but acknowledges the pull of obligations and the considerable distance yet to be traveled before he can rest for the night.

To get to our house when we come home on 267 from Vestal where we shop, we use Birchardville Hill Road. That takes us on Frost-like roads through about a 3-mile stretch of mostly woods. Dirt roads and dark woods are a normal part of driving here for those of us who do not live in town. The Markers, Dunns, and Undercofflers all go down country roads to get to their homes. Snow on those roads just makes it a little more challenging.

Particularly in one heavily wooded section on our drive at night near Bunnell's, when there is snow on the ground or it's snowing, I like to stop and turn my lights and radio off. Sitting in the darkness, I open the windows and feel the cold and listen to the silence of the snow. It's not a time to have reveries and think about life and love or have great thoughts. It's a time to empty your head and be the only person in the

world and realize what an insignificant part of it you are.

I actually think of the poem during those times. Unlike Frost, I have no little horse to shake his head as if to ask why we were stopping and tell me it's time to move on. Like Frost, I also generally want to remain longer but as it is night and snowing, I want to finish getting home safely. I too usually have obligations. But for a brief moment, I am able to forget about the material world with all its craziness and simply just watch God's woods fill up with snow -- and be mesmerized by it -- and appreciate its indescribable pure beauty. *The woods are lovely, dark and deep....*

You know the rest.



**Coats for Our Community** has a final distribution of free, warm winter coats on Wednesday, December 15 and Thursday, December 16 from 9-6 at St. Paul's. We need someone in the Parish Hall during those hours while people choose coats. If you have a spare hour or two, please contact Dan Graham or John Finlon to spell the chiefs.

**For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:** Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Charlotte Eckert, Nancy Finlon, Johanna Masters, Jeannine Ball, Sandy Nagy, Ray Arcario, Addie Evans, Cathy Hammons & Carol Marker.



**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.

**Birthdays for December:** James Cain 12/9, Vera Dunn 12/13 & 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.*

**Second Sunday of Advent, December 5th**

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who orders all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in its ways to go.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**shall come to you, O Israel**

**THE GOSPEL- Prepare the way of the Lord**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,  
"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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.*



**1 Donations** You can scan the QR Code. Or go to St. Paul's Website and click the Donate Button for online giving. You can mail your tithes & pledges 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 Deacon Liz 212-222-8109.

**14 Photos this week.**

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

*(Luke 3:1-6)*

**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 Lord our God may go!**

### **Deacon Liz's View From the Pulpit**

This season is filled with hope and anticipation. Families and friends gather to celebrate and give thanks for togetherness. We normally look forward to this time of year because it is filled with joy.

But there are those for whom this season is difficult. Those who are struggling with illness, addiction, loss. They need all of the love and support that we can provide them. They need to know that there is someone there to offer an ear or a shoulder to cry on.

The most wonderful gift you can give to someone in pain is a caring heart and a listening ear. To that end, St. Paul's participates in the Stop the Stigma luncheon this Sunday. This event is an opportunity for members of the community to gather to support one another at this time of year.

So please, join us Sunday at noon for the luncheon as we gather with people for whom the holidays are difficult. We will show them hospitality, love and support and the true meaning of the season. And if you can bring a dish to share that would be great.

### **THIS WEEK**

#### **December 5th Service**

The December 5th live-streamed 10:00 Deacon's Mass was led by Deacon Liz. Lynne Graham made announcements, Cathy Hammons was the lector and Cathy also played the organ Prelude, Organ Meditation and Postlude, along with four hymns. As with all our live-streamed services, you can watch it live or any time on YouTube.





## The Christmas Store

St. Paul's annual Christmas Store, part of Christmas in Montrose, was in full swing on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The weather cooperated. We had lots of food which was good because we had lots of people. The bake table was a big hit and there were raffle baskets. There was a petting zoo in the Memorial Garden and pony rides for the kids. Thanks to everyone who made it a success.







## Bible Study Up and Running

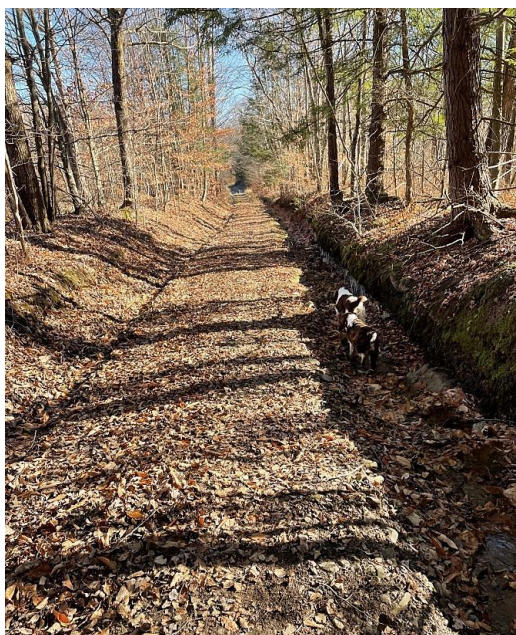
Please consider joining us on the first and second Thursdays of the month for a simple supper at 5:00 and lively discussion of a Scripture passage. Bring your own Bible if you wish. This is a wonderful Advent opportunity.





## Early December in Susquehanna County

*"Come, come thou bleak December wind, And blow the dry leaves from the tree!"* It's late fall here. The trees are bare and the brown leaves swirl when the cold wind blows. The green that was with us so long is gone and has turned to winter brown. But, wreaths appeared on our front door this week – it's three weeks until Christmas.



## Old picture of Church St. found

Virginia Lewis has a great collection of Montrose postcards and pictures and shared them with us. This is a picture of Church Street looking east toward Cherry Street in 1939. St. Paul's is not in the picture but is immediately to the right of the camera. Three houses are shown on the block and you can also see the white house across Cherry St. Two of the three houses are no longer there. The Knoll house is the first house. It was this large house that St. Paul's purchased in 1965, tore down, and created the Memorial Garden.

