


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. 19 - 25, 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.

### 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: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm: 80:1-7

Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

**Altar Flowers this week are from John Finlon & Vida Kiefer In Memory of Vida Finlon.**



### 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.

**The office must have all In Memory or In Honor of envelopes no later than Mon. Dec. 20th.**

### View from the Pew

The sense of smell is a remarkable memory jogger. The smell of bacon and pancakes cooking in the morning reminds me of wonderful childhood memories of that aroma wafting up the stairs on a Christmas vacation morning. The meat was either bacon or that Pennsylvania treat, scrapple. The pancakes were even made better with crispy edges by cooking them on the griddle that is doused with the bacon fat. And, sometimes, the leftover grits would be chilled solid in a bread pan overnight and sliced up and fried. This holiday, one or two of my sisters will be coming. The

one always makes waffles from scratch, along with, of course, applewood smoked bacon. And there comes again the smells and associated memories.

The olfactory receptor can instantly create a time warp back in time or teleport you to a distant land. My favorite location to be transported to, even when 10,000 miles away in the western Pacific or Arabian Sea somewhere, was right here to northeastern Pennsylvania. This is the land of the best and purest maple syrup found anywhere in the world in my humble opinion. It makes me wonder why in this area of the sugar maple tree, why the restaurants give you a corn starch substitute for this amazing sweet liquid found right in our back yards.

One final memory to ponder is a long time ago I poked a hole in one of our maple trees in late winter / early spring, and out came dropping the sap. I put my head under it and caught it in my mouth. Wow, what pure sweet tasting sugar water it was. Here's to a very merry Christmas to you all. I wish you all the wonderful memories that the smells of your favorite foods can conjure up.

- John Warriner

**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 & Ellen Ely.



**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:** 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.*



**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.

**16 Photos this week.**

## Third Sunday of Advent, December 12th

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 - I baptize you with water

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. *(Luke 3:7-18)*

Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.

### Deacon Liz's View From the Pulpit

We have rounded the corner, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ is soon upon us. We have begun gathering with family and friends to celebrate the season. Joy is in the air.

Most of us are indeed filled with joy, however not all of us feel in a celebratory mood. This season is a reminder that someone special is missing from the celebration or that things are changing in their lives and they are out of their control.

We are called through baptism to reach out to those in need, to show them the love of Christ. We are to pray for them and with them for the grace of God to be with them in their time of need.

We are also called to provide for our neighbor in need out of our abundance. As we heard in Luke on Sunday, if you have two coats, give one away, and if you have extra food share with the less fortunate.

So, pray today and in the days to come for God to open your heart and continue to share with those less fortunate. In being a blessing, you will be blessed.

Join us Sunday for the fourth Sunday of Advent. After the service we will be greening the church. Remember, many hands make light work.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **December 12th Service**

The December 12th live-streamed 10:00 Deacon's Mass was led by Deacon Liz. Lynne Graham made announcements and was the lector, Cathy Hammons 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.



### **Mobile Food Pantry**

As you probably know by now the second Friday of the month is when the Mobile Food Pantry in South Montrose gives out food. It is back at the Community Church lot on 29 south and goes from 11:30 until 3:00. It was a cold one this week but kids from Montrose and Elk Lake came and helped. If you wonder where the bread money we collect goes, stop and take a look. Over 200 families were helped this Friday.



## Coats For Our Community

The final 2021 Coats for Our Community Distribution took place this week in the parish hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 6. The season starts at St. Paul's in October and ends here in December. Coats were taken to six sites by volunteers from the American Legion. We gave out over 1,300 coats this season. We would like to thank everyone who donated a coat or helped with the distribution. You kept your neighbors a little warmer this year.



## Stop the Stigma Luncheon

On Sunday, after church, St. Paul's hosted its annual Stop the Stigma Memory Luncheon. The community gathered to enjoy a meal, to remember loved ones lost, to share stories and to support one another. Nancy Houck and her students provided beautiful flute music and Cathy Hammons and Deacon Liz each sang a Christmas hymn.



## Those Were the Days

Neither snow nor Covid *nor* lack of heat stayed these St. Paul's parishioners from the swift completion of their appointed rounds. Just looking back, in the winter of 2019/2020, when services were suspended by the Diocese due to Covid, four people live streamed a Morning Prayer service to our parishioners every week. On this January Sunday, not only was it snowing, but our heat was broken. It was really cold inside so they kept their coats on, and onward they went. The organ, mikes and camera all worked so Andrew, Lynne, Cathy and Mary Ann didn't miss a beat. A special belated thanks to all St. Paul's parishioners who helped keep St. Paul's services going during those complicated times.



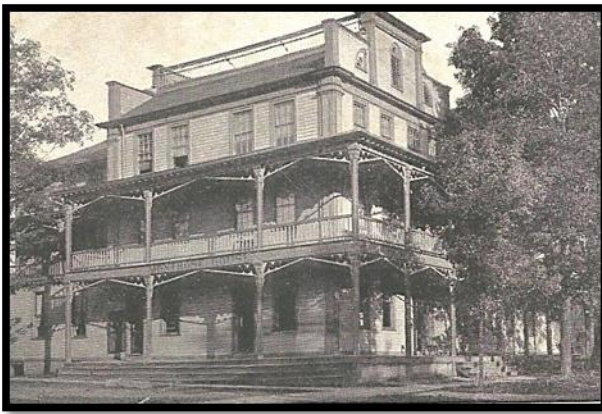
## Mid-December in Susquehanna County

*All the leaves were brown and the sky was grey. I've been for a walk on a winters day."* It's late fall here and the winter solstice is on December 22nd. We've had two snows, both of which melted fairly quickly. It's a great time to walk in the woods. The leaves are gone and visibility is great. The puppy was checking things out over a huge hemlock that had fallen. That wood pile that took all summer to build is disappearing quickly. Only two weeks until Christmas.





### Across Church Street from St. Paul's



One of the founders of Montrose was Isaac Post, Bartlett Hinds' son-in-law. He ran a tavern, which was one of the first structures in the borough, on what would be named Church St., across from St. Paul's. In 1883, it was purchased and, using a mountain of jack-screws and blocks, the new owner raised the original building one full story and built a dining room, new bar and front desk in the new space which he named the Montrose House. The main door and longer side was on Chestnut St. Guests were brought by carriage from the railroad station. For the next 40 years, it was the structure that St. Paul's parishioners looked at when they came out of church. In 1921, the Montrose House was torn down and was replaced by the Montrose Inn, which was converted to a bank in the 1970s. It is the structure we first see now. The picture on the right is one of the new inn probably right before it opened. The photos are from Virginia Lewis' postcard book.