




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
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. 9 - 15, 2022

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.

The Annual Meeting is on January 16. All Reports must be in to the office by Jan. 10.

Bible Study 1st & 2nd Thursdays. We will start with a light supper at 5:00 provided on a rotating basis by one of the members of the group.

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Mary & Ben Zalewski
Officiant: Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski
Announcements: Lynne Graham
Camera & Broadcast: Andrew Wurth
Lector: Lynne Graham

Readings for this Week

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm: 29
Epistle: Acts 8:14-17
Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22



View from the Pew

Have you ever had an "ah-ha" moment, when something you had vaguely thought about before suddenly became clear? What had been a puzzle before, now makes perfect sense—a conscious realization due to some event that is simple and striking so you comprehend the true meaning or reality of what had eluded you.

It's coincidental, but we were talking about just this thing at coffee hour last Sunday. I mentioned that I had never fully understood forgiveness until a neighbor in Baltimore took advantage of our trust. I was angry and could not get beyond how he had used us. It was eating at me, and the fact that he did not seem in the least remorseful made it worse. One night, as I lay awake fretting, it suddenly occurred to me that forgiveness had nothing to do with him. It had everything to do with me. I could either let my anger continue to control my emotions regarding him, or I could forgive him, whether he was aware or not, and move on. I had an epiphany! Only then did I understand how someone like Immaculee Ilibagiza, who survived the Rwandan genocide, could forgive her family's murderers.

In most Christian traditions, January 6 is the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. As Deacon Liz noted in her sermon last Sunday, it commemorates the revealing of Jesus as the Christ to the Gentiles in the persons of the Magi at Bethlehem.

The magi followed a star in the East and eventually the star settled over the place where Jesus lay in a manger. The magi were not fooled by the commonness of the surroundings. Rather, they recognized the King of the Jews, and they, who were not Jews, worshiped him and offered gifts signifying that his Kingship would be for all people. This was their, and our, Epiphany. Through a simple and striking scene, they understood God made manifest in the form of a helpless baby. An “ah-ha” moment.

May all our epiphanies bring us closer to God.

Lynne

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, Carol Marker & Ellen Ely.

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.



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.

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact: you can call the parish office during office hours. After hours call Deacon Liz 212-222-8109.

First Wednesday of the Month on Feb. 2nd: Free Soup Dinner at St. Paul's Episcopal Church from 3:30-5:00 p.m. **Please note** that the Free Dinners are take-out only.

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

9 Photos this week.

Second Sunday After Christmas, January 2nd

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed
There a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed
Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ her little child

THE GOSPEL -- Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

"Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. (*Matthew 2:1-12*)

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep. :
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

Deacon Liz, View From the Pulpit

Happy New Year! We have entered a new calendar year, having previously entered a new liturgical year, year C. This liturgical year will be spent primarily reading and considering the Gospel of Luke.

While we likely have experienced this Gospel in the past because we have a three year cycle of reading the Gospels, the new calendar year is a time of new beginnings, a time in which we know not what is to come.

What lies before us this year? The future is a mystery which will unfold one day at a time. Some of us will make resolutions which are likely to be broken. Many of us will continue on as we have before, being set in our ways. I would like to suggest that we take this moment to pray for the Holy

Spirit to enter into our hearts and inspire us to live into our baptismal call to be Christ in the world to one another.

May we know the light of Christ in new and inspirational ways as we conclude the Christmas season and enter into Epiphany.

Fr. Bill's Morning Prayer

Beginnings, a new day, a new month, and a New Year dawns on this early morning. 2022 has arrived and we pause to pray that it will be a year of Peace, a year of Gospel Renewal and a year of Friendship.

Jeremiah in Chapter 31 speaks of a return, a return of the children of Jacob. For there will come a time for rejoicing. The prophet references the exile in speaking of a 'return from the land of the North.'

A 'straight path,' with 'consolations,' by 'brooks of water,' Israel will return to better days and better times. The words of the prophet become Messianic in that they look to a new kingdom when God will again bless his people.

At this beginning of a new year, the words of Jeremiah, could equally apply to us in the sense that we too need a new beginning. The old year has ended with all its successes and failures. We cannot take it back. All that we can do is pray and promise that on this first day of the year we will live better, correct our mistakes, and strive to become better people in the year ahead.

This is our prayer, Lord. That in all we do and say in the coming twelve months we work to become the people you have called us to be. We have tried so many other ways Lord. We have been selfish and egotistical; we have served our own self-interest. It got us nowhere. In the coming year we would try your way.

To be kind, generous, understanding, prudent, forgiving, patient and caring. To treat all as our friend. To accept them, today, as the people that they are. To live and breathe not just for myself but for others. To acknowledge the greatness and potential in every human life. That would make 2022 a very fine year. Amen.

THIS WEEK

January 2nd Service

The January 2nd 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, Offertory and Postlude, *Song for the New Year*, along with several hymns. Our live-streamed services can be watched live or any time on YouTube. If you noticed, the Wise Men on their St. Paul's journey, made it to the last windowsill. Next Sunday is Epiphany, and they will arrive at the manger.



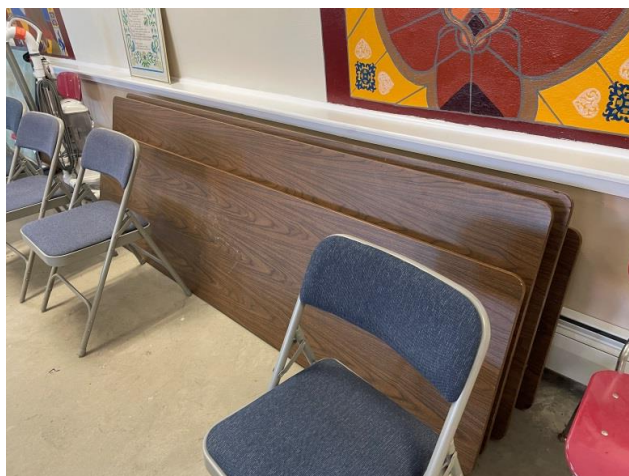
New Employee Started This Week

This Monday, January 3rd, Betty's successor, Peggy Sheffler, started. Betty, who will be retiring after Easter, will be training her for the next couple of months. Peggy brings an administrative and financial support background and we are pleased to have her in our office. If you see her, give her a big hello.



Do You Need a Table?

We obtained four new, lighter tables for the Celtic Room this week and have four we need to dispose of. They are standard height and in decent shape. They are eight foot long and two different widths. If anybody is interested let Dan know. I can use the pickup truck if you need them delivered.



EARLY WINTER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

It's rare here. It's January and we don't have any snow on the ground. We have mud instead! After a warm spell, it got cold on Monday night and the ground thankfully froze. The milk weed pods successfully completed their task of sending their seeds out on the wind. They now stand empty in the fields but proud on their stems, knowing they will be replaced by the seeds they sent. Loch's Maple Syrup down in Springville has been busy getting the Christmas gift trade. An eagle has been hanging out on 706 by the stream at Fairdale. Maybe it will find a mate and stay this summer. Finally, if you think you have been noticing a lot of trees down as you drive, you are right. The ash borer has killed thousands and they are just now giving way.





OLD PICTURE OF ST. PAUL'S

Ginny Lewis had this old picture of a meeting in St. Paul's Parish Hall probably during the early 1950s. Maybe the ladies could take a guess based on hair styles, glasses and clothes. A couple of things. The fireplace looked used; there were two candelabra above the fireplace that have since been removed and capped off; the room has big iron radiators that are gone, and the Rev. Warriner's portrait was still hanging above the fireplace (It hung there from 1930 to the 1990s) and it has since been moved into the Guildroom. Also, it appears that we used to have wooden folding chairs for meetings. Can anyone identify any of the attendees?

