


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.

Feb. 20 – 26, 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.

Bible Study 1st & 2nd Thursdays. We will start at 5:00.

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Sandy Seeger & Marsha Jones
Officiant: Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski
Announcements: Lynne Graham
Camera & Broadcast: Andrew Wurth
Lector: Cathy Hammons

Readings for this Week

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm: 37:1-12, 41-42
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Gospel: Luke 6:27-38



See you at the Pancake Supper on March 1st.
Bring a friend.

Birthdays for February: Kristina Kinney 2/24,
Carol Lasher 2/27, & Nancy Finlon 2/28.

View from the Pew

I think that every person who is sitting in church can relate to a few of the hard things that are being quoted below. I know that I can. And then I finally realized that church is not hard. It is where I find support and unconditional love.

- Martha Cobb

The Laughing Christian

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement.

Church is hard for the minister's family, under the microscope of an entire body.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.

Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.

Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.

Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.

Church is hard for the sinners.

Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress.

However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church—

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is a body.

Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church, the body, and the circle of sinners—

turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church—

The days when I am at odds with a friend, when I've fought with my husband because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.

- Author Unknown



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.

March Convocation Meetings

The Diocese of Bethlehem is gathering by Convocation in March for a fun preview of *Spring Event – 2022*, to hear updates from Assembly Conveners, and to hear from Bishop Kevin about his excitement for the progress we are enjoying for parish searches and our Canon Missioner ministry. Everyone is invited to attend their Convocation's meeting night,

between March 7 and March 10, 2022. These one-hour meetings will be **online via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.** Online registration is required; for more information and to register, please visit the diocesan website: [click here](#).

Please share this invitation with your entire parish. Any questions, please contact us at (610) 691-5655 or office@diobeth.org.

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.

First Wednesday of the Month on Mar. 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.

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

Our thanksgivings: We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week. *O God, our times are in your hand: look with*

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany, February 13th

We know that Christ is raised

and dies no more.

**Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.**

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL-blessed are you

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

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

12 Photos this week.

"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets."

"But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets." (*Luke 6:17-26*)

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

Deacon Liz - View From the Pulpit

Think back to a time in your life when you were planning for a major event such as a wedding. Remember how stressful it was? There were so many details to attend to. People to contact. The flowers. The food. What to wear. It was all a bit overwhelming. And then of course there was the event itself and how it would change everything forever.

That was what was really important. The wedding was important as an event, it's true. But what was most important, the marriage, that was the thing. And yet, at the time of all of that planning, did you really take the time to consider how life would never be the same? The sacrament for many got lost in the planning. That's where I find myself this week. Lost in the planning.

It is not often that the ordinand is involved to the extent that I am in planning the ordination because many times multiple people are ordained at the same time. Ordinands are not given the freedom to choose everything that I have been allowed to choose. Thankfully, there are things that others are taking care of, the flowers and the food, however, I am intimately

involved in the planning and execution of the service itself. This has been somewhat of a surprise for me.

In some ways I am grateful because it has offered me the opportunity to do liturgy planning in advance of doing it for others. In other ways, I wish that I would be able to just show up for the ordination. Have I said this is all overwhelming?

That said, I ask for your prayers as I plan the service and more importantly, as I prepare for my consecration to the priesthood on the 26th. I will be spending as much time as possible until then in prayer and meditation about the life altering experience that is upon me and about my ministry as it continues to unfold.

May my ministry and our ministry together continue to blossom in our part of the Kingdom of God.

Father Bill's Morning Prayer

In this morning prayer we read about Jeremiah struggling to convince Jerusalem that they separate themselves from Yahweh at their own peril. He talks about how a tree by water will grow and bear fruit. "By their fruit you will know them," Jesus tells his disciples. He speaks it over and over. Whether he is talking about a 'Fig' tree or something else, the message is clear. Goodness, virtue, doing the right thing is not optional.

In a world where 'truth' and 'right and wrong' have been blurred for political reasons, Christians are challenged not just to choose the right, but to stand and proclaim by their witness. Sad to say, Lord, most of us avoid being called 'goodies'. We fail to stand up to the mob. 'The silent Christian,' is more the norm than, 'The Man for all seasons,' who will swim against the tide in the cause of right. Five hundred years ago, Thomas More stood, at the cost of his life for what he believed was 'the right.' Today he would equally be the exception.

It is both hard and difficult to stand in the face of the storm. We blame ordinary Germans for not opposing the Nazis Regime, yet we ourselves are afraid to stand against blatant lies and untruth. There is a slippery slope here that is told and predicted in the pages of history. "For evil to succeed, it suffices that good men stand by and do nothing!"

Today we pray for 'truth' that bruised and maligned virtue. We pray for truth that is at the heart of our Justice System; truth that anchors our Constitution; truth that keeps us safe. A society where promises cannot be kept undermines the entire fabric of the whole. We pray for truth.

Sometimes Lord we really need your intervention. We need it today. We need it on the borders of Ukraine. We need it to be infused in the minds of our politicians. We need to live by truth. This is our prayer. Amen. Fr. Bill.

THIS WEEK

February 13th Service.

It was another cold morning and those who came braved the cold and an icy sidewalk. The February 13th live-streamed 10:00 Deacon's Mass was led by Deacon Liz. Lynne Graham did announcements and was the lector. Cathy Hammons played the organ Prelude and Postlude,

Jesu, *Joy of Man's Desiring*, along with four hymns. While it was cold outside we had a warm coffee hour inside. As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or any time on YouTube.



Montrose Mobile Food Pantry on February 11th

While it wasn't as cold as it was the month before, it was still chilly and the lot was icy when the Montrose Mobile Food Pantry gave out food on this Friday. A man on a horse even came by to say hello. 190 households were served.



PANCAKE SUPPER

Lent is fast approaching! St. Paul's Church is having its free annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Tuesday, March 1st, 2022, beginning at 5:30. The menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, applesauce, homemade desserts and beverages. Please come and join us and bring your friends. Mardi Gras costumes welcome! See you there.



MID-FEBRUARY IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

"February, when the days of winter seem endless and no amount of wistful recollecting can bring back any air of summer." It's been cold, so cold the snow won't melt, and what does melt freezes at night. The days and nights are crisp. The back roads are still snow covered and the Susquehanna is starting to break up. It's been noted though that we have had more sun this winter than normal but the cloudless nights are keeping it cold. But, although a chilly one, it hasn't been our normal dreary winter.



A SUNNY WINTER

St. Paul's tends to be dark during the day in the winter but this year, the sun has been shining and light has been streaming in the west windows and the rose window to provide a pretty view. If you get a chance, take a peek, its beautiful.

