




276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801
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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. 27 – Mar 5, 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.

This Week's Lay Ministers:

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

Readings for this Week

First Reading: Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm: 99
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Gospel: Luke 9:28-36



See you at the Pancake Supper on March 1st.
at 5:30. Bring a friend.

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.

View from the Pew

Recently, I finished reading '*The Book of Joy*'. It is a week-long interview of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people and of Tibetan Buddhism, and Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus of Southern Africa. In 2015, the Archbishop visited the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India, where he has been in exile since 1959. Archbishop Tutu was ill at the time with prostate cancer, which was not responding to his latest treatment. The interview was conducted by Douglas Abrams, and the book written by him in conjunction with the Dalai Lama and the Archbishop.

The book is divided into three sections: The Nature of True Joy; The Obstacles to Joy; and the Eight Pillars of Joy. Although both men have dealt with severe hardships and struggles, they have chosen a life of joy, which comes through so clearly in the book. They differentiate between happiness, which is circumstantial, and joy, which comes from within ourselves. The book is a guide to finding joy even amidst horrible circumstances and acknowledge that nothing beautiful comes without some suffering.

The obstacles to joy are fear, stress, and anxiety; frustration and anger; sadness and grief; despair; loneliness; envy; suffering and adversity; and illness and fear of death. We all experience these times in our lives, but we can move beyond them by practicing the pillars of joy. Perspective; humility; humor; acceptance; forgiveness; gratitude; compassion; and generosity instill joy. We develop joy by turning from ourselves to others in compassion.

I learned "God is love" in Sunday School and that as God loves us, so we should love others. As a Godly Play teacher, the lesson on the Ten Commandments broke the law into two parts: love God (2) and love people (8). These two men, spiritual giants, are saying that love for one another is how we find joy. I heartily recommend this book for anyone seeking joy in his/her life.

Lynne

Vestry Highlights February 17, 2022

Lynne opened the meeting with prayer and we approved the agenda.

We approved the minutes of December 16, 2021. There was no regular Vestry meeting in January, but we approved the Special Vestry Meeting minutes of January 5, January 27, and February 6, 2022.

Deacon Liz read the Bible study scripture Luke 6:27-39 in which Jesus tells us to love our enemies and how to do it. We are to be merciful, not judge, and forgive. We noted how difficult this could be, but recognized that "the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Deacon Liz reported that she has continued with pastoral calls and visits. She spent time preparing her questions for our interview process so that we had an opportunity to discuss all issues up front. Deacon Liz has also spent time in prayer and meditation in preparation for her ordination to the priesthood.

Dan presented the Property Report which includes projects for this year. He will seek approval for spending before any major projects. The new carpet in the sanctuary was laid today. We are still waiting for the new glass doors to be installed at the top of the ramp entrance.

Katlyn Bennett has been hired as the new Parish Administrator. She will be trained by Betty and will take over upon Betty's retirement. The Vestry approved her benefits.

We agreed again this year to provide Easter treats for the recipients and drivers of Meals on Wheels. Donations toward this endeavor are much appreciated.

During Lent, starting on Wednesday, March 9, we will have Bible study beginning with a simple soup supper at 5:00. This will be weekly through April 6. Thursday Bible study will be suspended until after Easter.

We accepted the Treasurer's report. We approved Williams Owens to do the audit for 2021 and we approved and signed the Parochial Report due on March 1.

Looking ahead:

Deacon Liz's ordination to the Priesthood, Saturday, February 26 @ 11:00 a.m.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
March 1 @ 5:30 p.m.

Soup Night, Wednesday, March 2
followed by our Ash Wednesday service @ 6:00 p.m.

Deacon Liz closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Our next Vestry meeting will be March 17, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.



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

Birthdays for March: John Finlon 3/6, Elizabeth Smith 3/15, Edgar Warriner 3/20, Elaine Petrzala 3/22, Robert Kuhn 3/24, Tom Undercoffler 3/30.

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.

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

7th Sunday After Epiphany, February 20th

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

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

11 Photos this week.

THE GOSPEL-blessed are you

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you." If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (*Luke 6:27-38*)

Father Bill's Morning Prayer

In our morning prayer we ask you Lord to bring us to that place where we may serve. Shake us out of our lazy days of Winter. Inspire us with your word. Re-awaken the challenge and drive of your Gospel within us, as you did in the Spring of our youth.

For all around we see the ruin and wreckage of storm-tossed lives. The homeless child; the empty vacant look of teenage years; the desperation of the single mother, old before her time; the wandering aimlessness of the mentally wounded veteran; the divorced and broken; the jobless and the slavery of the part-time-worker and the loneliness of the truly old.

Ah, but there Lord is the majestic church with its spires bright in the morning sun, climbing into the sky; its glittering new sign adorning the green of its groomed lawn. So why Lord are those great doors locked on a Thursday? Do the poor only exist on Sundays? Where does the veteran go on weekdays? Is this Golf Day for the clergy?

Lines and lines of empty pews and we wonder why they are still empty come Sunday. Have we institutionalized your Word and squeezed it into a weekly ritual? Tell me that your priest and people are visiting the hospital, prison, the shut-in and the aged. Tell me the Nursing home has seen them; that they have embraced the aging loved ones of this generation.

"Feed my lambs, Feed my sheep!" You told people on that day on the sandy shore of the Sea of Galilee! You did not say: "But first they must be baptized! Everyone must wear a tie! Check their ID and Social Security card!"- No. You simply said "feed them! ---I have it here in writing.

Feed them with love. That is what you meant, Lord. Give them hope. Put those coats on their back. Feed them with food! Give the kids something more exciting than the blank stare of drugs. Get Mom to meet Mom as their single children play somewhere warm. Maybe even that big empty Thursday church. Come on Lord, send us your Spirit, not to hover above your altar. Send it into the hearts of all who boast the name Christian.

Shake the foundations of our belief. Make the musician play; the nurse, nurse; the caregiver give; the singer sing! For God's sake let us do something rather than complain: "No one is doing anything!"

This is our prayer today, Lord. "Wake up my People! Wake up and give a shout!" The Gospel is calling you to shake off the cobwebs of Winter and go out there and make a difference. Do it now. Be a part of the solution.

For Christ's sake be a church! -----AMEN!

THIS WEEK

February 20th Service.

It was another cold morning and remnants of Saturday's snow squall still blew around the sidewalks. The February 20th live-streamed 10:00 Deacon's Mass was led by Deacon Liz. Lynne Graham did announcements. Cathy Hammons did double duty and was the lector and the piano player. Joyce Printz played the organ and together they played the Prelude and Postlude, along with four hymns. As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or any time on YouTube.



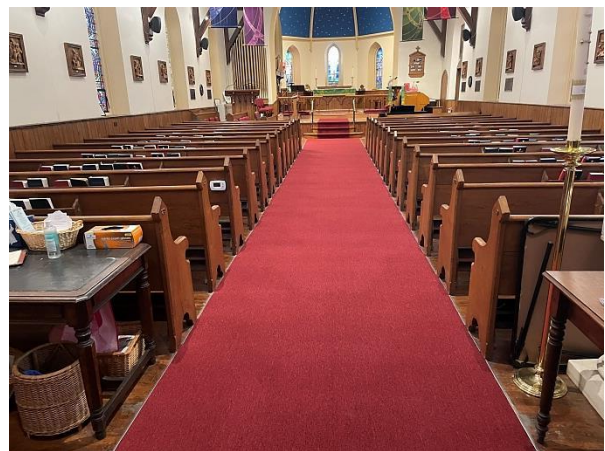
Skating Outing Snowed Out

On Saturday, February 19th, there was a skating outing at the rink in Montrose Park. But at 12:00, a snow squall hit and it was a white out. Lots of St. Paul's parishioners were there including John, Gaby, Lindsey, Corey and Dominic.



New Carpet in Church

New Carpet was installed this week at the church. The old one had some real noticeable wear spots. While it is the same color and texture as the old one, you really notice the padding. It was great that it was installed before Liz's ordination. Take a look at it if you get a chance.



New Administrative Assistant at St. Paul's

On January 15, Betty's successor, Katlyn Bennett started. Betty, who will be retiring after Easter, will be training her for the next couple months. Kate brings an impressive administrative background, and we are pleased to have her in the office. She is Naomi Bennett's granddaughter. If you see her give her a big hello.



New Custodian at St. Paul's

After several years, Dave Calby has stepped down from doing the cleaning at church and Patrick Gallagher has replaced him. If you see Dave, thank him for his past good work and if you see Patrick, welcome him aboard.

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

"If Winter Comes, Can Spring be Far Behind" Snow squalls and maple syrup tapping. Our winters here have a predictable rhythm that changes from season to season but not yearly. February is probably our "winterest" month. Each day is different.

