

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

March 9- March 15



276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801

Office 570-278-2954, Monday-Thursday 8:15am-3:00pm

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>

To proclaim God's love by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact:

You can call the parish office during office hours. After hours, call John Warriner at 570-278-2317.

Our Vestry Members

John Warriner, Sr. Warden

Lynne Graham, Jr. Warden

John Finlon, Treasurer

Wanda Peirce, Clerk

Vera Dunn

Dan Graham

Sandy Seeger



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

Church Closures

Please turn your radio dial to WPEL 96.5 FM. We will announce any closure of our church service on that station.

View from the Pulpit: Father Bill

There is a word that encompasses the theme for the Sunday readings, and that word is 'theophany'. It is a word that means a 'God—Man' encounter.

This Gospel is the ultimate 'Epiphany,' where Jesus, in Luke Chapter 9, takes Peter, James, and John, up the mountain with him, and reveals who he truly is. His face, appearance, and clothes, become dazzling white, such that it was difficult for the three Apostles to look at him. Moses and Elijah appear at his side, talking with him. The event becomes known as the 'Transfiguration'. Scholars will later attempt to explain the encounter away. Yet, the story has its parallels and points of comparison, in the other two readings.

In Exodus 34, it is Moses who comes down the mountain, with his face dazzling with the reflection of God. So much that so, that they cover his face with a veil in order to be near to him. Paul writing to the Corinthians, in his Second letter, tells them that it is only Jesus who is the complete manifestation of God. He makes much of the veiling, and unveiling, that dives us all, from the revelation that is God. He emphasizes that it is really sin, that veils all of us from God's presence.

All through these eight long weeks of Epiphany, we have read of who Christ truly is, the Son of God, the Messiah, and the Savior of the world. The Transfiguration is the zenith of that revelation, when God speaks: "This is my Son, the Chosen, listen to him!" ---The miracle of casting out the evil spirit that follows Jesus' descent from the mountain, again demonstrates that Jesus is indeed from God. So, what have we learned? What has this season of Epiphany taught us? Perhaps we can answer this with a question of our own?

If this season has taught us that Jesus is the Son of God, and the Savior of the world, why O why, have we not given up everything, to follow him? Why, oh why, is He not the complete center of our life and all our efforts?—You see, if Jesus is not who He says He is, there is no redemption, no salvation, no heaven, no after life, and we are just spinning around a galaxy aimlessly, in the dark of empty space, in a Universe that has no meaning.

Jesus is love, ultimate love, that brings goodness and eternal life. That is our belief. We enter Lent next Wednesday, to spend forty days preparing ourselves to be worthy of the salvation that Christ offers. —On Sinai, Moses met with God---theophany—and his face shone bright. In the Desert, Paul met with the Risen Christ---theophany—and his life was forever, changed. On the mountain, Peter, James and John saw the transfigured Christ---theophany—and in that revelation, Christ's Church was born. We too have a theophany at each and every Eucharist. Christ the Son of God, comes to each one of us. It is a 'theophany of love'. With respect, and deep commitment, we need to throw away the veil of our sins and embrace the Christ of our salvation. Amen.

Sundays Service

March 9



First Sunday of Lent

Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

The Epistle: Romans 10:8b-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

This week's Hymns:

Alleluia!

This Week's Ministers:

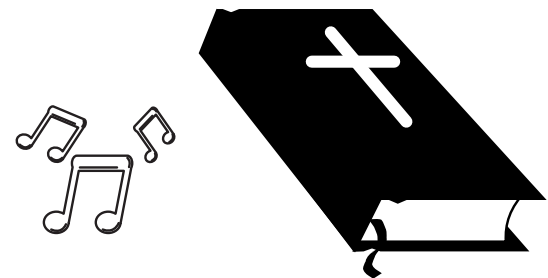
Celebrant: Susan Treanor

Altar Guild: Gaby Warriner

Announcements: John Warriner

Lector: Tom Undercoffler

Hospitality:



This week's Gospel according to: Luke

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and

'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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.

Happenings and Announcements

March Soup Night

Since Pancake Supper was this Tuesday, we moved Soup Night to next Wednesday, March 12th. We hope to see you there helping out or picking up some soup!



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker, Harry Peirce, Linda Landis, Rich Nagy, John Pease, Rudy Mattes, Vickie Calby



This Months Birthdays:

John Finlon 3/6, Elizabeth Smith 3/15, Edgar Warriner 3/20, Elaine Petrzala 3/22, Ann Kiefer 3/22, Robert Kuhn 3/24, Tom Undercoffler 3/30



This Months Anniversaries:

No Anniversaries this month!

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.

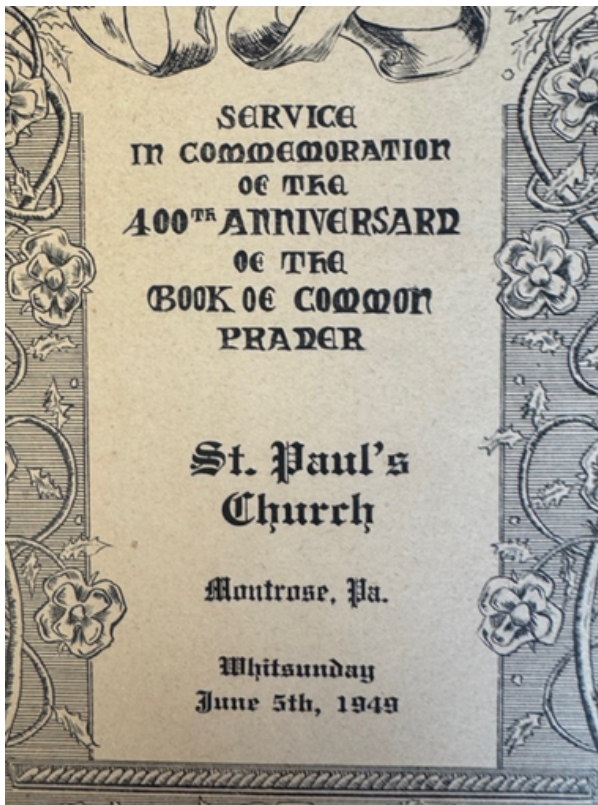
We give thanks for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week. Grant o God, in your compassion, that those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week may live out the covenant they have made. May they grow in forgiveness, loyalty and love, and come at last to the eternal joys, which you have 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.

Last Week's Service and Events

Last Sunday after Epiphany, March 2, 2025

"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by His blood."

The March 2nd, 2025 live-streamed 10:00 Morning Prayer service was officiated by John Warriner, who also did announcements. Vickie Calby served as lector. Penny Jagers played a prelude, 3 hymns and a postlude on the piano. As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or any time on YouTube. Just go to our webpage and hit the red button.



Interesting Old Document Found

The things you find! While making room for the cabinet holding the altar frontals, we found this in a pile of old paper. Apparently they had a service here in 1949 commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer. The Reverend Francis Allison presided.

Painting Class

If you get a chance, stop down and visit the Painting Class in the Celtic Room on Tuesdays. Andy Ring was finishing up a Susquehanna scene. It's fun to see what people are painting.



Pancake Supper

The annual St. Paul's pancake supper was held March 4th. We delivered almost 40 meals to the Square and did our usual in-house serving about 70. Big thanks to all the people who helped. It was a lot of work but we had a lot of fun.



Concert

The Susquehanna Symphony Society presented a concert at St. Paul's on Sunday, March 2nd, at 3 pm. The "Early on Trio" of recorder, classical guitar, and viola da gamba played music from the sixteenth century to the twenty first. Father Charles Cesaretti, the president of the Society, introduced the trio. It was a cold day but there was good attendance and we got many positive compliments.



EARLY MARCH IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.” Another cold week. Some melt, some freeze, some snow, some rain, some clouds, some sunshine. By the end of the week most of the snow was gone. Looks like Kate underestimated the temperature cuz she looks a little cold pushing Avery. The sunsets are winter orange. The trails are still icy and should be walked with caution. LaRue’s cows seem to have weathered the winter. John Warriner sent a picture of geese that found an open area on the lake to rest heading north. Seventeen days until the official start of Spring.

