



THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 2020

Welcoming the New Church Year Online

Due to the pandemic,
St. Paul's members
will welcome the new
church year using
electronic means.
Worship services
will include –

Liturgy of the Word

Live Sundays at 9:15 A.M..

Noonday Prayers

Live Weekdays at Noon

Morning Prayer

Live Thursdays at 8:00 A.M.



Evening Prayer

Available Saturdays beginning
at 3:30 P.M.

Compline

Available Tuesdays beginning
at 7:30 P.M.

Special Advent and Christmas Services

are being planned for online
viewing and participation.
Look for the schedule online
or in your mailbox.

All services are uploaded to the St. Paul's website and Facebook page for viewing at your convenience.

A Message from our Rector

Advent 2020

*...give us grace, that we may cast away the works of darkness,
and put upon us the armor of light...*

Dear Friends,

These are words from the collect for the First Sunday of Advent written by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer for the first Book of Common Prayer (1549). Rooted in Scripture, these words remind us that this season of the Church year calls us to seek out the One who is the Light more than any other season.

As a community, I dare say that we are more in need of the message of God's Light shining the darkness this year more than any most of us can remember.

The world around us seems dark, at times it even is: a global pandemic, political and civic divisions, unemployment, loneliness – the list goes on. But, the Light of God still does shine in the darkness! We are to embrace the Light and then ourselves be light and love to others. Remember what St. Augustine said: "Without God, we cannot; without us, God will not."

Since 1662, it has been instructed that this prayer should be read each day during the Advent. (You can find it in our prayer book on pages 159 or 211.) It has long been a part of my Advent discipline. And, I hope you will join me in this devotional practice as we look to greet the One who is Light, Joy, Hope, Peace, and Love.

As always, I am,
Your friend and Rector,



(The Rev'd) Robert A. Picken

**Follow St. Paul's on Facebook, Instagram,
and email to receive messages.
Clergy and staff closely monitor mail, phone calls, and e-mail.
For urgent pastoral concerns, call 585-483-0472.**

Worshipping at St. Paul's Online

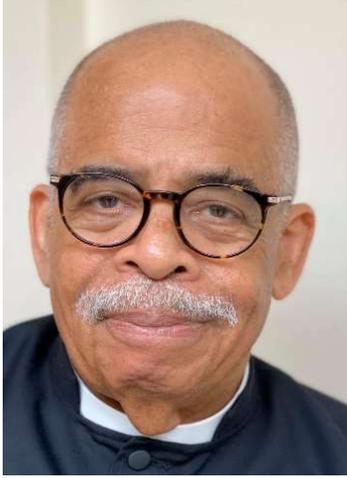
Those without computer access may dial-in for Sunday worship beginning at 9:00 A.M.
Dial 1-929-205-6099 and follow the instructions (Meeting ID: 585 271 2240).

Links for all worship services are both emailed and available on our website,

www.stpaulsec.org;

or check into our St. Paul's Zoom room at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5852712240>.

Advent Adult Christian Education Focuses on St. Mary



Mary at the Beginning: The Annunciation & the Mystery of Salvation

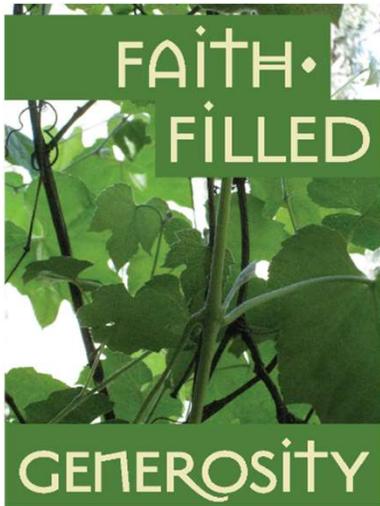
Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 P.M. via Zoom

St. Paul's is one of several parishes sponsoring this look at Mary led by the Rev. Dr. Lloyd Alexander (Tony) Lewis. Dr. Lewis is Professor of New Testament Emeritus at Virginia Theological Seminary and a priest of the Diocese of Long Island. He is a Canon Theologian in his diocese and has been Dean of the George Mercer School of Theology and a member of the General Board of Examining Chaplains.

Mary Through the Centuries

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16, at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom

The view of Mary in Christian traditions has changed over the centuries. Advent seems like the perfect time to examine these views. The Rev. Rob Picken and Nancy Grear will lead these discussions.



2021 Annual Giving Campaign

as of November 23rd -

- * 147 Pledges totaling \$323,626
- * Over 50% of pledgers increased their 2021 gift
- * 88% to our 2021 budget goal

If you haven't pledged yet, please visit www.stpaulsec.org/donate

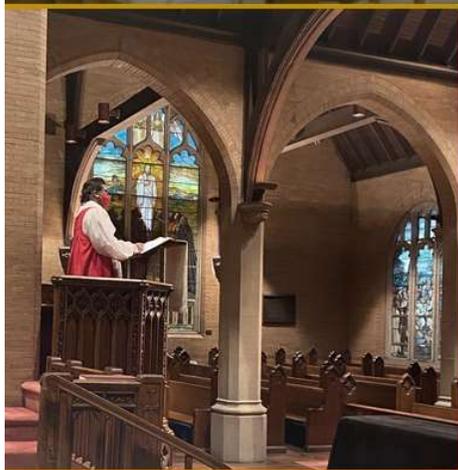
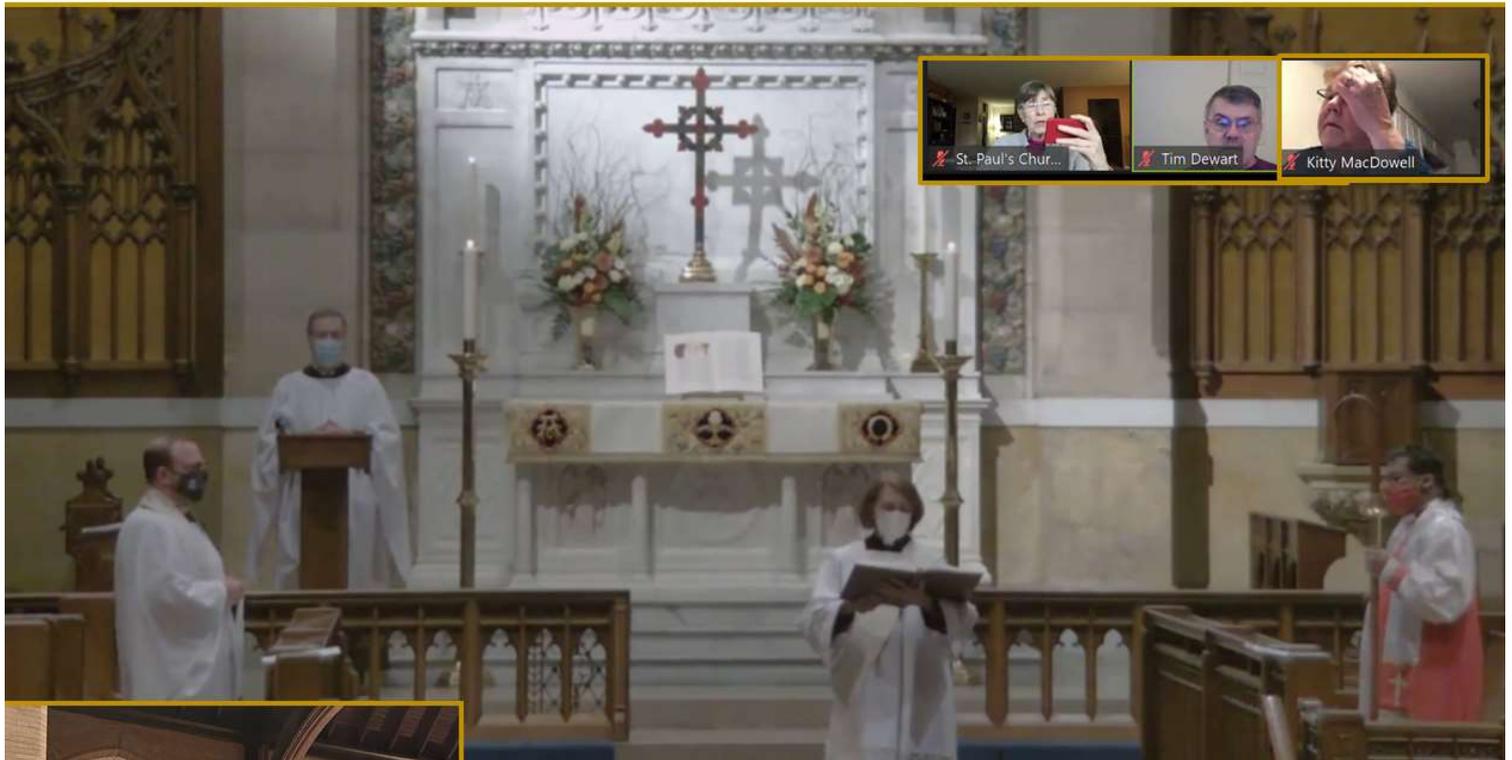
Or, call the office: 271-2240.

Diocesan convention

The 89th Annual Convention for the Diocese of Rochester was held online in late October. Thanks to Floyd Bayley, Les Kernan, and Ingrid Stanlis for representing St Paul's. Rob, Jay, and Sue were also in attendance. Floyd was elected to serve on the Diocesan Standing Committee after serving on Diocesan Council; Les was elected to another term on the Trustee Council where he currently serves as Vice Chair. Rob Picken just completed a term on the Standing Committee. (Floyd and Rob can be seen at the upper left in the Zoom page at the right.)



Bishop visits St. Paul's for the Feast of Christ the King



The Right Rev. Prince Singh, Bishop of Rochester, preached at the online 9:15 A.M. worship service on November 22, then participated in the weekly coffee hour that follows the service.

TOP LEFT: The Rev. Rob Picken, Cantor Chris Moore, the Rev. Sue Ouellette, and the Rt. Rev. Prince Singh.

TOP CAMEO: Parishioners tuned in to the service via Zoom as they sang a hymn led by the cantor.

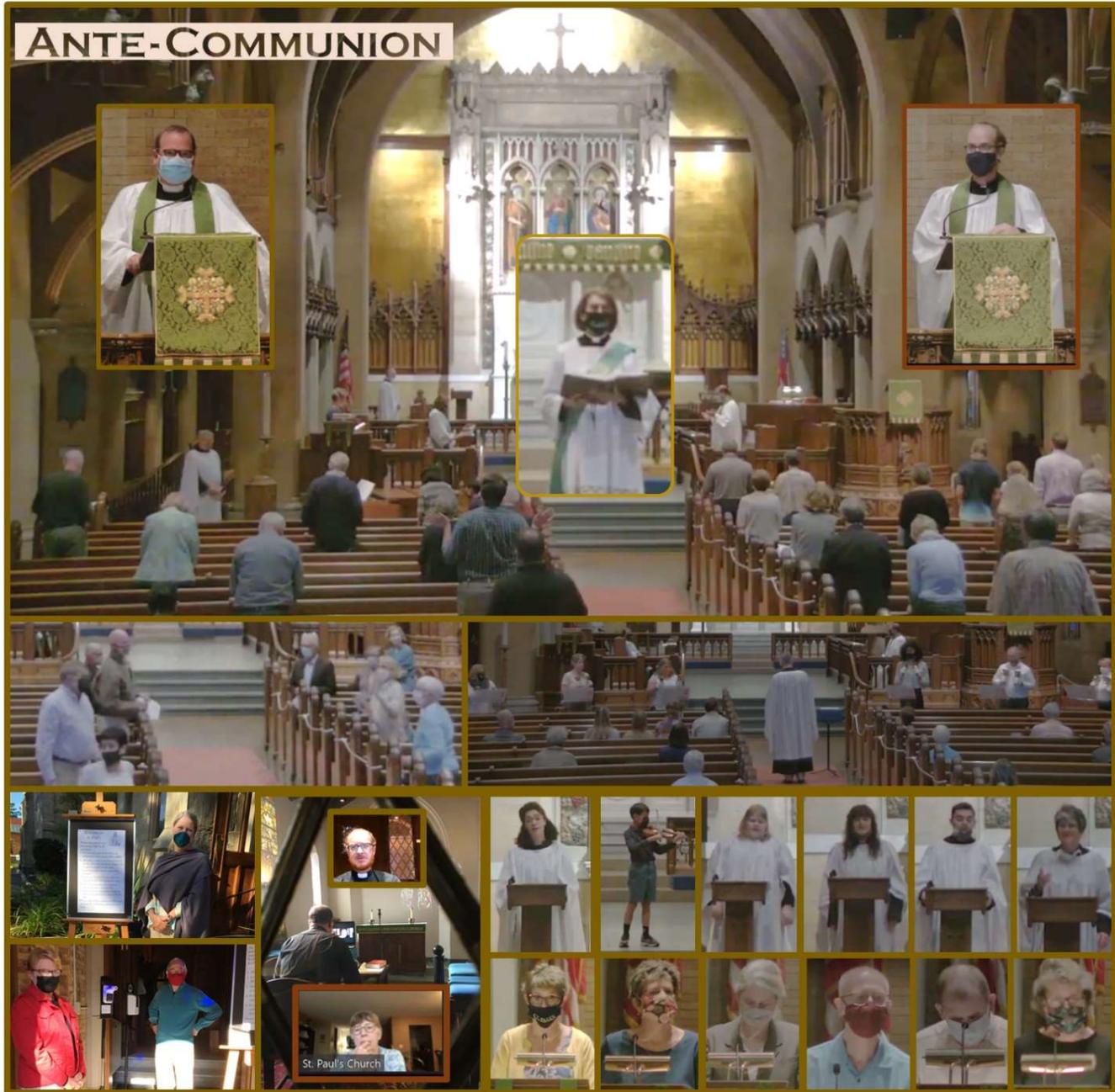
ABOVE: Bishop Singh preaching, the Rev. Jay Burkardt reading the lesson, Bishop Singh preaching, the Rev. Rob Picken making announcements, and Bishop Singh blessing the congregation.

RIGHT: The Rev. Rob Picken, the Rt. Rev. Prince Singh, and others who attended the coffee hour following the worship service.



Sunday Worship

A service of Ante-Communion was offered in-person and online at 9:15 A.M. September – November 1. Due to an upsurge in COVID-19 cases in early November, access to in-person worship was suspended, and all worship has been limited to online until further notice. Seen below is a composite of participants in fall Ante-Communion services:



TOP ROW: The Rev. Rob Picken, the Rev. Sue Ouellette, and the Rev. Jay Picken with a congregation.

MIDDLE ROW: Parishioners sharing the Peace; Dr. Robert Poovey leading the Bell Choir.

BOTTOM LEFT: Those helping with logistics in early September – Lindsay Korth, Judy McGrath, and Bill Moore helping parishioners enter the building; Jay Burkard, Rob Picken, and Nancy Grear handling the electronic distribution of the service online.

BOTTOM RIGHT (top): Cantor Alexis Peart, Violinist Leif Johnson, Cantor Payton Dziekan, Cantor Cassie Zinkan, Cantor Daniel Magee, and Cantor Nancy Curtis.

BOTTOM RIGHT (bottom): Lectors Louise Moore, Nancy Curtis, Lindsay Korth, Pat Moran, Gary Scott, and Ingrid Stanlis.

Also serving as Canter, Soloist and Organist was Dr. Charles Tellier.

Also serving as Lector were Erin Glanton and Angie Jones.

Also providing music were Trumpeter Wesley Nance and Pianist Gordon Porth.

Serving as crucifer were Wayne Least and Thomas Welker.

Evening Prayer

Since August 29, a prerecorded service of Evening Prayer has been uploaded on Saturday afternoon. This service includes music, including archived recordings by the St. Paul's choir. This service is then available via St. Paul's website or Facebook page at any time.

Shown are scenes from several services of Evening Prayer held in September and October.

Music for the Order of Evening Prayer is recorded. Seen at the lower left are choristers performing during a May Ante-Communion service: (top row) Chris Moore, Dr. Robert Poovey, and Dan Magee, and (bottom row) Payton Dziekan, Dale Nickell, Charlotte Nickell, Cassie Zinkan.

Seen at the lower right are instrumentalists Dr. Robert Poovey, Carol Rodland, and Catherine Rodland.

Shown in the bottom row are lectors who read lessons and prayers during Evening Prayer:

Susan Dow, Erin Glanton, Bill Allison, Jennifer Bleecker, Joan Flint, Kitty MacDowell, Lindsay Korth, Chris Moore, Kevin Frisch, Nancy Greer, Carol Panzer, Nancy Curtis, and Angie Jones.



Compline

Weekly Compline has been offered each Tuesday since September 29. The service is available to watch with a video link at the viewer's convenience.

Compline (BCP, p. 127) is descended from the night prayers said at the end of the monastic round of daily prayer. It includes confession of sins, one or more psalms, a scripture reading, versicles and responses, the Lord's Prayer, collects, and the canticle *Nunc dimittis*. The collects are followed by a time of silence for private prayer.



Other Worship Opportunities

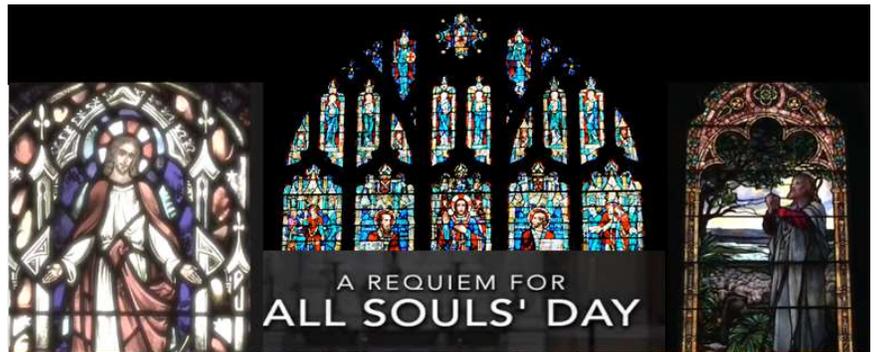
Noontday Prayer

Since the pandemic closed St. Paul's doors to most gatherings for worship, clergy and staff have led Noontday Prayer on Facebook from a variety of settings every Monday through Friday. Participants can respond during the service via the 'chat' feature. Many of those attending contribute the names of people for whom they'd like prayers said.

Shown at the left as they led Noontday Prayer on separate occasions are the Rev. Rob Picken, the Rev. Jay Burkardt, the Rev. Sue Ouellette, Dr. Robert Poovey, and Nancy Grear.

Morning Prayer

New since November is a Thursday service of Morning Prayer organized and led by laity beginning at 8:00 A.M. via Zoom. Seen at the lower left are the November 12 Morning Prayer participants. Meeting ID: 5852712240



All Souls' Day Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

On November 1, a service commemorating all the parish's departed members was uploaded for parishioners to access at their convenience.

The service included a plainsong requiem offered by a COVID-quartet from the St. Paul's Choir with a sermon and reading of the necrology. Choristers for the service were Dr. Robert Poovey, with Payton Dziekan, Chris Moore, and Cassie Zinkan. Lectors were Erin Glanton and Jennifer Bleecker.



St. Francis Day Blessing of Animals

On October 4, to commemorate the Feast of St. Francis, our clergy met outside with pets and their owners to offer blessings.

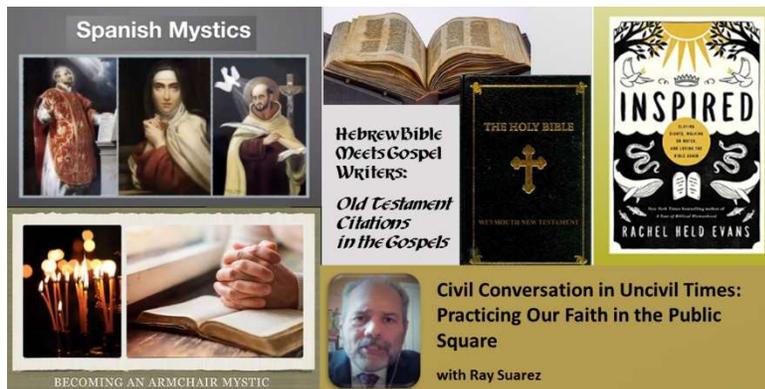
Seen at the right are the Rev. Jay Burkardt, the Rev. Rob Picken, and the Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks (who serves the hard-of-hearing community that meets at St. Paul's).



St. Paul's Fall Christian Education Opportunities

Spanish Mystics

On three September Wednesdays, participants learned more about three famous Spanish mystics: St. Ignatius, St. Theresa, and St John of the Cross. Leading the discussions was Carl McColman, a Lay Cistercian and Centering Prayer presenter. He has practiced Christian complete prayer and meditation for more than 30 years, and has authored a number of books on the topic.



ABOVE: Topics covered in Christian Education discussions this fall.
BELOW: Some of those who participated in the discussions via Zoom.

Hebrew Bible Meets Gospel Writers

A group met on October 7, 14, and 21 via Zoom to explore how Gospel writers cited the Pentateuch, Prophets, and other Old Testament writings. Leading the discussions were the Rev. Jay Burkardt and Nancy Grear.

Armchair Mystics

During Zoom sessions on November Wednesdays, parishioners investigated ways to increase and improve their time spent in prayer, both personal and communal, led by the Rev. Rob Picken and Nancy Grear.

Book group reads *Inspired*

On Monday afternoons in October and early November, a group of parishioners met via Zoom to discuss *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. Evans was raised in an evangelical family but became an Episcopalian as an adult. In *Inspired*, she explores 'the great chasm between Scripture as learned and Scripture as what is actually is.



2020 Faith in the World program: *Unsettling Truths*

On October 24, about 200 online participants met with Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah, authors of *Unsettling Truths*. The book describes how European settlers used white supremacy, their Christian faith, and the Doctrine of Discovery to justify slavery, to decimate the native cultures in the Americas, and to continue the same racial caste-ism today. They recommended a time of lamentation for the church as well as the development of a counter message of inclusivity.

TOP: The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh, who welcomed participants; with the Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah, the Rev. Mark Charles, authors and presenters.
BOTTOM: The Rev. Keith Patterson, who led the opening prayer; The Rev. Melanie Duguid-May, who introduced the speakers; The Rev. Billy Daniel and Nicole Hercules, who led the Q&A sessions; and The Rev. Andrea Stridiron, who led the benediction.

St. Paul's Outreach Update

If Music Be The Food Concert moves online

On October 25, the season's first If Music Be The Food concert to raise funds for Foodlink was produced online. Cellists Steven Doane, Rosemary Elliot and Benjamin Doane played trios by Beethoven and Julius Klengel. They were followed by Dr. Robert Poovey playing Barber's Adagio and the "Halloween" Toccata and Fugue by Bach. Concert-goers were invited to donate to Foodlink at <https://www.giveeffect.com/campaigns/16380-if-music-be-the-food>, or making out a check to Foodlink (with IMBTF in the memo line) and mailing it to Foodlink, 1999 Mt. Read Blvd., Rochester NY 14615. By the end of the first half of the concert, \$2,000.00 had already been donated.



TOP: the Rev. Rob Picken who welcomed listeners, IMBTF Artistic Director Mimi Huang who introduced musicians, Mark Dwyer of Foodlink who thanked listeners for their financial support, and Dr. Robert Poovey who also thanked participants for supporting Foodlink. BOTTOM: Performers including the Doane-Elliott Family of cellists and Dr. Robert Poovey at the organ, and Rob Picken who served as camera and sound tech for the concert.

St. Joseph House volunteer plans

St. Paul's volunteers make seven bag lunches for delivery to St. Joseph's House on the first Saturday of the month. Each bag includes two sandwiches, either ham or turkey, a bottle of water, a bag of chips, and cookies.

The plan is to continue this practice through 2021. St. Joseph's House is not housing overnight guests any time soon, thus leaving more people without nighttime shelter. The House is requesting donations of men's gloves and underwear, as well as lunchmeat for lunches made during the week. To learn more, contact Meredith Halter at mhalter@rochester.rr.com.



Good news from RAIHN

GOOD NEWS! We spoke to a mom who was in the shelter program at RAIHN with her 4 children in early 2018. She graduated with an LPN degree from the Isabella Graham Hart School of Practical Nursing this past June and is starting a position with the Dialysis Center on September 8. She states, "we are all doing great!"

Baptism celebrated

Mason Clark Gianforte, son of Lisa and Nick, was baptized on November 14 during a private ceremony. Mason and his family are pictured at the left.

St. Paul's Caring Ministries

Mums delivered to teachers

Our clergy – Rob Picken, Jay Burkardt, and Sue Ouellette –purchased and delivered mum plants to teachers and school workers in our parish on September 12 and 13 on the occasion of their returning to a new school year

Caring for one another at St. Paul's

Are you interested in helping us stay connected during the pandemic?

Could you make phone calls to parishioners you haven't seen in recent months?

Would you be able to pray for those on the parish prayer list?

Do you have other ideas of how we can help one another during this worrisome time?

Would you like to join other parishioners who are interested in keeping us connected while we cannot meet in person?

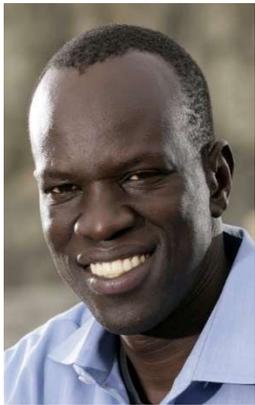
A group seeking ways to care for one another has formed, and so far has determined that its members should recruit parishioners willing to pray for those on our parish prayer list, willing to provide rides to parishioners needing them, and/or willing to take meals to shut-ins. Your ideas are especially welcome!

Please email Deacon Sue at souellette@stpaulsec.org if you'd like to be involved.



Salva Dut a finalist for the Elevate Prize

Salva Dut, founder of Water for South Sudan, was one of 20 finalists worldwide for the first Elevate Prize which awards \$5,000,000.00 to 10 changemakers tackling global challenges. The Elevate Prize Foundation is sponsored by MIT Solve, an initiative of MIT. Salva Dut founded WFSS in 2003. He had been separated from his family during the Sudanese Civil War as a child and after living in refugee camps, came to Rochester. Years later, he learned that his father was still alive and suffering from a disease caused by waterborne parasites. This inspired him to create Water for South Sudan to drill fresh-water wells in an arid country with often contaminated water. WFSS drills 40 wells per year at locations selected by local leaders, then trains villagers to operate and maintain the wells, which become their property and responsibility. Since its initiation in 2003, WFSS has drilled 457 freshwater wells, and provided other services, including emergency COVID-19 hygiene education training to more than 17,000 people this spring. To learn more, contact Development and Communications Coordinator Elissa Rowley at 585-383-0410 or elissa.rowley@waterforsouthsudan.org or visit www.waterforsouthsudan.org.



A PROPERTY UPDATE

In September, asbestos abatement took place in Stone Hall (former Spanish Chapel in the Parish Hall basement). This was the next step in the Parish Hall restoration process following the completion of the major water-proofing project. The abatement followed strict safety protocols and didn't impact our operations or those of the childcare center.

The Vestry has reviewed bids from contractors for the complete restoration of the space that currently houses the parish archives and is home to most of our 12-Step groups. The project will include the creation of a new youth group room, refurbishment of the kitchenette, repair and addition of restrooms, restoration of a room for the archives, and an office for our school tutoring program.

Thank you to Bob Potter and his team, as well as to our parish archivists, for the many hours of work it took to get the space cleaned out for this project. Work is scheduled to begin in early December to enhance our space for our current ministries, extend hospitality to our 12-step groups, and enable us to expand our mission.



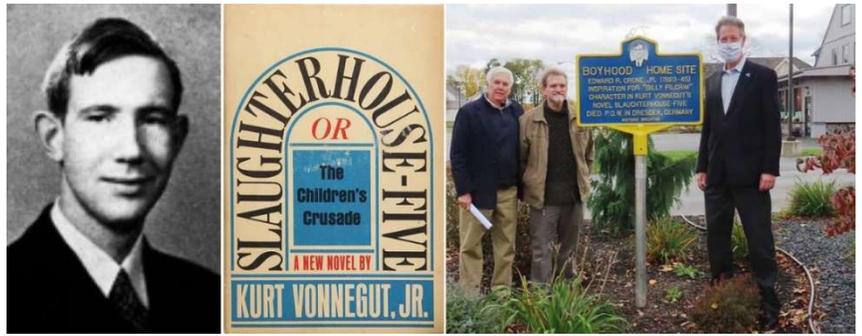
Tips for Year-end Giving

To be eligible for a tax-deductible charitable donation, all contributions to St. Paul's Church must be received in the office or postmarked by December 31. Charitable donations of non-cash items, such as stock, may be made electronically by December 31. Please contact Judy McGrath at 585- 271-2240 x211, or jmcgrath@stpaulsec.org for information about routing and account numbers. We ask that all stock donors also provide a letter or email correspondence reporting the gift and the number of shares donated to St. Paul's. You may prepay your 2021 pledge by December 31, so that your contribution may qualify as a charitable deduction on your 2020 tax return. If your gift includes a prepaid 2021 pledge, please let our financial office know, so that St. Paul's can properly record your gift. For more information, please call Judy McGrath at 585-271-2240 x211.

Lisa M. Werner,
Accounting & Administrative Assistant
585-271-2240 ext. 213 or lwerner@stpaulsec.org

Children in church

A Greek Orthodox Metropolitan (Archbishop) was once asked, "What shall we do with children in church? They interfere with our prayers." He replied, "When you begin to pray, they will stop bothering you."



ABOVE: Edward Crone and key participants at the dedication of the Edward Crone historic marker on October 25 (l-r): Grant Holcomb, *Historic Brighton* Board member, Matthew Bashore, *Historic Brighton* President, and William Moehle, Brighton Supervisor.

Former St. Paul's parishioner remembered

A former St. Paul's parishioner, Edward Reginald Crone, was remembered this past fall in Brighton where he spent his childhood. He graduated from Brighton High School in 1941 and attended Hobart College until he was drafted into the Army in 1942. He was captured and kept in a prisoner-of-war camp in Dresden, Germany, where he met Kurt Vonnegut, who was also a prisoner there. Crone, who died in the camp in April 1945, was the inspiration for Billy Pilgrim, the protagonist in Vonnegut's anti-war epic *Slaughterhouse-Five*. On October 25, a historic marker recognizing Edward Crone was dedicated at the site of his childhood home at 1627 Monroe Avenue.

SERVICES, MEETINGS, EVENTS

Except for the Sunday Ante-Communion Service at 9:15 A.M., parish opportunities for worship and learning are provided electronically. Check your email daily for updates.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The Parish Office is open by appointment only. Clergy and staff monitor mail, phone calls, and emails. For emergency pastoral needs, call 585-483-0472. Another resource for learning about electronic sessions for worship and learning is our website at <http://stpaulsec.org/>

12-STEP GROUPS ONLINE

The 12-step groups which normally meet at St. Paul's are not meeting at this time. Some may be available online. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at aa-intergroup.org/. For other 12-step groups, please check with your local or national office.

Merciful God,

we entrust to your never-failing care and love

**Jean Chapman-Castle, Kathleen Patricia (Pat) Ford, Debbie Hazzard,
The Rev. Richard Henshaw, Jane Johnson, Elizabeth (Betty) Molesworth**

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon them.
May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Sunday coffee hour via Zoom

On Sundays at 10:00 A.M. parishioners gather in the St. Paul's Zoom room for informal conversations. Pictured below are some of those who have attended one or more of these social opportunities during September through early November. All parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to participate via Zoom as their time allows.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

«Label»
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Our Vision

We pray that all who enter St. Paul's experience God's presence in this community of faith, a community that through Christ strives to be loving, joyous, inclusive, transforming and filled with God's Grace.

St. Paul's Ministry Staff

Rector: **The Rev. Robert A. Picken**
Assistant Rector: **The Rev. Jay P. Burkardt**

The Rev. Sue Ouellette, Ph.D., Deacon

Director of Music
Dr. Robert Poovey

Front Desk Assistant
Natosche Holt

Parish Accountant
Judy McGrath

Director, Adult Faith Formation
Nancy Grear

Accounting & Administrative Assistant
Lisa Werner

Director, Children, Youth & Family Faith Formation
Amy Welker

Property Manager
Bob Potter

Sunday Child Care
Dorothea (Dorrie) Champlin
Candace Hoffman-Hussain

Maintenance Associates
Dave McEntee
Jim D'Angelo

Wedding & Funeral Coordinator
Judy Loveland

Director, Child Care Center
Michelle Mousseau

Director, City School Outreach
Paula Valeri

Contribute information for the Epistle via
publicity@stpaulsec.org. Judy Wadsworth, Editor

View the full church calendar at:

www.stpaulsec.org

- Visit us on Facebook

