



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry  
December 13, 2017



New & Notable



*Thoughts from Lori*

Last Sunday at Coffee & Conversation, we listened to the second part of the series on the Book of Revelation by the Rev. Michael Battle. Near the end of this episode, Professor Battle posed this question: "Do most people in the Western World believe in a theology in which salvation is ultimately personal?" In the discussion that followed, we posed some questions of our own, such as:

- What are the implications of personal salvation?
- Is there anything we can do to bring about our own salvation?
- What is the basis of our salvation?
- If it's not personal, then what is it, and what does that imply?

This coming Sunday, we'll view the third part of the series, "Staying Awake," which is one of the major themes of Advent. Everyone is invited to join in and be part of the discussion. The following Sunday is December 24th, which is both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve Day. Remember that we will have our normal Advent Sunday morning service followed by decorating the nave and sanctuary for Christmas. Our Christmas Eve service - Feast of the Nativity - will be at 9pm followed by a festive reception. (See the poster in the narthex to sign-up for a plate or platter of food for the reception.)

We will view parts 4 and 5 of the series on Revelation on December 31st and January 7th, respectively. Meanwhile, may you keep the spirit of Advent - that is, waiting and watching for the Messiah to come - as peacefully as possible in a culture that can feel frantic at this time of year.

Faithfully,  
*Lori*



You are cordially invited to  
The Rector's Open House  
On Sunday, January 7th from 4 to 6pm

Lori and Bill live at  
5116 W. Malibu Court  
McHenry



### Bishop Curry's Christmas Message

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/video/presiding-bishop-michael-curry-christmas-message-2017>



## The Holidays at St. Paul's 2017

### The Four Sundays of Advent

December 3, 10, 17, 24

Special Program at Coffee & Conversation

**Blue Christmas\*** - Wednesday, December 20 at 7pm

### Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

Holy Eucharist for Advent IV at 10am  
followed by decorating the church for Christmas

**Feast of the Nativity** - 9pm followed by a Festive Reception

**Feast of the Incarnation** - Christmas Day at 10am

**Rector's Open House** - January 7th from 4 to 6 pm

*\* Blue Christmas is a quiet service for those who find this season a time of sadness, grieving, or loneliness. Family, friends, and neighbors are most welcome.*

*Not quite new but still notable....*



### ***Advent Baby Baskets***

Items needed:

Receiving blankets	Soft toys for newborns
Baby bottles for water, juice, formula	
Onesies	Burp cloths
Changing pads	Wet wipes
Baby lotion	Diaper rash ointment
Etc., etc.!	

### **Children's Chapel**

Children are invited to attend the Children's Chapel following the service for a bible story, activity, and snack. This week's lesson will be "John the Baptist." The leader is Kim Morris.



*In case you missed it....*

***Join the folks of St. Mary's for a  
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL\****

***December 16***

**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Guests and volunteers eat together and get to know each other. Great food and conversation. Note: St. Mary's is a big supporter of our Mobile Food Truck. Let's return the favor. \*This meal is offered to those in our community who may be experiencing difficulty in procuring enough food. Free to All! All are Welcome! Family Friendly!

**Where:**

**ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
210 S. McHENRY AVENUE, CRYSTAL LAKE - 815-459-1009**

*The usual fare...*

**A Word from the Rev. William P. McLemore**

**Feast Day of St. John of the Cross**

Thursday, December 14th, is the feast day of St. John of the Cross (1542-1591) who was born near Avila, Spain. His father died when he was three years old, and his mother was suddenly thrust into abject poverty. He received his elementary education in an orphanage, and as a teenager, learned the skills of carpentry, tailoring, sculpting, and painting through apprenticeships to local craftsmen.



After university studies, John entered the Carmelite Order in Medina del Campo, and completed his theological studies. In 1567, he was ordained to the priesthood, and recruited by Teresa of Avila for the reformation of the Carmelite Order. By this time, he earned the honorific Spanish title of "Juan de la Cruz," or "John of the Cross." He left the Carmelite Order in 1568, and founded his own Christian movement, which eventually found him arrested and imprisoned in the monastery for nine months. He coined the phrase, "dark night of the soul" during this time, as part of his effort to search for God in a truly mystical effort.

What we learn from John of the Cross is that our faith journey is a matter of walking through the shadows of doubt and despair of the soul in order to fully come to the truth and blessing of belief in God. The collect (prayer) for John of the Cross, reveals this process: "Judge eternal, throned in splendor, you gave Juan de le Cruz strength of purpose and mystical faith that sustained him even through the dark night of the soul: Shed your light on all who love you, in unity with Jesus Christ our Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God for ever and ever. Amen."

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**Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, December 17, 2017**  
**(Third Sunday of Advent - Year B)**

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11. The prophet says God will call up the righteous from all corners of the earth. The Psalm: Psalm 126 or Canticle 3 or 15. This psalm underscores the day of the Lord. All three, in various expressions, talk of God restoring the fortunes of Israel. Second Lesson: I Thessalonians 5:16-24. Paul warns the church at Thessalonica not to "quench the Spirit" and to "hold fast to what is good." The Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28. The Book of John opens with the preaching and ministry of John the Baptist.

**THE HYMNS:**

Processional: No. 74. "Blest be the King whose coming." This hymn was composed by Frederico J. Pagura, who is an Argentine religious leader and a champion of human

rights. He was born in 1923 and became a Methodist as a teenager. After completing his higher education in Argentina, he traveled to the U.S. to earn an advanced degree and later was ordained a Methodist minister and then a bishop. He is a poet and avid musician putting a number of hymns to the tango beat of his home country. This particular hymn expresses his values about human rights with a stirring Latin syncopation.

Sequence: No. 76. "On Jordan's bank." Charles Coffin (1676-1749), a French Latin teacher wrote this hymn in that ancient language and it was later translated into English by the Episcopal priest/musician, the Rev. Dr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). The second verse truly captures the nature of repentance: "Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come." The hymn is set to the lively tune, "Winchester New", a lively German melody that appeared in English church music under many names but received this final name in George Whitfield's "Divine Musical Miscellaney," 1754.

Presentation: No. 437. "Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord." Here we have a hymn paraphrasing the "Magnificat" written by Tim Dudley-Smith in 1962. Timothy Dudley-Smith OBE is an English hymn-writer and a retired bishop of the Church of England. Born in Manchester, United Kingdom, he was educated at Tonbridge School and Pembroke College, Cambridge. The words also form a spirited plea for evangelism, "Tell out my soul, the greatness of his Name! Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done; his mercy sure, from age to age the same; his holy Name-the Lord the Mighty One." The tune, "Birmingham," is from Francis Cunningham's Selection of Psalm Tunes(1834).

Communion: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer." This is another Taize community musical paraphrase to a psalm (102:1-2). It was set to music by Jacques Bertheir (1923-1994) in 1991, shortly before he died. The Psalm reads, "Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you; hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble."

Recessional: No. 59. "Hark, a thrilling voice." This hymn has been attributed to St. Ambrose and comes from the 6th century A.D. It is based on Romans 13:11 and Luke 21:25. The words announce the coming of Jesus and reflect the penitential flavor of Advent. "Lo! The Lamb so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven; let us haste with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven." The tune, "Merton," is deliberate in meter and aptly conveys the spirit of Our Lord's coming and the advent of God's love.

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### **Servants for December 17th**

Jim and Beth Lukas - *Ushers*

Jim Lukas - *Lector*

Barb Moriarty - *Intercessor*

Michelle Wiejaczka, Jeff Zabor - *Eucharistic Ministers*

Michelle Wiejaczka- *Vestry Person of the Day*

Bev Jannotta, Carol Toft - *Altar Guild*

Angela Lang - *Children's Crucifer*

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### *On the Calendar...*

**Mid-Week Eucharist** - Every Wednesday, 12:15 pm  
**Vestry** - Tonight, 7:00 p.m.  
**Blue Christmas Service**- Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Eve Service** - 9:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Day Service** - 10:00 a.m.  
**Annual Parish Meeting** - Sunday, January 28

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From the cartoons created by  
*The Rev. William P. McLemore*



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Vestry Minutes

[September 2017](#)

[October 2017](#)

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