



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
McHenry, IL



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## Weekly ePistle ~ December 18, 2019

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### *New and Notable*

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#### ***Advent Three***

We are deep into the heart of Advent. Our search for renewal, wisdom and guidance brings us to a new awareness of God's grace and love. Is there anyone who knows how deeply they are loved? Can we accept the depth and breadth of God's love for us?

Let us pray.

Lord God you draw us into your love through baptism; teach us to abide in the knowledge of your love. Help us to share your love with those around us that we may live as one people. May we live out your compassion and justice and be a living loving light in the world. Amen

Meditation:

Hail Mary full of grace.

The Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women.

And blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

*How have we received love today, and how will we bear its fruit to others?*

God of compassion,

Teach us to embody your love.

God of faithfulness,

Help us to be constant in service.

God of all creation,

Give us compassion for your children.

God of all blessing, hear our prayer.

God of love,

Draw our hearts to you.

Amen

Deacon Deborah

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### **Holiday Office Hours**

Monday, December 23 ~ 8:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Tuesday, December 24 ~ 8:30 am - ??  
December 25, 26 ~ Closed  
Tuesday, December 31 ~ 8:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Wednesday, January 1 ~ Closed  
Thursday, January 2 ~ 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

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### **Words from Wardens**

Once again, I am humbled and so grateful for the Spirit of Generosity that lives here at St. Paul's. I delivered our overflowing shopping cart to McHenry West High School this week. Ashley Diedrich, who is the coordinator of the Food For Thought program at the school, was overwhelmed with how our small church has embraced this much needed ministry in McHenry. With tears in her eyes, she hugged me and said, "Thank you - please convey my gratitude to your parish." When the school year resumes in January, the need for food will be even greater. Ashley told me that typically food donations fall off after the holidays, and January and February are very light months for donations. Unfortunately, the needs of the families are not any less during these cold winter months. So, once again, I am appealing to the generosity of my St. Paul's family to meet the challenge and keep our shopping cart full.

During these last hectic days leading up to Christmas, I hope you have a moment to breathe and reflect on the joys and blessings of the season. For me, the people of St. Paul's are one of my most treasured blessings - thank you!

Beth Lukas  
Jr Warden

PS. Don't forget about our Annual Champagne Reception following the Christmas Eve Service. Please join us briefly to celebrate the blessings of the season!

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8:30 pm  
Festive Champagne reception to follow!  
Please join us! All are welcome!



**Presiding Bishop Curry's Christmas Message 2019**  
***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it***

[Click here to view the video](#)

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The Advent baby baskets will be distributed after Christmas.  
The last day for donations is Christmas Eve!

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### ***Poinsettias for Christmas***

Time is running out for dedicating flowers for Christmas. Please notify the office asap if you wish to donate. Your donation may be given "in memory of" or "in thanksgiving for" someone in your life, or simply for this parish.



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### *The usual fare*

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#### **On the Calendar**

**December 22 Celebrant** - Rev. Jim Swarthout

**Christmas Eve Service** - 8:30 pm with Rev. Dr. Jane Clark  
**Festive Champagne Reception** to follow!

**December 29 Celebrant** - Rev. Estime Frader  
**Vestry** - January 19  
**Annual Parish Meeting** - January 26

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### **Lessons and Hymns for December 22, 2019**

(Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A)

**Celebrant - Rev. Jim Swarthout**

#### **THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

**The First Lesson:** Isaiah 7:10-16

**The Gradual:** Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

**The Second Lesson:** Romans 1:1-7

**The Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-25

#### **THE HYMNS:**

**Processional Hymn:** No. 54. "Savior of the nations"

**Sequence Hymn:** No. 74. "Blest be the King"

**Presentation Hymn:** No. 343. "Shepherd of souls"

**Communion Hymn:** "O Lord, hear my prayer"

**Recessional Hymn:** No. 56. "O come, O come, Emmanuel"

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### **Servants for December 22nd**

Jim and Beth Lukas - *Ushers*  
Jim Lukas - *Lector*  
Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*  
Barb Moriarty - *Eucharistic Minister*  
Judy Robel - *Vestry Person of the Day*  
Marilyn Bell, Marilyn Reihansperger - *Altar Guild*

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### ***Questions or concerns?***

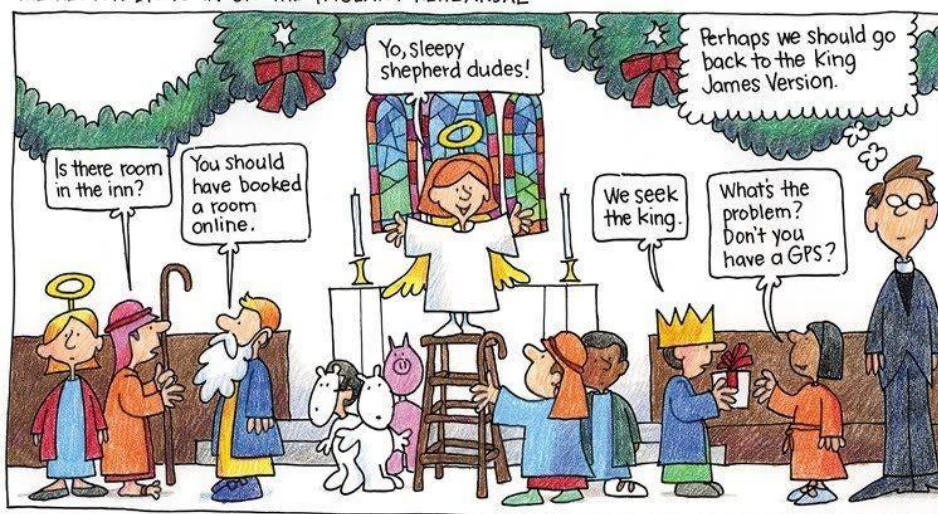
Please contact our Wardens - Jeff Zabor (Senior Warden)  
or Beth Lukas (Junior Warden).

### ***In need of pastoral care?***

Please contact Deborah Lang, our Deacon.

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#### **THE RECTOR DROPS IN ON THE PAGEANT REHEARSAL**



*Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham*

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### Quick Links

*Diocese of Chicago  
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### Vestry Minutes

*October 2019  
November 2019*

St Paul's Episcopal Church | 3706 W. Saint Paul Avenue, McHenry, IL 60050

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