



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ December 4, 2019

New and Notable



All men (and their friends) are invited!
Saturday, December 7th
8:00 am at Kim & Patty's
RSVP to Al Robel - alanrobel@att.net

Advent One

Sunday was the first Sunday of Advent. The word "Advent" derives from the Latin *Adventus* which means "coming". This season is not merely a time to recall the past – the birth of Jesus – but also a time for us to look to the future. When will Jesus come again? When will we see the kingdom of God on earth? No one knows the answer to these questions and so Advent calls us to ask what can be done now? What can we do as the Church, Christ's body here on earth, to make real God's reign of justice and peace today? This holy season of Advent call us to reorder our lives to live more fully as a people who await the coming of Jesus, the Savior of the World.

Below is a short form of prayer and meditation for use at the start of each day this coming week. May it enrich your Advent journey. *Deacon Deborah*

Praise the Lord, O my soul; Praise God's holy name. Come, Emmanuel, come dwell with me. Hope of the world and Word of life: Come Emmanuel, come dwell with me. O Holy One, thank you for coming to us anew this day. Prepare my heart and awaken my love for You as I discern your call within me. May I join with You in making level the path for all people. Amen

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near.

Meditation: To enter Advent we must leave fear and enter faith.
*What fears must we release in order to level the way for ourselves
And others?*

God of hope, you build a highway through the wilderness;
You come to bring us home. Comfort us with the expectation of
Your saving power, made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Adapted from Daily Prayer for All Seasons

Words from Wardens

Advent is upon us and with it comes many conflicting emotions. There is the secular feeling of frenzy as we prepare for Christmas – shopping, decorating, wrapping, baking, and more shopping! Within the craziness of the busy season there are often times of sadness as we miss our loved ones who are no longer with us or far away. Advent is also a spiritual time of reflection for Christians, as we think of the feeling of peace that Advent brings. I hope that we can pause and reflect on the peace of the season and find that peace within ourselves and our St. Paul's family. As we race around preparing for our Christmas celebrations, I hope you also find time to join us on Sundays though out Advent to find the peace the the season brings as we prepare for Jesus' birth.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, 12/7 as we celebrate the joy and peace of the season at our 1st Annual Christmas Party! The Wardens and Vestry will provide dinner. Please bring cookies, the beverage of your choice, but most of all bring your holiday spirit!

Beth Lukas
Junior Warden



dinner, that's fine!

St. Paul's First Annual Christmas Party!

The Vestry invites you to join them at the church on December 7th for an afternoon of caroling, decorating the church, and a chili dinner! Caroling will begin at 3:00, followed by dinner and decorating at 4:00. If you'd just like to come for caroling or just for



Poinsettias for Christmas

Please take part in the beautification of the church for Christmas by donating \$25 (each) for Poinsettias. Your donation may be given "in memory of" or "in thanksgiving for" someone in your life, or simply for this parish. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex.



Calling all St. Paul's children!

This Sunday, December 8, Kate Lang will lead a special craft to welcome the Season of Advent. Please join us for fun and time together!

In case you missed it



Beth Lukas recently met with Ashley from McHenry West High School to deliver our donations to the Food for Thought program. Thank you for your donations so far! We will continue to fill our grocery cart for this wonderful ministry.

Advent Evensong at St. Ann's

Join us for an evening of Advent music and prayer,
led by the St. Ann's choir.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

- from Isaiah 11

Sunday, December 8, 6 pm
St. Ann's Episcopal Church
503 W. Jackson St., Woodstock
stannswoodstock.org

The usual fare

On the Calendar

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, December 7, 8:00 am
Parish Christmas Party - Saturday, December 7, 3:00 pm
December 8 Celebrant - Rev. Jim Swarthout
Vestry - Monday, December 16, 5:30 pm
Christmas Eve Service - 8:30pm with Rev. Dr. Jane Clark

Lessons and Hymns for December 8, 2019

(Second Sunday of Advent, Year A)

Celebrant - Rev. Jim Swarthout

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

The Gradual: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

The Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13

The Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 59. "Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding"

Sequence Hymn: No. 75. "There's a voice in the wilderness"

Presentation Hymn: No. 76. "On Jordan's bank"

Communion Hymn: "O Lord, hear my prayer"

Recessional Hymn: No. 65. "Prepare the way, O Zion"

Servants for December 8th

Bill Lang - *Usher*

Jim Lukas - *Lector*

Barb Moriarty - *Intercessor*

Al Robel - *Eucharistic Minister*

Barb Moriarty - *Vestry Person of the Day*

Patrice Braun - *Altar Guild*

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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