

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
31 Rider Avenue
Patchogue, New York 11772

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address

Street Number and Name

City, State 98765-4321

Vestry

Wardens: Conni Still and Cathie Pliszak

Emeke Azinge, Diane Butler, Barbara Greco, Charles Klagges, Martin Immel Jr., Maurine Jacobs, Ronnie MacDonald, Nancy Western

Clerk: Conni Still

Treasurer: Barbara Lapinski

Editor: Conni Still

Parish

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Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 AM- 1:00 PM Office Closed on Mondays

Rector: the Rev. Elisabeth E. Tunney

Parish Administrator: Ronny Pliszak

Parish Ministers: All the People of St. Paul's

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

Vol.XIX ed.12

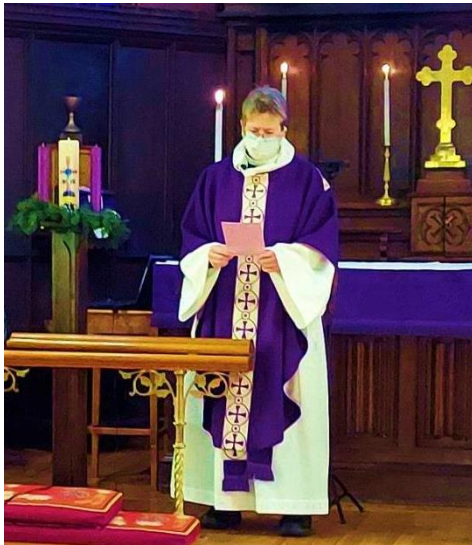
DECEMBER 2020

St. Paul's Parish Mission Statement: to be a thriving, loving, Christ-centered parish; a parish who knows Christ and makes Christ known.

We take seriously our Baptismal Covenant that says we will respect the dignity of every human being. You are welcome to worship with us, to join with us in fellowship, and in our ministries, regardless of age, economic status, marital status, nationality, race, sexual orientation or gender identity, ability or disability, and wherever you are in your spiritual journey.



A Word from Mother Liz



Advent just arrived and we are already halfway through. That's rather like saying we have begun beginning just as the end of our journey

comes into view. Nevertheless those last two Sundays of Advent are important. Rose Sunday helps us to lighten up a little on the eschatological demands of the season – i.e. to lift our focus on the end times - to see ahead to the coming of the Christ Child. And then, our lectionary gives us Luke's amazing story of the Annunciation on the 4th Sunday of Advent.

Assuming that we are still open for Christmas and that could change at any time, we will hold two services on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas day at the usual times. **This year it is very important for people to call the office and let us know if they hope to attend. Our seating capacity is 28 at each service.** Regrettably and regrettably there is still no opportunity for congregational singing. It is hard to imagine Christmas without it so I encourage you to sing you hearts out at home.

The time between Christmas and Epiphany is full of additional holy days:

- December 26th is the Feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr, also Boxing Day in England, making Christmas an automatic 3-day holiday. The Boxing apparently referred to bringing back presents for exchange.
- December 27th (except when it falls on a Sunday because Sunday is always reserved for our Lord) is the Feast of St. John the Evangelist.
- December 28th we mark the Slaughter of the Innocents, when Herod had killed all the male Hebrew children under the age of 2 in order to prevent the true “king” sought by the three Wise Men from taking his throne.
- December 29 we commemorate Thomas a` Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury and martyr, who was slain at the order of his king, Henry II for defending the rights of the Church against the powers of the Crown.
- January First was traditionally known as the Feast of the Circumcision, now referred to as the Feast of the Holy Name, apparently the former name made some people squeamish!

This year we have two Sundays between Christmas and the Epiphany and they are called the First and Second Sundays after Christmas. These First Sundays each have their own readings based on the liturgical Year: A, B, or C. We are now in Year B. We don't always have two Sundays between Christmas and Epiphany but when we do, the gospel is always from the Prologue to John, regardless of whichever liturgical year we are in.

In any event Christmastide is a time to experience the fullness of our spiritual tradition and I hope you will.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- To facilitate budgeting for 2021 we will pay off the *Raise the Roof Campaign* loan in December.
- Pledges are still down a little over budgeted.

- Ronnie MacDonald and Barbara Greco attended the Virtual Diocesan Convention.
- A Diocesan Grant may be available to update our audio-visual equipment for better digital services.
- We approved the use of the vestry room for Boy Scout meetings.
- The parish will have a “Christmas Drive” for nursing home residents in the Patchogue Nursing Home. See Barbara Greco, Ronnie MacDonald, and Rita Hihn for donations of games, puzzles and art supplies, no later than December 10, 2020.
- Building and Grounds is looking for quotes to replace the tile floor in the vestry room and also the removal of several dead trees.
- Christian Formation had no meeting but ordered Books of Common Prayer to give to the young people who served so faithfully as acolytes last year.
- The vestry accepted the budgeted amount for our Diocesan Pledge.

Respectfully submitted

Conni Still, clerk of the vestry

STEWARDSHIP

Participating in our community of faith through giving

After the long closing of our church because of the corona virus pandemic, the congregation can now begin to reacquaint ourselves with each other. It's like reuniting with long-lost friends. It gives us a chance to come together to be grateful for our health and perseverance through this long year. It's a chance to be grateful for the happiness and comfort that we get from our friendship and love for one another.

We're all hopeful that the upcoming holiday season will be blessed and nice. It certainly will be different than what we have become accustomed to. There probably will not be the usual social

gatherings. There will be no choir singing or Christmas caroling. No hot cider and cookies. But it will be an opportunity to remind ourselves that God loves us, and be thankful to God for giving us His beloved Son, the greatest Christmas gift of all.

On behalf of the stewardship committee, thank you to all who have returned your pledge cards for next year, and thanks to all who faithfully have continued to bless Saint Paul's financially through the pandemic. May God bless one and all.

I would like to wish everyone a peaceful holiday season and a safe and healthy new year.

Scott Harris for the stewardship committee

Laura Cooley, Scott Harris, Martin Minogue, Conni Still, Phyllis Voegeli

Report on the 154th Annual Convention Of the Diocese of Long Island - November 14, 2020

- over 60 parishes, 60 clergy, 30 youth delegates, & a total of 275 participants
- the theme was recognizing & acting against racism & all forms of social hatred that embodies our country as written in our baptismal covenant, God's truth in love; our call to action is teaching Christian values & being faithful by Jesus' gospel
- most of the elections were uncontested, pro forma.
- many of the propositions were to amend meetings to include electronic & teleconferences & member terms of office
- The Bishop's Address:
 - Expressed a sincere, thank you, to the entire LI convention for the first ever electronic convention
 - Prayers for all the victims of the COVID virus

- We must act & work to become the kingdom of God
- Seek love for one diocese & one action for racial & social justice; we must become a loving community
- Hopefully, the hybrid services will continue to include so many more members of the church
- We should all engage in an hour of prayer per day & at least one day per month
- Together, as a church, we can show the world a better example through faith

- the Ministry Plan (budget) was passed
- a resolution was made in support of changing the Immigration Detention System; local opportunities of healing, justice, & reconciliation to support detained immigrants

The 155th Diocesan Convention of LI will be held on November 13, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Ronnie Lee MacDonald, 11/16/20

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Food Pantry Volunteers for putting together 110 Thanksgiving baskets with turkeys, and another 15 or so bags of the "fixings". An amazing effort on the part of the those who participated.
- All those who contributed towards the Thanksgiving baskets.
- Ronny Pliszak for writing the volume of "thank you notes" to all the outside people and organizations who contributed towards the Thanksgiving baskets.
- Pack 177, the scouts (and their parents) who did an awesome job raking leaves on November 29.
- Ronnie MacDonald and Barbara Greco for attending Diocesan Convention
- Dee Laffin and Martin Minogue for managing the ushering during our first month of services.

Frank Getz for painting the trim on the north side of the church

- Dee Laffin for reaching out to flooring specialists and Peter Quattrale for tree removal, and for continuing to pick up the trash that comes from nowhere and everywhere.



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



Bill Beebe, Diane Butler, Gail Davis, Scott Harris, and Dee Laffin



*“Christ has ... no other hands but yours”
St. Teresa of Avila*

Raise the Roof

Thank you to all who have contributed to this campaign. The final payment to our loan will be made this month. If you still have payments on your pledge to make please continue to do so. Any funds remaining will be moved to our Capital Improvement Fund.

Please include in your prayers this month:

Craig, Dylan & Family, Ed, Linda, Mike, Marcy, Janis, Niki, Martin, Bill, Jeannine, Pauline, Dawn, Joanne, Kenny, Janine, Tony, Mother Liz, Peggy, Robert, Marilyn, Matthew, Liz, Val, Kim & Family, Margaret, Linda, Bob, John, Buddy and Mary, Alice, Tony, Jack, Shirley, Michael, Gail, Joanne, Wilma, John, Christine, Robin, ..., and for those we name now.

Prayer for the Parish

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Thrift Shop Doings

We look forward to reopening soon and pray that everyone remains healthy. God Bless Us All.

Food Pantry



The Food Pantry needs food. The Food Pantry serves families by bag and grab until the quarantine is over. The number of clients is getting larger each week. We have served 104 bags of food this week. Please leave a message in the office to find out when you can leave a donation of food.

SAVE THE DATES!



Please join with us as we Celebrate the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve

- 5:30 PM Family Service
- 10:00 PM Holy Eucharist

Both services will be available on Zoom

Friday, December 25: Christmas Day

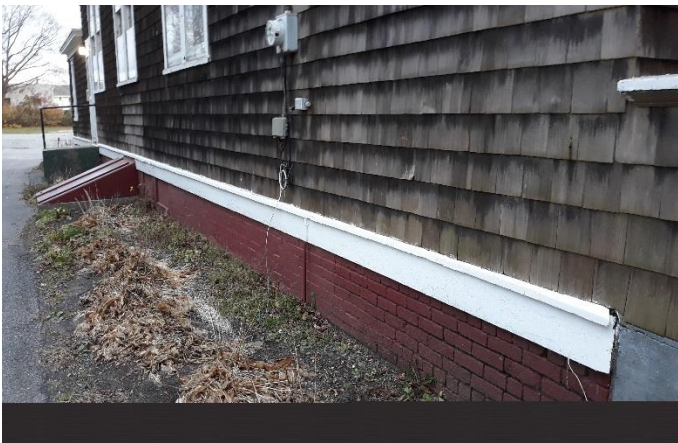
- 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Sunday: December 27, First Sunday after Christmas

- 8:00 HE Rite I
- 10:00 HE Rite II

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

- **Feast of the Epiphany**
- 7:00 PM Holy Eucharist



Thanks to Frank Getz for scraping and painting the trim on the church. Great job Frank!



Scouts hard at work



All of those leaves!