

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 Ronnie MacDonald

Emeke Azinge, Diane Butler, Tracy Classon, Barbara Greco, Martin Immel Jr., Maurine Jacobs, Charles Klagges, Barbara Lapinski, Shinaide Polley

Clerk: Conni Still

Treasurer: Barbara Lapinski

Editor: Conni Still

Parish

Office Phone: 631-475-3078

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E-mail:stpaulspatchogue@gmail.com

Website:www.stpaulspatchogue.com

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. XX ed. 1

JANUARY 2021

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

Easter will be early this year; Holy Week begins on March 28 which means that the beginning of Lent is just around the corner! It feels to me like we have just gotten through Christmas and haven't yet had a chance to recover from the Annual Meeting.

This year there will be 6 Sundays from the first Sunday after Epiphany and it's been wonderful to see how well our poinsettia have held up.

We hope to be piggy-backing a program that is being offered By Fr. Jeff Stevenson at St. Ann's on Reconciliation As you may remember Lent is a penitential season, a time for serious reflection on our sins. And I imagine that most of us have lots of them upon which to reflect because we can't avoid sinning – at least without God's help.

I think the following prayer by an unknown author sums it up:

Dear God, so far today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped. I haven't lost my tempter. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed... & from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Amen..

Kidding aside, there are times when we know that we have done something wrong and it eats away at us. For this reason, the Episcopal church offers the Act of Reconciliations. (Confession to all you former Roman Catholics). Reconciliation offers us an opportunity to let go of our sins when we are truly repentant and willing to try to make amends. If that sounds uncomfortable, it can be, but to know yourself forgiven, made right in the eyes of God is a precious gift, one made available to us by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

I have inserted the introduction to The Reconciliation of a Penitent below. It begins on pg. 446 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Concerning the Rite

The ministry of reconciliation, which has been committed by Christ to his Church, is exercised through the care each Christian has for others, through the common prayer of Christians assembled for public worship, and through the priesthood of the Church and its ministers declaring absolution.

The Reconciliation of a Penitent is available for all who desire it. It is not restricted to times of sickness. Confessions may be heard anytime and anywhere.

Two equivalent forms of service are provided here to meet the needs of penitents. The absolution in these services may be pronounced only by a bishop or priest. Another Christian may be asked to hear a confession, but it must be made clear to the penitent that absolution will not be pronounced; instead, a declaration of forgiveness is provided.

When a confession is heard in a church building, the confessor may sit inside the altar rails or in a place set aside to give greater privacy, and the penitent kneels nearby. If preferred, the confessor and penitent may sit face to face for a spiritual conference leading to absolution or a declaration of forgiveness.

When the penitent has confessed all serious sins troubling the conscience and has given evidence of due contrition, the priest gives such counsel and encouragement as are needed and pronounces absolution. Before giving absolution, the priest may assign to the penitent a psalm, prayer, or hymn to be said, or something to be done, as a sign of penitence and act of thanksgiving.

The content of a confession is not normally a matter of subsequent discussion. The secrecy of a confession is morally absolute for the confessor, and must under no circumstances be broken.

If you are interested in “making your confession” please contact me. It’s a faithful way to begin a Holy Lent.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Changes to the vestry in the By-Laws will be brought before the Annual Meeting and won’t go into effect until 2022.

Since the By-Laws will not change this year the slate for the nomination to the vestry was changed.

2021: Martin Immel Jr, Maurine Jacobs, Charles Klagges

2022: Emeka Azinge, Diane Butler, Barbara Greco
2023: Barbara Lapinski, Tracy Classon, Shinaide Polley

The floor in the classroom that is used by the vestry and thrift shop does not need asbestos abatement and we are waiting for a price quote.

The Budget for 2021 was explained to the Vestry. There is no money budgeted for supply priests, Morning Prayer will be used when Mother Liz is away. After some discussion the budget was accepted. It will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Mother Liz thanked the outgoing members of the vestry for their service and dedication, Cathie Pliszack, warden and Nancy Western, vestry.

The office copy machine gets a great deal of use, even more during the pandemic. The vestry approved a new contract for maintenance.

Bishop Provenzano held a virtual meeting with the clergy and informed them that the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a matter of custom and not a requirement. We will have the Ash Wednesday Service in church and via zoom at 7PM.

Mother Liz is checking into Lenten Programs that we might be able to participate in.

There will be a Shrove Tuesday Grab and Go Pancake Supper also zoomed \$10, send check to church office.

PPP Loans may be available if we qualify for 25% for drop in income.

Respectfully submitted

Conni Still, clerk of the vestry

STEWARDSHIP

Participating in our community of faith through giving

Lent in the Time of Covid19

Lent is a time when Christians make sacrifices to do a faith check and prepare for the great Paschal

mystery. Right now, all of society seems to be make sacrifices that were unimaginable only a year ago.

People cannot travel freely. Businesses are being curtailed. People are losing jobs in pubs, restaurants, and other establishments. Curfews are in place to keep people home. Schools and colleges are canceled for the short term and perhaps for the rest of the semester with some enacting remote learning. Hospitals are being strained beyond their means.

I share an anonymous prayer that orients us toward those less fortunate than us. It is frightening that a majority of people are unprepared to cover their expenses beyond a small window of time. How will they survive and who will care for them?

That is why this health pandemic challenges us to look at each other and see where we can be helpful: at a shelter, a feeding program or helping stock a food pantry.

All of these actions are normal for the season of Lent. But now, there is an urgency, and the needs are greater.

We are not alone. "Social distancing" may be in mode now, but people hunger for social solidarity and in a healthy way during this crisis. People turn to God in moments of crisis.

At least we realize that in God's house, the people of God are always welcome to realize that any challenge in life beyond our control is in God's hands.

Prayer During the Pandemic

*May we who are merely inconvenienced,
Remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors,
Remember those most vulnerable.*

May we who have the luxury of work from home,

*Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health and making their rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for our
children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel our trips,
Remember those who have no safe place to go.*

*May those who are losing our margin money in the
tumult of our economic market,
Remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May we who settle in for a quarantine at home,
Remember those who have no homes.*

*As fear grips our country,
Let us choose Love
During this time when we cannot physically wrap
our arms around each other.*

Martin Minogue

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



We established the Sunshine Fund in the hope we would have money to be able to send gifts of flowers or food as needed for parishioners who are ill or grieving. Some organizations ask for a small donation on a regular basis to support their funds, we thought we would ask for donations when you have had a special moment as a Thanksgiving.

Are you Thankful that none of your family or friends have been ill with Covid.? Or that you have received your vaccination or at least an appointment for one? Perhaps you are so grateful that you have

returned to church or at least been able to Zoom the services and fill your spiritual lives.

We are now out of money and don't have anything left to continue this work. I hope this reminder will encourage you to think of all the things we are thankful for. I am thankful for all of you, so I will be sending in a check, just write Sunshine Fund in the subject line. Thank you and God Bless You.

Conni Still, editor

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Members of the Finance Committee who put together the budget for 2021
- All who turned in their Annual Reports in a timely manner
- Ronny Pliszak for assembling the Annual Report
- All those who attended Annual Meeting in person or on Zoom
- Kevin Weeks for his role as parliamentarian
- Retiring warden, Cathie Pliszak
- Retiring vestry member, Nancy Western
- Stepping up as new warden, Ronnie MacDonald
- New vestry members: Tracy Classon, Barbara Lapinski, and Shinaide Polley
- Marin Minogue for coordinating the transfer of equipment from the church to the parish hall
- Michael Daly for providing us with music
- Geppie Celauro for plowing the parking lot on February 1 and 2



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. If you still have payments on your pledge to make please continue to do so. All money will be placed in the building improvement fund for any additional expenses.

Please include in your prayers this month:

Dylan and Family, Noe and Family, Dorothy, Jeannine, Pauline, Dan, Greg, Larry and Rosemary, Craig, Peter, Dan B., Sol, Joanne, and for those we name now.

If you would like a name added to those who are sick or in need of our prayers, please let the office know. We are starting the year with a clean slate.

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 are getting larger during the pandemic. Please leave a message in the office to find out when you can leave a donation of food.



SAVE THE DATES!

Shrove Tuesday February 16, 2021

“Grab and Go” pancake supper kits are available for \$10.00 each.

- Each kit will contain a package of pancake mix (makes 10 pancakes), brown and serve sausages, syrup, Mardi Gras beads, and possibly blueberries
- (depending upon price at time of event).
- The fun part of this is that we would then Zoom our pancake supper, eating together virtually. All money collected will go directly to the church so let's enjoy some fellowship while raising a little money for the church.
- Please contact Cathie Pliszak (631) 475-1117 or the office (631-475-3078, if you would like to order a kit or if you have any questions.
- Currently we have enough supplies for 25 kits. Pick-up and/or distributions details to follow.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

- Service in church and on Zoom and Facebook at 7:00 PM
- There will be no imposition of ashes due to Covid. The imposition of ashes has always been optional. It is not required to signify the beginning of Lent or to make the service valid.

Our life on the Web:

Zoom participants January 31st

Pictured:

Conni Still, Jeannine Cranor, Bill Beebe, Mary Dykman, Robin Krushinski, Dick Stevenson, Nancy Fava, Beverly James (one of my DCDI participants), and Emeka Azinge

On the phone: Michael Kykish, Jackie Root, and some other numbers I didn't recognize so please let me know who you were!

