

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
31 Rider Avenue
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Barbara Lapinski, Sharon Minogue
Cathie Pliszak,
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Parish Ministry: All the People of St. Paul's



MARCH 2022

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.

ST. PAUL’S EPISTLE

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A Word from Our Priest



that is part of my core values and beliefs that has led to my personal formation.

Many people have asked me along the way what is my “vision” and how can I see the church today. There are a couple of things I should say first. Church planting and development was an important part of my pastoral formation in Brazil. This is what we were trained to do. All the financial difficulties of my former country led to every seminarian or pastor being a missionary. Church planting was also a part of my call; developing communities and mission stations where people could gather and share, and express and grow in their faith.

I have always been a person with an outgoing personality and with a large evangelism perspective. I enjoy meeting and talking to new people. I like hearing their stories and backgrounds. When you combine that with the fact that I have been called to the priesthood, now I want to make sure my new friend knows about God and the Love He has for them, regardless of whom they are and where they came from. For many years my work was teaching and developing athletes as a physical education teacher and soccer coach. My goal now is to help people to build their faith and

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

I know that at this moment many of you would like to know a little more about your new priest and I would like to share with you something

develop their relationship with God—but always as part of the tapestry of the church, where liturgy enriches life and life enriches liturgy.

Also, I believe that we can help many people feel comfortable with our Episcopal ways and perhaps [through inclusivity, education, social activities, and outreach programs] desire to be fully part of it. Or, for those that are just stopping by occasionally and are still unsure in their minds where they belong, we can assure them that they can find a warm safe place to express themselves without fear and make sure they are respected. Not because they are part of the community officially [yet!] but because our church is part of God’s kingdom [a colony of heaven] and we are all God’s children, truly a church without walls.

In my vision the church exists as a mission: on the go, representing Christ, and recognizing Christ in the pulsating life of every person in every community. When I became an adult Christian, in my city in Brazil, I was pulled in many directions by the many different competitive claims of Christian movements and groups. Already the influence of a dominant paternalistic Roman Catholic establishment was weakening. Fortunately, I came to know and to cherish the vision of Recife’s Archbishop Helder Camara, who was a champion of “liberation theology” in which the disenfranchised poor were included as the architects of their own version of the Christian life as rooted in the Beatitudes. I was also influenced by the excitement and urgency of evangelicals, who were eager to share the good news of personal salvation with new Christians. The Episcopal Church in Brazil speaks Portuguese but it also speaks “evangelism” and it speaks “liberation” for the outsiders. I chose to enter seminary with that broad and inclusive view of the world – the view which Jesus has from his cross. Jesus, in my view, especially calls children to his side, and caring for people in all their daily triumphs and difficulties is not a distant goal, it is the very pattern of our life in congregations such as Saint Paul’s, a “colony of heaven.”

The church which lives to itself dies to itself. The Episcopal Church is uniquely positioned to join hands with other faith communities and Christian churches of different traditions to contribute to the well-being of all communities and regions. I imagine it could even join hands with partners outside the USA or in pockets of our own country where volunteer energy and support is essential (mission trips). Meanwhile, my wish for the church is, that the nourishment of a growing and inclusive community of Christ’s living Church through the Word preached and lived, and through the Water, the Bread and Wine, the laying on of hands and holy oil – all this is bearing witness to Jesus who lives and walks among his own. As Archbishop Helder Camara wrote in a poem:

“It is worth any sacrifice, however great or costly, to see eyes that were listless light up again, to see someone smile who seemed to have forgotten how to smile; to see trust reborn in someone who no longer believed in anything or anyone.”

In conclusion, a perfect example of the mission of the Church today can be seen when viewing the Olympics. It is the contrast between the opening and closing ceremonies. In the opening ceremony the athletes come parading into the stadium by country, under their separate national flags, beginning with Greece and ending with the host country. In the closing ceremonies, the athletes once again enter the stadium, but this time as one group, under the Olympic flag, with no national divisions. Why? Because the competition is over! This is what the world does not realize, and the church has failed (in many ways) to manifest, that because of Christ, the competition now one in Christ under the blood-stained banner of the Crucified. This is the message the world desperately needs to hear, that in Christ, the competition is over! The is over. Christ has competed on our behalf, the gold has been won, and we are all winners and opportunity to convey this message to the world through the message of the cross comprises the frontier of mission for the church in the 21st century. May the church have the courage to fully enter this new frontier. The

church exists as an extension of God's kingdom. The church should wear this mantle on behalf of the gathered community and on behalf of those on its fringes and outside it too.

I am with my heart full of happiness and excitement to be with you and always, together proclaim the glorious Love and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, His Grace and Love for all.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 NIV

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

Your brother in Christ.

Gill+

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

We are waiting for the final Letter of Agreement with Father Gill.

In the process to join Amazons Smile Donation program

The Schedule of Services will continue with 9 Am for March and return to two services of 8AM and 10AM in April

The Lenten Program will be scheduled for Tuesday at 7PM

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is Grab and Go and zoom eating together at 6PM

Ash Wednesday 7 Am, 12 noon, 7 PM

Thrift Shop reopens March 4th

Welcoming Coffee Hour for Fr. Gill on March 6 after 9 AM service

Stewardship

Moving forward with God at work in us

Dear People of God, The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the church to prepare by a season of penitence and fasting. I invite you to take this time to move forward with God in you.

Move forward in your daily prayers for Peace in the World.

Move forward in your doing kind works and saying kind words.

Move forward in thanking God for all His goodness.

Move forward in your volunteering in the work at St.Paul's.

Move forward with patience and love.

Move forward with your support to St. Paul's in your pledging.

Do you want to Fast This Lent?

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity

Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

(Inspired by a prayer by Pope Francis)

Enjoy the opportunity to come together for the first time in two years to receive ashes.

Conni Still

For the stewardship committee: Laura Cooley, Scott Harris, Martin Minogue, Conni Still, Phyllis Voegeli



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



We picked up donated furniture from Island Harvest in Hauppauge consisting of a large wooden desk, three file cabinets, and four chairs. Thanks to Diane Butler, Martin Minogue, Cathie and Ron Pliszak, Dave MacDonald and Gary Sclafani.

Cleaned, emptied and refurnished parish administrator's office. Thanks Martin Minogue, Ronnie and Dave MacDonald, Dee Laffin, Ronny Pliszak, Cathie Pliszak.

National Grid was called for a gas odor that was traced to the heating unit of the parish hall.

Hilborn Plumbing was called for emergency repairs.

Dee Laffin spent many hours cleaning and arranging both the vestry office and the priest's office.

Rectory restoration continues: kitchen and baths are gutted and new electric has been installed, walls & ceiling throughout are being replastered/drywalled.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave MacDonald



"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 was made. If you still have payments on your pledge to make, please continue to do so. Additional Funds will be placed in the building Improvement Fund.



Please include in your prayers this month:

Dylan and Family, Noe and Polly, Heather and Jaxson, Cathie,

Scott, Ed Smith and Family, Craig, Shirley, Conni, Jeannine,

Rosemary and Larry, Nikki, Michael K, Michael G, Anthony, Michael B

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.

Thanksgivings and Acknowledgement

Island Harvest for the Furniture Donation
Martin Minogue, Cathie & Ron Pliszak, Dave MacDonald, Diane Butler for picking up the furniture, Dee Laffin, Ronnie and Dave MacDonald for Reorganizing the parish administrators and priest's office.

Thrift Shop Doings

The Thrift Shop will reopen on March 4th. It is also our eighth anniversary! Come shop for St. Patrick's Day and see what else we have for you.

If you have free time and would like to volunteer for the Thrift Shop, your help is greatly needed. Conni is becoming bionic the middle of March with a hip replacement and will be out for a few weeks, rehab and not being able to drive. If you have time Friday, Saturday, and Monday from 10-2 it will help keep the shop open.

Food Pantry



Please consider donating food for the food pantry each week. If you are attending church in person then you can bring your donation on Sunday, if not, please call the office to find out when you can drop off your donation.

DO NOT LEAVE PERISHABLES PLEASE!
THEY GO RIGHT INTO TRASH! MAKE AN APPOINTMENT!

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE FOOD OUTSIDE
WHERE THE RACOONS CAN GET IT.

THANK YOU

Lakeview Cemetery

Ralph Wright, who has been Chairperson of the Friends of Lakeview Cemetery since its inception five years ago, will be retiring soon and will be replaced by Marian Russo. She has asked us for a list of priorities and/or concerns that we may have. In the short term, we must address the trees and flowers planted by an unknown person last year in the Episcopal section of the cemetery, many are dead or dying, most are poorly located, and none were planted with permission or in consultation with Friends. In the longer term, we would like to consider removing what remains of the iron fencing between the Rice cemetery and the Lakeview Cemetery from Main Street north to the Four Sisters monuments. We also must find a way to rehabilitate the Edwards mausoleum. Both of these issues have been raised with the Diocese

Ronny and her new Desk



and it is possible that financial assistance may be available, although none has been promised.

Respectfully submitted
Dave MacDonald



SAVE THE DATES!
Masks will be required

Tues March 1, 2022 Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper (Grab and Go?)

Wednesday March 2, Ash Wednesday
7:00 AM Liturgy for Ash Wednesday

12 NOON Liturgy for Ash Wednesday
7:00 PM Liturgy for Ash Wednesday

Sunday, March 6, First Sunday of Lent
9:00 Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour



Fr. Gill and Rita Hihn performing his First official act at St. Paul's, burning Last year's palms for tomorrow's ashes.

