



**SAINT
PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL
DAYTON·OH**

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025, 9:30 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your cell phone.

We ask your prayers for: David, Sherrie, The families of Diana and Jon Sebal, Nancy, Pat, Sharon, Ken, Candace, Lori, Debi, Nevitt, James, Avery, Pamela, Connie, Linda, Anne, Kim, and Ella.

And for those serving in the Armed Forces and Diplomatic Corps of our Country: David Craddock, John Sampson, Brett Griffin, Zachary Falter, and Isabel Steen Falter.

See list of Birthdays in the weekly email.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer—Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer—Church of Our Saviour, Mechanicsburg; and St. James, Piqua.

The Altar Arrangements are given to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of BB McCollom..

SERVING TODAY - 12/14/25 - 9:30AM		SERVING NEXT SUN. - 12/21/25 - 9:30AM	
Altar Guild	Diane Labrie Ellen Walters	Altar Guild	Cheryl Strine Mary Anna Conley
Reader	Charlie Campbell Diana Uhlman	Reader	Chuck Berry Kathleen Walters
Ushers	Micky Neben Mary Beth Coker	Ushers	Jim Filson Diane Labrie

PRELUDE: HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTES SOHN (LORD CHRIST, THE ONLY SON OF GOD)
Waltber

PRAYER REQUESTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL: HYMN #68

Llangloffan

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TRISAGION, Hymnal #S100

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH (*SUNG BY CHOIR*) *Yiddish Folk Tune*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10

A Reading from Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
 They shall see the glory of the LORD,
 the majesty of our God.
 Strengthen the weak hands,
 and make firm the feeble knees.
 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
 "Be strong, do not fear!
 Here is your God.
 He will come with vengeance,
 with terrible recompense.
 He will come and save you."
 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
 and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
 and streams in the desert;
 the burning sand shall become a pool,
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
 A highway shall be there,
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;
 the unclean shall not travel on it,
 but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
 No lion shall be there,
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
 they shall not be found there,
 but the redeemed shall walk there.
 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE: PSALM 146:4-9 (*SUNG BY CHOIR*)

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10

A Reading from James

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if able.

GOSPEL PROCESSION: HYMN #438

Woodlands

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HOMILY

THE REV. JEAN VARGO

SILENT REFLECTION

Please stand if able.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - From the book *“Hear Our Prayer”*

After each petition the people respond with *“Hear Our Prayer”*.

Please stand or kneel if able.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY MUSIC: AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD (FROM “MESSIAH”) *G. F. Handel*

And the glory, the glory of the Lord, shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together:
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Please stand if able.

HYMN #43, vs. 4

The Eighth Tune

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer for Advent, Christmas & Epiphany
(from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Augsburg Fortress 2006)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is indeed our joy, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks and praise to you, gracious God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will make all things new. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

Please stand or kneel if able.

SANCTUS, Hymnal #S124

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise made to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

With this bread and cup we remember your Word, Jesus Christ, dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

People **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Blessing, praise and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER, BCP 364

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD BCP 364

FRACTION ANTHEM: HYMNAL #S154

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance
that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with
thanksgiving.

COMMUNION MUSIC: HYMN #59

Merton

Please stand or kneel if able.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

RECESSIONAL: HYMN #76

Winchester New

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: TOCCATA IN E MINOR

Pachelbel

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SERMON NOTES

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

St. Paul's and St. Mark's

Blue Christmas Prayers: Devotionals with scripture are available in the St. Paul's Chapel throughout the Advent Season. Pray, light a Candle, and connect with our Lord. Know that Christ is Born anew in each of us.

Sunday Worship in Advent: 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul's and 11:30 a.m. at St. Mark's

St. Paul's & St. Mark's Staff and Vestry Christmas Party:

December 16, 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's

Carols on the Green: Dec. 18, 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Green Space at St. Paul's

The community is invited to join the Dayton Metro Barbershop Chorus and us as we welcome the season with song!

Christmas Eve Worship Services: 5:00 p.m. at St. Paul's / 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's

Lessons and Carols Joint Service: Sunday, Dec. 28, 10:30 a.m. at St. Mark's

NO WORSHIP AT ST. PAUL'S on December 28.

The Arrival of the Wisemen: Sunday, January 4

9:30 a.m. at St. Paul's

11:30 a.m. at St. Mark's

ADVENT BOOK STUDY - *CHRISTMAS: THE SEASON OF LIFE AND LIGHT*,

BY EMILY HUNTER MCGOWIN - "O WONDROUS EXCHANGE!"

We've been discussing how God changes our human existence, our glories, His expression of love.

Join Kathleen and Laura Walters in the cloister at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Mondays at **5pm. The remaining dates** are Monday, December 15, and 22nd.

CRAZY CHRISTIANS BY MICHAEL CURRY - This book will change your Advent and Christmas because it helps us better understand how Christ will be born anew in us. Books are available in the church office for \$10.

Currently Accepting Nominations for Vestry and Convention Delegates

The following parishioners have graciously agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee:
Chairperson Charlie Campbell, Linda Bumiller, Mary Beth Coker, Jim Filson, Micky Neben, Margaret Sampson, and Cheryl Strine

Please prayerfully consider helping St. Paul's move forward into our second century by serving on the Vestry or as a Delegate to Convention in 2026. You are invited to nominate yourself or someone else (please ask their permission before doing so) for the following positions:

- Senior Warden, one-year term beginning in Feb. 2026
- Junior Warden, one-year term beginning in Feb. 2026
- Three Vestry members for three-year terms beginning in Feb. 2026
- Four Delegates for the 2026 DSO Convention
- Two Alternate Delegates for the 2026 DSO Convention

Nominations should be sent to Charlie Campbell (phone: 937-657-9052 or charliec@ameritech.net) **before December 15, 2025**. The Nominating Slate will be posted on December 31, 2025, and voted upon at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 8, 2026.

2025 Contribution and Reimbursement Deadline

Please remember that in order to claim a charitable contribution tax deduction for 2025, all contributions must be received in the parish office or postmarked no later than December 31, 2025. The IRS has strict guidelines regarding this matter and no exceptions can be made.

Also, if you need to be reimbursed for any authorized church-related expenses that occurred in 2025, please complete a check request form (available in the parish office), attach your receipt, and return it to the parish office no later than December 31, 2025.

Your promptness is greatly appreciated!

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Advent Word Search

W	E	G	T	H	M	K	I	C	X	J	Q
R	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	A	Z	O	C
M	P	E	K	D	J	E	S	N	B	Y	A
A	Y	A	D	V	I	M	P	D	H	O	P
R	J	O	S	E	P	H	E	L	O	V	E
Y	E	B	A	N	C	O	A	E	O	G	A
P	S	X	G	T	H	P	C	S	P	K	C
Z	U	G	M	L	O	E	Z	E	A	Y	E
Y	S	Q	P	U	R	P	L	E	X	R	A

Words to Find

Words can be found left to right and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus



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ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

33 W. DIXON AVE.
DAYTON, OH 45419
937-293-1154

www.stpauls-dayton.org

WELCOME!

We're glad you're here today! Your presence with us is a blessing. We invite you to participate in worship, say the prayers, sing the songs, and introduce yourself. You'll find a visitor card in the pew back in front of you. We're so excited to meet you.

WORSHIP TIMES

9:30 am - Worship Service with Hymns

Office hours: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday – Thursday

9:00 am - 12:00 pm on Friday

ST. PAUL'S STAFF

The Rev. Jean Vargo—Interim Pastor jean@stpauls-dayton.org

Cara Whitby—Director of Music cara@stpauls-dayton.org

Lois Smith—Parish Administrator lois@stpauls-dayton.org

Sue Starner—Finance & Properties Administrator sue@stpauls-dayton.org

ST. PAUL'S VESTRY

Class of 2026 - Linda Bumiller, Charlie Campbell, Steve Ireland

Class of 2027 - Cheryl Strine, Kathleen Walters

Class of 2028 - Chris Brandt, Jill Davis

Senior Warden (*term expires 2026*)- Paul Sampson

Junior Warden (*term expires 2026*)- Joe Cairo

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