



**SAINT  
PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL  
DAYTON·OH**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 21, 2025, 9:30 AM**

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

**We ask your prayers for:** Helen, David, Sherrie, The families of Diana and Jon Sebaly, 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**—The Anglican Church of Burundi.

**In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**—St. Philip's, Circleville; and our Deacons.

**The Altar Arrangements** are given to the Glory of God.

SERVING TODAY - 12/21/25 - 9:30AM		SERVING NEXT SUN. - 12/28/25
Altar Guild	Cheryl Strine Mary Anna Conley	JOINT SERVICE AT ST. MARK'S LESSONS & CAROLS 10:30AM
Reader	Chuck Berry Kathleen Walters	
Ushers	Jim Filson Diane Labrie	

## ***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.

**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

**PRELUDE: PRIERE Á NOTRE DAME (PRAYER TO OUR LADY)**

*Boëlimann*

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PROCESSIONAL: HYMN #54**

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*

*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 wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7:10-16**

A Reading from Isaiah

**A**gain the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the

evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

*Reader*                    The Word of the Lord.

*People*                    **Thanks be to God.**

**THE RESPONSE:** PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18 (*SUNG BY CHOIR*)

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**SECOND READING:** ROMANS 1:1-7

A Reading from Romans

**P**aul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of

his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,  
To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

*Please stand if able.*

**GOSPEL PROCESSION:** HYMN #66

*Stuttgart*

**THE GOSPEL:** MATTHEW 1:18-25

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

**N**ow the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

    "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
        and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*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**

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

**W**e 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.

**W**e 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 #265**

*Gabriel's Message*

*Please stand or kneel if able.*

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Celebrant*        Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**E**ternal 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 #56, VERSES 5-8 ONLY**

*Veni, veni Emmanuel*

## 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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## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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!

### **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 date is** tomorrow, Monday, December 22.

**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.

**The Church Office** will be closed December 24 through January 4 and will reopen on Monday, January 5. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call 937-293-1154 and follow the prompt for pastoral care. *We hope you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

[www.stpauls-dayton.org](http://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 rack 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](mailto:jean@stpauls-dayton.org)

Cara Whitby—Director of Music [cara@stpauls-dayton.org](mailto:cara@stpauls-dayton.org)

Lois Smith—Parish Administrator [lois@stpauls-dayton.org](mailto:lois@stpauls-dayton.org)

Sue Starner—Finance & Properties Administrator [sue@stpauls-dayton.org](mailto: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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