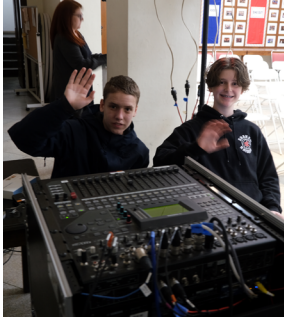




ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Seeking. Serving. Loving. Together.

Parish Notes

March 2025 • Vol. 67 No. 6



Worship

Forty Days of Preparation

The Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Applegate, Interim Rector

March 5 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent – the forty-day period of preparation for Easter.

Why begin a liturgical season in the middle of the week? The answer is that Lent is comprised of the forty weekdays of the fast – Sunday being the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and, therefore, a feast day.



Why forty days? Forty is a recurring number in the Bible – the waters on which Noah's ark sailed covered the earth for forty days. The people of Israel spent forty years in the wilderness after their Exodus from Egypt. Moses spent forty days on the mountain of God. And most significant for our observance of Lent, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness where he prayed, fasted and experienced temptation.

On Ash Wednesday at St. Paul's, we'll offer the imposition of ashes during services being held throughout the day.

Ashes are the traditional religious symbol of penance, and the Church has used the symbol as the way to begin a season when we emphasize the spiritual practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving – practices intended to help us deepen our relationship with Christ and our compassion for others.

Among the beautiful and solemn prayers from the Ash Wednesday liturgy are these from Psalm 51:11-13:

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.*

May each of us find our spirits renewed during this season, and may we experience the joy of the Holy Spirit's presence with us.

Pictures on the front cover:

Top left: Youth Group Super Bowl Party

Top center: Youth Choristers practicing before TrebleFest; processing in during TrebleFest Evensong

Top right and second row, left: Youth musicians practicing their instruments

Second row, center: CAST rehearsal

Second row, right: re-telling of the Gospel and planting seeds during Godly Play

Third and fourth rows: CAST Winter Musical FIREBRINGER!

Bottom row, right: Coventry Camerata Choral Evensong

Worship

Ash Wednesday Services Wednesday, March 5



Join us for the service that best fits your schedule. Imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist at all services. All are welcome!

7:30 a.m. | Ash Wednesday Liturgy, *St. Martin's Chapel*

10:30 a.m. | Ash Wednesday at Judson Park, *Auditorium*

Noon | Ash Wednesday Liturgy, *Nave* (ASL Interpreted)

5:30 p.m. | Ash Wednesday Liturgy for Children and Families, *St. Martin's Chapel*

7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Liturgy, *Nave* (**Livestreamed**)

Note: We will not have a 6 p.m. Service of Holy Eucharist in the Chapel of the Cross on Ash Wednesday. Please join us for the Ash Wednesday service that best suits you.

Labyrinth Reflection on Ash Wednesday Wednesday, March 5, 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. *Tucker Hall*

On Ash Wednesday, we will have our canvas labyrinth available to walk. The Labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools. For the Christian, the labyrinth provides a way to one's center, where Christ is found. The Labyrinth is offered to all who seek a deeper faith.



(Paper labyrinth available on page 4)

Wednesday Evening Service of Holy Eucharist during Lent

Wednesdays, March 12 - April 16, 6 p.m.
St. Martin's Chapel

During Lent, the 6 p.m. Wednesday Service of Holy Eucharist will move to St. Martin's Chapel (*more about the Wednesday Lenten Evening Series on page 9*). We will return to the Chapel of the Cross on Wednesday, April 23.

Morning Prayer

Thursdays, March 6 - April 17
8:30 a.m., *Chapel of the Cross*

Join us for Morning Prayer each Thursday during Lent from 8:30 to 9 a.m. in the Chapel of the Cross.



A Lenten Experiment

Sundays during Lent at the 9 a.m. service

Starting on the First Sunday in Lent, March 9, we're planning a time-limited experiment with the 9 a.m. service. We will be preaching shorter sermons in formats accessible to all ages and the service will be an hour or less.

No changes are in the works for either the 7:45 or 11:15 a.m. services. To provide feedback, contact Bonnie Gunzenhauser, Rev. Gabriel, or Rev. Stephen.



Read the full article on our website:
TinyUrl.com/sp-lent25

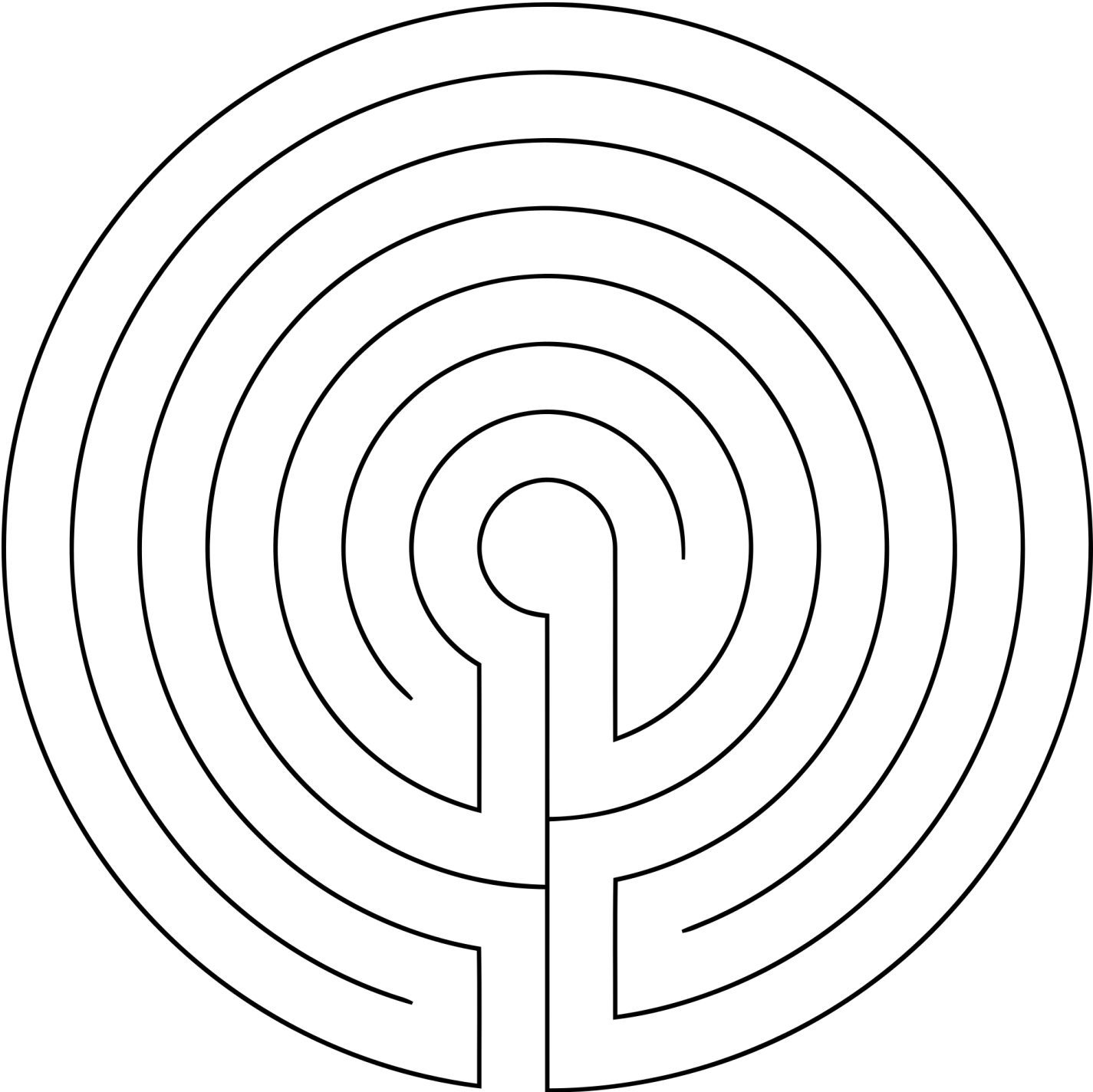
Invitation to Holy Baptism

Sunday, April 20

The next baptisms will be on Easter Day, Sunday, April 20. If you are interested in being baptized or having your child baptized, email Rev. Gabriel Lawrence: GLawrence@StPauls-Church.org.

Paper Labyrinth

If you aren't able to make it to the church on Ash Wednesday or wish to engage in this form of meditation at another time, simply trace your finger, a pen cap, or pencil around the blank space on the paper.



Parish Events

EDWINS Fish Fry

Friday, March 7, 5 - 7:30 p.m., Dining Room



Don't miss the St. Paul's Fish Fry featuring EDWINS' special fish fry batter - prepared on-site by EDWINS students and graduates!

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors and join us for a delicious dinner as we mark the start of Lent. Beverages and beer/wine will be available for purchase. All profits support the EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute.



Reserve your meal

Reserve your dinner now for either dine-in or take-out. Walk-ins are also welcome, though reservations are preferred for planning purposes.

Volunteers are needed to greet guests, run orders, reset tables, and help with beverages. All volunteers are welcome to eat

for free! If interested, email Pam O'Halloran: POhalloran@StPauls-Church.org

A Pilgrimage to the Southern Border

Thursday, March 27, 11 a.m.



Sages, our group for "seasoned" citizens, are invited to hear the Rev. Nan and Dr. Peter Hildebrand tell about their recent pilgrimage to the southern border, what individuals and groups are doing for immigrants,

the Episcopal Church's efforts to assist, and recent changes with the new administration.

A light fellowship luncheon follows.

Please RSVP by Friday, March 21, to Rev. Gabriel: GLawrence@StPauls-Church.org

For transportation questions, email Denise Wells: WellsDenise7@gmail.com.

Special Outreach

Diaper Drive During Lent

Wednesday, March 5 - Sunday, April 20



St. Paul's is offering a twist on the Lenten practice of almsgiving this year—we're recommending diaper giving!

AMIS (Americans Making Immigrants Safe) is holding a diaper drive for the families they work with and other refugees and asylum seekers.

Let's see how many disposable diapers we can gather. All sizes are needed, but especially **newborn** and **size 7**. Any kind of disposable diaper is welcome, including compostable. Monetary donations are welcome; put "**diapers**" in the memo (*a large pack of a popular brand costs about \$55*).

Drop off your donation in the Narthex on Sundays or in the Parish Office on weekdays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Read the full article: TinyUrl.com/diapers2025

Faith In Action! Outreach Funding

Are you part of a ministry that is in need of Outreach funding? Are you volunteering at your favorite charity and wondering if there's a way to do more? Grant funding is available through the Outreach Committee!

The St. Paul's community believes in "Faith in Action." We support many ministries of our parish—especially those that fight injustice—and we celebrate and inspire our fellow parishioners as they live out their faith in the broader community.

Funding is granted on a yearly basis to those that meet the requirements. Priority is given to committees, ministries, or programs with a significant share of parishioner involvement. Funds are limited, awarded amounts may vary, and grants are not guaranteed from year-to-year.

To learn more, please fill out the online form: TinyUrl.com/25outreach



Request form



Get Involved! Altar Guild

Have you ever wondered who sets up our worship space from week to week? Hint: it's not elves!

St. Paul's Altar Guild prepares and tends to the places of worship to enable the liturgy, making it possible for the congregation to experience the beauty and reverence of our sacred rituals. The Altar Guild cares for the altar, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. We prepare each sanctuary for service and clean up afterwards. We even care for the clergy's vestments as needed.

Did you know? The Altar Guild in the Episcopal church was developed in the late nineteenth century. In the early years, the role of the Altar Guild was the task of clerics, moving to a role for women many years later.

Here at St. Paul's everyone is welcome to join, regardless of gender, age, or experience!

In addition to the typical Sunday services, we also help set up for baptisms, evensongs, funerals, and weddings, depending on the agenda of the service. Our ministry is one of service to the church and clergy, behind the scenes.

As a group, the Altar Guild meets twice a year to celebrate our ministry and learn about new practices and processes to our work.

We are always looking for people looking to join this important ministry! We can accommodate you with the service that fits your schedule- even the kids can get involved! For more information, please contact the Altar Guild Chair, April Siegel-Green at ASGren45@gmail.com or at (440) 479-1255.

Music & Art



Coventry Camerata Choral Evensongs

Saturdays, March 8, 15 and 22, 5:30 p.m.
St. Paul's ensemble-in-residence sings its final three Evensongs of the season.

March 8:

Richard DeLong *Let my prayer come up as incense*

William Smith *Responses*

Kenneth Leighton *Magdalen College Service*

Leo Sowerby *Now there lightens upon us*

March 15:

William Byrd *Miserere mihi Domine*

Gerre Hancock *Responses in B-flat*

Thomas Tallis *Dorian Service*

C. Hubert H. Parry *My soul, there is a country*

March 22:

Gerre Hancock *Responses in B-flat*

Herbert Howells *'Collegium Regale' Canticles*

Francis Poulenc *Salve Regina*

Music & Art

An Invitation to Join the Parish Choir Sunday, March 16, 10:15 a.m., *Choir Room*



The Parish Choir will lead the music for liturgy at the 11:15 a.m. service on March 16. This is a great opportunity for all adults and children of reading age to sing without the commitment required by the Senior Choir. Rehearsal

is at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir

Room. Contact Kevin Jones, Director of Music, to indicate your interest or if you have any questions: KJones@StPauls-Church.org.

Senior Choir Choral Evensong Sunday, March 16, 4 p.m.

The Senior Choir is joined by organist Todd Wilson in presenting its monthly evensong in preparation for the July 2025 choral residency at Salisbury Cathedral.

The canticles for this day are the set composed by Herbert Howells for Worcester Cathedral in 1951. Like the building for which they were written, it is an elegant setting of light and freshness.

As the anthem, the choir offers Gerald Finzi's festival anthem, *Lo, the full, final sacrifice*, with text taken from two poems by Richard Crashaw (1613–1649). Crashaw's poetry is in fact his translation of Eucharistic Latin hymns by St. Thomas Aquinas.

It is an anthem that gets to the heart of the Eucharistic mystery, even drawing upon the imagery of the self-wounding pelican that wounds itself to feed its young. It is an image of self-sacrifice embodying Jesus's death and resurrection.

The pelican symbol is found in carvings all around St. Paul's. The sculpture pictured here is in the courtyard.



Selections will include:
Thomas Tomkins *Responses*
Herbert Howells
'Worcester' Service
Gerald Finzi *Lo, the full, final sacrifice*

Great Performances Concert James O'Donnell, organist Sunday, March 30, 4 p.m., *Nave*

Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey for 23 years and currently Professor of Organ at Yale University and its Institute of Sacred Music, virtuoso organist James O'Donnell presents an organ recital featuring the music of Alain, Buxtehude, Dupré, and Carl Nielsen. Over the course of his career he has played concerts in the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and throughout Europe. Recent engagements have included solo recitals in the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, Cologne Cathedral, and Dresden Kreuzkirche, as well as appearances in Italy and the Netherlands. He has appeared as soloist in the BBC Proms, most recently in Poulenc's Organ Concerto which he has recorded with the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Yannick Nézet-Séguin at the Royal Festival Hall in London. This Great Performances concert is not to be missed!



Formation

Forums During Lent

The graces and practices of Lent can strengthen us deeply. Our Lent forums will offer opportunities to increase our awareness of Lenten riches and to engage more fully and personally with them. Join us to deepen into experiencing what Lent has to offer to our hearts and our lives and our time in transition at St. Paul's.

Lent 1: Wilderness Wanderings

Sunday, March 9, 10:10 a.m.



“After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was led by the Spirit in the wilderness . . .” We begin Lent with tales of the wilderness, a rich metaphor for our human wanderings. Claudia Haines, Ph.D. art history student at CWRU, will join us to examine moving pieces of art depicting the power, beauty, and opportunity in wilderness wanderings.

Lent 2: What Are You Giving Up?

Sunday, March 16, 10:10 a.m.

What might we give up or let go of that could bring us closer to God and to our own hearts? Parishioner Jason Grimes will lead us in a discussion about this pivotal Lenten practice.

Lent 3: Miracle and Mystery: Bearing Christ into the World

Sunday, March 23, 10:10 a.m.



In truth we are all called to bear Christ into the world - by how we live. Mary is our model, and right in the middle of Lent, on March 25, we celebrate the Annunciation. Come receive

joyous insight into this multi-faceted call as a panel of new moms at St. Paul's share their experiences of the miracle and mystery of bearing and birthing new life into the world.

Lent 4: Going Away and Coming Back

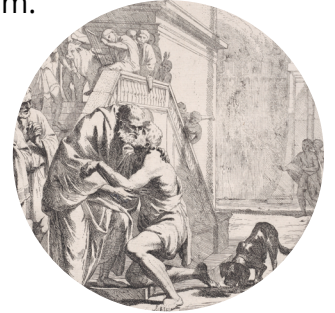
Sunday, March 30, 10:10 a.m.

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, we hear the story of the prodigal son, a tale that points to the profound, unfailing love of God for us always and everywhere.

We need this story so much,

especially in the repeating places

in ourselves and in our lives when we feel sure we have gone too far away!



Lent 5: Waiting and Between Times: Agony or Treasure?

Sunday, April 6, 10:10 a.m.

The friends of Jesus endured a terrifying between-time from Good Friday to Easter Sunday. In our lives, we wait for news, we wait for God to guide us about some decision.

At St. Paul's we are waiting for a

new rector, a new chapter to begin. Our Search

Committee's fabulous work was strengthened

by the insightful expertise of Anne Schmidt, a professional consultant who has been supporting churches through leadership transitions since 2014.

Anne will join us via Zoom to share her insights about waiting and between times.



Art credits:

Top left: Brescia, Moretto (ca. 1515-20). *Christ in the Wilderness* [Oil on canvas]. Museo di Santa Giulia, Brescia, Italy. [The Met Museum](#).

Bottom left: Roslin, Toros (thirteenth century). *Annunciation* [Illuminated manuscript]. Armenian Gospel. [Wikimedia Commons](#).

Top right: Testa, Pietro (circa 1645). *The Return of the Prodigal Son, Shown Embracing His Son* [Etching] [The Met Museum](#).

Formation

Lenten Evening Series

Wednesdays in Lent, March 12 - April 9
7 - 8:30 p.m. (following 6 p.m. Holy Eucharist)



"For just such a time as this..."
~Esther 4:14

An old Chinese curse says, "May you live in interesting times." To say that these times are "interesting" is an understatement! During Lent, we're going to talk about how we might live and grow in the fullness of Christ in these times.

Our series will be based on four areas (**Pray**, **Inform**, **Gather**, and **Act**) as outlined in Rev. Stephen's recent letter.

All are invited! Feel free attend as few or as many evenings as you like, and to attend any or all parts of the evening.

Each Wednesday will have the same schedule:

6 p.m. Eucharist, *St. Martin's Chapel*
7 p.m. Dinner, *Brooks Room*
7:30-8:30 p.m. Program, *Brooks Room*

Contemplative Prayer Opportunities

Mondays at 7 p.m., Virtual



In addition to the Contemplative Prayer gathering in the Chapel of the Cross each Tuesday at 5:30 p.m., there is an online gathering each Monday at 7 p.m. If you have questions about Contemplative Prayer, or if you'd like to be on the email

list to receive the Monday night Zoom link and readings, please email Rev. Patricia:

PRose@StPauls-Church.org

The topics for each week are as follows:

Wednesday, March 12: *Series Introduction and Hearing from You*, led by all four clergy

Wednesday, March 19: *Pray*, led by Rev. Patricia

Wednesday, March 26: *Inform*, led by Rev. Rose Anne

Wednesday, April 2: *Gather*, led by Rev. Gabriel

Wednesday, April 9: *Act*, led by Rev. Stephen

RSVP and sign yourself (or your family) up for one or two of the helper slots. If everyone lends a hand once or twice throughout the series, it will help create evenings of connection, fellowship, and support as we enrich and deepen our awareness during Lent.

However, all are welcome, and RSVPs and meal sign-ups are not required to attend.

TinyUrl.com/lent2025sp

For dietary restrictions, please add a "comment" to the form when signing up.

For questions, email Rev. Patricia:
PRose@StPauls-Church.org



UpCam Student Dinner (All are invited!)

Sunday, March 30, 6:30 p.m.
Covenant Presbyterian Church

UpCaM (United Protestant Campus Ministries) is a progressive campus ministry serving CWRU, CSU, and Tri-C campuses. St. Paul's is one of the many partner churches that support this ministry. Once a year, we attend and bring the meal for a student dinner and Eucharist service.

If you'd like to contribute food, or join us, email PRose@StPauls-Church.org



Children & Youth

Youth Pilgrimage

Lauren Dockery, Director of Children and Youth Ministries



This summer, teens from St. Paul's will pilgrimage to the Boys Home of Virginia for a week of service and community living. From June 8-13, they will step away from their daily routines and experience small-town life in the beautiful mountains of Appalachia.

This time away will allow them to serve others, deepen relationships with church friends, and gain a broader perspective on the world.

You may be wondering why we are headed to a "Boys' Home." The Boys Home of Virginia has been an outreach project of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia since 1906. Today, it provides a supportive environment for boys in need of stability, education, and guidance. But our connection to the Boys Home began with one of our own youth. Last summer, 16-year-old Celia asked to meet with me. "I have a proposal for you," she said. Celia's godfather is Christopher Doyle, the Executive Director for Boys Home. Celia's godmother the Rev. Katherine Doyle serves as the school chaplain. Celia wanted to create a way for St. Paul's teens to connect with the Boys Home.

"Going to the Boys Home this summer gives us the chance to connect with other kids whose experiences are so different from ours," she shared. After planning with Christopher and Katherine, I agreed, and I'm excited to report that four youth are already signed up, with at least eight expected to go.

While there, our youth will assist with service projects, hike, help on the farm, and worship in the outdoor chapel on the Home's 1,200-acre property. They will also explore the natural beauty and cultural differences of western Virginia. "I'm excited for all of us to serve, worship, and have fun in such a beautiful mountain setting," Celia said.

I'm excited too. This trip offers our teens a new way to experience community—through shared meals, quiet moments in nature, and living out their baptismal vow to seek and serve Christ in all people. It's an opportunity to unplug, reset, and witness the work of God in the world around them.

We are grateful for the parish's support and invite you to keep our youth in your prayers as they prepare for the journey.

Space is limited! Register your child today!

TinyUrl.com/sp2025boyshome



Register online



Pictures of Rev. Gabriel, Lauren Dockery, adult chaperones, and youth participants of the 2024 Youth Pilgrimage to the Adirondacks.

Children & Youth

Solemn Communion Classes for Children

Sundays, March 9, 16, and 23, 11 a.m. (after formation hour)



Have you ever wondered why Episcopalians don't have a traditional First Communion? That's because we believe Baptism is the gateway to the Communion Table. But that doesn't mean our children shouldn't have a deep understanding of the heart of our worship: Holy Eucharist.

In response to parent requests, we're offering something special. We're hosting three interactive classes for kids (ages 4+) to get a fuller understanding of this sacred mystery.

In these sessions we will:

- Explore the Eucharistic Prayer – What are we really saying?
- See and hold the sacred items from the altar – Get familiar with what we see each week in worship.
- Help prepare for the service – Make the communion bread and practice setting the table.

It's hands-on, meaningful, and designed to bring kids (and their parents!) closer to the mystery of Jesus' presence in the bread and wine. The classes will culminate in a Solemn Communion on Sunday, March 30, at the 9 a.m. worship service.

Don't miss this opportunity for your child to grow in faith and understanding!

Sign up online: TinyUrl.com/2025bread-wine

Parents must attend with children under 9.



NEW!

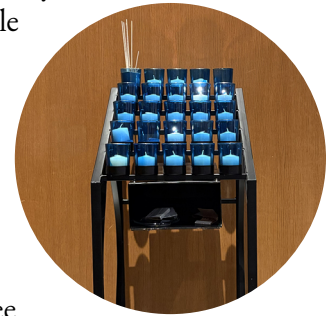
Votive Candle Stand

As Episcopalians, one of the many ways we connect with God is through our senses.

Throughout the history of our faith, Christians have used candles as an outwardly sign of inward prayers- a visible reminder of our prayers ascending to God and even continuing long after we've left our sacred spaces.

A bank of votive candles was recently installed in the back of St. Martin's chapel. Feel free to light a candle and offer a prayer the next time you are at church.

God is listening!



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday | April 13

7:45 a.m. | Holy Eucharist, *St. Martin's Chapel*

9 a.m. | Holy Eucharist, *Beginning in Tucker Hall, Nave (ASL Interpreted)*

11:15 a.m. | Holy Eucharist, *Nave (Livestream)*



Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week | April 14 and 15

6 p.m. | Evening Prayer, *St. Martin's Chapel*

Wednesday of Holy Week | April 16

6 p.m. | Holy Eucharist, *St. Martin's Chapel*

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday | April 17

8:30 a.m. | Morning Prayer, *Chapel of the Cross*

5:30 p.m. | Family Service with Agape Meal, *Tucker Hall and St. Martin's Chapel*



A service of foot washing and an informal celebration of the Eucharist. Following the service, we will share an Agape meal catered by Aladdin's. We also hope you will consider donating to cover the meal; we suggest \$7 per individual or \$25 for families.

Please RSVP for the meal to Susan Armstrong: SArmstrong@StPauls-Church.org

7:30 p.m. | Proper Liturgy with Foot-Washing and Stripping of the Altar, *Nave* ([Livestream](#))

Good Friday | April 18

Noon | Community Ecumenical Service, Seven Last Words of Christ, *Nave* ([Livestream](#))

Spanning the three hours Jesus hung on the cross, this community ecumenical service includes psalms, hymns, prayers, time for silence, and Dubois's The Seven Last Words of Christ sung by St. Paul's Senior Choir. Seven area clergy will preach meditations on the traditional last words of Jesus. Come for any portion of this service or the whole three hours. The service concludes at 3 p.m. with the tolling of the bells 33 times.

5:30 p.m. | Family Service for Good Friday, *Nave and St. Martin's Chapel*



A gentle retelling of the Passion story, creating space for grief, wonder, and comfort.

7:30 p.m. | Prayer Book Liturgy with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament, *Nave*

Holy Saturday | April 19

10 a.m. | Prayer Book Liturgy, *Columbarium (St. Martin's Chapel)*

New! 5:30 p.m. | Family Easter Vigil, *St. Martin's Chapel*

Celebrate the light of Easter through storytelling, music, and joyful connection.

8 p.m. | The Great Vigil of Easter, *Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland*



Easter Day | April 20

7:30 a.m. | Holy Eucharist, *St. Martin's Chapel*

9 a.m. | Festival Holy Eucharist, *Nave*

10:15 a.m. | Easter Egg Hunt & Children's Carillon Concert, *Tucker Hall and Courtyard*

Enjoy family favorite Easter tunes played on our carillon while looking for colorful, surprise-filled eggs! All are welcome!



11:15 a.m. | Festival Holy Eucharist, *Nave* ([Livestream](#))

Note: Family Services (*in blue*) provide an honest, meaningful, and comforting experience of Lent, and help children see that even in life's hardest moments, God's love carries through. Please look for invitations to serve as lectors and intercessors for these services!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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StPauls-Church.org



@StPaulsCle