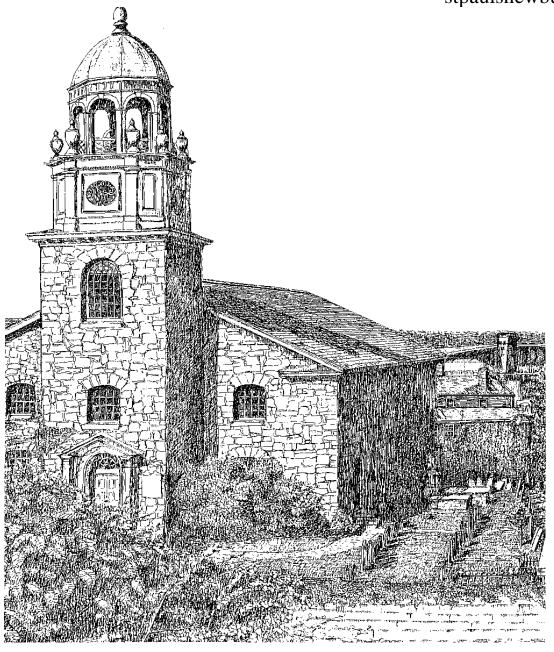
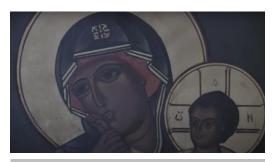
St. Paul's Church, 166 High Street, Newburyport, MA
Sunday, January 28, 2024 10:00 am
Candlemas: The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
stpaulsnewburyport.org





Welcome Home

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is an inclusive Christian community. It's a community that takes God's love for the world seriously, fosters a living faith, and cares for one another—it's a community of belonging. We're also a community that welcomes doubt as part of faith, values questions alongside answers, and provides a home for exploration, wherever you find yourself on the spectrum of belief and in your pursuit of truth.

At St. Paul's we worship God, pray for our world, build community, and seek to serve others by working for justice, peace, and reconciliation. That work brings those who are vulnerable, rejected, overlooked, or marginalized in our world to the center of our life together. This is the story we embody every time we gather for the Eucharist, as we join in Jesus Christ's offering of himself for the life of the world—Christ, who became the poor, marginalized, rejected one on the cross for our salvation.

The Eucharist (also called the Mass or Holy Communion) is our share in that offering. It's at the heart of everything we are and do, and so we celebrate it with reverence, solemnity, and great joy. The word Eucharist means "thanksgiving," and in it we offer our whole selves to God in thanks—our frustrations and conflicts, our peace and joy, our sorrow and pain—and receive ourselves back anew, transformed by Christ's presence. Like our Baptism, the Eucharist is a sacrament of unity. In it we are made a true community, united in love and service as the family of Christ.

The Eucharist is also a revolutionary act of justice and equality (as is our Baptism, through which we enter this family of Christ). In the Eucharist we, regardless of the color of our skin, our gender identity or sexuality, our age, our abilities, our social or economic status—people who in many places in our world would not be seen under same roof together—receive the same life-giving bread and call each other one body and one family. There is perhaps no more radical act in our world than this.

Through this offering of the Eucharist, we become a eucharistic gift ourselves, an offering of love and mercy to the world.

As we enter into and embody this story of God's love, everything you need to follow along is in this booklet. Maybe you're with us just for the day, maybe you're getting to know us just a little bit more, but maybe, just maybe, you've found a home. If you're interested in learning more about being baptized or becoming a member of St. Paul's, or you have questions or need anything at all, please don't hesitate to talk to me after the service or reach out any time.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr Jarred Mercer (Fr Jarred) Rector

Prayers of preparation before the Eucharist

As you enter the church and are seated, take time in silence and prayer to prepare yourself for our worship together. Here are some prayers that may help.

Prayer Before Receiving Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Be present, be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Anima Christi (Soul of Christ)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O Good Jesus, hear me.

Within your wounds hide me.

Permit me not to be separated from you.

From the wicked foe, defend me.

At the hour of my death, call me

and bid me come to you

That with your saints I may praise you

For ever and ever. Amen.

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3–10)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

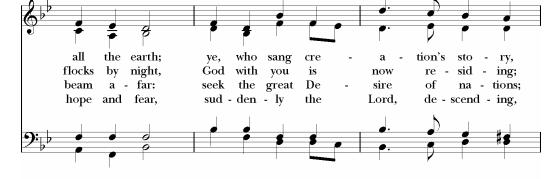
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

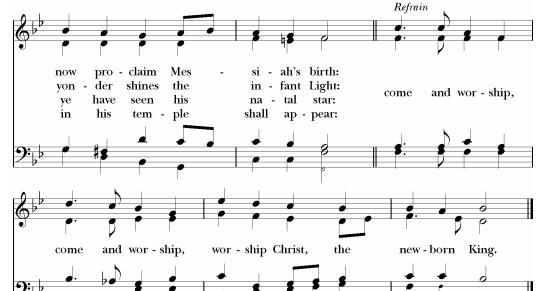
THE HOLY EUCHARIST

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please stand as you are able. The people's candles are lit during the opening hymn.

Opening_Hymn: "Angels, from the realms of glory" #93 The Hymnal 1982 of glo-ry, An - gels, from the realms wing your flight o'er a - bid - ing, Shep-herds in the field watch - ing o'er your Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions 4 Saints be - fore the al tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in





Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant introduces the Eucharist

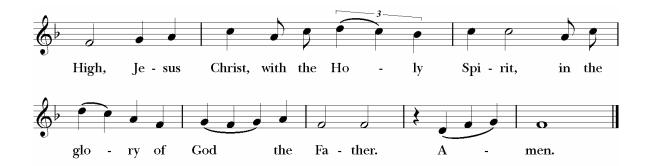
Blessing of the Candles

Celebrant: Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe. You make our darkness to be light. For with you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light.

People: Blessed be God for ever.

The people hold up candles and the celebrant blesses them. The people respond: **Amen.**





Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you. Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays the Collect, a pray that gathers the people and their prayers together.

All respond. Amen

Please be seated.

First Reading: Malachi 3:1 – 4

Bible page 877

Reader: A Reading from the Book of the prophet Malachi.

This response is said at the end of the reading.

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

Psalm: 84

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of

the LORD;

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

- 2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; * by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! * *they will always be praising you.*
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! * whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; * hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *

 he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold * from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O LORD of hosts, *

 happy are they who put their trust in you!

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

Bible page 1360

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. *This response is said at the end of the reading.*

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

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation: The Alleluia is sung by a cantor, then repeated by all, then repeated by all again after the gospel sentence. All turn toward the Gospel book as it comes to the congregation.



Al-le-lu-ia, Al - le-lu-ia, Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22 – 40 *Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

Bible page 1203

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

After the Gospel, the Priest says People: Glory to you, Lord Christ. Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord. People: Praise to you, Lord Christ. **Sermon** Fr. Jarred

The preacher invokes the Name of the Trinity, all respond "Amen," and then sit for the sermon. The people's candle are extinguished.

Nicene Creed Please stand as you are able.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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:

The Celebrant introduces the prayers. Please remain standing as you are able. Prayers are offered for the Church, the world, the suffering, and those who have died, and in silence we make our own petitions. This response is used:

Reader: Lord, in your mercy.

Reader: Hear our prayer.

The celebrant concludes the prayers, to which all respond Amen.

Confession & Absolution

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

Please kneel as you are able

Celebrant & 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.

The Celebrant pronounces God's absolution and all respond: **Amen.**

The Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

All share signs of Christ's peace with one another, especially seeking to amend any hurts or conflicts.

MINISTRY OF THE TABLE

The altar is set for the Eucharist. Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the Lord's name, bring offerings and come into God's courts. The offering plate is passed. You may also give by scanning this QR code:

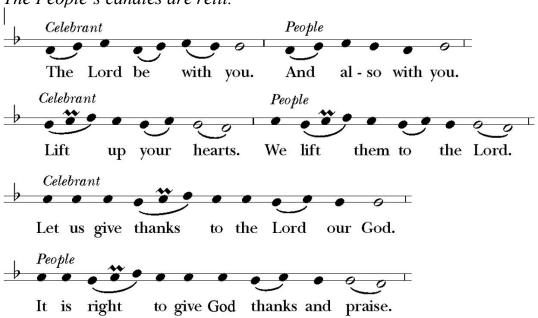


Offertory Hymn: "Sing we of the blessed Mother"

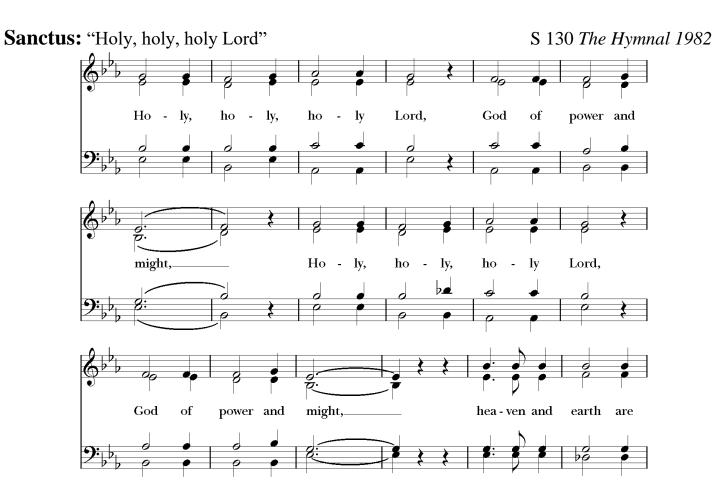


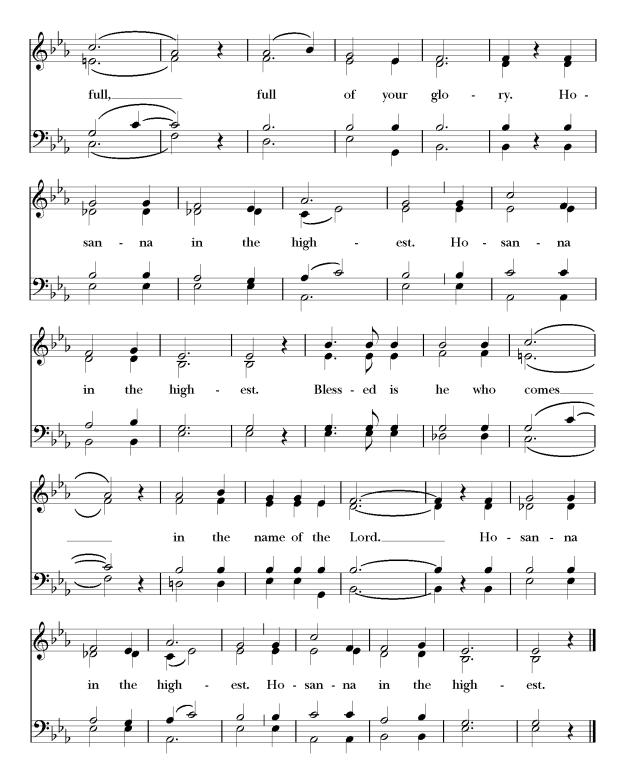
Eucharistic Prayer Please stand as you are able.

The People's candles are relit.



The Celebrant proceeds by singing the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer, after which all sing the Sanctus.





Please kneel as you are able.

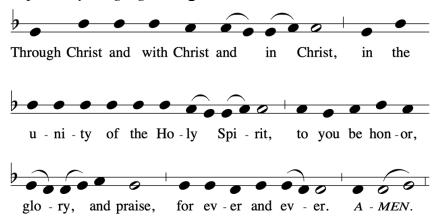
The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer. After the Words of Institution this Acclamation may be used:

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: (or)

Great is the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, leading to the Doxology to which all respond by singing the "great Amen."



The Lord's Prayer

The Celebrant introduces the Lord's Prayer. Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant & People
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.

Fraction Anthem: The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Giving of Communion Please kneel as you are able

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world;

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

People: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word,

and I shall be healed.

The people's candles are extinguished.

Those present come forward to receive communion, released by pew by an usher. There is no requirement to be a member of St. Paul's or Episcopalian to receive communion here. We believe that all are welcome, regardless of tradition or denomination, to be nourished at Christ's table and strengthened to live the faith of their baptism. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than communion, please cross your arms over your chest as a sign of this.

If you would like communion brought to your seat, please let your usher know.

Prayers for healing and wholeness are offered by going through the door to the left of the pulpit. If you would like prayer for any kind of personal need you are welcome to go that area when you come up for communion.

If one wishes to receive the bread only due to the pandemic, this in no way diminishes the sacrament. It has always been the teaching of the Church that the whole Christ is present to us whether we receive both bread and wine together or only one. Intinction (dipping bread into the wine) is not allowed.

Please take a sip from the common cup to receive. If you are not receiving the wine, cross your arms over your chest in front of the chalice after receiving the bread an acknowledge Christ's presence with us by saying "Amen" after the chalice bearer says, "the blood of Christ."

All remain kneeling as they are able upon returning to their seats after communion.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Those unable to be present who are worshiping with us at a distance may pray this prayer of spiritual communion:

Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)



Communion Hymn: "Lord God, you now have set your servant free" # 499 The Hymnal 1982



Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Celebrant & 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.

The procession moves to the baptismal font for the blessing and dismissal.

Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Almighty God, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

Help us, in whom he has been born,
to live his life that has no end.

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise. Help us, who have received the bread of life, to be thankful for your gift.

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna. Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple, to trust in your eternal promises.

Here we have greeted the light of the world. Help us, who extinguish these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.

Here we stand near the place of baptism. Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord's death and resurrection.

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion. *Help us, for whom Lent is near,* to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.

Here we bless one another in your name. *Help us, who now go in peace,* to shine with your light in the world.

The celebrant pronounces a blessing, after which all respond **Amen.**

Priest: Go in the light and peace of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.



TODAY'S SERVICE LEADERS

Clergy: The Rev. Dr. Jarred Mercer, Rector; Pianist: Priscilla Bellairs; Lay Eucharist Minister: Susan Flint; Lector: Joyce Cejka; Coffee Hour: Finance Committee; Broadcast Team: Tom Hussey, Ed Winslow; Ushers: Ruth Healey, John Neale

~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

Worship Services

Sunday 10:00 am Parish Eucharist in person and livestreamed on YouTube for those unable to attend in person at https://www.youtube.com/c/StPaulsChurch-NewburyportMA/live. Prayers for healing and wholeness are offered at the Sunday Eucharist during communion by going through the door to the left of the pulpit. Tuesday Eucharist Tuesday at noon Morning Prayer Tuesday —

Friday at 8:30am

<u>Children's Formation</u> We have our children's formation time during the Sunday Eucharist! Elementary-age children are welcome to join background-checked and experienced Sunday School teachers in the library following the liturgy of the Word. Nursery care is also be provided each week during the entirety of the service for babies and toddlers!

<u>Coffee Hour</u> Please sign up for coffee hour! There is a list in the narthex or sign up online at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094FACAB23AAFF2-46871621-winter#/

<u>From the Stewardship Committee</u> Over the last month, we received four new pledges and our total pledges for 2024 are now at 71. This compares with 85 total pledges in 2023. The good news is that we are now at \$241,038 pledged so far, however, this is short of last year's total of \$275,955. The Vestry will be making some difficult decisions on the budget for 2024 so if you are considering a pledge but have not yet done so, we would respectfully ask that you submit it as soon as you can. Many thanks!

<u>Madness Calendar!</u> We are looking for donations of gift cards with a value of \$25-\$50 for our March Madness calendar. Please consider supporting a local business and purchasing a gift card to donate for our calendar raffle. We will be collecting cards after services through February 4. Calendars will go on sale on February 11. Please contact Deirdre Budzyna, 978-457-1423 with any questions. Gift cards can also be given to Lisë Reid and Dorothy Doyle. Here is a link to sign up to donate a gift card. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0845ACA62AA1FE3-47374297-march. Thank You!

Among Friends Needs Your Help! Each month we will be asking for a donation of certain items for Among Friends. In January we would like boxed cake and brownie mixes, thanks! You can leave the boxes in the basket at the front of the church or drop them off in the parish hall during the week. Among Friends is also in need of delivery drivers, please call the office if you are interested. Thank you!

<u>Confirmation.</u> If you are new to Christianity, or come from another Christian tradition and have never been confirmed, get in touch with Fr Jarred to discover how being confirmed can be an important and meaningful step in your faith and life. High schoolers looking to be confirmed will be prepared for confirmation through the youth dinners. A separate confirmation prep will be arranged for middle schoolers. But confirmation is for adults as well, and if you are an adult who has never been baptized and/or confirmed, please talk to Fr Jarred to find out more.

<u>SSJE Workshops and Retreats</u> The Brothers at the monastery in Cambridge are offering several workshops and retreats this fall. Check out the schedule at https://www.ssje.org/programs/

Updates and Important Opportunities to Help Afghan Families at St. Paul's

Afghan families living at St. Paul's will be transitioning to their new housing in the coming weeks. We are asking for your help by providing any <u>clean and sturdy</u> (flattened) cardboard boxes that you receive from your holiday deliveries. We would also appreciate any moving supplies, such as tape dispensers, tape, and clean bubble wrap that you can lend or donate. The Drop-off site is the church Narthex (church entrance hallway) or we can arrange for a pick. Please contact Sue Blumenscheid at 978-518-1459 if you have any questions. Thank you!

Here are other important ways you can offer your services to assist Afghan families at St. Paul's. Please consider how you can help! All volunteers must complete a CORI check. Contact Deb Hay at 978-465-5351 for assistance. Please see the insert in the bulletin with a list of items that the families will need in their new home.

Drivers for sports/extracurricular activities: There are many time slots available especially during this busy soccer season! This can be accomplished easily and quickly by phoning Deb Hay at the church office 978-465-5351.

<u>Cycle of Prayer</u> Today as we worship we keep in our prayers the *Churches of the Boston Harbor Deanery*, St. John's Church, Jamaica Plain (Boston); Northeastern University Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry; St. Cyprian's Church, Roxbury (Boston); St. John & St. James Church, Roxbury (Boston); Building Bridges Ministries, and in the *local cycle of prayer*: Seventh Day Adventist Church, Newburyport

Adventist Church, Newburypo	ort	to of prayer. Seventil Day
Prayer List	Cara O'Reilly McCabe	Stanley G.
Allison Flynn	Rachel Perry	Ellen
Eve Steinberg	David Yates	Douglas C.
Debby Demopoulos	Jess & family	Andrea McAnulty
Marya Toffey	Katie, Brian & family	Liz Filipanc
Talia Duff	Frances & John Fleming	Cecile Novelle
Stephen Jones	Jake	Herb Skelly
Betty Moberger	Lindsey Leitko	Wendy H.
Tony Broer	Anita & Diana	Tom Bentley
Joanne Norris	Sue Wilcox	Nicole Miller
Karen	Priscilla Janvrin	Andrew & Friends
Theresa Winslow	Paul Mendez	Drew Daubach
Karen Greene	Chet Brown	Joyce Ketcham
Marie Buckman	Paul Thiefels	Diane Riley
Lois Schofield	Lisa Ransom	Ron K.
Laura Hobbs	Susan S.	Marsaya
Jeanne Rainoldi	Mark B.	Janice Currier
Richelle Stephens	Linda T.	Sonny D.
Ann Davis	Abby Reese	Joe Donithen
Kristin Corning	Pam	Richard Blake
Nancy Burkholder	Sue Skinner-Kidd	Jean de Jong
Jori Guldenstern	Rose O'Neill	Bill
The Rev. Connie	Marilyn Sell	Andrew
Reinhardt	Ruth Pinkham	Chris
Tim Coco	Haring/Family	Kathy Molhan
Barbara Barnes	Jud and Barbara Porter	Kevin, Danielle, &
Alexander Wood	Sondell Ayala	Family
Corey	Susan Russell	Alice & Family
Karen Staffeld	Tracy Broderick	Helen Robb & Family
George Partaledis	Alexander Wood	Zong Family
Jane Robinson	Gail Bishop-Davis	Katherine & Finn

20

Nancy Jean

Mary Ann

Gail Bishop-Davis
Sarah Drenning

The Kilty Family

McCurley

Crandon Lahey

Maya

Peggy Dunlap

Karen Caplan

Paul Lucas

Jane Ellis

Ben Parisi Brown Reinhardt Ginny Abby Ruby & Famil

St. Paul's Vestry 2023

Deirdre Budzyna – Senior Warden; Stuart Tuthill – Junior Warden Nick Ives – Treasurer; Susan Aquaviva – Clerk Sue Blumenscheid, Frank Condella, Dorothy Doyle, Pam Jones, Lisë Reid

Diocesan Delegates/Deanery Representatives

Alison Novello, Lainie Ives

St. Paul's is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Our bishops are: The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates and The Rt. Rev. Carol J. Gallagher, Asst.

St. Paul's Staff

The Rev. Dr. Jarred A. Mercer, Rector – <u>rector@stpaulsnewburyport.org</u>

Mark Meyer, Music Director – <u>markmeyer49@gmail.com</u>

Deb Hay, Office Manager – <u>stpauls@stpauls-nbpt.org</u>

Office Hours

 $\label{eq:mon-Wed-S} \begin{tabular}{ll} Mon-Wed-8:00AM-4:00PM, Thurs-Fri~8:00~AM-2:00~PM & Office:~978-465-5351\\ \hline \begin{tabular}{ll} Websites \end{tabular}$

St. Paul's Episcopal Church <u>www.stpaulsnewburyport.org</u>
Diocese of Massachusetts www.diomass.org