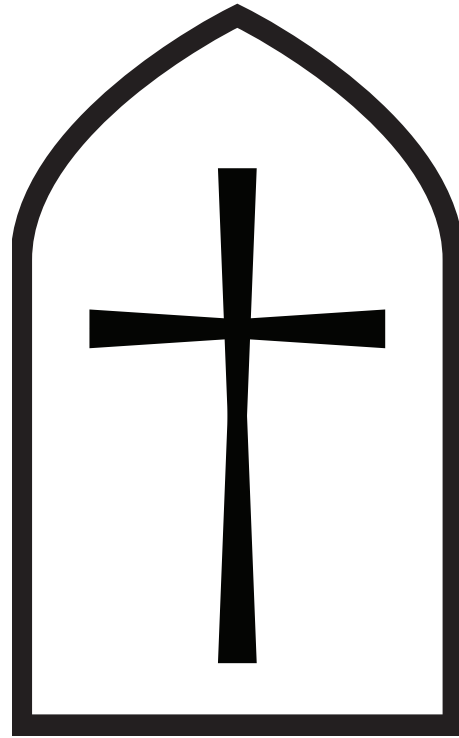


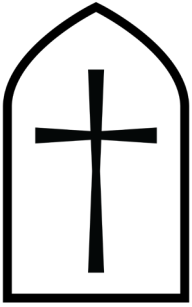
SAINT ♦ PAUL'S  
E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H



THE FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024  
8:00 AM, RITE I

LIVE FAITHFULLY.



# The Holy Eucharist

The First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024 • 8 AM

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Waco, TX

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••• Live Faithfully

*Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.*

*The people's responses are in **bold**.*

*When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare for worship.*

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*The flowers on the altar today are given by Don and Lisa Terry-Ickles in memory of our parents, John and Martha Terry and Henry and Betty Ickles.*

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*The first candle in the Advent Wreath symbolizes hope. It is also called the Prophet's Candle. The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the arrival of the Messiah and prophesied his coming.*

## THE ENTRANCE RITE

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 323

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

### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*This prayer is an English rendering of a Latin prayer that began the liturgy in the medieval church before the Reformation. It remains a distinctive part of Episcopal worship to this day.*

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

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
 Lord, have mercy upon us.

## THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

*This collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church Year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people sit.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

*The propers of the service are the scriptural texts that change with the liturgical calendar. The collect, lessons, psalm, Gospel, and preface to the communion liturgy are propers. Our lessons come from the Revised Common Lectionary, which is a three year cycle of readings shared by many mainline denominations. Each year we retell the Christian story from Advent through Pentecost.*

### THE FIRST LESSON • Jeremiah 33:14-16

*Our first lesson is usually from the Old Testament, also known as the Hebrew Scriptures. The exception to this is in the Easter season, when we read lessons from the life of the early church in the Acts of the Apostles.*

A Reading from Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

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

## THE RESPONSE • Psalm 25:1-9

*The psalms are sung or spoken prayers that cover every mood of humanity's relationship with God and one another. The psalm is a response to hearing the Old Testament lesson and often it relates to the themes read in the lesson.*

*Read in unison.*

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

## THE SECOND LESSON • 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.*

A Reading from 1 Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand as able for the reading of the Gospel.*

## THE GOSPEL • Luke 21:25-36

*This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. We stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus' words and actions.*

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

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

*The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.*

## THE SERMON • Hilary Yancey, PhD, Postulant for Holy Orders

*The sermon directly follows the Gospel and helps illuminate the scriptural readings and relate them to daily life.*

*The people stand as able at the invitation of the Celebrant to recite the Nicene Creed.*

## THE NICENE CREED

BCP 326

*The word “creed” comes from the Latin word “credo” which means “I believe.” First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and confirmed in 381 AD, the Nicene Creed is said at service of Holy Eucharist and reflects the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity and the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

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.

*We pray for ourselves and on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the Universal Church, the nation and all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are part of a larger fellowship, the Church — the Body of Christ. A brief silence is kept between each bidding.*

*The people kneel or sit.*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; to the whole order of the baptized; our lay pastors, musicians, vestry, school board, and all the faculty and staff of Saint Paul's School; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

Bless, O Lord, the milestones of our lives, that, in the course of our mortal pilgrimage, we may know that thou art ever walking beside us. We offer particular thanks for the life and occasion we celebrate with our altar flowers.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those persons who have requested our prayers, those we remember in our hearts, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of blessed Paul and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 331

*Confessing our sins, receiving absolution, and sharing signs of peace with one another prepares us to receive Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*A brief silence is kept.*

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

## THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The people stand as able.*

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.*



# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## THE OFFERTORY

*Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness, and shared in the peace, we are prepared for Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and materially in the money we give.*

*All are invited to support Saint Paul's mission to Live Faithfully as the plate is passed, at [saintpaulswaco.org/give](http://saintpaulswaco.org/give), or by scanning the QR code on the card titled "Giving" on the back of the pew in front of you.*

*If you give online, mail checks, or use other methods to give but still want to participate when the plate is passed, you are welcome to pick up a giving coin at the Welcome Center and place it in the offering plate as it is passed.*

## THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

*The altar is prepared for Holy Communion. The people stand as able.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING • Eucharistic Prayer II      BCP 340

*In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum Corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."*

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people kneel or stand.*

*We recall God's acts of salvation history. The presider says the "Words of Institution" that Jesus said at the Last Supper. At the Memorial Acclamation we remember Christ's death, resurrection, and promise to return at the end of the age. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

## THE GREAT AMEN

*The Great Amen is when the congregation with a unified great voice concurs with all that the presider has prayed. It is the only "Amen" in all capitals found in The Book of Common Prayer, signifying the greatness of the congregation's response.*

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 336

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

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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

## THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

BCP 337

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

## THE PRESENTATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*Communion will be distributed at the altar rail. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion at the acolyte's direction. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. If you would prefer to receive communion from your pew, you may remain seated during altar rail distribution. A priest will come to the congregation for anyone wishing to remain in the pew. You may raise your hand to get their attention.*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 339

*The people kneel or sit.*

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

BOS 11

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

*The dismissal signals the end of worship but the beginning of our service. Now that we have been renewed at Christ's altar, we are sent into the world to continue spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. In seasons of festive celebration, like the great 50 days of Easter, we add "Alleluia, Alleluia" to our dismissal.*

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



# TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Celebrant	The Rev. Preston Yancey, Interim Associate Rector
Preacher	Hilary Yancey, PhD, Postulant for Holy Orders
Vestry Host	Pieter Sigtenhorst
Lector & Intercessor	Tricia Braswell
Altar Guild	Team VI: Laura Mayfield Williams, Catherine Adams, Debbie Bennett, Catherine C. Kneipp, Jana Cleveland, Mary Dietz, Rose Goertz, Fran Good, Marsha Green, Sue Ann Swenke, Brooke Taylor, Carl Ballew

## THE PRAYER LIST • December 1-7

*At Saint Paul's, prayer is an important part of our vision to Live Faithfully. Every week, we pray for upcoming birthdays and anniversaries, ten of our families, and the ill and infirm. If your birthday or anniversary is in the next week, you are welcome to join us at the front for a prayer following the announcements.*

### BIRTHDAYS

Blake Brown, Ethel Buzze, Georgia Dizdar, Patty Flowers, Renee Contreras, Jenny Peel, Keith Bilbrey, Robert Burgess, William Carpenter, Ginger Lovelace, Karina Deaver, Porter Hall, Eva Jo Jackson, Tyler Talbert, Sunny Wells

**Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ANNIVERSARIES

Elizabeth and Charlie Rigney

**O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## MEMBERS CYCLE

Carolyn Berry; Keith Bilbrey; Kyle Anne Blount; Linda Bostwick; Rick Bostwick, Melissa Wray, Morgan, Miles, and Marshall Wray; John and Alison Bottoms, Braden, Blake, and Brody Brown; Katharine Bowman; Robert and Tricia Braswell; Christian Bratu, Rosalie Barrera, and Eric; Rocky, Ruth Ellen, and Myla Bridges

## ILL & INFIRM

*Whether you are here for the first time or have been a member your whole life, we would love to pray for you. To send in a prayer request, you may call the church office at 254-753-4501 or email [contactus@saintpaulswaco.org](mailto:contactus@saintpaulswaco.org). You may also fill out the card titled "Prayer" on the back of the pew in front of you. If you are requesting prayer for someone else, please ensure you have their permission or the permission of an immediate family member before putting them on the public prayer list. We are happy to pray privately for those who do not wish to publish their names.*

*Do you see someone on this list who is doing better? Please let us know! We would love to celebrate with them.*

## THIS WEEK

Betty Young, Chuck Reeves, Julia Burgess, Sharon Morrow, Lisa Moon, Doris Strain, Peter Dailey, John Wesley Bottoms, Jessica Attas, Kelly Whitehead, Rock McNair, Roger Yount, Benita Louvier, Carolyn Berry, Jack Compton, Mary Greaves, Rob Young, Brad Canon, Kelly, Gail Wade, Glenda Goehrs, Foris Louvier, Paxton Dove, James Rowe, Laura McNutt, Beth Mayfield, Amanda Horner, Warner Barnes, Sue Davis, Dorothy Fisher, Khalida Javaid, Lily Williams, Lorri Khoury, Barbara Jensen, Anna Kessler, Suzie Wright, Rollin Khoury, David Janda

## ONGOING

Tom Brothers, Laretta Buchanan, Samantha C., Merilyn Carden, Erin Clark, Clayton Felton, Janette Flanary, Tom Haddad, Lezlie Hall, Ben Hambleton, Nancy Hightower, Eva Jackson, Hannah Lessenger, Richard Mills III, Shannon O'Brien, Dennis Ramsey, Carolyn Scheel, Wes Stafford, Adam Sattler III, Jan Sattler, Eric Stromme, Beverly Terrell, Bud Unell, Neela Vera, Erin Young

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ADVENT WORKSHOP

We hope you'll join us for our annual Advent Workshop on Sunday, December 1! Celebrate the first Sunday of Advent with Advent crafts in the Parish Hall after the 10 AM service. All materials will be provided.



## ANGEL TREE

We need your help with the Angel Tree! Join us in providing Christmas gifts for foster children in our area. Gifts can be sent to the office or brought to church on Sunday morning as soon as possible. Scan the QR code for more information.

## LADIES NIGHT OUT

The next Ladies Night Out will be on Tuesday, December 3 at 5:30 PM at the Baylor Club located at McLane Stadium.

## GIFT CARDS FOR WACO HIGH SCHOOL

We'd love your support in giving \$10 gift cards to Waco High School teachers in gratitude for their amazing work. We're hoping to have 20 donations by December 5. Please email [sara@saintpaulswaco.org](mailto:sara@saintpaulswaco.org) if you'd like to donate a \$10 gift card from the business of your choice.

## COOKIES AND COCOA WELCOME RECEPTION

Join us before Lessons and Carols for a welcome reception in Parish Hall at 6:30 PM. We'll have cookies, cocoa and great company!

## THE ROBERT AND BETTY YOUNG SACRED ARTS SERIES LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please join the Saint Paul's Choir for our Advent service of Lessons and Carols at 7:30 PM on Sunday, December 15. The Service Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons that recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer. We hope you, your families, and friends join us for what is to be a moving service.





## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Christmas poinsettias used to decorate the Nave for Christmas are now available for sponsorship. Proceeds benefit the youth mission fund. Scan the QR code to order.



## SPES SPIRIT SHIRTS

The school is selling spirit wear through this Sunday. Check out the items here to support our parish school! Scan the QR code to order.

## SAINT NICHOLAS VISIT

St. Nicholas, bishop of Myra and patron saint of children will be visiting Saint Paul's on Sunday, December 8 during the 10 AM worship service! Join us as we prepare for Christmas.

## SPIRITUS GLADIUS



The Winter Edition of Saint Paul's magazine, Spiritus Gladius, is here! Spiritus Gladius is an online publication with a limited print run. Scan the QR to read about Advent, Christmas, and all the exciting events happening at Saint Paul's this winter! If you would like a print copy of the magazine, you can pick one up in the narthex or email [sarahm@saintpaulswaco.org](mailto:sarahm@saintpaulswaco.org).

## ADVENT SCHEDULE

### Sunday, December 1

Advent Workshop 11 AM

### Sunday, December 8

Saint Nicholas Visit at the 10 AM

### Sunday, December 15

Cookies & Cocoa Welcome Reception  
6:30 PM

The Robert and Betty Young Sacred Arts  
Series Lessons & Carols 7:30 PM

### Sunday, December 22

Greening of the Nave 11 AM

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### Christmas Eve

3:30 PM Children's Christmas Pageant with  
Holy Eucharist

7:30 PM A Christmas Prelude: Music for  
voices, strings, and organ

8 PM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:30 PM A Christmas Prelude: Music for  
voices, strings, and organ

11 PM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I

### Christmas Day

10 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

## VESTRY OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER UPDATES

Great news! The church is in a great position financially this year, and will likely run at a surplus due to higher than expected income and lower than expected expenses. The vestry has agreed to use a portion of these funds, if needed, toward the expense of paying for a new associate rector. Reverend Sam has hired a new Associate Rector, Gavin Tomlin, whose first Sunday at Saint Paul's will be February 2, 2025. The finance committee is doing great work along with the strong support of the church staff accountant Iona Easterwood. The ever-faithful property committee continues to manage our beautiful campus with the hopes of hiring a new facilities manager soon. The application to qualify as a historic building is in process with the Texas Historic Commission (THC). Tile samples for a new roof have been submitted to the THC for their approval.

The Congregational Care Committee has officially kicked into gear gathering to make 21 meals that are in the freezer and ready to be delivered to a parish member in need. Please contact the office if you know of anyone or if you are interested in helping in some way. This same committee plans to launch a prayer group moving forward. Be on the lookout for an Events Page soon to come to our website. This page will have all of the ongoing events planned.

## SUNDAY FORMATION

### MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Starting Sunday, December 1 at 9:05 AM, join Preston for a special Advent formation series focused on Mary, the Mother of God. (And why we call her that.) Over the course of four weeks, we will consider Mary in the Bible and Mary after the Bible; why she is such an important part of our theology of Jesus, resurrection, and future hope; and, what does Mary's experience of motherhood invite us to consider in our own prayers and reflections for the season. This class will be meeting in the Advent Room in Memorial Hall.

### YOUTH FORMATION

Youth Formation takes place each Sunday morning at 9 AM in the youth room. Email [sara@saintpaulswaco.org](mailto:sara@saintpaulswaco.org) with questions.

## ADVENT CHILDREN'S FORMATION OPPORTUNITY

Sundays in Advent, we will be using a children's formation format called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This Montessori method centers the child's prayer life with God. Sunday School for ages 4 through 12 begins at 9 AM with Advent stories led by Ms. Lisa with rotating guests of clergy and trained facilitator. Children can arrive at any time. At 9:50 AM, children who would normally go to Children's Chapel should be dropped off at the Chapel to join Ms. Lisa and friends. At 10 AM, children will start church in the chapel with their own presentation and prayers, then rejoin parents and caregivers at the Peace. All children are welcome at any time before the Peace, so don't worry about coming late. Please contact [preston@saintpaulswaco.org](mailto:preston@saintpaulswaco.org) with any questions.

## PRESCHOOL: LET THE CHILDREN COME

Let the Children Come nursery program offers a multifaceted approach to introducing colorful characters of the Old Testament and to the wonders of Jesus's birth and life through visuals, games, group play, singing, and other activities. **This class meets at 10 AM in the Nursery.**

## WEEKLY FORMATION



### BENEDICTINE STUDY GROUP

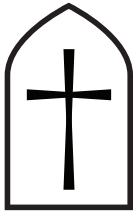
Benedictine Study Group meets on first and third Tuesdays at 12 PM in the church office library. Scan the QR code to visit their website. All are welcome to join.

## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Men's Prayer Breakfast meets weekly on Wednesday mornings in the Parish Hall. Breakfast begins at 6:30 AM and study begins at 7 AM.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible study group meets on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM in the office library. Our group is currently studying "Searching for the Historical Jesus with Jean-Pierre Isbouts" by Wondrium. Please join us.



SAINT • PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### SUNDAY

8:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
10:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

10:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I

### OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9 AM-4 PM  
Closed Federal Holidays  
601 Columbus Ave  
Waco, TX 76701  
254-753-4501

### SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

517 Columbus Ave  
Waco, TX 76701  
office@speswaco.org  
254-753-0246

## SAINT PAUL'S STAFF

The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith  
Rector

The Rev. Preston Yancey  
Interim Associate Rector

The Rev. Alberto Melis  
Deacon

The Rev. Dr. D. Ray Bagby  
Retired Priest Associate

Lisa Terry-Ickles  
Director of Children & Family Ministry

Sara Allison  
Director of Youth Ministry

Brandi Goddard  
Parish Administrator

Sarah Martin  
Director of Communications & Membership

Iona Easterwood  
Accountant

Paul Hicks  
Sexton

Charles Watson  
Assisting Sexton

Willie Sergent  
Retired Sexton Emeritus

Dr. Will McLean  
Choir Director

Dr. Jeffrey Peterson  
Organist

Liz Dover  
Nursery Attendant

M'Lissa Howen  
Head of School