

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1528 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA 95355 - (209) 522-3267

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

First Sunday of Advent

Dec 3, 2023



— FIRST SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

Mission Statement

We are a worshipping, inquiring and inclusive community united in Jesus' name to change the world.

Welcoming Statement

We invite everyone to join in the communal life of the body of Christ, through participation and leadership in this congregation, and by fully sharing in the life and sacraments of this church. We affirm that each person is a child of God, and that those of every race, ethnicity, creed, age, gender, marital status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation and gender identity are called to be one with us.

The Entrance Rite

Prelude

Chuck Sheaffer

Opening Hymn # 61 Sleepers, awake!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The advent wreath reminds us of our yearning for God. Its circular shape tells of God's everlasting love and faithfulness. Its evergreen branches tell us of eternal life and of God's desire for us to live with him forever. The four candles remind us of the passing of time, our human history into which God has entered through his Son, Jesus.

On this First Sunday of Advent, we focus on the Lord's second coming. Let us heed the Gospel words of Jesus, "Be on guard; be alert." As we light the first candle may its flame bid us to be always ready for the coming of the Lord.

The first Advent candle is lit.

Blessed are you, holy and living One

All: You come to your people and set them free.

Gloria



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - - - men.

Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

The Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 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.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn Levas # 6 Christ is coming

The Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark.

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

- ²⁴“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Homily

Rev. Dondi

The Nicene Creed

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped 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

The Prayers of the People

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Confession of Sin

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

All: 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 Rite of Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Blessings and Celebrations

Birthday Prayer

Watch over your *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 your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Wedding Anniversary Prayer

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 forever. Amen.

Prayer for the Anniversary of Baptism

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit through the teaching of your Son, Jesus Christ, who was first baptized by John in the Jordan River. Bless this *child* of yours on the anniversary of Baptism, that the gifts of the Holy Spirit may ever remain with *them*, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the Sick

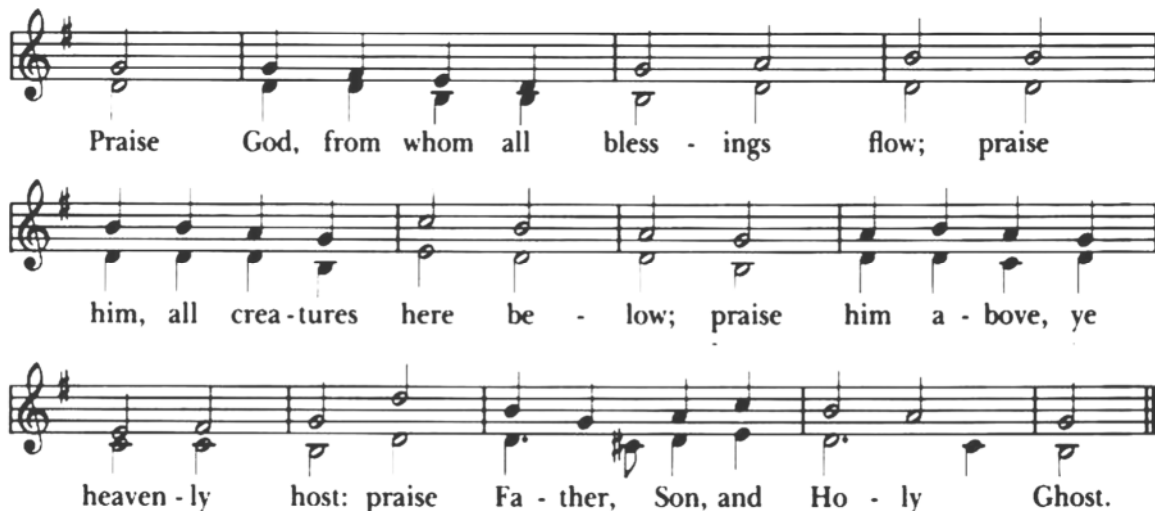
O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servant *N.*, that *his* weakness may be banished and *his* strength restored; and that *his* health being renewed, *he* may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For the Election of a Minister

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for St. Paul's, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Offertory Rite

Offertory Hymn # 596 Judge eternal, throned in splendor



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise
him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The Holy Communion The Great Thanksgiving The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

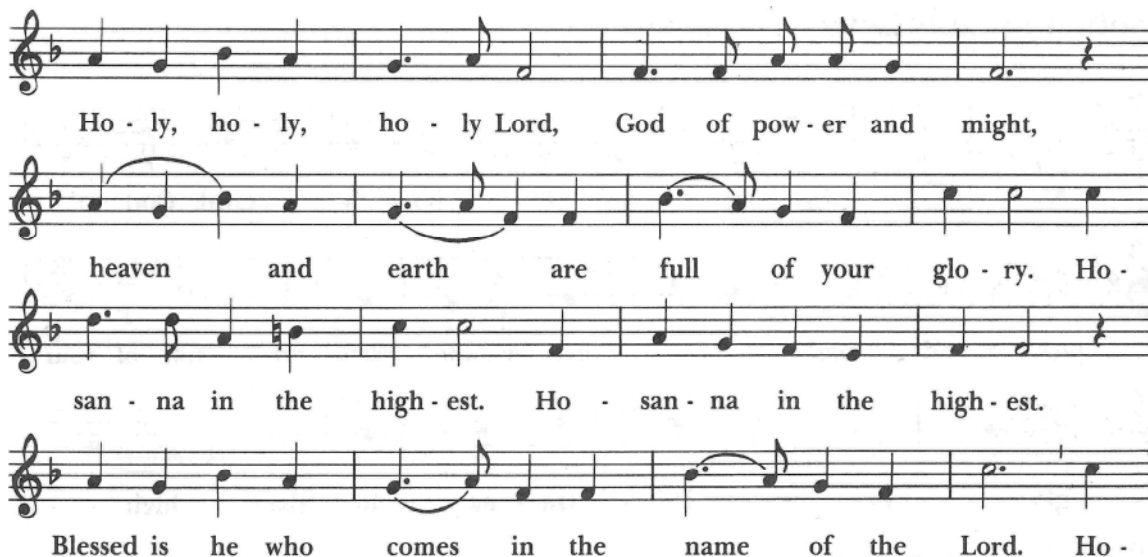
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

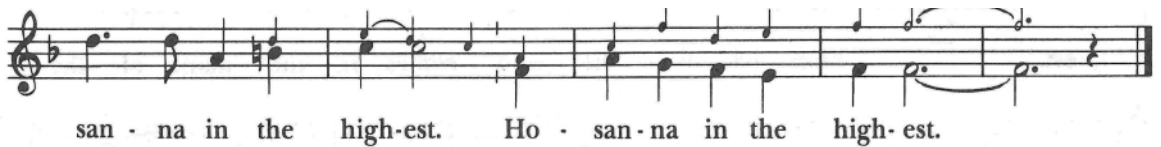
Celebrant: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share

these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Mary, Paul, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen**

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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Fa-ther who art in hea-ven, Hal-lowed be thy Name, Thy king-dom
come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven. Give us this day our
dai-ly bread. For-give us our tres-pas-es, As we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us,
as we for-give. And lead us not in-to temp-ta-ion, but de-li-ver us from
e-vil. This is the king-dom and the pow-er and the
glo-ry for ev-er. A-men

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

All: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei

Je-sus, Lamb of God: have mer-cy on us. Je-sus, bear-er of our sins: have
7
mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - dem - er, re - deem - er, of the
12
world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God; take them in remembrance that Christ died for you. Feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn Levas # 149 In remembrance of me

Closing Prayers

Celebrant: Let us Pray.

All: God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Final Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: May Christ be our new beginning, the hope and salvation of the world, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn # 68 Rejoice, rejoice, believers

Celebrant: Alleluia, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

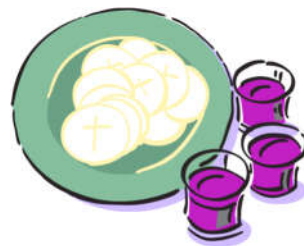
All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

We Have Gluten-free Wafers

Gluten-free communion wafers are available on request. Please let one of the ushers know if you'd like to receive gluten-free bread.



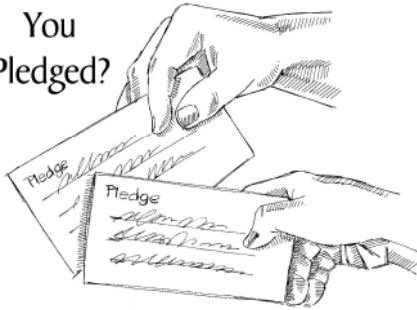
December Ministry Schedule

	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24 Morning Prayer	Dec 24 5pm family	Dec 31
Clergy Homily	Rev. Dondi	Rev. Lyn	Rev. Kathie	Den. Greg	Rev. Lyn	Rev. Kathie
Acolytes	Annamary Jim P	Judy T Nancy S	Judy T Nancy S		Judy T Nancy S	Judy T Nancy S
Lectors	Ann M Christine J	Barbara V Steph HW	Nancy S Ann M	Steph G Judy T	Joyce B Sarah H	Steph G Christine J
Intercessor	Judy T	Linda L	Caroline L		Nancy S	Sarah H
Greeters	William S Phil M	Ishmael H Claudine R	Christine J Phil M	William S Sarah H	Claudine R Carolyn L	Phil M Christine J
Ushers			David L			David L
Vestry Rep	Judy T	Linda L	Carolyn L	Roberta B	Nancy S	Sarah H

If you have any pastoral needs, please contact the church office.

Don't forget to purchase your cookie walk tickets!

Have
You
Pledged?



Have You Pledged?

Thank you to everyone who has pledged so far. If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, there are still some in the church entry.

Recycling at St. Paul's

Don't forget your recycling during the holidays.



Socks!

Thank you for generously donating socks every Advent season in recent years. For this year any donations of socks will be part of the ongoing collection for the Shower Shuttle. For information about this ministry, contact Judy Thorkelson, 209-531-5513.

Poinsettias for Christmas

Our sanctuary will be decorated with all the things that show how special the Christmas season is for us at St. Paul's. If you want to donate towards the poinsettias that will be in the sanctuary, please include that information on a check or envelope. If you are making your donation in honor or memory of a loved one, please include that information as well. Thanks so much.



The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin and the Central Deanery are having a Christmas Party and Las Posadas on Saturday December 16th at 2:00 pm in Fresno at 4147 East Dakota Avenue.

If you are not receiving email messages from St. Paul's, please contact Jeni in the church office so we can add you to our list.

Jeni Statzer: 209-522-3267 jstatzer@saintpaulsmoesto.org



Prayer and Praise as of 11-26-2023

☞ Please pray for healing and comfort for the following people:

Theresa Grieshaber
Craig Persons
Pam & Mike Cox
Suzy Cano
Elaine Paradis
Carol Collier
Susan Sell
Linda's Aunt Mudge
Deacon George
Robin Magenot

Sarah Manfredoni
Ann Mootz's sister-in-law
Bonnie Palmer
Michael Thorington
Barbara Weeden
Leslie Littlefield
Sheri, the Bearden's daughter
Darla Davisson
Sharon Andrew's daughter-in-law

- ☞ Susan Sell's son Bryce for strength.
 - ☞ Please pray for those in war torn areas everywhere; Ukraine, Holy Land, Gaza, Palestine and Afghanistan.
 - ☞ Please pray for the country of Ukraine and all the residents for peace and healing.
 - ☞ Please pray for the people of Hawaii, especially the victims of the wildfires on Maui.
 - ☞ Pray for the leaders of all nations for wisdom.
- Please see Jeni's weekly email for the entire list.

If you have any prayers, praises or updates you would like added, please contact Jeni using the church phone number 209-522-3267.

**Don't forget to purchase your
cookie walk tickets!**

ADVENT CALENDAR



Prayer

For the Poor and Neglected in the Book of Common Prayer:

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Dear ST. PAUL'S FAMILY

As we get ready for Christmas, let's build a bag or box of items that will be donated to the newly established St. Paul's Pantry. Start December 1st and add items each day. Bring it to church by January 7th to help stock the shelves. Help bring blessings to our neighbors. Happy Advent!



DAY 4

Food Insecurity:
Lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle.

HUNGER FACTS

DAY 14

In Stanislaus County, approximately 64,300 persons were "food insecure" in 2022.

DAY 20

Nationwide, 44 million persons, including 20% of children, are "food insecure".



Cookie Walk 2023

It's time to think about the **Cookie Walk** for this year. Dates for this year are Saturday and Sunday December 9 and 10.

The **Cookie Walk** has been St. Paul's consistent fund-raising activity over the last decade.

Ticket purchasers "walk" along the cookie tables and choose their cookies. We will continue our basic walk for cookies but will offer other baked and prepared items, like cinnamon rolls, pies, and fruit jams. We will advertise on our sign so we should expect walk-ins.

We need **Cookie Bakers, Cookie Walkers, Backstage Arrangers, and Ticket takers**. But also, volunteers for set up, take down, and decorating. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

Cookie Bakers are key. Our goal is 6,000 cookies. This is 200 batches of about 30 cookies each. We have actually exceeded this goal every year. If you can bake but are unable to sign up on the volunteer sheet, please call/text Carolyn List 209 604 2398 or Claudine Romegialli at 209 489 8722.

The price per baker's dozen of cookies will again be \$10 per box and prices for other items will be a multiple of \$5.00 so cookie tickets may be used to purchase other items. Please consider selling or buying at least 5 Cookie Walk tickets. Think about giving a paid ticket to family members or neighbors. When they come to pick up their cookies, they often purchase additional boxes. Boxed cookies also make great gifts.



The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

News about Diocesan events and weekly spiritual encouragement are available at the Diocese of San Joaquin website, <https://www.diosanjoaquin.org>. The "Friday Reflection" is available through the "News and Resources" link. To receive the Friday Reflection directly to your in-box, sign up via the link at the top of the Home page.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Pastoral Team

Archdeacon Emeritus George Cano 209-551-2304
Deacon Greg Maszta gregmasz@gmail.com

Parish Administrator and Facilities Coordinator

Jeni Statzer: 209-522-3267 jstatzer@saintpaulsmodesto.org

Other Important Contacts

Music Director, Chuck Sheaffer cbshea@pacbell.net
Hand Bells, Judy Teter jlpt@sbcglobal.net
Prayer Chain, Jeni Statzer stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com
St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletin, Cherie Sheaffer cbshea@pacbell.net
St. Paul's Web Page, Social Media, Deacon Greg Maszta gregmasz@gmail.com
Finance Committee, Judy Teter jlpt@sbcglobal.net
Event Coordinator, Tracy Pugh vinofileincal@gmail.com
Stewardship Campaign, Sarah Hartmann shartmann1@charter.net
"Safeguarding God's Children/People" Jeni Statzer & Stephanie Gilmer

Vestry

Senior Warden: Linda Lowe: 209-496-3937 lwlowe@outlook.com
Junior Wardens: Carolyn List

Roberta Bearden, Sarah Hartmann, Carolyn List, Linda Lowe, Chuck Sheaffer,
Nancy Silva and Judy Teter

Treasurer: Stephanie Gilmer (non-vestry)

Vestry Clerk: Carolyn List



St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

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