

# Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

[www.saintpaulsmodesto.org](http://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org)

*First Sunday after the Epiphany*

*Jan 7, 2024*



## **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

**Processional Hymn #490 How bright appears the morning star**

## Introductory Rite

BCP page 355

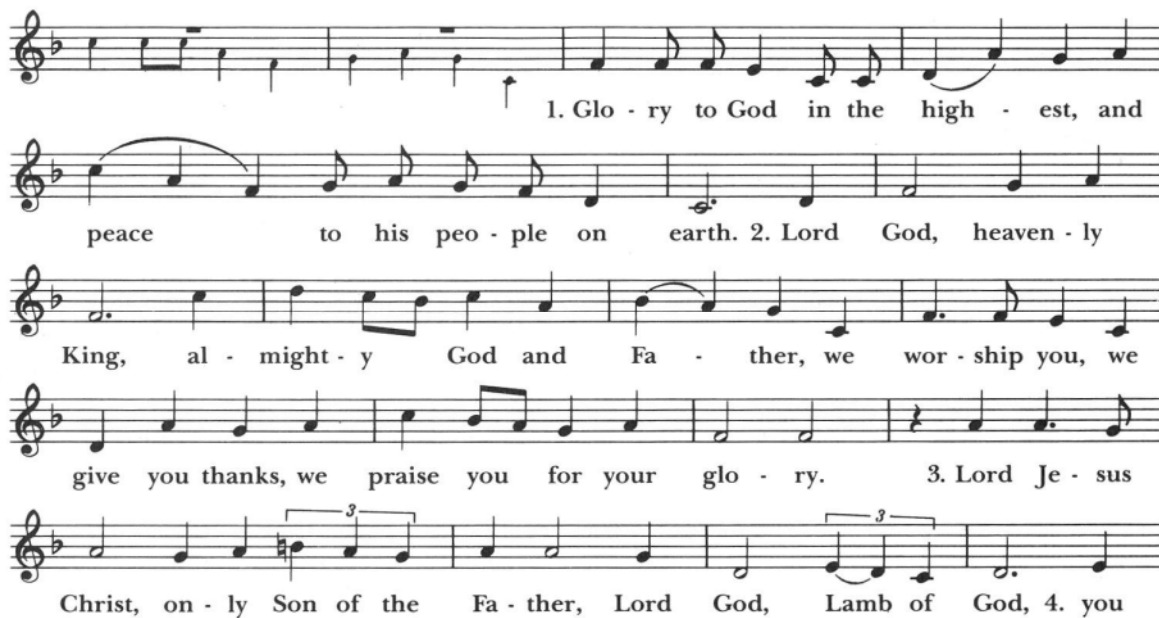
Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All: And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**All: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## 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 - mighty 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: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift

up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

## **The Psalm**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- <sup>1</sup> Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- <sup>2</sup> That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- <sup>3</sup> That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- <sup>4</sup> He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- <sup>5</sup> He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.
- <sup>6</sup> He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.
- <sup>7</sup> In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall  
be no more.
- <sup>10</sup> The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- <sup>11</sup> All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
and all the nations do him service.
- <sup>12</sup> For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- <sup>13</sup> He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*

he shall preserve the lives of the needy.  
<sup>14</sup> He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

## **The New Testament Reading**

Ephesians 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Gradual Hymn #128 We three kings of Orient are**

## The Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

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

**All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Homily**

Rev. Dondi

## **The Nicene Creed**

BCP page 358

**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**

### **The Confession of Sin**

BCP page 360

**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 *him/her*,



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 servants, that *their* weakness may be banished and *their* strength restored; and that *their* health being renewed, *they* 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.

### **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.**

**Offertory Hymn #119 As With Gladness, Men of Old**

# The Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

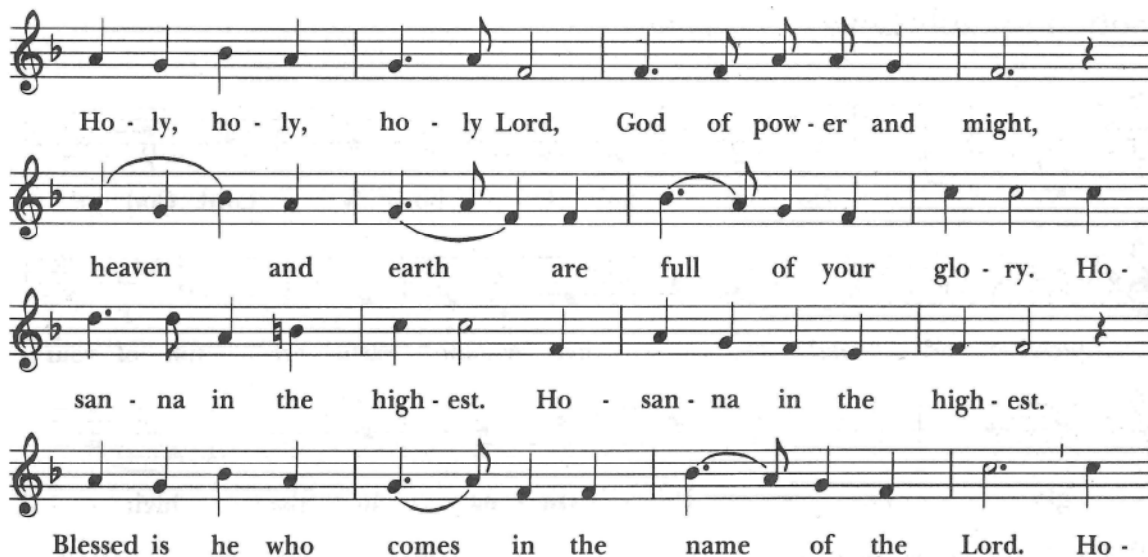
**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

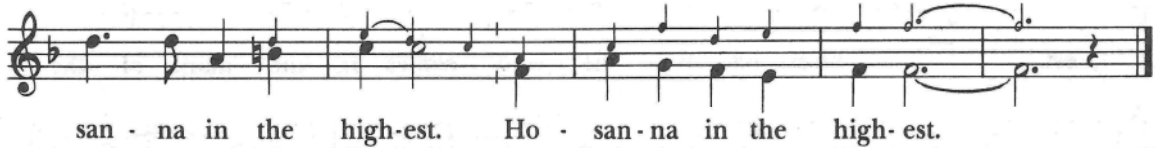
**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### 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: Holy and gracious Father, in your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of us all.

He stretched out His arms upon the cross, and offered Himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night He was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when He had given thanks to you, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper He 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 shed for you and for many 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.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By Him and with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Al-

mighty Father, now and for ever.

**All: Amen**

Celebrant: 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. Thine is the king- dom and the pow- er and the  
glo- ry for ev- er. A- men

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us

**All:** Therefore, let us keep the feast, Alleluia.

**Agnus Dei**

Je- sus, Lamb of God: have mer- cy on us. Je- sus, bear-er of our sins: have  
mer- cy on us. Je- sus, re- dem- er, re- deem- er, of the





The flowers at the altar today  
 are given to the  
 Glory of God  
 In honor and memory of Lynn Sutton  
 who always donated flowers on the  
 1st Sunday of every year.

### ***January Ministry Schedule***

	Jan 7	Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 28
Clergy Homily	Rev. Dondi Rev. Dondi	Rev. Lyn Rev. Lyn	Rev. Lyn Dcn. Greg	Rev. Kathie Rev. Kathie
Acolytes	Nancy S Judy T	Nancy S Judy T	Jim P Annamary	Nancy S Judy T
Lectors	Barbara V Steph G	Steph HW Ann M	Nancy S Judy T	Ann M Christine J
Intercessor	Judy T	Linda L	Sarah H	Nancy S
Greeters	Christine J Phil M	Ishmael H Claudine R	Sarah H Christine J	William S Phil M
Ushers	David L		David L	
Vestry Rep	Judy T	Linda L	Sarah H	Nancy S

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



## ***Prayer and Praise*** as of 1-1-2024

Please pray for healing and comfort for the following people:

Annamary Peck

Jim Peck

Bob Jensen

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

Sharon Andrew's daughter-in-law

Danielle (Jeni's friend)

☞ The family of Darla Davisson at her passing.

☞ 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 people of Hawaii, especially the victims of the wildfires on Maui.

☞ Pray for the leaders of all nations for wisdom.

☞ Please pray for the American people to listen to God's will on their hearts and do unto others as they would want done to them and their families.

☞ Please pray for all travelers as journey to and from their destinations.

Please see Jeni's weekly email for the entire list.

# ADVENT CALENDAR



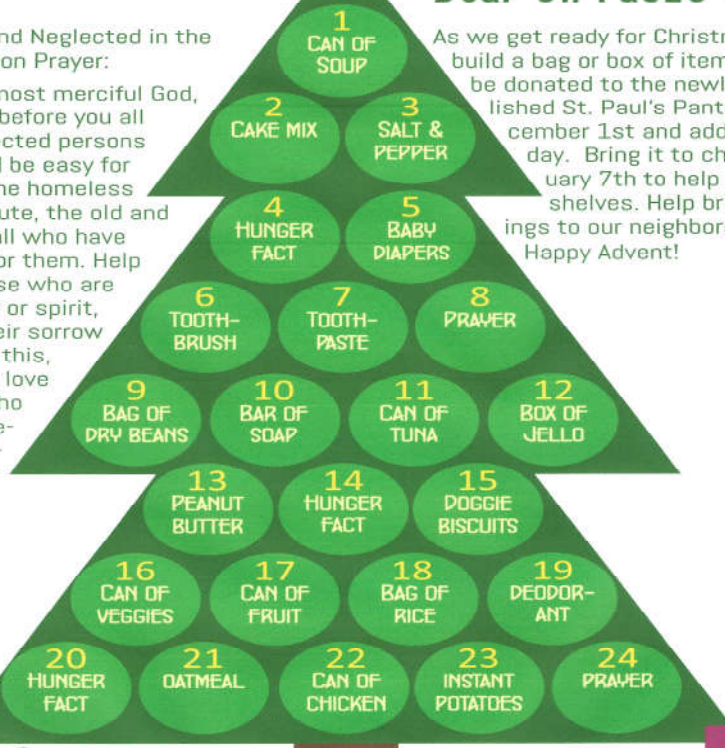
## Prayer

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".

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Modesto, CA

[www.saintpaulsmodesto.org](http://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org)

## Altar Flowers for 2024

The 2024 Altar Flower donation list is now posted in the Narthex. You may sign up on the list or send a request to [carolynlist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolynlist@sbcglobal.net) or to [jstatzer@stpaulsmodesto.org](mailto:jstatzer@stpaulsmodesto.org). The donation amount remains \$35. When you donate, your name and the memory, celebration, or honor or your person or event is printed in the weekly Service Bulletin so the congregation can observe with you.





☞ **Sunday School** has started and is held in the room at the back of the church during the Readings and the Homily.

☞ **Tuesday Noon Day Prayer** in the Guadalupe Chapel at 12 noon, every Tuesday. To be followed by **Jump Start** Bible study.

☞ If you are interested in joining the **Altar Guild** please contact Elaine Paradis or Toni Clark.

☞ **Tai Chi** meets in the Parish Hall every Tues. and Thurs. from 9-10.

☞ **Choir** is still on a break.

☞ If you are interested in playing **hand bells**, contact Judy Teter.

☞ **Food Distribution** continues in the Parish Hall the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month from 10 to 11. If you are interested in helping, please contact Judy Teter. If you have grocery bags to donate, please bring on Sunday.

☞ The first Sunday of the month there is a donation box on the altar rail for **The Stanislaus Food Initiative** (formerly Interfaith Ministries).

☞ There will be a clothing donation box for **MoPride** in the narthex. We will be collecting clothing year around. They are also in need of feminine hygiene products.

☞ If you are interested in helping with **Salvation Army** dinners, please contact Linda Lowe.

☞ If you are interested in joining **Knit One, Pray Two**, please contact Gayle Ivy. They will be meeting the 3rd Monday of the month at 1 pm in the youth room of the Parish Hall. This years charity is the Seaman's Institute. They are making scarfs, hats, socks etc.

☞ There are still free **Covid 19 tests available** in the Narthex or in the church office.

☞ If you are interested in joining a Wednesday **Morning Prayer** service or our Book Club contact Judy Thorkelson [jthork2404@aol.com](mailto:jthork2404@aol.com)

☞ There will be a basket in the narthex for **the Shower Shuttle**, they always need underwear and socks! We will also be putting together hygiene kits and need two-blade razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, travel Kleenex, combs and q-tips. Clothes soap and dryer sheets are also a big need.

## ***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.



## ***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.

## ***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.

## ***Cookie Walk 2023***

They say "It takes a village to raise a child". But, it also takes a parish to run a Cookie Walk fund raiser. It requires all of you to be bakers, walkers, workers, promoters, and to set up and take down. Look around you and thank each other. Cookie Walk raised \$4,069 for our parish this year. THANK YOU, EVERYONE!!



# ***St. Paul's Episcopal Church***



## **Pastoral Team**

Archdeacon Emeritus George Cano ..... 209-551-2304  
Deacon Greg Masztal .....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 Masztal ....gregmasz@gmail.com  
Finance Committee, Judy Teter .....jltp@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 Warden: 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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