

# **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**Benicia, CA

### 11:00 AM Worship for Sunday, December 22, 2024

**Eucharistic Prayer C** 

The Holy Eucharist Rite II

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Welcome to this years' pageant! **If you are visiting and have children, they are welcome to participate.** An usher will direct you to the parish hall for costuming. Please follow along the service as printed in the bulletin. We generally stand for singing and sit for the remainder of the service. Photos can be taken throughout the service, though an excellent photo-op will be afforded at the conclusion of the pageant.

### PRELUDE: A Children's Mini-Christmas Concert

Silent Night, Carol of the Bells - Mary Katherine Deck the Halls - AJ Angels We Have Heard On High – Jonah

#### OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

#### KYRIE: Mass of Advent

The following is sung, all standing

**Chorus:** Kyrie, eleison. Lord, have mercy.

Christe, eleison. Christ, have mercy. Kyrie, eleison. Lord, have mercy.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p. 357

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

### THE PAGEANT

READING: Luke 2:1-5

The people sit.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

### CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1)

To be sung.

Verse: O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light,

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

READING: Luke 2:6-7

#### Remain seated.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

### **CAROL: What Child is This?**

To be sung.

**Verse 1**: What child is this, who, laid to rest,

on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

**Chorus:** This, this is Christ the King,

whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

**Verse 2:** Why lies he in such mean estate

where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent word is pleading. (Chorus)

READING: Luke 2:8-12

#### Please be seated.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

### **CAROL: Away in a Manger**

To be sung.

**Verse 1:** Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,

The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

**Verse 2:** The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,

But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,

And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

**Verse 3:** Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay

Close by me forever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

READING: Luke 2:13-14

### To be seated.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"



### **CAROL: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

The following is sung, all standing

**Verse 1:** Hark! the herald angels sing

glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

**Refrain:** Hark! the herald angels sing

glory to the newborn King!

**Verse 2:** Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Son of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings

Ris'n with healing in His wings

Mild He lays His glory by Born that we no more may die

Born to raise the ones of earth

Born to give them second birth (Refrain)

READING: Luke 2:15-20

#### To be seated.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.



### **CAROL: O Come, All Ye Faithful**

To be sung.

**Verse 1:** O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

**Refrain:** O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**Verse 2:** Sing, choirs of angels,

Sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

Glory to God, Glory in the highest. (Refrain)

**Verse 3:** See how the shepherds,

summoned to his cradle,

leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps

READING: Matthew 2:1-2, 7-12

### To be seated.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." Then King Herod 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." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### **Carol: We Three Kings of Orient Are**

To be sung.

**Verse 1:** We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,

Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following vonder star.

**Chorus:** O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;

Westward leading, still

proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

**Verse 5:** Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:

Heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. (Chorus)

### Thank you Pageant Cast!

HOMILY: The Rev. Annie Mertz

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

THE PEACE BCP p. 360

All stand.

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND TRANSITIONS**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin anew. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

BCP p. 376

### **OFFERTORY HYMN: (A3 #44) Give Thanks**

To be sung.

**Verse: 1** Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the holy one

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his son (repeat)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich"

Because of what the Lord has done for us!" (repeat)

**Ending:** Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C**

SURSUM CORDA: BCP p. 361

The People remain standing.

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.

PROPER PREFACE BCP p. 370

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS: Mass Of Advent – Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts

Celebrant and People

**Chorus:** Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

### BCP p. 370

### The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord...

...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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, **We celebrate his death and resurrection**, as we await the day of his coming.

### BCP p. 370

#### The Celebrant continues

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.** 

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p. 363

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

#### People and Celebrant

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, forever and ever. Amen.

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

#### INVITATION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

#### COMMUNION

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. Amen.

### **COMMUNION HYMN: (Gather 332) Wait For the Lord**

The following is sung, all standing; Repeat 3 times.

Refrain: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!

### COMMUNION HYMN: (H 56) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The following is sung

**Verse 1:** O come, O come, Emmanuel,

and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

**Chorus:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel!

Verse 2: O come, thou Wisdom from on high,

who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show,

and teach us in her ways to go. (Chorus)

**Verse 3:** O come, O come, thou Lord of might,

who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law,

in cloud, and majesty, and awe. (Chorus)

**Verse: 4:** O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,

free them from Satan's tyranny that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt. To reproduce these words for any purpose, you must contact: Church Publishing Inc Copyrights and Permissions. 19 East 34th Street. New York, NY 10016. 1-212-779-3392 (fax). (212) 592-6388 (Office) info@churchpublishing.org

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and 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.

BLESSING BCP p. 366

The Celebrant blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.** 

### RECESSIONAL HYMN: (A3 #109) Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

The following is sung, all standing

**Verse:** Lord, I lift your name on high;

Lord, I love to sing your praises. I'm so glad you'e in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way. From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;

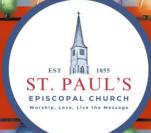
Lord, I lift your name on high.

### **DISMISSAL**

The Deacon or Celebrant will dismiss the people

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.



# Christmas Events

### DEC 20

7 PM

### BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A quiet and reflective Christmas service for those seeking peace and comfort on the longest night.

### DEC 22

8:45 & 11 AM

### ADVENT IV: EUCHARIST & "COME AS YOU ARE" Christmas pageant

The final Sunday of the preparatory season of Advent; Children's Christmas pageant at 11:00am Service.

### DEC 24

4 PM

### CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST

A festive and child-friendly celebration of Christ's birth.

### DEC 24

10 PM

### CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST

A traditional candlelit mass with carols and hymns.

### DEC 25

10 AM

### FEAST OF CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

A celebration of the joy of Christmas in the morning light.

### DEC 29

10 AM

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

We continue the Christmas Season with a combined service.

### JAN 5

8:45 & 11<sub>AM</sub>

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

We return to two services.

### JAN 12

8:45 & 11<sub>AM</sub>

### FEAST OF EPIPHANY (TRANSFERRED)

We celebrate the arrival of the Magi.

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Thank You For Your Pledges!

We are grateful to everyone for your generous annual pledges, which play a vital role in supporting the mission and ministries of St. Paul's.

There's still time to turn in your 2025 pledge! Blank cards are available in the back of the church.

### Let's Welcome Back the Healing Prayer Ministry!



Healing prayer is offered at each service during communion to individuals who wish to have personalized, one-on-one prayer with a healing prayer minister. A healing prayer minister listens carefully and empathetically and prays with individuals about their specific concerns. Healing prayer ministers serve once a month at their preferred service. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding ministry, please contact me by email at <a href="mailto:deacon@stpaulsbenicia.org">deacon@stpaulsbenicia.org</a>. I will be happy to meet with you individually to discuss how to pray with others and to practice this important skill.



### **Community Meal Volunteer Online Signups**

If you would like to volunteer at the Community Meal on Mondays or Wednesdays, check our weekly Friday e-mail for a sign-up sheet - or contact the Parish Office at <a href="mailto:admin@stpaulsbenicia.org">admin@stpaulsbenicia.org</a>. Need to sign up for e-mails? Please contact the Parish Office.

Please note that we need only one volunteer each day.

Thank You!



### **Coffee Hosts Needed**

It's time to sign up for the New Year! We still need Coffee Hosts in January-Please remember that beginning There is a sign-up sheet to the left of the coffee pots under the Cross Wall in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions about what's required, there is an awesome reference guide in the binder next to the sign-up sheet or feel free to reach out to our Coffee Hour coordinators Barry & Sally Cunningham at <a href="mailto:bcunningsb@gmail.com">bcunningsb@gmail.com</a>.

Sign up with a friend and kick off your Sunday with caffeine and fellowship.

### **Holiday Concert:**





### Morning Prayer Weekdays at 9 a.m. in Church and on Zoom

Join Zoom meeting (Link in Weekly Announcements online)

Meeting ID: 890 6264 3237

Passcode: 355908

One tap mobile +16699009128,,89062643237#,,,,\*355908# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 890 6264 3237

Passcode: 355908

### **Updated Holiday Schedules:**

**Family Ministries:** Please see the schedule below regarding changes to our Family Ministries programs through the holiday season

	12/22	12/24	12/25	12/29	1/5
Nursery	8:30-12:30	Closed	Closed	9:00-11:30	8:30-12:30
Godly Play	Short Godly Play, then Pageant Prep in undercroft	No Class	No Class	No Class	10:00- 10:45
Bible Study	Short session, then Pageant Prep in undercroft	No Class	No Class	No Class	10:00- 10:45

### **Eucharist & Bible Study**

### Wednesday 12/25 – Christmas Day

10:00 am Eucharist is moved from side chapel to main church No Bible Study

### Wednesday 1/1

No Eucharist

No Bible study

### **Morning Prayer**

Cancelled for Wednesday 12/25 – Christmas Day

#### Coffee with the Rector:

Cancelled for Thursday, 12/26 and 1/2

#### **Parish Office Hours:**

The parish office closes at NOON on 12/24 and will remain closed through 1/1. *We look forward to seeing you in the new year!* 

Community Meal: Cancelled for Wednesday 12/25 & Wednesday 1/1

<u>The deadline for submitting announcements is Wednesday at noon.</u>
Please e-mail information to: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org

Office phone: (707) 745-0307

#### **NOTICE OF FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY**

When you enter a St. Paul's Episcopal Church service or event, you enter an area where photography, audio, live streaming, and video recording may occur.

### **PRAYERS**

### WE PRAY FOR GOD'S HEALING

Katie McGovern
Jim Wolf
Carmen Montoya
James Carr
Tyler, (Gerri's Grandson)
Ambra, (Gerri's Daughter)
Mark Park
Judith Mooney

### WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL:

Vicki Lynn Wininger
Doyle Morris
Annie Muriel Marcus Wilkes

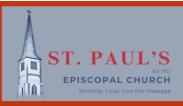
## WE GIVE THANKS FOR BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

12/23 Lisa Pfost 12/25 Tom Aldinger 12/27 Albert Jouvenot-Sells

## WE GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES

Major Russ Morris, U.S. Air Force Reserves
SFC Mike Moverley, 1st Battalion 143rd Field Artillery, U.S. Army
Warrant Officer Brandon Niemann, U.S. Army
Airman Andrew Severa, U.S. Air Force
SA Michelle Severa, PA, Air National Guard
Staff SGT Jake Sackett, U.S. Air Force
Major Xacasia Evans-Walp, U.S. Army

E-mail: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org for updates or additions



### Calendar



### **SUNDAY 12/22: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

"Come as You Are" Christmas Pageant - 11 am Service

6:30 am AA Meeting (U) 8:45 am +Communion

10 am Coffee Hour (P)

10 am Short Godly Play & Pageant Prep (Elementary School) (U) 10 am Short Youth Bible Study & Pageant Prep (Middle & High School) (U)

11 am +Communion 12 pm Coffee Hour (P)

3 Pm +GVRD Christmas Concert (Symphonic & Jazz Bands)

8 pm AA (P)

MONDAY 12/23	TUESDAY 12/24 Christmas Eve	WEDNESDAY 12/25 Christmas Day	
9 am +Morning Prayer 4:30 pm Community Meal (P) 8 pm AA Meeting (P)	7 am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 4 pm +Christmas Eve Eucharist 10 pm +Christmas Eve Eucharist	7am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer - Cancelled 10 am +Christmas Eucharist 11 am Bible Study (P)- Cancelled No Community Meal (P)	
THURSDAY 12/26	FRIDAY 12/27	SATURDAY 12/28	
7am AA Meeting (P) 7:30 am Coffee w/ Rev. Annie - Cancelled 9 am +Morning Prayer	7 am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 7 pm NA Meeting (P)	7 am AA Meeting (U)	

### SUNDAY 12/29: First Sunday after Christmas

#### **KEY**

+ = Church
P = Parish Hall
U = Undercroft
R = Rectory

R = Rectory

6:30 am AA Meeting (U)
10 am +Communion - Single Service
10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) (U) - Cancelled
10 am Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U) - Cancelled
11 am Coffee Hour (P)
8 pm AA (P)

SERVING THIS WEEK - December 22, 2024				
	8:45 AM	11:00 AM		
Celebrant	Rev. Annie Mertz			
Preacher	Bob Hall	Rev. Annie Mertz		
Deacon	Rev. Beth Gaines	Rev. Beth Gaines		
Music	Dr. Matthew Welch	Cameron De Palma		
Lector	Ann Lindsay	Christmas Pageant		
Intercessor	Charlie Kilbourne	Donna Patey		
LEM	Charlie Kilbourne	TBD		
Ushers	Lisa & Jorge Pena	Helen Kennedy-Lazar & Donna Patey		
Altar Guild	Cathy Cellini & Steve Rodekohr			
Flower Guild	No Dedications this Week			
Office Angels	Ann Lindsay			
Verger	Joe Brien			

Parish Leadership				
Clergy	Staff	Vestry		
The Rev. Annie Mertz, Rector The Rev. Beth Gaines, Deacon The Rev. Canon Mary Goshert, Associate Priest The Rev. Pamela Higgins, Associate Priest The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder, Associate Priest	Dr. Matthew Welch, Traditional Music Director Cameron De Palma, Contemporary Music Director Eric Foster, Communications Director Lisa Lannoy, Parish Administrator Tim Markley, Archivist	Jeff Jarvis, Senior Warden Chris Preovolos, Junior Warden Donna Marshall, Ed Curtis, Laura Peabody-Park, Jill Morris, Lisa Pena, Ann Lindsay, Gerri MacGregor		



### ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Benicia, California

### MISSION

St. Paul's welcomes all people at any stage of their spiritual journey to worship together, care for the community, and live the message of Jesus Christ.

### VISION

We strive to be an active, diverse, and welcoming community where people come together to worship and deepen their faith.

VALUES						
Community	Inclusion	The Message of Jesus Christ	Spiritual Growth			
We support our neighbors through service and compassion. We are a safe space and a supportive community where members are cared for by one another.	We are an inclusive community where people of all identities, backgrounds, and histories are welcome to find and continue their spiritual journey.	We believe in striving to live the message of Jesus Christ every day. At St. Paul's, we walk the way of love together.	At any point in a person's spiritual journey, there are opportunities to learn, grow, and strengthen one's faith at St.Paul's.			