



Tower Talk

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Church with Heart, in the Heart of the City

December 22, 2021

Christmas at St. Paul's 2022

Christmas Eve

5:00P.M. with

Cantata

10:30P.M.

Carols,

11:00P.M.

Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day

9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist

New Year's Eve

5:00P.M.

Reaffirmation of Wedding, Baptismal
and Engagement Vows



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

711 South Saginaw St.

Flint, Michigan 48502

810 234 8637

www.stpaulschurchflint.com

[The Rev. Don Davidson](#)

priest-in-charge

[The Rev. Donna Kusky](#)

deacon in residence

[George Gibson](#),

director of finance

[Holly Richardson](#),

director of music

[Megan Faris](#),

administrative assistant

Rafael McDaniel,

gospel choir director

Matthew Benkert, organist

Terrance Whitehead, sexton

[Edythe Peake](#), web editor

Jelecia Ford Geraghty

Diocesan Standing Committee

New Wi-Fi in the building

Our New Wi-Fi provides a faster and more consistent connection to the Internet in the building. There is a new password. The password for the StPGUEST Wi-Fi in Barth Hall is L0v3Jesus.

The Master Calendar

of all events, services and meetings at St. Paul's is now available on our website.

www.stpaulschurchflint.com.

New Year's Eve Service

As a way to begin the New Year in a great way, St. Paul's will offer the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 5:00 P.M. on December 31, 2021.

The service will include the reaffirmation of wedding vows for all married couples, the reaffirmation of baptismal vows and the reaffirmation of engagement vows from the rite of Holy Matrimony from our Book of Common Prayer.

Everyone is invited to attend.

About Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be held on January 23, 2022 beginning at 9:00 A.M. The meeting will be held within the Sunday service of Holy Eucharist.

The Rector's address (report) will take the place of the Sunday sermon with Fr. Don our Priest-in-Charge.

All of the reports for the meeting will be available on our website www.stpaulschurchflint.com. Most reports will only be available on-line. If you do not have an Internet connection and wish a printed copy of the reports, please call and request one from the office.

All reports are due no later than January 15, 2022.

Please send reports to Fr. Don or Megan:

rector@stpaulschurchflint.com or
megan@stpaulschurchflint.com

Answers to last week's quiz time:

- Matthew and Luke
- Gabriel
- False
- False
- False (sorry Tim)
- Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Christ. (there are more)
- True
- The Christ Candle
- Nicholas
- "All is calm, All is bright"



Many hours go into all the preparations for our Christmas services. Thank you Altar Guild! Our services are even more special when they include YOU!

Your Vestry:

Barbara Mannor, Senior Warden
(seniorwarden@stpaulschurchflint.com)
(Outreach)

Becky Bennett, Junior Warden
(Building and Grounds)
(juniorwarden@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Maggie Hart, Treasurer (Finance)
(treasurer@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Ed Henneke

Ferrell Katzenberger (Pastoral Care)

Jan Bugbee

TaMara Oertel (Worship)

Walter Peake (Stewardship)

Dr. Elizabeth Jordan

(Member of Diocesan Council)

Staff:

The Reverend Dr. Don Davidson, Priest-in-charge
(rector@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Fr. Don's cell phone: 810 836 8727

The Reverend Deacon Donna Kusky

Deacon in residence

(donna@stpaulschurchflint.com)

George Gibson, Director of Finance
(directoroffinance@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Holly Richardson, Director of Music
(directorofmusic@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Megan Faris, Administrative Assistant
(megan@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Rafael McDaniel, Gospel Choir Director

Matthew Benkert, Organist

Terrance Whitehead, Sexton

Edythe Peake, Web Editor
(webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Jelesia Ford Geraghty

(Member: Diocesan Standing Committee)

St. Paul's Office Hours
Tuesday-Thursday
9 AM—2 PM

Fr. Don
Wednesday– Friday
(by appointment)

810-234-8637

When should you not?

This is a most unusual train of thought coming from a senior priest of the church...When should you not come to church?

For decades I have been doing everything possible to get people to attend church services. In some cases I have resorted to near begging because we live in a time when church attendance is badly out of the cultural norms.

I believe that regular church attendance can make a huge difference in the way we relate and treat each other. Being with other believers can and should be inspirational and should be all about one's personal relationship with God in Christ Jesus.

If you are having a fight (argument, bad time) with someone, the best thing you can ever do is come to church, face that person and ask Jesus what is the best and most loving thing you can do. We do not come to Church for us, we come to church for God and thus we should not allow our tastes to get in the way.

Now we have another demon, the dreaded virus that has changed our lives so drastically over the past two years. If you feel sick, even if it is "just a cold" it is better for you to stay home. If you do attend, please wear a mask, it protects you from others thus we are all better protected when we all wear them. If you have not been vaccinated, get the vaccine and the booster. See the drastic words from the year 1527 below; let's love one another.



"It is even more shameful for a person to pay no heed to his own body and to fail to protect it against the plague the best he is able, and then to infect and poison others who might have remained alive if he had taken care of his body as he should have. He is thus responsible before God for his neighbor's death and is a murderer many times over."

(Martin Luther, *Luther's Works*, Vol. 43: *Devotional Writings II*, "Whether One Should Flee From A Deadly Plague")

From the Right Reverend Prince Singh, the elected Bishop Provisional of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern and Western Michigan.

Love came down at Christmas. Love all, lovely love divine. Love was born at Christmas, star and angel gave the sign. Beautiful words from Christina Rossetti, reminding us of the beauty of Christmas which combines the deep vulnerability that God would come and become like us.

My first experience as a priest of Christmas was in a very remote village in South India and the only place that we could meet on that dark, starlit night was in a cattle shed. And so there we were, sitting among the animals with the smells and everything that goes with being in a cattle shed.

It reminded me of how deeply God loves us. That God would choose to become dirty and vulnerable and to communicate this love.

The second thing that stands out for me in this love is the deep trust that God has – that we will take care of each other. God became a human being in the form of a baby entrusted to human hands: Mary's, Joseph's, yours, mine – that we will take care of each other, especially

the vulnerable, the lonely, the elderly, the refugee, the one who doesn't agree with us politically. Let us trust again and again, wisely, but trust again.

And finally, it takes agency for us to actually translate these beautiful concepts of vulnerability and trust. And so I invite you to appreciate the essence of Christmas by reaching out and acting out in love, in great vulnerability, and trust so that you may be a channel of love in a real way wherever you are.

I look forward to coming to you as your bishop provisional and wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a blessed journey that we will engage together with Jesus walking beside us and perhaps creating a new thing by the Spirit's leading.

In my encounters with you, I have seen you always hold your palm up and every time somebody did that to give me directions, I took that as a sign of blessing. So the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you now and always. Amen.

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