



# THE EPISTLE



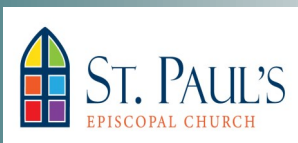
# May 2025



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## Blessings to all!



711 South Saginaw St., Flint, Michigan 48502  
810.234.8637 [www.stpaulschurchflint.com](http://www.stpaulschurchflint.com)

## A Note from Tom

The recent death of Pope Francis has resulted in an outpouring of affection from the Episcopal Church, particularly our own leader, Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe. Bishop Rowe said this about the Pope, “Throughout his life and ministry, he has been a witness for the Gospel and a champion for the poor and marginalized. Especially in this season, I give thanks for his powerful advocacy on behalf of migrants and refugees.”

As for me, I think that Pope Francis went down with his boots on. He died early on the day after Easter, a day in which the Pope made his last public appearance to bless thousands of people in St. Peter’s Square. He even rallied the strength to make a surprise popemobile cruise through the piazza. At age 88 and after a prolonged bout with pneumonia, the Pope found the strength to be with his church on Easter Sunday. Pretty cool in my book.

Pope Francis once wrote this; “In the faces of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help.” Francis was no ordinary pope. He was an advocate of welcoming the LGBTQ+ community – an extremely controversial position among Catholics. “Being homosexual is not a crime,” he said in 2023.



There is little doubt that Pope Francis – the first pope ever elected from the Western hemisphere – is leaving a legacy of reform within the Roman Church. He spoke loudly in opposition to the mass deportation of immigrants, promoted women to higher offices in the Vatican, and championed economic systems that prioritize human dignity over profit.

Ultimately, he was a pope worthy of admiration. He certainly had mine.

With every blessing...

Tom+

## Holly's Notes

“Are you a crown adjuster/fixer or a knock a crown off” kind of person? My friend at rug hooking asked me during our conversation. In other words, do you build people up with kind words and words of praise, or do you steal their spirit and take joy from them?

I know which kind of person I would prefer to be, I am not always as kind as I should be, I say things I feel bad about when I reflect on my day. That doesn't mean I can't try every day to be a little kinder, and bring more joy than sorrow and hurt to others. I know that Jesus was definitely a crown fixer, think about the woman at the well, Zaccheaus, Mary the sister of Martha, even Judas in the garden was met with kindness and caring, not condemnation, or anger.

Let us all praise the Lord in this Easter Season, and remember that we are to be crown fixers instead of knocking others' crowns off.

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,  
join me in glad adoration.

2 Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;  
sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining!  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
if with his love he befriends you.

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.  
Let the Amen sound from his people again;  
gladly forever adore him.

This hymn was written in the 17th century, it reminds us how wonderful and gracious the Lord is and how we must also portray His love and mercy to those around us.

[Praise to the Lord, the Almighty \(with Orchestra\) | The Tabernacle Choir](#)

Holly Richardson





# Communities of Faith

May 2025



Hello everyone!

I hope that this finds you well and that you are feeling the work of the Holy Spirit through this Easter season. If you haven't yet I would encourage you to reach out to Fr. Tom and sign up for the monastery retreat at St. Gregory's Abbey. The day before everyone leaves for that, May 10th, is tourist in your hometown, if you haven't gotten the opportunity to go on a tour with Walt, he does a great job!

The beginning of May will also see the Wednesday after mass Book Study begin a new book [ ], if you would like to join that but aren't able to come in on Wednesdays, there is a zoom link available on the website.

We also continue our monthly Parents and Partners of LGBTQ+ Folks support group. If you know someone whose kid or partner just came out recently, we'd love to have them and help navigate the questions that their kid or partner may not be ready or able to answer yet.

Our neighbors continue to be in need, whether it's First Presbyterian continuing their feeding ministry on Sundays and needing help sourcing eggs or Crossover needing clothes and supplies, there are ways that we can help our neighbors and help those organizations doing the helping. If you're interested in ways that get involved, feel free to reach out to me and I can put you in contact with people who need help.

I've made some changes as I've gotten more comfortable and "better" in my position as Assistance Coordinator, and as such, you may over the next couple of Epistles see an uptake in need. This doesn't mean the need wasn't there before, it just means that I am doing a better job of tracking and reporting those needs even when those individuals don't come in and meet with me. I am constantly in search of ways to increase our ability to help our neighbors, and if you know of any, even if you think "Of course Rayna already knows about this!" please still send it to me, because maybe I missed it or I didn't see it.

As always, if you have questions, comments, concerns, or want to just sit down and talk, my email is [rayna@stpaulschurchflint.com](mailto:rayna@stpaulschurchflint.com) and you can also find me in the middle office from 10-3 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Rayna

Need	Request	Given	Date
Resources			4/1/2025
Rent	\$450	\$225	4/10/2025
Consumers	\$496	\$296	4/10/2025
Water	\$461	-	4/22/2025



# St. Paul's Artwalk



## Featured Artists:

St. Paul's Artwalk is on Friday, May 9th at 6pm. The Artwalk is open to everyone and each month an artist presents beautiful art. This month's artist is Brian O'Leary and the musical artist is Musica Royale.

### **Brian O'Leary (Photography)**

I am a self taught photographer born in Flint Michigan. After picking up my first DSLR camera in 2013, I discovered a passion for abandonment photography and landscape photography. Since then I have focused on developing a personal style. I currently exhibit my works in different art galleries and art festivals.

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## Featured Musicians:

**Musica Royale**, founded in 1996, is an early music ensemble based in the metropolitan Detroit area. The ensemble specializes in music of the Renaissance and Middle Ages and also performs classic and contemporary wedding and Christmas music.

Musica Royale is featured annually at the Michigan Renaissance Festival, and has also performed at the Greater Flint Art Council, Tunes at Noon, Flint Institute of Arts, Somerset Collection, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Science Center, Grand Rapids Science Museum, and numerous weddings and other public and private gatherings.

Musica Royale has recorded three CD's: "A Renaissance Christmas", "Renaissance Hits and Near Misses", "Festival, Frolic, and Fantasy".

The ten musicians in Music Royale are multi-instrumentals, incorporating a wide variety of instruments in their performances, both from the Renaissance and Middle Ages such as recorders, crumhorns, harp, violin, guitar, cello, bowed psaltery, and percussion, and can also add contemporary instruments such as flute, oboe, clarinet, English Horn, saxophone, bassoon, and keyboard.

Musica Royale is available to perform in duos, trios, quartets, or the entire ensemble. For more information about the group's rates and availability, please contact: Mary Ann Fischer, 248-701-5145, [maryannfischer1@aol.com](mailto:maryannfischer1@aol.com).



# SPRING CLEAN-UP



It's that time of the year! Please join together as we work to clean the inside and outside of the church on Monday, May 19th starting at 10 a.m. and ending around 2 p.m.

As in years past, St. Paul's will provide buckets, cleaners, and rags. For outdoor clean-up, bring your own rakes, gloves, and garden tools if you plan on working outside.

Leaf bags will be provided. Contact Rebecca Bennett if you have any questions.



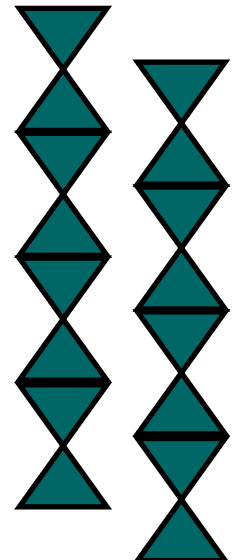
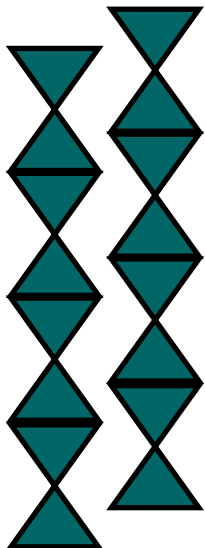
**GET YOUR GLOVES ON, AND  
GLADDEN YOUR SPIRITS!**

# Support Jelecia's Fight Against Cancer Again



Go to the link below to show your support in Jelecia's Fight

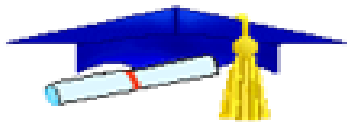
[https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-jelecias-fight-against-cancer-again?attribution\\_id=sl:e8cf6988-82b9-44e5-8f43-d482a27d3554&lang=en\\_US&utm\\_campaign=fp\\_sharesheet&utm\\_content=amp13\\_t1-amp14\\_t1&utm\\_medium=customer&utm\\_source=facebook](https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-jelecias-fight-against-cancer-again?attribution_id=sl:e8cf6988-82b9-44e5-8f43-d482a27d3554&lang=en_US&utm_campaign=fp_sharesheet&utm_content=amp13_t1-amp14_t1&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=facebook)







St. Paul's Episcopal Church was pleased to participate in the eggstravagant Easter candy and toy celebration on Saturday, April 12. Hundreds of kids had a safe, fun, day, and the congregation of St. Paul's had a joyous time too!

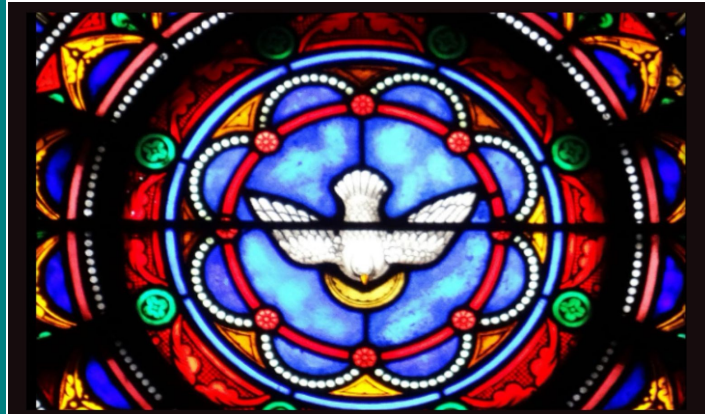


## CONGRATULATIONS!

To all of this year's graduates.  
 June 1, 2025 is Graduation Sunday.  
 We have graduating this year:  
**Sean Gagnon**

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 The final concert of the 2024 - 2025 Music in  
 the Heart of the City Concert Series presents:

'A SACRED MOSAIC'  
 Sunday, May 4, 2025, 4:00 pm  
 Performed by the New Century Chorale



*The stained glass windows of St. Paul's come alive  
 as we celebrate their beauty in song:*

## 'A SACRED MOSAIC'

Sunday, May 4, 2025 | 4:00 PM



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
 711 S. Saginaw Street, Flint

*Tickets: \$15.00. Available for in-person and livestream viewing  
 at [newcenturychorale.org](http://newcenturychorale.org). Also available at the door.*

*This is a special concert performed by the New Century Chorale.  
 It is part of the St. Paul's Music in the Heart of the City Concert Series*

Artistic Director: Steven C. Holovach

# St. Paul's Movie Night



Come out and enjoy a movie with us!  
 Wednesday, May 21, 2025  
 Meet at 5:30 pm, Movie at 6:00 pm.





# ★ St. Gregory's Abbey ★

## RETREAT



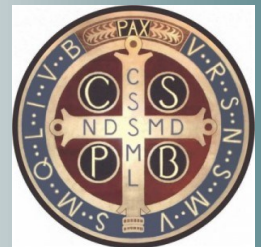
★  
Come Pray  
with  
the Monks!

Date: May 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

Cost: \$75

Food: Meals Provided

Location: St. Gregory's Abbey



- 
- 2 People Per Room, Bunk Beds
  - Attendance at Services Required



# May's Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of the People)
4-May-2025		Susumu Inoue	Kim Ramirez	Rebecca Bennett
11-May-2025	G	Velecia Ford	Shane Geraghty	Pam Bailey
18-May-2025	B	Shane Geraghty	Rayna Hauter	Elizabeth Jordan
25-May-2025		Rajaad Twine	Dylan Baade	Edythe Peake

Dates		Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger	8:00 AM
4-May-2025		Tim Grant	Rayna Hauter	Mike Farver	Tim Grant
11-May-2025	G	Maddie Cherry	Mike Farver	Bob Cuthbertson	Ed Walthers
18-May-2025	B	Tim Grant	Mike Farver	Ed Walthers	Rebecca Bennett
25-May-2025		Rayna Huater	Erynn Ford	Mike Farver	Rayna Hauter

## May 2025

### Anniversaries

5/1	RICHARDSON, Holly & Bruce
5/4	BAILEY, Pamela & Zack
5/15	OERTEL, Michael & TaMara
5/23	WALTHERS, Ed & Laura



### Birthdays

5/1	SYLVESTER, Ken
5/5	BARNHART, Phillip
5/5	CHERRY, John Jr.
5/11	OERTEL, Michael
5/17	LEROUE, Joyce
5/27	BUGBEE, Jan



May 5, 2025



May 11, 2025



May 26, 2025

## Your Vestry:

(all at [stpaulschurchflint.com](http://stpaulschurchflint.com))

**TaMara Oertel**, Senior Warden  
(Education) (Finance)  
(seniorwarden@)

**Karen Schaefer**, Junior Warden  
(juniorwarden@)(Outreach)(karen@)

**Jan Bugbee**, Treasurer/Clerk of the Vestry (Finance) (treasurer@)(clerk@)

**Rebecca Bennett** (Rebecca@)

**Heather Gagnon** (Pastoral Care)  
(heather@)

**Robert Cuthbertson-Twine** (Diversity)  
(Robert@)

**Zan Milner** (Stewardship)  
(zan@)

## Staff:

**The Rev. Thomas Manney**  
Rector

rector@stpaulschurchflint.com

**Karein Russell**

Administrative Assistant

Editor; The Epistle

STPOffice@stpaulschurchflint.com

**Rayna Hauter**

Assistance/Ministry Coordinator

(Rayna@)

**George Gibson**,

Director of Finance (directoroffinance@)

**Holly Richardson**,

Director of Music (directorofmusic@)

**Rafael McDaniel**, Gospel Choir Director

(gospel@)

**Ed Arter**, Organist (organist@)

**Terence Whitehead**, Sexton

**Edythe Peake**, Web Editor

(webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com)

## SUBMISSION TO THE EPISTLE

When submitting articles to *The Epistle*, please submit via e-mail to: [STPOffice@stpaulschurchflint.com](mailto:STPOffice@stpaulschurchflint.com).

When sending in articles please make sure they are in a simple format to copy and paste. Submission reminders go out on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. Submission deadlines are the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month.

Thanks!



### For our Homebound Parishioners:

Joy Fusi, Judy Stoerman,  
Doris Carroll, Greg Vanucci,  
Russ Matar

Worship at St. Paul's

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am

Wednesday: 12:10 p.m.

The link below will take you to the St. Paul's Parish Calendar.

<https://stpaulschurchflint.com/elementor-638/>

### Remember St. Paul's in your will:

Please consider helping the mission and ministry of St. Paul's by remembering the church in your will. You can do so by using the following wording:

"I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a non-profit church, with the current address of 711 S. Saginaw, Flint, MI 48502, and its successor, the greater of \$\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_percentage of my gross estate, to be used in such manner as determined by its vestry."



ST. PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH





St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
711 South Saginaw St.  
Flint, MI 48502