



THE EPISTLE



DECEMBER 2025



*Blessings
to All!*

Hope!

Peace!

Joy!



Love!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	PG.
A Note from Tom	2
Holly's Notes	3
Communities of Faith, Advent	4-5
Diversity Committee	6
Health & Wellness Event, Blood Drive	7-8
Artwalk, Wednesday Book Study	9
Annual Christmas Tea Party	10
New Century Chorale, Movie Night	11-12
Christmas at St. Paul's	13
Liturgy, Anniversaries. Birthdays	14
Vestry, Staff & Homebound	15

A Note from Tom

Advent is here.

And boy do we need it.

As is always the case with the approaching Christmas holidays, Advent reminds us of the need to 'hit the pause button' on the stress and sadness of the world. For us at St. Paul's, 2025 has not been the easiest of years. We have had great highs, but also some really low lows. Add to it the 'normal' stresses of work, relationships, personal health, etc., and you have a recipe for serious anxiety.

And into our lives come Mary and Joseph, travelling with a donkey making their way toward Nazareth. The two of them are almost a biblical cavalry, arriving *just in the nick of time* to save us besieged settlers.



And this is what the season of Advent is – sort of a rescue from God. As the year winds down and we feel tired and worn out, we receive from God the image of a young couple, nervously and excitedly waiting for the birth of their child. And we get to *share* in that excitement because that child is for us too. Not just Mary and Joseph's baby, but *our* baby. Our Savior, our Redeemer, and our Messiah.

So let us try our best to leave the stress and sadness behind. Advent is here and that means that it is time to prepare for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity.

Just in the nick of time.

With every blessing...

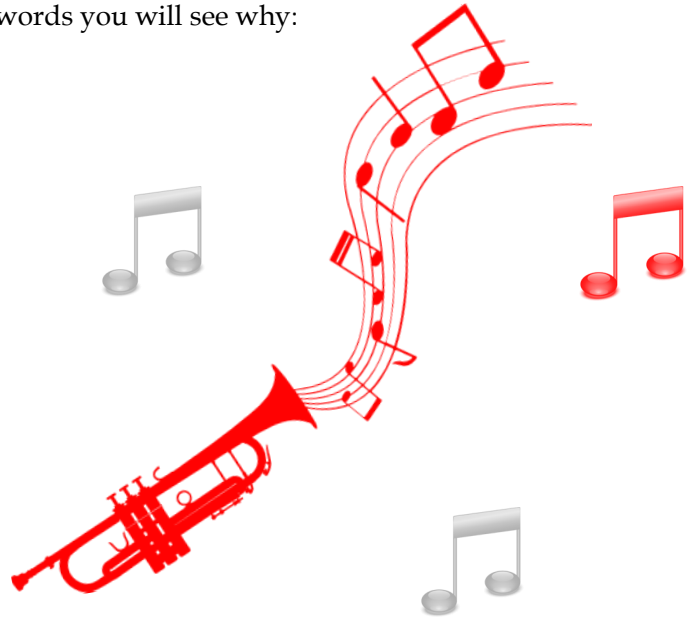
Tom+



Holly's Notes

I hope you enjoy Christmas music and listen to music that enriches the Christmas experience for you. The celebration of the birth of Christ has been magnificently represented by many singers and songwriters. I personally always start the Advent and Christmas season listening to Handels' The Messiah from beginning to end sometime in November and then carry forward. I am not really interested in the frivolity of pop Christmas, because to me it is part of the merchandising scheme of the season. Do not misunderstand me, I love pop music, but not for worship and not for Christmas. We often use the Christmas hymn, "O Come, All Ye Faithful" to start Christmas worship. When you contemplate the words you will see why:

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!
2 God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created
3 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!



This was written by a gentleman, John Francis Wade who wrote it originally in Latin and then it was transcribed into English in 1743, he taught music at an English College in Douay. Other verses have been added, but I think the first four are the most important. Hymanary says the following: "In this well-known and loved Christmas hymn, we are invited as God's faithful people to go to Bethlehem and adore Christ the Lord (st. 1). We sing words borrowed from the Nicene Creed to express the Christian faith about the incarnation (st. 2). Then after exhorting the angels to sing their praise (st. 3), we greet Christ on his birthday "

This is an example of the quintessential hymn and why we are all celebrating Christmas this month.

Here is a more modern version of "O Come All Ye Faithful", enjoy!

[Pentatonix - O Come, All Ye Faithful \(Official Video\)](#)

Here is a traditional version from Westminster Abbey with Organ

[O Come, All Ye Faithful \(Adeste Fideles\) at Westminster Abbey](#)

Merry Christmas to you and yours,

Holly Richardson, Director of Music





Communities of Faith

December 2025



Hello everyone!

I came into this month convinced that it would be a nice, easy, slow month after how busy the last few months have been. And in some ways it has been, but in many others, and for many others, it has not been. This month has seen the return of the Angel Tree to Barth Hall, as of writing this I heard they only have six ornaments left after a single day of being up! We had our first prayer breakfast for post-election unity hosted by the newly reconstituted Community Engagement and Stewardship Committee. Pastoral Care and Becky hosted their second annual advent wreath making event. Family Promise and a few parishioners facilitated a backpack stuffing event for the unhoused community. All of these things continue to show how deeply the heart beat of our congregation goes for our community and for one another. All of that, and I didn't even mention we had another wedding this month as well!

As we look forward into our new month, the lectionary and church calendar year has started anew! And with a new church calendar year comes many new things, one of the most exciting is that over the next few months we'll get the opportunity to listen to our Lay Preaching students preach on a few Sundays, the first of which will be Dr. Robert Cuthbertson-Twine on Sunday the 28th, Christmas I.

I also wanted to look backwards at this past year, just a little bit. As I mentioned in my homily for Thanksgiving - I am so thankful for all the people who do this work in our church. The people who have donated money, donated time, and donated their talents not only to the parish, but to assisting and helping others. I've been beyond blessed with people willing to help and donate when I've had a wild and crazy idea in my head about doing things like a yard sale with only a month of prep time. Or doing a vision and vaccine clinic. Or whatever other crazy idea I've got popping into my head, you all have made these opportunities possible, to love and serve others as Christ has loved us. Thank you.

As always, if you have questions, comments, concerns, or want to just sit down and talk, my email is rayna@stpaulschurchflint.com and you can also find me in the middle office from 10-3 on Tuesday and Wednesday. If you have a picture or event for the website or the bulletin screens, please feel free to email them to me as well.

Rayna

Need	Request	Given	Total Requested	Total Given	Date
Rent	\$1,650	\$664	38815.8	8270.43	10/31/2025
Housing	\$75	\$75	38890.8	8345.43	10/31/2025
Housing	\$235	\$235	39395.8	8580.43	11/5/2025
Water	\$483	Resources*	39879.25	8580.43	11/5/2025
Rent	\$560	\$560	40439.25	9140.43	11/12/2025

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: are available on Thursdays in the Library and if you're interested reach out to Fr. Tom!



Advent



As the early church began to reflect on its experience of Jesus and the meaning of his teachings, they searched the scriptures for confirmation of what they had come to believe. There they found hope for a messianic age to come that had been answered in the life and message of Jesus. The church longed for Christ to return at the end of time to call us to the feast of everlasting life in the Kingdom of God. Advent, the coming of the Lord, holds together both the “already” of Christ coming into the world as a child in Bethlehem and the “not yet” of Christ coming again to usher in the fullness of God’s reign. In our own time we sense Christ and his Kingdom as present but hidden, as already here but not yet fully revealed.

At St Andrew’s soup kitchen, whenever we talked about the meaning of our work, we would describe the experience as Eucharistic. It was not only because we were gathered for mass and a meal, but because Christ was truly present, though hidden from our natural senses. As people filed by the window where we passed plates and poured drinks we’d greet them by name, welcome them if we hadn’t spoken yet, and introduce ourselves to folks who were new. As we handed people their plate, it struck us as a form of communion.

We learned at this meal that the meaning of the Eucharist could not be confined to a ritual act. Christ was present sacramentally in the whole community. He was everywhere. Christ the volunteer in the kitchen, Christ the hungry, Christ the poor, Christ the addict, Christ in recovery, Christ the crying child, Christ keeping the clothing table neat, Christ the priest whom everyone wants to solve their problems, Christ the panhandler, Christ the hoarder, Christ the mentally ill, Christ dropping off donations, Christ hustling them into the storage room, Christ bringing in supplies, Christ mopping up spills on the floor. Folks who came for food and fellowship had as much kindness to offer as the volunteers. They were at least as generous and often more loving. The way we all interacted, the boundaries blurred between who was served and who did the serving. It was Christ who gave, Christ who received, Christ was the gift, all was Christ. The feast of the Kingdom was present in the already, but not in the fullness of the yet to come. Sometimes in the middle of a busy day, you would take a moment to let it all soak in: this is abundance; this is the kingdom; this is the sign of everlasting life.

Advent is a season of expectation. It looks to the sky as the wise men did for signs and portents, for the Eastern star that will light the way to a restored creation. We wait in hope for the Messiah who inaugurated the reign of God in history to come again to gather us into the fullness of life only found in God’s Kingdom. Until that time, we seek him all around us in the many different faces of the humanity in which he dwells, beginning with a child born into poverty and laid in makeshift crib.

-Tim Grant
Liturgy Committee



Diversity Committee

Advent thoughts and love from the Diversity Committee, for such a time as this:

350 miles = That's a road trip from Flint to Syracuse, NY. For football fans, it's the length of over 6,000 football fields placed end to end. In our journey of Advent, it's the distance that Mary, Joseph and Jesus traveled to flee Bethlehem. Not by camel; they traveled on foot - with a 2-year old!!

Place yourself in their sandals: King Herod was a paranoid-driven tyrant who executed family members and taxed people unmercifully. Now Herod was about to do the unthinkable - decree that all boys aged 2 years and younger be murdered. You bet, Mary and Joseph scooped up 2-year old Jesus and fled to Egypt where Jesus and his family were undocumented refugees and asylum seekers. It's almost like Egypt had a Statue of Liberty that welcomed another country's tired, poor, and huddled masses yearning to breathe free.

Fast forward to such a time as this. Countless thousands of our huddled masses are facing fear, uncertainty, violence, separation from their nursing babies, unjustified deportation, the refusal to grant them an attorney or a phone call to family, or any of their civil rights - and worse. Why?

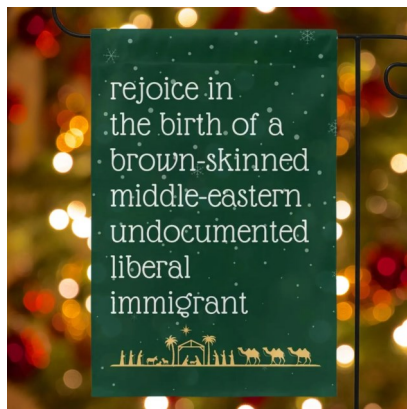
ICE men wearing masks to hide their identities, armed with handcuffs, guns, and a \$50,000 signing bonus stuffed in their pockets are literally dragging people away without warrants or proof of wrongdoing. Picture it: Modern day "Gestapo" roaming our neighborhoods, gathered outside elementary schools "as the enemy prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" - even in Flint.

These are good folks showing up to renew Green Cards, coach their child's soccer game, report to work, are walking down the street, or home with family when suddenly they "disappear". Teachers in L.A. now telling their students, "If you go home tonight and your parents are missing, here's what you need to do..." imagine that's your child...

"Who are you and I called to be and what are we called to do?" Jesus lived empathy and acts of compassion, engaging always with "the least of these," the vulnerable, those suffering, and the powerless, reminding all that "If you do anything against these people, you do those acts against me."

In this month's journey of Advent, let us choose to practice the same unconditional empathy-in-action that Jesus taught and modeled a millennium ago. What if others around you don't?? Be the one who does! Jesus was a Refugee. Refugees, too, are created in the image of GOD.

- Lysa Fischer





ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Vision and Vaccine Clinic

Vaccines and health care enrollment available from 9-12
by Hamilton Community Health, GHS providing wellness
checks and resource coordination from 9-5

Eye exams from St. Luke's

N.E.W. Life Center

- Eye exams
- Frames and lenses for free on site
- December 5, 2025 9a-5p

Contact Us:



711 S Saginaw St.



www.stpaulschurchflint.com



December



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Church with Heart in the Heart of the City

BLOOD DRIVE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

The Holiday Season is the worst time for the blood supply, with fewer donors and higher demand.
So, please be generous in giving blood on December 9 at St. Paul's.

Please remember to make an appointment in advance by visiting on line [Redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), and type in zipcode 48502, and search our church blood drive. Please enter your convenient time, and don't forget to complete Rapidpass on the day of donation.

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
711 S SAGINAW STREET, FLINT**



St. Paul's Artwalk

St. Paul's Artwalk is on Friday, December 12, 2025 at 6:00pm come out and enjoy!

Featured Artist: Taura Williams, Digital Art

Featured Musicians: Townes Miller, Flute

Dr. Carl Angelo, Piano

Townes Osborn Miller, DMA is Professor of Music and Outreach Coordinator at Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan, and she also serves as the Adjunct Flute Instructor, Director of the Flute Choir at Saginaw Valley State University and maintains a private studio. Dr. Miller tours internationally with the International Flute Orchestra (IFO) and will be performing this summer along the Danube River. She will then be traveling to Nairobi, Kenya to continue her teaching with the Orbit Village Orphanage and school. Dr. Miller also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Flint Institute of Music, and chairs the Patron Development committee. She is a past member of the Flint Cultural Center Corporation board. Dr. Miller received her DMA with honors, from the University of Kansas and her MA and BA from Western Carolina University. Her primary professors were Dr. Eldred Spell and David Fedele.

Dr. Carl Angelo most recently served as the director of music and fine arts/organist at First Presbyterian Church of Flint, Michigan. He has served on the faculty at Saginaw Valley State University as Artist in Piano and Organ, and also as the pianist for the Saginaw Choral Society.

He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Indiana University where he studied with Larry Smith. He was the winner of the 1987 American Guild of Organists Young Artist Competition, Indianapolis, Indiana and is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honorary Society. He holds Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees from Kent State University where he studied organ with John D. Herr and John Ferguson, and piano with Robert Palmieri. Extensive piano study was with Nellie Whittaker, a pupil of Guy Maier, and coaching with Gary Wolf, professor emeritus of the University of Central Florida.

ADVENT
Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

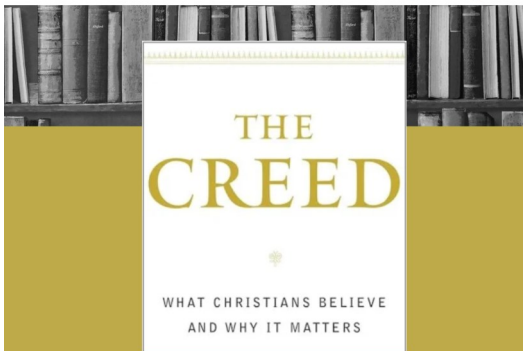


May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
A Church with Heart in the Heart of the City



THE CREED
WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE
AND WHY IT MATTERS

ST. PAUL'S BOOK STUDY

Join us Wednesdays at 12:45 in the Parish Library following Noonday Mass or scan the QR code to join us via zoom



Annual Christmas Tea Party

The annual Christmas tea party will take place on December 14, 2025, immediately following the 10 o'clock service.

Since this event has taken on a life of its own and become an annual church event, we need to form a Christmas Tea Party Committee. Would you like to help? Please call the church and leave your name with Karein or email her at STPOffice@stpaulschurchflint.com.

Cleaning the silver and putting it out
Decorating the Parlor
Setting the main table including cups, plates, serving spoons etc.
Seating for attendees
Setting tables (table cloths & centerpieces)
Plan the menu
Donating and/or making food - refilling dishes
Making and serving the tea/coffee
Making and serving the punch
Clean up - includes washing and drying the silver
Putting the silver back in storage.

Our apologies for the short notice!

We hope that if we establish this committee now,
we will be ready to go for next year!

Maggie Hart, Elizabeth Jordan & Barbara Manor





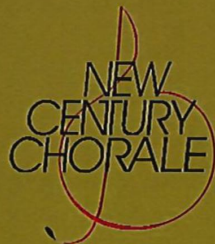
New Century Chorale
and Artist Director Steven C. Holovach present:

Christmas Through the Ages

Sunday, December 14th, 2025 - 4pm

Tickets: \$15

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
771 S. Saginaw St, Flint



Tickets available to
purchase at
newcenturychorale.org

or at the door



THE HERDMANS ARE SIX SIBLINGS WHO HAVE A REPUTATION FOR BEING THE WORST KIDS IN THE WORLD. HOWEVER, WHEN THEY TAKE OVER THE LOCAL CHURCH PAGEANT DURING THE HOLIDAYS, THEY JUST MIGHT TEACH A SHOCKED COMMUNITY THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.



WEDNESDAY
12/17/2025
5:30 PM





CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S 2025



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

10:00 a.m. Advent Lessons and Carols

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

8:30 p.m. Bells and Carols

9:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite 2 (Lectionary: Christmas Day I)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite 2 (Lectionary: Christmas Day III)



Parish Office will be CLOSED

December 24th - 26th

& January 1st

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS &

A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR!



December's Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of the People)
7-Dec-2025		Velesia Ford	Rebecca Bennett	Ed Walthers
14-Dec-2025	G	Mary Hammond	Max Karpov	Brandon Adams
12/21/2025 *	B	Pam Bailey	Kim Ramirez	Eloise Jordan
28-Dec-2025		Velesia Ford	Tiffani Wharry	Joel Arnold
Christmas Eve - 5:00**		Tiffani Wharry	TaMara Oertel	Pat Emenyonu
Christmas Eve - 9:00	G/B	Brandon Adams	Joel Arnold	Tom Shriver
Christmas Day - 10:00		Max Karpov	Lysa Fischer	Susumu Inoue

Dates		Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger	8:00 AM
7-Dec-2025		Paul Smith	Rayna Hauter	R. Cuthbertson-Twine	Ed Walthers
14-Dec-2025	G	TaMara Oertel	R. Cuthbertson-Twine	Ed Walthers	Rayna Hauter
12/21/2025 *	B	Maddie Cherry	Rayna Hauter	Brandon Adams	Becky Bennett
28-Dec-2025		Tim Grant	Maddie Cherry	R. Cuthbertson-Twine	Tamara Oertel
Christmas Eve - 5:00**	G/B	Rayna Hauter	Ed Walthers	Brandon Adams	
Christmas Eve - 9:00		Maddie Cherry	Dylan Baade	Ed Walthers	
Christmas Day - 10:00		Tim Grant	Ed Walthers	R. Cuthbertson-Twine	

December 2025

Anniversaries

12/8	HINKLE, Tim & Sue
------	-------------------

Birthdays

12/5	MANNOR, Barbara
12/6	HINKLE, Tim
12/7	WHARRY, Declan
12/8	RICHARDSON, Holly
12/12	SCHAEFER, Karen
12/13	SHRIVER, Patrice
12/13	SNELL, Mary
12/14	VAVRO, Joyce
12/23	OERTEL, TaMara
12/27	WETENHALL, Justin
12/31	LUKETICH, Gale

Interested in being a part of preserving the history of St. Paul's? Interested in having your story told? Interested in sharing your experiences within, without, and around this congregation?

Please reach out to Rayna!

You can email her at:
rayna@stpaulschurchflint.com

Or just stop her and ask.

Or, scan the QR code below to schedule an appointment to be interviewed or discuss this project!



Your Vestry:

(all at 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 or notices of events to *The Epistle*, please submit via e-mail to:

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 15th of every month. Submission deadlines are the 25th 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