

SUNDAY MESSENGER

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 26, 2017



WELCOME TO ST PAUL'S CHURCH

We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship today, and to receive Communion or a blessing. Feel free to take any information about the parish located at the entrances. Don't be afraid to tell us more about yourself by filling out one of the cards located in each pew or on information tables.

Join us as we strive to make northeast Bergen County a place where God's grace is freely known and shared by all!

ABOUT THE LITURGY & SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY

Today is "the Sunday of the Man Born Blind." This Gospel reading has been used since early days of the church to help those preparing for Baptism understand the process of enlightenment they are going through. In the full version of this story, the blind man progresses from the restoration of his physical sight to a deeper enlightenment about God, until he is able to recognize Jesus as his Redeemer. This long passage includes one of series of signs by which John reveals Jesus as the Son of God. In this case, the sign is the giving of sight to a blind man. The purpose of the miracle is not to let him see, but to elicit his confession of faith. Note that the problem of this man's blindness is one that still troubles many people. Why do bad things happen to good people?



The second reading describes how those who have been baptized and now live in the light will carry on their lives. Behind this passage stands the belief that pagans and unbelievers are not just in darkness, but are darkness itself. A similar attitude is common to most religious traditions, ancient and modern, where intolerant 'true believers' regard all others as inherently evil. An early Christian hymn may be found in verse 14: "Wake up, sleeper, and rise from death, and Christ will shine upon you." This final verse is an ancient Christian baptismal hymn.

We, like the man born blind, are now awake and filled with the Light from Light through our Baptism. As we continue in our Lenten pilgrimage toward Easter, enlightened by God's Word and nourished by the sacraments, we find ourselves in the

The first reading takes us to the point in the history of salvation when David is chosen by God as king. As is so often the case with the outstanding heroes of the faith, God's choice is not apparent to those who evaluate by human standards. David's anointing is an image of our own Baptism in which God chose us and set us apart not for our own merits but because God loves us.

company of a great family of believers. Let us continue to pray for those preparing to be enlightened and anointed by the Holy Spirit at Easter.

HOLY DOODLING OR YOUR NOTES FROM TODAY'S SERMON & WORSHIP

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13; EPHESIANS 5:8-14; JOHN 9:1-41; PSALM 23.

Don't forget to take the
2017 Parish Pulse!
<http://bit.ly/ppulse2017>

PRAYERS

For those in need of immediate prayers: *Douglas Hammond; Richard Glaspie; Elvis Santos; Asha Rai, Tami Fitzherbert and the Davis Family.*

For those in need of continuing prayer support: *Sally Ricottone; Nazera Wright; Yvonne Baldwin; David Eversley; Lilliam Gonzalez; John Herbert; Ina Martinez; Jeffrey McAllister; Cynthia McDonald; Trey Nelson; Fredelia Smith; Carol Yaner; Phillipa McLeod; Sharon Wells.*

For those serving in the military or in harm's way: *Austin Herbert, Nicholas C. Basile, Kablil Savery, Justin Sheldon and Nagelia Harrison Sheldon, Ken Lambert, Nadi Kassem, Justin Coca, Antonio Ramirez, Joseph Hill, Marc McDonald, and Gregory Halstead.*

For those celebrating birthdays this week. *Madison McDaniel and John Thorn.*

Cycle of Prayer, Anglican Communion: *Mexico*; in the Diocese of Newark: *Incarnation, Jersey City; Grace Church Van Vorst, Jersey City; St. Paul's, Jersey City.*

Our partners in faith: *Light & Salt Korean Presbyterian Church, St. Michael Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahado Church, Church of the Good Shepherd, Fort Lee; and Congregation Kol HaNeshama.*

For those who have died, especially *Leona Fox, Anthony Clark (Son of Loretta Daniels), Emma Pestaina, David Greenblatt (Son-in-Law of Helen Yeisley),* and those who mourn them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE HOUR: Please join us after the 10:30am service in the Parish Hall for fellowship and refreshments. Thanks to our host today, Alina Gonzales.

NEXT BIG SCREEN MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP: *Moana*. This highly acclaimed film will be shown (*for free*) here at St. Paul's on Sunday, March 26 at 5pm, in the Reception Room. A discussion of the film will follow on Monday March 27 at 7pm, in the Vestry Room.

SHAWL MINISTRY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: THIS Sunday March 26 at the 10:30 service. If you wish someone to receive a shawl, please complete one of the forms available in the Atrium (by the name tags) and give it to either Betty McLoone or Deacon Joanne. Forms will also be available in the Parish Office.

DON'T FORGET! We have lots of opportunities for you to join with others in our Lenten journey. You'll find them on the next page.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45; Psalm 130.

CHOIR SCHOOL CONCERT: The St. Paul's Choir School will present a concert on Sunday March 26 at 4pm at the Convent of St. John the Baptist, 82 West Main Street in Mendham. Please consider coming to support our Choir School! There is a \$20 suggested donation and everyone is welcome!

KEYBOARDS: Do you have an electronic keyboard that is no longer in use? The Choir School is looking for more keyboards for our piano program. For more information, contact Mark Trautman in the Parish Office.

FLOWERS AND GREENS may be given in memory of loved ones, or in thanksgiving. Please notify the Parish Office or sign up on the bulletin board in the Atrium. Flowers may be given at any time in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving. Contributions are always welcome toward the weekly cost of \$50.

THE WEEKLY PRAYER list in the Sunday announcements includes those members and friends of the Parish who are in a temporarily serious or critical situation. Names placed on the weekly list will be removed after thirty days unless

the Parish Office is notified to keep them in continual prayer. Intercessions will remain on the continuing prayer support for an additional 60 days unless further intentions are requested. Please remember in your prayers all those listed. If you would like to ask for specific prayers or seek pastoral care, please contact the clergy through the Parish Office by phone or email.

HELP! We need your help in the Parish Office on Wednesdays! See the sign-up poster in the Atrium or call the Parish Office for more information!

NAME TAGS: Please help by wearing your name tag. Name tags are on the table in the Atrium. If you can't find your name, or you would like a name tag, please sign up for a name tag with a pink slip as they are prepared during the week. Slips are on the name tag table, just drop it in the basket.

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Mar 26 *Moana*. Screening, 5pm
- Mar 26 St Paul's Choir School Concert, Convent of St John Baptist, Mendham, 4pm
- Mar 27 Big Screen Movie Discussion, 7pm
- April 1 Lenten Quiet Day
- April 8 Second Saturday Youth Event, 6pm-9pm
- April 8 Parish Work Day, 9am-1pm
- April 9 Palm Sunday: Holy Week begins

EGIVING AT ST PAUL'S

Please feel free to make a gift and offering in thanksgiving to God. To take advantage of our electronic giving options, please visit online through your electronic device: stpaulsenglewood.org/egiving.html or follow the *qr* code to the left with your capable electronic device.



Scan here

**STEWARDSHIP IS
COMMITTING OURSELVES & OUR
RESOURCES TO JOIN GOD'S MISSION**

DON'T FORGET!

LENTEN ADULT FORMATION

Lenten Adult Forum Series

A Garden's Tale: Moving from Crisis to New Life Through Lent

Sundays of Lent, the Guild Room, 9:15am with Video reprise the following Sunday at 11:45am. Join Carrie Allport for an in-depth exploration of the grace that Christ brings that moves us from the chaos and broken of our lives to the abundant new life through Christ's Resurrection. Using the Lenten scripture and horticultural images as a primer, we will explore the themes of Crisis; Burial; Fertilizer/Living Water; Light; and New Life.

Lenten Bible Study

Wednesdays in Lent with Soup Supper, 7pm in the Conference Room, following the 6:30pm Healing Service. Join Fr Allport in a manuscript study of the book of *Revelation*. No requirements for you except a willingness to ask questions and enter scripture in community. The study gives an foundation to understand the this unique and misunderstood portion of scripture.

Lenten Series: Big Screen Theology

Sundays of Lent, the Reception Room, 6 pm, for movie screening, and Mondays of Lent, the Library, 7 pm for discussion. Come on Sunday evening, 6 pm to the Reception Room to watch the film of the week. Then join us on Monday evening at 7 pm in the Reception Room for discussion and discovery.

Films will include: *Fences* (PG-13, 2016) with Denzel Washington and Viola Davis; *A Thousand Words* (PG-13, 2012) with Eddie Murphy; *Moana* (animated, 2016).

Lenten Quiet Day

Take a mini-retreat to center your heart and spirit during Lent at our Quiet Day. Saturday, April 1. 9am-2:30pm. Dcn. O'Neill will offer a time of guided contemplation, periods of reflection, and prayer-filled community exploring the nature of *Forgiveness*. Bring your own lunch.



CAN YOU HELP BRING THE POWER OF EASTER RIGHT NOW?

A generous donor in the Parish Family has invited all of us to deepen our stewardship and giving from God's abundance as we journey towards Easter. The anonymous donor has offered to match your additional financial gift beyond your pledge or regular giving up to \$25,000. So if you can make a gift, the abundance is doubled. This additional stewardship and giving will mean \$50,000 of God's abundance and the transformation of our attention to further God's Mission through St Paul's. Make a gift online through Parish website and "Make a Gift" link, or use a labeled envelope available in the Atrium or front of the Historic Sanctuary. We can do it right now!!



We have raised \$3,700 of our matching gift goal so far. Can you make a gift today to help?

HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

BISHOP OF THE CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, Bishop

THE MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

All the People

2017 VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. William H. Allport, II, *Presider*

Michele Simon, *Warden*

Max McDaniel, *Warden*

Beverley Lannanman, *Treasurer*

Albert Griffiths (2019¹), John Herbert (2017¹)

George J. Hill (2019¹), Robin Jackson (2018³)

Rafael Martínez (2017¹), Aubrey McDonald (2017⁰)

Coralius Noble (2018²), Jonathan Stevens (2018¹)

Nicole Thomas (2019¹)

ST. PAUL'S STAFF

The Rev. Dr. William H. Allport II, *Rector*

The Rev. Joanne O'Neill, *Deacon of the Parish*

Kai Alston, *Director of Christian Formation*

Mark A. Trautman, *Director of Music*

Colleen Habick, *Parish Administrator*

Lisa Keenan, *Financial Accountant*

José Sánchez, *Interim Sexton*

Gary Mason & George Gill, *Sunday Sextons*

Marteze Golden, *Housekeeper*

GET THE LATEST NEWS

Join the electronic communications of the Parish by following us on Facebook or signing up for daily messages (registration always available at the bottom of the website).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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